

The  rient News

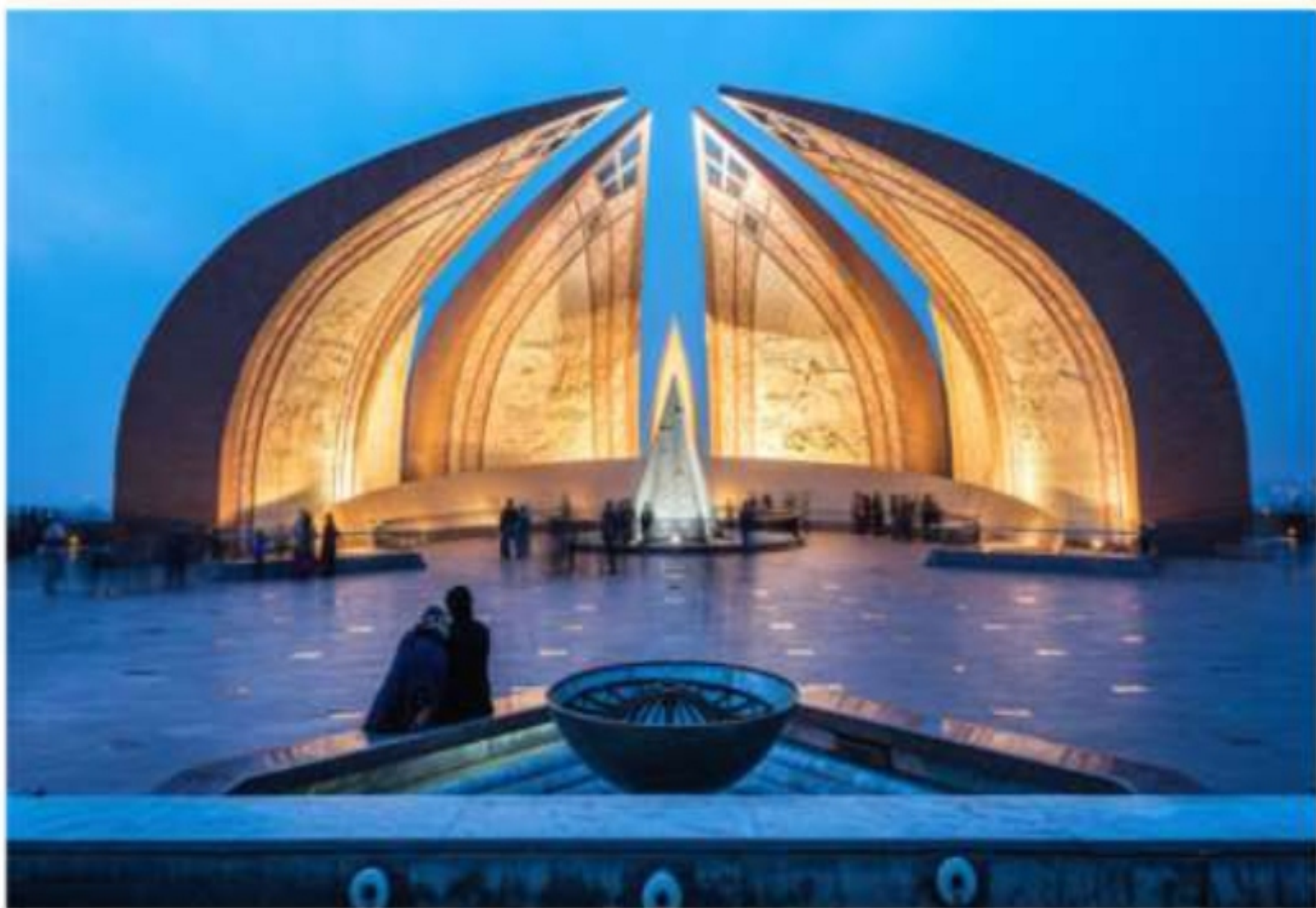
Truth, Justice and Conscience

**Long Live
Bangladesh**
50th anniversary of independence
**The bitter
story of the
past**

By Afshain Afzal

What they are doing with State Bank of Pakistan?
A State within State?





Message

from
Patron-in-Chief
“The Orient News”

“The Orient News” was founded in 2017, aimed to seek out groundbreaking research in global policymaking and expand the horizons in terms of both content and implementation. TON being a new institute and digital paper in terms of research is focused on enforcing accountability standards through rule of law. We do research that is beyond constructed realities that does not push the dominant viewpoints in global policy research. We hope to diversify the scope of research by including global governance and foreign policy.

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As a digital as well as non-formal information hub of handpicked prompt News analysis, inside stories, commentaries and numerous other features "The Orient News" in many ways, is a value addition to already robust social, electronic and print Media. It endeavors to restore old grandeur of journalistic excellence and set standards for different types of media.

The Orient News is designed as a platform to identify policy and institutional loopholes, monitor implementation and enforce accountability standards through rule of law, liaison with relevant institutions and public interest litigations. Our mission is to remove criminal behavior and materialistic tendencies from the societies and promote high ethical, cultural, traditional and religious standards set in each society by narrative building through social, electronic, print, digital media and its hybrids.

We started our efforts with a single man i.e. the present patron-in-chief and later, from several dozen aims to grow to 50,000 in years to come.

Afshain Afzal Patron-in-chief

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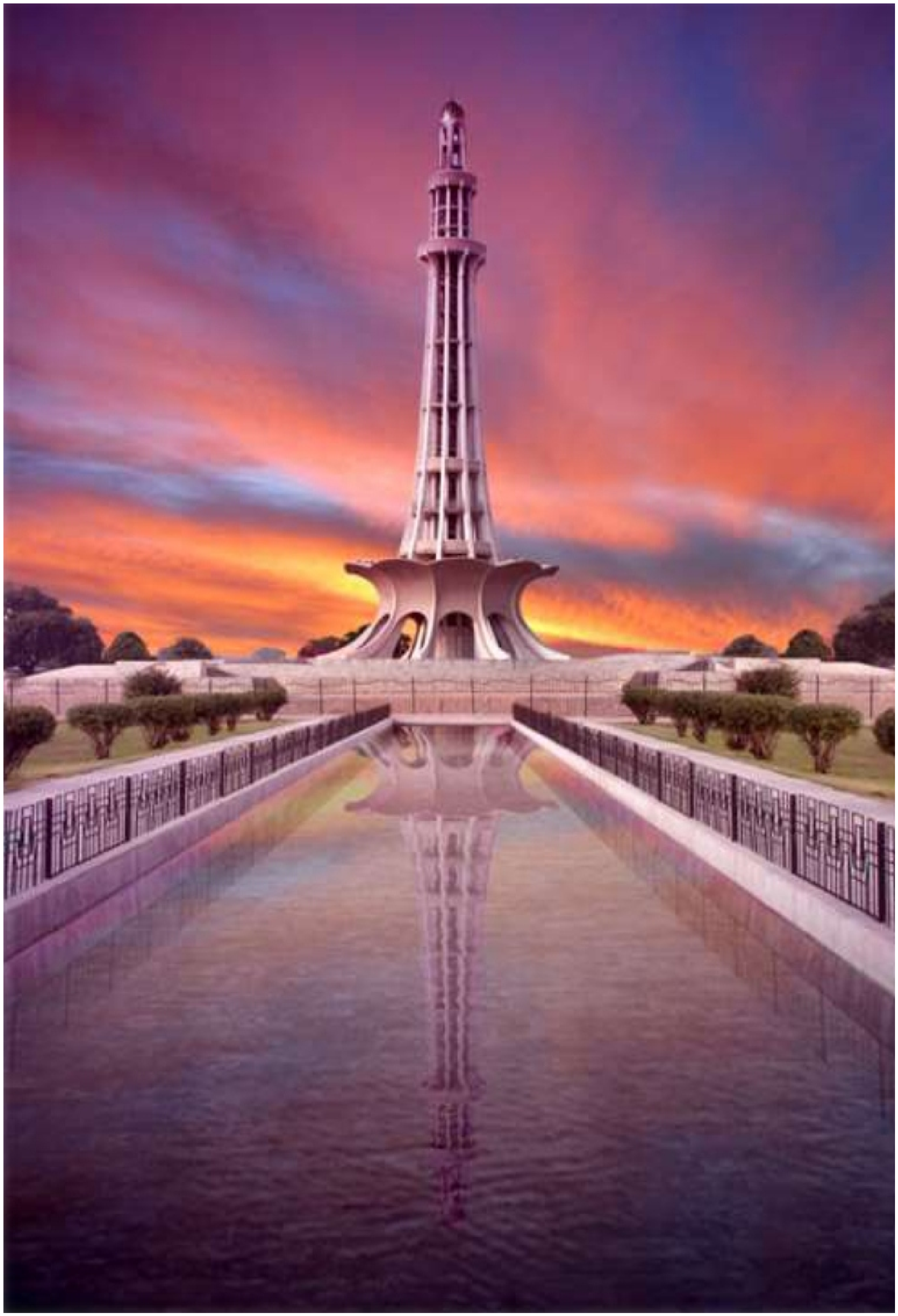
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Long Live Bangladesh – The bitter story of the past

INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

Bangladesh is celebrating its 50 years of independence today. The great Bangladeshi nation announced national holidays from 17th to 27th March 2021 for the grand celebration of birth centenary of father of nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birthday 17th March and Independence Day 26th March. Government of Bangladesh held a 10-day golden jubilee celebration in the Dhaka and other parts of country. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Abdul Hamid hosted four heads of state and government from Maldives (March 17-18), Sri Lanka (March 19-20), Nepal (March 22-24), Bhutan (March 24), and India (26-27 March) to join the grand celebrations in capital. Pakistan also organized the celebrations at its end to pay homage to its former Eastern part.

Today, Bangladesh is celebrating its independence but it hurts to recall the sad events linked with double game played by Washington and Indian plot to divide Pakistan into two pieces. One of the main reasons was also that there was a political divide between East and West Pakistan after the elections in 1970 that happened as result of joint conspiracy of New Delhi and Washington to dismember Pakistan. On one side Washington was supplying cache of arms and ammunition to Pakistan while on the other side it was voicing against Pakistan's human rights violations allowing India RAW to play its role in separation of East Pakistan from West Pakistan. It was the Western and Indian propaganda put Pakistan into action when news spread that Indian military assisted and trained the Bangladesh's guerrilla force, "Mukti Bahini".

Indian government established Bangladesh's government in exile and declared independence of Bangladesh. The media propagated that training camps were built for Bangladesh liberation forces with Indian assistance close to the East Pakistani border at number of places. On the other hand the US not only ordered a Task force of the Seventh Fleet including the nuclear powered aircraft carrier Enterprise and warships into the Bay of Bengal but also misguided Government of Pakistan regarding so called joint conspiracy by leaderships in East Pakistan and India to go for all out East Pakistan's independence from Pakistan. CIA's intelligence reports are even today considered as authentic as evidence of grand conspiracy by the Bengalis against state of Pakistan.

The military confrontation between India and Pakistan started from 3rd December, 1971 and ended with fall of Dhaka. Pakistan forces also launched air strikes on East Pakistan's territory on the basis of US-furnished intelligence input that civil war ended after the Pakistani military leadership ordered its troops, surrendered to avoid further bloodshed. If we peep into the facts, the situation between East and West Pakistan got worse when Washington advised Islamabad, not to hand over power to Bengalis because they lack the patriotic traits and would merge with India. Surprisingly, an outsider was telling the officials that who is patriotic and who is not. However, there was nothing to do with patriotism because Sheikh Sheikh Mujeeb ur Rehman won convincing majority in the elections and demanded right to establish government at the Centre. The US Senator Edward M.Kennedy visited camps in Calcutta, constructed by India for Bengalis on August 11th, 1971 and instigated Bengalis against Pakistan's army. Undoubtedly, the US was playing double games with Pakistan. The horrifying stories of massacres turned the situation from bad to worse. Moreover, the political maneuvering by third parties on both sides that led to the separation of Bangladesh after war shaped the future of Pakistan, Bangladesh and India.

America played the most negative role in separating Eastern and Western parts of Pakistan, leading to unrest and chaos. Archer K Blood, then American Consul General writes in his memoir: "The situation remains confused as two sides jockey for position and wait for others to force the issue. Mujib has, we believe, defused the immediate crisis. ... Little by little the Sheikh and the Awami League become the de facto authority in East Pakistan. Meanwhile, the concept of Pakistan continues to erode. The Sheikh's tactics, if successful, reduce the chances of open confrontation by exposing only a fuzzy target for the Martial Law Administration. At the same time, he keeps the initiative and maintains control of the situation.

American Embassy in Islamabad was more pessimistic in their assessment: "Thus, events of March 6-7 have deferred showdown, but have not altered basic elements. Bangla appear bent on a degree of autonomy the Pak military (and probably Bhutto) unable to swallow. The question now is whether Yahya or Mujib will blink first – or whether neither will blink. Showdown cannot be put off much longer." In their assessment of what does Sheikh Mujibur Rahman now intend the US Embassy report wrote: "His goal remains unchanged –



'Emancipation' of Bangladesh from West Pakistan domination. This could mean full provincial autonomy' as under six points. It could also mean Mujib has come to believe that the freedom he seeks is attainable only by outright independence."

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was active worker of Bengal Provincial Muslim League from his college-hood at Islamia College, Calcutta, In 1943 became member of the All-India Muslim League Council. Later in after the creation of Pakistan, he was top Muslim League leader and close aid of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. He was so much inspired by Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the Quaid-e-Azam that during pre-partition he used to sell pro-Pakistan weekly newspaper Millat on the streets of Dhaka along with other workers. In 1948, he was one of the leading founding member of East Pakistan Muslim Students League.

After the tragic death of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah in September 1948, Awami Muslim League was formed in 1949 and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was one of the founding Joint Secretaries. In early January 1950, on the occasion of the visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister Liaqut Ali Khan to East Pakistan, Muslim League under Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took out an anti-famine procession in Dhaka due to which Sheikh Mujib was arrested and expelled from Muslim League for two

years. In January 1952, he joined Maulana Bhashani, who was great friend of Quaid-e-Azam Assam who joined Muslim League Party in 1934 and ever since he devoted his whole life for Pakistan movement. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman remained General Secretary of the Awami Muslim League from 1953 to 1966 and its President from 1966 to 1974. During the elections of 1965, he joined hands with Fatima Jinnah and opposed dictatorial rule of General Ayub Khan. He and his party launched the campaign of Fatima Jinnah in East Bengal during her elections and because of him and other Bengali leaders Fatima gained more votes from East Bengal as compared to West Pakistan. He himself was elected as the Member of the National Assembly and always opposed the activities of the Pakistani establishment in the house.

During the War of 1965, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman being a loyal Pakistan did everything which could be done for Pakistani forces against India; from campaigning to collection of devotions and supporting Pakistan cause through speeches. Many amongst the Pakistani politicians were anti Quaid-e-Azam and anti-Fatima and did not allow her to win the elections, however, Mujibur Rahman stood side by side with

Fatima Jinnah as solid rock. Fatima Jinnah died in July 1967 and afterwards there was no one to protect the rights of the people of East Pakistan.

In the 1970 national elections, despite leading his party to a major victory in the elections, Mujibur Rahman was not invited to form the government. On 25 March 1971, he was arrested by the Pakistan Army in an Operation Searchlight. During his nine-month detention, insurgency erupted and an attempt was made by Pakistan Army to crush Bengali nationalists and bring peace. An all-out civil-war between the Pakistan Army and East Pakistani nationalists started in which USA played a major role in the disintegration of Pakistan. In the meantime, India forces intervened and it led to the liberation of East Pakistan as an independent nation and emergence of Bangladesh in 1971. The enemies of Bangladesh could not see happy and prosperous Bangladesh and President of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was martyred in a military coup d'état on 15 August 1975. Today, although Bangladesh has been separated from Pakistan but no matter what, Pakistan will ever remain its supporter. The people of Pakistan are equally joyful in the happiness of their Bangla brothers and sisters and pray for their happiness, prosperity and development.

7th March: A day of remembrance for Pakistani-Bangladeshi greatest



OPINION

By Afshain Afzal

DHAKA, 7 March 2021, (TON): Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on 7 March 1971, laid down his terms for attending the National Assembly session which included; withdrawal of army to barracks; an end to martial law; and the transfer of power to the people. He also demanded an inquiry into the army killings and an end to the reinforcement of the army in East Pakistan. No doubt, none of these demands were unjustified as Awami League won the election and as per the Constitution of Pakistan, Awami League to form government. The 7th March speech of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which is even today present in UNESCO's archives was greeted with general reaction of the martial law authorities, which is recorded in 'Khadim Hussain Raja, a stranger in my own country, 2012, page 63' which highlights statement of Major General Khadim Hussain Raja, then General Officer Commanding in East Pakistan, as speech of Sheikh Mujib ur Rehman as "remarkably conciliatory". He further writes, "Credit

goes to Sheikh Mujib for averting an immediate crisis and for preventing a lot of Bengali blood being split on the streets of Dhaka." Majority of West Pakistani loved Sheikh Mujibur Rahman except those who were linked with India and desired to further exploit Bangladeshis.

America played the most negative role in separating Eastern and Western parts of Pakistan, leading to unrest and chaos. Archer K Blood, then American Consul General writes in his memoir: "The situation remains confused as two sides jockey for position and wait for others to force the issue. Mujib has, we believe, defused the immediate crisis. ... Little by little the Sheikh and the Awami League become the de facto authority in East Pakistan. Meanwhile, the concept of Pakistan continues to erode. The Sheikh's tactics, if successful, reduce the chances of open confrontation by exposing only a fuzzy target for the Martial Law Administration. At the same time, he keeps the initiative and maintains control of the situation.

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In their assessment of what does Sheikh Mujibur Rahman now intend the US Embassy report wrote: "His goal remains unchanged – 'Emancipation' of Bangladesh from West Pakistan domination. This could mean full provincial autonomy' as under six points. It could also mean Mujib has come to believe that the freedom he seeks is attainable only by outright independence." It is the US which led Pakistan to lose its greatest leader. May Almighty Allah bless Bangladesh peace and prosperity.

What they are doing with State Bank of Pakistan

A State within State?

COVER STORY

By Afshain Afzal

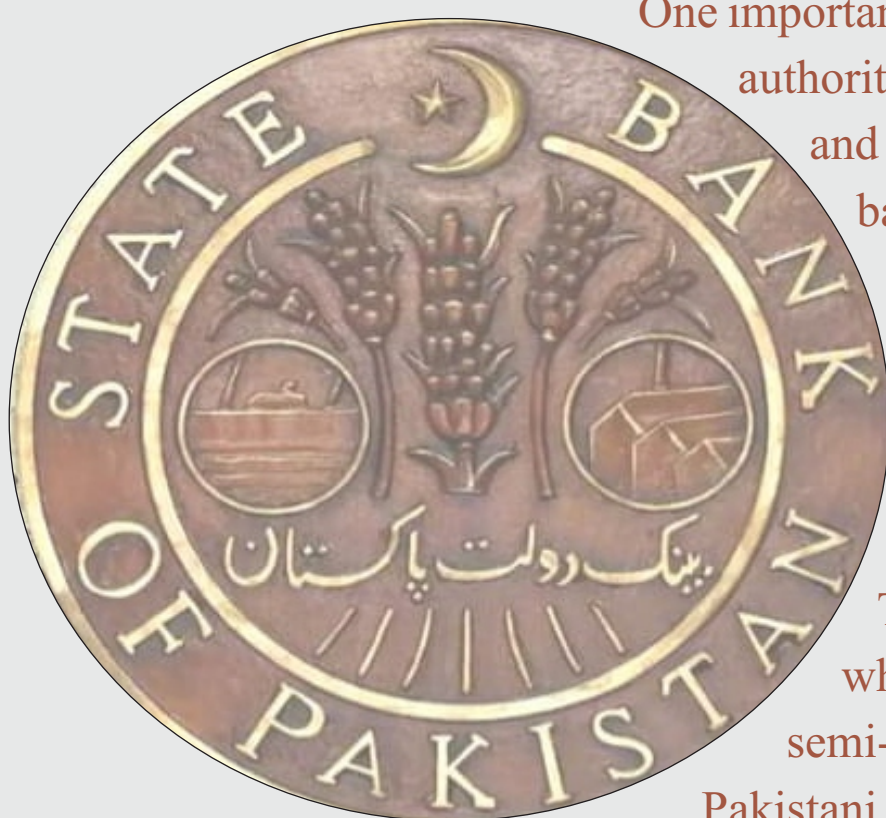
The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) is no longer a State Bank but has become a Central Bank under the tough-conditionalities of International Monetary Fund (IMF). They claim it was necessary to free State Bank from any political and state pressures. The unlimited powers held with Governor State Bank will be dangerous and far reaching but why someone should bother at this stage. In return, the State Bank of Pakistan is going to receive a \$6 billion loan from International Monetary Fund to introduce reforms in the shape of new legislation that will maintain price stability in the central bank's primary mandate. Now the new Central Bank is free from the clutches of Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan. Governor and his team at Central Bank has de-facto powers, just waiting for an approval from Parliament. Under the new law, the governor, board of directors or deputy governor and members of the monetary policy, officers and employees of the SBP would be protected against legal actions and would also be exempted from inquiries by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), unless the SBP board's gives approval to initiate proceedings. One wonders when State Bank of Pakistan will be accountable to the parliament, how political pressure can be avoided.

Very interestingly, the International Monetary Fund has shared a draft of the Memorandum of Financial and Economic Policies (MEFP) with the Pakistani



authorities and placed approval of the State Bank of Pakistan's amendment act 2021 from parliament as part of condition for the completion of the sixth review under the \$6 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme. It is part of IMF programme that the gas tariff with increased with effect from 1st July 2021 while the power tariff will further be increased in the months to come. More so, under the international pressure, the Government is bent upon to accelerate privatization programme and privatize certain

strategic state-owned entities. Interestingly, Tax Reform Amendment Bill 2021 will abolish 80 corporate income tax exemptions. But proposal for General Sales Tax (GST) in Tax Reform Bill 2021 has been excluded. Now the GST exemptions would be withdrawn in the coming budget through the Finance Bill 2021. In the name of privatization of tourist sites and hotels and strategic assets like communications are being handed over to foreign companies without conditionality.



One important point to be noticed that there is no independent regulatory authority to monitor State Bank or other national or foreign banks and why all the powers have been bestowed to Governor State bank and its team is beyond comprehension. It is high time that Finance Ministry must open its eyes and stop the conspiracy against the State of Pakistan. There should be some common sense as all-out autonomy cannot be granted to State Bank of Pakistan after parting its way from the Finance Ministry. IMF's Resident Chief in Pakistan Teresa Daban Sanchez need to be approached to find out what world economic powers have planned for Pakistan as a semi-slave state under the international banking regime so that Pakistani are prepared for the worse.

Bangladesh: Celebrations to take place nationwide - 50th anniversary of independence

INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

Bangladesh is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its independence 17-27 March 2021. The country has already commemorated national holidays to give homage to founder of the nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birthday 17 March and Independence Day 26 March. Government of Bangladesh would hold a 10-day golden jubilee celebration in the Dhaka and other important cities. The main events will occur at Jatiyo Sriti Shoudho (National Martyrs' Monument) in Savar, the National Parade Square, and Bangabandhu Memorial Museum. Smaller ceremonies will likely take place in provincial capitals and district headquarters throughout the country during the period.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Abdul Hamid will host senior leaders from Maldives (17-18 March), Sri Lanka (19-20 March), Nepal (22-24 March), Bhutan (24 March), and India (26-27 March) to join festivities in the capital. Pakistan Embassy Dhaka would also observe celebrations.

Meanwhile, despite the day of national unity, New Delhi has enhanced funding centrifugal groups' leaders to create disruptions are possible. It is expected that elements from opposition parties and other groups may organize street marches and public rallies, though police and other authorities have asked these groups to delay gatherings during the golden jubilee period. There are reports that Indian Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is funding elements in West Bengal who would be disrupting celebrations in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and other groups are also participating in the celebrations but India media is projecting negative propaganda against them. Although, the Bangladeshi Security forces have been put on high alert and capable to handle the situation but miscreants are reportedly have sneaked into Bangladesh to disrupt the celebrations. The people of Pakistan are equally joyful in the happiness of their Bangla brothers and sisters and pray for their happiness, prosperity and development.



Bangladesh Liberation war - India's humanitarian intervention or “self-interest”

INSIDE REPORT

By Aroosa Hafeez

Fifty years since East Pakistan liberation war of 1971, both the countries have distinct memories of the war however, third party India played a major role in liberating East Pakistan from the West Pakistan. India and Pakistan have been old rivals. Diplomatic ties between India and Bangladesh were not developed because of their geographical proximity but because of the Liberation war in which India assisted Bengali liberation militants. India, from the start till now has not missed any chance to fuel tensions between Bangladesh and Pakistan. No doubt that there were internal reasons of conflict between the two sides but India on the other hand took full advantage of these conflicts to increase tensions for its personal interests. Hence, after liberation war Bangladesh turned into the main ally of India.

India saw the 1971 liberation war as a refugee crisis, which turned into a humanitarian crisis for India but actually it was more than a humanitarian crises, a “self-interest” which led India to join in the war that broke-up Pakistan into two pieces, thus created Bangladesh. Since the independence of Bangladesh, India has been interfering in Bangladesh's



nation. Indian Border security forces (BSF) frequently crossed Bangladesh's border, ignoring international laws, destroying properties of the locals, plundering their resources and Indian withdrawal of the Ganges water through the

towards the west (India, Nepal and Bhutan) and to East (Land route through Myanmar ending in Vietnam's Ports). Five Indian states have common borders with Bangladesh. Today, Indo-Pacific aspirations of India is the main reason for India to maintain friendly ties with Bangladesh.



internal affairs. Starting from intervention in domestic politics to the internal affairs of the state, India has maintained its hegemonic behavior, which clearly depicts Indian policy is focused on internal matters.

Certainly, fall of Dhaka came with major gains for India. Political enemies on the two sides were replaced by an ally on one side and rival on the other side. Moreover, India's political geo-strategic consideration was hardly a secret. East Pakistan crisis in 1971 came with a golden opportunity for India to breakup its enemy. Undoubtedly, the Indian supportive role in Bangladesh liberation war stemmed out of its real politic, economic and strategic concerns. India has long been involved in secret war in Bangladesh since independence. India has always supported authoritarianism in Bangladesh but Bangladesh has strived to hold onto its democratic path.

India cannot deny the fact that the breakup of Pakistan was in it's our own interest, an opportunity, which was never to come again. After the independence, rampant smuggling of goods from Bangladesh to India deteriorated the economy of the

operation of the Farakkah barrage, which had tragic effects in the southwest part of Bangladesh, all were loud and clear signals of Indian hegemonic policy. The raising of the Rakkhi Bahini and its assistance by Indian military, the influence of Indian officials in Bangladesh's government, large scale smuggling of goods from country, the removal of the ban on exporting raw jutes from Bangladesh to India, , the printing of currency notes in India, the devaluation of currency and the interference of Indian army, all these actions showed that the real intention behind Indian involvement in the Bangladesh's liberation war were India's own political, economic and strategic interests. The India's creation of the barrage was an exercise of Indian influence over Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's is situated at a crucial point of south Asia and shares the fifth-longest land boundary with India in the world. Since the liberation war, it has been important for India to maintain so-called positive relations with Bangladesh to bolster its own security and border management. Bangladesh is the center form where connectivity could spread both

Bangladesh will celebrate the 50th anniversary from March 17th to 27th. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also visit Dhaka for the Independence Day celebrations of Bangladesh on March 26th, 2021. Modi's visit is to symbolize friendly ties between both the countries but nothing seems well in the bilateral relationship. A large number of people and student activists rallied in Bangladesh's capital to denounce the upcoming visit of Modi to join the celebration of the country's 50th anniversary of independence. Protestors chanted anti-India and anti-Modi slogans, asking him not to visit Dhaka. The protesters also criticized Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for inviting Modi, saying the two countries had many disputed issues.

Earlier, in December 2020 India and Bangladesh both held virtual summit and discussed the topics about boosting bilateral trade, investment and transportation links but avoided the issues of dispute. So far,

India and Bangladesh have also been unable to strike a deal on the Teesta river dispute. Furthermore, India's controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the border killings and absolute humiliation of being called 'termites' by India's Home Minister Amit Shah has worsened the relations. Bangladesh being the most trusted ally of India, has every reason to get distressed.

Today India has lost Bangladesh to much extent, one of its closest ally because of its policies. A raft of issues from water disputes to other tension have sowed mistrust and strained the ties between both countries however, Bangladesh is now working out to bolster its ties with its good friends. Pakistan is very much back in the game. However, it is too early to predict about the complete shift of Bangladesh's foreign policy regarding Pakistan but indeed, 50 years after the war, 1971 still remains heart-breaking for people of both countries Bangladesh and Pakistan. Bangladesh has been separated from Pakistan but no matter what, Pakistan will ever remain its supporter and well-wisher.

Future Politics in Iraq; Will Iran Accept Western Alliance?

INSIDE REPORT

By Afshain Afzal

Over the 3rd March rocket attacks that targeted US Ain al-Asad Airbase in Anbar province in western Iraq, where American and coalition troops are housed, White House warned that the US may consider a military response. Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby issued a statement that an American contractor died but no other service members were killed or injured. There were no other statements issued but British and Danish troops were also deployed in the Airbase when attack occurred. The latest statement issued by Washington is an indicator that a new round of violence and terrorism is ahead as rule of law.

There were many rockets that hit the Airbase but Pentagon has confirmed just ten of them but according to estimate the loss reported is much more than what is projected. Who bombarded the rocket is quite tricky to answer at this stage as it might be an operation to set aside President Donald Trump's policy regarding Iraq and Afghanistan and launch new offensives against civilian population in Iraqi ancient cities.

Interestingly, Washington claims that the attacks were the handiwork Iranian-backed militia groups in Iraq and that US forces bombed Iran-aligned militia targets along the Iraq-

Syria border in response but this is far from the reality. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki was quoted to have said that US is planning renewed calculated airstrikes as a new model of US military response strategy. It is not any more secret that Biden administration's desire to open talks with Iran over the 2015 nuclear deal as well as renew US strategy in Asia that focus more attention on India and Iran as strategic partners. Will these future plans be achieved through regime change or what is too early to comment?

The fact cannot be denied that 3rd March attacks came two days before Christian top religious-leader, Pope Francis was scheduled to visit Iraq. Although Pentagon in its briefing has doubted Shia-backed militia groups but the calculated airstrikes by US fighter aircrafts were on Sunni targets on Iraq-Syria border.

In the latest development, in which Pope Francis met Iranian-origin Ayatollah Ali Sistani at his residence in Iraqi city of Najaf on 6 March. Pope Francis in white robe and Ayatollah Sistani in black robe will avail one to one meeting without advisers to conclude a religious-strategic treaty in the name of interfaith harmony.

Pope Francis arrived in Iraq on Friday as his first visit to the country as part of four-day trip. A deal is expected to be

achieved to enforce religious diversity to give Christian access to certain heritage sites and building of new Churches and restoration of old disputed Mosques cum Churches. The visit is important for the Christians as they claim that Iraq is biblical land and they have plans to promote Christian-tourism.

The visit in the indicator of Vatican strategic approach in pronouncing future Iraqi politics and Iran's major rule in the future construction of the government. In a leaked consultation, the Western nations strategy against the orthodox Sunnis will be discussed by both the religious leaders which would allow Ayatollah Ali Sistani followers to consolidate their position with assurance of Shite- Christian and other minorities future government. If we recall in 2014, thousands of young volunteers from Iran, Lebanon, Yemen and elsewhere fought battle against Muslims dubbed as Islamic State militants who had defeated Western occupation forces and were consolidating positions across Iraq. The western armed and funded battle allowed Iran-backed groups to consolidate their power and establish their influence. In the meantime, antigovernment protests across Iraq demanded restoration of democratic political system free of the corruption and foreign influence. One wonders when United Nations would take action and stop the bloodshed that streets of Iraq would witness in near future. Is it difficult to ban foreign troops from Iraqi and other soils?

Attack on the U.S. embassy in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 February, 2021 (TON): On Monday, three rockets were fired at Baghdad's heavily fortified Green zone causing no casualties. Iraq's army said. Security officials said the U.S. Embassy was the target.

One rocket fell within the perimeter of the vast U.S. Embassy complex and the other fell in the residential neighborhood of Harthiya, outside the Green Zone, two Iraqi security officials said. The military said in a statement, there were no casualties and an investigation was ongoing. There was minor property damage, including a damaged vehicle. The Green Zone houses foreign embassies and is the seat of Iraq's government.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. In the third attempt to attack the American presence in Iraq last week, a U.S.-led coalition contractor was killed and other civilians were wounded in a rocket attack outside Irbil international airport last Tuesday. A little-known Shiite militant group calling itself the Guardians of Blood Brigade claimed responsibility for the attack.

On Saturday, rockets wounded personnel working for a U.S. defense company at Balad airbase in Salahaddin province. However, it is noticed that the U.S. Embassy was a frequent target of rocket attacks during the Trump administration. The pace of attacks gained momentum in the weeks before Biden took office and have resumed now.



Indian Colonial expansion on Assam: Peace full struggle of Locals

OPINION

By Hassan Ali

The unfortunate destiny of Assamese is still unfortunate. Assam is the Indian occupied state having a border with Bangladesh. The law of CAA and the abrogation of article 370 intensify Assam Communist and Bengali Muslims' misfortunes. The large group of people in Assam actively took part in the protests and demanded their self-determination rights. However, the struggle of Communist people and Bengali Muslims Peoples highly and violently suppressed by Indian Forces or Army in Assam and remain of perversion did by the Indian state. Indian forces killed several people during a violent protest, there were tactics to provoke people, and then they became violent after they blamed protesters and tagged them as traitors.

The separatist movements become more violent after the killing of many protesters by the Indian Army. The Movements of self-determination in the Assam state of India started in the 1970s. It stems from the tension between Assamese and alleged neglect and internal colonization by the Indian Government with its federal centre in Delhi. The state of Assam is rich in oil resources, and the people of Assam are still deprived and struggling for basic needs. Media of Assam and other national Media houses always favoured the Indian Army and Oppressive policies by the Government.

Several organizations are struggling for their legitimate demands, including the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), Adivasi National Liberation Army, Karbi Longri N.C.



clash between the Assame locals and the Indian Army. However, separatist sentiments deem strong in Assam. Pakistan unofficially offers India to help in resolving the issue on humanitarianism grounds.

The third oppression occurred in 1951 when the first NRC published in 1951 in Assam--to get a count of the state's immigrants. The NRC was prepared by recording the particulars of all those enumerated during that year's census. The 1951 NRC estimated the number of migrants from East Bengal at around 1 to 1.5 million, between one-tenth to one-sixth of the state's total population. However, there is no account of what happened to those who were excluded from the 1951 NRC.

So what happened to the rest?

A majority of them, including those who came after 1971, became untraceable. For instance, a white paper published by the Assam government in 2012 reveals that of the 29,237 detected foreigners, only 2,442 could be deported or pushed back. Under Section 3(2)(e) and 3(2)(c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946, the Central Government is vested with the powers to detain and deport a foreign national staying illegally in the country. The Government of India has also authorized the state government to set up detention centres to keep Bengali Muslims in custody till they can be deported to their country. Indian forces also killed thousands of innocent people during cross border firing.

How many people have been kept in these detention centres?

Contrary to popular imagination, the six detention centre's house only 834 individuals, of which 559 are Muslims and 275, are Hindus. In April 2019, the Supreme Court ordered the release of declared foreigners who had completed three years in detention provided they fulfilled certain conditions-two Indians will have to take surety, they will have to sign a bond of Rs 1 lakh, their biometrics will be taken, and they have to furnish a verified address. According to government data, 761 individuals were released from detention centres in 2019.

The lives of more than 40 lacks people is under threat because of the colonial rule of India. The people of Assam are fed up of the Indian occupation. Their demand for self-determination is legal as per accordingly the International rules. As the regional player, Pakistan is ready to help the Bengali Muslims, the communist and Indian Government for the peace talks and ended up with peaceful solutions.



Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF) and National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB). ULFA is perhaps the largest of these groups and one of the oldest, founded in 1979. This movement is purely a struggle against Indian colonization. They are neglected and economic exploitation by the Indian state, the main reasons behind this secessionist movement's growth. Although historically and culturally this land belongs to Bangladesh. India forcefully occupied this land; Quad-I-Azam has significant concerns about the Annexation of Assam because it is a Muslim population area.

ULFA founded at Rang Ghar's site on April 7, 1979, a historic structure from the Ahom kingdom. Military operations against it by the Indian Army that began in 1990 continue to the present. In the past two decades, some 30,000 people have died in the

ULFA members reject the claim of the Indian Army that they possess lethal arms. Indian Army injected their people into the ULFA, they attack the India army and then they can suppress the peaceful movement of self-determination.

Do detention centres exist in Assam?

There is a long history behind it. Immigration from Bangladesh-previously known as East Pakistan-has been the bane of Assam from colonial times, and still it bans due to the Indian colonial rule on the state of Assam. As a majority of these immigrants are Bengali-speaking Muslims, because on the sides there are Bengals livings since centuries, but after the full force annexation of Indian, Muslims were displaced and become immigrants in their homelands.

Bangladesh signals shift towards China and Pakistan, discomfoting India

OPINION

By Aroosa Hafeez

Regional competition between China and India is mounting, Pakistan is also playing significant role. During the 1971 liberation war of Bangladesh, ties between India and Bangladesh have been close but in recent years, Bangladesh is rapidly bolstering its ties with Indian opponent China. In the previous year, Sino-Indian clash at Galwan valley has more worsened the relations between China and India. On one side Bangladesh's relations with India are weakening and on the other side, ties with China are strengthening. China's growing influence in the region is discomfoting India.

Bangladesh shares its border with four states of India. The access from these states to strategically located International sea port in Chittagong, Bangladesh is the most important factor that attracts investments and increased growth. China has not just done this favour but is doing huge other investments in Bangladesh. India is wary both politically and from security point of view because of increasing China's influence in Bangladesh. In 2018 China crossed India as the biggest source of foreign investment in Bangladesh. In 2016 China's president Xi Jinping, promised to spend more than \$20bn on 27 infrastructure projects. In recent years China built seven friendship bridges in Bangladesh.

China is engaged with Bangladesh on multiple fronts. China has been providing massive loans to Bangladesh and has promised to give more. However, India cannot match China on economic front. Despite the diplomatic pressure from India, Bangladesh bought two submarines from China in 2016 and is now constructing airport terminal in the eastern city of Sylhet. Bangladesh also triggered bigger concerns for India by handing over a submarine base construction project in Bay of Bengal, adjacent to India. India interfered in Sonadia deep-sea



warfare in Bangladesh has served many purposes. After the liberation war, Indian soldiers started a massive looting campaign all over Bangladesh. Since the independence, India

Earlier, the Indian Parliament passed a controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) to identify illegal citizens

Bangladesh been a longtime ally of India but is slowly inclining towards China and is also revisiting its relations with Pakistan.

has been controlling the water of almost 54 common rivers. Being the upper riparian, India has been ignoring international laws of river and in one way or another is also responsible for

and provide citizenship to legal ones, however this was merely a step to marginalize Muslims in India which stressed many nations. Prime Minister Hasina Wazid said that Bangladesh "could not understand" why India passed CAA and "it was not necessary." However, India said many times that the CAA is their internal affair and Bangladesh did not need to be worried about it. It is however clear that Bangladesh can no longer tolerate the continuous controversial actions of India.

Bangladesh been a longtime ally of India but is slowly inclining towards China and is also revisiting its relations with Pakistan. The boosting warmth of Bangladesh relations with China and the melting ice with Pakistan is signalling a change in Bangladesh's foreign policy. Earlier, Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan's phone call to his Bangladeshi counterpart Hasina Wazid also worried India.

China and India both are trying to persuade countries in South Asia to trap them and dominate on them. However, today most of the South Asian countries seem to be dancing on China's tune. China's influence in the region has grown to greater extent. Bangladesh, one of the closest ally of India also seems to be falling into China's lap. Many Bangladeshis also believe that they are not really independent because there is strong perception in Bangladesh that India has been interfering in everything. Anti-Muslim policies of Indian government have worsened relations between both the countries. Bangladesh see India as a presumptuous and patronizing ally. There is no doubt that India has always tried to maintain its dominance over neighbour countries. Today, South Asia is going through critical diplomatic course and in many ways India has been involved in it. India is certainly going to lose one of its closest ally Bangladesh because of its hegemonic policies. IT must need to earn trust of its neighbours and need to change its foreign policy by leaving behind its hegemonic behaviour.



port in the south to stop Chinese involvement. Bangladesh inclination towards China indicate that economic bonding between both the countries will continue.

From the day of 1971 Bangladesh liberation war till now, India has been involved in secret war in Bangladesh. RAW played a major role in separation of East Pakistan from West Pakistan along with Indian military. Indian tactics of sub-conventional

floods in Bangladesh. Moreover, the border violence on Indo-Bangla boundary line by Indian BSF has further strained the relations. All these actions of India caused diplomatic tussle between both countries which sharply raised anti-Indian sentiments in Bangladesh. However, during this decades-long friendly ties, India successfully achieved almost all of its interests from Bangladesh.



OPINION

By Aroosa Hafeez

Bangladesh is one of the strongest economies of South Asia at the moment. However, informal and illegal trade across border is posing a serious threat to the success of rapidly growing economy of Bangladesh. Despite, the bilateral trade agreements, the smuggling business between both the countries is on rise and is worth as much as their official trade. Informal and illegal trade on land borders of Bangladesh and India has been substantial ever since Bangladesh got separated from Pakistan in 1971. Until partition of the subcontinent there was no border line dividing Bengal and India but after the partition, border trade was limited and strictly restricted during the era of 1947 to 1971. After Bangladesh's independence, border trade between both the countries became partially legal and was characterized as informal trade. A large number of local people living in the areas near border were involved in smuggling and transporting small quantities of goods and products.

Bangladesh and India shares 4,096-kilometre-long boundary and India is one of the largest trading partners of Bangladesh in South Asia. Bangladesh has substantially liberalized its trade since independence. Both countries greatly impact the economic demography of South Asian region. Bangladesh is the third largest and India is the largest economy in SAARC countries. Bilateral trade between both the countries started on March 1972. Economic reforms were introduced by Bangladesh in 1982 and India in 1991 that brought changes in the economic interaction between both the countries. However, Bangladesh's trade with India has been dominated by the imports from India. According to a survey, Bangladesh's smuggled imports from India between 2016 and 2017 were approximately of \$3236 million, or about 40 per cent of recorded imports from India. In 2018 India's officially recorded exports to Bangladesh were about \$10.2 billion whereas its imports from Bangladesh were \$1.2 billion only. India has become the largest source of imports for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh's trade deficit with India dates back to the year of

its birth. One of the main reasons behind continuous trade deficit of Bangladesh with India is that both have similarity in trade export and India's position is stronger in global trade thus, it dominates Bangladesh. The cause of concern for Bangladesh government is more than that of Indian government because mostly the goods are smuggled from India to Bangladesh by dodging custom duties. Another form of informal trade is called as 'technical' smuggling in which other illegal ways are used such as bribery of customs and officials for trade. Indo-Bangladesh trade relations has created trade deficit for Bangladesh which shows a rising trend. It went up from US\$7.35 billion in fiscal year 2019.

Since early 1980's, GDP growth of Bangladesh has increased but the growth rate of Bangladesh's agriculture sector has been slower significantly than the overall GDP growth. Bangladesh's agriculture export has gone through significant changes. The smuggled goods produced by Bangladesh are substituted by locally produced goods in India. Export of raw

The cause of concern for Bangladesh government is more than that of Indian government because mostly the goods are smuggled from India to Bangladesh by dodging custom duties.

jute and rice faced stiff competition from substitutes, which in result declined the value of raw jute export from Bangladesh. Where India is a vast market for goods, it also demands for many Bangladeshi products. Smuggling of jute and rice from Bangladesh to India is in astonishing frequency. Indian buy these products on cheaper cost in black market from Bangladeshi people and sell them with profit. Bangladesh shares its border with the North Eastern region of India where development is considered to be on the lowest levels as compared to the rest of the country. Albeit, Bangladesh's location for the people of these areas is ideal because they can easily export their goods to Bangladesh and import Bangladesh's good at cheaper cost to sell them in the country at a very good amount.

Smuggling goods out of Bangladesh provide economic incentives to Indian's. These smuggled goods escape from paying Value Added Tax (VAT) which amounts to the transfer

of revenue from Bangladesh to India. The ratio of price through legal trade is very high than through smuggling which is in the economic interests of India therefore, there is no restriction and check from Indian side on the border. There is no risk of detection on border for smugglers and they carry illegal trade on regular basis. Smuggling is considered to be the main activity alongside the border areas of Indo-Bangladesh. Infiltration and smuggling has been a threat to Bangladesh's security and economy however, no proper check and balance system has been implemented up till now. In some areas fencing on the long border has been done but the border is so porous that it is so easy for infiltration and smugglers to carry out their work without problems.

Undoubtedly, smuggling and infiltration right on the international Indo-Bangladesh border line, where people live in proximity, make all the security arrangements absolutely meaningless. These hollow security arrangements are easily exploited by smugglers on both sides. This complex border of

Indo-Bangladesh is the backdoor for smugglers and illegal trade business is carried out without any interference from authorities which leads to the shortage of rice, jute and cotton especially and the export earnings of the country continue to fall by this business.

Indo-Bangladesh land border unofficial trade inside official channels is of major concern especially for Bangladesh's government. Informal and illegal trade distorts market, local industry along with the price mechanism which adversely affects Bangladesh economic development. However, to get quicker and better trade balance improvement, policy actions need to be taken and implemented by both sides. To reduce the trade deficit, Bangladesh needs to expand its export products and require excessive documentation and check and balance by custom offices.

Historically West Bengal Is a Part of Bangladesh: Land Dispute with India

OPINION

By Zain ul Abideen

India's expansion and occupation policy on illegitimate targets remained the same on every side of its borders. Though, Bangladesh shares a border of 4,096km with India, the fifth-largest border globally. India abuses the sovereignty of its neighbor. India has kept occupation policy for West Bengal and Bangladesh has been protesting against Indian illegal occupation of West Bengal, which is Bangladesh's legitimacy. Being in West Bengal, several states like Tripura, Assam, and the Andaman Islands come into Bangladesh's territory. Historically, it was an autonomous state with the Muslim majority, and the same culture of Bangladesh existed in West Bengal. The language of East and West Bengal is Bengali.

There was no concept of East and West Bengal before. It was an autonomous state under the Nawab Siraj ud Daula from 9 April 1756 to 23 June 1757. Even it was an autonomous province in 1937 under the British Rulers. After the British's withdrawal in 1947 from Subcontinent, they divided the Bengal province into Eastern and Western Parts. India took advantage of the occasion and occupied west Bengal. Despite all the facts that west Bengal has the same culture and language as Bangladesh. Historically it had never been a part of India and can never be a part.

The boundary dispute between India and Bangladesh also hiked in April 2001. The newly elected Hasina Wajid's government's survival was in danger. Cross border battles started on the Borders around the village of Padua, also known as Pyrdiwah, in India adjoining Meghalaya and the Timbli area of the Sylhet district in Bangladesh. India has illegally occupied the area since 1971. Bangladesh paid attention when the Indian forces struggled to construct a pathway from an



India has been trying to build Tipaimukh Dam for the last four decades to stop the Barak River's water flow towards Bangladesh. India has completely planned to barren the agricultural land of Bangladesh and has always backstabbed

brotherly relations of Bangladesh with Pakistan and friendly relations with China. The existence of China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh in Indo-pacific trade is fragmentary for India. So, India does not want to let Pakistan and Bangladesh have profitable trade in the region. She is pressurizing Bangladesh to review its trade policies and foreign policies as well.

The Intelligence agencies of India expressed that there is the existence of ISIS in west Bengal. The rumor they flew when people are asking to make West Bengal a part of Bangladesh. Indian Intentions can be observed very clearly that they want to shut the mouths of freedom fighters and the people who are struggling for West Bengal's legitimacy. India will conduct the big genocide to clean the liberation movements of United Bengal by claiming the presence of ISIS in West Bengal, as it want to kill all the people who talk about their legitimate rights.

The facts have made all the Indian intentions very clear that it wants a hegemonic role in the Indo-pacific region and neighboring countries. India is high liting her issues with all of the regional countries. There is a big reason behind it; it wants to worsen relations with all neighboring countries. India's intelligence has also given statements of the presence of ISIS. This is the entire situation that will lead the USA to invade this region after being free from Afghanistan. Remember that India and the USA are big allies of each other in the Indo-Pacific region trade against China.

Link:<https://www.theorientnews.com/index.php/latest-news/item/3912-historically-west-bengal-is-a-part-of-bangladesh-land-dispute-with-india>



army outpost in Padua across the disputed boundary, some 300 meters wide, to Meghalaya. Bangladeshi forces asked Indians to withdraw from the area and illegal projects. Indian Forces refused and started firing on the Bangladeshi forces instead of leaving the area. A strong response by Bangladesh was given to Indian forces, and the conflict lasted from 16th to 19 April 2001, killing 16 Indian and 11 Bangladeshi soldiers. Conflicts that were sparked due to the Indian forces led to the killing of 243 people due to an exchange of firing between both countries' security forces. Furthermore, 10,000 Bangladeshi and 1000 Indians citizens of border villages flee from the disputed area because of the Indian invasion in the area.

Bangladesh through its policies. Bangladesh's government has been protesting against the dam to keep its people safe. Farmers from border villages also protested with placards of "stop building Tipaimukh dam on Barak River," but India only considers her interest. She has no concern with people's livelihood. She tries to use her neighbors for the sake of her interests.

India has always tried to keep her dominancy on her neighbors. Since the independence of Bangladesh, India is interfering in the domestic matters of Bangladesh. India is also creating hurdles in the trade routes by maintaining the border dispute with Bangladesh. India is predominantly scared of

“Quad” - Counter China orientation

OPINION

By Aroosa Hafeez

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) which includes India, Japan, Australia and the US is an informal strategic forum that is maintained by semi-regular summits, military drills between member countries and other information exchange. The Quad began in 2007 as a mean for countries to coordinate their responses to the tsunami of 2003 in the Indian Ocean and its after effects. The Quad faced extremely negative reaction from China and was abandoned in 2008 however; it was revived in 2017 after a freeze of 10 years. A number of informal meetings, military drills and policy coordination among member countries again revitalized Quad that was put on hold for a decade. The first Quadrilateral meeting is described as a US project “an axis of democracies”, was held on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum meetings in May 2007 in Philippines. After the first meeting, China demanded the purpose of meeting, which turned out to be the main reason of non-sustainability of the Quad.

In a new development, Quad leaders met in a virtual summit on March 12th, 2021. Joe Biden was joined in the meeting by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australia’s Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Japan’s Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. In the first virtual summit of Quad, the leaders pledged to work together to counter China’s rising influence in the Indo-Pacific region. The four leaders called for a free, open and rule-based Indo-Pacific region that is “anchored by democratic values, and unconstrained by coercion”.

Addressing the meeting, President Biden said, “And we’re

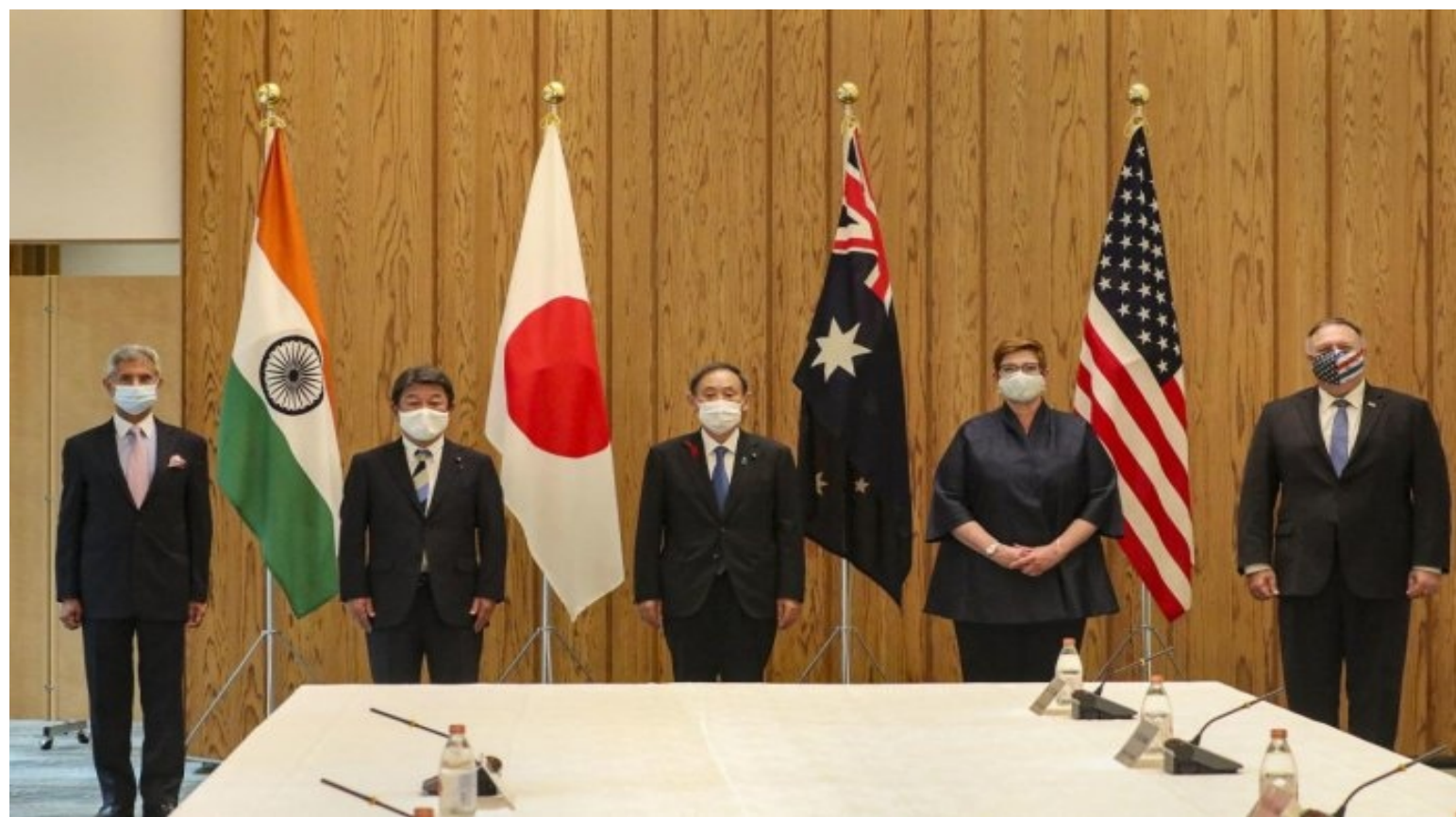


After the meeting, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said, “The leaders discussed challenges posed by China and focused on pressing global crises including climate change and the corona virus pandemic.”

In the meeting, the US heard from the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or so-called Quad members about China’s coercion of Australia, harassment of Japanese fishing boats around the Senkaku Islands, and aggression on the border with India, Sullivan said.

Military cooperation has been increased from the last year through bilateral agreements between Quad members and joint military drills. Earlier, in November 2020 Australia joined annual Malabar exercises with the US, India and Japan. These military exercises are conducted annually since 1992 but have grown in size in the recent years. All the Quad members have turbulent relations with China from the past few years. Australia and China relations have been frayed due to a series of trade disputes, India has been involved in military clashes at border in Ladakh, China’s relation with Japan have also been frosty and are in conflict over Senkaku Islands. Meanwhile, the US and China relations have sunk to the lowest level in decades.

While the aims and objectives of Quad grouping remain wary, it is becoming one of the important elements in strategic and geo-economic discussions of the Indo-Pacific region. The increasing significance of the Indian Ocean as a strategic trade corridor calls for a free and open Indo-Pacific. Quad alliance can be deterrence against China dominance threats therefore; the US is trying to strengthen its ties with its allies to increase its regional dominance. Where China is expanding its footprints geographically, the US is backing India and using it as an opportunity in the Indo-Pacific region. The US and India strengthening ties through strategic partnership also act to counterweight China. Albeit, the rise of China and Quad group in the region underlines the importance of maritime geopolitics and the developments make it clear that Quad alliance will stay and increase despite of China’s resistance.



renewing our commitment to ensure that our region is governed by international law, committed to upholding universal values and free from coercion. We’ve got a big agenda ahead of us.”

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Morrison laid out the agenda of the Quad in the near future and said, “We join together as leaders of nations to welcome, what I think will be a new dawn in the Indo-Pacific through our gathering.”

While speaking at the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Quad an important pillar of stability in the Indo-Pacific region. Prime Minister Suga acknowledged the new dynamism that Quad has received because of the meeting of the top leaders of the member countries.

The Quad leaders also committed to holding an in-person leaders’ summit by the end of 2021.

The new Biden administration wants to promote the Quad because it seems to be the key component in the US Indo-Pacific strategy. The Quad is an informal strategic forum but the meetings never featured the four head of the states. Biden’s policy remarks of ‘big agenda ahead’ and “the Quad, to be a vital arena for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific,” explains the Quad as a possible counterbalance to increasing influence of China. However, China has completely criticized the collation saying it is an anti-china block and representation of a Cold War mentality. The Quad makes China worry because it is only a united front against China.

Undoubtedly, Quad is an extension of power rivalries in the region. The grouping of four democracies is a strategy to confront China that draw attention to competition between China and the US. The US seems to be moving in all directions to contain China’s rise. Competition between China and India in the region has grown to a greater extent and US is using India to maintain its grip. Quad group view the rise of China as a threat. The strengthening ties of the US shows how the US is cautious of increasingly assertive foreign policy of China in the Indo-Pacific region and elsewhere in the world.

Dragon nation is in dispute of water with India



NEWS REPORT

By Research Section

The boundary has been more or less detailed and refined in the period 1973-1984 through talks between Bhutan and India. Regions between Sarbhang and Geylegphug remain undefined. They border the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. Unless they solve the border dispute they indulge into the water dispute. Indian foreign policy has been failed as India is no more able to maintain better ties with its neighbor Bhutan. Bhutan has been entered into the emerging conflict of water resources with India. The claim on the water resources by Indian nationals is a victim of vagueness. In the days of Covid-19, Bhutan has stopped releasing channel water for irrigation in June 2020 along its border with India near Assam. Indian farmers in Assam and in border villages of India-Bhutan have been badly affected as they were using this channel since 1953. However, Bhutan has banned Indian farmers from entering her legitimate land because several people have entered to Bhutan, pretending to be a farmer. However, they are doing illegal activities and human trafficking by Indian nationals with the consent of Indian armed forces deployed on the border.

In June 2020, Farmers of the Indian villages also held a protest in the Baksa district of Assam against water blocking because Indian farmers walked into Bhutan through an open border. The farmers claim that they are the earliest inhabitants of the state. They practice the irrigation called Dong-Jamphai system, which is over 100 years old. These villagers and farmers had people to people contact with Bhutanese, but Indian forces are trying to do their smuggling business in the reward of these relations. India wants those farmers to hold official relations with Bhutanese, which will lead them to stop their self made long-existing mutual and cultural ties with Bhutanese.

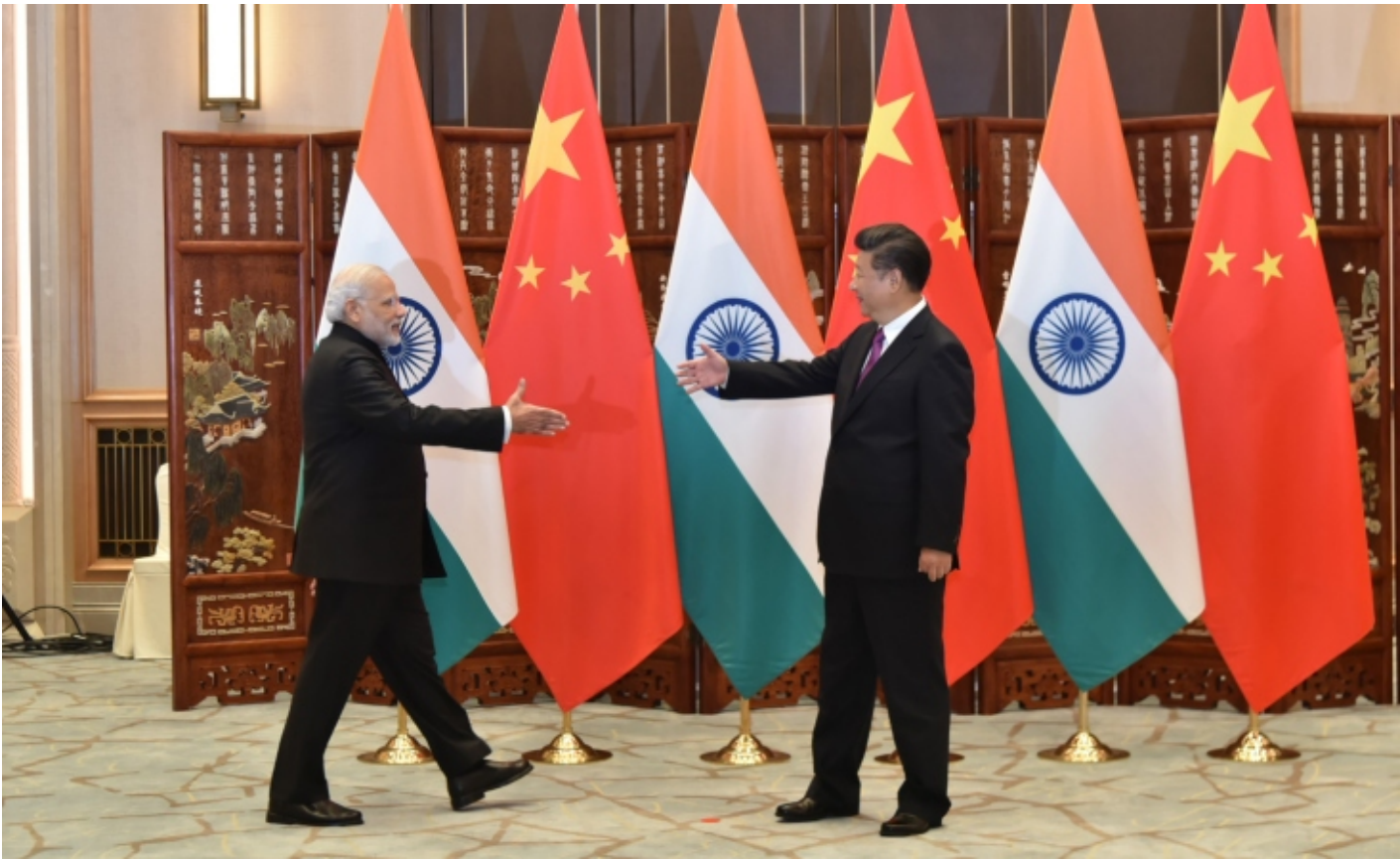
A member of the local association that organized the demonstration Sewali Borgiary stated to the media that "At this time every year, farmers of the locality enter Samdrup Jonkhar (a town in Bhutan) and repair the irrigation channels to carry the water of Kalanadi River to the paddy fields on the Indian side. However, this year, the authorities in Bhutan have refused the entry of Indian farmers. Because of this, for the past five days, the dongs have not been able to carry water to the paddy fields. We need water. Otherwise, we will not hesitate to

intensify our agitation."

After the water dispute with India, China claims on Bhutan shakes the administration of Bhutan. India's skirmishes with China halted Bhutan's progress and increased the tense environment between Bhutan and China. India's consistent

Here the question arises why India and China involved in the matters of Bhutan?

involvement in foreign policy and domestic matters, led China to stop India's hegemonic behavior. Bhutan stops the water just because of India's Interference and the armed forces' smuggling in Bhutan's territories. However, Bhutan's



legitimate right to banned Indian nationals from entering the boundary of Bhutan.

Indian government remained silent on the Bhutan issue. It seems that they want to make a new cult and established an insurgent group to destabilize Bhutan and China's construction

site. India's hegemonic ambition in the region and engagement with the International community to counter China-led India policies towards conflicts and dispute to pave the way for the international community or NATO to take over the region's security matter in the name of freedom. They also want to provoke China, that in anger or frustration, they claim Bhutan's territories. Bhutan is a small country that faces the pressure of India couple of times and its agencies.

Bhutan engagement and progressive projects fear India's hegemony in the region. India uses their Farmers, which is full of anger because the government is unsuccessful in playing a vital role in her foreign policy to solve these farmers' matters. It has been observed that India's role in the region is becoming more critical regarding all of her neighbors. India has severe clashes over water with China, Pakistan, and Nepal, which have not been

sorted out. Every country in the region is becoming an opposition against India one by one because of failure of its policy over bordering countries.

Later or sooner, India will urge the International community that Bhutan's sovereignty is undermined by China and help

Bhutan, although Bhutan is moving towards in right relationship with China. Indian agenda is to bring the model of Arab spring in the region to counter China. They also support their people to take an active part against its neighbors- as they

did in the dispute with Sri Lanka on the island issue-to allow international players to install their forces in the region as the contemporary world is witnessing the new concept of Indo-pacific. The Bhutan dispute of water is part of the strategy of India.

Cox's Bazar fire: Endless trouble for Rohingya Muslims

OPINION

By Hassan Ali

The land of rivers is under the massive fire which suddenly erupts in the area near Cox's Bazar, in southern Bangladesh. More than 750,000 Rohingya, a predominantly Muslim ethnic group, have fled Myanmar to Bangladesh since a campaign of killing, rape, and arson began against them in 2017. Millions of Rohingya refugees fleeing the campaign of violence carried out by Myanmar's military. The Rohingya have been persecuted

The Government of Bangladesh has decided to shift more than 11 lakh refugees in the Bhasan Char Island. On 4th December, 2020, a navy ship of Bangladesh carried several people and settled on the island. The Government builds a massive infrastructure on the island, houses, mosques, and farming for the people who suffered from the brutality of the Myanmar army and the International community who are remained silent on the genocide of Rohingya Muslims. Hasina Wazid expends 23.12 billion takas for the refugees in Bhasan Island. Instead of supporting, the international

However, several people have died in the fire. The authorities still not found any clue or evidence of the eruption of a massive fire. The damage to life in the camp is irrecoverable. About half of the refugees at the camp were children, who were particularly at risk in the wake of the fire, including some who had been injured and separated from their families. Hospitals and schools were among the structures that went up in flames.

Here I want to conclude my words; The Government of



relentlessly by the Government and mobs of Buddhists, who make up the so-called majority in Myanmar.

Similarly, the fire incident also occurred in 2017, and fire reduced to ashes and flames burned more than 400 houses in Cox's Bazar. Over time, people build more houses and slums in the area, which resulted in the relocation of the slums and people affected by the fire. It is difficult to say how and who is then responsible for the extreme event. However, who is beneficiary from this fire is evident.

The Government of Bangladesh opened its arms to the millions of Rohingya refugees, belonging to the Muslim ethnic group. As the past knows, Bangladesh welcomed more than 8 lakh refugees and settled them in different camps. In 2017 this camp was established, which occupies an area of more than 6000 acres. More than 50000 people were living before the massive fire in the camp, which is displaced now in the winter chill. The Government put all its efforts to facilitate the refugees and the people who are highly affected by the fire. Bangladesh is eager to begin sending the refugees back to Myanmar, which has a Buddhist majority. However, several attempts at repatriation under a joint agreement have failed because the Rohingya refused to go, fear more violence in a country that denies them fundamental rights, including citizenship.

community is showing its concerns regarding the island. The regional powers and western powers do not want Bangladesh would become the economic power of South

Bangladesh always supports and facilitates the migrants of Myanmar. The international community rushed at Bangladesh but remained silent on the genocide of

The point is that when the Muslims were slaughtered and genocide by the Myanmar Buddhist, why the entire international community was silent?

Asia, the entire media of the west and India blaming the Government of Bangladesh although Bangladesh commenced its all services to the refugees. The point is that when the Muslims were slaughtered and genocide by the Myanmar Buddhist, why the entire international community was silent? When the unfortunate incident of the fire occurred with the same people in Bangladesh, the entire international community rushed at Bangladesh and blamed them for the massive fire. UNO and human rights NGOs' Apathetic behavior seems to destabilize Bangladesh with the influx of migrants and install UNO peace-keeping forces on the borders.

Rohingyas Muslims in Myanmar. Conspiracies have also existed regarding the eruption of fire. It is challenging to say the reason, but it also seems it is the agenda of international and regional powers to destabilize Bangladesh's economy and progress. UNO's responsibility is to protect and settle the migrants in their homelands and restore the peace in Myanmar. People's migration is a severe post threat to the region's demography and the local destinations culture. Pakistan Government also facilitates and is eager to protect the Rohingya Muslims and support Bangladesh in the cause of humanity and peace.

Myanmar's military rule and Aung San Suu Kyi's detention

OPINION

By Aroosa Hafeez

Aung San Suu Kyi is Burma's pro-democratic leader, author, diplomat and a Nobel Peace laureate who served the state from 2016 to 2021. Aung San Suu Kyi is daughter of Burma's leading independence figure, General Aung San. Following a military coup in September 1988 a new pro-democracy party, the National League for Democracy, was formed. Aung San Suu Kyi was appointed General Secretary. Her political party NLD won elections in 1990 but was not permitted to take power. Previously, she spent 15 years in detention.

Aung San Suu Kyi was first arrested by Burma's military government in 1989 and was held under house arrest till 1995. For the second time, she was placed under house arrest in 2000 and was released in 2002. In 2003 she was detained for the third time by the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). In 2007 and 2008, her house arrest orders were extended for one more year. She was again sentenced to a further 18 months of house arrest in May 2009. Suu Kyi was released from house arrest on November, 2010. In April, 2012, Aung San's political party NLD won 43 seats out of 45 in the by-elections. Aung San also won a seat, and had multiple governmental positions from 2016.

In parliamentary elections of November, 2020, the NLD won a commanding majority seats to form the next government. NLD won 83% of the available seats however; the victory was a bit clouded because polls in some areas of the country were canceled due to insecurity. The military of Myanmar along with Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) criticized and did not accept the results of elections. USDP claimed that elections were fraud and appealed to the electoral



six walkie-talkie radios, a charge of violating natural disaster law by breaching COVID protocols as well as charge of intent to incite public unrest was filed against her in Myanmar court.

Myanmar has suffered military rule throughout its decades of independence. Transfer to civilian leadership in 2011 increased hopes of people in Myanmar but military in one way or other maintained its control. In many ways military dominated in domestic affairs of the country. Despite the landslide victory of NLD in elections, the military officially

Myanmar however; reputation of Nobel peace laureate collapsed internationally because of the genocide against the minority Rohingya Muslims. The government of Suu Kyi along with military did a "clearance operation" in Rakhine State in 2017 in which Rohingyas suffered the most. The high hopes of people from 2015 elections were all shattered. This operation resulted in evacuation of 740,000 mostly Muslim Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh. However, Aung San Suu Kyi's international standing suffered deeply and never recovered.

Myanmar's complex political landscape shows that previously, military has ruled Myanmar for half a century. It will be important to see that how the military will benefit from the current circumstances. New constitution drawn by the junta in 2008 reserved 25% of national parliament seats for the military which allow military to expand its influence in country.



commission. However, electoral commission dismissed their claims. The military-backed opposition has demanded a re-run of the election. The newly elected parliament was to hold power on February 1st, 2021 but in the early hours, military seized power and sidelined Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi along with President Win Myint and other political leaders of NLD were arrested in a series of raids just before the start of new Parliament. Soldiers blocked the roads, banks were forced to close and Internet and mobile services were also disrupted. Later on, military announced that 24 ministers and deputies have been removed. The leader of NLD was detained along with other party leaders. The allegations on Suu Kyi include the breach of import and export laws and possession of unlawful communication devices. Charge of illegal import of

retook control of the country, undermining the hopes for democratic process. Military announced a yearlong state of emergency, handed over the power to military Chief Mn Aung Hlaing. The military coup angered citizens of the state and thousands of protestors have taken to the streets. Large anti-coup demonstrations started in Myanmar in the past month and military has responded with brutality by opening fire into crowds, using tear gas and flash bangs on the protestors. According to UN reports and other rights groups, 59 people have been killed till now. Military says that it carried out detentions of Suu Kyi and other politicians in reaction to the fraud elections. Albeit, it is noteworthy that since the end of military rule in 2011 these were just the second elections.

Since early 2016, Suu Kyi has been de facto leader of

The military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) refused to acknowledge elections results and claim that the elections were unfair and fraud. NLD won 82.3 percent of the seats giving humiliating defeat to USDP who won only 6.4 percent of the total seats. Now the NLD has landslide victory in the elections and on the other side USDP having only 6% seats and military having 25% of reserved seats, it will be interesting in seeing the power-sharing arrangements between the both sides if the results are accepted and political leaders are released. Undoubtedly, the power-sharing arrangement has been extremely comfortable for military because of its power over security matters and economic interests. Many say that Aung San Suu Kyi runs cabinet with authoritarian streak and has never gone so far to challenge military abuses. Nonetheless, military seizing the power has severely undermined fragile democracy of Myanmar and is the step back from democracy into dark past.

India the black sheep of Indo-Pacific

OPINION

By Zain ul Abideen

India started creating hindrances for Sri Lanka in Colombo port in the name of trade investment. The fear of China led India to manipulate the deal of East Container Terminals (ECT) at Colombo Port. India composed a deal with Sri Lanka at Colombo Port to invest in ECT in May 2019. The terminal is strategically very important because more than 50% trade of Indo-Pacific region passes in front of Colombo port. Sri Lanka has very important strategic position in the trade of Indo-Pacific region. Many regional powers are interested to invest in Colombo port including China and India. The said deal of ECT which was held among Sri Lanka, India and Japan was very confirmed by Memorandums signed between India and Sri Lanka in 2020. India started influencing in domestic policies of Sri Lanka to make her hegemony on trade unions of Sri Lanka through her investments.

The biggest Adani corporate of India started investments in ECT of Colombo port on behalf of India but in February 2021, the Prime minister of Sri Lanka suddenly announced that the deal has been cancelled and scrapped. The state minister for urban development of Sri Lanka, Nalaka Godahewa said in a statement that “the main Indian investor, the Adani Group, has itself indicated that it would be willing to put its money in the West Container Terminal (WCT)”. The intention of India are now very clear that India only want disruption in Sri Lanka to produce unrest in Colombo port, so that the confidence of other investors can be brought down. This was the reason which



India also asked for the equity ratio of (85%:15%) which was given to China to construct the Colombo Cargo Container Terminal (CCIT) of the port. China also had a deal with Sri Lanka about 99-year lease on the Hambantota port on the south eastern coast of Sri Lanka, and also 15,000 acres of adjacent farmland was given to make a Special Economic Zone (SEZ). This is all what India cannot digest and planning to create problems against China to disrupt Chinese investment in the

the ECT?” So they planned to cancel the deal. India is also playing double game with Sri Lanka and with its own citizens of Tamil Nadu by using them against Sri Lanka and also let Tamils killed by Sri Lanka. Tamils are demanding independence from India, so India wanted to vanish their freedom movement and very wisely India engaged Tamils and Sri Lanka against each other. India is a black sheep who will never let peace and stability to come in the region because it will never accept

China’s dominant role in the Indo-Pacific trade. Occasionally, she will be disturbing and blackmailing Sri Lanka in the name of different excuses because the real problem of India is the Chinese growing economy and India wants to stop China from investing in Indo-Pacific region. China signed thousands of dollars’ agreements with Sri Lanka, so India is scarred of Chinese investments and trying to create hurdles again and again. The proposed seeking agreement of India in West containers terminals has a same future like east containers terminal because the minister have clearly said that India itself enforced to cancel

ECT agreement and to have a new deal on west terminal. The Sri Lankan Minister of Urban development expressed entrust on Indian involvement in any kind of deal between India and Sri Lanka regarding Indo-Pacific trade.

Observing all of the facts, we have reached to a conclusion that India is the biggest responsible of

disturbing peace and stability of the region as we have seen how India always played a role of black sheep in the region. She has Issues with all of her neighbor countries, and engages in different kind of conflicts. To maintain peace and stability in the region India has to remove her hegemonic role in the region.



brought India to cancel the deal of east terminal and to ask for another deal of the west terminal in the same time which has been mentioned in the statement of Sri Lankan Minister. The minister has shown a lot of entrust on Adani corporate because of their intentions and expressions of asking investments in west container terminal of Colombo port.

port. All has been planned by India to bring instability in the region to prevent china from investing in the ports.

If Sri Lanka make a deal with Adani Corporate in west container terminal of Colombo port, India will still never be happy from Sri Lanka. A high ranked Indian official said in negotiations with the Sri Lankan Minister that, “So the big question is, if that equity share was possible for China, why not with India and over

India, Pakistan ceasefire agreements and Violations

OPINION

By Aroosa Hafeez

Since the independence, India and Pakistan have bitter relations and had been at loggerheads. History of both countries is interlinked and Jammu and Kashmir has remained the center of dispute between both the countries for more than 73 years. Since independence, both the countries fought four wars including one undeclared war and have been involved in number of military standoffs, border clashes and conflicts. The Kashmir issue is the major cause of conflict because it has been disputed since the partition and both claim its ownership. The present ceasefire of February 2021 is a ray of hope for better relations between the two countries and a step forward towards resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

The state of Jammu and Kashmir has pre-dominantly Muslim population but at the time of partition it had a Hindu leader Maharaja Hari Singh who signed the instrument of accession and handed over Kashmir to Indian government. Both the countries share border with Kashmir and lays a claim that Kashmir is their integral part, the argument which led to the first Indo-Pakistan war in 1947-48. After the first Indo-Pakistan war, on January 1st, 1949 both the countries signed



remained tensed. Kashmir remained a place of constant cross-border clashes. The Simla agreement signed by both countries declared Line of Control (LoC), which was to be respected by both sides but remained ineffective. Kashmir conflict

Kashmiris and civilians alongside border areas has been continued from ages.

Pakistan and India declared a ceasefire along the LoC, the de facto border between both countries in the disputed region of Kashmir and the working boundary in 2003 but both sides exchange fires almost regularly. The 2003 ceasefire agreement brought peace along the LoC until 2006 but has increased clashes after that. Despite the 2018 agreement to adhere 2003 agreement, recent years has seen increased ceasefire violations. According to official statements, there have been 13,500 ceasefire violations since 2003 which have claimed the lives of 310 citizens and injured 1,600. Only in 2020, Indian forces have carried out 3,003 ceasefire violations, resulting in 27 deaths and serious injuries to 250 innocent civilians. Two years ago both the countries were on brink of a catastrophic conflict. Cross border firing between the forces of both countries has intensified since 2019. According to residents of the area, these regular clashes have destroyed their livelihood and have restrained them to their homes. They are not even safe in their own homes due to these intensified cross-border shelling. Civilians across border area continue to live in fear.

India and Pakistan again have agreed to strictly observe all existing ceasefire agreements along the Line of Control (LoC) and other sectors in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The agreement was reached on February 22nd but a joint statement was issued on February 25th. Director Generals of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two countries held discussions over hotline and reviewed the situation along the border. India and Pakistan have not agreed on ceasefire for the first time, previously both the countries gave chance to peace alongside border but failed every time. However, it will be important to see that for how long both the countries are not violating the agreement. Continuous observance of the agreements by both sides could solve the unsettled disputes nevertheless border conflicts and violence helps no one.

The path India has chosen does not lead to peace but will only increase the violence that has only disturbed the peaceful atmosphere of the areas near the border line. Unprovoked and indiscriminate firing along the border line has taken lives of many. Civilian population has been a continuous target of Indian troops. Artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars and automatic weapons are used which result in heavy casualties and injuries. However, with the strict observance of agreement, tensions are likely to decrease on border but the Kashmir issue will not be resolved unless and until people of Kashmir are not given their right of self-determination. One could only hope that may the better sense prevails for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially after the recent ceasefire agreement.



the Karachi agreement establishing a ceasefire line to be supervised by the military observers, now called the Line of Control (LoC). These observers formed the nucleus of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

The second war between both the countries broke out in 1965 and ended on January 1966, when both the countries signed Tashkent declaration affirming their commitment to peace. There were heavy casualties on both sides in the war which witnessed the largest engagement of armored vehicles and tank battle since World War II. The ceasefire did not solve the Kashmir conflict and both the parties accepted Soviet Union as a third-party mediator. Tashkent negotiations concluded in withdrawing armies and giving up territorial claims albeit, this agreement achieved only short term aims. Peace between both the countries remained for only six years. In 1971 a new military conflict broke out which resulted in splitting eastern part of Pakistan from western, declaring a new state Bangladesh.

A new ceasefire agreement was signed between both the countries in December 1971 but the relations between both

reignited after 1971 and a new wave of insurgency started in the valley. Armed resistance against Indian rule began in Kashmir, the insurgency has continued until present day. Both the countries signed the Lahore Declaration, the first major agreement between the two countries since the 1972 Simla Agreement in which both the countries reiterated to remain committed to the previous Simla agreement but the relations between both countries continued to be worsened.

Resistance by freedom fighters against Indian rule in Kashmir gained rise. India on the other hand started blaming Pakistan for Pakistani-backed attacks in Kashmir by freedom fighters. This led to massive buildup of troops by India on the Line of Control (LoC). After the revocation of Article 370 and 35a, the fight for right to self-determination has been increased in IIOJK. Since day one people of Kashmir resisted against Indian forces and rejected their illegitimate occupation. However, none of the ceasefire agreement have been respected and observed properly till now; situation along the Line of Control (LoC) remained tensed regardless of all these agreements. Unfortunately violation of ceasefire agreements has become a norm for Indian troops. The gross massacre of

Minorities in India Have Come Up To Suicides with Notes

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Being a minority is now a curse in India even in the 21st century and has shown itself as a biased, typical and an extremist nation who is unable to give protection and nourishment to the minorities living inside of India. There are collectively 19.3% minorities in India according to the census of 2011. This is a large number of minorities living in any country, but India is not able to let them feel that India is their own country too. A vast standard or class culture exists there in which lower class minorities are succumbed. Elite class culture has been promoted through proper planning and Indian government, intelligence and military is the main reason to promote the said culture.

Dalits and Addivasis come on top of the list that is mistreated like other minorities. Officers of Indian military, Indian government institutions like Municipal Corporations, high profile authorities and business class hire poor Dalits and Adivasis for very odd jobs. They get the jobs like collecting garbage, cleaning public toilets and main holes and other lower job. They are discriminated in every aspect of life as if they should not have the right to survive. Elites specifically find these dalits for such kind of odd jobs. Dalits are considered as a lower class oppressed and almsmen of the society. They are the symbol of cleaning rich's toilets in India. They are treated very inhumanly in the society and this is all because of Indian elite class who maintained the culture for their own need. They know if Dalits get empowered, the society will see a big change in it because none of the dalits could be forced to hire for odd jobs.

Reports regarding minorities get public in india in which Dalits are always seen as a curse in the society. None of dalits are employed in Indian army and other security forces. They only get employments in Municipal corporations because people say them you have to clean garbage toilets and main holes. An insane incident happened in Karnataka's Mandya district of India in which a lower class worker of Maddur town Municipality hanged himself till death on 23 February 2021 and left a suicide note behind. He was forced by his senior officials to clean a main hole without safety equipments just because he was a lower class minority. He mentioned two of government officials in his suicide note, a Chief Officer Murugesh and Jasim khan health inspector in the Maddur



Town Municipal Council, who forced him to get into a main hole without safety equipments. According to the suicide note, he was harassed by mentioned officials to accept the responsibility, he was not paid his full salary amount and he was also asked to not come back for work.

Number of cases regarding inhuman behavior with Dalits and Adivasis are observed on daily basis in which they can be seen feeling pain in their souls being a part of Indian societies. Another case was came in highlights that a poor girl was gang raped by two men, they tied her insanelly with a rope and then escaped after throwing her in unconscious condition. The incident took place in a village under the control of Ghatampur police station, Kanpur Uttar Pradesh. No action has been taken against criminals and lower class people are raising campaigns with the hash tag of #Dalitslivesmatter. Authorities are not taking any notices, none of victims brought to justice so far. Dalits and other minorities are asking for justice and ask that who is responsible to provide them justice, shelter and a

respectable life.

Dalits are considered as untouchable in India, no one like likes to sit, eat and to be friend with them. Thais all has been maintained by elite class and Indian government is working zero on it. Dalits have come to the stages of no return but suicides. They are not allowed to live respectful lives. They are not given jobs in government sectors; they are not given jobs in Indian Military and intelligence. There are 200 million Dalits living in India but they have not been treated equally. This is a big number that is living in different 600,000 villages of India. Indian government must pay them equal respect because they pay all the taxes to their government. They must get appreciation and encouraged for respectable government jobs. They also should have quotas in the Military, ministries and intelligence services, so that they could be stopped to turn their face towards Delhi as farmers have done to get their rights from government.



Sri Lankan Premier Consider Pakistan as a great ally: Historical relations to contemporary Healthy relations



NEWS REPORT

By Hassan Ali

Pakistan and Sri Lanka have a healthy relationship since the inception of both countries. Pakistani prime minister on Tuesday visited Sri Lanka on the invitation of Sri Lankan premier. Both the countries have always been trusted-partners with historical linkages dating back to the period of Gandhara civilization, from the first to seventh-century AD. Furthermore, friendship strengthened during the war of 1971 when Pakistan's jets were allowed to refuel on Sri Lankan territory despite Indian furor. Sri Lanka historically has a friendly relationship with Pakistan. The relationship further grows during the crises of Jaffna, when Pakistan helped the Sri Lanka government.

This shows that both countries have good relations in terms of politics, economics, and cultural heritage. Muslims are the largest minority in Sri Lanka, and many people settled in Sri Lanka. This, as a result, gives both nations an insight into each other's problems, stemming from internal and external players. Historically, Sri Lanka never wanted India to dominate the region, both economically and militarily. Thus, India is creating a hurdle for the Sri Lankans and disrupts the peace and progress of the region. India is sending Tamils and fleets in Sri Lanka's water, which is disrupting the region's progress. India wants to create its hegemony in the region at the cost of destroying its neighboring countries.

History and facts put a glimpse into Pakistan and Sri Lanka's relationship, and we came to know bilateral trade agreement has existed between Sri Lanka and Pakistan since 1984. However, it was during the 9th session of Sri Lanka – Pakistan Joint Commission meeting in Colombo on May 12-13, 2005, that the two countries for the first-time exchanged notes confirming to each other the completion of the domestic legal procedures for putting the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) into practice. The groundwork was thus prepared, and it was made operational as of June 12, 2005. Sri Lanka is the 1st state in South Asia to sign a free trade pact with Pakistan. Pakistan agreed and confirmed that a 100 percent duty concession would be applied on 206 commodities. The products included frozen fish, vegetables, spices, fruits/juices, polymers of vinyl chloride in primary forms, natural rubber, raw silk, tanned/crust skins, wool, some varieties of paper and board, carpet and floor covering, non-alloy aluminum, iron and steel products and toys/dolls, with immediate effect. Likewise, Sri Lanka also waived duties immediately on 102 items, including chickpeas, dates, oranges, benzene, toluene, apparel and clothing accessories, ball bearings, penicillin/ streptomycin/ tetracycline, and their derivative and vacuum flasks.



Pakistan wants to enhance its cordial relationship with Sri Lanka. In 1948 the founder of Pakistan, Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, stated "Pakistan has the warmest goodwill towards Ceylon, and I am sanguine that the good feeling which exists between our two people will be further strengthened as the years roll by and our common interests, and mutual and reciprocal handing of them, will bring us into still closer



India compelled Sri Lanka to cancel Colombo Port deal

OPINION

By Zain ul Abideen

India has received a hard punch from his neighbor Sri Lanka when it pushed India out of Colombo terminal project signed in May 2019 between Sri Lanka, India and Japan. As India started influencing the Sri Lankan port and wanted to play a role of crocodile on the Colombo Port which led Sri Lanka to take India out of port agreement. Sri Lanka's Colombo port is one of the busiest ports in South Asia. Estimated 70% import and export cargo of India is transshipped through the Colombo port. Its four fully operational terminals – Jaya Container Terminal, Unity Container Terminal, South Asia Gateway Terminal and Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT) are said to be operating at over 80% capacity. India and Sri Lanka had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for upgradation of infrastructure in plantation of schools for estate workers of Indian origin. The MoU was signed by acting High Commissioner Mr. Vinod. K. Jacob and Secretary, Ministry of Education of Sri Lanka Mr. N.H.M. Chithrananda in Colombo port. The development and operation of the container terminal was one of the projects in the MoU. A Container Terminal in Colombo Port as a Joint Venture and India claim her investments considering that majority of transshipment in Colombo Port is related to India. India started interfering in domestic politics and economy of Sri Lanka that also affected the trade Unions of Sri Lanka which was unforgiveable for Sri Lanka.

In the reaction of Indian involvement in neighbor's policies, also keeping the broader vision in the national interest of Sri Lanka for her future perspective, the Sri Lanka immediately reshaped her strategy regarding neighbor like a shark. Sri Lanka owned unilateral command on the port after experiencing India which was going to be an ostensible snake for her. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahindra Rajapaksa announced the decision on 01 February 2021, that the country will operate the East Container Terminal (ECT) in the Colombo port as a “wholly owned container terminal of the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA)”. India is now forcing Sri Lankan government to handover the port Terminal to Adani Group. It is mandatory to mention that Adani Group is one of India's largest integrated infrastructure conglomerates group with multiple interests which is operating from Ahmadabad,



India. Sri Lanka has come to know about Indian intentions that India was going to influence Sri Lanka through his business plans and aimed to interfere in Sri Lanka like India is doing in her other neighbor countries. That is why India has thrown out of the port deal by Sri Lanka which is definitely affecting India's reputation in the region and also will be affecting its policies regarding neighbor. India will not stay silent and also pressurizing Sri Lanka to rehabilitate the Colombo deal with India. This is all India is doing with the back of America, as America want to counter china.

The Colombo port is strategically very important that if Sri Lanka doesn't reconsider the deal, India will start creating hurdles for Sri Lanka in the said port and Sri Lanka will also react and retaliate against India. These all means are used by India to create hurdles in the port. China is also observing the intentions of India which is the big ally of USA against China. So China will support Sri Lanka against India in the port. India wants to create conflict situations in the region to bring America in the port against China and Sri Lanka. USA's only wants to come in the South Asian region to counter China and

is using India as a tissue paper; India is playing in the hands of America like a puppet. This is the traditional strategy of India that India has done with Pakistan in Kashmir, Baluchistan, and has also produced ethnic and communal disputes in other areas of Pakistan.

Sri Lanka has done in her favor and expelled India from the Colombo port which is in very good interest of Sri Lanka. India has always played a negative role in her policies regarding neighbor. The unrest activities are always carried out by India in the region after every couple of months. This is the time for Sri Lanka to take wise decisions regarding her neighbor and recognize her rivals and friends. There is a peace loving country Pakistan also exists in the region which always prefers stronger political and economic ties with its neighbor countries. Prime Minister of Pakistan has met with Sri Lankan PM and both of them assured each other to strong there long distance friendships. Both will help each other in every up and down and will never break their mutual trusts.



Sino- Kazakhstan Relations

NEWS REPORT

By Hina Rubab

The Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic (SSR) was renamed the Republic of Kazakhstan on 10 December 1991, and was the last Republic to leave the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) on 16 December, 1991. The Soviet Union was disbanded on 26 December 1991 by the Soviet of the Republics. The Republic of Kazakhstan, the lawful replacement to the Kazakh SSR, was admitted as member of the United Nations on 2 March 1992. Kazakhs describes themselves and originates from a progenitor who had three sons from whom sprang the main divisions of the Kazakhs; the Great, Middle, and Little hordes. These hordes were subdivided into smaller groups like the basic unit of extended family, embracing not only parents and unmarried children but married sons and their families, who camped together.

The People's Republic of China and Republic of Kazakhstan framed strategic relations on 3 January 1992. Both of them agreed to stamp their 1700 km shared boundary. In 1993, the president of Kazakhstan Nursultan visited Beijing at the invitation of then Chinese president Jiang Zemin. From that point onward, the heads of China and Kazakhstan frequently traded visit to each other's state. In 1996 the both nations became fellow beneficiaries of the Shanghai Corporation Organization (SCO).

Initially there existed a number of disputes between the two the countries including territorial issues but later, both signed a border treaty on 26 April 1994. Presently, China and Kazakhstan have advanced extended business and economic development, particularly in in the fields of Kazakhstan's oil, gaseous petrol, minerals and other significant energy assets. Owing to high demand of homegrown energy needs, China has looked forward to win major part in developing and creating energy enterprises in Kazakhstan. China is also working on four more oil installations. The China National



Petroleum Corporation purchased Petrokazakhstan in 2005 that was the previously Soviet Union's biggest independent oil organization for USD 4.18 billion and spent another USD 700 million on a pipeline that will carry the oil across the Chinese boundaries. Petrokazakhstan was the biggest foreign purchase ever by a Chinese organization.

China has plans to assemble an air terminal to encourage multi-purpose associations. There are likewise indications that the assembling zone of the Port region could possibly take off. That obviously, would increase Kazakhstan's reliance upon China. In 2016, China and Kazakhstan concluded a number of undertakings, including mining, synthetic compounds and petrochemicals, through nearly 50 joint-adventure organizations. Despite so many undertakings, as of November 2018, just six ventures have been endorsed by the

public authority of Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan is one of China's close neighbours with long border. Recently, China and Kazakhstan discussed humanitarian cooperation, international issues and signed a cooperation agreement between the two ministries for 2020-2022. They also discussed Kazakhstan's desire to work with China to resolve issues related to ethnic Kazakhs living in China, including through increased contact between foreign ministries and their consular services. As the Chinese proverb states, "a close neighbour is more valuable than a distant relative". Henceforth, the significance of Sino-Kazakh ties, particularly when Beijing attempts to advance its "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI) across Eurasia indicates long term partnership and alliance.

Senate confirms Linda Thomas-Greenfield as the U.S. ambassador to the UN



NEW YORK, 26 February, 2021 (TON): On Wednesday, Linda Thomas-Greenfield was sworn in as the United States ambassador to the United Nations.

The diplomat who was Assistant Secretary of State for Africa under the administration of Barack Obama was confirmed by 78 votes to 20 in the upper house, which has the power to approve or reject presidential nominations.

And her inauguration followed a confirmation vote by the Senate on Tuesday. The third African American to hold UN post, Ms. Greenfield took her oath of office before Vice President Kamala Harris.

Thomas-Greenfield, a respected career ambassador, was one of President Joe Biden's first picks for his national security team. An Africa specialist, she served as U.S. ambassador to Liberia and held posts in Kenya, The Gambia, and Nigeria.

She was expected to travel to New York, the seat of the United Nations, to present her credentials to UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Thursday.

As a former president, Trump pulled the US out of key agencies such as UNESCO and the World Health Organization and reneged on key international agreements such as the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris Climate Accord, as he promoted his America First policy. Observers have said that Washington's influence at the United Nations diminished under Donald Trump.

Bangladesh's Golden Jubilee

OPINION

By Hassan Ali

Bangladesh, the land of rivers and mosques, is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of their National day. Bangladesh, as the Eastern part of Pakistan, got separated in 1971 from West Pakistan. Bangladesh is celebrating 50 years of independence and commemorated national holidays from 17th to 27th March 2021 for the grand celebration. The Bangladesh premier invites its neighboring country on the day of celebration. Pakistan renders well wishes and greets Bangladesh. The National Memorial at Savar will be the main venue for celebrating the day where President MD Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajid will Place wreaths early in the morning as profound respect to the memories of the martyrs.

People from all walks of life, including families of Bir Sresthots, war-wounded freedom fighters, members of the diplomatic corps, leaders from different nations, political parties, social, cultural, and professional bodies, will also lay wreaths at the National Memorial in the morning of the day. The day's programs begin by heralding a 50-gun salute early in the morning as a mark of profound respect to this nation's struggle for independence.

Prime Minister of Bangladesh Hasina Wajid, daughter of Sheikh Mujib, said in a statement, "The father of the nation repaid his debt with his life. We must now repay him".

The Bengali Nation founder, Sheikh Mujib Ur Rahman, was born on March 17th, 1920, in Tungipara district Gopalganj. He was a visionary leader who joined the Muslim League and was an active worker in the Pakistan movement. There was mishandling by the Allied and industrial class of West Pakistan, which forces the Bengali nation to demand a separate Homeland. However, the Bengali nation's father joined hands with the Muslim League against prominent Bengali leaders' consent, including FazalulHaq. He was among the Muslim League's young workers who used to sell a pro-Pakistan weekly newspaper Millat on Dhaka's streets.



Bangali Nation was not opposing their country, they were only defending his language, which was his political right, but he was arrested. Mujib was released on January 21, 1949. Muhammad Ali Jinnah was no more, and Mujib left the Muslim League.

During the rule of Ayub Khan and Yahya Khan, he played a vital role in Pakistan politics as a prominent Awami League leader in East Pakistan. He only demanded provincial autonomy in the 1950s and 1960s. SheikhMujeeb Ur Rehman categorically stood up in favor of Fatima Jinnah and contested elections in Fatima Jinnah's favor. He and his party launched Fatima Jinnah's campaign in East Bengal during her elections

against the Military General, Field Marshal Ayub Khan. Fatima gains more votes from East Bengal than West Pakistan due to the campaign led by Sheikh Mujib Ur Rahman.

The country's people voted Sheik Mujib Ur Rahman and decided to be the next Prime Minister of Pakistan. Sheikh Mujib Ur Rahman's party Awami League won 160 seats in National Assembly with 12,937,162, 39.2%, percent while Zulfikar Ali Bhutto scored 81 seats 6,148,923 with the percentage of 18.6%.

Bangladesh finally appeared on the world map in 1971, and Sheikh Mujeeb becomes the first President of Bangladesh. The country is now going to celebrate its golden jubilee of independence with incredible achievements and prosperity. The currency and industry of Bangladesh are ascending in the region and Prime Minister Hasina Wajid shows its efforts for its nation's prosperity. In 1999 the growth rate was 4.9%, and now its jump to 7.9% in 2018, which was the highest growth rate in the region. Under Prime Minister Hasina Wajid's firm leadership, Bangladesh has achieved rapid and spectacular improvements in many social development indicators during the last two decades. Bangladesh has already eliminated gender disparity in primary and secondary school enrolment and is near achieving universal primary education. Within South Asia, Bangladesh has improved its position ahead of India and the region as a whole in a number of these indicators, although its per capita income is still significantly below the regional average. There are high hopes that, very soon, Bangladesh would fill the gap and emerge as one of the top economies of the South Asian region.

Here I conclude my words: On the last day of celebrating, all children's parks and museums will remain open for all in terms of maintaining health guidelines. Simultaneously, the naval ships of Bangladesh Navy and coastal guards will be exhibited at Chattogram, Khulna, Mongola, and Payra ports and Bangladesh's jetties inland water Transport Authority in the city's Sadarghat and Chandpur from 2 pm until the sunsets.



India's industrialist class put people's lives in jeopardy

NEWS REPORT

By Hassan Ali

The world is witnessing a drastic climate change and hyper increase in temperature. The North to south and east to the west world fears global warming and its aftershocks which already left the victims on the mercy of the Industrial class. After the USA and China, India is the third-largest country, involved in polluting the world and responsible for the millions of people displacement and deaths because of Climate change and tough weather conditions. There are several factions on electronic and social media discussing the drastic effects of climate change, but they are not discussing why UNO cannot be bothered and take legal notice against climate change rules and regulations.

This is undoubtedly true that India is the major emitter of Carbon with 7 percent, ranking it third-largest globally. The global organizations calculate the carbon emissions within the boundaries and affect them within the boundaries, but they should also consider the trans-territorial emissions. Central India is the hub of transmitting Carbon and responsible for climate change. The ministry of the environment does not regulate the industries, and they polluted the Air and water. In the last summer Chennai, locals were praying for some rain; in Mumbai, people were reeling under a deluge. Long ago, these extreme disparities may have been solely blamed on nature's vagaries, but now science has established that human-induced climate change plays a major role. Climate change, caused by emissions from industries located in central India and other state activities, makes India and Its neighbors warmer, disrupting rainfall patterns and increasing the temperature, extreme weather events.

According to the environment ministry, in 2018-19, more than 2,400 Indians lost their lives to extreme weather events such as floods and cyclones. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) says these events are increasing in both frequency and intensity. Extreme events may be the most tangible and immediate impact of climate change, but another more long-term and equally dangerous effect is raising temperatures. Average temperatures have increased by 0.6 degrees Celsius (°



C). Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and the North-East, are the most affected areas due to the emission of Carbon in the Air by the industries. Several domestic drivers are responsible for the Air and water pollution. The Government of India is developing India at the stake of the life of millions of Indian Nationals.

Indian Government is violating the rule of Paris accord and international laws of environment. The international community remains silent upon the unlawful act by the Indian Industrialist class, which is playing with the future of millions of children. As we know, the Indian Government is producing 68% of its electricity from coal. The energy-producing Industry emissions generate more than 60% pollution in the Air as well in the water. Toxic water harms the millions of farmers

in India and their neighbors too.

Polluted air from the Indo-Gangetic plain is messing with the ozone layer as well. However, millions of people suffer from skin disease, and smog enhances the pollution in the countryside. The people of India suffer from increased urbanization and the absence of pipe planning. Estimations suggest that by 2030, 600 million Indians might live in slums due to the ever-growing population. Because of that, tanker mafias are prominent. Tanker mafias are business owners, which had stakes in India's Government and Army that hold septic tanks that illegally sell water from lakes, wells, and groundwater. They charge around \$50 per 1,000 liters, and for most Indians, it is unaffordable.

Is a neighboring country of India affecting by carbon emission?

Yes? The toxic water in the Indus basin and other rivers affects farmers' land in Indian Punjab and Pakistan Punjab. Around 70% of wastewater goes untreated, and each day, more than 40 million liters of wastewater flows directly into India's lakes and through rivers in its neighboring countries. The smog season and the winds that blow from India's lands ended up in Pakistan, and millions of people face different kinds of diseases. Global warming also speeds up the process of melting glaciers, which resulted in floods and earthquakes—Pakistan since 2005 witnessing floods from the upper side, which is under India's authority. Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka will also be affected if the violations of environmental by the Industrial class of India remain stagnant. The economy's growth at the stake of their nationals' lifelines and the nationals of neighboring countries also creates hurdles in world development. The last International community should maintain the check and balance on India, which harms its nationals, but their neighboring countries also suffer due to the over-rapid industrialization that is not following the SOP. The local's farmers protest several times against the industries commencing the toxic water into the rivers and lakes, but this issue is highly ignorable by the Indian government. Neighboring countries' concerns about floods and polluted water coming from the Indian side should be addressed and resolved. Otherwise, it would be more dangerous than a nuclear war.

Bhutan faces hurdles over water resources with India

OPINION

By Zain-ul-Abideen

Indian foreign policy has been failed as India is no more able to maintain better ties with her good ally Bhutan. Because of its aggression and occupation based foreign policies India has increased a new name in the list of her enemies. Bhutan has stopped releasing channel water for irrigation in June 2020 along its border with India near Assam. Indian farmers in the border villages of Assam and Bhutan have been badly affected as they were using this channel since 1953. But, Bhutan has banned Indian farmers to enter in its land for irrigation purposes. Farmers of the Indian villages also held a protest in Baksa district of Assam against blocking of water because Indian farmers walked into Bhutan through open border.

Basically these farmers claim that they are the earliest inhabitants of the state. They practice the irrigation called Dong-Jamphai system, which is over 100 years old. These villagers and farmers had people to people contact with Bhutanese, but India is trying to interfere in these relations. India wants those farmers to hold official or country based relations with Bhutanese which will lead them to stop their self made long existing mutual and cultural ties with Bhutanese.

A member of the local association that organized the demonstration Sewali Borgiary, issued a statement to media that “At this time every year, farmers of the locality enter Samdrup Jonkhar (a town in Bhutan) and repair the irrigation channels to carry water of Kalanadi river to the paddy fields on the Indian side. But this year, the authorities in Bhutan have refused the entry of Indian farmers. Because of this, for the past five days the dongas have not been able to carry water to the paddy fields. We need water otherwise; we won't hesitate to intensify our agitation.”

Farmers are full of anger because Indian government is unsuccessful to play vital role in foreign policy to solve the matter of these farmers. Though, it has been observed that India's role in the region is becoming more critical regarding all of her neighbors. India is having severe clashes over water with China, Pakistan and Nepal which have not been sorted out so far. Every country in the region is becoming an opposition against India one by one because of the failure of her policy over bordering countries.

In fact, India is violating the signed agreements with its neighbor states likewise it is doing with Pakistan, as Pakistan is a lower riparian country. Like India is having clash with Nepal over water crises in Pandai River. The Pandai is a small river that marks the international border for a short stretch between the Chitwan National Park in Nepal and the Valmiki Tiger Reserve in India. Villagers in downstream believe that India do not contest that right, Instead, they assert their own natural right to water, which an Indian court declared in a 1991 judgment was a part of the Fundamental Right to Life under the Indian Constitution. But India is having a strong hold on the water which is influenced. Residents of Bhikhnathori and nearby villages along the river are demanding their government to ensure their fundamental right, and that means guaranteeing access to water.

By following all of the above mentioned realities, India's role is very clear that it wants to influence her neighbor countries. She has the policy of occupations and influential role in all of the regional countries. India is playing the role of a clever fox in the region by playing hegemonic politics with neighbors. It creates issues in the region and then waits for the situations until it become critical. Once she gets the situation of her interest then it starts influencing them. Such kind of strategies has led India to make more enemies in her own house, and always blame other neighbor countries to disturb regional peace and stability.



The Neighbor of Myanmar hollowing Political structure and Regional peace

OPINION

By Hassan Ali

The land of Elephants is now at the mercy of the Military regime. On February 1, the Military topples down San Suu Kyi's Government and arrested elected leaders in the early morning. Myanmar is also known as Burma and Myanmar on the map, situated on the chowk pint of sea roots. It also shares a long border with India. New Delhi has repeatedly stated that it has a "direct stake" in a stable, democratic federal Myanmar. The 1643-kilometre-long land boundary means that the Myanmar military is a stakeholder in northeast India's security, even as New Delhi aspires to have the country act as a connectivity bridge between northeastern India and Southeast Asia.

The San Suu Kyi party addressed the public on Saturday for the first time since February 1, military takeover, stated that "This darkest moment of the nation and the moment that the dawn is close" the video posted Shadow governments website and social media. Military Junta banned the media from covering any activities of the opposition. Several killings occurred in different protests in the country against the military coup. Besides, The United States and Europe have expressed strong reactions against the arrest of the country's de facto leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and President U Win Myint.

Myanmar facing the involvement of its neighbor since the 1990s; India, China and the USA, played a pragmatic role in the politics of Myanmar. However, all countries remained silent on the genocide of Rohingya Muslims. Millions of Muslims slaughter during the genocide but the so-called powers just played the role of watchdog. In the contemporary situation, the USA and China mentioned opposite stances on the coup. The USA sanctioned some of the companies and imposed sanctions on the military generals by blocking their access to \$1 billion in the US, and China is supporting the Military regime. However, in all the scenario, India was restraining its silence on the coup. The Myanmar military showing no signs yet of backing down, India will likely navigate the situation quietly. New Delhi's style will more likely resemble ASEAN's slightly aloof middle path of engagement, rather than Washington's punitive strategy.

The ambiguity between India and the USA on the Military regime issue is evident because during the 3rd Quad Ministerial Meeting FEB 18, India and the USA reiterated the



rule and law for the democratic transition in Southeast Asia. However, India is still silent on the military coup in Myanmar and the USA already sanctioned Military aid. Indian spokesperson stated that, "So we are therefore monitoring the situation very closely in that country. We are also engaged on the issue as a member of the UN Security Council."

On both occasions, New Delhi avoided making any comment on the Tatmadaw's large-scale crackdown on pro-democracy elements, nor did it appeal to the top military brass to release civilian leaders.

The strategy of India to destroy the Myanmar ignited the internal rift between civilians and Military personals. India indirectly supports the Military coup because silence is also the one supporting in the international arena. They plan to disrupt the peace and pave the way for international forces to install their forces in India's neighboring countries and on the sea routes of the Indian and Pacific Ocean to counter China. Instead of discussing joint exercises and training provided to Myanmar, strengthening maritime security by joint surveillance and capacity building, medical co-operation, pollution response

and developing new infrastructure," they indulge in proxies to disrupt the peace force them to start another arms struggle in the region.

There were reports of India providing funds and weapons to the militant outfits hiding in India assigned for the terrorist activities in Myanmar. India's Long-Term Strategic in 1990, Daw Aung San Su Kyi's National League for Democracy won 392 out of 492 contested seats, in which India highly supported the Democratic cause. Now India's muted response to Myanmar's military coup is the former's long-term strategic interest. Myanmar is key to the Modi government's Act East policy to counter China's growing influence in the Asia Pacific region.

Going forward, India would need the Myanmar army's support for the smooth completion of the Kaladan project, mainly to keep the Rohingya Muslims at bay. India support for the dictatorship is challenging for the USA because the USA strategy is to promote democracy. Also, India pressurizes Myanmar Military for more crackdowns and genocide of the Muslims in the coming days if India maintains "friendly ties" with the Junta.



Pakistan celebrates 23 March with special prayers in mosques throughout the country

NEWS STORY

By TON Research Section

ISLAMABAD, 23 March 2021, (TON): This year too, due to inclement weather and rain over the next two days the 23rd March celebrations were postponed. Last year, to express solidarity with rest of world regarding Coronavirus COVID-19 spread, the 23 March parade and other events were canceled. However, like last year, throughout the country, special prayers and recitation of Al Quran was arranged after Namaz-e-Fajr (morning prayers) on Tuesday 23 March 2021. Despite restrictions, large numbers of people assembled at the mosques throughout the country to offer special prayers for the safety and security of Pakistan as well as blessings from Almighty Allah to overcome the deadly conspiracies against the peaceful nations of the world, especially the Muslims.

To celebrate getting rid of the dominion status and becoming Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 23rd March is being celebrated every year with zeal, enthusiasm and national spirit. Every year as 'Pakistan Day' is celebrated to commemorate Lahore Resolution adopted of 23 March 1940 which later paved way for the partition of India and independence of Pakistan on 15 August 1947. On 23 March 1940, All India Muslim League leadership put up its idea for self-governance for Muslims of India through a resolution a sequence of Pakistan movement that was moved by Pakistan's Bengal's leader, Maulvi Fazlul Haq. Pakistan was created by sons of the soil residing in present day Bangladesh and Assam (East Pakistan), Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir. A national tradition, the day begins with Fajr prayers and recitation from holy Al Quran, followed by Guns salute in Federal Capital Islamabad and all provincial capitals, followed by an impressive Armed Forces parade to show of military might showcasing war and pace capabilities



including missiles, tanks, fighter jets, radars, aerobatics and commandos parachuting from helicopters as well as cultural and traditional floats. However, the events were postponed.

The official statement said, the annual Pakistan Day parade scheduled to be held on 23 March has been postponed to 25 March due to the forecast of inclement weather and rain over the next two days. The Pakistan military's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement issued on 22 March said, "The Joint Services Pakistan Day Parade will now

be held on 25th March, 2021 as per programme and timings already specified."

The event, which used to be held at Cantonment's Race Course Ground in twin city Islamabad-Rawalpindi was shifted to Constitutional Avenue Islamabad but then again shifted to a ground near the Shakarparian hills in Islamabad. There is a need to hold such celebrations under shade in case of inclement weather or other unexpected eventualities.

The U.S., Russia, and Bangladesh vow to strengthen bilateral diplomatic relations with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 24 March, 2021 (TON): On congratulating the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi, the U.S. President Joe Biden expressed his determination to strengthen the U.S.-Pakistan partnership in the future term.

Biden said, "We will continue cooperation for the establishment of peace in Afghanistan and address common challenges, including that of corona-virus and climate change."

He added that the partnership between the two concerns mutual goal on regional peace and prosperity.

Russian President Vladimir Putin also sent a congratulatory message on Pakistan Day to President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Russian Embassy in Pakistan said on Twitter.

Earlier as well, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that Russia and Pakistan enjoy

friendly relations, regular political dialogue and interaction in international organizations. We send our greetings to our Pakistani friends.

Besides, the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang also congratulated Prime Minister Imran Khan on Pakistan Day saying, "I look forward to working with Prime Minister Imran Khan to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in various fields so that countries and citizens can benefit."

At the same time, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh sent warm wishes to the PM Imran Khan and said, "The existing bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan have immense potential for deepening and diversification in the future."

The neighboring countries expressed to develop and foster friendly relations with the soil-rich country in the future.

Pakistan-Maldives looks forward to foster relations over trade and diplomacy

ISLAMABAD, 25 March, 2021 (TON): Pakistan Interior minister Sheikh Rashid underlined the need for enhancing Pak-Maldives relations.

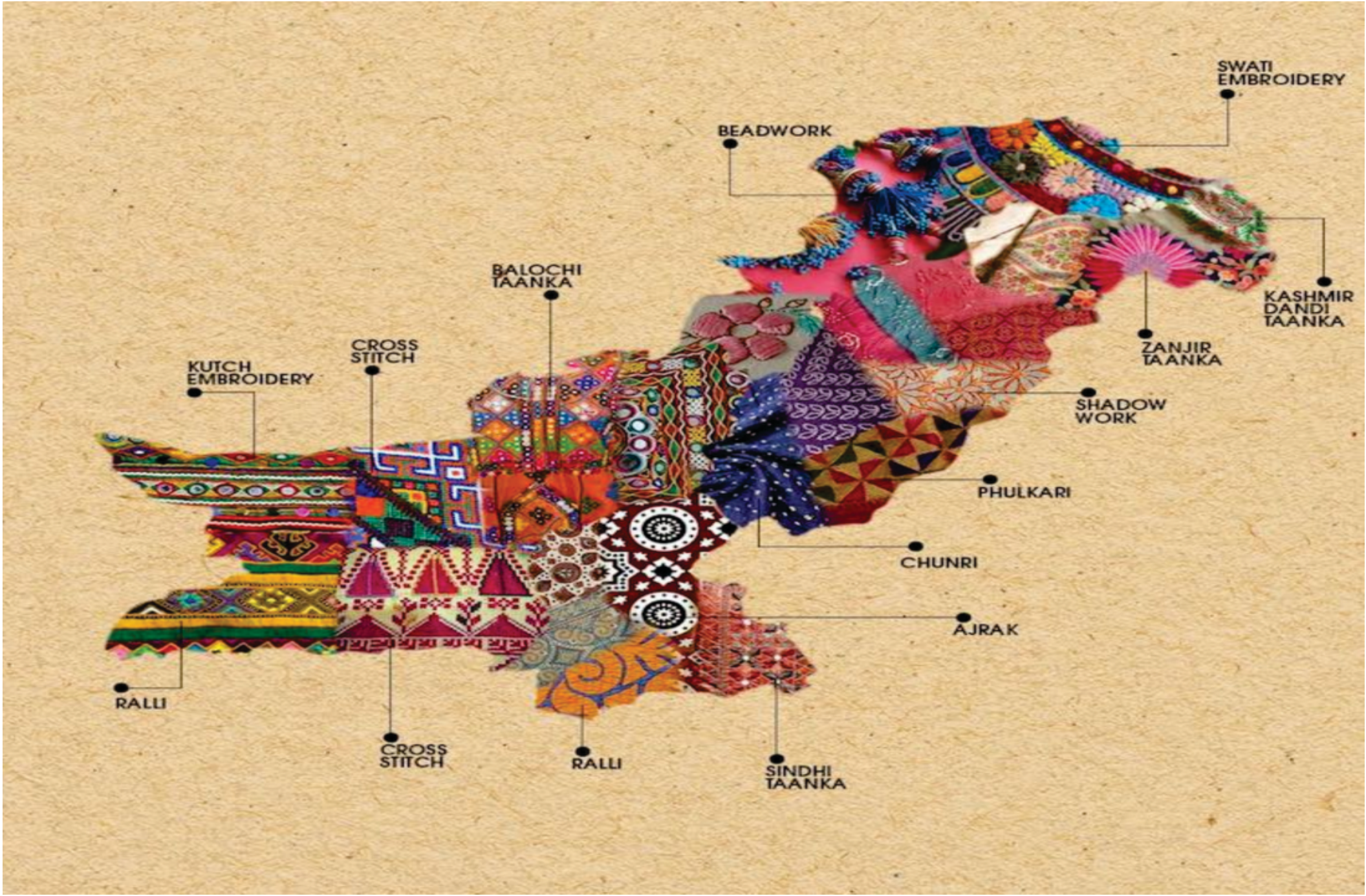
He stressed that the relations can be fostered through improved diplomacy and cooperation in trade.

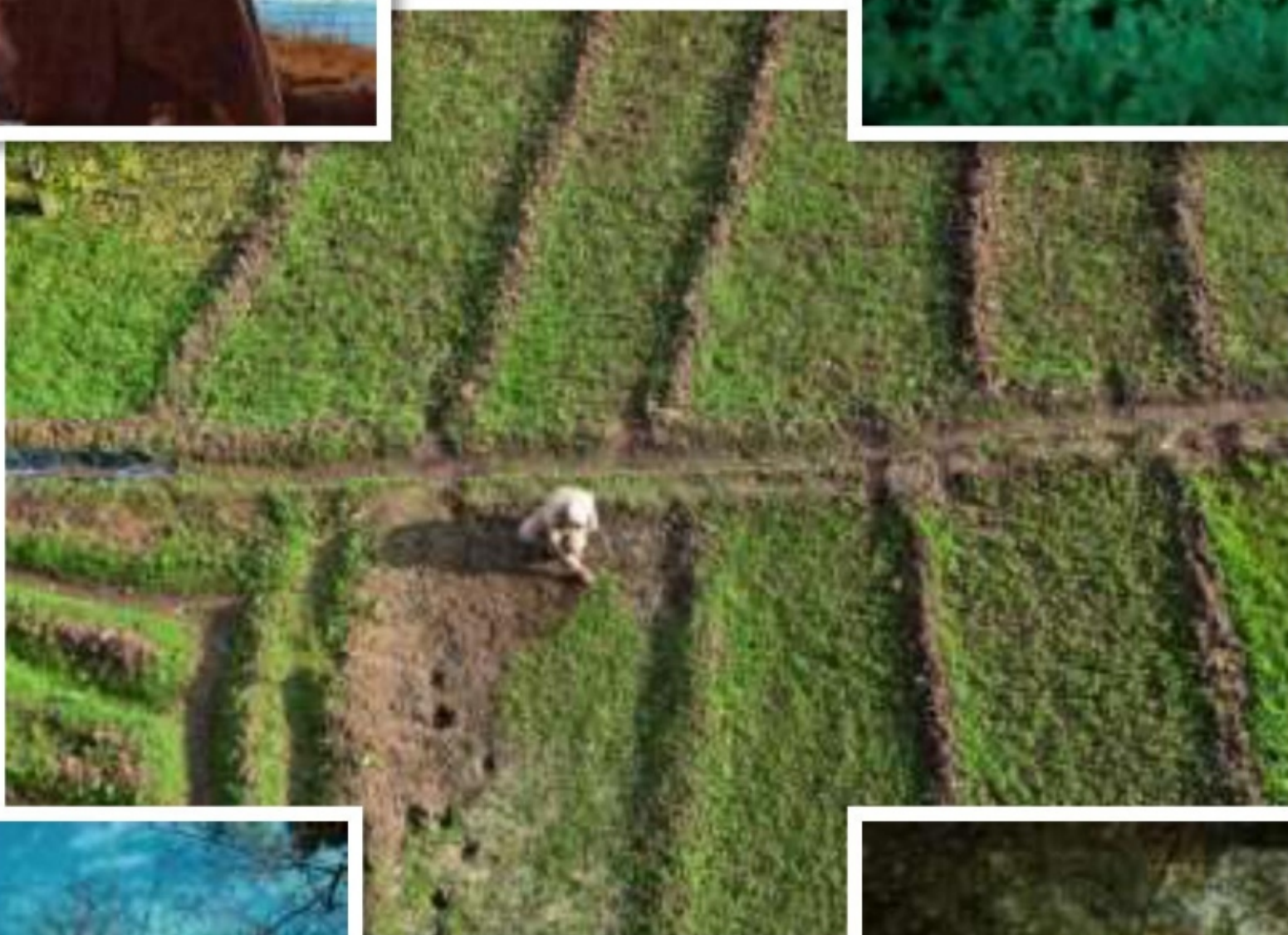
Talking to High Commissioner of Maldives to Pakistan Farzana Zahir, who called on him in Islamabad, the Minister said a lot of scope for bilateral tourism and trade between both the countries prevails that needs to be enhanced through better diplomatic coordination and business partnership. Farzana Zahir and Rashid discussed common goals and vowed to strengthen the ties and also the Minister highlighted Pakistan's historical ties with Maldives based on mutual brotherhood and love.

He said Maldives is a key member of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and stressed the need to activate the forum for development of the region.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Rashid said online visa facility has started luring foreign tourists towards Pakistan and the High Commissioner of Maldives suggested Pakistan to provide more opportunities and facilities to businesses community.

PAKISTANI CULTURE







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