

# The orient News

TRUTH, JUSTICE AND CONSCIENCE

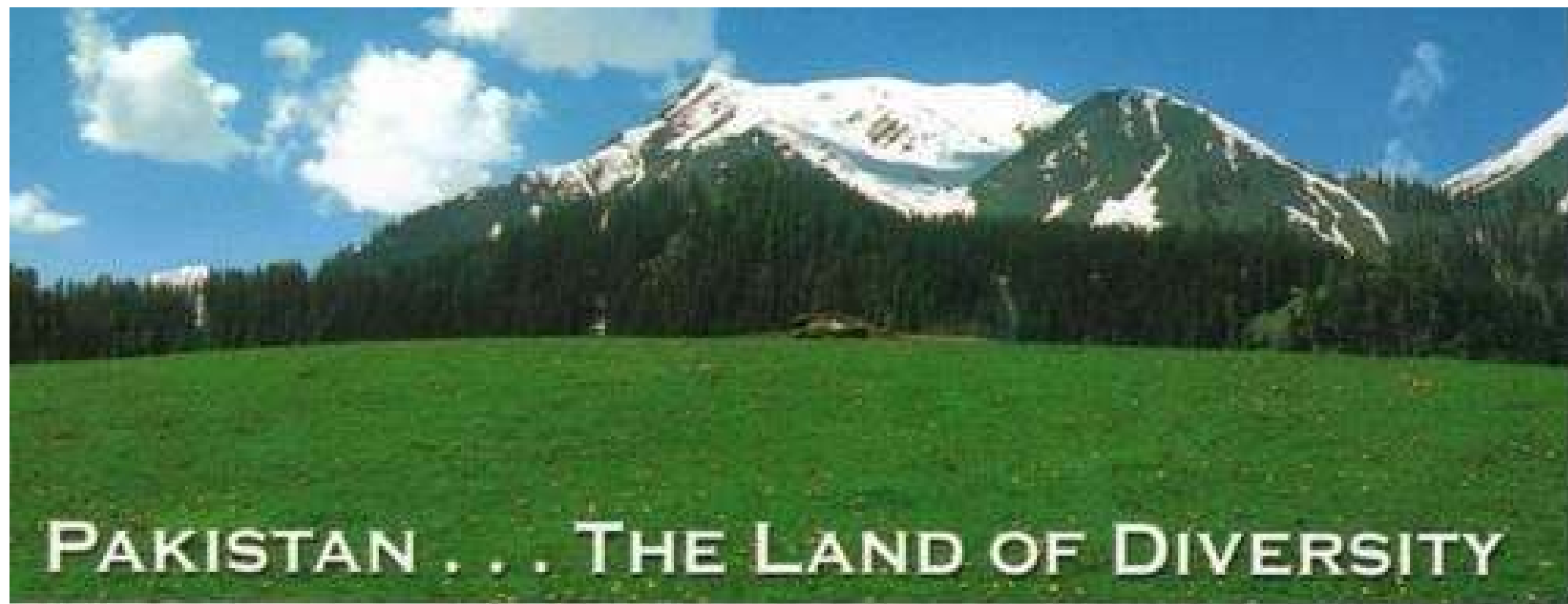
## Afghanistan

### Are US & Allies Preparing for Massive Attack?

Chance to Opt Democratic  
Solution

**INSIDE STORY  
BY AFSHAIN AFZAL**

Where Afghanistan stands today?



PAKISTAN . . . THE LAND OF DIVERSITY



# 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.

## Afshain Afzal Patron-in-chief

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- Aroosa Hafeez - Research Associate
- Zia-ur-Rehman - Research Associate
- Arooj Shakeel - Research Associate
- Saneem Afshain - Researcher
- Usman Khan – Assistant Researcher
- Sohail Issac – Website Designer
- Nima Dorji - Researcher (Bhutan)
- Twinkle Agrawal - Researcher (India)
- Ayesha Siddqa – Researcher (Bangladesh)
- Azeem Khan – Researcher (China, Uighur)

## CONTACT US



The Orient News



theorientnews



@theonewslive



The Orient News



+923095096267



theorientnewslive@gmail.com

# Food Crops and Cash Crops Of Pakistan

## SUGARCANE AND SUGAR



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## COTTON CROPS FIELDS - KAPAS KI FASAL



**Agriculture: Soya bean a miracle crop for national food security**

*It can help reduce edible oil imports, which have almost doubled to 3.35m tonnes in the last five years*

# Is India Really in Fix; How Stanislaus Lourduswamy alias Stan Swamy Died?

INSIDE STORY  
By Afshain Afzal

The Indian agencies, military strategists and the law makers are really perturbed over the death of Stan Swamy, not because he died during the National Investigation Authority (NIA) custody but it is his links with Maoist Communist Party of India that has jolted India. The Intelligence Bureau officials at Jharkhand, dealing with the ingenious population claimed that there is every indication that a very dangerous game being played to disintegrate not only India but states beyond the Indian Union. The officials at Mumbai post of NIA disclosed that they arrested thousand of followers of Stan Swamy since Elgar Parishad linked with Naxals. “We failed to understand equation between Christian and Communists,” said someone who tried to remain anonymous, “We thought the Americans were funding multifith group with Ahmadi, Muslim Sufis, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, and Buddhist faiths working towards the idea of freedom of religion and expression in India but it is something else.” She added, “Even we doubt India Working Group as a part of the International Religion Freedom (IRF) Roundtable in Washington DC and expect "Rajiv Gandhi type attack" or type of Mumbai attacks where Indian Mujahideen (IM) hijacked whole India.”

Reacting over the custodial death of 84 years old Stan Swamy, the western nations, critics and Swamy's supporters announced 5th July as, “Dark Day for Democracy in India”. Stanislaus Lourduswamy was arrested by National Investigation Authority (NIA) in the Elgar Parishad case on 8 October 2020, at Bagaicha, the Jesuit social center on the



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

**Fr. Stanislaus Lourduswami , SJ (84/64)**

**JAMSHEDPUR PROVINCE**

|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Born</b>           | - 26 April 1937 |
| <b>Joined Jesuits</b> | - 30 May 1957   |
| <b>Ordination</b>     | - 14 April 1970 |
| <b>Final Vows</b>     | - 22 April 1981 |
| <b>Died</b>           | - 05 July 2021  |

**Servent in mission of Justice and Reconciliation.**

|                                                        |                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1971 - 1974 Social Work, Jamshedpur & Chaibasa         | 1996 - 2001 JOHAR, Chaibasa  |
| 1975 - 1991 ISI, Bangalore                             | 2002 - 2020 BAGAICHA, Ranchi |
| 1993 - 1995 Social Work, TRTC (St Xavier's, Lupungutu) |                              |

*May his soul Rest in Peace*

outskirts of Ranchi, Jharkhand in India on the charges of terrorist activities and conspiracy against the State. Swamy was held at Taloja prison, Mumbai.

During his judicial trial on the basis of charge sheet spans over some 10,000 pages, while rejecting the bail application, Special Judge Dinesh E. Kothalikar of the NIA's Special Court on 22 March 2021 said, “There is prima facie evidence to suggest that the octogenarian priest and the 15 other people accused with him are guilty of sedition and contravention of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention Act) of 1967. Father Swamy and others “hatched a serious conspiracy to create unrest in the entire country and to

overpower the Government, politically and by using muscle power.” The NIA has claimed Stan Swamy not only incited discontent and violence with his speeches and writings against the Indian government but that he also links with Maoist Communist Party of India and other terrorist groups in throughout South Asia.

Indian leaders including Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee, and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar wrote to Indian President Ram Nath Kovind, complaining inhuman attitude of Indian authorities in the death of Father Stan Swamy who died "under

custody". They sought President's intervention in punishing those responsible for "foisting false cases" on the peace loving activist, his continued detention and "inhuman treatment". The Indian opposition leaders demanded, "They must be held accountable. It is now incumbent that all those jailed in the Bhima Koregaon case and other detainees under politically motivated cases, misusing draconian laws like UAPA, Sedition etc, be released forthwith." Maoists are demanding their rights but the conspiracies which echoes in New Delhi and various other states points a very dangerous game which is either being played against New Delhi or played against the people of India.

Indian Roman Catholic priest and member of the Jesuit order, Stan Swamy's real name was Stanislaus Lourduswamy but was recognized in India as Stan Swamy. He was born on 26 April 1937 and died during Indian authorities' custody under treatment at hospital in Mumbai on 5 July 2021. Swamy suffered from Parkinson's disease and several other ailments. However, during his custody, Swamy was also tested positive for COVID-19 and was under treatment at a private hospital. He recovered from Covid-19 but he died when he suffered a heart attack.



# As US and Allies Prepares for Massive Attack on Afghanistan – Chance to Opt Democratic Solution

## INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

Fighting or no fighting, the Taliban are directly or indirectly control of around 300 districts in Afghanistan. Taliban refused to breach the peace deal with international players and declined to enter the Afghan cities but many Afghan leaders expressed their allegiance without a single shot been fired. This led to control so many districts in a short span. In such a scenario, US has started destroying its own military hardware and high technology equipment that was handed over to Afghan authorities.

Meanwhile, with arms and funded-fighters all around Afghanistan, Tehran is not openly acting due to tensions with the United States but Abdullah Abdullah, the Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation confirmed that Iran has right to intervene as it has “legitimate concerns and “legitimate interests in Afghanistan” as a neighbor that hosts millions of Afghan refugees.

Last year when US Special



Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, ZalmayKhalilzad disclosed that Washington and Iran's relations were getting better as Iran cooperating with Afghanistan's peace process, many western analysts had doubt but recent attack on Taliban positions confirmed existence of

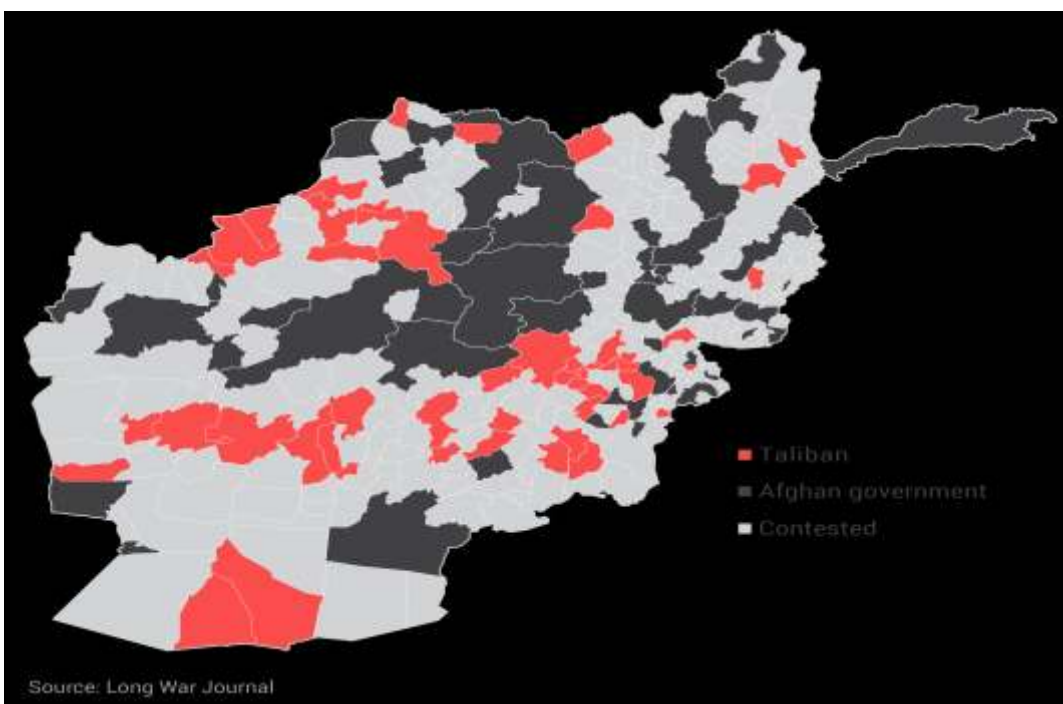
military understandings between the US and Iran. Is American administration hatred towards Iranians is fake media propaganda has become a million dollar question.

Pakistan's National Security Advisor Dr Moeed Yusuf on Thursday, 22 July said in a tweet, “Vitriolic & delusional statements from some spoilers in Kabul who, unfortunately for our Afghan brothers and sisters, are imposed on them as their senior officials & are constantly attempting to vitiate bilateral relations on purpose to deflect attention from their own failures,” and “Pakistan remains committed to facilitating an inclusive political settlement in Afghanistan. In this spirit, Prime Minister Imran Khan agreed to meet President Ghani recently to continue our engagement,” He also said, “Afghanistan is being embarrassed daily due to these idiotic statements. Afghans should rest assured that everyone can see through the nefarious agenda of these spoilers. We will not let a handful of venomous minds affect Pakistan's

support to ALL Afghans for peace and stability.”

What Washington termed as, “Multiple airstrikes on the Taliban in support of Afghan forces. The strikes targeted enemy personnel (Taliban), as well as captured military equipment”. With the recent airstrikes, the 29 February 2020, peace deal between USA and Taliban has gone into shambles which focused on point that Taliban will prevent anyone from using Afghan soil to threaten the United States and their allies and enter into peace negotiations with other Afghan stakeholders and in return, the US promised to withdraw its military forces from Afghanistan.

As per the reports emitting from Washington, “Pentagon and agencies kept a track of all the prisoners released under post 29th February 2020 agreement with Qatar-based faction of Taliban group and their identifies as well as the whole groups they engaged is tagged. We have our drone technology to defeat them from either coming into power by military might or democratic process.” One wonders does it really means democracy in Afghanistan will have definition, “Afghan population minus Taliban with whom US, European Union the United Nations and others had peace deals” and Islamabad's stance, “Pakistan's support to ALL Afghans for peace and stability” means what? This is high time that all stakeholders in Afghanistan must end fighting against own people and assemble under the umbrella of democratic process to form a responsible government on the basis of popular vote.



In an unprecedented move Pentagon has started destroying the military hardware and hi technology equipment, it handed over to Afghan National Army (ANA) over the period of time. In fact, the US is violating the agreement with Government of Afghanistan under which the military hardware and equipment was to be handed over the Afghan National Army; recalling that Bilateral Strategic Agreement (BSA) began from 2013.

# Where Afghanistan stands today?

## INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

President Donald Trump had announced last year that he wants all troops home by Christmas 2020, and ensured that strict implementation fast and quick. The post last November-election administration controlling the helm of affairs in Washington and Pentagon, left behind handful of US Intelligence personnel in Afghanistan to continue to advise and assist Afghan security forces in "rooting out the final remnants" of the jihadist group belonging to Taliban and Islamic State. We saw senseless terrorist attacks all around Afghanistan as soon as NATO members started complete withdraw. To blame Taliban internationally, these attacks even reached 46 explosions at different destination in a single day, killing and injuring hundreds each day. But neither media nor analysts were convinced as Taliban were the one holding peace talks with Americans and others and all their set conditions were also accepted. The international military advisors are misguiding the Afghan forces regarding the intensions of Taliban. No one can deny the facts the withwith the exception of provinces of Mazar-i-Sharif, Faryab, Balkh and Kunduz provinces, where Taliban require struggle to retake all directly or indirectly controlled by Taliban or their representative. Taliban claim that nearly 300 districts are in their control and only 53 more is their goal, leaving remaining as neutral.

The Hezb-e-Wahdat-e Islami and other Northern parties failed to retain control in even the provinces where Afghan National Army had grip. Despite all efforts from even Islamabad and Tehran

to support broad based government, there are remote chances this to happen as the Afghan leadership instead of winning the confidences of Taliban leadership, are following the dictates of their foreign military and intelligence advisors. Molvi Sahib, who wanted his name to remain in anonymity said, "Taliban leader respect Afghan leadership negotiating at Doha but the Islamic Amarat of Afghanistan claimed that we have no role in any terrorist attack nor at the Government headquarters. But we use force were our already established legitimacy is challenged by the Afghan forces. He added that the Taliban supreme leadership has decided

Reacting to the statement of Pakistan's Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed that "Afghan Taliban's families reside in Pakistan" and "sometimes their dead bodies arrive, and sometimes they come here in hospitals to get medical treatments, he tanked Pakistan for the hospitality for hosting Afghan refugees but denied treatments of Taliban at the hospitals, "It is out of question that injured Taliban were treated in Pakistan as Islamabad served as US major non-NATO ally." He revealed, "however, there were reports that dead bodies of some Taliban martyred in Afghanistan were transported to Quetta for the unknown vested interests." He added, "despite all odds, Taliban consider Pakistan as their home and people of Pakistan as their brother and sisters."

Due to the input from the Western and Indian operators, reporting certain activities of Afghan nationals emitting from Pakistan, Kabul has acted sometimes suspicious about Islamabad's engagements. One wonders in some cases Afghan had communication record that



reflected movements either residing in Pakistan sometimes back or movement tracked to border belt but that need to be investigated as it might be without the knowledge of Pakistani government. The recent shameful event that is required to be condemned is strongest words, Miss Silsila, daughter of Najibullah Alikhil, Afghan Ambassador in Pakistan was abducted on Friday for two hours in Islamabad and was tortured during the captivity. Pak-Afghan relations have once again become a little sour. President Ghani has asked Afghan envoy and other Afghan diplomats to return to Kabul from Islamabad. According to Miss Silsila, she was abducted when she was shopping at a market in Islamabad and made unconscious for a while and when she became conscious she was found she was in another place in Islamabad. She complaint regarding misbehaviour and harsh treatment by the abductors. Pakistan's Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid denied the abduction of the daughter of Afghanistan's ambassador, saying it was an "international racket" led by Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) to defame Pakistan.

Whatever, the case may be there is a requirement to mend the fences and the relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan must be brought back to normal at all cost. We should always keep in mind that it is only the people of Afghanistan to decide the future of Afghanistan and outside interference should not be allowed. If we desire durable peace in Afghanistan, we should follow the policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan so that finally democracy prevails in the country. In a nutshell, the shameful incident with daughter of Afghan Ambassador should be thoroughly investigated in which Afghan representative should part of inquiry team and criminal severely punished. Kabul must send back its diplomats as this will only benefit enemies of both the countries. Sooner or later either the Taliban will form the government or would back leadership to run the stage. Since the foreign troops have withdrawn, there is a need to revisit constitution of Afghanistan to protect sovereignty and national integrity of Afghanistan. The world is watching Afghanistan and hopeful that rule by people of Afghanistan will be restored.



# Are Unauthorised US-Drone Attacks Amounts War Crimes or these are Biden's Eid Gift for Somali Civilians?

## INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

President Biden ordered on Tuesday, 20 July, to carry out drone strike against As-Shabaab Muslim group in Somalia as Eid gift and opening of a new chapter of redeployment of US troops in Somalia. Interestingly, Pentagon has resumed airstrikes without seeking proper mandate from United Nations Security Council or legal permission from African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) against the As Shabaab Muslim group. Leaving aside covert attacks, 20th July attacks are first ever since Joseph Biden took office as US President. Reports indicated that US fired dozens of missiles from high altitude Navy aircraft that were synchronised with guided drone machines at low altitude. Reports from locals said two women, a two years child and an elderly person were killed while 13 people were injured. US Defence Department claimed that Somali National Army troops were briefed about Al-Shabaab targets beforehand but Somali troops have neither acknowledged other than general briefing on Drone attacks capabilities from US Air force Station, Djibouti. Ground reports from target sites that the Eid celebrations with family and love ones turned into horrible scene of mourning. One such attack site was reportedly near Galkayo hit civilians worse.

There are reports that the Military bases that were returned to the Somali authorities, post withdrawal of US forces on the orders of President Trump have been re-acquired. US forces accompanying Somali forces were also reported at several occasions in the past but remained unconfirmed. There are reports that Somali leadership in exile have offered Washington military base in Somaliland if they are helped in getting rid of As Shabaab Muslim group. Member of

US Africa Command (AFRICOM) did not confirm execution of series of joint operation by the ground forces in which US forces will remain deployed, assisted by drone strikes against As-Shabaab leaders involved in training, planning, and carrying out terrorist attacks. US military officers at the Somali capital Mogadishu also did not confirm US land deployment.

If we recall, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations Security Council announced its adoption of a resolution reauthorizing the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) until 31 December 2021 and maintaining its overall 19,626 uniformed personnel level ahead of the phased handover of responsibilities to Somali security forces, planned for later in 2021. It authorizes the African Union Commission to finalize its independent assessment and urged it to mandate, in May 2021, for the implementation of the Somalia Transition Plan, implementing the necessary steps to ensure continued delivery of support to Somali security efforts in 2022. Further, the mission will conduct jointly-planned and targeted offensive operations with the SSF, to disrupt and degrade Al Shabaab and armed opposition groups, and to take actions to mitigate the threat posed by improvised explosive devices.

There are serious violations that US authorities have committed in ordering 20th July drone strike on civilian inside Somalia on the night immediately before Eid day. These account to deliberately attacking civilians population without authorisation or mandate by UNSC or African Union Mission in Somalia and such act according to international law make the committer liable for "State sponsored terrorism" and prosecution in International Court of Justice (ICJ) for War Crimes. There is no evidence that African Union Mission in Somalia had no knowledge who authorised the US to carry out these attacks. If permission is not the case can any country carry out the



attack only other sovereign nation because United Nations Security Council announced its adoption of Resolution or in case of Somalia against As Shabaab and other Muslims groups. Often such intelligence input as in case of Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya Syria, Egypt, Palestine and elsewhere proved wrong. It is high time that United Nations

Organisation should stop legalising genocide of Muslims without warrant or judicial proceeding and compensate all those civilian killed in such authorization or violation of authorisation from those countries which committed war crimes.

In addition, the African Union was supposed to keep the Security Council informed every 90 days, through the Secretary-General, on the implementation of AMISOM's mandate but it is the missing link. United Nations Security Council must know every such attack that involve killings bombing civilian targets. You cannot kill the whole family or all those present in the house because there are technical evidence of presence of suspected target.



# Last Chance for New Delhi to restore the right of self determination of Kashmiris

## INSIDE STORY

By Afshain Afzal

The Indian President Ram Nath Kovind reached Srinagar on 25 July a four-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The India President would visit Kargil War Memorial on anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26 July while he would make an important announcement on 27 July 2021. As per the close circles of Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, New Delhi has agreed to merge Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Indian Army's 15 Corps headquarters in Badamibagh in Srinagar has made all preparation for the Presidential briefing.

The one month deadline expired today on 25 July as 24 June 2021 conference of Kashmiri leaders at New Delhi in which Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured that he would do something about the restoration of statehood ended without any consensus. Marred by what Farooq Abdullah said, "there has been 'no follow-up results' on the ground". Wrong assurance to the Kashmiri masses by National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar Abdullah, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti was time gaining tactics and nothing more. These leaders could say only, "Trust is something that has been missing between Indian authorities at New Delhi and Kashmiri leadership at Srinagar. Meanwhile, the Hurriyat leaders criticised the Kashmiri leaders who attended the 24 June conference and said, "we are yet to see any results even after the passage of a month... a move towards boycott of forthcoming elections. He added that these Kashmiri leaders have time to restore the trust of Kashmiri masses, what they must honour their assurance for complete statehood."

Although, Farooq Abdullah has given an ultimatum on the behalf of

the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), a conglomerate of six mainstream political parties and all Kashmiri leaders that restoration of 'full, undiluted' statehood to Jammu and Kashmir should precede the elections to its Assembly. All major parties have expressed their consensus on the point that they would not participate in elections unless the Centre would restore unconditional statehood.

The current mismanagement and deprivation of rights of Kashmiris of Jammu and Kashmir has brought the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the streets. They have vowed not to participate in the elections unless the statehood is restored and plebiscite is held on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions. In addition, the Kashmiris are fed up of the powers of Indian Armed Forces under Armed Forces (Special powers) Act (AFSPA) which is to be done away with as per Supreme Court of India's order. It is high time that Prime Minister Modi should extend right of self-determination to the Kashmiris including Kashmiri Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs for sustainable peace.



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# Attempts for Peace in Afghanistan

## INSIDE STORY

By Zia ur Rehman

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will travel to India and meet with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 28 July 2021. He will also meet Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on the same day. The agenda points include Afghanistan; Indo-Pacific alliance against China and South Asia countries including Maldives, Myanmar and Sri Lanka; African joint socio-economic and military partnership; and Middle East including Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates. Interestingly, Washington is asking a military base in Ladakh as not consider Pakistan's interference in issue of Jammu and Kashmir being New Delhi internal affair. There is noting new about the US Policy on Jammu and Kashmir as it was following the same since 1955.

The US and India has four foundational agreements to enhance military-to-military cooperation between the two countries including Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), Industrial Security Annex (ISA) and the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) to facilitate mil-to-mil cooperation. At the end of 2020, defence trade between India and US stood at over USD 21 billion. There are reports that US, Japan, Australia and India will share common military resources as part of the alliance. However, there is friction between Washington and New Delhi over certain important points including technology transfer but Pentagon and CIA has warned White House not to agree to Indian demands. Washington views India's military relationship with Russia that allows close integration of Indian defence systems with Russia as threat to long term alliance.

India has also set certain condition, which if fulfilled, New Delhi would not use military resources on the head of Indo-Pacific alliance against Pakistan. In fact, Washington played the same game with Pakistan when it signed CENTO and SEATO between the two countries. New Delhi has focused the visit of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on maligning Pakistan on Pakistan and Chinese aggression from across the Line of Control (LoC) and Line of Actual Control (LAC), respectively. Fake and self-engineered data has been prepared by New Delhi after taking into confidence some individuals from Pakistani authorities who have sold their conscience and misreported against own people including Taliban, Baloch and Sindhi



nationals. Interestingly, Pakistan and India seem on same grid on threat from Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, Jaish-e-Muhammad, Taliban in Pakistan and Baloch and Sindhi right groups. Indian and American military and civilian intelligence setups are regularly exchanging information about those elements who consider Islam as complete code of life with Al Quran as basic yardstick. Over the period of time not only both countries are able to build trust in human intelligence (HUMINT), Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) and Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT) but have streamlined intelligence-sharing process.

During the forthcoming visit National Security Advisor Ajit Doval would stress upon US Secretary of State to accelerate defense sales on priority to India including Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD), and armed UAVs to enhance Indian strike capabilities against Pakistan. However, Washington has reservations over India-Pakistan dynamics. There is no doubt that Pakistani Military and civilian leadership this year extended unconditional ceasefire and ever-since the announcement no violation has been reported. If we recall, India has already procured S-400 which are ready for delivery and the Integrated Air Defense Weapon System (IADWS) reached the approval stage. Washington is hesitant is prompt defence deliveries to India as Pakistan's assistance is much needed for to

achieve strategic goals in Afghanistan.

US-Pakistan relationship has changed dramatically in recent years due to Islamabad's refusal in April 2013, to become NATO ally and allow United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) to open Afghanistan-Pakistan Center of Excellence (AFG-PAK COE) in Islamabad as part of USCENTCOM Directorate of Intelligence. In an interesting move, Pakistan's National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Director General Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed have been invited to visit Washington this week for the talks with their American counterparts. US State Department's spokesperson Ned Price said in a statement, "Biden administration hopes to see Afghanistan's neighbours play a constructive, responsible role in bringing about a just and durable solution there (Afghanistan)". It is expected that during the visit of National Security Adviser and Director General ISI talks would focus on efforts to materialize broad-based government in Afghanistan, response over the lists of suspicions and apprehensions gathered against Pakistan by US Secretary of State's on visit to India, future of Chinese investment in the the wake of Kohistan incident and delay in Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC), the apex forum for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, Counter-terrorism and mutual assistance.



Washington should not forget that during two decade of illegal occupation, over 1.6 million innocent Afghan men, women and children were brutally killed. The occupying forces changed the demography, sociology-economic placement, tribal superiority and statuses by placing down to earth people at the top and respected and influential at the run. If US and NATO countries could neither defeat Afghan nor bring desired democratic changes, what neighbours can do? The solution to Afghan problem is non-interference by the foreign powers including neighbours. One can hope that Afghan are allowed to find solution themselves so that peace is durable and sustainable.

# The latest Critical Afghan situation and its emerging-effects

OPINION

By TON Research Section



The Taliban's supreme leader has already said that he “actively favors” a political settlement to the conflict in Afghanistan even the military gains and advances of Taliban and as the ground reality of Afghanistan is in grip of Taliban. He said that when the representatives of the Afghan government and Taliban sat down for a new round of talks in Doha before Eid al-Adha in Qatari capital but achieved nothing.



After almost the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan which is the culmination of negotiated settlement of march 2020 in Doha Qatar, Taliban is in rise once again on all fronts inside war-torn Afghanistan. The Taliban pledged to prevent territory under their control from being used by terrorists. The agreement was signed following a seven-day reduction in violence. The United States has a vivacious interest in securing the political, economic, and security gains that have been achieved in Afghanistan since 2001. That's why the Kabul airport is still under its control for pursuing and achieving its goals in the area.

Keeping in view the current captures and gains in Afghanistan, the prospects for negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban remain uncertain because the Taliban see and feel the victory. If the Qandahar province falls to Taliban then the fall of Kabul is imminent to Taliban because the way straight goes to Kabul, although they are tactfully avoiding seizing the Kabul at the moment. In addition to a stronghold in southern province of Helmand, the Taliban controls the strategically important territories, border crossings in nearly every province and continues to threaten in multiple ways the provincial capitals of other provinces like, they previously held and capture capitals of Farah and Ghazni Province in the past.

Recently, the Taliban spokesman has said that they don't want to monopolize power and insisted that there won't be peace in Afghanistan until there is a new negotiated government in Kabul and the incumbent President of Afghanistan is removed for a free and fair impartial government. He said that who wanted to dominate Afghanistan in the past, were not successful governments. “So we do not want to repeat that same formula.”

He called that Afghan government's repeated demands for a ceasefire while the current Afghan president stayed in power are equivalent to demanding Taliban surrender. He said “Afghan government don't want reconciliation, they want surrendering of us, which is not acceptable to Taliban at all. Prior to any truce, there must be an agreement on a new government acceptable to us and to other Afghans.

In wake of new emerging realities and developments on the Afghan front, as Taliban has soft-corner for Pakistan, anti-Pakistan elements engineered multi-pronged conspiracies against the solidarity of Pakistan like the alleged abdication of Afghan ambassador's daughter to create a

chaos and unrest. They gathered people who chanted anti-Pakistan slogans in front of Pakistani embassy and demanded its closure to make it a ground for the return of U.S led forces in Afghanistan by any way because the current weak Afghan government is incapable. At the same time the Afghan president in Tashkent conference accused and spewed venom against Pakistan for infiltrating thousands of militants to fight side by side with the Taliban. It has become habitual for the Afghan leaders including the northern-alliance that they spare not efforts to use their inflammatory and abusive languages against the leaders and solidarity of Pakistan who hosted millions of Afghan refugees more than three decades, when no country of south Asia was ready to accept them on their soils at such large-scale. It is also arguable that still a large of Afghans live inside Pakistan, they should also be recalled along with the diplomat's staff, if the current Afghan government is sincere with its people.

As the Taliban said that no foreign troops will be allowed in Afghanistan, the role of Turkey becomes also diminished because the Taliban say they are not neutral and Turkey always gave asylum to enemies of Taliban and take side with northern-alliance with which Turkey has ethnic-relations. It is also hearsay that according to an under-hand deal with Turkey, U.S has given a notion to Turkey that in lieu of taking the control of Kabul Air-port United States of America will draw its support of Kurd rebellion.

With the rise of Taliban, it is India that received the most serious set-backs to its evil designs in Afghanistan by closing a numbers of its consulates on Afghan territory. The recent recovery of millions of Pakistan rupees from the Indian consulate by Taliban that situated in Spin-Boldak clearly shows Indian involvement in subversive activities to carry-out inside Pakistan from Afghanistan soil. Moreover, India is spreading the rumors as defamation campaign against Taliban that they preparing the list of girls to force them marriages with Taliban in Afghanistan.

Above all, the enemies of Pakistan and Afghanistan want to see the relations of both countries worse day by day because they have a Muslim-identity. Furthermore, these anti Muslims forces wish badly to watch the infighting of warring-Afghan factions to destroy and minimize the Muslims form the world. Therefore, it is a hot time for the Afghan groups for rapid patch-up not only in the larger interest of both the countries but also for a greater Muslim cause and solidarity.

# New clouds of infighting looming on Afghanistan

## INSIDE STORY

By Usman Khan

New clouds of infighting are looming on Afghanistan political horizon, after the American forces have almost pulled out their troops from Afghanistan. A new tug-of-war is started between different warring factions of Afghanistan as the Taliban has taken the control of all the important routes leading to its neighboring countries like trade-routes linking Pakistan with southern Afghanistan, the fall of town in Spin Boldak and important trade-road between Spin Boldak, Chaman and Kandahar customs now are under the command of Taliban. The area is situated quite near to the Durand Line border with Pakistan besides, it Islam Qala and Turghundi in Herat province, Shir Khan Bandar in Kunduz and Abu NaserFarahi border port in Farah province also fall to Taliban forces.

The critical armed conflict in Afghanistan over the last two decades was destructive to civilians that caused massive human rights abuses and war crimes by all sides. These abuses fueled conflict in several ways, including by inspiring recruitment to the insurgency, rendering political talks nearly impossible. Successive U.S. administrations have largely perceived human rights as an obstacle rather than think it vital to address Afghanistan's problems. This approach was cataclysmic. The ground reality was worse long before the Taliban re-emerged, through frivolous opportunities and the indifference of U.S. generals about atrocities being committed by Afghan forces, the U.S. military, CIA units and consistent failure to do something positive in the last two decades since 2001, and this way U.S. decisions and policies essentially stage to embrace for failure.

Throughout the period, U.S chose allies in ousting the Taliban and committed severe human rights abuses. These warlords were a source of insecurity and they generated wide-spread anger, undermined efforts for good governance at the local and national levels, and paved the way for Taliban to obtain support for recruitments from among the Afghan masses.

After Northern Alliance forces ousted the Taliban from the north in the past, their militias carried out systematic attacks on Pashtun villages, raping women, executing civilians, and snatching livestock and land. Such attacks occurred in late 2016, when militia forces under the former vice president, brutally attacked on Pashtun villages in Faryab, accusing them of supporting the Taliban. In November 2001, forces massacred 2,000 Taliban prisoners who were surrendered outside Kunduz. The area is known as Dasht-e Laili, where there are thousands of graves. By 2006, local militias had destroyed the grave site. But the Taliban and their families has not forget these gruesome killing.

NATO's 20-year military mission in Afghanistan has all but finished still almost 1,000 mainly US troops remain on the ground to protect diplomatic missions and Kabul's international airport. Under a deal with Taliban, the US and its NATO allies agreed to withdraw all troops in return for a commitment by the Taliban not to allow al-Qaeda or any other group to operate in the areas they control. The last Intra-Afghan talks aimed at reaching a comprehensive peace settlement in Doha, Qatar, in September 2020, represented a major step toward deciding the Afghan conflict. The two sides have met intermittently but no result appeared on the two key issues that were central to talks reducing violence and determining the future structure and orientation of the Afghan state.

The Taliban spokesman has already made it clear that diplomats, NGOs and other foreign civilians would not be targeted by the Taliban, he further said that "We are against the foreign military forces, not diplomats, NGOs and workers and NGOs functioning and embassies functioning. We will not pose any threat to them," he said. The Taliban spokesman described the current government as "moribund" and mentioned the country as the "Islamic emirate" and envisaged theocratic basis for governing the country.

At the moment, the Taliban is fully focusing to secure the withdrawal of foreign forces and has said in the past that they want to seek an independent, sovereign, united, developed and free Afghanistan with an Islamic system in which all people of the nation can participate without discrimination" and is committed to protect certain rights with conditions, such as "all rights of women given to them by Islamic law" and "freedom of speech within the parameters of Islamic principles and national interests." Peace in Afghanistan is still far-away goal to be achieved. Regional dynamics, and the involvement of outside powers, directly affected the conflict in Afghanistan. The neighboring state widely considered most important in this regard is Pakistan, which has played an active, and by many accounts played positive role in Afghan affairs for decades.



Due to the rising differences among Afghan leadership as every faction wants a lion share in the formation of Afghan government the intra Afghan dialogue at Doha was not that much significant as it should be. Now the Taliban, in a day-light reality has occupied the major parts of Afghanistan and is still advancing in many areas. It is the need of hour for all Afghan warring groups to stop hurling allegations on each other for a lasting peace in Afghanistan to restore peace and normalcy in the region because a politically stable Afghanistan is also in the best interest of Afghanistan itself and the whole of south Asia, particularly Pakistan. The Afghan groups should realize that without Taliban representatives the government in Kabul cannot last for a long time. Despite all these odds let's hope for the best future of Afghanistan.



# Death of iconic youth leader 'Burhan Wani' and IIOJK freedom fight



## OPINION

By Aroussa Hafeez

July 8th, is marked as death anniversary of freedom fighter of Jammu and Kashmir Burhan Muzzaffar Wani, who was dubbed as a militant by India authorities and was martyred by Indian security forces along with his two colleagues Saraj Ahmad Sheikh and Pervaiz Ahmad Lashkari at Bumdoorra village in Kokernag area on July 8, 2016. A young boy, who challenged massive Indian forces made a drastic shift in the mindset and operational thinking of youth of Indian Illegally occupied Jammu & Kashmir. Besides this, Burhan Wani turned the longest-standing conflict into freedom movement of Kashmiris. Albeit, Kashmir fight for freedom started just after the independence of Pakistan but it gained momentum after valiant Burhan Wani's struggle for liberation and right to self-determination.

Since the emergence of Pakistan, Kashmir has remained an area of conflict between both countries. The grotesque genocide of Kashmiri's, human rights abuses and violence by Indian security forces against defenseless people of IIOJK is the reason behind the struggle for liberation. In this Kashmir movement hundreds of Kashmiri freedom fighters were jailed, tortured, exiled and succumbed to death by Indian security forces. Burhan Wani was also amongst those fighters who have been

martyred by Indian forces because India considered him as a threat, who could strengthen freedom fight of Kashmiris. Burhan Wani was the commander of the largest indigenous Kashmiri freedom fighters organization "Hizbul Mujahideen". He joined armed struggle in 2010 to fight against the oppression, inhumane and barbaric acts of Indian security forces in IIOJK and was very popular on Social media since 2011.

Wani used social media to educate Kashmir youth and promoted freedom struggle. He was extremely active on social media and making full use of it, he created awareness among Kashmiri youth to fight for independence. He had given a complete shift to the freedom movement of Kashmir. Death of Burhan Wani, an iconic youth leader sparked an uprising in the valley. Massive anti-Indian protests were started in the valley due to which Indian security forces imposed longest curfew in the region of more than 100 days after which hundreds of Kashmiris were killed and beaten by Indian security forces.

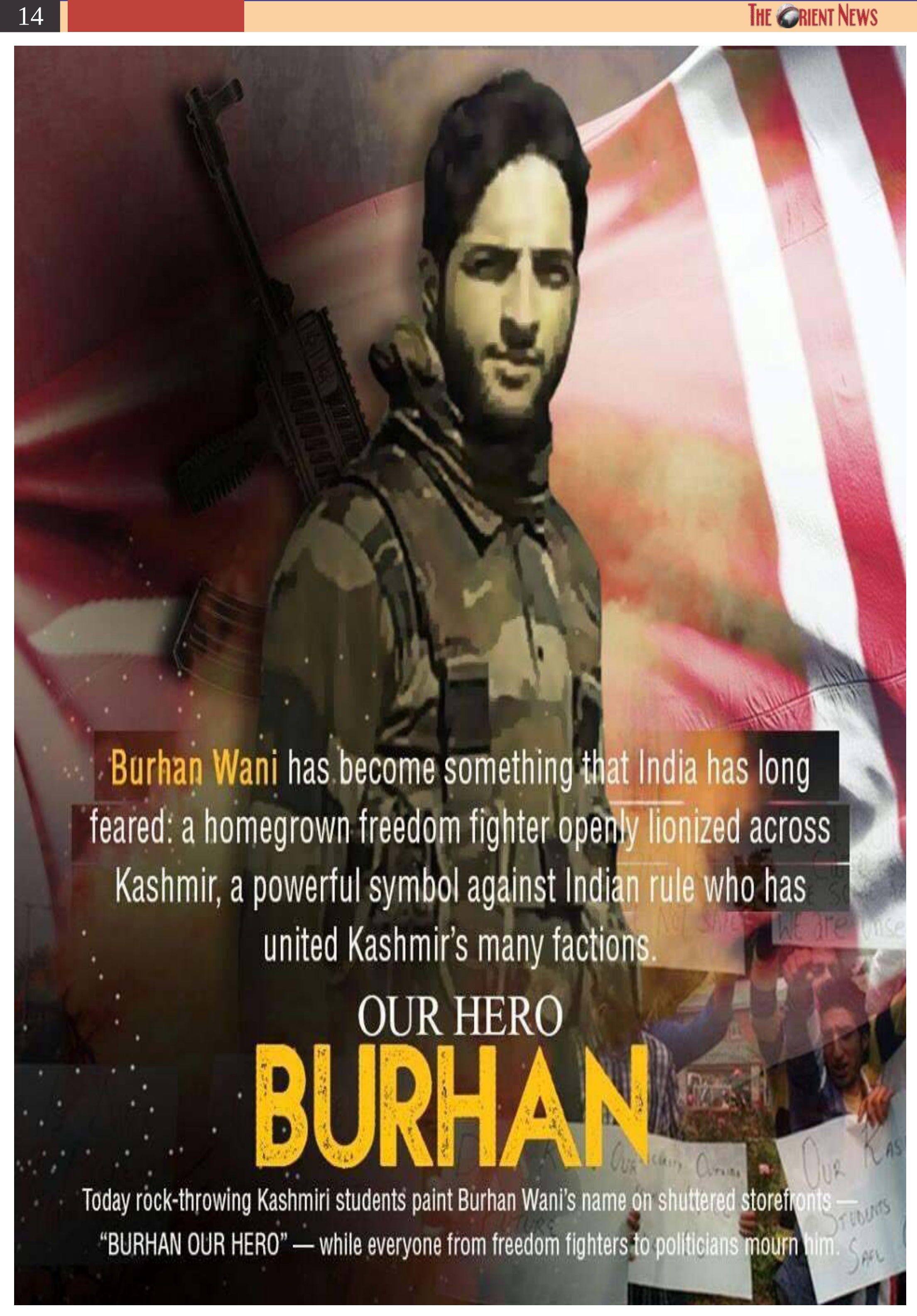
Jammu & Kashmir, which is one of the most militarized zone in the world, where Kashmiri freedom fighters have fought for decades against Indian atrocities and despite facing every day to day aggression of Indian forces, these valiant freedom fighters have continued their fight for freedom plus given hopes to the innocent

people of IIOJK where their quality of life is worse. It will not be wrong in saying that Kashmir fight for freedom is still alive because of these valiant freedom fighters. From the start till now, Jammu & Kashmir has been a mock-democracy and people of the region have been at the bottom of India's pyramid of priority. Albeit, Burhan wani, the voice of Kashmiri youth will be remembered as symbol of bravery, which has always taken stand against Indian atrocities.

Today, on the 5th martyrdom anniversary of Burhan Wani, Kashmiri's are paying him tribute. Jammu & Kashmir liberation alliance displayed posters and called strike on July 8th to express solidarity with the families of martyred Kashmiris. The posters, displayed by Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Alliance gave strike call to express solidarity with the families of martyred along with that many other freedom groups and organizations including Youth Democratic Political Movement, Jammu and Kashmir Tehreek-e-Azadi, Political Resistance Movement (JKPRM), Jammu and Kashmir Justice and Peace Initiative (JKJPI), Jammu and Kashmir Justice League (JKJL), Kashmir Resistance Movement (KRM), Kashmir Hurriyat Forum (KHF), Wareseen-e-Shuda, Sada-e-Mazloomeen also displayed their posters and urged Kashmiri people to observe a strike on death anniversary of Burhan Wani. A

complete shutdown is being observed in the valley to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary.

Today in IIOJK, democracy and politics are in turmoil, peace seems nowhere, region has been torn apart, Indian aggression has crossed all limits but the world is numb and has merely become a spectator. Massive use of force, killings, blinding and other human rights violation are on rise. Kashmiri's are being marginalized in their own state. Albeit, the freedom movement started by Burhan Wani's changed the landscape of Jammu & Kashmir and was the groundwork of the current resistance movement against atrocities and Indian rule. The struggle of wani still resonates loudly within Kashmir, which motivates and gives hope to people of Kashmir to stand up for their right of self-determination. Freedom fighter Burhan wani gave new life to the fight of Kashmiris against oppression and kept the issue alive. Undoubtedly, Indian government has miscalculated this as always that by killing of freedom fighter Burhan Wani everything will be in their hands and they will be successful in gaining their objectives but today, the freedom movement started by Wani gain more momentum and will be continued till Kashmir's get their right of self-determination.



**Burhan Wani** has become something that India has long feared: a homegrown freedom fighter openly lionized across Kashmir, a powerful symbol against Indian rule who has united Kashmir's many factions.

## OUR HERO **BURHAN**

Today rock-throwing Kashmiri students paint Burhan Wani's name on shuttered storefronts — "BURHAN OUR HERO" — while everyone from freedom fighters to politicians mourn him.

## The Heritage Museum presents the journey of Pakistani culture through the ages



# 8th July - Death Anniversary of Kashmir's young leader Burhan Wani

## NEWS REPORT

By Research Section

8th July commemorates the martyrdom of Kashmiri youth leader popularly known as Burhan Muzaffar Wani by Indian military along with his two associates in 2016. A complete shutdown is being imposed on both sides of Kashmir on the fifth martyrdom anniversary of Kashmiri youth leader, Burhan Wani and his two associates, who were brutally killed by Indian troops in Indian Occupied Kashmir to suppress the indigenous freedom movement of Kashmir's people in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir against the true wishes and aspirations of the people of Indian occupied Kashmir.

Burhan Wani along with his associates, Sartaj Ahmad and Parvez Ahmad was extra-judicially killed by Indian troops in Indian Occupied Kashmir. The day is being observed as a "Day with Martyr's Family". Earlier, the leaders of (APHC) All Parties Hurriyat Conference paid rich tributes to Burhan Wani and called for a complete strike down across the Indian Occupied Kashmir to lodge and convey their strong message to the world that the people of occupied Kashmir will carry on their peaceful freedom movement till the last breath of their lives for the independence of its motherland from the ruthless and cruel clutches of Indian government.

The people of Tral locality in Indian Occupied Kashmir are also observing his martyrdom anniversary which is the hometown of Burhan Muzaffar Wani. A complete shutdown, marked by curfew imposed by Indian forces, is being observed across occupied Kashmir on Thursday to control the movement for remembrance of martyrdom of Burhan Wani, a symbolic young Mujahid commander, who was head of operations in Hizbul Mujahideen, the main and largest indigenous freedom fighter group in Indian-occupied Kashmir, brutally killed along with two other colleagues by the Indian army during a so-called encounter in Bamdoora village of held Kashmir's Kokernag area on 8th July 2016.

The Indian forces have blocked all the main roads leading towards Burhan's native town of Dadsara, some 33 kilometers (20 miles) southeast of the regional capital Srinagar and Wani's house as well as the graveyard where he is buried in Tral his ancestral hometown to prevent the people. In the meantime, thousands of Indian soldiers, paramilitary forces and police personnel were deployed across occupied Kashmir to enforce strict curfew.

Despite the curfew and strict constraints, thousands of Kashmiris are carrying Wani's pictures placards, saying 'March Towards Tral', which is widely being seen on highways and streets of major cities in occupied Kashmir, including Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, Kulgam and Islamabad as well as other districts and cities. Burhan Wani, who was the son of a school principal had become the symbolic figure of armed struggle in Indian-occupied Kashmir since 2011. Active in using social media wearing military dresses and holding assault guns, he sent video messages to invite Kashmir's youth to join anti-India armed-struggle.



In the aftermath of his martyrdom, the held territory underwent the longest ever curfew of more than 100 days during which the occupation forces ruthlessly killed hundreds of Kashmir's people. Burhan 22, when killed; gave rise to new-heights to freedom movement that was marked by widespread use of social media, open display of arms and educated young people taking up arms. That's why; the Indian authorities cut internet connections in these districts, which have become the hub of an armed insurgency against India for the last so many years. The occupation forces also banned all kinds of communications on Thursday morning in all parts of the town of Sopore, once a

stronghold of Burhan's parent militant organization, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, in northern Kashmir.

Burhan's killing had sparked months of anti-India protests and clashes, during which more than 120 protesters were shot dead and thousands were injured and arrested. More than 1,000 people suffered and lost their eyes by metal pelleting by Indian forces into protesting crowds. Burhan's funeral was believed to have been the biggest in recent history, with estimates between 100,000 and 200,000 praying and attending his burial.

The Kashmiri youth leader, Burhan Wani revived and infused a new spirit in the freedom movement against India, Kashmir which is a Muslim-majority Himalayan region, held by India illegally since the partition in 1947. Pakistan and India have fought three wars in 1948, 1965, and 1971, two of them over Kashmir, and also in Siachen glacier in northern Kashmir, Indian and Pakistani troops have fought intermittently since 1984. A truce took effect in 2003. The Majority of Kashmiri groups in Jammu and Kashmir have been fighting against Indian rule for independence, or for unification with neighbouring Pakistan and thousands of innocent Kashmir's people have inhumanely been killed in the armed struggle since 1989 and on ward till the date. The sacrifices of the Kashmiris should not go waste and the United Nations Organizations must implement its resolutions for the plebiscite in disputed Jammu and Kashmir state to stop Indian atrocities against the unarmed innocent Kashmiris. One wonders how many Burhan Wanis the Kashmiris have to sacrifice in order to get their legitimate right of self-determination.

# Illegitimate Sacking of Kashmir's Civil Servants by Indian Authorities

## OPINION

By Usman Khan

The bias and controversial dismissals of public servants in Kashmir by India government to tame the freedom movement has sparked wide-spread protests inside Indian occupied Kashmir. The removals were made under the excuse of defending "state security. Six public employees have been dismissed under the pretext of protecting state security. "Their termination orders were passed under sub-clause (c) of the proviso to clause (2) of Article 311 of the Constitution of India which stated that in the interest of the security of the State, it is not expedient to hold an enquiry in their cases before terminating their services with immediate effect", official sources said. Three others Government employees were dismissed from services on April 30, 2021 by the UT administration under similar charges.

In occupied Kashmir India wants to tighten its grip on government employees to keep the Kashmiris people in state of constant fear. In the 2016" a 42-year-old math teacher Muhammad Yusuf Ganaie at a boys' school, was suspended after being accused of throwing stones during mass rally in 2016 against the killing of young insurgent commander Burhan Wani. After spending a year in jail, Ganaie was again arrested in 2019 when the region's government launched a huge crackdown on leaders, traders and young people. "He spent two years in jail, and he was hopeful that he would be reinstated but now his dismissal comes as a shock to the whole family. "No exact reasons were given for the sackings including three teachers, an assistant professor, a police officer and a revenue official. The latest dismissals are highly unjustified and an effort to threaten and cow-down public servants to suppress and undermine the right of self-determination of Kashmiris people.

Previously, the two sons of Hizbul Mujahideen founder Syed Salahuddin the Jammu & Kashmir among 11 J&K Government employees were sacked for keeping pressurize the indigenous freedom movement of Kashmir. Using its lash against the Government employees in the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory administration has terminated the services of at least 11 employees with immediate effect.

On October 2017, Syed Salahuddin's

son Syed Shahid Yusuf was arrested in the case for allegedly receiving money from his father, who is currently based in Pakistan. Shahid Yusuf was working in the Agriculture department. The Indian government blamed the other sacked persons for so called anti state activities including two policemen, they were accused to work for terrorist organizations and providing shelter, transporting arms consignment and spreading propaganda on social media platforms for Kashmir cause. The eldest son Shakeel Yusuf was also arrested by the NIA in connection with a 2011 terror funding in the same case for allegedly receiving money from his father in August 2018 at the time of the arrest, he was working as a laboratory assistant at a prestigious Government hospital in Srinagar. In these 11 dismissed employees, four were working in the education department, two in the Jammu Kashmir Police and one each in the agriculture, skill development, power and health departments, and SKIMS.

The regional government, which underwent many political changes after being stripped of its limited autonomy in August 2019, ordered the formation of a special task force to scrutinize the cases of employees suspected of being involved in "anti-national activities." The six employees were fired under an

article of the constitution that gives the government authority to remove a public servant from their role without any inquiry. It all clearly shows that the implementation of above-mentioned bias and controversial law was meant to create fear and sense of insecurity among Muslims in the region. The government employees from once the scenic valley of Indian occupied Kashmir feel rightly that these dismissals are discriminatory and went on to say that it's an attack on us because of our religious identity.

The Jammu and Kashmir government is the largest employer in the region, with nearly 450,000 employees. The regional government also passed an order saying that no new employee would be paid their salary or allowances until they had undergone a verification process by the top investigative agency, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) the new hires were asked to submit details about their social media accounts like Twitter, Facebook and other social network to "target and restrict their freedom of expression." The government made a change to the Jammu and Kashmir civil service regulations allowing the authorities to forcibly retire any public servant over 48 years old or who has completed 22 years of service as the changes in the laws are politically motivated and that leads to complete

chaos and violence in society .

The National Conference, the pro-Indian political party that has ruled for most of the last seven decades in the region, said the measures are meant to "alienate" the people. "The government should have focused on boosting coronavirus care rather than firing employees in an elusive manner in which they cannot even resort to legal recourse to protect their rights,". The pro-freedom political parties led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq who heads the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), a coalition of separatist leaders in the region called the actions a form of "harassment of government employees. "To render people jobless in such a manner by invoking a draconian law is intimidation" and as "inhuman and cruel".

All these discriminatory laws and dismissals of these sacked employees from service without properly hearing them are not only against the basic principles of natural justice but show the prejudice of Indian government against the Kashmir's people. It is difficult to understand that how a teacher or an assistant professor could be a threat to the national security of a powerful country like India. It would be good for Indian government to maintain the larger public good and facilitate its citizens rather than to destroy the image of largest democracy in the world.



# Informal and Illegal trade between India and Bangladesh

## NEWS REPORT

By Twinkle Agrawal

Foreign trade depict a crucial role in the development of the economy of any country. In foreign trade, we see illegal transactions in trade also that happen between two countries. The illegal trade between India and Bangladesh land border happens at two levels the first one is illegal to trade via issuing false invoices through official channels and the second one is cross border trade that happens outside the official channels.

### Trade Relations and economic ties between both the countries

Bangladesh is India's huge partner in trade in South Asia. The trade between both the countries increased regularly from a decade. Bangladesh receives India's concessional LOC in bulk as compared to other countries. India has also been assisting in grants for developing various infrastructure projects in Bangladesh. The bilateral agreement begins in 1972 at the time of Indira Gandhi being prime minister and continuing the friendly relationship until now.

### Cross border trade outside official channels (Illegal and informal trade)

In illegal trade, there is informal trading of trafficking in narcotics, drugs, and arms between the borders of India and Bangladesh outside the official channels of trade. We can say the smuggling of goods is called cross-border trade outside official channels. It results into loss of income to the countries. These activities took place due to domestic policy distortions.

### Illegal trade causing Trade Deficit for Bangladesh

Bangladesh has the issue of trade deficit from the day of its independence with India. The trade deficit is escalating from that time until now. The illegal trade is happening due to various factors like lack of facility at custom border posts, lack of proper infrastructure at land custom posts, the customs procedures are not harmonized and corruption at the borders, etc. These all things invite illegal trading of goods i.e. import outside official channels which increase the trade deficit in Bangladesh. Also, hawala transaction is very common in Bangladesh because of banks have high transaction cost and slow processing, etc.

### Connectivity and Transit facilities on the border

The primary road links between India and Bangladesh are the Dhaka-Agartala bus and Kolkata-Dhaka bus that is running through the capital of Bangladesh which is Dhaka. The two freight trains are running which are Bandhan Express and Maîtree express. The airline is also running between two countries which are Biman Bangladesh airlines that connects Kolkata with Chittagong and Dhaka, also has flight operating between Delhi and Dhaka. Other airlines are also serving between these two countries like Air India, indigo, spice jet, and US-Bangla airline.

### Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group on Trade Issues

Both the countries discussed various issues like



joint study for the proposed comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA), sharing of data related to trade, harmonization of standards, border haats, regional connectivity initiatives, facilitation of business visas and up-gradation of border trading infrastructure, etc in Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group meeting. They have discussed other issues also like shipping and maritime, renewable energy, blue economy, small, micro, and medium enterprises, and investment opportunities available in both countries.

### Bilateral Trade Agreements

A bilateral trade agreement means where two countries agree on some terms and conditions for facilitating the ease of doing cross-border trade. Both the government is planning for a new bilateral trade agreement that will significantly boost the trade between both the countries. There is a discussion on removing the restriction on jute products trading by withdrawing anti-dumping duty and removal of the restriction on the export of onion by India so these things were in discussion.

### South Asian Free Trade Area(SAFTA), SAPTA, Free Trade Agreements(FTAs)

SAFTA is the free trade agreement of the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation). The agreement was done in 2006 in succeeding the previous agreement that was entered in 1993. The countries that are part of this agreement are Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan, Nepal, and Srilanka. Here small initial tariff was imposed on imports in these countries from each other and various exemptions to products from duty etc.

SAPTA is recognized as SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement. It was done to create cooperation in trade and commerce between the countries who are members of the association by introducing tariff concessions between them.

In Free trade agreement, the goods imported from a certain country are exempted from imposition of the duty. India proposed to Bangladesh for free trade agreement on goods, services, and investment done by them. For accepting the proposal both the countries may sign a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) for implementing the same.

If we analyze the whole scenario between India and Bangladesh we can say there is so much scope of trade between them offering concession in duty, facilitation of trade with official channels of trade, and improving infrastructure. All these things are possible if the government puts emphasis on the development and resolving the conflicts between both countries. Then the trade relations will be friendly and create a winning situation for both India and Bangladesh.

## OPINION

By TON Research Section

# Pakistan and India water dispute

The pandemic and resulting economic crisis have ravaged South Asia economies and turned it into the economic rubble region. The poverty has risen manifold and development goals have been severely affected. It will take long time to have a sound and sustainable south Asian economy. The feeble improvement to attain the Sustainable Development Goals on ensuring the quality and accessibility of the public

health infrastructure has made South Asia a pandemic hit area after COVID-19 struck. The region was on the path of success achieving its targets on education (SDG 4) and energy (SDG 7).

The global economic crisis has subsequently left deep imprints on South Asia, turning this previous growth champion into the poorest performing region in 2020. Regional economic growth fell dramatically from 3.1 per cent in 2019 to -8.6 per cent in 2020 and all economies in the region have been badly hit by the crisis. Higher price inflation due to COVID-19 restricted the space required for monetary policy to make up for the shortfall. India's economic growth has fallen from 4.7 per cent in 2019 to -9.6 per cent in 2020, as lockdowns and other restraint efforts reduced domestic consumption without stopping the spread of the disease.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has suffered heavily from global prohibitions, the sharp drop down fall in oil prices. As proven from -7.0 in 2019 to -13.3 per cent in 2020, the Economic growth in Pakistan, which was already in the grasp of an ongoing twin fiscal and balance-of-payments disaster, has fallen from 0.3 per cent in 2019 to -2.7 per cent in 2020. Maldives, meanwhile, took a severe hit from the standstill in international tourism, erasing more than a fifth of its output in 2020 compared with the previous year.

The fastest growing economy Bangladesh in the region has also seen economic down falls, from 8.4 per cent in 2019 to 0.5 per cent in 2020. The most vulnerable populations have experienced a disproportional impact on their livelihood including slum dwellers, migrant workers and the women. Economic growth in South Asia in 2021 will be insufficient, at 6.9 per cent, to make up for the losses of 2020. The development of new growth sectors, aided by targeted fiscal stimulus and the disruptive effects of the crisis, could push up South Asia's development trajectory and allow the region to gain lost ground. To grow again, South Asian countries will need first to redouble their efforts to increase their economies.

South Asia is in dire need to strengthen their efforts to formalize labor markets and strengthen their social protection systems to remove the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable and improve macroeconomic resilience. Informal workers, accounting for over 80 per cent of workers in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan have indeed been far more exposed to loss of employment than formal workers during the crisis and South Asia's widespread informality has almost certainly magnified the impact of the pandemic (World Bank, 2020c).

The COVID-19 fiscal response in South Asia has consisted of a vast ad hoc expansion of social assistance and direct cash transfers for the neediest but this kind of special support is neither sufficient nor sustainable. The decision-makers in South Asia will have to improve their social protection systems. However, they will need importantly more fiscal space to achieve all of these goals. The domestic revenue mobilization can improve some of the shortfall. Indeed, several South Asian countries have run fiscal deficits of about 10 per cent of GDP in 2020 and government debt to grow significantly.

The economic crises, precipitated from the COVID-19 pandemic has multiple imprints on South Asia and it needs financial support to overcome the crisis. South Asia

faces rising interest rates that increase its borrowing costs, just as its most important sources of revenue commodity exports, tourism, and remittances fall. To date, foreign investors have pulled \$26 billion out of developing Asian economies, \$16 billion of which come from India. At the close of 2020, remittances to the region were expected to decline by 22 per cent, and tourism has to receive knee-jerk affects. The region's worsening economic facet, heavy funding from International Financial Institutions (IFIs) is crucial to prevent a prolonged public health crisis and financial woes.

The regularity of IMF programs for Pakistan, systematically centered on similar structural conditional ties, is a marked sign of their inefficiency. Insanity is sometimes described as doing the same thing repeatedly expecting a different result, and this is no exception. The structural adjustment in South Asia is the wrong medicine to cure. Traditional SAP reforms imposed by the IMF and World Bank require a prerequisite of economic diversification and sufficient reserves to

successfully carry out the laissez-faire model lacking in South Asian states. Tourism remains 39 per cent of gross domestic product in the Maldives; hydropower contributes over twenty seven per cent of Bhutan's government revenue; and remittances account for 27.3 per cent of Nepal's economic output.

In the context of COVID, the poor will increasingly bear the brunt of the pandemic and its aftermath. The traditional tight monetary policies and tight fiscal policies required to reduce the budget deficit and strengthen exchange rates will not only cause a slowdown in economies particularly in Pakistan. Therefore, considering the region's overall current and projected weakened economies, in inter-related with the failure of previous SAP strategies, the chances of getting success by implementing further World Bank and IMF reforms in South Asia are grim. The detrimental effects of the pandemic in South Asia will undoubtedly depend on the economic policy action taken by governments.



To prevent a subsequent depression and responding to current financial issues is necessary, and priority must not be given to austerity that only incentivize corruption and inequality while leaving the masses out to dry rather than governments should cut its expenditures. The IMF and the World Bank should emphasize to increase the government's role. This will require that both the IMF and the World Bank lift loan ceiling and loosen eligibility for loans, to be more inclusive. Many developing countries have underdeveloped and overwhelmed health systems. So, providing enhancing equity to the vulnerable populations should be safe-guarded in development areas of South Asia for fruitful result.

# How Pakistan perceive abduction of Afghan Ambassador's Daughter?

## OPINION

By TON Research Section

The Afghan government on Sunday recalled its ambassador from Islamabad and other senior diplomats over “security threats to its diplomats at the back drop of abduction to Afghan Ambassador's daughter. The Pakistan's Foreign Office in an overnight statement said the reported abduction and assault of SilsilaAlikhil, the 26-year-old daughter of Afghanistan's ambassador to Pakistan NajibullahAlikhil is being probed at the highest level on the orders of Prime Minister ” after the top envoy’s daughter was allegedly “kidnapped,” on her way home in Islamabad on Friday last by unidentified persons and “harshly tortured”. The alleged kidnaping was happened at time when Afghan government is totally failed before Taliban fighters and Afghan government blamed Pakistan for interfering in Afghanistan Affairs. Moreover, the Afghan government refused to come to attend the conference hosted by Pakistan for peace in Afghanistan. Apparently, it shows a conspiracy was hatched and set to malign Pakistan into the comity on nations.

The Foreign Office of Pakistan Sunday termed the Afghan government's decision to recall its ambassador and senior diplomats from Pakistan is “unfortunate and regrettable” ”. In a statement, it said the reported kidnapping and attack on the ambassador's daughter in Islamabad was being examined and monitored up at the highest level on the orders of the prime minister adding that the security of the ambassador, his family and personnel of the Embassy and Consulates of Afghanistan in Pakistan had been further beefed up”. In the meanwhile, the foreign secretary met the Afghan ambassador on Sunday and highlighted all the steps taken by the government in this background, and assured him of full cooperation. He hoped that the Government of Afghanistan would reassess its choice,” of recalling its ambassador.

On other hand speaking to Media, the minister for Interior said the incident “is not a matter of kidnapping” at all. “This is



an intrigue and an agenda of RAW to alienate and defame Pakistan internationally. He said the ambassador's daughter had first claimed that her phone was stolen, “and later the phone was found with her but with the data erased”. He said the CCTV footage of the time of the event had been checked and it was found that there were four taxis that she had used. “The girl went from F-7 to Daman-e-Koh and then over to the F-9 Park area,” the minister told the details of the events of the day.

The minister said an FIR had been lodged under sections 365 and 354, 34, and 506 of the Pakistan Penal Code. He said the police had registered the FIR at 2:00 am on the statement of the girl. The minister said authorities would investigate as to how the ambassador's daughter reached from Rawalpindi to Daman-e-Koh and hopefully more lost links of the case could be put together to provide a flawless picture. The interior minister said police were investigating the case on “highest priority” after directions from the prime minister. “In the next 72 hours, if God we will solve the case”, he added.

The minister went on to say that the picture of the girl circulating on the media “does not belong to the girl”. Addressing a press conference earlier in the day, he said the case was predictable to be solved within 72 hours. He said India was playing up the kidnapping of the ambassador's daughter to destroy the image of Pakistan. “We will present the entire, true picture in front of the world.

Meanwhile, dozens of Afghans Sunday staged a protest outside the Pakistan embassy in Kabul against the alleged abduction of SilsilaAlikhil. The protesters raised slogans against Pakistan for failing to safeguard her and demanded the closure of Pakistan's embassy.

In a statement to police, which was circulated in the media, the envoy's daughter said she went to buy a gift and hired a taxi. While coming back, the driver pulled over on the roadside after a five-minute drive and another man barged in who first shouted at her then started beating her. Because I was scared, so I felt unconscious, when I regained consciousness, i found myself at a place full of dirt and then took a taxi to go to a

nearby park from where she called her father's colleague, who brought her home.

It is highly mind-boggling that why the Ambassador's daughter went out form her residence without any proper security at time when the relations are strained between Pakistan and Afghan Government after allegations on each other and why she used four taxes, according to Pakistan interior minister. In addition to all of this, suppose if she was really abducted then how she is released from the abductors without fulfilling any demand whatsoever. These are the questions which shrouds into the labyrinth of mystery at the moment. If it really happened to the respected lady then it is the responsibility of government of Pakistan to nab the culprits at the earliest and give them exemplary punishment. And if it is contrary to it, then too the facts should bring before the people of Pakistan and Afghanistan. To conclude whatever, the case may be whether Pakistani version is correct or the Afghan, the incident should be thoroughly investigated to the satisfaction of Afghan diplomats and criminals punished.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Afghanistan demanded Pakistan to identify and prosecute the culprits at the earliest. The ambassador daughter was on her way home in Islamabad when she was allegedly kidnapped. She was under medical care in a hospital after being released.



# Indian Plot to Overthrow Nepalese Government

## OPINION

By TON Research Section

The recent allegations of K P Sharma Oli Prime Minister of Nepal that India is plotting to overthrow his government with the help of his internal rivals has once again proved that India always interfered into the internal-affairs of his neighboring countries for getting his vested interest. The relations between the two neighbors have been soared-up after Nepal government passed a Bill approving the country's new map that includes the Nepalese territories allegedly held by India. Oli's party has been a split-over his government's move to align with the Communist Party of China rather than India. Oli's statement came after a week Nepal permitted a bill to redraw the country's map demarcating the Lipulekh mountain pass, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura the area at the center of the dispute between India and Nepal which is illegally occupied by India.

Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has said that India along with rival political forces in the country is actively involved to get him out of the power as retaliation against Kathmandu's decision for issuing new political map which include disputed territories. The PM went on to say that "Indian media, literati and state apparatuses along with powers in Nepal were all hatching conspiracies to depose him after his government bold-step aims to regaining the territory that Nepal consider are illegally held by India for decades."

Oli further said that he was aware of all the plans to oust him from power although; it is not easy to remove him through all these tactics. Oli facing immense pressure from his party to quit as PM as he admitted that a group of political leaders within his party and the opposition parties in Nepal is hand in glove with foreign forces to throw from power and many leaders from Nepal themselves are vigorous active in this regard. He urged his party and the parliamentary party committee not to be persuaded by such forces.

KP Sharma Oli is facing immense pressure from his party to quit from the chairmanship of the party and as the PM of country. In the mean-time Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli faces immense pressure and criticism within the party for awkwardly handling the COVID-19 crisis. He hinted his fingers at the Indian embassy for being behind a plot to "topple" him. Oli made this straight allegation at a function held at his official house to celebrate the birth anniversary of the Nepali communist leader Madan Bhandari at the end of last month.

"Plots are being hatched to topple me for drawing the country's new map and getting it passed through Parliament," Oli categorically said in Nepali, that the ongoing highbrow discussions, mass media hear says from New Delhi, the reaction from the Indian embassy's activities and meetings at different hotels in Kathmandu, it is very easy to understand how India is openly active to oust him along with internal political actors but they won't succeed in their nefarious designs.

He said that the approval of new political map of Nepalese government through country's parliament earlier this month was the reason for India stimulating a conspiracy against him as; we amended our political map in the large national-interest. We also gave this a constitutional form. Oli's statement came after the get-together of the ruling Nepal Communist Party's standing committee, where he faced a bombardment of blames from leaders including



the co-chair of the party, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'. The latter has accused Oli of taking decisions without taking into confidence the other leaders of the party and having an authoritarian approach.

The NCP's standing committee meeting was held after a gap of six months. When the standing committee met to begin the meeting in early May, Oli walked out citing health reasons. At that time, party faction led by Dahal sensed that Oli was evading the conference as he would be forced to step down either from the post of the prime minister or party chairmanship. The differences between Oli and Nepal Communist Party's executive chief Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' have appeared at a time when border tension is at all-time high.

Soon after this occasion India's opened a new link road to Lipulekh became the reason for the Nepali cabinet to successfully approve a new political map incorporating territories claimed by New Delhi Under the burgeoning prime-minster Oli to update the map in the national coat of arms, which was unanimously approved by all parties.

When he resigned in 2016, Oli also indicated that there

had been a "conspiracy" that ousts him from the power, indicating that India had wanted him out for his overtures to China. Oli also said that a segment of political leaders within Nepal had joined foreign powers to remove his government. The major part of Oli's first term in 2015-16 had been dominated by India's de facto economic blockade, after New Delhi expressed unhappiness at what it said was the discriminatory nature of the Nepali constitution.

The border tensions between Nepal and India have grown over the past few months. India has objected to Nepal's move to include Lipulekh mountain pass, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura in its territory and warned the country to not resort to any "artificial enlargement of territory. The Nepalese government claimed that India has made intrusions into the disputed region by building the Darchula-Lipulekh link road despite repeated complaints. India, on the other hand, said that the road is within its territory.

India has been continuously involved in interfering in internal affairs of not only Nepal but its other neighboring countries as well. The United States along with other world powers should force India to refrain from its subversive activities for the lasting and durable peace in south Asia.

# The controversial India's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)

## NEWS REPORT

By TON Research Section

The India's current Prime Minister Modi leader of the Hindu ultranationalist BJP party is following the foot-prints of Nazis-Germany. The BJP party is founded on the Hindutva ideology, which constructs an idealized Hindu as typical citizen of India. Hindutva envisions India should always been a Hindu nation and perceives Islam and Muslims as a necessarily enemy force which intimidate India through attack and war. Thus, resulting is the marginalization of numbers of religious and ethnic groups particularly Muslims. Hindutva is manifested in extreme from to demand all over influence of Hindu principles in the states decision-making regarding the expulsion, killing, or forced conversion of all non-Hindus.

The fact that India is the largest democracy in the world does not able to stop the disruptive and discriminatory nature of the BJP and its affinity to a fascistic view point. Indeed, the BJP party and its main arm, the RashtriyaSwayamsevakSangh (RSS), were inspired by both Nazi Germany and Mussolini's fascists in Italy. The RSS was involved in the assassination of the 'Father of the Indian Nation,' Mahatma Gandhi and even celebrated his success murder. The BJP's propel the policy of using fear and intimidation to target marginalized populations including Christians, Dalits (lower caste Hindus), Muslims, and Sikhs. In a speech from 2016, the BJP Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship stated, "as long as there is Islam in the world, there will be terrorism. Until we uproot Islam, we can't remove terrorism." In 2019 BJP President Amit Shah said that "We will ensure implementation of NRC in the entire country. We will remove every single infiltrator from the country, except Buddha, Hindus and Sikhs.

In 2019 the government passed the Citizenship Amendment Act which grants Indian citizenship to previously illegal immigrants who entered the country before 2015, and who are Hindu,

Sikh, Buddhist, Jain and Parsi, as well as to Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan excepts, Muslims intentionally to change them minority in their majority areas. The BJP's leadership have successfully manipulated the role of media and in particular, social media to create deadly consequences for Muslims, for example social media's role in spreading hate, according to the Indian Express, what's App group was used to plan the riots and attacks against Muslims and others who were in Delhi protesting the Citizenship Amendment Act

By mid-2019, the anti-Muslims use of hateful and abusive language by top politicians has been increased in India since the BJP-led government came to power. Independent observers and analysts scanned 1,300 articles with reference databases and 1,000 tweets of politicians and public figure disinformation campaign on social media, what's App and Face book.

Even after these were removed, they were shared again during the 2019 Parliamentary elections. Facebook moderation proved unable to protect minority populations. Rohingya refugees in India have faced violent threats from local leaders, and their refugee camps have been burned. Responding to anti-Muslim hysteria, additional developments have included the spread of violent cow protection vigilante groups and the embrace of conspiracy theories known as the "love jihad," ie that Muslim men were systematically stealing Hindu brides, a form of racial and religious panic without factual basis. The NRC/ CAA can be understood as a religious based filter imposed on Indian law. However, there are now other laws such as visa overstay

**T**he 2019 change in Kashmir's legal status along with thereafter laws and the intensification of mob violence in the region speaks the spread of Hindutva ideology, which reflects a desire to "take back" the imaginary divided homeland of sub-continent. After its first election victory, the BJP party underwent enormous removals of voters from the electoral rosters and suppressing minority voter's rights especially, Muslims to deprive them from their right of vote and committed all kinds of violence at the polls to come in the power at any cost.

laws that have a religious filter. Muslims who overstay their visa are fined at a much higher rate than non-Muslims. Recently even the Bangladeshi embassy staff that had to leave because of Covid was fined. Hindu staff received very low fines, whereas

The Muslim staff members were fined at a much higher rate. Moreover, bail granting procedures for Muslims are oftenly delayed, keeping the journalists or activists in jail for months at end and Non-Muslim media figures were treated differently as compare to Muslim journalists and rights defenders. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has been misused against the Muslims population. Such obnoxious things was mentioned in the media as the "Corona Jihad" or "Corona Terrorism," and become a tool for ultra-nationalist politicians utilizing crisis to stoke racial, ethnic, and religious tensions.

After the Coronavirus hit India, the Modi government announced an abrupt lockdown and severe crackdown was started against the TablighiJamaat, a Muslim reformist group, with attendees from all over the world. The ruling Bhartiya Janata Party began a Social Media campaign targeting Muslims and spread rumors that the TablighiJamaat were responsible for spreading Coronavirus in India. There was no attempt by the Modi government to dispel these falsehoods. At the same time, there were also large gatherings in Hindu temples, but it was only the TablighiJamaat which was reported negatively by Indian media despite the fact, that people of TablighiJamaat who gave their white plasma (White Blood Cell) to cure the people of India irrespective of caste, race and religion.

In the meantime, the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh state attended a busy Hindu celebration a day into the lockdown and hundreds of thousands celebrated a 10-day temple festival in Kerala state around the same time. Around 40,000 people in 20 villages were quarantined in Punjab state after a Covid-19 outbreak was linked to a Sikh preacher at a large gathering who had returned from a trip to Italy and Germany, ignoring advice to self-quarantine.

In April 2020 two newborn babies died after hospitals refused to admit their Muslim mothers amid a surge in Cronavirus-related Islam-phobia.

The Kashmir region is split between India and Pakistan, which have fought two wars over the territory while claiming the region in its entirety. Since India's de-facto annexation of Kashmir on August 5, 2019, security forces have arrested thousands of young men, raided people's homes, inflicted beatings and electric shocks, and threatened to take away their female relatives. Thousands of protesters over the past year have been wounded in pellet-gun attacks. For seven months, until March 2020, the area was under a complete communications blackout with social media and internet access banned.

It is time for the world leader to stand-up and take serious notice of the atrocities committed to the Kashmir's people by the Indian government and put pressure on it to stop discriminatory attitude to all the minorities in India specifically Muslims of so-called largest democracy of India.



# The New Role of Turkey in Afghanistan

## OPINION

By TON Research Section

The US deal with Turkey to control and secure the Kabul International Airport which is a main gateway to Afghanistan and a symbol of Afghan Capital is another game plan of US to pursue its interest and maintain the presence of American Embassy and diplomatic missions from allied countries even after withdrawing its NATO-Led American forces. Mr. Biden's plans to retain a diplomatic presence in the country, as part of an international effort to prevent a return of formidable Taliban which had capture this airport in the past too. Securing at the airport at any cost is important for the United States and other nations which want to keep a diplomatic presence in Kabul.

Turkey for its own reasons wants to retain a presence in Afghanistan, where it has a long affiliation, and a shared history and religion as well as an economic stake. As a Muslim-majority nation and a member of the Atlantic alliance, Turkey has played a consistent role in Afghanistan since 2001, including sending troops in noncombat roles. It currently has about 600 service members in Afghanistan, where its main mission has been providing security for the airport.

The talks over completing an agreement for Turkey to continue doing so have yet to resolve details of how the operation would work. They are also taking place against the backdrop of high-level strains between Turkey and the United States over issues like Ankara's purchase of Russian anti-aircraft batteries. However, the withdrawal of international combat troops from Kabul international mean, that it is likely to fall to Taliban very soon. As the group has gestured that it will not allow the presence of any foreign troops, even from Turkey. After two decades of US-Led war, military failures and bloody battles and its exit from Afghanistan, still the airport hand over to Turkey is strategically necessary for America's diplomatic presence in Afghanistan.



For maintaining embassy operations and having an evacuation route for diplomats and the forces protecting them, the airport is the gateway to Afghanistan for workers from international aid groups and other nongovernmental organizations and health care providers that remain vital in a nation long reliant on foreign assistance to provide basic services.

Turkey is a historical ally of Afghanistan and seventh-largest troop contributor to NATO's mission there, Turkey has been engaged in Afghanistan in a measurable and multi-faceted way. Turkey has deep cultural and linguistic links with Afghanistan, as a significant percentage of Afghanistan's population is ethnically Turk.

Turkey actively opposed the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and supported the Northern Alliance during the Civil War in the 1990s, particularly the Junbish party of ethnic Uzbek leader Abdul Rashid Dostum, who fled to Turkey after the Taliban takeover.

In November 2001, Turkey became the first Muslim country to join the U.S.-led military campaign in Afghanistan and currently runs NATO's Train Advise Assist Command – Capital in Kabul. In contrast to other NATO nations, Ankara appears willing to continue playing a role in Afghanistan.

Since 2001, Ankara has invested an estimated \$1.1 billion in security, health, education, and infrastructure. Turkey has interests in Afghanistan's political gambit. The Ankara's key policy priority in Afghanistan beyond 2021 is stability. Turkey's deep engagement and trade relations with Central Asian states will rely on controlling regional terrorism for a free movement and investment motivating it to remain in the country.

Its friendly relations with Islamabad, Doha, and Kabul, along with a stable working relationship with Moscow despite its NATO membership, provide Turkey with an advantageous and influential position. Turkey is member the

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and NATO that's why Turkey could function as a bridge- and confidence builder, especially between Afghanistan's neighbors and international partners.

In February 2020, Hizb-i-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar publicly supported the idea that Turkey should host the intra-Afghan peace. Ankara has successfully hosted several annual summits between Islamabad and Kabul in a trilateral effort to ease

At the same time, Ankara has deepened its engagement with ethnic community leaders from northern Afghanistan over the last decade, notably, Abdul Rashid Dostum, who has regularly resided in Turkey (first in 2008/09 and then 2015-2017). Today, Afghans make up the second-largest group of migrants residing in Turkey and the largest number of new arrivals in 2019 and 2020. So far, the economic development and political sustain ability concerns in Afghanistan beyond 2021.

Turkey and EU-led US seem to cooperate on the combating terrorism and human rights crime, health, migration and education in war-torn Afghanistan. Many Afghan political leaders have firm view that Pakistan, a host and historical supporter of the Taliban, as the key to lasting peace settlement in Afghanistan and hope for Turkey to use its leverage over Islamabad accordingly to bring Taliban on table as quickly as possible to restore peace and normalcy in Afghanistan as the Taliban itself recently, claimed that it is controlling 80% of the territory of Afghanistan.



# Sri Lanka's mutation by the world powers

## OPINION

By TON Research Section

The China-Sri Lanka relations have been questionable yet quite different. In recent years, the relations between the two countries have developed significantly and they are ready to further expand the geographical scope. Since Sri Lanka's independence, China and Sri Lanka have had good relations; their involvement in Sri Lanka's internal affairs was low. The bond became came into spotlight from 2008 to 2009, when China was one of the few countries that voluntarily assisted Sri Lanka in the final battle with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

When other countries such as the United States and the European Union criticized the actions of the Sri Lankan military in the final stages of the Sri Lankan civil war, Beijing provided Sri Lanka with millions of dollars in modern weapons and six F7 fighter jets. In addition, Beijing has effectively defended Sri Lanka against the UN Security Council's resolutions that Sri Lanka under the leadership of Rajapaksa violated human rights in its recent aggression against the LTTE.

In the controversial construction of Hambantota Port, the port is often referred to as one of the pilot projects of Beijing's "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI). BRI is the gateway to the island and can now be guarded openly by Chinese ships and workers who are rushing towards major projects, including the abandonment of a port city near Colombo. China's continuous march into the Indian Ocean (IOR) region has added new dimensions regarding the security developments in the area.

China's decades of economic prosperity have led to an expansion of its military and economic influence in South Asia. The world regards China's participation in Sri Lanka as a geopolitical strategy. As analyst Ken Miller said in a recent article, Beijing's monetary power in South Asia through foreign investment is a deliberate strategy that serves the broader national security interests. It relies on accumulating foreign exchange reserves and sending money abroad in the form of foreign direct investment, useful resources, aid and credit. The surge in Chinese imports to Sri Lanka is related to these infrastructure projects, which in turn led to a decline in Sri Lanka's exports and created a trade deficit between the two countries. The only way to fill this trade deficit is through large export-oriented foreign direct investment (FDI) from China into Sri Lanka. Unfortunately, this is not part of China's plan. There is no significant



benefit to ordinary Sri Lankan citizens. These may be meaningless projects used by agents to satisfy themselves, kith, and kin.

With China's economic march and growing security presence, Beijing seems ready to turn Sri Lanka into a modern semi-colonial place. Following the terrorist attack on Easter Sunday, April 21, which killed more than 250 people, Sri Lanka asked China to provide more equipment. According to reports, Beijing has provided equipment worth nearly 4.2 million U.S. dollars, including 500

portable metal detectors and 25 security doors. 50 X-ray inspection systems, 25 portable vehicle scanners, three explosives detectors and three explosives and drug trace detectors. In addition, China seems to have sent a technical team to Sri Lanka for installation and training. In addition, as the latest sign of military cooperation, China has donated P625 military frigates to Sri Lanka, and the Chinese Navy has trained more than 110 Sri Lankan soldiers and sailors in Shanghai. The China Port Engineering Corporation (CHEF) has also

disrupted politics and bureaucracy to ensure that the project is carried out in accordance with Chinese requirements; it is said that it will create 83,000 jobs for local residents and an investment of US\$15 billion will flow into the land. These statements by the Chinese seem unrealistic, and the project should only bring profits to a few people. The port city project, the livelihoods of fishermen along the northern and southern coasts of Colombo, has been affected by the project.

In conclusion, the importance to in Sri Lanka geopolitics location the best y for achieve its desired Furthermore, with between India and China issues including the a strategic asset with which the Indian Ocean. Over the successfully built a large only looks set to increase aid to Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Maldives.

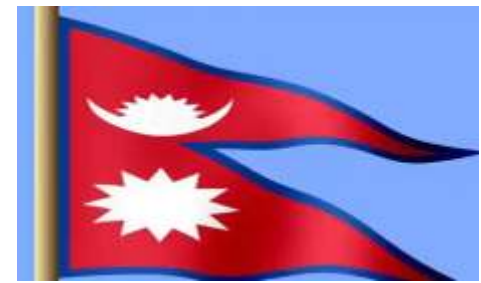


IOR is of significant geopolitical China and its growing influence ka reflects this. Sri Lanka's c a l provides opportunit China to s t r a t e g y . tensions rising over several geopolitical border, Sri Lanka offers China to diminish India's influence in last decade China has footprint in the IOR which amidst the rising financial

## OPINION

By TON Research Section

# The Political instability and economic crisis of Nepal



Nepal is currently facing an unparalleled crisis, owing to political instability and chaotic COVID-19 pandemic. Since the lower house has been dissolved and PM Oli is under immense pressure from the Political instability and economic crisis of the country and is heading a caretaker government till the elections in November along with the Supreme Court's next ruling on the validity of his continuance. Nepal is passing through a critical juncture of its history and needs an urgent help from its neighboring countries, like China and other regional countries. Nepal, a landlocked country which relies primarily on

imports, failed miserably to secure enough basic medical drugs and vaccines. Nepal has received the complimentary one million doses of Covid shield vaccine from India under the COVAX facility and the first installment of one million procured doses from India, the remaining doses were not delivered by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and now those who have taken the first dose, are in acute need of the next one. The fresh second wave of COVID-19 has caught majority of the people all of sudden in Nepal.

Its vaccine procurement is not well-organized. A country with a population of about 30 million should have carefully determined in its full need. It has started searching other options including Sputnik V from Russia and China's Sino Pharmacy. The COVID figure from Nepal suggests a grim reality. On 22 May 2021, as per the Health Ministry, Nepal reported 8,591 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours taking the nationwide infection tally to 5,05,643. The countrywide death toll has now reached 6,153. The number of active cases stands at 115,806. According to the Ministry, 373,684 infected people have recovered from the disease so far; 8,848 of them in the last 24 hours. By 25 May 2021, the infection tally was 520,461; active cases 115,447, total deaths 6,531 and the number of recovered people is 3,98,483. However, determining the real harms is not possible as Nepal's COVID-testing capacity is below from satisfactory level.

Currently Nepali Economy is in wrecks and in severe grapple by the second wave of COVID-19; some international humanitarian agencies are helping to overcome the covid at some extent. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched "ADB COVID-19 response in Nepal" and is reaching out to the government and partnering agencies in Nepal. The ADB's shows that outbreak of this deadly disease has hit almost every sector of the Nepali economy, downing to 0.13 percent off the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) relieving to 15,880 people from jobs. The healthcare sector of Nepal is beyond satisfactory except a few hospitals. The Nepali economy is majorly driven by Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the major sectors like tourism, hospitality, aviation, trade, and production linkages, supply, education, healthcare, suffered badly by the second wave of covid 19 and now the situation is becoming worse as attracting visitors remain a dream. The luxury hotels in Kathmandu are closed or facing awfully low occupancy.

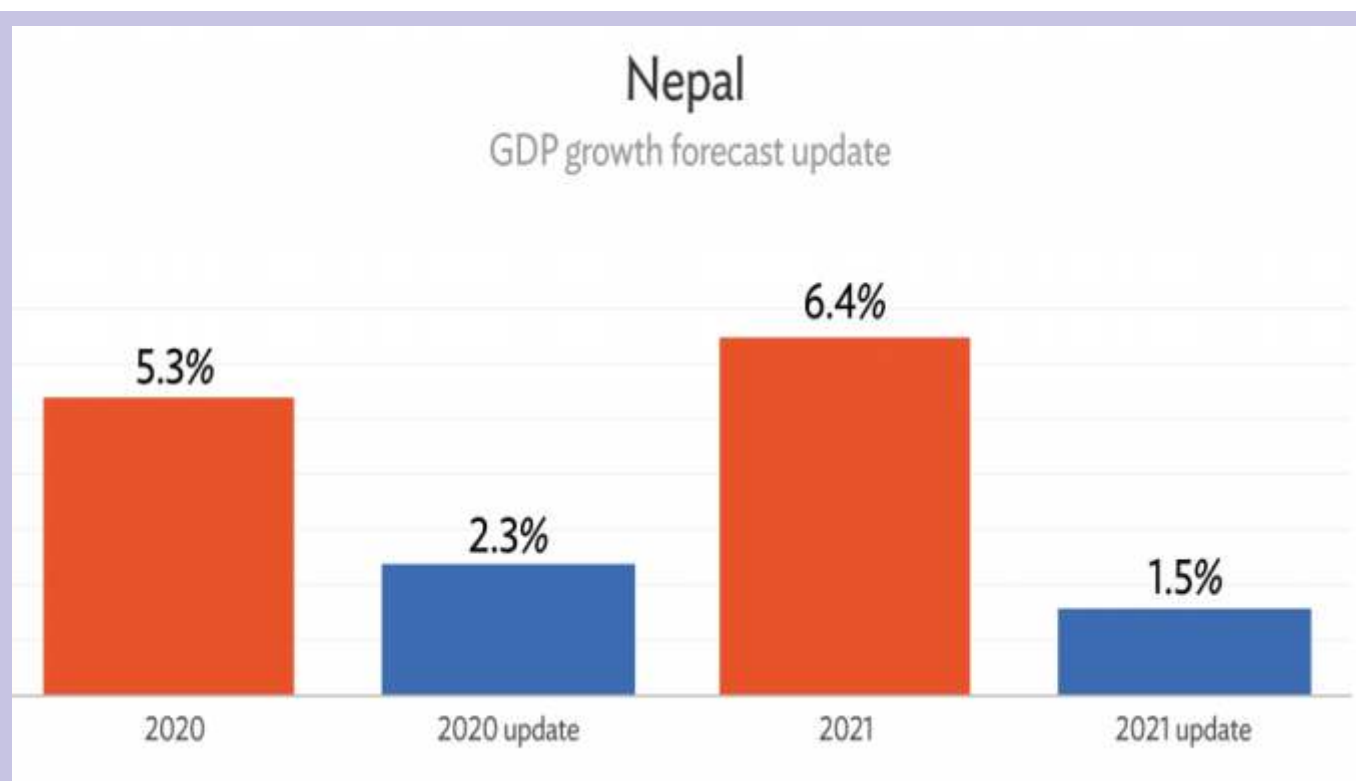
The public sector too has suffered immensely in Nepal; especially state-run banks have sustained a hard blow, with their heavy investments in different segments of the economy comprising hospitality and aviation. The ancillary manufacturing units and start-ups in services particularly are in extremely poor form in the absence of demand from outside and inability to supply the critical raw materials. China's is the second largest contributor to



Nepal's economy—the wholesale and retail sector that contributes about 14.37 percent—is also reduced, with sweeping downfall in imports from China and business from India has become chapter of the past.

In the condition of limited supply from China, Nepal may have to import from third countries, which will result in the costly products. As per the World Bank's South Asia Focus, the growth outlook Nepal is grim and not optimistic. An intensive effort is the need of the hour from the Nepal's government in bid to avert a permanent crisis. Nepal's population base, productive international exposure, and its democracy are in favor of an economic come back. Despite the fast upward trends in the last five

years, with falling government revenue in the pandemic times; Nepal's Debt to GDP Ratio is still reasonably placed at 40.16 percent as of the last fiscal year 2019-20. There is still room for improving the deficiency of development and bringing the domestic economy back on track; however, it needs calculated efforts to bring back the development at sound path and explore the existing potential of Nepal. To get the goal of sustainable development, Nepal should fully focus on the domestic market. Also, it should be less taxing and to remove the lingering irregularities with the taxes and custom duties. Shifting to an alternative development paradigm could be the game-changer for Nepal in near future.



The foreign remittances contributed majorly to Nepal's economy. In 2019, it contributed 26 percent of the country's GDP. While the high rate of migration has its own drawback and shows how Nepal's the suffering of domestic economy, the falling remittance and government's revenue collection will have serious adverse impacts and destabilizing effects on its economy in the coming future besides, social and psychological repercussions as well.

## Pakistan COAS tells China to ‘stay strong to thwart designs of inimical forces’



ISLAMABAD, 21 July 2021, (TON): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa extended heartfelt sympathies and deepest condolences to the government and the people of the People's Republic of China, particularly the bereaved families of Dasu incident victims.

An ISPR news release said “Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong called on Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa at General Headquarters (GHQ) here.”

In wake of the recent Dasu bus incident involving Chinese citizens, the COAS expressed sincere condolences to the government and the people of the

People's Republic of China.

The COAS said “Pakistan Army greatly values its brotherly relations with the time-tested friend and also assured full support and cooperation and security of Chinese citizens working in Pakistan.

He said “while we work for peace, we need to stay strong to thwart designs of all inimical forces challenging our resolve particularly those threatening China-Pakistan strategic cooperation.

Both agreed on need for continuous engagement and coordination for peace and stability in the region.

## Nepal becomes 2nd largest troops-contributor to UN Peacekeeping missions

KATHMANDU, 21 July 2021, (TON): Nepal has become the second largest troops-contributing country in the United Nations Peacekeeping mission.

Nepal rose to the 2nd position having sent 5,571 troops including 294 female peacekeepers. Prior to this, it was in the fourth position with 5,681 Nepali peacekeepers engaged in various missions, during which 84 fatalities and

hundreds of injuries were reported.

Bangladesh is the top contributor with 6,554 troops while Nepal is followed by India in third place with 5,525 troops. Meanwhile, Pakistan is the sixth largest troop contributor to the UN peacekeeping mission.

Nepal has been a consistent contributor to UN peacekeeping since 1958, three years after Nepal Joined the UN.



## Afghan Girls Win Award at Intl Astronomy Competition

KABUL, 19 July 2021, (TON): A group of Afghan female students from Herat won an award at the International Astronomy and Astrophysics Competition, which was hosted by Poland and held online in the first week of July.

The event is an international science competition that enables students from all countries to prove their skills and to unleash their creativity in the fields of astronomy and astrophysics. Participants receive certificates, awards, cash prizes, and global recognition.

The competition honors the best participants from each participating nation with a special national award certificate.

Participants from five countries, including India and Bangladesh, got prizes in the competition. According to the Afghan team, 225 participants and groups from 54 countries attended the competition.

Members of the astronomy group, all of whom are girls, said “the achievement provided them the opportunity to make further efforts toward their goals.”

Amina Karimiyan, head of the group said “there were 225 astronomy groups from 54 countries. Our prize was a telescope and a package of other relevant equipment.”

Behnaz Azizi, a member of the group said “despite limitations that exist in our dear country, we are thinking beyond this and we want to record Afghanistan's name in the astronomy science.”



# Dasu Bomb Blast an Act of Terrorism

## OPINION

By TON Research Section

On July 14, Wednesday 12 persons, including nine Chinese engineers and two Frontier Corps personnel died and several others were injured in a bus "Bomb Blast" near the Dasu hydropower plant in the Upper Kohistan district in northern areas of Pakistan Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province near Kashmir. The terrible incident happened in Kohistan region. After the incident, there were some twists-and-turns on whether it was a terror attack and what caused the deaths appeared conflicting. The Foreign Office contradicted reports of an attack, saying that the bus "plunged into a ravine after a mechanical failure resulting in leakage of gas that caused a blast". However, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs, condemned the attack termed it a "cowardly attack" and said that it would "not divert attention from the special relations between Pakistan and its neighbors".

Special Assistant to the KP Chief Minister on Information said a high level delegation has left for Upper Kohistan, adding that officials will shortly inform the people and the media of the ground realities. "The media is advised to avoid speculating on the matter." Soon after the incident, Upper Kohistan Deputy Commissioner said that the incident took place around 7:30am when a coaster was carrying over 30 workers, including Chinese engineers, from the Barseen camp to the Dasu Dam plant site. A senior police officer told as that mobile network was not functional in the area when the incident took place making the flow of information difficult.

In Beijing, China's foreign ministry spokesman expressed his "shock and condemnation over the bombing". He urged Pakistan to "severely punish the perpetrators and earnestly protect the

safety of Chinese nationals, organizations and projects" in the country. Later on, Foreign Minister of Pakistan offered his condolences to his Chinese counterpart on the "Tragic" incident and asked him to convey the condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the blast. The Interior minister also said that the friendship between Pakistan and China is eternal and it cannot make any difference and Pakistan attaches great importance to safety and security of Chinese nationals, projects and institutions in Pakistan. Additionally, the FO spokesman told that "Pakistan and China are close friends and iron-brothers."

During the time, Chinese Premier urged Pakistan to bring the terrorists to justice in a phone call with Pakistani Prime Minister on Friday, marked the shuttle bus blast in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province from both sides to confirm it as a "terror attack" after two days of the "Blast". As head of the government Pakistani prime-minister called Chinese Premier Li on the incident, which showed the mutual trust of the two countries and also Pakistan's giving importance to the incident. When inviting Li for the phone call on behalf of the Pakistan government and people, the Pakistani prime-minister expressed his sincere condolences to the Chinese government and families of the victims in the terrorist attack. He also updated him about the progress of the current investigation and follow-up work. The Chinese Premier Li stressed the Pakistani government to pay high attention to the security of Chinese citizens and organizations.

Experts on security and counter-terrorism on both sides and the director of the research department at the National Strategy Institute at Tsinghua University pointed out, that Baluchistan terrorists and the Pakistani Taliban could be the possible sponsors of the bomb attack. Other Chinese analyst said East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM) terrorists



may be involved in it because Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province is the most restless region in Pakistan, as it borders Afghanistan. As the terrorists know the importance of China-Pakistan ties that's why the terrorists aim to use such attacks to sabotage these bilateral relations. The Pakistani Taliban's activities had been downcasted during the Pakistani government's continuous efforts against terrorism, yet they are on the rise in the aftermath of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan along with but since no group has claimed responsibility, it is possible that forces from a third country may be involved.

The increasing trend of attacks against Chinese in the past two years is mainly due to the charming progress of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Some forces inside and outside Pakistan does not want to see the strong ties between Pakistan and China to imbalance the peace of South-Asia. They always attempted to create vicious incidents to disturb and perturb

the progress between the two countries and also to mess up with the mega project of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor which would change Pakistan status into an international economic and financial hub.

There are complicated and deep changes in the global and regional situations. China as strategic partner of Pakistan pay high attention to China-Pakistan relations and is willing to enhance strategic communications and coordination, deepen practical cooperation, safeguard regional peace, security in a bid to bring benefits to people of both countries. The incident may affect and lose some Chinese companies' confidence in investing in Pakistan for which needs Pakistan to make more efforts. And also to protect Chinese and Chinese companies and to fill the loop holes in the security system of the country in order to foil the nefarious designs of the enemies of both countries in South-Asia.

In the mean-time the concerned Chinese Company has stopped work on Dasu Dam over the death of Chinese engineers in Kohistan. A letter written to the government of Pakistan by China Gezhouba, a Chinese company working on the Dasu Dam, said that they could not work due to the July 14 incident. The letter said that all Pakistani employees have been laid off but all employees will be paid gratuity and salary. The project director of Dasu Dam also confirmed the letter written by the Chinese company. He said that work on the dam would resume as soon as security matters are rectified.



# Nepal's land Disputes with India

## OPINION

By TON Research Section

When India announced its new political map in 2019, after the revocation of Article 370, it included territories claimed by Nepal. However, at that time the government in Kathmandu took it up officially and publically. Subsequently, after the publication of map by India, youths and students of the ruling Nepal Communist Party and the opposition Nepali Congress came on the streets. The Nepal government described India's decision as "unilateral" and claimed that it will "defend its international border".

In line with democratization and competitive nationalism, Nepal parliament unanimously passed a bill and redraw the country's map in 2020, including the demarcation of Lipulekh mountain pass, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura the areas of Nepal which illegally occupied by India. India objected to Nepal's move to the inclusion of Lipulekh mountain pass, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura in its territory and warned the Nepal for doing so. The Nepalese government claimed that India has made intrusions into the disputed region by building the Darchula-Lipulekh link road despite repeated objections and India media always showed the distorted facts in this regard.

India inaugurated a new 80 km-long road in the Himalayas, connecting to the border with China, at the Lipulekh pass. The Nepali government protested immediately, contending that the road crosses in its territory that it claims and accused India of changing the status quo unilaterally. Since then, Nepal deployed police forces to the region, summoned the Indian ambassador in Kathmandu, and made constitutional amendment to formalize and extend its territorial claims

over 372 sq. km.

Over the time, the bilateral crisis seems to be stalemate, a worrisome trend in otherwise friendly India-Nepal relations, the crisis, the factors that escalated the dispute, the geostrategic context, and ways to de-escalate grim issue. Nepal has one of the world's youngest populations and, especially after India's implicit support for the 2015 blockade on the landlocked country, anti-Indian sentiments have been running high.

This is one of the reasons that why Nepal chose not to attend a multilateral BIMSTEC counter-terrorism exercise hosted by India, in 2018. Delhi had then expressed its disappointment, especially about the Nepali government caving in to popular reservations about BIMSTEC as an anti-China military alliance driven by India.

Nepal's foreign policy establishment has embraced an ambitious and forward-looking agenda of external balancing and diversification in recent years, especially under the leadership of its Foreign Minister participation in the Fourth Indian Ocean Conference, held in the Maldives in 2019, reflects Kathmandu's widening geostrategic horizons, seeking to place Nepal as a critical connectivity hub between China, South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. The border dispute between India and Nepal was brewing for years, so it is unreasonable to blame China for creating the crisis.

India alleged that Nepal may be bringing up the issue "at the behest" of a third party, referring to China. All this does not mean that Beijing has not supported or further instigated Kathmandu to take on a more assertive position, especially against the backdrop of the China-India military standoff in Ladakh. This could have contributed to the severity of the India-Nepal crisis.

Nepal and several other Indian neighbors



institutions in a political transition that can be instable, as Indian interference is growing and may hinder further democratization, undermining the rule of law, or curtail critical media and academic independence.

As China's political influence grows in Nepal and playing the China balancing card as a last resort, Nepali leaders hope to get Delhi to pay attention to festering problems that Indian diplomacy neglects or forgets about in the past. This is a risky game because it raises alarm bells in Delhi, especially in the security and strategic establishments, which are quick resort to coercive tools that can further, escalate the dispute. It is also risky because it assumes China is willing to extend indefinite support to Nepal at the cost of its relations with India.

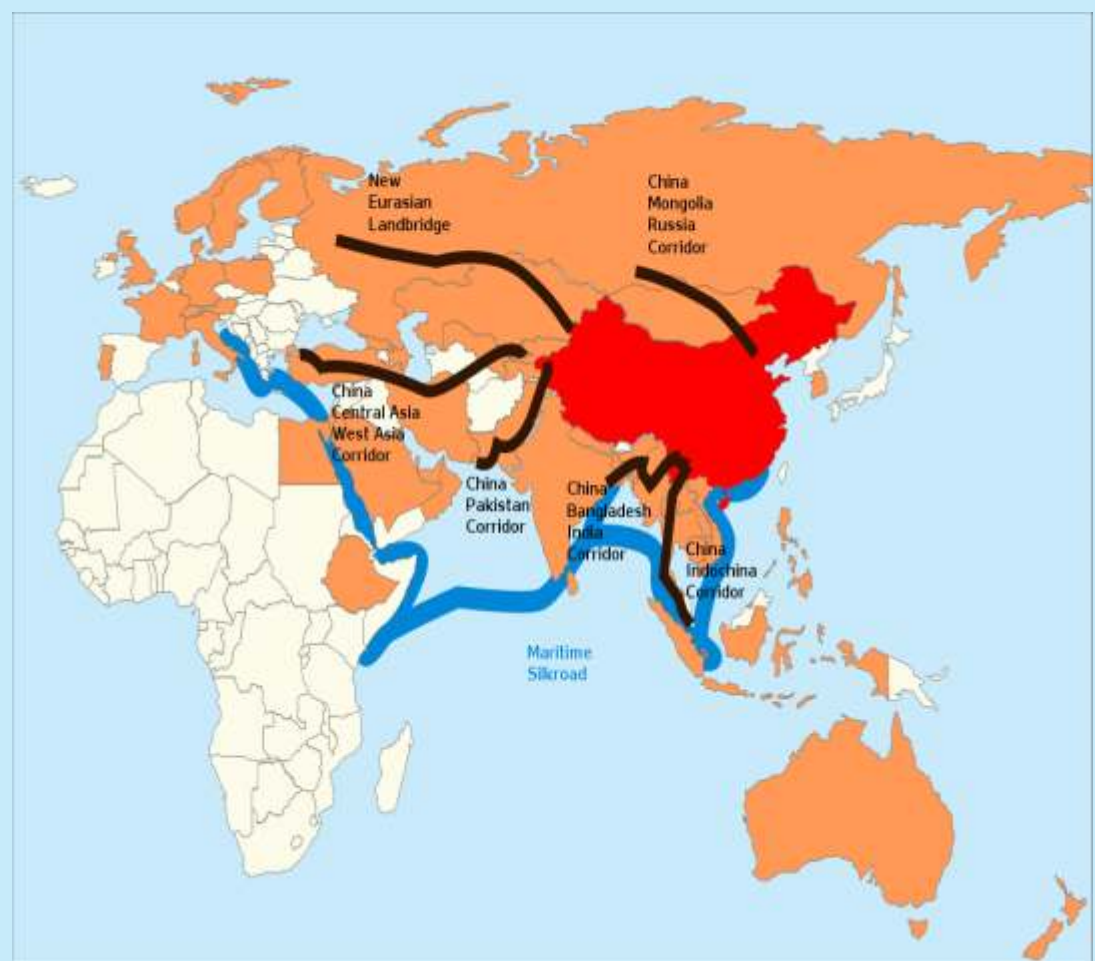
The dispute has roots going back to the 1950s and there is also a second dispute with India in the Susta river border region. Moreover, there is also a possible issue at the Indian state of Sikkim. Nepal alleges

since then, and received no positive response from Delhi and India is brushing the issue under the carpet.

On the one hand, in Nepal's maximalist perspective cover all territories it claims, now also including Limpiyadhura. The thinking in Kathmandu goes that if India conveys its own territorial claims in official maps, does it have any legitimacy to pressure Nepal not to come up with its own? On the other hand, in India's minimalist perspective reflecting why it delayed dialogue. The current crisis has exposed the real facets of Indian largest democracy.

Currently, India can no longer afford to continue its past Cold War policies of right of first refusal. As Nepal is no longer an Indian sphere of influence. Nepal has been embracing a policy of strategic diversification to decrease its dependence on India and enhance its non-aligned self-sufficiency.

The influence of China has grown then before across the Himalayas, especially after the BRI project Nepal which win the hearts of young Nepalese. India still look at twenty-first century Nepal through a nineteenth century colonial prism as a buffer state with limited sovereignty, where India's resources should be focused on political engineering and cultivate assets to topple the Nepalese governments at its whims and wishes. So both the governments are at loggerheads due to these territorial problems which have no solution at the sight. By stifling and not sparing even its tiny and small neighbor like Nepal, it is simplistic to assume that this crisis reflects a failure of India's regional strategy and approach as a whole.



## UNHRC adopts resolution calling for Rohingya crisis solution



GENEVA, 13 July 2021 (TON): This is the first time that any resolution on the Rohingya was adopted in the UN without a vote.

A resolution on the "Human Rights Situation of Rohingya Muslims and other Minorities in Myanmar" was unanimously adopted today at the ongoing 47th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Foreign ministry press release said “since the massive influx of Rohingyas from Myanmar into Bangladesh in August 2017, this is the first time that any resolution on the Rohingya was adopted in the UN without a vote, due to the intense diplomatic efforts made by the Bangladesh Permanent Mission in Geneva.”

The foreign ministry said “the adoption of the resolution by consensus is a big milestone for Bangladesh.”

Earlier, at the initiative of Bangladesh, all member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) presented the draft before the Council.

In the context of the existing political situation in Myanmar, there had been strong divergences and differences among the UN member states on various elements of the text from the outset.

Finally, after tough and lengthy negotiations at several phases, the resolution was adopted by consensus by the Council Monday, said the release.

## Pakistan, Afghanistan, US, Uzbekistan create platform for regional cooperation

ISLAMABAD, 17 July 2021, (TON): Pakistan, Afghanistan, the United States and Uzbekistan formed a new diplomatic platform to support peace and stability in Afghanistan and foster regional trade and business ties, the State Department said on Friday as US troops continue their planned withdrawal from the war-torn country.

It said in a statement "the parties consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that peace and regional connectivity are mutually reinforcing,"

Pakistan's Foreign Office, in a statement, said that all four countries agreed in principle to establish a new quadrilateral diplomatic platform

focused on enhancing regional connectivity.

It added “the parties consider long-term peace and stability in Afghanistan critical to regional connectivity and agree that peace and regional connectivity and mutually reinforcing.”

The statement said “recognising the historic opportunity to open flourishing international trade routes, the parties intend to cooperate to expand trade, build transit links and strengthen business-to-business ties.”

The statement further said that the parties agreed to meet in the coming months to determine the modalities of this cooperation with mutual consensus.



## Air Defense System Installed at Kabul Airport

SAFTA is the free trade agreement of the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation). The agreement was done in 2006 in succeeding the previous agreement that was entered in 1993. The countries that are part of this agreement are Bangladesh, India, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan, Nepal, and Srilanka. Here small initial tariff was imposed on imports in these countries from each other and various exemptions to products from duty etc.

SAPTA is recognized as SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement. It was done to create cooperation in trade and commerce between the countries who are members of the association by introducing tariff concessions between them.

In Free trade agreement, the goods imported from a certain country are

exempted from imposition of the duty. India proposed to Bangladesh for free trade agreement on goods, services, and investment done by them. For accepting the proposal both the countries may sign a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) for implementing the same.

If we analyze the whole scenario between India and Bangladesh we can say there is so much scope of trade between them offering concession in duty, facilitation of trade with official channels of trade, and improving infrastructure. All these things are possible if the government puts emphasis on the development and resolving the conflicts between both countries. Then the trade relations will be friendly and create a winning situation for both India and Bangladesh.



## Most Popular Historical Buildings in Lahore



## KASUR MUSEUM



## SAWAT MUSEUM



# THE DEAD EYES OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Kashmiris, a symbols of injustice,  
living in terrible pain

Whether it has happened today or yesterday,  
The reality is that it has happened someday,  
Pellets have not spared young boys, girls and 18 months  
old,

The humanity is really murdered or I feel it's been sold  
Since 2010, in Kashmir pellets are being used  
Leaving hundreds of innocent people blind or bruised

-Nid Wami

PELLET BLINDS

