

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 3 | Issue 44

30 October - 05 November 2023

power central Schedule
GB outages electoral process
Islamic POK representation
Movement Gilgit-Baltistan



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

Tribal youth hold walk, car rally, and photo exhibition in Khyber district to express solidarity with Kashmiris

Pakistan Today, 29 October 2023

A walk and photo exhibition depicting the 'Indian force's brutality' in 'illegally occupied Kashmir' (IOK) was organized by District Sports Officer Kashif Farhan in collaboration with the district administration Khyber, wherein hundreds and thousands of athletes of different games, tribal youth, and people from different walks of life participated. The photo exhibition highlighted the true pictures of India's forces' brutality against innocent Kashmiris, followed by a walk and car rally expressing solidarity with the people of illegally held Kashmir. The participants of the walk and car rally chanted slogans against India's forces for killing innocent women, children, and other people in 'occupied Kashmir.' Along with athletes from other games, District Sports Officer Kashif Farhan led the walk and car rally.

Addressing the participants, Kashif Farhan said that the sacrifices of Kashmiris would not go in vain; Pakistan is incomplete without Kashmir. The entire nation is with the Kashmiris in their right to self-determination and freedom struggle, he said. He said that on 27 October Pakistanis successfully observed Black Day to protest against India's 'illegal occupation' and to remind the world

community of its commitments regarding the implementation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions that advocate the right to plebiscite for Kashmiris. The participants of the walk tied black bands on their arms and carried the flags of Pakistan and 'Azad Kashmir.' A one-minute silence was also observed by the athletes to express solidarity with Kashmiris, and the participants carried banners with anti-Indian slogans.

Pakistan does not accept Article 370, which provides special status to the 'occupied' region, because they seek the independence of Kashmir, as it is not part of India, Kashif Farhan added. International footballer Najeeb Shinwari reiterated their unwavering support for the Kashmiri people struggling for their right to self-determination. He added that the day was not far when Kashmiris would be able to break the shackles of subjugation and join Pakistan.

Pakistani youth stand with the Kashmiris, and the time was not far when 'occupied Kashmir' would be freed from Indian oppression. They noted that India usurped the identity of Kashmiris four years ago and imposed the world's longest curfew in 'occupied Kashmir', which is a total violation of international law and against the United Nations resolutions passed in favour of the people of Kashmir. The participants in their address said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had supported the Kashmiri people

before and would continue to give moral, political, and diplomatic support to their struggle for freedom.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/10/29/tribal-youth-hold-walk-car-rally-photo-exhibition-in-kyber-district-to-express-solidarity-with-kashmiris/>

Kashmiris will never relinquish their freedom struggle: Masood Khan

Pakistan Observer, 30 October 2023

Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan has said that the Kashmiri people, who 'continue to suffer under India's military occupation', will not give up their struggle for the right to self-determination 'under any circumstances.' He said that we haven't achieved our goal but we will persevere in our struggle,' he told a seminar held at the Pakistani embassy to mark the Kashmir Black Day. While referring to the international community, he said that 'when you try to sweep such issues under the carpet, they erupt with intensity as it has happened in the case of Palestine,' and added that the 'plight of Kashmiris is even worse than Palestinians.' While drawing attention to the presence of 900,000 Indian troops in the UN-recognized disputed state, he claimed that 'Kashmiris are being targeted by the occupation forces every day. There are killings, arrests, sexual violence, land grabs all documented.'

In this context, Ambassador Masood called for recalibrating the strategy on the Kashmir issue, as the one being

pursued over the last several years has not produced results. He said that at the time of partition, Indian leadership, including Mahatama Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Vallabhbhai Patel, had failed to convince the Kashmiris to join India, as they always wanted to opt for Pakistan. The Maharaja of Kashmir and Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdullah had betrayed the people of Kashmir, he said, adding that India would never have 'occupied' large swaths of Jammu and Kashmir militarily without their explicit consent and support. So 'it was a managed and fake accession,' he claimed.

Former Norwegian MP Lars Rise, speaking to the gathering via Zoom, underscored the need for making world leaders realize about the gravity of the situation and the need to find a permanent solution to the long-standing issue. The President Islamic Circle of North America, Dr. Mohasin Ansari said that the voice for justice may take long but the truth and justice would finally prevail. Noted Author and Historian Victoria Schofield called for galvanizing civil society and raising awareness about the issue of Kashmir. American Analyst on Kashmir, Col Wesley Martin, highlighted the precarious humanitarian situation in 'occupied' territory stating that the entire region was facing a grave threat. He opined that the wave of violence would continue under the present Indian leadership.

During the event, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Secretary-General World Kashmir Awareness Forum, said that the people

of Kashmir were facing an existential threat and genocide. He said that the Indian government was taking steps to change the demography of the region. He also called for US intervention to facilitate the resolution of the Kashmir dispute. Chairman of Kashmir Campaign Global Zafar Qureshi and Professor from George Washington University, Dr. Imtiaz Khan, also spoke, highlighting the worsening of the situation in Kashmir. Kashmiri leader Muzzammil Ayub Thakur and Advisor to president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sardar Zareef Khan urged the U.N. to implement its resolutions that grant the people of Kashmir their right to self-determination. A photographic exhibition highlighting the 'Indian atrocities' and the ground situation in 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir' was also held.

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmiris-will-never-relinquish-their-freedom-struggle-masood-khan/>

Demonstrations across UK, Europe mark Kashmir Black Day

Pakistan Observer, 30 October 2023

Kashmiris, Pakistanis and their allies held protest demonstrations outside Indian missions in the United Kingdom and Europe to mark 76 years of 'illegal Indian occupation' of Kashmir by India. According to Kashmir Media Service, Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK led the protests and digital campaign across the region. Protestors raised pro-Kashmir and pro-freedom slogans outside the Indian missions to send a message that no military might of India can suppress Kashmiris from getting

their birthright. The President of Tehreek-e-Kashmir, UK, Fahim Kayani, told a demonstration in Oslo that it was the right time that the UN and the international community open eyes and give Kashmiris their right i.e. a free and fair plebiscite. Responding to the call of Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK, demonstrations were held in Glasgow, Dundee, Nelson, Birmingham, Como, Luton and Manchester.

<https://pakobserver.net/demonstrations-across-uk-europe-mark-kashmir-black-day/>

Drama on Kashmir issue performed at Lahore's Alhamra

Dawn, 31 October 2023

The Maas Foundation performed its acclaimed play, Aseer-e-Azadi, at Alhamra on Monday. The play was part of the ongoing Lahore Lahore Aye festival being organised by the Punjab government. It was staged in connection with the Kashmir black day to show solidarity with people of Kashmir. Through the play, the Maas Foundation appealed to all the people to raise their voice against the 'Indian atrocities' and aggression in the held Kashmir and pressurise India to hold free and fair plebiscite in the occupied areas according to the UN resolutions. The drama was also about the ongoing freedom movement in Kashmir. It highlighted the 'brutality of Indian troops' who had raped thousands of innocent Kashmiri girls and killed their men.

It revolved around the story of the family of Jalal Baba who had to face miserable conditions due to Indian

army and his daughter, Mahrukh, was raped by an Indian army soldier. Maas Foundation President Aamir Nawaz said the play focused the Kashmir dispute as an internationally recognised issue that needed to be resolved in accordance with the UNSC resolutions and wishes of the Kashmiri people. The Maas Foundation had performed the same play in 2019 in collaboration with the Lahore Arts Council. Later, it performed the play in a number of national and international theatre festivals, including those in Turkmenistan, India, Sri Lanka, China, South Korea and the United Arab Emirates.

<https://images.dawn.com/news/1192083/drama-on-kashmir-issue-performed-at-lahores-alamra>

India's Settler Colonialism in Kashmir

Pakistan Observer, 1 November 2023

The people of Kashmir, who have been subjected to an 'oppressive military occupation' by India since 1947, and Pakistanis observe 27 October as black day. In violation of the Indian Independence Act and the Partition Plan, which gave the people of the former princely states the right to self-determination, India moved soldiers into Jammu and Kashmir on this day. India has employed a range of tactics to strengthen its unlawful and illegitimate rule over Kashmir, including altering the region's demographic makeup, stifling its political ambitions, infringing upon its human rights, and erasing its cultural and historical identity. Despite UN resolutions, the right to self-determination has not been

granted to the Kashmiri people. By allowing Hindus from outside to live in Kashmir, India has also made an effort to change the demographic and cultural composition of the territory. The settler colonial project of India in Kashmir is not something new.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), two Hindu nationalist groups that see Kashmir as a crucial component of their Hindutva ideology, have long harboured this desire. To accomplish their goal of colonising Kashmir, they have been employing a variety of strategies, including granting foreigners domicile certificates, taking land from the native population, destroying Muslim buildings and homes, putting restrictions on religious gatherings and activities, taking advantage of natural resources, and promoting Hindu culture and symbols. The purpose of these actions is to erase the history and identity of the indigenous people and to marginalize them.

Settler colonialism is a strategy by which a colony changes its demographic composition by introducing settlers from the colonizing power or other regions. India has been doing this in Kashmir since 1947, particularly after it revoked Article 370 and Article 35A of its constitution in 2019, which granted some autonomy and protection to the state. This has allowed non-Kashmiri settlers to gain more rights and privileges, violating international law and UN resolutions. India's settler colonial project in Kashmir involves a systematic

campaign of 'ethnic cleansing and genocide' against the majority of the population, including nearly 100,000 deaths since 1989. The country has also imposed draconian laws, such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), which grant immunity to Indian forces' personnel from accountability or prosecution for crimes against humanity.

Another aspect of settler colonialism is the denial of political rights and representation to the colonized people. India has banned or co-opted political party or leader advocating for self-determination or autonomy for Kashmir, arrested or assassinated prominent Kashmiri leaders, rigged elections, and dissolved or suspended any elected government or assembly that challenged its authority or demanded more rights. Adding to this, settler colonialism also involves the assimilation of cultural identity, as seen in India's actions in Kashmir. They impose their language, religion, education, and culture on the Kashmiris, distorting their history and heritage through destruction or renaming of monuments and landmarks. India also attempts to undermine the art, literature, music, and cuisine of Kashmir by banning or censoring its expression or claiming it as its own.

American linguist, philosopher, and political activist Noam Chomsky has been a strong opponent of India's Kashmir policy. He has drawn comparisons between the situation in Kashmir and Palestine, where an oppressive foreign authority drove out

and subjugated the native population, as examples of settler colonialism. Both Israel's annexation of Palestinian territory and India's colonial settlement project in Kashmir are condemned for breaking international law and human rights. Both nations oppress and expropriate indigenous people using military might and political clout, but they encounter opposition from individuals who won't give up the fight for liberty and justice. Also, Chomsky deemed it 'unconscionable and hysterical' for the G20 to have any type of conference, much less a tourist gathering, and he attacked the 2023 G20 summit that took place in 'Indian-occupied Kashmir' (IoK). He recommended a federal structure that would take into account the cultural variations induced by India in 'IIOJK.'

In addition to being a serious breach of international law, moral standards, and human rights, India's settler colonialism in Kashmir poses a threat to the peace and stability of the whole region. It has resulted in several wars and conflicts between the nuclear-armed powers of Pakistan and India. In addition to supporting a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue, the international community has to act quickly to stop India from breaking UN resolutions and suppressing the rights of the Kashmiri people. Kashmir observes 27 October as 'Black Day' to draw attention to the horrors and injustices meted out to the region and its people by Indian successive regimes.

<https://pakobserver.net/indias-settler-colonialism-in-kashmir/>

Mainstreaming GB youth a government priority, says PM Kakar

The Nation, 1 November 2023

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar said the government of Pakistan would continue to play its role in ensuring progress, peace and prosperity of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). In his message on the 76th anniversary of the freedom of GB from the Dogra rule, the prime minister said mainstreaming the youth of GB was a priority for Pakistan. He noted that GB was rich in minerals and natural resources and offered huge potential to become a hub of economic growth and tourism. The PM stressed the need for unity, religious harmony and mutual affinity to ensure a prosperous and bright future for Pakistan, including GB. Kakar felicitated the people of GB, saying the day was significant in history when the brave people of GB under the leadership of Captain Mirza Hassan Khan and Subedar Major Babar had resisted the Dogra rule. Their courage had forced the puppet governor Ghasara Singh to surrender and subsequently the local people opted for their accession with Pakistan on 1 November 1947, he said.

Kakar said Pakistan deeply valued the patriotism of the people of GB who had proved their unconditional and selfless love for Pakistan. These brave people showed the enemy that GB was part of Pakistan and would remain so forever, he added. Kakar said the people of GB were fortunate to be blessed with freedom, while the Muslims in 'Indian

illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) still suffered the tyranny of Indian authorities. The PM mentioned several resolutions passed by the United Nations for the resolution of the conflict of Jammu and Kashmir which, according to him, had faced the status quo due to the unwillingness of India and the apathy of the international community. Kakar reiterated Pakistan's solidarity with the 'oppressed' people of 'IIOJK', and vowed to continue the country's political, diplomatic and moral support to the Kashmiris till they got their right to self-determination in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/01-Nov-2023/mainstreaming-gb-youth-a-government-priority-says-pm-kakar>

Gilgit Baltistan's Constitutional Conundrum

Pamir Times, 2 November 2023

Up in the mountains, it is that time of year when folks dust off their crumpled Khapols (traditional caps) with feathery flumes and go all out celebrating Independence Day. The twist, though, is if you ask them if they are truly independent in the strictest sense, they will probably shake their heads and say it is a work in progress. If the mention of mountains has not already clued you in, the other introduction of it perhaps would be exotica on Earth, that is what the mainland Pakistanis describe it to the exclusivity of humans there and their due rights. Anyways, we are talking

about Gilgit Baltistan (GB) where hard-won independence from Dogra Raj is being commemorated today with traditional zeal and fervor.

GB, before its independence, was a part of the larger princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. This historical connection traces its origin to a significant event in 1846 when the British East India Company sold the Kashmir region to Gulab Singh for 7.5 million rupees of that time. This princely state was composed of four distinct regions: Jammu, Kashmir, Gilgit, and Ladakh. GB was notably significant for strategic importance. In view of the strategic significance and particularly the fear of Russian invasion from Central Asia, the British established what they called the 'Gilgit Agency.' This arrangement divided governance responsibilities: civil administration remained under the control of the Dogra rulers, while the British took charge of military and security matters. However, this arrangement faced a significant turning point in 1947 when the British abruptly terminated their lease and took direct charge themselves. As the end of British colonial rule in sub-continent approached, the Gilgit Scouts, local paramilitary force, rose in revolt against Dogra rule in 1947 and put them to flight.

It certainly needs emphasis that the Gilgit Scouts were armed with mere sticks and the barest of resources to run the well-resourced and better-armed Dogra out of the town; what they possessed in abundance was an

indomitable zeal and zest for freedom. Their actions culminated in the declaration of the 'Islamic Republic of Gilgit' that lasted for 16 days – finally acceding to Pakistan unconditionally on 16th November. Despite the unconditional accession, Pakistan didn't bring it into its constitutional fold just to score brownie points in case of a plebiscite in Kashmir. Instead, they have been fiddling with administrative setups, rolling out reforms and packages, all the while keeping the constitutional limbo alive and kicking to the utter frustration of GBians.

To provide a more comprehensive perspective, it is important to emphasize that being outside the constitutional framework deprives GB of representation in both houses of parliament. Consequently, it lacks a voice in the central electoral process, cannot cast votes for the prime minister, and is thus, electorally insignificant to the PM's agenda. Furthermore, GB does not share in the National Finance Commission (NFC) award, which translates to a lack of a dedicated budget. Without a proper budget, the region faces limitations in terms of development, infrastructure, education, healthcare, and various other essential services.

Thus, being outside the constitutional framework leaves GB significantly disadvantaged in numerous aspects of life, resulting in a substantial developmental lag. This growing sense of frustration is particularly evident among its burgeoning youth, and therefore necessitates a receptive

audience and tangible steps toward constitutional integration and streamlining. The identity crisis facing GB has cast a shadow over its population, particularly over the burgeoning youth who bear the biggest brunt of this conundrum. When they find themselves deprived of due rights, devoid of stable internet connectivity, enduring prolonged power outages, coupled with a dearth of educational opportunities and virtually non-existent job prospects, they inevitably begin to raise question out of sheer frustration: How much longer must we grapple with this persisting constitutional limbo?

To make matters worse, the state machinery has, at times, resorted to heavy-handed tactics like using Schedule Four to quash the voices pushing for progress. This just pours more salt on the wound, making an already tough situation even tougher. In 2018, Nawaz Sharif established a high-level committee led by Sartaj Aziz. This committee put forward recommendations supporting the idea of a provisional province, which gained significant momentum during Imran Khan's time in office but was ultimately kicked down the road. In my humble opinion, the possibility of creating a provisional province remains a viable option, particularly until the Kashmir issue is resolved, and it should be implemented in the best interests of its people.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/11/01/gilgit-baltistans-constitutional-conundrum/>

Kashmir Black Day commemorated in Ankara

Pakistan Observer, 2 November 2023

The Pakistan Embassy observed Kashmir Black Day with the Turkish and other nationalities today in Ankara. This year, 27th October 2023 marked the completion of 76 years of 'illegal occupation' of Jammu and Kashmir by India. Chairperson Human Rights Investigation Commission of Turkish Parliament Derya Yanik, Member Parliament Burhan Kayaturk, President Institute of Strategic Thinking (SDE) Guray Alpar and representatives of media, think tanks and civil society attended the event. In her speech, Chairperson Human Rights Investigation Commission of Turkish Parliament Derya Yanik stated that supporting Kashmir is the requirement of international law and conscience. Turkiye has always supported peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute as per the desire of the Kashmiri people and will continue to do so.

While reiterating Turkish support for Kashmiri legitimate cause of self-determination, Member Parliament Burhan Kayaturk stated that when United Nations resolutions are not implemented, it puts not only international peace but also human rights at stake. Kashmiri people should be given their legitimate right to self-determination as promised to them by the international community and above all Indian leadership, he added. In his speech, while underscoring the importance of human rights, president SDE Guray Alper stated that human

rights are universal and Kashmiris deserve the basic human right of self-determination like all other.

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmir-black-day-commemorated-in-ankara/>

Posters urge 'IIOJK' people to pay tributes to Jammu martyrs

Pakistan Observer, 3 November 2023

Posters have appeared in different areas of 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) urging the people to pay tribute to the Jammu martyrs on their martyrdom anniversary. According to Kashmir Media Service, the forces of Dogra Maharaja Hari Singh, Indian Army and Hindu fanatics in different parts of Jammu region had martyred hundreds of thousands of Kashmiris while they were migrating to Pakistan during the first week of November in 1947. Every year Kashmiris, living on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) and across the world, mark 06 November as the Jammu Martyrs' Day to pay homage to the victims of the Jammu massacre and reiterate the resolve to continue the mission of their martyrs till the achievement of their inalienable right to self-determination. The posters were pasted by the Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement, Jammu Kashmir Democratic Movement and Resistance Youth Forum J&K in Srinagar and other areas of territory eulogizing the sacrifices of the victims of Jammu carnage. They have also asked imams and khateeb of mosques to hold special prayers for Jammu

martyrs and other Kashmiris who have laid down their lives for the just cause of Kashmir since 1931.

<https://pakobserver.net/posters-urge-iiojk-people-to-pay-tributes-to-jammu-martyrs/>

Economic Developments

Dr. Luay Shabaneh, Country Director UNPF meets president of 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 30 October 2023

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has said that it was quite heartening to see that several public welfare projects in 'Azad Kashmir' were being sponsored and funded by the UN and its subsidiary organizations including the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF). He expressed these views while talking to Dr. Luay Shabaneh the Country Director UNPF in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, Sultan Mehmood said that there was a dire need for the UN and its subsidiaries should extend their support and cooperation to the government of 'AJK' in health, education, and other sectors. Dr. Luay Shabaneh briefed the president about the UNPF objectives and the ongoing projects and proposed projects in 'Azad Kashmir.' Dr. Shabaneh assured the president that the ongoing projects being funded by the UNPF in 'Azad Kashmir' would be completed within the stipulated time frame.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/10/30/dr-luay-shabaneh-country-director-unpf-meets-president-ajk/>

PIA restores Skardu flights to rescue stranded tourists

Pakistan Observer, 30 October 2023

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced multiple flights to Skardu, Gilgit to rescue tourists who were stranded in northern areas amid blockade of roads and cancellation of flights. PIA has announced plans to operate six flights to rescue stranded tourists. The flights will operate from Islamabad for Gilgit and Skardu. The tourists were stranded after PIA cancelled multiple flights to and from Gilgit and Skardu due to fuel crisis and land routes restricted by extreme weather. Taking notice, Minister of State, Wasi Shah took action and approached concerned officials to arrange flights for those who were stranded in Skardu and Gilgit. Shah contacted the senior officials of PIA and asked for an immediate solution to the problem, as the tourism industry is badly affected amid the haphazard situation.

The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet approved a Rs. 8 billion bridge financing package for PIA. The financing will be provided through the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) resources to meet PIA's urgent overdue payment obligations. The ECC allowed the Aviation Division to proceed with the bilateral arrangement between the CAA and PIA. The Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, and Economic

Affairs, Dr. Shamshad Akhtar presided over the meeting. More than 50 flights of PIA were cancelled as the financial crisis of the national flag carrier persists. A large number of tourists were stranded due to the closure of the PIA's domestic route. They kept waiting for the PIA flights in Gilgit and Skardu.

<https://pakobserver.net/pia-restores-skardu-flights-to-rescue-stranded-tourists/>

DG FWO Major General Abdul Sami calls on 'AJK' PM

Daily Parliament Times, 4 November 2023

The Director General (DG) of Frontier Works Organization (FWO) Major General Abdul Sami meet on Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq. The meeting reviewed progress on Rathoa Hariyam Bridge and Jagran Hydel Power Project II. Speaking on the occasion, the 'AJK' premier, while emphasizing on early completion of both the projects, said that the timely completion of these projects would accelerate the pace of economic activities in the region. Praising the FWO for its quality work, he sought the expertise of the organization to complete the remaining work on the Rathoa Hariyam Bridge project. The DG D of FWO assured the Prime Minister of his organization's full cooperation in the completion of the projects.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/11/04/dg-fwo-major-general-abdul-sami-calls-on-ajk-pm/>

[From Vernacular Urdu Media](#)

The Kashmiri leadership has warned that they may take a measure similar to Hamas

Jasarat, 29 October 2023

The Kashmiri leadership has made it obvious to the world that world peace is under peril as a result of the dispute over Kashmir and Palestine, and that the people of 'Occupied Kashmir' may be forced to take action similar to Hamas. They claimed that 'Azad Kashmir' could not be strengthened unless it became a true base camp for the liberation of 'occupied Kashmir.' He made these remarks while speaking at the Jamaat-e-Islami 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir's ((JI-AJK) Kashmir-Palestine Solidarity Conference. According to the proclamation, all diplomatic and economic ties with India and Israel must be severed and that perpetrators of tyranny against Kashmir and Palestine must face justice. India and Israel must withdraw from Kashmir and Palestine. According to JI Ameer Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq Khan, the entire world is deprived of peace due to America's oppressive and imperialist policies. He claimed that for the past seventy-five years, Kashmir and Palestine have been victims of atrocities, and that India and Israel are bleeding the blood of Kashmiris and Palestinians like water. He stated that the Kashmiris are fighting a battle for Pakistan's completeness. He stated that Hamas has demonstrated that Israel cannot stand in the way of the spirit of Jihad, and that Kashmiris and Palestinians will fight until they achieve freedom.

During the event, former Prime Minister Tanveer Ilyas praised JI for organising the Kashmir-Palestine Solidarity Conference and stated that Israel is committing war crimes in Palestine. Pakistan People's Party 'AJK' chapter President Chaudhry Yasin stated that tremendous atrocities are being committed in Kashmir and Palestine, and that Islamic countries should play a role in resolving both the prolonged disputes. Hassan Ibrahim, President of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Party, Mehmood Sagar, Convener of the Hurriyat Conference, Abdul Rasheed, Secretary General of the Jammu and Kashmir Jamiat Ulema Islam, and other leaders also addressed at the event.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/10/27/kashmiri-leadership/>

Kashmiris around the world, including Pakistan, will commemorate Jammu Martyrs' Day on 6 November

UrduPoint, 31 October 2023

Kashmiris all around the world, including Pakistan, will commemorate 6 November as Jammu Martyrs Day. This day is observed in memory of Muslims who were killed by Dogra forces and the RSS in the Jammu region. On 6 November 1947, the Dogra army and Hindu insurgents not only compelled Jammu Muslims to move to Pakistan, but they also killed almost two lakh oppressed Muslims. This slaughter occurred during India's partition, and the inhabitants of Jammu's Muslim-majority region were subjected to Dogra Maharaja's persecution for supporting

independence. In honour of these Jammu martyrs, Kashmiri Muslims living on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC), including Pakistan, observe 6 November as Jammu Martyrs' Day.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/thattal-national-news/live-news-3788530.html>

The 'AJK' PM assign portfolios to 29 ministers after six months and ten days

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 1 November 2023

Chaudhry Anwarul Haq, the prime minister of the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), used the authority conferred by rule three sub-rule four of the Revised Rules of 1985 to assign portfolios to 29 ministers after six months of assuming power. According to the details Zia Qamar has been allotted Information Technology, Chaudhry Aamir Yasin, Disaster Management, Civil Defense Rescue Double One Double Two, Chaudhry Qasim Majeed, Mangala Dam Housing Authority, Muhammad Asim Sharif, Sports Youth and Culture, Javed Butt Transport, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan Physical Planning and Housing, Faheem Akhtar Tourism and Archaeology among others. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP), 'Azad Kashmir', and Muslim League-N 'Azad Kashmir' did not get lucrative departments which may create further difficulties for the Anwar government, Forward Bloc succeeded in asserting its iron.

<https://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Resize-of-pfmister.jpg>

Issuing orders without earning people's trust is pointless: Leader of GB Islamic movement

Dailyk2, 2 November 2023

Shaikh Mirza Ali, the chairperson of the Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Coordination Committee and leader of the GB Islamic Movement, noted that not all GB-related decisions or agreements have involved the local authority's stakeholders and that not much is being done to address GB's political and economic problems. Instead of crafting new top-down directives and rules to relieve the region's deprivations, he proposed that GB be granted constitutional protection. According to him, the people of GB desire their constitutional rights and that while making any agreement the locals are being ignored and only a few handpicked are being favored at the expense of millions of GB locals. He insisted that not all of the bureaucratic agreements established in the previous 70 years have never been trusted by the GB locals and that the circumstances for the people of GB haven't altered in the last 70 years. He remarked that the same approach to enforcing top down orders needs to end and that the people and stakeholders of GB should be included in all future agreements and directives. According to him, the GB assembly should be strengthened by constitutional protection since the municipal committee has a greater status than the present GB assembly as it cannot operate in the best interests of the people.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/18054>

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Disclaimer

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