

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 2 | Issue 52

26 December 2022 - 01 January 2023

Indus Water Commission
River Gilgit-Baltistan POK
River Anjuman-e-Tarijraan
Chenab Taxes Khalsa Local
Tourism Sarkar body
education elections



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

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Political Developments

Quaid and Kashmir

Pakistan Observer, 26 December 2022

Pakistanis around the globe celebrate the birthday of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on December 25 every year. According to available information, Quaid-i-Azam visited Kashmir more than a couple of times. He had close contact with Kashmiri leader Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas who was considered his friend as well. He also had chosen a Kashmiri youth, K H Khurshid as his secretary who later served in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) as president. It was his foresight that he felt the importance and significance of Kashmir for Pakistanis as well as for Kashmiris. He vociferously condemned the 'Indian aggression' on Kashmir by looking at the miserable conditions of Kashmiris even when there was no one else paying heed to their hues and cries. Quaid-i-Azam had rightly declared Kashmir as 'Pakistan's jugular vein' and was determined to go to any extent for the freedom of Kashmir. He supported the Kashmiris' cause even before Pakistan's independence and correctly pointed out that Muslims needed a separate state to secure their future in the sub-continent.

He visited Kashmir in May 1944 in response to an invitation extended by the National Conference leaders, and what appears to be a standing invitation by the Muslim Conference. Father of the Nation was accompanied by his sister Miss Fatima Jinnah and he entered the state on 8 May. He was

received at the Suchetgarh border by many others including Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas, A R Saghar, and Ch Hameedullah Khan on behalf of the Muslim Conference. Muslims of Jammu gave him a memorable reception and it is said that the city had never witnessed such popular enthusiasm and such vast crowds. Jinnah believed that without Kashmir, Pakistan is incomplete. He tried his best to liberate Kashmir from Indian 'illegal occupation.' He wanted the peaceful settlement of the dispute but he was also determined to go to any extent to liberate Kashmir from Indian clutches which is evident from his bold step to issue orders to the then commander-in-chief of Pakistan Army, General Douglas Gracey to dispatch troops to Jammu and Srinagar.

<https://pakobserver.net/quaid-and-kashmir/>

India cannot get away with the Kashmir issue

Pakistan Observer, 27 December 2022

The Kashmir region has a predominantly Muslim population and has been a source of conflict between the two countries since the partition of India in 1947. Since then, it remains an unfinished agenda of the partition, and the dispute has resulted in multiple wars and conflicts over the years. The current situation is that India has 'illegally occupied Kashmir' and has been involved in the 'systematic suppression' of Kashmiris. However, in recent years, despite Indian continued 'atrocities' and attempts to put this issue to the back burner, the conflict has drawn more attention from the

international community and become more internationalized than ever before. In recent years, at the international level, there has been growing noticeable awareness regarding India's 'brutal acts' and 'atrocities' in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir' (IIOJK). International human rights organizations have expressed concern about the human rights situation in Kashmir. Recently, a symposium on Kashmir Conflict was organized by Kashmir Global Council (KGC) and South Asia Democracy Watch in Frisco, Texas, US. The US House of Representatives member, Ms. Terry Meza participated in this event to endorse her voice for the freedom of Kashmir.

She was of the view that she is against any form of oppression and stressed the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue in keeping with the legitimate aspirations of the people of Kashmir. It is notably important to note that almost all human rights organizations have raised their voices against human rights abuses in 'IIOJK.' In this regard, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Genocide Watch, and US Commission on International Religious Freedom in their recent reports, have stressed addressing ongoing human rights violations.

In 1948, the UN passed a resolution calling for a plebiscite in Kashmir to determine the wishes of the people regarding the region's future status. However, this plebiscite has not been held to date primarily because of Indian arrogance and bigotry. Even

though the United States is not directly involved in the Kashmir conflict, having tremendous political influence, it has often played a role in mediating and facilitating diplomatic efforts to resolve the dispute. As a member of the US Congress, Terry Meza's endorsement of 'freedom of Kashmir' could potentially have some influence on US policy towards the Kashmir conflict and internalization of the Kashmir conflict. It could be seen as a show of support for the people of Kashmir and their aspirations for self-determination, and could potentially lead to increased deliberations within the US policy circles. The 'IIOJK' has become the largest prisoner in the world, peace can be established in South Asia only with the resolution of the Kashmir issue according to the wishes of the Kashmiri people. It is India, which has to come out of its traditional bigotry to have a peaceful South Asian region– it cannot get away with the Kashmir issue anymore.

<https://pakobserver.net/india-cannot-get-away-with-the-kashmir-issuel>

UN must intervene to save Kashmiris from extinction: Dr. Ghulam N. Mir

Daily Parliament Times, 27 December 2022

The Kashmir conflict is, in the first place and for all intents and purposes, a conflict between two independent national identities. In terms of history, culture, religious identity, and ethnicity, the two could not be more dissimilar. Because of Kashmir's distinct topography and distinctive way of thinking, its native traditions

have endured for millennia. At a seminar hosted by Dr. Halil Toker, Professor, and Head of Urdu Language and Literature Chair, at Istanbul University, Dr. Ghulam N. Mir, chairman, of the Kashmir Diaspora Coalition and president, of World Kashmir Awareness Forum (WKAF) said, having converted to the monotheistic faith more than 600 years ago, Kashmiris have guarded it tenaciously. The 'Kashmir File: A Book on History of Kashmir,' was written by Dr. Toker. Dr. Mir explained that in 1947 when India was set free, the newly liberated India wasted no time in 'invading' the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir which was on the verge of gaining its independence from its local Hindu ruler after a sustained 16-year political and armed resistance. The Muslims of the western part of Jammu and Kashmir had forced the King to flee south. It is at this point that things went wrong. The British rule over India was ending in some chaos bloodletting all over between the newly created nations of Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan. As if that was not enough, India invaded the autonomous princely state against the will of the people of Kashmir with a 'fraudulent and fake' 'Instrument of accession' with the local ruler. Historians have out rightly 'rejected' the existence of any such document and the Indian government has never been able to produce any such document in the past 75 years before the international community, including the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). It has become abundantly clear that the emperor has no clothes.

But what makes the Kashmir case one of the two most vexing and intractable cases of the last 75 years is the 'denial' of the right to self-determination to 23 million people of Jammu and Kashmir. Following the 'illegal Indian invasion' and 'occupation' of part of Kashmir in 1947, which prompted the people of 'Azad Kashmir' and their allies across the border from Pakistan to get involved. A war broke out and with the UNSC intervention, several resolutions based on its mandate to hold an UN-supervised free and unfettered plebiscite allowing the people of Kashmir to decide their political future were adopted. Kashmiris have been demanding it and Pakistan is unequivocally supportive of it. But India has refused to implement the UNSC resolutions since 1948.

Dr. Mir warned that the consequences of such 'Indian aggression' have had a devastating effect on Kashmiris' life. Three wars have been fought between India and Pakistan. Millions of Muslims of Jammu and Kashmir have been internally and externally displaced from war since 1947 and Indian 'state terror.' In 1947 alone a quarter million Muslims in Jammu were murdered in the 'worst genocide' in Kashmir's history. Since the 1990s over 100,000 Kashmiris were murdered by the 'Indian military' and 'paramilitary forces.' Since August 5, 2019, the Modi regime has lockdown and blacked out Kashmir after pouring in 900,000 troops into the valley and beyond. Beyond anyone's comprehension, the Hindu nationalist RSS and BJP have initiated a far-reaching 'settler-colonialist project' that

is aimed at eliminating the Muslim population and creating a Hindu Rashtra in Kashmir. Intellectuals, human rights defenders, politicians, and religious leaders are incarcerated in Indian prisons. Lands are being confiscated and Indian Hindus are imported to replace the indigenous Muslims.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/12/27/un-must-intervene-to-save-kashmiris-from-extinction-dr-ghulam-n-mir/>

‘Right to Self-Determination Week’ to be observed from Jan 2 to 9

Pakistan Observer, 27 December 2022

The Global Awareness Movement Jammu and Kashmir (GAMJK) will observe ‘Right to Self-Determination Week’ from January 2 to 9 to express solidarity with the people of ‘Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ (IIOJK). The Chairman of GAMJK, Raja Ijaz Shaikh, in a statement issued in London, said that following the approved resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, events will be organized in Britain, Europe, Pakistan, and ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) in connection with the ‘Right to Self-Determination Week’ and the international community will be informed about the sentiments of the Kashmiris. He said that the people of the ‘occupied territory’ would further intensify their activities in the year 2023 to highlight the Kashmir dispute at the international level and for a sustainable and peaceful solution to the lingering dispute. He said that in this connection the first online conference will be held

in Islamabad in which British parliamentarians, Kashmiri and Pakistani political and other leaders, public representatives, and dignitaries from all regions of Jammu and Kashmir will participate. Shaikh said that functions would be held in Manchester, London, Birmingham, Bradford, Islamabad, Lahore, Mirpur, and Muzaffarabad, in addition to the capitals of the Middle East and European countries.

<https://pakobserver.net/right-to-self-determination-week-to-be-observed-from-jan-2-to-9/>

Deputy Commissioner Diamer’s office was attacked with explosives. No losses reported

Pamir Times, 28 December 2022

A locally-made explosive device was reportedly thrown at the camp office of Diamer’s deputy commissioner, located in Chilas city’s Ronai area. An improvised device, described in initial reports as ‘Desi Sakhta Grenade’, was reportedly hurled at the office at around 7:10 pm which fell and exploded near the ‘Operator’s Room’ located within the Lawn of the DC’s office. The Deputy Commissioner was reportedly present at the camp office at the time of the attack, however, no loss of life was reported. Sher Khan, SP of Diamer Police has said that they are gathering information to identify the device and the suspected attackers.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2022/12/28/deputy-commissioner-diamers-camp-office-attacked-with-explosive-no-losses-reported/>

Shutter-down strike observed in various parts of GB in protest against tax imposition, khalsa sarkar law, and other issues

Pamir Times, 28 December 2022

Traders and members of various political and social organizations observed a shutter-down strike in different parts of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), keeping markets closed and vehicles off the roads. The call for strike was given by Anjuman-e-Tarijraan (Traders Association) to register their protest against the imposition of taxes in the GB, 'land-grabbing' on the pretext of 'Khalsa Sarkar', a colonial-era law, and to condemn the massive wheat and power crisis in the region. The call for strike was backed by the Awami Action Committee of GB, Anjuman-e-Imamia, Ahl-e-Sunnat Wal Jammata, and other organizations. Similarly, protest demonstrations and rallies were held in Skardu, Gilgit, Hunza, and Ghizer, attended by large numbers of people despite the severe cold.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2022/12/28/shutter-down-strike-observed-in-various-parts-of-gilgit-baltistan-in-protest-against-tax-imposition-khalsa-sarkar-law-and-other-issues/>

'Modi regime misleading world through its claims of so-called development in 'IIOJK'

Pakistan Observer, 29 December 2022

In 'India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK), political experts and analysts have said that Narendra Modi-led 'fascist' Indian government is trying to mislead the world by showing that a new era of so-called development

has kicked off in the territory after its August 05, 2019 move. The political experts and analysts in their interviews and statements in Srinagar pointed out that 'IIOJK's economic development is a hoax under 'Indian illegal occupation.' They said the Modi regime is publishing 'fake reports' of so-called peace and development in the 'occupied' territory. Political experts and analysts said the Modi regime's 5 August 2019 'illegal' move has put 'IIOJK' into reverse gear in all spheres of life. How peace and development can happen in 'IIOJK' when it has become the world's most militarized zone. No sane investor will even think of investing in the territory which is a nuclear flashpoint in the region, they said. The political experts and analysts maintained that not development but a plebiscite under UN auspices is the foremost demand of Kashmiris. They added that the Kashmiris are not against peace and development but breaking the shackles of 'Indian slavery' is their prime objective.

<https://pakobserver.net/modi-regime-misleading-world-through-its-claims-of-so-called-development-in-iiojk/>

Kashmir and impasse at the United Nations

Pakistan Observer, 30 December 2022

Kashmir is a dispute recognized by the United Nations. It holds infamy as the most dangerous place on the planet. The 76-year-old conflict in the 'illegally occupied' territory is the bone of contention of the nuclear tension in the region. Without a just and lasting peace in Kashmir that vindicates self-

determination, trying to reduce missile and nuclear arsenals, and bring normalcy in the region of South Asia will be an exercise in futility. By all customary moral and legal yardsticks, 23 million people of Jammu and Kashmir enjoy a right to self-determination. The princely state, after British suzerainty for a century, achieved independence on August 15, 1947, when British jurisdiction lapsed. Kashmir had chosen neither accession to Pakistan nor to India, which had been created as separate nations through a British partition along largely Hindu-Muslim communal lines. Nothing regarding partition or the lapse of British control required Kashmir to renounce independence for absorption into a neighboring nation.

Sir Gopaldaswami Ayyanger, the Indian delegate to the UN spoke on January 15, 1948, at the Security Council, 'when the Indian Independence Act came into force, Jammu and Kashmir, like other states, became free to decide whether it would accede to the one or the other of the two dominions, or remain independent.' Kashmir was overwhelmingly Muslim, with Pandits, Buddhists, and Sikhs featured as welcoming religious minorities. Its rich array of religious adherents has historically lived side-by-side and enjoyed neighborliness and fast friendships across religious divides.

Sir Benegal Rama Rau, Indian delegate to the United Nations said at the Security Council on March 1, 1951, 'India should like at this stage to try to remove some of the misconceptions and prejudices that appear to have

gathered around this subject. The Kashmir question is not a Hindu-Moslem question as so often represented or misrepresented.' He further said that 'the people of Kashmir are not mere chattels to be disposed of according to a rigid formula; their future must be decided on their interest and following their desires.' The then Prime Minister of India, Pandit Nehru, had voiced a consensus view that sovereignty in princely states like Kashmir had devolved on their respective peoples as of August 15, 1947; and, that the peoples' voice should prevail in a plebiscite over the sovereignty ambitions of ruling maharajas in cases of conflict. In two other princely states – Hyderabad and Junagarh, where the rulers were Muslim, Nehru enforced his view by flexing India's military muscles. In Kashmir, Nehru championed a plebiscite to determine its sovereign destiny. Accordingly, India sponsored plebiscite resolutions before the UNSC, which were adopted in 1948 and 1949.

The United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) worked out the concrete terms of settlement in close and continuous consultation with both India and Pakistan. These were crystalized in two resolutions adopted on August 13, 1948, and January 5, 1949. As both governments formally signified their acceptance of the commission's proposals, they constituted an international agreement as binding as a treaty. A ceasefire was immediately enforced. The commission then started negotiations to draw up a plan for the withdrawal of Indian and

Pakistan armies from the state in a manner and sequence that would not cause disadvantage to either side or imperil the freedom of the plebiscite. Meanwhile, a distinguished American, Admiral Chester Nimitz, was designated as the Plebiscite Administrator. Progress towards a solution was, however, blocked by India's refusal to accept that the withdrawal of forces on the two sides should be balanced and synchronized. India, however, was soon undeceived of its delusions over Kashmir's political yearning. Recognizing that its people would never freely vote for accession to India, it contrived excuse after excuse to frustrate a plebiscite. When the United Nations proposed arbitration, a reference to the World Court, or any other method of resolving minor demilitarization quarrels, India nixed them all. After a few years, it dropped all pretense of acceding to a referendum by unilaterally proclaiming its annexation of Kashmir. India's proclamation has never been accepted by the United Nations, which continues to list Kashmir as disputed territory and subject to the Security Council's self-determination resolutions.

Not a single politician in India believes for a second that a majority of Kashmiris would prefer accession to India to independence. Yashwant Sinha, leader of BJP and former India's foreign minister said, there is no question of losing Kashmir. We have lost Kashmir. P. Chidambaram leader of the Indian National Congress and former India's finance minister said,

'we have practically lost Kashmir.' That explains India's stubborn resistance to implementing the U.N. Security Council's plebiscite resolution which India itself sponsored. Since the beginning of the latest phase of the 'freedom struggle' born in 1989 from another rigged election, over 100,000 Kashmiris have died in the conflict.

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmir-and-impasse-at-the-united-nations/>

Economic Developments

Tourism and the future of Gilgit-Baltistan

Pamir Times, 25 December 2022

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) is a vast mountainous region surrounded by beautiful valleys, sky-touching mountains, the coldest deserts, rivers, talismanic lakes, lush green meadows, and three great mountain ranges of the world; The Karakoram, The Hindukush, and The Himalayan. The second largest glacier in the world, Siachen, the roof of the world, Deosai plain, which is 14000 feet above sea level, the pride of Pakistan K2, and the 8th wonder, Karakoram highway that has been made by carving the mountains, are also situated in GB. It is a diverse, multicultural, enamored natural zone also known as the heaven on Earth. GB's unique culture and ancient traditions are scattered from the Khunjarab top to Chorbat Valley. Domestic tourists from different cities as well as foreign tourists arrive in droves there. They enjoy the indigenous lifestyle, organic foods, and local cultural festivals such as 'Jashn-e-

Noroz', summer festivals like 'Sarfaranga Cold Desert Jeep Rally', and the miraculous beauties of Hunza Valley, Khunjarab, Ata Abad Lake, Deosai meadows, Fairy meadows, Astor Valley, Skardu Valley, Sadpara Lake, Shangrilla, Sarfaranga cold desert, Kharfocho fort, Shigar Valley, K2 base camp, Khamosh Waterfall, Manthokha Waterfall, Shila Valley, ancient Khaplu fort, Siachen Valley, Balghar meadows, Thaley Valley, Sogha Valley, and the organic Machulo Valley, etc. Apart from summer tourism, there is a vast ground for the promotion of cultural and winter tourism.

The region's cultural and historical heritage is diverse, influenced by Chinese, Tibetan, Greeko-Bactarian, Scythian, Mauryian, and Taxilian, civilizations, and empires. Indo-Aryan, Tibetan, Indo-Iranian, and other civilizations are deeply reflected in the region's various cultural groups. Winter tourism has its significance. Recently, the people of the Baltistan division celebrated the most famous traditional event 'Losar Bzangmo' (New Year's Eve) on the 21st of December. Furthermore, initiatives are being made by non-local organizations in collaboration with district administration, to promote winter tourism such as 'The Winter Festival' in district Ghanche. Every dimension of tourism is a key arsenal to boost the economy of the region. The youth of GB tends to start personal businesses; Hoteling, Modeling, and Guest Houses are common. The administration must have to make an organized

infrastructure and promote ecotourism so that the future of GB would be bright.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2022/12/25/tourism-and-the-future-of-gilgit-baltistan/>

Gilgit-Baltistan gets relief supplies

The Express Tribune, 26 December 2022

The China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community paid a three-day visit to the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) region and distributed 1,700 packages of food, tarpaulins, quilts, blankets, and other supplies among the local people. Relief supplies were distributed in the areas of Gilgit, Ghizer, Khunjerab, Hunza, Nagar, and other areas. Following the recent floods, a significant number of the GB people were living in tents and makeshift wooden houses as their homes had been devastated by the deluge. Standing by the people of GB, the youth community distributed the second batch of relief supplies to Gilgit, supported by the Tencent Charitable Foundation and the China Foundation for Rural Development. The federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) chairman Qurban Ali lauded the youth exchange community for its long-term assistance to Pakistan. He expressed his appreciation to the community for the prompt assistance provided to the Gilgit residents by China and wished for the deep relationship between China and Pakistan to continue to grow.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2392874/gilgit-baltistan-gets-relief-supplies>

Indus Water Commission once again seeks Indian reply on Pakal Dal, Kiru projects

The Nation, 28 December 2022

Indus Water Commission (IWC) once again wrote a letter to India seeking a reply to objections raised by Pakistan on the hydro-power projects being carried out by India on the Chenab River. Pakal Dal Dam and Kiru Hydropower Project were constructed on the Chenab River in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). These projects will reduce the flow of water in the Chenab River. Pakal Dal has a generation capacity of 1,000 MW and Kiru Power Project has a generation capacity of 624 MW. The Indian delegation is expected to visit Pakistan in March to hold talks on the issue. Pakistan Commissioner for Indus Waters (PCIW) Mehr Ali Shah said Pakistan has always abided by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) and we are hopeful that the World Bank, as a third-party arbiter, would accept Pakistan's stance. Earlier this year, a Pakistani delegation led by Mr. Shah visited India to discuss issues about sharing of water resources between Pakistan and India under the Indus Water Agreement. Under the 1960 IWT, India and Pakistan share waters of six rivers in the Indus basin. Of these, India has complete rights over three eastern rivers namely, Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi, while Pakistan has rights over the western rivers, Chenab, Jhelum, and Indus.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/27-Dec-2022/indus-water-commission-once-again-seeks-indian-reply-on-pakal-dal-kiru-projects>

Dar assures support for the uplift of GB

Pakistan Observer, 28 December 2022

Jawed Ali Manwa, Finance Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and his team meet the federal minister for finance and revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar. The GB finance minister apprised Dar of the developments in the public welfare projects being carried out in GB and the financial constraints of the GB administration for the timely completion of these projects to ensure good governance in the area. Ishaq Dar expressed the present government's commitment to the development and progress of all regions including GB. He also stressed for utilization of tourism potential in this region as it will not only enhance the revenues of GB but also will portray a beautiful image of the country all over the world. He agreed to extend support to the present government for the development of the region.

<https://pakobserver.net/dar-assures-support-for-uplift-of-gilgit-baltistan/>

GB races ahead in the tech revolution

The Express Tribune, 29 December 2022

The efforts of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) regional government have quietly revolutionized the education sector in collaboration with the public and private sectors over the past six months. Over the past six months, the regional government has tried to bring drastic changes to the education and health sectors as it has introduced facilities like imparting training in artificial intelligence and robotic laboratories in government facilities in remote regions that are not yet

available in many developed parts of Pakistan. Muhyiddin Wani, chief secretary of GB said that by the end of December 2022, a total of 50 schools will benefit from this facility. The regional government has also begun a tech-fellow program in 200 schools across GB where students are given computer education and entrepreneurship training by experts.

A project is already underway under which 34 schools would be turned into smart schools by providing them with state-of-the-art IT equipment. Impressed by the chief minister of New Delhi, the GB government has also begun robotics laboratories in addition to the 3D Printer and other high-end technological gadgets that have been provided to 50 schools in the first phase. The GB government, which is also grappling with the challenges of terrorism and ethnic feuds, is now trying to tackle them by making education more accessible. After terrorists burnt down a school in Diamer, the government had a choice to first investigate the incident or reconstruct the educational institute. We, with the help of the private sector, built back a better facility with more space for girls, Wani added. The GB government has also offered loans to the students securing admission to the top 15 universities of Pakistan for covering their tuition fees and giving stipends. Loans will be recovered five years after completion of the degree program. Similarly, for women and girls, Pink Buses are operating from 6-9 am and 3-6 pm every day, providing free-of-cost, secure transportation.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2393254/g-b-races-ahead-in-tech-revolution>

[From Vernacular Urdu Media](#)

APHC leaders pay tributes to Quaid-e-Azam on his birth anniversary

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 26 December 2022

On the occasion of Muhammad Ali Jinnah's birth anniversary, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) in 'Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK) paid eloquent tribute to him. According to senior APHC leader Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar, Qaid-e-Azam was a remarkable visionary leader, and it was under his able guidance that Muslims in south Asia battled for their homeland and ultimately won it in 1947. According to him, the Kashmiri people were 'integral' to the Pakistan movement and fought side by side to establish Pakistan. Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Pakistan, he claimed, were incredibly beloved by the people of Kashmir, who held the view that Pakistan would only be complete, once Kashmir was liberated from 'Indian savagery' and integrated into it. Similarly, in his statement, Yasin Attai claimed that Quaid-e-Azam had referred to Kashmir as Pakistan's 'jugular vein' and 'economic backbone.' According to him, the Kashmiris' destiny is to become a part of Pakistan, and they are willingly giving their lives for that purpose. In her statement, Yasmeen Raja claimed that Muhammad Ali Jinnah made concerted attempts to free Kashmir from Indian rule and that his numerous travels to Kashmir demonstrated his strong devotion to the region. Jinnah, according to Maulana Sajid Nadvi supported the Kashmiri struggle even

before Pakistan gained independence. Similarly, in a joint statement released in Srinagar, APHC leaders Khadim Hussain among others stated that Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a brilliant thinker and has exceptional leadership abilities, adding that Quaid-e-Azam recognized Kashmir's significance for Pakistan and realized that Pakistan would be lacking its essence without Kashmir, which is why he referred to Jammu and Kashmir as Pakistan's 'jugular vein.'

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Resize-of-back-page-1.jpg>

Local body elections in 'Azad Kashmir' have enhanced Pakistan's status: Tanveer Ilyas

Daily Pakistan, 26 December 2022

According to Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, the Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), the peaceful conduct of local elections in 'AJK' has enhanced Pakistan's reputation around the world. He said that citizens deserved praise and admiration for the role and responsibility they had shown during the local government elections. He asserted that, for the preceding 32 years, municipal elections had been completely unsuccessfully held by prior governments, and added that the political establishment was opposed to holding local elections once again. He asserted that all the candidates who won the elections would be given funding and will also be empowered, reiterating his government's commitment to empowering the local government. He said that during the PTI government number of taxpayers

in 'AJK' have increased to a great extent and that the E-tendering system has been activated for contractors in the development departments of 'Azad Kashmir.' He said that people are ready to invest their capital in tourism and other sectors in 'Azad Kashmir' as the accountability system was also being improved. While lauding the struggle and sacrifices of people in the Indian 'occupied Kashmir', he said, Kashmiris have been fighting for freedom for 75 years and he expressed the optimism that Kashmiris' struggle would reach fruition soon and the dawn of freedom would descend on the horizons of Kashmir.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/26-Dec-2022/1525258>

APHC-'AJK' leader urged the international community to take notice of the deteriorating human rights situation in 'IIOJK'

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 28 December 2022

Mehmood Ahmad Saghar, the convener of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference-'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter, has pleaded with the world community to take prompt note of the rapidly 'deteriorating' human rights situation in 'Indian-illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). In a statement released in Islamabad, Mehmood Ahmad Saghar claimed that the residents of the 'occupied region' are currently experiencing the worst acts of Indian 'state terrorism' from the past more than seven decades. He claimed that, in flagrant violation of the UN Charter, India continues to deny the Kashmiri people their right to self-

determination, and added that during the past 75 years, Indian rulers had sought fruitlessly to stifle the Kashmiris' legitimate freedom fight rather than granting them their unalienable right. He lamented that the over 10 million Indian forces stationed in the 'occupied region' were found involved in 'molestation of women,' enforced disappearances, target killings, extrajudicial executions, and arrests as weapons to terrify the Kashmiris into submission. He claimed that India had turned 'IIOJK' into a nightmare for its residents since August 5, 2019, and alleged that 'IIOJK' is the only place in the world where people's fundamental human rights have been taken away. To secure long-lasting peace in the area, he pleaded with the international community to apply pressure on India to settle the Kashmir dispute in a manner consistent with Kashmiris' aspirations.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Resize-of-back-page-.....28.jpg>

With the exception of China and Turkey, no nation supported us on the Kashmir dispute: Imran Khan

Jasarat, 28 December 2022

Imran Khan, the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has stated that Kashmiris would eventually be granted their rights and that no nation, except China and Turkey, has supported us in our fight for Kashmir. While speaking to foreign media, he claimed that we wished to repatriate 40,000 people who had fled to Afghanistan, of whom 5,000 to 10,000 were combatants, but the new

government had not given the issue much consideration. When my government was overthrown, according to Imran Khan, the political parties and the establishment's focus switched away from the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), giving them a chance to make a comeback. He claimed that Pakistan's foreign policy was flawed, that we continued to support the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban separately, and that we were fighting other people's wars for United States (US) funds. He said that as a result of the crisis in Ukraine, fuel prices increased globally and that developing nations suffered particularly.

He stated that developing nations are under pressure to support one side, similar to how India supported one side during the Cold War, and that nations like Pakistan shouldn't become involved in wars that don't affect them. He further stated that since China and Turkey have always stood by us and that no other nation helped us in the Kashmir dispute, there is no need for us to join the conflict in Ukraine when western nations do not support us in issues like Kashmir. He said that the Kashmir issue is distinct from the Ukraine crisis and therefore we will continue to work for Kashmiris and maintain diplomatic pressure, and added that I do not support using force to resolve problems, and that India is trying to increase the number of Hindus living in 'occupied Kashmir.' I firmly believe, he claimed that Kashmiris will one day be granted their due.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/12/28/imran-khan-media-talk/>

Weekly POK News Digest

Volume 2 | Issue 52

26 December 2022 - 01 January 2023

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Disclaimer

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



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