

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 3 | Issue 28

10 July - 16 July 2023

Gilgit-Baltistan POK
tourism Climate Gilgit
Change Airport
Kishanganga Dam



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

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Political Developments

Flood alert issued as India releases huge water in Ravi

The Nation, 10 July 2023

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Sunday issued a fresh warning regarding the possibility of floods in River Ravi after India released approximately 185,000 cusecs of water from the Ujh Barrage. India suddenly released a huge volume of water into river Ravi without issuing an emergency alert to Pakistan. India has released about 185,000 cu-secs of water from Ujh Barrage. Of 185,000 cusecs of water about 65,000 cusecs of water was expected to arrive within the next 20 to 24 hours in Pakistan. According to the flood limits of the Ravi River basin, less flooding is expected in the plains. Every year during the monsoon season India tends to deliberately release water into Pakistani rivers without issuing notice, which creates a flood situation at the local level. According to PDMA statistics, India last year released 173,000 cusecs of water. About one-third of the released water, or 60,000 cusecs, reached the dam, due to which the flood was formed at the lower level in river Ravi. Director General PDMA Imran Qureshi has urged the local ad-ministrations to ensure the timely establishment of relief camps in all districts connected to the Ravi and Chenab rivers adding evacuation of people and cattle living in possible low-

lying areas should be ensured before time.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/10-Jul-2023/flood-alert-issued-as-india-releases-huge-water-in-ravi>

India has always tried to suppress Kashmir's freedom movement with oppression: Safi

Pakistan Observer, 10 July 2023

The Convener of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) chapter of Tehreek-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, Ghulam Muhammad Safi has said that India has always ignored justice, ground realities, and historical evidence and has tried to suppress Kashmir's freedom movement with imperialist mentality and oppression. Ghulam Muhammad Safi in a media interview said for the last 75 years, India has tried to continue its 'illegal occupation' over the disputed Jammu and Kashmir through its military might. He said from Muhammad Maqbool Butt to Burhan Wani, India has tried to execute Kashmir's most popular pro-freedom leaders to intimidate and silence them but every tactic of India failed. He claimed that the Indian tactic of terrorizing the Hurriyat leaders by imprisoning them in notorious jails, confiscating their properties, and demolishing their residential houses also failed.

<https://pakobserver.net/india-has-always-tried-to-suppress-kashmirs-freedom-movement-with-oppression-safi/>

GB opposition leader quits ahead of new CM election

Dawn, 11 July 2023

Opposition leader in Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly (GB-A) Amjad Hussain Advocate, the local president of the PPP, has resigned from his assembly membership ahead of the scheduled election for the new GB chief minister. GB Assembly Speaker Nazir Ahmed Advocate confirmed the development to Dawn but said he had not accepted the resignation. The source said that Mr. Hussain was not happy with the central party leadership over the nomination of a candidate for GB chief minister. The new chief minister's election has been scheduled for 13 July. In the 32-member house, PTI has 19 members, PPP four, PML-N three, Muttahida Wahdat-i-Muslimeen three, Islam Tehreek Pakistan one, JUI-F one, and one independent candidate. The former CM had nominated Raja Azam Khan for the coveted position with the approval of PTI chief Imran Khan. Meanwhile, two forward blocs within PTI, one led by Javed Ali Manwa and another by Gulber Khan, have declared they would contest for the position of chief minister independently.

Initially, opposition parties had decided to nominate a joint candidate with the support of disgruntled PTI members and claimed the support of the required 17 members. The authority to decide the candidate from any

opposition party member was given to the central leaderships of PPP, PML-N, and JUI-F. However, sources said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in consultation with PPP and JUI-F, has nominated Haji Gulber Khan, a disgruntled member of PTI, for the position of chief minister. Later, at a press conference, Mr. Hussain announced that his party members had decided to boycott the election. The PML-N and JUI-F GB members also expressed their dissatisfaction with the central leadership's decision.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1764081/gb-opposition-leader-quits-ahead-of-new-cm-election>

PTA clarifies false reports of Twitter blocking the Pakistan government's official account in G-B

Daily Times, 11 July 2023

The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has addressed recent claims circulating on social media and certain sections of the news media regarding Twitter's alleged blockage of access to the Government of Pakistan's official account in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and the platform changing the region's location to parts of India. The PTA said in a news release that PTA's thorough investigation has revealed that no such problem exists, contrary to the information being circulated, and added that it conducted extensive on-ground testing to ascertain the veracity of the reports. The findings indicate that any sporadic issues encountered

are limited to a very small number of iOS devices, affecting only a handful of users. These incidents are not of significant magnitude and do not reflect a widespread problem as suggested by the circulating news. Twitter's alleged blockage of the Government of Pakistan's official account in GB and the alteration of the region's location to parts of India have been deemed baseless by the PTA.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1112516/pta-clarifies-false-reports-of-twitter-blocking-pakistan-govts-official-account-in-g-b/>

Dasu terror attack 'mastermind' killed in Afghanistan

The Nation, 12 July 2023

The mastermind of the deadly Dasu attack, a notorious Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) leader, has been killed in the Kunar region of Afghanistan, it emerged on Wednesday. Tariq, who is a member of TTP, is the main brains behind the suicide bombing that killed nine 13 people including Chinese workers near Dasu hydropower plant in the Upper Kohistan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on 14 July 2021. It is being reported that Rafiq, also known as Button Kharab, was killed near Paich Dara, Kunar Province, Afghanistan. At least 12 people, including nine Chinese nationals working on the Dasu Hydropower Project Project (DHPP), were killed in an explosion on 14 July 2021. Following the explosion, the Chinese firm working on the project

stopped working on the site citing 'security concerns' and laid off all but the most essential Pakistani workers. However, the company later withdrew the notification, and the work on the project was resumed after a few months.

The Pakistan authorities conducted thorough investigations of the incident and shared the findings with the Chinese side at every stage. According to the Foreign Office, the network involved in the terrorist attack was supported and facilitated by the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)-National Directorate of Security (NDS) nexus in Afghanistan. The planning for the terrorist attack was done in Afghanistan, with the provision of material support as well. The vehicle used in the VBIED attack was brought from Afghanistan to Pakistan, stated FO. The suicide bomber, Khalid Sheikh, was trained in Afghanistan and brought to Pakistan to carry out the attack. Last year, an anti-terrorism court in Abbottabad handed over death sentences to two accused in Dasu Hydro Power Project (DHPP) terrorist attack case, which killed 13 people, including nine Chinese workers. The anti-terrorism court handed over death sentences on 13 counts to each of the two accused – identified as Muhammad Hasnain alias Zawan Mama and Muhammad Ayaz alias Janbaz – in the Dasu terror attack.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/12-Jul-2023/dasu-terror-attack-mastermind-killed-in-afghanistan>

President urges Int'l community to take notice of blatant Human Rights violations in 'IIOJK'

The Nation, 13 July 2023

President Dr. Arif Alvi has urged the international community to take notice of blatant human rights violations in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). While speaking on the occasion 92nd Youm-e-Shuhada, which is observed in remembrance of twenty-two Kashmiris martyred on this day back in 1931 by Dogra forces, he stressed for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute following the UN Security Council resolutions and aspirations of Kashmiri people. He said the Kashmiri people are still waging a struggle against the 'illegal Indian occupation.' He regretted that nine hundred thousand Indian forces are holding the Kashmiri people hostage to perpetrate their illegal occupation in the valley and added that the Kashmiris must be given their right to self-determination.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/13-Jul-2023/president-urges-int-l-community-to-take-notice-of-blatant-hr-violations-in-iiojk>

Senate body briefed on efforts for restoring Kashmir's status

Dawn, 14 July 2023

A Senate panel was given a comprehensive briefing by the Foreign Office on the steps taken by the government to highlight the issue of

the revoking of 'occupied Kashmir's special status by India on various international forums. Officials, while attending a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs and GB (GB) emphasised that Kashmir was the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. Since India's unilateral actions on Aug 5, 2019, the government has made a fundamental decision not to engage with India bilaterally until the previous status of Jammu and Kashmir is restored. The officials stated that Pakistan's commitment to the Kashmir cause is evident from their efforts to raise awareness about the plight of Kashmiri people at international platforms such as the UN. These efforts aim to sensitise the international community about the human rights violations committed by Indian forces. The officials cited the Pak-China joint statement as an example, which called for the peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue following relevant UN resolutions and bilateral agreements.

Senator Prof Sajid Mir, the chairman of the committee, emphasised the need to highlight these efforts to dispel the perception that the Kashmir issue is being ignored. The committee was also briefed on the progress of the construction of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Medical College in Mirpur and Mirwaiz Muhammad Farooq Shaheed Medical College in Muzaffarabad. It was informed that the revised project, which includes the construction of 11

buildings such as an auditorium, hostels for boys/girls/doctors, library, and sports gymnasium, was approved by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) in 2022. Regarding Mirwaiz Muhammad Farooq Shaheed Medical College Muzaffarabad, the revised project for civil and external development works was also approved by the CDWP in 2022. During the discussion, some issues and bottlenecks arising from the change in the mechanism of engagement between 'AJK' and the federal government were highlighted.

The chair directed the ministry to collaborate with the 'AJK' government and resolve these pending issues as soon as possible. Furthermore, the committee received a briefing on the means of energy supply to GB, including the feasibility of constructing new small and large dams and watersheds in potential areas. Officials informed that several projects, such as the 100MW KIU HPP near Gilgit, 80MW Phander, 40MW Bashu, 15MW Sakarkoi, 15MW Golodass, 10MW Tormik, 10MW Juglot Sai, and 10MW Tangir, along with the establishment of regional grids in GB, are ready for implementation. Regarding the Hydro Power Project (HPP) on Sadpara Lake, some water rights issues were highlighted by Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) officials, and the chair directed them to coordinate with the GB government to

address these concerns. The committee offered prayers on the occasion of Youm-i-Shuhada-i-Kashmir.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1764620/senate-body-briefed-on-efforts-for-restoring-kashmirs-status>

PPP to Join Gilgit-Baltistan regional govt

Pakistan Today, 16 July 2023

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided to be a partner in the newly installed government of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) headed by Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan. The PPP will be given the office of deputy speaker GB Assembly in the first phase and Saadia Danish will be the party's candidate for the post. A ministerial portfolio is also likely to be given to the PPP in the next phase, sources said. Haji Gulbar Khan of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) forward bloc was elected the new Chief Minister of the GB region recently. The former CM of the region had nominated Raja Azam Khan for the coveted position with the approval of the PTI chief, which failed to win the majority of the legislature.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/07/16/ppp-to-join-gilgit-baltistan-regional-govt/>

France should ask India to end Human Rights violations in 'IIOJK:' Ali Raza

Pakistan Observer, 16 July 2023

The Chairman of Kashmir Council Europe (KCEU), Ali Raza Syed, has

urged France to ask India to end human rights violations in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) and give the Kashmiris their right to self-determination. Syed in a statement issued in Brussels while commenting on the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Paris said, France and other world power know that the Modi government is involved in severe violation of human rights in 'occupied Kashmir' and different parts of India. He strongly reacted to the conferring of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, France's highest civilian and military award, to Narendra Modi. He said the Indian Prime Minister does not deserve it because the violence against minorities in India increased since his ascension to power in 2014.

He claimed that recent violence in Manipur state of India motivated by Hindu majoritarianism and intolerance towards the minorities including Christians is one of the examples of the severe human rights violations by the Indian forces and Hindu fanatic groups. Referring to the Kashmir dispute, Syed claimed, the international community knows that India has not fulfilled its promise to give the right to self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for the last 75 years. The world community must pressurize India to withdraw its troops from 'occupied Kashmir' and let the Kashmiris decide their political future by themselves by holding a

plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir under the supervision of the UN.

<https://pakobserver.net/france-should-ask-india-to-end-hr-violations-in-iiojk-ali-raza/>

Economic Developments

The emergency exercise held at Gilgit Airport

The Express Tribune, 10 July 2023

A full-scale emergency exercise was conducted at the Gilgit Airport, which began with an emergency report to the control tower's fire station about a fire on board a plane on the runway. According to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) spokesperson, all stakeholders, including CAA, Airport Security Force, Pakistan International Airlines, Red Crescent, Rescue 1122, City Fire Bridge, local police, and Key Point Police, participated in the full-scale emergency exercise. The CAA fire tenders and medical ambulance reached the accident site in time and controlled the fire and rescued the injured. The ASF personnel cordoned off the airside area while the police cordoned off the security fence from outside. Soon, the Red Crescent ambulances and City Fire Services teams from outside the airport also reached the spot. The CAA, PIA, and Red Crescent set up a public information counter in the concourse hall. All stakeholders played their part as per the Crisis and Emergency Response Plan. According to the

airport manager, these exercises kept them ready to deal with any untoward situation.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2425530/emergency-exercise-held-at-gilgit-airport>

Climate Change Threatens GB's Ecosystem: A Wake-Up Call

Pamir Times, 11 July 2023

As time passes, the threat of climate change is becoming visible day by day. The globe is witnessing harmful impacts, and developing countries face the music more severely. Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) is no exception. The region's geography makes it more vulnerable to the disastrous effects of global warming. GB is home to the largest mass of non-polar glaciers, including Siachen, Baltoro, and Hisper glaciers. Global warming is increasing the rate of melting glaciers, causing floods, and disastrous effects are more severe each year. Rapid climate change poses a significant threat to the region's delicate ecosystem, thus affecting people's normal lives. The rising temperature disrupts the natural habitat of various plants and animals and affects the pattern of vegetation and water sources. The changing pattern, severe rainfall, and heat psychologically impact the region's inhabitants, and people live in constant fear.

The changing weather patterns are also disrupting the tourism industry.

Unpredictable and severe weather events, including heavy rainfall, floods, and land sliding, pose dangers to travelers, making them less appealing to tourists. Thus the main source of income of the region, which is the tourism industry, could be affected badly in the future if the situation continues the same. It is estimated that there are around 7000 glaciers in Pakistan, most of which are located in GB. Three of the World's seven largest glaciers are sited in GB. Due to global warming, the rate of melting glaciers is increasing, causing floods and glacier lake outburst flooding (GLOF) threats. The head of the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Ghulam Rasool, mentioned in 2018 that the average temperature in the last 80 years in GB has increased by 1.4 degrees Celsius as compared to 0.6 degrees Celsius in the rest of the country. According to the Ministry of Climate, 3044 glacial lakes have developed in GB and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. 33 lakes have been identified as prone to hazardous glacial lake outburst flooding (GLOF).

In a report jointly prepared by the Agha Khan Rural Support Program (AKRSP), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) mentioned that all three geographic zones of the district, located on the western edge of GB are prone to hydro-meteorological hazards during spring,

summer, and winter. The report added, Floods happen every year or every second year and are the main causes of socioeconomic disruption in the area. Important sources for these floods are glaciers and lakes situated at the higher altitude alpine zones. More than 7 million people are vulnerable to the threats of climate change in GB and KP.

This severe rainfall raises the risk of flash floods, devastatingly affecting communities and infrastructure. Floods threaten human lives and damage agricultural land, homes, and vital infrastructure such as roads and bridges, further disrupting the region's development and stability. The last year saw flood disasters in the Ghizer district and some other regions. Due to these losses, locals migrate to other cities in Pakistan. Certain efforts are needed at both the government and individual levels to protect GB's ecosystem and address the challenges caused by climate change. As tourism is the major source of income, the government should encourage responsible and sustainable tourism practices that minimize the ecological impacts. Climate change is a real threat. Still, many people in GB have no concerns over the intensity of the threat that awaits to show its more disastrous shape in the future.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/07/11/climate-change-threatens-gilgit-baltistans-ecosystem-a-wake-up-call/>

Senate body seeks in-camera briefing on Kishanganga issue

Dawn, 12 July 2023

The Senate Standing Committee on Law and Justice has decided to get an in-camera briefing on the dispute between Pakistan and India over the construction of the Kishanganga Dam. The committee, headed by Senator Syed Ali Zafar, took up the issue on Tuesday. The Law Ministry asked the committee to call in someone from the Attorney General's office for a briefing since they were the ones dealing with the dispute, which was being heard by an international arbitration court at The Hague. The committee agreed to give the ministry more time to come up with a response and decided that a separate session would be held for the in-camera briefing. Last week, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) rejected India's objections to its assumption of jurisdiction in a dispute between the neighboring countries over the Kishanganga and Ratle Hydro-electric projects, under the Indus Waters Treaty. Deciding in favor of Pakistan, the PCA ruled that it was indeed the competent authority to determine the Kishanganga dispute between Pakistan and India. The dispute pertains to concerns raised by Pakistan over India's construction of the 330-megawatt Kishanganga hydroelectric project on the River Jhelum and plans

to construct the 850MW Ratle hydroelectric project on the Chenab in 'Indian-held Kashmir.'

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1764255/senate-body-seeks-in-camera-briefing-on-kishanganga-issue>

Neelum Jhelum Project to resume power generation by the end of July

The Nation, 15 July 2023

Neelum Jhelum Hydel Power Project (NJHPP) will resume power generation by the end of July. The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) spokesperson has said that remedial work on the tail race tunnel of the project has been nearing completion. During a briefing given to Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen (Retd) Sajjad Ghani, it was informed that hectic efforts were underway to complete the remedial works being carried out in the tail race tunnel of the project and that the concrete lining of the collapsed portion of the tail race tunnel has been completed. Other affected parts of the 3 1/2 kilometers long tunnel have been strengthened. The chairman was further briefed that the cleaning work will begin next week after removing machinery from the tail race tunnel. After filling the tail race tunnel, power generation will begin. The 969 MW-NJHPP started electricity generation in April 2018. Before the collapse of its tail race tunnel last year,

the project had generated more than 18 billion units of electricity for the national grid.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/15-Jul-2023/neelum-jhelum-project-resumes-power-generation-by-end-july>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

India also releases water into River Sutlej: PDMA issued an alert

Jasarat, 11 July 2023

According to Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA), India released water into the Sutlej River, which it reported and warned of. India's initial water discharge into the Sutlej River from Harike Point, according to the PDMA, was 70,614 cusecs. From Ganda Singh in the Kasur district, the discharged water would continue to flow into Pakistan until dusk. Imran Qureshi, the director general of the PDMA, issued a warning to the deputy commissioners of Kasur, Okara, Vehari, and Pakpattan, advising them to finish making the necessary preparations and set up relief camps. The PDMA further urged people to take precautions for their safety. According to the District Emergency Operation Centre Kasur, 50 000 cusecs of water will travel through Ganda Singh in the ensuing 12 to 16 hours. The official predicted that Ganda Singh Head would soon receive 70% of the water released from India. Following

reports of Indian water aggression in the Sutlej, all departments, he claimed, were prepared for action and on high alert.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/07/10/river/>

PM 'AJK' asked the legal community to step up and play a major role in raising awareness of the Kashmir issue

UrduPoint, 11 July 2023

The Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that the legal community needs to step up and take the necessary action to highlight the Kashmir issue. He made this statement while speaking to a group of attorneys led by the presidents of the Supreme Court Bar and High Court Bar Association, and the Mirpur Bar, who had come to visit him today. Speaking at the event, he lamented the lack of interest the international community has shown in the Kashmir dispute and claimed that the UN has been unable to settle the matter despite it having been on the organization's agenda for decades. The PM said that his government was determined to play its role in highlighting the issue of Kashmir both at the national and international levels. While claiming the prevalence of dire human rights situation in the region, he said that the Indian 'occupation forces' have turned Kashmir into a killing field

where innocent civilians were being killed in fake encounters day in and day out. He said that the Indian army deployed in length and breadth of Kashmir has been committing serious violations of human rights.

<https://www.urduPoint.com/pakistan/news/islamabad/kashmir/live-news-3648597.html>

India cannot stifle Kashmiris' aspirations: Chaudhry Latif Akbar

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 11 July 2023

Chaudhry Latif Akbar, speaker of the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Legislative Assembly, claimed that India cannot thwart Kashmiris' sentiments. He said that to raise awareness of the Kashmir issue and reveal India's terrible actions towards Yasin Malik, a speakers conference will be conducted soon in Muzaffarabad. He claimed that the Kashmiri population is presently going through a terrible time and that 'occupied Kashmir' has evolved into a military cantonment. He further claimed that India is acting illegally and inhumanely to silence the voice of Kashmiris and to assassinate Yasin Malik in response to the wrongful imprisonment of Yasin Malik. He added that the illegal activities of India in 'occupied Kashmir' should be immediately brought to the attention of the United Nations. In answer to a query, Akbar said that a concerted strategy must be

adopted to properly raise the issue of Kashmir in international fora, and added that the 'Azad Kashmir's' capital city of Muzaffarabad is significant in this regard. This will be followed by a speakers' conference. In addition, he stressed that by sending parliamentary delegations abroad, the Kashmir issue will be brought to the attention of the world community.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Resize-of-front-pages.jpg>

'AJK' president calls on the international community to play a part in resolving the Kashmir dispute

Nawaiwaqt, 12 July 2023

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, has stated that the international community must play its proper part in resolving the ongoing conflict in Kashmir following the aspirations and will of the Kashmiri people. He made this comment while addressing a dinner reception he gave on Monday night in honor of international diplomats and ambassadors stationed in the capital city. The president informed foreign diplomats that the situation in the 'Indian-occupied' territory of Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) had deteriorated to an alarming level ever since the Modi government repealed articles 370 and

35 A of the Indian constitution that guaranteed special status to the 'IOJK'. He claimed that Kashmiris were urgently in need of help and action from the world community at this critical juncture.

Given the dire human rights situation in the area, he claimed, it was the right time for the international community to take action and grant the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination, which also happens to be the longest-running unresolved issue on the UN agenda. The ambassadors of Norway, Turkey, Austria, Japan, and Kyrgyzstan, as well as the high commissioners of Malaysia and Kenya, the acting high commissioner of the United Kingdom, the political consul of the American Embassy, and several more, attended the dinner event.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2023-07-12/page-1>

Haji Gul Bar Khan is appointed as the new chief minister of GB

Jasarat, 13 July 2023

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Haji Gul Bar Khan was chosen as the new chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) on Thursday. In the days preceding the appointment, there was debate about the election procedure. Three other contenders withdrew their candidature, leaving only 20 members in the house, and Gul Bar was declared

the undisputed winner with the support of 19 votes out of a total of 33 seats. Nawaz Khan Naji, an independent lawmaker, stayed away from the voting booth, while supporters of Gul Bar for CM came from the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). All 11 members of the PTI's 'like-minded group' opted to boycott the elections in a show of displeasure, accusing the electoral process of being rigged. Following Khalid Khursheed's ouster, the PTI broke up into two factions: the forward bloc and the like-minded or 'humkhayal' group, with the latter electing to boycott the election.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/07/13/haji-gulbar-khan-elected-new-gb-chief-minister/>

Kashmiris commemorate the 92nd Kashmir Martyrs Day on both sides of the Line of Control

Jammu and Kashmir, 14 July 2023

Kashmiris living on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) observed the 92nd Kashmir Martyrs Day on Thursday by renewing their commitment to carrying out the mission of the Kashmiri martyrs by continuing the freedom struggle with all of their might to realise their inalienable right to self-determination. The struggle to free the homeland from the despotic Dogra Maharajah's reign was founded on this day (13 July) in

1931 in front of Srinagar's Central Jail, sparking a mutiny that lasted for around 92 years. To commemorate the day, special prayer gatherings and symposiums, posters were held throughout 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) as well as in other locations including the conflict-torn 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) and around the world. On this date in 1931, Dogra soldiers opened fire on Kashmiris in front of Srinagar's Central Jail, killing 23 of them. A sizable crowd had assembled outside the jail to voice opposition to the trial of a young man named Abdul Qadeer for treason taking place inside the high-security zone prison. It was a state holiday in 'AJK' so that people from all around the liberated region may take part in the festivities.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-14.jpg>

Social Media (tweets)

Amin Human @HumanAmin

10 July 2023

The people of #GB ever wanted rights and provincial status, but instead they were fed with hollow promises by #Pakistan. And this has led to the rise of the #FreeBalawaristan movement. @NEP_JKGBL

<https://twitter.com/HumanAmin/status/1678379260736569345>

Tariq Naqash @TariqNaqash*11 July 2023*

Senior leaders from the constituent parties of #AJK's coalition govt should force PM Anwarul Haq to run his govt from its seat in #Muzaffarabad & not #Islamabad. If he feels so uncomfortable in MZD he should beg some position in the fed govt & stay there for as long as he likes.

<https://twitter.com/TariqNaqash/status/1678488589741486099>

Zaheerm_shigri @Zaheerm_Shigri*12 July 2023*

#GilgitBaltistan was politically stable though not economically since it got semi-autonomy under #GB self-rule and empowerment order 2009. But in recent political tormoil it seems that Pakistan's dirty politics has engulfed #GB also. #CMGB.

https://twitter.com/Zaheerm_Shigri/status/1679038271882686464

Shabbir Hussain Imam @peshavar*13 July 2023*

Haji Gulber Khan elected #GB chief minister. Gulbar has served as Gilgit-Baltistan's health minister during PTI govt as well as in early 2011. GulberKhan was a member of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (#JUI-F) but later on

joined #Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (#PTI). #GB18 #DiAmerIV #DiAmer.

<https://twitter.com/peshavar/status/1679412658540511233>

CISS AJK @ciss_ajk*14 July 2023*

CISS AJK | "The deployment of the S-400 system by India near the Pakistani border has implications for Pakistan's national security and defense posture," writes Dr. Abdia Rafique, Research Officer at CISS AJK. <https://defensetalks.com/the-s-400-air-defense-system-impact-on-regional-security-dynamics-and-policy-imperatives-for-pakistan/> @AsmaKhawaja5.

https://twitter.com/ciss_ajk/status/1679778358887079938

ShabbirMir Shina @ShabbirMir*17 July 2023*

PPP's Sadia Danish is the first woman parliamentarian from GilgitBaltistan to become Deputy Speaker. She was elected unopposed.

<https://twitter.com/ShabbirMir/status/1680855767685947393>

Weekly POK News Digest

Volume 3 | Issue 28

10 July - 16 July 2023

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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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