

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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POK China
tourism Yadgar
Gilgit-Baltistan shelter
Agriculture **CPEC**
Agricultural industry
Ramadan package



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Political Developments

'Former PM of 'AJK' urged UN to take note of persecution of Kashmiris'

Daily Parliament Times, April 04, 2022

The former Prime Minister (PM) of "Azad Kashmir", and currently Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan has said that the "ongoing oppression of Modi in occupied Kashmir" cannot calm "Kashmiri's spirit of independence." While referring to the removal of Article 370, he said that despite the passage of more than 970 days, the "Indian government has failed miserably to discourage Kashmiris" and stressed that Kashmiris will soon be rewarded for their sacrifices in the "form of freedom." He said that peace in South Asia is not possible without resolving the Kashmir issue, and added that the "genocide of women, children, the elderly, especially the youth, are being carried out." He urged the United Nations (UN) to take note of the "persecution of Kashmiris", who "continued their struggle" till the attainment of their basic right, right to self-determination.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/04/04/united-nations-is-urged-to-take-note-of-persecution-of-kashmiris-sardar-muhammad-yaqoob/>

'APHC-AJK concerned about the plight of IIOJK detainees in jails'

Pakistan Observer, April 06, 2022

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (APHC-AJK) chapter has expressed their "concern over the plight of illegally

detained leaders and activists of the resistance movement of Kashmir," languishing in jails and interrogation centres of India and within the "occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir." The 'APHC-AJK' leaders, while referring to the "ailing illegally detained leaders" noted that despite the deteriorating health conditions of the prisoners belonging to the "resistance movement of Kashmir," the "fascist jail authorities" have turned a deaf ear to the "genuine demands" of the prisoners to provide them medical treatment and basic amenities as per jail manual, added that it is a "brazen violation of the prisoners' rights" as guaranteed by the Human Rights Charter of 1948. The APHC- 'AJK' leaders said that the APHC chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Dr Mohammad Qasim Fakhtoo, Asiya Andrabi, among others are suffering from "multiple ailments", without the availability of basic facilities in jails.

<https://pakobserver.net/aphc-ajk-concerned-about-plight-of-iiojk-detainees-in-jails/>

'GB CM is accused of submitting fake degrees'

Pamir Times, April 06, 2022

The Chief Minister (CM) of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) has been accused of submitting an "allegedly fake degree" to get membership in the Bar Council. The CM spokesman, Imtiaz Ali Taj has vehemently condemned the "baseless and fabricated report." The CM has also said that it will launch a defamation case against the newspaper and the reporter, Shabbir Mir of GB. The report

first emerged after the opposition leader in GB assembly, Amjad Husain of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), noted that the CM law degree was fake and obtained illegally, added that The Express Tribune story by Shabbir Mir, also included images of a degree allegedly issued by a "Belford University" to the CM. After rebuttals from the GB CM office, the reporter Shabbir Mir has said that he stood by his story, stressed that he has all the "evidence, proofs and witnesses present and alive" to confirm his story."

<https://pamirtimes.net/2022/04/06/uncertainty-looms-over-gilgit-baltistan-after-cm-is-accused-of-submitting-fake-degrees-cm-office-denies-allegations-announces-legal-action/>

'AJK' President to visit OIC headquarters at Jeddah

Daily Parliament Times, April 6, 2022

The president of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK), Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary will pay his first-ever visit to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) headquarters at Jeddah this month at the invitation of the OIC. During his 04-day visit to Saudi Arabia, Barrister Chaudhry is scheduled to meet the OIC secretary-general, Hussain Brahim Taha and other officials. The president besides apprising the OIC chief of the "prevailing political and human rights" situation in the "Indian occupied Kashmir" would also have meetings with Saudi officials and members of the Kashmiri community settled in Saudi Arabia. The president would also visit the Holy Shrine of the Prophet (SAW) in Madinah after performing Umrah in Makkah. It may be noted that the

formal invitation to the 'AJK' president to visit the OIC headquarters was extended by the OIC officials during their foreign ministers' conference in Islamabad last month.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/04/06/ajk-president-to-visit-oic-headquarters-at-jeddah/>

'A no-confidence motion will soon be held in AJK and GB: 'AJK' assembly opposition Leader

Daily Parliament Times, April 7, 2022

The Leader of Opposition (LoP), in the legislative assembly of "Azad Kashmir", Chaudhry Latif Akbar hosted the Iftar dinner in the honor of chief editors and various members of the legislative assembly of "Azad Kashmir" and the additional secretary-general of Pakistan People's Party (PPP). He discussed the latest political situation in the country including "Azad Kashmir" with them. While talking about the political situation on the occasion, Chaudhry Latif Akbar said that following the direction of the chairman of PPP Bilawal Bhutto, the party has started work to bring a "no-confidence motion in Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB)." He said that the PPP would go to any extent to protect the constitution at the centre, irrespective of how many meetings Imran Khan held, no matter how many press conferences he and his party members held. He said that Imran Khan's drama is known to the people of the whole country, and added that the people will reject the failed rulers in the next election. He further said that today the popularity of PPP has increased from Karachi to Kashmir because people know that PPP is the only party

that works in favour of the country's peasants, poor and workers.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/04/07/leader-of-opposition-in-legislative-assembly-ajk-chaudhry-latif-akbar-hosts-iftar-dinner-for-chief-editors-and-editors/>

'AJK' President urges Kashmiri expatriates in Jeddah to expose India's hegemonic designs in 'IoK'

Daily Parliament Times, April 10, 2022

While highlighting the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) government's "hegemonic designs" in the "Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir" (IOJK), the 'AJK' president Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has that the "apartheid regime" led by Modi was hell-bent on to "grab Kashmir by hook or by crook." The 'AJK' president made these remarks while speaking to his supporters on his arrival at Jeddah airport on Sunday. While referring to the "highly volatile situation in the Indian held territory of Kashmir", he said that after stripping the region of its "semi-autonomous status" in 2019 the Indian government was now trying to do away with the "Kashmir issue". He added that under the given circumstances there is a dire need that the Kashmiri expatriate community should play its role to "foil the Indian government's nefarious designs." He said that his lifelong struggle to project the Kashmir cause at the international level was a great privilege and honour, and added that he exposed India in the United States (US), United Kingdom (UK) and European chambers. He expressed the hope that the "Muslim Ummah" would now openly support "Kashmiri people's right to self-

determination". The 'AJK' president was accorded a warm welcome at the Jeddah airport and a large number of Kashmiris settled in Saudi Arabia were present at the airport to receive him. Rizwan Syed Sheikh ambassador and permanent representative of Pakistan to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Elias Mahmood deputy ambassador of Pakistan to OIC, Sarfraz Gohar deputy consulate among other government officials were also present on the occasion.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/04/10/barrister-sultan-urges-kashmiri-expatriates-to-expose-indias-hegemonic-designs-in-iok/>

Economic Developments

Female farmers from GB meet French envoy to discuss opportunities in the agriculture sector

Pamir Times, April 04, 2022

A delegation of female farmers from Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) called on the ambassador of France in Pakistan, Nicolas Galey, and his wife Camelia Galey, at their residence in Islamabad to discuss emerging opportunities in the agriculture sector of GB. The meeting was organized by the France based Pakistani businessman Amjad Aziz while the women's delegation was led by Ghulamullah Saqib, a deputy director in the agriculture department of GB. The ambassador appreciated the women for their crucial role in the agricultural industry and promised to stand for GB farmers at the Diplomatic Enclaves of farmers stalls, added that all educated women of GB who are working in the agriculture sector will be supported. While the women farmers of GB promised to the

ambassador to present a bouquet of local flowers to the France Embassy on the Independence Day of France. According to Amjad Aziz, both the ambassador and his wife are agriculture lovers and they would support uplifting the agriculture industry of GB, added that the farmers of GB will be invited to France soon to train themselves about the usage of modern technologies in the agriculture industry, noted that the farmers of France will also be invited to GB. He further noted that “GB has huge potential in both agriculture and tourism sectors,” added that they were interested to promote agriculture and the tourism sector.” He further said that in October 2021, a French delegation, led by Honorary Investment Counselor of France, Federico Juan Thomas Espana, visited GB to explore investment opportunities and promote skiing activities during winter, stressed that the region’s economy would be geared up by uplifting both summer and winter activities.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2022/04/04/female-farmers-from-gb-meet-french-envoy-to-discuss-opportunities-in-agriculture-sector/>

Tribute paid to Chinese workers of KKH

Pakistan Observer, April 6, 2022

The officials and locals from Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) paid tribute to Chinese workers and engineers who lost their lives about 50 years ago during the construction of the Karakoram Highway (KKH). It has been noted that on April 04, “National Mourning Day” was organised by Overseas Chinese Association Gilgit Baltistan (OCAGB).

The government officials, prominent locals and students gathered at “China Yadgar”, the Chinese cemetery, located in Danyor, about 10 kilometres away from Gilgit city. The participants laid floral wreaths on the graves of Chinese workers and engineers who laid their lives in the construction of KKH, also known as the Eighth Wonder of the World. The locals played the poems eulogizing the sacrifices of Chinese and Pakistani workers who laid their lives in the construction. The locals noted that around fifty-four Chinese are buried in the cemetery; every year on April 4, we pay tribute to the Chinese workers and engineers at China Yadgar,” adding that “China and Pakistan’s friendship is a perfect example of one soul and two bodies. We are together at grief and happiness.” It has also been said that due to China's sacrifices, today KKH is linked with China. This road is an integral part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).”

<https://pakobserver.net/tribute-paid-to-chinese-workers-of-kkh/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

‘AJK’ PM takes notice of flour shortage in ‘AJK’

Jammu and Kashmir Times, April 05, 2022

While taking strong notice of flour shortage in different parts of “Azad Kashmir”, the Prime Minister (PM) of “Azad Kashmir”, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi has directed the concerned authorities to ensure the availability of flour in markets all across the state. He directed the authorities concerned to ensure a full supply of flour at government rates and

warned that where there is a shortage of flour, the officer stationed there will be held accountable for it. He also issued orders to the commissioners and deputy commissioners to ensure the implementation of the Ramadan package and to take special care of less privileged sections of the society.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-05.jpg>

Kashmir issue has been unresolved for seven decades; UN resolutions have also been passed in this regard: Deputy Speaker of 'AJK' assembly

Urdupoint, April 05, 2022

The deputy speaker of the legislative assembly of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK), Chaudhry Riaz Ahmed has said that the "Kashmir issue" has been unresolved for seven decades and many United Nations (UN) resolutions have also been passed in this regard. He said that "India has been continuously violating" these resolutions and Kashmiris are denied their "right to self-determination." He further said that India has also changed the special status of "occupied Kashmir" on August 5, 2019, and has issued "fake domiciles to 4.2 million non-state Hindus to change the composition of the population there," which violates UN resolutions. He noted that the UN Commission on Human Rights had submitted a report on human rights violations in 2018 which mentioned the "widespread human rights violations by India in occupied Kashmir." He further said that the UN should play its role in the release of political leaders and youth in

"occupied Kashmir" who are lodged in various Indian jails.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3093000.html>

'Bilawal emphasized to bring a no-confidence in GB, Kashmir and KP from the united opposition'

Dailyk2, April 06, 2022

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that due to the long march of the PPP, the government of Imran Khan came to an end. While addressing a press conference, he said that the details of the national security meeting should be made public, adding that they would not allow the game of excuse to be played and stressed that we will not take the certificate of patriotism from them. He noted that why did Imran Khan resort to showing a letter when he saw the majority disappearing? He stressed that until the issue is resolved, PPP and opposition will protest like never before in the history of the country. Bilawal said that we will talk to the united opposition to bring a no-confidence in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) as well, added that we want to get out of the constitutional crisis in such a way that Pakistan can move forward. In response to a question, he said that I do not think Imran Khan's statement on conspiracy has become popular, people will vote in the election because of their basic economic needs rather than what Imran has said about the United States. Bilawal Bhutto said that after the constitutional crisis of last week in Islamabad, Imran Khan's last disappointing steps can no longer save

him and his government, added that Imran Khan's undemocratic way and how he ran away and violated the constitution has been watched by the people.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/6053>

'Imran Khan meet with the PM of AJK'

Urdupoint, April 07, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan met with the PM of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi. The PM of 'AJK' gave a detailed briefing on various issues including the historic Ramadan package of "Azad Kashmir", and the establishment of the first shelter homes among others. PM Imran Khan expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by the government. While talking to the media, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi said that the opposition should not be a "tool of external forces" but should play its role in the stability of Pakistan. He said that a strong Pakistan is not digestible to certain people and stressed on ending the political chaos. He further stressed that "India is doing various propaganda on the internal situation of Pakistan", and added that discussion on Pakistan's internal affairs in the Indian media makes it clear that enemies want to see Pakistan destabilized, so the opposition should take note of such tactics. He said that anti-Pakistan forces are currently active and, in such circumstances, the opposition parties have to show responsibility. He emphasized that at present all parties have to move towards a new public mandate to find the solution to all problems, added that PM Imran Khan showed greatness by announcing elections. He stressed that

the external forces want to destabilize Pakistan and therefore the opposition parties should think about who they want to please in this situation. He said that until yesterday, the opposition parties were demanding elections and today they are running away from the elections. Is the opposition running away from defeat or does it want to please someone else? He said that the PM Imran Khan has the full support of the people of Pakistan and Kashmir and he will return to the government with a two-thirds majority.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/important-news/live-news-3094254.html>

'Now we will give a surprise, there will be a big change in GB:' PPP members

Dailyk2, April 07, 2022

While the Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan declared the ruling of the deputy speaker of the national assembly illegal, the Pakistan People Party (PPP) members in Skardu celebrated the historic decision of SC to restore the national assembly. The PPP termed the verdict as a victory of justice and truth and noted that the verdict of the court proved that the judiciary of the country is independent and sovereign. The PPP provincial president Amjad Advocate and former chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Syed Mehdi Shah said that the court has taught a lesson to the violators of the constitution by the historic decision of the Supreme Court. Now it has been proved who the traitors of the country are and who the loyalists are. The wind of change of government will blow in the whole country and there will be a huge surprise for Imran Khan.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/6073>

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Disclaimer

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