

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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Gilgit-Baltistan **Kashmir tourism** **POK development** **Infrastructure program**



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Political Developments

APHC- 'AJK' convener urges International Community to prevent PM Modi's 'designs of facilitating settlement in Kashmir'

Pakistan Observer, May 9, 2022

The All-Party Hurriyat Conference-“Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (APHC-AJK) convener, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani has appealed to world organizations including the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU), Shanghai Cooperation Council (SCC), South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Arab League to “revive their active role” in overcoming hurdles in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute by facilitating dialogue between all stakeholders. He further said that “India is hell-bent” on changing the nature, culture, and demographic character of Jammu and Kashmir, which is in “total disregard” to all the UN resolutions, international law, bilateral and international agreements, and above all the wishes of its “besieged and oppressed people” of Kashmir. He further claims that the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) is planning to make a chief minister in “occupied Kashmir” through its delimitation commissions to further its “colonial settler-policy of Indian Hindutva colonialism.” He denied “India’s accusations of terroristic activities” by youth in Jammu and Kashmir, adding that Indian agencies like National Investigation Agency (NIA) and State Investigation Agency (SIA) were “propagating and maneuvering fake

encounters to defame, torture and implicate youth in false cases while the reality was different.”

He further said that there were thousands of Kashmiris in interrogation center, and central and sub-jail of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India. He said that “if the Kashmiris were voluntary with India”, why such a large number had been incarcerated and why “day and night crackdowns” are carried out by the police everywhere and youths are tortured and forced to make “false confessions.”

<https://pakobserver.net/rehmani-urges-world-bodies-to-thwart-modis-designs-by-facilitating-kashmir-settlement/>

Pakistanis and Kashmiris are firm with state institutions

Daily Times, May 10, 2022

The traders and businessmen from “Azad” Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) expressed their displeasure over the statements made by “certain quarters” (social media) criticizing the armed forces of Pakistan. Suhail Shujah Mujahid, vice president of All Azad Jammu Kashmir Anjuman-e-Tajran said that the hearts of the entire Pakistani nation including the “people of Kashmir” beat in unison with the valiant armed forces of Pakistan, added that our armed forces are the custodians of the “ideological and geographical frontiers” of the country. The ‘AJK’ business community leader said that those criticizing our defense forces should be severely punished for indulging in such anti-state activities,

added that “we are proud of the highly professional role and skills of our valiant armed forces of Pakistan”, the world's 6th big and best defense force. Another business community leader of ‘AJK’ and president of Insaaf Traders Wing Mirpur, Raja Khalid Mahmood Khan, while expressing solidarity with the Pakistan armed forces said that the valiant armed forces of Pakistan are the first and last line of defense of the country”, adding that the sacrifices of the valiant armed forces of Pakistan cannot be ignored at any stage.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/932469/pakistanis-kashmiris-are-firmly-with-state-institutions/>

OIC human rights commission condemns India's wicked delimitation exercise in ‘occupied Kashmir’

Dawn, May 13, 2022

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Independent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC) "strongly condemned" the Indian government's recent delimitation of election constituencies in "occupied Jammu and Kashmir", calling it a breach of OIC and UN Security Council resolutions. In a statement, the OIC's human rights body noted that "IPHRC accordingly supports the unanimous rejection of the Kashmiri political leadership of these illegal measures, which are a continuum of the host of other 'Hindutva' inspired illegal steps taken by the Indian occupation regime in IOJK in the aftermath of the 5th August 2019." The statement further highlighted that Kashmir's political

leadership has consistently "rejected and boycotted electoral politics in the occupied region", including India's attempt to redraw electoral constituencies.

The OIC declared that the act is "a nefarious attempt to alter the electoral demographics and dynamics in a manner that could influence sham electoral results to install puppet regimes of its choice", and added that "these wicked measures are aimed at converting the indigenous Muslim population into a minority within their homeland and obstruct the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination." It also urged the UN and the international community to play their part in pressuring India to comply with relevant UNSC and OIC resolutions, including refraining from any administrative or legislative actions that would alter the geographic and demographic status of "occupied Kashmir", restoring all fundamental freedoms and repealing all discriminatory laws, and allowing Kashmiris to exercise their "inalienable right to self-determination" through a free and fair election.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1689462/oic-rights-body-condemns-indias-wicked-delimitation-exercise-in-occupied-kashmir>

Pakistan National Assembly Denounces Indian attempt of Demographic Engineering in ‘IOJK’

The Nation, May 13, 2022

The National Assembly of Pakistan unanimously passed a resolution "condemning India's latest attempt" at

demographic engineering in "illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir" (IIOJK) via a so-called delimitation commission. The resolution, which was proposed by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, noted that the attempt was made to intentionally alter the "electoral strength of the Muslim majority in IIOJK." The lawmakers further claim that the national assembly "categorically rejected" the report of the delimitation commission, which seeks to convert 'IIOJK's' Muslim majority into a minority, further "marginalize, disenfranchise, and disempower the Kashmiri population", and advance the BJP's political and electoral goals. The resolution further maintained that "India is making attempts to further its illegal actions of 5th August 2019 and subsequent measures," added that Jammu and Kashmir is an "internationally recognized dispute" and a long-standing item on the agenda of the UN Security Council.

The resolution urged India to abide by international law, UNSC decisions, and the Fourth Geneva Convention, as well as refrain from making any "illegal demographic changes in the occupied region." The resolution urged the international community to hold India accountable for egregious and "chronic human rights violations and war crimes in IIOJK." The resolution reaffirmed Pakistan's unwavering commitment and solidarity with Kashmir's brothers and sisters, stating that Pakistan will continue to provide all possible assistance in their rightful cause. The resolution urged the

government to continue to "expose and counter Indian efforts" in front of the international world, as well as to highlight and "strongly project the Kashmir cause" at all bilateral and multilateral venues, including the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/13/national-assembly-denounces-indian-attempt-of-demographic-engineering-in-iiojk/>

Pakistan won't allow India to impose its will in 'IIOJK:' FO

The Nation, May 13, 2022

Pakistan Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmed while speaking at the weekly news briefing, said Pakistan had "categorically rejected" the report of the "so-called" Delimitation Commission, added that Pakistan's position is "unambiguous and crystal clear" and that India's "unilateral and illegal" actions of 5 August 2019 and all "subsequent measures" in "Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir" (IIOJK) are in "blatant violation" of international law including the 4th Geneva Convention and the relevant resolutions of the United Nation Security Council (UNSC) on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He further claimed that "India's attempts to lend legitimacy to its illegal" and unilateral actions will never succeed," and added that "Pakistan and the Kashmiri people have rejected" all these moves. He further said that this report is a further manifestation of the "Bhartiya Janata

Party (BJP) government's repugnant plan to disempower and disenfranchise the Kashmiris" through artificially changing the electoral balance in favour of Jammu.

In response to a question regarding the 540 MW Kwar power hydroelectric project on Chenab River in Kishtwar by India, he noted that "this will ultimately divert the flow of the river", and added that Pakistan's Commissioner for Indus waters has already formally "raised objection on this project" with his Indian counterpart and added that we are keeping a close watch on these developments and we will take all "necessary steps to protect our interest."

In response to a question on ties with India, he stated that "in diplomacy, you never shut the doors" and maintained that you will see a "lot of consistency" in the statements of the previous and the present government and that is because there is a "national consensus" on having "friendly relations" with all neighbors including India but due to India's "illegal and unilateral" actions in 'IIOJK' on 5th August 2019 and "subsequent steps they took, the environment for a fruitful, constructive dialogue is not there." He said that Pakistan has consistently maintained that "for a result-oriented dialogue", Jammu and Kashmir as the "core dispute has to be at the forefront of any such dialogue."

In response to another question, the spokesperson said there was a meeting

comprised of a group of Legal Experts of SCO-RATS which is scheduled to be held in New Delhi from 15-20 May 2022 and noted that it is a "regular expert level" meeting which will be joined by all SCO member countries and there is nothing "unusual about it." He said that since India is the current chair of SCO--Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), the meeting is being hosted by India, otherwise, the meeting would have been held in Tashkent. He said that the Pakistan delegation, led by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), would participate in the meeting along with other officials from member countries.,"

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/13/pakistan-wont-allow-india-to-impose-its-will-in-iiojk-fo/>

Economic Developments

'AJK' Development working party held a meeting for the financial year 2021-22

UrduPoint, May 11, 2022

A meeting of the "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" development working party also known as Development commission for the financial year 2021-22 was held under the chairmanship of additional chief secretary Dr Sajid Mahmood Chauhan. The meeting was attended by representatives of the government of Pakistan and secretaries of relevant departments of the government and officials of the planning and development department. It has been said that during the meeting, a total of 640 km of roads connecting 20 km roads per

constituency under the new Kashmir development program are the major priorities of the present government added that the projects costing 15.63 billion were proposed for the “Azad Kashmir” development committee. In addition, the Department of Sports, Youth, and Culture also approved a revised plan of 186.7 million for the construction of educational institutions and community grounds in “Azad Kashmir.” While addressing the meeting, Sajid Mehmood said that the construction of these roads would improve the road infrastructure in the region, and added that the secretaries should monitor the projects themselves and ensure transparency and timely completion of the roads so that the fruits of these projects could reach the common man.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/national-news/live-news-3125225.html>

Trade relations with India will not be acceptable: JI head Sirajul Haq

Jasarat, May 13, 2022

While addressing a Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) Kissan delegation, JI head Sirajul Haq, while referring to the media reports regarding the government of Pakistan's plan to start trade ties with India, said that the “nation will not allow the government to develop love bond with New Delhi at cost of the Kashmiri blood and plight of Pakistani farmers.” In the current circumstances, he stressed that the Pakistani farmers were unable to compete with Indian farmers when they were provided with expensive seeds, water, and other

agricultural inputs. If Islamabad allowed the import of vegetables and other food items from India, it would be tantamount to “destroying the economy” and Pakistani growers will suffer losses. He added that the issue of trade with India was more “ideological than financial”, as the Pakistani nation is not ready to “build ties with India until the Kashmir issue was resolved” according to the wishes of the people of the “India-held area.” According to him, the BJP government must end “human rights violations” and allow the Kashmiris to express their free will following the United Nations (UN) resolutions on the Kashmir issue.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2022/05/13/220513-1-23/>

Trade with India will be an injustice to Kashmiris in ‘IOK:’ Former JI head

Daily Parliament Times, May 12, 2022

The former amir of Jamaat-e-Islamia (JI), “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK), Abdul Rashid Turabi has said that PM Narendra Modi's government has planned a dangerous strategy to win the “so-called elections in occupied Kashmir”, added that fake cases have been filed against Yasin Malik so that he could be hanged without being given a fair chance to defend himself. He said that the government of “Azad Kashmir” should convene an all-party conference to work out a plan of action to counter these “dangerous intentions of India.” He further stressed that the government of Pakistan should organize a global diplomatic campaign to protect the lives of the Kashmir leaders in “occupied Kashmir.” He said

that at a time when families of “martyred Kashmiris” are burying them by draping the bodies in Pakistani flag, government of Pakistan speaking about trade with India is like rubbing salt on the wounds of the Kashmiris. He further claimed that the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) government has decided to execute Yasin Malik and other leaders by “fabricating cases” against them to increase the vote bank and win the state elections.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/05/12/trading-with-india-is-injustice-to-kashmiris-of-iok-abdul-rashid-turabi/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

India cannot legitimize its ‘unlawful rule’ through 2000 crores economic package in ‘IIOJK:’ ‘AJK’ PM

Mahasib, May 10, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK), Sardar Tanvir Ilyas and Chief Minister (CM) of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Khalid Khurshid during their meeting at Jammu Kashmir House have discussed the political situation in the country and matters of mutual interest. Both the leaders also discussed the prospects of development in different sectors and the potential of tourism both in ‘AJK’ and GB. Meanwhile, while talking with a local TV Channel, the ‘AJK’ PM said that by granting “economic packages” of 20,000 crores, India cannot maintain its “illegitimate domination over Kashmir” which is a disputed territory. He claimed that in 2019, the government of India had “unlawfully attempted to change the status of

Kashmir” by bringing in a ‘controversial act’ in the parliament, added that even today the “Indian occupied territory” of Kashmir is under curfew and Kashmiris were forced to live in a state of fear. He claimed that the political and human rights situation in the “Indian held territory” is “abysmal and worsening” day by day which merits the immediate attention of the international community.

He said that the international community’s astonishing silence on the “Kashmiris’ sufferings” was a matter of serious concern. The world community’s inaction, he claimed, tantamounts to endangering the lives of a quarter of the world’s population. He further said that “propagandists and proponents of Hindutva ideology in occupied Kashmir” were unaware of its dire consequences.” He stressed that Kashmiris have not given these sacrifices to gain economic packages or concessions but for their independence. While citing Kashmiris’ “everlasting relationship and their unconditional love with Pakistan”, he said that “the only slogan that echoes all across Kashmir is that we are Pakistanis and Pakistan is ours”. He added that India cannot suppress undying spirit and Kashmiris passion for freedom.” While “denouncing India’s war frenzy”, he said that such behaviour poses a serious threat to peace in the region and maintained that in case of any misadventure, “India will get a response from Pakistan which will be beyond its imagination.”

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

Tehreek-e-Azadi Kashmir is the priority of the base camp government: 'AJK' PM spokesperson

Urdupoint, May 11, 2022

The spokesperson of the Prime Minister (PM) of "Azad Kashmir", Dr Irfan Ashraf, while addressing a press conference along with Hurriyat leader Uzair Ghazali has said that Tehreek-e-Azadi is the first priority of the Kashmir base camp government. He noted that within two days of being sworn in as the PM, Tanveer Ilyas Khan called for a protest against the arrival of PM Narendra Modi in "occupied Kashmir" and a "black day" and protests were being observed on "both sides" of the Line of Control (LoC). He stressed that PM Ilyas himself led the protest in front of the Indian High Commission and sent a message to the world that "PM Modi visiting occupied Jammu and Kashmir by turning it into a military barrack" with no regard to Kashmiris.

He added that the "Azad Kashmir" PM had spent Eid with the refugees, listened to their problems and paid homage to the sacrifices made by the armed forces of Pakistan by visiting the LoC, added that the visit was also an encouragement to the people of "occupied Kashmir." He further said that the PM Tanveer Ilyas's purpose in celebrating Eid with the armed forces of Pakistan was to send a message to the brave armed forces on the LoC that the Kashmiri nation stands by the side of the armed forces of Pakistan, added that there is hope for the "freedom of the people of occupied Kashmir."

He further said that propaganda against the Pakistan Army will weaken the state of Pakistan and will also hurt the Kashmiris the most, adding that the Pakistan army is the best in the world. Irfan Ashraf further said that the PM Ilyas has directed officials to install road safety measures on highways to prevent accidents, and added that steps are also being taken for the improvement of all major highways to promote tourism. He said that an International Media Conference will be convened to "highlight Indian atrocities" in "occupied Kashmir" in which any media person can present his research paper, added that the conference will bring all stakeholders, including the Hurriyat leadership on board. He said that the issue of delimitation in "occupied Kashmir" will also be covered by the international media, and noted that the "Azad Kashmir" government would brief the media every fortnight on the steps taken by the government. In response to a question, he said that the funds of the "Azad Kashmir" government have not been withheld by the federal government. Hurriyat leader Ghazali said that when it comes to Tehreek-e-Azadi Kashmir, every individual must raise his voice against "Indian tyranny in occupied Kashmir", added that in addition to the people and government of "Azad Kashmir", Hurriyat pays homage to the leadership and the people of "occupied Kashmir."

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3125240.html>

'AJK' minister says he condemns the 'fabricated, baseless and oppressive decision of Indian courts' against Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik

UrduPoint, May 11, 2022

The "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) government minister Zafar Iqbal Malik has said that he "strongly condemned the fabricated, baseless and oppressive decision of Indian courts" against Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik. He further said that despite keeping Yasin Malik and other Kashmiris in jails for years, India could not reduce their "spirit of independence", on the contrary, he added, the world saw the "ugly face of India against the Kashmiris" with the worst lockdown in history. Zafar Iqbal further said that Yasin Malik is a great Kashmiri leader and the Kashmiri nation stands with its leader in this difficult time, added that the United Nations (UN) should take notice of "inhumane atrocities in occupied Kashmir."

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/kotli/kashmir/live-news-3125758.html>

Pakistan is the lost hope for Kashmiris: 'AJK' PM in his meet with the former FM of Pakistan

Jammu and Kashmir Times, May 13, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK), Sardar Tanveer Ilyas had an 'important' meeting with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice-chairman and former Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mehmood Qureshi at the PM House in Islamabad. During the meeting, Shah Mehmood

said that the steps taken by India on August 5, 2019, are "illegal and contrary" to the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). He said that the PTI government did not engage in any talks with India, while the present government, on the contrary, is extending a hand of friendship to India, which is against the "aspirations of the Kashmiri people." He said that Pakistan is the "real advocate of Kashmiris", and claimed that "Kashmiris consider Pakistan as their destiny, and added that, Pakistan has supported Kashmiris on every front. He further alleged that the Kashmiri people have devotion to Pakistan and every day they are burying the bodies of their "martyrs in the green crescent flag and thereby sealing the ideology of accession to Pakistan." He said that despite the "worst atrocities" in human history, India has not been able to "bring stability" to the Kashmiri people. During the meeting, Tanveer Ilyas stressed that Imran Khan has fought the case of Kashmir in a healthy manner all over the world including the UN and has truly represented Kashmiris at international forums, added that Pakistan is the "last hope for Kashmiris." He further said that all political parties have the same position on the Kashmir issue, and added that we have to go beyond party politics and raise our voices for the "oppressed Kashmiris."

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-13.jpg>

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Disclaimer

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