

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 3 | Issue 40

02 October - 08 October 2023

traders Gilgit-Baltistan
protest POK fuel
electricity crisis
Neelam-Jhelum project
Hanzel hydropower project



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

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Political Developments

'AJK' Protests

The Nation, 2 October 2023

The recent escalation of traders' protests and police actions in various cities in 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) demands our immediate attention and careful consideration. These events serve as a stark reminder of the growing discontent among the public, primarily fueled by skyrocketing electricity bills. While maintaining law and order is the government's responsibility, it is equally crucial to explore alternative avenues for conflict resolution, avoiding the use of force and violence. The strike and protests have brought daily life to a standstill in major cities and towns in 'AJK', with residents expressing their frustration and anger against the government and the Power Division. The situation calls for a thoughtful and measured response that prioritizes the welfare of the community.

The strike, organized by the Awami Action Committee in seven districts of 'AJK', saw widespread participation from various sectors, including traders' associations, transporters, and lawyers. Social media has also played a significant role in drawing attention to the protests, with videos and messages highlighting the grievances of the people. One of the key issues driving these protests is the substantial increase in electricity bills, a burden that many households find unbearable. The recent hikes in electricity tariffs, coupled with

rising inflation, have added to the financial strain on the public. Instead of responding to these protests with force, the government should seize this opportunity to engage in constructive dialogue with the traders and the broader public. Finding common ground and exploring solutions that alleviate the financial burden on the public should be the government's priority. This includes revisiting electricity tariffs, addressing concerns related to taxes, and taking steps to mitigate inflation's impact on the cost of living.

The government must also demonstrate its commitment to transparency and accountability in addressing these issues. Clear communication regarding policy changes and their implications can help rebuild trust between the government and the people. The ongoing unrest in 'AJK' echoes similar protests in other parts of the country, reflecting widespread frustration with economic challenges and rising utility costs. It is a reminder that governments at all levels must prioritise the well-being of their citizens and work diligently to address their concerns.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/02-Oct-2023/ajk-protests>

Kashmir Peace Initiative

Dawn, 03 October 2023

The recent visit of the British parliamentary delegation to Islamabad, led by Raja Najabat Hussain, marks a promising effort towards addressing the long-standing Kashmir issue in

Pakistan. Their engagement with leaders like Mehmood Ahmed Saghar of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference- 'Azad Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) and their commitment to understanding the situation in 'illegally Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) is commendable. This diplomatic initiative demonstrates the crucial role played by international collaboration in seeking a peaceful resolution to a conflict that has caused immense suffering for the people of the region. Hussain's leadership and the efforts of the British delegation deserve recognition. According to Mr. Hussain, the work to achieve the goals of the Kashmir Freedom Movement is equally taking place in Pakistan and the UK. Notably, over 100 members of the British Parliament are cognisant of the Kashmir issue and actively raise their voices for the 'oppressed' Kashmiri people.

The strong support from the UK parliamentarians underscores the international acknowledgment of the plight of Kashmiris and the urgent need for their self-determination. In particular, the delegation member Sam Tarry has been actively trying to raise the issue of Kashmir in upcoming meetings of the Labour Party in the UK. This concerted effort to bring the Kashmir issue to the forefront of political discussions is crucial for driving international attention and support. Tarry's focus on the importance of cooperation around trade in strengthening Pakistan-UK

relations also holds immense potential. Facilitating trade between the two nations can not only enhance bilateral ties but also contribute to regional stability and development. Another member of the delegation, Andrew Gwynne, highlighted the historical links between Pakistan and the UK, stressing how these ties can play a pivotal role in building a promising future. The shared history and cultural connections between both nations provide a strong foundation to work together toward resolving the Kashmir dispute.

In addition to political collaboration, both Pakistan and the UK are united in their efforts to combat climate change. Climate change is a pressing global issue, and cooperation between the two countries can contribute to mitigating its effects. The United Kingdom must play an important role in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute, as emphasized by APHC leader Mehmood Ahmed Saghar. The unresolved issue has caused immense suffering for the Kashmiri people for the past 76 years. The international community, especially the UK, has a responsibility to support the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination according to UN resolutions. The visit of the British parliamentary delegation signifies a step in the right direction, bringing the Kashmir issue to the attention of a wider audience.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/03-Oct-2023/kashmir-peace-initiative>

PM 'AJK' urges the masses to take a holistic view of the current issues

Daily Parliament Times, 3 October 2023

Prime Minister of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while urging the masses to take a holistic view of the current issues, has said that all that they need to realize was that the government has fulfilled the masses' demand by suspending notification of an increase in Electricity prices. While talking to different delegations, he said that the notification has been formally suspended, additional charges imposed on the electricity bills have been withdrawn and the bills have now been issued at the old rates. He said that instead of creating anarchy in the state, social media activists should guide people on national issues. He said that the people of 'Azad Kashmir' were highly educated and that they should think if they refuse to pay electricity bills, how the system of the state will work, adding that electricity infrastructure costs billions of rupees to the government. He said that 'Azad Kashmir' has lower electricity rates as compared to Pakistan and added that all possible measures were being taken to offer maximum subsidy to power consumers.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/10/03/pm-ajk-urges-the-masses-to-take-a-holistic-view-of-the-current-issues/>

Kashmir is India's 'modern-day colonial project', Pakistan tells UN

Dawn, 4 October 2023

Pakistan raised the situation in 'Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir' before the UN Decolonisation Committee, characterizing India's unilateral actions in the 'occupied territory' as a 'modern-day colonial project.' The UN body, which is also known as the 'fourth committee', began a general debate on freedom from foreign occupation at the UN headquarters in New York on Monday. Several member states participated in the debate, emphasizing the need to resolve the questions of the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, more than six decades after the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Pakistan's UN envoy Munir Akram urged India to create conditions for dialogue and for the UN and its member states to promote a peaceful settlement following relevant UN resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

The declaration, also known as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 1514, was passed during the assembly's 15th session. It characterises foreign rule as a violation of human rights, affirms the right to self-determination, and calls for an end to colonial rule. President of the

General Assembly, Dennis Francis, said the Fourth Committee's work was crucial to cultivate trust in the UN at a time when 'the multilateral system and its institutions are descending even deeper into a credibility crisis.' Akram welcomed the committee's recommendations and its request for the Secretary-General to explore innovative approaches to advance the decolonisation agenda. Expressing regret that there are still people who are denied the right to self-determination, he highlighted the situations in Jammu Kashmir and Palestine and supported the demand for a two-state solution in the Middle East.

He characterised India's unilateral steps in the 'occupied territories' as a 'modern-day colonial project that includes human rights abuses, extrajudicial killings, and demographic changes.' He further said that India is pursuing a Hindu-majority agenda in a Muslim-majority area, citing the issuance of fake domicile certificates and land confiscations. Since 1946, 80 former colonies have gained independence. Yet, some people are still denied the right to self-determination, most prominently the people of 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine, he said.

He pointed out that the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir was explicitly recognised in UN Security Council Resolution 47 and several later resolutions, which

prescribed that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, should be decided by its people through a free and fair plebiscite held under UN auspices. Even though both India and Pakistan accepted these resolutions, for more than 75 years, through 'force and fraud', India has avoided the implementation of these resolutions, he said. Since 1989, he claimed that India's 'brutal repression' in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir has killed more than 100,000 Kashmiris. Akram informed the committee members that since 5 August 2019, India has taken unilateral and illegal steps to annex 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir and that Kashmir today is the most densely occupied place in the world, with more than 900,000 Indian occupation troops deployed there.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1779214/kashmir-is-indias-modern-day-colonial-project-pakistan-tells-un>

Enraged people demand answers after a teacher is shot dead in broad daylight

Pamir Times, 4 October 2023

Residents of Dahimal and surrounding villages blocked the Gilgit-Shandur road and staged a protest demonstration after a teacher was shot dead in broad daylight, allegedly by two masked men. According to a situation report issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Education, teacher Niat Wali was returning home after teaching classes at BMS Hamaran,

managed by Shining Light (NGO), on a bike along with his sister when they were ambushed. Niat Wali was shot and left injured. The tragic incident took place in the remote Bathrait area of Ghizer district. The teacher was a resident of Dahimal village and posted at a government-run school in Bathrait. Protesters, while blocking the road, said that several such tragic incidents have taken place in Bathrait area but so far, the police and law enforcement officials have failed to arrest anyone. They said that police were immediately informed about the incident but nobody came to the site for almost 6 hours. The protesters said that the scale of protest demonstrations would be expanded to the whole district if immediate action were not taken to make the area safer and to get justice for the family of the deceased teacher.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/10/04/enraged-people-demand-answers-after-a-teacher-is-shot-dead-in-broad-daylight/>

61% of government schools in ‘occupied’ Kashmir lack electricity facilities

Pakistan Observer, 4 October 2023

Contrary to the Modi-led ‘occupation regime’s development claims, at least 61 percent of government-run schools in ‘India illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir’ (IIOJK) are without any electricity. According to Kashmir Media Service, besides, at least 45 percent of private schools in ‘OJK’ have

sans electricity facilities for the students enrolled in those educational institutes. The official figures reveal that out of the total number of government schools, at least 14,240 institutions lacked electricity facilities. It reveals that only 39 percent of educational institutions amounting to 8933 government schools were availing some electricity facility. Similarly, out of the total of 5526 private schools, only 2468 institutes had electricity facilities available while students of 3058 private schools were deprived of the facility. In general, among all schools of ‘OJK’ at least 27 percent of the institutions were lacking the electricity facility, it added. At least 14,929 government-run schools in Jammu and Kashmir were also without books in the libraries. Among the total of 23,173 government-run schools in Jammu and Kashmir, at least 14,929 schools which amount to nearly 64 percent of the institutes were without books in the respective institutions.

<https://pakobserver.net/61-government-schools-in-occupied-kashmir-lack-electricity-facilities/>

Indian media lies about the Kashmir map shown in the background of the G20 Summit exposed

Pakistan Observer, 5 October 2023

It is only the Indian government and its media that can stoop too low to steal an event like the G-20 Summit to peddle lies on the internationally recognized disputed territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Indian media raised huge

hues and cried over the map of Pakistan and India shown in the background of UAE Deputy Prime Minister Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan during the G-20 meeting in India. In the said map, Jammu and Kashmir was shown as part of India. The biased Indian media portrayed the event as if the UAE Deputy Prime Minister had accepted the Indian position on Jammu and Kashmir while the fact was that the photo was meant to show the route of the newly-launched India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor. The event came with a video showing US President Joe Biden thanking UAE President Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan for his support to the corridor.

<https://pakobserver.net/indian-media-lies-about-kashmir-map-shown-in-background-of-g20-summit-exposed/>

Kashmiris take to the streets again for tax-free electricity

Dawn, 6 October 2023

Thousands of people took to the streets in different cities and towns of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) as part of their steady campaign in favor of their demands, including tax-free electricity, subsidized wheat flour, and the abolition of the unwarranted perks and privileges of the political and bureaucratic elite. The rallies and demonstrations were held amid a complete shutter-down and wheel jam strike in the Muzaffarabad and Poonch divisions and partially in the Mirpur

division. Unlike the past weekend, when clashes between the demonstrators and police left many wounded in Muzaffarabad, no incident of violence was reported from any area of the state. All shops and businesses, including tandoor (clay oven), medical, fruit, and vegetable stores, remained closed. Even street vendors were nowhere to be seen. Public as well as private transport also remained off the roads, both in Muzaffarabad and Poonch divisions.

In the Mirpur division, though a partial wheel jam and shutterdown strike were observed, residents staged big rallies in the cities of Mirpur and Kotli in support of their demands. In Muzaffarabad, people took out rallies from different neighborhoods, which assembled at Gillani Chowk. Some participants in these rallies were holding black flags and 'AJK's national flags. The Gillani Chowk gathering was addressed by many leaders of the people's action committee, including Shaukat Nawaz Mir, the elected leader of Muzaffarabad's more than 10,000 traders.

Mr Mir, who had been escaping police arrest was granted bail by the 'AJK' high court against a surety bond of Rs 50,000. He was brought to the gathering by his friends on their shoulders, amid loud chants. It's a 'momentous occasion for us because, for the first time in history, the entire Kashmir region has united on a single issue, and I am

deeply grateful to all of you for this solidarity,' he said in his speech on the occasion. We, as a peaceful, respectful, and honorable community, found ourselves forced into a situation where our peaceful protest took a violent turn due to the FIRs, dismantling of our dharna (sit-in) camps, and arrests, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Jamaat-i-Islami 'AJK' Emir Dr Muhammad Mushtaq condemned the federal government's 'inaction' in the wake of the ongoing rights movement in 'AJK.' The widespread protests across Kashmir cannot and should not be ignored, because disregarding the demands of the Kashmiri people can have crucial repercussions, he warned. He pointed out that the demands of the Kashmiri people primarily revolved around subsidised, affordable, and uninterrupted electricity, which their territory generated from its abundant water resources.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1779505/kashmiris-take-to-streets-again-for-tax-free-electricity>

GB clerics agree to put sectarian strife behind them

Dawn, 6 October 2023

The month-long sectarian strife in GB finally came to an end after religious leaders belonging to the two opposing sides issued a joint declaration, vowing to help the regional government in the maintenance of law and order in the GB region. In the first week of September,

the government suspended internet services and ramped up security measures in the wake of protests after two clerics from different schools of thought made insensitive remarks, hurting the feelings of the respective communities, and fueling unrest. On 19 September, the internet services were restored, indicating that the situation had started to improve. However, in the absence of a definite statement, the controversy had not completely settled. After three days of deliberation, religious leaders from Diamer, Baltistan, and Gilgit agreed to support the government in keeping law and order in the region. Delegations from both sects called on Chief Minister Gulbar Khan at the CM Secretariat in Gilgit.

Following the meeting, CM Khan along with his cabinet members and the clerics' delegations while talking to the media said that a peaceful environment is the need of every citizen, and without peace, we cannot bring development to the region, adding that due to the support of the religious leaders, the month-long uncertainty in GB had come to an end.

Joint declaration

A joint declaration issued on the occasion said that the recent religious uncertainty has been settled after the joint efforts of the religious scholars and the CM. It said the GB government had the support of law enforcement agencies and religious leaders. The

joint declaration said the writ of government has been restored and the false and baseless propaganda of the ‘enemy state has been given a resounding reply.’ The religious leaders played their role in enforcing the state law and ‘controlling the religious sentiments’ in the communal tension, the GB government appreciates this spirit, the declaration said. The declaration said it is reiterated that the representatives of all religious leaders are present here to validate these measures and after that, if any group or evil elements try to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of GB, the state and government will deal with it with its full powers.

Law and order directives

Separately, Chief Secretary Mohy-uddin Ahmed Wani chaired a meeting on law and order and issued directives to all divisional and district administrative heads and law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order. All administrative and police heads at the divisional and district levels are instructed to convene regular meetings in collaboration with intelligence agencies to effectively coordinate and detect any presence of ‘illegal aliens or foreigners within their respective jurisdictions.’ The statement said the Home Department will collaborate with the police to establish a dedicated unit to monitor social media for hate speech, anti-state sentiments, and content against

institutions. The Karakoram Highway (KKH) and the Jaglot-Skardu Road (JSR) are to remain accessible under all circumstances.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1779538/gb-clerics-agree-to-put-sectarian-strife-behind-them>

Economic Developments

Rakaposhi cricket tournament showcases the true beauty of GB

The Express Tribune, 3 October 2023

In Gilgit-Baltistan's (GB) Pissan Nagar, the world's highest natural stadium played host to the inaugural Rakaposhi cricket tournament which attracted hundreds of spectators and participants from various regions. The two-day event, organised by the local community and supported by the government, aimed to promote peace and festivity among the people of the Diamer, Hunza, and Nagar districts, who have been living in harmony for centuries. The tournament featured six teams, two from each district, competing in a round-robin format. The tournament also celebrated the rich and diverse culture of GB, featuring performances of the Shaman dance, a traditional ritual dance of the region, and exhibitions showcasing local products like handicrafts, dried fruits, and honey. The Pissan natural stadium, located at the foot of the majestic Rakaposhi Mountain, offered a spectacular view of the surroundings. The stadium stands at an elevation of

8,400 feet above sea level, making it the highest natural cricket ground in the world.

Known as the ‘mother of mists’, Rakaposhi ranks as the 27th-highest peak globally and the 12th-highest in Pakistan. It stands out as one of the most captivating peaks in the Karakoram Range, visible from numerous locations in GB. The organisers of the tournament, headed by Chief Secretary Mohyuddin Wani, said that they wanted to highlight the potential of the region as a tourist destination and to encourage the youth to engage in healthy and positive activities. They also expressed their gratitude to the government and the security forces for their support and cooperation in making the event a success. The tournament has garnered widespread appreciation from both locals and visitors, who relish the exciting matches and cultural presentations. They also praised the initiative as a way of strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and friendship among the people of GB.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2439011/rakaposhi-cricket-tournament-showcases-true-beauty-of-gilgit-baltistan>

63 development projects, costing almost 6bn rupees, approved

Pamir Times, 4 October 2023

The fourth meeting of the Gilgit-Baltistan Departmental Development

Working Party (GB-DDWP) was held on 02 and 03 October 2023, chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary of Development. A press release said that a total of 71 schemes were discussed, out of which 63 projects, costing around 5995 million rupees, were approved. Moreover, a 40 MW Hanzel-Hydro Power Project (H-HPP) under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) (federally financed) was recommended for further consideration. However, around seven projects were deferred. The approved schemes further focused on developments in the Home and Prison and Law Department, Education, Water and Power, Health, Agriculture, Tourism, and Social Welfare.

<https://pamirtimes.net/2023/10/04/63-development-projects-costing-almost-6bn-rupees-approved/>

GB govt allocates funds for facilities at schools

The Nation, 5 October 2023

The Chief Secretary of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Mohiyud-Deen Ahmed Wani has said that the government has allocated Rs100 million for essential seating facilities with a surge in enrolment of 35,000 students this year. He said the project aims to bridge the supply-demand gap by distributing 50% of the funds to primary schools, 24% to middle schools, 16% to high schools, and 10% to higher secondary institutions, ensuring students at all

levels for proper seating and learning environments where 450 schools will benefit from this project.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/05-Oct-2023/gb-govt-allocates-fund-for-facilities-at-schools>

PMs of Pakistan and 'AJK' discussed issues related to development in 'AJK' including the NJPP and Mangla Dams

Nawaiwaqt, 6 October 2023

The PM of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Chaudhry Anwar Ul Haq met the PM of Pakistan Anwar Ul Haq Kakar. During the meeting, Haq informed PM Kakar about the challenges encountered by the residents of Mangla (town) and Mirpur as a result of the leftovers from the Mangla Dam raising project and the unfinished Rathoa Haryam Bridge. The Neelum-Jhelum Power Project (NJPP) and its environmental effects, water usage fees, and the wide-ranging discomfort in the area with the lack of a tripartite agreement on the NJPP were also thoroughly briefed to PM Kakar. The federal government would make every effort to resolve all challenges and address all concerns regarding the NJ project and Mangla dam Projects, Kakar promised the 'AJK's premier during the meeting. Meanwhile, the Federal Minister of Water and Power and the Secretary of Water Resources were given orders by PM Kakar to address all outstanding concerns right away in coordination with the 'Azad Kashmir' government.

He also instructed the Planning Commission officials to give the 'AJK' government the full first and second-quarter installments of the development budget. The 'AJK' government and federal government-related issues will be reviewed by an intergovernmental committee that PM Kakar also established. The committee would also provide the federal government with a report on how the problems related to the NJPP and Mangla Dams projects would be resolved.

<https://www.nawaiwaqt.com.pk/E-Paper/AJK/2023-10-06/page-1>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

The official outcome of the GBLA-13 Astore 1 by-election is still contested

UrduPoint, 3 October 2023

The official results of the 13-Astore 1 by-election for the Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly (GBLA) have once more been postponed. The Supreme Appellate Court of GB has suspended the decision made by the Chief Court on 19 September and instructed the Election Commission (EC) to proceed with the procedures by Section 16 of the Election Act 17. Following the disqualification of former Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid in a case involving a fake degree, a by-election was called to fill the vacancy. Khurshid Khan, father of the former Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid

received a ticket from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. The unofficial results show that the PTI candidate won the by-election held on 9 September with a sizable lead. Rana Farman, a PML-N candidate, challenged the results and charged the PTI candidates with bribery and the distribution of water pipes in the constituency to win support. His appeal has therefore been taken into account, and the Chief EC has halted the declaration of the final and official results. Meantime, PTI submitted an appeal to the Chief Court of GB opposing the decision to stop the results. PTI said that their candidate had won, but the official announcement and notification had not yet been made. In the by-election, Farman Ali of the PML-N received 5,414 votes, while the PTI candidate received 6,644 votes.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/gilgit/national-news/live-news-3753248.html>

A 44-member team from the Pakhtunkhwa Pre-Service Planning Course received a briefing on the police and legal system in 'Azad Kashmir'

Urdupoint, 3 October 2023

A 44-member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Pre-Service Planning Course delegation received a thorough update from SSP Kamran Ali on the state of law and order in 'Azad Kashmir.' He stressed that the region of 'Azad

Kashmir' is strategically significant and that it borders the provinces of Punjab and KP in addition to being near Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. He stressed that in 'Azad Kashmir' there is a very low crime rate and that although the police always put a halt to the non-violent protests, the locals still hold strikes, gatherings, processions, and sit-ins to demand their civil and political rights. He said that to track down the perpetrators of violence and disinformation in 'AJK', police need to use the latest technology and other tools to maintain peace and order.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/muzaffarabad/kashmir/live-news-3752859.html>

SHO killed in a fire on a police team in GB's Ghizer

Dailyk2, 6 October 2023

The SHO Mohammad Alam of the Gupis police station in Ghizer district was killed when an unidentified gang opened fire in the region when he was heading a police team on a search operation to apprehend suspects in the murder of a school teacher in Bhatrit. A citizen named Niat Amin, a teacher at a government school, was murdered in crossfire while riding a motorbike home with his sister. To get justice for the victim and greater security in the region, the villagers and the nearby villages blocked the Gilgit-Shandur Road in the Gupis Valley. Gulbar Khan, the chief minister of GB, demanded an immediate report on the occurrence

and gave the police orders to find and detain those responsible.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/17368>

PTI, PPP, and PML-N's registrations in 'Azad Kashmir' were revoked by the court

Jasarat, 6 October 2023

The registration of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) chapters of three major political parties, the Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N), Pakistan People's Party (PPP), and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), was ruled invalid by the 'AJK' High Court for failing to follow the procedures and standards outlined in the 'AJK' interim constitution of 1974. A larger bench of the 'AJK' High Court, consisting of Chief Justice Raja Sadaqat Hussain, Justice Mian Arif, Justice Sardar Ijaz, and Justice Khalid Rasheed Ch., nullified the registration of all three political parties and also declared the recently held local body elections in 'AJK' invalid. The court further ruled that 'AJK' political parties lacked the authority to give notice to anyone because they were not registered by the law and constitution. The larger bench also expressed its outrage at the 'AJK' Election Commission's act of registering 'AJK' political parties without following the requirements, guidelines, and regulations outlined in the 'AJK' interim constitution of 1974.

<https://www.jasarat.com/2023/10/06/azad-kashmir-highcourt/>

Social Media (tweets)

Tariq Naqash @TariqNaqash

2 October 2023

#AJK's Central Police Office asks regional #police chiefs (DIGs) to specify their needs & priorities regarding deployment of #FrontierConstabulary, #PunjabConstabulary & #PakistanRangers in their areas to effectively handle the ongoing protest movement against high #power tariff.

<https://twitter.com/TariqNaqash/status/1708695735473143918>

Basharat Issa @BasharatIssa

4 October 2023

You have seen, shared and exoticised many pictures of young students in Gilgit-Baltistan. This is just another picture but this time they aren't dancing. This time they are protesting against the assassination of their teacher.

#JusticeForNiatAmin #GilgitBaltistan

Images link:

<https://twitter.com/BasharatIssa/status/1709516432784925100>

Enkidu @Fallibilist1

5 October 2023

The protests in 'AJK' should be seen as a serious concern. If peoples' legitimate demands are not met, the protests are not called off, it can snowball into a political and strategic nightmare for

Pakistani state. Instead of gaining 'IOK', the Junta is trying best to lose 'AJK' too.

<https://twitter.com/Fallibilist1/status/1709867760950325402>

Voice of Azad Jammu Kashmir
[@Azad_j_Kashmir](#)

5 October 2023

Historic protest of #AJK in ten districts of J&K. Transport, business and all activities are suspended in all districts. Thousands of people turned out against oppressive taxes, electricity, bureaucracy, food shortages, and rising inflation.

Images link:

https://twitter.com/Azad_j_Kashmir/status/1709854760927412603

Abd. Sayed [@abdsayedd](#)

8 October 2023

Pakistani Taliban (TTP) claimed responsibility for the first attack in years in the northern Gilgit-Baltistan province, saying that the militants killed a police officer and wounded a constable in a targeted killing attack in the Ghizer district on October 5, 2023.

Images Link:

<https://twitter.com/abdsayedd/status/1711049977038815334>

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Disclaimer

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