

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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26th
amendment POK
Naltar transitional
Phase II province
Youth
Entrepreneurship
Scheme development
Regional Grid Projects
Tourism



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

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Political Developments

Indian expansionist designs are a jeopardy to regional peace: AJK PM Comments after Pakistan Foreign Office Dossier to UN

The News International, September 15, 2021

Prime Minister (PM) of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, said that “Indian expansionist designs” in Kashmir have jeopardized the peace of the South Asian region. ‘AJK’ PM urged the United Nations (UN), and the international community to take notice of the Indian atrocities and help Kashmiris to achieve their fundamental right to self-determination. While appreciating Pakistan’s role in highlighting Indian atrocities in Kashmir, he said that Pakistan’s foreign office dossier comprising 131 pages has apprised the international community about Indian violent designs and the grave human rights situation in the ‘Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ (IIOJ&K).

‘AJK’ PM further opined that the Indian forces’ have converted the occupied Kashmir into an army cantonment, where the civil, political, and human rights of the people have been abrogated. He stressed that the “genocidal actions” by the Indian forces violate UN Security Council resolutions, international laws, and humanitarian laws. Pakistan has effectively projected the Kashmir issue in its true perspective at the international level and has exposed the

Indian forces atrocities and her illegal and immoral actions of 5th of August 2019 that were aimed at changing the demography of the state to fulfill its nefarious designs. He also noted that the Hurriyat leaders are being tortured in jail and youth are being killed daily to crush the freedom movement and their fundamental right to self-determination. ‘AJK’ PM urged the UN and civilized nations of the world to play their leading role in resolving the prolonged Kashmir dispute for establishing lasting peace in the region.

He said the provision of health, education, and dispensation of justice is the top priority of his administration and the present government under the leadership of the PM of Pakistan Imran Khan will utilize all its resources for the promotion of education and provisions of health facilities to the people. He announced the establishment of an Information Technology (IT) university campus, postgraduate college, and municipal Committee at Abbaspur town near Line of Control (LoC).

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/892533-indian-expansionist-designs-jeopardising-peace-ajk-pm>

Chairman of Pakistan Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir to meet US Congress members and non-governmental organizations

Daily Parliament Times, September 16, 2021

Chairman of the Pakistan Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Shehryar Khan Afridi meets with the members of overseas Pakistanis Global

Foundation and officials of the Pakistani embassy in the United States (US). In addition to his address to the overseas Pakistanis' annual convention, the chairman of the parliamentary committee on Kashmir will also meet the members of the US Congress, think tanks, human rights, and other non-governmental organizations.

The purpose of his meeting with the US officials on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) meeting is to highlight the war crimes and atrocities being committed by the "illegal occupational Hindutva regime" in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He will also raise the Indian government's brutal plan of demographic and ethnic changes and targeting of Kashmiri leaders and journalists in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) by the Modi government.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/09/16/shehryar-to-meet-us-congress-members-and-non-governmental-organizations/>

Chairman of JKSM welcomes Pakistan Dossier on Human Right abuses in IIOJK

The Nation, September 17, 2021

Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), Altaf Ahmed Bhat, welcomed Pakistan's dossier exposing grave human rights violations in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

The Chairman of JKSM further said that Pakistan has supported the Kashmir cause and by exposing Indian brutalities and grave human rights

violations perpetrated by the Modi government before the world, Islamabad has once again proved the Indian government authoritarian designs and hegemony in South Asia. While highlighting the alarming figures of human rights violations in IIOJK since 1989 he noted that Indian forces have been involved in 95,861 killings, 7,190 custodial killings, 162,137 civilian arrests, making 22,932 widows, 107,834 orphans, 11,245 rapes/molestations, and at least 110,432 structures destroyed. Chairman JKSM demanded the release of Hurriyat leaders including Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Masarrat Aalam Butt, Aasiya Andrabi, Dr. Abdul Hameed Fayyaz, Nayeem Ahmed Khan, among others, who are languishing in jails for years.

Expressing serious concerns over the Human rights violations, Bhat said that the United Nations (UN), United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and all other regional organizations should put pressure on India to demilitarize IIOJK and start the process of the plebiscite as agreed upon at UN.

<https://nation.com.pk/17-Sep-2021/jksm-welcomes-pak-dossier-on-hr-abuses-in-iiojk>

'Resolution of Kashmir issue vital for regional peace:' Governor Punjab

The Nation, September 17, 2021

Punjab Governor, Chaudhry Mohammad Sarwar, during an address to a seminar held in memory of Kashmiri Hurriyat leader Syed Ali

Geelani at Government College University (GCU), Lahore, said that Pakistan will continue to extend moral, diplomatic, and political support to Kashmiris and stressed that the resolution of Kashmir issue is vital for peace in the region. He further said that late Syed Ali Geelani always acknowledged Pakistan's support for Kashmiris' right to self-determination and no Kashmiri could forget his historical words: "We are Pakistanis, Pakistan is ours".

He said that ever since Indian Prime Minister Modi has come to power, violence against Indian Muslims and Kashmiris have mounted. He also highlighted that the Indian government has registered cases against the family of late Syed Ali Geelani which is shameful, and further added that the time is not far when Kashmir would be liberated. Vice-Chancellor of GCU, Prof Syed Asghar Zaidi, while expressing his views said that role of the Indian government on the sad demise of the late Syed Ali Geelani till his burial was utterly barbaric. Grandson of late Syed Ali Geelani, Syed Mujahid Ali Geelani, and others were also present on the occasion.

<https://nation.com.pk/17-Sep-2021/ch-sarwar-says-resolution-of-kashmir-issue-vital-for-regional-peace>

'AJK' PM meets Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs: Urges the international community to play a role in Resolving Kashmir Dispute

Radio Pakistan, September 19, 2021

Prime Minister of 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi,

met with the federal minister for Kashmir Affairs, Ali Amin Gandapur, in Islamabad. While appreciating Prime Minister (PM), Imran Khan for his role in projecting the Kashmir issue at the International level effectively, both the leaders have urged the international community to play their role in resolving the long standing Kashmir dispute for establishing lasting and durable peace in the region.

'AJK' PM discussed the development of 'Azad' Kashmir and said that his government is taking revolutionary steps for the welfare of the people of the state under the vision of PM Imran Khan. The Minister for Kashmir Affairs assured that the federal government would extend every possible financial assistance to the 'AJK' government to implement its development projects.

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/19-09-2021/ajk-pm-urges-intl-community-to-play-role-for-resolving-kashmir-dispute>

Economic Developments

'AJK' government has handed over Deyaar Resorts to MTBC

Daily Parliament Times, September 15, 2021

The government of 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) has handed over Deyaar Resorts to Medical Transcription Billing Corporation (MTBC), under Public-Private Partnership (PPP). Special Assistant to Prime Minister (PM), of 'AJK' on Information Technology, Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal, Secretary Information and Information Technology (IT), Midhat

Shehzad, and Director General Information Technology Board, Dr. Khalid Rafiq visited the site of MTBC's led project Deyaar Resorts. During the visit, it was noted that MTBC is not only actively providing employment opportunities to youths in different regions of 'AJK' but also generating revenue for the government.

The special assistant to 'AJK' PM said that the government of 'AJK' will promote the public-private partnership for the progress of tourism and other sectors of the state. He stressed that facilitating the tourists' spots is vital and the government is taking further steps to increase the income. He emphasized that IT has rich potential in 'AJK' and the government will fully cooperate with MTBC in the IT sector.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/09/15/deyaar-resorts-under-mtbc-partnership-continues-revenue-production/>

Governor of GB meets Pakistan's President: Discussions on additional grants, health, and tourism

Dailyk2, September 16, 2021

Governor of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Raja Jalal Hussain Maqpoon, met the President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi. In addition to the discussions related to ongoing construction and development activities in GB, the President of Pakistan also assured the Governor of GB that additional grants would be provided for the up-gradation of Karakoram International University (KIU) and Baltistan University campuses. The President also stressed that all the recruitment and appointments to the KIU would be

made and all resources would be utilized for the provision of quality education. While appreciating the steps taken by the GB government to control the spread of the Coronavirus, the President of Pakistan said that the federal government will support further improvements in the health sector of GB.

The President emphasized that the federal government is taking steps to further improve the tourism sector in GB and noted that, despite Covid-19, the number of tourists in GB have increased this year, to a record number. Arif Alvi further stressed that the federal government would play its role in the welfare of women in GB and provide education and training in remote areas. The Governor of GB thanked the Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan, Imran Khan and the Federal Government and said that steps were being taken to provide constitutional rights to the long-standing demands and the people of GB.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/3478>

PM Imran Khan's youth program scheme should be further expanded in GB: Pakistan President Arif Alvi

Dailyk2, September 16, 2021

President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi emphasized the need for guiding and facilitating the youth of the country, particularly the youths from Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), to benefit from Prime Minister's Imran Khan's "Youth Entrepreneurship Scheme" (YES).

The president made these remarks while chairing a meeting at Aiwan-e-Sadr (Presidential Palace) to help address the issues faced by the youth of 'AJK' and GB in getting loans. He emphasized that Prime Minister's "Kamyab Jawan Programme" offers tremendous economic opportunities, and the youth of 'AJK' and GB are required to capitalize on them by availing loans to establish their businesses. Special Advisor to Prime Minister (SAPM), on Youth Affairs, Muhammad Usman Dar, briefed the meeting about the overall loans disbursed under the YES program and noted that out of the approved loan of 26.2 billion, Rs 19.1 billion has been disbursed among the youth to establish their businesses, and subsequently the YES program created more than 30,000 jobs in various sectors.

The PM of 'AJK' and the Chief Minister (CM), of GB, highlighted the issues being faced by the youth in availing loans under the PM YES scheme and emphasized that various measures need to be taken to educate and guide the youth to benefit from the loans scheme. The president of Pakistan advised the governments of 'AJK' and GB to establish facilitation centers in their respective areas to help facilitate the youth in getting loans. He also emphasized the need to create awareness among the youth by engaging media and local political leaders. The president also asked the heads of five banks to establish facilitation desks to guide the youth in getting loans. The meeting concluded on the note to hold monthly conventions to review progress

concerning the disbursement of loans in AJK and GB.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/3479>

CM of GB directed officials to accelerate work on various Regional Grid Projects started by Federal PSDP

Dailyk2, September 17, 2021

Chief Minister (CM) of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Khalid Khurshid chaired a meeting related to the ongoing projects started by the federal government under Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), and special development package projects for GB. The meeting was also attended by the federal secretary for Kashmir and GB affairs and the joint secretary of the planning commission. During the meeting, GB CM Khalid Khurshid said that a new era of construction and development has begun in GB and integrated planning and development would be put into practice and the quality of federal PSDP projects will be ensured so that the people of GB can benefit. The meeting directed all project directors of federal PSDP projects to submit the working plan and cash plan of the relevant PSDP projects to the planning commission. CM of GB maintained that the federal government has released significant sums of money for federal PSDP projects and that the government's priority is to ensure 100% utilization of these funds under economic principles.

Federal Secretary of Kashmir and GB and joint secretary of planning commission said that full cooperation would be extended to speed up the Federal PSDP projects in GB. He noted

that the 16 Megawatt (MW), hydropower project-Naltar Phase III is a very important project to overcome the power crisis in Gilgit. He also emphasized to further accelerate the 4 MW Tired Power Project (TPP). He also stressed that the 50-bed cardiology hospital at Gilgit should be made operational by March 2022 and Polytechnic Institute of Skardu will be completed by June 2023. He also directed officials to accelerate the ongoing work on the Gilgit-Naltar road project and 34 MW Harpo power project as soon as possible. He further noted that the regional grid project is of utmost importance to GB and a time frame should be fixed for the completion of this project. GB CM said that under the vision and mission of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, a new era of construction and development has begun in GB and action would be taken against project directors who did not meet the stipulated timeline of the federal PSDP projects.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/3495>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Pakistan's International Position and the Kashmir Issue

Column, Nawai Waqt, September 16, 2021

Pakistan has taken a very clear stance on the recent Afghan issue which is being praised by all the world leaders and major media forums. Pakistan has once again become the center of attention of the world due to its foreign policy, however, the conscience of the

world is not ready to listen to the voice of Pakistan on Indian atrocities in Kashmir. Pakistan has released a 131-page long document on India's atrocities, which includes reports from 32 human rights watchdogs out of which 14 are from Pakistan. The document provides tangible evidence of India's extrajudicial killings and how the Indian government links the legitimate struggle of Kashmir's independence movement to terrorism.

This influential document covers India's war crimes cases, involving thousands of Indian soldiers, including one major general, four inspector generals, seven deputy inspector generals, five brigadiers, 31 colonels, and 188 majors/captains. The documents appealed to the international community, United Nations (UN), and civil society organizations to "do your part to end Indian rule of tyranny." Pakistan has strongly demanded that the UN record the names of individuals involved in the war crimes and impose sanctions on them. India should be banned from committing war crimes in Kashmir by the European Union (EU), United Kingdom (UK), and international human rights organizations. The dossier shows that the Modi government is destroying Kashmiri ethnicity and their religious identity. Thus, there is a long story of Indian atrocities in Kashmir but under the leadership of Narendra Modi, human rights violations reached their peak. Pakistan's Foreign Ministry has prepared the details of the atrocities very well and diligently. What is needed now is that it should not be

confined to the press conference in Pakistan. Our numerous embassies and consulates need to send the details to the relevant countries around the world. The Prime Minister and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should have a delegation of our best ministers who can highlight and talk about the dossier.

[https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-](https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-09-16/page-11/detail-31)

[Paper/lahore/2021-09-16/page-11/detail-31](https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-09-16/page-11/detail-31)

Federal Government has prepared a Formal Bill to amend the Constitution and make GB a Transitional Province

Daily Pakistan, September 17, 2021

The federal government has prepared a formal bill to amend the constitution to make Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), a transitional province. The proposed amendment bill will be titled 26th Amendment Bill 2021 and articles 51, 59, 106, 175A, 198, 218, 240, and 242 of the constitution of Pakistan are proposed to be amended. The bill also proposed to add 2 more clauses in the name of Articles 258A and 264A. Accordingly, the Chief Court of GB will be renamed as High Court of GB, while the Supreme Court of GB will be abolished. The GB election commission will be abolished but one of its members will be made a member of the Election Commission of Pakistan. The proposed 26th amendment to the constitution proposes to retain only 33 seats in the GB, of which 24 will be for generals, six for women, and three for technocrats. GB has been proposed to be given 4 seats in the National Assembly out of which 3 are general seats and 1 seat is for women and it was

agreed that GB will also be given 8 seats in the Senate house. The proposed amendment would include Article 258 A in the constitution, which would state that GB should be made a transitional province.

According to Federal Law Minister, Farogh Naseem, the proposed bill will be presented to the GB Assembly first for its approval and after that, the bill will be presented to the National Assembly for approval. The bill would require a two-thirds majority in both the GB and the National Assembly. Federal Law Minister, further noted that the proposed bill is based on Pakistan's principled position that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will exercise their right to self-determination through a free and fair referendum under democratic process as per the United Nations (UN), resolutions.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2021-09-17/page-1/detail-14>

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Disclaimer

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