

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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motorcycle
ambulance service
health **DELIMITATION POK** investment
OF ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCIES
infrastructure **CPEC**
PSDP tourism
reforms process



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Political Developments

WHO Country Director discussed medical facilities for LOC people: PM AJK

Daily Parliament Times, December 27, 2021

The Prime Minister (PM) of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi has said that the government is taking concrete steps to extend health facilities to the people of “Azad Kashmir” following the vision of the PM of Pakistan Imran Khan. The AJK PM was addressing a ceremony on the occasion of handing over ambulances and modern medical equipment by the World Health Organization (WHO) to the government of “Azad Kashmir” for the provision of medical facilities for the people of the Line of Control (LoC). During the ceremony, the WHO country director Dr. Palitha Mahipala handed over 06 ambulances, 02 cold chain vehicles and modern medical equipment to the AJK health department. The AJK PM thanked the WHO for providing ambulances and other medical equipment for the LoC areas and said that WHO has always cooperated fully in tackling the challenges in the health sector in “Azad Kashmir.” The AJK PM said that in the 2005 earthquake or other natural disasters, the WHO had always been at the forefront in extending health facilities to the people of “Azad Kashmir.”

The WHO country director while speaking on the occasion said that he was impressed by the vision of the PM of “Azad Kashmir” and his determination for providing health

facilities to the people of AJK. He assured that the WHO will continue to work closely with the government of “Azad Kashmir” for the provision of health facilities to the people.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/12/27/who-country-director-discussed-medical-facilities-for-loc-people-pm-ajk/>

‘Pasban-e-Hurriyat appeals to masses to join Rallies on Right to Self-Determination Day’

Daily Parliament Times, December 28, 2021

The chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat, Uzair Ahmad Ghazali said that 5th January has significant importance in history, particularly for the people of Kashmir. While talking to media representatives, he said that on 05 January 1949, United Nations (UN) promised the people of Jammu and Kashmir their “right to self-determination” following the UN resolutions. He maintained that on 5th January 2022, “we will conduct rallies and protest processions to seek attention on this longest pending dispute at UN.” He further noted that it is the basic right of the Kashmiri people to determine their “political future” peacefully.

Ghazali further added that the “people on both sides of the ceasefire line will protest against India's illegal military occupation, killing of the youth, burning of residential houses and arrests of unarmed civilians.” During the meeting, the vice-chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat, Usman Ali Hashim said that all the regions and people across the state have to play their individual and collective role in

highlighting the plight of people in “Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K).”

The representatives of Pasban-e-Hurriyat appealed government of “Azad Kashmir”, political and religious parties along with their followers to come out on January 05 to raise the demand for the right to “self-determination” and seek international community attention on the “deteriorating human right situation in occupied Kashmir.”

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/12/28/pasban-e-hurriyat-appeals-to-masses-to-join-rallies-on-right-to-self-determination-day/>

Role of base camp government in critical situation shows great concern: Umair Pervez

Daily Parliament Times, December 29, 2021

The Jammu Kashmir People’s Party (JKPP) central leader Sardar Umair Pervez Khan has said that “India is committing atrocities in occupied Kashmir” on daily basis and in this situation neglecting “Kashmir dispute” in the recently concluded Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) session by the government of Pakistan is a major concern.

He stressed that the “Kashmiris are fighting for the ideology of Pakistan by sacrificing their lives” but the present rulers of Pakistan are unaware of this. He noted that the role of the base camp government in this situation is also of great concern. He further noted that the Prime Minister (PM) of “Azad Kashmir” will go so far in flattering the rulers sitting in Islamabad and does not even realize that he is the

representative of 1.5 crores Kashmiris. The PM of “Azad Kashmir” is only trying to save his job, he thinks tehsil Abbaspur is the whole of Kashmir and his bradri (community) is his total population of Kashmir. He lamented that it needs to be understood that the “Kashmir issue” is not just a border dispute between India and Pakistan but an issue of self-determination of 1.5 crore Kashmiris as reflected in the United Nations (UN) resolutions.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/12/29/role-of-base-camp-government-in-critical-situation-shows-great-concern-umair-pervez/>

‘Induction of non-state subjects in AJK Public Services’

Daily Parliament Times, December 29, 2021

The president of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry advises the advocate general of AJK to submit a report on the issue of inclusion of non-state subjects in AJK public services within the next 15 days. The AJK president categorically said that “certain of jobs are being exercised in Azad Jammu Kashmir by the incumbent regime as had already been identified by him and such exercises are causing weakening of our national stance on Kashmir issue.”

While talking to Khawaja Maqbool, advocate general of AJK at the president house in Jammu and Kashmir, he said that “being the president of the AJK state, it is my responsibility to make a check on such exercises.” He noted that the “non-state subject and imported persons” have been inducted in Mirpur and other

parts of AJK. He directed the advocate general to ascertain “who was performing behind the curtain to weak out our stance at this significant turn of Kashmir issue.” The president of AJK urged the advocate general to take strict action against all those who are responsible so that the people of AJK could also understand which elements intended to resort to harming the Kashmir issue at this juncture.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/12/29/induction-of-non-state-subjects-in-ajk-public-services/>

‘Applauded overseas Kashmiris for unfolding Indian atrocities on the international level:’ PM of AJK

Daily Parliament Times, December 31, 2021

The Prime Minister (PM) of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niaz has lauded the vibrant role played by the overseas Kashmiri for “exposing the atrocities of the Indian forces and projecting the Kashmir issue in its true perspective” at international level. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation led by Tauseef Anwar, Mayor of London (Leuchem) at, Jammu and Kashmir House Islamabad. The AJK PM said that that “Indian oppression in occupied Kashmir” has crossed all the limits while the “Indian Army is involved in genocide” of innocent and unarmed Kashmiri people. He said a memorandum will also be presented to the United Nations (UN) observer mission in Muzaffarabad on the 5th of January to draw the attention of the international community to fulfil its obligations for resolving the long-standing Kashmir issue. The PM urged

the international community to fulfil the promises made to the Kashmiri people for granting their “fundamental right to self-determination.” He assured that the AJK government will provide all possible assistance to the overseas Kashmiri for highlighting the plight of the Kashmiri people over the globe.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2021/12/31/applauded-overseas-for-unfolding-indian-atrocities-on-international-level-pm-ajk/>

Representatives of different organizations announced to observe the first week of New Year as Kashmiris Right to self-determination

Daily Parliament Times, January 01, 2022

The representatives of different organizations in “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) announced to observe the first week of New Year as Kashmiris "right to self-determination" under the aegis of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir. During the meeting, it was revealed that rallies will be held across “Azad Kashmir” demanding implementation of the United Nations (UN) resolutions on the “right to self-determination” passed on 5th January 1949 to resolve the Kashmir issue.

The speakers representing different organizations reiterated that it is the constitutional obligation of the UN regarding the implementation of its resolutions particularly on the Kashmir issue.

The speakers stressed that a public rally in the capital on January 05 would highlight the “plight of Kashmiri people” besides its status as a

“disputed state.” The speakers further said that the new delimitation of “Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir” was a planned “vile conspiracy of the Bharatiya Janata Party” (BJP) against the Kashmiri people. It was also decided in the meeting that a rally would be held on January 05 from Burhan Wani Shaheed chowk to the UN observer’s office and a memorandum regarding the “right to self-determination” would be presented to international observers.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/01/01/kashmiris-will-observe-self-determination-week-to-highlight-their-issue/>

Economic Developments

GB Chief Minister meet Prime Minister Imran Khan

Pamir Times, December 27, 2021

The Chief Minister (CM) of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Khalid Khurshid meet with the Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan Imran Khan. During the meeting, both the leaders discuss various issues including, the reforms process in the revenue sector in GB and progress on ongoing development projects under Public Sector Development Projects (PSDP). The steps taken for an uninterrupted supply of wheat were also discussed during the meeting.

<https://urdu.pamirtimes.net/2021/12/27/asd-2510/>

A delegation led by the additional secretary of the Federal Board of Investment met with the PM of AJK

Urdu Point, December 27, 2021

A delegation led by the additional secretary of the federal board of

investment, Mukarram Jah Ansari meet with the Prime Minister (PM) of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi. During the meeting, various issues including investment opportunities were discussed while issues related to investment in tourism, hydel power projects and other sectors were also discussed. The additional secretary of the federal board of investment briefed the PM of ‘AJK’ on the vision of Pakistan PM Imran Khan regarding ease of doing business. While talking on the occasion, ‘AJK’ PM said that investors should come to “Azad Kashmir” and the government of “Azad Kashmir” will provide full protection to investors. He said that a business-friendly environment would be provided for investment in various sectors including tourism and hydel. He said that PM Imran Khan was working to provide facilities to investors in ‘AJK’. During the occasion, the delegation of the federal board of investment expressed its desire to work with the “Azad Kashmir” government for investment in various sectors. The additional secretary of the federal board of investment said that if the business-friendly environment is provided then large scale investors are ready to invest in “Azad Kashmir.”

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3001444.html>

Service breakdown in ‘AJK’: PTA imposes 50 million fine on cellular mobile operator

Pakistan Observer, December 30, 2021

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has imposed a fine of 50 million on Telenor Pakistan due to

non-adherence of the applicable regulatory framework while suffering breakdown of major communication services in “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK). The PTA further directed the licensee to refund 18 million unconditionally to affected subscribers and deposit the remaining amount of 32 million in the authority’s designated account within 15 days. The PTA panel headed by its chairman major general Amir Azeem Bajwa (retired) said that the licensee is at fault due to non-adherence of an applicable regulatory framework. The licensee is under an obligation to report about all major communication breakdowns to PTA Head Quarter (HQ) and its concerned zonal offices in the jurisdiction of which the breakdown occurs within two hours. However, in the instant matter, the licensee has failed to comply with the same. The Telenor Pakistan spokesperson Saad Waraich said that the services were not shut down by the company and in fact, they were forced out of the company-operated towers and offices.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40143445/service-breakdown-in-ajk-pta-imposes-rs50m-fine-on-cellular-mobile-operator>

The federal government provides 1.4 billion to the AJK government to improve health infrastructure: AJK Health Minister

Radio Pakistan, December 31, 2021

The health minister of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Dr. Nisar Ansar Abdali during an exclusive interview with the Radio Pakistan said that the federal government has provided 1.4

billion rupees to the government of AJK to improve health infrastructure and ensure better health services to people of the “liberated territory.” The health minister further noted that three new hospitals have been established in AJK and a motorcycle ambulance service has also been launched to facilitate the people living in far-flung mountainous areas. The AJK health minister said that the incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has chalked out a comprehensive strategy to improve the health facilities in all districts of AJK particularly in areas along the Line of Control (LoC).

<https://radio.gov.pk/31-12-2021/federal-govt-provides-rs14b-to-ajk-govt-to-improve-health-infrastructure-dr-nisar-ansar>

'China, Pakistan satisfied over the pace of work on CPEC projects'

The Nation, December 31, 2021

The Pakistan and Chinese officials held the 3rd joint working group meeting of socio-economic development under the banner of China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). During the meeting, the Pakistani side shared the proposed 3rd batch of projects for consideration of Chinese counterparts to be completed under the socio development program under CPEC. The projects were finalized after due consultations with stakeholders including all provinces, “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB). It was decided to further enhance bilateral cooperation and implementation mechanism by

constituting sub-committees at the working level on both sides.

<https://nation.com.pk/31-Dec-2021/china-pakistan-satisfied-over-pace-of-work-on-cpec-projects>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Struggle for the success of Tehreek-e-Azadi Kashmir is our first and last priority: AJK President

Jammu and Kashmir Times, December 29, 2021

The president of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that “Azad Kashmir” is the base camp of the “independence movement” and struggling for the success of the “Kashmir independence movement” is our first and last priority. He noted that the current situation demands that we aggressively raise the Kashmir issue at the international level. He stressed that India does not understand the apologetic style and language and therefore now it is necessary to speak bravely against India. He urged all the political parties of the state and the intellectual classes to work together for the success of the “Kashmir independence movement” in unison. He further noted that the Coronavirus epidemic has dealt a severe blow to the ongoing efforts for the Kashmir cause at the international level. He stressed that after taking over as president of AJK, he visited the United States (US) in September and the United Kingdom (UK), France, Belgium and the Netherlands in October to raise the issue of Kashmir again. He emphasized that during both the visits, he saw that public opinion in different countries of

the world has been formed in favour of the Kashmir issue. He said that the role of the overseas Kashmiri community in highlighting the Kashmir issue at the international level which will be written in golden letters in the pages of history.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Front-page-29.jpg>

Process of delimitation of electoral constituencies begins for AJK Local Body Elections 2022: AJK CEC

Urdu Point, December 29, 2021

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK), Abdul Rashid Sulehria and senior member of election commission Raja Muhammad Farooq said that the due process of delimitation of electoral constituencies and preparation of voter lists for local bodies elections 2022 has been started in AJK. Both the officials in a joint statement urged the voters to ensure that their names in the voter’s lists were registered in their permanent address listed in their Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC). They said that a draft of preliminary proposals regarding delimitation would be published by January 5th, 2022 and objections in this regard could be lodged with the concerned delimitation authorities.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3003335.html>

The decision to bring a no-confidence motion against AJK PM: Resolution likely to be brought in February

Urdu Point, December 31, 2021

It has been decided to bring a no-confidence motion against the Prime

Minister (PM) of “Azad Kashmir” Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi and a resolution is expected to be passed in February 2022. The Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) have decided to move ahead unconditionally on the no-confidence motion. In this case, if the senior-most minister and president of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) “Azad Kashmir”, Tanveer Ilyas succeeds in forming a forward bloc, the post of PM will be handed over to him. If he fails to form a forward bloc, the target of the required members of the assembly will be achieved through “alternative means” and plan B will be implemented. The senior ministry will be given to the PPP and the position of speaker will be given to the PML-N. The PPP “Azad Kashmir” president Chaudhry Yasin will be the caretaker PM. There are also reports that the PM of “Azad Kashmir” Abdul Qayyum Niazi has been informed about this plan. According to the sources, the PM of “Azad Kashmir” has also decided that he will not resign under any circumstances, if the conspiracy game continues, the assembly will be dissolved.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/rawalakot/kashmir/live-news-3005439.html>

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Disclaimer

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