

# POK NEWS DIGEST

A MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST ON PAKISTAN OCCUPIED KASHMIR

Volume 2

Number 5

May 2009

- Political Developments

Shariat Law May Soon be Implemented in PoK

Taliban Threat to Gilgit

UJC Working for Hurriyat Unity: Salahuddin

JI AJK Criticizes Pak Policy on Kashmir Issue

Youth Last Ray of Hope For GB People: BSNO Chief

- Economic Developments

Greentech to Install Energy Efficient Products in Gilgit and Ghizer Valley

Cross LoC Trade Touches Rs. 16.3 Million

- International Development

Chinese Public Sector Keen to Enter Into Joint Ventures

UNICEF Hands Over Three Schools to AJK Govt

- Other Developments

ERRA Officials Undermining the Authority of the AJK Government

Compiled & Edited

by

Dr Priyanka Singh

---

INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg

New Delhi-110 010



## Jammu & Kashmir

(Source: Based on the Survey of India Map, Govt of India 2000)

## **About this Issue**

*The Surge of Taliban across Pakistan has evoked serious concerns in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Some reports talk about the possibility of imposition of Shariat Law in the PoK. Besides, common people including few local groups fear they would be subjected to similar fate as was meted out to the residents in the Swat valley- where the Taliban militants were till recently at the helm of affairs and the government institutions were mere spectators . Even though 'AJK' President provided assurance against any such takeover, the reports in this issue reveal the insecurities prevalent amongst the ethnic groups in the region especially in Gilgit.*

*The 'AJK' government has accentuated efforts to attract foreign investment in the region especially in building dams etc. It is noteworthy that the Chinese of late have shown keen interest in this direction. In other developments, there was initial drop in the number of people travelling across LoC which however improved later in the month.*

***Priyanka Singh***

# Political Developments

**“Youth last ray of hope for GB people: BNSO chief,” Weekly Baang-e-Sahar, April, 14-20, 2009**

LAHORE: Chairman, Balawaristan National Front (BNF) Abdul Hamid Khan said students have great responsibility on their shoulders to guide the masses towards their destiny and meet the challenges facing the nation in the 21st century.

Addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the new cabinet of Balawaristan National Students Organization (BNSO) at Lahore from Brussels on the phone, Mr Khan stated he was extremely happy that the youth of the region have been in the forefront in creating awareness among the masses and struggling to achieve their political and constitutional rights denied to them for the last over six decades. He pointed out that no nation becomes slave of others if its youth are well informed and aware of their responsibilities and obligations. He said it was also heartening to know that today their nation was becoming aware of their basic human rights besides realizing that until and unless they become united for their cause their deprivation cannot end and the outside forces would continue to pitch them against each other for attaining their own vested interests.

([http://weeklybaang.blogspot.com/2009/04/weekly-baang-karachi-volum-02-issue-08\\_3275.html](http://weeklybaang.blogspot.com/2009/04/weekly-baang-karachi-volum-02-issue-08_3275.html))

**“Shariat Law may soon be implemented in POK,” April 19, 2009**

Arif Shahid who belongs to Koyain Khaigla, a far flung area of Pakistan occupied Kashmir says that Pakistan has captured PoK and Gilgit-Baltistan and condemn the role and policy of Pakistan. He has been struggling for these two regions under the banner of Jammu Kashmir National Liberation Front (JKNLF) as its secretary general.

In an interview he expressed his views on the current situation in Pakistan and its impact in these regions.

Q: Since Pakistan is once again facing political crisis, what impact will it have on Pakistan occupied (PoK) and Gilgit-baltistan regions which have been remained under the thumb of Pakistani rulers. And if Pakistan is again ruled by its army what would be fate of

these two regions. ARIF SHAHID - Pakistan may be at any square, it will continue to treat Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) as its colonies as has been handling before. However, as the result of present crisis, it may also change the fate of PoK and GB, but chances seem to be bleak.

In case of army rule once again in Pakistan definitely PoK shall also be placed under some military commander as chief executive and GB zone shall be under martial law as was done by dictator the then army president Zia-ul-Haq. But I think this time army rule shall also take toll of Pakistan itself, because the people of Sindh, Baluchistan and NWFP shall prefer to announce their own sovereignty instead of being ruled by Punjabi military again and again. Let us hope something good emerges for these unfortunate people of small provinces in Pakistan this time.

Q: Do you think Swat after getting Islamic rule ( Shariat Law) implemented has further strengthen the morale of fundamentalist forces. Will these forces extend their agenda in your regions also?

ARIF SHAHID: Yes, since the ego of Islamic fundamentalists and extremists is pampered and inflated due to their victory over Pakistan military in Swat, they shall certainly try to expand their infrastructure and activities in other areas of Pakistan as well, although their presence is everywhere in Pakistan, but in unstable organisational structure. As far as PoK is concerned, these forces are already in much organized manner under the patronage of Pakistan military and its agencies. They consider PoK as the future battle ground where Pakistan military establishment shall continue to support them till the issue of PoK is settled in favour of Pakistan. Moreover, the brand of 'shariat' they have introduced in Swat already exists in PoK as the 'Qazis' sit beside the judges in courts. This sort of judicial structure is helpful to them, and they shall get benefit out of it in future.

(<http://kashmirihindu.wordpress.com/2009/04/19/shariat-law-may-soon-implemented-in-pok/>)

**Usman Manzoor, “AJK judge to move SC,”  
The News, April 03, 2009**

ISLAMABAD: A judge of the Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is likely to seek justice from the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The legal fraternity of Azad Jammu and Kashmir have made up their mind to knock the doors of the Supreme Court of Pakistan to get justice for the senior most judge of their apex court, Justice Manzoor Gilani, who was victimized by Pervez Musharraf in 2006. “Though a number of national and international forums are available with the lawyers of the AJK but we have decided to go to the Supreme Court of Pakistan as Pakistan’s former prime minister Shaukat Aziz, also the then chairman AJK Council, is responsible for the judicial crisis in the AJK,” said Syed Nishat Kazmi on behalf of the Lawyers Coordination Council (KLCC). The council comprises 21 senior advocates of the AJK SC. It was formed to raise the AJK judicial crisis at national and international level and to win support of Pakistani lawyers and the media to avert the judicial crisis.

(<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=170529>)

**“President, AJK PM discuss development projects,” Associated Press of Pakistan, April 09, 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir on April 09 called on President Asif Ali Zardari here and exchanged views on various development projects initiated in Azad Kashmir. The President inquired about the progress on construction of 1000 MW Neelum Hydel Power Project in Azad Kashmir, building of Mangla Dam, rehabilitation of people affected by the Dam and the development of new Mirpur city.

President Zardari stated Pakistan has always been committed to extend political, moral and diplomatic support to the people of Kashmir in their struggle for the right of their self-determination. The AJK Prime Minister said that it would help move forward the process of Kashmir related dialogue between India and Pakistan.

([http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=73136&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=73136&Itemid=2))

**“JI AJK criticizes Pak policy on Kashmir issue,” April 14, 2009**

ARJA: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Amir, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Abdul Rashid Turabi expressed his concern over Kashmir policy and said that under US pressure Pakistan would withdraw itself from Kashmir issue. He urged the government and the Army Chief Ashfaq Parvez Kayani to follow the policy of Quaid-e-Azam for Kashmir issue, adding that the government was not sincere to solve the Kashmir issue. He condemned the statement passed by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi to seek help from FBI and also stated that the duty of Pakistan army is to fight its own war but not of others.

(<http://www.sananews.com.pk/english/2009/04/14/ji-ajk-criticizes-pak-policy-on-kashmir-issue/>)

**“UJC working for Hurriyat unity: Salahuddin,”  
The Daily Rising Kashmir, April 17, 2009**

SRINAGAR,: Reacting to the statement of Hurriyat Conference (M) in which the amalgam distanced itself from giving an election boycott call, Chairman of Muzaffarabad-based United Jihad Council, Syed Salahuddin on April 17 stated UJC was trying to reunite the divided Hurriyat Conference but added that a lobby within one of the Hurriyat factions was taking the faction closer to New Delhi. In a telephonic-interview, Salahuddin disclosed that UJC, a coalition of over a dozen militant outfits, was trying to reunite the divided Hurriyat Conference.

([http://www.risingkashmir.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=12184&Itemid=1](http://www.risingkashmir.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12184&Itemid=1))

**“NALA Deputy Speaker, companion killed in Gilgit,” Dawn, April 21, 2009**

GILGIT: Deputy Speaker of the Northern Areas Legislative Assembly, Syed Asad Zaidi and a companion were killed by unidentified gunmen in Gilgit on April 20. According to reports, unknown gunmen opened fire at Asad Zaidi’s car, critically

injuring him. Asad Zaidi was operated upon in the DHQ hospital Gilgit but his life could not be saved. A search operation for the culprits was initiated by police and rangers in the area.

(<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/nala-deputy-speaker-companion-killed-in-gilgit—szh>)

### **“20 Suspects held in NALA dupty speaker’s murder,” Dardistan Times, April 22, 2009**

GILGIT: The Gilgit Police rounded up about 20 suspects and the investigation is going on to ascertain their role in the cold-blooded murder of Deputy Speaker National Assembly Legislative Assembly (NALA) Syed Asad Zaidi and his colleague, police stated on April 21. “About 20 people had been arrested for interrogation and hopefully we soon get to those behind this heinous crime,” Ali Sher Superintend stated. He added the investigation was in the preliminary stages; therefore, it was premature to talk of anybody’s involvement in the incident that invited widespread condemnation in the region.

(<http://dardistannews.wordpress.com/2009/04/22/20-suspects-held-in-nala-dupty-speakers-murder/>)

### **“US not favor Kashmir solution: Turabi,” April 23, 2009**

RAWALPINDI: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami AJK Abdul Rashid Turabi said here on Wednesday that the US, India and Israel wanted a permanent push-back from Kashmir issue. Addressing a gathering, he said that no solution except the right of self-determination would be acceptable to Kashmiris. Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) should respect the pronouncement of its Quaid Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to fight war for Kashmir and its policy for hundred years, he said.

(<http://www.sananews.com.pk/english/2009/04/23/us-not-favor-kashmir-solution-turabi/>)

### **“Taliban can’t occupy any part of AJK, Pak: Zulqarnain,” The News, April 25, 2009**

OKARA: The President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Raja Zulqarnain Khan has stated the Taliban

militants cannot take hold of Azad Jammu and Kashmir or any area of Pakistan. Addressing media persons on April 25, Zulqarnain said that Kashmir’s annexation to Pakistan would soon take place. He said no one would be allowed to spread terror anywhere in Azad Kashmir or Pakistan.

(<http://www.thenews.com.pk/updates.asp?id=75888>)

### **“Taliban threat to Gilgit,” Pakistan Tribune, April 28, 2009**

Most do not grasp the gravity of the threat posed by the Taliban. It is a pity that few people in this country seem to understand what the rise of Taliban means for this country and the region. The Taliban may open a new front in Gilgit soon if they wrest control of the strategic Karakoram Highway. Shias and Ismailis are the majority in Gilgit, and they depend solely on the state of Pakistan for their security. But there is a real fear among the people of Gilgit that they will be left to the mercy of the Taliban much like the people of Swat. The people of Gilgit are doubly detestable to the Taliban: they are non-Pashtun and follow a different sect of Islam. Further, we have bitter memories of 1988 when these very tribals assaulted Gilgit to purge the region of the ‘infidels’ — read Shias and Ismailis. Villages were pillaged, houses were burnt and women were dishonoured as the state remained a silent spectator.

(<http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.php?id=214213>)

# Economic Developments

## **“Greentech to install energy efficient products in Gilgit and Ghizer Valleys,” March 31, 2009**

**GILGIT:** Greentech, a subsidiary company of Industrial Promotion Services, Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development is going to launch a project in execution partnership with Building and Construction Programme (BACIP) in order to install energy efficient products and technologies for CO2 emission reduction in Gilgit and Ghizer valleys of Northern Pakistan. This was stated by Asif Merchant, CEO Aga Khan Planning and Building Service, Pakistan during a stakeholder consultation workshop in Gilgit.

(<http://pamirtimes.wordpress.com/2009/03/31/greentech-to-install-energy-efficient-products-in-gilgit-and-ghizer-valleys/>)

## **Amanullah Khan, “AJK secure location for investment,” Pakistan Observer, April 08, 2009**

**KARACHI:** Sardar Yaqub Khan, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir has offered great opportunities for potential investors to develop high dams on various available locations which have the potential to generate at least 10,000 mw of hydro electricity sufficient to cater to power needs of the country and produce surplus power to export in the region. During his recent visit to Karachi Prime Minister Azad Kashmir while speaking at a reception he stated that Azad Kashmir is the most peaceful place which gives a sense of security and freedom for investment in a variety of investment opportunities.

He specially invited the trade and business community from Karachi to capitalize on the available opportunities for construction of dams in Azad Kashmir which have the potential of generating at least 10,000mw of electricity from dams the cheapest source of power production.

(<http://pakobserver.net/200904/08/news/business05.asp>)

## **“Cross-LoC trade touches Rs16.3 million,” The News, April 18, 2009**

**MIRPUR:** For the first time since its launch last year, cross-LoC trade between Azad Jammu and Kashmir

& Kashmir on the Poonch-Rawalakot route touched Rs16.3 million, as stated by a report which reached here from across the Line of Control. This was for the first time that the exchange of trade between AJK and Jammu and Kashmir crossed Rs.10 million, the report further stated.

Also, this was for the first time that 56 trucks exchanged sides from Taitrinote-Chakan-Da-Bagh LoC point on the centuries-old historic Rawalkot-Poonch route till April 15.

([http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=172989](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=172989))

## **“Smuggling Alleged In Cross-LoC Trade,” Kashmir Observer, April 27, 2009**

**SRINAGAR:** Traders from across the Line of Control will go on strike tomorrow to protest against the alleged nexus between some government officials and non-local businessmen in cross- LoC trade. According to reports, the traders allege that the facilitating officers on the either side of the line dividing Kashmir have entered into a nexus with traders from Lahore and New Delhi to allow their business through the LoC, which was originally meant exclusively for the businessmen of Kashmir.

“Exporters from Delhi, Punjab and Lahore, Rawalpindi use this route for export to save the export freight (duty tax). We have decided to go for strike and will not allow any vehicle on the either to cross the LoC,” the president of the Salamabad-Chakoti Trade Union, Sheikh Tariq, was quoted by reports as stating. The trade on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad road is absolutely duty-free between the two parts of Kashmir, and since its opening on October 21 last year, it continues on the barter system in the absence of facilities like communication, banking and currency.

([http://www.kashmirobservers.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=1389:smuggling-alleged-in-cross-loc-trade&catid=5:business&Itemid=6](http://www.kashmirobservers.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1389:smuggling-alleged-in-cross-loc-trade&catid=5:business&Itemid=6))

# International Developments

## **“Unicef hands over three new schools to AJK govt,” The News, April 17, 2009**

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) handed over to the government of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir three newly constructed girls’ primary school buildings built at a total cost of Rs 16.18 million in the earthquake-affected districts of Muzaffarabad and Bagh. These schools were completely destroyed in the 2005 earthquake and educational activities had continued in transitional shelters while Unicef was in process of building seismic resistant permanent structures for these schools. The Government Girls Primary School (GGPS) Nazirpur in district Bagh has been completed at a cost of Rs5.1 million. The GGPS Komi Buthani in district Muzaffarabad cost Rs5.42 million and the GGPS Pano Pindi, also in district Muzaffarabad, has been constructed at a cost of Rs5.66 million. Each of these schools can accommodate nearly 80 students.

([http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily\\_detail.asp?id=172965](http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=172965))

## **Dr Shabir Choudhry, “KNP leaders to visit Pakistani Administered Kashmir,” April 14, 2009**

LONDON: The Kashmir National Party which champions the policy of liberal democracy and oppose forces of communalism, terrorism and hatred decided to send two senior leaders to Pakistani Administered Kashmir.

([http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/world-news/knp-leaders-to-visit-pakistani-administered-kashmir\\_100179313.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/world-news/knp-leaders-to-visit-pakistani-administered-kashmir_100179313.html))

## **“Chinese public sector keen to enter into joint ventures,” Associated Press of Pakistan, April 19, 2009**

LAHORE: The leader of a high level visiting Chinese delegation, Chairman, Yunnan Chamber of Commerce, China, Li Jiashou on April 19 stated that Chinese public sector is keen to enter into joint ventures with their counterparts in Pakistan to promote bilateral trade between the two countries. Ms. Tan Yun added that there was vast scope for

for tourism promotion in Pakistan and Pakistani diplomats must provide necessary information and tour package regarding tourist spots to attract Chinese to Pakistan. She said that majority of the Chinese are not aware of the world’s best scenic valleys and spots in Pakistan especially in northern areas including, Gilgit, Hunza, Naran, Kaghan, Lahore, Multan, Harrapa and Murree etc.

([http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=73980&Itemid=1](http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=73980&Itemid=1))

## **Pakistani students not to be deported: Lord Nazir,” Associated press of Pakistan, April 23, 2009**

MIRPUR: Lord Nazir Ahmed, the Kashmir-born life-time member of the House of Lords asked the British government not to deport Pakistani students. These UK-based Pakistan students were released by the British Greater Manchester Police owing to lack of any evidence of the charges against them. He stated he had written to British Secretary of State for the Home Department MP Jacqui Smith expressing his deep concern over the recent remarks made by the British politicians that there was more than enough evidence for charges to be made against the eleven Pakistani students who were arrested on April 8.

([http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=74353&Itemid=2](http://www.app.com.pk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=74353&Itemid=2))

# Other Developments

## **Hakeem Irfan, “Peace bus suffers slowdown,” The Daily Rising Kashmir, April, 07, 2009**

SRINAGAR: The enthusiasm among the divided families living across the Line of Control for the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Bus Service (Karvane Aman) which completed four years on April 07 is dying as the participation has decreased enormously. According to Passport Officer, Srinagar, B S Manavalan, around 11000 passengers traveled to the other side in Karvane Aman since 7 April 2005. However, presently there is a complete lull in participation in comparison of the last years. “These days there is a complete lull. The participation has gone down to 20 to 22 passengers per trip from 100 to 120 passengers. On an average at least 60 to 70 people traveled in the bus but now due to the known problems, the enthusiasm has gone down,” Manavalan further stated.

([http://www.risingkashmir.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=11856&Itemid=1](http://www.risingkashmir.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=11856&Itemid=1))

## **“Insufficient Wheat Quota for Gilgit Baltistan: PMLQ,” Gilgit Baltistan News, April 18, 2009**

Iqbal Hussain, Secretary Information Pakistan Muslim League (Q) claimed, in a statement, that the wheat quota for Gilgit Baltistan remains nowhere near the demands for 2 million population of Gilgit Baltistan. The wheat dearth puts the public in great hardships. Iqbal Hussain expressed his concerns about the quota which was set twenty years back while it should be aligned parallel to the demographics of the region. He also expressed his gratitude to Marvi Mamon for her efforts in resolving this issue who has notified the PM. Iqbal Hussain hoped that the Prime Minister will take a prompt action in this regard.

(<http://dardistannews.wordpress.com/2009/04/18/insufficient-wheat-quota-for-gilgit-baltistan-pmlq/>)

*(Other Developments continued after Abbreviations)*

### **ABBREVIATIONS**

|        |  |
|--------|--|
| AJKHEB | Azad Jammu and Kashmir Hydro Electric Board    |
| AJK    | Azad Jammu & Kashmir                           |
| APHC   | All Parties Hurriyat Conference                |
| BNF    | Balawaristan National Front                    |
| CBM    | Confidence Building Measures                   |
| CDP    | Community Development Programme                |
| FATA   | Federally Administered Tribal Areas            |
| FBR    | Federal Board of Revenue                       |
| GBDA   | Gilgit-Baltistan Democratic Alliance           |
| GBUM   | Gilgit Baltistan United Movement               |
| ISI    | Inter Services Intelligence                    |
| JIAJK  | Jamaat-e-Islami Azad Jammu & Kashmir           |
| KAC    | Kashmiri American Council                      |
| KKH    | Karakoram Highway                              |
| KNM    | Karakoram National Movement                    |
| LoC    | Line of Control                                |
| NLI    | Northern Light Infantry                        |
| NALA   | Northern Areas Legislative Assembly            |
| NAEDC  | Northern Areas Executive Development Committee |
| NWFP   | North West Frontier Province                   |
| PoK    | Pakistan Occupied Kashmir                      |
| POGB   | Pakistan occupied Gilgit Baltistan             |
| PPP    | Pakistan Peoples’ Party                        |
| UJC    | United Jihad Council                           |
| WAPDA  | Water and Power Development Authority          |

### **“Erosion of Tourism in Ghizar,” Gilgit Baltistan News, April 19, 2009**

Chairman Ghizar Students Ferderation, Tahir Ali Tahir wowed the managerial pitfalls in tourism sector of Ghizar District. He said Ghizar is one of the best eco-tourist spots in Gilgit Baltistan that can allure a bunch of tourists from around the world but a weakening marketing policy and lack of professional stretegic planning for the promotion of the region makes it even harder to focus on our enriched haritage and culture. The Tourism Department in Ghizar has done nothing, so far, except false claims and wasting money for their personal picnics. The department has introduced Cultural Shows in the region which depict a fake version of the culture rather than portraying the original indigenou cultural aspects. He urged the responsible authorities to engineer better tourism planning and alienate the black sheeps who indulge in corruption of the tourism budget.

(<http://dardistannews.wordpress.com/2009/04/19/erosion-of-tourism-in-ghizar/>)

### **“ERRA officials undermining the authority of AJK Government,” Kashmir Watch Report, April 20, 2009**

ISLAMABAD: Authorities in Azad Kashmir accused Pakistan Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) of overstepping its role and described it as an attempt to undermine the authority of the regional government.

ERRA has been centre of controversies since its inception after October 8, 2005 devastating earthquake. But the fresh controversy was generated over the issue of recruitments in the project management units (PMUs) of three city development projects-Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Rawalakot. The PMUs have been set up to co-ordinate the city development projects of these three cities.

([http://www.kashmirwatch.com/india/errain-afk-120208.htm&utm\\_source=news-delhi](http://www.kashmirwatch.com/india/errain-afk-120208.htm&utm_source=news-delhi))

### **“49 cross LoC in Karvan-e-Aman,” April 25, 2009**

MIRPUR: As many as 49 people belonging to Kashmiri families crossed sides in the trans-LoC Karvan-e-Aman (peace bus) operating between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, the capital of AJK on April 23, official sources stated. The sources further confirmed on April 24 that 11 persons left AJK for Srinagar to meet their relatives in Kashmir for the first time after 1947. Eight residents of Kashmir, who had crossed over to AJK returned, sources confirmed.

(<http://dailymailnews.com/200904/25/news/dmbrn05.html>)

# Pakistan Occupied Kashmir-An Overview

Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), legitimately an integral part of the Indian Union is presently under Pakistan's control. Pakistan occupied the territory as a result of tribal invasion in 1947 engineered by the Pakistani army. It covers one-third of the total area of 86,023 square miles/ 222,236 square kilometers of the state of Jammu & Kashmir. The area under occupation comprises two administrative units: Mirpur- Muzaffarabad and Gilgit Baltistan referred as 'Azad Kashmir' and the 'Northern Areas' respectively by the government of Pakistan. Pakistan ceded a segment (2,700 sq miles) of this occupied territory lying to the north-east border of the Northern Areas known as the Trans Karakoram Tract to China in 1963.

## “AZAD KASHMIR”

Pakistan envisaged the Azad Kashmir as a country with a President, a Prime Minister and a Legislature of its own according to the Karachi Agreement of April 28, 1949. These structures and the designations are only titular in nature as this invaded territory is neither a country nor even a province. Significant subjects such as defence, supposed 'foreign policy' of POK, rehabilitation of refugees and the overall control have been carefully placed under the discretion of the political establishment of Pakistan.

**Area:** 13,297 square km

**Mirpur** comprises 3 districts: *Bhimber, Kotli, Mirpur*

**Muzaffarabad** is divided into five districts: *Bagh, Muzaffarabad, Neelum, Poonch, Sudhnati*

**Population:** 3,271,000 (1.685 million Male, 1.665 million Female)

**Capital:** Muzaffarabad

**“President”:** Raja Zulqarnain Khan

**“Prime Minister”:** Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan

**“Azad Jammu and Kashmir” Council:** Total 11 members- 6 from the government of AJK and 5 from the government of Pakistan. The AJK Council is headed by the President AJK.

**Legislative Assembly:** 49 seats

**Tribal population:** Awan, Abbassi, Ansari, Gilani, Gujar, Jarral, Jat, Qureshi, Malik, Mughal, Pashtuns, Rajput, Rachyals, Sudhan, Tarkhan

## NORTHERN AREAS

The **Northern Areas** officially referred to by the government of Pakistan as the **Federally Administered Northern Areas (FANA)**, is the northernmost political entity within the Pakistan occupied part of Kashmir and is a self governing unit under Pakistani control. The area is five times bigger to that of Azad Kashmir. The status of this region being unstated in the successive constitutions of Pakistan over the years, the people are denied basic socio-political and legal rights. The Northern Areas have no representation in the National Assembly and are governed by the Northern Areas Council headed by Minister of Kashmir and Northern Areas. A Judicial Commissioner exercises judicial powers in the absence of a High Court. The population mainly comprises Shia, Sunni and Ismaili Muslims. Ethnic groups include Baltees, Shinas, Vashkuns, Mughals, Kashmiris, Pathans, Ladhakhis and Turks.

**Governor/ Commissioner:** Imran Ali

**“Chief Minister”:** Irfan Ali and Shahid Hussain

**Legislature:** Northern Areas Legislative Assembly (29 seats)

**Languages:** Balti, Shina, Brushaski, Khawer, Wakhi, Turki, Tibeti, Pushto and Urdu

**Area:** 72,496 km

**Capital:** Gilgit

**Districts:** seven

**Baltistan** is divided into *Ghanche and Skardu*

**Gilgit** divided into *Astore, Diamer, Ghizar, Gilgit and Hunza Nagar*

**Population:** 1.5 million

**Political groups:** United Jammu and Kashmir Peoples' National Party, Balwaristan National Front (BNF) and Gilgit Baltistan United Action Forum for Self Rule, Gilgit Baltistan United Movement (GBUM).

**Literacy rate:** 14% male- 3.5% female

**State of Infrastructure:** No pipelines for water supply and no electricity supply for at least two thirds of the population in Northern Areas.

**Disclaimer**

*PoK 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 as 'Azad Kashmir' and 'Northern Areas' by the government of Pakistan. The news reports have been abridged to provide clarity. IDSA is not responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the news items.*

# POK NEWS DIGEST

***Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses***

No. 1, Development Enclave, Rao Tula Ram Marg  
New Delhi-110 010

Telephone: 91-11-26717983; Fax: 91-11-26154191

Website: [www.idsa.in](http://www.idsa.in); Email: [lbscidsa@gmail.com](mailto:lbscidsa@gmail.com)

