

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 1 | Issue 30

20-26 September 2021

CPEC Phydropower Parliamentary Committee On development Infiltration Kashmir Council



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

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Political Developments

‘AJK’ president seeks sanctions on India for barbarism:’ Plans to protest outside UN during General Assembly Session

Dawn, September 20 2021

‘Azad’ Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), President, Barrister Sultan Mahmood has demanded that the international community impose sanctions on India as the Indian government is involved in committing barbarism against the people in the occupied Kashmir.

While speaking at the ‘Meet the Press’ program, held at the Lahore Press Club, AJK President claimed that “he had sped up his efforts at international forums and planned to stage a massive Kashmiris’ protest demonstration outside the United Nations (UN),” when Prime Minister (PM), Narendra Modi would arrive to address the General Assembly.

‘AJK’ President further noted that the ever-increasing pressure of the Kashmiris would ensure that India would no more be able to suppress them. He said that he is planning a tour next month to raise the voice for the Kashmiris at the international forums and European parliaments.

The ‘AJK’ president stressed that the foreign policies of Pakistan and the AJK should be made more robust as problems were piling up with the United States (US), calling India its strategic partner. He said India’s democracy and secularism has been exposed as minorities and different sections of society are standing up against the government from within India.

While answering a question, Barrister Mahmood said that AJK has no contacts with the Taliban because any outside interference could change a noble cause of jihad into terrorism. “The Kashmiris are doing indigenous struggle and will continue to do so to get the attention of the international community.”

The ‘AJK’ president mourned that Hurriyat Conference leader Syed Ali Geelani died while being under house arrest and stressed that he was not buried as per his wish. Cases were registered against his family members. “This should serve as an eye-opener for the international community.”

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1647258/ajk-president-seeks-sanctions-on-india-for-barbarism>

‘India should be questioned at ICJ over worst human rights abuses in IIOJK.’ Speakers at the National Peace Colloquium

The Express Tribune, September 21 2021

A National Peace Colloquium was jointly organized by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), and Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM), in connection with the World Peace Day at National Press Club (NPC), in Islamabad. While speaking at the peace colloquium, many speakers stressed that the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as per the wishes of the Kashmiri people under the United Nations (UN) resolutions is vital for the durable and permanent peace of South Asia.

All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), convener Faiz Naqshbandi said that India is violating all international laws while changing the

demography of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). He noted that Kashmiris neither have the right to live freely nor they are being given the choice to die as per their wish. The death of Syed Ali Shah Geelani illustrates this.

JKSM Chairman Altaf Ahmad Bhat stated that, 'in the name of peace and development Kashmiri people were and are made more and more conjugated in oppression by the world's largest extremist democracy.' Bhat also said that India is trying to use political censorship to suppress the Kashmiri people. Former AJK minister Farzana Yaqoob said that Pakistan should adopt a proactive diplomatic approach to reach out to the main powers of the world and remind them of their role in the solution of the Kashmir issue to bring peace to the region.

Another APHC leader Sheikh Abdul Mateen said that the people of IIOJK will never bow before India as India's human rights record is worst in IIOJK. These evidences are enough to question India at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for committing crimes against humanity.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2321293/india-should-be-grilled-at-icj-over-worst-human-rights-abuses-in-iiojk>

Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir briefs OIC contact group on Kashmir dispute

Daily Parliament Times, September 23 2021

Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Shehryar Khan Afridi attended the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), contact

group meeting on Jammu and Kashmir on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), meeting in New York. He noted that OIC's contact group has made an invaluable contribution in galvanizing global attention to the worsening situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

During the meeting, all members of the contact group reaffirmed OIC's continued and unequivocal support on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and its resolution which is in line with United Nation's Security Council (UNSC). In his capacity as Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Kashmir, Shehryar Khan Afridi sensitized the OIC Secretary-General on the deteriorating human rights situation in IIOJK.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/09/23/194495/>

Pakistan PM to raise voice for Kashmiris at UNGA

The Nation, September 24 2021

Prime Minister (PM), Imran Khan during his address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), will present Pakistan's perspective on various regional and international issues including Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at the weekly press briefing, spokesperson of Pakistan foreign office, Asim Iftikhar said, "Jammu and Kashmir will be one of the key areas of focus, besides the situation in Afghanistan, and other areas of common concern including combating Islamophobia, as well as climate change."

He said that Pakistan foreign minister has briefed his counterparts in New

York on the dossier on Jammu and Kashmir, and emphasized the need for urgent action to be taken, “because as we observe, the draconian military siege, extra-judicial killings, torture in custody, enforced disappearances and illegal detentions are continuing in IIOJK.”

While responding to a question, he said that the recent Indian media reports implying about alleged infiltration from across the Line of Control (LOC), “were established Indian tactics to create false alarm and implicate Pakistan often before major international events.” He noted that Pakistan categorically rejects these allegations as “baseless and unfounded.” He said that these tactics of India will not suppress the will of Kashmiri people and emphasized that Pakistan will continue to provide all possible support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle.

He further said that ever since Modi came into power, Indian religious minorities, in particular, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and others were being specifically targeted and facing discriminatory treatment. “It is a matter of serious concern not only for India's neighbours but also for the international community.”

Pakistan had been consistently sensitizing the international community and voicing its concerns over the human rights violations in India, even international human rights organizations, regularly highlighted by the international media, raised their concerns in various forums.

<https://nation.com.pk/24-Sep-2021/pm-to-raise-voice-for-kashmiris-at-unga-today>

Economic Developments

PPP General Secretary visits MTBC office along with the members of Kashmir Council

Daily Pakistan, September 21 2021

Secretary-General of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), ‘Azad’ Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) chapter, Faisal Mumtaz Rathore along with the member of Kashmir Council, Khawaja Tariq Saeed visited Medical Transcription Billing Corporation (MTBC), office in Bagh. Chairman of MTBC, Mehmood ul Haq briefed them regarding the ongoing projects, working plan, and structure of MTBC company.

Faisal Mumtaz Rathore and Khawaja Tariq Saeed said that MTBC should establish their office in Haveli. They assured the MTBC officials that they will provide space, and all the other facilities free of cost. They also invited the Chairman MTBC to Haveli for guiding them regarding the tourism projects. They said that MTBC is playing a remarkable role in promoting Information Technology (IT), and in tourism sectors. Several people are working at MTBC due to which company is playing an important role in raising the standard of masses, they noted.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/21-Sep-2021/1343631>

Thanks to PM Khan for including ‘AJK’ in CPEC projects: ‘AJK’ PM

Daily Parliament Times, September 23 2021

The ‘Azad’ Jammu and Kashmir(AJK), Prime Minister (PM), Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi has said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), will serve as a game-changer and

stressed that completion of its projects will open a door of revolutionary development in Pakistan. He expressed these views while addressing the tenth meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), for CPEC. He said the completion of CPEC projects will not only revolutionize construction and development work but will also promote peace and prosperity in the region.

The 'AJK' PM lauded the role of JCC for including the Mansehra-Muzaffarabad- Mangla Road project in CPEC and expressed the hope that the work on this project will be started soon and emphasized the need to include Muzaffarabad to Gilgit road in the CPEC projects.

The PM further said that with the construction of Manasara-Muzaffarabad Mangla road, all the districts of 'AJK' will be connected while the connection with the Southern areas will be reduced. The 'AJK' PM noted that the inclusion of 'AJK' in the CPEC projects is a reflection of Pakistan PM Imran Khan's special interest in the construction and development of 'Azad' Kashmir. He further stressed that 'AJK' is a peaceful and attractive region, rich in natural beauty with vast potential for tourism, hydel power, livestock, and agriculture, and utilizing these potentials will help promote economic development and will also create jobs for the educated youths in the region.

He emphasised the need for the setting up of state-of-the-art technical vocational centers in 'AJK' under CPEC. He noted that the land has been acquired in Mirpur areas of 'AJK' for the CPEC projects. The meeting was attended by the Federal Minister for

Planning, Asad Umar, Chief Ministers of the four provinces, and Gilgit-Baltistan including the CPEC officials.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/09/23/194432/>

CM of GB attends 10th JCC Meeting on CPEC: Highlighted Issues related to ongoing projects and tourism

Urdu Point, September 23 2021

Chief Minister (CM), of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Khalid Khurshid attended the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) meeting on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). CM of GB in his address said that CPEC projects are a manifestation of Pak-China friendship spanning over 70 years. He thanked the authorities for including the Gilgit-Shandor expressway and Thakot to Raikot's re-alignment mega projects in the CPEC. He further noted that GB is the gateway to the CPEC, which shares a 596-km border with China. Khalid Khurshid further said that about 464-kilo meter Karakoram Highway was passing through GB near Khunjrab to Basra.

During the meeting, he highlighted that there are vast opportunities for hydropower projects in GB and said that according to a survey conducted by Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA), and Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), 42,000 Mega Watt (MW), hydropower projects could be generated in GB and 27,000 MW projects have already been identified. He said that if we pay attention to the 27,000 MW projects that have been identified, then 165 million gigawatts of electricity could be generated which would be enough for the whole population of Pakistan.

He further stressed that the 100 MW Karakoram International University (KIU) project and 80 MW Phander Power projects in GB should be included in the CPEC under Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC), mode so that work on these projects could be carried out. Khalid Khurshid emphasized that the Astor-Muzaffarabad Road (Shunter Tunnel) project should also be included in the CPEC which will provide an alternative route for trade.

The Chief Minister said that there were vast opportunities in the field of minerals in GB, stressing that GB has a unique position in the tourism sector. He further said that the government of GB has been taking all possible steps to promote the tourism sector and investment in the region and an international airport will be built in Gilgit, which will help in international trade and tourism.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/cm-gb-attends-10th-jcc-meeting-highlights-is-1358308.html>

The decision to launch 'successful Pakistan program' in GB and AJK

Dailyk2, September 23 2021

An Economic Co-ordination Committee (ECC), meeting was held under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Shaukat Tareen in which an eight-point agenda was considered. The meeting approved the launch of a successful Pakistan program in Gilgit Baltistan (GB), and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), among other provinces. The meeting also approved Rs 11 billion for payment of salaries to Pakistan Steel Mills employees. The meeting also approved funds for the Pakistan Armed Forces on the

recommendation of the Ministry of Defense and funds for the establishment of the Frontier Constabulary (FC) Center on the recommendation of the Ministry of Interior.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/3602>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Punjab CM meets AJK President: Promises to continue supporting AJK in Development Journey

Nawai Waqt, September 21 2021

Punjab Chief Minister (CM), Sardar Usman Buzdar meets 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), President, Barrister Sultan Mehmood. The CM maintained that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), success in 'AJK' elections showed that the people wanted continuity of policies, adding that the 'AJK' will move on the road to development and prosperity. He noted that the foundation of a new Pakistan has been laid in the 'AJK' through public service and transparent governance. He vowed that Punjab would support the 'AJK' in its developmental journey and in the matters of mutual importance.

While speaking on Kashmir, the CM further highlighted that even the brutal lockdown could not suppress the freedom of Kashmiris and added that Modi regime's policy of state-sponsored oppression has failed in the Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK). He stressed that "India is burning in its funeral pyre and the day is not far when India will be balkanized". He further noted that Pakistan will "continue siding with its Kashmiri brethren as the hearts of Pakistanis beat in unison with the Kashmiris."

'AJK' President lamented that India had turned occupied Kashmir into a prison, adding that Kashmiris sparked the candle of freedom with their blood. He stressed that Prime Minister (PM), Imran Khan has fought the Kashmir cause at every forum with determination and logic.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2021-09-21/page-1>

'AJK' President Meet with the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly: Discussion on a just solution to Kashmir issue

Nawai Waqt, September 22 2021

President of 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry met with the speaker of the Punjab Assembly, Chaudhry Pervez Elahi, in the Assembly Chambers. The five-member parliamentary delegation from 'AJK' included deputy speaker, Riaz, Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din, and Hafiz Hamid Raza among others. Deputy Speaker of Punjab Assembly, Sardar Muhammad Mazari, and Secretary of Punjab Assembly, Muhammad Khan Bhatti were also present in the meeting.

During the meeting, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said that Pakistan is striving for a just solution to the Kashmir issue and is effectively highlighting this issue at every forum. Kashmiris are not alone in their struggle for independence but every child in Pakistan stands by them. President of 'AJK' noted that India is trying hard to destroy the will and determination of Kashmiris' independence movement and its atrocities on the Kashmiris are unparalleled in world history. 'AJK'

President said that the Kashmiri people are making huge human and material sacrifices to get rid of the tyranny of the Indian regime. Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said that Kashmiris could not be deprived of their right to freedom through oppression and tyranny. The Speaker said that India had been occupying Kashmir aggressively for the last 74 years, despite their promise for a referendum. The third generation of Kashmiris are relentlessly fighting for their freedom as more than one lakh Kashmiris have been martyred. He hoped that the present government of 'AJK' would be instrumental in resolving the Kashmir issue and bring development and prosperity to Azad Kashmir.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/22-Sep-2021/1420352>

Pakistan to keep supporting and raising voice for Kashmir in the world: Pakistan PM to AJK President

Mahasib, September 23 2021

Prime Minister (PM), Imran Khan while talking to the President of 'Azad' Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, stressed that until the Kashmiris get the right to self-determination, Pakistan will continue to raise its voice for Kashmir in the international forums. Both the leaders discussed the situation in "Indian occupied Kashmir" and noted that India is committing gross human rights violations in the "illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir" (IOJK), and carrying out genocide of Kashmiri people. The PM further appreciated the AJK government for their development initiatives and noted that the government is taking the right steps for the relief of the people.

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Volume 1 | Issue 30

20-26 September 2021

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Disclaimer

PoK weekly 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 to as 'Azad Kashmir' and 'Gilgit Baltistan' by the government of Pakistan. The news reports have been edited and abridged to provide clarity. MP-IDSA is not responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the news items.



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