

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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16 December - 22 December 2024

POK
climate change
Awami Action Committee
Power cuts climate finance
Hydropower Project
Gilgit-Baltistan



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

Winter in Kashmir: Power cuts amid freezing temperatures

The Express Tribune, 16 December 2024

Kashmiris are facing severe power cuts amid freezing temperatures of minus -15.93 °C with a further drop at night. These power outages have created significant challenges for the residents of Kashmir, whose daily lives, businesses, and education heavily depend on a reliable power supply.

The prolonged power cuts have not only disrupted day-to-day routines but also worsened the difficulties faced by the business community and students, highlighting the failures of the Modi regime's claims of progress and development.

The power cuts are particularly harsh in rural areas, where people depend on electricity for basic needs such as heating and lighting. This has led to widespread inconvenience and hardship. With no power, people are left vulnerable to the extreme cold, especially the elderly, children, and those with chronic illnesses, heightening the risk of hypothermia and other serious health issues for them.

Businesses, especially small businesses, are also struggling to operate due to the power cuts, which eventually resulted in job losses and economic hardship. The ongoing power outages have also had a detrimental impact on students. They are unable to study properly, as their homes remain cold and dark

during the critical hours of study. This disruption threatens their academic performance and in turn their future prospects.

These power cuts are exacerbating the already tense situation in Kashmir, triggering frustration and anger among the people. According to the Kashmir Power Development Company, Kashmir is receiving just 1,500 megawatts (MW) of power against a demand of 2,500 MW". Residents across various localities, especially those from Bandipora, have voiced their frustration over what they describe as unrelenting power cuts.

However, the challenge is not just restricted to Bandipora; numerous other regions across Jammu and Kashmir are also facing similar issues. According to the power department, the Bandipora division has only 93 MW of agreeable load capacity, but the current demand stands at 163 MW, leading to inevitable energy deficits.

The valley of Kashmir confronted similar problems during last year's winter season as well; however, the authorities remained indifferent. Instead of doing some groundwork to address the power shortage issue, the Indian authorities remained busy in crushing dissident voices.

Clearly, the development and provision of basic necessities to Kashmiris is not on their priority list. Kashmiris have repeatedly expressed their frustration over the continued and unscheduled power cuts that have crippled their daily life. It wouldn't be

wrong to say that the power cuts in Kashmir have now turned into a humanitarian crisis.

The Indian government needs to take urgent steps to address the power crisis in Kashmir, especially during the harsh winter month.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2516403/winter-in-kashmir-power-cuts-amid-freezing-temperatures>

'AJK' Leaders Vow to Internationalize Kashmir Issue

The Nation, 16 December 2024

The President of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, and Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq have reaffirmed their steadfast commitment to raising the Kashmir issue at national and international platforms.

The resolve was expressed during a meeting between the two leaders in Islamabad, where they discussed the ongoing situation in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). Both leaders reassured the people of 'IIOJK' that the residents of 'Azad Kashmir' stand in solidarity with them in their continued struggle for self-determination and freedom from 'Indian occupation'.

President Chaudhry and Prime Minister Haq underscored the urgency of drawing global attention to the human rights violations and atrocities being perpetrated by Indian forces in 'IIOJK'. They agreed to mobilize all available resources to amplify the voices of the oppressed Kashmiris and

ensure the world remains aware of their plight.

Speaking on the occasion, President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry emphasized that the international community has a moral and legal responsibility to intervene and uphold the rights of the Kashmiri people. He called for stronger diplomatic efforts to highlight the issue on global platforms, including the United Nations and international human rights bodies.

Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq echoed these sentiments, stressing that the struggle for the right to self-determination is a legitimate and just cause that cannot be suppressed by force. He pledged to work with all stakeholders to further the Kashmir cause and ensure sustained international advocacy.

The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to continue supporting the people of 'IIOJK' until they achieve freedom and justice.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/16-Dec-2024/ajk-leaders-vow-to-internationalize-kashmir-issue>

Information Minister 'AJK' attends the second International Umna Al-Aqsa Conference in Turkey

Daily Parliament Times, 17 December 2024

The second International Umna Al-Aqsa Conference in Turkey has ended. Four hundred delegates from all over the world participated in this grand international conference, while this honor from Pakistan was received by

the Information Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Maulana Pir Muhammad Mazhar Shah Saeed, who specially attended this conference on invitation. In the conference, 'Azad Kashmir' Information Minister Maulana Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah, President of Umna Al-Aqsa International, Dr. Sheikh Essam Bashir and Hazrat Ul Alam Sheikh Muhammad Mujeer Al Khatib Al Hosni Al Shami were dressed in mufflers with the flags of Kashmir, Palestine and Pakistan. A lot of solidarity was expressed from the people of Kashmir on this occasion.

In the Umna Al-Aqsa Conference, Hazrat Ul Alam Sheikh Muhammad Mujeer Al Khatib Al Husni Al Shami, Sheikh Dr. Yahya Abdul Razzaq and Sheikh Wasfi Ashoor Abu Zaid also gave permission to hadith to the Minister of Information Pir Maulana Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah. President of Umna Al-Aqsa International Dr. Sheikh Essam Bashir also presented the shield to Information Minister Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah.

Meanwhile, during another ceremony in Istanbul, Minister of Information Maulana Pir Muhammad Mazhar Saeed Shah said that the land of Palestine is very sacred for all of us. Pakistan has an unbreakable relationship of Kalima Tayyaba with Palestinians and Kashmiris. He said that the brutality of the Israeli army is at its peak in Gaza, while on the other hand, India is making life difficult for the oppressed Kashmiris.

He said that the people of Palestine and Kashmir have kept the candle of freedom burning with their blood. Their third generations are standing in mourning and their faces show no signs of weakness.

Now the world has to decide whether it is with the oppressor or with the oppressed. Global double standards and global hypocrisy are the biggest threats to humanity and peace, until the Palestine problem in the Middle East and the Kashmir problem in South Asia are not resolved, it is not possible to establish lasting peace.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/12/17/information-minister-ajk-attends-the-second-international-umna-al-aqsa-conference-in-turkey/>

COP29: Key takeaways for Gilgit-Baltistan

Pamir Times, 18 December 2024

The 29th Global Climate Summit – the Conference of the Parties (COP), concluded last month in Baku, Azerbaijan. The annual event brought together over 60,000 stakeholders, including leaders, policymakers, and representatives from governments, the private sector, and civil society.

During the summit, the global climate action gap was assessed, and the urgent need for concrete measures was reiterated. Empirical climate data of 2024 tell us that several regions of the world experienced their highest recorded temperatures, underscoring the lukewarm progress made by countries in meeting the commitments

of the Paris Agreement, which is nearing its ten-year mark. This lack of progress is largely attributed to the persisting tangents between economic priorities and environmental imperatives. Different countries occupy distinct positions on the climate spectrum. Some nations contribute significantly to pollution but ignore global vulnerability to climate impacts, while others pollute minimally yet are far more vulnerable to climate-related risks. Advanced economies that are major polluters have a responsibility toward vulnerable nations with struggling economies. Ideally, climate finance should flow from high-polluting nations to those most affected by climate change. This principle serves as a core imperative for the annual COP meetings, and COP29 was no exception.

Pakistan consistently ranks among the top ten most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, largely due to the extreme climate vulnerability of its mountainous regions, particularly Gilgit-Baltistan. Climate change is arguably the one challenge that should unite all of humanity, yet a collective sense of urgency remains elusive. Despite these challenges, the parties at COP29 succeeded in drumming up key measures to strengthen global climate action. Notably, there was significant emphasis on enhancing climate finance and streamlining of carbon markets—both highly relevant in the context of the vulnerabilities faced by Gilgit-Baltistan.

After weeks of negotiations, COP29 established a new finance goal to

support countries in adapting to and mitigating climate change, as well as protecting against climate disasters. The parties agreed to triple annual funding for developing nations, raising the previous annual target from \$100 billion to \$300 billion per annum by 2035. Additionally, a commitment was made to scale up climate finance from both public and private sources to reach \$1.3 trillion per annum by 2035. While this increase marks a significant step forward compared to previous targets, it still may fall short when considering the likely severity of climate impacts by 2035. The COP29 also made significant progress in negotiations on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Regarding Article 6.2, which addresses the international trade of mitigation outcomes, COP29 clarified mechanisms for how countries should authorize carbon credit transactions while ensuring environmental integrity and transparency. Similarly, under Article 6.4, mandatory safeguards were introduced to protect the environment and uphold human rights. These advancements in Article 6 negotiations are crucial for establishing functional carbon markets, meeting the emission reduction targets of the 2016 Paris Agreement, and mobilizing climate finance effectively.

The Government of Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to establishing carbon market mechanisms through its National Climate Change Policy (2021). Recently, it has adopted a national carbon strategy aimed at enhancing

access to global carbon markets. Furthermore, the country's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commits to a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030, comprising a 15% unconditional target to be met with domestic resources and a 35% conditional target reliant on external resource mobilization. At COP29, the parties agreed to revise their NDCs by 2025 to set more ambitious emissions reduction targets, driving progress in global climate action. Pakistan is committed to revise its NDCs in accordance with the negotiations of COP29.

The policy developments at COP29 and the national level create a unique opportunity to develop a tailored, context-specific carbon market strategy and action plan for Gilgit-Baltistan. By harnessing the potential of carbon markets, this mountainous region—known as the “third pole” due to its vast glaciated areas—can contribute significantly to both national and global climate action efforts. The growing global interest in carbon markets provides an opportune moment, making the transition to sustainable and net-zero technologies more accessible. This shift also facilitates cost reduction and the efficient mobilization of resources for climate mitigation. Gilgit-Baltistan holds substantial potential to develop a supply chain of tradable carbon credits through both technology-based and nature-based projects. These efforts will support local and national mitigation and adaptation priorities, increase investment in sustainable

development, and improve the climate resilience of local communities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zNfi9ryIrxg&list=RDLLAW6dQAGOw&index=4>

A Visionary of Poonch

Friday Times, 16 December 2024

Every year on November 11, the public holiday is observed in the Poonch district of ‘Azad Kashmir’, to commemorate the social, religious, economic, and political services of the legendary leader Col. (R) Khan Muhammad Khan. This essay is a humble effort to acknowledge such contributions.

Col. (R) Khan Muhammad Khan, was born in the village Chechan, Pallandri, ‘AJK’, in a very remote and deprived area, inhabitants of which are now, by the virtue of, awareness and enlightenment generated by stalwarts like Col. Khan Muhammad Khan grabbing key positions in various professional field and yielding command and respect.

Despite a modest educational background, prevailing massive ignorance, and illiteracy, Col. Khan ventured to fight against socio-economic evils and hardship thereby, set a memorable example of success and proving that where there is will, there is way.

Whenever someone chooses to study his whole life struggle one will necessarily reach the conclusion that Col. Khan Muhammad Khan adopted, followed, and practiced for success and

glory, three sound principles of an accomplished person which are unflinching faith, perseverance, and passion. As Allama Muhammad Iqbal famously described:

To secure a comprehensive understanding of struggle and his achievements it is necessary to make a thorough appraisal of the ground realities and dynamics of his time, in the face of which he visualised the steps to fight against heavy odds to achieve an objective that has a sweeping impact on the future of mankind and history.

Col. Khan Muhammad Khan firmly believed that objectives of socio-economic uplift, emancipation from worst subjugation and persecution, and deliverance from poverty, as these were deep-rooted and pervasive, can only be achieved by launching a movement on various fronts simultaneously.

To resolve the livelihood issue, he persuaded the people to increase their financial resources by recruitment in the British army, the only readily available source of income at that critical period. He underlined the importance and advocated that on the one hand, it would provide a source of income as well as an opportunity for exposure to British people who are educated, well-trained, and disciplined, which in turn would motivate our youth to learn and lead.

Col. Khan Muhammad Khan's strategy was two prongs. On the one hand, it worked very effectively to steer his community out of the quagmire of

despondency, depression, and poverty by seeking jobs in the British army.

The second important strategic front Col. Khan Muhammad Khan, engaged and confronted with devotion and dedication was to fight against illiteracy, ignorance, and conservative mindset amongst the masses. He was thoroughly convinced that socioeconomic ailment and economic deprivation of the society can only be addressed and resolved by educating the young people, which is only possible through the establishment of educational institutions of both religious and scientific nature.

However, prevailing situations on these fronts of education both (religious and scientific) were very depressing and deplorable. Dogra regime was highly skeptical about of people of Poonch particularly Bagh, Rawalakot, Tarar Khel, Hajira, and Pallandri in the view of historical revolt of 1832 and subsequent events of disobedience, so the government was not inclined to invest in human resource development.

Muthi Atta Movement was a very innovative financial tool and product to resolve the problem of paucity of finances and resources, which were earnestly needed to embark upon the journey of increasing literacy and education

So, in this backdrop of complete negligence and reluctance on the part of the Dogra regime towards the promotion of education rather it was bent upon keeping the people of

Poonch backward by denying the right of education in the areas with Muslim majority. So, Col. Khan Muhammad Khan appeared on the surface of the political and social arena and put forward a very creative idea & model of the Muthi Atta Movement by preaching to the people by way of visiting every nook and corner of Poonch to inculcate the mind of people, that we may survive and flourish by self-reliance only.

Muthi Atta Movement was a very innovative financial tool and product to resolve the problem of paucity of finances and resources, which were earnestly needed to embark upon the journey of increasing literacy and education.

For the purpose of making his notion and idea, to gather resources for the noble cause of promoting education, besides male members of society, he very efficiently and successfully launched this movement in the female population because it was never possible without their cooperation, as they were directly involved in the manual grinding of the grain in every house and the household female managed to spare a Muthi Atta willingly daily. Although initially it appeared as a very small contribution, yet, when studied its practical impacts, these were exceptional and far-reaching.

By virtue of the Muthi Atta Movement, a religious educational institution and mosque were established in 1934 under the umbrella of the Sudhan Educational Conference and secondly scholarship scheme was introduced for young

talented students who succeeded in taking admissions to various educational institutions of the subcontinent. He was also a very illuminating political and social figure whose role influenced millions of people of Poonch positively, who were blind and dormant at that time of their future. It was only Khan Muhammad Khan, who made them believe and inspired them to rise to the occasion by taking modern education, hence some of them led the people's independence movement, and many of them played a very constructive and decisive role in building the government of the state of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir'.

By critical appreciation of the remarkable tasks and achievements of Khan Muhammad Khan, a parallel can be drawn between him and the current Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Dr. Muhammad Younas, who founded 1983 Grameen Bank Bangladesh, a first-time micro-financing bank by the dint of an inspiration he gathered from women to whom he lent 27\$ only, which that lady returned 100 percent after succeeding in cultivating vegetables and establishing household poultry farm, which enabled her to create an alternative source of income for the whole of her family.

Therefore, Col. Khan's role, when analysed in this context appears that his contribution towards the uplift of common people is no less than any of the socio-economic reformers elsewhere.

It is high time to assume responsibility for both the government and private entities to address the real cause behind

the current unrest and upsurge in youth

In the backdrop of earlier analysis, I may safely without any fear of contradiction construe, that Col. Khan Muhammad Khan despite a very modest level of formal education and without any international exposure visualised, invented, and implemented a very novel, innovative, creative, but, highly fruitful idea of the micro-financing model in the shape of Muthi Atta Movement especially involving the female segment of a very conservative and orthodox society therefore, he deserves tremendous acknowledgment and recognition.

I think it becomes the responsibility of the leadership of Sudhan Education Conference and the rest of the elite diaspora of Poonch to pay a rich and befitting tribute to Col. Khan Muhammad Khan (late) by way of establishing Muthi Atta Bank for accumulating financial resources to promote professional, technical and skill-based education in Poonch area particularly and rest of 'Azad Kashmir' to enable bulge of youth which is although generally having conventional education, however, lacking technical skills, artisan ability, and problem-solving insight, hence, fail to snatch any opportunity to employ themselves, consequently fall into a valley of despair and disappointment as well as become prey to exploiter very conveniently. It is high time to assume responsibility for both the government and private entities to address the real cause behind the current unrest and upsurge in youth.

Sudhan Education Conference and the rest of the diaspora needed to establish Muthi Atta Bank (micro-financing) to enhance and enlarge the very rich legacy of Col. Khan of inspiring to save and invest to long-term projects which shall arm our youth with capacity to seek livelihood worldwide.

<https://thefridaytimes.com/16-Dec-2024/a-visionary-of-poonch>

Khushal Khan made new 'AJK' chief secretary

The Nation, 20 December 2024

Chief Secretary 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Dawood Muhammad Bareach was removed from his post on Thursday and Flight Lieutenant (ret'd) Khushal Khan was appointed as new chief secretary. According to a notification issued by the Establishment Division, Dawood Muhammad Bareach has been directed to report to the Establishment Division in Islamabad. Khushal Khan was working as additional secretary in the Power Division prior to his new assignment in 'AJK'. Khushal Khan is a grade 21 officer of the Pakistan Administrative Service and remained posted on several high profile positions in the federal as well as provincial departments. He also served in the Capital Development Authority as its Member Estate in the previous government but he was removed from his position in 2019 following multiple scams in his subordinate land and rehabilitation directorate.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/20-Dec-2024/khushal-khan-made-new-ajk-chief-secretary>

Sardar Ilyas criticises Awami Action Committee tactics

Express Tribune, 20 December 2024

The formation of Joint Awami Action Committee is the outcome of political suppression in the 'AJK'. It was stated by 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) former prime minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan during a meeting with Pakistan People's Party leader Riaz Chaudhry on Thursday.

He said the 'AJK' government must encourage opposition political parties to play their role in and outside the assembly, adding the youth of 'AJK' have been put on wrong track and all political parties must come together with the pledge of good governance in the region to bring the youth back on the right track.

"I have my personal point of view over the course adopted by the Awami Action Committee to raise public issues like flour and electricity subsidies in 'AJK' but moving towards Crossing Points linking 'AJK' with Pakistan with crowd was unfortunate," said Ilyas.

He urged the Awami Action Committee members to join politics, saying closing Crossing Points doesn't make any sense.

Pakistan is and will be the final destination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and those elements who want to harm the historical relationship between Kashmiris and Pakistanis have no right to claim themselves as well-wishers of the people of 'AJK'. Such elements have no space in 'AJK', the 'AJK' former premier asserted.

"It is Pakistan Army that guards 740 long line of control to protect our lives, freedom and area," said Ilyas, adding, people of 'AJK' are indebted to the Pakistan Army and Pakistanis for their support to the Kashmiris.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2517209/sardar-ilyas-criticises-awami-action-committee-tactics>

Economic Developments

Riali-II HPP: Security package papers up for ECC nod tomorrow

Business Recorder, 18 December 2024

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, scheduled to meet on Thursday (Dec 19), is set to approve the security package documents for the 7.08 MW Riali-II Hydropower Project under the Power Generation Policy, 2015, sources informed Business Recorder.

However, the Finance Division has emphasized that the Power Division should ensure the proposed documents align with the Power Generation Policy 2015 particularly in terms of contractual matters. This includes ensuring that no additional obligations or guarantees are created beyond those already outlined in the policy.

The Finance Division further stated that the government of Pakistan (GoP) will not assume any obligation for the payment of Water Use Charges (WUC) to AJ&K, asserting that these charges should be covered by the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) through their tariffs.

Recently, the PPIB Board approved an extension for the Financial Closing Date under the Tripartite Letter of Support (TLOS) for the 7.08 MW Riali Hydropower Project, extending the deadline by 18 months—from April 13, 2024, to October 12, 2025. PPIB Board had accorded approval for extension in the Financial Closing Date under the Tripartite Letter of Support (TLOS) of 7.08 MW Riali Hydropower Project for a period 18 months i.e. from April 13, 2024 to October 12, 2025. During the meeting MD PPIB apprised that 7.08 MW Riali-II Hydropower Project is run of river project located on Ghori Nullah, in AJK.

Due to the non-availability of ECC approved Security Documents (Implementation Agreement GoPIA - AJ&K Implementation Agreement-AJ&KIA, Energy Purchase Agreement-EPA and Water Use Agreement - WUA) for small hydro power projects, three extensions of 12 months each on Sept 7, 2021, December 29, 2022 and November 10, 2023, respectively, were granted in the Tripartite Letter of Support.

As per the Amendment#3 (3rd Extension) of TLOS, the Project Company was required to sign the Project Agreements before Financial Close of the project for which they approached SIFC for early processing of approval of Project Agreements from CCoE/ECC.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40338247/interest-rate-cut-to-help-stimulate-economic-growth-pm>

Agriculture Department sets up an Olive Oil Extraction Unit and a laboratory to promote Mushroom Production in 'Azad Kashmir'

Daily Parliament Times, 18 December 2024

The Agriculture department has achieved yet another milestone in modern agricultural technology by setting up an Olive Oil Extraction Unit and a laboratory to promote Mushroom Production in 'Azad Kashmir'.

Pertinently, both the projects costing 40 million rupees have been launched with the support of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency(TIKA).The olive oil extraction unit costing over 22 million rupees has been installed at the Agriculture Complex Gojra, whereas a laboratory to promote mushroom production in the region would be completed at a cost of 18 million rupees. The establishment of these projects would be instrumental in bringing innovation and revolutionizing the Agriculture sector.

The inauguration ceremony of the projects was held here today at the Agriculture Complex Gojra. Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation and Water Resources Sardar Mir Akbar Khan along with the head of the Turkish delegation, Dosan Ali Yeskan inaugurated both the projects.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the Minister for Agriculture Sardar Mir Akbar Khan thanked Turkey for its technical cooperation helping the

government of 'Azad Kashmir' in its efforts to improve the agriculture sector.

"The people and government of Turkey had always stood shoulder to shoulder with us in difficult times", the minister said, adding that during October 8, 2005 earthquake Turkey helped us in the rehabilitation and reconstruction work.

Referring to many development projects accomplished with support and cooperation of the Turkish government, he said, "District Headquarters Complex of Muzaffarabad, grand mosque opposite to the Prime Minister's House and many other projects have been completed with the cooperation of Turkey."

He expressed the optimism that the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency would continue to cooperate with us in the development of agriculture and other sectors in the future." With the cooperation of Turkey, we can make further progress in the agriculture sector", he added.

landowners will be trained for value addition. Speaking on the occasion, Dosan Ali Yeskan, Head of South Asia of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, said that it is very happy to see the inauguration of these two projects today and their results because the farmers of 'Azad Kashmir' are benefiting from these projects. Our cooperation with the Agriculture Department of 'Azad Kashmir' will continue in the same way. He said that the Minister of

Agriculture has asked for cooperation in the field of fly farming.

On this occasion, Administrator Parks and Horticulture Malik Aamir gave a departmental briefing. Administrator Agriculture Extension Ms. Amna Rafi gave separate briefings about the olive oil extraction unit, whereas administrator Agriculture Research Zafar Jahangir and Deputy Nazim Abdul Hafeez Mughal also gave separate briefings about the laboratory established for mushroom production.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/12/18/agriculture-department-sets-up-an-olive-oil-extraction-unit-and-a-laboratory-to-promote-mushroom-production-in-azad-kashmir/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

A rally to be organized on 24 December in Athmuqam for 'right to self-determination movement'

Urdu Point, 18 December 2024

For freedom of 'occupied Kashmir' and demanding right to self-determination from the United Nations, on 24 December, at the place of Athmuqam, a rally will be held. In an order issued by Pasban Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir to the media authorities a news is circulated that Sharafat Hussain Malik, President Pasban Hurriyat district Neelum valley has said that for the people of the 'Occupied Kashmir', and for their freedom, the struggle will unceasingly continue. He said that the world needs to be informed about the dangerous situation in Kashmir and for resolving the Kashmir issue, on 24

December in Neelum valley, and especially in Athmuqam, a protest rally will be held for the right to self-determination movement.

Malik appealed Businessmen of Athmuqam, civil society, lawyers, youth and students to partake in the rally and become voice of the 'occupied Kashmir'. He further said that India is silencing the voices of Kashmiri's, who are facing the worst atrocities. Those seeking freedom are killed or put into prison. India's atrocities are increasing day by day. Under these circumstances, 'Azad Kashmir's' people must stand with their brothers and cannot leave them with such brutal forces. He further mentioned that the struggle for self-determination will continue. While doing a foot rally on 24 December, people will also be informed about Kashmir issue.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4267675.html>

Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas was guardian of the rights of Kashmiri Muslims: Information Minister

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 19 December 2024

Information minister 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' state Peer Muhammad Mazhar Syed Shah said that Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas was guardian for the rights of Kashmiri Muslims. Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas played a crucial role in awakening the political consciousness among Kashmiri's. Abbas raised dignity of the people of Kashmir. On the occasion of

anniversary of Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas, 'AJK' government's information minister Peer Mazhar Syed Shah in his speech that Abbas fought for the rights of Kashmir Muslims. Qaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah had chosen Abbas as his representative in J&K. 'Azad Kashmir' and rest of Pakistan will always remember Chaudhary's service to the nation.

<https://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-1.jpg>

'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' Police urgently demands amendments: Zafar Advocate Bhat

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 17 December 2024

Candidate Assembly Valley 3 LA 41, Usman Zafar Bhat Advocate said that the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' police demands amendments. The institution of police should be made a model one, so that people regain the trust in them. The situation demands so. He said that the allowances provided to the police personnel are less and in the present times of high inflation, they are hardly able to meet their needs. In police department of any modern nation, one will not find such scenario as prevails here. The police personnel give 24 hours duty and remains in the service of people but they get less salary for that, which will surely be affecting their morale.

<https://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Resize-of-PAGE-FRONT-17.jpg>

Social Media

Roshan Din Diameri @Roshan_Din

18 December 2024

The illegal re-arrest of political activist Muhammad Javed in Gilgit-Baltistan after his release from court is a grave violation of fundamental human rights. Such tactics in sensitive areas can further create distrust and hatred among the public. If there is any case against a political activist, it should be dealt with transparently and constitutionally. Hidden allegations and illegal actions should be stopped immediately to ensure peace and stability in the region.

Roshan Din Diamri

Central Spokesperson, Human Rights Council of Pakistan

#GilgitBaltistan @HRCPakistan
@Ahmad_Noorani @hrw@amnesty

Link to the tweet:

https://x.com/Rohshan_Din/status/1869361793891745884

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

16 December 2024

Gilgit-Baltistan should not be made Balochistan, says opposition leader Gilgit-Baltistan

#gilgitbaltistan #assembly
#oppositionleader #balochistan

Link to the video:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1868700465925701803>

PAMIR Times @pamirtimes

18 December 2024

COP29: Key takeaways for Gilgit-Baltistan #COP29Baku

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/pamirtimes/status/1869096977700692327>

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Disclaimer

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