

# Weekly POK News Digest

*(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)*

Volume 2 | Issue 17

25 April - 01 May 2022

**POK**  
**tourism CPEC**  
**Gilgit-Baltistan**  
**S** **kardu international airport**  
**pecial Technological Zones**



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES  
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## Political Developments

### **PM Modi's visit to 'held Kashmir sparks protests'**

*Dawn, April 25, 2022*

While Indian Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi arrived in "occupied Jammu and Kashmir" on his first visit since the "limited autonomy of the disputed territory" was nullified in August 2019. "Kashmiris expressed their wrath and indignation at the coming of their tormentor" by staging "anti-India and pro-freedom rallies in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK)" and "elsewhere in Pakistan and abroad." The call for "anti-India demonstrations" was jointly given by 'AJK' PM Sardar Tanveer Ilyas and the 'AJK' chapter of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC). The 'AJK' PM and APHC convener Farooq Rehmani were among the leaders who staged the protest outside the Indian High Commission to "condemn PM Modi's visit." Tanveer Ilyas said that the "purpose of Modi's visit was a ploy to mislead the international community and deflect" its attention from the "real issue", adding that "India is an occupier and a usurper in Kashmir and it has no moral justification whatsoever to visit the region that continues to bleed under its forcible occupation for the past seven decades." Mr Ilyas further said that the government in New Delhi was striving to change the region's "demographics by settling non-state subjects in occupied Kashmir", which should not go unnoticed in the international community.

The APHC convener Rehmani urged the international community not to stay oblivious to the "worst-ever crimes against humanity being perpetrated by India's fascist government and armed forces in the occupied territory." The 'AJK' minister Khawaja Farooq Ahmed along with representatives of other political parties and the civilian participants held black flags, banners and placards inscribed with "anti-India and pro-independence slogans" in a rally from Burhan Wani Chowk to Garhi Pan Chowk in Muzaffarabad. Similar rallies were also held at all divisional and district headquarters in 'AJK', in addition to the demonstrations held in other cities of Pakistan and abroad to express solidarity with the "people of occupied Kashmir."

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1686699/modis-visit-to-held-kashmir-sparks-protests>

### **Indian PM's visit to 'IIOJK ploy to project fake normalcy:' Pakistan Foreign Office**

*The Nation, April 25, 2022*

The Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson, Asim Iftikhar said that Pakistan will "continue to extend all possible support to the Kashmiris in their just struggle for the right to self-determination" as pledged to them by the relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR). While addressing the weekly press briefing, the FO "rejected Indian Prime Minister's (PM) staged visit to Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)" on 24 April 2022 as yet

“another ploy to project fake ‘normalcy’ in the occupied territory.” The FO spokesperson in a statement said that since 5 August 2019, the international community had witnessed many such “desperate attempts by India to divert attention” from the actual underlying issues in ‘IIOJK’ including “Indian state-sponsored terrorism as well as widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.” He said that “it is not surprising”, therefore, that while the Indian PM was on his brief visit to Jammu “under a heavy security cover, the people of IIOJK were observing a black day as an expression of their rejection of India’s mischief and illegal policies.”

He further said that Pakistan also “strongly condemned the laying of foundation stones” for the construction of the Rattle and Kwar Hydroelectric Projects (HEP) on Chenab River in ‘IIOJK.’ He stressed that the construction of the Rattle hydroelectric plant, as “designed by India, had been disputed by Pakistan”, and for Kwar Hydroelectric Plant, India had “so far not fulfilled its Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) obligation” of sharing information with Pakistan. He said that Pakistan “viewed such laying of foundation stones” of the two projects by the Indian PM as a “direct contravention” of the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 and called upon India to fulfil its obligations under the IWT and “refrain from taking any such steps” which were “detrimental to the IWT framework.” He further said that “it is a mockery that the BJP-RSS regime,

which is relentlessly pursuing its avowed ideological mission to politically and economically disempower and dispossess the Kashmiris, seeks to project itself before the world as a champion of development in the occupied territory.” He added, “Pakistan salutes the Kashmiris as they remain undaunted in their determination to stand against India's oppressive occupation.” He said that Pakistan will continue to extend all possible “support to the Kashmiris in their just struggle for the right to self-determination” as pledged to them by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in its numerous resolutions.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/25/indian-pms-visit-to-iiojk-ploy-to-project-fake-normalcy-fo-2/>

### **PPP government to be constituted in ‘AJK’ soon: Javed Iqbal Badhanvi**

*Daily Parliament Times, April 26, 2022*

The Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) “Azad Kashmir” central additional secretary and former government minister Javed Iqbal Badhanvi has said that it is a good omen for being in charge of Chaudhry Qamar Zaman Qaira (federal minister on Kashmir affairs), who is well aware of the “sensitivities of Tehreek-e-Azadi Kashmir.” Javed Badhanvi said that a PPP government will be formed in “Azad Kashmir” very soon, added that his party in “Azad Kashmir” will keep fighting against the ruling government while staying in the assembly.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/04/26/ppp-government-to-be-constituted-in-ajk-soon-javed-iqbal-badhanvi/>

## **Army chief reviews troops' operational preparedness during LoC visit**

*The Express Tribune, April 27 2022*

The Pakistan army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) and received a briefing on the situation and operational preparedness of the formation. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a statement said that the general Bajwa appreciated soldiers' combat readiness and high state of morale. He also interacted with the troops deployed along LoC in the Chakothi sector and spent time with them.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2354476/army-chief-reviews-troops-operational-preparedness-during-loc-visit>

## **Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan is a new ATM of Imran Khan in 'AJK'**

*Daily Parliament Times, April 27, 2022*

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) "Azad Kashmir", secretary-general and Member of Legislative Assembly of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK), Faisal Mumtaz Rathore while talking with journalists has said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) "company in Azad Kashmir" cannot last long as Prime Minister (PM) Tanveer Ilyas ridiculed the people of "Azad Kashmir" by buying his party members. Faisal Rathore denied the impression that behind the scenes PPP or Zardari house played a role in making Sardar Tanveer Ilyas the PM. He said that PTI was not an ideological

party and it had nothing to do with politics, and added that it is a company whose shares are offered for sale every few months. After Jahangir Tareen and Aleem Khan, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan is a new ATM of Imran Khan, he stressed.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/04/27/sardar-tanveer-ilyas-khan-is-a-new-atm-of-imran-khan-in-ajk-raja-faisal-mumtaz-rathore/>

## **'SC restrains GB SAC from Passing Further Orders'**

*The Nation, April 28, 2022*

The Supreme Court (SC) of Pakistan restrained the Supreme Appellate Court (SAC) of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) from passing further orders related to the GB's "constitutional position" and the tenure and pension of the GB appellate court. A three-member bench of the apex court headed by Justice Ijaz-ul-Ahsan conducted a hearing of the federal government petition regarding the SAC GB chief judge and the judge's pension and pensionary benefits. The SC order stated that the notification related to the tenure of the chief judge and the judge of the GB appellate court would be subject to the apex court's final verdict. Justice Ijaz noted that explanation on some of the constitutional questions is necessary i.e. whether the GB appellate court could direct the president of Pakistan; whether the federation can file a petition against the GB appellate court under Article 184 (3) of the constitution; whether GB court's status as per 2018 presidential order is a constitutional court or not? Whether the judges of the

GB appellate court by passing an order dated 28-03-22 for their benefit is not contrary to the interest of justice. Meanwhile, the GB appellate court also directed the federation through the secretary ministry of Kashmir Affairs and the GB and the GB provincial government to honour all the orders of the appellate court specifically dated 25-01-2022 and 10-02-2022 and no fresh appointments of chief judge/judge of this court shall be initiated/processed or made before reaching the age of superannuation and the chief judge/judge shall also be entitled to pension/allied pensionary benefit as interpreted in the two orders.'

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/04/28/sc-restrains-gb-sap-from-passing-further-orders/>

## **Economic Developments**

### **Pakistan urges economic support to people of 'occupied Palestine, Kashmir'**

*Daily Times, April 26, 2022*

Munir Akram, Pakistan envoy to the United Nations (UN) said that against the backdrop of conflicts, post-pandemic shocks and climate change, "generous" political and economic support for the people living under "foreign occupation like those in Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir" needs to be provided. He said that for developing countries, a first priority is poverty reduction, especially in crisis and conflict situations," added that "emergency humanitarian" and economic support is essential in situations such as in Afghanistan, as

well as for the people of "occupied Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir." He also underscored the need for understanding population dynamics as communities around the world strive to achieve the ambitious and holistic 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/926108/pakistan-urges-economic-support-to-people-of-occupied-palestine-kashmir/>

### **International flights from Skardu International Airport will start on May 13**

*Dailyk2, April 26, 2022*

The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said that the international flights from Skardu international airport will start on May 13 and the first international flight from Munich, Germany will arrive in Skardu. The second international flight will arrive in Skardu from Kyrgyzstan on May 16. The CAA while releasing the schedule of international flights, noted that all arrangements and preparations for landing and take-off of international flights have been completed. The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Chief Minister (CM) said that the Skardu airport has been declared an international airport by the former federal government adding that the launch of international flights is a result of the former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan's vision and tourism-friendly policies. He stressed that the launch of international flights will not only boost tourism in GB but will also give direct access to its fruits

to the international market. This will make the local people economically stable and open new avenues for development and prosperity. He said that the launch of international flights is our long-awaited dream adding that the time is not far away when Skardu will go beyond Switzerland and Bangkok.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/6235>

### **AJK President lauds establishment of Business Center at MUST**

*Pakistan Observer, April 27, 2022*

The president of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK), Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, along with the chancellor of the public sector universities in ‘AJK’, chaired a meeting of the senate of Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST) at Kashmir house. During the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor (VC) of MUST, Brigadier (Retd) Prof. Dr Muhammad Younis Javed briefed the president about the ongoing programs, projects and problems being faced by the institution. While praising the establishment of the business centre at the MUST, ‘AJK’ president said that its monthly report should be sent to the chancellor, adding that the approval for the establishment of Information Technology (IT), Special Technological Zones (STZ) was granted and 2,000 acres of land has also been allotted for the purpose. The meeting was attended by the Vice-Chancellor of various Universities at ‘AJK.’

<https://pakobserver.net/ajk-president-lauds-establishment-of-business-center-at-must/>

### **All possible steps will be taken for the prosperity of GB: Qamar Zaman Kaira**

*Jasarat, April 29, 2022*

The federal minister and adviser on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira while talking with the chief secretary of GB Moinuddin Wani has said that the federal government will take all possible steps for the development and prosperity of GB, added that GB is a very important region as far as tourism and mineral resources are concerned and a base camp of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said that the ministry of Kashmir affairs should be kept fully informed about all the ongoing Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) projects in GB.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/04/29/220429-8-8/>

### **From Vernacular Urdu Media**

#### **Newly elected ‘AJK’ PM meet with the PTI vice chairman and vowed to continue PTI policies**

*Mahasib, April 25, 2022*

The Prime Minister (PM) of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK), Sardar Tanveer Ilyas meet with the former foreign minister and vice-chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Shah Mehmood Qureshi. During the meeting, the leaders discussed issues of mutual interest and the prevailing political and “human rights” situation in the “Indian occupied Kashmir.” The ‘AJK’ PM hailed Shah Mehmood Qureshi’s services as the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, adding that Qureshi had played an important role in highlighting the Kashmir issue at the

international level. Ilyas reiterated his commitment to carry forward the party's mission and its policy on the "Kashmir issue" and bring it to the forefront at the international level.

<https://mahasib.com.pk/epaper/muzaffarabbad.php>

### **India is 'conspiring in occupied Kashmir:' 'AJK' PM**

*Jasarat, April 25, 2022*

The Prime Minister (PM) of "Azad Kashmir", Sardar Tanveer Ilyas has said that "India is conspiring in occupied Kashmir", adding that the Indian government wants to hold a "referendum in its favour." He said that "India's tactics" will not succeed in Kashmir, stressing that Kashmir has to be part of Pakistan as said by Quaid-e-Azam that Kashmir is the lifeblood of Pakistan. He said that India does not know that Kashmiris are making sacrifices for freedom and the right to self-determination, noting that Syed Ali Gilani and many other Hurriyat leaders had made sacrifices in Kashmir.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/04/25/220425-1-20/>

### **Protests in 'AJK' as Modi's visit to 'IoK' was observed as a 'black day'**

*Mahasib, April 25, 2022*

A "black day" was observed and "anti-India demonstrations" were held in "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) in response to the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's visit to "occupied Jammu and Kashmir", in what was his first visit to the "disputed territory" since New Delhi revoked special status nearly three years ago. The PM Modi led government nullified the area's special status in August 2019, when

authorities arrested thousands and imposed the world's "longest internet shutdown, seeking to forestall local opposition to the move." Even after three years, "tight security" was in place for Modi's appearance at Palli village in Jammu, the "Hindu-majority" southern part of the territory, which "celebrated New Delhi's introduction of direct rule as a defence against Kashmir's freedom movement." The PM Modi visit also marked the event of Panchayati Raj, a day that commemorates grassroots democracy, although "occupied Kashmir" has been without an "elected regional government" since 2018." There was a "complete shutdown in occupied Kashmir" and the call for the strike was given by the All-Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC).

<https://mahasib.com.pk/epaper/muzaffarabbad.php>

### **The people of Balochistan fully support the 'independence movement' of the people of 'occupied Kashmir:' CM of Balochistan**

*UrduPoint, April 27, 2022*

The Chief Minister (CM) of Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, while talking with the Prime Minister of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the people of Balochistan fully support the "independence movement of the people of occupied Kashmir." He said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had declared "Kashmir as the lifeline of Pakistan" and even today every Pakistani has a feeling of love and brotherhood for his Kashmiri brothers. He assured the delegation led

by 'AJK' PM that the people of Balochistan fully support the people of "occupied Kashmir" and the Kashmiri refugees living in Balochistan are our brothers, added that the housing, employment and other issues of Kashmiri refugees will be resolved on a priority basis. He also announced an increase in the number of seats reserved for "Azad Kashmir" students at Bolan medical complex hospital, noting that the government of Balochistan also stands by the Kashmiri youth in providing good education, training and facilitating their employment. He said that we are "proud of the youth of occupied Kashmir" who are raising awareness against "Indian state oppression and aggression in Kashmir." He said that Pakistan fully supports the "right of Kashmiris to self-determination" and that the international community should also take notice of the "Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir" and give the Kashmiris their right to self-determination as per the United Nations (UN) resolutions. The PM of 'AJK' thanked the CM of Balochistan for his cooperation and said that the people of Balochistan have an everlasting relationship of love and brotherhood with the Kashmiri brothers.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/quettai/important-news/live-news-3112534.html>

### **'Oppressed Kashmiris' and Palestinians should be remembered on the day of Eid**

*Jasarat, April 29, 2022*

The president of Anjuman-e-Tajran, Sarwar Asim said that it is important

that the "oppressed Kashmiri and Palestinian brothers" be remembered in the joys and prayers of Eid. He said that Palestine and Kashmir are common issues of the "Islamic world", adding that Palestinian Muslims are fighting for the liberation of the first qibla (Al-Aqsa Mosque) while the "Kashmiri Muslims are fighting for the defence and stability of Pakistan." He said that the land of Palestine has been "aggressively occupied by the Jews", while the Jammu and Kashmir are "occupied by Hindus", adding that both are the "worst settler-colonial power" in the occupation of Muslim land. He alleged that even in the month of Ramadan, Jews are inflicting atrocities on Palestinian Muslims, violating the sanctity of the first qibla, while "Indian troops in occupied Jammu and Kashmir are brutally martyring Kashmiri Muslims," stressing that Muslims continue to be 'persecuted' during the holy month of Ramadan by both the "colonial powers." He said that people even remember, how many "Kashmiri and Palestinian Muslims" have been "martyred, injured and displaced" during the month of Ramadan? He said that on the occasion of Eid, while the whole world of Islam will celebrate the joys of Eid, our Palestinian and Kashmiri brothers will be 'deprived' of the joys of Eid, adding that on this auspicious occasion, we must remember our "oppressed Kashmiri" and Palestinian brothers in our prayers.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/04/29/220429-5-9/>

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## Disclaimer

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