

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 3 | Issue 36

04 September - 10 September 2023

Chitral attack Karakoram Highway POK
Shimla agreement sectarian
Gilgit-Baltistan violence
Mangla Dam CPEC
Satpara Dam



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

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Political Developments

Former GB chief minister Khalid Khurshid survives 'attack'

Business Recorder, 4 September 2023

Former chief minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Khalid Khurshid Khan survived an attack in the Astore area, where he was going to participate in a by-election campaign, said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Khurshid, who is also PTI's president in GB, was with his colleagues when they were blocked and fired upon in the Chowgam area, Astore District. Former GB's CM and his associates remained safe.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40261443/former-gb-chief-minister-khalid-khurshid-survives-attack>

India can do something big in 'AJK' and Gilgit-Baltistan, CPEC is in danger: Sardar Atiq Ahmed

Daily Parliament Times, 4 September 2023

President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference (AJKMC) and former PM of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sardar Atiq Ahmed Khan has warned that India may be planning to do something big in 'Azad Kashmir' and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and that CPEC is in danger. He said that the Line of Control does not seem to end and that things are moving towards making it an international border. Atiq said that India's threats should be taken seriously as India could do something big in 'Azad Kashmir' and GB to divert attention from its internal disturbances.

He said that India wants to sabotage CPEC and that CPEC is running only on the guarantee of the Pakistan army and added that only the armed forces stand in the way of India's ambitions. He said that after the Shimla agreement, the ceasefire line was established and now they are going towards the international border. He further said that 'Azad Kashmir' and GB may have a referendum anytime in the future.

While talking about the freedom movement in Kashmir, Atiq said that the freedom movement is at a critical stage from which we cannot move forward. Apart from two or three speeches by the Army Chief, nothing is being done regarding the freedom movement at this time. He said that 5 August did not happen overnight, Modi kept repeating in every election that he would abolish 370 and 35 A when he came to power. He noted that Army Chief Kakul's speech was very encouraging and reiterated Pakistan's position. We can raise the alarm and cry, he added. Atiq said that if the pro-Pakistan party is weakened, other forces will get space to attack the young generation. He stressed that 'Azad Kashmir' is not an administrative or political unit of Pakistan, but rather it is Pakistan's most fragile defense fence. Every fifth house in 'Azad Kashmir' has one retired soldier and one serving soldier. When the Muslim conference was strong here, he emphasized that army vehicles were never stopped,

flags were never burnt, Quaid-e-Azam's picture was never burnt, and slogans were never raised against the army. Our relationship with Pakistan is not only about thoughts and concerns, it is about ground realities, beliefs, practice, and faith. This relationship cannot be separated. There are millions of Kashmiris living in Pakistan and millions of Kashmiris are living abroad on Pakistani passports. While commenting on the possibility of an independent Kashmir, he said that the idea of a sovereign state is only in ideas, it is not a practical thing. Kashmiris have sacrificed only for the accession of Pakistan, there is no other option.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/09/04/india-can-do-something-big-in-ajk-and-gilgit-baltistan-cpec-is-in-danger-sardar-atiq-ahmed/>

Will normalise GB situation within two days, claims CM

Dawn, 5 September 2023

Gilgit-Baltitistan (GB) Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan said the government has invited clerics from across Pakistan to settle a controversial issue that had caused sectarian tensions in the region for the past week. In a press conference alongside the law and home ministers at the CM Secretariat, Gulbar Khan claimed the current uncertainty in the region would be settled within two days. He said the issue started after a controversial speech by Agha Baqir Alhussaini. Irked by his speech, people in Diamer blocked the Karakoram

Highway and demanded the arrest of the cleric. Subsequently, the parliamentary committee of GB met religious leaders in Diamer to settle the issue. The issue was almost sorted when a speech by cleric Qazi Nisar Ahmed in Gilgit rekindled the tensions, according to the CM. He added that it was merely a sectarian issue that had nothing to do with politics. The CM said the GB government has asked the religious scholars who have arrived from across the country to hold meetings with local religious leaders to settle the controversy. Speaking about the suspension of internet services, the CM said the 4G internet service will be restored in the region after one week of the resolution of the issue. Home Minister Shams Lone said the government suspended 13 police officials for uploading controversial content on social media whereas efforts to detain the person who uploaded the video were also afoot. Mr Lone said the GB police registered 15 FIRs against religious leaders for violation of law and order situation. He said the uncertainty spread after the speeches of religious leaders affected the region economically, especially the segments linked to tourism, small traders, and transporters. Without giving any evidence, the minister termed this strife as a part of a conspiracy against CPEC and Diamer-Bhasha Dam.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1774031/will-normalise-gb-situation-within-two-days-claims-cm>

GB unrest*Dawn, 5 September 2023*

Away from the glare of mainstream media, trouble has been brewing in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) in recent weeks. Demonstrations and counter-protests have been held in the mountainous region, with key thoroughfares blocked and mobile internet shut, as sectarian hatreds have returned to cast a long shadow over the area. According to reports, action was sought against a religious leader belonging to one school of thought, who had made a controversial statement last month. After protests in Chilas and elsewhere, a case was registered against the said cleric. This led to protests in Skardu and other towns, while allegedly derogatory remarks were made by another cleric, resulting in the filing of a case against this individual. Communal differences may only be a trigger for the protests, as there are several underlying factors in GB fuelling disaffection. However, the state's bulldozing of the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023, through parliament has certainly breathed new life into sectarian discourses that were largely dormant. GB may only be the first area where narrow communalism is being revived, thanks to this debatable legislation, and unless democratic forces and enlightened clerics speak up, the fire of hatred may spread, especially to those spots in the country where sectarian tensions are already high.

There are signs that matters are improving, as the region's chief minister met both Shia and Sunni clerics, who have promised to maintain calm. The caretaker federal information minister has said the area is experiencing 'peace and stability' while adding that the military had been called in only to maintain peace during Chehlum. Though GB has witnessed sporadic sectarian violence over the past several decades, matters, over the past few years, have been improving where inter-communal relations are concerned. Therefore, the local administration, as well as clerics from both sects, need to support efforts for peace-building and shunning those who promote divisive agendas. In particular, hate groups must not be allowed to spread their toxic views to fan communal flames. But beyond GB, unless the bill in question, specifically the amendments to the blasphemy law, is reconsidered, it will only add to extremism and widen fault lines in society. As this paper has argued before, blasphemy cannot be condoned, and all religious figures should be respected. But bringing complicated theological and historical issues before parliament which are better addressed by subject specialists and scholars of the highest caliber and then rushing them through without any debate will only add to divisions in the country. Such sensitive issues should not be codified in law in such a haphazard manner. For over four

decades, Pakistan has been reeling from the effects of terrifying sectarian violence. To prevent the misuse of blasphemy laws, and the violence this begets, the amendments need to be rethought.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1774112/gb-unrest>

Kashmir Affairs, GB: Senate body's meeting postponed in protest

Business Recorder, 5 September 2023

The meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), scheduled to be held on Monday got postponed in protest against the absence of Secretary Ministry of Kashmir Affairs Babar Hayat Tarar. The committee met briefly with its chairman Senator Prof Sajid Mir in the chair before it was postponed in protest. The meeting was attended by Senator Sherry Rehman, Senator Shahadat Awan, and Senator Shaheen Khalid Butt. The committee was supposed to discuss the new phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and GB situation and the present position of the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower Project. The committee stated that the agenda before the meeting holds pivotal importance and regretted the absence of the secretary of the relevant ministry to brief the members about the agenda items.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40261482/kashmir-affairs-gb-senate-bodys-meeting-postponed-in-protest>

President lauds Turkish support to Islamabad's principled stance on Kashmir

The Nation, 6 September 2023

Pakistan and Turkiye have reiterated their resolve to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse areas for mutual benefit. This was discussed during a meeting between President Dr. Arif Alvi and the visiting Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces, Admiral Ercument Tatlio-glu, who along with his delegation called on the President. The meeting was also attended by Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Am-jad Khan Niazi, Ambassador of Turkiye in Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Pacaci, and government officials of both sides. He emphasized the need to further improve bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including maritime and defence cooperation. The President lauded the regular participation of the navies of the two brotherly countries in bilateral and multilateral exercises, adding that the close naval co-operation was a manifestation of strong relations between Pakistan and Turkiye. During the meeting, the President highlighted the atrocities being committed by the Indian Security Forces against the Muslims in the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK), besides expressing concern over the 'persecution' of minorities in India. He stressed that the international community should take

notice of the human rights abuses in 'IIOJK' as well as the 'persecution' of minorities in India. The President appreciated the Turkish support for Pakistan's principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Sep-2023/president-lauds-turkish-support-to-islamabad-s-principled-stance-on-kashmir>

Mushaal apprises Abbas Jilani of the plight of Kashmiris

The Nation, 6 September 2023

Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick called on Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani to discuss the plight of the Kashmiri people. The discussion focused on enhancing collaboration between the ministries of foreign affairs and human rights and projecting Pakistan's point of view at international fora, including the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), said a Foreign Office statement. The Foreign Minister and the SAPM also discussed the plight of the thousands of political activists, journalists, and human rights defenders, who have been arrested by the Indian authorities in the 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK).

<https://www.nation.com.pk/06-Sep-2023/mushaal-apprises-abbas-jilani-of-plight-of-kashmiris>

Chitral attack 'isolated incident', not consented by Afghan govt: FM Jilani

Pakistan Today, 8 September 2023

Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani said that this week's terrorist attack on two military posts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lower Chitral district was an 'isolated incident' and not sanctioned by the interim Afghan government. At least four security men embraced martyrdom while more than 16 fighters were killed as militants' attempts to enter Pakistan from Afghanistan were foiled by troops deployed along the border with Afghanistan. Militants had attacked two security checkpoints in the southern part of the district. The pre-dawn attack had targeted check posts in Astui Pass and Jinjiret Koh situated in the south of Lower Chitral, bordering the Afghan province of Nuristan. Astui Pass is located in the Bumburet Valley, one of the three valleys in southern Chitral where the Kalash community resides.

Terrorists' movement and concentration in Gawardesh, Pitigal, Barg-i-Matel, and Batash areas of Nuristan and Kunar provinces of Afghanistan had already been picked up and were timely shared with the interim Afghan government, the military's media wing had said, adding that the Afghan government was 'expected to fulfill its obligations and deny the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for perpetrating acts of

terrorism against Pakistan.’ The outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) had reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack through its spokesperson, Mohammad Khorasani. Commenting on the matter while responding to a question on rising terrorism in Pakistan emanating from Afghanistan, FM Jilani told Dawn.com: It was an isolated incident and we don’t think it had their (Afghan government) sanction. The foreign minister later reiterated his stance and said ongoing dialogue with the Afghan government on surging militancy was ‘very positive.’

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/09/08/chitral-attack-isolated-incident-not-consented-by-afghan-govt-fm-jilani/>

Chitral Jirga vows to fight alongside Pakistan security forces

The Nation, 8 September 2023

A Jirga of notables and elders of Chitral and Swat held on Friday at Darosh fort vowed that the people of Chitral particularly youth were ready to fight alongside the Pakistan army and security forces. They condemned recent terrorist attacks on forces and expressed solidarity with the Pakistan army. The participants paid tribute to the Shuhada of Chitral Scouts. They assured that the local community will stand by security forces. They also assured zero tolerance against the social media activists floating negative sentiments. The local population of Chitral had come out in support of the

Pakistan army and was helping in transporting weapons, ammunition, and food to the forward posts of the army.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/08-Sep-2023/chitral-jirga-vows-to-fight-along-pakistan-security-forces>

Gilgit-Baltistan: Polling begins in GBLA-13 Astore by-election

The Nation, 9 September 2023

The voting for the Gilgit Baltistan Legislative Assembly constituency (GBLA-13) Astore-1 began on Saturday morning. The seat fell vacant after GB’s former chief minister Khalid Khurshid was disqualified in a fake degree case. At least 14 candidates, including nine independent candidates, are in the fray in the GBLA-13 Astore-1. The main contestants include Khursheed Ahmed Khan of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Rana Farman Ali of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Abdul Hameed Khan of the Pakistan People’s Party (PPP). Similarly, Inayatullah Mir will try his luck in the election from the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), while Attaullah will try his luck as a candidate for Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan. The total number of registered voters in the constituency is 33,378, of which 18,231 are male voters and 15,147 are female voters. Tight security arrangements have been made for this purpose. At least 363 officials have been deployed to deal with any unwanted situation. According to sources, a tough contest is expected between Rana Farman of the PML-N,

Abdul Hameed of the PPP, and Khurshid Ahmed Khan of the PTI. PML-nominee Rana Farman Ali is a former provincial minister. Ali had contested as a candidate of PML-N in the last three general elections from the constituency, out of which he was defeated in the 2009 and 2020 elections, but he won with a large margin in the 2015 elections and was appointed Minister of Local Government. The PPP has fielded Abdul Hameed, an old player in GB politics.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/09-Sep-2023/gilgit-baltistan-polling-begins-in-gbla-13-astore-by-election>

Economic Developments

Solving Skardu's water crisis

Dawn, 4 September 2023

The Satpara Dam, a collaboration of the government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), was completed in 2011. It aimed to cater to the electricity needs of the local population as well as fulfill drinking and irrigation needs. However, it was unable to do so. One of the project's most significant aspects was the water diversion from the Shatung Nala to the Satpara dam but due to the environmental hazards this diversion could have caused, it was not completed. Ultimately, this led to a severe water crisis in the region of Skardu in the early summer of this year, as there was no constant supply of water. This had a devastating effect on

not only the general populace but also on the natural vegetation and the environment. It resulted in thousands of trees and acres of crop being severely damaged, with several species of birds migrating and fish ponds drying up. Residents were not even able to meet their basic water needs as drinking taps were empty and most of the springs became dormant. Rapidly increasing population and severe effects of climate change, less snowfall and rapidly increasing temperatures contributed to this drastic situation.

An increase in tourism, which resulted in more hotels, guesthouses, and service stations emerging in the area has further contributed to it. But most importantly, there is a lack of planning and appropriate water infrastructure to ensure efficient water management. While the government is taking various initiatives to resolve the problem of the water crisis in the long run, a short-term solution of a few years to this crisis has been proposed in the form of the Phia Lung project by the local community. The project aims to divert water from Phia Lung to Satpara Dam and the people of Skardu. This will ensure an increased water capacity in the Satpara Nala, with water levels rising to 250-300 cusecs in early summers and up to 70 cusecs in winters. One of the most interesting aspects of this proposed project is that the local population itself is leading it. The overall management is being led by Imam Masjid, local scholars, and the

residents of the local villages under extreme threat from this crisis. The management consists of a general body (two to four members from each village) and committees that specifically deal with mobilization, finance and audit, media and communications, and project implementation.

The expected cost for the project is Rs1.27 billion, of which Rs400m is to be raised directly from the affected households, which has ensured the timely launch of this project. There are an estimated 20,000 households in the affected villages, and each household is expected to contribute Rs20,000 towards the project's execution. Although each affected household was to pay Rs20,000, some families paid more than others, depending on their income levels. This exercise of fundraising created a sense of belonging within the community. Civilian and military officials, elected representatives, non-governmental organisations, and all religious sects have been approached and taken aboard. There is a consensus among stakeholders: the local community, policymakers, religious scholars, and government officials. The design report and geological survey have been completed, and the construction has begun.

Completing this project will provide drinking water for approximately 250,000 citizens and irrigation of 15,000

acres of agricultural land. Moreover, the water will fill the Satpara dam throughout the year. It will lead to electricity production for Skardu City, resulting in a positive uptick in the local economy and job creation. Lastly, as the drivers of this project belong to several different segments of society, its completion will ensure harmony and peace within the community. This project is interesting to study because of the way it has been financed. Instead of making the water crisis a controversial matter, the drivers of this project made it a community initiative involving affected households, getting stakeholders together, and resolving the dispute by promoting a positive practice in the region of Skardu.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1773883>

'AJK' PM says the federal government should abide by his constitutional demands and provide electricity to 'AJK' as per the provision

Daily Parliament Times, 4 September 2023

Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Ul Haq has said that the federal government should fulfill his constitutional demands for providing the provision of electricity to 'Azad Kashmir' at the same rate as it was being generated from the region's powerhouses. While speaking during a private TV program, he made it clear that his demands were legitimate and in line with the constitutional provisions of Pakistan. He said that the

electricity consumption in 'Azad Kashmir' was not more than 400 MWs while the electricity generated from different power generating units in 'Azad Kashmir' was 2800 MWs. The PM said that 30 megawatts of electricity produced at the cost of 3.5 rupees per unit was transmitted to the National Grid from Jagan1 and that we are getting the same electricity at 30 rupees per unit. He added that his demand was 'AJK' nationals should be provided electricity at the same price. While commenting on the ongoing protest against the inflated bills, he said that there have been peaceful protests in different areas but one thing that needs to be realized is that anyone who uses electricity is bound to pay the bill.

In response to a question, he said that electricity theft was not just an issue of 'Azad Kashmir' and added that electricity theft, which occurs in all four federal units, including 'Azad Kashmir', needs to be stopped. While responding to another query, the PM said that non-developmental expenses should be reduced. He said that the people of Kashmir who have rendered unprecedented sacrifices for Pakistan were ready to offer all kinds of sacrifices for a strong, stable, and economically vibrant Pakistan and added that Kashmir's accession to Pakistan was our destination. In response to another question, he said that 'AJK' should be given its due share out of the federal distributable income. The PM said that he had raised all these

issues at the recent meeting of the Senate Committee on Finance wherein all the members listened to our grievances sympathetically.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/09/04/pm-ajk-says-the-federal-government-should-fulfill-his-constitutional-demands-for-providing-the-provision-of-electricity-to-ajk/>

Gradual discharge of water from fully-packed Mangla dam begins

The Nation, 8 September 2023

The gradual discharge of water from the currently fully-packed country's largest Mangla dam began on Thursday. After about a week-long pause only 0.25 feet of water was discharged second successive day from the country's largest fully packed Mangla Dam reservoir since full impounding this season to the stipulated maximum level of 1242 feet, official sources said. Mangla Dam stands as the biggest reservoir in terms of water storage in the country and was filled to its maximum conservation capacity of 1242 feet on 17 August. The Mangla dam has a minimum working level of 1050 feet, a current level of 1241.75 feet, a maximum conservation level of 1242 feet, and live storage on Thursday was recorded at 7.336 Million Acre-Foot (MAF), according to the media wing of the Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA).

<https://www.nation.com.pk/08-Sep-2023/gradual-discharge-of-water-from-fully-packed-mangla-dam-begins>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Students rallied in favor of maintaining peace in Gilgit-Baltistan

Daily Pakistan, 4 September 2023

More than 4,000 students from Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB) four districts staged a large rally to preserve and promote peace. The rally started at Gilgit's Boys High School No. 1, moved to the Civil Secretariat, and ended with the delivery of a resolution to the Chief Secretary's office. In their resolution, which underlined the value of education and the need for a peaceful environment to pursue it, the students stressed the maintenance of peace for the development and prosperity of the region. The rally's main points were succinctly articulated by the participants, who emphasised that peace is the foundation for all future education and development. Participants in the demonstration stressed that GB is a territory devoid of inter-communal conflict and violence. The GB youths emphasised their unwavering commitment to the Islamic concept of brotherhood and their determination to defend it in the future. The youths stressed that the people of GB are dedicated to pursuing peace and development and that any attempt to undermine peaceful way of life will be defeated.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/04-Sep-2023/1623058>

Lawyers, traders on strike, private schools shut down in Kotli over high electricity costs

Daily Pakistan, 5 September 2023

A strike by businesses and lawyers over high electricity bills led to the closure of all private educational institutions. According to private TV Express-News, protests against taxes and price increases on energy bills were staged in Kotli, Poonch, Mirpur, and other places. In addition, several roadways in Kotli, Mirpur, and Rawalakot were also shut down.

<https://dailypakistan.com.pk/05-Sep-2023/1623346>

Force will be used if the issues cannot be resolved by negotiation: GB Interior Minister

Dailyk2, 5 September 2023

Shams Lone, the home minister of Gilgit Baltistan (GB) has urged all of the citizens to contribute positively to the current situation and to resist falling for the 'propaganda' of the enemy. Speaking at a press conference in Gilgit, he said that efforts are being made at all levels to achieve the government's goal of finding a solution to every problem through communication. The Minister claimed that calm has been restored in GB, but he also issued a warning to the 'elements' not to disturb the peace by causing any disruptions to law and order. He stressed the use of force to uphold peace and order if the issue

could not be settled amicably. He also urged the religious authorities to use the pulpit to preach the teachings of peace, brotherhood, and unity as taught by the Holy Prophet. He claimed that the best way to keep the peace would be to respect one another's faiths and beliefs, which would ultimately contribute to the region's aspirational goal of development. Lone denounced the 'propaganda' and 'nefarious attempt' by the Indian media to distort the reality of the situation in GB.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/16578>

Pakistan will continue to demonstrate its diplomatic support for Kashmir's right to self-determination: President of Pakistan

Jasarat, 6 September 2023

President Dr. Arif Alvi said that we are conscious of our domestic and international obligations and will continue to play our part in global peace under the banner of the United Nations (UN). During his speech on Defence and Martyrs' Day on 6 September 2023, he claimed that our region is waiting for a resolution to the prolonged Jammu and Kashmir problems. He claimed that the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination will continue to get moral and diplomatic backing from Pakistan. He further stated that on 6 September we honour the martyrs who gave their lives in

defence of the homeland and their families by commemorating Defence and Martyrs Day, and added that 58 years ago, our armed forces and the entire Pakistani country displayed incredible bravery and an unmatched spirit to defeat the evil aims of the enemy.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/09/05/arif-alvi-71/>

Social Media (tweets)

Naveed Murtaza @NaveedMurtaza11

25 August 2023

A Local activist of Skardu is raising concerns regarding recent protests on KKH Chilas. He addressed Pakistan" If you create trouble for the citizens of this disputed region #GilgitBaltistan, then we don't want connectivity with #Pakistan. Open the way to Kargil for us...

Video link:

<https://twitter.com/NaveedMurtaza11/status/1695048977237098591>

Faraz Pervaiz @FarazPervaiz

3 September 2023

September 3, 2023 The situation in Gilgit-Baltistan is getting worse. Only a small spark can convert the protest into the most bloody Suni-Shia conflict history every seen on #blasphemy. #Gilgit #baltistan.

<https://twitter.com/FarazPervaiz3/status/1698321146431807493>

Sakhi Nawaz Ali Khan 72@e_safeeran

3 September 2023

Today's video shows that over 100k people have once again taken to the streets to protest against the Takfiri cleric who blasphemed against Imam Mehdi (aj) yesterday. The situation in GB is challenging, yet the mainstream media and the Pak Govt remain silent.

#GilgitBaltistan

Video link:

https://twitter.com/e_safeeran/status/1698358286494704123

Farooq Hameed Khan @FarooqHKhan

3 September 2023

I say this with all conviction, videos of protests in GB may reflect protests/instability. GB's strategic dynamics makes it ideal target of anti Pakistan forces for GB is all about CPEC as well as Pak - China trade corridor, mega hydropower projects, minerals etc.

<https://twitter.com/FarooqHKhan/status/1698250785019359557>

Basharat Issa @BasharatIssa

4 September 2023

"The protests are a natural political democratic response to local issues, which were managed peacefully in Gilgit-Baltistan."

Saw this official narrative circulating about situation in GB and I have never

heard this about a genuine protest for basic rights. This time it's not a protest as a democratic political response to a local issue, it's actually gatherings inciting sectarian hatred. Whenever there are genuine protests for fundamental rights, they are declared anti-state and threat to the peace and security. This hypocrisy isn't surprising.

<https://twitter.com/BasharatIssa/status/1698416447590981948>

Basharat Issa @BasharatIssa

4 September 2023

4 goras roaming on the road is seen as the determinant of normal and peaceful situation in Gilgit-Baltistan by the government and all of its chamchaas. I am not surprised why they have the civil services and all other colonial legacies so powerful in this country.

<https://twitter.com/BasharatIssa/status/1698627943118041469>

Basharat Abidi @AbidiBasharat

11 September 2023

PTI workers in Astore Gilgit-Baltistan are currently protesting in front of RO office because the results of By-elections are not been announced yet. Reason for the delay is still unknown but everyone Knows that PTI has Won.

#GilgitBaltistan #Gilgit

<https://twitter.com/AbidiBasharat/status/1700973214946803813>

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Disclaimer

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