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K.H. KHURSHID: A LIFE

03 January 1924 to 11 March 1988

K.H. Khurshid a prominent Kashmiri leader was born in Srinagar on 3rd January 1924 and passed the early years of his life in Gilgit, where his father, Maulvi Mohammad Hussain, was headmaster of the local boys' school. His childhood was spent in Srinagar and Jammu.

In 1939 he passed Matriculation and in 1941 intermediate examination. He became passionately interested in politics in his teens and was one of the founders of the Muslim Students' Union in Srinagar, which supported the all India Muslim League and Mr. Jinnah's demand for a

separate Muslim State. He met Quaid-e- Azam the first time in Jullundhar. He states that Quaid-e- Azam uttered just one sentence "so this is yours" as he handed me the Muslim League flag which had been awarded to the Kashmir Union for enrolling the largest number of members. He began writing in the weekly Javed, with Allah Rakha Saghar the Muslim Conference leader.

Khurshid was just past twenty when the Quaid-i- Azam came to Srinagar in 1944 and he must have obviously taken a liking to the young handsome and impassioned Kashmiri student leader and aspiring journalist because some time before returning to Bombay he asked Khurshid to work as his Private Secretary. K.H. Khurshid states about this movement in his book Memories of Jinnah "I will never forget the day he asked me to become his Private Secretary. It was 26 June 1944, a warm bright day. ...I must say that later when Mr. Jinnah began to talk about the terms of employment, I felt that I had come down the earth. I told him repeatedly that the terms of employment did not

matter, but Mr. Jinnah advised me not to decide in a hurry, to think over the matter again and to be very frank with him. He said there were many well-qualified persons who had approached

him many students many young man with degrees from various universities but he did not think degree and capabilities necessarily went together, he himself had taken no degree he added". On 4th July 1944, I conveyed my final decision to Mr. Jinnah which was of course, a



By Raja Asad Ali

"Yes". He seemed rather happy to hear it. He said, I will show you the world and look after you. Khurshid stayed with the Quaid during the turbulent years which saw the dream of Pakistan come true. He visited Great Britain with the delegation of Muslim league led by Quaid-i- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in 1946. On 11 December 1946 he visited Egypt with Quaid-i- Azam.

The Quaid sent him to visit his family in Srinagar in October

1947. He had also been assigned certain tasks dealing with the future of Kashmir in relation to Pakistan. He was thrown into jail by Sheikh Abdullah's Indian backed government and while he was still there the Quaid died he heard this sad news in Ramnager Jail. He was repatriated to Pakistan along with a number of Muslim Conference leaders including Chaudhri Ghulam Abbas after ceasefire in Kashmir under UN auspices.

He settled in Lahore and brought out an English language weekly the Guardian with Aziz beg. Khurshid moved to Karachi where Miss Fatima Jinnah persuaded





any personal advantage. All through his Presidency, we lived in a two bedroom house. When a family came to visit the children's room would be given over to them. It was a very simple life. He was simple, affectionate and good-humoured- always. He also had great humility and never said anything which might suggest that he knew more than others. You could never tell by talking to him that he commanded that love and

him to finish his education and sent him to England to read law at Lincoln's Inn. Few know that it was she who helped him financially because Khurshid had no money. He returned to Karachi in 1954 and setup legal practice. In 1953 the Foreign Minister of Pakistan Sir Zafarullah Khan invited him at UN to brief UNO 4th committee on Kashmir. His presentation was so impressive that Indian representative Mr. B N Rao also praised him. The Kashmir liberation movement was started in 1958 K.H. Khurshid was arrested at Kohala Bridge and remain in jail for six month. In 1959 he became President of Azad Kashmir. On 16 September 1960 the BD system was introduced in Azad Kashmir and he was elected as President of Azad Kashmir on 19 October 1961. In 1962 he made a short trip to china and established his own political party Jammu & Kashmir Liberation League during the same year. He resigned from the office of President in 1964. He merged his party with Pakistan People Party at the instance of Mr. Zulifqar Ali Bhutto on 16 November 1976 and later on revived it in 1977. He was elected as a member of AJ&K legislative assembly in 1985 and became leader of the opposition. His wife Sorayya Khurshid states about him that when he was President he did not even make use of the privileges which were available to him. He never used his office for

loyally of nearly ten million Kashmir.

The story of Khurshid's life is the story of a love affair with Pakistan with the people of Kashmir with those principles and passions which symbolized to him the dignity, courage and destiny of his countrymen. It is the story of those values on the basis of which he wanted the Kashmiris to win for themselves the right to decide their future. It is the story of that faith which he wanted to see at work so that Pakistan could become the Pakistan Jinnah had dreamt about. And, more than anything, it is the never to be obliterated story of his love for the beauty of the land of his birth, Kashmir, its high mountains, its flowing streams, its many-splendoured flowers, its impenetrable forests and its aromatic air.

"K. H. Khurshid died in a road accident on 11 March 1988, while travelling in a public transport vehicle as an ordinary passenger, In such a condition that he did not own any property anywhere in AJK and Pakistan and was in possession of just 37 rupees at the time of his tragic death.

He was buried at Muzaffarabad, Azad Kashmir. Kashmiri masses regarded him as an icon of honesty, integrity and democracy. Mr. Jinnah was once believed to have said that "Pakistan was made by him, his private secretary and his typewriter.

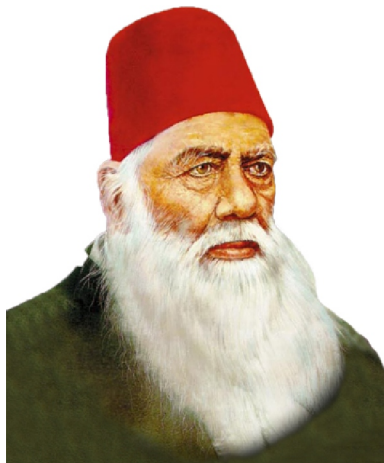
23 MARCH, 1940

A Landmark in the History of Sub-Continent

After the demise of Aurangzeb, edifice of Mughal empire in India had begun to crumble. The Muslim polity in India was threatened by the rising tide of Jats, Sikhs, Rajputs and Marathas. Shah Waliullah, a religious scholar and reformer, clearly foresaw the danger. He approached several Muslim notables and himself started a movement to encourage the Muslim masses to channelize their energies into a cohesive and unified force for the protection and glorification of Islam in India. It was the first mass movement of its kind in India which rekindled the spirit of Islam aroused the Muslim mass consciousness and organized the Muslims to meet the challenges of powerful adversaries. The movement with the advent of British in the Country, went underground only to re-surface subsequently through the war of Independence of 1857.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

The Muslims of undivided India have a history of their own.



They ruled over the Hindus for about a thousands years. Their empire and particularly the mighty Mughal Empire was once upon a time a center of civilization. After losing the war on Independence of 1857, the Muslims of India lost every thing. They had no future and were completely demoralized.

Sir Syed Ahmed Khan was the first person who fully realized the gravity of the situation. He realized that the Muslims as a vanquished nation would not be able to rise against the British at least for a hundred years or even more, unless, they were equipped with a new weapon of western learning and science. He denounced Hindu domination and declared that Muslim of India were a separate nation. In 1864 he founded the scientific society a school was founded in Aligarh in 1875 it became a collage two year later and was unlimitedly converted into the Aligarh Muslim university.

Indian National Congress

Urdu-Hindi controversy surfaced in 1867 to replace Urdu by Hindi as a court language. It laid bare the Hindu mentality. This development caused deep disappointed to Sir Syed. It was the first time that he got suspicious of majority community. He thought that it would be difficult for Hindus and Muslims to go together as a Nation. Indian National congress was established in 1885, Sir Syed knew that the congress was virtually controlled by the Hindus the Muslims, therefore would not be in position to play any significant role in it and, indeed on the contrary would run the risk of being exploited. He knew well that the Muslims were bound to be under the domination of the Hindu majority community as a result of the demand for the introduction of a representative Government in India. On the above reasons he advised the Muslim to keep aloof from the Congress.

Muslim League.

A deputation of about thirty-five selected Muslim leaders, led by Sir Aga Khan, called upon the Viceroy of India, Lord Minto,

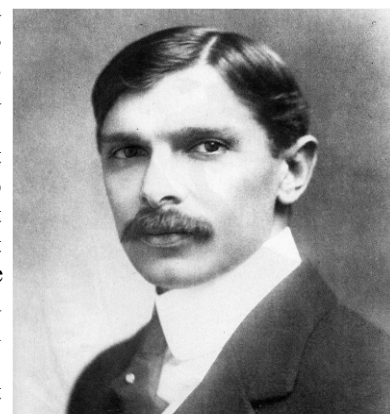
at Simla, on 1 October 1906. The deputation demanded separate electorates on the basis of deferent and distinct religion, culture, and traditions. The desire of the Indian Muslims for a separate political organization of their own was strengthened by the encouraging results of the Simla Deputation. The Muslim leaders, therefore, held a meeting on 30th December 1906 in Dacca (Now Dhaka), to discuss the matter at some length. Nawab Viqarul Mulk presided over this meeting. In his presidential address, he noted: "the Muslims are only one fifth of the population of Indian. It is obvious that if at any time the British Government ceases to exist in India, the nation which is four time numerous will rule the country. It was resolved after great deliberation that 'this meeting, composed of Muslims from all parts of India assembled at Dacca, decides that political association be formed, styled the All-India Muslim league.



The establishment of Muslim League marked the emergence of Muslim nationalism in India in an organized form. The League became the main vehicle of Muslim demands and interests.

An Ambassador of Hindu-Muslim Unity.

The need for creating a united front of Hindus and Muslims was already being suggested by all political quarters, because the government was expected to introduce important reforms after the First world War. A committee was, therefore, formed under Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah whose subsequent efforts won him the title



of the 'Ambassador of Hindu-Muslim Unity') the Congress and the League entered into the famous 'Lucknow Pact' in their joint session. According to this Pact, the Hindus accepted the principle of separate electorates for the Muslim.

The Jallianwala Tragedy

The political climate of India was charged with emotions when



Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

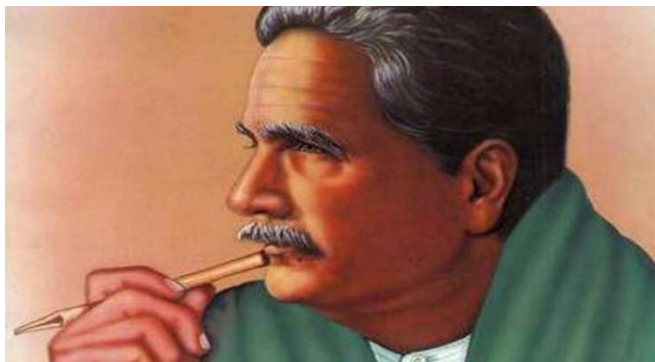
the Jallianwala tragedy took place and the trust of people in the British Government was completely shaken. On 13 April 1919, General Dyer fired on an open public meeting which was being held in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar. The sustained firing into the unarmed crowd resulted in 1516 casualties.

Sir Johan Simon

In 1927, the British Government decided to send a constitutional commission to India, headed by Sir John Simon, to evaluate the political situation and propose a constitution for India. Since no Indian member was included in the commission, the Indian felt slighted, and decided to boycott it. The Congress invited all parties conference to draft its version of the constitution. The conference which was held in February 1928, decided to form a committee under Motilal Nehru. The committee published a report known as the Nehru Report. The report completely ignored the Muslim demands, even those principles which had been agreed upon in the Lucknow pact of 1916.

Allama Muhammad Iqbal

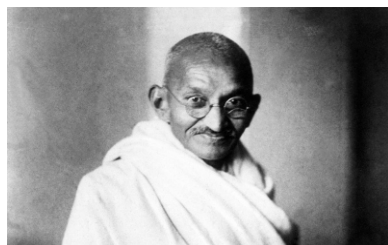
The annual session of the Muslim League was held at



Allahabad on 29 December 1930. It was at this session that Allamah Muhammad Iqbal presented his historic presidential address in which he proposed and promoted the destiny of Indian Muslims. He said: the units of Indian society were not territorial as in European countries. Indian is a continent of human groups belonging to different religions. The Muslim demand for the creation of the Muslims Indian is, therefore, perfectly justified. He therefore, proposed: 'I would like to see Punjab, NWFP Sind and Baluchistan amalgamated into a single state. Self-government within the British Empire or without the British Empire, the formation of a consolidated north-west Indian Muslim state, appears to me to be the final destiny of the Muslim. Iqbal thus emerged as the philosopher-guide of the Pakistan Movement in the subsequent years, under the able and dynamic leadership of Jinnah.

Congress Raj

Elections were scheduled to be held in 1936-37, and political parties were hard-pressed to try their best in the election campaigns. The All-India Muslim League formed a Parliamentary Board on 12 April 1936 and issued an election manifesto.



Unfortunately, the League could not do well in the elections, mainly because of 'its small membership and extremely limited appeal' among the voters. The Congress secured a clear majority in seven

provinces out of eleven.

The bitter experience of two-and-a-half years of Congress rule (1937-39) was an eye-opener for the Muslims. During its rule, the Congress cared little for the minorities. The inexorable logic of the majority principle was employed to exclude the Muslim League from the governments of the Hindu-majority. The Congress deliberately subjected the Muslims to hardships. They were refused due share in the public service. Muslim children were compelled to study Hindi at schools. Attempts were made to re-mould the educational system through vidyamandir scheme. The textbooks extolled the virtues of Hindu culture and portrayed Hindu leaders as 'National' heroes. In addition, the policies and pronouncements of the Congress ministries made the situation worse. The recitation of 'Bande Matram' before the opening session of the Assembly proved to be the last straw on the proverbial camel's back. The congress working committee decided to resign on 22 October, 1939. Jinnah availed this opportunity to appeal to the Muslims to observe the deliverance day on 22 December in all congress led provinces as a mark of redress from the oppressive rule of the congress.

The Pakistan Resolution

On March 23, 1940, at the historic session of the Muslim



League held in Lahore, the resolution that came to be known as the Pakistan Resolution was passed. The resolution was moved by the Bengal Chief Minister, A.K. Fazlul Haq, and was seconded by Choudhry Khaliquzzaman and others. The resolution stated that:

"it is the considered view of this Session of the All-India Muslim League that no constitutional plan would be workable in this country or acceptable to the Muslims unless it is designed on the following basic principles. Viz., that geographically contiguous units are demarcated into regions which should be so constituted, with such territorial readjustments as may be necessary, that the areas in which the Muslims are numerically in a majority as in the North-Western and Eastern zones of India should be grouped to constitute 'Independent States' in which the constituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign".

Jinnah's address on this occasion gave clear expression to the basic concept underlying the resolution. He said "It has always been taken for granted mistakenly that the Muslims are a minority. The Muslims are a nation by any definition....The Hindus and Muslims belong to two different civilizations which are based mainly on conflicting ideas and conceptions". The historical significance of this session of the Muslim

League lies in the fact that it determined the destiny of the Indian Muslim. Once a goal was decided, the energies of the whole Muslim nation were directed towards its achievement. The demand for a separate homeland infused a new spirit in the Muslim nation and united it under the banner of the Muslim League. So far, the league did not have deep roots among Muslim masses. After the passage of the Lahore Resolution, it was increasingly transformed into a mass organization.

Divide and Quit.

The British Government sent Sir Stafford Cripps, a prominent



member of war cabinet to India with a draft declaration with Indian leaders. Mr. Cripps made many offers to the Indian leaders which were rejected by the congress on the advice of the Ghandhi who regarded it as “post dated cheque on a failing bank”. All-India Congress committee meeting held at Bombay, on August 8, 1942, in the famous quit India resolution, which demanded the “withdrawal of the British Power from India” and authorized “the starting of a mass struggle. Gandhi himself called it “open rebellion”. This time the government did not take long to act; Gandhi and other Congress leaders were arrested and Congress committees were declared to be unlawful associations.

The Muslim league saw in these actions an attempt “to coerce the British government into handing over power to a Hindu oligarchy.” The purpose of the Congress was to bring about

“the establishment of Hindu Raj and to deal a death-blow to the Muslim goal of Pakistan.” To Gandhi's slogan “quit India,” Jinnah replied with “Divide and Quit.”

Elections 1945-46

In 1945 the British colonial government in India called for elections for the national and legislative assemblies. Elections for the central legislature were held in December, 1945, the Muslim League managed to win all the 30 seats reserved for the Muslims. The results of the provincial elections held in early 1946 were not very different. Muslim League captured approximately 95 percent of the Muslim seats. The results greatly accelerated the party's demand for a separate Muslim nation-state, and after winning the provincial election in another Muslim-majority region, the NWFP (in early/mid-1947), the party finally managed to carve out Pakistan from the rest of India (August 1947).

The Birth of Pakistan:

On Jun 3, 1947 partition plan was announced the main theme of plan was that power should be transferred in accordance with the wishes of the Indian people themselves. The India shall be divided into two independent states. The Indian Independence



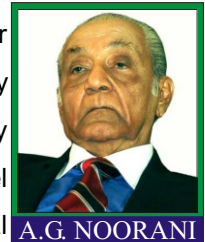
1947 was passed by the parliament of the United Kingdom. On August 14, 1947 the new dominion of Pakistan became independent and Quid-e- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah sworn in as its first Governor General.



AMBASSADORS ALIVE

The ambassador is not dead; he is very much alive. Diplomatic services from which ambassadors are drawn are alive as well. The government of India twice sent envoys of foreign countries on guided tours in Kashmir. It is unlikely that they asked to meet the top leaders in detention (which they ought to have) Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and Shah Faisal, who is the hope of the youth. Even more unlikely is any request to meet the Hurriyat leaders Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Syed Ali Shah Geelani. Even a cub reporter will not fail to notice the oppression that pervades all over Kashmir, in stark contrast to the situation in Jammu. It is not unlikely that the Indian government felt encouraged by the ardour to please which some black sheep among them had revealed. The bulk of reporters are properly discreet and astute enough to discern the disgraceful game which New Delhi has been playing. The American Foreign Service has produced some highly distinguished figures. They perform what is called 'the toughest job you'll ever love'. One of them, Elizabeth Fitzsimmons, wrote a recent article in The New York Times titled 'A Love Letter to the [US] State Department'. She has served there for nearly 25 years. The fact that she was removed from a senior position by an upstart, erstwhile secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, did embitter her. He got the 'order of the boot' from President Donald Trump. Autocrats resent the independence of professional diplomats. But as Elizabeth Fitzsimmons wrote: 'Career members of the foreign service are the joists supporting the institutions so that each successive administration and the American people can rely on their institutional knowledge, network of global relationships and subject matter expertise. Without the framework of a professional career foreign service, our nation is weaker and our global power reduced. This is overlooked by politicians who became prime ministers of foreign ministers, seldom with the intellectual equipment which the conduct of foreign policy demands. Henry A. Kissinger was brutal to those who disagreed with him. The brilliant US consul general in

Dacca during the 1971 crisis, Archer Blood, was treated disgracefully. 'They did remove people from posts that they did not like,' Kissinger's aide, Samuel M. Hoskinson, admitted. Jawaharlal Nehru had no time for professional diplomats who disagreed with his policies. Sir Girija Shankar Bajpai, the first secretary general of the ministry of external affairs (and the best of the lot till date), put in his papers more than once. Nehru declined. Truth be told, Bajpai undertook foreign policy better than Nehru did. One of his successors, K.P.S. Menon, was a talented bootlicker. Rajiv Gandhi sacked foreign secretary A.P. Venkateswaran at a press conference in 1987. As president, Asif Ali Zardari removed Riaz Mohammad Khan, one of the best foreign secretaries, because he disagreed with Zardari's plans for a UN probe into Benazir Bhutto's tragic assassination in December 2007. It was the lot of the highly respected professional diplomat Dr Humayun Khan to receive such treatment from two successive prime ministers; Benazir Bhutto dismissed him as foreign secretary for his independence, and Nawaz Sharif did likewise out of sheer petulance when Dr Khan was the high commissioner in London. Politicians particularly resent diplomats whose prophecies come true, as Herbert von Dirksen discovered when he was dismissed by Adolf Hitler's foreign minister Joachim von Ribbentrop. He had accurately predicted from London that Britain would go to war if Germany invaded Poland. There is, of course, another side to it the omniscient arrogant head of the foreign service who imagines that it is he, and not the elected government, who should lay down the country's foreign policy. He cannot. The task requires a lot more than he can possibly know or understand. What has been said of the domestic civil services applies also to the Foreign Service: the minister is there to tell him what the people would not accept. That is true of diplomats as well. Abba Eban had given a graphic description of the distrust



A.G. NOORANI

which prime ministers have of diplomats. In his case, it was Golda Meir. She considered them to be `excessively inclined to understand diverse points of view and in some regrettable cases afflicted with analytical and intellectual habits that did not facilitate contact between them and her. Golda`s talent lay in the simplification of issues ... Foreign policy specialists, on the other hand, are

conscious of the intrinsic complexity of international relations. They perceive the multiple elements that go into both decisions and policies.... They are also aware of the volatile atmosphere of a profession in which contingencies can be created overnight by forces alien and external to their own nation.

The writer is an author and a lawyer based in Mumbai.

THE TURKISH SUPPORT

SYED KASWAR GARDEZI

TURKEY IS IN CONTRAST WITH THE ARAB STATES

Despite being a Muslim country with many proclaimed brothers throughout the Islamic world, we have never received actual and sincere support for most of our agendas. Most notably from the Arab countries for whom Pakistan is willing to sacrifice itself, and yet they continue to be in bed with our enemies often rewarding them with state awards amongst others. Mere statements of condemnations are even unheard of.

Turkey, on the other hand, stands on a different tangent when it comes to rendering us support. For years, Turkey has stood by Pakistan and extended all forms of support and cooperation, especially in the corridors of international power. Indeed, this relationship goes beyond words. People visiting the Mediterranean country can vouch for the love and warmth received. I have personally witnessed the hospitality towards Pakistanis in Turkey. The level of respect one receives is overwhelming. Throughout the rest of the world, Pakistan is considered a low-grade nationality, often due to the shameful activities of some of our illiterate citizenry. However, when it comes to Turkey, the level of respect is beyond comprehension. Our citizens are welcomed with a warm smile often being treated to free coffee or sweets and termed brothers by the Turkish people. By far, it is one of our only relationships' which is based upon mutual respect. For others, we have mostly been on the serving end, treading carefully across the lines of a master/servant affiliation.

Turkish President Recep Tayip Erdogan has visited Pakistan a number of times, each time pledging his continued support to our agendas in the region. He

remains the only international leader willing to openly stand by the Kashmir cause and call out India for its atrocities. His latest visit over the weekend sent ripples of discomfort throughout the Indian leadership as he blasted them on the Kashmir issue. Erdogan's unequivocal stance on Kashmir is not just a symbolic gesture but is an actual revelation of the honest intentions underlying our friendship.

Until and unless Pakistan starts taking a stand for itself within the Muslim world, it will remain unable to garner support for the Kashmir cause and make decisions which are in their sole beneficial interest. Decades have already been wasted protecting the interests of others. Pakistan cannot afford another era of serving and needs to upgrade its position in the international arena. Mere words of brotherhood and unanimous affirmation towards Turkish support isn't enough. Practical steps which reflect our independent mindedness and ability to decide for ourselves, even if it means going against the wishes of the Arab world, are pivotal in establishing us as a key player in regional politics

It was a strong enough statement to compel India into calling out the Turkish President on allegedly interfering in India's internal matters. Perhaps, they've realized it isn't an internal matter if international countries start condemning it. Their narrative of this being a domestic issue, does not require international interference. Probably why the stance of the Turkish President is even more important as it dispels the notion of the Kashmir issue being a local regional matter between two countries.

The Turkish support adds to the long-desired

international affirmation Pakistan seeks for the Kashmir issue. Previously, Erdogan has also raised the Kashmir issue before the UN General Assembly. The continued condemnation of Indian transgressions upon the Kashmiri people reflects Turkey's sincere concerns in regards to the atrocities on our brothers and sisters in Kashmir. As opposed to the hypocritical stance of other Middle Eastern nations who are not even ready to openly condemn the Indians, the Turkish support is exemplary and is a stepping stone for not only the Kashmiri resistance movement, but also for Pakistan in general. It affirms our stance on Kashmir and reiterates the need for support required from the Muslim world.

Apart from Kashmir, Turkey also strenuously extends its support to Pakistan in regards to the FATF issue as well as acknowledges Pakistan's efforts for peace in Afghanistan, a task which other members of the international community only undertake half-heartedly.

The foundation behind the bond shared by Pakistan and Turkey traces its inception into the pre-partition era when the Muslims of present day Pakistan stood in support of the Turkish people. They say tragedy brings people closer. Turns out it is true in the case of Pakistan and Turkey. The common thread of upsetting military interventions and prolonged rule binds them.

The Turkish President's willingness to expand the horizons of economic investment in the country is also another welcome step which might help us out of our economic woes. Though Turkish support has been with us for far too long, however, the seriousness attached to Erdogan undertaking this visit in spite of Pakistan backing out of the Kuala Lumpur summit in 2019 reveals the underlying purpose; the emergence of a new regional bloc. Undeterred by the diplomatic setback upon

Pakistan's refusal to attend the Kuala Lumpur summit, the Turkish President went forward with his visit. There is no denying the fact that Turkey foresees a long standing partnership with Pakistan and the emergence of a new regional leadership is in the shadows.

Nevertheless, in spite of their own agendas, the Turks have stood by Pakistan in our times of need and have never shied away from voicing their support in our favour. By far, they remain the only ones to call out India's barbarism in Kashmir for what it is, unlike the hypocrisy of the Arabs who have refused to condemn the Indians. In the future, it is crucial that Pakistan, before making decisions similar to the boycotting of the Malaysian summit, considers the impact on its relations with other Muslim countries and our judgement should not always be clouded with crude oil from the Middle East.

Until and unless Pakistan starts taking a stand for itself within the Muslim world, it will remain unable to garner support for the Kashmir cause and make decisions which are in their sole beneficial interest. Decades have already been wasted protecting the interests of others. Pakistan cannot afford another era of serving and needs to upgrade its position in the international arena. Mere words of brotherhood and unanimous affirmation towards Turkish support isn't enough. Practical steps which reflect our independent mindedness and ability to decide for ourselves, even if it means going against the wishes of the Arab world, are pivotal in establishing us as a key player in regional politics.

Let's hope future decisions are made based upon strong statements of support made in our favour by the Turkish President every now and then as opposed to hefty amounts of dollars. To the wonderful people of Turkey: Biz kardeşiz.

UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S VISIT OF PAKISTAN HIS ROLE UNDER ARTICLE 99 OF THE CHARTER IN KASHMIR

Welcome Mr. Secretary General to Pakistan and have a rewarding stay, in a country which is home for major religions of the world. It has hosted the Afghan refugees and 2.5 million Kashmiri refugees (five generations)

recognised in UN Security Council Resolution 47 of 21 April 1948. Your participation at the International Conference on Afghan refugees would attract a criticism of inequity and discrimination, if you fail to uphold the

guarantees made to Kashmiri refugees in paras 12 and 14 of UN Security Council Resolution 47.

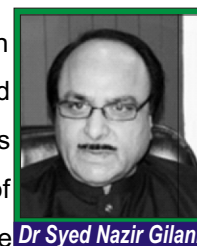
The principle of 'equality of peoples' under the Charter, calls upon the United Nations Secretary General to interpret article 99 in the manner Dag Hammarskjold interpreted in the case of Tunisia in 1961, U Thant in 1971 in Nigerian civil war, Waldheim in North Vietnam and Vietcong, Perez de Cuellar in Iran-Iraq war, Boutros-Ghali in 1994 in Burundi, Kofi-Annan in 2005 in Zimbabwe and Ban-ki Moon in 2006 and 2013 in Fiji and Syria.

UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, on receiving an invitation from President Habib Bourguiba to visit Tunisia in 1961, told the Security Council that it was "Obvious that he could not discharge the responsibilities flowing from article 99 unless he could make visits and thus be in a position to form a personal opinion about the relevant facts of a situation which might threaten international peace and security". No member of the Council challenged the interpretation of the duties of the Secretary General. Nor were there any objections to the fact finding missions initiated by U Thant in connection with the Nigerian civil war.

UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold visited the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, for two days from 20-22 March 1959. He wanted to know for himself the situation in Kashmir. These were the times when Indian citizens, required an Entry Permit (VISA) to visit Indian administered part of Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Government has committed a political vandalism on 5 August and a military aggression on 31 October 2019. People have remained under lock and key and cut off from the rest of the world. It is not only article 99 that envisages your duty towards the people of Kashmir but the 9 December 1991, General Assembly resolution 46/59; "Declaration on Fact-finding" in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security", has further strengthened the role of Secretary General. The Secretary General can start any activity designed to obtain detailed knowledge of the relevant facts of any

dispute or threatening conflict, in which the competent UN Organs need effectively to exercise their functions pertaining to the, maintenance of international peace and security. He may bring any such matter to the attention of the Security Council.



Dr Syed Nazir Gilani

Seven of your predecessors listed above have explicitly invoked the duties under article 99. "Declaration on Fact-finding" by the United Nations has strengthened this role since March 1991. I wish to quote UN Security Council record of 611th meeting held on 23 December 1952 and invite your attention to "a very grave offence".

The representative of Netherlands addressing the 611th meeting of the UN Security Council on 23 December 1952, has said, "In obtaining the consent of the parties to have the final and deciding process, that of an impartial plebiscite, held under the offices of the United Nations, the Council has placed the authority of our world Organization at the service of both parties and at the service of the people of Jammu and Kashmir themselves. We believe that this in itself constitutes a guarantee of considerable value. The party that would dare to violate an agreement thus reached would load upon itself a very grave offence against the other party, against the United Nations, and against the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination, a right which, in other contexts, both parties have so often and so eloquently defended." Para 28.

On 5 August and 31 October 2019 Government of India has "loaded upon itself a very grave offence against the other party (Pakistan), against the United Nations, and against the right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir to self-determination." Netherlands has further added that, "So, when there is a difference of opinion on the question of the remaining military forces, let us not underestimate the significance of the fact that the authority of the Security Council has become a factor in the solution of this matter- unless an agreement can be found outside of the Council and that the auspices of the United Nations

are involved.”

The two OHCHR reports on the Human Rights Situation in Jammu and Kashmir and your report of May 2019 on Children and Armed Conflict, warranted an urgent consideration of your role under article 99 and Under UN “Declaration on Fact-finding” in saving Kashmiris defined by UN as “Historic” and “People of Legend”, entitled to “Rights and Dignity” and “Security and Self-Determination.” Maharaja of Kashmir was able to impose a curfew for 11 days in 1931, but the present Government of India led by Narendra Modi, has placed men, women, children, sick and elderly under the guard of over 900,000 soldiers. India has “loaded upon itself a very grave offence” and there is an urgent need for the UN to unfreeze the five out of the six elements (sixth being India), from inaction, frozen under UN Resolutions and allow them to structure a credible defence of the people of Kashmir. The character, number and location of Indian forces in Kashmir, has been defined in UN Security Council resolutions. These forces do not have an occupational role. They were required, “for the maintenance of law and order and of the cease fire agreement, with due regard to the security of the State and the freedom of the plebiscite.” These forces are sub-ordinate to the local Government. As a supplement, these forces remain under seven restraints.

Secretary General has to address the Kashmir Case on the basis, that India has surrendered its Kashmir accession at the UN Security Council on 15 January 1948, for a UN supervised vote. The earlier arrangements from 27 October 1947 to 14 January 1948, changed on 15 January 1948. Authority of the Security Council has become a factor in the solution of this matter

UN Security Council has explained that “Security of the State”, would not be the exclusive responsibility of India. In respect of Resolution S/2839 Netherlands has argued that, “The draft resolution takes into account a difference in the basic positions of the two parties with regard to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. It recognizes a difference in the responsibility of the remaining forces on both sides of the cease-fire line when it refers to the principles and criteria contained in paragraph 7 of Mr. Graham's, proposal of 4 September 1952. According to that paragraph, there shall

be, on the Pakistan side, the minimum number of forces required for the maintenance of law and order and of the ceasefire agreement, with due regard to the freedom of the plebiscite; on the Indian side, in addition to these two criteria, the stipulation “with due regard to the security of the State” must be taken into account although that does not mean that India has the exclusive responsibility in this respect.”

India has “loaded upon itself a very grave offence” and there is an urgent need for the UN to unfreeze the five out of the six elements (sixth being India), from inaction, frozen under UN Resolutions and allow them to structure a credible defence of the people of Kashmir.

Or it is time that UN Security Council revisits Pakistan's proposal to induct UN Forces into Kashmir. The proposal has been supported by Australia, Cuba, United Kingdom and United States of America. Thirdly, UN Security Council needs to move in and ensure to establish a “Provisional and Responsible” Government of Jammu and Kashmir, represented by all principal elements, to re-appoint the Plebiscite Administrator and consider the final disposal of Indian soldier, to ensure the freedom of Plebiscite. Azad Kashmir Government (on the Pakistan side) established to discharge responsibilities under UNCIP Resolutions, has its berth in the UN supervised Government in Jammu and Kashmir (at Srinagar). Its forces (Azad Forces) need to be re-organised and the UN should assist the Azad Kashmir Government, to be able to build institutions and prepare for participation in holding the Plebiscite. Although Pakistan has taken on to help Azad Kashmir Government to discharge the responsibilities under UNCIP resolutions, it needs further support of all member states of the United Nations.

The second UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld visited Srinagar in March 1959. It is high time that the 9th UN Secretary General, António Guterres, should visit Srinagar and Muzaffarabad in March 2020. It would be in keeping with the traditions set by your predecessors. It is right time that the UN Secretary General invokes article 99 and UN “Declaration on Fact-finding”, in the interests of peace and self-determination.

The writer is President of London based Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights NGO in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations

ERDOGAN'S VALUABLE ADVICE ON KASHMIR

(Sikandar Noorani)

This visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan means a lot for Pakistan! It means a lot for the Kashmiris as well who are living on either sides of LoC and directly encountering Indian aggression! Reiteration of Turkish support for oppressed Kashmiris is timely, well worded and free of any hesitation. Oppressed Kashmiris, facing inhuman lockdown, have felt the magical healing touch of Turkish President's valuable words. These words have successfully cleared quite a good share of old debt of meaningful silence of the Muslim rulers over Kashmir issue.

There is a clear message for the Kashmiris that Turkish nation cares for them. Inhuman state sponsored Indian atrocities in occupied Kashmir cannot be kept shrouded any more. Pak diplomatic stance on Kashmir issue gained significant strength when Turkish president uttered this historical sentence "Kashmir issue is as close to Turkey as it is to Pakistan". While acknowledging the seriousness of Kashmir issue and supporting Pak stance, Turkish President suggested a solution through purposeful dialogue. Complication attached to this valid suggestion is non-flexible mindset of New Dehli which lacks ability to accord any priority to peace over violence. Indian state sponsored atrocities and infinite aggression is continuously breeding retaliatory violence in occupied Kashmir.

Masses on either sides of LoC are reaping the deadly crop of violence sown in the soil of Kashmir by the Indian state. Unfortunately, power hungry players controlling the wheel in New Dehli are not in a mood to learn any positive lessons from the past follies. Modi led BJP regime is an undeniable proof that extremist mindset is entirely anti to statesmanship. Though past rulers of India, including the Congress, never seriously thought to grant fundamental rights to Kashmir but Modi regime has dangerously intensified the process of disaster. Revocation of Article-370 and conversion of Kashmir in three union territories is a true indicator of uncontrollable pursuance by BJP of its

extremist wish list.

Traditional trick of distraction was applied by India, to shroud the disaster in Kashmir, through cleverly orchestrated blame game against Pakistan. This trick provided a sizeable amount of temporary relief to New Dehli but dangerous pursuance of violent objectives has eventually brought the whole India to a boil. While having no valid justification about Kashmir misadventure, Modi regime seems unable to deal with the Shaheen Bagh phenomenon which is undeniably an outcome of its self generated hateful follies. Extremist cults like RSS traditionally lack in their DNA the ability to reconcile!

US feels comfortable to foster strategic alliance with a hostile extremist cult like BJP in control of affairs in New Dehli to keep a tighter check on the region

A reversal of aggression in Kashmir and a second thought on controversial legislation on citizenship issue will surely irk the extremist supporters of BJP. Second term victory in national elections was earned by BJP through crafty manipulation of extremist rhetoric. Miserable inability to sweep the Dehli elections against an efficient Kajriwal has exposed the multiple governance failures of BJP which can no more be made good by perpetuating populist hateful extremist rhetoric. It is a dilemma for BJP and any future course, adopted without reconciliation, will surely create a devastating impact on regional peace. President Trump will be visiting New Dehli in last week of February with an understandable objective to strengthen the existing Indo-US strategic ties. Modi regime is all set to purchase the integrated Air Defense system from America.

This deal is a major indicator of future Indian course! Extension of ex-Army Chief General Bapin Rawat's service for subsequent placement as first CDS (Chief of Defense Staff) to head the newly established DMA (Department of Military Affairs) reflects the seriousness of New Dehli about extending the reach of its military arm in the region. Newly appointed CDS has been assigned a laborious task of undertaking the biggest military reforms

of Indian history, in next three years, which will culminate at creation of Theatre Commands through merger of existing command structures of Tri services. These developments confirm New Delhi's growing urge to militarily dominate the region which logically place China and Pakistan in opponent camp. Recently appointed CDS, being Army Chief in the past, had been calling shots to fight a two front war with China and Pakistan, simultaneously. With recent developments, one feels compelled to think that why poverty ridden India is so desperate to fight a two front war with nuclear capable neighbors? Why holding the Kashmir at gun point is so important for New Dehli? Apparently, US

feels comfortable to foster strategic alliance with a hostile extremist cult like BJP in control of affairs in New Dehli to keep a tighter check on the region. Obviously, China, along with struggling ally Pakistan, will constantly have to be in crosshairs. Occupied Kashmir will have to go through tougher testing times until New Dehli finds a genuine statesman substituting the extremist Modi. Turkish President's solidarity with Pakistan on Kashmir issue is precious but his proposal to solve the issue through peaceful dialogue seems more valuable for the region. Let's give a serious thought to Erdogan's valuable suggestion.

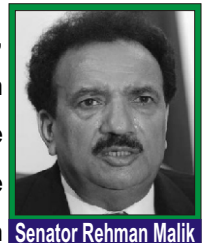
FOR THE EYES OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ANTONIO GUTERRES

I would like to appreciate International Court of Justice for listening the voice of Rohingya Muslims who are the victims of Myanmar government and have been parted justice by the ICJ under your command and let's hope that the decision of ICJ is implemented by the Myanmar authorities. It will be a great step if proceedings may also be initiated by the ICJ against the Indian government for brutalities against Kashmiri Muslims as ordered by you Mr. Secretary General to give relief to the Kashmiris and help in resolving this long outstanding burning conflict between Indian and Pakistan as South Asia is literally placed on a volcano which can erupt any time and hence it needs to be resolved with your ability and mandate.

It is a day light fact that Indian Army is committing the war crimes against oppressed Kashmiris in terms of mass murdering, mass graving, mass blinding through pelleting, rapes, tortures, enforced disappearances, political repression and locking down of the whole valley through strict curfew. The crime against humanity and mass killing by Indian troops are going unnoticed by UNSC and I therefore once again appeal to honorable SG to take the action to stop further killing of these oppressed Kashmiris.

According to the reports of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) dated 14th June, 2018 and 8th July, 2019, so far more than

94,000 Kashmiris have been killed, 7,000 persons have been killed in Indian custody, 22,000 women have been widowed, 105,000 children have been orphaned and 10,000 women



Senator Rehman Malik

have been raped and molested by Indian military and paramilitary troops since 1989. More than 8,000 people have gone missing in enforced disappearances by Indian forces since 1989. Your Excellency these figures from the report of International Human rights which need your kind attention.

I have emphasized time and again in my Articles and in my two Books on Kashmir titled as (i) "Modi's War Doctrine Indian Anti-Pakistan Syndrome" and (ii) "Bleeding Kashmir Oppressed Kashmiris! Waiting for Justice and Plebiscite" have strongly proposed the following steps are warranted to be taken on Kashmir issue at International diplomatic and legal fronts:-

1. To appoint a Plebiscite Administrator in Kashmir and fix a date for plebiscite as per the Resolutions of UNSC as there is no further voting required in UN for this matter. This action is stuck in your good office and you are sole authority to order the date of self-determination.
2. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) may be directed to investigate the reasons of delay in implementation of UNSC Resolutions regarding the right

of self-determination and fix the responsibility with the directions to initiate the process of plebiscite in Kashmir as mentioned above

3. To appoint a Commissioner of Inquiry under UN Charter to investigate into the ongoing crimes against humanity and human rights violations by Indian Forces in Indian Occupied Kashmir.

4. To initiate case against the Prime Minister Modi in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) based on the report of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) dated 14th June, 2018 and 8th July, 2019 as these reports have enough materials for the trial of Prime Minister Modi and his accomplices involved in crimes against humanity and genocide.

5. To initiate case against Indian Government and Prime Minister Modi in International Criminal Court (ICC) under Rome Statute to bring them to justices through trial as War Criminals based on the available evidences and as per reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as referred above.

Mr. Secretary General, I, therefore, request you to kindly once again to please initiate a case against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his accomplices for their crimes against humanity / genocide in Indian occupied Kashmir International Court of Justice (ICJ) & in International Criminal Court (ICC) under Rome Statute and resolve this issue by implementing your own resolution to restore the confidence of the oppressed Kashmiris who have been looking for their right of determination since 70 years.

The matter related to Palestine is no different than Kashmir and occupation of Gaza and the inhuman actions must stop in Gaza.

I would also like to draw your kind attention towards Daish which is becoming a major problem for the world as this has already become a Monster and will continue to bite the world. I have elaborated the emergence of Daish and its long term agenda in the world in my book "Daish A Rising Monster World-Wide".

The other regional issue is of Afghanistan where Pakistan is doing best to make the dialogue between USA & other stake holders -Iran vs gulf states. Similarly, the Iran vs USA are also very important to be resolved.

We hope you will do your best to end these conflicts. Pakistan has done its best for the International peace and we are the largest contributor of peace maker troops for UNSC as we have lost the lives of more than 70,000 Pak citizens during the war on terror and our personnel's of Armed forces especially Pakistan Army has lost thousands of Jawans and officers.

Your Excellency, the oppressed Kashmiris are expecting some favorable actions to get relief which they are waiting for since years and years.

Kindly take the notice of world's longest curfew imposed in IOK since more than six months.

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CHANGING NATURE OF PROTRACTED CONFLICTS

The strategic nature of two protracted conflicts, i.e., Kashmir dispute and Palestine dispute has overwhelmingly changed for last six months. Since 05 August 2019, India has embarked on a dangerous journey of unilateral decision to abrogate article 370 and

revocation of 35(A). After five months on January 29, 2020, the US has proposed a peace plan for Palestinians, which was endorsed by Israel. Overall, these two actions have undermined the status



Khurram Minhas

quo and might have daunting impact on resolutions of these protracted conflicts. Decisions related to these two conflicts have astonishing similarities.

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Firstly, India and Israel have carefully calculated that the international and regional strategic environment is in favour of these countries. For India, the dysfunctional South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC), severed bilateral relationship with Pakistan since February 2019, and a conducive internal political environment dominated by Hindutva ideology provided a strategic cushion to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the unilateral act against special status of Jammu & Kashmir. For Israel, the unending inter-state and intra-state rivalries of its neighbours, rapprochement of Arab countries with Israel, Trump's warmongering against Iran, and upcoming elections of Israel on March 02, 2020 have added confidence to Israel that the reaction from Palestinians and Arabs would likely be minimized in nature. Secondly, the Trump administration has relatively softer corner for both these countries due to American strategic objectives in South Asia and Middle East. India is a potential offshore balancer for the US against China in Asia Pacific and South Asian regions, while Israel is acting as eyes and ears of the US to protect its interests in the Middle Eastern region. Therefore, Trump's self-imposed mediatory role for both protracted conflicts has dented the overall status quo of these conflicts. His announcement to mediate between India and Pakistan on Kashmir dispute resulted in Indian unilateral action on Kashmir's special status. Likewise, the announcement of Middle East Peace Plan led to end of a viable two state solution. Thirdly, the basic problem with these

extraordinary measures of both countries is not limited to eluding resolution of disputed territories. Rather, aggressive security strategies and warmongering of New Delhi and Tel Aviv would further increase frequency of their belligerent activities in their respective regions. For instance, BJP government and Indian military establishment has repeatedly threatened Pakistan to attack and conquer Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) since August 2019, which clearly demonstrates New Delhi's aggressive future strategic outlook. Likewise, Benjamin Netanyahu has further extended his claim of sovereignty beyond Jordanian Valley since the announcement of Peace Plan, which clearly validates the concerns of scholars who have been pointing out that Israel, is working for establishment of a greater Israeli state in the region. Fourthly, these two actions are undermining dozens of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on these protracted conflicts. Through such actions, the two countries would likely further strengthen their rule on disputed territories. New Delhi and Tel Aviv's ability to govern these disputed territories has been fortified with these actions. Control over entire Jerusalem and Jordanian Valley would provide ample strategic space to limit activities of Palestinian people as and whenever desired by Israel. Likewise, the bifurcation of Kashmir into three administrative units, i.e., Jammu, Ladakh and Kashmir Valley would help New Delhi to administratively control economy, politics and social activities of Kashmiri people. Lastly, it seems apparent that these unilateral actions have increased rightwing vote bank for Netanyahu and Modi in their respective countries. On the contrary, it has added fuel into fire amongst the youth of disputed territories, who have been persistently denied from their universal right of self-determination. This is a dangerous trend which would further strengthen the concept of communal identity and would act as a precursor for vicious cycle of violence and oppression. This is why, the future of resolution of these protracted conflicts remains inherently unstable as their solution has been tried to obtain under duress and unjust manner neglecting aggrieved parties, i.e., Kashmiris and Palestinians.

The writer is a PhD candidate at the NUST and researcher at the Islamabad Policy Research Institute.

WHO IS AFRAID OF KASHMIR?

BY SHAH NAWAZ MOHAL

Out of fear to lose what can't be India's, the Kashmir question remains unanswered

Last week, once again, Pakistan celebrated the 20th Kashmir Solidarity Day. Beyond all the bells and jingles, the speeches and marches, the outpouring of emotions the issue stands unresolved, it simmers, dies, rises like a phoenix and perishes. And it repeats, all of it all over again.

They say the land and things you don't have are always more beautiful, more splendid than the land you possess and the things you own. This good old 'grass is always greener on the other side of the fence' mindset still sways our kind.

India doesn't 'possess' all of Kashmir. Pakistan too hasn't emancipated the whole of Kashmir. The Kashmiris live and die to own their motherland. The fences and barbed wires along the LoC has made the grass turn bloodier on the other side. Familiarity breeds contempt, goes another ancient axiom. However, it too is subject to certain exceptions. Pakistanis of all ilk spread over multiple generations have been acutely familiar with the Kashmir issue and endless travails its inhabitants brave day in and day out. The world at large has apparently developed a 'be that as it may' attitude and lost interest in the freedom struggle of more than 14 million people. Yet the folks of Pakistan haven't taken a step back from supporting their brethren under siege. The familiarity to bloodshed, terror and fear in Kashmir has only bred empathy during past seven decades.

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to be observed as Kashmir Day to show the world that Pakistan stands with the Kashmiris and supports their right for self-determination.

The banners by the roadside, speeches of politicians and scholars on the television, massive rallies in the capital, and conferences and seminars inundating the width and breadth of Pakistan reiterate what needs to be reiterated over and over again.

Last year, I had an opportunity to meet fellow journalists from Kashmir. They arrived in Pakistan when the high tempers after the martyrdom of Burhan Wani and the Uri incident were smothered to some extent. 'Among the stone pelting youth, many hail from well to do families. They run their family businesses and are well educated. They are politically enlightened but frustrated with the occupation. They are neither extremists nor being paid by anyone to confront the Indian army,' said one of them over a cup of tea. I sensed from the conversation that the infinite distress has drained even those of fear, the foremost weapon in any oppressor's quiver.

'They fight like the young Palestinians, with stones. Many have lost their fear of death; they will not surrender, cheated by politicians at home, they are developing the independence of spirit that comes with isolation, and it will not be easily quelled,' is how Tariq Ali, notable historian, journalist and intellectual summed up the struggle in his essay 'Not Crushed, Merely Ignored'.

The realization among the intellectual, literary and political circles of India too has reached the consensus that Kashmir has become a lost cause and if things don't change the valley will be India's Waterloo. Writers like Arundhati Roy, Tariq Ali, Angana P. Chatterji and of late leader of ruling party BJP Yushwant Singh, former finance minister and present outcast, all concur that people of Jammu and Kashmir have lost their fear of Incredible India that has 'done everything it could to subvert, suppress, represent, misrepresent, discredit, interpret, intimidate, purchase, and simply snuff out the

voice of the Kashmiri people'.

Arundhati Roy, the author of *The God of Small Things* and *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*, has aptly summed up the dilemma of India who raises the slogan 'Doodh maangokey to kheer dengey! Kashmir maangokey to chiir dengey! When in reality it 'needs azadi from Kashmir just as much, if not more, than Kashmir needs azadi from India'. The death of Burhan Wani in July, 2016 brought back the Kashmir issue in the mainstream 8 to 11 slot on prime time television. Every Talat, Doctor and Hassan jumped on the bandwagon and there was much discussion and debate. Aimed at local audiences who are already convinced of the cause, the analysts and pundits contributed barely a new perspective to an endless conflict. They jumped to the next

sensational happening and once again, it was put on the back burner.

As long as the memory serves and as far as one can gaze back in the annals of history, the Kashmiris have shared the fate of ancient bondmen; there has been change of tyrants at the helm of power and nothing else. The tally of martyrs from just 20 years- 1990 to 2019- falls around 70,000 Kashmiris. They are those who won't tell us their story. We are left to listen to the tales and travails of the disappeared and tortured individuals with a sinking heart.

Reminds me of a melancholic line from Roy's novel *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* where a note reads: KHADIJA SAYS... In Kashmir when we wake up and say 'Good Morning' what we really mean is 'Good Mourning'.

FAMILIES OF KASHMIRIS DETAINED IN FAR AWAY INDIAN JAILS REFUSE TO GIVE UP

Shafaq Shah

The kin of Kashmiris who are imprisoned indefinitely under a 'black law' are willing to lose everything in their fight for justice. Holding her son's photo close to her chest, Haseena Begum is inconsolable.

Amir was asleep; they dragged him by his ears and took him away," the 56-year-old tells a group of women who have come to see her in early February in the Sheerineighbourhood of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. "It's been seven months; I haven't seen him. My heart pains whenever I think of him," Begum says. As the guests leave in ones and twos, Begum tells her daughter-in-law to lock the front door and not allow any more visitors inside. "I don't want to speak to anyone," she reclines on the cushion, signs of exhaustion now visible on her face. "They [the visitors] were telling me Amir [her son] will come back soon, but I know there is very little truth in their words. No one understands the pain of a mother."

Begum is fed up with meeting journalists. Many reporters have come to her house, interviewed her and gone. "Nothing happens. The Modi government is unmoved," she says, explaining how journalism critical of the police's heavy handed tactics and unlawful detentions has had no

impact on the government.

Her son Amir Parvez Rather was picked up by the Indian army on August 5, the day when the ruling BJP tabled the controversial bill in the parliament that eventually led to the annulment of the nominal autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir, a disputed region between India and Pakistan since 1947. Begum says Amir, who is 26 years old, was first roughed up in an army vehicle and then taken to an unknown location. The search for him began. The Indian government had imposed a severe communication blockade on the entire disputed region, shutting down the internet, mobile phone networks and landlines. The blackout continued for several months, with high-speed internet still restricted, Begum says she went to the nearest police station to enquire about her son's whereabouts. But the officer in charge there mistreated her. "I have seen police officers, but he was the worst. I pleaded before him to let go of my son, but he didn't listen. He mocked at me and my poverty," Begum said, adding that Amir was the only male member in their family. With no one around to help, Maryam Rasool, Amir's wife, took up the task of finding her husband. "I would wake up at eight in the morning and leave home to find him," Maryam tells TRT World. "It had become a routine of sorts as I

followed it for at least 21 days. For the first couple of weeks, I repeatedly visited the local police station and inquired about Amir, but they didn't help me. They asked me to stop looking for Amir." Maryam did not give up, however. In the absence of public transportation as the entire region was either under a military curfew or observing a shutdown in defiance of the loss of autonomy she walked "hundreds of miles" from one district to another, knocking on the doors of every police station along the way, asking for Amir. After several weeks, she landed in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state. She went to the district's biggest prison facility the Srinagar Central Jail where she found her husband's name written on a list of people who were moved over a thousand kilometres away to the Agra jail in the north Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.

It was a relief to learn her husband was alive since Kashmir has several unidentified mass graves and cases of disappearances, with mothers waiting for several years, hoping to see their disappeared sons return home. Yet Maryam was aware of the long, arduous struggle to first raise the money and then take the difficult journey through to Agra. "I am a peon at a private school. I earn less than Rs.3000 (\$45) a month. I have no savings to spend on traveling to Agra," Begum says. Four months later in November, she eventually borrowed some cash from her relatives and went to Agra along with her three-year-old son. At the Agra jail, she found Amir in bad health. "He told me he was passing blood in stool. His body was aching. He also said he has seen the daylight only two times in the last four months," Maryam says. Maryam pulled herself together and returned to Srinagar. She wrote to several top government officials, including the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir province, asking them to move her husband back to Srinagar's Central Jail, citing his failing health. "None of those officials responded," she says.

The Indian government has imposed a string of draconian laws in Jammu and Kashmir to deal with both the popular armed insurgency and anti-India protests that

break out sporadically in different parts of the region. A so-called 'black law' named the Public Safety Act (PSA) has always come handy to arrest and detain community organisers, activists or anyone whom the police suspect of being a "stone pelter". Amir has been detained under the PSA, a law that robs detainees of court trials for a minimum of two years. The government's dossier describes him as: "An incorrigible anti-social element who has been found at the forefront of disturbing the public order in whole Narwar Belt of district Baramulla, during the protests which broke out against the killing of Hizbul Mujahidin Commander, Burhan Muzzafar Wani on July 8, 2016, resulting in a serious threat to the security of the State."

Amir's family finds the charges exaggerated and out of step with reality. His mother Begum says that Amir hurled stones at the police only once, way back in 2016 when a region-wide revolt broke out over the killing of a popular rebel commander Burhan Wani. "Everyone was pelting stones, my son was not the only one. Everyone was on the street, including children and women. After that incident, he never pelted the authorities with stones, but still he is being treated like a criminal and detained under the PSA," Begum said.

The Indian state hasn't revealed the total number of Kashmiris moved to faraway prisons in different states of the country since August 5, but according to a Reuters report published in October 2019, there are at least 84 Kashmiris incarcerated in Uttar Pradesh's Agra jail alone. Most of them come from difficult economic conditions. Their families are unable to afford lawyers and cannot bear the costs of flight, bus or train tickets in order to visit them.

The sudden death of Advocate Mir Shafqat Hussain who was pleading the cases of the majority of the detainees in the High Court in Srinagar- has come as another blow to these families. In light of the intricacies of India's slow judicial system, Hussain was a godsend for them. "He knew the entire case, knew that my husband was innocent. Now, whatever little hope we had of Yasir's

release has gone,” says Sami, the wife of another Kashmiri detainee, Yasir Ahmad Alai.

Another detainee Waseem Malla's family has visited him in a prison in Agra only once in the past six months. Malla, 20, dropped out of school because his parents couldn't afford to educate him. To help his father, he started working as a daily wage labourer. He was arrested along with Amir, Alai and dozens of other

Kashmiris on August 5. Malla's wife Masarat told TRT World that the police did not tell them where Malla was taken for several months until a stranger who had met his son in the Agra prison showed up at their house. He told them Malla was also in the Agra prison and had asked him to tell Masrat that he needed some warm clothes. “Soon after hearing that I went to see him along with my two daughters,” she said.

DIVIDED MUSLIMS

BY HUM AYUSUF

Since the annexation of India-held Kashmir in August, Pakistan has had to realise that it lacks the resources diplomatic, economic, legal or otherwise to respond to India's unilateral action. Saudi Arabia's refusal to back Pakistan's calls for a special meeting of the OIC's foreign ministers to discuss Kashmir reiterates this. But it also raises other serious questions. The kingdom's reluctance is not surprising.

Gulf states are unlikely to organise a session critical of India at a time when cultivating close political and economic ties with New Delhi. Who could forget that in the wake of the Kashmir crisis, Saudi Aramco proceeded with an investment in India's Reliance Industries, while the UAE bestowed a prestigious civilian award on Narendra Modi? It is grating then that Saudi Arabia critiqued Malaysia's hosting an Islamic summit in December, arguing that issues pertaining to the Muslim world are best raised through the OIC. By avoiding raising Kashmir at that platform, Saudi Arabia is quashing dialogue on the crisis.

There are broader dynamics within the Muslim world that minimise the likelihood of a joint voice on Kashmir. Some of these are traditional sectarian and regional divides, and varying levels of democratic accountability within the member states. These factors are exacerbated by multiple Muslim-majority countries vying to emerge as power centres within the Muslim world. This competition goes beyond the Saudi-Iran binary as countries such as

Turkey, Malaysia and Qatar seek to wield greater influence. It is no coincidence that the latter three have been vocal opponents of India's actions in Kashmir.

This fragmentation, and the resulting weakening of the OIC, is problematic at a time when multilateral institutions are needed more than ever. The challenges of the 21st century ranging from climate change and dislocated populations to resource scarcity and internet regulation require cross-border solutions. At the same time, multilateralism is threatened by populism and nationalism.

Rather than facilitate cooperation, powerful states are increasingly seeking to capture multilateral and global governance institutions in service of their own interests: consider China's attempts to gain control of UN organisations such as International Telecommunications Union and, imminently, the World Intellectual Property Organisation as a way to promote Beijing, access proprietary information and facilitate China's political and economic goals. So it is with Saudi Arabia's insistence on dominating the OIC and its agenda.

The timing for such politicking at a multilateral platform is poor. The OIC has an important role to play as Muslims around the world Kashmiris, Palestinians, Rohingya, Uighurs, and more face horrifying humanitarian crises. A coordinated response is also required to the normalization of Islamophobia in Western democracies, whether in the form of Trump's travel ban or the laissez-faire approach to Tory party representatives'

routine Islamophobic comments.

The OIC's failure so far to issue a powerful coordinated response to the Kashmir crisis is a reminder that for most Muslim-majority countries, the platform offers space to project fantasies of stewardship of the Muslim world in service of domestic political considerations, rather than a forum for collective action. The OIC is where leaders such as Mohammad bin Salman, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Mohamad Mahathir, and even our own prime minister grandstand in an effort to portray themselves as key leaders of the Muslim world for constituents back home.

This reality underpins the concern that religious affinity is not sufficient to drive a collective political agenda or facilitate joint strategic planning.

Pakistan's national narrative has the country leaving the Indian federation's pluralism for the unity of the Muslim world. The current political trajectory in India, particularly the blatant discriminate gunsight Muslims enshrined in the Citizenship

Act, has enabled many to justify the rightness of the first choice. But as the political idea of the ummah comes into question, Pakistan's identity and foreign policy will face existential questions, such as what is the need for faith-based statehood, if sharing a religious identity cannot translate into common ground or joint strategy in the global political arena? This on-again, off-again experience of the Kashmir discussion at the OIC is yet another reminder to Pakistan to overhaul its foreign policy and move on to a multifaceted approach that is proactive and assertive, driven by Pakistan's own interests (and not just vis-à-vis counterbalancing India, but more broadly from the perspectives of trade, energy, connectivity and climate crisis management). To do this, Pakistan will have to start with some introspection and ask what it can bring to each bilateral relationship to meaningfully have leverage. Are we up to that challenge?

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ANTONIO'S OFFER

(Editorials The nations)

The latest remarks of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General (SG) Antonio Guterres on Kashmir are nothing short of a strong boost to Pakistan's stance. The SG called for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir. However, India was quick in rebuking the suggestion; the global community must take notice of India, which defied the head of the UN so openly. If that is not enough a move to show the world the illegality of Indian stance, what else can?

In the past, India rejected the concerns of the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan over the deteriorating situation in Indian-administrated Kashmir. New Delhi also rejected an earlier offer of mediating the Kashmir dispute that Turkey made in 2018. Similarly, the Indian government rejected the continuous offers that the United States made many a time. Such behaviour on the part of India shows its despire for international law and

norms while dealing with the question of Kashmir.

Given that Kashmir is the potential nuclear flashpoint between the two nuclear-armed states, the world needs to put maximum pressure on India, lest it is too late. The role of the UN's SG does not end with suggesting that Kashmir must be decided according to UNSC resolutions. His statement on solving the Kashmir dispute means that the UN no longer sees the issue as a bilateral dispute between Pakistan and India.

Hopefully, Mr Antonio Guterres will take it upon himself to restore the faith of all oppressed people in the effectiveness of the UN. The least Mr Antonio can do for the people of Kashmir is to launch a global campaign similar to BDS against India. One after another country offering to mediate the issue and now the UN head asking for settling dispute according to UNSC resolutions must tell the Indian state where the international winds are blowing.

Pakistan optimistic about UN role to settle Kashmir conflict: President

Lahore: President Arif Alvi on Monday said that Pakistan



was optimistic about UN's role to settle the Kashmir dispute by upholding the principles of justice.

"We have been facing Kashmir issue since inception of Pakistan. It was Indian Prime Minister Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru who had approached the UN Security Council for a ceasefire appeal", he said while addressing the 12th Nazria-e-Pakistan Conference organised by Nazria-e-Pakistan Trust (NPT) here at Aiwan-e-Karkunan Tehreek-e-Pakistan. Expressing his optimism about the resolution of Kashmir conflict with UN playing its due role, President Alvi said that Pakistan had taken the right steps [for resolution of Kashmir issue] leaving no logical option in this regard. "Despite India's war hysteria, Pakistani nation, its leadership, media and all segments of society have always advocated peaceful resolution of all conflicts with India", he said, adding, that it was also evident from the fact the Pakistan had set a good example by returning the Indian pilot last year. Dr. Arif Alvi said that Pakistan had world's best Army which brought back peace in the country by fighting out terrorism in a very short span of time. "While passing through thick and thin, Pakistani nation managed to control "fissiparous and centrifugal tendencies" in the country and achieved a niche in the comity of the nations", he added. He said that Pakistanis had become a unique nation in the world by proving their worth in every field. "Pakistanis through their continuous efforts have not only strengthened and stabilised

Pakistan on various fronts but were also advancing in this direction", he said. Talking about Pakistan's role as a responsible State in the comity of nations, Alvi said that Pakistan had welcomed and hosted 5.1 million refugees from Afghanistan on humanitarian grounds for decades, a gesture unprecedented in the world. He further stated: "I told the UN Secretary General during his recent visit to Pakistan that I am proud of my nation that there had been no political or general resistance for Afghan refugees influx to Pakistan. Even today 2.7 million Afghans refugees are living here". He said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal brought about awakening in the Muslims of sub-continent through his inspiring poetry and thought-provoking philosophy, which led them to strive for an independent homeland by enthusiastically launching Pakistan Movement. "Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah through his political sagacity succeeded to carve out a separate homeland for the Muslims of sub-continent". Dr. Arif Alvi appreciated that Nazria-e-Pakistan Trust had been playing a greater role in promotion of vision and mission of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal's philosophy and message to general public, especially the young generation. He said that present government was also making all possible endeavours for transforming Pakistan in line with the vision of Father of the Nation and Poet of the East. Also, President Dr Arif Alvi and his wife Samina Alvi on Monday visited the National History Museum at Greater Iqbal Park here. Museum Director Hiba Ali, Manager Awais Malik, and Citizens Archive of Pakistan (CAP) Board Member Ahsan Najmi gave detailed briefing about various sections of the Museum. Provincial Tourism Minister Rai Taimoor Khan Bhatti was also present on the occasion. Dr Arif Alvi and his wife Samina Alvi visited different sections of the Museum such as Citizens Archive of Pakistan (Preserving history), Pakistan timeline from 1940 to 1960, 1947 'Fasadaat', virtual reality track, heroes gallery, Gandhi- Jinnah

Talks/Letters, Lahore Resolution, popular film producers, Quaid's Hologram, where a short speech of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was being played, sports, presidential awards and Armed forces section etc.

Kashmiris To Attain Freedom From Indian Occupation At All Cost: Masood Khan

Islamabad: Sardar Masood Khan, President Azad



Jammu and Kashmir, has said that India is hell-bent upon suppressing the just liberation movement of the Kashmiri people in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK). No power on earth can stop the Kashmiris from attaining their freedom from Indian occupation and ascertaining their inalienable right to self-determination, he said. The President made these remarks while speaking to Syed Abdullah Gillani, the representative of APHC Chairman Syed Ali Geelani here at Jammu and Kashmir House. During the meeting the latest situation in IOJK was discussed in detail. Both condemned the steps taken by India which has led to the incarceration of thousands of Kashmiris, killings, blindings and molestation of womenfolk. Syed Abdullah Gillani while praising the President's efforts in highlighting the Kashmir issue in the international arena said that we hope that under his guidance we will further intensify our efforts and help mobilize critical support for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute. He said that despite Syed Ali Geelani's old age and frail health, India continues to fear his presence and has kept him under house-arrest for the past 11 years.

Castigating the international community's inattention and double standards on Kashmir, the AJK President called on the UN Security Council to not hide behind

expediency and urged it to take cognizance of the precarious security situation in the IOJK. Gillani proposed that along with organising conferences and seminars on Kashmir, delegations comprising of Kashmiris living on both side of the Line of Control may be sent to leading countries of the world to engage both their public representatives and civil society. He said that Kashmiri women may lead demonstrations especially in the capitals of the P5 members in order to sensitize them to the atrocities taking place in IOJK. President Azad Kashmir while paying tribute to the brave Kashmiri women said that the pain and anguish suffered by them are the worst in the world. Despite all this, he said, they have not lost hope and are struggling for their liberty. The President acknowledged the efforts of Assiya Andarabi and her companions and condemned her illegal imprisonment. Terming Syed Ali Geelani as Salaar-e-Azam (a great leader) and Quaid-e-Hurriyat (Leader of the Resistance), the President said that that the people of IOJK, AJK and Pakistan have full faith in the leadership of Syed Ali Geelani. He went on to say that there will be no compromise on the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris and we shall attain our freedom from Indian occupation.

Resolution of Kashmir issue lies only in plebiscite: Farooq

Rawalakot: Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Raja



Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan has said that the resolution of the longstanding Kashmir issue lies only in holding of the plebiscite under United Nations resolutions. Addressing to an oath taking ceremony of

District Bar Association Rawalakot, he said India has violated international laws and agreements by annexing occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister said changing demography of the occupied Kashmir is contrary to the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir. He asked lawyers to utilize media and convey the grievances and plights of the Kashmiris to the United Nations and other global human rights bodies. Raja Farooq Haider Khan also appealed overseas Kashmiris and Pakistanis to step up their efforts for raising Kashmir issue at all available forums and set aside their differences. Referring to his government initiative, he said that administrative, financial and legislative powers through 13th Amendment. "Strength of the judges would be enhanced in High Court to dispose of cases as early as possible", he added. Earlier, Prime Minister administered oath to the newly elected office bearers of the Rawalakot Bar Association. The Prime Minister, during his visit also laid foundation stone and inaugurated different development projects in Poonch district including Goyi Nalla road, Rawalakot University road, Rawalakot-Hajira Road, Khai Gulla-Tolli Peer Lassdana Road, inaugurated Battay-Ne-Rah BHU, KhaiGalla-TarrarKhal Road, Hajira-TarrarKhal Road, Hajira-Tatta Pani Road, Hajira-Abbaspur Road, THQ hospital, Electricity Office, Abbaspur-Mehmood Galli Road and others.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Minister Works and Communication Chaudhary Muhammad Aziz, Minister Forests Sardar Mir Akbar, Minister Local Government Raja Naseer Ahmed Khan, Minister Health and Finance Dr. Najeeb Naqi, Deputy Speaker Sardar Amir Altaf, Minister Education Barrister Syed Iftikhar Ali Gillani, Advisor Raja Imdad Ali Tariq and large number of party leaders and the party activists.

Hindutva: India's descent into bigotry

Driven by the extremist ideology of Hindutva, India has descended into a state of growing intolerance and bigotry. Hindutva, which is espoused by the Hindu

militant organization, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and India's ruling party, BJP, aims at defining the Indian culture exclusively in terms of Hindu values. The exclusive character of Hindutva assumes even more ominous proportions because of the oppressive nature of the Hindu social system which divides even its own followers into castes prohibiting vertical mobility. Those born in the lower strata of the Hindu society are condemned to accept their exploitation at the hands of the people in the higher castes without protest and any possibility of improvement in their lot. The fate of the followers of other religions would obviously be even worse than that of the people in the lower strata of the Hindu society. The lethal combination of Hindutva with India's expansionist and hegemonic strategic goals in South Asia carries dangerous implications for Pakistan's security and economic well-being, which our leaders and policy makers can ignore at their peril.

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The rising tide of Hindu chauvinism in India poses a particularly serious threat to Pakistan's security because of the way India's strategists and policy makers look at it. C. Raja Mohan, a well-known Indian security analyst and a former member of India's National Security Advisory Board, in an article entitled "India and the Balance of Power" in the Foreign Affairs issue of July-August, 2006 made the point that the creation of Pakistan was a major obstacle in the realization of India's grand strategic goals. According to him, this factor left India with a persistent conflict with Pakistan and an internal Hindu-Muslim divide, separated India from Afghanistan and Iran, and created profound problems for India's engagement with the Muslim Middle East because of Pakistan's character as an Islamic state. It is not surprising, therefore, that India has exhibited abiding hostility towards Pakistan since its independence.

The security threat posed by India because of its innate hostility towards Pakistan is exacerbated by India's far-reaching strategic ambitions. As noted by well-known international scholars like Henry Kissinger, India is striving to establish its dominant position in South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. C. Raja Mohan also stressed in his above quoted article that India has sought primacy and a veto over the actions of outside powers in its immediate neighbourhood. Thus, the achievement of hegemony in South Asia remains India's main strategic goal. The only country in the region which stands in the way of the fulfillment of the Indian strategic ambitions is Pakistan. This leads to two obvious conclusions: it would be India's enduring strategic aim to reduce Pakistan to the status of a satellite; secondly, as long as India continues to pursue that goal and as long as Pakistan resists India's hegemonic ambitions in the region, there would be structural stresses and strains in relations between Pakistan and India over and above those caused by outstanding disputes like Kashmir, Sir Creek, Siachin, sharing of river waters, etc. Real friendship between the two countries will remain elusive until the unlikely event of a radical change for the better in the

ground realities.

Pakistan, therefore, must be prepared for a prolonged period of tensions and strife with India because of the lethal combination of India's hegemonic designs, growing Hindu bigotry, and outstanding disputes especially the Kashmir dispute. It is a marathon, not a 100-meter sprint. Recent actions by India aimed at annexing Jammu and Kashmir in a blatant violation of applicable UN Security Council resolutions reflect not only the bigotry of the Hindu majority in India but also the hardline approach and the muscular style of diplomacy that New Delhi is likely to employ in dealing with Pakistan in the years to come. Therefore, the possibility of occasional low intensity armed conflicts, exchange of artillery fire or even the exchange of limited air strikes cannot be ruled out. However, as long as Pakistan and India maintain a credible nuclear deterrent, an all-out war between them does not seem likely.

Sun Tzu, the famous Chinese strategist, recommended a long time ago that supreme excellence lay in breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting. America and the rest of the West implemented this principle of grand strategy to defeat the Soviet Union in the Cold War without fighting a war. India can also be expected to place reliance on non-kinetic means of warfare for defeating Pakistan. For this purpose, India will focus mainly on destabilizing Pakistan politically and weakening it economically. Pakistan's current political instability and economic weakness, therefore, constitute its Achilles' heel in the long-term contest with India and a source of acute national insecurity. Pakistan must overcome these shortcomings while maintaining a credible security deterrent.

6-month detention of political leadership has been Orwellian nightmare: Mehbooba Mufti's daughter

Srinagar: The six months of detention of the political leadership in Kashmir has been an "Orwellian nightmare", a tweet on PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's Twitter handle said on Wednesday. Mehbooba's

daughter Iltija Mufti has been operating her mother's Twitter account since September 20 following the detention of the former chief minister in the wake of abrogation of article 370 provisions on August 5 last year. "Exactly 6 months ago, I watched helplessly as officers took my mother away. Days have turned into weeks & weeks into months. Yet, political leadership in Kashmir remains under illegal detention. It's been an Orwellian nightmare to be up against a government muzzling its own people," Iltija tweeted from her mother's handle. "Economic & psychological cost of this crisis has debilitated J&K. Yet nothing has changed. For many fellow Indians, this might be comeuppance for Kashmiris. But truth is that idea of India is under assault. And staying quiet is criminal complicity," she said. Iltija vowed to continue speaking up as an "anguished" Kashmiri. "I'll continue fighting & speaking up as an anguished Kashmiri. And as a daughter, every day until my mother comes home. What makes India great is its diversity, values of equality & brotherhood. I draw strength in knowing that a mass movement has been ignited to protect these values," she added. Mainstream politicians, activists and trade leaders were kept under preventive detention after August 5 last year when the Centre withdrew the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into union territories -- Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir. Since then many among them have been released on different occasions. Among the prominent leaders who are still under detention are NC leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti. The senior Abdullah was slapped with the stringent Public Safety Act on September 17 which was further renewed for a period of three months on December 16.

Thousands of women killed, molested by Indian troops in IOK since Jan 1989

Indian state terrorism rendered 22,912 women widowed in 31 years

Islamabad (KMS) As the world is observing the International Women's Day, today, the miseries and

victimization of the Kashmiri women at the hands of Indian troops and police personnel continue unabated in occupied Kashmir. According to a report released by the Research Section of Kashmir Media Service on the occasion of the International Women's Day, today, thousands of women are among 95,507 Kashmiris, martyred by Indian military, paramilitary and police personnel since January 1989 till date. At least 671 women have been martyred by Indian troops since January 2001 till date. The report pointed out that the unabated Indian state terrorism rendered 22,912 women widowed.

The Indian forces' personnel molested 11,179 women including the victims of Kununposhpora mass rape and Shopian double-rape-and murder of 17-year-old Aasiya Jan and her sister-in-law Neelofar Jan. An eight-year girl, Aasifa Bano, of Kathua, was abducted, gang-raped and subsequently murdered by Indian police personnel, in January 2018. The report said that thousands of women lost their sons, husbands, fathers and brothers in the occupied territory who were subjected to custodial disappearance by India troops. As per the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons, more than 8,000 Kashmiris went missing in custody during the past 31 years, the report added. The report revealed that thousands of school boys and girls were also injured by the pellets fired by Indian troops while over hundred including 19-month-old Heeba Jan, 2-year-old Nusrat Jan, Ulfat Hameed (17), Insha Mushtaq, Ifrah Shakoor (17), Shakeela Bano, Tammana (11), Shabroza Mir (16), Shakeela Begum(35) and Rafia Bano (31)were blinded. The report said that near a dozen women including Hurriyat leaders, Aasiya Andrabi, Fehmeeda Sofi, Naheeda Nasreen and Insha Tariq Shah (23) were facing illegal detention inside Kashmir jails and in infamous Tihar Jail in India. They are being victimized only for representing the Kashmiri people's righteous demand and aspirations. The report further pointed out that womenfolk are majority of the Kashmiris suffering from multiple psychic problems. The women whom these disappeared men leave behind are referred to as "half-widows," reflecting their uncertain status between wifhood and widowhood. Many mothers are waiting for their disappeared sons while widows and half-widows are in pain since decades in occupied territory.



Briefing to delegation of members of EU Parliament by the Prime Minster of AJ&K Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan.



Briefing to delegation of OIC by the Prime Minster of AJ&K Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan.



Secretary JKLC Mr. Mansoor Qadir Dar and other speakers are addressing a seminar on Role of Kashmiri Diaspora in Muzaffrabad.



The President of AJK Masood Khan called on UN Secretary General in Islamabad

Briefing to delegation of Junior Foreign Diplomats of foreign services Academy by Secretary JKLC Mansoor Qadir Dar



MLA, Mrs. Faiza Ahsan and other speakers addressing to seminar on International Women Day

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IOK

(From Jan 1989 till Feb 29,2020)

Total Killings *	95,506
Custodial Killings	7,139
Civilian arrested	158,644
Structures Arsoned/Destroyed	109,462
Women Widowed	22,911
Children Orphaned	107,784
Women gang-raped / Molested	11,179

