

Weekly POK News Digest

(A weekly news digest on Pakistan Occupied Kashmir)

Volume 3 | Issue 41

09 October - 15 October 2023

Skardu Airport
Gilgit-Baltistan CPEC
Provincial status Value
Infrastructure POK Chain
Sustainable Prosperity
National Finance Commission



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

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Political Developments

'IIOJK's Muslim majority status is under serious threat

Pakistan Observer, 9 October 2023

Political experts and analysts have said that the Muslim majority status of 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) is under serious threat as during the last four years the Modi regime has intensified its efforts to change the demography of 'IIOJK'. According to Kashmir Media Service, the political experts and analysts in their interviews and statements in Srinagar said India is systematically paving the way for 'settler colonialism' in the 'occupied territory.' They claimed the Modi regime, in the latest move under its land for the landless scheme, has so far allotted 5 marla land each to 9,000 people mostly Hindus. India is granting domiciles to non-Kashmiris to convert 'IIOJK's Muslim majority into a minority. They further alleged that one of the main motives behind Article 370 revocation was to engineer demographic change in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir. Granting domicile certificates to non-locals is part of 'India's sinister plan' to snatch Kashmiris' identity, they added. They said that India's efforts to change Kashmir's demography were in complete violation of United Nations resolutions and the Geneva Convention and were a war crime and that Jammu Kashmir is an internationally recognized dispute and India cannot change its status through unilateral actions.

<https://pakobserver.net/iiojks-muslim-majority-status-is-under-serious-threat/>

India, Pak delegates spar over Kashmir at UN

The Express Tribune, 10 October 2023

Pakistani and Indian delegates engaged in a fresh verbal duel on the right to self-determination of the people of 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) and Palestine during a debate at the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee meeting, which deals with special political and decolonisation issues. Last week, Pakistan's UN Ambassador Munir Akram said in his speech that the Kashmiris and Palestinians were among those people who were still denied their right to self-determination. He called 'Indian occupation' of Kashmir the 'worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism.' Reacting to the speech, Indian delegate Nitish Birdi said that the right to self-determination principle was not a justification for undermining the territorial integrity of any member state. He added that Kashmir and Ladakh would remain an integral part of India.

Pakistani delegate Naeem Sabir Khan hit back immediately. He said that the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples reaffirmed the right to self-determination of all the peoples, and not just some people. The right is also enshrined in the first article of the United Nations Charter, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Pakistani delegate told the Fourth Committee. He also said that Jammu and Kashmir was

defined as a disputed territory on the United Nations maps and it was not an integral part of India. Multiple resolutions of the United Nations Security Council define it as a 'disputed territory', Naeem, a counselor in the Pakistan Mission to the UN, added. Highlighting India's 'state-sponsored terrorism', he said it was a franchise that had gone from regional to the global level, with Pakistan, along with other countries, facing this menace.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2440356/india-pak-delegates-spar-over-kashmir-at-un>

Protest in Kashmir in favor of Palestine

Daily Parliament Times, 10 October 2023

People of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) staged a protest rally against Israel under the support of Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir. According to details, a large number of citizens gathered at Burhan Wani Chowk in front of Central Press Club Muzaffarabad having banners stating phrases in favor of Independent Palestine besides Palestine Flags in their hands. Kashmiri protestors were chanting slogans of Free Palestine; Stop Israeli Attacks; Israel's Terrorism, Unacceptable, etc. While speaking at the event, Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat Uzair Ahmed Ghazali said that bombing innocent citizens of Palestine and Gaza is a brutal aggression against humanity by the Israeli government. The Israeli army is dropping prohibited phosphorous bombs on the citizens of Gaza which is a clear violation of international laws, he stated. Ghazali said that people around the world are

demanding a completely independent Palestinian state, adding that the peace of the world is linked to the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestine and Indian troops from Kashmir. He added that the people of Kashmir support the freedom and full autonomy of the Palestinian brothers.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/10/10/protest-in-kashmir-in-favor-of-palestine/>

Pakistan welcomes OIC Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir visit to Pakistan and 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 11 October 2023

The Government of Pakistan is hosting the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir Ambassador Yousef Aldobeay along with his three-member delegation for a visit to Pakistan and 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) from 11-14 October 2023. The Permanent Representative of Pakistan to OIC, Ambassador Fawad Sher, briefed the Special Envoy today on the outline of the visit and also the alarmingly precarious situation in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). During the three-day visit, the Special Envoy will hold meetings with the Pakistani and Kashmiri leadership, interact with the true representatives of the Kashmiri people, and deliver talks at think tanks. The Special Envoy will also conduct a visit to the Line of Control (LoC). At the LoC, he would meet the refugees from 'IIOJK' and victims of cross-LoC Indian shelling to assess the gravity of the situation by listening to their experiences first-hand.

The Special Envoy's visit to the 'AJK' was mandated by the OIC Plan of Action (POA) on Jammu and Kashmir adopted by the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) in Islamabad in March 2022. The POA envisaged the OIC Special Envoy's visits to Jammu and Kashmir enabling him to take stock of the situation on the ground and report upon his observations to the CFM. The Special Envoy visited Pakistan and 'AJK' in March 2020 and November 2021. Comprehensive reports on these visits were presented before the 47th and 48th CFMs.

This year marks the fourth anniversary of the imposition of India's unlawful actions of 5th August 2019 which aimed at effectuating demographic changes, electoral gerrymandering, and dispossessing the Kashmiris of their distinct cultural and ethnic identity. The OIC Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir has played an important leadership role in articulating the OIC's unequivocal position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and in highlighting 'Indian occupation forces' gross violations of human rights in the 'IIOJK.' This year, the Special Envoy's visit carries greater significance in the wake of the upcoming OIC Islamic Summit in Gambia in December. The Special Envoy's observations from this visit would be reflected in his report submitted before the Summit.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/10/11/pakistan-welcomes-oic-special-envoy-for-jammu-and-kashmir-visit-to-pakistan-and-ajk/>

Provincial status for GB won't affect Kashmir cause: CM

Dawn, 12 October 2023

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan has said that granting the region the status of a provisional province of Pakistan was a longstanding and unanimous demand of GB's people and would not affect the Kashmir issue. Speaking to a delegation of foreign media at CM Secretariat Gilgit, accompanied by adviser to CM on Information Eman Shah, CM Khan said people of the region should be provided with constitutional rights that people in other parts of the country enjoy. He said that all political parties in the region had been demanding that constitutional rights enjoyed by people in other parts of the country should be given to GB's people as well. He added that we have been making efforts to get the constitutional status of the region and that the GB assembly has passed unanimous resolutions in this regard.

He recalled that during a 2020 visit to the region, former Prime Minister Imran Khan announced to elevate GB's status to a provisional province of Pakistan. In March last year, a private member's bill was submitted to the Senate of Pakistan seeking an amendment to the Constitution to grant that status to the strategically located GB and provide representation to the area in both houses of parliament. However, before tabling the bill in parliament, a no-confidence motion against Imran Khan was tabled, he lamented, reiterating that granting

the status of a provisional province to GB could not affect the Kashmir issue. CM Khan hoped that the next political government in the Centre would give them their due status.

National Finance Commission

Replying to a question, he said GB had been deprived of an appropriate share in the National Finance Commission (NFC) award. If GB's share in the NFC is fixed, the region would get a reasonable amount. However, currently, GB gets half of its share from the federal government in the absence of the NFC share formula, he pointed out. He complained that no mega project under CPEC had been initiated in the region, but his government was striving to get some projects included in CPEC. He said the previous governments, too, had made efforts to secure GB's share in the economic corridor since 400km to 500km of its route passes through the region.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1780626/provincial-status-for-gb-wont-affect-kashmir-cause-cm>

Kashmir issue is not only of Kashmiris, Pakistan but of the entire Islamic world: Yousef

Pakistan Observer, 13 October 2023

Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef Aldobeay, while reiterating OIC's constant support for the Kashmir cause, said that the issue of Kashmir is not only of Kashmiris and Pakistan but of the entire Muslim world. Yousef Aldobeay expressed these views during a conversation with the

delegation of the All Party Hurriyat Conference 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter, which met him at the Foreign Office. He said Kashmiris need patience and hope, adding the OIC stands by their side in their just struggle for the right to self-determination. He further said Pakistan's efforts against Islamophobia are valuable and the fact is that the massacre of Muslims, the destruction of mosques and the desecration of the Holy Quran in India, and 'India's illegal occupation' of Jammu and Kashmir is Islamophobia, which India is committing. Yousef Aldobeay said the OIC has rejected the actions of 5 August 2019 in 'Occupied' Jammu and Kashmir by the Modi-led Indian government and has been demanding that India withdraw its unilateral and illegal actions.

APHC-'AJK' chapter Convener Mahmood Ahmad Sagar on the occasion briefed Yousef Aldobeay and other members of the OIC delegation about the latest situation in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir and also informed them about the various aspects of India-Israel collusion against Muslims. Other APHC-'AJK' leaders Muhammad Farooq Rahmani, Altaf Hussain Wani, and Sheikh Mahmoo Yaqoob among others also apprised the OIC delegation members of the political, diplomatic, and economic aspects of the Kashmir liberation movement, the 'Indian state terrorism' on innocent Kashmiris and the plight of the 'illegally' detained Kashmiri Hurriyat leaders and activists.

<https://pakobserver.net/kashmir-issue-is-not-only-of-kashmiris-pakistan-but-of-entire-islamic-world-yousef/>

Kashmiris settled in the UK always kept the Kashmir issue alive at the international level, President 'AJK'

Daily Parliament Times, 13 October 2023

The president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that Kashmiris settled in the United Kingdom (UK) have always kept the Kashmir issue alive at the international level. He expressed these views while talking to a British MP of Kashmiri origin Mirza Khalid Mahmood. Speaking on the occasion, Chaudhry said that given the worsening situation in the 'Indian occupied' territory of Jammu and Kashmir, there was a dire need to raise the issue of Kashmir vociferously at the international level. He said that the political and human rights situation in the region has deteriorated since 5th August 2019 and that India has crossed all the limits of 'barbarism and brutality in Occupied Kashmir.' He asserted that India cannot suppress the freedom spirit of the Kashmiri people by the dint of force adding that it was high time that the Kashmiri expatriate community should come forward in a big way to expose the war crimes being committed by the 'Indian occupation forces' against Kashmiris.

While referring to the BJP's 'track record' of using communal divide as a tool to strengthen its vote bank, the president claimed that as the date for the next general election in India was getting nearer there was a fear of escalating violence and bloodshed in Kashmir. He also appreciated

Mr. Mahmoud for his selfless service and struggle for the Kashmir cause.

<https://www.dailyparliamenttimes.com/2023/10/13/kashmiris-settled-in-uk-always-kept-kashmir-issue-alive-at-the-international-level-president-ajk/>

PM terms settlement of Kashmir dispute vital for regional peace, stability

The Nation, 13 October 2023

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar says the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is the root cause of tensions in South Asia and peace in the region would remain elusive till its resolution. He expressed these views while talking to the OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir Yousef M. Al Dobeay, who called on him in Islamabad. Kakar said Pakistan is committed to a just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute by the UN Security Council resolutions. Highlighting the tremendous sacrifices of the people of 'Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IOJK) for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination, the Prime Minister claimed that the Kashmiris have always looked towards OIC and Ummah for support.

He also expressed serious concern over the rise of Islamophobia around the world, particularly in the 'form of Hindutva.' He said this constituted a serious threat to global peace and security and urged to step up efforts to counter these forces. The Prime Minister welcomed the visit of the OIC delegation to Pakistan and 'Azad

Kashmir.’ He said that the people of Pakistan and Kashmir have high expectations of the OIC. Ambassador Yousef M. Al Dobeay assured the Prime Minister of OIC's principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He said OIC is fully committed to the Kashmir cause and his visit to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir is an expression of that commitment.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/13-Oct-2023/pm-terms-settlement-of-kashmir-dispute-vital-for-regional-peace-stability>

Economic Developments

Skardu Airport to be upgraded to international standards

Pakistan Today, 9 October 2023

The Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has decided to upgrade Skardu Airport to international standards in a bid to promote tourism, it emerged Sunday. Speaking exclusively to ARY News, CAA Director General Khaqan Murtaza said that the Pakistan CAA has planned an open sky policy for Skardu Airport to promote tourism. In this regard, Khaqan Murtaza said that the authority has started preparations to upgrade Skardu Airport to international standards. We want to make northern regions a center of tourism even in winter, he added. He pointed out that Saudi aviation officials who visited Pakistan recently expressed pleasant surprise after seeing the ‘beauty of the northern region.’ Khaqan Murtaza further said that the Saudi authorities have shown interest in launching direct flights to Skardu.

Meanwhile, the official said that a refueling facility for planes has been provided at the airport, adding that steps were being taken to increase oil storage for aircraft in the northern regions. Skardu, nestled in the Karakoram mountain range, offers a breathtaking experience to adventurers, nature enthusiasts, and history buffs alike. Skardu got the status of an international airport after landing on the first international flight of Pakistan International Airline (PIA) in August 2023. The first international flight of PIA – flight 234 – from Dubai landed in Skardu. The passengers on board were welcomed with the iconic traditional caps of Gilgit-Baltistan and thoughtful gifts. The airport authorities paid a vibrant tribute to the historic moment by presenting a water cannon salute to the aircraft upon its arrival.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2023/10/08/skardu-airport-to-be-upgraded-to-international-standards/>

GB’s dry fruit potential source of revenue generation

Daily Times, 9 October 2023

Pakistan is bestowed with countless blessings of Nature right from its oceans, rivers, landscape, weather, rich agricultural land, and fruits much better in quality than other countries, especially the dry fruit. But, lack of proper attention and marketing globally, this bounty of Nature could not get a deserving space in international markets resulting in a loss of earnings for the local people and precious foreign exchange for the country. As Gilgit-Baltistan’s (GB)

unique geography and climate provide the perfect conditions for growing an array of distinctive dry fruits like apricots, almonds, walnuts, cherries, Kilao, and various types of berries, there is a dire need to promote these distinct flavored and nutritionally rich products in world markets. One of the standout features of GB's dry fruits is their exceptional nutritional value. They are packed with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, making them a healthy snack option.

While dry fruit production has been a traditional livelihood for the people of GB, limited marketing exposure has hindered their economic potential. By establishing proper marketing channels, local communities can benefit from increased sales to improve their earning as well as collectively venture to alleviate poverty in the region. Aleem Hussain a local marketing expert has recommended a multifaceted approach to tap the potential of the unique dry fruits of GB. First, we need investment in packaging and labeling to highlight our products and then establish strong partnerships with national and international distributors. Secondly, he said, we should effectively participate in world food expos to market our products internationally and expand their market network.

Moreover, to unlock the potential of GB's dry fruit industry, the government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can play a crucial role by providing financial support, technical assistance, and marketing expertise to

local farmers and cooperatives to establish a sustainable supply chain. Proper marketing efforts to secure slots in international markets can pave for GB's unique dry fruits to become sought-after delicacies globally. Exporting to countries with a growing demand for healthy and exotic foods can also be a game-changer for the region's economy. Meanwhile, Fazul Rehman, Director of Agriculture and Livestock GB has informed that the region produces over 3,000 metric tons of dry apricots, 3,000 tons of almonds, and a staggering 100,000 tons of walnuts annually. He said that the region's farmers could potentially earn more than \$20 million from the export of dry fruits against the current earning of just an estimated Rs 50 million.

<https://dailytimes.com.pk/1138760/gbs-dry-fruit-potential-source-of-revenue-generation/>

If federal funds are not received, there is no money to pay salaries: GB Governor

Dailyk2, 11 October 2023

Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Governor Syed Mehdi Shah while attending a local religious event stated that we will not gain anything unless we ask for it and added that there will be no funds to pay the employees in GB if the federal government has not provided funds. He stressed that he is heading to Islamabad with the Chief Minister of GB to request funds to not only pay salary but also to rebuild GB's dilapidated roads.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/17479>

Gilgit-Baltistan launches eco-friendly initiatives

Dawn, 13 October 2023

In a bid to prevent pollution and protect the natural environment and ecosystem of the region, the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) government has launched two initiatives. The GB government signed three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Nestle, Pepsi, and Coca-Cola to establish the Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Bottle Return System to eliminate it from waste streams. Under these MoUs, each company will install PET bottle crushing and baling units in two district headquarters of GB, in addition to establishing collection points for PET bottles in urban centers of GB. The GB government officials and top management of Nestle, Pepsi, and Coca-Cola attended the ceremony held at GB House in Islamabad.

The GB Environmental Protection Agency (GBEPA) will be the focal agency on the government side, and CoRe will be the focal point for the companies. GB Chief Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani has led the process of establishing the PET Bottles Return Back system from its conception to its implementation with specific timelines. According to a statement, after the installation of crushing and baling units and the establishment of collection points, the system will be handed over to the GB Waste Management Company, which will operate the collection and baling of PET bottles with a private contractor who will pay the waste management company.

GBEPA will monitor and oversee the implementation of the process during and after establishment. Earlier, the GB government decided to make it mandatory for all large hotel facilities to be solarised to promote sustainable development and environmental conservation. All deputy commissioners have been directed to ensure that no-objection certificates for all new hotels will only be granted if they include solar energy systems in their building plans. Existing facilities will be given six months to upgrade.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1780791/gilgit-baltistan-launches-eco-friendly-initiatives>

GB Investment Road Show 2023 showcases vast investment potential in diverse sectors

Pakistan Observer, 13 October 2023

The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) government is holding a one-day investment roadshow in Islamabad under the theme of 'Sustainable Prosperity' to showcase the region's immense investment potential in a diverse range of sectors, including hospitality, tourism, agriculture, IT, hydropower generation, and minerals. During the roadshow, concerned GB departments will share concrete investment-ready proposals, while existing investors who have invested in GB and reaped the benefits will share their experiences to boost investor confidence. Diplomats from resident missions in Islamabad will also attend the show. Chief Secretary Mohyuddin Ahmed Wani, in a statement, highlighted the immense investment potential in various sectors in GB, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, mines and minerals, green energy, fresh water, organic tourism

and homestay, and production of organics and medicinal herbs.

He said that the GB government is striving hard to showcase this potential and promote both local and foreign investment in the region. Wani also briefed that the GB Government has initiated various remarkable programs for achieving the goal of sustainable prosperity in the region, including the Economic Transformation Initiative (ETI) GB. The ETI-GB program comprises three complementary and mutually reinforcing components: Economic Infrastructure for Value Chain Development, Support Services for Value Chain Development, and Programme Management and Policy Support. Wani further said that the GB region is naturally bestowed with over 90 destinations to attract organic tourism. He emphasized that tourism is the hidden treasure of Pakistan and has the potential to transform the country's economy. He further said that GB has immense potential in the mine and minerals industry as the region has a wide range of most exquisite gemstones, including aquamarine, topaz, tourmaline, emerald, ruby, sapphire, quartz, quartz group, and garnet.

<https://pakobserver.net/gb-investment-road-show-2023-showcases-vast-investment-potential-in-diverse-sectors/>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

The UN's inaction on human rights violations in Gaza and Kashmir is reprehensible: Mushaal Hussein Mullick

Urdupoint, 11 October 2023

Mushaal Mullick, advisor to the Prime Minister on Human Rights, urged

world leaders to play a critical role in resolving the prolonged conflict in 'Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK) and Palestine. Mullick claimed that the current problem in Palestine, particularly tensions with Israel, reflected the same challenges that Kashmir faced under 'Indian oppression.' Mullick claimed that while the Indian government is involved in encouraging violence and terrorism in 'Occupied Kashmir', Israel is also involved in large-scale human rights violations in Palestine. She alleged that similar to Palestine, Muslims in 'occupied Kashmir', face severe treatment, mosques are desecrated, and innocent people are subjected to violence and stressed that India has unleashed a new wave of horrific human rights violations in 'IIOJK.' The Kashmiris' uncompromising perseverance, on the other hand, is sometimes regarded as a divine favour from Allah, she added.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/pakistan/news/faisalabad/kashmir/live-news-3762125.html>

Protests by APHC-'AJK' against Modi regime's ban on DFP in 'IIOJK'

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 13 October 2023

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference-'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (APHC-AJK) chapter and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell organised a protest demonstration in Islamabad to protest the ban imposed by the Narendra Modi-led Indian government on the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). According to Kashmir Media Service, the Indian government

declared the DFP, led by jailed Shabbir Ahmed Shah, an illegal organisation on 5 October. The protest held outside the Indian High Commission was led by APHC-'AJK' information Secretary Imtiaz Wani. Raja Najabat Hussain, Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Self-determination Movement International (JKSDMI); Sarwar Hussain Gilgiti Director of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Cell, Raja Khan Afsar Khan, Sardar Asim Abbasi, President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Islamabad; APHC-'AJK' leaders, Sanaullah Dar, among others including a large number of political and civil society members participated in it. The protesters carried placards and banners with slogans against 'Indian state terrorism' in 'occupied' Jammu and Kashmir.

The speakers vehemently opposed the 'Hindutva government' of Narendra Modi's ban on the DFP. They claimed that Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognised disputed regions and that Kashmiris are fighting for their UN-recognized right to self-determination. They claimed that because the DFP is undertaking a peaceful battle against India's 'occupation' of Jammu and Kashmir, banning it is utterly unjustifiable and illegitimate. They asserted that the BJP administration will never achieve its 'sinister goals' by outlawing freedom-loving organisations, and that Kashmiris will continue to speak out against India's 'illegitimate occupation' of their motherland. It is important to note that the DFP Chairman, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, has been held illegally since his arrest in July 2017. He is

currently imprisoned in New Delhi's notorious Tihar Jail.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-13.jpg>

The President of 'AJK' has urged the OIC to appoint a special envoy for Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 13 October 2023

While praising the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for its 'consistent support' of Kashmiris' cause, the president of 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir'(AJK), Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said it was right time for the OIC to redouble its efforts to seek an early resolution of the long-running Kashmir and Palestine issues. He shared his views with the OIC's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir, Yousef Aldoubeay, who visited him at Jammu Kashmir House in the federal capital. Ambassador Hasan Ali Hassan, Director of Legal Affairs for the OIC, Bilal Akram Shah, Rida Zahra, Biruddin Gamaruddin, and Waqas Latif Mughal were also present. Speaking on the occasion, the president stated that the Muslim body (OIC) has always supported Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for the right to self-determination. He also expressed stark concern about Israel's open onslaught on Gaza and other parts of Palestine, saying that Israel has broken all records of depravity and brutality. He said that Israel's reckless bombing of the civilian population in Gaza had resulted in the deaths of innocent Palestinians, including men, women, and children. He termed the widespread murder and

destruction in Gaza a test of the world's conscience.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Resize-of-FRONT-PAGE-13.jpg>

Social Media (tweets)

Mehtab Ahmed @mehtabahmed2

10 October 2023

British Kashmiris organised a protest outside Pakistan High commission in London, in solidarity with the people of “Azad” Kashmir. Slogans were raised for immediate release of all detainees and also in favour of the demands of AJK action committee.

#RightsMovementAJK

<https://twitter.com/mehtabahmed2/status/1711797950374957096>

PAMIR TIMES ® @pamirtimes

14 October 2023

Construction of Shahrah-e-Nagar starts. The 40km long road, from Pisan to Hisper, will be completed in three years, at a cost of 4.5 billion rupees. Sharah-e-Nagar will be an alternative to the Karoram Highway, reducing travel distance between Gilgit and Khunjerab by almost 20 kilometers.

<https://twitter.com/pamirtimes/status/1713247723619496254>

Ahmad Khan Orakzai @iamAhmadokz

14 October 2023

Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir Yousef Mohammad Saleh Al-Dube along with a high-level delegation of brotherly Muslim countries including Saudi Arabia and Sudan visited Chakothe

(LoC) and Muzaffarabad. The delegation also visited Manikpian Refugee Camp Muzaffarabad where they were briefed about the extensive measures taken for the socio-economic welfare of the residents fleeing Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir. The delegation interacted with the CFV victims and briefed them about the situation along the LoC.

In addition, he supported Pakistan's position on the Kashmir issue and reiterated that the OIC supports Pakistan's position which is primarily based on UN resolutions.

Images link:

<https://twitter.com/iamAhmadokz/status/1713052506476208246>

Syed Muzammil Shah
@SyedMuzammilOFL

15 October 2023

Anyone who parrots the word “Palestine” without ever saying the word Baloch, Pushtoon, Hazara, other ethnic & religious minorities of Pakistan & its women”, beware of them. They’re Zia’s foxes. They aren’t speaking for the Palestinians at all. They’re peddling a state narrative.

<https://twitter.com/SyedMuzammilOFL/status/1713519544315379728>

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti

15 October 2023

The peace in Gilgit has been disturbed by those who came from outside, neither the Shias can destroy the Sunnis nor the Sunnis can destroy the Shias, GB minister.

Video link:

<https://twitter.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1713569453785354744>

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Disclaimer

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