

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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Diamer
Basha
Electricity
pension
POK
Neelum-Jhelum
Gilgit-Baltistan
Mangla
Hydel Power Station
load shedding
investment



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg
New Delhi-110 010

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Political Developments

Protest against closure of Srinagar Jamia Masjid on Jumat-ul-Wida

Pakistan Observer, 16 April 2024

A protest demonstration was held in Muzaffarabad against the illegal closure of Jamia Masjid, Srinagar, in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir by the authorities. According to Kashmir Media Service, a protest sit-in was organized by Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir in Khatm-e-Nabuwat Chowk against the brutal actions of India. The protesters marched from the chowk to the main gate of the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Legislative Assembly. They were chanting slogans against India and in favour of freedom. They were also holding banners and placards with anti-India and pro-freedom slogans. Addressing the participants, the speakers said the Indian authorities are continuously usurping the religious rights of Kashmiri Muslims. He said the locking of the main mosque of Srinagar on the occasion of Juma-ul-Wida is the worst violation of the religious rights of Kashmiris.

They warned the Bharatiya Janata Party government to refrain from interfering in the religious affairs of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir. They said the authorities are imposing the Hindutva agenda on the people of occupied Kashmir and demanded of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to take notice of the anti-Muslim actions of the Modi regime in the occupied territory. The speakers urged the peace and justice-

loving countries of the world to raise their voice against India for violating the religious rights of citizens in Kashmir. The protest demonstration was led by Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir Chairman Uzair Ahmed Ghazali.

<https://pakobserver.net/protest-against-closure-of-srinagar-jamia-masjid-on-jumat-ul-widal>

British MPs raise serious concern over Human Rights violations in 'IIOJK'

Pakistan Observer, 17 April 2024

The United Kingdom (UK) Parliamentarians at a conference organized by Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) at British Parliament expressed deep concern over the gross human rights violations taking place in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, in this regard, the JKLF chief spokesman, Muhammad Rafiq Dar, in a statement issued in Islamabad, while giving details of the conference, said that the parliamentarians also raised their voice in favour of illegally incarcerated JKLF chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik who has been unjustly convicted for life imprisonment in fake, fabricated and politically motivated cases filed against him by Indian notorious National Investigation Agency (NIA) on the dictates of extremist BJP government of India led by Narendra Modi. Besides the withdrawal of all politically motivated cases filed against Yasin Malik, the participants of the conference including over a dozen British MP's demanded the release of

all political prisoners languishing in different jails in India.

According to the statement, Richard Burgon MP from Leeds East chaired and conducted the conference. British MPs including Alex Sobel, Andy McDonald, Rachel Hopkins, Khalid Mehmood, Mohammed Yasin, John McDonnell, Stephen Timms, Imran Hussain, Ms. Naz Shah, Margaret Greenwood, Sam Tarry, Tan Dhesi MP, Tahir Ali and JKLF leaders delivered their speeches while as a large number of JKLF office bearers, veterans and members and other political representatives were present in the conference.

Rafiq Dar said that the speakers demanded for immediate and necessary steps to be taken to bring an end to the unabated human rights violations against freedom loving people of Kashmir by Indian forces. He added that the participants on the occasion made an important emphasis over the fact that the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is not a bilateral territorial dispute between India and Pakistan to be resolved by them only. They unanimously agreed upon the fact that it is a matter of unfettered right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people. Reportedly, the participants urged the UK Parliament to form a group of its MP's as 'Fact Finding Mission' to be sent to visit and assess the human rights situation in the occupied territory with free public access to the visiting mission.

<https://pakobserver.net/british-mps-raise-serious-concern-over-hr-violations-in-iiok/>

Pensions, benefits for Justice Rana Shamim, Other retired Judges of GB's top Court Challenged

Friday Times, 17 April 2024

The Supreme Court has overruled objections raised by its registrar's office on a Constitution petition filed against the entitlement of pension and benefits for the chief judge and other judges serving in the Supreme Appellate Court of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). The top court will now hear the petition in June. The judges who this case will impact include former chief judge of GB Rana Muhammad Shamim, who had submitted an affidavit accusing the former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar of manipulating judicial proceedings to delay the release of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz through a judge of the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

Rana Shamim, however, later disowned the affidavit. According to the petition, Shamim completed his three-year term as the chief judge on 30 August 2018, at the age of 68, and applied for his pension and other benefits to the Auditor General of Pakistan. The auditor, however, raised certain legal objections to his claim for pension. The matter was referred to the Kashmir Affairs and GB ministry, which then allowed the pension and benefits. A division bench of the apex court, headed by Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, heard the petition filed by Advocate Muhammad Ibrahim through his lawyer, Advocate Arif Chaudhry.

During the hearing, Arif questioned whether the chief judge of the Supreme Appellate Court for GB is appointed for three years under Article 60(8) of the GB (Empowerment and Self-Governance) Order, 2009, and therefore, whether he is entitled to the pension. He argued that pensions are granted to judges of the GB court in light of a 2008 judgment. However, he argued that in 2013, the judgment had been declared to be unlawful (per incuriam) by the Supreme Court as far as pensions and benefits for judges of the superior courts from the date of their respective retirement, irrespective of their length of service as such judges. The court noted that this aspect can best be appreciated and resolved on the judicial side, thus objections raised by the registrar's office were overruled.

The office is directed to number the petition and fix it for hearing on 11 June 2024, reads the written order. The petitioner has urged the SC to recover the Rs67.306 million pension commutation paid by the Accountant General of Pakistan along with the monthly pension drawn by former chief judge Rana Muhammad Shamim from 1 September 2018, to date and to stop the monthly pension payment. It is also pleaded that other privileges illegally extended to Rana Shamim, such as the provision of down payment, vehicle, and staff—both regular and contingent—be recalled forthwith.

<https://thefridaytimes.com/17-Apr-2024/pensions-benefits-for-justice-rana-shamim-other-retired-judges-of-gb-s-top-court-challenged>

Historic moment: Gilgit gets its first-ever sewerage system project

The Express Tribune, 17 April 2024

In what marks a historic moment, the scenic mountainous town of Gilgit is gearing up for its first-ever sewerage and sanitation project. This initiative signals a pivotal shift towards environmental conservation and improved public health. Nearly half a million people in the town will benefit from the project which will be completed by the end of 2025. For years, Gilgit has grappled with the absence of essential infrastructure, despite being blessed with abundant natural resources like fresh water sources, lakes, and springs, said former chief minister Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman who was instrumental in having the project designed back in 2015 during the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) tenure.

Lack of the sewerage system not only marred the aesthetic appeal of Gilgit city but also posed serious health risks to its residents, who have had to contend with polluted water sources, he added. In this phase, the sewerage and sanitary system project will cover the area from Baseen to Bab-e-Gilgit (package - I& II) and from Tablighi Markaz to Nagar Colony Konodas (package III). The project has been met with enthusiasm and optimism from the local community, who recognise its potential to improve their quality of life.

We have long awaited a solution to our sanitation woes, and this project gives us hope for a cleaner and healthier

future, said resident Amin Khan. For too long, unfortunately, we have had to contend with inadequate infrastructure, echoing the sentiments of many. Spearheading this endeavour is Project Director, Shafqat Ali, who brings both expertise and dedication to the table. This project will solve our sanitation requirements for a long time, remarks Ali, emphasising the project's significance for the town's residents. This project will not only address environmental concerns but also ensure access to clean drinking water, which is essential for public health.

However, initial concerns regarding the size of the pipeline were raised, particularly on social media. Addressing these concerns, Shafqat Ali assures the public that the infrastructure has been designed to accommodate the town's growing needs. The whole collection system contains a 209 km long sewer pipeline network, said the project director, adding the sewer pipe sizes range from 8 inches to 40 inches. The pipe network consists of tertiary sewers to main trunk sewers. The initial eight-inch pipeline is just the beginning and will collect sewage from houses and the pipe network sizes increase with the increase of sewage quantity, he explains. The entire sanitary sewage of the project area will be conveyed through a sewer pipe network system to Mechanical Sewage Treatment Plant with a capacity of 4 MGD for treatment, enabling its reuse.

https://tribune.com.pk/story/2462926/historic-moment-gilgit-gets-its-first-ever-sewerage-system-project#google_vignette

'AJK' PM, Kashmir Affairs Minister show grave concern over fast deteriorating HR situation in 'IIOJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 18 April 2024

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Chaudhry Anwar Haq and Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Engineer Amir Makam held a detailed meeting at the Jammu Kashmir House in the federal metropolis. During the meeting, the issues of mutual concern including the prevailing political and human rights situation in 'Indian occupied territory' of Jammu and Kashmir and ongoing development projects in 'AJK' were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, the Federal Minister reiterated Pakistan's continued political, moral and diplomatic support for the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for right to self-determination. Terming Pakistan and Kashmir as inseparable, the minister expressed the optimism that Kashmiris' struggle and sacrifices would reach to fruition soon. Makam also condemned the atrocities inflicted upon innocent civilians by Indian forces in 'Occupied Kashmir.'

He assured the 'AJK' Prime Minister of his full support and cooperation in relation to timely accomplishment of development projects in 'Azad Kashmir.' Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif is deeply interested in the construction and development of Azad Kashmir, the minister said. On this occasion, Prime Minister Haq congratulated Engineer Amir Makam on assuming the charge as Federal Ministry for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit

Baltistan (GB). Referring to Kashmiris' unconditional love for Pakistan, the 'AJK' premier said that the hearts of the people of Kashmir beat with the people of Pakistan. The people of Jammu Kashmir, he said, have sacrificed their lives, property and children for the sake of Pakistan, their ultimate destination. The 'AJK' PM Haq also apprised the federal minister of the pace of construction works on the ongoing development projects in 'AJK'.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/04/18/pm-ajk-minister-for-ajk-gilgit-hold-a-meeting-and-discuss-i-the-issues-of-political-and-human-rights-situation-in-indian-occupied-kashmir/>

Fresh wave of freedom struggle gets momentum in 'IIOJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 18 April 2024

With the reported continual killings of the forcibly-settled Indian nationals in various parts of the strife-torn internationally acknowledged disputed territory of 'Indian Illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir' (IIOJK) state, the Kashmiris resistance movement for freedom of the motherland from Indian forced and unlawful occupation has geared up since the recent past, says a report from across the Line of Control (LoC). Unveiling the breakup of the reported frequent killing of forcibly-thrusted Indian citizens in 'IIOJK' allegedly by the unknown assailants, the report continued that a labourer from Bihar was shot dead by unknown gunmen in the Annantnag (Islamabad district) of 'IIOJK' on 17 April it added.

This is the third such incident in the 'Indian occupied' valley so far this year,

the report revealed. The report continued as saying the unknown gunmen fired upon an Indian resident from point-blank range at Jablipora in the Bijbehera area of 'IIOJK' resulting in critical injuries. He was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries, the report added. The deceased Hindu Indian national is said to be identified as Raja Shah son of Shankar Shah resident of Bihar. As per locals, he received two bullet injuries one in his neck and another one in his abdomen, said the report. The incident took place in the wake of Indian general elections drama in the disputed 'occupied kashmir's Anantnag Lok Sabha constituency which is going to be staged in the third phase on 7 May against the aspirations of the Jammu Kashmir state population in 'IIOJK' engaged in the struggle for right of self-determination through liberation of the motherland from 'Indian forced and illegal rule.'

The report underlined that similar incidents reported prior on 7 February this year when unknown gunmen allegedly shot dead an unidentified Indian citizen. A worker from Amritsar in Punjab, at the Shalla Kadal locality in the Habba Kadal area of 'occupied' Srinagar city. Another non-local worker, identified as Rohit Mashi, who also hailed from Amritsar, sustained injuries in the incident and succumbed a day later, the report disclosed. On 8 April a non-local cab driver, identified as Dil Ranjeet was shot and injured by unknown gunmen in Shopian district in 'IIOJK', the report added.

Independent observers in the disputed 'IIOJK' State believe that the alleged frequent killings of the forcibly-settled Indian nationals in 'IIOJK' might be as part of the Kashmiris continual accelerated struggle for freedom from Indian yoke in the back-drop of India's forced and unlawful sinister 05 August 2019 action scrapping article 370 of the Indian constitution abrogating special status of the disputed Himalayan state, the report concluded.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/04/18/fresh-wave-of-freedom-struggle-gets-momentum-in-iiojk/>

BJP intensifies propaganda policy against IIOJK people: Rehmani

Pakistan Observer, 19 April 2024

Senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter and Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Freedom League Muhammad Farooq Rehmani has said that the propaganda policy of the BJP regime, taking benefit of tension in parts of Asia and Europe, has dangerously intensified against Kashmiris in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani in a statement in Islamabad said Since the UN office and the member states are deeply engaged with the states of the Middle East and Ukraine, the Modi-led BJP regime is leaving no stone unturned in the occupied territory to target Kashmiris. He said that the magnitude and sphere of horror and horrible conditions were so formidable and wide that no blood-links anywhere

had remained safe or unsecured and unanswered, during the BJP.

Rehmani claimed that the BJP is terrorizing the Kashmiris and seizing their properties, adding that basically Kashmiris demanded implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions for permanent settlement of the lingering Kashmir dispute. He said the UN should constitute a commission to look into the plight of the Kashmiris in 'IIOJK'.

<https://pakobserver.net/bjp-intensifies-propaganda-policy-against-iiojk-people-rehmani/>

Kashmiris firm belief: Whoever moves to unconditional talk to India on Kashmir is a traitor: Dr. Mubeen Shah Kashmiri leader in Exile

Daily Parliament Times, 21 April 2024

We Kashmiris are clear categorically believing in the reality that anyone who moves to unconditional talk to India on Kashmir is a traitor. Whoever he is, said Dr. Mubeen Shah, veteran Istanbul-based Kashmiri leader from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK), living in exile. No unconditional talks on Kashmir with India till the 5 August 2019 changes are undone, Dr. Shah categorically said in a statement. The Kashmiri leader continued as saying that talks only to be held based on a time bound negotiations guaranteed by a group of countries like USA, China and Russia or any two of them, he urged besides strongly suggesting reintroduction of 35A with international guarantees, road map of implementation of Kashmiris Right to Self Determination

and acknowledging the Hurriyat including JKLF as the representatives of Kashmiris to be represented in the talks. Normalization is integral to processes of colonization, settler-colonialism and 'Indian Illegal occupation'.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/04/21/kashmiris-firm-belief-whoever-moves-to-unconditional-talk-to-india-on-kashmir-is-a-traitor-dr-mubeen-shah-kashmiri-leader-in-exile/>

Economic Developments

969MW Neelum-Jhelum project in trouble, again

Dawn, 16 April 2024

The 969-megawatt Neelum-Jhelum Hydro-power Project (NJHP), completed at an estimated approved cost of more than Rs510 billion, has been partially closed once again within days of its full capacity utilisation after almost 20-month-long repair works. The project was closed in July 2022 due to major cracks in its 3.5km tailrace tunnel (TRT), which was repaired over the next 13 months. Power generation started again in August-September 2023, attaining its maximum 969MW capacity on March 29, as announced by the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA). Within a week, on 3 April, the 48km-long headrace tunnel (HRT) dropped pressure, and power generation fell to about 400MW 'soon after the project was restored to full capacity by international contractors because of debris or cracks in HRT' inside sources told Dawn.

They said the project authorities and contractors, in consultation with the

WAPDA management, tried in-house emergency measures to restore the project but the fault was bigger than anticipated, although generation had increased since then. An official said a remotely controlled vehicle would need to be arranged abroad, most probably from China, to trace and potentially address the fault, at an estimated cost of about Rs 6bn. He said the prime minister had not yet been intimated about the incident. The partial project closure is resulting in a substantial daily loss of electricity units, he added. The earlier repairs of 3.5km TRT cost the nation about Rs6bn, in addition to about Rs37bn in energy loss during repairs, maintenance, and testing over the following 20 months. WAPDA has filed about Rs43bn insurance claims for the losses and is reported to have already held a series of high-level meetings on the subject.

When contacted, WAPDA confirmed a significant reduction in power generation due to a fall in HRT pressure but remained evasive about its actual cause. Electricity generation from Neelum-Jhelum Hydel Power Station has been restricted to 530MW due to decrease in headrace tunnel pressure on 3 April, it said in a statement, attributing this to being a 'precautionary measure...to observe the behaviour of pressure fluctuation.' The Wapda spokesperson said the generation from the power station would be increased gradually after analysis and deliberations with the project consultants.

It is important to note that all possible maintenance has been carried out

during the observation, he said, adding that this maintenance included cleaning of trash racks installed at the intake gates in the reservoir, flushing of all three de-sanders, flushing of pressure gauge installed at the powerhouse and inspection of the spiral cases of the generating units. The project has a tunnel system comprising 51.5km. It is prudent to observe and monitor such a vast network, the statement said. On 29 March, Wapda announced that the Neelum-Jhelum project had achieved its maximum generation capacity of 969MW. Following the resumption of its operation in early March after inspection of the TRT, the project is continuously in operation as per the availability of water and contributing electricity to the national grid.

It had said that taking advantage of the low-flow season, operation of Neelum-Jhelum project was stopped on 10 January for inspection of the rehabilitated tail race tunnel. Subsequently, the detailed inspection was successfully carried out prior to resumption of generation from the project early last month. Most importantly, International Panel of Experts also inspected the tail race tunnel, it added. Since its commissioning in 2018, the project has generated 19.829 billion units of electricity, while 1.54bn units have been generated since the resumption of electricity generation after the rehabilitation of TRT in August last year.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1827702/969mw-neelum-jhelum-project-in-trouble-again>

‘AJK’-based Neelum-Jhelum HP generation restricted to 530 MW as Head Race Tunnel pressure decreases

Daily Parliament Times, 16 April 2024

Electricity generation from ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK) based Neelum Jhelum Hydel Power (NJHP) Station has been restricted to 530 MW due to decrease in Head Race Tunnel pressure on 03 April 2024. This precautionary measure has been taken to observe the behaviour of pressure fluctuation. Generation from the Power Station will be increased gradually after analysis and deliberations with the Project Consultants, media wing of WAPDA said in an official statement. The NJHP station remained on full generation of 969 MW from 28 March 2024. It is important to note that all possible maintenance has been carried out during the observation.

This maintenance includes cleaning of trash racks installed at the intake gates in the reservoir, flushing of all three decanters, flushing of pressure gauge installed at the Power House and inspection of the spiral cases of the generating units. The NJHP has a tunnel system comprising 51.5 Kilometers. It is prudent to observe and monitor such a vast network. The NJHP station has so far generated 19.829 billion units of electricity since its commissioning in 2018, while 1.54 billion units since resumption of electricity generation after rehabilitation of Tail Race Tunnel in August last year.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/04/16/ajk-based-neelum-jhelum-hp-generation-restricted-to-530-mw-as-head-race-tunnel-pressure-decreases/>

Mirpur-AJKCCI devises comprehensive industrial uplift plan: Plan involves revival of sick industrial units

Daily Parliament Times, 17 April 2024

The 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), in collaboration with the relevant government officials, has developed a comprehensive integrated industrial plan aimed at stimulating domestic and foreign investment in the trade and industrial sector. The plan is particularly targeted at the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora community residing in the UK and aims to revitalize the shuttered industrial units situated in the Mirpur division's existing industrial estates. As has mostly been determined by the authorities thus far, it may be emphasized here that one of the nine intended Special Economic Zones to be constructed is being established in Mirpur Azad Jammu Kashmir under the massive China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Mirpur 'AJK'-CCI President Sabir Hussain Shah noted that his chamber has already moved recommendations to the 'AJK' government by devising a strategy for early revival of over at least 05 dozens of sick Industrial units located in Mirpur and Bhimbher districts' industrial estates and to promote the industrialization process in both the districts as well as in other parts of the 'liberated territory' where required facilities were available by the government. He said that in the light of various proposals, the 'AJK' government has assured to encourage and boost the foreign investment in the

trade and industrial sector in 'AJK' and colossal funds have already been placed in the ongoing financial year 2023- 24 and proposed to be made available in forthcoming fiscal year 2024-25 'AJK' budget.

The Mirpur 'AJK' CCI President said the Mirpur 'AJK' CCI has also moved to the 'AJK' government to provide all possible required facilities and compensation to the intending foreign entrepreneurs including the UK-based Kashmiri expatriates for establishing the industrial concerns in the area. Sabir Hussain Shah, while responding to a question, said that massive and bright potential was available for launching investments in hydel power generation, mineral and tourism sector in 'AJK'.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/04/17/mirpur-ajkcci-devises-comprehensive-industrial-uplift-plan-plan-involves-revival-of-sick-industrial-units/>

'AJK' based Mangla Refurbishment Project: Contract Awarded for supply of two GSU Transformers for Unit 9, 10

Daily Parliament Times, 19 April 2024

The Mangla Refurbishment Project, located in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), was awarded WAPDA contract Package III-C, valued at US\$ 6.28729 million, for the design and supply of two 220 KV, 168.75 MVA Generator Step-up (GSU) Transformers for Unit Nos. 9 and 10. The task will be completed in 400 days by the Chinese Contractor. WAPDA House served as the venue for the contract signing ceremony. The WAPDA media wing

said in a statement that Mr. Zyphyr Zhao, Chief Representative of the Chinese company CHINT, and Mr. Ihsan Ullah, General Manager (Hydel) Development WAPDA, signed the contract on behalf of their respective businesses. The signing of the deal was observed by WAPDA Member (Power) Mr. Jamil Akhtar and Member (Finance) Naveed Asghar Chaudhry.

The officials of Mangla Refurbishment Project along with the officers concerned, representatives of the Consultants and the Contractor also attended the ceremony. WAPDA is implementing Mangla Refurbishment Project with an approved PC-I cost of Rs.52.224 billion. The Project was being carried out in various phases, wherein the generating units are to be refurbished by closing down one tunnel (two generating units) at a time.

The Refurbishment of the first two units has been completed in 2022, while refurbishment of all 10 generating units is likely to be accomplished by year 2027-28 in a phased manner. Mangla Refurbishment Project, on its completion, will enhance generation capacity of the existing Mangla Hydel Power Station from 1000 MW to 1310 MW, thus registering an increase of 310 MW. The average annual generation of Mangla Hydel Power Station will also increase from 5 billion units to 6.6 billion units. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing US\$150 million as grant and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) France is providing Euro 90 million as loan for Mangla Refurbishment Project, while

rest of the amount is being arranged by WAPDA through loans and from its own resources, the statement concluded.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/04/19/ajk-based-mangla-refurbishment-project-contract-awarded-for-supply-of-2-gsu-transformers-for-unit-9-10/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Notification of price changes for land that is submerged beneath the Diamer Basha Dam

UrduPoint, 17 April 2024

A notification on the revision of the tariffs for land under the Diamer Basha Dam has been released. According to Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB) spokesperson Faizullah Faraq, the announcements, recommendations, and orders issued during the Chief Minister's most recent visit to Diamer are now being carried out. In response to public demand for revision, the government announced that rates will be adjusted.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-3985903.html>

The first official meeting of the committee created to document the events of Jammu martyrs was convened

UrduPoint, 18 April 2024

A commission chaired by Secretary of Kashmir Affairs, Arts, and Languages Wajahat Rashid Baig convened for the first time to document the events surrounding the martyrs of Jammu. Sardar Ali Shan, Coordinator of the

Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell (JKLC), presided over the committee. At the meeting, which was attended by all of the committee's senior members, it was decided to establish the committee's working procedures and create a questionnaire for interviewing pertinent individuals. The Secretary of Kashmir Affairs will need to approve the questionnaire before it can be used, and committee interviews will be recorded and put into written form.

In addition to contacting other individuals connected to the Jammu Martyrs' events, the Sub-Directorate Secretary of Kashmir Affairs and Arts and Languages Committee will make an effort to gather written and other materials from witnesses to the 1947 events, which, if they are available, will be added to the official record. The committee will interview the individuals who made the shortlist in the first round. The committee will work hard to document the most significant events of the Kashmir Azadi Movement and conduct interviews with prominent personalities, according to Sardar Ali Shan, Chairman Committee and Media Coordinator of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/national-news/live-news-3986967.html>

Skardu: Protest demonstration against load shedding, Dharna in front of Deputy Commissioner's office

Dailyk2, 18 April 2024

To express their disapproval of the terrifying load-shedding of electricity

in Skardu, the local businessmen and traders organized a complete shutter-down strike. The traders protested against load shedding in front of Skardu's Deputy Commissioner Office. The protesters' placards highlighted their dissatisfaction with WAPDA and the Department of Electronics. The local traders say that Skardu is being turned into a 'city of darkness' through a well-thought-out strategy. They also say that load shedding happens here for 22 to 33 hours, that our rulers are mere spectators, and that everyone is only thinking about themselves. They said that the unequal distribution of electricity is the primary problem at hand. Two, three, or even three lines have been given to the rich people, while the inability to purchase energy, even for a single hour causes the underprivileged to lose everything.

Sheikh Ahmad Turabi, the leader of the Islamic movement said that there is no such thing as law in Skardu and that the law of the jungle rules here. As per Wazir Hasnain, the President of Tehreek-e-Pasdaran Skardu, all those involved in Skardu politics are only observers, pursuing their political agendas instead of looking out for the interests of the populace. He emphasized that more demonstrations will take place if there is no guarantee of an equitable distribution of electricity. Meanwhile, opposition leader Muhammad Kazim Maisam joined the protestors and asserted that inadequate management is the reason why major electricity-related problems continue to arise even with massive energy developments. We will not

remain silent about it, he declared. After productive negotiations between the protestors and Deputy Commissioner Skardu, the office sit-in was cancelled.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/21708>

From Social Media

Manzar Shigri @ManzarShigri

14 April 2024

On June 11 Justice Mansoor Ali Shah and Justice Athar Minullah of the Supreme Court of Pakistan will hear the constitutional petition of Ibrahim Shahid Advocate regarding declaring the privileges of retired judges from Gilgit-Baltistan as illegal.

<https://twitter.com/ManzarShigri/status/1779861927466061842>

Jamil Nagri @jamilnagri

17 April 2024

Residents of #GilgitBaltistan, who are most vulnerable to climate change, suffer from light rain or snowfall, as their lives depend on the mercy of weather. The impacts are increasingly visible with each passing day, the large glacier deposits are becoming significant threats.

Images link:

<https://twitter.com/jamilnagri/status/1780313321792561531>

PAMIR TIMES ® @pamirtimes

21 April 2024 Six-year-old Muhammad Shiraz becomes the youngest YouTuber from Gilgit-Baltistan to achieve a Gold Play Button from YouTube. The Gold Play Button is given to content creators by YouTube after they get 1 million subscribers. #gilgitbaltistan #Gilgit #baltistan.

Video link:

<https://twitter.com/pamirtimes/status/1781920793527464151>

Basharat Issa @BasharatIssa

22 April 2024

Who funds hotels in Gilgit-Baltistan in the name of sustainable tourism and all that kind of shit??

https://twitter.com/i/bookmarks?post_id=1782300214260306110

Roshan Din Diameri @Rohshan_Din

22 April 2024

Chief Secretary's directive to shuffle long-serving government employees in GilgitBaltistan faces roadblocks as influential figures resist transfers. This delay hampers administrative efficiency and undermines the spirit of rotation for fresh perspectives. #GilgitBaltistan @csgbpbk

Images link:

https://twitter.com/Rohshan_Din/status/1782407834153423239

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Compiled by

Mohd. Usman Bhatti and Muneeb Yousuf

Edited By

Dr. Smruti S Pattanaik

Disclaimer

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MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg
New Delhi-110 010

Telephone: 91-11-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191

Website: www.idsa.in; Email: pokdigest@gmail.com