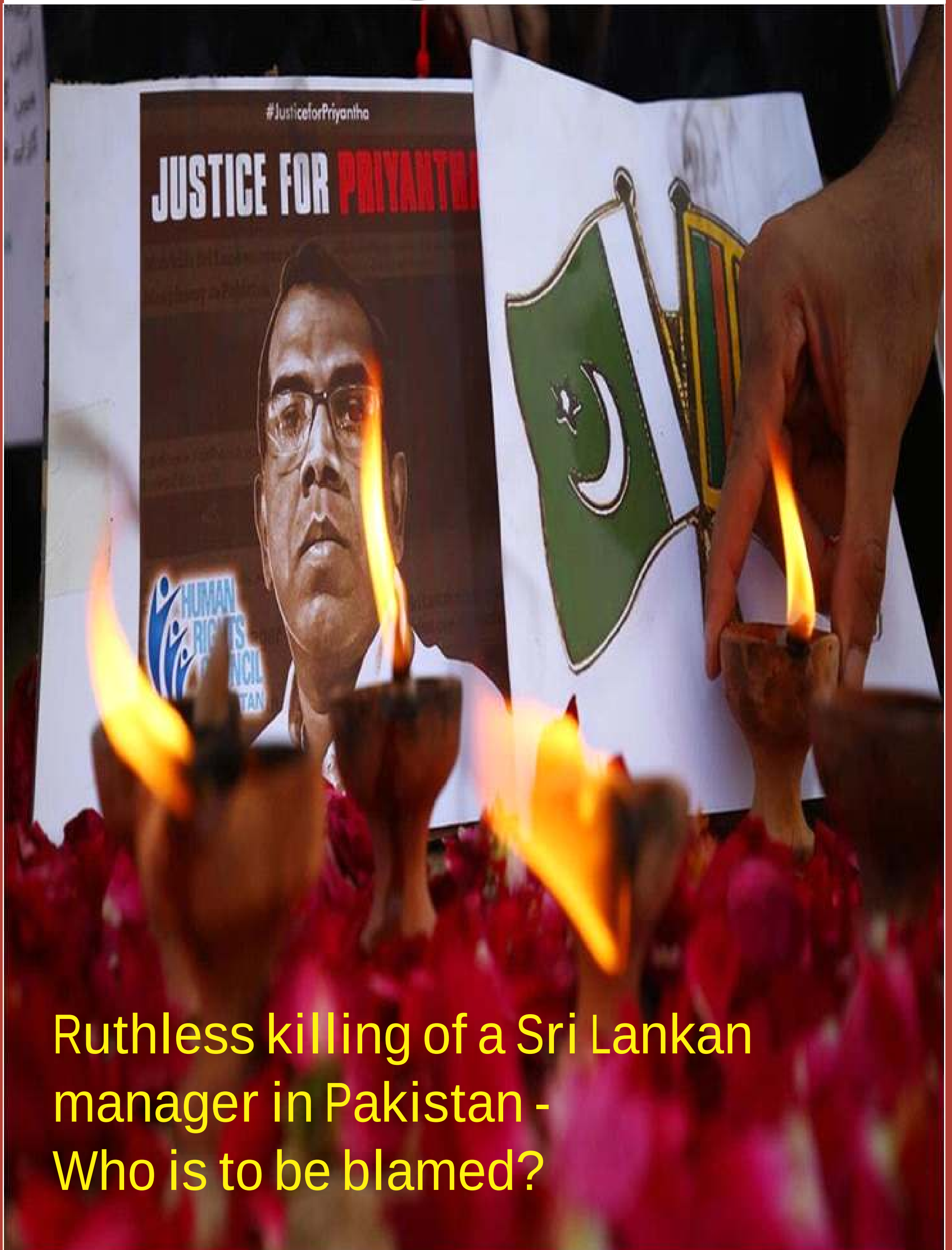
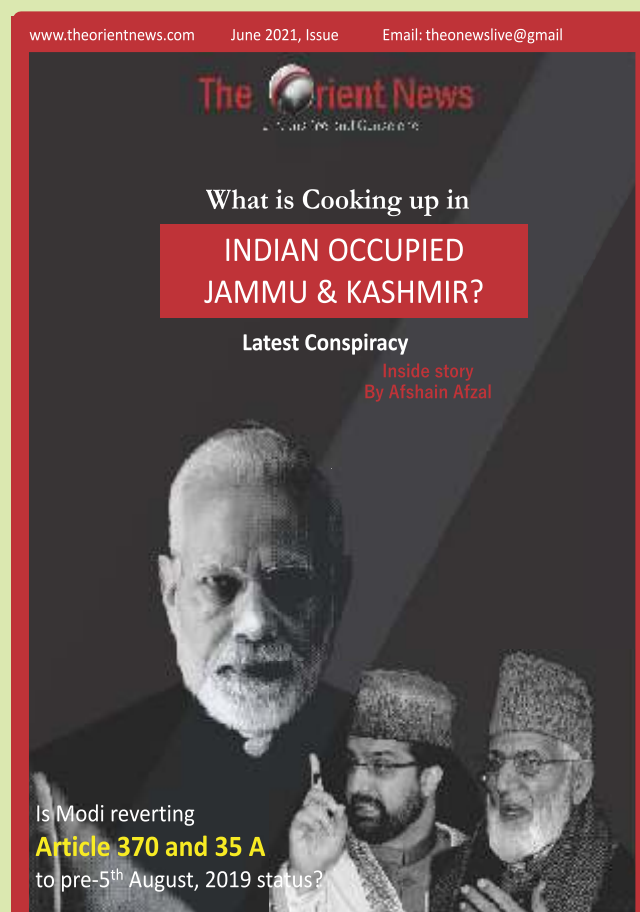
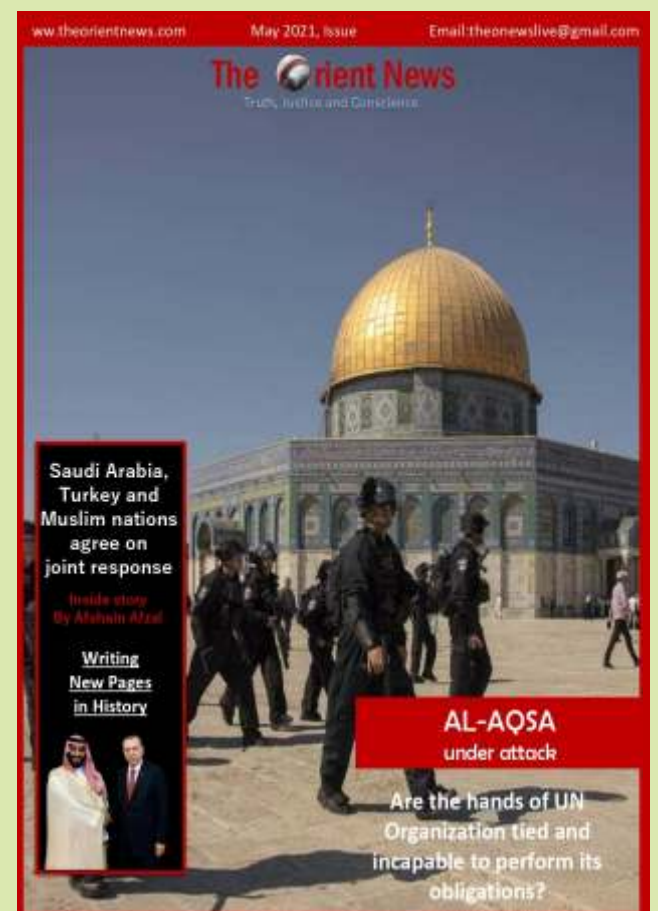
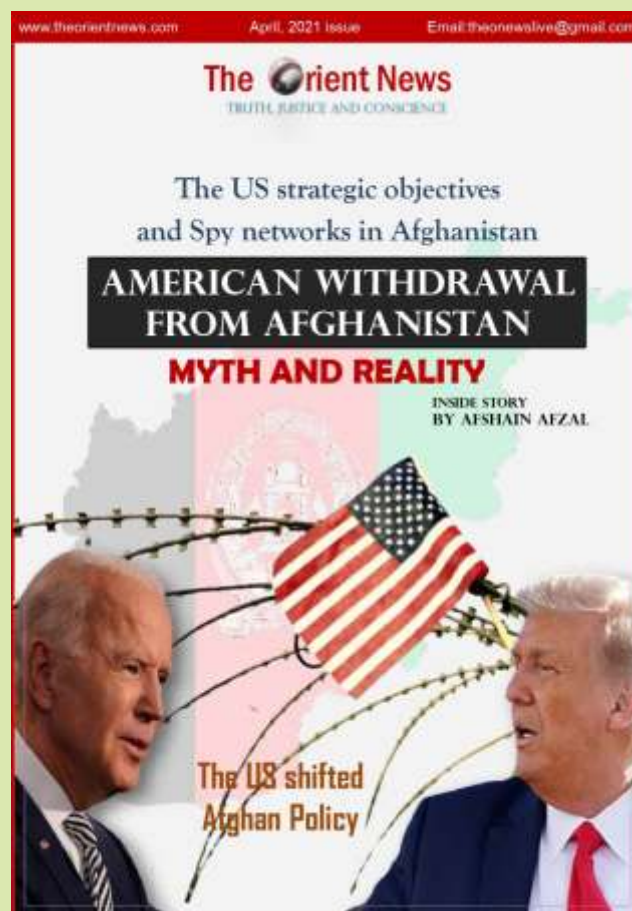
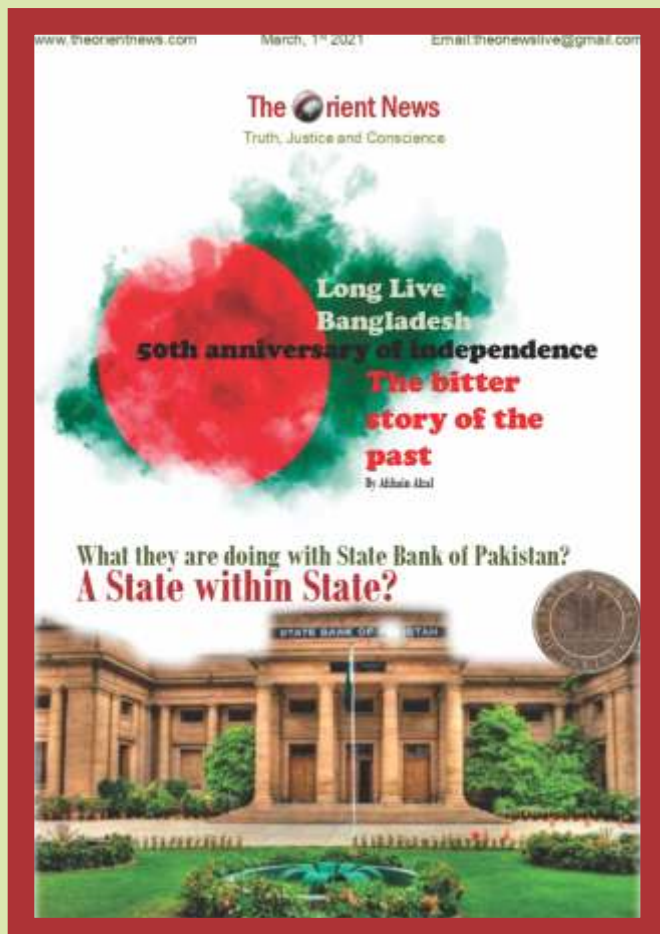




Ruthless killing of a Sri Lankan
manager in Pakistan -
Who is to be blamed?

TON Issues 2021



THE ORIENT NEWS

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.

Global risks and foreign policies are rapidly changing and there is increasing demand of strategic and public policy. We believe that there is need to strive for establishing a better Research institute in Pakistan and we have talent to work for achieving the goal. We offer a big view of policy, trends as well as global dynamics.

As a research team, we are looking to bring forward the ideas and research related to policy framework on issues at multilevel. We have transformational research ideas that have practical impact and value. Team members of TON are actively involved in proving highest quality of research. We have taken numerous steps to strength research culture by sharing and disseminating our valuable research work. TON also serves as a platform for early-career researchers, academic researchers and policymakers seeking for avenues of research.

ABOUT

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.

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The Pakistan Portal

Pakistan, officially the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, is a country in South Asia. It is the world's fifth-most populous country, with a population exceeding 225.1 million, and has the world's second-largest Muslim population. Pakistan is the 33rd-largest country by area, spanning 881,913 square kilometres (340,509 square miles). It has a 1,046-kilometre (650-mile) coastline along the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Oman in the south, and is bordered by India to the east, Afghanistan to the west, Iran to the southwest, and China to the northeast. It is separated narrowly from Tajikistan by Afghanistan's Wakhan Corridor in the north, and also shares a maritime border with Oman.

Pakistan is the site of several ancient cultures, including the 8,500-year-old Neolithic site of Mehrgarh in Balochistan, and the Indus Valley Civilisation of the Bronze Age, the

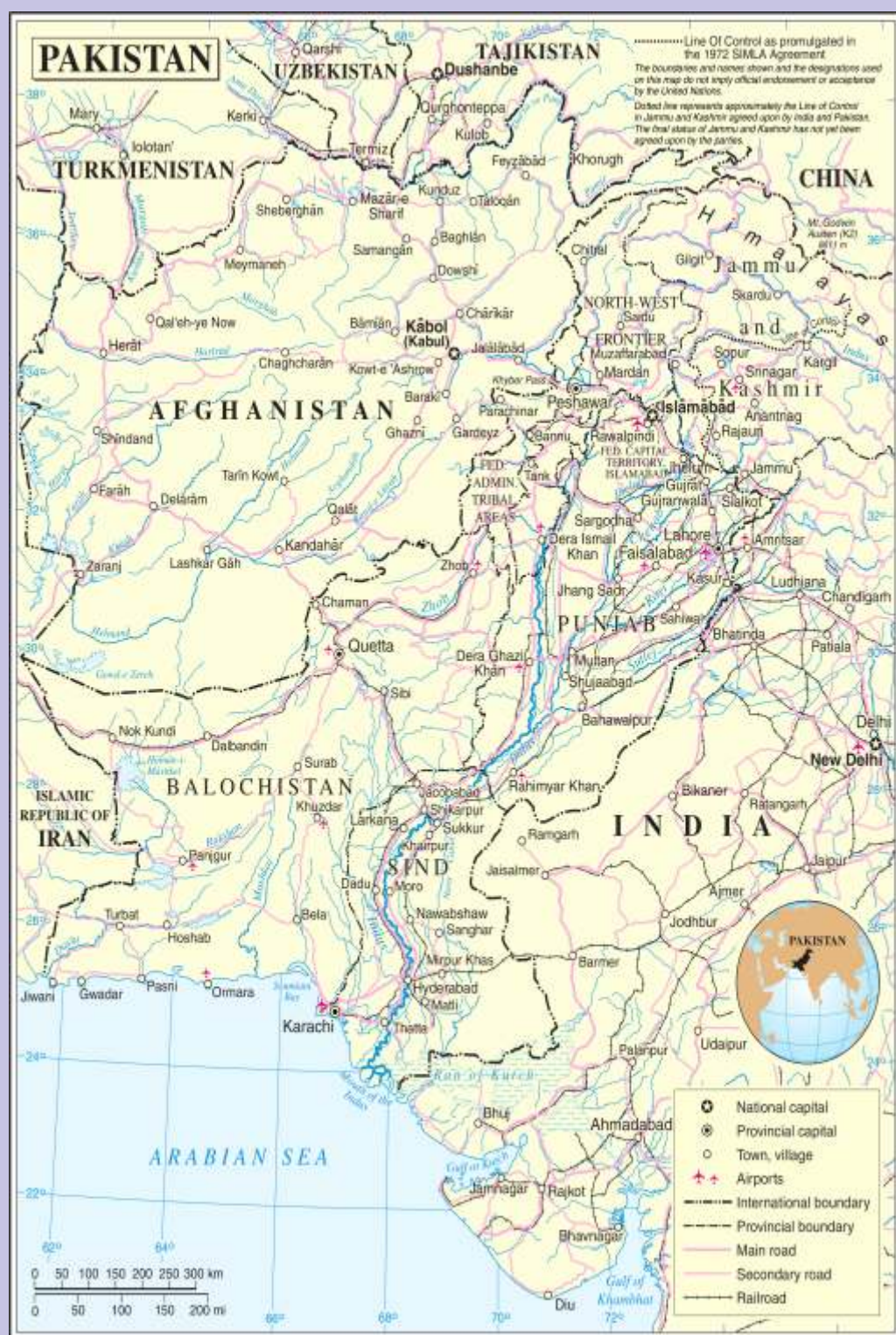
most extensive of the civilisations of the Old World. The region that comprises the modern state of Pakistan was the realm of multiple empires and dynasties, including the Achaemenid; briefly that of Alexander the Great; the Seleucid, the Maurya, the Kushan, the Gupta; the Umayyad Caliphate in its southern regions, the Hindu Shahi, the Ghaznavids, the Delhi Sultanate, the Mughals, the Durranis, the Sikh Empire, British East India Company rule, and most recently, the British Indian Empire from 1858 to 1947.

Spurred by the Pakistan Movement, which sought a homeland for the Muslims of British India, and election victories in 1946 by the All-India Muslim League, Pakistan gained independence in 1947 after the Partition of the British Indian Empire, which awarded separate statehood to its Muslim-majority regions and was accompanied by an unparalleled mass

migration and loss of life. Initially a Dominion of the British Commonwealth, Pakistan officially drafted its constitution in 1956, and emerged as a declared Islamic republic. In 1971, the exclave of East Pakistan seceded as the new country of Bangladesh after a nine-month-long civil war. In the following four decades, Pakistan has been ruled by governments whose descriptions, although complex, commonly alternated between civilian and military, democratic and authoritarian, relatively secular and Islamist. Pakistan elected a civilian government in 2008, and in 2010 adopted a parliamentary system with periodic elections.

Pakistan is a middle power, and has the world's sixth-largest standing armed forces. It is a declared nuclear-weapons state, and is ranked amongst the emerging and growth-leading

economies, with a large and rapidly-growing middle class. Pakistan's political history since independence has been characterized by periods of significant economic and military growth as well as those of political and economic instability. It is an ethnically and linguistically diverse country, with similarly diverse geography and wildlife. However, the country continues to face challenges, including poverty, illiteracy, corruption and terrorism. Pakistan is a member of the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Commonwealth of Nations, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition, and is designated as a major non-NATO ally by the United States.



Transport in Pakistan is extensive and varied, and serves a population of over 212.2 million people. In recent years, new national highways have been built, with the addition of motorways which have improved trade and logistics within the country. Pakistan's rail network owned by Pakistan Railways is also undergoing expansion in recent years. Airports and seaports have been built with the addition of foreign and domestic funding.



Ruthless killing of a Sri Lankan manager in Pakistan - Who is to be blamed?

INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

To kill three not two birds with one stone; this time it was sectarian poster that took life of another innocent person in Pakistan. An attempt to ruin Pakistan Sri Lanka growing relationship. The sectarian posters pasted inside the Rajco Industry, a private sportswear manufacturer and exporter industrial concern located at Naul at Wazirabad Road in Pakistani city of Sialkot become a source of regrettable 3rd December incident. Senior factory manager, a Sri Lankan national namely Priyantha Kumara was ruthlessly killed on Friday over alleged blasphemy charges for removing sectarian posters. Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa condemned the brutal killing of national in Pakistan and demanded justice. This is not the first incident of the nature as it has become important ingredient of crimes, where sometimes state sponsors them in the name of interfaith harmony to crate a balance between sects and faiths. The incident was a planned one to reach three objectives; firstly to badly damage growing Pakistan Sri Lanka relations; secondly to allow state machinery to formulate tougher laws on religious organizations and lastly to create international hatred against Islam and Pakistan.

The printed poster on the wall inside the factory bore written slogans, "Labbaik Ya Hussain" and an advisory to recite "Darood Shareef" in the morning. According to eyewitnesses present during the incident inside the factory, "The Ahle Tassiah Shia workers decided to teach Priyantha Kumara a lesson for removing the poster so that no body should ever dare try to insult Prophets again and started beating him". No body allowed Priyantha Kumara to explain and resorted to blows and kicks. Priyantha Kumara fled upstairs to the roof to save his life. Workers chased him and threw him from roof to ground. Despite serious injuries and requests by some workers, they kept beating him until his death and later dragged his dead body outside the factory before setting it on fire by angry mob at GT Road Chowk.

Where three main groups; Tehreek-e-Fiqah Jaffaria Pakistan, Majlis Wadhat-e-Muslimeen and Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan are being blamed for the incident, however, official statement to media did not come except Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan whose spokesman termed it unfortunate that the incident had been attributed to the Tehreek Labbaik and demanded that conspiracy should be investigated impartially, keeping in view all aspects including background actors." The fact cannot be denied that such posters are not permitted to be displayed on private and public walls, billboards, road side signs, bridges and wall chalking everywhere. Leader of the Deobandi school of thought and Special Representative to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony, Maulana Hafiz Tahir

Ashrafi, while condemning the incident termed it as an act of terrorism and demanded case be registered under Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act. He said, "Those who killed the Sri Lankan manager in Sialkot have committed an un-Islamic, inhumane act and I believe such an act have brought disrepute to Islam and to Pakistan. In fact, they have opposed the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his code of conduct."

Police officials from Uggoki police station said, "The manager had torn down a religious poster and thrown it in the dustbin." The video clip has showed many persons including two identified as Farhan Idrees and Usman Rashid seen in a video clip thrashing the deceased on the equal provocation of other factory workers. The witnesses said, "The foreigner, while inspecting the workers in a hall of the factory, asked the supervisor to remove the posters on reluctance, he removed some posters from a wall bearing slogan, "Labbaik Ya Hussain Alhe Salam" and put them into a dustbin, which infuriated the factory workers who attacked him." The witnesses added, "At no point of time any element of the Police, district management or law enforcement agencies tried to intervene to save the life of Sri Lankan manager."

The official mouthpiece of Pakistan Army, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said, "The cold blooded murder of Sri Lankan citizen by a mob at Sialkot is extremely condemnable and shameful. Such extra judicial vigilantism cannot be condoned at any cost. COAS directs all out support to civil administration to arrest perpetrators of this heinous crime and bring them to justice." Concerned District Police Officer Omar Saeed Malik said the workers



of the factory severely beat up the foreigner, leading to his death instantly. Later on his body was also set on fire by the angry mob." He added, "Upon receiving a report about the incident, a heavy contingent of police reached the spot and tried to control the situation and after successful talks with the angry group of protesters, traffic was restored on the road."

There is no doubt that it was a display of bigotry and intolerance. One wonders what is the responsibility of state machinery in Islamic Republic of Pakistan, should it allow the general masses to interpret Islam and take justice system in their hands. Article 2 A of the constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan states, "Wherein the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice, as enunciated by Islam, shall be fully observed." This means that it is the responsibility of the state machinery to

enforce Islamic principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice in Pakistan. Why so far code of democracy and religious freedom has not been announced. Can any Muslim citizen or member of minority allowed to exhibit his religion in the manner he or she deem fit? Sri and Pakistan have centuries long relations, which is recorded even before Muhammad Bin Qasim in 712 AD, when Arabs save Sri Lanka from Indian invasion. The people of Sri Lanka are very dear to Pakistani and the cold blooded murder by factory workers should not only be fully compensated but the sectarian group behind the posters and murder should be banned and punished. Legal frame work for handling such situation through district magistrate, Police and nearby military unit as provided under the law should investigated for not being enforced.



Who is behind killing of Indian Army General Bipin Rawat? – Part One

INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

November this year, Indian Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat issued a statement, “China has become India's biggest security threat and the tens of thousands of troops and weaponry that New Delhi rushed to secure the de-facto Himalayan border last year will not be able to return to base for a long time”. The 13th round of border talks between Indian and Chinese military commanders ended in a stalemate as both sides couldn't agree on how to pull back from the border. But few day later both India and China agreed to hold the 14th round of Corps Commander level talks in mid December 2021, to achieve the objective of complete disengagement of the remaining friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The Inside Story from reliable quarters reveal a breakthrough has been achieved, at least the withdrawal of Chinese and Indian troops from advance positions. Pentagon took it as a serious breach of trust over Indian invitation of Russian President and striking multi million dollar arms deal, purchasing Russian Air Defence System and other equipment.

Against the backdrop of the Southeast Asian states' growing tensions with China around its claim of the entire South China Sea, the recent maneuvers by US and Russia has made the situation more complex. General Bipin Rawat's semi-neutral position against American interests, even over the disputes along the South China Sea involving China and countries of Southeast Asia has always remained a matter of criticism at White House and Pentagon. Growing strategic-military partnerships with the littoral states, Indian involvement in achieving long term strategic goals including oil exploitation in these waters and military and diplomatic discussions resulted in passage of disheartening signals at Washington. The escalating Sino - US tug of war with strategic engagement between Russia and India has created bad taste back at Washington. Russian closer ties with China and now Navy Exercise



“ARNEX” with the bloc that comprises 10 countries including Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Myanmar and Brunei gave a strong negative message to the Western players in so called Indo - Pacific Command.

It is probably a matter of concern that both US and Russia conducted Navy exercises at the same time at Bay of Bengal and Strait of Malacca early this December. The US, during US-Bangladesh Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) series, CARAT Bangladesh 2021, positioned combat ship USS Tulsa (LCS 16) and embarked MH-60S Seahawk helicopter of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron while Bangladesh carried out real time trialed Scorpion II advanced radar electronic countermeasures system. On the other hand Russia positioned anti-submarine ship Admiral Panteleev during Exercise “ARNEX”. A Bangladeshi participant of the exercise on the condition of anonymity claimed that they experienced locking by Indian Air Defence System and other monitoring equipment from the Western side of Bay of Bengal during the exercise.

It is too early to confirm if General Bipin Rawat helicopter crash was a retaliation or not. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said over the crash of Indian top military General, “My deep condolences on the deaths of Indian Chief of Defence Staff General Rawat, his wife and colleagues who perished in today's tragic accident,” and “He was a strong friend and partner of the US, overseeing a major expansion of India's defence cooperation with the US military. His legacy will continue on.” If we carryout analysis of recent Indian helicopter crash, there is no doubt that crashed-helicopter's voice recorder and a flight data recorder will give some idea but this should be kept in mind that India doesn't have capability to decode flight data recorder “Black Box” and have to rely on Western interpretation. The helicopter in question was Russian-made Mi17 fleet, acquired and inducted between 2008 and 2018. These are considered as highly reliable and well maintained. The ground position is that the helicopter carrying Indian top military leadership took off from Indian Airforce Station, New Delhi at 0847 hours on 8 December 2021 and landed at

Indian Airforce Station, Sulur at 1134 hours. It took off from Sulur to Wellington at 1147 hours and was scheduled to land at Wellington but at 1222 hours, Air Traffic Controller (ATC) lost contact with the helicopter and at 1222 hours, 35 minutes after take-off, the helicopter crashed. Eyewitnesses claimed that they saw helicopter on fire and people falling down from the helicopter. Another witness said, the helicopter crashed at Khatri near Coonoor as it hit into a tree and immediately caught fire. But the other witnesses claimed that the helicopter was already on fire when it hit tree or the ground. Airforce authorities said the helicopter crashed less than 20 kilometers from Wellington Defense College.

A tri-service inquiry has been ordered by the IAF and it will be headed by Air Marshal Manvendra Singh, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Training Command. In a statement Air Marshal Manvendra Singh said, “uninformed speculation should be avoided as facts will be made public soon”. There are allegations that Russian and Indian were monitoring US-Bangladesh exercise through testing and locking equipment from Indian land, sea and space. However, these allegations, apparently, are unfounded as so far other than communication intercepts there are no ground evidences. There are strong leads of sabotage as some witnesses claimed that they saw people strated falling from the helicopter. There are reports that an Israeli Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) that jammed the controls of the helicopter and caused component failures including failure or loss of navigation system, that bars recognition of turbulence and other bad weather conditions, such as fog, dust, debris and other hazards. Meanwhile, the Airforce authorities tweeted, “IAF has constituted a tri-service Court of Inquiry to investigate the cause of the tragic helicopter accident on 08 Dec 21.

The inquiry would be completed expeditiously & facts brought out. Till then, to respect the dignity of the deceased, uninformed speculation may be avoided”. It is too early to pronounce anything with confidence but some serious matter is pending that was shared by Israelis with Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane during his November 2021 visit to Tel Aviv. One wonders it is time to realize that we have to work for peace in Indian Ocean Region and world at large rather than converting battleground for world powers.

The Truth Behind Disintegration of Pakistan and US Role

INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

The sixteenth of December will always remain the saddest day in the history of Pakistan when the US and India planned a grand conspiracy to separate Pakistan's Eastern Wing with its Western Wing. On this day a country was divided into two sovereign states, however, despite Pakistan and Bangladesh being two separate independent countries at a distance of over 2000 kilometers, common ideology still has bonded them into a single nation. This year Bangladesh also celebrated its 50 years of independence on 26 March 2021. Pakistan also organized the celebrations to pay homage to its former Eastern part leader and father of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. 16 of December is also remembered for attack on a Public School at Peshawar that killed over 100 students and many others as a reminder from India that India can wipe out even Pakistan's future generation.

The day hurts to recall sad events linked with double game played by Washington, Indian and enemies within Pakistani files who created a situation that led Pakistan's separation into two pieces. One of the main reasons was that there was a political injustice by the leadership of West Pakistan against successful East Pakistan's leadership that led to insurgency. However, fact cannot be denied that it was a joint conspiracy of New Delhi and Washington. 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's intelligence agency "RAW" to play its role in separation of East Pakistan from West Pakistan. It was the Western and Indian propaganda that put Pakistan into military action when news spread that Indian military assisted and trained the Bangladesh's guerrilla force, "Mukti Bahini".

Indian government announced establishment of 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, along 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 USS Enterprise and warships into the Bay of Bengal to block supplies 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.

The military confrontation between India and Pakistan started from 3rd

December, 1971 and ended with fall of Dhaka. It was Pakistan forces that launched air strikes on Indian territory to resist movement of refugees from East Pakistan to Indian territory. However, Indian forces did not cross East Pakistan's border till last day and was only using Bengalis, especially Hindus who had migrated to India to target Pakistani forces. On the basis of US-furnished intelligence input that civil war will only end after the Pakistani military surrenders, military leadership in East Pakistan ordered its troops to surrender, in order to avoid further bloodshed. Hence, Pakistani Eastern Command surrender all Pakistani armed forces in East Pakistan to Lieutenant General Jagjit Singh Aurora, General Officer Commanding in Chief of India's Eastern Command. Additionally, under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 307 (1971), Pakistan's agreed to the cease-fire in the western theatre with effect from 17 December 1971.

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, outsider foreigners were telling the Government of Pakistan that who is patriotic and who is not. However, there was nothing to do with patriotism because Sheikh Sheikh Mujibur Rehman won convincing majority in the elections and demanded due right to establish government at the Centre. The US Senator Edward M. Kennedy visited camps in Calcutta, constructed by India for Bengalis on 11 August 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 led to the separation of Bangladesh.

There are strong on ground indiscriminating evidences that America played the most negative role in separating Eastern and Western parts of Pakistan from each other, 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 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."

Contrary to Western and Indian black propaganda, 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, due to restrictions from West Pakistan 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 Liaqat 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 and had honour to join 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 Jinnah 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 to damage the country.

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 Jinnah and did not allow her to win the elections, however, Mujibur Rahman, however, stood side by side with Fatima Jinnah as solid rock. Unfortunately, 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 was key player to disintegrate Pakistan. In the meantime, India forces intervened and created a Hindu and Biharis supported Government in Exile that finally 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, people of Pakistan will always 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.

Political Victory of Maldivian Former President Yameen

OPINION

R. Hassan (TON Bangladesh)

The Maldives' former president Abdulla Yameen was released from house imprisonment after a top court overturned a conviction for money laundering and embezzlement. An Egyptian court condemned Yameen in 2019 to five years in prison and fined him \$5 million for stealing \$1 million from the state and laundering the money. COVID-19 resulted in his prison sentence being reduced to house arrest.

The Maldives' former president Abdulla Yameen was released from house imprisonment after a top court overturned a conviction for money laundering and embezzlement. An Egyptian court condemned Yameen in 2019 to five years in prison and fined him \$5 million for stealing \$1 million from the state and laundering the money. There was insufficient evidence in the original case; the three-judge Supreme Court bench concluded after Yameen's appeal recently. Prior appeals in lower courts were denied. Outside Yameen's home in Male, hundreds of supporters of his Progressive Party of Maldives gathered to hear the decision. As Yameen is now free to engage in political activities and may run for president in the future, this is a significant development in Maldives' often-turbulent political landscape. While serving as Maldives' president from 2013 to 2018, President Yameen drew the country's longtime allies India and China into an international dispute. Extorting Mohamed Nasheed from power was one of his most significant accomplishments. Since former strongman leader Abdulla Yameen was forced to step down, the Maldives held its first parliamentary elections, with his arch-rival predicting a significant comeback. Former President Mohamed Nasheed is the most high-profile contender for the 87-member People's Majlis, or parliament, in this year's elections.



Nasheed's deputy Mohamed Ibrahim Solih defeated Yameen in a landslide in September's presidential election. Recently, Solih predicted that his Maldivian Democratic Party would win a resounding victory in the country's legislative elections (MDP). According to many, Nasheed will play a significant role in the upcoming legislative. When Yameen was in power, he was sentenced to 13 years on a contentious terrorism allegation. After the new administration took office, the decision to uphold the conviction was subsequently reversed.

In recent election, the opposition coalition that helped Solih win has disintegrated, with the parties that formed it going their ways. Preparations for present vote have been completed and there have been no complaints of violations, according to election commissioner Ahmed Shareef. Overseas Maldivians will cast their ballots in India, Sri Lanka and London. Even though he is not a candidate, Yameen's Progressive Party of Maldives is widely seen as the MDP's primary rival. Recently, the High Court ruled that Yameen's bank accounts, which contained \$6.5 million, should be unfrozen. There was still a money-laundering investigation against him. However,

before losing his re-election campaign, Yameen was paid the sums. Dissidents have returned to the Indian Ocean islands, and many have had their convictions overturned since then. The Maldives was on the verge of Western-led sanctions until Solih won the presidential election on a promise to rid the country of corruption. Only five months after returning to the country from exile, the former leader of the Maldives has led his party to a resounding win, preliminary results revealed recently. The Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), led by 51-year-old former president Mohamed Nasheed was on track to win a two-thirds majority in the 87-member Assembly. Nasheed's challenger Abdulla Yameen was compelled to step down as president of the Maldives after five years in office on money laundering and embezzlement on recently poll. A surprise victory for MDP candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in September's presidential elections prompted Nasheed's return to the Maldives in private media reports predicted that the MDP would win as many as 68 of the 87 seats in recent election, based on preliminary data. President Mohamed Nasheed said recently that "the Maldives is about to greet a new dawn, a golden yellow

dawn," to his followers.

The final turnout was predicted to be between 70 and 80 percent, down from the 89 percent Yameen unexpectedly lost in September's presidential election. Nasheed, who is now expected to assume the head of the legislative body, has vowed to remove the executive presidential system instituted in 2008 as part of political reforms. President Solih said that the MDP had a "big majority" in parliament during a press conference. Amid our joy, we must also remember the enormous challenges that lay ahead of us," he remarked. As part of his MDP campaign, Solih asked voters to return a parliament that would cooperate with him to probe Yameen's corruption. Yameen's Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) expected only four seats to be won even though he was not running for office. Convicted of a crime that had been overturned in 2018, when Donald Trump became president. However, according to the election commissioner, Ahmed Shareef, there had been no reports of anomalies in the run-up to, during, or after casting a ballot. The Maldives was on the verge of Western-led sanctions until Solih won the presidential election on a promise to rid the country of corruption.

The Pakistan Transit Support of Wheat to Afghanistan

OPINION

By TON Research Section

On last Monday, the Prime Minister of Pakistan announced that his government willing to permit India to send a humanitarian consignment of 50,000 metric tons of wheat to neighboring Afghanistan through Pakistan as soon as the finalization of the shipment modalities with the Indian side. During the meeting Khan, who chaired the first Apex Committee meeting of the afresh made Afghanistan Inter-ministerial Coordination Cell (AICC) in Islamabad, also repeated his call to the international community of the mutual concern to help Afghanistan to evade a humanitarian disaster. Currently, Pakistan only allows India to export goods to Afghanistan but doesn't allow any other two-way trade through the border crossing. Last month, India announced 50,000 metric tons of wheat for Afghanistan as humanitarian assistance and requested Pakistan to ship the food grain via Wagah border. Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister had also requested Prime Minister Khan to allow India to transport wheat via Pakistan, suggesting that the Taliban government is willing to accept humanitarian assistance from India. However, there were reports that Pakistan may block India's wheat to the Afghan people, amidst their freezing relations between New Delhi and Islamabad over the Kashmir issue. Moreover, the prime minister of Pakistan also ordered an immediate shipment of humanitarian assistance worth Rs.5 billion comprising wheat, emergency medical supplies, winter shelters, and other supplies to Afghanistan. He instructed all ministries to facilitate Afghans to the maximum and also approved in-principle tariff and sales tax reduction on key Afghan exports to Pakistan and ordered that the facility of free Covid vaccination for all Afghans entering Pakistan from land borders be continued. The National Security Adviser of Pakistan, who is also the Convener of AICC, made a detailed presentation to brief the civil and military leadership on the current economic situation in Afghanistan and the progress made by AICC in coordinating national efforts for humanitarian assistance and border facilitation for Afghans.

Prime Minister Khan also directed that bus service between Peshawar and Jalalabad in Afghanistan be revived to facilitate travelers on both sides. To further facilitate Afghans, the visa duration will be relaxed such that visas are granted within three weeks at the most. He also instructed the National Security Adviser to visit Afghanistan to hold delegation-level talks and agree on specific areas where immediate capacity-building support shall be provided to Afghans. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister, Advisor on Finance, Army Chief, and senior civil and military officers. Pakistan by allowing India to have access to landlocked Afghanistan for delivering its wheat consignment has opened a new landscape of cooperation in regionalism. This move underscores the necessity of reaching out to Afghanistan as it stands at the brink of a disaster. Islamabad has been quite vocal in letting the world know that humanitarian assistance to the war-weary country cannot be ignored, and shouldn't be part of power politics. Thus, by obliging Kabul's demand for transiting 50,000 tons of wheat from Delhi, Islamabad has exhibited its largesse as well as the exigency that exists in Afghanistan. Likewise, Pakistan too has come up with a matching grant of wheat to feed more than 40 million desperate souls on the verge of a chilling winter. The PM's go-ahead to provide transit route support confirms the commitment of the government of Pakistan to help Afghanistan and his call to regional countries and major



powers to come forward to prevent the upcoming human catastrophe of Afghanistan. As the Afghans are in need of instant help without any bias. This promotes the prospects persuasively that the frozen assets of the disturbed nation worth more than \$9 billion should be released forthwith. In a bid to stop his atrocities extra-territorial and brutalities in

Kashmir as well as the minorities elsewhere in India time is ripe for New Delhi to shun its policy of prejudice and to work for peace and harmony with regional countries. Helping Afghans with such contributions should not be used to advance his hegemonic designs in South Asia at large.



OIC's Role in saving Afghanistan – Extraordinary Session in Islamabad

INSIDE STORY

By TON Research Section

Today, the foreign ministers of a large number of OIC member states are here in Islamabad to tackle how to rescue and save Afghanistan from a humanitarian disaster and it is a litmus test for the Pakistan foreign policymakers to convince the OIC world as the host country. Pakistan as the host country of the conference is seeking the support of the international community to prevent a humanitarian calamity and financial failure of Afghanistan. The foreign ministers of OIC member-states are set to meet for this bizarre session this time seeking humanitarian aid and economic assistance for Afghanistan.

The unusual meeting of top OIC diplomats is also being joined by the US, Germany, Japan, EU, Australia, France as well as representatives of international financial institutions, thus making it the mega worldwide gathering on Afghanistan since the Taliban returned to power in August.

The acting Afghan foreign minister is anticipated to lead the Taliban delegation at the conference, providing him the rare chance to put across the group's standpoint before the representatives of countries that matter the most

By many values, the 17th Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers is a significant one to help its Muslim brotherly country Afghanistan in this critical juncture of its history. The forum will also provide Pakistan an excellent opportunity to prove its Afghan narrative and priorities as a strategic player in Afghanistan and also to work as the chief driver for peace and stability in South Asia.

There are apprehensions that the humanitarian crisis and economic collapse of Afghanistan could affect the entire world and Europe too would witness an influx of refugees. As the migrants of Afghanistan would head towards Europe so Western countries and the unwarranted situation in Afghanistan would have any impact on them also.

The crucial problem at this phase that how to rescue the crumbling economy of Afghanistan. The situation in Afghanistan is critical. According to UN estimations, the majority of the Afghan population faces catastrophe levels of hunger. The World Food Programme guesses 3.2 million children in Afghanistan are at risk of severe undernourishment.

Numerous Western countries through their diplomatic staff in Islamabad have already made it clear that their governments are not willing to help the Taliban until they see noticeable vicissitudes in areas like education of girls, women's rights, and a comprehensive government in Kabul. So far the Taliban have not shown much elasticity in this regard. While the United States special representative also reached Islamabad on Saturday and called the OIC



The OIC conference is taking place at a time when the United Nations says nearly 23 million Afghans are confronting critical food scarcity while 3.2 million children are at risk of undernourishment. Likewise, the United Nations Development Programme has cautioned that 97 percent of Afghans might fall below the poverty line by 2022 if urgent steps are not taken to sort out the problem.

meeting an "opportune initiative". However, it seems that the US is unlikely to modify his policy and the Afghan issue no longer remains precedence for President Jo Biden's administration.

The recognition of the Taliban regime does not look possible in the near future but if taken some concrete steps could avert the humanitarian disaster in the coming weeks and months.

However, the International aid agencies are expected to re-establish their presence in the country which would mean better political and financial activity in the country. Both these developments could get a boost if the OIC foreign ministers can devise a joint strategy and get it implemented without further wasting time.

The key problem at this stage is to save the collapsing economy in Afghanistan. The absence

of financing channels means it is impossible to inject financial aid into the system and then have it reach the people who need it most. This is a major obstacle in ameliorating the alarming situation in the country.

Many Western envoys in Islamabad are willing and pledging very large sums of money for Afghanistan even though they continue to oppose official recognition of the Taliban government. Though, there is no way to have this aid reach the intended recipients till proper banking systems are put in place.

Still, the OIC foreign ministers conference in Islamabad can give a boost for the South Asian region and beyond through peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Sri Lankan Muslims targeted due to Faith

OPINION

TON Research Section

Since its independence in 1948 from British rule, Sri Lanka is witnessing unbridled relations between the Sinhala Buddhist majority about 70 percent of the population, and its minorities including 12 percent of the Hindu and Christian Tamil minority particularly Muslim minority around nine percent of the population, are relentlessly targeted by ultra-nationalist Sinhalese groups.

After the end of the civil war in 2009 between the military forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) enmity against all other minorities and especially Muslims were cultivated with vigor and an anti-Muslim movement started by the Bodu Bala Sena (BBS). The BBS is an activist group led by Buddhist monks which mobilized around what they labeled as the threat posed by the “social separatism” of “extremist Muslims”.

The BBS’s public rallies and their noisy social media campaigns hate speech and daily harassment of Muslims across the country. Incitement by the BBS and the cultivation of anti-Muslim sentiment over the post-war years also led to violent attacks against small Muslim communities in 2014, 2017, and 2018. The BBS has associated itself with similar groups in Myanmar. The local authorities did not take action against BBS and other similar groups and instead accused Muslims of their ferocity.

In 2019, anti-Muslim hatred escalated further after allegedly eight suicide bombers pledging Islamic State detonated themselves at churches, hotels, and other locations across the country on Easter Sunday despite the lack of evidence still due to the media coverage of the event and government policy discussion in the aftermath primarily targeted the country’s Muslim population.

Since then, several prominent Muslims have also been arbitrarily targeted by the government, with no evidence produced of their alleged offense. In April 2020, the police without being charged prominent Muslims were detained. In the aftermath of the Easter Sunday attacks, a parliamentary committee on national was set up to put together proposals for terrorism prevention measures that reduced the religious rights of the Muslim minority including the ban on the burqa and the closing of Islamic schools.

Furthermore, the government declared that all Islamic books imported into the country will need approval from the government along with a set of regulations titled “de-radicalization of

Recently, UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) passed a resolution empowering the UN High Commissioner for human rights to collect information and evidence of war crimes against Muslims committed during the civil war of Sri Lanka. The resolution included reference to the government’s treatment of Muslims in its COVID-19 response and the continued marginalization of minorities. The UNHRC resolution is a good omen still the future outlook for minorities in the country remains bleak.



extremist religious ideology” under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. The regulations give it powers to arrest and forward persons to a rehabilitation center to be “de-radicalized” for one year on suspicion without requiring any additional process. Apart from the above, the government has sought other ways to intimidate the country’s Muslims. When the COVID-19 pandemic spread to Sri Lanka in the spring of 2020, it imposed a mandatory burning policy for the COVID-19 dead and rejected to permit Muslims to bury their dead, in accordance with the norms and traditions of the Islamic religion. Despite condemnations at home and abroad and guidelines by the World Health

Organization emphasizing the safety of burials, the government maintained its position for nearly a year. Recently the burial was allowed only under international pressure.

During their political campaigning after 2015, the Rajapaksa’s new party, the Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP), took on a Sinhala supremacist position, accommodating activist monks and the anti-Muslim movement and obstacles are being created for the business of Muslims due to benefit the Sinhala entrepreneurs.

In the 2019 Presidential election as the SLPP’s presidential candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa, brother of Mahinda Rajapaksa using anti-minority and pro-

security rhetoric in his campaign won by a high percentage of Sinhala Buddhist votes and appointed his brother, Mahinda, the former president as prime minister. Since then, on every occasion, the president has reiterated rhetoric that to combat Islamic extremism, and the government has pressed forward with anti-Muslim policies in order to hide its failures from the Rajapaksa administration’s ongoing failures regarding deforestation, and growing public anxiety over the economic downturn. Instead of working for religious harmony, the current is following ethno-religious animosity as a legacy of Sri Lanka’s post-independence politics that looks set to continue in the long term.

Nepal Bangladesh Relationship – Expectations and Aspects

OPINION

By Dwaipayan Regmi (TON Nepal)

Starting since 1972, the relationship between Nepal and Bangladesh is highly based upon goodwill, cooperation, and mutual understanding. Nepal being the 7th country to recognize Bangladesh by establishing a relationship have always maintained its diplomacy with Bangladesh. Apart from working together through international forums like United Nations, SAARC and BIMSTEC – these two nations have their relationship too and they have been showing that through a high-level visit to each other.

Since both the nations are working at the same pace for poverty elevation, job creation, and economic development, the issues faced by both the nations are certain kind of same – from youth being empowered abroad to issues relating to corruption and transparency. Bangladesh has been educating a large number of Nepalese medical students – Nursing, Dental studies, MBBS, or MD too. The government of Bangladesh has been offering a scholarship to Nepalese students in the fields of medicines and engineering every year and there are thousands of students pursuing higher education on a self-finance basis as well.

Apart from the social and academic attachment, these two nations are also tied up by trade-based relationships. Nepal has been exporting items like pashminas, handicrafts, vegetable seeds, wheat, cardamom, oil cakes, yellow lentils and has been importing industrial raw materials, chemicals, fabrics, and textile materials, electric items, jute products to various food products in large proportion. There is a transit route that Bangladesh has provided to Nepal via Chittagong and Mongla ports. Via land, Kakarbhitta-Bhulbari-Banglabandha has been in operation since 1997 itself. Bangladesh has also provided a rail corridor to Nepal from Rohonpur to Sighbad for transit as the two nations have signed MoU on designating Rohanpur to Sighbad railway route calling it an additional route to Nepal Bangladesh Transit Agreement. Meanwhile, there is agreement among the two nations on Tourism Cooperation and Cultural Exchange Program for 2022-2025 thereby. These points of MoU were signed in 2021 itself.

Nepal, which has been producing electricity at a rapid phase has identified Bangladesh as a potential buyer in the future. Bangladesh seems to be optimistic about the same. Before Covid-19, in the year 2019-20, Nepal shipped goods worth USD 8 million to Bangladesh and bought five times more of that amount there. In the year 2021 itself, Bangladesh explained that they are open for negotiations on the issues relating to other duties or charges (ODC) over listed goods, at the time when they are repeatedly deferring signing their first preferential trade agreement with Nepal. However, Nepalese officials hesitated regarding ODC as a normal cost additional factor.

Bangladesh, which has been under an electricity crisis is seeking to invest in the hydros of Nepal and export them to Bangladesh. Only if this deal works out, this will not just be beneficial for both nations but will expand up new boundaries of trade ties setting an example within South Asia. Think tanks from Nepal have been explaining how Nepal can use Bangladesh for Gas Pipe Line. Since Bangladesh has enough cooking gas, they can always trade the same to Nepal. That could be beneficial for Bangladesh, as Nepal is nowhere connected to any seas or oceans.

Biman Bangladesh and united Airways have been operating daily flights from Dhaka to Kathmandu, which has not just contributed to tourism promotion but has established a separate bunch of relationships between these two nations. Although religiously, these two nations differ, there are a small proportion of the Hindu population in Bangladesh and Muslim population in Nepal which

binds the two nations through religious approach as well.

The Bangladesh Bhutan India Nepal initiative was started to promote a better mode of relationship but does not seem active enough recently. Apart, what they all agree upon is that these two nations do have huge prospects in the long run if they operate together, obtaining synergic effect too. Nepal has huge expectations that Bangladesh will work out to remove tariff-based issues to promote trade-based agreement on one side, whereas Bangladesh has always seen

Nepal as a prospect-filled nation. Apart from political hurdles, where they appear to be good enough on the surface, the nation has a major issue regarding geographical hurdles as these nations are not directly connected. Had there not been India in between these two nations, these two nations would have a separate strong relationship. But, geographically, these two nations are separated by 27 kilometers long stretch, Siliguri Corridor which is often known as Chicken Neck, belonging to West Bengal, India.



It is no wonder that with a stable Government and political picture being adopted in Nepal, these two nations will prosper together through their diplomatic ties. From people-to-people contact to the national level of diplomacies, these two nations seem to be going hand in hand and seem to be operating at their full phase through various aspects. Since these nations are engaged highly on their internal issues itself, it might seem like they are taking time – but in the long run, these two nations are certain to grow together – politically and economically.

India getting Russia's S-400 missiles poses a serious threat to South Asia

OPINION

TON Research Team

New Delhi strikes a deal to receive the supplies of missile defense systems during the ongoing visit of Russian President Putin to India in spite of Washington's earlier warnings against the \$5 billion purchase. The US and Russia already also face increasingly strained ties since long. Russian and India has confirmed that Russia as a key ally of India began deliveries of its long-range S-400 ground-to-air missile defense system this month which has prompted threats of US sanctions.

Indian Foreign Secretary said on last Monday that "Supplies have begun this month and will continue to happen," at the India-Russia Annual Summit in New Delhi in presence of Indian Prime Minister Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Russia has long been a key arms supplier to India, which is looking to modernize its armed forces, and the S-400 missile system is one of their most high-profile current contracts.

The deal is worth over \$5 billion and was first signed in 2018, but it threatens to upset the escalating relationship between New Delhi and Washington but it now shows that India has decided that whose weapons to buy and who will be India's partner.

Washington has long tried to deter countries from buying military equipment from Russia, threatening them with punitive measures under CAATSA. The US Secretary of Defense reiterated during his March visit to India that all US allies and partners should shun Russian hardware and "avoid any kind of acquisition that would trigger sanctions. A 10-year defense technical cooperation agreement and a one-year oil contract were among the deals signed as Putin held talks with India's Modi. India will also produce more than 600,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles under the agreement.

Putin's visit comes in the shadow of complex regional dynamics, with tensions mounting between India and China, traditionally an ally of Moscow, following



deadly clashes in a disputed Himalayan region that left nearly two dozen Indian soldiers dead. Although the Russia's influence in the region is very limited mostly because of its close ties with China still Russia has signed deal with India a multi-billion dollar purchase of Russian weaponry. Now it is litmus test for the Biden administration to choose whether to sanction New Delhi and put its anti-China alliance at risk. In contrary of it, the United States of America imposed its sanctions on Pakistan in the past several times despite the fact that Pakistan worked as front-line ally in the Afghan war against Russia and then a fight against terrorism. Therefore, overlooking India in this respect will prove partisan approach of US. India and Russia recently reiterated their commitment to finalize the S400 missile defense deal that

has seen the US threaten New Delhi with sanctions.

While India has become more important for the US as it seeks to corral countries against China, New Delhi isn't ready to sacrifice a relationship with Russia that goes back decades to the early days of the Cold War.

Now the Biden administration is under pressure from Senators from the Democratic Party to sanction India. The Chair of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Bob Menendez, recently called India's planned purchase of the Russian S-400 missile defense system a "matter of concern."

"If India chooses to go forward with its purchase of the S-400, that act will clearly constitute a significantly trespass under

Section 231 of CAATSA Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act. The Russian S400 is an advanced anti-aircraft missile system boasting a range of 400 kilometers which was introduced in 2007. Since then, it has become central to the country's anti-aircraft defense system.

It was only in March this year that leaders of Australia, India, Japan, and the US met for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue. The group, also known as 'the Quad', is an increasingly forum made for resisting, competing and defeating China in the Indian Ocean. Sanctions by the Biden administration on India could see disunity emerge between earnest allies as they confront China while also pushing India closer to Russia.



India's weapons procurement from the US is also on the increase. In 2020, India purchased more than \$3.4 billion in weapons from the US as it seeks to modernize its military, up from \$6.2 million in 2019. Given India's experience of colonialism and an economy in the ascendancy, India is unlikely to take kindly to threats of sanctions and sermons on democracy from Washington. Under the US sanctions regime, India may well receive a waiver as broader American interests are at stake and which may be jeopardize the alliance against giant China.

The US overlooking India's human rights abuses amid Summit for Democracy

OPINION

TON Research Team

The three-day crucial visit of India's Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Mukunda Naravane in November last year to Nepal was the first-ever high-level contact from the southern neighbor after a tense border row between the two countries plunged ties to an all-time low in recent history.

The ties between the two countries came under strain after an 80-km-long strategically crucial Nepalese road, which was illegally inaugurated by India. Army chief General Naravane's visit this November to Nepal largely aimed at resetting the bilateral ties that came under severe tension following a bitter border row between the two countries. He was accompanied by his wife Veena Naravane.

They were received by the Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Prabhu Ram upon arrival at the Tribhuvan International Airport. During the visit, President Bidya Devi Bhandari conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepal Army to the Indian Army Chief amid reservations of the sagacious sections of Nepalese society at a special ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

He also met Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli. India's decision to send the Army Chief to Nepal to retune the ties is seen as part of a larger exercise by New Delhi to invigorate relations with Myanmar, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Afghanistan in the wake of greater efforts by China to expand its influence in the region. The ties between the two countries came under severe stress after Indian Defence Minister inaugurated an 80-km-long strategically crucial road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand on 8th May.

Nepal protested the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through its territory. Later on, in June Nepal's Parliament approved the new political map of the country featuring areas that India usurped illegally. Nepal came out with the new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura as its territories to which India reacted harshly, calling it a "unilateral act" and intimidating Kathmandu that such "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be tolerable.

India said Nepal's action violates an understanding reached between the two countries to resolve the boundary issues through talks. Nepal Prime Minister Oli has been asserting that Lipulekh, Kalapani, and Limpiyadhura belong to Nepal and vowed to "reclaim" them from India. The Lipulekh pass is a far western point near Kalapani, a disputed border area between Nepal and India. Both India and Nepal claim Kalapani as an integral part of their territory – India as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district and Nepal as part of Dharchula district.

Although the stated purpose of the visit of Naravane to be adorned with the honorary rank of General of the Nepal Army, in accordance with a ritual of friendship between both the armies but the implicit purpose of the visit Indian

army chief is to mend fences with Nepal amid a diplomatic standoff between the two countries and a year after the boundary dispute came to the fore. In fact, the visit drives to stabilize cracked relations due to the longstanding territorial dispute and attempt to revive the much-needed dialogue between the two countries.

Since then, there have been no high-level visits from both sides as Kathmandu was looking for a date to hold boundary talks with India at Foreign Secretary-level to resolve the dispute but India has shown no interest to solve the issue. Nepal then sent four diplomatic notes to India to hold talks to settle the dispute. However, as India was unwilling to sit for talks on the boundary issue and then Nepal's government issued a new map of the country incorporating the disputed territories with the approval of Nepalese parliamentarians both the treasury and opposition.

A week after the opening of an 80-kilometer long track by Singh in Lipulekh on May 8, The Indian army chief had said that time in conference hinted towards China that was

creating a flashpoint between Delhi and Kathmandu. He blamed the then prime minister Oli of Nepal that he is doing this at the behest of someone else. His statement had created a huge uproar in Kathmandu. Many believe that Naravane's statement was one of the major reasons behind Kathmandu's decision to release the new map.

After conclusion of Indian Army Chief to Nepal, the Nepal Army Chief General Prabhuram Sharma paid a four-day visit to New Delhi from November 9 to November 12 during which he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Indian counterpart Indian army chief and other service chiefs to boost bilateral defense ties. The Nepal Army chief will also meet the National Security advisor, Defense Minister External Affairs Minister, and the three service chiefs and defense secretary. He will also attend an event at the National Defence College.



Nepal and China are getting closer to each other to counter the Indian nefarious and vested interest in South Asia. Accordingly, China also revived the rail project worth \$300 million in Nepal connecting Lhasa to Kathmandu. However, India is playing its card to win Nepal to its side. During the visit, Nepal Army Chief General Prabhuram Sharma has been conferred the honorary rank of General in the Indian Army in reciprocation of the honor given to the Indian Army Chief during his visit to Nepal. New Delhi has promised provision of equipment and military training.

The Rohingya Refugees Sue Facebook

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Recently, dozens of Rohingya refugees in the UK and US have sued the media giant Facebook, accusing its procedures that power the company to promote disinformation that deciphers into real-world violence by the social media giant of allowing hate speeches which produced massacre to the vulnerable estranged Muslim minority in Myanmar. They were saying for \$150bn (£113bn) in compensation in return by claiming that Facebook's platforms played a key role in spreading and exacerbating violence against the persecuted minority. An estimated 10,000 Rohingya Muslims were killed during a military crackdown in Buddhist-majority Myanmar in 2017 and an independent report found more than 1,000 examples of posts, comments, and pictures attacking the Rohingya and other Muslims on Facebook. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has started a case into the charges of crimes in the region. In September, a U.S. federal judge ordered Facebook to show the records of accounts linked to anti-Rohingya viciousness in Myanmar. Allowing such falsehoods the social media giant Facebook is proliferating and heavily affecting the lives of minorities throughout the world.

Facebook, whose parent company is now called Meta, knew its sites is badly harming some of their billions of users but alas that executives of Facebook chose growth over safety. Presently, Facebook is facing immense stress in the US and Europe to lock down on false information, particularly over elections and the COVID-19 pandemic. The company has fake agreements with some media companies, including Agency France-Presse news agency (AFP), to confirm online posts and eradicate those that are untrue but despite these partnerships, abhorrence speech and distortion of facts continue to appear on the Facebook location.

The company is being accused of allowing "the spreading of hateful and hazardous propaganda to continue for years". In the UK, a British law company on behalf of several Rohingya immigrants has inscribed a letter to Facebook that Facebook's procedures amplified hate speech against the Rohingya people and the Facebook failed to stop these bigotry speeches, videos and posts or delete accounts that incited violence against Muslims in Myanmar in spite of that fact-knowing about the political situation in Myanmar. The mainly Muslim group faces widespread discrimination in Myanmar, where they are despised as interlopers despite having lived in the country for generations and living in slumping refugee camps for a long and which are not permitted to citizenship and succumbed to communal vehemence and even discernment by the military that snatched power in February.

It failed to "take appropriate and timely action", despite warnings from media and notables around the world including UN. In the United States of America, attorneys registered a legal suit against Facebook in San Francisco, accusing it of being "to playing the lives of the Rohingya people for better market profits in a small country in South Asia." They mentioned the Facebook posts that appeared in an investigation in 2013 stating that "We must fight them the way Hitler did the Jews."

In an alike row, the other post said "Pour fuel and set fire so that they can meet Allah faster." Facebook has more than 20 million users in Myanmar because the social media site is their foremost or only way of getting and spreading news. Facebook acknowledged in 2018 that it had not done sufficient to stop the aggravation of ferocity and hate speech against the Rohingya Muslims. This followed an independent report, commissioned by Facebook, which said the platform had created an "allowing atmosphere" for the proliferation of human rights abuse as thousands of



Even Facebook has admitted that it didn't do more to stem a torrent of racist posts over the years followed. Although, Facebook said "it is keen to bar companies related to Myanmar's military using Facebook maliciously against the Rohingya Muslims immediately after lawyers filed a \$150 billion class-action lawsuit against the company on behalf of Rohingya refugees. However, it is yet to see that what the court judgments in the UK and US comes to not only stop the negative role of Facebook but to fine it also and compensate the Rohingya Muslims.

people died and more than 700,000 Rohingya fled to adjacent Bangladesh. There are also extensive accusations of human rights abuses, including arbitrary killing, rape, and burning of properties.

In 2018 the UN accused Facebook of being "unsuccessful" in its reply to stop the spread of hatred online. The 62-page independent report from non-profit

organization Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) found that the platform "has become a means for spreading hate and cause heinous crimes against Muslims" in Myanmar and the Facebook platform had created a "permitting situation" for the proliferation of human rights abuse and widespread genocide against the Rohingya minority.



Sheikh Mujeeb Ur Rehman: A leader with Vision

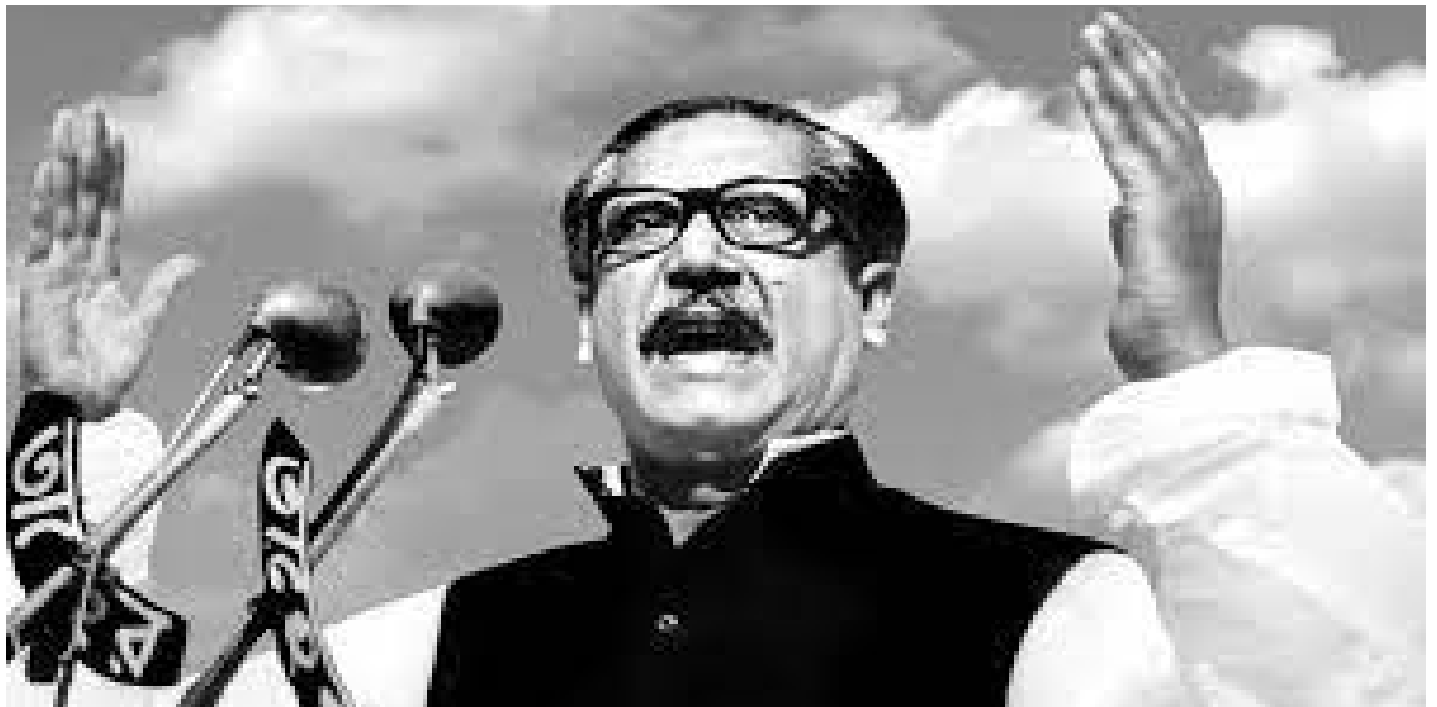
OPINION

By Asima Ashraf

As the date of separation Eastern Wing and Western Wing of Pakistan is approaching, patriotism of Sheikh Mujeeb Ur Rehman is being remembered. He was a versatile leader and history will always remember his splendid work for Pakistan. He was a helping hand of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in struggle of making Pakistan. He was very loyal to Quaid and his sister Miss Fatima Jinnah and he dedicated his whole life for the country. Sheikh Mujeeb Ur Rehman was born at Tungipara, Bengal on 17 March 1920. He completed his graduation from in 1947 from Islamia College, Calcutta. He was also elected as General Secretary of the Islamia College Students Union. He active worker of Bengal Provincial Muslim League from his college-hood and later in 1943 became member of the All-India Muslim League Council. Quaid e Azam was his inspiration and before partition he used to vend pro Pakistani newspaper, named, 'Millat' in the streets of Dhaka. He was also an active and founding leader of 'East Pakistan Muslim students' league'. These all scenarios are reflecting that how much he was enthusiastic and dedicated to his work and country.

After the demise of Quaid-e-Azam, he organized his party, 'Awami Muslim League party' in 1949. After death of Quaid, ideology of Pakistan was being sidelined and a secular vision was being applied on the initiation of India and the West. At this moment, Mujibur Rehman noticed that leaders and people who struggled for the liberation and attainment of Pakistan were changing to gain power, but Mujibur Rehman never distorted and remained steadfast. In early January 1950, under the leadership of Sheikh Mujib ur Rahman, Muslim League took out an anti-famine procession in Dhaka on the occasion of the visit of Pakistan's Prime Minister Liaqut Ali Khan to East Pakistan. Sheikh Mujibur Rehman was arrested and he was expelled from Muslim League for two years. In January 1952, he joined Maulana Bhashani in the formation of Awami Muslim League. Maulana Bhashani was great friend of Quaid-e-Azam Assam branch Muslim League Party in 1934 and ever since he dedicated his whole life for Pakistan movement.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman remained General Secretary of the Awami Muslim League from 1953 to 1966 and it's President from 1966 to 1974. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman entered parliamentary politics first in 1954 through his election as a member of the East Bengal Legislative Assembly. He was also a member of the Pakistan Second Constituent Assembly (1955-1958). During the elections of 1965, he joined hands with Fatima Jinnah and opposed autocratic ruling of General Ayub Khan. Sheikh Mujib Ur Rehman launched the campaign of Fatima Jinnah during



elections and due to his support, she secured more votes in East Pakistan than from west Bengal. He himself was elected as the Member of the National Assembly and always opposed the actions of the Pakistani establishment in the house.

During the War of 1965, he 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 privileges of the people of West Pakistan.

However, despite all hurdles, Mujibur Rehman was strongly resolute to achieve liberty. He encouraged Bengalis and managed to turn the 26 March's genocide into War of Liberation. At last, Bangladesh achieved freedom. It was great sorrow that Sheikh Mujibur Rehman had to surrender in front of death in the blackest day of Bangalis' history. He was killed but his dreams never died.



In the 1970 national elections, regardless of leading his party to a major victory in the elections, Mujibur Rahman was not invited form the government. On 25 March 1971, he was detained 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.

China annoyance over Indian interference into Chinese Firms affairs in Sri Lanka

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Last week China annoyance at India for interfering into Chinese Firms in Sri Lanka is a glaring example of India interference in the internal affairs of south Asian countries. The Chinese government highly criticized India for meddling in Chinese companies' energy projects in Sri Lanka, quoting that New Delhi's meddling postures a grave danger to growth and affluence in South Asian countries such as Sri Lanka. The comments came after Indian media reported that a project involving the installation of hybrid energy projects on some Sri Lankan islands had been shelved, owing to "security concerns from a third party. It has taken India almost a year to bring China out of the three islands of the Jaffna Peninsula in Sri Lanka.

In January 2021, India was taken aback by an announcement that the Ceylon Electricity Board had decided to award a contract to Sino Soar Hybrid Technology, a Chinese company, to build "hybrid renewable energy systems" on three islands off the coast of Jaffna. The three northern islands, Delft, Nagadipa and Analathivu, are strategically located and red flags have been flown at New Delhi due to India's security sensitivities.



India.

Ironically, India used lame excuse of security to meddle in the project in contrast of fact that the Sri Lankan project is small, supplying electricity to villages on three

small islands. Since the islands and the main territory of Sri Lanka are separated by the sea, it is very likely that the power grid will not be connected to other places in Sri Lanka." All major renewable energy projects in the world are installed with data collection systems to collect weather information, such as wind speed and light intensity. However, since 2010 this information has been required to be saved at local data centers as countries around the world have strengthened data security.

India has not only taken Sri Lanka economically hostage in south Asia in a bid to thwart China from helping Sri Lanka. As matter of fact India's see China as the potential threat for India hegemony in the south Asia. India received a heavy blow after the deadly Galwan Valley border clash last year, and it has gotten more sensitive on South Asian countries regarding Chinese influence. India is pursuing head-to-head competition with China in the Indian Ocean by using all its means.

The current India's interfering in projects is certainly hurting the national interest of Sri

Lanka. Similarly a project being started in the Maldives as the Maldives' Minister of Environment said in a tweet that the country is installing a total of 2.5 MW of solar photovoltaic power in all the inhabited islands in the Thaa Atoll.

The Sino Soar Hybrid Technology, after being suspended from building a Hybrid Energy system in three northern islands due to "security concerns" from a third party, signed a contract with the Maldivian government to establish solar power plants on 12 islands in the Maldives.

"If the project is operated successfully in Sri Lanka, it could avoid over 2,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year," Sinosoar's Solar Hybrid System for Sri Lanka was to have a capacity of 1,700 kilowatts (KW) at peak solar power and 530 KW of wind power. The planned capacity for the battery energy storage system was 2,350 KW and that of the generators was 2,050 KW, according to an article from the company on Sina Weibo in August.



Then the Indian government maneuvered and forced the Rajapaksa family in power in Sri Lanka and offered to build the same system at lower cost. As the India offered a large chunk of money as grants, including very small loan components that's why the Sri Lanka had could hardly refuse to Indian offer. Then India offered to execute the project with a grant of \$12 million. During the recent visit of Sri Lankan Finance Minister traveling to India Sri Lanka agreed to cancel the Chinese offer and hand over the project to

It is not the first time for India to put pressure on Sri Lanka over a Chinese investment project. The Sri Lanka Ports Authority said it signed an agreement with India's Adani Group to build a new terminal next to a \$500-million Chinese-run jetty in Colombo this move being seen as countering China's rising influence in the South Asia region.

The pledge of the Taliban government to protect Afghan women's rights

OPINION

By Usman Khan

Recently the Taliban chief issued a decree that women should not be considered 'property and must be consent to marriage. Though the Taliban decree did not refer a minimum age for marriage. The Taliban has issued a decree stopping forced marriage in Afghanistan, by saying that women should not be considered "material thing" and her permission concerning marriage is necessary and mandatory and it reflect good omen of the fact Taliban that returned to power in mid-August willing to restore the women's rights concerning work and education. The decree was announced on Friday by the reclusive Taliban chief, Hibatullah Akhundzada – who is supposed to be in the southern city of Kandahar. Both women and men are equal," said the decree, added that "no one can force women to marry by pressure or compulsion".

Although the decree did not indicate the least age for marriage, which previously was set at 16 years old. The Taliban also said a widow will now be allowable to re-marry 17 weeks after her husband's death, selecting her new spouse liberally in contrast to the ancient tribal customs have held it compulsory for a widow to marry one of her husband's brothers or relatives in the result of his death.



across the globe those little girls are being sold as property to others in order to feed the rest of the family. During its previous rule from 1996 to 2001, the Taliban barred women from leaving the house without a male relative covering full face along with head and girls from receiving education. Even the then Taliban government forced men to grow beards and barred the

institutions have postponed development funding for the country, plummeting the deeply aid-dependent economy into the abysmal of poverty, famine, and hunger leading towards a humanitarian catastrophe.

Although the Taliban relaxing more rules to elucidate women's rights by issuing such degree it is still not known that it would conciliate the world powers — which have yet to accept the new Afghan government but indeed it is a welcome move on the part of the Taliban to take a notable step concerning the rights of Afghan women. The Taliban's supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada categorically said that women and girls will not be pressed in married matters anymore and that a widow has the right to have a share in her husband's inheritance. Since the decree has opposed coercion on women in matters of marriage, it makes it clear that a widow can marry a man of her choice.

Through the decree, the Taliban have ordered the entire government machinery to see to it that the rights of girls and women are safeguarded. All relevant organizations have been instructed to take "serious actions to enforce women's rights". It has ordered the ministries of information and culture to publish material on the rights of women and girls in order to raise general awareness about the important issue. This decree serves to clear the haze surrounding women's rights under the new indulgence and shows that the Taliban leadership is aware of the rights of women — as in contradiction of a general impression in the world about them being too traditional in their dealing of women.



The Taliban leadership said that it has instructed the Afghan courts to behave women justly, particularly widows seeking inheritance as following of kin. The group, which came to power in August, also said it had asked government ministers to increase the consciousness about women's rights across the populace. The development was welcomed as a momentous step onward from all spheres of life including the international community still remained the group would extend women's rights about allowing work and education for females are yet to see.

At the moment the international community has withheld billions of dollars regarding supporting funds for Afghanistan and made women's and human rights a key element of any future engagement with Afghanistan. It would be marvelous thing if this degree regarding consent of marriages and inheritance get implemented. Such steps would definitely ensure and protect the rights of the girls and will be not be suppressed by family members any more in the future.

It's a very smart move on the part of the Taliban at this point because due to the rumors spreading

playing of music but this time a change is in making. Currently, nearly \$10bn in Afghan central bank assets froze by the US as well as the international monetary

By issuing the decree on women's rights, the Taliban have upheld their declaration made on the occasion of assuming power in August this year that they would safeguard that mistakes of the previous Taliban government would not be repeated. The decree will go a long way in addressing gender-based issues in Afghanistan where the male and female population is nearly equal. It has also magnified the expectation that the Taliban would soon let thousands of girls from grades seven to 12 to attend school moreover, a majority of women who have been banned from occupations will be permissible to restart their jobs.

OPINION

By Usman Khalil Khan

The Khalistan Referendum in Geneva

On Friday last, more than 6,000 Sikhs gathered from Switzerland and contiguous countries France, Italy and Germany casted their votes in Geneva for the non-binding Khalistan Referendum, in spite of a heavy rain and snow storm in the Swiss capital generating and moving forward the European phase of the referendum on the United Nations Human Rights day.

The participants heavily disapproved and condemned Indian Prime Minister Modi for its racist policies against the Sikhs including other minorities in India and called RSS a terrorist organization. Sikhs used and arrived in all kinds of vehicles including buses and private vehicles overnight to participate in the voting process that was held at a huge community hall nearby the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) headquarters.

Due to heavy snow fall overnight in Switzerland, France and Italy, numerous vehicles carrying the Sikh families become unsuccessful to reach Geneva on Friday due to traffic roadblocks. Despite the difficulties weather, more than 6,000 Sikh men and women managed to arrive at BFM Centre and voted in the separatist referendum for liberation of Punjab from the cruel clutches of India.

The Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), the manager of the Khalistan Plebiscite, said that the voting day for Dec 10 is chosen up in Geneva to match symbolically with the International Human Rights Day. The Khalistan Referendum voting held under the control of the independent Punjab Referendum Commission (PRC).

Mentioning the 2021 'Equality' theme of UN Human Rights Day, the SFJ General Council said that "Sikh people are facing genocide like situation and their right to life and liberty is in risk under Indian governance.

"Liberation of Punjab is the solitary answer of Sikhs problem" through this referendum Sikhs had shown to the world how to defeat the Indian false news and

disinformation campaign against Sikhs by taking to the ballot boxes. He said the goal and desire of the referendum was to show that Sikhs believed in exercising their right through the egalitarian means.

At same time the SFJ's Europe and UK Coordinate said that International Human Rights Day retells the international community every year about its commitment towards raising their voices for protecting human rights but sadly the rights of Sikhs significantly are not being treatment and understood in the same way. Therefore, the UN and other rights bodies should take serious note of it how Sikhs have been methodically killed by the Hindutva Indian regime, not just through the 1984 Sikh massacre but for decades before that.

After the voting was finished, Sikhs paraded to the Broken Chair, outside the UNHRC building, to stage a demonstration where speeches were delivered by Khalistan leaders. Talking from the specifically erected stage, the Sikhs leaders called on the United Nations and the global community to stop the brutalities of the Indian government's actions against Sikhs all over the world. They told the UN that India always puts up a decent face before the world but behind the curtain it mercilessly murdered Sikhs at large scale besides, other minorities in India and at the same Indian government trying to stop the campaigns of Sikhs in UK, Europe and North America to finish Sikh activism.

Prior to the Khalistan Referendum voting and rally in Geneva, the Sikhs for Justice registered a report about the 'India's Outlawing of Khalistan Referendum' to the Office of the United Nations



High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in a special meeting. SFJ General Counsels and President Council of Khalistan gave a presentation to UN officials on the Sikhs' right to self-determination under global law and pointed the Modi government's use of violence and treason laws against Khalistan Referendum activists both in India and away.

The Sikh delegation updated the UN officials that Modi's Hindu bigot government is compelling Indian chauvinism on the Sikh people in India to misrepresent their culture and history. They expressed the UN officers that the Modi regime is using social media podiums Facebook, twitter, Instagram and YouTube to accelerate the Indian nationalism and to suppress the Khalistan Referendum campaign by blocking the contents and posts advocating for liberation of Punjab from India through the peaceful means of ballot. The referendum campaign started in London on Oct 31, 2021 and voting was held in five different cities in the UK with heavy representation of Sikhs by the Punjab Referendum Commission (PRC) to garner support for Khalistan movement.



The Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) is a US-based organization that supports the separation of Punjab from India for the creation of Khalistan. It was banned in India in 2019 as an illegal association. The organization was banned after its campaigns for a Punjab independence referendum in 2019 to carve out a separate Khalistan.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman – A great leader

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was born on 17 March 1920 in Tungipara, a village in the Gopalganj District in the province of Bengal. Mujib was considered an iconic figure for getting political autonomy for East Pakistan. Initially, he was an ardent supporter and member of the All-India Muslim League Council.

After the creation of Pakistan, he still worked for the solidarity of Pakistan and openly supported the then opposition candidate Midar-e-Millat Fatima Jinnah sister of Mohammad Ali Jinnah openly against Ayub Khan in the 1964 election which shows his integrity and loyalty to Pakistan.

For years, there was increasing dissatisfaction in East Pakistan over the negligence of the issues and needs of East Pakistan by the then ruling regime and Bengalis were poorly being represented in Pakistan's civil services, police, and military besides the uneven allocation of revenues to Bangles.

At that time he rose to the high echelons of the Awami League party and became a central figure of East Pakistani politics as a charismatic and vigorous orator. He was a founding member of the Awami League and finally became the leader of the Awami League, founded in 1949 as an East Pakistan-based political party.

In 1966, Mujib-e-Rahman announced his 6-point plan titled "the Charter of Survival" at a national conference of opposition political parties at Lahore, in which he demanded self-government and considerable political, economic, and defense autonomy for East Pakistan within a Pakistani federation.

His six-point points gained extraordinary public support across East Pakistan as the definitive gambit for the autonomy and rights of Bengalis in Pakistan. However, his demands were measured fundamental in West Pakistan and understood as thinly veiled self-rule.

Later on, Mujib-e- Rahman was arrested two weeks before the election charged with sedition, and jailed for a year. In the meanwhile, the government succumbed to the mounting public pressure, dropped the charges on 22 February 1969, and unconditionally released him the following day. He returned to East Pakistan as a public hero. He was given a mass reception on 23 February, at Racecourse ground and conferred him the title of "Bangabandhu", meaning "Friend of the Bengal" in Bengali.

The general elections of 1970 were considered one of the fairest and cleanest elections in the history of Pakistan, with about twenty-four political parties taking part. The general elections presented a picture of a two-party system, with the Awami League, a Bengali nationalist party, competing against the extremely influential and widely popular Pakistan

People Party, a leftist and democratic socialist party that had been a major power-broker in West Pakistan.

The largest and most successful party in the western wing of the nation was the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) headed by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. He completely opposed Mujib's demand for greater autonomy and threatened to boycott the assembly if Mujib was invited by Yahya Khan then president of Pakistan to form the next government and call for insertion of the PPP. At the time Pakistani military along with Islamic political parties refused to see Mujib as the prime minister of Pakistan.

Due to fear of civil war Bhutto sent a secret message to Mujib to meet with him and persuaded him to form a coalition government with Bhutto. They decided that Bhutto would serve as president, with Mujib as Prime Minister. These developments took place secretly but were not acted upon practically.

The Awami League as a Bengali nationalist party got the support in East Pakistan on the basis of its Six-Points Program (SPP), which was the main attraction in the party's manifesto and received a huge percentage of the popular vote in East Pakistan and emerged as the largest party gaining the exclusive mandate of Pakistan in terms both of seats and votes. The results gave the Awami League the constitutional right to form a government. However, Bhutto, the leader of the Pakistan People's Party, refused to

allow Mujib-e-Rahman to become the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The Pakistan People's Party failed to win any seats in East Pakistan. On the other hand, the Awami League had failed to gather any seats in West Pakistan. At that time Bhutto uttered his infamous phrase "idhar hum, udhar tum" (We rule here, you rule there). Thus dividing Pakistan for the first time orally.

At that time to Mujib-e-Rahman started a non-cooperation movement instead of declaring the independence of Bangladesh. The movement was successful, freezing the machinery of government and effectively giving him command over East Pakistan but simultaneously he attempted to achieve a mutual solution within a united Pakistan.

Yahya Khan held a meeting in Dhaka in the middle of March as a last-ditch effort to resolve the issue along with Bhutto joined him but the three parties could not reach a consensus on the transfer of power. Yahya Khan preferred a military solution for the problem. In the early hours of 26 March 1971, a military crackdown had been started by the Pakistan army began.

On 16 December 1971, the commanding office of Pakistan Army forces located in East Pakistan surrendered and the nation of Bangladesh was finally established. The new country changed its name to Bangladesh on 11 January 1972 and became a parliamentary democracy under a constitution.

In his final years, Mujib-e-Rahman largely abandoned his trademark "Joy Bangla" salutation for 'Khuda Hafez'. He revived the Islamic Academy which had been banned in 1972 for suspected collusion with Pakistani forces and banned the production and sale of alcohol besides banning the practice of betting, which had been one of the major demands of Islamic groups.

In his public appearances and speeches, he increased the usage of Islamic greetings, slogans, and references to Islamic Ideologies He also declared a common amnesty to the suspected war criminals, on some conditions, to get the support of far-right groups as the communists were not happy with Mujib's regime.

Due to his pragmatic foreign policy, Bangladesh achieved recognition from major countries; and United Nations besides, the Non-Aligned Movement. He traveled to the United States and other European nations to obtain humanitarian and developmental assistance. Mujib-e-Rahman sought Bangladesh's membership in the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Commonwealth of Nations, and the Islamic Development Bank. He made a significant trip to Lahore in 1974 to attend the OIC summit, which helped improve relations with Pakistan. His death was a tragic one to a dynamic leader and the sub-continent lost an able son.



OPINION

BY DWAIPAYAN REGMI (TON NEPAL)

Observing Nepal Pakistan Relationship: Past and Future Hopes

Both, being located in Himalayan states within the Indian subcontinent, the diplomatic relations between these two countries had been in existence since 1960. Aiming that there would be increased bilateral trade, strategic alliance, and military cooperation the diplomatic ties among them came into existence. When Ayub Khan, President of Pakistan made a special visit to Nepal in 1963, the bonding among these two nations turned to be further strengthened. Later, Pakistan agreed to provide Nepal with free trade-based accessibility along with transport facilities through their East Pakistan (now Bangladesh's) port – Chittagong. Even to date, it has been believed that there exists a bilateral relationship between these two countries that is based on goodwill, cooperation, and support. Meanwhile, both the countries then hold similar views in various international and regional forums too.

Politically observing, Nepal and Pakistan have remained good friends for decades. Pakistan has extended its support in Nepal's democratic process after Nepal abolished monarchy. Pakistan has been supporting Nepal's parliament following the popular People's Movement II within the era of durable peace along with prosperity in Nepal. Nepal has been always a supportive hand in Pakistan's move as well. An important link that interlinks Nepal and Pakistan is the military support that the Nepalese monarchy had developed through which there had been extensive military support, arms, and military equipment to Nepal for the monarchy thereby.

Economically, these two nations started their relationship in 1962 by signing a trade agreement for boosting up bilateral trade. It was then in 1982, there was a trade agreement along with the volume of bilateral trade which remained small as USD 4.8 million. Today, Pakistan has been exporting more than USD 1.5 million to Nepal and has been importing more than USD 3 million from Nepal. From items like textiles, oilseeds, extraction of oil, and tourism to another line of credit, there have been strong economic ties among them.

Today, there are several Pakistan's investments that have been made in sectors from textile, hotels to banking industries in Nepal and have been operating with excellence too. Nepal has been exporting items like turpentine oils, contact lenses, textile items, gums along surgical instruments to Pakistan and has been importing edible fruits and nuts, dates, ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves, etc.

Pakistan has been providing an annual scholarship to Nepalese students in fields like medicine, pharmacy, and engineering under Pakistan Technical Assistance Programme (PTAP) and there are more than 500 Nepalese students who are studying management, mass communication, social science, information technology, pharmacy, engineering and medical science in Pakistan. Seeing the social bonding, Pakistan had made impressive dispatch of rescue and relief teams along with required tools like water, tents, and other relief material during the devastating earthquake of April 2015. Pakistan's participation in International Conference on Nepal's reconstructing providing USD 1 million clearly explains the social bonding among these two nations.



Apart from being in regional cooperation like SAARC, these two nations have been sharing similar voices on international platforms too.

Although these nations don't share physical borders directly, they are not that far away from each other physically. They do have huge potential that they can capture in near future through strong diplomatic ties. The trade interlink among these two countries will work through best way here, and there seems that there remain huge rooms of opportunities here that they can enjoy together and hand in hand sharing the mutual benefits.

It has been found that Pakistan holds a competitive advantage in the export of textiles, clothing, hides, skins, vegetables, and food products; through which they can obtain a strong set of relationships. Nepal has

been generating enough hydroelectricity recently, and it is no wonder that Pakistan could be the next marketplace for them too. Even though these two nations have drastically different religions and cultures – they can always cope up together for promoting tourism in them and obtain mutual benefit them. Nepal, which has been prioritizing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) recently, Pakistani investors can always be welcoming for them too.

The relationship that had existed for more than sixty years now seems to be filled up with further hopes and glory. Though there had been several commitments about improving the relationship between these two nations, practically there seem to be a certain gap, which should be filled up sooner for better prosperity of both the nation.

The Setting up of a humanitarian fund for Afghanistan is a Good Omen

OPINION

By Usman Khan

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Sunday made a humanitarian fund to be operated by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to prevent the humanitarian and economic crises in Afghanistan, as the Prime Minister cautioned that the neighboring country could potentially become the “major humanitarian crisis” if the world did not come up to help.

The declaration of the endowment was part of the actions the 57-member Islamic bloc decided upon after the 17th Extraordinary Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) hosted by Pakistan.

However, it is still blurred that how the decisions of the OIC will make an instant effect in Afghanistan, which is in ominous need of humanitarian help. The humanitarian account would channel monetary support to be delivered by member states to Afghanistan.

Currently, due to the prohibitions imposed by the US and other Western countries, there are no proper banking channels or financial systems operating in Afghanistan. Due to the lack of formal banking channels, the OIC countries are finding it difficult to do so in helping the people of Afghanistan.

On this occasion, the OIC Secretary-General said the establishment of a trust fund would help address the problem. However, no contributions were made yet to the newly created fund except the announcement of Saudi Arabia as it was just announced and hopefully member countries would start contributing to it soon.

The secretary-general of OIC designated a special representative on Afghanistan, who would make certain the decisions fully implemented made at the Islamabad conference. Over 20 foreign ministers including those from Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, and Bangladesh joined the day-long meeting at the Parliament House.

The permanent members of the UN Security Council, European Union, and

international financial institutions also joined the meeting, making it the biggest international congregation on Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover in the war-ravaged country. The Afghan acting foreign minister was also in attendance who did speak during the closed-door session of the OIC meeting.

The OIC member countries, which were gathered to assess the current humanitarian situation in Afghanistan with one point agenda to create a Trust Fund for Afghanistan. The fund will be released through the Islamic Development Bank.

The UN Relief Chief who addressed on behalf of the global body’s secretary-general gave an upsetting presentation about the frightening situation in Afghanistan. Almost 23 million people are already facing hunger. Health facilities are overflowing with malnourished children. Majority of the teachers are not getting salaries and millions of children, Afghanistan are unable to attend the school due to the chaotic situation there.

he UN representative also warned that as per the UN Development Programme, 97% of the Afghan population could slip below the poverty line by June next year if crucial steps were not taken to finish their sufferings.

In his keynote address, the prime minister of Pakistan said that the United States specifically must delink the Taliban government from the 40 million Afghan citizens. If they have been differences with the Taliban two decades but now this matter is survival of the people of Afghanistan.

The US has frozen \$9.5 billion assets of the Afghan central bank since the Taliban takeover in August. During the closed-door session, according to the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, the US special envoy for Afghanistan, hinted at a possible shift in the US approach.

Helping the Taliban government and the people of Afghanistan is the only way to handle the terrorist outfits and requires a



stable regime in Kabul and dearth of resources may face a spillover of fresh terrorism acts to neighboring countries particularly Pakistan.

Presently, Afghanistan has faced the biggest collateral damage of the Afghan war with a loss of 80,000 people and a devastated economy, and a dislocation of 3.5 million people internally.

The foreign minister of Pakistan who was also the chair of the session also proposed creating a mechanism within the OIC countries for sustainable humanitarian and financial support to the Afghanistan government and shared a six-point strategy to address Afghanistan’s humanitarian crisis, food safety, and financial renewal in addition to its institutional capability building to counter the threat of terrorism.

He also called for increased investment in the education and vocational sectors of Afghanistan, either bilaterally or through the OIC platform and proposed the establishment of an expert group of the OIC and UN officials to revive the banking sector in Afghanistan that collapsed after the Taliban took over Kabul.

In the meanwhile, the Muslim world

leaders expressed their solidarity, sovereignty, unity with territorial integrity of Afghanistan and called for an immediate stand-up and unified action to avert the looming humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan that otherwise could impact world peace.

In his address, Saudi Foreign Minister said the financial problems could activate a humanitarian catastrophe and lead to additional unpredictability, impacting regional and international peace. He added the people of Afghanistan had agonized since long and had faced years of insecurity.

The OIC secretary-general tendered his gratefulness to the member countries for choosing him to head the bloc and also thanked Pakistan for the heartfelt welcome. He thanked Pakistan and its people for being host to the conference, which is yet another appearance of the country’s full commitment to the progression of the issues of the Muslim Ummah, and its concern for upholding peace and security in the region as this effort gives a universal message of harmony and solidarity.

Now the whole responsibility lays on the shoulders of OIC as being the only collective platform of Islamic ummah to support their Afghan brethren at this time of suffering because no country in South Asia has suffered such conflicts as much as Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan was also caused by their corrupt government, suspension of foreign aid, freezing of foreign assets and a dysfunctional banking system, which is leading towards the collapse of Afghanistan both as nation and state if not rescued.

The intensifying campaign for “India Out” in Maldives

OPINION

By TON Research Section

Due to permanent Indian military presence endangering archipelago’s sovereignty. For a few weeks now, hundreds of people in the Maldives have participated in rallies calling for the expulsion of the Indian military personnel from their island state spread over hundreds of atolls.

The peaceful demonstrations, which are mostly concentrated in Male, the capital, have been organized by a coalition of opposition parties led by former President Abdulla Yameen, who was jailed in 2019.

The opposition leaders say that they are not against the people of India and just want the Indian military to leave. And it is the incumbent government who has invited this trouble to our shore. As the Maldives cannot afford to have any military presence of another country here.

As the former President of Maldives Abdulla Yameen walked free, after the Supreme Court overturned his conviction in a money-laundering case, the ‘India Out’ campaign in the island nation is being intensified, with the former strongman now leading it.

The Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) stepped up the ongoing campaign resisting “Indian boots on the ground” in the Indian Ocean Archipelago, despite the ruling administration denying any Indian military presence.

Images of Mr. Yameen and his supporters, attired in a red t-shirt with ‘India Out’ printed in bold font, are circulating on social media, along with the ‘#India Out’ hashtag. The Maldives is one of those key South Asian countries where regional rivals China and India are competing with each other for getting strategic influence.

The opposition accuses the government of President Ibrahim Solih of signing secret deals with New Delhi that will allow Indian troops to be permanently stationed in the Maldives. The Maldivian government denies compromising on sovereignty and says security arrangements with India are mostly to carry out search and rescue operations.

At the Centre of the debate is the matter of an India-funded dockyard for the Maldivian coast guard, which is being constructed on the Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) atoll, near Male. A copy of the UTF agreement leaked earlier this year said Indian military personnel will be stationed there and Indian navy vessels will be allowed to use the dockyard for years to come.

The important opposition figures of Maldives are saying that such an important agreement like this, which can impact a country’s foreign relations, should have been debated in the parliament before signing it. Maldives President Ibrahim Solih faces criticism from the opposition for ceding too much ground to the Indian military.

The presence of Indian military personnel in the Maldives, an issue that the opposition has seized upon to criticize the government, resonates with Maldivians wary of outside interference

Nevertheless, the persistent pressure mounted by the opposition has put the government in a tight corner. Last week, Defense Minister had publicly



disclosed that Indian troops in the country were unarmed and insist that they posed no danger to its sovereignty.

Former President Yameen, who governed between 2013 and 2018, had fostered close ties with China. He oversaw the inauguration of a 2.1 km-long, four-lane Bridge connecting Male with the island of Hulhumale. That’s the only bridge that connects islands in the archipelago where people otherwise travel on boats between different atolls. Beijing funded the \$200 million project.

For years, China had little interest in the small nation of under 500,000 people — Beijing didn’t even have an embassy in the Maldives until 2012. India faced humiliation when Yameen’s government signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with China and opened the archipelago to Chinese goods and services.

The Maldives, which derives a substantial chunk of its revenue from tourists — many of them Chinese — also became a recipient of Beijing’s investment. Following President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih’s election in September 2018, his Government declared an “India first” foreign policy.

Presently, the pro-India government of Maldives is seriously concerned against the PPM leadership spreading campaign towards India which is calling that India should be out of the internal affairs of Maldives. India-Maldives relations deteriorated considerably when the Yameen administration was in power from 2013 to 2018.

The opposition leaders and the citizens have serious concerns and slammed the Government over its Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) harbor development deal with India, signed in February 2021.

As the incumbent government of Maldives is not revealing the terms of the agreement in Parliament in spite of the demands of the opposition. All this shows the clear interference of Indian government led by the BJP into the internal affairs of the island country.

Significantly, tensions rose over Mr. Yameen’s ultimatum to New Delhi to withdraw two Indian helicopters from the strategically important Laamu and Addu atolls. Critics of the Government are saying that they are not against India or the people of India. We just oppose the military presence of any foreign country is it “India, China, or whoever else.”

Pakistan: Turkey-Iran-Pakistan cargo train restarts after 10-year halt

ISLAMABAD, 22 December 2021, (TON): Following a 10-year hiatus, a freight train service between Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan was re-launched in a major boost for trade among the three countries and within the region.

The Istanbul-Tehran-Islamabad (ITI) cargo train was started in 2009 but suspended in 2011 due to several delays in Pakistan.

It can complete the journey between the three countries in about 14 days, much faster and less costly than the alternate sea route.

The train departed from Pakistan's capital for Europe's largest city with dozens of containers.

It will cover 1,990 kilometers (1,235 miles) inside Pakistan, before crossing through the Taftan border for a 2,603-kilometer (1,620 miles) stretch in Iran.

The train will travel some 1,850 kilometres (1,150 miles) in Turkey, passing through the



capital Ankara before reaching its final stop in Istanbul.

The decision to resume the ITI cargo train service was taken at a ministerial meeting of ECO member states in 2020.

Pakistan: OIC resolution on restoring Afghanistan's banking system a huge success, says Shah Mahmood Qureshi

ISLAMABAD, 21 December 2021, (TON): Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said "introducing a resolution for the restoration of Afghanistan's banking system is a resounding success."

In a statement commenting on the 17th extraordinary session of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers held a day earlier, Qureshi said that the problem is not the Taliban government, but the 38 million Afghans facing hunger and famine.

He said "Afghanistan urgently needs medicine and food."

He added that America should reconsider its Afghanistan policy in the interests of the Afghan people.

He noted that having 20 Foreign Ministers and 10 Deputy Foreign Ministers attend the meeting was a great achievement for Pakistan.



He thanked the Foreign Office's agencies and personnel, stating that the arrival of representatives from so many countries in

Pakistan is a major development.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Senate Chairman, and the Pakistan Armed Forces.

Pakistan: Pakistan ready to host SAARC summit if 'artificial obstacles' removed

ISLAMABAD, 23 December 2021, (TON): Pakistan said "it was ready to host the long-delayed summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) when what it said "artificial obstacles" in its way were removed.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to host the SAARC leaders during the meeting with the group's secretary general Esala Ruwan Weerakoon, who is currently on a visit to Islamabad.

Pakistan was supposed to host the summit in 2016 but India boycotted the gathering of SAARC leaders and also persuaded some other member states to do the same. Under the SAARC charter, the summit cannot take place if any of the member countries stays out.



Since then India consistently has been staying away from the summit thus delaying the gathering of leaders of eight nations of South Asia.

However, it is unlikely the organisation

will realise its full potential in the foreseeable future given the deep divisions between Pakistan and India and also new alignments in the region.

Pakistan: COAS meets Bahrain Naval Force Commander



ISLAMABAD, 23 December 2021, (TON): Commander Royal Bahrain Naval Force Rear Admiral Mohammad Yousif Al Asam Wednesday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa here at GHQ and acknowledged the professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and vowed to enhance cooperation in various fields.

An Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) media release said "during the meeting, matters of mutual interest, current security situation in Afghanistan and bilateral cooperation in defence and security fields were discussed."

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief of Army Staff said, "Pakistan desires to maintain the tradition of bilateral engagement and wish for long term and multi-domain enduring relationship with Bahrain."

On Afghanistan, the Chief of Army Staff stressed upon the need for global convergence and sincere efforts to avert a looming humanitarian catastrophe.

10th of December a day of Human Rights

OPINION

By TON Research Section

On Friday, December 10, 2021, World Human Rights Day was observed across the world with zeal and a pledge to defend the rights of every human irrespective of caste, creed, color, and religion. On the same day seventy-three years ago, on December 10, 1948, the UN General Assembly espoused an extraordinary declaration recognizing the rights and freedom of all humans. It honors the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a universal manuscript approved by the United Nations General Assembly that protects the rights and liberties of all human beings. It was recognized by the General Assembly as Resolution 217 during its third session on 10 December 1948 at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris, France. In the beginning, 48 countries voted in favor of Human rights are the natural rights of people by inheritance, irrespective of all Human beings as the right to pass life in accordance with their choice.

The UDHR is a document which “announces the undeniable rights that everybody can practice as a human being”- regardless of their masculinity, language, faith, race, color, national or communal origin, according to the United Nations (UN’s) website. The UDHR is existing in more than 500 languages and is the most transformed document across the globe. It endures being the basis of all global human rights laws.

Here are salient articles from the declaration to safeguard the Rights and Freedom of Mankind:

The preface sets out the historical and communal reasons that led to the necessity of drafting the Declaration.

Articles 1–2 form the basic concepts of self-respect, freedom, and equality.

Articles 3–5 form other distinct rights, such as the right to life and the ban of bondage and cruelty.

Articles 6–11 mention the fundamental legality of human rights with specific remedies quoted for their defense when dishonored.

Articles 12–17 set forth the rights of the individual towards the community, including freedom of travel and



dwelling within each state, the right of possessions, and the right to a nationality.

Articles 18–21 support the so-called “constitutional liberties” and spiritual, public, and political freedoms, such as freedom of thought, view, expression,

feelings of people by making baseless allegations against any person. On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, we should commit to transform our motherland Pakistan into a model country where every human being – men, women, or

at various levels to counter bigotry and intolerance in society. Another wise it appears to be a never-ending process and even highly educated societies to produce people who display such nasty tendencies.

If somebody has committed an illegal or unlawful act, there are law enforcement agencies to manage it. Considering all non-Muslims as enemies of Islam is against the basic concept of Islam because “ALLAH ALMIGHTY says in the Holy Quran that those who save one innocent human being he saves the whole humanity” and those who killed one human being he killed the whole humanity.”

To stop all these bigotries, intolerances, prejudices, and stereotypes we should have a

full knowledge of the peaceful teaching of Islam. As human rights is a wide-ranging multifaceted issue that demands to modify attitudes and customs in society and provide conducive economic, political, and social structures and this is likely to eradicate and eliminate discrimination for all living in a society.

In a net shell government and state, institutions need to ensure equitable opportunities for all in the society. If all citizens do not get equal benefits of amenities, they are unable to get their rights. We need fundamental modifications to provide knowledge to all segments of society in accordance with the teaching of the Holy Quran and the Hadith of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W).

As the UN Declaration is the mainstay of the human rights architecture of societies around the world where every human being has the right to live peacefully. Since its implementation, laws and, policies embracing human rights have made them freer to assert their faiths, needs, and choices against tyranny and abuse, and the respected governments should protect and save the people who are stuck in battle zones; men, women, and children who die while seeking the protection where people are being discriminated and continue to be repressed, beaten or killed because they seek the truth and subject to enormous exploitation.

religion and morality, word, a peaceful association of the individual, and getting and communicating information and ideas through any media.

It is the need of the hour to curb extremism and ensure the prevention of false and baseless allegations of blasphemy against any person before he/she is held by the government in the charges in a bid to build a society that should be based on tolerance and co-existence. Pakistan is the signatory among the 48 countries in the world that signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and promised to defend human rights.

Now-a-days extremist elements involved in human rights violations in India and Pakistan are few in number, but, unfortunately, they instigate the

children, a minority or a majority – must have the equal and unbiased freedom to live happily within constitutional limits.

This is the time that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be part of both Pakistan and India’s national agenda to curb and eradicate the menace of extremism and religious fanatics. We must include this declaration in our educational curriculum to guide the young generation to the significance of serving humanity and protecting human rights.

To counter these bigoted and prejudiced tendencies targeting individuals in resulting hostility need a collective effort. The war against human rights violations requires the amalgamation of wide-ranging plans

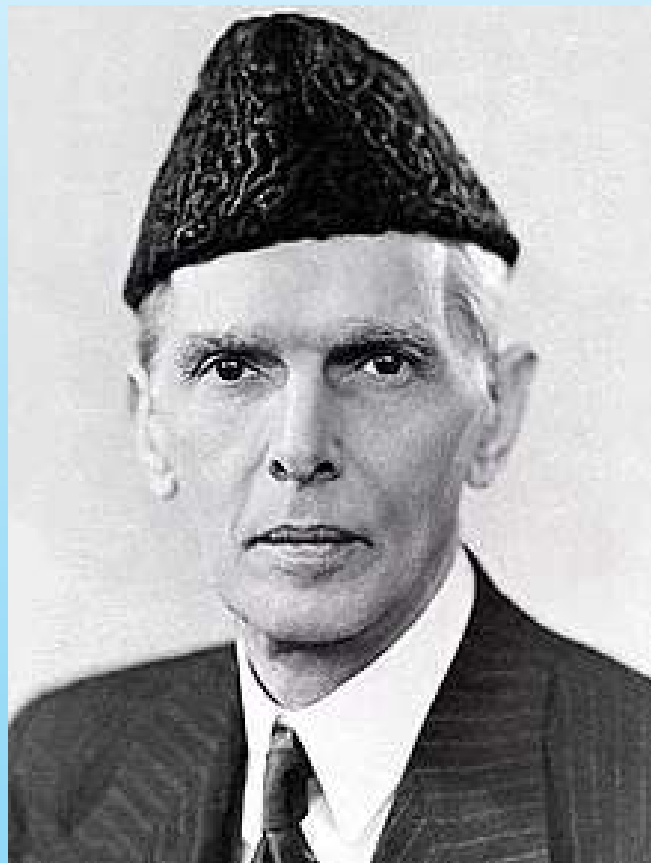
Jinnah's Birthday

25 December, 2021

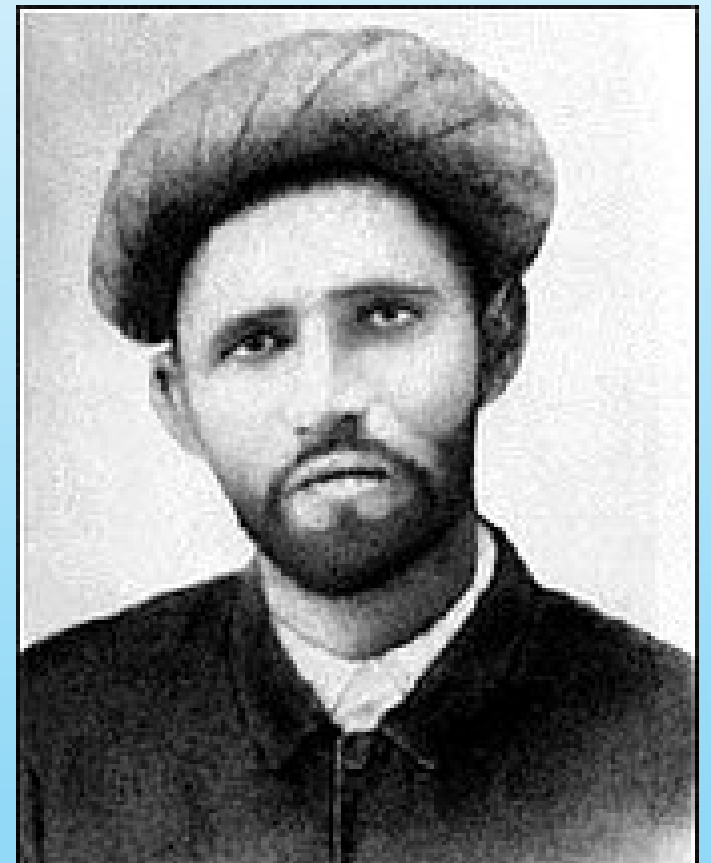
Muhammad Ali Jinnah (born Mahomedali Jinnahbhai; 25 December 1876 – 11 September 1948) was a barrister, politician and the founder of Pakistan. [1] Jinnah served as the leader of the All-India Muslim League from 1913 until the inception of Pakistan on 14 August 1947, and then as the Dominion of Pakistan's first governor-general until his death. He is revered in Pakistan as the Quaid-i-Azam ("Great Leader") and Baba-i-Qaum ("Father of the Nation"). His birthday is observed as a national holiday in Pakistan.

Born at Wazir Mansion in Karachi, Jinnah was trained as a barrister at Lincoln's Inn in London, England. Upon his return to British India, he enrolled at the Bombay High Court, and took an interest in national politics, which eventually replaced his legal practice. Jinnah rose to prominence in the Indian National Congress in the first two decades of the 20th century. In these early years of his political career, Jinnah advocated Hindu–Muslim unity, helping to shape the 1916 Lucknow Pact between the Congress and the All-India Muslim League, in which Jinnah had also become prominent. Jinnah became a key leader in the All-India Home Rule League, and proposed a fourteen-point constitutional reform plan to safeguard the political rights of Muslims in the Indian subcontinent. In 1920, however, Jinnah resigned from the Congress when it agreed to follow a campaign of satyagraha, which he regarded as political anarchy.

By 1940, Jinnah had come to believe that the Muslims of the subcontinent should have their own state to avoid the possible marginalised status they may gain in an independent Hindu–Muslim state. In that year, the Muslim League, led by Jinnah, passed the Lahore Resolution, demanding a separate nation for British Indian Muslims. During the Second World War, the League gained strength while leaders of the Congress were imprisoned, and in the



Muhammad Ali Jinnah

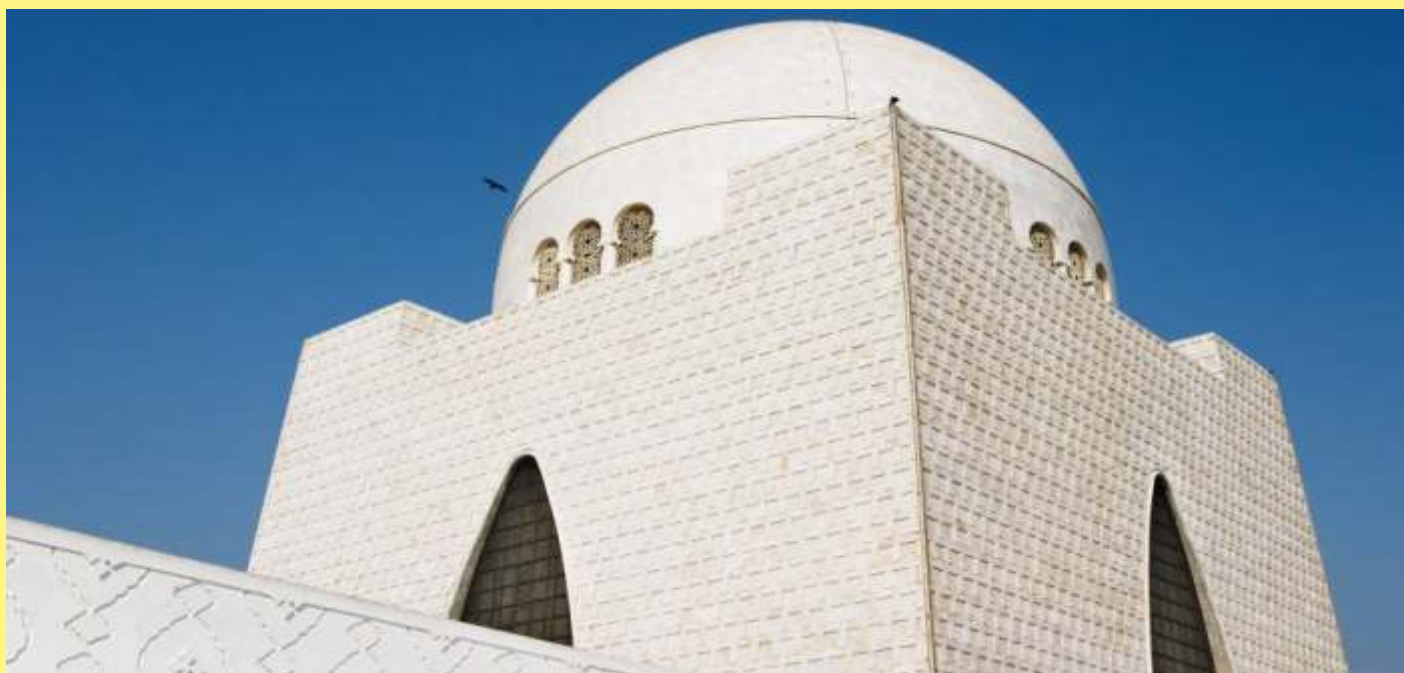


Portrait of Jinnah's father, Jinnahbhai Poonja

provincial elections held shortly after the war, it won most of the seats reserved for Muslims. Ultimately, the Congress and the Muslim League could not reach a power-sharing formula that would allow the entirety of British India to be united as a single state following independence, leading all parties to agree instead to the independence of a predominantly Hindu India, and for a Muslim-majority state of Pakistan.

As the first Governor-General of Pakistan, Jinnah worked to establish the new nation's government and policies, and to aid the millions of Muslim migrants who had emigrated from neighbouring India to Pakistan

after the two states' independence, personally supervising the establishment of refugee camps. Jinnah died at age 71 in September 1948, just over a year after Pakistan gained independence from the United Kingdom. He left a deep and respected legacy in Pakistan. Innumerable streets, roads and localities in the world are named after Jinnah. Several universities and public buildings in Pakistan bear Jinnah's name. According to his biographer, Stanley Wolpert, Jinnah remains Pakistan's greatest leader.



HISTORY OF QUAID-E-AZAM DAY

Muhammad Ali Jinnah is honored in Pakistan as the first governor-general and the father of the nation. Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah, as he was popularly known, had a lot of work ahead of him.

He was responsible for looking after thousands of Indian immigrants and setting up a government. Muhammad Ali Jinnah took over a new, shook country to rule. At the time, he was also suffering from tuberculosis. He worked hard to ensure that Pakistan had a form of governance before he died just a year after being in charge as governor-general, on September 11, 1948.

Before he was the governor-general, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a trained barrister with his legal practice. He was an active member of the Indian National Congress and a significant figure in the subcontinent's struggle for freedom from colonial rule.

By 1940, Jinnah decided that a separate Muslim State was necessary to ensure that Muslims would not become an ignored minority in the newly formed state of India. He fought long and hard to ensure the creation of Pakistan, and his victory is a pivotal point of celebration for the people of the country.

He was such a beloved leader that his birthday, December 25, was declared Quaid-e-Azam Day. This day is observed in Pakistan in various ways. The national flag is specially hoisted at governmental and non-governmental buildings, plus formal events are also part of the public holiday.

Quaid-e-Azam Day in Pakistan is celebrated every year on December 25. It is a celebration of Muhammad Ali Jinnah's birthday across Pakistan. He is believed to be the founder of the country and was known as 'Quaid-e-Azam,' which means 'Great Leader.' It's a major national holiday with a lot of events throughout the country. Jinnah was made the governor-general of Pakistan on August 14, 1947. He worked hard to set up a government and organize a country torn by communal violence. He died one year after he was appointed the governor-general of Pakistan in his home in Karachi. His efforts for the country have enshrined him as one of the greatest leaders of Pakistan.

Christmas Day in Pakistan in 2021

When is Christmas Day?

On this day, over two billion people (over a third of the world's population) will celebrate the birth of Christ.

Christmas Day celebrates the Nativity of Jesus which according to tradition took place on December 25th 1 BC. December 25th will be a public holiday in most countries around the world. If 25 December falls on a weekend, then a nearby weekday may be taken as a holiday in lieu.

History of the holiday

the holiday has a strong grounding in the story of the birth of Jesus, many of the traditions we associate with Christmas have evolved from pre-Christian beliefs and certainly, the traditions have evolved beyond purely a Christian holiday to have a wider secular significance.

The celebration of Christmas in late December is certainly as a result of pre-existing celebrations happening at that time, marking the Winter Solstice.

Most notable of these is Yule (meaning 'Feast'), a winter pagan festival that was originally celebrated by Germanic people. The exact date of Yule depends on the lunar cycle but it falls from late December to

early January. In some Northern Europe countries, the local word for Christmas has a closer linguistic tie to 'Yule' than 'Christmas', and it is still a term that may be used for Christmas in some English-speaking countries. Several Yule traditions are familiar to the modern celebration of Christmas, such as Yule Log, the custom of burning a large wooden log on the fire at Christmas; or indeed carol singing, which is surprisingly a very ancient tradition.

Under the Julian calendar, the winter solstice was fixed on December 25, and this date was also the day of the popular Roman holiday of Saturnalia, in honour of Saturn, the god of agriculture; which was later superseded by Sol Invictus, a day that bundled up the celebration of several sun based gods into one easy to manage festival.

As Christianity began to take hold across the Roman empire and beyond, the date of when to celebrate the birth of Christ became a bit of an issue, with several different dates proposed.

It wasn't until 350 AD, when the then Bishop of Rome, Pope Julius I, fixed the official Christmas day on December 25. Unfortunately, Julius, I didn't show his working out on how he reached this date; some



scholars later suggested that it was calculated as nine months after the Annunciation (March 25), when the angel Gabriel is said to have appeared to Mary and told her she would bear the son of God. Whatever the reasoning, it is clear that, just as key pagan sites were being chosen for new churches, so too the date was chosen with the intention to catapult Christmas into becoming a major festival by placing it over the pre-existing pagan festivals.



December 25th – Christmas Day

On December 25th each year, over 2 billion people (over a third of the world's population) will celebrate the birth of Christ. The bible didn't give any specific details on the exact date or year that Christ was born and many have speculated when the actual date was. By the 4th century, the early church had plumped for January 6th but as the religion gained popularity across the Roman Empire, they realised that Christmas Day was competing with the existing Roman festival of 'Sol Invictus'. As is the case with many of our holidays, the Christians decided the best course of action was to switch Christmas day to December 25th, so that both holidays would be celebrated on the same day and eventually Christmas Day would outlast Sol Invictus. To keep January 6th as a holy date, Epiphany was then celebrated on January 6th.

In 2017, one more country was added to the long list that celebrate Christmas Day on December 25th when Ukraine decided to make Catholic Christmas a national holiday in addition to Orthodox Christmas on January 6th, going 2/365th of the way to making it Christmas every day.



2 December

World Computer Literacy Day

World Computer Literacy Day was launched by Indian computer company NIIT to mark its 20th anniversary in 2001, in response to research which suggested that the majority of computer users around the world were men. It occurs annually on 2 December, and is intended to encourage the development of technological skills, particularly among children and women in India. In its own words, it aims to "create awareness and drive digital literacy in underserved communities worldwide". It was originally founded by the NIIT. The day is also directed at improving the teaching of Information Technology, and more generally, the "celebration of computers".



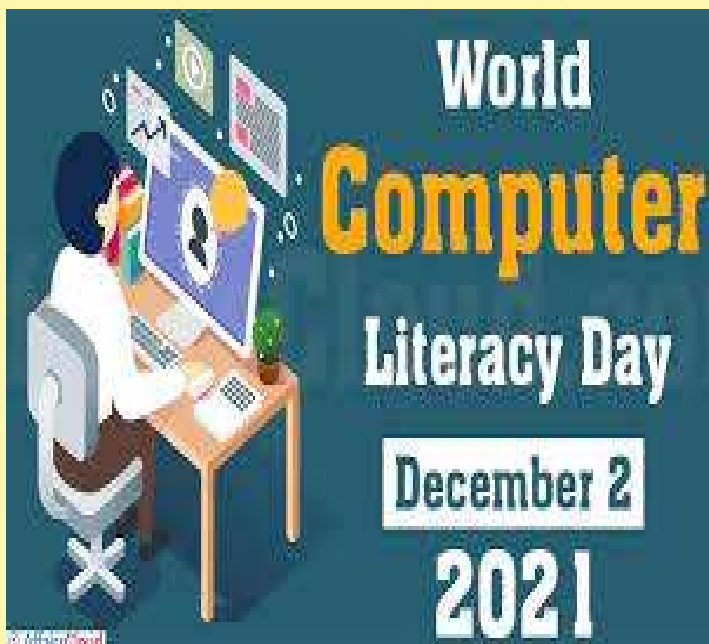
History of World Computer Literacy Day

The first observance of World Computer Literacy Day was held in the year 2001. The event is being organised by NIIT, the Indian computer company. The celebration of the Day falls on this date as it marks the 20th anniversary of NIIT. It is a celebration Day that aims to increase awareness of about the access of computers and its related technology efficiently. It is vital for any people of any age to know all the basic knowledge and information about these techniques. Computer literacy is the understanding of computer programming and how the computers work. It is considered to be the essential skill to be possessed. The Day curbs the digital divide that is present in the world today.

Computer literacy is the means of using computer programs and other applications associated with the computers. It is indeed vital to educate children about digital literacy. Literacy in Computer also means one's understanding of how computers execute. The concept of learning about the computer is just beyond the basic knowledge. One can quickly gain the plethora of knowledge in the computer by knowing about the in and out of these devices. The best way to make yourself a high profile is through learning about the computers in-depth. It provides you the plethora of knowledge than others. Learning about how to use the computers and knowing how computers are operating will let oneself come to know about the world of possibilities.



World Computer Literacy Day has been celebrated annually on December 2nd of every year. The world operates on the computer and digital gadgets. They have become an essential thing in everyday life shortly. World Computer Literacy Day is observed to promote the awareness about the computer and electronic devices. The celebration Day encourages people to use them efficiently with a range of skills ranging from primary use to the programming level and advanced problem-solving. Take this Day as the best opportunity to learn in detail about the computer and its related technology.



AIDS Awareness Week

In 1984 Dianne Feinstein, then mayor of San Francisco, declared the first AIDS Awareness Week. The first AIDS Awareness Week took place in San Francisco with a goal of educating staff and students from San Francisco Community College about AIDS. This goal involves informing people about causes, effects, symptoms of AIDS, as well as prevention methods. In the same year, in Toronto, ACT held an AIDS Awareness Week, following on from New York's Aid AIDS Week.

Spreading awareness about AIDS also began to take place in other locations. Across Canada AIDS Awareness Week is the last week in November. In 2002, the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) led a bilingual campaign for their awareness week from 24 November – 1 December 2002. This campaign was centered on ending the stigma and discrimination against people who have HIV/AIDS. They also worked to inform people about preventive care against HIV. In addition, they provided the community with free resources and items to further help spread awareness to others.

In 1991 the US President declared, in Proclamation 6305, that 10–16 June was to be Pediatric AIDS Awareness Week. At this time over 157,525 people had AIDS in the United States. About 2,734 of these people were children 13 years old and younger.

Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week (AAAW) has been extant in Canada since 1998. It began in Vancouver, but now it takes place all throughout Canada. , 1 December, and runs until 5 or 6 December.



**DECEMBER 1ST–5TH IS
ABORIGINAL AIDS
AWARENESS WEEK (AAAW).**



california
pharmacists
association

GOALS

The goal of Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week is getting to zero. Despite different methods used by aboriginal communities to try to decrease the prevalence of AIDS, populations like the First Nation tribes in Saskatchewan in Canada, have about 3.5 times more cases of AIDS than other areas in Canada, as well as higher than most third world countries.

World AIDS Day was developed to bring awareness to the issue of AIDS in countries all around the globe and recognize the success and the steady decrease in AIDS diagnoses throughout the years. UNAIDS believes solutions need to be long-term, rather than short-term responses. Therefore, the goal is to look at prevention of HIV as well and World AIDS Day is a time to emphasize this and support people with AIDS, even though people are living with AIDS year-round. It is also a time to honor the people who lost their lives due to AIDS.