

# Weekly POK News Digest

*(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)*

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**Karot hydropower plant**  
**tourism Hunza electricity**  
**solar energy shortage**  
**CPEC POK climate**  
**Gilgit-Baltistan change**  
**wind powerfake degree**



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## Political Developments

### **Geneva Moot highlights the plight of Kashmiri political detainees**

*Pakistan Observer, 3 July 2023*

In Geneva, speakers have expressed their concern over the continued illegal detention of Kashmiri political detainees languishing in different jails of India and 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). The speakers addressing a seminar 'Plight of Kashmir prisoners' held on the sidelines of the 53rd session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, said that thousands of detainees lodged in different jails were getting worse with every passing day. They said that thousands of Kashmiris who were arrested before and after 5th August 2019 have been languishing in India's notorious jails like Tihar, which has become a death trap for Kashmiris. Moreover, Kashmiris who were taken into preventive custody on 5th August 2019 continue to rot in Amphala, Udampur, Hiranagar, Kathua, and Kot Bhalwal jails.

The speakers said the Indian government has given a free license to its forces and agencies like National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Enforcement Directorate to arrest Kashmiris. They said dozens of top-rank political leaders, including

Muhammad Yasin Malik, Musarat Aalam Butt, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, and Aasiya Andrabi were picked up from their homes and whisked off to prisons outside the valley.

The speakers, while referring to the conviction of Muhammad Yasin Malik, said that Malik's conviction in a manifestly dubious and politically motivated case filed by the Indian National Investigation Agency, amply demonstrates how the Modi government was using the judiciary as a weapon to silence legitimate Kashmiri voices. Raising their concerns over the Indian investigation agency's bid to seek the death penalty for Yasin Malik, the speakers said that the NIA's malicious intention poses a grave threat to the life of Mr. Malik who has been leading a nonviolent movement, advocating for the peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. They said that Modi's double-edged on-slaught against Kashmiris was aimed at whipping up anti-Muslim sentiments, polarise people, and winning votes.

They said that the Hindu nationalist party-BJP-which played communal cards to stoke hatred between the people to win elections was now using the same tactics to save its vote bank. They said that there was ample evidence that suggests that the Modi-

led apartheid regime, which thrives on communal divide and anti-Muslim sentiment, could use the unlawful execution of the Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik as a means to regain popularity and bolster chances of retaining power in the upcoming Parliamentary Elections being held in 2024. The speakers appealed to the UN secretary-general to take swift and decisive action by demanding the Indian government stop using its judiciary as a weapon to punish Kashmiri leaders and that India being a signatory to the Geneva Convention on political prisoners was bound to respect the rights of prisoners.

<https://pakobserver.net/geneva-moot-highlights-plight-of-kashmiri-political-detainees/>

### **Water Scarcity, Energy Crises, and Lack of Internet facilities in Hunza**

*Pamir Times, 4 July 2023*

Hunza is known for its natural beauty, unique culture, and historical places. Tourists throng the area every year, each season, attracted by its natural beauty, as well as the kind and loving nature of the local people, known for their peaceful and progressive attitude. Nevertheless, the Hunza people continue to face enormous challenges including a lack of better infrastructure, water scarcity, and electricity shortage. The local people and the tourists rely heavily on these necessities like, water

electricity, and internet connectivity for their daily needs and communications. The lack of these amenities causes inconvenience and discomfort.

#### *Water scarcity*

Hunza gets its water from glaciers, springs, and streams. With the rise in temperature due to climate change, these water sources are endangered. During peak tourist season, water consumption increases exponentially, further affecting the supply of water. Natural disasters and construction failures also exacerbate the water supply system. The government needs to ensure effective and sustainable water management and take immediate steps to address the issue of water shortage and enhance water availability for agriculture and household consumption.

#### *Electricity issues*

In Hunza, we have the worst electricity shortage and it has a crucial impact on several factors such as heating, industry, as well as cooling and heating hotels and restaurants. It harms the local economy as the locals are forced to make alternate arrangements, often damaging the environment, and pay high costs to fulfill their energy needs. It is the responsibility of the government to invest in electricity infrastructure and power generation to facilitate and encourage tourists.

Developed nations utilize new technologies to attract more tourists and facilitate them in every possible way. We need to follow in their footsteps and improve the quality of life for the locals and the visitors. Most developed nations truly engage potential tourists in many ways and they have online access for e-commerce, which makes payments secure and easier for tourists and hoteliers. Unfortunately, we don't have reliable internet access which hampers economic growth. Hunza is by no means, the only region facing the above issues. Every district of GB is grappling with issues.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/07/04/water-scarcity-energy-crises-and-lack-of-internet-facilities-in-hunza/>

### **APHC calls for a strike on the martyrdom anniversary of Burhan Wani**

*Pakistan Observer, 5 July 2023*

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has called for a complete shutdown in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) on 8 July on the 7th martyrdom anniversary of the 'prominent youth resistance' leader, Burhan Muzaffar Wani who along with his colleagues sacrificed his life for the just cause of right to self-determination. Burhan Wani along

with two associates was martyred by Indian troops in a 'fake encounter' in the Kokernag area of Islamabad district on 8 July 2016. During the period of mass uprising, 156 civilian protesters were martyred and thousands were injured by the troops, paramilitary, and police personnel.

The APHC call has been supported by all pro-freedom leaders and organizations. The posters displayed by APHC, Naw-jawanan-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir, Political Resistance Movement, Jammu and Kashmir Justice League Forum, Jammu and Kashmir Sadai Mazloom, Wareseen-e-Shuhada, Democratic Youth Forum, Jammu Kashmir Democratic Movement, Jammu Kashmir Peoples Resistance Party, Kashmir Resistance Movement, Kashmir Hurriyat Forum, Youth Democratic Political Movement, Jammu and Kashmir Tehreek-e-Azadi, Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Alliance and several other pro-freedom groups in several parts of Kashmir valley urged people to observe the strike on Burhan's anniversary. The posters said the mission of Shaheed Burhan Wani and other martyrs to free their homeland from Indian clutches would be accomplished at all costs.

<https://pakobserver.net/aphc-calls-for-strike-on-martyrdom-anniversary-of-burhan-wani/>

## **Pakistan highlighting Kashmir issue well: KCEU chief**

*The Nation, 6 July 2023*

Kashmir Council European Union (KCEU) chief Ali Raza Syed said that Pakistan was highlighting the Kashmir issue exceptionally well. In an interview with *The Nation*, Syed said the resolution of the Kashmir issue was vital for regional peace. He said the KCEU has been engaged for over a decade to advance Kashmir's cause in Europe. This is one of the most active groups regarding Kashmiri's resistance to the 'Indian occupation' and for the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, KCEU organised conferences, demos, seminars, and exhibitions in and outside European Parliament and National parliaments in European countries. He said the KCEU has created a documentation and Research Centre where we provide monthly reports about the current situations and new developments. We work with JKCCS Srinagar-based organization that is documenting all the cases on the ground and publishing comprehensive reports like 'Structure of Violence and Tortures'. He said KCEU distributes reports like the UN report on Kashmir and KCEU also builds alliances with local and international organizations to promote the Kashmir issue. Syed said that KCEU organises 'Kashmir EU week' in

European Parliament every year for the last 16 years.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Jul-2023/pakistan-highlighting-kashmir-issue-well-kceu-chief>

## **GB court puts off chief minister's election**

*The Express Tribune, 6 July 2023*

The Supreme Appellate Court (SAC) of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) put off the election for the new chief minister, a day after the Chief Court disqualified Khalid Khurshid from holding the top office in the region for possessing a fake degree. Earlier in the day, the police sealed the GB Assembly after evacuating lawmakers and journalists from the premises. Also, the federal government removed police Chief Dar Ali Khan Khattak, replacing him with Afzal Mahmood Butt. The GB Assembly was preparing for voting for a new chief minister on Wednesday. However, Chief Judge Justice Sardar Muhammad Shamim Khan ordered that the election be adjourned, citing various procedural irregularities. According to a statement issued by the SAC, Justice Shamim, while presiding over a hearing, ordered GB Speaker Nazir Ahmed to present a new election schedule in the court on Thursday with at least three days given for the election.

Justice Shamim questioned why the election scheduled for Wednesday was announced in such a hurry, especially

when there was a no-confidence motion submitted against the chief minister, the statement added. Citing the GB Assembly Rule (3) of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 2017, the court said it was necessary to advertise the election schedule through television, newspapers, radio, and gazette publications. As per the now-defunct election schedule, the speaker had ordered the submission of nomination papers for the office of the chief minister by Wednesday noon, while voting in the house was set for 3 pm. There were four candidates, who had filed the nominations. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), to which the former chief minister Khalid Khurshid belongs, had nominated Raja Azam as its candidate. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had fielded Amjad Advocate, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) nominated Engineer Anwar and the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) had put Rehmat Khaliq in the fray.

However, before any proceedings, a heavy contingent of police entered the assembly building and sealed it. The police contingent then surrounded the premises and barred lawmakers from entering. Later, the Inspector General (IG) of Police Khattak was ordered to report to the Establishment Division. According to a notification, Afzal Mahmood Butt, a Grade-20 officer in

Punjab, was posted as the new IG of GB.

A three-judge bench of the G-B Chief Court, comprising Justice Malik Inayatullah, Justice Johar Ali, and Justice Mushtaq Muhammad, disqualified Khurshid for five years over his fake degree. Ghulam Shahzad Agha, a member of the G-B Assembly from the PPP, had challenged Khurshid's law degree, contending that the Higher Education Commission (HEC) had declared it fake. Reacting to the police action at the GB Assembly, former chief minister Khurshid alleged that the election was being delayed because the PTI had a clear majority and would vote for the party's candidate. He alleged that after delaying the election, efforts would be made to 'break' [away] the PTI lawmakers. He claimed that if that failed, lawmakers, including him, would then be arrested so that the party loses the majority.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2424969/g-b-court-puts-off-chief-ministers-election>

### **The UN must implement its resolutions on Kashmir to restore its lost credibility**

*Pakistan Observer, 6 July 2023*

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter held a reception at its office in Islamabad in honour of the

leaders of the Kashmir Movement in the UK, Europe, Spain, and Scotland, in which the speakers demanded the UN implement its resolutions on Kashmir to restore its lost credibility. The speakers said the Kashmiris living abroad are playing their full role in highlighting the Kashmir cause. They urged the international community to take cognizance of the grave human rights violations perpetrated by Indian troops in the 'occupied territory.' Tehreek-e-Kashmir UK President Raja Faheem Kayani, Tehreek-e-Kashmir Scotland President Baily Hanif Raja, Tehreek-e-Kashmir Spain President Shafiq Tabasim and Tehreek-e-Kashmir Europe Senior Vice President Mahmud Ahmed Sharif met the leadership of APHC-'AJK' chapter and discussed the latest situation of 'IIOJK.' While speaking at the event, Hurriyat leaders said that the APHC represents the aspirations and sacrifices of the oppressed Kashmiris. They said that the freedom movement will be intensified at the international level and stressed that we should make the best use of social media to highlight at the global level the grave human rights violations perpetrated by Indian troops in 'IIOJK.'

<https://pakobserver.net/un-must-implement-its-resolutions-on-kashmir-to-restore-its-lost-credibility/>

### **The martyrdom of Burhan Wani reignited the Kashmir freedom movement**

*The Express Tribune, 6 July 2023*

The martyrdom of Burhan Wani, a prominent Kashmiri activist, sent shockwaves throughout the region and brought the long-standing conflict in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) to the forefront of international attention. Wani was a true hero and his martyrdom on 8 July 2016, sparked widespread protests in 'IIOJK', leading to another wave of violence by 'Indian occupation' forces in the region. Burhan Wani was born on July 7, 1994, in south Kashmir. At the age of 15, he started to raise his voice against the oppressive Indian forces. Soon he was known as a brave Kashmiri activist, gaining recognition for his mesmerizing personality and passionate speeches. Social media platforms became his means of spreading his message of opposition to the 'Indian occupation' and motivating others to join the cause. His ability to connect with 'IIOJK' youth, who recognized him as a symbol of resistance against Indian oppression, made him a prominent figure within the freedom movement.

On 8 July 2016, a joint operation by the Indian occupation forces, including the army, police, and paramilitary, tracked



down and martyred Burhan Wani in the Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Islamabad district. Burhan's death witnessed a significant escalation of violence in the region with many people martyred and injured by Indian forces. As a result of the curfew in the valley, the internet was shut down and many other restrictions were also imposed and the protest continued for many months. The martyrdom of Wani marked a turning point in the Kashmir freedom movement, with the emergence of a new wave of struggle and widespread youth participation in highlighting the Kashmir issue specifically by using social media. The fallout from his death continued to shape the ongoing struggle for the right to self-determination in 'IIOJK.'

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2425027/martyrdom-of-burhan-wani-reignited-kashmir-freedom-movement>

### **Rally vows to continue struggle for Kashmiris' right to self-determination**

*Dawn, 9 July 2023*

Wearing white t-shirts imprinted with the mugshots of Kashmiri martyrs, a group of young Kashmiri boys and their elders swore an oath in the capital of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) to carry on the ongoing struggle for the right to self-determination of the oppressed Kashmiri nation. The event was organised by Pasban-i-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir (PHJK), an

organisation of the post-1989 migrants from across the Line of Control, to mark the seventh martyrdom anniversary of young Kashmir commander Burhan Wani as 'Resistance Day.' The youngsters in t-shirts, who PHJK chairman Uzair Ahmed Ghazali claimed was 313, had lined up on the main thoroughfare close to a roundabout named after Mr Wani. Before swearing an oath, they also presented a salute amid the national anthem of 'AJK' and Pakistan in front of a large panaflex banner imprinted with the images of veteran pro-freedom leader (late) Syed Ali Shah Geelani on both sides and that of commander Wani in the middle. In between, there were mugshots of dozens of other Kashmiri martyrs.

Speaking on the occasion, Ghazali recalled that Burhan Wani took over the command of the freedom movement in the most difficult times, posing a daunting challenge to the occupation machinery on the battlefield on the one hand and social media on the other. Mr. Ghazali and other speakers called upon the United Nations to take notice of India's 'war crimes' and implement its resolutions on the Kashmir issue so that the Kashmiris could also live a peaceful life according to their choice.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1763700/rally-vows-to-continue-struggle-for-kashmiris-right-to-self-determination>

## Twitter 'Relocates' Users in GB to Held Kashmir

*Dawn, 9 July 2023*

Twitter seems to have blocked access to the government of Pakistan's official account in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and changed the region's location to parts of India. In addition, when users turn on the location feature on the app, tweets sent from the region are marked as originating from India-held Kashmir. When users tried to access the account, a message was displayed stating the 'account has been withheld in India in response to a legal demand.' The government's official account has been banned in India since March 2023. In 2022, the account was withheld twice over 'legal complaints.' Yasir Hussain, a resident of the Rahimabad area of Gilgit told Dawn that when he tried to add a location to his tweets, he found that the app was labeling him as being in India-held 'Jammu and Kashmir' rather than GB. He said officials in Pakistan should take 'serious cognizance' of this matter as India 'might have influenced Twitter to change GB's geo-tagging.'

In June 2022, Twitter banned a slew of Pakistani accounts including that of the Pakistani mission in the UN, Turkiye, Iran, and Egypt and Radio Pakistan. When contacted by Dawn, the GB government's information department referred to a press release issued on the

matter. It said the claims regarding the government of Pakistan's official Twitter account being inaccessible in GB were 'baseless.' But while the GB Information Department claimed there were no restrictions on the official account, an employee of the GB Assembly told Dawn that the account was indeed inaccessible.

*PTA says issues are limited to a few iOS devices*

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) said in a statement later today that the matter had been 'thoroughly investigated.' It stated that 'no such problem' regarding Twitter blocking access to Pakistan's official account in GB and changing the region's location to parts of India was found.

*Indian Influence on Twitter*

Users in GB said the social media platform has 'disrespected the status of Gilgit-Baltistan' and called it an attack on the region's identity. Mr Dorsey, former head of Twitter said in an interview that 'India is one of the countries which had many requests around farmers' protests, around particular journalists which were critical of the government. Twitter has also sued the Indian government in the past over some orders to block tweets and accounts alleging that New Delhi had abused its power by ordering it to

arbitrarily and disproportionately remove several tweets from its platform.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1763749/twitter-relocates-users-in-gb-to-held-kashmir>

## **Economic Developments**

### **‘AJK’ offers massive investment opportunities for investors. President Barrister Sultan Mehmood**

*Daily Parliament Times, 3 July 2023*

The president of ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ (AJK), Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry while talking to a Hong Kong delegation led by an adviser to the ‘AJK’ president of Asia Mr. Lal Dino Baloch spoke of massive investment opportunities in ‘Azad Kashmir’ has said that the government was ready to provide all kinds of facilities to the investors. Sultan Mehmood said that the ‘liberated territory’, a treasure trove of natural resources, offers huge investment opportunities to foreign investors, and added that ‘Azad Kashmir’ has vast investment opportunities in hydro, tourism, information technology, minerals, mining, and precious stones and other sectors. He said that a peaceful and investment-friendly environment provides investors with unique opportunities for good returns. He said that investors should not worry about anything as the ‘AJK’

Government was ready to cooperate with them besides providing other facilities. He said that the government’s aim to turn the region into a business hub would ultimately help to control growing unemployment among the people besides improving their quality of life. The head of the delegation Lal Dino Baloch informed the President about the progress in the field of information technology regarding investment in his previous meeting. The visiting delegation invited the President to visit Hong Kong, which he accepted. The delegation was comprised of Madam Soo, Chaudhry Allah Ditta, Chaudhry Zahid, Faisal Lal, and others.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/07/03/ljk-offers-massive-investment-opportunities-for-investors-president-barrister-sultan-mehmood/>

### **Karot HPP contributes 3.6bn units of clean electricity**

*Daily Times, 4 July 2023*

The 720 megawatts Karot hydropower plant contributed around 3.64 billion units of clean and low-cost electricity to the National Grid in one year of its commercial operations. This was disclosed by China Three Gorges (CTG) International, which marks the completion of the first year of the commercial operations of the Karot hydropower project. Karot was the first hydropower project completed under

the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, which started commercial operations on 29 June 2022. The Karot contributed 4 billion worth of electricity to the National Grid free of cost during its testing and commissioning phase. Karot is a steady source of clean and affordable electricity for Pakistan. According to the latest energy purchase data released on 15 June by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA), Karot contributed more than 509.86 million units of electricity in May 2023 for 115.02 million. It comes out that the electricity generation cost for this flagship CPEC power project stood at only Rs 0.226 per unit for May. The project was executed by CTG at a cost of around \$2 billion.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1109742/karot-hpp-contributes-3-6bn-units-of-clean-electricity/>

### **Designs of two hydropower projects: PCA accepts Pakistan's petition against India**

*Business Recorder, 7 July 2023*

The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) has accepted Pakistan's position that it had the competence to determine a dispute between India and Pakistan regarding the change of designs in the Kishanganga and Ratle Hydro Electric plants by India. The court of arbitration rejected India's objection to the

assumption of jurisdiction by the international forum. The international court will now start hearing Pakistan's claim on merit to the effect that the two projects' designs are in breach of the Indus Water Treaty of 1961. Pakistan was represented by a team of international experts assisted by a team of the Attorney General for Pakistan including Advocate Zohair Waheed and Advocate Leena Nishter. According to media reports Pakistan raised three objections to the Kishanganga project's design saying that (i) the bondage of the project is 7.5 million cubic meters, which is excessive as it should be one million cubic meters; (ii) India must raise intake by up to 1-4 meters; and (iii) raise the spillways to nine meters high.

The legal battle between the two nations began in January 2023 to address concerns raised by Pakistan over the controversial designs of two hydropower projects being constructed on the Jhelum and Chenab Rivers. The first hearing of the 330 MW Kishanganga and 850 MW Ratle Hydropower projects lasted for two days (January 27-28). Pakistan's delegation will be headed by the Secretary Water Resources Ministry and comprising Pakistan's Commissioner of Indus Waters, top officials of the Attorney General's Office, and a team of international lawyers hired by the Government of

Pakistan will advocate the country's case for justice. The World Bank had earlier constituted the Court of Arbitration on the demand of Pakistan. Likewise, it also formed a one-man neutral expert as demanded by India.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40251432/design-s-of-two-hydropower-projects-pca-accepts-pakistans-petition-against-india>

### **Chinese businesses are interested in investing in GB's solar energy sector**

*Dailyk2, 7 July 2023*

Under the guidance of Secretary Electronics Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Sajjad Haider, a Chinese team participated in an important conference in Gilgit to talk about investments in the country's electricity industry. Secretary Electronics spoke to the Chinese group on the potential for power generation in the nation's power sector, and the Chinese delegation expressed interest in solar energy and wind power generation projects in GB. The government of GB has authorised 4.5 MW worth of solar energy projects. There are now plans for a 50 MW solar power facility at Harali. The group also had a lengthy discussion about wind energy. Bringing energy from China to GB was also addressed during the meeting, but was tabled until the following meeting. A plan for supplying electricity to GB will be

formulated soon. The Chinese delegation expressed a wish to support GB's solar energy development. Moreover, to resolve the electrical problem in the Skardu district and the city as a whole, an agreement will be reached with a Norwegian company to generate electricity from solar energy with the aid of the GB Rural Support Programme.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/15356>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

#### **South Asia cannot be at peace until the issue of Kashmir is resolved: Pakistan Foreign Minister**

*Jasarat, 3 July 2023*

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that South Asia will not experience peace unless the Jammu and Kashmir problem is settled through discussions in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions. He stated that both nations can contribute to the SAARC region's development by utilising their respective capabilities, and Pakistan is prepared to strive towards this resolution. According to Bilawal, India is engulfed in religious extremism, which has obstructed diplomatic and negotiating efforts. While speaking to the media concerning his visit to Japan, he stated that to improve regional connectivity and boost trade volume throughout the

area, Pakistan and Japan must collaborate to build a robust and effective infrastructure system. He further stated that Japan and Pakistan can contribute to a stable, secure, and prosperous Afghanistan.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/07/03/bilawal-zardari-55/>

### **GB Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid disqualified in fake degree case**

*Dailyk2, 4 July 2023*

The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Chief Court disqualified Khalid Khurshid Khan as the chief minister of the region over allegedly obtaining a license from the bar council based on a fake degree. A three-member bench, headed by Judge Inayatullah Rahman, passed the order on a petition filed seeking the CM's disqualification. Pakistan Peoples Party's Ghulam Shahzad Agha, a member of the GB Assembly, through his counsel Amjad Hussain, had challenged Khurshid's degree. The petitioner sought his disqualification under articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution. The petitioner contended that the degree submitted by Khurshid had not been verified by the University of London and that the Higher Education Commission had declared it fake.

In May, Chief Judge Ali Baig constituted a bench to hear the case,

issuing notices to the chief minister, HEC, GB Bar Council, and others to submit their replies within 14 days. During the latest hearing, the respondents completed their arguments after which the bench disqualified Khurshid as the CM for five years. However, following his disqualification, a no-confidence motion was submitted against the CM in the GB Assembly Secretariat almost immediately. There were reports that the opposition members submitted a no-confidence motion to thwart the possible plan of the chief minister to dissolve the assembly. While addressing the party workers, Khurshid reassured them not to worry, saying that the next chief minister, whoever he will be, would also be of the PTI, as these people do not know that we are not greedy for the chair or power but want justice to prevail.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/15295>

### **The BJP turned the Amarnath Yatra into a militarised, communal pilgrimage**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 5 July 2023*

The Hindu Amarnath Yatra has evolved into a militarised and communal line in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). Since the advent of Hindutva politics in India, the number of Indian Yatris

visiting Amarnath Cave in south Kashmir's Islamabad area has expanded quickly on a communal basis, and the Kashmiris must contend with heightened militarism during the Yatra. It brings more misery to the Kashmiri people in the form of constant checking and frisking by huge Indian forces. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ignoring threats that the huge Amarnath Yatra poses to 'IIOJK's fragile environment and his decision to allow lakhs of Hindus to visit the Amarnath Yatra is an environmental disaster in the making in 'IIOJK.' The Amarnath Yatra has become a good source of corruption and making money in the name of expenditure to the Indian army, police, and their agencies for so-called security.

Modi must de-militarise Amarnath Yatra, reduce the number of Indian Yatris and address environmental concerns for a better and safer Yatra. As many as nearly one lakh additional troops and paramilitary forces have been deployed in the 'occupied valley.' Drone cameras and the latest technology hover over the Yatri routes. The 43-day Yatra was now extended into a 62 days yatra that starts on 1 July and ends on 31 August.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Resize-of-front-page-123.jpg>

### **Burhan Wani became a symbol of resistance in 'occupied Kashmir:' 'AJK' PM**

*Jammu and Kashmir Times, 9 July 2023*

The Prime Minister Chaudhry of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Anwar ul Haq, said that Burhan Muzaffar Wani's martyrdom has given the Kashmiri people's ongoing independence movement new vigor and enthusiasm. On the occasion of Burhan's death anniversary, Haq claimed that Burhan Shaheed was a proud son of the soil who lived and died for the noble cause. The PM also expressed his gratitude to the Pakistani nation for its continued and consistent support for the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination, adding that the day was not far when the people of Kashmir would drive the Indian occupation forces out of Kashmir.

He said that the mass uprising which was triggered soon after the martyrdom of Burhan Wani forced the United Nations and the international media to break their silence on Kashmir. He said that the Indians were baffled when former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif paid tribute to this 'freedom fighter' on the floor of the United Nations. He claimed that Burhan Wani had now become a symbol of the resistance against the 'Indian occupation' in Kashmir, adding that Wani's mission would continue till

the freedom of Kashmir. He also assured the Kashmiri people and Hurriyat leadership of his government's all-out support and stressed that along with the people of 'AJK', the people of GB and Pakistan stand shoulder to shoulder with Kashmiri brethren in their just struggle for the right to self-determination guaranteed to them by the international community.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/1-2.jpg>

### **India released water into the Ravi River**

*Jasarat, 9 July 2023*

India has opened up the Ravi River to floods, and the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has raised the level of alert. According to the PDMA, the areas bordering the Ravi River need to be prepared for emergencies as India released 185,000 cusecs of water. The PDMA advises that teams for rescue and relief operations should be prepared with equipment and that relief camps should be set up in low-lying areas. It should be mentioned that India yearly pumps water into Pakistani rivers without warning, resulting in localised flooding. India let out 173,000 cubic seconds of water last year.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/07/09/india-released-water-in-ravi-river/>

### **Social Media (tweets)**

**Ammar Rashid** @AmmarRashidT

*5 July 2023*

So Gilgit Baltistan's police chief has been replaced w/ an officer from Punjab to better enforce the change in regime underway. Direct colonial rule from the metropole. Hard to imagine a clearer example of torpedoing your own foreign policy legitimacy for petty domestic politics.

<https://twitter.com/AmmarRashidT/status/1676644453484773377>

**Safiullah Baig** @SafiullahBaig14

*5 July 2023*

GB Police did not allow GB Assembly Speaker to enter the Assembly building. Who are real masters of GB, a disputed territory under administrative control of Pakistan without a constitutional protection?

*Story link:*

<https://twitter.com/SafiullahBaig14/status/1676576243183935488>

**Ali Mustafa** @Ali\_Mustafa

*6 July 2023*

The writing on the wall has been clear in Gilgit Baltistan since the army-pdm combine orchestrated the May 9 false flag against arguably Pakistan's most popular political leader (who shall not be named); despite this, a two month



crackdown has failed to achieve the desired results - so now the regime-combine has decided to thwart the entire political process in Gilgit-Baltistan province including removal of CM Khalid Khurshid; what is clear is that these "remote-controlled toys" are hell-bent on another partition of the Pakistan at any cost, "self-determination for thee and not for me" is not going to work; these are the running this country.

[https://twitter.com/Ali\\_Mustafa/status/1676745568796962816](https://twitter.com/Ali_Mustafa/status/1676745568796962816)

**SK@realsyed14**

7 July 2023

Kashmiris. What's going on in #GB and what's happening in #AJK assembly? Who is playing with Pakistan and against Kashmir? Who is behind this dirty game of politics? Kashmiri should understand this, and they must start independence struggle from India and Pakistan bcz both the countries are not sincere with Kashmir... Pakistani establishment and Parliamentarians making money at the cost of destruction of Pakistan economy through money laundering... Similar Situation in India.

<https://twitter.com/realsyed14/status/1677185652050259969>

**Jamil Nagri @jamilnagri**

9 July 2023

Twitter blocked access to the government of Pakistan's official account in #GilgitBaltistan & changed GB's location to parts of #India. When users turn on the location feature on the app, tweets sent from the region are marked as originating from India.

*Story link:*

<https://twitter.com/jamilnagri/status/1677889424737325057>

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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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