

# NEWS TODAY

Tuesday, August 16, 2016

## 1. BLACK DAY OBSERVED IN AZAD KASHMIR

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### Black day observed in Azad Kashmir

By Tariq Naqash

MUZAFFARABAD: People in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) marked India's Independence Day as a 'black day' on Monday by staging anti-India and pro-freedom rallies and demonstrations like their brethren across the Line of Control (LoC).

The mega event of the day was a "freedom march" under the aegis of the Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) that started from here and concluded in the border town of Chakothi, 3km from the LoC.

The march was led by Senator Sirajul Haq and Abdul Rashid Turabi, chiefs of the JI's Pakistan and AJK chapters, respectively.

Condemning the reign of terror let loose by Indian troops in the held territory, Mr Haq assured the struggling Kashmiris of persistent support by people of Pakistan until they achieved their goal of freedom.

"It's a black day for us all... We have come here to join our voice with that of our freedom-seeking brethren across the bloody line (LoC)," he said. "I want to tell cowardly Indian soldiers that the day is not far when they will be held accountable for their crimes against humanity."

He said Kashmir was not a regional or territorial dispute but an ideological issue which needed immediate settlement in accordance with the settled principles.

"The freedom of Kashmir is our duty and also a historical debt which must be cleared by the rulers (of Pakistan) or else history will never forgive them," the JI leader said.

"If the prime minister takes one step for settlement of the issue, we will take 100," he added.

He said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had himself been involved in terrorism but he was pointing fingers at Pakistan.

He said talks with India could be held only on the Kashmir issue.

Mr Haq said today every child of Pakistan was determined like Burhan Wani to lay down his life for freedom of Kashmir.

The repression unleashed by Indians on

Kashmiris and other minorities would soon lead to the creation of another Pakistan in India, he said.

The JI chief called upon the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Kashmir and said, "What kind of UN is it that settles the issues of East Timor and South Sudan in months but remains indifferent to Kashmir?"

He said Syed Ali Shah Geelani was a leader greater than Nelson Mandela and whenever he gave a call "we will trample this blood line (LoC)".

Mr Turabi, TV anchor Reham Khan and others also spoke on the occasion.

Separately, Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme Marvi Memon led a rally in the same area.

Speaking as a representative of the federal government at different gatherings during the rally, she said India's Independence Day would remain a black day for Kashmiris until New Delhi gave freedom to Kashmir.

On the other hand, she said, Pakistan dedicated its 70th Independence Day to the people of Kashmir in a manifestation of unprecedented attachment of people of Pakistan and the PML-N government with the freedom-seeking people of the held territory.

She said Pakistan was raising its voice for the cause of Kashmiri people at every forum while India was misleading the world by terming the Kashmir freedom movement terrorism though there was a clear difference between the two.

"In the garb of curbing terrorist activities, India itself is committing state terrorism in held Kashmir by arresting, injuring and killing innocent people," she said. "India cannot keep Kashmiris enslaved for long through the use of its military might."

AJK Minister for Education Syed Ifitikhar Gillani also spoke at the gatherings.

Earlier, a public meeting was held outside the District Headquarters Complex in Muzaffarabad to mark the black day. It was addressed by AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider and leaders of the JI and other political parties.

## 2. MARVI LEADS RALLY TO LOC

*Published in Express Tribune*



*(Pakistan Observer, The Patriot, Daily Express, Nawaiwaqt, Jahan Pakistan, Dunya, Jinnah and Ausaf also carried the story and picture)*

## 3. Rs 800b WORTH ONGOING GAS PROJECTS TO END ENERGY WOES

*Published in Pakistan Observer*

Islamabad The government has initiated different gas related projects worth Rs800 billion, including setting up of LNG terminals and gas pipelines to meet energy needs of the country, a senior official in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources said on Monday. "By the grace of Allah Almighty, Pakistan will have surplus power due to effective policies of the present government by 2018," he told APP. He said it was the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government that took a bold initiative to import LNG as the past governments could not take any practical step in this regard.

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Terming gas backbone for the energy sector, he regretted that some elements were criticizing the LNG import and misleading the public about its benefits. He highlighted importance of LNG, saying that it would have great significance in strengthening the national economy even after arrival of gas through Iran-Pakistan and Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline projects. With the import of LNG, he said Pakistan was importing one million tonne fertilizer, now it had 1.5 million tonne surplus fertilizer. All gas-based power plants are in running condition, CNG sector was back to its business and industrial sector was getting full supply, he added.

The official said the CNG sector was moving on the path of revival gradually and hinted that in the coming years it would be preferred over petrol. Commenting on performance of the PML-N government, he said during last three years the government had launched unprecedented development projects for the benefit of common man. "The three-year development, is much higher than the period from 1999 to 2013, if compared," he added.

***The government, he said, was making progress in all key sectors including energy, infrastructure development, social welfare projects like Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) to mitigate sufferings of the common man.***

Answering a question, the official said Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGL) would spend Rs71.043 billion on upgradation of transmission and distribution network across the country during the current fiscal year. Whereas, he said, the government has allocated

Rs587.476 million in the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2016-17) for the four major ongoing schemes aimed at stepping up exploration activities of natural resources to achieve self-reliance in the energy sector.

During last three years, oil and gas exploration companies operating in different parts of the country made 84 discoveries, following which around 631 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) gas. APP