

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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new projects
development budget POK
federal taxes Gilgit-Baltistan
Manakpian BRIDGE
Muzaffarabad
non-development budget



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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

Kashmiris chasing down the help of Islamic countries after Allah: Abdul Rashid Turabi

Daily Parliament Times, May 30, 2022

The former head of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Abdul Rashid Turabi while participating in a solidarity march and conference on Palestine and Kashmir and other 'oppressed Muslims' organized by the Saadat Party on the occasion of Constantinople Victory Day has said that Kashmiris are looking for help from Islamic countries after Allah. He added that the Turkish government and people have a lasting relationship with the Kashmiris. He further said that as the successor of Najmuddin Arkan, the great leader of the Muslim Ummah, Tamil Karamullah Oglu is constantly supporting us and other oppressed Muslims, added that 9 Lakhs of Indian troops and millions of other paramilitary forces are on the 'brink of the worst state terrorism.' During the event, the president of Saadat Party, Tamil Karamullah Oglu, parliamentary leader Abdul Qadir, president of Youth Wing, Saleh Murad, and other officials addressed the gathering.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/05/30/kashmiris-chasing-down-help-of-islamic-countries-after-allah-abdul-rashid-turabi/>

Pakistan to raise Yasin Malik's 'Malafide conviction' with UNHRC

The Nation, May 31, 2022

Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN), Munir Akram has said that Pakistan will raise the conviction of Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik and the 'human rights abuses by

India' at the summer session of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), beginning from 13th June in Geneva. He further said that he has already taken up the issue with UN secretary-general António Guterres, and added that such acts by Indian authorities cannot suppress the legitimate struggle of the people of 'occupied Kashmir.' He further said that India is using all tactics to crush the freedom movement, but it cannot succeed in its 'nefarious designs' due to the 'indomitable resilience' of determined Kashmiri leadership. He also 'strongly condemned Indian actions' against Muslims including recent remarks by Indian ruling party BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma against Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/05/31/pakistan-to-raise-yasin-maliks-malafide-conviction-with-unhrc/>

Kashmiris' sacrifices for freedom are unforgettable

Pakistan Observer, June 2, 2022

The former Prime Minister (PM) of 'Azad Jammu Kashmir' (AJK), Raja Farooq Haider Khan, while addressing the "All Parties Consultative Conference on Kashmir Issue: The Way Forward", said that the sacrifices of Kashmiri people for the freedom movement were unforgettable, added that a delegation of Kashmiri leaders should visit different countries to highlight the Kashmir cause. He further said that we are grateful to PM Shahbaz Sharif, foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto and the entire Pakistani nation for raising their voice on Kashmir. Farooq Haider said that a Cell

on Kashmir was formed in the ministry of foreign affairs, adding that Kashmiris should be allowed to present their case before the world which would have more effect.

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmiris-sacrifices-for-freedom-unforgettable/>

Pakistan, 'AJK' leaders on the same page to protect 'IIOJK' Status

The Nation, June 2, 2022

The adviser to Prime Minister (PM) on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Qamar Zaman Kaira said that the federal government has called an All Parties Conference (APC) to consult 'AJK' political leadership on the prevailing situation in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) in the aftermath of the conviction of senior Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, and the Indian government's steps to change the demography and to devise a future strategy accordingly. He said that the federal government wanted to take the political leadership of 'AJK' into confidence on the prevailing situation in 'IIOJK' and would chalk out a strategy accordingly.

He said that Indians are taking steps to change the status of 'IIOJK' to further consolidate its grip on Jammu and Kashmir, but Pakistan and its people would not let them do this. Kaira said that bars and civil society would also be consulted on what measures Pakistan needs to take to strongly project the Kashmir case internationally. The additional secretary for the Asia Pacific at the Foreign Office, Mumtaz Zahra told the political leaders that there is no change in Pakistan's policy on Kashmir, and added that the steps

taken by the Indian government including Delimitation Commission violate the United Nations (UN) resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. During the event, 'AJK' president, Sultan Mehmood said India is planning to lease out land to 4000 investors in clear violation of the status of Jammu and Kashmir, added that the current government looks non-serious in projecting the Kashmir issue and so far, no policy statement has been made by the government. The 'AJK' PM Sardar Tanvir Ilyas said that Pakistani leadership needs to be more conscious of the future planning by PM Modi in 'IIOJK.'

<https://nation.com.pk/2022/06/02/pak-ajk-leaders-on-same-page-to-protect-iiojk-status/>

India forcing Pandits in 'IIOJK' to migrate to pave way for 'Muslims' genocide'

The Express Tribune, June 02, 2022

The Indian government, as it did in the decade of 1990s, is again 'forcing the Kashmiri Pandits' to migrate from the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK), and once again the blame for this migration was being put on Pakistan and the Kashmiri 'freedom lovers.' According to the article (The Express Tribune) 'credible information', after getting the 'occupied valley' free from Hindu Pandits, a plan of 'Muslims' genocide' would be implemented. This plan aims at trying to 'artificially alter the demography of the Muslim population in the 'occupied valley.' The Indian government is implementing a plan to settle the pandits in separate colonies on the 'Israeli pattern', however, the Kashmiri Pandit community was

protesting over the BJP government's 'discriminatory treatment.'

With Kashmiri Pandits already unsatisfied over the failure of fulfilling the promise of providing security, efforts are also being made by the Indian government to 'create hatred' between the Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims. Since the civilians were never targeted in the Kashmiri freedom struggle, the claim of targeting Pandits is also incorrect. India has been portraying the Kashmiris' freedom struggle as terrorism for decades. Under a 'planned strategy,' India bought some people in the 'IIOJK' and promoted them as militant organizations while defaming the 'original freedom struggles.' Hurriyat leadership, which never forced the Kashmiri Pandits to leave 'IIOJK', is even today ready to take responsibility for protecting Hindu Pandits, adding that contrary to Indian claims that the situation in 'IIOJK' is returning to normalcy is in reality a rhetoric and lies for the outside world. The real situation in 'IIOJK' is altogether different.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2359695/india-forcing-iiojk-pandits-to-migrate-to-pave-way-for-muslims-genocide>

Economic Developments

Centre accused of slashing 'AJK' grant, share in federal taxes

Dawn, May 31, 2021

The 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) government accused the Shehbaz Sharif-led federal government of slashing its development grant and share in federal taxes in a move that could deal a serious blow to its development and other plans for the

ongoing and next fiscal years. This allegation was made by 'AJK' minister for finance and revenue Abdul Majid Khan at a press conference. The finance minister said that 'AJK's development budget, which is provided by the federal government in totality, stood at 28 billion in the ongoing fiscal year, but the federal finance division had unilaterally slashed it by 5.2 billion. Similarly, he said, the federal government was to provide 49.9 billion to 'AJK' during the ongoing fiscal year (2021-22) as the latter's 3.64 percent share in the federal taxes pool (variable grant) but that too had been slashed by 4.4 billion.

He further said that the 3.64 percent share from the federal taxes pool was agreed upon under a financial arrangement between Islamabad and Muzaffarabad in 2018 and constituted a major source of 'AJK' income for its recurring budget. Majid Khan further said that as per the working of 'AJK' finance department, the 3.64 percent in the financial year 2022-23 equaled 74.32 billion, but the federal government had recently informed that it would provide only 60 billion, added that this will create a shortfall of 14 billion in our income which we cannot bridge from any other source. He added that it's for the first time in 'AJK's history that the federal government is going to cut our normal [recurring] budget, added that the federal government had also stopped funds for the Line of Control (LoC) package even though 40 per cent work had already been done.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1692392/centre-accused-of-slashing-ajk-grant-share-in-federal-taxes>

'AJK' PM lays foundation stone of 62.2 million Manakpian-Muzaffarabad bridge in State metropolis

Daily Parliament Times, May 31, 2022

Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan laid the foundation stone of the Manakpian-Muzaffarabad bridge that besides providing easy access and quick transportation facilities to the residents of the area would connect surrounding rural communities with the capital city. The construction of this bridge will facilitate the population of 1 lakh in Manakpian and the migrant community settled in two refugee camps in the area. The construction of the bridge will cost 62.2 million and the project will be completed in 15 months. While talking to the media after the inauguration of the bridge, Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that the Kashmiri refugees had left their home and hearth for a great cause following the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The government, he said, would use all available resources to improve their lives, and added that the provision of basic amenities in other refugee camps all across 'Azad Kashmir' would be ensured.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/05/31/ajk-pm-lays-foundation-stone-of-rs-62-2-million-manakpian-muzaffarabad-bridge-in-state-metropolis/>

'AJK' opposition backs government on budgetary cuts but slams performance

Dawn, June 01, 2022

The opposition leaders in the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) assembly

back the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) government on the issue of cuts by Islamabad in budgetary grants, but with a 'tinge of acerbic criticism of its performance.' The debate on this issue was initiated on an adjournment motion by the ruling party's Ghulam Mohiuddin wherein while praising former premier Imran Khan for his 'historic services' to the country, he asked the sitting federal government to 'realise its responsibilities' and immediately withdraw cuts on 'AJK' budget to allow continuation of the development process in the territory. While speaking on the motion, finance minister Abdul Majid Khan said that if the issue of cuts was not reviewed, not only all projects of public welfare would badly suffer, but an increase in pay and pension of employees would also become impossible. He also said 'we do realize the financial woes' of the federal government but it should be kept in mind that Kashmiris have always rendered 'great sacrifices for Pakistan,' added that Indian PM Narendra Modi had offered a huge fiscal package for 'occupied Kashmir', but the Kashmiris had rejected it outright.

He further said that the budget cut would stave off their plans for betterment in different sectors, particularly health, education, and tourism. While speaking on the issue, the leader of the opposition Chaudhry Latif Akbar solaced the 'AJK' government by saying that the opposition would lend support to it in all lawful demands. The former prime minister and PML-N leader Raja Farooq Haider said the opposition was ready to talk to the central government on this issue, adding that he advised

the government not to draw comparisons with India on economic aspects, as India is the 5th largest economy in the world in a sharp contrast to Pakistan which was facing the worst ever 'fiscal crisis' at the moment.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1692542/ajk-opposition-backs-govt-on-budgetary-cuts-but-slams-performance>

The federal government agrees not to cut GB's non-development budget and wheat subsidy

Dailyk2, June 02, 2022

It has been observed that after the public reaction, followed by the press conference of the ministers and the personal efforts of the chief secretary of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), the federal government agreed not only to cut the non-development budget and wheat subsidy of GB for the next financial year but it will also maintain the current fiscal year's budget for the next fiscal year. It was decided that 47 billion would be allocated for the non-development budget of GB. The federal government retreated from its earlier decision which came after the federal ministry of finance had informed the GB government about a 50 percent reduction in wheat subsidy and a reduction of 2 billion in the non-development budget through a notification. It has been said that development projects across the country are being cut due to financial constraints, and the development budget of GB will also be cut. The provincial finance minister Javed Ali Manwa said that along with the non-development budget, efforts are being

made to end the cuts in the development budget as well, added that the reduction in wheat subsidy and budget has been strongly opposed.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/6579>

'AJK' budget cuts: a government delegation led by 'AJK' PM gave a detailed briefing to Federal Adviser on Kashmir Affairs

Daily Parliament Times, June 03, 2022

A government delegation led by Prime Minister (PM) of 'Azad Kashmir', Sardar Tanveer Ilyas gave a detailed briefing to a federal adviser on Kashmir affairs, Chaudhry Qamar Zaman Kaira, on the 'Azad Kashmir's development and non-development budget cuts by the federal finance division. The delegation included finance minister Abdul Majid Khan, planning and development minister Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, and others. The delegation told the federal adviser on Kashmir affairs that cuts in the development and non-development budget of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) have created fear of paralyzing the system in the region. The delegation further noted that there are obstacles in launching new projects for the welfare of the people while the ongoing projects are also in limbo due to uncertainty. The federal adviser on Kashmir affairs, after hearing the briefing of the 'AJK' government delegation, assured that the specific geographical and sensitive situation of 'Azad Kashmir' will be taken into consideration, and added that the federal government will not only be informed to meet the financial needs of the 'AJK' government but also the PM

of Pakistan will be informed and efforts will be made to meet the financial needs of 'AJK.'

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/06/02/ajk-budget-cuts-detailed-briefing-a-delegation-led-by-pm-ajk-to-adviser-on-kashmir-affairs-ch-qamar-zaman-kaira/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

The internal situation in Pakistan is harming the Kashmir cause: Abdul Hameed Lone

UrduPoint, June 01, 2022

Abdul Hameed Lone, Hurriyat leader and Vice Chairman of Friends of Kashmir International, while addressing a press conference at Kashmir House Islamabad has urged the Kashmiris and Pakistani nationals to play their full role in highlighting the Kashmir issue and the 'atrocities committed' by the Indian Army in 'occupied Kashmir.' He further said that the Pakistani and Kashmiri communities living abroad are playing a vital role in highlighting the Kashmir issue, adding that he visited the United Kingdom (UK) in the same context last month to meet with lawmakers, including Pakistani and Kashmiri community leaders. Apart from this, rallies and demonstrations were also organized at various places to highlight the importance of the Kashmir issue. These were attended by Mayors, Councilors and representative leaders of all political parties of 'Azad Kashmir.'

He said that during the occasion, it was reiterated that the Kashmir movement should move forward together and the current political instability and anarchy

in Pakistan should end soon as the Kashmir movement is being harmed due to the deteriorating internal situation in Pakistan. During next month's Common Wealth Games, a strategy is also being worked out by various organizations to highlight the Kashmir cause, adding that National Council should also be formed to highlight the independence movement of 'Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' on the international front. The government of Pakistan should provide facilities to Kashmiri representatives in every country of the world and the United Nations through its embassies added that the Kashmiris living abroad will extend all possible assistance. He stressed that only the organized struggle of the Kashmiris can strengthen Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue at the international level, as evidenced by the recent reports of the British and European Chambers and the Commissioner of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

He said that overseas residents of the state of Jammu and Kashmir are unpaid ambassadors and the government of Pakistan should take full advantage of their immense potential. He said that Yasin Malik, a 56-year-old Kashmiri leader was sentenced to life in prison, and added that Malik is the leader who sacrificed his youth for the freedom of Kashmiris. He said that we need to remember that India does not understand the language of morality but the language of power, and added that India has to kneel in front of China's after the military standoff in Ladakh. He said that if we do nothing more, it will be

tantamount to encouraging India on its plans of consuming Kashmiris' lives.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/national-news/live-news-3150957.html>

Only sloganeering and condemnation of India for its 'atrocities against Kashmiris' produced no results: 'AJK' PM

Jammu and Kashmir times, June 02, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the time has come and that the issue of Kashmir should be raised more vigorously at the international level to expose India's 'human rights abuse' and its 'nefarious designs' towards Kashmir. While addressing the All Parties Kashmir Conference hosted by federal minister for Kashmir Affairs, Qamar-ul-Zaman Kaira in Islamabad, the 'AJK' PM while referring to Pakistan's decades-long approach to Kashmir said that it was high time to move beyond rhetoric on Kashmir and devise a comprehensive mechanism to galvanize world support in favour of Kashmiris' just cause. He said that issuing statements, and holding rallies and demonstrations for the past 70 years have caused no harm to India, adding that there was a dire need to launch a 'diplomatic offensive' at the international level to counter 'Indian propaganda' on Kashmir effectively. For this purpose, he said that Kashmir Desk should be set up in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs so that the issue could be highlighted at every forum. He further said that India was hell-bent on 'changing the demography' of the 'occupied Jammu and Kashmir' by settling non-

Kashmiris, claiming that the Indian authorities have issued domiciles to over 1.2 million non-state subjects.

He said that the Indian government has been promoting its so-called normalcy narrative to deceive the international community and to create a web of confusion around Kashmir. He said that though Indian PM visited the 'occupied state' and announced projects worth 20 thousand crores, however, Kashmiris have rejected the offer and made it clear to the Indian PM that their struggle and sacrifices were not meant to seek investment and development packages from India. While lauding the Hurriyat leaders' role in championing the Kashmir cause, the PM said that Syed Ali Geelani, Shabir Shah, Yasin Malik, and Mirwaiz have dedicated their entire lives to the Kashmir cause, added that India has deployed over 900,000 military and paramilitary troops in 'occupied Kashmir' to crush Kashmiris' legitimate struggle. Kashmiris, he said, were forced to live in a state of fear, adding that the Indian forces were operating without any feeling of accountability and the media had no access to the 'crimes' they have been committing against Kashmiri.

While denouncing the life imprisonment of Yasin Malik, the PM said that Malik has been pursuing a peaceful political settlement of the Kashmir dispute for the past several decades, claiming that Malik's 'unjust sentencing' in a 'dubiously manifested and politically motivated' case. He claimed that after sentencing Yasin Malik, the Indian government will go after other Hurriyat leaders including

Mirwaiz, Shabir Shah and others, adding that the state of Pakistan was the centre of hope for the Kashmiri people and a strong and stable Pakistan is a guarantee for the liberation of the 'occupied Kashmir.'

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-02.jpg>

Pakistan was founded on a single ideology, and we are proud of the sacrifices of our forces: GB CM

UrduPoint, June 02, 2022

The Chief Minister (CM) of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Khalid Khurshid while addressing a one-day seminar on 'Gilgit-Baltistan-We Pakistan' organized by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS) at Karakoram International University (KIU) said that Pakistan came into being based on one ideology, added that Pakistanis have an unparalleled feeling for their country. He further said that we are proud of the sacrifices of the Pakistan armed forces, and added that the Muslims of the subcontinent had a dream which was fulfilled by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said that after the formation of Pakistan there were big conspiracies against the country but every conspiracy was thwarted. He noted that if the nation of Pakistan intends something, no one can stop it. He said that Pakistan is rich in natural resources but it lacks only one sincere and true leadership, a leadership that does not hesitate to make decisions in

the wider interests of the country and the people.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-3154491.html>

'AJK' PM meets with the president of Pakistan

Nawaiwaqt, June 03, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Tanveer Ilyas Khan meet with the president of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi. During the meeting, both the leaders discussed the prevailing 'political and human rights' situation in the 'Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK), particularly the 'unjust sentencing' of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Yasin Malik. While denouncing the 'unabated human rights abuses' and Malik's life imprisonment, both the leaders agreed to raise the issue effectively at the global level. The president of Pakistan said that a 'comprehensive policy' would be devised by taking all key stakeholders on board, and added that the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs, members of the legislative assemblies of 'AJK' and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), and other Kashmiri leaders would be invited to the president office for a consultation. The 'AJK' PM while explaining Arif Alvi about the federal government's decision to decrease the development budget of 'AJK', said that the budget cut would hamper the development process of 'Azad Kashmir.'

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2022-06-03/page-1>

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Disclaimer

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