

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 3 | Issue 24

12 June - 18 June 2023

POK hydropower
Diamer Basha Water
Dasu dams scarcity
Gilgit-Baltistan NEPRA
Shortage of electricity **infrastructure**



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

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Political Developments

Is Simla Agreement still relevant?

Pakistan Observer, 13 June 2023

In his farewell speech to the Pentagon in December 2006, Donald Rumsfeld warned that 'weakness is provocative'. This approach seems to be the beating heart of many powers', foreign policy and also serves to explain the Simla Agreement. Pakistan signed the pact just after losing a war in which it was dismembered, conceding ground that has only served to weaken its claims since. Following India's abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in August 2019, the question for Pakistan is whether the Simla Agreement should be given CPR and revived, or whether it is worth withdrawing from entirely.

As per the agreement, India and Pakistan need to settle their differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations and prohibit either country from unilaterally altering the situation. Pakistan maintains its desire to talk to India but also solicits international intervention to ensure the implementation of Security Council Resolutions. Its longstanding position has been that Jammu and Kashmir need to be demilitarized and a supervised plebiscite held. India meanwhile states that the Simla Agreement precludes international involvement in the issue (despite India being the one to take the issue to the UN) and deprives Pakistan of locus standi from intervening in Kashmir. India also contends that local elections in Kashmir (held under the

eyes of its huge army, which have been marred by violence, boycotts, and accusations of rigging) are the same as a plebiscite. Pakistan's main grievance is that by abrogating Article 370 and balkanizing the territory into two separate states, India has unilaterally altered the situation in violation of the Simla Agreement.

However, the international community has alarmingly seemed to side with India largely due to its desire to not rankle this regional power too much. It has stopped engaging with even the UN's Military Observer Group to India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) following the Simla Agreement, leaving only Pakistan reporting to the organization which is largely toothless due to India's refusal to participate. So, what should Pakistan do? We are currently again in a weak position, with First World moneylenders at our throats our economic situation will worsen and our defense budget will be cut (while India side-eyeing China has anxiously increased its own by 13 percent). However, Pakistan should look to thwart India's long-term goals. The focus of Pakistan's argument should be highlighting that the legal title for Jammu and Kashmir has not been passed to India. Pakistan's withdrawal from Simla would be valid under international law. This is because India, in annexing and bifurcating the disputed territory, has committed a material breach of the agreement. Article 60 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties defines a material breach of a treaty as the violation of a

provision essential to the accomplishment of the object or purpose of the treaty, which in this instance would be a unilateral act that does not accord with bilateralism. Withdrawing after having attempted to create a sub-agreement and appoint a mediator would indicate that Pakistan has attempted to uphold the obligations under the treaty as much as it could, leaving withdrawal as the only remaining option.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/13-Jun-2023/is-simla-agreement-still-relevant>

Sikh and Kashmiri communities will adopt a common strategy for the release of captives: Dr. Tahir Tabassum

Daily Parliament Times, 14 June 2023

The head of the International think tank, Institute of Peace and Development (INSPAD), Dr. Sardar Muhammad Tahir Tabassum has said that the Sikhs and Kashmiri community should make their strategy for the release of Sikh and Kashmiris with cooperation and unity. He said that Kashmiri leaders including Yasin Malik, Shabir Ahmed Shah, Musarat Alam, Sikh leader Jathedar Jagtaar Singh Hawara, and other Kashmiri and Sikh political prisoners have been 'unlawfully imprisoned' by India for many years and we will have to fight together for their release. He was talking to Sikh leaders including the World Sikh Parliament Speaker, Sardar Joga Singh, and Secretary General Manpreet Singh at Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabah. Gurdwara President

Sardar Balveer Singh and INSPAD Vice President Colonel Retired Mohabbat Ali were also present on occasion. Both leaders have said that the time has come to organize the movements of Kashmir and Khalistan and added that all the movements active for freedom from India should also communicate with each other. He further claimed that the Indian government is committing serious violations of 'human rights' and 'genocide' in Kashmir, Punjab and that the minorities living in India are not safe. Tabassum said that Sikhs have made immense sacrifices to realize the dream of Khalistan, still, thousands of Sikh leaders are imprisoned in Indian jails. The Indian Army's attack on the Golden Temple is commemorated every year in June. When the 'enemy is one', planning should also be done together, he added.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/06/14/sikh-and-kashmir-community-will-adopt-a-common-strategy-for-the-release-of-captives-dr-tahir-tabassum/>

The Balkanisation of Jammu and Kashmir

Pakistan Observer, 14 June 2023

In the mid-1990s, when he was Mayor of Istanbul, Recep Tayyip Erdogan famously quipped 'democracy is like a tram. You ride it until you arrive at your destination, then you step off.' India, once called the world's largest democracy, seems to have adopted this approach when it comes to Jammu and Kashmir. After achieving regional superpower status and following the

BJP's election into power, it has become decidedly and unapologetically non-democratic. The bifurcation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir is a worrying development that should be followed very carefully by Pakistan and China. Firstly, this seeks to dilute the demography of the state. Ladakh has a Buddhist majority with a sizable Shia Muslim population, Kashmir's valley has a Muslim majority, and Jammu has a Hindu majority. Now that these have been balkanised by India into two territories and India's settler laws encourage non-local, mostly Hindu Indians to move to Jammu and Kashmir, it is likely that India wants the Muslim majority in the valley to be substantially diluted. This would be a problem for Pakistan's long-standing legal position which is that a referendum should be held in the state, as the question now is where this would be held and also how many local Kashmiris would be left in the territory to vote.

Amit Shah, as Foreign Minister, explained that the state was bifurcated owing to the 'long pending demand of people of Ladakh, to give it the status of a Union Territory to enable them to realise their aspirations', whilst, for Jammu and Kashmir, the reason given is 'the prevailing internal security situation, fuelled by cross border terrorism in the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir.' The law however is legally void as India's constitution, under Article 3, does not allow the Parliament to get rid of a state and create two union territories in its place.

The other important element to this relates to China. The Chinese Foreign Ministry released a statement the day after India's announcement regarding the bifurcation which said that 'India has continued to undermine China's territorial sovereignty by unilaterally changing its domestic law.' Since then China has stated it is following the situation closely and maintains that any unilateral change to the status quo is 'illegal and invalid.' President Xi, in October 2019, during a visit to India was quoted as saying the 'dragon and elephant dance is the only correct choice for China and India', which seems to indicate that China wants India to act in tandem with it and not unilaterally to prevent issues. The reason for China's indignation is because Ladakh abuts China's Aksai Chin where the Line of Actual Control between India and China runs.

As both sides are now competing to build infrastructure along the disputed Line of Actual Control, there are likely to be more clashes along this area especially given India's aim is to enhance Ladakh's connectivity and construction of a new road to a high-altitude base has already started. India is investing heavily in defence infrastructure in Ladakh in a move that signals its desire to meet China toe to toe along the disputed border. India's real reasons should be a cause for concern for both China and Pakistan but could also be an opportunity for Pakistan and China to align their state practice in a way that preserves their joint interests while preserving the

disputed nature of the territory. Not only is the division of the state of Jammu and Kashmir a violation of international law, but it is also an erosion of India's democracy, and it affects two of the largest countries in the region. In violating their constitution to further oppress and change the demographics of the valley, India can no longer claim to be the world's largest democracy. This ride ended in August 2019 and India has most definitely gotten off the tram.

<https://pakobserver.net/the-balkanisation-of-jammu-and-kashmir/>

JKSM raises concerns over Modi's visit to the US

Daily Times, 17 June 2023

The Chairman of the Jammu Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), Altaf Ahmed Bhat, expresses 'deep concerns' regarding the upcoming visit of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United States (US). He said that as an organization dedicated to advocating for the rights and self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, we believe it is essential for the US to consider the implications of hosting a leader with a 'controversial record.' He further added that Prime Minister Modi's past as a Hindu nationalist and his 'involvement in the deadly violence' in Gujarat, which claimed the lives of thousands of innocent people, cannot be ignored. He claimed that Modi's tenure as Prime Minister has witnessed a 'sharp rise in hate crimes' against minorities in India and the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has

significantly deteriorated under his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The unilateral revocation of Kashmir's special status on 5 August 2019, and the subsequent division of the state into two union territories were clear violations of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, he added. He further alleged that the people of Kashmir have endured immense suffering and their fundamental freedoms have been suspended, and the social, political, and economic life of Kashmiris has been 'severely suppressed.' The Indian government's actions have resulted in the arbitrary arrests and harassment of thousands of innocent Kashmiris, including political activists, lawyers, business owners, journalists, students, and human rights defenders. He alleged that even foreign journalists have been barred from entering Kashmir, obstructing the flow of accurate information about the human rights abuses taking place in the region. He stressed that the United States, as a champion of human rights and the rule of law, has a responsibility to address these grave concerns. We call upon the US administration and political representatives from all parties to raise the issue of human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir with Prime Minister Modi during his visit. It is crucial that allegations of human rights abuses are thoroughly and transparently investigated, and that all individuals enjoy equal rights and protection under the law, irrespective of their location.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1104096/jksm-raises-concerns-over-modis-visit-to-us/>

Wani urges US President, Congressmen to raise the Kashmir issue with the Indian premier during his visit to the US

Pakistan Observer, 17 June 2023

The Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Altaf Hussain Wani, has conveyed his serious concerns to United States President Joe Biden and other officials of the administration about Indian Premier Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the US. Wani in a joint communique addressed to the US president, Congressmen, Senators, and top officials of the state department said that before rolling out a red carpet for the Indian premier, they should take into account the fact that Modi is the man who is censored as a 'Hero of hatred and killer of Kashmiris.' He alleged that it is under his rule that hate crimes against minorities in India have skyrocketed by 300 percent. The rising tide of 'anti-Muslim hate, xenophobia, and Islamophobia' within Indian society is the result of 'hate propaganda' perpetrated by the leaders of his party, as well as 'anti-Muslim laws' and policies passed or proposed in many states, including 'occupied Kashmir', the communique stated.

He said that Modi and his party the BJP, were directly responsible for the fast-deteriorating political and human rights situation in the UN-recognised disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir. While referring to the RSS-influenced regime's muscular policy on Kashmir, Wani said on 5 August 2019,

the Modi government, in brazen violation of the UNSC resolutions, moved a contentious bill that led to the revocation of Kashmir's special status and dissolution of the state into two union territories. Before embarking on its ambitious mission, the Modi government, he claimed laid a complete siege, and hapless Kashmiris who were virtually caged in their houses reeled under curfew and clampdown for more than 14 months. Essential fundamental freedoms were suspended and the social, political, and economic life of the Kashmiris remained critically suppressed, the letter further said. Thousands of Kashmiris, he said, were arrested and faced harassment and imprisonment. Since US foreign policy puts the rule of law, democracy, and human rights at the very heart of the global agenda, Wani expressed the hope that the present US administration and political parties from both sides of the aisle would apply the same principles when it comes to the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

<https://pakobserver.net/wani-urges-us-president-congressmen-to-raise-kashmir-issue-with-indian-premier-during-his-visit-to-us/>

Bilawal urges the UN to play a role in Kashmir

Daily Times, 17 June 2023

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has urged the United Nations to play its role in resolving the Kashmir dispute as per the Security Council's resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. While addressing a

ceremony held on the occasion of the 50th Foundation Day of the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad, the Foreign Minister said the world powers must take action against India's 'unilateral, brutal, despotic and illegal actions' in 'illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK). He stressed the need for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve all outstanding issues. He said Pakistan wants good relations with other countries including India.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1104150/bilawal-urges-un-to-play-role-on-kashmir/>

Economic Developments

NEPRA holds meeting to discuss, and advance power development initiatives in 'AJK'

The Nation, 12 June 2023

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) convened a meeting to discuss and advance the power development initiatives in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK). The meeting which was chaired by Mathar Niaz Rana, a member of NEPRA's Tariff and Finance, was also attended by the Secretary of Power 'AJK' and CEO of K-Electric and his team among others. The primary focus of the meeting was to address key challenges and explore opportunities for facilitating power development initiatives in 'AJK.' In his opening remarks, Mathar Niaz Rana shed light on the crucial aspects of the Competitive Trading Bilateral Contract Market (CTBCM) and its implications for the power sector. A comprehensive

discussion ensued during the meeting, highlighting the immense hydropower potential in 'AJK', estimated at a known potential of a staggering 23,000 MW and an estimation of about 46,000 MW. The participants examined strategies to streamline the ongoing and upcoming projects that face obstacles from power purchasers, ensuring their smooth resolution. The K-Electric expressed gratitude to Mathar Niaz Rana for his support in this matter, affirming KE's commitment to procure cheap hydropower from 'AJK' to bring down the tariff of K-Electric for its consumers, this will also reduce the subsidies being provided by the Government of Pakistan to K-Electric. Mathar Niaz Rana pledged wholehearted support and assistance to the 'AJK' government to actively resolve any hurdle hindering power development in the region.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Jun-2023/nepra-holds-meeting-to-discuss-advance-power-development-initiative-in-ajk>

Over 900 projects still in limbo in quake-hit areas of 'AJK'

Dawn, 12 June 2023

At least 46 billion are required by the authorities in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) to complete 1,730 ongoing and yet-to-be-initiated projects in the earthquake-affected areas. Of these projects, 919 were in limbo despite being at different stages of execution due to the unavailability of funds from Islamabad since April 2021

while the remaining 811 could not even be initiated until this day, said Zafar Nabi Butt, secretary of the State Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (SERRA). While briefing a group of journalists, he recalled that after the northern parts of AJK were ravaged by the worst-ever natural disaster in October 2005, the people and armed forces of Pakistan as well as the international community had provided generous financial support for the rehabilitation and reconstruction process.

Resultantly, he said, state-of-the-art institutions and facilities were built in 14 sectors, mainly the education sector, which had recorded the highest number of physical and material losses. However, since the majority of the under-construction and yet-to-be-initiated projects - 515 and 597, respectively are in the education sector, around two hundred thousand children are compelled to quench their thirst for education under the open sky in scorching summer heats and biting winter colds, he said. These children are desperately looking towards the government of Pakistan for the early completion of the buildings of their respective institutions so that they can also carry on their educational activities in a comfortable environment, he added.

The cost of these 1,730 projects was Rs27.6 billion in October 2021, but it had now swelled to Rs46 billion due to record inflation in the country, Mr. Butt said. He said since the international community had provided a plentiful

amount to the government of Pakistan for the earthquake victims, non-completion of the projects on time was also denting the country's reputation at the global level. According to him, the post-earthquake infrastructure development portfolio consisted of 7,608 projects, under three modes of execution – sponsors, donors, and government of Pakistan (GoP) funding. All 1,730 projects in limbo were under the GOP funding, he said. In response to a question, he added that 81 projects in education and five in the health sector were at the advanced stages of execution, ranging between 75 and 95pc, and could be completed in the next six months from Rs1.5 billion.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1759222/over-900-projects-still-in-limbo-in-quake-hit-areas-of-ajk>

Growing Water Scarcity and Human Losses in Hunza

Pamir Times, 13 June 2023

Providing necessities, including education, health, food, electricity, water, and shelter, to all citizens is the primary responsibility of every state and its institutions. But people in our communities have no option but to address major issues on their own, putting their lives and limbs at risk. An unfortunate, example is a recent tragic incident in which we lost two senior citizens while three are seriously injured during the maintenance of irrigation channels in Aliabad, Hunza. Hunza, a major tourist destination in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), is seriously suffering because of a lack of many necessities. Water scarcity is one of the

most serious issues, which is rapidly growing in the region due to the mismanagement of irrigation systems. While the Hunza district administration has been giving traditional statements regarding the resolution of these issues, no tangible action has been taken so far. The political leadership has also failed to address these basic issues. Shortage of electricity in Hunza is also one of the major issues for many years but unfortunately, so far, only fake commitments and political point scoring by politicians can be seen. The Chief Minister of GB should take immediate notice of human losses during the maintenance of irrigation channels and take corrective actions. Aliabad is one of the most populous cities in GB, needing a huge amount of water for residents, as well as myriad offices and commercial establishments. Despite demands by the locals, the relevant departments have not taken any action due to which the situation has exacerbated and has reached a crisis point. This negligence and ineptness need to be addressed by the regional government and administration to ensure a better quality of life for the residents and visitors.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/06/13/growing-water-scarcity-and-human-losses-in-hunza/>

Proposals to be made for the SEZ in Diamar, Skardu, and Hunza

Dailyk2, 13 June 2023

The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid while

speaking at the Special Economic Zone Authority (SEZ) meeting stated that the SEZ is a key project for bringing investors to the province and that the relevant ministries should focus on making it a profitable effort. He recommended and granted permission for the establishment of the SEZ Authority and stressed that the concerned department should prepare the application with due diligence for the federal government's final approval. According to him, the SEZ in GB should be created with minimal to no pollution and a nice atmosphere. He said that the province has a good possibility of attracting investors thanks to the SEZ. The Industries Department was given the assignment by Khalid Khurshid to develop proposals for the establishment of the GB Economic Zone in Diamar, Skardu, and Hunza. The Chief Minister recommended accelerating the selection of the Vice Chairman and DG of the Board of Investment to ensure that more facilities are provided to investors. To guarantee the success of this important project and to address community concerns, he also issued the relevant departments instructions to consult with regional stakeholders.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/14917>

Completion of Basha, Mohmand, Dasu to usher progress, prosperity: Minister

Pakistan Observer, 14 June 2023

Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah, believed that the completion of the

Diamer Basha, Mohmand, and Dasu dams would contribute to achieving progress and prosperity in the country. While taking part in a general discussion on the budget for the year 2023-24, Shah expressed the hope that Pakistan would be able to issue loans to other countries after the completion of dams, as they would generate cheaper electricity. He said that insufficient funds had been allocated for the construction of these dams and suggested freezing the development funds of other projects and allocating the entire amount for dam construction.

<https://pakobserver.net/completion-of-basha-mohmand-dasu-to-usher-progress-prosperity-minister/>

'AJK' cabinet reviews supplementary budget for the fiscal year 2022-23

Pakistan Today, 18 June 2021

The 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq reviewed the supplementary budget for the fiscal year 2022-23. The 'AJK' Secretary of Finance Ismatullah Shah presented the figures of the supplementary budget for the financial year 2022-23 before the cabinet. The Cabinet also reviewed the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee constituted concerning supplementary grants. The Finance Secretary has been directed to present the demands approved by the cabinet in the Legislative Assembly. The cabinet also approved an ordinance for better management of government

buildings. Under this ordinance, better management and maintenance of state-owned buildings within and outside the state would be possible. The cabinet also approved the proposed ordinance seeking a complete ban on deforestation. As per the ordinance, five-year imprisonment has been fixed for those involved in the illicit trade of tree cutting in the forests. Moreover, the fine limit for illegal tree cutting has been increased to eleven times.

Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq also told the cabinet members that the release of more funds from the federal government was expected during the financial year. The cabinet decided to open an account under the title of 'Mad-e-Amanat' in which development/additional funds received from the federal government not being spent before the end of the financial year could be deposited. The cabinet, while expressing a sense of shock over the Greece boat disaster, announced a one-day mourning to mourn the death of innocent people who lost their lives in the tragic incident. The cabinet reiterated that human traffickers and travel agents involved would be dealt with strictly according to the law of the land. The Prime Minister directed the Chief Secretary to stay in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs so that the dead bodies of the victims could be brought back home in time.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/06/18/ajk-cabinet-reviews-supplementary-budget-for-fiscal-year-2022-23/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

The international community should fulfil its crucial role in resolving the Kashmir issue: Nusrat Shahnaz Durrani

Urdupoint, 12 June 2023

The leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) and president of the 'Azad Kashmir' National Peace Council (AKNPC), Nusrat Shahnaz Durrani, has pleaded with the international community to play a significant role in resolving the Kashmir issue. She also asserted that a just resolution to the Kashmir conflict is required for long-lasting peace in South Asia. Since the Kashmir problem has been actively pursued before the Security Council for the past 75 years, Ms. Nusrat claimed that it is still open for discussion on the UN agenda. The protracted conflict can only be resolved by freeing Kashmir from 'occupation.' She claimed that despite the harsh actions taken by India, the Hurriyat spirit persisted in the hearts of Kashmiris. She claimed that international human rights organizations should pay notice to the long-term captivity of Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders in Indian jails. She asserted that the world now recognizes Kashmiris' quest for independence because they are using their freedom to resist an 'oppressive Indian government' on their territory. She highlighted that the international community ought to pay attention to India's stubbornness and do their share

to protect the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3614943.html>

The PTI chairman's and Modi's nexus led to the annexation of Kashmir: Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman

Jasarat, 12 June 2023

Maulana Fazlur Rahman, the chairman of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) and the leader of the coalition of Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has alleged that the relationship between Prime Minister Modi and the Chairman of the PTI Imran Khan is to blame for 'Kashmir's occupation.' Imran Khan's contentious selection as the PM of Pakistan has cost the nation much, and it still does. Rahman claimed that despite difficulties, the coalition government had delivered a balanced budget and that Pakistan was currently going through an economic crisis. Rahman claims that the PTI government slowed down and diminished a 70 billion dollar investment from China during their tenure. The CPEC transformed the friendship between Pakistan and China into economic cooperation, which otherwise had been frozen due to a global conspiracy. He said that Pakistan enthusiastically welcomes Chinese investment in many other fields beyond the CPEC.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/06/12/maulana-fazal-ur-rahman-6/>

'AJK' PM presided over a Parliamentary Party gathering of like-minded group members

UrduPoint, 12 June 2023

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq presided over a meeting of like-minded Parliamentary Party members who praised the PM for amicably resolving the financial and political problems in 'Azad Kashmir' while expressing their complete faith and confidence in his leadership. The members also shared their thoughts and ideas for the Prime Minister's next budget. During his speech to the group, Anwar ul Haq emphasised that while non-developmental expenses would be reduced, the budget for development would receive the proper funding. The budget, he said, would place a special emphasis on fostering the growth of underdeveloped areas, and the current government's top priority would be to pull these communities out of poverty. In addition to promoting the hotel industry in partnership with the private sector, he emphasised that improving road infrastructure will receive special attention. He added that better travel facilities and hotels with the best lodging and dining options would increase the number of tourists visiting the area. He asserted that the coalition government will take decisive action to alleviate the plight of the populace and that much work remains in the ailing domains of education and health. Although 'Azad Kashmir' had a respectable percentage of literacy, he

stressed that there was an urgent need to raise educational standards and quality.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/kashmir/live-news-3615315.html>

Imran Khan took advantage of the people of Kashmir: Muhammad Tahir Khokhar

UrduPoint, 13 June 2023

Muhammad Tahir Khokhar, the leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) and a former minister of tourism and transport, claimed that Imran Khan had taken advantage of the Kashmiri people and that he had set a glaring example by charging unreasonably high prices for PTI election tickets. According to him, there is evidence that PTI tickets were sold in 'Azad Kashmir' in exchange for sizeable donations. He said that Saifullah Sarwar Khan Niazi and Ali Amin Khan Gandapur, members of the PTI Parliamentary Board, provided PTI seats in exchange for significant donations and that they did not even scrutinize the candidates before distributing the tickets. Additionally, they issued tickets to those who were not living in the state but who presented false identification at the elections and claimed to be a resident of Kashmir but were neither migrants nor Kashmiris. He asserted that in addition to the fictitious Assembly members, those selling and buying PTI tickets should also face punishment, and their properties in 'Azad Kashmir' should be looked into. He said today Imran Khan

had been abandoned by those who bought seats in exchange for substantial donations.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3616314.html>

Modi is obliterating the cities and filling graveyards in 'occupied Kashmir:' JI Leader

Jasarat, 18 June 2023

Dr. Khalid Mahmood Khan, the head of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), alleged that India is engaging in the greatest state terrorism and that its 'occupying army' is committing 'war crimes' in 'occupied Kashmir.' He claimed that in addition to razing cities and their infrastructure, Narendra Modi is also invading and destroying graveyards with the bodies of Kashmiris. The Kashmiri people, in Khalid's opinion, are grateful to the Pakistani people and JI Pakistan for their support of the Kashmir Liberation Movement from the beginning. He asserted that India failed to meet the goals for which the G20 summit's drama was intended in 'occupied Kashmir', and that it was a setback for the government due to the absence of the group's main economies at the meeting. Khalid asserted that the Kashmiri people sacrificed up to 500,000 of their lives for freedom and would not accept any other outcome. He claimed that despite all of India's 'imperialist efforts', Kashmiris are steadfast in their desire for freedom and confident that no plot to split the region will be successful. The people of

Kashmir will not allow any alterations to the state's national identity and will uphold their right to self-determination and the state's unity. He stressed the creation of a constitutional system in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) that is similar to 'Azad Kashmir' and the establishment of a constitutional linkage between GB and 'Azad Kashmir' with the creation of the 'Azad Kashmir' liberation movement headquarters in GB without degrading GB's status.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/06/18/dr-khalid-mehmood-11/>

Social Media (tweets)

Tariq Naqash @TariqNaqash

12 June 2023

Since the international community had provided a plentiful amount to the government of #Pakistan for the #earthquake victims, non-completion of projects on time is also denting the country's reputation at the global level, says an #AJK official.

Story link.

<https://twitter.com/TariqNaqash/status/1668084931749085184>

israruddin israr @israruddinisrar

15 June 2023

The local community staged a protest against a shortage of wheat flour at Japan Chowk in Karimabad, Hunza.

Story/visuals link.

<https://twitter.com/israruddinisrar/status/1669351263379800064>

israruddin israr @israruddinisrar

18 June 2023

Local students staged a protest against the lack of primary school in their area in Tadoki, village Oshkhandas Gilgit, GB. The approved school from GB Govt. for the area has been allegedly shifted to another area. Protestors blocked the main road for several hours.

Story link.

<https://twitter.com/israruddinisrar/status/1670267236517330945>

Roshan Din Diameri @Rohshan_Din

19 June 2023

Ninety percent of the buses running from Islamabad to Gilgit-Baltistan are inoperable but no one is asking Mashabrum bus service which has led to the loss of precious lives many times in Gilgit-Baltistan. But no action has been taken except a single case.

Translated from Urdu. Story/video link.

https://twitter.com/Rohshan_Din/status/1670795026148782081

The Pakistan Daily @ThePakDaily

19 June 2023

Greek boat accident: 4 youths of the same house of Khuiratta Tehsil of 'Azad Kashmir', Kotli are missing, the family is in grief.

Find out more details on this report in the link.

<https://twitter.com/ThePakDaily/status/1670804097060970505>

Weekly POK News Digest

Volume 3 | Issue 24

12 June - 18 June 2023

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Disclaimer

PoK weekly News Digest is a collection of news reports and press releases published in various newspapers and local media related to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), referred to as 'Azad Kashmir' and 'Gilgit Baltistan' by the government of Pakistan. The news reports have been edited and abridged to provide clarity. MP-IDSa is not responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the news items.



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