

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 4 | Issue 17

22 April - 28 April 2024

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

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Political Developments

'AJK' PM marks one year in office, vows to continue serving with zeal

The Nation, 21 April 2024

The 'Azad Jammu Kashmir' (AJK) Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq celebrated one year in office, pledging to continue serving the state and its people with the same spirit and zeal. Addressing a ceremony in Islamabad, the 'AJK' PM reflected on the challenges and opportunities of the past year, expressing gratitude to the state machinery for their support. The PM highlighted several achievements including ridding the state of mafias, ensuring transparency in government spending and introducing reforms in road construction, health and education sectors. He also mentioned the government's efforts to provide subsidies and establish an endowment fund for deserving citizens.

The PM addressed rumors of no-confidence motions, calling them a hoax and warned against Indian attempts to create chaos in the region. He expressed appreciation for the army chief's support for the Kashmiris' freedom struggle and thanked government ministers and allied parties for their cooperation. The ceremony was attended by former President and Prime Minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqub Khan, government ministers and other officials.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Apr-2024/ajk-pm-marks-one-year-in-office-vows-to-continue-serving-with-zeal>

More than 1,000 global attendees to participate in 'AJK' varsity's World Congress on Zoology

Dawn, 22 April 2024

The 42nd World Pakistan Congress of Zoology will begin at the King Abdullah campus of the University of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (UAJK) to hold global discourse on the latest innovations and persistent challenges in the field. The three-day event, being held in collaboration with the Zoological Society of Pakistan, would draw top scientists, researchers and scholars from around the world, hailing from countries such as the United States, Australia, Switzerland, Greece, China, Turkey, and beyond, said U'AJK' spokesperson Mubashar Naqvi in a media briefing. With over 1,000 participants expected, the congress promises a vibrant exchange of ideas, with more than 500 researchers slated to present their latest findings in the field of zoology, he said.

Mr Naqvi said the vice chancellors (VC) from the University of Baltistan, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Sindh, Preston University Karachi, Islamia College University Peshawar, University of Okara, Baba Guru Nanak University Faisalabad, Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, and Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology, among others, had confirmed their participation in the event. According to Prof Dr Nuzhat Shafi, chairperson of the U'AJK's department of zoology, the

event would have various sessions during which speakers and participants would present research papers, deliver lectures, hold discussions on the latest research, development, current problems and available opportunities in the field of zoology.

Speakers and participants would delve deeper into entomology and pest management, cell biology, molecular biology, bioinformatics, environmental biotechnology, genetics, wildlife conservation, and some other topics, she said. Mr Naqvi maintained that playing host to a prestigious international congress was an honour for the varsity, which was why all arrangements had been meticulously made under the personal supervision and guidance of vice chancellor Prof Dr Kaleem Abbasi.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1828827/more-than-1000-global-attendees-to-participate-in-ajk-varsitys-world-congress-on-zoology>

Report exposes Modi regime's multifaceted assault on 'IIOJK'

Pakistan Observer, 24 April 2025

Following the unlawful actions by the Modi-led Indian regime since 5 August 2019, the lives of Muslims in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) have been under constant attack by the Hindutva BJP regime. A report released by the Kashmir Media Service sheds light on the multifaceted assault on 'OJK' by the Modi regime, revealing a concerning trend in the region's tumultuous history. New

Delhi's strategies encompass a wide array of political, cultural, and religious measures aimed at undermining the rights and identity of Kashmiri Muslims. The report outlines a series of actions undertaken by the BJP government, including administrative, demographic, and electoral maneuvers, all intended to disempower and disenfranchise the Kashmiri people. Each policy decision seems meticulously crafted to erode the cultural and religious fabric of 'IIOJK's' Muslim community.

Drawing parallels with the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the report argues that Modi's regime is implementing a similar model of occupation and colonization in 'IIOJK.' The introduction of new land laws, aimed at facilitating the seizure of land from locals and transferring it to outsiders, further heightens tensions in the region. Despite intensified repression aimed at silencing Kashmiri voices of freedom, the report warns that Modi's policies of coercion and deceit will only bolster the resolve of Kashmiri Muslims in their resistance against occupation. The ramifications of the abrogation of Article 370 and subsequent actions by India, as outlined in the report, have profound and far-reaching effects, exacerbating the already volatile situation in 'IIOJK.'

Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) has expressed its concern over the continued detention of Kashmiri leaders, human

rights defenders, and journalists by the India's Hindutva regime in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. According to Kashmir Media Service, JKDFP spokesman, Advocate Arshad Iqbal, in a statement issued in Srinagar called on the international community to intervene and help resolve the long-standing Kashmir dispute. He also urged international human rights organizations to take note of the ongoing human rights violations in the territory.

Iqbal said that Indian troops are operating under draconian laws and have unleashed a reign of terror in 'occupied Kashmir.' He maintained that Indian troops were harassing and humiliating innocent people during cordon and search operations. The JKDFP spokesman went on to add that Indian secret agencies are forcing Kashmiri people to support the BJP government in the Lok Sabha elections. He said that the families of Hurriyat leaders are being terrorized by the occupation authorities through many tactics including attaching their houses and properties. Iqbal said that these tactics will not deter Kashmiri resistance leaders from pursuing their freedom cause. He added that the Kashmiri people have made unprecedented sacrifices for their freedom and will continue to resist 'Indian occupation.'

<https://pakobserver.net/report-exposes-modi-regimes-multifaceted-assault-on-iiojk/>

International Symposium to remember Kashmiri leader

Amanullah Khan on his 8th Death Anniversary tomorrow- Friday – April 26

Daily Parliament, 25 April 2024

The Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF-Yasin Malik faction) will host an online international symposium on 26 April to commemorate the 8th death anniversary of veteran Kashmir freedom struggle leader Amanullah Khan, with due solemnity and reverence, organisers said. The symposium will be live-streamed via various social media platforms, enabling a global audience to watch and listen to the speakers, said Raja Muzaffar, Acting Chairman JKLF. This online format ensures that people from all over the world can participate and pay tribute to Amanullah Khan's memory, despite geographical constraints, the US-based JKLF leader said in a statement.

Raja Muzaffar, Acting Chairman of JKLF, while extending invitations to political leaders, intellectuals, journalists, and academicians, the world over, to participate in the scheduled event, to pay rich tributes to the departed Kashmiri leader for his life time services to Kashmiris struggle for right to self-determination and freedom of the motherland from 'Indian illegal occupation.' As of today, 175 individuals have accepted the invitation, underscoring the significance of Amanullah Khan's legacy and the significance of the symposium, Muzaafar said in the statement unveiling the schedule of the

event. The event, as asserted by the JKLF, promises to be a thought-provoking and insightful discussion, featuring esteemed speakers who will share their perspectives on Amanullah Khan's life, work, and contributions to the Kashmiri struggle for their birth right to self-determination, the statement concluded.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/04/25/international-symposium-to-remember-kashmiri-leader-amanullah-khan-on-his-8th-death-anniversary-tomorrow-friday-april-26/>

Pakistan, Iran call for resolution of Kashmir issue, action against Israel

The Nation, 25 April 2024

Pakistan and Iran agreed to expeditiously finalise the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and boost their bilateral trade to USD-10 billion over the next five years through joint economic projects, setting up of joint border markets, economic free zones, and new border openings. The bilateral ties and cooperation were discussed during the delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Iran's President Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi who was on an official visit to Pakistan from 22-24 April, accompanied by a high-level delegation comprising Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, as well as other members of the cabinet and senior officials. Agreeing to turn the common border from a 'border of peace' to a 'border of prosperity', both countries reiterated the importance of cooperation in the energy domain,

including trade in electricity, power transmission lines and Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline Project, according to a joint statement issued by Foreign Office on the culmination of Raisi's.

The two sides reviewed the entire spectrum of Pakistan-Iran bilateral relations, exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual concern, and signed multiple accords. Regarding connectivity, two sides expressed satisfaction over the regular shipment of goods under the TIR Convention and agreed to fully operationalise the Convention for further efficient, speedy and barrier-free trade. As members of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the two countries expressed firm resolve to enhance cooperation in connectivity, infrastructure development, and energy sectors and agreed to expand linkages between Gwadar and Chahbahar ports.

The two countries condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and agreed to adopt a collaborative approach to confront this menace and to leverage the existing bilateral institutional mechanisms to effectively combat and counter this threat, while fully upholding the principles of the UN Charter, particularly the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states. Taking note of developments at regional and global levels, both sides stressed the importance of peaceful settlement of

disputes through dialogue and diplomacy to find mutually acceptable solutions to common challenges.

The two leaders highlighted the need to resolve the issue of Kashmir through dialogue and peaceful means based on the will of the people of that region, and in accordance with international law. They expressed their strong and unequivocal condemnation of the ongoing Israeli regime's aggression and atrocities against the Palestinian people, and called for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire, unimpeded humanitarian access to the besieged people of Gaza, return of the displaced Palestinians, as well as ensuring accountability of the crimes being committed by the Israeli regime.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/25-Apr-2024/pakistan-iran-call-for-resolution-of-kashmir-issue-action-against-israel>

Pasban-e-Hurriyat condemns more than 100 recent detentions in occupied Kashmir

Daily Parliament Times, 25 April 2024

Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir Uzair Ahmed Ghazali has said that arrests of more than 100 innocent citizens from Rajouri, Poonch and Bandipora areas of the 'occupied state' are proof of 'Indian state repression and terrorism.' In a statement, he said that Indian Hindutva ideology led government is trying to convert Muslim majority area into minority. He maintained that since the colonial actions of 5 August 2019, Delhi government has been taking

conspiratorial steps to deprive Kashmiri citizens of all basic human, political, social and religious rights. Ghazali said that since the last few days, the Indian authorities have once again made the atmosphere of fear and terror in the state by arresting more than 100 innocent citizens from Rajouri, Poonch and Bandipora. He said that all the oppressive tactics of Indian government will fail in front of the Kashmiri people.

Uzair expressed his determination that the resistance movement will continue till the freedom of 'Occupied Kashmir.' A strong public movement will be launched against Indian oppression and tyranny, he reiterated. While paying tribute to the perseverance and courage of the people of 'Occupied Kashmir', he said that Kashmiri people are making great history of sacrifices for the freedom of the state. Ghazali demanded the United Nations Security Council, international organizations for peace, justice and human rights to take notice of Indian atrocities in 'Occupied Kashmir' and play their role for a fair solution of the Kashmir issue.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/04/25/pasban-e-hurriyat-condemns-more-than-100-recent-detentions-in-occupied-kashmir/>

Economic Developments

River Ravi issue: Tarar says Pakistan cannot move ICJ against India's 'water aggression'

The News International, 23 April 2024

The Federal Law Minister, Azam Nazeer Tarar, stated India retains the

right to the water from the River Ravi under a binding treaty, and prohibited Pakistan from taking any action against India's 'water aggression' in the International Court of Justice (ICJ). There is a water treaty between Pakistan and India. The right to water on the River Ravi belongs to India, and we cannot interfere with it, Tarar said during the proceeding of a Calling Attention Notice presented to discuss India's actions in the National Assembly on Tuesday. On this issue, recourse cannot be made to the International Court of Justice against India, he added.

Under the 1960 Indus Water Treaty signed between the two countries, India claims the waters of Rivers Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas. Speaking on the floor of the lower house of parliament PTI MNA Zartaj Gul came down hard on Tarar saying today the law minister had accepted India's right over the River Ravi, which was regretful. Responding to Gul, the law minister said that legal issues should not be politicised. This [Indus Water Treaty] was signed in 1960, however, India wants to exit it, but the ICJ has restrained the latter from pulling out of it, the law minister said, adding that wars had been fought over this issue between the two countries.

He also said however Pakistan did succeed on the issue of the Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project. The News International, citing Indian media, reported that India halted the flow of water from River Ravi to Pakistan with the completion of the

Shahpur Kandi barrage, as per media reports cited by the Times of India. Shahpur Kandi barrage is situated on the border of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. According to the report, 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) region will now benefit from the 1,150 cusecs of water that was previously allocated to Pakistan. The water will be used for irrigation purposes for over 32,000 hectares of land in the Kathua and Samba districts. The Shahpur Kandi barrage project, which is crucial for irrigation and hydropower generation, has faced numerous challenges over the past three decades. However, it is now nearing completion.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1181508-river-ravi-issue-tarar-says-pakistan-cannot-move-icj-against-indias-water-aggression>

IRSA decides to distribute additional water

Business Recorder, 24 April 2024

The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) has decided to distribute nearly 250,000 cusecs of additional flows amongst the provinces, coming from catchments areas due to recent torrential rains. Official sources told Business Recorder that storage in dams has increased from 0.8 MAF because of recent rainfall. IRSA in a letter to Secretaries Irrigation Department of provinces stated that for the last ten days, the surplus flows have been available in the Indus River System; however, stakeholders are reluctant to utilise them due to limitation of provincial shares determined by IRSA

Advisory Committee (IAC) at 30 per cent shortage. According to the letter IRSA has now decided to allow maximum utilisation of the surplus flows available in the system up to Para-2 and even at Para-4 of the Water Apportionment Accord, 1991. The utilisation, over and above the IRSA Advisory Committee likely, will be accounted for separately in the water account.

IRSA has requested provinces that in the light of additional flows and its utilisation up-to Para 2 and even at Para-4 of the Water Accord, necessary provincial adjustments shall continue for ten days afterward IRSA will review the water situation keeping in view the water availability, as well as, weather conditions and will inform accordingly. On 2 April 2024, IRSA Advisory Committee projected 30 percent water shortage for early Kharif 2024 and seven percent in late Kharif 2024 as a total of 59.94 MAF water will be available during Kharif season.

The IAC reviewed the Rabi 2023-24 (Oct-Mar) system operation and showed satisfaction about the overall seasonal close at 17 per cent shortage against the anticipated shortfall of 15 per cent. Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) highlighted that during winter snowfall in the catchments of Indus and Jhelum recorded at 34.8 inches against the normal 50.5 inches; i.e., 31 percent less. The PMD also forecast higher than normal temperatures during the upcoming Kharif season.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40300043/irsa-decides-to-distribute-additional-water>

Karakoram Highway blocked as protesters demand compensation promised for Diamer Bhasha Dam

Dawn, 24 April 2024

Affectees of Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB) Diamer Bhasha Dam (DBD) blocked the Karakoram Highway (KKH) in protest against Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) for failure to pay compensation promised to them for leaving their lands for the dam's construction. The protesters were demanding pending payments for the Chula (stove) Package which entitles them to financial assistance before departure from their houses acquired for the Dasu hydropower project. The action committee of the DBD called the sit-in and blocked the KKH, stranding hundreds of vehicles on both sides of the road at the Gechi area of Chilas in GB's Diamer district.

Diamer Deputy Commissioner (DC) Captain (retd) Muhammad Arif told *Dawn.com* that the protesters blocked the road and demanded their compensation payments pending with WAPDA. He said he held negotiations with the demonstrators and told them that he would convey their message to the WAPDA chairman and other officials, adding that the chairman's visit was also expected next week but the protesters did not agree. DC Arif said the road was opened for half an hour and stranded vehicles crossed the blockade but was blocked again as the protesters demanded the WAPDA chairman meet them at the site of the sit-in.

Atiullah and Muhammad Iqbal, who led the sit-in, told the administration's delegation that they would not leave the road until their demands were met and continued their protest. Iqbal told said that the affectees were demanding Chula payments for a long time but the administration and WAPDA officials 'paid no heed' to their demands. He said the affected had sacrificed their lands to the country and in return, the government did not bother to provide the Chula payments to over 800 affected which were promised to them in writing.

Tourists travelling to and from GB-Islamabad were stranded on both sides of the blocked road. Muhammad Jamil, a passenger travelling to Hunza Gilgit, told Dawn.com that children and families were stranded on the road for six hours. He added that they were able to leave after the roads were opened by the protesters, who had asked them to leave immediately as the road had to be blocked again.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1829391/karakoram-highway-blocked-as-protesters-demand-compensation-promised-for-diamer-bhasha-dam>

GB's Ghanche, Kharmang districts need to be promoted as tourist hotspots

The Nation, 26 April 2024

The Ghanche and Kharmang districts of Baltistan need to be developed and promoted as tourist spots, which will help increase employment and business activities and bring about socio-economic prosperity, Deputy

Director Tourism, Baltistan region Rahat Karim Baig told WealthPK. Located in Baltistan region, both places are full of tourist potential. In the summer season, a good number of domestic and foreign tourists visit these places. Kharmang is located about 127 kilometres from its regional capital Skardu, while the Ghanche district is about 764 kilometres away.

The tourist footfall in Kharmang is considerable, but the residential facilities are not enough to accommodate tourists. In the Ghanche district, the tourist inflow is less than its potential. Ghanche is rich in breathtaking landscape and old places, while Kharmang is known for its sparkling natural water channels, vast plains and memorials. Social forestry at a vast level is another prominent feature of this area. It is worth seeing and is a true model for sustainable income and environmental protection, he said. Rahat noted that the Baltistan tourism department had calendared back-to-back local festivities to promote both areas.

These events will be promoted worldwide through a special web portal. Some of its features will be the current route and weather updates, travelling and residential packages, current updates on new additions, introduction of nearby visiting places, and health and emergency facilities. The addition of new features will continue according to the requirement. The related tourism department will also focus on establishing new resorts, and rest areas and developing the

existing tourist facilities. The tourism sector is a regular and sustainable source of income for the area people. Training locals in the hospitality sector as tour guides and in other tourism-related areas is also a basic need.

The tourism department considers it a priority. Shortly, it is expected that the basic or advanced training will be arranged for the local people according to their ability. Some private institutes have already started doing so and the young students are joining enthusiastically, he added. Talking to WealthPK, CEO Karakoram Adventures Mubarak Hussain said the promotion of Ghanche and Kharmang districts will prove beneficial in many ways. For example, it will bring development and prosperity to the areas and present them as tourist attractions. Besides its natural beauty, the Baltistan region is rich in historic places like the Buddhist carvings in Manthal and the ancient miraculous mosque, locally called the 'Chaqchan Mosque' in Khaplu. Like these districts, there is a dire need to promote every tourist spot according to its unique features so that this industry may flourish, he added.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/26-Apr-2024/gb-s-ghanche-kharmang-districts-need-to-be-promoted-as-tourist-hotspots>

PM urged to ensure job quota for GB youth

Dawn, 28 April 2024

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan has urged Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif to ensure implementation of the government job quota for youth of GB in the Islamabad capital territory (ICT). In a letter sent to the prime minister, Mr Khan said the job quota allocated by the Establishment Division for the youth of GB was not being implemented. I would like to draw your kind attention towards a matter of great importance for the people of GB, particularly the youth, who are seeking employment opportunities. The letter said job opportunities in government institutions are highly sought after. However, it came to our attention that the job quota allocated by the Establishment Division for the people of GB is not being observed while advertising posts in various institutions of Islamabad capital territory.

This results in the lack of representation which causes a significant barrier to the inclusion and integration of GB's youth into the mainstream national institutions. The letter said the residents of GB had consistently proven their commitment and loyalty to Pakistan and they should be given an equal opportunity as per the notified share. The chief minister sought attention of the prime minister and said: Your attention to this matter would go a long way in fostering a sense of inclusion and equality, and I believe that you have the vision and the compassion to make this possible. I trust that you will give this request a serious consideration and take appropriate action so that the youth of GB are granted fair chance to compete

in the upcoming positions in the ICT social security institution, labour department and other positions.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1830033/pm-urged-to-ensure-job-quota-for-gb-youth>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Refugee families are compelled to live in compact houses

Urdupoint, 23 April 2024

A delegation headed by Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, Amir of the Jammu and Kashmir Refugee's Committee paid a visit to the post-1989 refugee settlements in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK). Warm greetings and an update on their predicaments were given by the refugees to the delegation. The working group on refugees who toured the camps included Gohar Ahmed Kashmiri, Muhammad Atif Lone, and Ghulam Hasan Butt among others. The team received an update from the camp's management regarding the challenges faced by the refugees, such as living in cramped, tiny homes with three or four families and having limited access to healthcare and education. In addition, the refugees mentioned that, among other things, sewage drainage problems and a scarcity of clean drinking water have made life difficult in the camps. The working committee on refugee resettlement deliberated over the charter of demands, which was warmly welcomed by the refugees, who also implored the government to take their needs into account in future decision-making.

The members of the Working Committee promised the refugees that they would never accept the current plan of the government of 'Azad Kashmir' and that they would instead use all democratic and legal channels available to them to advance their demand for a settlement that aligns with their charter of demands. The delegation representing refugees expressed regret for the general lackluster performance of the government of 'Azad Kashmir' and the rehabilitation department. They also warned that the rehabilitation department would jeopardize the future of the refugees by repeating the mistakes made in the 1990 establishment of refugee settlements. The team promised the refugees that their rights would be upheld and that every resource available would be used to rebuild their houses.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3992475.html>

All of the refugees' issues will be resolved in order of priority: The Minister of Rehabilitation

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 25 April 2024

Javed Badhanvi, the state's minister of rehabilitation for Jammu and Kashmir, presided over a crucial meeting at Jammu and Kashmir House in Islamabad about the 1989 refugees' resettlement. The meeting was attended by Syed Shabbir Gilani, the assistant rehabilitation commissioner, Samiuddin Gilani, the district refugee welfare officer, and Rehabilitation Commissioner Sardar Khalid

Mehmood. Javed Badhanvi said that all issues related to the refugees would be dealt with in priority order. He promised to resolve those concerns as quickly as feasible and to bring them to the notice of 'Azad Kashmir's Prime Minister, Anwarul Haq.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-25.jpg>

The sixth cabinet meeting approved several projects, including the construction of the Military Foundation Hospital and the GB Youth Policy

Dailyk2, 25 April 2024

The sixth meeting of the Gilgit Baltistan (GB) Cabinet was chaired by the Chief Minister Gulbar Khan and was held in the Chief Minister's Secretariat in Gilgit. In response to public demand, the government decided to remove barriers on the Gilgit-Shandur Expressway, abolish section four of the 2021 law, and revise the 2023 law regarding wheat tariffs. The CM said that the Army Foundation Hospital in the Ghizer district would be built on thirty kanals of land near Gupis. He went on to say that the new Section IV, which will reimburse people for their properties, has also been approved. By passing the Gilgit-Baltistan Youth Policy 2024, the Provincial Cabinet made it apparent that funding youth-related initiatives in GB will be easier for both domestic and foreign investors.

Further approvals by the cabinet included loosening rules concerning employment including employing sub-inspectors under the family assistance package, paying salary to employees at the Cardiac Hospital in Gilgit, and accepting their requests for permanent employment. Further, the Cabinet decided to rename Phander High School in honor of Kargil War Medal recipient Subedar Retired Aleem Zadi and to withdraw the Supreme Appellate Court appeal against the recruitment of Patwaris (revenue officials) in GB. The Hunza district's 2.8 MW power project, to be developed by a private business, includes Upper Hunza in its contract. This approval by the cabinet also cleared the way for the implementation of a number of appointments meant to alleviate the Patwari shortage in the Region.

Furthermore, the cabinet authorized the construction of a protective embankment alongside the river in the flood-prone, low-lying Jaglot district and designated the Additional Chief Secretary as the head of a committee consisting of four members to determine GB's energy pricing. Even though he authorized the continuation of FC services for forest protection through September of this year, he clarified that the trained guards employed by the forest department will take over responsibility for protecting the forests and wildlife after September.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/21827>

Every attempt shall be made to bring up the Kashmir issue at the global forum: Sardar Atiq

Urdupoint, 25 April 2024

While visiting the Supreme Council of the International Islamic Conference in Riyadh, a number of prominent people had meetings with the president of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference, former prime minister Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan. The gathering covered a number of important subjects, including the ongoing Israeli crimes in Palestine and 'occupied Kashmir.' Atiq promised to make every effort to bring up the Kashmir issue in a global forum during the meeting. He said that a struggle will be carried out to put an end to the crimes in 'occupied Kashmir.'

He declared that we will continue to expose India's violent nature in 'occupied Kashmir' and contribute to raising global awareness of the Kashmir dispute. He said that the United Nations (UN) adopted a resolution 70 years ago to address the Kashmir issue, which India continues to violate. He said that Israel is a belligerent nation and an invading force, just like India. UN offices, schools, and hospitals were all under threat from Israeli shelling of Gaza. He said that the world community should help put an early stop to the hostilities in Gaza.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3994962.html>

From Social Media

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

23 April 2024

Livestock Department and Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) will work together to increase livestock in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Video link:

https://twitter.com/i/bookmarks?post_id=1782743580097831140

Basharat Issa@BasharatIssa

25 April 2024

After Falak Noor, a minor, who was allowed to go with her "husband" by the court, there is complete silence on the case of Inara, an 18 year old girl who was found dead after disappearing. Gilgit-Baltistan isn't safe for girls.

#GilgitBaltistan

<https://twitter.com/BasharatIssa/status/1783536646157189379>

Azhar Ahmed @ahm3d711

26 April 2024

Reflecting on the life of Aman Ullah Khan on his death anniversary. A leader who stood firm for his beliefs and fought tirelessly for the rights of his people. His memory lives on in the hearts of many. #Jammu#Kashmir #Gilgit #Baltistan #AmanullahKhan.

Video link:

<https://twitter.com/ahm3d711/status/1783813491003973670>

Basharat Issa @BasharatIssa

27 April 2024

From a small sports event in a village in Gilgit-Baltistan to a conference on human rights in mainland Pakistan, the obsession with goras is not just limited to the funding that such events depend on but also the colonial heritage that goras are superior and they know everything.

<https://twitter.com/BasharatIssa/status/1784140212454482086>

Roshan Din Diameri @Rohshan_Din

29 April 2024

Disappointing on Special Communication Organisation (SCO) failure to provide signal facilities in many areas of Gilgit-Baltistan since yesterday raises concerns. Connectivity is crucial for development and communication.

#SCO #gilgitbaltistan @hq_sco.

https://twitter.com/Rohshan_Din/status/1784813129509027988

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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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