

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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18 September - 24 September 2023

Regional Grid
Indus Water Treaty
religious tensions
Gilgit-Baltistan
Kartarpur POK
Kishanganga Dam
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fiscal cuts



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

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Political Developments

India, violator of global laws in Kashmir, waging propaganda against Pakistan

Pakistan Observer, 19 September 2023

India in violation of all international laws and conventions is using 'chemical weapons' along with its latest 'war technology' during violent cordon and search operations to suppress the Kashmiris' demand for resolution of the Kashmir dispute in line with the UN-acknowledged right to self-determination has grown. According to Kashmir Media Service, India is using its army, paramilitary, and police, shielded under draconian laws such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) to kill Kashmiri youth in fake encounters and arrest them under the Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The Hindutva-inspired BJP government revoked Kashmir's special status in flagrant violation of international laws in August 2019 and settled non-Kashmiris in the territory against the United Nations resolutions. As part of snatching the Kashmiris' identity, India granted tens of thousands of domicile status to non-Kashmiris.

Experts believe the ongoing struggle in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir is indigenous, and India is waging propaganda against Pakistan. The fact is, India has no justification for its 'state-sponsored terrorism in IIOJK;' where its huge armed forces terrorize, torment, 'extra-judicially kill' and torture innocent Kashmiris with

impunity. They said the presence of over 900,000 Indian security personnel to terrorize innocent Kashmiris is ample proof of who is an actual terrorist in the 'occupied' territory. The world is well aware of the 'saffron terror' orchestrated and unleashed by the BJP-RSS zealots against Muslims and other minorities in India and Kashmir. In 2019, India acquitted Swami Aseemanand, the main character of the 2007 Samjhauta Express blast that killed 43 Pakistani citizens on Indian soil. Earlier this year, the Indian courts released 11 convicts of the Bilkis Bano gang-rape case during the 2002 Godhra riots in Gujarat.

<https://pakobserver.net/india-violator-of-global-laws-in-kashmir-waging-propaganda-against-pakistan/>

The world should accept India as 'rogue Hindutva terrorist state': Bilawal

Pakistan Today, 19 September 2023

Former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari said it was time for the international community to accept that India had become a 'rogue Hindutva terrorist state.' While speaking to the media in Lahore, he said the interim Foreign Office should take notice of the episode and issue a 'clear statement.' He said that Canada has leveled a 'big allegation' against India, adding that India has been 'exposed before the world.' He further stated how long the international community, particularly our friends in the West, will continue to ignore such events involving India.

Canada has accused India of involvement in the killing of a separatist Sikh leader on its soil. The separatist leader, 45-year-old Hardeep Singh Nijjar, was shot dead outside a Sikh temple on 18 June in Surrey, a Vancouver suburb with a large Sikh population. Nijjar supported a Sikh homeland in the form of an independent Khalistan state and was designated by India as a 'terrorist' in July 2020. Bilawal further said: 'they have not only conducted terrorism in 'occupied Kashmir,' not only we in Pakistan have caught their spies involved in terrorism in our country, but they have now been caught violating the sovereignty of a Nato-member state.'

This is not the first instance of Bilawal using strong words of criticism for the Indian leadership. In December last year, while Bilawal was the foreign minister, he had called the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'the butcher of Gujarat', a reference to the 2002 Gujarat riots. He had made these statements while addressing the media at a UN briefing room in New York, minutes after his Indian counterpart accused Pakistan of perpetuating terrorism and sheltering Osama bin Laden. In May this year, he became the first foreign minister from Pakistan to visit India in over a decade, to attend a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Conference in Goa. Upon his return, he said he had succeeded in 'countering the false narrative' of Narendra Modi's government that every Muslim was a terror suspect and

exposing Delhi's history of defiance of bilateral and international agreements.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/09/19/world-should-accept-india-as-rogue-hindutva-terrorist-state-bilawal/>

U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome explores the beauty of Gilgit-Baltistan during a personal visit

Pamir Times, 20 September 2023

The United States (US) Ambassador to Pakistan Mr. Donald Blome arrived in Hunza Valley Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) on a personal visit. He visited the renowned Attabad Lake, where Mr. Abdul Basit, the Provincial Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided details about the Attabad landslide disaster and its impacts on the lives, livelihoods, infrastructure, and climate of the area. Blome's then visited the Passu Glacier site. During his visit to Passu Glacier, Mr. Abdul Basit briefed the U.S. Ambassador on the flagship project of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination and UNDP Named 'Scaling-up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Reduction in Northern Pakistan (GLOF-II).' Mr. Basit elaborated on the core objectives of the GLOF-II Project, highlighting the installation of Early Warning Systems in the most vulnerable valleys of GB in partnership with the Government of GB. He also highlighted the significance of Small-Scale Flood Mitigation infrastructure, Repair Maintenance, and Renovation of Irrigation infrastructure, along with the

establishment of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Centers and Safe Havens. These initiatives are designed to enhance the region's resilience against potential climate change-induced disasters. Blome commended the UNDP's collaborative efforts with the Government of GB under the GLOF-II Project and expressed hope that this endeavor would significantly benefit vulnerable communities, enabling them to become more resilient in the face of climate change.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/09/19/u-s-ambassador-donald-blome-explores-beauty-of-gilgit-baltistan-during-personal-visit/>

A strong, stable, and economically vibrant Pakistan is the dream of Kashmiri people: 'AJK' PM

Daily Parliament Times, 20 September 2023

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that there is an unbreakable bond between the people of Kashmir and Pakistan and that a strong, stable, and economically vibrant Pakistan has always been the dream of Kashmiri people. While speaking at the Senate Standing Committee on Finance in the federal capital, he said that he was happy to see that Committee members from all four entities (provinces) endorsed his viewpoint regarding the issues confronted by the people of 'AJK.' While referring to the hydel issues, he said that there was no such issue that could not be resolved. He said that the federal government

should not impose cuts on 'AJK's' rightful share provided it meets the annual tax target. He thanked the participants of the committee for discussing in detail the financial affairs and other issues of 'Azad Kashmir.' Earlier, the members of the Standing Committee stressed the need to resolve all the problems faced by the people and government of 'AJK.' The committee also directed the Finance Ministry to take measures to address the financial and other problems of 'Azad Kashmir' on a priority basis. A sub-committee headed by Senator Sadia Abbasi has been tasked to prepare a report in this regard and submit it to the Committee. Salim Mandviwala, the chairman of the Committee, assured the 'AJK' leader that all the financial and other problems of the government of 'Azad Kashmir' would be solved on a priority basis.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/09/20/a-strong-stable-and-economically-vibrant-pakistan-is-the-dream-of-kashmiri-people-pm-ajk/>

GB legislators lash out against bureaucrats during assembly session

Pamir Times, 21 September 2023

Legislators from treasury and opposition benches made fiery speeches in the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Assembly during a session, accusing bureaucrats of undermining their autonomy and authority. Interior Minister, Shams Lone said that bureaucrats are roaming in vehicles worth millions of rupees, escorted by armed guards, without contributing

much to the region's governance. He said that all expensive vehicles should be taken back from the region's bureaucrats. Opposition member, Amjad Hussain (Advocate) said that the Superintendent of Police does not pick up his phones. He said that if the bureaucrats did not change their attitude, the public would come to the streets in protest. He said that 'bureaucrats coming from Islamabad' undermine the authority and sanctity of the elected assembly. Amjad Hussain further said that many bureaucrats working in the region don't draw their salaries for months. He asked what the source of income was for the bureaucrats if they did not depend on their salaries. Opposition leader Mesum Qasim said that an Assistant Commissioner has 46 guards protecting him, while an elected representative has one gunman. He said that many bureaucrats even after getting transferred out of GB are using GB government's vehicles in their houses, treating public resources as private property.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/09/21/gb-legislators-lash-out-against-bureaucrats-during-assembly-session/>

Kashmiris grateful to Erdogan

Pakistan Observer, 21 September 2023

The former PM of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan welcomed the President of Turkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan's support for the Kashmir cause in his UN General Assembly address in New York. He said that the international

community plays a humanitarian role in helping settle the oldest Kashmir dispute for the sake of peace and security. He said that the entire Jammu and Kashmir and its 150 million people are grateful to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his bold stand on Kashmir stressing a negotiated solution to the Kashmir dispute which is a chief cause of tension in South Asia. The dispute has already been listed in the UN Security Council since Jan 1948 and since then Kashmiris in their self-determination struggle sacrificed about half a million people on the land to date.

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmiris-grateful-to-erdogan/>

The assassination of a Sikh leader by India's spy agency is the worst example of Indian state-sponsored terrorism: PM 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 21 September 2023

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the assassination of Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar by India's spy agency, RAW, on Canadian soil was the worst example of the Indian 'state-sponsored terrorism.' While urging the European countries, in particular, the United States to take effective cognisance of the matter, he said that the cold-blooded murder of the Sikh leader was a replica of the incidents that is taking place in the 'Indian Illegally-occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). He said Nijjar's murder was carried out the same way

the Indian secret agency sleuths have been killing Kashmiris in 'occupied Kashmir.' He claimed that it was quite unfortunate that the world did not pay heed to the Kashmiris' call to hold India accountable for the crimes its forces have been committing against Kashmiris. Kashmiris, he alleged, has since long been saying that the Indian army and its secret agencies were involved in the targeted killings of innocent civilians in the 'IIOJK but no action was taken against the Indian government. Now that the Canadian government has proved that India was involved in the murder of its citizens, the PM said that the international community needed to play its much-needed role to bring the Indian terrorists involved in the murder of a Canadian citizen to justice.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/09/21/ajk-pm-says-the-assassination-of-sikh-leader-by-raw-on-canadian-soil-was-the-worst-example-of-the-indian-state-sponsored-terrorism/>

Kashmir dispute's settlement 'indispensable' for peace: OIC

The Nation, 22 September 2023

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Contact Group on Kashmir said that the Kashmir dispute's settlement was 'indispensable' for peace in South Asia. The OIC reaffirmed its support to Kashmiris' 'just struggle for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination' by the relevant UN Security Council's resolutions. Ministers of Foreign Affairs and senior officials of Pakistan, Türkiye, Saudi

Arabia, Azer-baijan, and Niger met on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York with Secretary General of the OIC, Hissein Brahim Taha, in the chair.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/22-Sep-2023/kashmir-dispute-s-settlement-indispensable-for-peace-oic>

Kashmiris seek necessary action based on right of self-determination: Rehmani

Pakistan Observer, 22 September 2023

Senior leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, has emphasized the dire need to address the forgotten question of the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir under the principles of the UN charter and the relevant Security Council resolutions. According to Kashmir Media Service, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani in a letter emailed to the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, in connection with the 78th session of the UN General Assembly said the resolutions of World Body bind India and Pakistan to hold a free and impartial plebiscite to ascertain the wishes of the inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir regarding their political future. He voiced grave concern over the 'pathetic and traumatic political, economic and psychological conditions' of the people in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK), especially after the repeal of the special status of the territory on 5 August 2019 by the Modi regime of India. Rehmani claimed that

the 'occupied territory' was groaning under a heavy and unimaginable weight of state-sponsored tyranny but still, the UN had opted for dead silence over it, allowing India to squeeze the population for her own unethical and illegal political ends, spread a network, a cobweb to change demography, religion, culture, national language and everything referring to the word Muslim, despite the UN mandate on the future of the region.

He claimed that an iron curtain of repressive laws had been imposed on the people and that several government employees had been dismissed from the services, students and scholars imprisoned, deprived of their degrees. He further claimed that houses, lands orchards were attached and confiscated, false criminal cases were filed against youth, daily attendance before army camps was made obligatory, and no young person was allowed to spend his life peacefully or earn his livelihood honorably. He said that black laws such as the Disturbed Areas Act, Armed Forces Special Powers Act, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Public Safety Act, etc had been invoked long before 1990 and were still in vogue, while 'IIOJK' had been illegally merged with India. He said, from every angle the situation comes under the purview of the UN and it warranted action, adding that remaining a spectator would amount to supporting 'India's repression in occupied Kashmir.' He appealed to the UN Secretary-General to intervene in the current session of the General

Assembly and take up the question with India and the relevant quarters to stop New Delhi from violating of human rights of the inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir and that the UN should help in granting the Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmiris-seek-necessary-action-on-the-basis-of-right-of-self-determination-rehmani/>

Economic Developments

India has contested the Kishanganga Dam issue at the Neutral Expert Forum

Jasarat, 18 September 2023

The Kishanganga Dam dispute has been contested by India at the Neutral Expert Forum. Earlier the International Court of Arbitration had ruled Pakistan's plea in the Kishanganga Dam issue admissible, but India had contested the court's ruling before the neutral expert. On 20-21 September 2023, the neutral expert will hear arguments in the Kishanganga Dam dispute. The Attorney General will fly to Vienna to represent Pakistan in the Kishanganga Dam lawsuit as an impartial expert. India claims that the construction of the Kishanganga Dam is only in violation of the design of the treaty, rather than the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), and that the neutral expert is a venue to look into the design of the agreement between the two countries. Pakistan, on the other side, maintains that by building a dam on the Jhelum River, India has violated the IWT. Pakistan maintains that the IWT

prohibits India from using water from the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers for extensive projects.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/09/18/india-has-challenged/>

PTA restores mobile data services in GB

Dawn, 19 September 2023

After a 16-day suspension amid religious tensions in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), mobile data services were fully restored across the region on Monday. The services were suspended on 1 September 2023. In a letter addressed to the Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, the GB Home and Prisons Department officially communicated its decision to restore 4G cellular internet services in the region. The Pakistan Telecom-munication Authority (PTA) restored the mobile cellular internet services after the GB government said security conditions had improved in the region. The letter, dated 18 September, stated the decision to restore 4G cellular internet services had been made in the larger interest of the people, to alleviate difficulties faced by the masses. According to a press release issued by the GB government on Monday, the internet and mobile phone services were suspended in the region to restore law and order situation and to stop the spread of malicious content by miscreants on social media.

The press release said as the law and order situation has come back to normal and to end difficulties faced by student companies and freelancers

related to online business, the GB government has taken measures to immediately restore internet services. The GB government has appealed to the people to ensure positive and constructive use of internet services, adding that the government would take strict legal action against those miscreants who were found involved in the dissemination of obscene and hateful content on the internet. The move comes as a relief for locals, especially freelancers and those related to tech-related businesses, which were adversely affected by the suspension and downgrading of the internet services in the region. On 1 September, the GB government asked the interior ministry to downgrade the 4G cellular internet services in GB. The request was forwarded to the PTA.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1776666/pta-restores-mobile-data-services-in-gb>

15 Hunza students received a Chinese Ambassadorial Scholarship

Pakistan Today, 19 September 2023

As China continues to bolster its support for education in the northern regions of Pakistan, fifteen students from the Karakoram International University (KIU) Hunza campus have been granted financial assistance through the 'China-Pakistan Friendship Ambassadorial Merit-cum-Need Scholarship' program. The students were presented with scholarship checks during a ceremony held at the KIU Hunza campus on Tuesday. The event featured Dr. Safdar Ali Shah, Director General of the China-Pakistan

Economic Corridor (CPEC) Cell at the Higher Education Commission (HEC), as the chief guest. While distributing the checks among the students, Safdar expressed gratitude to the Embassy of China for their generous contribution towards education in the northern region. Under the scholarship program of the Chinese Ambassadorial Program, every year 140 scholarships are disbursed to the needy and talented students of KIU main campus and its sub-campuses. To address the issue of gender balance, a minimum of 50% of the beneficiaries are females. On 30 August 2023, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Islamabad awarded a grant of Rs. 7 million to foster educational excellence at KIU in GB. Similarly, on 20 June 2023, at least 130 KIU students received financial assistance under the 'China-Pakistan Friendship Ambassadorial Merit-cum-Need Scholarship' program. The program promotes gender balance with a minimum of half of the scholarship being awarded to female students in both KIU main and sub-campuses.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/09/19/15-hunza-students-received-chinese-ambassadorial-scholarship/>

Regional grid construction in GB is agreed upon with a Chinese company

Dailyk2, 20 September 2023

Under the supervision of Sajad Haider, secretary of the Water and electricity department, a contract for the Regional Grid Phase I (RGP-I) project was signed in Gilgit at the Water and Electricity Department. The project will cost \$9

billion and to be completed in three years. Project Director Karim Khan along with Sultan Mehmood and Sons (private company) representatives, Babar Mehmood and Shah Jahan signed the contract with the Chinese company S-Tang. Three districts, Gilgit, Nagar, and Hunza will be connected by the first stage of the GB RGP-I. The grids of the three districts with the highest estimated electricity production will transmit that energy to the other areas with anticipated electrical shortages.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/16979>

GB launches crackdown on profiteers and smugglers

Dawn, 21 September 2023

The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) administration has launched a crackdown on the people engaged in profiteering, hoarding, smuggling, and electricity-related offenses. In every district, a Chief Secretary Complaints Cell has been set up to address citizens' complaints around the clock and take action. This campaign's objective is to eliminate hoarders and profiteers, ensuring affordable food supplies to the public. This decision was taken at a meeting chaired by GB Chief Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani on Tuesday. During the meeting, the chief secretary emphasized the need to take strong action against profiteers, hoarders, smugglers, and electricity thieves. It was decided that price monitoring efforts should be intensified, and daily reports from all DCs would be consolidated at the GB level and shared

with the media. Furthermore, 24/7 complaint cells would be established at the district level.

The meeting also determined that hoarders and profiteers would be held accountable to ensure the availability of essential items in the market. Joint check-posts involving the police and food department would become operational at the three GB entry points: Thor, Babusar, and Barsat. Cameras would be installed at these check posts, accompanied by instructions and warning signs. Mr. Wani instructed the Food Secretary to develop a system to provide wheat directly to the public instead of flour, aiming to reduce smuggling tendencies. All district commissioners are required to submit daily reports on their actions taken against smugglers. Smuggling of subsidized wheat/flour out of GB will not be tolerated, Mr Wani warned.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1777032/gb-launches-crackdown-on-profiteers-and-smugglers>

Finance minister's no-show irks Senate panel, 'AJK' PM

Dawn, 21 September 2023

A Senate panel expressed serious displeasure over the finance ministry's failure to even hold a meeting with 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) government in three weeks, let alone address their 'genuine' grievances, and assured the 'AJK' premier that they would not allow any discrimination in the provision of divisible pool resources and net hydel profit on power projects to the territory. The

meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue also conveyed annoyance over caretaker finance minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar's absence from the meeting convened after obtaining her consent for a briefing on prevailing macroeconomic conditions. Senators were also flabbergasted to learn that around Rs75bn worth of trade-based money laundering had been confirmed through the import of tax-free solar panels by massive over-invoicing while genuine imports like medicines and vegetable oil had been crippled because of curbs in the opening of letters of credit (LCs). The committee meeting, presided over by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, was also attended by 'AJK' Prime Minister Anwarul Haq.

The senators enquired if the Ministry of Finance and 'AJK' had held a meeting promised on 30 August to resolve complaints of the 'AJK' government over financial cuts. Finance Secretary Imdadullah Bosal regretted it could not take place and he had just spoken to the 'AJK' secretary for a huddle on Monday or Tuesday and try to resolve their issues keeping in view our fiscal constraints. Senators wondered why the meeting had been convened and why the 'AJK' prime minister and his staff called from 'AJK' when the caretaker finance minister did not turn up or had not engaged with the 'AJK' government despite commitments made on 30 August. They said the 'AJK' prime minister had raised legitimate complaints and given the importance of 'Azad Kashmir', it was unfortunate

that the federal government appeared to be in default not only financially but morally as well.

The 'AJK' PM Haq said the widespread support from the senators and political parties since his last appearance before the Senate committee had helped cool down tempers in 'Azad Kashmir' as people had been protesting across the region. He said his demands were simple, explaining that 'AJK' had a 3.64pc share in divisible pool resources, and in case of revenue shortfall the fiscal cuts should be in proportion to its share like the four provinces. It was unfair to see when revenue collections were higher than the targets, cuts were applied to 'AJK's share, which he regretted. He said he had trust in the Senate committee and political parties in Pakistan and the people of 'AJK' expected fair treatment. The panel then constituted a sub-committee led by Senator Abbasi to engage with the ministries of finance, power, and water and all other stakeholders in the matter and submit a report at the earliest so that the finance committee could take the matter to an early conclusion with the federal government support.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1777033/finance-ministers-no-show-irks-senate-panel-ajk-pm>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

I will present Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue at the UNGA: Anwaar-ul-Haq

Jasarat, 18 September 2023

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Pakistan's interim prime minister, has declared

that he will thoroughly convey Pakistan's stance on the Kashmir issue at the United Nations- General Assembly (UNGA). He said that the UN had already agreed to hold a plebiscite to decide the future of the contentious Kashmir issue. During an interview with a private news channel that was recorded before he left for the US to attend the 78th UNGA in New York, he claimed that Pakistan was also a claimant on the matter of Junagadh and added that there were several separatist movements in India, including Khalistan. In response to a query, PM Kakar stated that he was fully aware of the challenges facing the populace, who were extremely concerned about the growing prices of fuel and other necessities. He said that international pricing was used to determine petroleum rates in Pakistan. He lamented the fact that international market prices were currently relatively high.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/09/18/anwaar-ul-haq-kakar-21/>

The protracted Kashmir issue can be resolved with significant help from Britain: 'AJK' President

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 20 September 2023

During a meeting with a British High Commission group led by Deputy High Commissioner Ms Zoe Ware, Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, President of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) said that the United Kingdom (UK) might be a key player in settling the protracted Kashmir dispute. He stated

that the Kashmir issue has persisted for the past 76 years and that its resolution is essential for maintaining regional stability in South Asia. According to him, the international community, particularly the UK, must play a role in assisting in a peaceful resolution of the conflict following the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. This is necessary due to the dire political and human rights conditions in the 'Indian-occupied' territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The President briefed the visiting delegates about the current state of affairs in 'Occupied Kashmir.' The delegation also included Political Officer Russ McPartland and Political Advisor Miss Adila Khan in addition to Deputy High Commissioner Miss Zoe Ware.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-20.jpg>

India responded negatively to Pakistan's efforts to foster peace: Jalil Abbas Jilani

Jasarat, 20 September 2023

Pakistan's interim foreign minister, Jalil Abbas Jilani, said that Pakistan's 'positive outreach and peace overtures,' such as the opening of the Kartarpur gateway to visa-free travel for members of the Indian Sikh community, had been received with hostility. In an address at the Asia Society conference in New York, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, he stated that Pakistan wants to have peaceful and productive relations with India. He claimed that

the bilateral relationship has 'further deteriorated' as a result of India's 'illegal activities' in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir and its security forces' 'abhorrent human rights violations' against defenceless Kashmiris. He further claimed that the situation has become much more problematic as the Hindu religious extremism, particularly towards Muslims, has gotten worse in India. According to Jilani, in such a complicated environment, 'India's belligerence and anti-Pakistan theatrics for domestic elections' are moving the two nations further away from the goals of regional peace and stability.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/09/20/jalil-abbas-jilani-8/>

OIC needs to press India to stop its illegal activities in Kashmir: Pakistan

Jasarat, 21 September 2023

Jalil Abbas Jilani, the interim foreign minister, has stated that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should exert pressure on India to end its unlawful activities in 'Occupied Kashmir' since 5 August 2019. Jilani made these remarks during a meeting of the OIC Liaison Group on Jammu and Kashmir in New York. Jilani briefed the group on India's 'illegitimate occupation' of Jammu and Kashmir at the meeting and added that since the Kashmiri people have been granted the right to self-determination by UN resolutions the OIC should put pressure on India to end its 'illegal occupation.' He stated that the Muslim Ummah and Pakistan had high hopes

from the OIC to uphold the fundamental rights and aspirations of Kashmiris.

<https://www.jasarat.com>

Social Media (tweets)

PAMIR TIMES ® @pamirtimes

18 September 2023

3G and 4G internet services restored in #Gilgit-#Baltistan. The cellular internet services were downgraded last month after law and order situation had deteriorated.

<https://twitter.com/pamirtimes/status/1703764583750533127>

Jamil Nagri @jamilnagri

20 September 2023

American Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Blome, has been conducting meetings with political, social, and government representatives in #GilgitBaltistan and exploring #CPEC route areas. His undisclosed visit and activities in this sensitive region have raised questions.

<https://twitter.com/jamilnagri/status/1704206314472120556>

PAMIR TIMES @pamirtimes

21 September 2023

Khunjerab Pass, located 4,693m (15,397 ft) above sea level, is a place where awe-inspiring forces of nature and the power of diplomacy come together.

Chinese and Pakistani tourists come here to enjoy the nature and interact with each other.

Farman Karim Baig's report #CPEC.

Video link:

<https://twitter.com/pamirtimes/status/1704889479192809698>

Jamil Nagri @jamilnagri

23 September 2023

US Ambassador to Pakistan, Donald Bloom in #GilgitBaltistan since last one week, on Friday hr called on Deputy Speaker GB Assembly Sadia Danish & GB Assembly member Sanam Faryad and pledged to support for region development and welfare initiatives.

US Interest in GB or #CPEC.

<https://twitter.com/jamilnagri/status/1705289770560037123>

Zubair Torwali @zubairtorwali

24 September 2023

Inspired by the Pushtun and Sindhi culture days I would like to suggest that we, the mountain communities of Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral, Kohistan, Swat and Dir need to have a #DardicCulture day and it could be the day of spring solstice, probably 22 March every year! How is the idea?

<https://twitter.com/zubairtorwali/status/1705695766545588251>

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Disclaimer

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