

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

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17 April - 23 April 2023

Dasu
Hydropower Project
POK blasphemy
Gilgit-Baltistan SCO



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Political Developments

G-20 countries should not join the meeting called by India in Occupied Kashmir: Allama Tahir ul Hassan

Daily Parliament Times, 17 April 2023

Allama Tahir-ul-Hassan, the central deputy general secretary of the Pakistan Ulama Council said that since 'occupied Kashmir' is an integral part of Independent Kashmir and Pakistan, India's statement that the G-20 conference would be held in 'occupied Kashmir' is erroneous in every way since India has a history of using 'illegal techniques' to make illegal actions appear legal. The international community and the United Nations should pay close attention to this move by India. With the help of tough measures, India may be fixed because it has consistently broken international law and is a champion of human rights breaches.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/04/16/g-20-countries-should-not-join-meeting-called-by-india-in-occupied-kashmir-allama-tahir-ul-hassan/>

Chinese engineer in police protection after blasphemy accusation

The Express Tribune, 17 April 2023

A Chinese supervisor at the Dasu hydropower project in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Kohistan district is under police protection after workers accused him of blasphemy. Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in the country as even rumours of

sacrilegious remarks can incite lynch mobs and deadly violence. Police moved in to disperse the crowd and officers took the Chinese man to a safer location. However, hundreds of people gathered on next day and stormed the main district police station, believing the man was hiding in the building. But officials, fearing the man might be attacked, had moved him to another district by military helicopter. The man was charged and had so far declined to give a statement, police officials said. According to officials that the engineer at the project was accused of blasphemy after he highlighted the 'slow pace of work' during the holy month of Ramazan when Muslims fast from dawn to sunset.

The laborers said they were fasting but denied that work had slowed down, which led to an exchange of heated words with the supervisor, a police official said on condition of anonymity. Later, the laborers accused the engineer of making blasphemous remarks and around 400 locals gathered to protest, he said. The Chinese national has been taken to a safe place as a precautionary measure, Muhammad Nazir, a police official in Dasu added. The Chinese embassy in Islamabad did not respond to a request for comment. A local administration official in Dasu, around 180 kilometers (110 miles) north of the capital Islamabad, said the army and paramilitary troops were deployed 'to ensure the safety of the engineers.' The Dasu Dam construction contract was

awarded to the China Gezhouba Group Company in 2017, and the project is shrouded by tight security.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2412364/chinese-engineer-in-police-protection-after-blasphemy-accusation>

'IIOJK:' India's quest for legitimacy

The Express Tribune, 18 April 2023

Some four years after the passing of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act by the Indian Parliament, the Modi regime is now implementing phase two of its Kashmir agenda: to seek legitimacy for 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) by inviting international investment, particularly from Arab Gulf countries. Foreign Office statement issued on 11 April asserted: 'Pakistan expresses its strong indignation over India's decision to hold the G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar on 22-24 May 2023. Scheduling two other meetings of a consultative forum on youth affairs (Y-20) in Leh and Srinagar is equally disconcerting. India's irresponsible move is the latest in a series of self-serving measures... Pakistan vehemently condemns these moves.' From any standpoint, India is using its clout by holding the presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and G-20 to legitimize its position on the disputed territory.

New Delhi is now determined to seek international legitimacy for its

'occupation' of Kashmir-declared a disputed territory under the UNSC Resolutions passed in 1948 and 1949-by holding meetings of various international and regional organizations, particularly those related to tourism, in 'IIOJK.' In March 2022, more than 30 CEOs from Gulf countries arrived in Srinagar to discuss investment opportunities. According to the DW report of 25 October 2021, the government of Dubai signed an agreement with the government of India to invest in the infrastructure of Kashmir. It means the world is not interested in opposing the absorption of 'IIOJK' into India but wants a relationship based on trade and investment.

Dubai's Emaar group has agreed to invest \$60.5 million to build a shopping mall and a multipurpose shopping tower in Srinagar. Direct flights from Sharjah to Srinagar also reflect the growing involvement of Gulf sheikhdom in 'IIOJK.' It is not only in the disputed Valley where the Modi regime is luring foreign investment, but it is also offering investment opportunities to promote tourism in Ladakh-the union territory that has a Buddhist majority population but is disputed, like Valley and Jammu. If India succeeds in getting foreign legitimacy for 'IIOJK', it will move towards Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and 'Azad Kashmir' which they call 'occupied territories' of Pakistan. Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Sindh

is on record to have threatened to seek control of GB and annex it with the Indian Union. Since its success in absorbing J&K under the so-called Reorganization Act of 5 August 2019, New Delhi's approach is to strengthen its hold over the Muslim majority valley by promoting non-Muslim settlements and issuing them domicile certificates so that Hindu-centric BJP seeks electoral legitimacy in the next elections.

Pakistan, besieged by political and economic crises, is unable to deter India from cementing its hold over 'IIOJK' which has encouraged New Delhi to plan a tourism meeting under G-20 in Srinagar. Pakistan's networking and public relationship at the international level is so ineffective that it is unable to convince G-20 member countries, particularly China, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia, to prevent India from holding a tourism meeting in Srinagar. The focus of the Modi regime is on neutralizing international opposition to India's efforts to seek legitimacy in 'IIOJK', particularly in the Muslim-dominated Valley. If India as Chair of G-20 and SCO succeeds in luring some of the members of the two blocs to launch investment programs in 'IIOJK', particularly in tourism and infrastructure, it will further legitimize its position.

Why is Pakistan concerned about the growing Indian involvement in 'IIOJK' and to what extent is the Modi regime

able to create a favorable condition at the international level for a foreign economic foothold, particularly in the Muslim-dominated Valley of Kashmir? How have Pakistan's domestic woes helped India focus on fully integrating its occupied territories of J&K and to proceed with its expansionist designs in GB? Three realities tend to facilitate India in giving a practical shape to its age-old designs in J&K by seeking international legitimacy.

First, human rights and civil society organizations in India which had raised their voice against military crackdown in the 'occupied valley' siege and search operations, 'extrajudicial killings', and suspension of the internet are now almost silent. The same is the case with Congress, the Communist Party of India, and other opposition parties which should have exerted pressure on the BJP government to reverse the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act and restore the autonomous status of J&K. Muted voices in India against the repression in 'IIOJK' tends to give confidence to the Modi regime to move further in strengthening its control over the Muslim majority Valley of Kashmir. Petitions against absorbing J&K are pending before the Indian Supreme Court which reflects a nexus between the judiciary and the BJP government. How Yasin Malik and other Kashmiri leaders are detained and tortured speaks of the indifference in the world's largest democracy.

Second, why is it that popular resistance, particularly in the Valley of Kashmir, against the 'Indian occupation' has failed to have any impact on New Delhi's military repression? There is no letup in crackdown on Kashmiri dissidents but neither the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front nor the Hurriyat Conference or other Kashmiri resistance groups can augment their popular revolt against 'occupation forces.' Perhaps, the capacity of Kashmiri resistance movements whose cause is just and genuine seems to have dwindled as the Modi regime cleverly penetrated the rank and file of political groups having a long history of struggle against the 'Indian occupation.' People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) which strives for J&K autonomy by restoring Articles 370 and 35-A is a conglomeration of the National Conference, People's Democratic Party, Communist Party of India (M), and Communist Party of India. Established after the proclamation of the J&K Reorganization Act, the PAGD which favored dialogue with the Indian government on restoring J&K autonomy is now on the back foot because it failed to persuade the Modi regime to revisit J&K Reorganization Act.

Third, India's growing confidence in legitimizing its position on IIOJK has much to do with Pakistan's domestic

predicament, namely political and economic crises. A mere protest note by our Foreign Office against the G-20 investment conference in Srinagar is not enough. Unless Pakistan is internally stable, it cannot effectively take a stand against India's quest for legitimacy in 'IIOJK.'

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2412395/iiojk-indias-quest-for-legitimacy>

World urged to step in to save Kashmiris from Hindutva onslaught

Pakistan Observer, 18 April 2023

India is systematically paving the way for settler colonialism in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir (OJK) by eliminating Kashmiris through 'massacres and killings' in the garb of cordon and search operations, crackdowns, and raids, carried out in the territory daily. A report released by Kashmir Media Service said to advance the nefarious agenda of bringing a demographic change in the Kashmir valley like it has done in Jammu in connivance with Dogra forces in 1947, New Delhi in gross violation of all international laws and conventions, depriving Kashmiris of all their basic human rights. As part of the policy, the Modi regime on the Israeli pattern has built several separate Pandit settlements, soldiers' colonies in the 'occupied territory' and the process has picked up a pace after Kashmir's special status was revoked in August 2019.

To rob Kashmiris of their identity and rights, the report said, India is issuing domicile certificates to non-Kashmiris on a fast-track basis, which is a clear violation of UN resolutions on Kashmir. Besides, New Delhi is using brutal tactics like illegal confiscations, forced evictions, and demolition of properties to effect a demographic change in the territory as soon as possible. Kashmiri government employees are being dismissed to strangulate Kashmiris economically. The report observed that the BJP-led Indian government has made 'OJK' a living hell where the fate of millions of Kashmiris remains uncertain. It is therefore high time for the world to step in and take practical measures for the settlement of the Kashmir dispute to save the Kashmiri people from 'Hindutva's brutal onslaught' unleashed by the ruling regime.

<https://pakobserver.net/world-urged-to-step-in-to-save-kashmiris-from-hindutva-onslaught/>

No let-up in the military siege of Kashmir valley even in Ramadan deplores APHC

Pakistan Observer, 19 April 2023

In 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK), the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) while denouncing the imposition of curfew-like restrictions even in the last 10 days of the holy month of Ramadan said that India has kept the entire Kashmiri population under 'military siege.' The APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said that restricting people from offering prayers even on

Shab-e-Qadar in Srinagar's historic Jamia Masjid and other small and big mosques of the cities and towns is a blatant violation of the right to worship and interference in religious matters. The spokesman deplored that Indian troops, paramilitary, and police personnel remained deployed in large numbers around all big mosques in Srinagar and other areas of the Kashmir valley 'disrupting the Shab-e-Qadar prayers.' He maintained that the people of 'IIOJK' would remain deprived of practicing their religious freedom unless the Kashmir dispute is resolved following the UN resolutions.

<https://pakobserver.net/no-let-up-in-military-siege-of-kashmir-valley-even-in-ramadan-deplores-aphc/>

FM Bilawal to attend SCO meeting in India next month

The Express Tribune, 20 April 2023

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting in Goa, India next month, in the first major trip by a top diplomat from Pakistan in over a decade. The formal announcement of the foreign minister's participation in the SCO foreign ministers meeting was made by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch during a weekly press briefing. The conference is scheduled for 4-5 May in the Indian tourist resort, Goa. Pakistan and India were admitted as full members a few years ago. Ahead of the SCO foreign ministers meeting, the defense ministers of the member states would also meet on 27 April in New Delhi.

Subsequently, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has been invited to the meeting. Following today's announcement, it is certain Asif would represent Pakistan but it is not clear if his participation would be virtual, or in person. The relationship between Pakistan and India has remained at a standstill despite efforts by the two sides to mend ties. FM Bilawal's trip to India would be seen as an ice-breaking move, though it may not bring any dramatic changes in the bilateral relationship. It is believed that Pakistan took the decision considering the importance of the SCO. There were strong voices in favor of the visit given that Pakistan must not leave such important regional forums and provide India a chance to further isolate the country. India is currently the president of the SCO and is hosting several events including a summit meeting after the SCO foreign ministers conference. If Bilawal's visit goes as per plan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will likely visit India too for the summit.

'India creating hurdles'

Earlier this month, it was reported that Pakistan may be considering attending the key ministerial meetings in India but initial internal assessment suggests the Modi government may create a situation to make it difficult for the country to send its delegates. Although India extended the invitations for both meetings. There is a sense within the Foreign Office that India may not be interested in Pakistan attending those

high-profile meetings because of the Modi government's policy. The source claimed that under the current circumstances, it did not suit Prime Minister Modi that Pakistan attends the SCO meetings in India. The general elections are due in the neighboring country next year and Prime Minister Modi always cashed in on his anti-Pakistan campaign.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2412976/fm-bilawal-to-attend-sco-meeting-in-india-next-month>

'IIOJK' faces Indian oppression daily during Ramazan: 'AJK' President

Pakistan Today, 21 April 2023

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said that while celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr with great fervor in the liberated territory, we must not forget our defenseless brethren on the other side of the Line of Control (LOC) who were facing the worst 'Indian repression', and should especially pray for their freedom. He said that our real Eid will be on the day when our brethren will be celebrating the occasion in a free environment after freedom from the 'Indian clutches.' He claimed that we have observed fasts, and offered worship and prayers in a free environment during Ramazan, but our brethren in 'IIOJK' faced new tricks of 'Indian repression' daily even in this holy month which is painful. He condemned India and its occupation forces for holding the drama of a temporary ceasefire during the month of Ramazan. He expressed confidence

that 'IIOJK' would see the dawn of the day of freedom shortly, and its people would get their fundamental right to self-determination and would celebrate Eid in an environment free of the oppression of the Indian 'occupational forces.'

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/04/21/iioj-k-faces-indian-oppression-on-daily-basis-during-ramazan-ajk-president/>

Economic Developments

Indus River successfully diverted through the 2nd Tunnel at Dasu HPP

Pakistan Today, 17 April 2023

The Dasu Hydropower Project (DHPP) successfully diverted the Indus River through the second diversion tunnel, marking the second significant accomplishment in less than two months. According to the office of Deputy Commissioner Kohistan Upper, the second diversion tunnel was made operational by redirecting the Indus River through it. District Police Officer Muhammad Khalid Khan, the project director for DHPP, members of the China Gezhouba Group Company (CGGC), and the deputy commissioner Irfan Ullah Mehsud were also present at the event. Inaugurated in February 2023, the first diversion tunnel measures 1.3 kilometers in length, 20 meters in width, and 23 meters in height. The project's construction is being led by CGGC, the major works contractor. When Dasu is completed, it will produce an average of 21 billion units of energy annually, making it

Pakistan's largest energy-producing facility. WAPDA is investing Rs. 17.34 billion in projects for social development, environmental control, and resettlement in the project area. A total of about 3722 employment, including 1945 for locals, have already been created; during the project's busiest construction period, that number will rise to 8000.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/04/17/indus-river-successfully-diverted-through-2nd-tunnel-at-dasu-hpp/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

To host the G20 conference, India has turned 'occupied Kashmir' into a cantonment: Tahir Khokhar

UrduPoint, 17 April 2018

While speaking to the media, Mohammad Tahir Khokhar, a former minister of tourism, sports, culture, and transportation and a former leader of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM)'s 'Azad Kashmir', stated that India's hosting of the G20 summit in 'occupied Kashmir' is taking place on the 'land of martyrs.' He claimed that India had transformed the area into a military camp where it was killing innocent Kashmiris, imprisoning Kashmiri youth, and holding the Hurriyat leadership captive. He alleged that Modi is turning India into a Hindu state by following Hitler's example and that the biggest atrocities in recorded history are taking place in 'occupied Kashmir.' According to him, Muslims' honor, lives, possessions, mosques, and other things are not safe in India. The

people of 'occupied Kashmir' are not permitted to pray in mosques on Fridays, he claimed, and the Madrasas are being destroyed under different pretexts. He claimed that Modi Hitler's army is working to destroy the identity of the people of 'occupied Kashmir' and it is a pity that the government of the base camp of Azadi is not paying any attention to what is happening in the 'occupied Kashmir.' He said that while India is hosting the G20 summit in 'occupied Kashmir', the leaders and administration of the base camp for Kashmir independence are frantically vying for position and control with little regard for the citizens on the other side of the border. He stressed that a protest movement needs to be launched at the base camp that would completely reverberate throughout Pakistan. Khokhar made a plea to the nations attending the G20 summit not to take part in it and to boycott it because it was taking place in the lands of martyrs. He further claimed that India is defying the world community by hiding the treatment of not just its Muslim citizens but also by killing and maiming Muslims in the 'occupied Kashmir.'

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/local-news/live-news-3551130.html>

The Pulwama event was exploited by the Indian government for political ends: PM Shehbaz

Jasarat, 17 April 2023

The world should pay attention to 'India's hooliganism', according to

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who claimed that the Indian government used the Pulwama incident for its parochial political advantage. The former governor of 'occupied Kashmir's statements concerning the truth behind the Pulwama event, according to the prime minister, showed how the Indian government manipulated the situation for political purposes. He said that the former governor of 'occupied Kashmir's interview supports Pakistan's argument that the world should pay attention to India's risky behavior because it could have catastrophic effects on the region. According to Sharif, the former governor of 'occupied Kashmir's comments erased Pakistan's role in the situation, and the world should pay attention to India's criminal behavior since it could have devastating effects on the region.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/04/17/shahbaz-sharif-136/>

People in Kashmir and Palestine endure violence and hardships constantly: Former PM of 'AJK'

Urdupoint, 18 April 2023

Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan, the president of the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and a former prime minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), urged all the sheiks, imams, and ulemas in the Muslim Ummah to pray for the early liberation of Palestine and 'occupied Kashmir' on the auspicious day of

Ramadan last Friday. The residents of Kashmir and Palestine, according to Sardar Atiq Ahmad Khan, endure unceasing, terrible bloodshed and hardships. He prayed that their suffering would soon come to an end so that they may one day celebrate Eid in freedom. He made the case that on the one hand, Kashmiris are being singled out for targeting because they are fighting for the right to self-determination, and on the other hand, the region's population ratio is shifting from a Muslim to a Hindu majority. India is making Kashmiris and Muslims chant 'Jai Shri Ram' because it is their fault that they adhere to the Islamic faith. The resolution of the Kashmir issue in conformity with United Nations resolutions and Kashmiris' aspirations is necessary for South Asia to have sustained peace. For more than 70 years, he claimed, the people of Kashmir have been fighting peacefully for the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination. Similar to Kashmir, he asserted that the crimes committed against the oppressed Muslims in Palestine are a cause for grave concern and that the Muslim Ummah must unify to address this issue. Attacks at Al-Aqsa Mosque on innocent worshippers are despicable and the savagery of Israel needs to be brought to the attention of the world, he added.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3551990.html>

Palestinians and Kashmiris are fully entitled to oppose the countries that are 'occupying' their territories: Speakers

Urdupoint, 19 April 2023

During an event jointly held by the Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) and the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in Islamabad, leaders of the All Party Hurriyat Conference-'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK), members of academia, activists, and subject experts voiced their solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine and the 'Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK). The attendees at the 'Solidarity Iftar' event brought attention to the ongoing struggles and human rights abuses experienced by both the Kashmiri and Palestinian peoples. The event featured the publication of LFK's report, 'India's Impunity in Kashmir: Surveillance, Counter-Insurgency, and Politics of Fear', which describes how the Kashmiri people are frequently the targets of surveillance, counter-insurgency measures, and political persecution.

The event was chaired by Dr. Khalid Rahman, Chairman IPS; and the panelists included Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, Convener APHC-'AJK' chapter; Ghulam Muhammad Safi, senior APHC-'AJK' leader, Abdur Rasheed Turabi, former Ameer Jamaat e Islami 'AJK'; Prof. Dr. Amna Mahmood, Advocate Nasir Qadri, Executive Director LFK, moderated the event. In his address, APHC-'AJK'

convenor, Mehmood Ahmed Saghar claimed that India is not working alone in Kashmir, it is being aided and assisted by 'foreign entities.' The manifestation of India's 'settler colonial program' in Kashmir is an indication of the conjunction in Indian and Israeli strategies to eliminate the natives and ensure the settlements of non-natives. He said the need of the hour is to ensure that the voices of Kashmiris are heard and that their struggle for self-determination is acknowledged by the international community. He said that we must continue to highlight the atrocities being committed by India in Kashmir and expose the complicity of other states in this matter.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/kashmir/live-news-3553928.html>

Anwar-ul-Haq was unanimously elected as the prime minister of 'Azad Kashmir'

Urdupoint, 20 April 2023

After a week-long impasse following the removal of former PM Sardar Tanveer Ilyas, the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) Legislative Assembly elected Chaudhry Anwarul Haq as the new leader of the government. All 48 members of the house, including 29 from the ruling PTI and opposition members from the PPP and PML-N, supported Mr. Haq because no one filed nomination papers against him. Mr. Haq has remained with the PTI ever since Mr. Ilyas' disqualification to ensure its return to power in the face of

maneuvers by the combined opposition, which sought to seize control with the aid of a second small group of PTI defectors, under the influence of President Barrister Sultan Mahmood. Imran Khan, the leader of the PTI, had selected Mr. Haq as one of the three parliamentarians from whom the parliamentary party should choose a candidate to be the premier of the 'AJK.' But in an unexpected turn of events, he was named as the joint candidate of the unified opposition and a 12-member PTI 'forward bloc.' Ilyas, the regional president of PTI, claimed in a statement that the party hadn't named anyone as a candidate. The schemes of Mr. Haq are now known to me. He was doing two things at once: he was promising the PTI leadership that he was working to save the party, and he was also making a deal with the establishment, he added.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/important-news/live-news-3554232.html>

India began blaming Pakistan for the G-20 summit's withdrawal in 'occupied Kashmir'

Urdupoint, 21 April 2023

The Indian government's illegitimate plan to hold the G-20 summit in Srinagar, in the region of 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir, from 21 to 23 May, is coming apart. India has already started to hold Pakistan responsible for the summit's possible failure. Five soldiers reportedly died yesterday when an army truck caught

fire in the Rajouri district at around three o'clock. The Indian Army, however, announced at 6 o'clock that the incident was indeed a terrorist grenade attack. After seven o'clock, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other outlawed groups were accused of the attack by the Indian media, former government officials, and 'pro-Modi journalists.' Analysts and even retired Indian army officers began criticizing Pakistan as well. The goal of the G-20 summit was to persuade the world that the state of law and order in Kashmir is entirely normal.

Due to the non-participation of the majority of the G-20 countries, the Modi government was under intense pressure due to the deteriorating law and order situation and the disputed status of unlawfully 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir. Meanwhile, India's attempts to isolate Pakistan on the international front were also weakened by the possibility of Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Goa, India. Experts claimed that looking back, the Rajouri tragedy appears to have been a self-inflicted attack similar to the one in Pulwama. They claimed that the underlying purpose of the Rajouri tragedy was to move the G-20 Summit from Srinagar by using it as justification. India may potentially use this incident as a pretext to block Pakistan's foreign minister

from attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit to be held in Goa, India.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/national-news/live-news-3555384.html>

The iconic Jama Masjid in Srinagar was unable to hold Eid-ul-Fitr prayers due to Indian Army restrictions in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir

Jasarat, 22 April 2023

The 'occupying' Indian Army in 'occupied' Kashmir prevented Kashmiris from offering Eid prayers in the historic Jama Masjid. According to Kashmir Media Service, paramilitary units, police officers, and troops of the Indian Army were stationed in various parts of the city to stop people from praying at the Grand Mosque in Srinagar on Eid. The Indian army told the mosque's management during Fajr/early morning prayers that the Eid prayer gathering had been banned. This caused a wave of outrage to sweep through the congregation, and they sang Go India, Go Back; 'we want Freedom,' and other pro-freedom slogans. The historical Jama Masjid in Srinagar had planned to hold Eid-ul-Fitr prayers at 9 am, but the pro-Indian puppet government forbade it, undermining the so-called bulwark of India's assertion that it is a secular state.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/04/22/occupied-kashmir-7/>

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Disclaimer

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