

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 2 | Issue 6

07-13 February 2022

POK CPEC China hydropower projects Special Kohala Hydro Sector tourism Power Public zones Project Development Programme



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

'Rally expresses solidarity with the people of IIOJK'

The Nation, February 07, 2022

A "Kashmir solidarity rally" was jointly organized by civil society, political parties and National Press Club (NPC) to express solidarity with the people of "Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir" (IIOJK). Kashmir solidarity camp was set up in front of the Parliament along with the children of Pakistan Sweet Homes (PSH) holding placards, aimed at "exposing the atrocities and in IIOJK." The rally started from the Parliament and ended near Indian Embassy. The chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat and All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leaders were the special guests of the function.

The chairman of JKSM, Altaf Bhat said that the purpose of observing this day is to show that there is no precedent in the world for the "killing of women including children and the elderly in IIOJK" without any crime. He noted that the "people of IIOJK" consider Imran Khan as a hero and he has the responsibility to fight for Kashmir cause more strongly. He further stressed that the government should take practical steps to restore Article 370, otherwise, in future, all political parties will accuse the present government of "assisting India to repeal special status of IIOJK." The Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leader, Abida Raja said that PM Imran Khan had informed the world at the United Nations (UN) and exposed the "inhumane face of India." He further

stressed that "Kashmiris' struggle will never go in vain and very soon it will be a part of Pakistan."

<https://nation.com.pk/07-Feb-2022/rally-expresses-solidarity-with-people-of-iiojk>

'President of 'AJK' to hold Kashmir rally on 24th February in Islamabad'

Daily Parliament Times, February 07, 2022

The president of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK), Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has announced to hold a Kashmir rally in Islamabad on 24th February to highlight the "Kashmir issue" at the international level. The announcement was made in the light of the recent decisions of the All Parties Kashmir Conference (APKC) held at Kashmir house Islamabad and in consultation with the political leadership of "Azad Kashmir." The rally will start from the Islamabad press club on 24th February at 11 am and will proceed to De-Chowk where Kashmiri leaders will address the participants. The president of AJK noted that various decisions were taken in the APKC meeting to hold rallies in Islamabad, Muzaffarabad, London, Brussels and New York where Kashmiri leadership will participate in rallies while an international conference including large demonstrations will be held in London.

A rally will be held in front of the United Nations (UN) office on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (GA) session with the participation of all Kashmiri leaders to draw the attention of the international community towards the "unresolved Kashmir dispute" and to foil the "conspiracies of the Indian government

to suppress the freedom movement.” The president said that it was also decided at the APKC that international media houses, members of parliaments of different countries, think tanks would be briefed on “human rights violations in occupied Kashmir” and the Kashmiri diaspora abroad will also be mobilized to project the Kashmir issue effectively at international level.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/02/07/president-ajk-to-hold-kashmir-rally-on-24th-february-in-islamabad/>

‘Modi regime’s anti-media actions in IIOJK are utter shame:’ APHC-AJK

Pakistan Observer, February 08, 2022

The convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) chapter, Muhammad Farooq Rehmani, has said that it is utterly shameful on the part of “Modi regime to take brutal measures in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) to gag media and bring journalists into submission.” He said that India after detaining “human rights defender”, Khuram Parvez, forcibly disappearing another human rights advocate Muhammad Ahsan Untoo and arresting a journalist Sajad Gul, has now detained yet one more media man, Fahad Shah of Kashmir Walla. He said that the continued “harassment of political activists, journalists and human rights activists”, free press journalism is under threat and is suppressed in ‘IOJK.’ He urged the United Nations (UN) and other human rights and media organizations to raise their voices against “India’s illegal and inhuman treatment of human rights defenders” and compel the government in India to repeal all post 05 August 2019 laws and police

measures in Jammu and Kashmir including the “one-sided and biased delimitation commission’s report.”

<https://pakobserver.net/rehmani-terms-modi-regimes-anti-media-actions-in-iiojk-as-utter-shame/>

‘India committing worst Human Rights violations in IIOJK:’ Chairman of JKPJF

Pakistan Observer, February 08, 2022

The chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Peace and Justice Forum (JKPJF), Tanveer-ul-Islam has said that “India is committing the worst kind of human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir” (IIOJK). While addressing different rallies and seminars in Faisalabad in connection with Kashmir solidarity day, he said that the “Indian state terrorism in the occupied territory had been killing innocent people” on daily basis but the world community and international human rights organizations have become mute spectators. He further said that the “Indian government wants to change the Muslim majority status in IIOJK”. He said that the “people of Kashmir would continue their freedom movement” and take it to its logical conclusion.

<https://pakobserver.net/india-committing-worst-hr-violations-in-iiojk/>

‘National Assembly committee expresses solidarity with Kashmiris’

The Nation, February 10, 2022

The National Assembly Standing Committee (NASC) on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) passed a unanimous resolution condemning

“Indian forces for their brutal activities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir” (IIOJK). The committee expresses solidarity with the Kashmiri people for their firm “resolve of self-determination.” The committee met under the chairmanship of Rana Shamim Ahmed Khan who said that peace in the sub-continent was subject to settlement of outstanding Kashmir dispute according to the will of the Kashmiris and resolutions of the United Nations (UN). The committee was of the view that “brutal activities of Indian forces” cannot “suppress the Kashmiris from their just demand of self-determination.” The committee also condemned the worlds’ human rights organization, the UN, for their intentional silence over the “vicious acts by the Indian government.” The committee also scrutinized the budgetary proposals relating to the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) for the financial year 2022-23 of the ministry of Kashmir affairs and GB and ensure transparency in the utilisation of the demanded funds. The committee, however, decided to visit “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) and GB to oversee the on-ground physical progress of these development projects. The senior officers of the ministry of Kashmir affairs, GB and the government of AJK were also present in the meeting.

<https://nation.com.pk/10-Feb-2022/na-committee-expresses-solidarity-with-kashmiris>

‘Judicial murder of Afzal Guru, a question mark on so-called secular India:’ Afridi

The Nation, February 10, 2022

The chairman of the parliamentary committee on Kashmir Shehryar Khan

Afridi said that the “judicial murder of Kashmiri trader Afzal Guru was a question mark on so-called secular India and his illegal hanging reflected that entire Indian elite was united in silencing the voices being raised for the freedom of people of Jammu and Kashmir.” He expressed these views on the 9th death anniversary of Afzal Guru while talking to a delegation of Kashmiri activists led by Dr. Mujahid Gilani, president of the Kashmir youth alliance at the parliament house. Shehryar Afridi said that the “Indian judiciary had become an extension of the extremist Hindutva regime and its judgements in Afzal Guru, Babri Masjid, Maqbool Bhat and other similar cases without any evidence had proved the fact.”

He claimed that the “judiciary and legal fraternity in India are working hands in glove with the Hindutva and target the Kashmiri people and once they move courts, the saffron judiciary and lawyers fraternity work to provide legal cover to the oppression meted out to the Kashmiris and Muslims of India.” Afridi said that the hanging of Afzal Guru to satisfy the collective conscience of the people of India was a “miscarriage of justice” and stressed that any nation needed to know and remember its “heroes who had sacrificed their lives for the freedom of their nations.” He noted that a monument of Kashmiri leadership and a museum of the “martyrs of Kashmir” will be constructed in Islamabad to project the real voices of “occupied Kashmiris.”

<https://nation.com.pk/10-Feb-2022/judicial-murder-of-afzal-guru-a-question-mark-on-so-called-secular-india-afриди>

'Pakistan guarantor of Kashmir's independence from Indian occupation:' President of 'AJK'

The Nation, February 13, 2022

The president of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK), Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry said that a "strong Pakistan from every aspect was the guarantor of Kashmir's independence from illegal Indian occupation." He stressed that Pakistan would raise the "issue of Kashmir" in an effective manner at the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) foreign ministers' meeting to be held next month. He alleged that "atrocities on unarmed civilians in occupied Kashmir by India" has been exposed all over the world and noted that India. He further expressed that India has imprisoned the entire leadership of the Hurriyat Conference in the "occupied territories" and unfortunately "great leaders of Kashmir freedom campaign" including Syed Ali Gilani and Muhammad Ashraf Sahrai were "martyred in the custody of Indian forces." He stressed that the government of Pakistan and Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan had strongly reacted to the Indian government's August 05 move and PM had raised the issue of Kashmir during his address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The AJK president said that after the decision of the all parties conference and consultation with the Kashmiri leaders, a big rally is being organized in the federal capital Islamabad on February 24 to "highlight the Kashmir issue" at the international level.

Due to the efforts of the Pakistan foreign office, the Kashmir issue was

discussed three times in the UN Security Council (SC) and on October 26, a briefing on Kashmir was held in the British parliament in which 45 members of parliament were present who "assured to use their influence to resolve the Kashmir issue." The 'AJK' president said that the "Indian government" has been working to "change the proportion of Muslim population in occupied Kashmir" and has so far issued "local domiciles to millions of Hindus" to change Kashmir "demographic status." He said that all parties' conference has also decided to hold international Kashmir conferences in Brussels or London besides Islamabad and Muzaffarabad. The president also appreciated the digital campaigns being launched across the globe played a significant role in highlighting the issue of Kashmir and mobilizing youth.

<https://nation.com.pk/13-Feb-2022/strong-pakistan-guarantor-of-kashmir-s-independence-from-indian-occupation-president-ajk>

Economic Developments

State of the art tourism projects will be launched in 'AJK' following the PM Imran Khan Vision: Tanveer Ilyas

Daily Parliament Times, February 07, 2022

The federal minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Ali Amin Gandapur and the president of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK), Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan had a meeting in Islamabad. Both leaders discussed in detail the promotion of tourism in line with Pakistan Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan's vision. During the talks,

Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that according to Imran Khan's vision, state-of-the-art projects of tourism would be launched in AJK. He noted that allocation and demarcation of land for special tourism zones would be done at the level of each district and tehsil and the investors will be provided investment opportunities under business-friendly one window operation. He further said that in all the three divisions of 'AJK', Muzaffarabad, Mirpur and Poonch, modern town planning will be done and construction mechanisms will be worked out. Sardar Tanveer Ilyas further said that an excellent plan of construction would be designed in 'AJK' without affecting the natural landscape and a proper waste management network with town planning in all cities of 'AJK' will be implemented in near future.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/02/07/according-to-pmik-vision-state-of-the-art-tourism-projects-will-be-launched-in-ajk-tanveer-ilyas/>

'AJK government and NEPRA sign MoU'

Daily Parliament Times, February 11, 2022

The government of "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK) and Pakistan National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the use of community infrastructure programs and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds. The MoU signing ceremony was held at Jammu and Kashmir House, the Prime Minister (PM) of 'AJK' Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi, chairman NEPRA Tauseef H. Farooqi, and minister for planning and development, senior advisor to NEPRA

hydro projects Bahadur Shah, other leaders and concerned officials were present on the occasion. The MoU was signed to address the environmental and economic problems arising out of Kohala Hydro Power Project (KHPP), Gulpur and Krut Hydraulic Projects built on rivers where environmental problems have arisen.

The PM of 'AJK' stressed the need for close coordination between the state agencies and NEPRA for the effective implementation of the MoU and noted that hydropower projects are essential for the growth of the national economy and therefore it is important to address the environmental and social problems arising out of these projects. He stressed that hydroelectric companies must allocate a portion of their revenue for the welfare of the affected population and to make provision for providing basic amenities to them and assured NEPRA of full cooperation of the government. The NEPRA Chairman Tauseef H. Farooqi assured full cooperation with the "Azad Kashmir", government for the implementation of the NEPRA led projects.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/02/11/ajk-government-and-nepa-sign-mou/>

'Internationally renowned architect and town planner meet Tanveer Ilyas'

Daily Parliament Times, February 13, 2022

It has been noted that on the direction of the Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan Imran Khan, president of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), "Azad Kashmir", Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan had an "important meeting with

internationally renowned architect and town planner”, Tony Isha. The promotion of tourism in “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) was discussed in detail during the meeting. During the discussion, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that according to the vision of PM Imran Khan, tourism special economic zones would be set up at the tehsil, district and divisional level without affecting the natural beauty of these places. He said that the rivers, waterfalls and high peaks of “Azad Kashmir” would provide full facilities to the tourists which would be an example for international tourism. He stressed that according to the vision of Imran Khan, investment opportunities will be created for millions of people by investing in “five other sectors as well.” Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan had also met with an overseas Kashmiri Pakistani personality based in Manchester, the United Kingdom (UK), who had recently arranged a fund of 50 million for the development of tourism in Pakistan. Tanveer Ilyas Khan also requested him to play his role in promoting tourism in “Azad Kashmir.”

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2022/02/13/internationally-renowned-architect-and-town-planner-called-upon-tanveer-ilyas/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

‘China Supports Pakistan's position on Kashmir and Afghanistan issue:’ PM Imran Khan

Jassarat, February 07, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan, Imran Khan has said that his meetings with the Chinese leadership was highly successful and would benefit Pakistan. He noted that “China has endorsed

Pakistan's position on Kashmir issue and Afghan issue.” He made this statement while addressing a meeting of party leaders and spokespersons in which a detailed briefing was given on the PM recent visit to China. The federal minister Asad Omar and special assistant to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Khalid Mansoor briefed about the agreements reached during the visit to China. During the meeting, the PM said that the visit to China was historic and different from his previous visits and stressed that the Chinese leadership welcomed “Pakistan’s position on world affairs.” He noted that China stands with Pakistan on “political and geographical issues,” and emphasized that China is going to play an important role in Pakistan's industrial development.

<https://www.jassarat.com/2022/02/07/>

Kashmir dispute will be resolved through talks: PM Imran Khan in his interview to Chinese TV

Daily Pakistan, February 08, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan, Imran Khan during a conversation with China's Television (TV) channel, Chinese Global Television Network (CTGN) said that Pakistan desires a “peaceful solution to the long-running Kashmir dispute.” Referring to “Kashmir issue as a bone of contention” between Pakistan and India, he underlined the need for a “political solution to all regional conflicts” through dialogue. He expressed deep concern over the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, urging the global community to send in aid for the 40 million Afghan people. The PM said that Pakistan and China

have resolved to take Afghanistan as a top priority in the comity of nations. The PM noted that Pakistan is facilitating foreign investment in the technology sector and maintained that “we are trying to implement the Chinese model” in Pakistan for poverty alleviation. He further stated that Pakistan and China are now entering the second phase of CPEC after the successful completion of the first phase.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/08-Feb-2022/1400738>

‘I thank the Chinese President for taking a strong stand on the Kashmir issue:’ PM of ‘AJK’

UrduPoint, February 08, 2022

The Prime Minister (PM) of “Azad Jammu and Kashmir” (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi has said that “he thanked China and Chinese President Xi Jinping for taking a strong stand on Kashmir issue.” He noted that the “Chinese government” has always “supported our position on the Kashmir issue.” He stressed that due to the successful diplomacy of PM of Pakistan Imran Khan on Kashmir, international organizations including China are openly supporting Pakistan on Kashmir and condemning “India’s fanaticism, extremism and hostility towards Kashmiris.” He further said that during Imran Khan’s discussion with China, he “rejected the unilateral Indian action” to change the facts in “occupied Jammu and Kashmir” and demanded resolution of the Kashmir issue following the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, which is encouraging for Kashmiris. He maintained that the “unequivocal support of China” has raised the spirits of Kashmiris and has helped in

highlighting the Kashmir issue at the international level.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3042018.html>

‘India has aggressively occupied Kashmir through military aggression and inhumane tactics:’ PSP Leader

UrduPoint, February 08, 2022

The member of the national council of Pakistan Sarzamin Party (PSP) and former provincial minister, Nawab Rashid Ali Khan, while addressing a seminar on Kashmir, organized by the Human Rights Youth Organization (HRYO) in Hyderabad, said that “India has aggressively occupied Kashmir through military aggression and inhumane tactics.” He stressed that “despite all these atrocities, the hearts of Kashmiris are beating for Pakistan and Pakistanis love Kashmiris in the same way.” He noted that the international community also must help Kashmiris to exercise their rights as guaranteed by the United Nations (UN) resolutions. He stressed that until the “independence of Kashmir”, every Pakistani will continue to raise their voice for Kashmiris and PSP will continue to provide moral support to Kashmiri brothers.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/hyderabad/national-news/live-news-3042432.html>

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07-13 February 2022

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Disclaimer

PoK weekly News Digest is a collection of news reports and press releases published in various newspapers and local media related to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), referred to as 'Azad Kashmir' and 'Gilgit Baltistan' by the government of Pakistan. The news reports have been edited and abridged to provide clarity. MP-IDSA is not responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of the news items.



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