

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 5 | Issue 15

07 April - 13 April 2025

POK
Chilas dam
Global warming
mineral exploration
Gilgit-Baltistan
protest movement
Climate Change



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Political Developments

Unseasonal Snowfall: A Growing Crisis in Gilgit-Baltistan

Pamir Times, 7 April 2025

An avalanche blocking the road to Phander recently left thousands of residents stranded for days, cutting off access to food, medical supplies, and other essentials. Similar disruptions have been reported in Astore, Nagar, and Baltistan, where heavy snowfall and avalanches have severely impacted daily life. These events are part of a growing trend of unseasonal snowfall in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), raising serious concerns among communities, farmers, and climate experts. These extreme weather events suggest that nature is attempting to self-correct and rebalance the climate. However, human interventions have disrupted this delicate balance. Considering these changing climate patterns, it's essential to develop policies and plans that address climate-related hydro-meteorological events.

Snowfall in GB traditionally occurs from late November to February. However, in recent years, heavy snow has been reported well into March and April, disrupting seasonal patterns. The region also recently experienced an unprecedented cold wave, with average minimum temperatures dropping to -8°C , breaking a decade-long record. Residents accustomed to gradual warming in spring now face unpredictable weather, affecting agriculture, transportation, and disaster risk.

One reason for late snowfall is sudden drops in temperature due to cold waves. While spring usually signals warming, these cold air masses push southward, triggering snow in high-altitude areas like Hunza, Nagar, Baltistan, Ghizer, and Astore. This irregular temperature cycle is part of a broader climatic shift observed in the Karakoram region.

The unique geography of GB also plays a role. Many valleys, particularly those above 2,500 meters, experience a microclimate where snow lingers well into spring. Areas like Khunjerab, Deosai, Shimshal, Shandur, and Hispar remain snow-covered due to their proximity to glaciers, which continuously influence local weather patterns.

Climate change is further intensifying these shifts. Global warming is disrupting seasonal cycles, sometimes bringing milder winters and harsher spring cold spells. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified the Himalayas and Karakoram as particularly vulnerable to such anomalies due to their fragile ecosystems and rapid glacier changes.

These weather shifts are already impacting agriculture. GB's orchards—famous for apricots, cherries, apples, and almonds—rely on stable spring temperatures for flowering and fruit production. Later snowfall damages blossoms, reducing yields and threatening the livelihoods of thousands of farmers. Recent studies

show that climate variability is shortening the growing season and increasing risks for local agriculture.

Road blockages caused by unexpected snowfall have also become a major concern. Key routes like the Karakoram Highway (KKH) and Skardu Road frequently close due to landslides and avalanches, isolating communities and disrupting trade. The closure of Babusar Top and Khunjerab Pass affects both tourism and commerce, making life even harder for those in remote valleys.

Another risk is the increased likelihood of avalanches and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). Fresh snowfall in spring, combined with fluctuating temperatures, destabilizes snowpacks and accelerates glacier melt. This can lead to sudden floods, endangering settlements near rivers and steep slopes.

According to a report by the Gilgit-Baltistan government, between June 30, 2022, and August 26, 2022, 14 people died due to floods and rains, while 3 were reported injured. The report also mentions that private properties worth over 4 billion rupees have been destroyed by various natural disasters in the Gilgit-Baltistan region alone. This includes 383 fully damaged houses and 257 partially damaged “pakka” houses.

Fifty-two bridges have also been destroyed, causing financial losses worth 360 million rupees, according to the report. Of these destroyed bridges, 43 have been partially restored. Other

public infrastructure damaged includes 22 powerhouses, 49 roads, 78 potable water supply lines, and over 500 irrigation water channels.

The total losses suffered by Gilgit-Baltistan during the last few months are estimated at over 7 billion rupees.

With unseasonal snowfall becoming more frequent, proactive measures are needed. Improved weather forecasting, disaster preparedness, climate-resilient agriculture, and better infrastructure are crucial to help communities adapt. Policymakers must invest in early warning systems, road maintenance, and sustainable development to mitigate the impacts of this changing climate.

As Gilgit-Baltistan navigates these challenges, it is essential to recognize that climate change is not a distant threat—it is already reshaping daily life in the mountains. Addressing these issues through scientific research and informed policymaking will be key to ensuring a stable and sustainable future for the region.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/04/06/unseasonal-snowfall-a-growing-crisis-in-gilgit-baltistan/>

Chilas dam protesters threaten to intensify agitation

Dawn, 8 April 2025

People affected by the construction of Diamer-Bhasha Dam on Monday blocked Karakoram Highway at Bab-i-Chilas for traffic, except ambulances, as the Huqooq Do, Dam Banao sit-in against Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) entered 52nd day.

The standoff between the locals and government continued despite several rounds of negotiations for compensation of land ownership and businesses affected by the construction of the dam as well as some other demands of the locals remained unmet.

Work at site offices of Wapda and other dam construction companies has been suspended for past several weeks. Addressing a press conference, protest movement committee's head Maulana Hazratullah said, "No progress has been made on the implementation of our charter of demands for the last 40 days. Only committees are being formed and delaying tactics are being used."

Protesters continued their sit-in at Chilas despite harsh weather, Ramazan and Eid for 51 consecutive day, he said. "Now the protesters are fast losing patience noticing that federal government, GB government and Wapda officials are not serious to settle the issue," said Hazratullah, who was accompanied by Umar Yar, Najeeb, Usman, Shahid, Aftab and others.

He made it clear that the protesters were committed to calling off the protest only after the fulfilment of their demands. After negotiations with the district administration, the protesters reopened the KKH only till Tuesday, while Maulana Hazratullah announced their plan to close the KKH for an indefinite period.

He also said the protesters would begin a long march towards the dam site and asked people to prepare accordingly.

He advised all passengers going from Gilgit-Baltistan to Rawalpindi and from Rawalpindi to Gilgit should avoid travel, claiming that the highway could be blocked at any time. He also claimed that the offices of Wapda and other companies in Chilas and other places would not be allowed to resume work.

Hazratullah also asked oil tanker operators and owners of oil supply companies to stop the supply to Wapda and other dam construction companies. Sources said GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan has contacted the Prime Minister Secretariat to arrange PM's meeting with protesters representatives.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1902822/chilas-dam-protesters-threaten-to-intensify-agitation>

China and Pakistan Join Hands to "Explore Minerals" in Gilgit-Baltistan

Pamir Times, 9 April 2025

The Geological Survey of Pakistan (GSP) and the China Geological Survey have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on the exploration of Lithium and other valuable minerals in the Gilgit Baltistan region. The partnership includes joint field expeditions, geochemical sampling, technical training, and exchange visits aimed at enhancing mineral exploration efforts.

The signing took place during the Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2025, held in Islamabad. The forum was also attended by Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, along with

the chief ministers of Balochistan, Sindh, and Punjab.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while addressing the forum, emphasised the immense value of Pakistan's mineral deposits, which are estimated to be worth trillions of dollars. He stated that effectively harnessing these resources could allow Pakistan to reduce its dependence on international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Sharif also called for an integrated policy under which raw materials would be processed domestically into finished goods prior to export, ensuring maximum economic benefit and promoting technology transfer.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2025/04/08/81927/>

PBC urges GB authorities to resolve legal fraternity's issue

The Nation, 8 April 2025

The Pakistan Bar Council (PBC) on Monday urged the Gilgit-Baltistan authorities to resolve the issues of GB legal fraternity and appoint judges in courts and fulfil their other demands. In a statement issued by the PBC, its Vice-Chairman Ch Tahir Nasrullah Warraich expressed solidarity with the legal fraternity of Gilgit-Baltistan.

The lawyers of GB have announced a boycott of all courts proceedings until 16th April, and are holding protest demonstrations across the region, due to non-fulfilment of their legitimate demands which includes appointment of judges on the vacant positions in the

GB Supreme Appellate Court and other judicial offices and delay in the appointment of judges causing delay in decisions of thousands important cases.

Warriach said that the Lawyers Protection Act be extended to Gilgit-Baltistan for ensuring safety, security and professional rights of Gilgit-Baltistan lawyers too. He reiterated that the legal fraternity of Pakistan unwaveringly supports and stands in solidarity with the Lawyers of GB and endorses all their demands including appointment of Judges in the GB Supreme Appellate Court and other Judicial Offices.

The PBC vice-chairman urged that authorities of GB should immediately resolve the issues of the legal fraternity of Gilgit-Baltistan and appoint the Judges in Courts and fulfil their other demands.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/08-Apr-2025/pbc-urges-gb-authorities-to-resolve-legal-fraternity-s-issue>

All Parties Conference Organized by Hurriyat Conference Echoes Unity on Kashmir

Daily Parliament Times, 10 April 2025

In light of the grave human rights violations and political unrest in 'Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir', the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) convened a significant All Parties Conference in Islamabad. The objective of this gathering was to unite political and religious parties from Pakistan and

‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ on a single platform to raise awareness about the deteriorating situation in ‘occupied Kashmir’ and to devise a collective strategy in support of the Kashmiri people’s right to self-determination.

Since the Indian government’s revocation of Article 370 in August 2019, which stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its special constitutional status, the region has witnessed severe military clamp downs, communication blackouts, and mass arrests of political leaders and human rights activists. Thousands of Kashmiris are reportedly being held under unlawful detention, and attempts to alter the region’s demography under Hindutva policies are a serious threat to Kashmiri identity and culture. Key Objectives of the Conference: Demonstrate national consensus on the Kashmir issue and express solidarity with the Kashmiri people. Condemn the ongoing human rights abuses and Indian state terrorism in ‘occupied Kashmir’. Mobilize the international community, including the United Nations, OIC, and other global bodies, to take effective steps toward resolving the Kashmir dispute.

The conference commenced with a recitation by Sheikh Abdul Mateen and opening remarks by veteran Hurriyat leaders Iltaf Wani and Farooq Rehmani, who emotionally highlighted the hardships faced by Kashmiri political leadership, activists, and the general population under Indian repression. Prominent Speakers and Recommendations: Sardar Usman Ali

Khan, son of former ‘AJK’ Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, provided focused recommendations in support of the Kashmiri cause. Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan, advocated the appointment of a “Plebiscite Advisor” by the ‘AJK’ government and a “Special Envoy on Kashmir” by the Government of Pakistan. Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Leader of the Opposition in the ‘AJK’ Assembly and PTI leader, urged transcending political divisions for a unified approach on Kashmir. Sardar Hassan Ibrahim Khan (JKPP) and Shah Ghulam Qadir (PML-N ‘AJK’ President) reaffirmed their parties’ full support for the Hurriyat Conference’s stance.

Raja Zafar-ul-Haq, senior politician and Secretary General of the World Muslim Congress, declared Kashmir a global issue and proposed submitting the conference’s resolutions directly to Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Senator Ishaq Dar, currently representing Pakistan at the UN Security Council. Challenging the Indian Narrative: Participants strongly rebutted the recent statement by Indian Home Minister Amit Shah, who declared during a visit to Kashmir that “the Kashmir issue is now a matter of the past.” This assertion was widely condemned as both threatening and misleading. His remarks were seen as an attempt to incite and intimidate while promoting a false sense of finality. Conference attendees

emphasized that the Kashmir issue remains unresolved and cannot be declared over until it is settled in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and through the implementation of UN resolutions in letter and spirit. The declaration added that such statements by Indian leadership do not erase the lived reality of millions of Kashmiris nor the legitimacy of their decades-long struggle for self-determination. Furthermore, the participants expressed concern over India's efforts to extract affidavits from political workers, aiming to coerce or exclude dissenting voices. These tactics, they said, represent a systematic attempt to manufacture political consent rather than engage with the genuine will of the people.

Kashmiris, the speakers asserted, have not surrendered their cause nor forgotten their sacrifices. India's narrative of closure is a façade built upon suppression, demographic manipulation, and political coercion—none of which can substitute for the internationally recognized right to self-determination. Joint Declaration and Broader Support: APHC Secretary-General Advocate Syed Parvez Ahmed presented the joint declaration, which was unanimously adopted. Other significant voices of support included: Hafizuddin (MNA, MQM) Chaudhry Latif Akbar (former PPP 'AJK' President and Speaker of the 'AJK' Assembly) Maulana Saeed Yusuf (Ameer, JUI 'AJK'), who drew parallels

with the Palestinian struggle Senator (Ex) Mushahid Hussain Syed, who emphasized India's aggression and flagged China's growing stake in the region. Rana Qasim Noon, Chairman of the Parliamentary Kashmir Committee, who reiterated full parliamentary backing Engr. Amir Muqam, Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, representing the government's position as chief guest. He reaffirmed the commitment of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's government to the Kashmir cause through consistent engagement, international advocacy, and official support to APHC initiatives.

The speech of 'AJK' Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq was covered separately in the press and thus was not repeated during this event's summary. In his closing remarks, APHC President Ghulam Muhammad Safi thanked all participants and emphasized that the Kashmiri people will resist any and all forms of suppression and continue their just struggle until justice and self-determination are achieved. Key Points from the Joint Declaration: 1. Rejection of Indian Actions: The unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, were rejected outright, with a demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional status. 2. Release of Political Prisoners: Immediate release of leaders such as Yasin Malik, Asiya Andrabi, and all other detainees. 3. International Intervention: Urged the UN, OIC, and other bodies to hold India accountable and facilitate a just

resolution. 4. Diplomatic Engagement: Called on the Government of Pakistan to enhance lobbying efforts, establish a specialized Kashmir diplomatic mission, and continue to expose Indian atrocities at global forums. Anticipated Outcomes if Recommendations Are Pursued: Greater international pressure on India to halt human rights violations. Revival of political activity and release of political prisoners. Increased visibility of the Kashmir issue on global platforms. Movement toward a peaceful and just resolution in accordance with the Kashmiri people's will. This All Parties Conference under the Hurriyat Conference banner stood as a powerful symbol of national consensus and solidarity with the Kashmiri people. If its recommendations are sincerely pursued, the resulting diplomatic momentum could not only alleviate the sufferings of the Kashmiri people but also pave the way for enduring peace and regional stability in South Asia. The international community, as emphasized repeatedly throughout the proceedings, must fulfill its moral and legal responsibilities in securing justice for the people of Jammu and Kashmir

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2025/04/10/all-parties-conference-organized-by-hurriyat-conference-echoes-unity-on-kashmir/>

'AJK' Police Inspector Imran Chaudhry sacked from Service

Daily Parliament Times, 8 April 2025

In 'Azad Jammu Kashmir', an AJK Police Inspector Imran Chaudhry has

been dismissed from service in the light of the inquiry into the recent famous harassment case of a visiting Kashmir-origin British woman Farkhunda Rehman, it was officially said.

"The accused police officer was found guilty for indulging in criminal negligence and misconduct during the course of his official duties", an official press release issued by spokesperson of the CPO – Central Police Office, state metropolis, on Tuesday said.

The Inspector Imran Chaudhry has been dismissed from his service after the inquiry report proved the allegations levelled against him correct, higher Police authorities said, according to the PR.

According to the details, provided by the authoritative police sources to this 'AJK' Correspondent here that about a month ago, a video of a British-origin woman from Mirpur 'Azad Jammu Kashmir', Farkhunda, went viral on social media that Inspector Imran Chaudhry, the SHO of Thothal police station, Mirpur 'AJK', had allegedly harassed her and behaved in an immoral and irresponsible manner.

When the video went viral, protests sparked almost in the entire 'Azad Jammu Kashmir' and a storm broke out on social and print media igniting law and order situation. On the directives of the higher police authorities, Inspector Imran Chaudhry was immediately suspended and was arrested under a case was registered against him.

A high level investigation team under the supervision of DIG Police Chaudhry Sajjad Chaudhry, probed into the case which found the accused police officer guilty. The accused Imran was currently on bail. Inquiry officer SP Kotli Adeel Ahmed completed the inquiry of case and submitted a report to DIG Mirpur Division in the light of the recommendations of the Chief Inquiry Officer DIG Police Ch. Sajjad Hussain, reportedly currently posted at Muzaffarabad.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2025/04/08/ajk-police-inspector-imran-chaudhry-sacked-from-service/>

JKSM vows to take Kashmir freedom movement to logical end

The Express Tribune, 10 April 2025

Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to take the Kashmir freedom movement to its logical and rightful conclusion.

In a press statement issued on Tuesday, the party spokesperson Dr Irfan Khan said no power on earth can suppress just and historic movement, which has been nourished by the sacred blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs. "We are the custodians of their legacy and will continue their mission with full resolve. No amount of Indian repression can deter us from our political struggle," he said.

Dr Khan said India has employed every tactic of oppression and brutality in an attempt to crush the legitimate

aspirations of the Kashmiri people. However, the resilience and spirit of resistance among the people have rendered these oppressive measures ineffective. Over 500,000 Kashmiris have been martyred, and millions have been displaced as a result of Indian state aggression. Thousands remain imprisoned in Indian detention centres under draconian laws, while the region's most revered pro-freedom leadership is languishing in jails.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2538990/jksm-vows-to-take-kashmir-freedom-movement-to-logical-end>

'AJK' PM lambastes elements involved in fanning propaganda to malign state institutions

Daily Parliament Times, 10 April 2025

Prime Minister of 'Azad Kashmir', Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, expressed serious concern over the negative propaganda being made by certain elements to malign state institutions. In an interview with a private news channel, the 'AJK' premier highlighted that previous administrations did not adequately address the challenges related to counter-terrorism and law enforcement in 'Azad Kashmir'.

He remarked that the term "Armed Struggle" is a Western concept, emphasizing that the Quran clearly states that Jews cannot be allies of Muslims. He dismissed rumours regarding budgetary issues with the federal government as entirely unfounded, stating that last year, a budget of 28 billion was utilized without any lapses in the recurring

budget. The 'Azad Kashmir' government allocated 22 billion for enhancing communication and road infrastructure. He affirmed that civic freedoms are upheld in 'Azad Kashmir'. Despite facing a fiscal deficit of 71 billion due to subsidies on affordable flour and electricity, the government managed to settle 10 billion in outstanding development liabilities. He assured that, despite the financial challenges, progress in construction, development in the region continues unabated. Regarding the provision of subsidized flour and cheap electricity to the citizens of 'Azad Kashmir', the premier said that he raised the issue during a meeting of the Financial Standing Committee of the Senate of Pakistan. Referring to 5th generation warfare unleashed by India to destabilize the liberated territory of 'Azad Kashmir', he said, "Thousands of fake accounts are being operated from abroad on social media, behind these fake accounts is the Indian intelligence agency RAW". The Foreign Office of Pakistan, he said, was actively engaged in advocating the Kashmiris' just cause and raising awareness about the challenges faced by the Kashmiri people both domestically and internationally. He noted that 'Azad Kashmir' acts as a base-camp for the liberation of 'Indian-occupied Kashmir'.

Describing Jihad as an undeniable reality, the Prime Minister stated that, despite pursuing a peaceful struggle, Israel was committing genocide of

Muslims in Palestine. He asserted that Jihad remains the only option for Kashmiris to liberate their homeland. The Prime Minister emphasized that safeguarding the lives and properties of citizens is the government's foremost duty. He mentioned that the establishment of the Ranger Force in 'Azad Kashmir' was in final stages and the main objective behind the establishment of Rangers force was to secure strategic installations. "Currently, we lack a reserve force in 'Azad Kashmir' and often rely on the Punjab Police or FC to maintain law and order," he explained, adding that a decision has been made to recruit 1,000 local individuals into the Ranger Force.

Regarding the withdrawal of the presidential ordinance, he acknowledged public discontent and stated that the government responded wisely and addressed the issue through democratic means. Expressing concern over the dire human rights violations in the 'Indian-occupied' territory of Jammu and Kashmir, he described the situation in the region as alarming. He clarified that there is no comparison between 'Azad Kashmir' and the 'occupied Kashmir', which continues to suffer under India's aggressive military control. The Prime Minister asserted that any attempts to undermine the longstanding bond between Pakistan and Kashmir will be resisted.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2025/04/10/pm-ajk-expresses-serious-concern-over-the-negative-propaganda-being-made-by-certain-elements-to-malign-state-institutions/>

Economic Developments

PM asks investors to cash in on emerging opportunities

Business Recorder, 9 April 2025

A two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum kicked off on Tuesday in Islamabad in an effort to exhibit the nation's mineral potential. Addressing the Pakistan Mineral Investment Forum 2025 at the Jinnah Convention Centre, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has asserted that Pakistan was rich in mineral resources. He added that these resources were worth billions of dollars and by utilizing them the country could get rid of its loans.

Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan could bid farewell to the IMF (International Monetary Fund) by exploiting its mineral resources. He expressed hope that the event would "enhance investors' confidence in Pakistan." The prime minister stated that progress on the Reko Diq project is encouraging. "Nature has blessed Pakistan with abundant natural resources. From Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Balochistan and the mountains of Gilgit-Baltistan, there are vast mineral reserves. The lands of Sindh and Punjab are also rich in natural resources, and Azad Kashmir holds immense mineral treasures," Prime Minister Shehbaz added.

He said that Pakistan has trillions of dollars in mineral reserves, and by

benefiting from these resources, the country can free itself from the shackles of debt and bid farewell to the IMF.

The mining industry in Balochistan will create employment opportunities and lead to social and economic development, he stated. He was of the view that investment in minerals was beneficial for everyone. "Pakistan welcomes investors from the Gulf countries, China, Europe, the US, and other regions. Pakistan is home to the world's largest coal reserves."

He stated that by relying on local coal, instead of imported coal, Pakistan is saving valuable foreign exchange. "The country aims to promote exports by adding value to its products. Exports of finished goods, rather than raw materials, will be ensured," he continued.

He encouraged investors to focus on finished products and emphasized that technical training is essential for the mining industry. "Partnerships between the private sector and government will be promoted to provide technical training to the youth. Investors should also play a role in skills enhancement of the young people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz concluded by saying that "together, we will make Pakistan a great nation and convert memorandums of understanding into formal agreements." The event is being attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal ministers, Chief of the

Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, ministers and delegates from over 300 countries, and CEOs of reputed mineral companies.

The event is being held with the support of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

A high-level US delegation, led by Eric Meyer, also attended forum. Saudi Gold Refinery Deputy Chairman Faisal Suleiman, and Saudi Development Fund Director of Project Management Abdul Salam Abdullah, the Asian Development Bank, the China Geological Survey, and Finnish company Metso also attended the event.

Earlier, the two-day Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2025 began at Jinnah Convention Centre here with the aim of boosting investment in the country's mineral sector.

Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal stated that Balochistan is rich in mineral resources. "There are immense investment opportunities in the mineral sector."

He mentioned that the participation of foreign investors in the forum was a positive development for Pakistan.

The second day session (on Wednesday) will include updates and insights from global experts and project leads.

A high-level panel featuring Zijin Mining's Vice President Shen

Shaoyang, International Holdings Company's (PJSC) Managing Director Syed Basar Shueb, and National Refinery Limited's (NRL) Chairman Muhammad Ali Tabba will discuss Pakistan's mineral potential and investment opportunities.

Frontier Works Organisation's (FWO) Director General of Exploration and NRL's Muhammad Ali Tabba will also deliver a five-minute strategic briefing.

Saudi Geological Survey CEO Abdullah Al-Shamrani, alongside international geoscientists, will explore the importance of geological mapping in emerging economies.

Experts including Bernd Tegeler, Dr Wang Hongliang, Dr Paul, and Dr Peter Zawada will share insights from international geological survey experiences.

A dedicated panel discussion on Reko Diq's development will feature Isak Maree, Deputy Project Director of Reko Diq Mining Company; J.D. Singleton of Ware Minerals; and Barrick Gold's James Ferguson.

Dr Hamid Ashraf, Will Jaber, representatives from Wood Mackenzie, and experts from White & Case will lead a policy-focused session exploring investment, legal frameworks, and reforms in Pakistan's national mineral policy.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40356678/pm-asks-investors-to-cash-in-on-emerging-opportunities>

‘AJK’ President laid Rs. 675 million first ever grand parking plaza in his home city of Mirpur

Daily Parliament Times, 10 April 2025

‘Azad Jammu Kashmir’ President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry on Thursday laid the foundation stone of over 675.00 million first ever grand parking plaza being built in the lakeside city of Mirpur, ‘Azad Jammu Kashmir’, it was officially said.

The parking facility, will accommodate 210 vehicles. The 75,000 square feet four-storey parking plaza will be completed within three years. It will include a ticketing office, bathrooms and CCTV surveillance rooms. Additionally, its design allows for the potential addition of more floors to meet future demands. On this occasion, the President received a comprehensive briefing from the relevant authorities regarding the project.

Government Ministers including Minister for Physical Planning and Housing Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Minister for Electricity Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, Chairman District Council, Raja Naveed Akhtar Goga, Mayor Municipal Corporation Chaudhry Usman Ali Khalid and others were also present on the occasion.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2025/04/10/ajk-president-laid-rs-675-million-first-ever-grand-parking-plaza-in-his-home-city-of-mirpur/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Indian government is blot on the name of humanity: Chaudhary Muhammad Ilyas

Urdu point, 10 April 2025

Former administrator Municipal Corporation district Kotli and central leader of Pakistan People’s Party ‘Azad Kashmir’, Chaudhary Mohammad Ilyas while criticising India’s Home Minister Amit Shah’s visit to Srinagar, who awarded the ‘occupied forces’ for arresting and killing innocent Kashmiris in a commemoration said that Indian government is blot on the name of humanity.

It wants to crush the Kashmiri’s genuine and just movement through the guns and bullets. For this, the Indian government provides its coward forces with latest weaponry, constitutional safeguards and medals. Kashmiris aren’t scared of such brutality and they will surely be successful in achieving the goalpost of freedom.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4387722.html>

Barrister Sultan met President Kashmir Bank Shahid Shehzad Mir

President ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ Barrister Sultan Muhammad Chaudhary met with ‘Azad Jammu and Kashmir’ Bank, Shahid Shehzad Mir at President Kashmir House, Islamabad. During the meeting, performance of the bank was discussed. Also, during the

meeting, President Barrister Sultan instructed Shahid Mir to employ efforts for making the bank schedule one and towards this end assured him all sorts of support and cooperation from his side.

<https://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-08.jpg>

Police fired upon at Baghe 'Azad Kashmir'

Urdu Point, 11 April 2025

In a town Bagh of 'Azad Kashmir', police was fired upon resulting in injury of two personnel's and death of a passer-by. According to police, an incident of firing upon the police took place in the nearby forests of patrat, Bagh. To nab the culprits, special squad of police were sent to the area. The injured policemen were taken to hospital for treatment. The police has cordoned the area and search is underway to capture those involved in the firing.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-4388957.html>

From Social Media

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

13 April 2025

Protest at Dinyur KKH to thwart conspiracy to seize Gilgit-Baltistan resources and suppress youth voices

#Gilgit #youth #protest #kkh #Danyore

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1911447930680074659>

JAMIL NAGRI @jamilnagri

14 April 2025

Skardu International airport, air traffic at the airport has been increased, frequent aeroplanes arrival and departure witnessed.

<https://x.com/jamilnagri/status/1911540428785983535>

PAMIR TIMES @pamirtimes

8 April 2025

China and Pakistan Join Hands to "Explore Minerals" in Gilgit-Baltistan

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/pamirtimes/status/1909662968276451423>

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

12 April 2025

Finance Secretary issues charge sheet against Dr. Ijaz Ayub

Link to the tweet:

<https://x.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1911115736078041377>

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Disclaimer

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