

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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CPEC
Tourism
skilled workforce
developmental projects



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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

'UN must play a role on Kashmir:' Pakistan Foreign Minister

The Nation, October 25, 2021

On the 76th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations (UN), Pakistan foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that "the just struggle of the people of Kashmir to realize their inalienable right of self-determination, guaranteed under several resolutions of the UN Security Council, is being suppressed with brutal force by an occupying power."

He further said that the UN charter emphasized the principles of equal rights and self-determination of people. He noted that these basic rights continue to be defied with impunity across many parts of the world, particularly in the "Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir." He urged the UN to play a role in the resolution of the longstanding Kashmir issue.

<https://nation.com.pk/25-Oct-2021/un-must-play-role-on-kashmir-pakistan>

'Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to release song titled-Haan Main Kashmir Hoon'

The Nation, October 27, 2021

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in collaboration with the Youth Parliament of Pakistan (YPP) will release a song "Haan Main Kashmir Hoon (yes I am Kashmir)" on the occasion of "Kashmir Black Day" (October 27).

President of YPP, Ubaid Qureshi said: "Haan Main Kashmir Hoon" is a visual representation of "human rights violations in occupied Kashmir" of the past seven decades. The Urdu lyrics of the song narrates the story of every Kashmiri and has been sung by a Kashmiri. The song will also be released in the Kashmiri language as "NIGAROO."

The President of YPP noted that the purpose of this song is to remind the international community about their "commitment to the right to self-determination." The song will also be released by Pakistan MFA worldwide with English subtitles on the occasion of "Kashmir Black Day" to be observed by the Pakistanis on October 27.

<https://nation.com.pk/27-Oct-2021/fo-to-release-song-titled-haan-main-kashmir-hoon>

'Kashmir issue an unresolved agenda between Pakistan, India:' Pakistan National Assembly Speaker

The Nation, October 27, 2021

Pakistan national assembly speakers, Asad Qaiser and deputy speaker Qasim Khan Suri have said that the issue of Kashmir is an "unsettled agenda" between India and Pakistan. Both the leaders further emphasized that Pakistan has never forgotten Kashmir and we will continue to strive for its "right of self-determination." They expressed these views on the occasion of "Kashmir black day" which is being observed across Pakistan to mark "solidarity with Kashmiri people." They further noted that the present government of Pakistan has

always raised “Kashmir dispute” on every regional and international forum through parliamentary diplomacy.

The speaker said that the “oppression and brutality of the Indian government against the innocent Kashmiris” has put the peace of the world and the region at stake. They said that repealing of articles 370 and 35-A from the constitution of India has deprived the “Kashmiri people of their identity and freedom” which is a violation of the promises made to Kashmiris at the international level. The speakers vowed to extend moral and diplomatic support to the “oppressed Kashmiris” and spare no effort to highlight the Kashmir issue to the world.

Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri said that October 27 “reminds us of the tragic event when the Indian army forcibly occupied Kashmir.”

<https://nation.com.pk/27-Oct-2021/kashmir-issue-an-unresolved-agenda-between-pakistan-india-qaiser>

‘Pakistan to highlight genocide, demographic changes in IIOJK: Afridi

The Nation, October 27, 2021

Chairman of Kashmir Committee, Shehryar Khan Afridi expressed the resolve to expand the level of engagements with the international community to highlight the “genocide and demographic changes in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.” While addressing a news conference on the occasion of “October 27 as Black Day”, he noted that “Kashmiris are deprived of basic

human rights.” The Chairman of the Kashmir Committee said that Pakistan observes October 27 as Black Day, every year to make it clear to India that Kashmiris will never accept its “illegal rule in Jammu and Kashmir” and also to remind the world of its commitments regarding Kashmir. Shehryar Afridi stressed the need to extend all possible diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiri brethren of “occupied Jammu and Kashmir.”

<https://nation.com.pk/27-Oct-2021/pakistan-to-highlight-genocide-demographic-changes-in-iiojk-afridi>

'We are with you at every forum': Pakistan President to Kashmiris

Dawn, October 27, 2021

Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi at a rally in Islamabad (to mark the Kashmir Black day) assured people of occupied Kashmir that Pakistan stood with them at every forum and fought their case everywhere.” He further noted that the international community needs to take notice of the “oppression and barbarism that is continuing in Kashmir.” He alleged that there was “no democracy” in Kashmir as opposed to what the Indian government claimed, adding that what was happening with Kashmiri people was also reflected in what is happening with “minorities elsewhere in India and especially Muslims.”

He said that Pakistan will “not accept India's forced demographic changes in the occupied valley,” and noted that the world needs to “see how minorities are treated in Pakistan and look at how minorities are treated in India.”

The president further stressed that "the hearts of the Kashmiris beat with us and that even amidst this oppression, they express their love and emotions for Pakistan." He assured Kashmiris that their freedom was near and called upon the Indian prime minister to put an end to the oppression in Kashmir.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1654343/we-are-with-you-at-every-forum-president-alvi-assures-kashmiris-on-black-day>

'Youth urged to build public opinion in support of Kashmiris'

Pakistan Observer, October 29, 2021

Pakistan's consulate in New York organized a special event to observe "Kashmir Black Day." During the program, Pakistan ambassador Munir Akram urged a youthful audience to "get involved in building public opinion in support of Kashmiris' struggle" for their right to self-determination.

While addressing the young people (Pakistani-American students from colleges in New York), ambassador Akram urged them to help create awareness among people in the United States (US) about the "Kashmir dispute and the gross human rights abuses by Indian troops in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir."

He further stressed that the US is a democratic country and its leaders are responsive to the pressures from their constituents. He noted that on the diplomatic front, Pakistan was doing all it can to "enable Kashmiri people to exercise their right to self-

determination" through a United Nations (UN) supervised plebiscite under the Security Council resolutions.

He stressed that as a result of Pakistan's efforts, the Security Council has met thrice on Kashmir issue since 2019 when "India annexed occupied Kashmir." He also reiterated that due to the efforts of Pakistan diplomats in highlighting the "Kashmir cause", the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, made a strong statement upholding UN Security Council resolutions to resolve the dispute over Kashmir, and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued two reports denouncing right's abuse in Kashmir and calling for an investigation.

<https://pakobserver.net/youth-urged-to-build-public-opinion-in-support-of-kashmiris/>

Economic Developments

'GB can grab huge benefits of CPEC projects by offering skilled force' Speaker

Pakistan Observer, October 26, 2021

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) assembly speaker, Syed Amjad Zaidi, while welcoming multiple initiatives taken by Pakistan Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector Support Programme (SSP) and international donors for producing skilled manpower in the region, has said that the region can grab substantial benefits from China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects by providing a skilled workforce that can bring

economic and social development to the local people.

He expressed these views while addressing a donor's conference organized by the Directorate of Technical Education and Skills Development (DTESD), GB, in collaboration with TVET-SSP. The GB assembly speaker said that due to the CPEC led projects, the region has been witnessing several mega economic interventions especially the construction of dams and roads network, unexplored mineral resources, tourism, trade, renewable energy, and emerging Information Technology (IT).

Syed Amjad Zaidi also said that the partnership between DTESD, TVET-SSP, and other development partners will help to train the required workforce to meet the challenges for prosperity and economic growth in GB. During the meeting, Ovidiu Mic, the head of the European Union (EU) development cooperation in Pakistan, said that the collaborative efforts of various development partners in this region can further build on what the EU and its development partners have initiated with our engagement over the past decade.

He noted that the region has a lot of scope for a variety of skills in sectors such as construction, engineering, hospitality, information technology, and renewable energy, and we look forward to continuing our engagement in the TVET sector here. The TVET-SSP is funded by EU, Germany, the Royal Norwegian Embassy, and its program are implemented by the Pakistan

National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NVTTC) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), in collaboration with regional TVET, PVTC, and regional TVET bodies like GB-DTESD.

<https://pakobserver.net/gb-can-grab-huge-benefits-of-cpec-projects-by-offering-skilled-force-speaker/>

'Azad Kashmir Development Working Party held its second meeting'

Jammu and Kashmir Times, October 27, 2021

The second meeting of the "Azad Kashmir" development working party for the current financial year 2021-22 was held under the chairmanship of the additional chief secretary of development, Dr. Sajid Mahmood Chauhan. The meeting was attended by the secretaries, head of the departments, and the officers of the planning and development department while the representatives of the government of Pakistan participated in the meeting through a video link.

The meeting reviewed and considered 28 developmental projects of various departments involving an expenditure of 4 billion and 840 million rupees. The projects related to agriculture, forest, environment, health, industries, higher education, electricity, and communication and information technology were reviewed. Apart from these projects, the construction of 34 km roads, improvement, and completion of projects including Tatta Pani Bypass Road in Kotli District,

Jagran Resort to Cotton Road in Neelum District, Kail to Taubat Road, and the projects from Chogli, Bangi Musa Road, and Bangaran Tatta Pani to Thandalan Miki Masjid Link Road in Poonch district was also on the agenda of the meeting. The plans for setting up of "Azad Kashmir" web portal and e-facilitation center were also considered at the meeting. While addressing the meeting, the additional chief secretary of development urged the officials to complete all the development projects within the stipulated time, so that the targets for the financial year could be achieved.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/FP.....27.jpg>

PM Imran Khan's announced 500 billion packages for AJK: Sardar Tanveer Ilyas

Daily Pakistan, October 28, 2021

President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) "Azad Kashmir" and senior minister of state, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that under the vision of Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan, a new era of development is about to begin in "Azad Kashmir." He further stressed that PM of Pakistan, Imran Khan has announced a package of Rs 500 billion for the "Azad Kashmir government" which will be spent on the welfare of the people. He said that "Azad Kashmir" will be made a corruption-free state and emphasized that the entire PTI team in the government will use its energies to fulfill the promises made to the people in the elections. He reiterated that under the vision of PM Imran Khan, a

changed Kashmir is on the horizon and no area of "Azad Kashmir" will be neglected. He said that all resources will be used for the promotion of tourism and development in "Azad Kashmir."

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/28-Oct-2021/1358605>

Recommendation to allocate PKR 250 million for GB in CPEC Projects

Dailyk2, October 29, 2021

A meeting was held under the joint chairmanship of Chief Minister (CM) of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Khalid Khurshid and chairman of the parliamentary committee for China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CM of GB while giving a detailed briefing on the proposed projects also highlights the problems related to CPEC projects in the province. The parliamentary committee on CPEC appreciated the suggestions of the CM and it was decided that a special meeting would be held in Islamabad in the coming days in which representatives of all concerned stakeholders would also be invited to address the difficulties faced by the proposed projects. During the meeting, it was also decided to allocate Rupees 250 million for GB out of the one billion allocated for socio-economic development projects under the CPEC led projects. The meeting further discussed the establishment of special economic zones in GB in the fields of energy, hydel power projects, agriculture, and tourism. The parliamentary committee will hold a special meeting in Islamabad to find a lasting solution to the problems facing

other important energy projects, including connecting GB to the national grid station.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/3973>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

'In the presence of Imran Khan, there can be no bargaining over Kashmir and no formula for partition of Kashmir can be considered:' AJK PM

Urdu Point, October 25, 2021

The Prime Minister (PM) of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, while addressing the district bar association Rawalpindi has said that in the presence of the PM of Pakistan Imran Khan, there can be no bargaining on Kashmir and no formula for partition of Kashmir can be considered. He stressed that the PM of Pakistan is a benefactor and an advocate of the cause of the Kashmiris and the way he is fighting the case of Kashmir at every forum is commendable. He emphasized that Poonch is the land of conquerors and martyrs. The people here have made tremendous sacrifices for Tehreek-e-Azadi Kashmir and Tehreek-e-Azadi Pakistan. There will be no formula for partition of Kashmir in the presence of PM Imran Khan. He further noted that recently President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry visited New York as representative of the Kashmiris. Now he is exposing the "ongoing Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir" in Europe. The AJK PM further said that according to the vision and mission of the PM of Pakistan Imran Khan, merit will prevail in "Azad Kashmir" and his government

will uplift the poor and ensure the restoration of merit.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/rawalakot/national-news/live-news-2940154.html>

'Kashmiris' struggle cannot be suppressed:' Shah Mehmood Qureshi

Jang, October 27, 2021

Pakistan foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said that despite lockdown and human rights violations, Kashmiris are bravely facing "Indian atrocities." The foreign minister in a message on "Kashmiris' black day" said that October 27 was a dark day for the Kashmiris and their historic struggle could not be suppressed. He further said that the Kashmir issue should be resolved following the resolutions of the Security Council. The hopes of the Kashmiri people will be fulfilled one day. He alleged that Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and all over the world including Pakistan are observing the black day and a complete strike has been declared in the "occupied valley."

<https://jang.com.pk/news/1003529>

Resolution of Kashmir dispute as per UN resolutions, aspirations of Kashmiri people is essential for lasting peace in South Asia: PM Imran Khan

Daily Pakistan, October 27, 2021

In his message on the occasion of commemorating October 27 as Black Day, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Imran Khan said that Pakistanis and

millions of Kashmiris are affected by the “illegal occupation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir by India.” He said that the resolution of the Kashmir dispute is essential for lasting peace and stability in South Asia as per United Nations (UN) resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. He further noted that unfortunately, India is currently ruled by an ideology that has no place for Muslims and other minorities in that country. The PM further said that “illegal occupation of Kashmir by India” actually means to prevent the subjugated Kashmiris from freely deciding their future as per their wishes. He noted that despite seven decades of “oppressive rule of Indian occupying forces,” Kashmiris are strong in their determination for independence. He further stressed that 815 days have passed since “India’s military and media blackout and other unilateral and illegal sanctions.” He maintained that the “extrajudicial killings, rapes, and other serious human rights violations” are widely prevalent in the “occupied Kashmir. He stressed that the domicile laws introduced by the Indian government to change the demographic in the valley reflect India’s intention to change the ground realities of this internationally recognized conflict. The PM said that Pakistan has been opposing these steps of India for the last two years and emphasized that Pakistan has raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in every forum including the United Nations (UN), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and also with important world leaders. The issue has also been raised bilaterally.

For the first time in 55 years, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute was brought before the UN Security Council.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/27-Oct-2021/1357785>

Kashmiris are deeply displeased with the attitude of Pakistani rulers: JI leader Siraj

Jasarat, October 27, 2021

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Ameer Siraj-ul-Haq has said that the Kashmiri people are deeply displeased with the attitude of Pakistani rulers. In his statement on the “Kashmir Black Day,” the Jamaat-e-Islami chief said that the hearts of Pakistanis beat with Kashmiris while the Pakistan government completely surrendered to India on the Kashmir issue.

Siraj-ul-Haq alleged that “India has occupied Kashmir aggressively” and demanded that the United Nations (UN) must give Kashmiris the right of self-determination.

<https://www.jasarat.com/en/2021/10/27/kashmiris-deeply-displeased-with-attitude-of-pakistani-rulers-siraj/>

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Disclaimer

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