

Weekly POK News Digest

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Silk Route Expo POK
Sost Dry Port counter-terrorism
Gilgit-Baltistan Mangla Dam
Apricot festival Khunjerab
Indus Waters Treaty Pass



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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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Political Developments

BJP systematically working to disempower Muslims in 'IIOJK': Report

The Nation, 18 September 2024

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is systematically working to disempower Muslims and erode their religious and cultural identity in 'Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir' (IIOJK). A report released by Kashmir Media Service said that under the RSS/BJP regime, 'OJK' is facing a relentless assault on its Muslim identity. It said the BJP's agenda in the 'occupied' territory seeks to erase its Islamic roots and impose Hindutva ideology, adding the RSS-backed Modi regime aims to transform Kashmir from a land of Sufi saints into a Hindutva bastion of hatred. The report lamented that the current BJP policies are designed to create a Hindu majority by disempowering Muslims and altering 'IIOJK's demographics.

It said RSS/BJP's aggressive promotion of Hindutva through cultural programs and policies demonstrates a concerted effort to undermine Kashmir's rich Islamic heritage. It said the BJP government officials are instructing Muslim shopkeepers in the Jammu region of the territory to cease selling meat, targeting their economic and cultural practices. It said the BJP administration is facilitating Hindu Yatra in 'IIOJK' while imposing restrictions on Kashmiri Muslims observing their own festivals like Eid. The Modi regime, the report said, is

opening wine shops in predominantly Muslim areas of 'IIOJK' with the aim of undermining Muslim community's moral fabric. The BJP's actions, the report said, are systematically dismantling Kashmir's Islamic heritage and replacing it with a Hindu-centric narrative. BJP's control over 'IIOJK's religious sites, including Eidgahs, mosques and shrines, reveals a troubling strategy to undermine the region's Muslim identity, it added.

The report maintained that the BJP's takeover of 'IIOJK' Waqf Board is part of its broader effort to dominate prominent places of religious significance for Kashmiri Muslims. Seizing control of 'IIOJK's religious sites is a repressive tactic aimed at eliminating their political role and erasing their Muslim identity. It said the Modi's regime is appointing non-Kashmiri officers and systematically eroding 'IIOJK' religious and cultural heritage as BJP is forcing Muslim students to sing Hindu hymns to accelerate the so-called integration of 'IIOJK' s younger generation with Hindutva ideology. It said establishment of Hindu temples and promotion of Hindu traditions in the 'occupied' territory is a deliberate attempt to alter its demographic and cultural landscape.

The BJP's decision to end Urdu's exclusive status and grant official language status to other languages reflects an assault on Kashmir's linguistic heritage, the report lamented. The report said saffronisation of textbooks by the BJP represents a

relentless drive to reshape Kashmir according to their ideological goals. Efforts by the Indian army and affiliated NGOs to promote Hinduism in remote 'IIOJK' areas show a disturbing trend of cultural imposition & religious coercion, it added. It maintained that the Indian security establishment was organizing tours for Kashmiri students to Indian cities to undermine their traditional values and promote immorality. The report said forced integration of Hindu symbols and traditions into daily life in Kashmir reflects a broader agenda of cultural domination. With each new policy and cultural imposition, the BJP is intensifying its campaign to convert Kashmir into a bastion of Hindutva, the report concluded.

<https://www.nation.com.pk/16-Sep-2024/bjp-systematically-working-to-disempower-muslims-in-iiojk-report>

President Zardari rejects legislative assembly polls in occupied Kashmir

Dawn, 18 September 2024

President Asif Ali Zardari has categorically rejected the legislative assembly elections in the 'India-occupied Kashmir' (IoK), asserting that the polls were no substitute for the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination, a statement from the President's House said. India-held Kashmir began voting today (Wednesday) in the first local elections since the cancellation of its special semi-autonomous status in 2019, which sparked fury in the valley. Many in the Muslim-majority territory of 8.7 million

registered voters remain bitter over the 2019 order by the Hindu-nationalist government of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to impose control from New Delhi.

Zardari's comments came today during a meeting at the Aiwan-i-Sadr with migrants from 'IOK', who have been residing in Pakistan since 1989, led by Uzair Ahmed Ghazali. Welcoming the delegation, the President condemned the Legislative Assembly elections in 'IOK', terming them a part of India's broader strategy to consolidate its 'illegal occupation' of the region, the statement said. Zardari highlighted that such measures could neither legitimise India's occupation nor suppress the freedom struggle of the Kashmiri people. According to the statement, he said that India was trying to alter the demographic structure of 'IOK' by turning Kashmiri Muslims into a minority and transforming them into a disempowered community in their own land.

Pakistan greatly valued the sacrifices made by the Kashmiri people for their rights and would continue to stand in solidarity with them, Zardari said while reiterating Pakistan's commitment to providing moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people till the realisation of their right to self-determination. The delegation apprised the president about atrocities being committed in 'IOK', and it was highlighted that the entire Kashmiri leadership had been imprisoned to suppress the voice of the Kashmiri people. The delegation also

apprised the President about the issues of the refugees in 'AJK'. Zardari said a protest should be lodged over the illegal steps and atrocities being committed by 'Indian Occupation Forces' in 'IOK.'

He said that Pakistan was committed to the socio-economic uplift of refugees and resolving their issues. He assured the delegation that the government of 'AJK' would be asked to enhance subsistence allowance as well as provide other relief measures to Kashmiri refugees. Zardari also assured the delegation that Pakistan's social safety net would be extended to include 8,000 migrant families through the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1859622/president-zardari-rejects-legislative-assembly-polls-in-occupied-kashmir>

'IIOJK:' intensified militancy and the bewildered Indian Army

The Express Tribune, 18 September 2024

As Kashmir's political landscape evolves with the onset of elections, a formidable surge in insurgent activity has caught Indian forces off guard. On 9 June, as Narendra Modi was inaugurated for his third term as Indian Prime Minister in Delhi, a militant attack unfolded 400 miles north in Kashmir. Militants ambushed a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims in Reasi, southern Kashmir, resulting in nine fatalities and 33 injuries. Santosh Kumar Verma, a pilgrim, reported that a masked militant shot the driver and

continued firing even after the bus rolled into a gorge. This attack is part of a disturbing trend in militant violence in Kashmir, with nearly 200 security personnel and over 350 civilians killed since 2020.

The new wave of attacks is marked by greater sophistication and technological advancement compared to previous incidents, posing substantial challenges for Indian military and intelligence agencies. Recent analyses reveal a striking transformation. Kashmiri insurgents have shifted from being the stone-pelting, amateur fighters employing hit-and-run tactics against one of the world's most formidable armies to becoming a well-organised liberation force. They are now equipped with advanced capabilities, a stronger resolve and renewed vigour to confront Indian military operations directly.

The insurgents have challenged the Indian military on multiple fronts: employing sophisticated warfare technology, modernised tactics and targeting previously less affected regions as noted by Alice Patterson in her article in *The Guardian*. Furthermore, insurgents have refined their hit-and-run tactics. They strike Indian soldiers, disappear into the rugged terrain, and then reappear to launch further attacks. This strategy disrupts military operations and erodes the morale of Indian troops, who struggle to anticipate and counter the insurgents' movements. A significant development is the expansion of insurgent operations into previously

less affected areas, such as the Hindu-majority Jammu province.

This tactical shift broadens their activities, which were once concentrated primarily in the Kashmir Valley, signaling a more sophisticated insurgency capable of extending its reach and increasing pressure on Indian forces. In response, the Indian government, as usual, blamed the insurgents' advanced weaponry and capabilities on Pakistan's military and intelligence agencies. Officials have even claimed that Pakistani army officers are directly involved in this new wave of insurgency, attempting to undermine Indian military efforts. However, this narrative overlooks the core issue: the Kashmiri people's deep-rooted desire for self-determination. Since the abrogation of Article 370, the Indian government has intensified efforts to alter the region's demographics, aiming to crush the Kashmiri spirit and erase their cultural identity.

The BJP's IT team and social media influencers crafted a misleading narrative of development in Kashmir following 5 August 2019. Modi was portrayed as a harbinger of peace, despite the lack of local Kashmiri involvement in this supposed development process. Bold promises were made that the decades-long insurgency would vanish with the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and normalcy was guaranteed to return. Yet, the reality tells a different story. This new wave of resistance reflects the Kashmiris'

growing intolerance of Modi's policies while simultaneously exposing cracks in the Indian military's confidence and capabilities.

The resistance has evolved, directly challenging the government's narrative and revealing the hollow promises made since the abrogation. The recent attacks have been claimed by emerging militant groups such as the People's Anti-Fascist Front, the Resistance Front, and the Kashmir Tigers. These organisations surfaced following Modi's 2019 decision to revoke Kashmir's special status. Their rise underscores the growing unrest and intensified militant activity in the region, highlighting the deepening crisis and the challenges posed by the evolving dynamics of the insurgency. Indian officials have openly expressed frustration over their difficulties in combating technically advanced insurgents, which have highlighted significant gaps in India's intelligence-gathering infrastructure.

The sense of fear and urgency within the Indian military is palpable. The realisation that the insurgency has not only persisted but has grown in strength and sophistication has intensified concerns about the effectiveness of current military strategies and resources. The escalating insurgency in Kashmir underscores a profound truth: it is an indigenous struggle, rooted deeply in the region's discontent with Indian policies. The Modi government's heavy-handed approach - characterised by the revocation of Kashmir's special status

and attempts to alter its demographic and cultural landscape - has inadvertently fueled the very resistance it sought to suppress. This indigenous struggle, thus, continues to challenge the Indian state, exposing the shortcomings and counterproductive nature of its current strategies.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2497064/iiojk-intensified-militancy-and-the-bewildered-indian-army>

Family of missing GB youth seeks his recovery

Dawn, 20 September 2024

The family and relatives of Waseem Akram, a resident of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), have called for urgent action to find him after he went missing in Balochistan last month. The family fears he has been abducted by militant groups in the province. According to family sources, Mr Akram, 25, from Yasin Valley in GB, left home on 24 August in search of employment. He later contacted a travel agent from Gujrat as part of a plan to cross the Pakistan-Iran border and reach Italy illegally via Iraq. Mr Akram, along with two companions from Punjab, departed for Balochistan. His uncle, Younas Ali, told Dawn the family last heard from Mr Akram on the morning of 25 August, when he called from Dalbandin in Balochistan.

Since then, all contact has been lost. A video, released the same day, reportedly shows Mr Akram and his companions at an unknown location, raising fears that they have been abducted. Protests demanding Mr

Akram's release have been held in Yasin and outside the Gilgit Press Club. Members of the Yasin Youth Organisation, political activists and concerned citizens have joined these demonstrations, demanding that the government take immediate steps to secure the release of Mr Akram and his colleagues. Ehsan Ali, chairman of the Awami Action Committee, and other political leaders, including Aslam Inqalabi, spoke at the protests.

They urged the government to act swiftly to locate the missing youth. They expressed fears that militant groups may have abducted Mr Akram and may exploit him for terrorist activities or ransom. Speakers noted that several militant organisations, including the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), are active in the region. These groups often target individuals for forced recruitment or ransom, the speakers said, adding that these militants force women into their ranks, blackmailing families through obscene videos. Mr Akram's family has filed FIRs with various police stations and urged the Army chief, the prime minister and the Balochistan government to intervene.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1859940/family-of-missing-gb-youth-seeks-his-recovery>

Ready to discuss India's concerns on Indus Waters Treaty, says FO

Dawn, 20 September 2024

Pakistan has expressed willingness to discuss issues concerning the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with India. Weeks

after India formally notified Pakistan to amend the bilateral treaty due to 'fundamental and unforeseen changes in circumstances,' the Foreign Office said that all discussions could take place within the treaty's existing framework. During her weekly press briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch was asked about India's intentions to review the water-sharing agreement. In response, Ms Baloch reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the treaty and said the issues could be discussed between the commissioners for Indus Waters appointed by both countries. Under the IWT, the commissioners are part of the Permanent Indus Commission, comprising officials from India and Pakistan. The body oversees the treaty's implementation and exchanges bilateral data.

The IWT is an important treaty that has served both Pakistan and India well over the last several decades. We believe it is the gold standard of bilateral treaties on water sharing, and Pakistan is fully committed to its implementation. We expect India to also remain committed to the treaty, Ms Baloch stated. She said the commission is the 'appropriate forum' for discussing and addressing all issues related to the treaty.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1859926/ready-to-discuss-indias-concerns-on-indus-waters-treaty-says-fo>

Pakistan to work with China against terrorism

Dawn, 22 September 2024

Pakistan and China agreed to enhance cooperation in various fields, including

counter-terrorism and border management, and jointly work to prevent smuggling and drug peddling. The agreement was reached during a meeting between Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi and a high-level Chinese delegation, led by Minister for Political and Legal Affairs Chen Mingguo. The minister welcomed Mr Chen and his delegation upon their arrival at the Ministry of Interior. During the meeting, Pakistan-China relations, particularly with Xinjiang, and matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Both sides agreed to conduct joint police and paramilitary forces exercises in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) or Xinjiang and train GB police officers at the Xinjiang Police Academy. It was also agreed that comprehensive measures would be taken against terrorism which is a global issue. It was decided that a Pakistani delegation, led by the interior secretary, would soon visit Xinjiang to enhance mutual cooperation. The Chinese minister also invited the interior minister to visit Xinjiang. Mr Naqvi said Xinjiang province is of vital importance for Pakistan in its relations with China, underscoring that besides being Pakistan's neighbour, we have a 600km-long border with Xinjiang.

He added that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project also passes through Xinjiang, emphasising that Pakistan wants to completely eliminate smuggling of drugs, arms, and other illicit goods. The minister noted that Pakistani delegation's visit to Xinjiang would open new avenues

for strengthening mutual cooperation. Mr Chen expressed the desire to enhance relations with Pakistan in all fields. He said terrorism is a common problem, adding that Xinjiang had suffered from it for many years.

He highlighted that Pakistan can benefit from Xinjiang's experience in counter-terrorism. Pakistan-China relations, particularly with Xinjiang, and matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. The Chinese delegation included Xinjiang's deputy secretary of the Committee of Parliamentary and Legal Affairs, executive director general of police, and vice president of the Xinjiang Police Academy. Secretary Interior Khurram Ali Agha, Special Secretary Waqas Ali Mahmood, and Additional Secretary Nazar Muhammad Buzdar were also present on the occasion.

Silk Route Expo

Separately, Minister for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik led a delegation of Pakistani energy companies to the 8th Silk Route Expo, fostering collaboration with Chinese counterparts to boost Pakistan's energy sector. During a series of roundtable meetings, Dr Malik met with representatives of leading Chinese companies, including the Shaanxi Energy Bureau, Yanchang Petroleum Group, Hua Lu Engineering and Technology Group, Shanghai Electric, Shaanxi Blower Group, China Typical Group and Hangzhou Maibao Import & Export Company Limited at the Pakistan Pavilion, set up for the Expo in Xian, China.

Pakistani companies, including Oil and Gas Development Company, Pakistan Petroleum Limited, Mari Petroleum Company Limited, Fauji Fertiliser Company Limited and the Thar Coal Energy Board, showcased investment opportunities at the Expo, said a news release. Opening the discussion forum, the minister assured the Chinese companies that Pakistan would provide maximum facilitation in partnering with Pakistani firms. During the meeting, key areas of partnership, including oil and gas exploration, refinery upgrades, coal conversion and regasification were discussed.

Dr Malik emphasised that Pakistan has one of the largest coal reserves and is committed to adding value to its natural resources while ensuring environmental protection. Moreover, the production of green and blue hydrogen, as well as ammonia, is under consideration. We will become technology partners and joint venture partners, Dr Malik remarked.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1860397>

Economic Developments

Apricot festival held in Shigar

Dawn, 17 September 2024

To promote local products and provide opportunities to farmers and entrepreneurs to promote organic products for international market, Apricot Festival was organised in the Shigar district of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). GB Governor Syed Mehdi Shah, Benazir Income Support Programme

(BISP) chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid, GB minister Raja Azam Khan, several foreign and local tourists, farmers, entrepreneurs and officials attended the event. During her visit to the stalls of various species of apricot, apricot oil and byproducts, other local fruit, organic food, herbs and handicrafts, the BISP chairperson expressed her interest to arrange training for women farmers, with the collaboration of GB's food, agriculture and livestock departments.

This partnership will bring a revolutionary transformation at the grassroots level by maximising agricultural productivity, combating poverty and empowering rural women, she said. She said the festival was a vibrant celebration of region's rich agricultural heritage, featuring an array of locally produced fruits, herbs and artisanal goods. Shigar Deputy Commissioner Waliullah Falahi said Shigar district has potential of various organic fruits, indigenous products. He said cold storage was essential in the area to preserve apricot and other fruits to access other countries. Minister Raja Azam said the event provided opportunities for local entrepreneurs and farmers to connect and boost their businesses. Governor Shah said this event provides opportunities for locals to sell their products in international markets and get aware of modern agricultural methods.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1859464/apricot-festival-held-in-shigar>

Rs446m smuggled mobile phones, other goods seized at Sost Port by Customs

Dawn, 17 September 2024

The Pakistan Customs foiled an attempt to smuggle over 15,465 mobile phones, mostly Android, worth Rs446 million from China to Pakistan through the Khunjerab Pass border crossing. The mobile phones and other goods have been seized and a smuggling case has been registered. A report submitted to Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the Pakistan Customs officials on the Sost Dry Port had received information that a truck number GLTE 1257 loaded with smuggled mobile phones and other valuable goods has crossed into Pakistan from China through the Khunjerab Pass border and the truck is parked on the Karakoram Highway (KKH) near Dehi area of Khunjerab Pass, possibly waiting for goods to be offloaded at night.

The report said that Assistant Collector of Customs of Sost Dry Port Imtiaz Shigri sent a Customs team to inspect the parked truck at Barkhoon near Dehi which found the truck parked on the roadside with no one around. On inquiry from the area people the team was informed that an unknown person had parked the truck stating that the vehicle has developed some mechanical fault which needs to be fixed by a mechanic. The team brought the truck to the Sost Dry Port and handed it over to the port/terminal officials for safekeeping and custody.

Since nobody came to claim ownership of the vehicle and the goods kept in it, a notice was issued through the notice board at Sost Dry Port as well as Baggage Section to the unknown importer to submit documents of the truck with Customs Office within 15 days from the issuance of the notice, failing which the department will take necessary action as per law. The office did not receive any response to the notice and upon the expiry of the notice period, the Assistant Collector of Sost Dry Port constituted another team for physical examination of the goods loaded on the vehicle.

The team's report said that upon inspection/checking of the goods retrieved from the intercepted vehicle, a total of 15,465 mobile phones including 8,365 smartphones (iPhone, Oppo, Vivo, One-Plus, etc.) and 7,100 bar phones, and other non-duty paid goods were found. The total market price of these goods is estimated at Rs446 million. The goods have been seized by Pakistan Customs.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1859463/rs446m-smuggled-mobile-phones-other-goods-seized-at-sost-port-by-customs>

Mangla power house refurbishment: Wapda approaches Power Division for tunnel closure

Business Recorder, 19 September 2024

Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) has approached Power Division for closure of Tunnel 1 (unit and 2) of Mangla power house for 18 months for refurbishment with the

objective of enhancing capacity of power house by 310MW. In a letter to Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Member (Power) Wapda noted it has undertaken the rehabilitation works of the generating Units of Mangla Hydel Power Station in order to enhance the capacity from 1,000MW to 1,310MW with the aim to provide reliable/consistent power to the National Grid for another 30 to 35 years' life cycle by utilising the additional head and water storage in post Mangla Dam Raising Scenario.

The project was approved by Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) on 31 December 2023. According to Wapda, contract for six Units (1-6) was awarded to M/s GE Hydro France on 29 August 2016 and the first two Units (5&6) were handed over to the Contractor in November 2017. In the first phase units 5&6 were commissioned on 28 February 2022 and were available for commercial operation from April 1, 2022. The refurbishment work on units 3&4 is in progress and expected date of completion for Unit# 3 & 4 was 2 July 2024 and 11 September 2024, respectively. According to the contract agreement, refurbishment of Unit 1&2 will be carried out in the next phase.

Furthermore, Wapda in a letter of 13 September 2023 requested Secretary Water Resources to approach Ministry of Energy (Power Division) for allowing the shutdown of 18 months on Tunnel No. 1 (Unit 1&2) to carry out refurbishment starting from 1st week March 2024. According to M/s GE

updated Overall Time Schedule (OTS) of 31 May 2024, the outage date for Unit No. 1&2 has been revised as 12 October 2024. Wapda maintains that the previously requested date elapsed, and any approval from the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) and National Power Control Centre (NPCC) has not been received yet.

Foregoing in view, Wapda requested Secretary Ministry of Water Resources to take up the matter with the Power Division for the revised schedule of Tunnel number 01 shutdown (Unit 1 &2) of availing for 18 months, so that the office could smoothly proceed for necessary preparations and to avoid any potential delays in the refurbishment activities. Wapda is implementing Mangla Refurbishment Project with an approved PC-I cost of Rs.52.224 billion. The Project is being carried out in various phases, wherein the generating units are to be refurbished by closing down one tunnel (two generating units) at a time.

The refurbishment works have been divided into 11 different packages. Prior to signing of Package-XI, as many as nine other packages have already been awarded, while works on four packages have been completed. Refurbishment of the first two units was completed in 2022, while refurbishment of all 10 generating units is likely to be accomplished by year 2026-27. Mangla Refurbishment Project, on its completion, will deliver additional power with average 1610 million units of additional energy per annum to the National Grid. USIAD

has also extended an amount of \$98 million for this purpose.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40322971/mangla-power-house-refurbishment-wapda-approaches-power-division-for-tunnel-closure>

Active taxpayers list expands to Gilgit-Baltistan, 'AJK'

Dawn, 20 September 2024

The government has decided in principle to allow the names of taxpayers in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJK) to appear on the Active Taxpayers List (ATL) to avail themselves of lower withholding tax rates. The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has issued SRO-1448 of 2024 proposing amendments to the Income Tax Rules, allowing a taxpayer who has submitted a return to either the GB Council Board of Revenue or the 'AJK' Central Board of Revenue to appear on the ATL list. Persons who filed returns with the 'AJK' and GB appropriate tax authorities will show on ATL, regardless of whether their temporary or permanent addresses are in the jurisdiction of the filing.

The FBR will also enter the names of people on ATL who submit their returns for the most recent tax year by the due date or an extended due date set by the commissioner or the FBR. The name of a company or an association of persons whose return is not due to be filed because of incorporation or formation of such company or association of persons after 30 June, relevant to the latest tax year, shall be

included in the active taxpayers' list, the FBR added.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1859949/active-taxpayers-list-expands-to-gilgit-baltistan-ajk>

Based on monthly invoicing to Go'AJK': Power supply to 'AJK' should be billed at basket rate: MoF

Business Recorder, 20 September 2024

The Ministry of Finance has proposed that electricity supply to 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' (AJ&K) should be based on monthly invoicing to Go'AJK' on the prevalent basket price rather than through Distribution Company (Discos) on the same lines as prevalent in K-Electric and other Discos. Finance Division offered these remarks on a summary of Power Division to 'AJK.' Power Division, in its proposal, recommended that electricity supplied to 'AJK' by Discos shall be at the National Average Power Purchase Price for Discos at Common Delivery Points (CDP) as determined by NEPRA in annual determination of Discos including relevant cost (allowed T&D losses, DM, PYA) of Discos. NEPRA while determining the annual Schedule of Tariff (SoT) of Discos for FY 2024-25, shall design the SoT for 'AJK' accordingly.

However, Finance Division argued that as per recommendations of the Committee Constituted by Prime Minister in Dec 2017, duly approved by the ECC of the Cabinet on 20 March 2019 as well as during the meeting held on 29 May 2023 with the Government of 'AJK', Central Power Purchasing

Agency (CPPA) may start monthly invoicing to Go'AJK' on the 'prevalent basket price' rather than through Discos, on the same lines as being made to K-Electric and other Discos. Finance Division further suggested that Power Division clarifies whether the proposal to charge Average National Power Purchase Price (inclusive of T&D losses, DM, PYA) is in line with previous decisions.

Power Division's proposal that difference in current and revised applicable base rate shall be allocated to remaining consumers has been agreed to by the Finance Division. The sources said Finance Division has also supported Power Division's proposal of applicability of Fuel Charges Adjustment (QTA) and Quarterly Adjustment (QTA) to 'AJK.' On the proposal that Power Division be authorized to issue policy guidelines to National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) in this regard the Power Division endorsed the proposal, and Finance Division suggested that Federal Government may issue guidelines to NEPRA for supply of electricity to Government of 'AJK' as an export item at basket price to Central Power Purchasing Agency-Guaranteed (CPPA-G). Power Division's summary on new electricity tariff mechanism for 'AJK' will soon be submitted before the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.

<https://www.brecorder.com/news/40323167/based-on-monthly-invoicing-to-goajk-power-supply-to-ajk-should-be-billed-at-basket-rate-mof>

From Vernacular Urdu Media

Soast Dry Port generated \$17 billion in tax income in just two weeks

Dailyk2, 17 September 2024

Business activity at Sost Dry Port have surged with the deposit of one billion seventeen crore rupees in duty tax in the national exchequer in just two weeks. Job opportunities have also expanded across a number of industries as a result of the growth in economic activities. Following the initiation of business operations in Sost, the Import Export Association and the Dry Fruit Association have conveyed their contentment with the emerging economic activities and timely recovery of the losses. The halt of business operations in Sost over the last few months had put businessmen in a tough situation. In addition to the executive committee members, Chairman Haji Liaquat Ali stated that thousands of people are employed by the border trade between Pakistan and China, and that business activity in Sost Port is currently at an all-time high. There are now more jobs available for labourers, transporters, and other industries, including traders.

<https://www.dailyk2.com/Post/25136>

The Modi government's planned fake elections in 'Occupied Kashmir' to create a puppet government have no legitimacy: President 'AJK'

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 19 September 2024

The 'so-called elections' in 'occupied Kashmir', according to 'Azad Jammu

and Kashmir' (AJK) president Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, cannot take the place of Kashmiris' unalienable right to self-determination. While speaking to a delegation of Kashmiris living in the United Kingdom (UK), he claimed that the fake poll held in Kashmir in front of millions of military and paramilitary personnel was an attempt to deceive the world. The president declared, that the phony elections held by the Modi government in front of over 900,000 troops have no legitimacy and that the world community had a duty to prevent the Indian government from employing such cruel methods. He claimed that since 5 August 2019, when India revoked Article 370 and Article 35-A and eliminated the unique status of 'occupied Kashmir, the political and human rights situation in Kashmir has worsened.

He claimed that the abrogation of articles 370 and 35A was a blatant breach of international law, citing the UN resolutions. The president declared that the Indian government had changed the state subject law to alter the demographics of 'occupied Kashmir' after article 35A was repealed. He claimed that India now wants to hold phony elections in 'occupied Kashmir' in order to install a puppet government. But he insisted that no legitimate government could be regarded as a representative one for the people of Kashmir, and that such a regime is unfit to rule. He said that implementing the UNSC resolutions that demand a regional referendum is the key to finding a solution to the

Kashmir dispute. He said it was time for the diaspora of Kashmiris to fulfil its vital role in revealing the evil intentions underlying the fake elections that India was holding in 'occupied Kashmir.' Resolving the Kashmir issue in international fora is imperative, he said.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Resize-of-Picsart-24-09-19-07-55-56-136.jpg>

Protests demonstration in Muzaffarabad against the fake elections in 'occupied Kashmir'

Jammu and Kashmir Times, 19 September 2024

Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu Kashmir staged a massive protest demonstration and rally against the 'military-monitored forced elections' taking place in 'illegally occupied Kashmir' (IoK). The demonstrators shouted that the right to self-determination cannot be replaced by any election. Chairman and Vice Chairman of Pasban-e-Hurriyat, Uzair Ahmed Ghazali, Usman Ali Hashim, and other leaders of political and religious parties spearheaded the demonstration against the 'rigged elections.' Protesters from 'AJK' raised black flags and expressed their disapproval of the fraudulent election. Plebiscite should be held instead of elections, read placards. The elections that were held at gunpoint and the plots by the Indian government, according to speakers at the event, are both shams. They

believed that by imprisoning political rivals in 'occupied Kashmir', Narendra Modi was not only demanding phony elections but also using harsh draconian laws in order to achieve arbitrary results.

They claimed that Jammu and Kashmir has already been rigged by creating new constituencies in the wrong way. They claimed that in addition to lengthy detentions, the genuine representatives of the Kashmiri people are being brutalized, including being killed and imprisoned. They said that All-Party Hurriyat Conference is working to resolve the Kashmir dispute in line with the UN resolutions. They claimed that there is no resolution to the Kashmir issue through the election that was held under duress. They claimed that India should have guts and hold an independent referendum in Jammu and Kashmir while having international observers watch.

The speakers went on to say that the only thing the people of 'OJK' desire is independence from India. The only reason India is holding elections in 'IoK' is to solidify its grasp on the territory. Protestants said the APHC is fighting for the globally acknowledged right of Kashmiri people to self-determination and that by arresting leaders of APHC or outlawing pro-independence groups will not demoralize Kashmiris.

<http://jammukashmirtimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Resize-of-Picsart-24-09-19-07-55-56-136.jpg>

From Social Media**Dr Eram Ashraf @eramash***19 September 2024*

Joint exercises in GB would allow Chinese forces inside Pakistan & help secure Chinese tourists. Both sides agreed to conduct joint police and paramilitary forces exercises in Gilgit-Baltistan or Xinjiang and train GB police officers at the Xinjiang Police Academy.

<https://twitter.com/eramash/status/1837810890214695125>

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti*19 September 2024*

The students of Karakoram University have announced to start a protest movement.

Details Video link:

<https://twitter.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1836756327173091603>

Roshan Din Diameri @Rohshan_Din*20 September 2024*

Requesting dua for Captain Ali Zaman from Gilgit-Baltistan, who was severely injured in an exchange of fire in Waziristan yesterday. May Allah grant him a speedy recovery. Ameen.

https://twitter.com/Rohshan_Din/status/1837191848827498780

WAJAHAT ALI @wajahatgilgiti*22 September 2024*

When will the Naltar 16 MW project be completed, how much will it cost and why is it delayed?

Details video link:

<https://twitter.com/wajahatgilgiti/status/1837898834321854504>

Khawar Razzaq @Abba73612Abbasi*20 September 2024*

A peaceful protest will be held today, Friday, September 20, at 4:30 PM in front of the Islamabad Press Club, organized by the Civil Society of 'Azad Kashmir', against the forced disappearance and unjust imprisonment of Ghulam Mohiuddin Diwan, member of the 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir Assembly'.

<https://twitter.com/Abba73612Abbasi/status/1836978945742492009>

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Disclaimer

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