

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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climate change Dimaer-Basha Energy Crisis
Power outages
Protest Dasu Dam
Gilgit-Baltistan POK
hydro-energy projects



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Contents

Political Developments

- Kashmiris pay tribute to Maqbool Bhatt Shaheed
- Indian magazine ordered to delete 'IIOJK' army killings report
- Kashmiris' resolve unshaken, defiance against India's Repressive Measures continues in 'IOJK'
- Arrest warrant issued for Gandapur in a case related to 'AJK' elections
- Hindutva onslaught and people of 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir
- UN should take immediate notice of 'IOJK's current situation, Akmal Sargala
- Kashmir's struggle for self-determination

Economic Developments

- The obstacle that hindered the installation of machinery in the power projects has been eliminated: Gulbar Khan Haji
- GB people decry 22-hour-long power outages
- Desperate Energy Crisis in Gilgit Baltistan
- Payment to victims of the Dasu Dam Project

Vernacular Urdu Media

- Afzal Guru and Maqbool Butt are symbols of the Kashmiri freedom movement: Mushaal
- GB and Kashmir should hold referendums since the people there are unsure of their constitutional status: Qazi Faez Isa
- The Public Action Committee's Core Committee convened

Political Developments

Kashmiris pay tribute to Maqbool Bhatt Shaheed

The Nation, 12 February 2024

Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir Uzair Ahmed Ghazali has said that Maqbool Bhatt was a revolutionary leader who sacrificed his life for Kashmir's independence. In a statement issued on the martyrdom anniversary of Maqbool Bhatt, he said that Maqbool Bhatt's eternal struggle for freedom was exemplary. He said that Bhatt was one of the first leaders of freedom under Indian imperialism, who showed the people the way to freedom and struggle from India. Ghazali said that the Kashmiri people will continue their struggle to get freedom from the illegal occupation of India. India could not weaken Kashmir's freedom struggle with executions, fake military encounters, arrests, worst use of laws, and coercive leadership he reiterated.

The bigoted and tyrannical Indian judiciary openly expressed its hatred and enmity towards the Kashmiri people and hanged Mohammad Maqbool Butt and Afzal Guru despite insufficient evidence, he added. He further said that Indian rulers of Kashmir can't be successful by coercion and cannot suppress the voice of the Kashmiri people. Even After the execution of the two Kashmiri leaders, Muhammad Maqbool Butt and Muhammad Afzal Guru, their dead bodies were not handed over to their heirs, which is the worst violation of

human rights, adding that International human rights organizations should play their role for innocent Kashmiri people.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Feb-2024/kashmiris-pay-tribute-to-maqbool-bhatt-shaheed>

Indian magazine ordered to delete 'IIOJK' army killings report

The Express Tribune, 13 February 2024

An Indian news magazine said that the government had ordered it to delete an online report that implicated soldiers in the torture and killing of civilians in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). Rights groups say that restrictions on the press are increasingly common in India and particularly onerous in 'IIOJK', a region where India has more than half a million troops permanently stationed. The Caravan, a news and current affairs monthly, last week published a lengthy report on the deaths of three civilians detained by the army in December after a deadly attack on troops. The magazine said that the information ministry had sent it an official order demanding the story be taken down within 24 hours.

The order's content is confidential, the magazine said in a post on X, formerly Twitter. We will be challenging this order. Caravan did not respond to requests for comment and the information ministry also declined to comment. The three men killed were part of a group rounded up by security forces in the aftermath of the December

attack, which left three Indian troops dead. India's army promised an inquiry into the detentions after news of the deaths became public, while others who were taken into custody said they were tortured. Their accounts were corroborated by footage of some detainees being physically abused by security forces that were leaked and shared widely on social media soon afterwards.

The order against Caravan was 'reflective of the increasing censorship that is being imposed on speech on the internet in India', Prateek Waghre of the Internet Freedom Foundation, a local digital rights group. India has fallen 21 spots to 161 out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index, compiled by Reporters without Borders, since Modi took office in 2014.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2456354/indian-magazine-ordered-to-delete-iojk-army-killings-report>

Kashmiris' resolve unshaken, defiance against India's Repressive Measures continues in 'IOJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 14 February 2024

In commemoration of the martyrdom Anniversaries of Shaheed Maqbool Bhat and Afzal Guru, Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) held a Round Table discussion titled 'Remembering Maqbool Bhat and Afzal Guru: Highlighting Indian Injustices and Ensuring Accountability in Kashmir' in Islamabad on 12 February 2024. The primary focus of the roundtable was to honor the struggle, vision, and legacy

of martyred pro-resistance leaders which continues to inspire a young generation of Jammu and Kashmir.

Nabila Irshad, advocate Chairperson of Jammu Kashmir Democratic Party (JKDP) said Kashmir's resistance history is full of the stories of brave hearts who are the real heroes of our nation. She said, both the leaders Muhammad Maqbool Bhat and Muhammad Afzal Guru were hanged by the 'occupying authorities' through different conspiracies hatched against them at two different times. She stated, Muhammad Maqbool Butt is the cornerstone of our resistance against forcible occupation by India. Both the slain martyrs are symbols of freedom and liberty as they have sacrificed their lives for the righteous cause.

Sardar Tahir Tabassum, President of Institute of Peace and Development (INSPAD) Pakistan highlighted the sacrifices of the Kashmiri Martyrs and said that despite the repressive policies of India the people of Jammu and Kashmir are struggling for the right of self-determination and are determined to this sacred cause. He said, that every year 9 and 11 February, people of Jammu and Kashmir living across the globe organize meetings, protests, and rallies to commemorate the martyrdom anniversaries of both leaders and demand to return their dead bodies. Thousands of women are known as half-widows. Thousands of unidentified graves are present in 'IOJK' that stand witness to the sufferings inflicted upon the people of 'IOJK.' Among speeches by other

leaders, the event was concluded by a question-answer session where many participants posed different questions which the honorable speakers answered with much clarity.

[https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/02/14/kashmiris-resolve-unshaken-defiance-against-indias-repressive-measures-continues-in-iojkl/](https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/02/14/kashmiris-resolve-unshaken-defiance-against-indias-repressive-measures-continues-in-iojkl)

Arrest warrant issued for Gandapur in a case related to 'AJK' elections

The Nation, 15 February 2024

The 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Election Commission has issued an arrest warrant for Ali Amin Gandapur—the PTI leader who is now nominated for the coveted slot of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister – and directed the official concerned to present him to court on 28 February. It is a case related to violating the code of conduct defined for the 'AJK' Legislative Assembly held in July 2021 after a complaint was filed over the issue. The 'AJK' Election Commission, in this connection, has sent a letter to the Dera Ismail Khan Deputy Commissioner, directing them to present the accused at the next hearing.

Gandapur was a federal cabinet member in the PTI government back then and held the portfolio of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) minister. That's why he was assigned the task of running the election campaign in the state. But his presence and some alleged actions meant to influence the electorate triggered a controversy, forcing the 'AJK' Election Commission to order him to leave the

state. During the election campaign, a video also went viral in which the security guards of Gandapur could be seen resorting to aerial firing. However, Gandapur and other PTI leaders had accused the PML-N supporters of attacking the convoy and described the aerial firing as an act of self-defense.

The arrest warrant comes after the police in Lahore relaunched their efforts to arrest those involved in the May 9 violence. Gandapur is one of the nominated persons along with Mian Aslam Iqbal and others who have been declared as proclaimed offenders by an anti-terrorism court. All these accused are those who won the 8 February elections as independents but were backed by the PTI, with the authorities saying that a comprehensive plan has been put in place to track down and arrest the fugitives.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/15-Feb-2024/arrest-warrant-issued-for-gandapur-in-a-case-related-to-ajk-elections>

Hindutva onslaught and people of 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir

Pakistan observer, 15 February 2024

There can be no denying the fact that our freedom movement is facing the hardest challenge of its life, as after the coercive unilateral measures of 5 August 2019, things seem to have been thrown into a tailspin. State tyranny and coercion have hit an all-time high, and through the unbridled use of Draconian laws like UAPA and PSA, India has scared the Kashmiri masses into silence. The entire APHC

leadership is either incarcerated or put under house arrest, while hundreds of our cadres have been thrown behind bars under PSA and UAPA. More ominous is the Hindutva drive that wants a change of the 'occupied region's demographics, with the state administration having issued 4.2 million domiciles to Indian citizens. The BJP is all geared up for forming the next government in the 'occupied state' by hook or by crook, and if it can pull it off, the freedom movement will have to face the brunt and feel under much more pressure, generating pervasive despondency and with us almost being immobilized might lose their hope irredeemably.

Under such circumstances, if the BJP comes to power in the state, the execution of the Hindutva design of demographic change and cultural domination will become a certain eventuality, for with the influx of millions of Indians settling in Jammu and the valley, the native population would be gradually pushed to margins, and as the business activity is generated through heavy spending and huge investments, the local populace is certain to fall into the trap only to rue it later on, but that would be too late. Therefore, I think this is the hardest challenge our movement.

Apart from it, they have begun building two lakh homes ostensibly for the homeless, but, for the new settlers, for in the valley the homeless are just dozens, not even in hundreds. Therefore, serious discussions and

deliberations are needed here to counter these ominous moves by the Modi regime so that they can timely checkmate them, keeping our resistance alive. I feel our goal at this juncture should be stonewalling BJP's grabbing of power, and for that, we have but to break away from our traditional course of action, and now it is indispensable to cultivate a kind of relationship with NC, PDP, and other local forces and fully support them, undoubtedly, this should be done overtly – in a bid to stop BJP from taking over the state. I think this should be priority number one and, at the same time, we must launch a feverish diplomatic campaign worldwide on the illegitimacy of this electoral exercise as it truly is in brazen contravention of the UN Charter, the relevant UNSC resolutions, and International Law.

That would keep the legitimacy of our cause alive and rejuvenate Kashmiris' hope and belief in our potential, which is so badly needed at the moment. At the same time, my hunch is that India, for grabbing power in the state, may think of some flag operation or some kind of misadventure, although the possibility of it has now become quite remote with our lethal response to Iranian aggression, and, if they find it difficult, then the chances are that the rabidly communal Modi regime might go for hanging Yasin Malik before coming September. Therefore, we must be ready to face any such eventuality, but for that, now is the time to work on our countermeasures and for that, Kashmiri leadership here needs to be

looped in for their input and consonance.

<https://pakobserver.net/hindutva-onslaught-and-people-of-occupied-jammu-and-kashmir/>

UN should take immediate notice of 'IOJK's current situation, Akmal Sargala

Daily Parliament Times, 16 January 2024

'Azad Kashmir's Forest Minister Ch. Muhammad Akmal Sargala has said that Kashmiri freedom fighters Maqbool Butt and Afzal Guru are the heroes of Kashmiris. Their services in the freedom movement of Kashmir are admirable for the youth. Whatever India does, Kashmiris will continue to take away their freedom. Kashmiris are fighting and have sacrificed their lives and money for this freedom movement of Kashmir and despite the curfew and Indian aggression, Kashmiris bury the funerals of their martyred children in the Pakistani flag, which is an expression of their commitment and love for Pakistan.

The hanging of innocent Kashmiri freedom fighter leader Afzal Guru by the Supreme Court of India is a slap on the face of the Indian judicial system and the collective conscience of Indians. The Indian Supreme Court wrote in its decision that the charges against Afzal could not be proved, but to satisfy the collective conscience of the people of India, he was being sentenced to death, he said. The mission of the freedom movement of the Kashmiri people is the accession of the state of Jammu and Kashmir to

Pakistan. India is ready to give them everything, but Kashmiris only want Pakistan. Do we Pakistanis love our homeland as much as Kashmiris love Pakistan? The time has come for us to stand up for Kashmiris. As they are standing for Pakistan, they are more Pakistani than Pakistanis. Disloyalty to Kashmiris is disloyalty to Pakistan. Indian Army has not only imposed mountains of persecution on those who live in 'occupied Kashmir' but also near the ceasefire line. War crimes are being committed in Kashmir and on the ceasefire line, which the international community should take notice of.

Internationally, Kashmir is a burning issue and time and circumstances demand that the international community should resolve this issue peacefully, following the wishes of the Kashmiri people and the framework set by the United Nations resolutions. We neither recognized India's military occupation 77 years ago nor India's recent aggression. After we withdrew from our position, he said that the extremist Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's threat of water terrorism is a reflection of his real intentions.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2024/02/15/un-should-take-immediate-notice-of-iojks-current-situation-akmal-sargala/>

Kashmir's struggle for self-determination

16 February 2024

Together with Palestine, the state of Kashmir is one of the longest-existing

political and territorial conflicts remaining from the aftermath of the British Empire. Kashmir, together with its sister state of Jammu, was granted a quasi-autonomy at the end of British rule in the subcontinent. The status of the states was to be determined by a popular referendum, which has yet to occur. Arguably, the reason it has not occurred is because India fears it would lose any claim and the people of Jammu/Kashmir would vote for independence while leaning toward Pakistani and its Muslim foundations. The conflicts between India and Pakistan over Kashmir have erupted into wars between Delhi and Islamabad at least twice.

Furthermore, an intensification of Indian repression and military occupation led to an armed insurgency in 1989. Recently, India's Hindu nationalist government overturned laws protecting the states' autonomy when, according to the US-government-funded (and not a friend of liberation movements as a rule) Freedom House, 'what had been the state of Jammu and Kashmir was reconstituted as two union territories under the direct control of the Indian central government. The move stripped residents of many of their previous political rights.

In essence, this move by the Indian regime made Kashmir and Jammu part of India, ignoring United Nations resolutions, centuries of history, and, most importantly, the people living in those states. It is this history and the proclaimed desires of the majority of

Kashmiris that inform a new book on the subject. Written by Dr. Farhan Mujahid Chak, the book titled *Nuclear Flashpoint: The War over Kashmir* is a knowledgeable discussion of Kashmir's history and a critical examination of India's manipulation of that history to deny Kashmir's liberation struggle. The narrative provided by Chak, who also serves as the Secretary-General of Kashmir Civitas—an organization that exists to fight for Kashmiri self-determination, is a narrative that explains the religious, economic, and political history of Kashmir over several centuries.

It is a story that involves invasions, settlements, and political and financial deals between royals and conquerors. Likewise, it is a chronicle of Kashmir's long tradition of resistance and struggle; a tradition that exists even today despite the presence of over 500,000 Indian troops that occupy much of the region.

It is the contention of the text that India's repression has intensified since the rise of the Hindu Nationalist Party and its leader Narendra Modi. The author describes the thinking of this extreme right-wing party and its government as one that sees its adherents and supporters as exceptional, creating Indian exceptionalism like the exceptionalism assumed by many US and Israeli citizens in their justifications for invasions, colonization, and crimes against humanity. Chak discusses the political spaces where the non-sectarian elements of India's political system are

as opposed to Kashmiri self-determination as the Hindu nationalists.

In short, the scenario Chak has written about India and its relation to Kashmir is a scenario that is synonymous with that practiced by other settler-colonial nations, especially the United States and Israel. He remarks on the distortion of cultural and religious histories, including attempts by Indian scholars and others to rename the Buddhist communities of Kashmir as Hindu while portraying Muslims as nothing but invaders. The rewriting of history is a never-ending process that leaves nothing out.

Indeed, the reader is told how the current Indian regime has elevated previously unimportant Hindu religious treks to places in Kashmir into required pilgrimages. The resulting popularity of these treks is then used as an excuse to expropriate land to build facilities for the pilgrims. One cannot help but think about similar 'pilgrimages' sponsored by the Israeli government that are designed to bring more settlers to the territory it illegally occupies.

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmirs-struggle-for-self-determination/>

Economic Developments

The obstacle that hindered the installation of machinery in the power projects has been eliminated: Gulbar Khan Haji

UrduPoint, 14 February 2024

Haji Gulbar Khan, the chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), announced that

the challenges encountered during the machinery installation process for the power projects that are now being completed have been eliminated. Assist the government, police, and other law enforcement organizations in installing energy meters in locations where they are not yet present, he stressed. Speaking on the occasion of the Department of Electronics' Steering Committee meeting, Gulbar Khan instructed the involved contractors to guarantee the import of turbines and other gear within a month. He emphasized that to finish power projects and add more power to the system within the next three months, the newest machinery needed to be installed.

He emphasized implementing a system of punishment for officials to increase the department's efficiency and adding that, both officials and staff members should carry out their responsibilities with integrity and make responsible use of the resources at hand. To establish the department's workshop for repairing transformers and other equipment in remote places, he gave the Secretary of Electronics instructions to include the project in the Annual Development Program (ADP) for the upcoming fiscal year. It is recommended that all government ministries instruct their concerned secretaries to guarantee that electricity bills are paid.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-3916298.html>

GB people decry 22-hour-long power outages

Dawn, 16 February 2024

Protest demonstrations broke out across Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) against prolonged electricity load-shedding, paralyzing routine life in the region. Most areas in the region have been enduring 22 hours of outages in a day for a long time. People of the Kashrote Gilgit area, including women and children, took to the streets against prolonged outages. Enraged people, carrying banners inscribed with their demands, chanted slogans against the government. They blocked Park Link Road and burnt tires. Later, the protesters marched to the River Road near the GB Chief Minister's House, held a protest rally there, and blocked the road. Vehicular traffic on River Road remained suspended for five hours because of the protest.

The protesters said they have been experiencing 22 hours of load shedding daily which has paralysed their routine life. They said housewives could not cook food for their family members and children could not study as power outages have paralysed the daily life of all people of the area. The protesters said they are provided electricity for only two hours' daily and this situation has made the people's lives a mess. They said that VIP people are being provided electricity 24 hours daily through special power lines. There is no electricity in the general public area for 22 hours a day and no relevant authority is ready to take notice of this

unbearable situation, a resident of the area said. He demanded that top officials of the department concerned provide at least 10 hours of electricity daily.

Residents of Hafeezabad of Ghizer district also took to the streets and blocked Ghizer-Shandur Road against the prolonged power outages. A large number of residents gathered at Ghizer-Shandur Road, staged a protest demonstration, and blocked the road for several hours. Residents of Phakar village of Nagar district also came out on roads against power load-shedding in the area. They said that residents of the area have been facing electricity outages daily, adding that despite spending billions of rupees, the government has failed to provide electricity to the people.

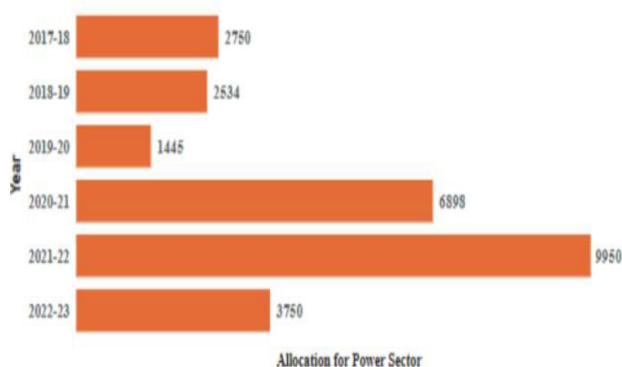
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1814557/gb-people-decry-22-hour-long-power-outages>

Desperate Energy Crisis in Gilgit Baltistan

Friday Times, 16 February 2024

Every year tourists go to Gilgit Baltistan and spend their holidays there, but no one discusses or highlights the issues and problems of GB. This region is facing serious socio-economic issues one of them being the state of energy crisis. A few days ago, news of an operation of a patient on a mobile flashlight in Gilgit city was being circulated on social media that showed the state of the energy crisis in GB. Lack of resources and investment can be a reason for any crisis, but this

region has huge potential for the generation of green hydro energy, and millions of rupees are also allocated for various hydro-energy projects in the federal PSDP. The following figure shows the allocation of PKR million for the energy sector of Gilgit Baltistan in the federal PSDP.



Unfortunately, the lack of proper research-based hydro-energy projects has converted whole areas into dark jungles. Every year millions of rupees are allocated for GB's energy sector in the federal PSDP, but most of them are spent on hydro-energy generation on small-stream without any cost-benefit analysis. During the winter season streams freeze, and the flow of water stops as a result of generation capacity reduce significantly.

During project selection and implementation, the government doesn't consider the feasibility of projects. The concerned departments consider such places where already energy is generated. In such cases, the number of power stations increases as the annual report of the Planning Commission Gilgit Baltistan mentioned the number of power stations increased to 180 in 2022. However, it badly

affected generation capacity since the same water resource is distributed among them.

This region is highly prone to climate change, and environmental assessment becomes necessary before any development project/scheme. Like other development projects, most hydro-power projects are selected without analyzing the environmental assessment. Since this area is highly prone to climate change and hydro-power projects are constructed in disaster-prone areas then later they produce high maintenance cost. The damage of the Hassanabad (Hunza) hydro-power project is an example that was damaged during the 2022 glacial lake outburst flood.

The Water and Power Department of Gilgit Baltistan (WPD-GB) is responsible for project selection and implementation. During the implementation phase of projects due to lack of technical expertise, there is no mechanism for proper monitoring of projects. Along with this nepotism and corruption in the Water and Power Department Gilgit Baltistan, the officers also don't report about the slow pace of projects and use of low-quality inputs. With the help of open bidding system private constructors become responsible bodies for the projects but due to corruption and nepotism, constructors usually use low-quality inputs.

After the completion of projects, the installed capacity of projects began to decline. The use of low-quality inputs also damaged forest and agricultural

land because of the large distance between the water reservoir and power station and pipelines are used for water transport. The low-quality pipelines cannot control the pressure of water and soon water linkage became problematic. Elite capture and mismanagement also intensified the energy crisis in Gilgit Baltistan. In the current scenario duration of load shedding has reached 15-20 hours while bureaucratic and political elites are free from load shedding. The government has allocated them special power connections that provide them power 24/7. Interestingly most of them are also indebted to the Power Department of Gilgit Baltistan due to their non-payment of power bills.

Technical training programs play a vital role in managing resources. They help to improve human skills level and make people familiar with the latest technology. After the recruitment of technical staff, the power department GB doesn't focus on human capacity development and training programs which leads to the issue of mismanagement in the power sector. There are numerous ways to deal with GB's energy crisis. Most of the current hydro-power projects are constructed on different small streams where water flow reduces during winter and cold seasons due to the freezing of water. There are six rivers in GB which are the most suitable places for investment. Public-private partnerships can be a potential tool to unlock the hydro-energy potential of these rivers.

The Dimaer-Basha dam which is under construction has 4500 MW installed capacity of green energy, but the government of Pakistan owns full royalty of this project. As GB is not included in the national power grid of Pakistan, proportional royalty allocation to the government of Pakistan can also reduce the power crisis of this region. The concept of special power connection should be terminated as soon as possible because they consume more energy units and even don't pay for the consumption. Along with special connections, power connections of all the government departments that don't pay their bill should also terminate.

<https://thefridaytimes.com/16-Feb-2024/desperate-energy-crisis-in-gilgit-baltistan>

Payment to victims of the Dasu Dam Project

Dailyk2, 17 February 2024

A committee led by the Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Haji Gulbar Khan, met to discuss the problems that the Dasu Hydropower Project's (DHP) victims were suffering. Chief Engineer Zahid Majeed, Project Director Diamar Bhasha Dam Engineer Nazakat, General Manager Land Acquisition and Settlement Brigadier (retd) Shoaib Taqi, Provincial Minister of Excise and Taxation Haji Rehmat Khaliq, Commissioner Diamar/Astore Division, Deputy Commissioner Diamar, and grievance committee representatives were present. During

his speech, Haji Gulbar Khan said that the Dasu Dam project is very important and that serious problem-solving is needed to ensure that it is completed on time.

He emphasized that it is critical to respond to the legitimate requests made by the Dasu Dam victims as soon as possible. The Diamar people have also made significant sacrifices for the Diamar Bhasha Dam (DBD) and they also received a very cheap donation of their lands. A comprehensive deal between the victims and WAPDA is necessary to soothe the anxieties of the Dasu Dam victims. The purchase of the DBD has resulted in numerous increases in land rates for all districts except Diamar, while the province's land rates for the Diamar district increased only once after 2005.

In contrast, Kohistan's land required for the Dasu Power Project has received compensation for the last five years, but the Diamer land required for this project has not been paid for until recently. While some victims did get compensation, as per the agreement, this was limited to the amount that took into account the cost of land in Kohistan and the depreciation of the Pakistani currency over the preceding four years. The modified rates of lands acquired for the project will be taken into consideration when deciding whether they will depart or whether the province government will guarantee that the victims receive compensation.

As a result of Section Four's repeal five years ago, WAPDA must finish its plans for compensating victims in line with their recommendations before the implementation of the new Section Four. After Section 4 of the WAPDA is implemented, all structures will be compensated for in line with the 2022–2023 Pakistan PWD schedule prices, and other victims of the Dasu Dam will have equal rights to stove packages and person resettlement. In addition to hospitals in the project's surrounding area, WAPDA will support specialized physicians and nurses training. Kids who are enrolled in public schools will receive incentives from WAPDA in addition to financial help and transportation assistance. Two new model schools in the vicinity will also be built with assistance from WAPDA. New hospitals with thirty beds are planned for Chilas, in addition to the construction of a polytechnic institution.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/20394>

[From Vernacular Urdu Media](#)

Afzal Guru and Maqbool Butt are symbols of the Kashmiri freedom movement: Mushaal

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 12 February 2024

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) for Human Rights and Women Empowerment (HRWE), Mushaal Hussein Mullick claimed that Maqbool Butt Shaheed and Afzal Guru Shaheed were icons of the resistance movement

who gave their lives for the honorable cause of freedom of 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). Speaking at an event held at Koshar School at Refugees Camp Mankpiyan to commemorate Maqbool Butt's 40th martyrdom anniversary, she described Butt as an honest and moral man who dedicated his entire life to the cause of Kashmir, endured hardships, and ultimately gave his life in the service of deeply held beliefs and had been condemned to death on 11 February 1984, at New Delhi's notorious Tihar jail.

She regretted that, despite four decades having passed, the 'fascist Indian authorities' had not given the Kashmiri leader's body who was interred on the grounds of a notorious jail. She stated that her husband Yasin Malik was being deprived of all legal, constitutional, and fundamental rights and was being treated brutally and inhumanely in prison. She said that all cases against Yasin are politically driven cases, and added, that she was afraid that the Indian government was determined to hang Yasin Malik to quiet him.

She demanded that the UN and the international community pressure India to guarantee his release and give Kashmiris the freedom to choose their destiny according to their aspirations. The Kashmiri people, she declared, would stop at nothing to free themselves from the yoke of Indian enslavement, even if it meant spilling their last drop of blood. She remarked

that the government of India needed to understand that it could not quell the courage of the people of Kashmir. The dawn of freedom for the people of Kashmir was not far off, she added.

<https://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-12.jpg>

GB and Kashmir should hold referendums since the people there are unsure of their constitutional status: Qazi Faez Isa

Dailyk2, 14 February 2024

The Pakistan Supreme Court contacted the Gilgit-Baltistan Bar Council, the Supreme Appellate Bar Association, and other pertinent parties to request their cooperation in the nomination of judges in Gilgit Baltistan (GB) highest court. The matter was then sent to the Judges Committee by the court to expand the bench. The case was heard by a three-person bench led by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa. According to the Additional Attorney General, international treaties stand in the way of their plans to grant GB provincial status and include the region in the constitutional stream.

India's 'illegitimate occupation of Kashmir' was brought up throughout the hearing. While India has seized Kashmir, according to Qazi Faez Isa, people in GB are unaware of their constitutional standing. There will be a referendum, the Chief Justice declared, adding that the UN should be contacted. The UN-led referendum, according to the Additional Attorney

General, is something the UN can accomplish. Attorney Muhammad Ibrahim stated that the ruling of the seven-member bench in the Supreme Court's 2019 decision about GB is relevant to the ongoing case. The Supreme Appellate Bar Association and the GB Bar Council were notified of the request for judicial aid. The parties were also ordered by the court to submit written submissions. The hearing was postponed by the court for an indeterminate amount of time.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/20361>

The Public Action Committee's Core Committee convened

Urdupoint, 18 February 2024

Former chairman and coordinator Professor Yusufudin Shah and Fida Hussain, along with former chairman Maulana Sultan Raees, co-chaired the Awami Action Committee's core committee meeting. Every supporting party and stakeholder, together with members of the core committee and district officials, attended the meeting. The two-month interim setup formed during the recent protest movements had left the gathering debating the future state of affairs and concluding that a permanent setup was desperately needed. A coordinated campaign on the unfulfilled charter of demands was desperately needed. It was decided by the majority that the decision should be made based on the majority opinion because the majority of the core committee members strongly represent the supporting parties and the major stakeholders.

It was generally agreed upon that Professor Syed Yusufudin Shah Quaid Tehreek, Fida Hussain Central Chairman, and Malik Aurangzeb Chairman of Gilgit Division who were leading the recent protests movement in GB deserve leadership roles. Diamar, Hunza Nagar, Astur, Ghizar, and Baltistan Stakeholders and representatives attended the conference. Transport Anjuman Tajran Association, Ulama Council Diamar, Anjuman Private School Association, Hotel Association, and Imamia Ulama Council among others also attended the meeting.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/important-news/live-news-3920171.html>

From Social Media

fouaad barcha @fouaadbarcha

10 February 2024

While mainland Pakistan is busy with the circus of elections, #GilgitBaltistan continues to suffer. PHQ hospital in Gilgit does not have the most basic healthcare facilities. Secretary health is not releasing funds. Continuous neglect and alienation of the 2.5 million people of GB is shameful.

<https://twitter.com/fouaadbarcha/status/1756271273611550810>

PAMIR TIMES ® @pamirtimes

13 February 2024

Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan, Haji Gulbar Khan has said that three culprits involved in the Hudur terrorist attack on a passenger bus have been arrested.

He claimed this during a ceremony held to distribute aid cheques among the families of the martyrs and the injured.

#hudur #gilgitbaltistan.

<https://twitter.com/pamirtimes/status/1757410350889042000>

Roshan Din Diameri @Rohshan_Din

14 February 2024

Have a referendum in the parts of Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan that we need to hold, Chief Justice of Pakistan, Qazi Faiz Isa.

Video link:

https://twitter.com/Rohshan_Din/status/1757690072449655074

PAMIR TIMES ® @pamirtimes

15 February 2024

Provincial Minister revealed during a press conference that people will not get proper electricity for the next seven years in Gilgit-Baltistan. He said that previous governments had constructed power stations at locations where electricity generation is not possible during winters. #GilgitBaltistan #gilgit #Pakistan #PoweCrisis

Video link:

<https://twitter.com/pamirtimes/status/1758167233950355582>

**Special Communications
Organization @hq_sco**

16 February 2024

Dodoshal is a remote valley of Diamer region of Gilgit Baltistan. Despite non availability of any funding from Government, SCO initiated 2G services last year on Self Help Basis, which has now been shifted to 3G by replacing old equipment. As part of SCO Vision 2025 a Mini Free-Lancing Hub has been established at Dodoshal village to provide freelancing opportunities to youth at par with other areas of Pakistan Initiative is heartly welcomed by locals and thanked Pak Army & SCO for their welfare.

Video link:

https://twitter.com/hq_sco/status/1758534739965657241

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Disclaimer

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