

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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Chilas bus attack
Wheat Subsidy
Gilgit-Baltistan
Dasu power project
POK
protest



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Political Developments

PTI 'AJK' chapter expresses full confidence in the leadership of Gohar Khan

Pakistan Today, 4 December 2023

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) president and former prime minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan Niazi led a delegation met with the PTI newly elected Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan. The PTI 'AJK' delegation held a meeting with the party chairman here at the PTI Central Secretariat. The delegation included the party's central leader Chaudhry Abdul Hameed Pothi and others. PTI Central Information Secretary Raof Hasan and the party Chief Election Commissioner Niazullah Niazi were also present on the occasion. Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi and other members of the delegation reposed their full confidence in the Imran Khan nominated newly elected PTI Chairman. In the meeting, they discussed the prevailing political situation in the country and the party's preparations for the forthcoming general elections threadbare. On the occasion, they also reiterated their resolve to continue supporting PTI chairman Imran Khan's comprehensive and effective Kashmir policy.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/12/04/pti-ajk-president-led-delegation-meets-newly-elected-party-chairman-expresses-full-confidence-in-leadership/>

Kashmir's accession to Pakistan is our ultimate aim: Attique

Daily Parliament Times, 4 December 2023

Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, president Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) has said that Kashmir's accession to Pakistan, a sacred goal introduced in J&K back in 1932 by renowned leader Ch Ghulam Abbas, remains our ultimate mission to be completed at all costs, no matter how harder circumstances we will have to face in this mission. This ideology is the backbone of our struggle at party, social, political, and personal levels, he stressed. The 56th anniversary of Ch Ghulam Abbas founding stalwart of the political platform of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference in 1932 is being observed on 18 December 2023 at his Faizabad Rawalpindi mazar. Founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah in his historic visit to Srinagar in July 1944 had publicly declared Ch Ghulam Abbas as his ideological successor in Jammu and Kashmir. While addressing party workers and members of the Ch Ghulam Abbas Anniversary Committee, Attique Ahmed advised his party workers to revolutionize the message, mission, and commitment of Ch Ghulam Abbas and his trusted lieutenant, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan in the nook and corner of the J&K state, in Pakistan and abroad. Ch Abbas loved Pakistan and in fulfillment of his wishes, he was laid to

rest in his last abode in Pakistan, Rawalpindi, Faizabad.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/12/04/kashmirs-accession-to-pakistan-our-ultimate-aim-attique/>

Six held, KKH traffic slows to a crawl after Chilas bus attack

Dawn, 4 December 2023

Six people have been arrested in connection with an attack on a passenger bus in the Chilas area of Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB) Diamer district, according to a local police official. At least nine people, including two soldiers, lost their lives, and 21 passengers received injuries when unknown attackers opened fire at the Rawalpindi-bound bus from nearby hills, causing the vehicle to collide with a goods truck. Meanwhile, transporters have suspended bus services from Rawalpindi to GB districts and called for foolproof security for vehicles and passengers. An official of Diamer police told Dawn that six locals have been arrested for their alleged involvement in the attack and an FIR has been registered.

Not a 'sectarian attack'

While talking to reporters, GB Home Minister Shams Lone said the attack was unlike past incidents that took place in the region as they were sectarian. This was not a sectarian attack. It was a terrorist attack in which people from various areas and sects were killed. He said the locals of

Diamer rejected such attacks by a handful of miscreants. The minister held out the assurance that the GB government has taken tough decisions to deal with militants and that all culprits will be arrested soon. He added that religious scholars from all sects, civil society, and political parties have condemned the attack.

The chief minister has also announced a compensation of Rs1 million for the deceased, Rs 500,000 for the seriously injured, and Rs300, 000 for other injured passengers. He said that passenger vehicles would travel through Diamer during the daytime. The convoys of five to 10 vehicles will be escorted by security personnel. He assured that the government's writ would be restored and the attackers would be arrested.

Protests in GB

Security forces across the region have been put on high alert, while traffic on the Karakoram Highway (KKH) remained suspended following the attack, leaving passengers, including tourists, stranded on both sides of Diamer. Vehicles were later allowed to travel through Diamer during the day in small convoys. Protests against the incident were also held in Chilas, Gilgit, Skardu, and Hunza. GB transporters also observed a wheel jam strike across the region. The region's transporters association president said this was not the first attack on a bus in GB and demanded protection for vehicles moving on KKH.

Condemnation

In a statement, caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar affirmed that anti-state elements would not be allowed to sabotage peace in GB. He said the war against terrorism would continue till the complete elimination of terrorism. He expressed deep grief over the loss of innocent lives and added that targeting unarmed civilians was proof of the terrorists' cowardice.

Bus service suspended

Transporters have suspended the bus service from Rawalpindi to 10 districts of Gilgit-Baltistan, saying the service will not be resumed until security is provided. Malik Shahbaz, the general secretary of the Pakistan Transporter Welfare Association, told Dawn that 150 to 200 coaches and buses operate from Rawalpindi to 10 GB districts daily. He claimed that only one security official on a motorcycle is deputed to escort the convoy of buses along the 50-kilometer-long stretch of the KKH in Chilas. The public transport service will remain suspended until the provision of foolproof security to Gilgit-bound buses, Mr Shahbaz said. The Pakistan Association of Tour Operators also condemned the attack and said the act of violence not only resulted in the loss of innocent lives but had a profound impact on the tourism industry as well.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1794841/six-held-kkh-traffic-slows-to-a-crawl-after-chilas-bus-attack>

Kashmir's EU Week begins in Brussels

Daily Parliament Times, 6 December 2023

Kashmir European Union (EU) Week, the week-long arrangement of events on Kashmir started in the European Headquarters Brussels on Tuesday, says a message reaching and released to media. There was an opening of a photo exhibition in Kashmir evening of yesterday, the first day of the program which will continue till 15th December. Several people from different walks of life visited the exhibition and expressed their keen interest in the current situation in the 'occupied Kashmir.' The events of Kashmir EU Week which are being organized by Kashmir Council Europe (KC-EU) also include conferences, seminars, discussions, a media conference, and meetings at the European Press Club Brussels, the European Parliament, and other institutions in the EU headquarters.

Talking on the opening of the photo exhibition at the EU Press Club, Chairman of KC-EU Ali Raza Syed said, besides the events at the EU Press Club and EU Parliament, there would also be several meetings with the European officials, members of the European Parliament and representatives of civil society and human rights organizations during the Kashmir EU Week. He explained the topics of the events would be related to the history of the Kashmir dispute and the current situation of the conflict

particularly human rights violations committed by the 'Indian occupation forces' in the 'occupied' land of Jammu and Kashmir. Syed expressed fear that as the world is currently focused on the tense situation in Europe (Ukraine) and the Middle East, the Modi government can take advantage of this situation to carry out some heinous acts in 'Occupied' Jammu and Kashmir.

Syed claimed, under different pretexts, that India wants to maintain its 'illegal possession' of this region for a long time. Genocide of Kashmiris, extra-judicial killings, arbitrary arrests and crude tactics like amendment of domicile laws to change the Kashmiri population ratio are part of Indian nefarious motives. Syed said that many Kashmiri leaders and activists, including Yasin Malik, are currently under arrest or detention and the purpose of these actions is to suppress strong voices favoring the oppressed Kashmiris. He paid tribute to Yasin Malik and other imprisoned Kashmiri leaders and activists and called for their immediate release. He asked the international community especially the European Union to put pressure on India to immediately end the crimes of Indian security forces against the people of 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir and grant them the right to self-determination according to the UN's resolutions on the Kashmir issue.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/12/06/kashmirs-eu-week-begins-in-brussels/>

Security increased for travelers on the Karakoram Highway

Dawn, 6 December 2023

The Kohistan police have beefed up the security of people traveling on the Karakoram Highway between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), an official said. He also told Dawn that adequate security would be provided to foreigners working on development projects in the Kohistan region. At least 10 people, including two army soldiers, were killed last Saturday when terrorists opened fire on a passenger bus traveling on the Karakoram Highway in GB's Chilas area. Meanwhile, a man who was injured in the Chilas bus attack died. Gulfam Khan, the owner of the truck that caught fire after being hit by the bus, succumbed to injuries. He was buried in his native Dodial Shanai area. Truck driver Mohammad Sajid, who suffered critical burns in the incident, died instantly.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1795409/security-increased-for-travellers-on-karakoram-highway>

Innovative 'AJK'

The Nation, 6 December 2023

Governments at both federal and provincial levels in Pakistan have been actively implementing a range of measures to combat the pervasive issue of smog, which continues to afflict the populace. However, despite these efforts, many of the initiatives undertaken are observed to be more reactive than proactive, lacking a

comprehensive, forward-thinking vision for a lasting solution. Fortunately, the government of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) has emerged as a beacon of exemplary practices for others in Pakistan to emulate. In a decisive move, the 'AJK' government has taken proactive steps, invoking Section 144 of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) to criminalise the use of chainsaws in forests. Moreover, they have instituted a comprehensive ban on the commercial sale of wood, including shed-offs, coupled with stringent regulations governing the utilisation of wood as fuel. Specific geometric parameters have been defined for the collection and consumption of such fuel, ensuring a controlled and sustainable approach to its usage.

Augmenting these efforts, the administration has invested in strengthening forestry infrastructure by meticulously marking entire woodland areas, ensuring the diligent recording of every log and trunk in dedicated logbooks. Furthermore, the 'AJK' government has taken proactive measures to discourage the wood industry by identifying and protecting a specific class of trees crucial for environmental preservation. Reports suggest that in tandem with these proactive measures, the 'AJK' government is planning to introduce new legislation aimed at cementing these reforms. This move is intended to create an environment conducive to large-scale industrial tree plantation, thereby linking it directly to the

economic upliftment of the local population.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Dec-2023/innovative-ajk>

Rising unemployment in 'IIOJK' exposes Modi regime's promises of development

Pakistan Observer, 7 December 2023

The Narendra Modi-led Indian government has exposed its claims and promises of development and employment it made while revoking the special status of 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) in August 2019. According to Kashmir Media Service, while unconstitutionally repealing Article 370 of the Indian Constitution that granted special status to 'occupied Kashmir' on 05 August 2019, the Modi regime had claimed that the move would bring development and employment opportunities to the territory. The Modi government admitted in the Parliament that due to unemployment around 78 persons committed suicide in 'occupied Kashmir' from 2020 to 2022. The revelation was made by the Indian Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai while replying to a query in the Parliament. Presenting the statistics, he said that 46 suicides were reported in 2020, 15 in 2021, and 17 in 2022 in 'occupied Kashmir.'

<https://pakobserver.net/rising-unemployment-in-iiojk-exposes-modi-regimes-promises-of-development/>

Yasin Malik: The living legend

Pakistan Observer, 7 December 2023

In a significant development, the Delhi High Court has scheduled a hearing for 14 February 2023, in response to the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) plea seeking the death penalty for Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik in a funding case fraught with alleged falsities. Malik, a prominent figure in the Kashmiris' struggle and a founding member of the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), has been directed by the court to participate in the proceedings virtually. At 57, Yasin Malik has long been a symbol of resilience and bold resistance in the Kashmir freedom struggle. Originating as one of the early proponents of armed resistance against Indian rule in the late 1980s, Malik transitioned in the mid-90s to champion a democratic and non-violent movement for Kashmiri rights. However, his recent legal troubles have cast a shadow over his legacy. Malik's predicament took a decisive turn on 10 May 2022, when he announced not to challenge the charges brought against him saying that he had no trust in the Indian judiciary.

The NIA Court, on 19 May 2022, convicted Malik on charges of conspiracy and waging war against India, imposing two life sentences and five concurrent 10-year prison terms. Notably, these convictions stemmed from alleged violations of section 121 (waging war against the government of India) of the IPC and section 17 (raising

funds for a terrorist act) of the UAPA. According to the Supreme Court, life imprisonment entails incarceration until the last breath, unless commuted by the relevant authorities. Yasin Malik's political party, the JKLF, had been banned by the Indian government in 2019, further complicating the narrative surrounding his conviction. His wife, Mushaal, currently serving as the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Human Rights and Women Empowerment, has appealed to international bodies, including the UN and UNHCR, to intervene in what she deems a war crime and to prevent an injustice against her husband.

The international response has been swift, with Pakistan's foreign ministry condemning the sentencing as a 'sham trial' and accusing the Indian government of attempting to strip the Kashmiri people of their authentic leadership. Furthermore, there are assertions that the Modi government's push for the death penalty against Malik is politically motivated, aiming to gain electoral leverage in the 2024 general elections. For lasting peace in Kashmir, it is imperative to involve genuine Kashmiri leadership and recognize both Pakistan and India as stakeholders. Heavy-handed tactics risk exacerbating the desire for Azadi (freedom). In Yasin Malik's case, there is a compelling argument for the Indian government to re-evaluate the charges, taking into account his contested health

conditions, and consider his release to reunite with his family.

<https://pakobserver.net/yasin-malik-the-living-legend/>

India's Lok Sabha passes bills to dilute Muslim majority in 'IIOJK' assembly

Pakistan Observer, 7 December 2023

Indian lower house of parliament, Lok Sabha, passed two bills aimed at diluting the Muslim majority representation in the legislative assembly of 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) and opening the door to outsiders for all small and big appointments in the territory. The Lok Sabha passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, designed to increase three seats for non-Muslims in the name of the Kashmiri migrant community and displaced persons. Additionally, the House also passed the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, aiming to redefine the category of individuals eligible for reservation in appointments and admissions.

These bills received parliamentary endorsement following a nominal debate in the House. Indian Home Minister Amit Shah asserted that reserving displaced individuals would afford them a meaningful representation in the legislature. Amit Shah on the occasion criticized India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru for the declaration of a ceasefire and

subsequently brought the Kashmir issue to the attention of the United Nations. However, his assertion is an open admission to the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized dispute.

<https://pakobserver.net/indias-lok-sabha-passes-bills-to-dilute-muslim-majority-in-iiojk-assembly/>

Alvi, Kakar term Human rights abuses in Palestine, held Kashmir biggest challenge before world

Dawn, 10 December 2023

President Dr. Arif Alvi and Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar expressed their concerns over the ongoing human rights violations in Gaza and 'Indian Occupied Kashmir' (IOK), terming it the biggest challenge before the world and the United Nations as the international community observes the Human Rights Day. In their separate messages on the eve of the Human Rights Day which is being observed today to mark the 75th anniversary of one of the world's most groundbreaking global pledges, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). In his message, President Alvi pledged that Pakistan was committed to upholding all the rights as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan, the UDHR, and other relevant international instruments. As the international community observes International Human Rights Day, it is unfortunate that the people of Palestine are being deprived of their rights and have been

subjected to the worst form of state terrorism and ethnic cleansing by Israel, said the president.

Similarly, he said, the human rights abuses in the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) also demanded the attention of the international community to hold India accountable for unleashing a reign of terror against the people. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar in his message stated that despite visible progress in the field of human rights, several challenges remained in achieving the desired milestones. Collaborative efforts, both at the national and international level, are vital to address the complexities involved in dealing with issues related to human rights. Pakistan also remains deeply concerned by the status of human rights in other parts of the world, he said.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1796574/alvi-kakar-term-hr-abuses-in-palestine-held-kashmir-biggest-challenge-before-world>

Yasin Malik being poisoned in Indian jail: Mushaal

The Nation, 10 December 2023

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights Mushaal Hussein Mullick expressed concern about her husband Yasin Malik being poisoned in an Indian jail, resulting in half of his body being paralysed. Mullick, while talking to a private news channel, highlighted the escalating oppression of Kashmiris since 5 August 2019, and

shared the challenges faced by Yasin Malik's lawyer in meeting him. She also emphasised the human rights violations in Gaza and advocated for awareness in OIC meetings.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/10-Dec-2023/yasin-malik-being-poisoned-in-indian-jail-mushaal>

Economic Developments

Wheat Subsidy Protest in GB and the Struggle for Autonomy

Pamir Times, 4 December 2023

In the heart of the Himalayas, where rugged mountains whisper tales of centuries-old struggles and triumphs, lies Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), a region fraught with complexities rooted in the Kashmir issue. The people here, united by a shared desire for basic rights, especially the continuation of the wheat subsidy, have become vocal champions, transcending religious and regional differences. The echoes of discontent reached a crescendo on 1 December 2023, as a widespread shutter-down strike paralyzed all districts of GB. The catalyst for this protest was the government's contentious decision to withdraw the wheat subsidy, a move that incited vehement opposition from the local population. A compelling trend becomes apparent when people from various castes and races unite to champion their rights in GB. Regrettably, these collective endeavors are often overshadowed by terrorist acts, particularly in Gilgit city or along the Karakoram highway.

These incidents often reveal sectarian motivations. On 2 December, unidentified assailants in northern Pakistan fired upon a bus, resulting in the tragic death of at least eight passengers and injuries to 26 others. Historically, the origins of wheat subsidies in the region find no mention in UN resolutions or the Simla Agreement. However, a pivotal moment emerged when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Indira Gandhi, post the Simla Agreement, shouldered the responsibility of facilitating food supply to the units of Jammu and Kashmir administered by Pakistan and India. This historical gesture laid the foundation for the people's reliance on subsidies, particularly on wheat. During a period of socio-economic upheaval marked by the abolition of the Rajgiri system, Bhutto strategically announced subsidies on various essential items, including sugar, kerosene, salt, cooking oil, and wheat. Over time, wheat became the focal point of these subsidies, and persistent attempts have been made to eliminate it.

Bhutto's vision for integrating GB into Pakistan faced challenges due to UN resolutions. Resorting to some measures, Bhutto abolished the state-subject rule, which affected agricultural development and contributed to the contemporary issues faced by the region. To understand the intricacies of the present situation, delving into the historical context becomes imperative. At the time of the subcontinent's

partition, GB was a province of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, governed by the Sikh Empire under Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The ripple effects of the empire's defeat by the British led to the British selling the rulership of Jammu and Kashmir to Gulab Singh in 1846. Gulab Singh's land reforms, including the Resident State Subject Rule Act of 1927, aimed to protect the region's lands and ensure the rights and citizenship of its people.

However, in 1974, Bhutto suspended the state-subject rule, replacing it with the Northern Areas Natural Rules of 1978, effectively declaring barren lands as the property of the Khalsa Sarkar. This move, a breach of Security Council resolutions, perpetuated the issues that persist today. In contrast to the situation in 'Azad Kashmir', where the resident state law safeguards property rights, GB faces a unique challenge due to the suspension of the state-subject rule. The region, entangled in the Kashmir dispute, remains outside the purview of Pakistan's 1973 constitution. Three significant decisions by the Supreme Court of Pakistan further underscore the legal complexities surrounding GB. Governed by the Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) from 1949 to 1973 and later by Presidential Decrees, the region's fate remains in limbo, as UN resolutions dictate that a plebiscite must determine its future.

The urgent need of the hour lies in lifting the suspension of the rule of law,

paving the way for the establishment of an institution to manage GB's resources. A mechanism akin to the National Finance Commission (NFC) can ensure fair resource allocation, tapping into the wealth generated by the Sust Dry Port, Karakoram Highway, Indus River, K-2, Diamer Bhasha Dam, minerals, and forests. Should such an institution come to fruition, the billions generated in royalties could address the longstanding deprivation faced by the people of GB. It would mark a significant step towards alleviating their struggles, eliminating the need to protest for wheat subsidies—a saga intricately woven into the historical fabric of a region yearning for its rightful place in the annals of time.

In conclusion, the wheat subsidy protest in GB is not just about a basic commodity but reflects the deeper issues embedded in the region's history and its ongoing struggle for autonomy. As the people of GB voice their concerns, Pakistan must pay heed to the intricate tapestry of legal complexities and historical injustices that have led to this moment. The resolution lies not only in addressing the immediate concerns but also in fostering a sustainable framework that recognizes the region's unique status and empowers its people to shape their destiny.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/12/04/wheat-subsidy-protest-in-gilgit-baltistan-and-the-struggle-for-autonomy/>

The situation in the GB is horrific as a result of the failure to deliver wheat quotas; all flour mills are closed

Dailyk2, 7 December 2023

The situation in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) became critical due to the non-release of wheat quotas for December. Due to the disruption in wheat supplies, all flour mills in the GB are closed. As a result, people are starving in their homes as a result of this; the wheat quota was given on the first of the month, but it has yet to be released even on the seventh of December, exacerbating the situation. According to sources, to deal with the emergency, civil supply officers have requested permission from higher authorities to use wheat stockpiled in warehouses for emergency purposes, but the civil supply officers' letters have not been received by the higher authorities. People's fears are mounting as no response from the side has been received. According to reports, the government does not appear to be willing to release the December quota unless the ongoing survey for targeted subsidy is completed.

According to a prominent government official, it is difficult to distribute wheat without raising prices, and wheat will be more expensive to consume. Meanwhile, the All Parties Coordination Committee Coordinator Ghulam Hussain Athar, Syed Ali Rizvi, Awami Action Committee Chairman

Najaf Ali, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf senior leader Yusuf Namdar, and others protested against the suspension of wheat supply. It is said that the government is purposely aiming to create a law and order problem here by withholding the supply of wheat. Due to the disruption in wheat supply, the area has sunk into chaos, a famine-like scenario has emerged, and people are hungry in their homes. We will not give up on those who steal from the poor, added by Anjuman-e-Tajran (a traders union), and we will unveil our plan of action. The provincial government will be held responsible in any situation.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/18832>

Security of Dasu power project upped after KKH attack

The News International, 8 December 2023

The internal and external security of the Dasu Hydropower Project had been beefed up after the attack on a passenger bus on Karakoram Highway (KKH) near Chilas in which 10 people were killed earlier this month, an official said. We have enhanced security of the Chinese nationals working on this mega energy project, and also established more posts in and outside of the project's premises, Dasu Hydropower Project General Manager Anwarul Haq told reporters. He said though the security of Chinese engineers and workers executing the 4300-megawatts project was already up

to the mark, it was further enhanced following an attack on the neighbouring Diamer district in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) on 2 December.

He said the security personnel were more vigilant to deal with any situation. The official said that the execution of the dam was well underway and a delegation from the World Bank also visited the dam sites recently and reviewed ongoing work. We could complete the first phase of this mega energy project at its stipulated period, Anwarul Haq said. The Upper Kohistan police have also increased patrolling at Karakoram Highway and of development projects being executed by foreigners in the district.

District Police Officer Mohammad Khalid Khan visited the Shatial area of the district and reviewed the security arrangements made by police at Karakoram Highway and police posts. The Lower Kohistan police also enhanced its patrolling in KKH in the limits of Dubair and Jijal police stations. We have been allowing local and foreign passengers and workers following a complete security and bio-data check at Chakai police post at KKH, said District Police Officer, Lower Kohistan, Jamil Akhtar.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1136153-security-of-dasu-power-project-upped-after-kkh-attack>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

JIT formed to investigate Hudur Massacre

Urdupoint, 5 December 2023

The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) government has constituted a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) to look into the Hudur Massacre. SP Sher Khan of the GB Police will lead the team. The JITs often involve individuals from several intelligence agencies. According to government sources, around a dozen and a half suspects have already been detained for inquiry. The JIT was constituted to investigate when terrorists opened fire on a passenger bus heading from Gahkhuch (Ghizer) to Rawalpindi, killing nine passengers and injuring more than a dozen more.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-3832553.html>

Our first and final demand is the cessation of terrorism in GB: Kazim Maisam

Dailyk2, 7 December 2023

The opposition boycotted the ruling coalition's closed-door session of the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Assembly. Following the boycott meeting, opposition leader Kazim Maisam and Member of Assembly Nawaz Khan Naji told the media in the opposition chamber that the end of terrorism in GB is our first and ultimate demand. We demand that terrorists be punished and

that their sub-organizations be disbanded, saying that we owe it to the people of the GB. He stated that we need to know what methods were used to catch the terrorists and what steps the ruling coalition will take in the future. He said, the way the people of Diamar rallied against the terrorists today is amazing, and I also admire the people and youth of Chilas. He stated that the people of Diamar should not be mistreated under the guise of terrorists and that this will not be tolerated.

He claimed that a Jhang (city in Punjab, Pakistan) residents had been president of the Skardu Chamber of Commerce for a long time and that he should have been removed from his post. He stated that the individual threatens the Skardu people, whose voice records are available, and that institutions should investigate this voice recording. In these circumstances, how can we place our faith in anyone? On the boycott of the assembly meeting, Nawaz Khan Naji noted that it was boycotted because our ladies were crying and our children were dying, and that we are being driven into a circle where things just revolve around rather than addressing our actual concerns. He stated that no matter how many attempts are made to force us into a circle, we will not allow it to happen this time. The assembly session has been adjourned till today at noon.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/18833>

Kashmir is an integral part of Pakistan, where India commits crimes against innocent Kashmiris: Balochistan information minister John Achakzai

Urdupoint, 10 December 2023

John Achakzai, the caretaker information minister of Balochistan, claimed that Kashmir is an integral part of Pakistan, where India is committing atrocities against innocent Kashmiris and stripping them of their independence. As there is no justice the silence of human rights organisations in the face of Indian atrocities and violence is equally troubling. He expressed his views during a speech on International Human Rights Day, which was hosted by the Youth Forum for Kashmir. Achakzai claimed that India has powered the market for violence by forcibly establishing its illegitimate power over our Kashmiri brothers and sisters, not only robbing them of their independence but also sexually harassing and depriving the women of their rights. He claimed that while we can breathe a sigh of relief in our liberated country, our Kashmiri brothers and sisters are denied basic rights and freedom.

He said that while the United Nations Charter and UN Security Council resolutions are not being implemented, we are attempting to expose India's ugly face to the world. And today, on the occasion of International Human Rights Day, we are raising our voices against atrocities committed by India against

our Kashmiri brothers and sisters. He said that various activities to create awareness are being planned across Balochistan and around the country, and the valiant people of Balochistan stand with their Kashmiri brothers today. The younger generation is becoming increasingly conscious of the Kashmir issue, he added.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/quetta-national-news/live-news-3840128.html>

From Social Media

PAMIR TIMES ® @pamirtimes

6 December 2023

Two more passengers of the bus attacked by terrorists on KKH at Hudur two days back have succumbed to their injuries, taking the death toll to 11. Both deceased are residents of Punjab and Sindh, said GB Interior Minister, Shams Lone.

#Chilas #GilgitBaltistan

<https://twitter.com/pamirtimes/status/1732430887470469387>

Zaighum Abbas @harf_e_nagufta

8 December 2023

Nawaz Naji is right in saying: "we didn't hear anyone killing others on sectarian basis before 1947, even though they called it Yaghistan, the project of sectarianism was started after 47" Reason? Divide & rule.

#GilgitBaltistan.

https://twitter.com/harf_e_nagufta/status/1732842486240882998

Roshan Din Diameri @Rohshan_Din

8 December 2023

Listen, Pakistanis. Why are our youth forced to ask this question? The lives and property of the people of Gilgit-Bulistan are not protected.

When will we get our rights?
#GilgitBaltistan

Video link:

https://twitter.com/Rohshan_Din/status/1733049263159181785

Asad Ali Toor @AsadAToor

8 December 2023

“We have enhanced security of the Chinese nationals working on this mega energy project, and also established more posts in and outside of the project’s premises,” Dasu Hydropower Project General Manager Anwarul Haq told reporters.

<https://twitter.com/AsadAToor/status/1733017990961213864>

Pakistan Strategic Forum
@ForumStrategic

9 December 2023

SCO deploys S-Fibre Air: Sassi, Skardu, Gilgit. Special Communication Organisation (SCO) has achieved another milestone by deploying Microwave S-Fibre Air at remote areas of Sassi which will provide high speed internet to far flung villages along Sakardu Jaglot road, Gilgit Baltistan.

<https://twitter.com/ForumStrategic/status/1733436127309369422>

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Disclaimer

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