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Compiled & Edited

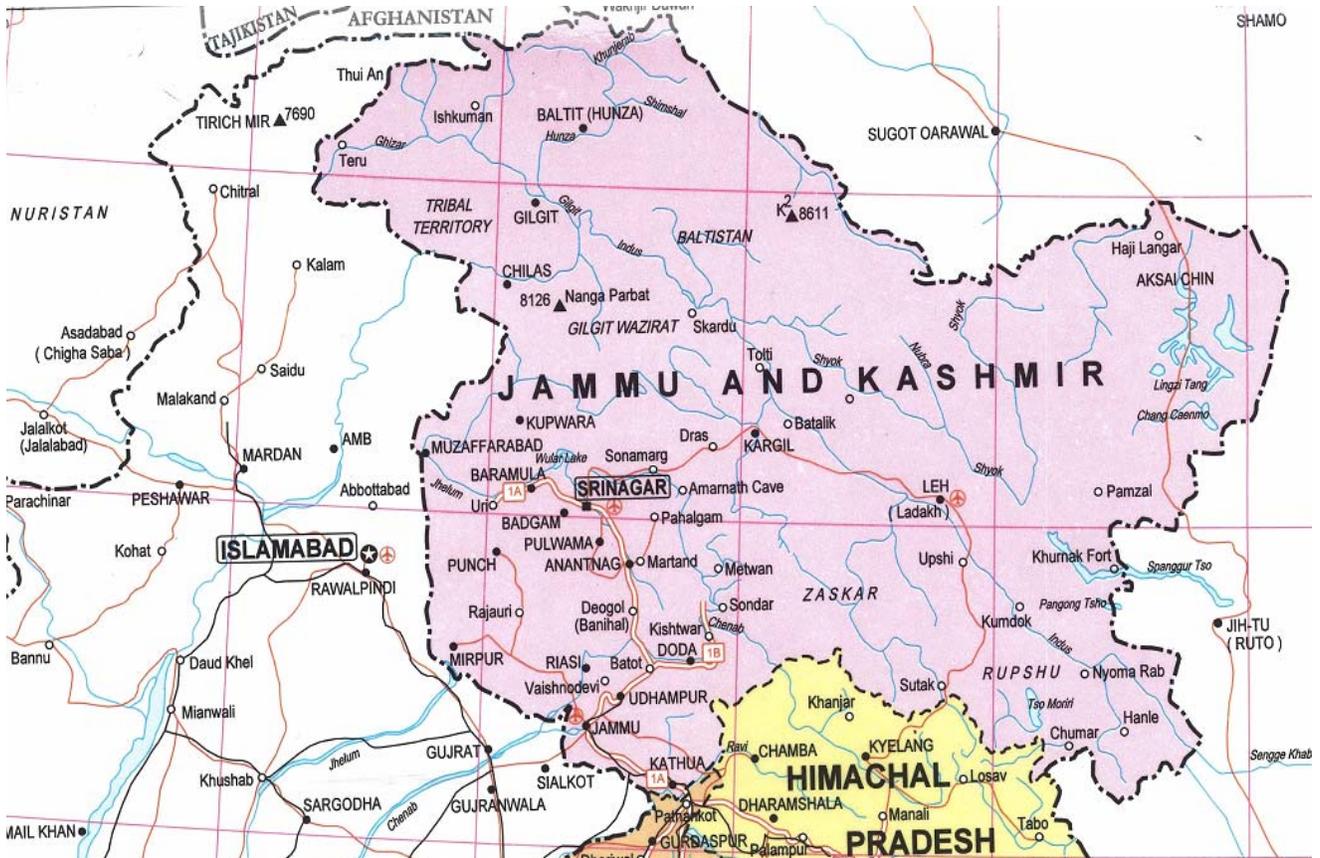
by

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

Several nationalist leaders were arrested and sent out of Gilgit Baltistan in a bid to avert a protest march that they were likely to hold on April 28. Notably, these leaders were preparing to oppose the Karachi Agreement of April 28, 1948 as a result of which the Gilgit Baltistan was placed under Pakistan's control. These nationalists groups defy the rule of Pakistan on PoK and this led to their arrest and eventual exile. Besides, the judicial crisis dominated the political course in PoK in the month of April to a great extent. The Chief Justice of AJK SC was deposed and later had to be restored under mounting pressure. A crisis such as this is not a new development as there is constant tussle between several structures in Government.

People in Gilgit Baltistan are still to come to terms with the Gilgit Baltistan Empowerment Package and a strident opposition was sounded in a meeting at London on April 7. It was clearly said that Pakistan has breached international obligations by taking a one-sided decision on Pakistan occupied Gilgit Baltistan (as a section of the local people calls it). Local leaders from PoK have voiced concerns on lack of local ownership in the existing structure. Pakistan has attempted time and again to present new set of frameworks under different names, ultimately however it turns out to be the same package devoid of any real authority for the local people.

On the economic side, the AJK government has put forth its demand for 'development funds' in order to sustain the development works in the region. Apparently, the government in AJK is disappointed with Pakistani government's decision to cut down the AJK budget by almost 45%.

Priyanka Singh

Pakistan's Undemocratic Legacy: Forced Expulsion of PoK Activists

Senge H Sering

On April 26, 2010, Pakistani authorities arrested political activists from Gilgit town, who belong to both Gilgit-Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir (AJK), the term used for Pakistani occupied Muzaffarabad-Mirpur. Many of them were forcefully exiled from Gilgit-Baltistan for a period of three months while some were detained in the Gilgit district jail. Those who were driven out of their own homeland includes Wajahat Hassan Mirza, Chairperson of All Parties National Alliance (APNA), Colonel (Rtd.) Nadir Mirza, Chairperson of Gilgit-Baltistan Thinkers Forum, Mr. Farooq Umar Advocate, Chairman of Karakoram National Movement (KNM), Shafqat Inqalabi of Balwaristan National Front (BNF), Raja Mazhar Advocate, Sardar Saghir, Chairman of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF-Amanullah group), Professor Abdul Razzaq Khan Khalique, Spokesman for APNA, Arif Shahid, Secretary General of National Liberation Front, Sabir Kashmiri, Senior Vice-chairman of JKLF (Rauf Kashmiri group), Farooq Niazi, human rights activists, and Mehmood Baig, former President of National Students Federation. It is known that hotels and houses in Gilgit were raided by police around midnight with no search warrants. Mr. Farooq, Chairman of KNM informed from Islamabad that he, along with Wajahat Hassan Mirza and Colonel Nadir Mirza, was abducted the same day they reached Islamabad, and were taken to an unknown location. Some participants were, however, successful in marching to the regional office of the United Nations, located at Jutial, Gilgit, and presented their memorandum. They also staged a protest-demonstration outside the office of Gilgit Press Club. The nationalists are now calling for a hunger strike and protest-rallies all over Pakistan. The action was taken in a bid to prevent a public gathering at Garhi Bagh of Gilgit, planned for April 28. The gathering

was arranged by Gilgit-Baltistan Democratic Alliance (GBDA), a conglomeration of seven local political parties, in coordination with APNA, an alliance representing fourteen political parties of PoK to protest the Karachi Agreement. On April 28, 1949, Pakistani regime conspired with some individuals of PoK to execute the agreement, which materialized into Pakistan annexing Gilgit-Baltistan. Given the fact that the agreement was not approved or signed by the representatives of Gilgit-Baltistan; it has repeatedly been challenged by the natives to protest Pakistani high-handedness. The agreement was signed in violation of the UNCIP resolutions on J&K, one of the countless violations that Pakistan has committed since 1948. Interestingly, pro-Pakistanis of Gilgit-Baltistan also oppose the Karachi agreement and have protested against it on many occasions.

Pakistan realizes that once the agreement is annulled, its illegal presence in Gilgit-Baltistan will be challenged, and may very well lead to an end to her direct intervention in the local affairs, and control over the land and resources. To avoid that, the government is using illegal tactics of disrupting peaceful political activity and harassing innocent natives.

The people of Gilgit-Baltistan are threatened by Pakistani policies in several ways. On one hand, Pakistani citizens are arriving in Gilgit-Baltistan in large hordes. They are changing local demography and claiming assets, share in resources, and local residency. Pakistani illegal settlers threaten local culture and religious identity, and often collaborate with the government agencies to undertake Shia slaughter. At the same time, Islamabad exploits local resources including water, minerals and forest but without sharing the revenues with the natives. Now, after the promulgation of the so-called self-governance and empowerment ordinance 2009, Pakistani authorities are targeting political activists to further tighten the grip over the local affairs.

In the context, when the current Pakistani regime cannot help but boast about the return of the democratic system and rule, and raise the slogan of freedom of speech and political activity, such tactics

negate their false claims. It also reflects upon the reality that instead of the prime minister and his cabinet, it is the political wing of ISI, the notorious Pakistani secret service agency, which is actually managing the national affairs. Government of Pakistan claims to have delegated authority to the local people by promulgating self governance ordinance. But the same ordinance fails to protect the freedom of political activity and speech, which is the birth right of the natives. Such notions reflect upon the fact that the natives continue to live under Pakistani oppression. The United Nations must take immediate notice of the grim political situation in Gilgit-Baltistan and the exploitative character of the Pakistani colonial rulers. Such incidents may also make a democratic nation like the United States of America realize that her ally Pakistan is pursuing policies contradictory to the principles of promoting and protecting democracy and freedom of speech and political activity.

It is considered a graceful and courageous tradition among the conscious nations to speak up for ones rights, and those who ban or disrupt such activities, like the Pakistani rulers, are committing serious human rights violations. The deprived and marginalized people of Gilgit-Baltistan look up to the nationalists to achieve and protect their rights. The activists, who were arrested and exiled, were peaceful, unarmed and gathered on the land, which they lawfully claim as their own. They are the sons of soil, who intended to expose Pakistan for its tyranny and oppression. Hence, they were not committing any crime, but were rather doing a service to the nation. Many pro-Pakistani politicians of Gilgit-Baltistan including Advocate Wazir Wilayat Ali and Malik Miskeen, who are ex-speakers of the Northern Areas Council, and Member of Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly from Nagar, Mirza Hussain, have therefore condemned Pakistani authorities for arresting and expelling activists for holding a peaceful gathering.

Instead of wasting time on such activities, government should rather pay attention to the dismal state of economic and administrative affairs of Gilgit-Baltistan, where more than half of the local population still lives below the poverty line, and more than one-fourth of natives are still deprived of formal literacy services.

The government has promulgated the so-called empowerment ordinance and also established the legislative structure, however, it has yet to release the funds to support administrative, political and economic functions in Gilgit-Baltistan. The false promises and announcements made by Pakistani politicians, including the prime minister, to deliver billions of rupees worth of grant to Gilgit-Baltistan needs to be utilized for the poverty stricken masses to run their subsistence livelihoods. Six months have passed since elections were conducted for the local assembly; but people had to wait for long before the cabinet was constituted and the bureaucracy to be appointed. Mohammad Ali Akhtar, the minister for revenue, finance and cooperative societies, informed the daily newspaper Baade-Shimaal that he has not been provided with the office, the staff and the funds to manage these departments.

Fearing an increase in support for the nationalists, ISI officials in Baltistan have issued a circular which bars local departments from hiring the natives without the clearance of the Headquarter 62 Brigade of Skardo.¹ Government will need to realize that harassing and abducting locals is not the solution to the chronic political problems of Gilgit-Baltistan. If they think this will help eliminate the fervor among the nationalists, then they need to review their policies. Pakistan's illegal presence in Gilgit-Baltistan and resource exploitation is the primary reason why the nationalists are gaining popularity. With increase in the number of educated youth and subsequent political awareness, a wave of nationalist mass will arise, which may become a solid and unified force demanding genuine autonomy and an end to Pakistani manipulation. Rather than inviting further hatred of the local people, Pakistan should strategize to return the land and the resources to the locals and withdraw from Gilgit-Baltistan for good.

(The Author is former Visiting Fellow, IDSA. Views expressed are personal)

(Footnotes)

1. <http://www.balawaristan.net/latest-news/blog.html>

Political Developments

‘11 nationalists banished from Gilgit-Baltistan’, Dawn, April 28, 2010

MUZAFFARABAD: At least 11 nationalists were banished for three months from Gilgit-Baltistan on April 27 in a bid to forestall a protest demonstration they were planning to hold in the region. According to sources, the All Parties National Alliance (APNA) had planned to hold a public meeting in Garhi Bagh, Gilgit, to condemn the ‘Karachi Agreement’ of April 28, 1949, under which the administrative control of GB was handed over to the government of Pakistan. The police raided two hotels in Gilgit at about 3am on April 27 and took into custody seven nationalist leaders and activists belonging to AJK, whereas the rest were picked up from their residences in the town.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/local/islamabad/11-nationalists-banished-from-gilgitbaltistan-840>

Dr Shabir Choudhry, ‘Why Azad Kashmir Is Called Azad?’, Countercurrents.org, April 27, 2010

United Kashmir Peoples National Party arranged a seminar in London, titled: Challenges, options and role of Kashmiri Diaspora. The Seminar was attended by around 150 people from various walks of life; and addressed by many important leaders; prominent among them were pro independent Kashmiris, Pakistani leaders, Pakistani analysts, Baloch and Swiss leaders. The topic was important and all the speakers made valuable contribution to enrich the debate. The main complaint the people of Gilgit Baltistan have from the leadership of Azad Kashmir is that they left them at the mercy of the Pakistani agencies and bureaucrats who ruled the territory of Gilgit Baltistan with an iron fist; and denied people of their fundamental human rights. Because of lack of communication and people to people contact, distance between people of Gilgit Baltistan and rest of Jammu and Kashmir, especially Azad Kashmir widened and sense of belonging weakened.

<http://www.countercurrents.org/choudhry270410.htm>

‘Portfolios for GB cabinet members announced’, April 30, 2010

GILGIT: Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Mehdi Shah on April 26 announced portfolios for ministers in his

newly sworn-in cabinet. Senior minister Muhammad Jaffer has been given the portfolio of Agriculture and Fisheries, Wazir Shakil has been given the Ministries of Law, Planning, Water and Power, Muhammad Ali Akhtar has been given the charge of Finance, Revenue and Cooperatives, while Ali Madad Sher has been given the portfolio of Education, Social Welfare and Women Affairs. He will also be the spokesperson for the Chief Minister.

<http://gbtribune.blogspot.com/2010/04/portfolios-for-gilgit-baltistan.html>

Usman Manzoor ‘AJK SC challenges Pakistan SC in new row’, Kashmir Watch

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has put constitutional experts in a state of shock when it came at loggerheads with the Supreme Court of Pakistan over the unconstitutional appointment of the AJK chief justice. The incumbent Chief Justice of AJK, Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry, while heading a three-member bench on March 15, 2010, passed an order barring Prime Minister of Pakistan to pass any notification regarding Chief Justice of AJK. He also restrained Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department from issuing any fresh notification and the President of the AJK from administering oath to any judge for the office of the AJK CJ.

http://www.kashmirwatch.com/showajnk.php?subaction=showfull&id=1270210719&archive=&start_from=&ucat=18&var1news=value1news

‘Petition to be filed in SC against AJK SJC decision non-implementation’, April 29, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Taking notice that Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has been demonstrating no seriousness regarding the pending decision of the Azad Kashmir Supreme Judicial Council, petition against this will be filed in the Supreme Court of Pakistan. In this connection, a retired Pakistani judge, justice (Retd) Mujadid Mirza has prepared a writ petition to be filed. Earlier, AJK prime minister Raja Farooq Haider submitted a reference with the AJK President against the deposed chief justice Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry on April 3, alleging the later of overstepping his authority under clauses 42-E of the 1974 act.

<http://www.sananews.net/english/2010/04/29/petition-to-be-filed-in-sc-against-ajk-sjc-decision-non-implementation/>

Tariq Naqash, ‘AJK premier wants more aid for quake-hit areas’, Dawn, April 22, 2010

MUZAFFARABAD: AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider on April 21 praised the international community’s cooperation in rehabilitation and reconstruction in the earthquake-affected areas but sought more aid from it to accomplish the gigantic task. Prime Minister Haider was speaking at a function held to mark the completion of four-year Rise (Revitalising, Innovating and Strengthening Education) project in the earthquake stricken areas under the aegis of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/local/islamabad/ajk-premier-wants-more-aid-for-quakehit-areas-240>

‘AJK SC corrects historic wrong’, Pakistan Tribune, April 24, 2010

ISLAMABAD: The AJK Supreme Court has set the “historic wrong” committed by its deposed Chief Justice on April 23 when it dismissed a petition against the Supreme Court of Pakistan, declaring AJK a separate country. Because of this very petition, a reference against the AJK deposed CJ Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry was filed and proceedings were initiated against him in the Supreme Judicial Council where he was found guilty of blasphemy, subversion of the constitution and misconduct. The SJC has forwarded its recommendations of removal of AJK deposed CJ to the prime minister of Pakistan and approval of Gilani is still awaited which is binding on him. Sources say Gilani has been advised by three influential political gamers to violate the AJK constitution.

<http://paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?226807>

‘Gilgit Baltistan: PPP won polls, not hearts, General Secretary GBUM’, April 26, 2010

SKARDU: General Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan United Movement Ghulam Shahzad Agha stated Gilgit-Baltistan is at the cross-roads of its history with a number of crises hitting the region. He said whenever the PPP comes to power it staged a number of dramas in the region and the latest one of them was the introduction of the so-called empowerment package

2009 which has widely been rejected by the masses.

<http://skardu.blogspot.com/2010/04/gilgit-baltistanppp-won-polls-not.html>

‘Call for giving Baltistan due share in GB jobs’, Dawn, April 26, 2010

SKARDU: Lawyers have criticised the government for not giving Baltistan division due representation in judiciary and other departments of Gilgit-Baltistan. They sought share of Baltistan in judiciary and all departments according to its population. Baltistan chief court bar association president Shaukat Ali advocate, in a statement here, said the people of Baltistan had been totally ignored in filling posts in the Supreme Appellate Court, Chief Court, special judges in banking, customs, anti-terrorism, anti-narcotics, excise and taxation courts; no single position had been allocated to Baltistan for the posts of advocate general, additional advocate general, deputy advocate general and assistant advocate general.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/national/call-for-giving-baltistan-due-share-in-gb-jobs-640>

Ansar Abbasi, ‘Gilani being advised to violate AJK Constitution’, April 20, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani is being ill advised by his Kashmir Affairs minister and two important players of Azad Kashmir power politics to violate the AJK Constitution. The Constitution binds the prime minister of Pakistan, who is the chairman of the Kashmir Council, to approve the recommendations of the Supreme Judicial Council. Sources said AJK President Raja Zulqarnain, President of the ruling Muslim Conference Sardar Atiq Khan and the Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs Mian Manzoor Watto are trying to influence the prime minister of Pakistan to avoid approving the SJC recommendations to sack AJK deposed Chief Justice Justice Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry.

http://thenews.jang.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=235114

Tariq Naqash, 'PaK PM warns against unrest over CJ row', April 24, 2010

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Pakistan administered Kashmir, Raja Farooq Haider on April 24 made it clear that the recommendations of Supreme Judicial Council, calling for removal of the non-functional Chief Justice Reaz Akhtar Chaudhry, were binding on the chairman Azad Jammu Kashmir council (Prime Minister of Pakistan) which he should act upon immediately to avoid any unrest in PaK. "Some elements are conspiring to get the recommendations of SJC held in abeyance to create unrest in PaK and achieve political mileage out of it but I am hopeful that Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani will not let the nefarious designs of such elements succeed," he said while talking to delegations of lawyers from Hattian Bala and Neelum valley.

http://www.risingkashmir.com/?option=com_content&task=view&id=22779

'Singh says AJK is disputed, announces conference in Delhi', Kashmir Watch

SRINAGAR: Kashmir was not a disputed territory, Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) president Professor Bhim Singh stated. With reference to Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) Professor Bhim Singh stated that the issue is of 32,500 sq kilometers under 'occupation' of Pakistan and the area gifted to China was disputed. In this regard JKNPP is likely to hold week-long third intra Jammu and Kashmir conference titled heart-to-heart talk in New Delhi.

<http://www.kashmirwatch.com/story.php?storyid=127105&title=Singh-says-AJK-is-disputed&cat=8&news-deliv>

'AJK judicial crisis to have far-reaching implications', Pakistan Tribune, April 11, 2010

ISLAMABAD: The judicial and political polarisation emanating from a crisis in Azad Jammu and Kashmir – where two separate Supreme Courts and as many supreme judicial councils are operational – is likely to have far-reaching implications for the political nomenclature of the region. The crisis was sparked last week with the removal of AJK SC Chief Justice Riaz Akhtar and the filing of a reference against him with the Supreme Judicial Council by former acting president Shah Ghulam Qadir on AJK Prime Minister amicable solution appears unlikely, and some heads

would have to roll for normalcy to return.

<http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?226375>

Shabbir Ahmed Mir, 'PPP stalwart quits party, joins PML-N', The News, April 18, 2010

GILGIT: A veteran politician and a stalwart of the ruling Pakistan People's Party joined Pakistan Muslim League -Nawaz, accusing the PPP leadership of spreading sectarianism in this region wrecked by sectarianism in the past. "See just to strike a 'sectarian' balance in the region, undeserving people are being inducted through backdoors in key posts, ruining merit and encouraging sectarian differences," said Qalb-e-Ali, former president PPP of district Nagar, hinting at the recently appointed governor of GB, Dr Shamma Khalid and Jamil Ahmed, Deputy Speaker who lost the elections but elevated to the post of Deputy Speaker in the legislative assembly.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=234809

Hameed Shaheen, 'AJK judicial crisis: Reflection across LoC', Pakistan Observer, April 6, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Whatever happens in the liberated territory known constitutionally as Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) that naturally reflects intensely across the Line of Control. The recent top level judicial crisis raging in AJK is bound to leave an unwelcome impact across the Line of Control. It would have been more prudent and appreciable if the criticality of the matter was re-solved within AJK parameters. But that could not come by. The issue reached the threshold of the honorable Supreme Court in Islamabad. The issue apparently seems purely of administrative aspect. But the unfortunate aspect is that this far no factual clarification over it has ever come from the government of AJK. The law ministry in Muzaffarabad should have set the air right. In the absence of an authentic clarity, no one is sure who deserves what.

<http://pakobserver.net/201004/06/detailnews.asp?id=24349>

'Consensus developed to resolve AJK judicial issue as per Constitution', April 14, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) President Raja Zulqernain Khan, Prime Minister AJK

Raja Farooq Haider Khan and President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan held meeting at Aiwan-e-Sadr Kashmir House on April 13. In the course of the meeting, a consensus was developed to resolve the issues relating to Constitution and judiciary in a positive manner. According to the presidential spokesman, the one to one meeting between the president and the PM continued for some time and, later on, President Muslim Conference Sardar Attique Khan also joined it.

<http://www.sananews.net/english/2010/04/14/consensus-developed-to-resolve-ajk-judicial-issue-as-per-constitution%E2%80%99/>

‘Nawaz for SJC proceeding to solve AJK judicial crisis’, The Nation, April 13, 2010

LAHORE: PML(N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif sought Supreme Judicial Council proceedings on the Azad Jammu and Kashmir judicial crisis. PML (N) would not allow anyone to act illegally or unconstitutionally. The reference sent by the Prime Minister AJK is within his Constitutional powers and it is responsibility of the Council to sit hearing on the same and decide, Nawaz Sharif told former Prime Minister AJK and Central Leader of Muslim Conference Sardar Sikandar Hayat during telephonic conversation. Sardar Sikandar phoned Nawaz Sharif to thank him for supporting the AJK PM, Raja Farooq Haider on his principled stand and constitutional measure.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Lahore/13-Apr-2010/Nawaz-for-SJC-proceeding-to-solve-AJK-judicial-crisis>

‘Law affects daily lives of people: JKCHR writes to AJK SJC’, April 12, 2010

LONDON: Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (JKCHR) has taken cognizance of an allegation made by ex-Registrar of AJK High Court in his testimony in reference case pending before AJK Supreme Judicial Council and has conveyed its interest to be party in the case to the Chairman Supreme Judicial Council. Secretary General JKCHR Dr. Syed Nazir Gilani stated that People of State of Jammu and Kashmir are engaged in a Rights Movement and the people distributed under three administrations need to have judges in judicial robes, who are remarkably dedicated public servants and are profoundly decent human beings.

<http://www.sananews.net/english/2010/04/12/law-affects-daily-lives-of-people-jkchr-writes-to-ajk-sjc/>

‘Illegal steps in AJK will not be tolerated: Nawaz’, The News, April 13, 2010

LAHORE: PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif claimed that illegal and unconstitutional steps would not be tolerated in Azad Kashmir. Talking to former Azad Kashmir president and senior party leader, Sardar Sikandar Hayat on telephone, he noted the reference sent by Azad Kashmir prime minister to Judicial Council was a legal step and it was the responsibility of the Judicial Council to fulfil its constitutional obligations. Sardar Sikandar thanked Nawaz Sharif on adopting a principled stance and providing legal support to the Azad Kashmir PM.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=233990

Hameed Shaheen, ‘AJK scene portends: Attique settles on saddle’, Pakistan Observer

ISLAMABAD: Strange are the ways of politics. Stranger still are the outcomes of a crisis. Judicial crisis in AJK stands no exception. The region is sensitive from several vital and obvious angles. The noteworthy presence of international NGOs in AJK doing post-earthquake reconstruction operations is an equally important factor. Impressions, positive or negative, travel speedier than the brewing pace of a crisis in the crucible. Eyes within and without country’s borders are now focused on gathering decisiveness over capital Muzaffarabad. Two toughest choices have fallen in the way of (reunited) ruling Muslim Conference: save the system or face fresh polls.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=25079>

Roshan Mughal, ‘10,000 divided Kashmiris have reunited in 5 yrs’, The Nation, April 09, 2010

MUZAFFARABAD: Almost 10,000 divided Kashmiris have been reunited for the last five years due to Muzaffarabad-Srinagar Bus Service, official sources noted. “More than 10,000 divided Kashmiris have met each other though Muzaffarabad-Srinagar and Rawalakot - Poonch bus services since April 2005, which included 5,899 from Pakistan occupied Kashmir and 3,471 from Jammu Kashmir” as noted by Basharat Iqbal of Cross LoC Trade and Travel Authority. Total

number of 3,378 Kashmiris traveled to the other side by Muzaffarabad - Srinagar bus from Chakothei - Ori and 2,241 from Srinagar to Muzaffarabad, 2,269 from Rawalakot and 2,266 from Poonch to Rawalakot.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Regional/Islamabad/09-Apr-2010/10000-divided-Kashmiris-have-reunited-in-5-yrs>

Abdul Rashid Malik, 'AJK judicial-cum-political crisis', The Nation, April 9, 2010

MUZAFFARABAD: The judicial crisis has now turned into a political crisis, which erupted in Azad Kashmir, as newly appointed ad hoc Chief Justice Manzoorul Hassan Gillani is discharging his duties in a court in Muzaffarabad and dysfunctional Chief Justice Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry has set up his court in the Supreme Court, Mirpur office under the authority of Raja Zulqarnain, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir. On the other hand, the Supreme Judicial Council began hearing of the reference filed against Justice Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry by Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider. Both the President and the Prime Minister are sticking to their stance.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Islamabad/09-Apr-2010/AJK-judicialcumpolitical-crisis>

'Youth is real target of Western cultural invasion: AJK JI Amir', April 8, 2010

PESHAWAR: Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Amir Abdul Rashid Turabi stated the youth of Ummah was the real target of Western cultural invasion. He expressed these views while addressing a convention held by Jamiat Talba Arabia NWFP in Peshawar. He said that the conspiracy to snatch the Islamic identity from the youth by misguiding them was being hatched and the efforts to divide the Ummah in sects were being made. He said the US imperialists and Zionists were conspiring to snatch the Pakistani nuclear assets and Kashmir which was the lifeline of the country.

<http://www.sananews.net/english/2010/04/08/youth-is-real-target-of-western-cultural-invasion-ajk-ji-amir/>

'JKCHR wants Islamabad to be neutral in AJK judicial crisis', April 8, 2010

LONDON: Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights (JKCHR) urged Government of Pakistan to remain neutral in the judicial crisis of Pakistan administered Kashmir. Urging caution JKCHR Secretary General, Dr Syed Nazir Gilani in a statement issued in London said Islamabad had assumed trust duties under UNCIP Resolutions and had authored a 'constitutional discipline' for the people guaranteeing fundamental rights and providing a better government and administration of Pakistan administered Kashmir.

<http://www.sananews.net/english/2010/04/08/jkchr-wants-islamabad-to-be-neutral-in-ajk-judicial-crisis/>

Usman Manzoor, 'AJK judicial crisis escalates', Kashmir Watch

ISLAMABAD: The president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir had to face utter embarrassment when the Supreme Judicial Council of the AJK struck down his letter of restoring the deposed chief justice Supreme Court, who was made dysfunctional after a reference was filed against him by the acting president in the SJC. Meanwhile, AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider condemned the move of the AJK president, saying the president could not issue any notification or order of restoration of the CJ AJK SC without his advice and what the president had done was a grave violation of the Constitution.

http://www.kashmirwatch.com/showajnk.php?subaction=showfull&id=1270629494&archive=&start_from=&ucat=18&var1news=value1news

Dr Shabir Choudhry, 'AJK Judicial crises - real story', April 9, 2010

Chief Justice Choudhry Riaz Akhtar may not be the right person to be Chief Justice of Pakistani Administered Kashmir; he may be corrupt too, but is he the only public office holder who is alleged to be corrupt in AJK and in Pakistan? If he is corrupt and inappropriate for this post then the responsibility lies with those who appointed him. The present Muslim Conference government is after the Chief Justice Choudhry Riaz Akhtar, yet it was the Muslim Conference government which appointed him the

Chief Justice even though he was junior to Justice Manzoor Gilani.

<http://drshabirchoudhry.blogspot.com/2010/04/ajk-judicial-crises-real-story.html>

‘People of Gilgit Baltistan resist Pakistan’s militarization’, ANI, April 6, 2010

GILGIT: Gilgit Baltistan today is going through a phase where protests and rallies are rising by the day. From Diamer to Gizer, people are rising against Pakistan and its army. While some are raising their voice against military atrocities, some are rallying against the radicalization of the younger generation.

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/139/20100406/808/tnl-people-of-gilgit-baltistan-resist-pa.html>

‘Council a bridge between Gilgit – Baltistan and Pakistan, says Gilani’, Pamir Times, April 3, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on April 3 administered oath to the members of the first Gilgit Baltistan Council with a pledge to bring its people at par with other provinces of the country. “Our endeavour has always been to treat the people of Gilgit Baltistan at par with other provinces and areas of the country,” Prime Minister said while addressing the oath-taking ceremony in Islamabad. The Prime Minister said the government is also committed to inject an amount of Rs 15 billion in next five years for the rapid development of Gilgit Baltistan and to ensure its progress.

<http://pamirtimes.net/2010/04/03/council-a-bridge-between-gilgit-baltistan-and-pakistan-says-gilani/>

‘Center not to intervene in internal matters of AJK: Gilani’, April 5, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that the federal government will not interfere in the internal affairs of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). He made this assurance to AJK Prime Minister Raja Hyder Farooq, who called on Prime Minister Gilani at the Parliament House in Islamabad on April 5. Two leaders exchanged views about the ongoing row over Chief Justice of the AJK.

<http://www.geo.tv/4-5-2010/62409.htm>

Obaid Abrar Khan, ‘Autobiography of AJK’s former president launched’, April 6, 2010

RAWALPINDI: ‘Dastan-e-Hayat’, autobiography of former president of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Major General (r) Mohammad Hayat Khan was launched in Rawalpindi on April 5. AJK’s former President General (r) Sardar Muhammad Anwar Khan, former prime minister Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob and many other leaders were present on the occasion. While addressing the gathering Sardar Muhammad Yaqoob said that Major General (r) Mohammad Hayat Khan is his ideal and he has learnt how to serve the people from him.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=232838>

‘AJK JI for giving chance to AJK PM for constitutional overhauling’, April 5, 2010

RAWALPINDI: Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Amir Abdul Rashid Turabi on April 5 stated that the AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider should be given the chance for constitutional and institutional overhauling. Addressing a session of notables from various districts, he said the president along with other leaders should play their role in the restoration of merit adding the merit also in the judiciary should not be undermined. He said if the culture of castes, areas and tribes discrimination was accorded priority, on the whole the institutions would be destroyed.

<http://www.sananews.net/english/2010/04/05/ajk-ji-for-giving-chance-to-ajk-pm-for-constitutional-overhauling/>

‘PP-AJK decides to table no-confidence motion against Raja Farooq’

ISLAMABAD: PPP-AJK has decided to table no-confidence motion against AJK PM, Raja Farooq Haidar and treasury members have given green signal to PPP in this regard. According to sources, the leadership of the party convened an urgent meeting of the party and many important decisions are likely to be taken in the meeting. Sources told that ten ministers of AJK Government have announced to support PPP on tabling of no-confidence motion against AJK-PM and the motion is to be tabled in session of AJK Legislative Assembly in next few days.

<http://www.onlinenews.com.pk/details.php?id=161034>

‘Minister reluctant to obey President’s orders’, The Nation, April 6, 2010

MUZAFFARABAD: The AJK Law Ministry is reluctant to implement President Raja Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Zardari’s directives of withdrawing the reference against the dysfunctional Chief Justice Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry, which has been forwarded earlier by the acting president Shah Ghulam Qadir on the advice of Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider. Secretary Law Raja Abbas on April 5 said President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Zardari had issued an order to him stating that the reference was filed hurriedly in his absence by the acting president; therefore, it was being withdrawn and notification was being issued for the reinstatement of the deposed CJ.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/06-Apr-2010/Minister-reluctant-to-obey-Presidents-orders>

‘GB Balochistan victims of exploitation, says BNF chief’, Weekly Baang Karachi, April 5, 2010

BANGKOK: Chairman Balawaristan National Front (BNF) Abdul Hamid Khan stated though Gilgit-Baltistan and Balochistan do not share a common border and other interest, they were both victim of exploitation and time has come to get united to achieve the rights denied to their people for the last over six decades. This was stated in a press release. Mr Khan was speaking at a conference on Balochistan at Bangkok.

<http://weeklybaang.blogspot.com/2010/04/weekly-baang-karachi-volume-03-issue23.html>

‘Destroyer-in-chief of judiciary, even in AJK,’ The News, March 29, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Whether it is a coincidence or Pervez Musharraf had only one trusted man who could ruin the judiciary, is hard to decide. The ex-Director General Military Intelligence (MI), General Nadeem Ijaz, who pressed Chief Justice of Pakistan Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry to resign on March 9, 2007 during his illegal detention at the Army House, is also blamed for ruining the judiciary in Azad Jammu and Kashmir at the behest of the dictator. Senior advocate of AJK, Tabassum Sadiq, who had challenged the unconstitutional appointment of the AJK Chief Justice in the Supreme Court of Pakistan, said that it was strange that the then DG MI General Nadeem Ijaz got approved the

approved the notification of a judge who had only 20 days of service in the AJK Supreme Court, appointing him as its Chief Justice within one day.

<http://thenews.jang.com.pk/print3.asp?id=28053>

Usman Manzoor ‘AJK SC challenges Pakistan SC in new row’, Kashmir Watch

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has put constitutional experts in a state of shock when it came at loggerheads with the Supreme Court of Pakistan over the unconstitutional appointment of the AJK chief justice. The incumbent Chief Justice of AJK, Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry, while heading a three-member bench on March 15, 2010, passed an order barring Prime Minister of Pakistan to pass any notification regarding Chief Justice of AJK. He also restrained Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department from issuing any fresh notification and the President of the AJK from administering oath to any judge for the office of the AJK CJ.

http://www.kashmirwatch.com/showajnk.php?subaction=showfull&id=1270210719&archive=&start_from=&ucat=18&var1news=value1news

‘AJK SC chief justice deposed’, Daily Times, April 4, 2010

LAHORE/MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Supreme Court Chief Justice Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry was deposed from his office and Justice Manzoorul Hassan Gilani, a senior judge of the apex court, took oath as the acting CJ. Contingents of police were deployed around the Supreme Court building and its surroundings to avert any possible riots by lawyers.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C04%5C04%5Cstory_4-4-2010_pg1_2

‘SNGPL wants AJK govt’s help to expand network in Mirpur’, The News, April 4, 2010

MIRPUR: The state-run Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd. (SNGPL) has asked for financial assistance from the AJK government to expand its natural gas distribution network in Mirpur for domestic, commercial and industrial users, former chairman of Mirpur Development Authority stated. Chaudhary Muhammad Hanif, former Chairman, Mirpur Development a soft-

loan or financial assistance, the project can be implemented, said the former MD of Mirpur Development Authority. The work can be completed within a year if the funds are made available, he added.

http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=232428

‘Powers should be transferred to elected assemblies: AJK JI Amir’, April 4, 2010

SANA: Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Amir Abdul Rashid Turabi said that Act 74 was the collection of controversies and needed to be amended adding the powers should be transferred to elected assemblies. This he noted while addressing a press conference after laying the foundation stoner of a mosque in Baroian.

<http://www.sananews.net/english/2010/04/04/powers-should-be-transferred-to-elected-assemblies-ajk-ji-amir/>

‘Manzoor Gilani sworn in as CJ of AJK SC’, April 3, 2010

Senior judge Manzoorul Hassan Gilani has taken oath as chief justice of Supreme Court, Azad Jammu and Kashmir on April 3. The oath ceremony was held at Muzaffarabad presidency, where the acting President Riasat Shah Ghulam Qadir administered oath to Justice Gilani. The ceremony was attended by PM Raja Farooq, CJ High Court Ghulam Mustafa, a large number of lawyers and other dignitaries. Meanwhile, Law Minister Abdul Rasheed Abbasi has said that PM Gilani is bound to accept the proposals of the judicial council.

<http://www.hamsab.net/manzoor-gilani-sworn-in-as-cj-of-ajk-sc/>

‘AJK premier wants royalty of Diamir dam?’, Pamir Times, April 3, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Gilgit – Baltistan is a part of the state of Kashmir. We have stakes in the Diamir dam and we would not leave our rights. We are not against the rights of people of Gilgit – Baltistan but we have reservations against the governance structure introduced in the region. These controversial views were expressed by prime minister of AJK while talking to Attaullah Shahab and Syed Afzal of the Gilgit – Baltistan Council. Farooq also said that people of GilgitBaltistan have sacrificed a lot for the independence of Kashmir.

<http://pamirtimes.net/2010/04/03/ajk-premier-wants-royalty-of-diamir-dam/>

‘Shoot-to-kill’ orders in Gilgit to check target killings’, Pakistan Tribune, April 4, 2010

GILGIT: In the wake of recurring incidents of target killings in the town, authorities in Gilgit on Saturday issued “shoot-to-kill” orders to police against the miscreants disrupting peace in the recent past. “Police have now the standing orders of shoot-to-kill. No more incidents of violence will be tolerated,” said Asad Zamin, Deputy Commissioner Gilgit, while addressing a press conference here. Superintendent of Gilgit police Ali Sher was also present on the occasion. Two persons were killed and eight others wounded in separate incidents of target killings over the past four days in Gilgit and its surrounding areas, triggering a wave of fresh violence that haunted this region in the past too.

<http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?226134>

‘AJK president ‘restores’ deposed chief justice’, Daily Times, April 5, 2010

LAHORE: Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Raja Zulqarnain Khan reinstated deposed Supreme Court Chief Justice Riaz Akhtar Chaudhry after consulting legal experts, even while AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider termed the president’s decision unconstitutional. President Zulqarnain landed in Islamabad after cutting his UK visit short and met experts there. After the meeting, the president annulled the decision to sack Justice Riaz and directed that he be reinstated.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C04%5C05%5Cstory_5-4-2010_pg1_4

‘AJK PM, Farooq Naik discuss quake victims’ rehabilitation’, Pakistan Tribune, April 29, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Raja Faoq Haider called on Senate Chairman Farooq Naik at the Parliament House on April 28 to discuss the ongoing developmental projects for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the areas and victims affected in the 2005 earthquake. While speaking to the delegation headed by the AJK prime minister, Naik applauded the work of various

departments, agencies and international donors for the rehabilitation of earthquake victims, and termed their efforts “a great success story to be emulated by other nations afflicted by natural or man-made disasters”. Naik lauded AJK’s government and people for their great resolve and struggle. He also assured the PM of the continued support of the Pakistani people and the government in the rebuilding of AJK.

<http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?226999>

Economic Developments

Aftab Maken, 'Mismanagement, over-payment, non-recovery', The News, April 25, 2010

ISLAMABAD: The Gilgit-Baltistan Public Works Department suffered a loss of Rs 637 million due to mismanagement, contract mismanagement, losses, overpayment and non-recovery during the financial year 2008/09, an audit report revealed on April 24. Of the total audit observations, the report said that Rs306 million was lost due to mismanagement, Rs253 million due to contract mismanagement, Rs65 million non-recovery, Rs12 million as overpayments and Rs1 million under miscellaneous losses.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=235812>

'Cross-LoC trade picks momentum', Pakistan Observer

SRINAGAR: Picking up momentum the cross-LoC trade witnessed a huge trade with 200 truckloads of merchandise exchanging sides on Uri-Muzaffarabad route. Official sources at Trade Facilitation Centre Salamabad, Uri, stated that merchandise laden in 219 trucks was exchanged between two parts of Kashmir this week. "It is for the first time that goods weighing 16316 quintals and valuing Rs 10.5 crore were traded between two sides in a week. This is a record trade by every means," said Muhammad Ashraf Wani, custodian officer for the cross-LoC trade at TFC Salamabad and general manager DIC Varmul.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=24090>

Roshan Mughal, 'USAID concludes \$23m project in AJK', The Nation, April 23, 2010

MUZAFFARABAD: United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has completed projects of worth \$23 million in earthquake-affected areas of AJK. Revitalizing, Innovating and Strengthening Education (RISE) project was implemented under American Institute for Research (AIR) in Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Poonch districts of AJK and Mansehra district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to improve education system. In earthquake-stricken districts more than 10,000 primary, middle and high school teachers were trained to use student-centred and active learning methods in English mathematics and science and for which 65 learning resource centres were established and 2,300 communities were mobilised to support their schools. Apart from this, 139 education

managers and over 30 education management information system staffers significantly improved their skills in their respective areas under the RISE projects.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Regional/Karachi/23-Apr-2010/USAID-concludes-23m-project-in-AJK>

Ishfaq-ul-Hassan, 'Bye to barter, cross-LoC traders get phones', DNA, April 16, 2010

SRINAGAR: Leaving behind the acrimony over cross-border terror, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) government has, for the first time in 20 years, started a direct phone link with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to facilitate trade across Line of Control (LoC). Even 16 months after cross-LoC trade began, there was no proper communication system and banking facilities for cross-LoC traders. In the absence of these facilities, the trade currently runs on barter system. Cross-LoC trade began on October 21, 2008, from Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route following agitation by separatists over the economic blockade in Jammu during Amarnath land agitation. Later, another cross-LoC route from Chankan-da-Bagh on Poonch-Rawalkote Road was also opened.

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_bye-to-barter-cross-loc-traders-get-phones_1371902

'AJK power production plan evolved', Pakistan Observer

MIRPUR: To meet the increased energy demand, the AJK government had evolved an integrated plan to make the State self-sufficient in power production, official sources stated. The phased-plan involve utilization of huge available Hydel power generation resources in the State in collaboration with the private power sector, sources stated. AJK has the potential to generate over 5000 Mega Watt Hydel power and the government intends to use maximum of these resources to meet the need of a total 400 MW of electricity for the entire AJK territory. Sources further noted the AJK Hydel Power Board would be taking steps for implementation of the proposed plan soon.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=25349>

'Gilgit Baltistan wheat scam; Govt suffers losses of Rs 2.6 billion', April 10, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Contractors in the Directorate of

Civil Supplies and Transport of Gilgit have caused a damage of over Rs 2.6 billion to the Government of Pakistan while transporting wheat from Islamabad to Gilgit-Baltistan in the last three years, as reported in a national newspaper. The Audit and Inspection Report on the Accounts of Directorate Civil Supplies and Transport, Gilgit Baltistan for the year 2006 to 2009 states the directorate incurred loss of Rs 2,595,347,026 to the national exchequer due to less recovery of sale price.

<http://gbtribune.blogspot.com/2010/04/gilgit-baltistan-wheat-scam-govt-suffers.html>

**‘AJK govt demands development funds’,
Pakistan Tribune, April 2, 2010**

LAHORE: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) faces a severe financial crunch and Pakistan government should immediately release the promised-funds to ensure that development work continues in this backward region, said AJK's Minister for Information Sardar Farooq. Addressing members of the Lahore Economic Journalists' Association on March 31, Farooq said President Asif Ali Zardari had pledged that despite financial constraints, there would be no cut in AJK development budget. But the Finance Ministry has slashed AJK development budget by 45 per cent in line with the cuts made in the overall development program, he noted.

<http://www.paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?226101>

Usman Manzoor, ‘Govt suffers Rs 2.6 billion losses in Gilgit wheat scam’, The News, April 9, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Contractors in the Directorate of Civil Supplies and Transport of Gilgit have caused a damage of over Rs 2.6 billion to the Government of Pakistan while transporting wheat from Islamabad to Gilgit-Baltistan in the last three years. The Audit and Inspection Report on the Accounts of Directorate Civil Supplies and Transport, Northern Areas, Gilgit (Now Gilgit Baltistan) for the year 2006 to 2009 shows that the directorate, which was working under the Kashmir and Northern Areas Division, has caused a loss of Rs 2,595,347,026 to the national exchequer.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/print1.asp?id=233407>

Gilani announces Rs15 billion grant for Gilgit-Baltistan’, April 4, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said on April 3 that the government has decided to inject Rs15 billion over the next five years for the rapid development of Gilgit-Baltistan. Addressing the oath-taking ceremony of members of Gilgit-Baltistan Council in Islamabad, he said that Gilgit-Baltistan will be treated at par with the other provinces. He said that the credit goes to the present government for granting maximum political and financial autonomy to the area.

<http://www.rasoulnews.com/news/Details.asp?index=9850>

‘Gilani announces Rs15 billion grant for Gilgit-Baltistan’, Dawn, April 3, 2010

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani said on April 3 that the government has decided to inject Rs15 billion over the next five years for the rapid development of Gilgit-Baltistan. Addressing the oath-taking ceremony of members of Gilgit-Baltistan Council in Islamabad, he said that Gilgit-Baltistan will be treated at par with the other provinces. He said that the credit goes to the present government for granting maximum political and financial autonomy to the area. Gilani expressed confidence in the Gilgit-Baltistan council, which will play an important role in the better governance of area. He said the council has been assigned 54 subjects for legislation, which include all important areas of governance.

<http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/news/pakistan/provinces/03-gilani-announces-rs15-billion-grant-for-gilgit-baltistan-ss-12>

International Developments

Nadeem Aslam, ‘The proposed change of status of Pakistan Occupied Gilgit Baltistan’, April 9, 2010 (7th April 2010 in a meeting at British House of Lord London)

The proposed change of status of Pakistan Occupied Gilgit Baltistan and the wider implications for the region and internationally

I would like to thank Baroness Emma Nicholson for providing me with the opportunity to elaborate on the De-facto annexation of Gilgit Baltistan done by the government of Pakistan on 29 August 2009, via Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order 2009’ which replaced the earlier ‘Northern Areas’ Legal Framework Order 1994’.

On 29 August 2009, via ‘Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order 2009’, the government of Pakistan unilaterally annexed Pakistan occupied Gilgit Baltistan (POGB) as its de-facto fifth province. Pakistan has withdrawn from her international and regional, obligations which she made to comply with the free will of the people of the Pakistan occupied (POK) areas and for the regional peace and security. Gilgit-Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order 2009 only proved by the federal cabinet of government of Pakistan and announced by the by the Prime minister and signed by the president of Pakistan as a final authority.

http://www.australia.to/2010/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2060:the-proposed-change-of-status-of-pakistan-occupied-gilgit-baltistan&catid=52:world&Itemid=166

‘Packages not substitute for freedom, BNF chief’, Weekly Baang Karachi, April 13-19, 2010

LONDON: Pakistan is continuously hoodwinking the people of Gilgit-Baltistan and the world by maintaining a facade of democratic rule in the region since 1969. This drama started by military ruler General Yahya and continued during the civilian rule of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto after 1971 only to be followed by another fraud termed LFO/Rules of business in 1994. The local representative body called Northern Areas Legislative Council (NALC) was again renamed under the Legal Framework Order of 1994 which also gave the same old powers to the minister KANA but nothing to the local chief executive. These views were expressed

by Abdul Hamid Khan, the Chairman of the Balawaristan National Front (BNF), during a debate in the House of Lords London on April 7. The BNF leader said Pakistan had widely propagated for the recent 5th package and its fraudulent elections 2009 to the so-called Legislative Assembly and Council of Gilgit Baltistan. He said in February this year Pakistani forces killed three innocent demonstrators in Chilas and injured dozens when they demonstrated against the forcible eviction of their land to construct Diamar Bhasha Dam.

http://weeklybaang.blogspot.com/2010/04/weekly-baang-karachi-volume-03-issue-07_11.html

‘Gilgit-Baltistan debate in London shows resentment among local leaders’, ANI, April 8, 2010

LONDON: A debate on Gilgit-Baltistan, Chaired by the Baroness of Winterburne, Emma Nicholson, in a Committee room of the British House of Lords, on Wednesday reflected resentment of the local leaders over the way Pakistan is dealing with them. Various leaders of the Kashmiri nationalist parties participated in the debate and lamented the unjust electoral procedures adopted in Gilgit-Baltistan. “For the last 63 years, no single person has given any statement that we are happy with what Pakistan is doing with us, no. Even Jamat-e- Islami did not agree with what Pakistan is doing there, Jamaat- ula -Islami, any party. That is the situation of our area, that people don’t have any representation, said Abdul Hamid Khan, the Chairman of the Balawaristan National Front, who has been in exile in Brussels.

<http://news.oneindia.in/2010/04/08/gilgitbaltistan-debate-in-london-shows-resentment-amongl.html>

Other Developments

‘Hunza Fear of Gilgit Inundation Rise with Water Level in Lake’, Pakistan News, April 28, 2010

The water-level continues to rise in an artificial lake created due to a massive landslide in a remote part of Gilgit-Baltistan, raising fears of flashfloods in downstream villages. The landslide had blocked the Hunza River at the Attabad area, forming an artificial lake that is submerging upstream villages as it swells. If the lake breaks its banks, flashfloods could inundate downstream villages, disconnecting Gilgit from the rest of the country besides cutting the water supply from Tarbela Dam to the rest of the country. The artificial lake is over 13kms long and around 80m deep. Official sources noted that the water-level in the lake was rising more than 2.5 feet a day.

<http://www.apakistannews.com/hunza-fear-of-gilgit-inundation-rise-with-water-level-in-lake-179640>

‘AJK wheat production raise plan’, Pakistan Observer

MIRPUR: An integrated plan had been kicked off to raise wheat production in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK), official sources stated. Sources further stated that about 46 metric ton high quality seeds had already been supplied to the farmers across AJK in this regard. In past the farmers have to face a lot of problems due to unavailability of approved wheat seeds in time, resulting in delay of wheat production in most areas of the State. “This problem has been resolved permanently this year after the State Agriculture department has timely disbursed 26 metric tons of high quality Barani wheat seed,” the sources noted.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=27953>

‘Tourism promotion top priority: AJK PM’, The Nation, April 23, 2010

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Raja Farooq Haider has said that the promotion of tourism in the region is top priority of his government and it will extend all-out cooperation to private sector in this regard, as stated in a press release issued in Muzaffarabad. He expressed these views on the occasion of signing a ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the AJK govt and Pearl Tours and Travels (Hashoo Group) for combined efforts to promote tourism in the region.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Business/23-Apr-2010/Tourism-promotion-top-priority-AJK-PM>

(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

‘Poor health facilities exacerbate Gilgit Baltistan situation’, April 13, 2010

GILGIT: The people in Gilgit Baltistan, the northern most part of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, are facing severe health problems due to lack of basic facilities, especially in the far flung areas of the mountainous region. Outwardly, the region ranks among the most beautiful places in the world, but beneath it is an expanse of the most enduring oppression and despair.

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/139/20100413/364/twl-poor-health-facilities-exacerbate-gi.html>

‘Wapda to launch lining of Rohri, Dadu, Rice canals’, The Nations, April 15, 2010

MIRPUR: In addition to developing water storage capacity in Pakistan, WAPDA is also working for rehabilitation of the existing irrigation network by launching a project for lining three main canals including Rohri, Dadu and Rice canals in Sindh. This was disclosed by WAPDA Chairman Shakil Durrani while presiding over a briefing wherein a German firm Messers Huesker made a presentation on canal lining to the Authority in Mirpur at WAPDA House on April 14. Member (Water) Syed Raghieb Abbas Shah, WAPDA Secretary Imtiaz Tajwar and some officers were also present.

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Business/15-Apr-2010/Wapda-to-launch-lining-of-Rohri-Dadu-Rice-canals>

‘AJK govt kicks off health plan’, Pakistan Observer

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) government kicked off an integrated plan to establish private Medical and Dental colleges as well as state-run hospitals in different parts of the state including remote and far flung areas, official sources stated. Sources further noted a private Medical college has been established in Mirpur which has started functioning, while another private Medical college would be constructed at Bhimbher. The involvement of the private sector to enhance education sector of AJK would open new vistas for extending quality education in medical and dental faculties in remote areas of the state.

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=23017>

‘PIA to promote tourism in GB’, Daily Times, April 9, 2010

KARACHI: Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Mehdi Shah visited the PIA Head Office to discuss airline affairs and tourism prospects for his province on April 8. According to a press release, a meeting was held at the airline’s head office attended by senior officials where Shah offered his full support to PIA for promoting tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan. PIA HR and Administration Director Haneef Pathan while concurring with the chief minister offered his organisation’s full support for promotion of tourism.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C04%5C09%5Cstory_9-4-2010_pg12_6

Pakistan Occupied Kashmir-An Overview

Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoK): An Overview

Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoK) is constitutionally an integral part of the Indian Union and remains under Pakistani occupation since 1947¹, when Pakistan's Army engineered a tribal invasion and took control of more than 114,500 square kilometers of J&K. Pakistan declared its occupied part as 'Azad' or free and conferred to J&K Muslim Conference, a pro-Pakistani local political party, to constitute its first titular government.

Subsequent to occupation, Pakistan embarked on the agenda of usurping J&K. First to be annexed was Gilgit-Baltistan, which went under the direct control of Pakistan in 1949, as the leaders of AJK Muslim Conference were forced to hand over these regions of J&K through the 'Karachi Agreement'. Likewise, Shinaki Kohistan and Chitral, which constituted parts of Jammu & Kashmir before its partition in 1947, were also annexed and merged into the NWFP of Pakistan in 1955 and 1970 respectively. Later, when Pakistan and China agreed to demarcate 'international border' in 1963, Pakistan provisionally ceded 19,313 sq. kilometers of trans-Karakoram track of J&K including the segment of Baltistan known as 'Shaksgam' and part of Gilgit called 'Raskam' to China.²

Salient features of PoK are as under:

Total Area of PoK (under the current form): 85,793 sq. kilometer

Administrative Divisions: Two, namely Mirpur-Muzaffarabad (referred to as Azad Jammu & Kashmir or AJK by Pakistan) and Federally Administered Gilgit-Baltistan (FAGB).

Area ceded to China by Pakistan: 19,313 sq. kilometer

Area of Chitral: 14,850 sq. kilometer

Area of Shinaki-Kohistan: 5,398 sq. kilometer

AZAD JAMMU & KASHMIR (AJK)

The Muzaffarabad district of Kashmir province, Mirpur and parts of Poonch districts of Jammu

province have been under Pakistan's control since the tribal invasion of 1947. Pakistan amalgamated these districts together and created the so-called AJK. AJK is the south-western political entity of the former princely state of Jammu & Kashmir. It borders the present-day Kashmir province to the east, Jammu province to south-east (both separated from it by the Line of Control), the North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan (NWFP) to the west, the Federally Administered Gilgit-Baltistan Region (FAGB) of J&K to the north, and the Punjab Province of Pakistan to the south. AJK is envisaged as an autonomous region by Pakistan. The government of AJK is considered as a parallel government, which was established to challenge the legitimacy of the J&K government in Srinagar. Despite the fact that AJK is neither a country nor a province of Pakistan, it has its own President, Prime Minister, High and Supreme Courts, Penal Code, national anthem and a flag. These structures and the designations are only titular in nature and real authority lies with the federal government of Pakistan. Significant matters such as defence, tax revenues, supposed 'foreign policy', rehabilitation of refugees and the financial control have been carefully placed under the discretion of the political establishment of Pakistan.

Currently, the parts of Kashmir province under PoK is divided into three districts of Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Neelum, while the parts of Jammu province under PoK is divided into five districts namely Poonch/Rawalakot, Sudhnati/Pallandari, Bhimber, Kotli and Mirpur.

Area of AJK: 13,297 square km

Population: 2.973 million (1998 population census), Male, 1.850 million; Female, 1.832 million

Capital: Muzaffarabad

Kashmir (Muzaffarabad Division) comprises of 3 districts: Bagh, Muzaffarabad and Neelum

Jammu (Mirpur Division) comprising of 5 districts: Bhimber, Kotli, Mirpur, Sudhnati/Pallandari and Rawalakot/Poonch

President: Raja Zulqarnain Khan

Prime Minister: Raja Farooq Haider Khan

Political Structure

AJK Council: Total 12 members, selected by Prime Minister of Pakistan, six each representing governments of AJK and Pakistan. The AJK Council is headed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

AJK Legislative Assembly: Total seats are 49, of which 29 are directly elected from the AJK, 11 are elected from various districts of Pakistan under the provision for the 'Kashmiri refugees', whereas 8 seats are reserved for females, overseas Kashmiris and the technocrats.

Judicial System: AJK has its own High and Supreme Courts, which are assisted by district session and magistrate courts. Further, AJK has its own Bar Council and Penal Code. However, approval of chief justices for High and Supreme Courts comes from Pakistani-dominated AJK Council. In addition, Pakistan's military tribunals also function in AJK. The Chief Secretary, regional commissioners, and Inspector General of Police are also appointed by Pakistani minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan (KAGB), previously known as Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas (KANA).

Ethnic Groups: Gujjars, Jats, Mughal, Rajputs, Sudhan, Awan, Qureshi, Pashtuns, Shins, Ladakhi, Baltis etc.

Religious Groups: Sunni, Ahlehadith, Shia, Nurbakhshi, Christians, Qadianis, Hindus

Languages: Punjabi, Hindko, Pahari, Kashmiri, Balti, Puriki, Shina

Political Groups: United Jammu and Kashmir Peoples' National Party, AJK Muslim Conference, International Kashmir Alliance, JK National Party, Jammu & Kashmir Liberation Front (Amanullah), Peoples United Action Committee, All Parties National Alliance (APNA)

Federally Administered Gilgit-Baltistan (FAGB)

Gilgit-Baltistan was previously referred to by Pakistan as the Federally Administered Northern Areas (FANA). It is the northernmost political entity within the Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoK) and is under direct control of the Islamabad government.

The area, after separation of Chitral and Shinaki Kohistan, is still five and half times bigger than AJK. It borders Ladakh and Tibet to its east; East-Turkestan to its north; Afghanistan and Tajikistan to its north-west; Chitral to its west; Dir, Swat, Kohistan and Kaghan districts of NWFP to its south while AJK and the Kashmir Valley lie to its south-east. Before 1947, Baltistan was part of Ladakh region and ruled through the Jammu provincial government, while Gilgit was ruled under the authority of Kashmir province. When Pakistan occupied these regions, they were amalgamated under the garb of so-called 'Northern Areas' and thereby received the status of federally controlled region in 1974. However, the status of Gilgit-Baltistan is left undefined in the successive constitutions of Pakistan. Pakistan accepts Gilgit-Baltistan as part of the Princely State of Jammu & Kashmir, however, does not consider it as part of AJK. Due to a direct control imposed from Islamabad, the locals still await constitutional and judicial rights. For instance, they lack representation in the Pakistani Parliament, Council of Common Interests (CCI), Hydro-electric Board and National Finance Commission (NFC). Further, they cannot access the provincial high courts and the Supreme Court of Pakistan for justice. The Judicial Commissioner exercises judicial powers in Gilgit-Baltistan who is a political figure nominated by the Minister for KAGB.

After occupation of Gilgit-Baltistan in 1949, Pakistan administered the region under the draconian and inhumane Frontier Crimes Regulation (FCR) for around 20 years.³ PM Z.A. Bhutto of Pakistan abolished FCR in 1974 and introduced an ad-hoc presidential ordinance to govern the region. Since then, Gilgit-Baltistan has been ruled by presidential ordinances, which have come under repeated amendments. In 1994, PM Benazir Bhutto promulgated Northern Areas Governance Order which was later renamed as Legal Framework Order (LFO) by President Musharraf in 2007.⁴ In essence, they all remained as ad-hoc ordinances without any constitutional cover.⁵ As pressure from both local and international political and human rights organizations increased with demands of genuine political and judicial rights for the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan announced the so-called 'Gilgit-Baltistan

Empowerment and Self-Governance Order' on October 26, 2009.⁶ Unfortunately, this order is yet another presidential ordinance with no parliamentary backing, and replaces the current LFO with some amendments.⁷ The term 'self governance' is coined as a strategic move to defuse pressure of the international organizations, which promises to introduce administrative, political, economic and judicial reforms in Gilgit-Baltistan. Although the ordinance is claimed as a replica of the AJK political and judicial system; it refuses the post of president, prime minister to the locals and establishment of penal code, and High and Supreme Courts.

According to the order, Northern Areas will be called Gilgit-Baltistan and the current Northern Areas Legislative Assembly (NALA) will be replaced by Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly (GBLA), which will have the right to legislate and choose a chief minister. Further, Pakistan will replace the existing Chairman of NALA with a governor to ensure federal government's control over the region. Gilgit-Baltistan would also have its own public service commission, a chief election commissioner, an auditor general, and a boundary commission to settle boundary dispute between Pakistan and J&K. The legislative assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan would have a total of 33 members, including six reserved seats for women and three for technocrats. Further, similar to AJK Council, Gilgit-Baltistan Council will be constituted to ensure representation of federal government in the region. The council will enjoy legislative powers over 60 odd subjects. It will have 15 members which shall be presided over by the prime minister of Pakistan. While the Assembly is given the powers to propose the budget, approving authority will be ministry of KAGB in Islamabad. Compared to the provinces of Pakistan, where the chief minister is the supreme authority, the newly proclaimed order rests all administrative, political and judicial authority with the Pakistani governor which will eventually make the assembly a toothless tiger. Governor will be the executive authority and custodian of tax and revenues. He will administer Gilgit-Baltistan council on behalf of the prime minister of Pakistan, and oversee public service commission, election commission, boundary commission, judiciary, and auditor general's office.

He will be the authority to appoint heads of public service commission, election commission, boundary commission, commissioner of excise and taxation, chief judge of appellate court, auditor general, regional cabinet members and advisors. He will have the right to approve the budget, and dissolve the assembly and impose emergency under prescribed conditions. Further, the Inspector General of Police, Chief Secretary and all departmental secretaries, directors of departments, and commissioner and deputy commissioners of districts will be appointed by the governor. Likewise, it will not be the Assembly but the Council under the governor, which will legislate on natural resources of Gilgit-Baltistan, including minerals, forests, electricity and water storage, industries, school curricula, tourism, cinematography etc.

Salient Features of FAGB are as under:

Area of FAGB: 72,496 sq. kilometer

Population: 870,347 (1998 population census)

Capital: Gilgit

Districts: seven

Baltistan Region (part of Ladakh) is divided into Ganche and Skardu districts

Gilgit Region is divided into Astore, Diamer, Ghizer, Hunza-Nagar and Gilgit districts

Ethnic Groups: Shin, Balti, Puriki, Ladakhi, Wakhi, Yashkun, Tibetan, Mongol, Tatar, Mon, Pashtun, Khowar, Dom, Gujjar, Rajput and Kashmiri

Religious Groups: Shia (Twelvers), Nurbakhshi (Twelvers), Ismaili, Sunni, and Ahlehadith

Languages: Shina, Balti, Wakhi, Khowar, Gujjari, Burushaski, Puriki, Kashmiri, Pashto

Political Structure: In July 2009, NALA was dissolved before it could complete its 5-years term, and along with that, advisors to the Chairman including the Chief Executive were also sacked. Subsequently, election for GBLA was held on November 12, 2009 under the newly proclaimed self-governance and empowerment order. Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the ruling party of Pakistan, won two-third majority in GBLA and formed government.

Gilgit-Baltistan Council: Total 15 members, selected by Prime Minister of Pakistan; 7 representing government of Gilgit-Baltistan and 8 representing government of Pakistan. The Gilgit-Baltistan Council is headed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Further, Chief Minister, Governor, Minister for KAGB and Prime Minister of Pakistan are voting members of GBC.

Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Council: GBLA has 24 directly elected members while 6 female and 3 technocrats come through selection.

Governor of G-B: Dr Shama Khalid

Chief Minister G-B: Syed Mehdi Shah of Skardu district.

Political Groups: Balwaristan National Front (BNF), Gilgit-Baltistan Thinkers Forum, Gilgit-Baltistan United Movement (GBUM), Baltistan National Movement, Karakoram National Movement, Gilgit Baltistan Democratic Alliance (GBDA), Gilgit Baltistan National Alliance (GBNA), All Parties National Alliance (APNA)

Judicial Structure: Instead of High and Supreme Courts, Gilgit-Baltistan will have an appellate court which will be headed by the chief judge. The chief judge, as well the session and district judges will be appointed by the Pakistani prime minister. In addition to the appellate court, there will be a chief court in Gilgit. The number of judges has been increased from three to five. In addition, Pakistan's military tribunals will continue to function in Gilgit-Baltistan.

Literacy rate: 15% male; 3.5% female (World Bank estimates of 1997)

Per Capita Income: PCI of Gilgit-Baltistan is around one-fourth of Pakistan's average (US\$264 compared to Pakistan's US\$ 1,071).⁸

State of Infrastructure: More than two-thirds of the villages lack potable water, electricity, telephone, health units, girls' schools, paved roads, ration depot, and pony tracks.

Endnotes

¹ Baltistan was occupied by Pakistan a year later in 1948

² <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2754976?seq=7>

³ <http://www.globalsecurity.org/intell/world/pakistan/law.htm>

⁴ <http://ips-pk.org/content/view/234/259/>

⁵ <http://www.kashmirnewz.com/a0012.html>

⁶ <http://www.dawn.com/wps/wcm/connect/dawn-content-library/dawn/the-newspaper/national/gilgitbaltistan-package-termed-an-eyewash-089>

⁷ <http://www.kashmirnewz.com/a0012.html>

⁸ AKRSP Socio-economic Survey of Northern Areas and Chitral (SESNAC) 2005; http://www.finance.gov.pk/finance_blog/?p=238; <http://finance.kalpoint.com/pdf/highlights/todays-pick/per-capita-income-falls-to-1071.pdf>

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; Email: lbscidsa@gmail.com

