

Monthly

KASHMIR TODAY



December 2020

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CHAUDHRY GHULAM ABBAS KHAN

Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas was born on 4 February 1904 at Jammu. He graduated from the Prince of Wales College, Jammu. He received his law degree from the Lahore Law College and started his career as a lawyer in Jammu.

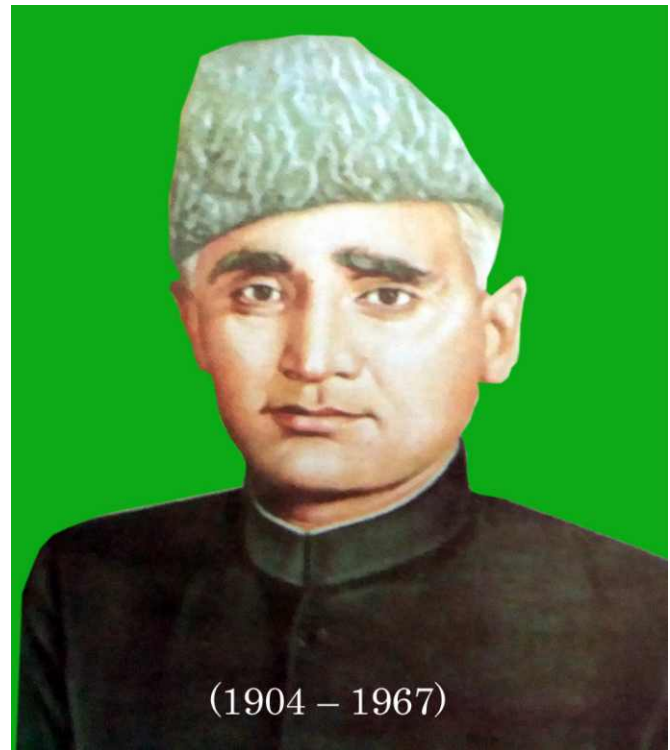
He played leading role for the struggle of independence of the Muslim of Jammu and Kashmir from his early age through the platform of Youngmen Muslim Association. He became the first Muslim leader who was arrested after the incident of 13 July 1931.

On October 14-16, 1932 the first political party of Kashmir "All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference" was established in Srinagar, Chaudhry Gulam Abbas was elected as its Secretary General. He was honored with the title of Rahees Ul Ahrar for his services on 17, December 1932 in a session of All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference.

On January 26, 1941 Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas in a press statement announced the revival of All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference which was re-designated as National Conference in 1939. On April 3, 1942 a special meeting was held in Jammu; presided by Chaudhary Ghulam Abbas. The meeting formally announced the revival of the All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference.

On July 27, 1944 Quaid-e- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah reached Srinagar on the invitation of Chudhry Ghulam Abbas. On June 16-17, 1944 the annual session of All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference was addressed by Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Srinagar. It was estimated that one lac of Muslims turned up to hear Quaid-e-Azam.

On June 08-09, 1946 the Muslim Conference adopts the "Azad Kashmir Resolution" on its working committee meeting held in Srinagar, calling for the end of autocratic government and claims the right of the people to elect



their own constituent assembly

On October 19, 1946 Chaudhry Ghulam Abbas was arrested and remained in Jail till 28, February 1948, he reached Pakistan through Sochith Ghar on first of March 1948.

He was appointed Supreme Head of AJK Govt. and freedom movement by Quaid-e- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. on 9 April 1948 at the request of AJK Government and All Jammu & Kashmir Muslim Conference. He was appointed chairman of Kashmir Refugees Central Relief Committee by the Quaid-e-Azam as Governor General. The AJK cabinet conferred the title of "Quaid-e- Kashmir" on him in November 1952.

He died on 18, December 1967 and was buried at Faizabad Rawalpindi.

PAK-US RELATIONS AND THE INDIAN FACTOR

The relations between Pakistan and the US have remained enigmatic with the result that people call it a relationship of convenience. Pakistan accuses the US of changing sides after having used it for its objectives. The underlying reason for the lack of understanding and trust between the two countries in spite of having come closer on different occasions through different alliances and security agreements has been the absence of a shared vision in any issue both the countries joined hands to pursue. There was a relative congruence during the war against the Soviets from 1979-1989, but looking deeper,

even that appears to have been used by each party to accelerate its own security agenda rather than a united common cause. As the political scientist, GW Choudhry put it, "The United States and Pakistan were moving in the same direction for different



Durdana Najam

reasons. The US was guided by its global policy of containing international communism, and Pakistan was motivated by problem of national security and defence." This 'asymmetrical diplomacy' remained at the heart of both the nation's

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Pakistan has always accused the US of not understanding its regional interests and demanding policies that would rather make things difficult for Pakistan. It has been this gap that led Pakistan to fork into a different path while ostensibly keeping to the common cause with the US. The problem had been the absence of a sense of value to remain engaged. Experts believe that Pakistan had been used as a pawn by the US to achieve its external goals, and for Pakistan, it was India that it needed the US for.

Pakistan inherited a large army with meagre resources on the partition with India. It needed US support to modernise and equip its army and arsenals that could be used to fight with the Indians when needed. Pakistan chose an anti-communist narrative to forge a common interest with the US. Ayub Khan had assumed that the military support Pakistan received from the US could be used against India without causing a major breach. In his memoir, he acknowledged: “The objectives that the Western powers wanted the Baghdad Pact to serve were quite different from the objectives we had in mind. Pakistan had never made any secret of [its] intentions or [its] interests and the US knew that Pakistan would use its new arms against its eastern neighbour.”

According to Vali Nasr, the Iranian-American academic and author, “Many observers think that Pakistan’s regional interest from the US are so far removed from those of the United States that no degree of aid and friendship can bridge the gap, making a collapse in the relationship inevitable all along.” American ambassador to Pakistan Anne Patterson wrote in one of her

cables that money alone would not solve the problem of Taliban and Al Qaeda operating in Pakistan. Pakistan’s Afghan policies stem from its deep-seated fear about her regional standing vis-à-vis India and Iran, the two main contenders among many in Afghanistan. She further wrote: “The Pakistan establishment, as we saw in 1998, with the nuclear test, does not view assistance even sizable assistance to their own entities as a trade-off for national security.”

Pakistan’s inability to trust the US emanates from the larger insecurity Pakistan has suffered from since its birth in 1947. India’s ‘plot’ to undo Pakistan or make it a vassal state has been Pakistan’s greatest fear so far. This fear originates from the role India had played in the secession of East Pakistan. It was precisely India that prompted Pakistan to seek a large outside ‘balancer’. According to Ayub Khan, “The crux of the problem from the very beginning was the Indian attitude of hostility towards us: we had to look for allies to secure our position.”

Since the US has been unable to comprehend Pakistan’s geopolitical situation and the problems emanating from having a much larger and hostile India, Pakistan induced a sense of obligation in the minds of the Americans to do away with the power disparity with India. The US did assist Pakistan in this regard, but not when it was needed the most in the 1971 war. Interpreted as a betrayal, Pakistan learned the lesson that it could never trust or depend on the US. It was a turning point for Pakistan and the beginning of its relations with China.

The 1971 war with India and the resultant breakup of Pakistan affected South Asia’s political dynamics in three ways: 1) India emerged as the leading or dominant power of the region; 2) Pakistan’s insecurity towards India intensified leading to the idea of ‘Strategic Depth’, and 3) ‘fear of Hindu India’ drifted Pakistan towards the policy of Islamisation. The idea behind the so-called Strategic Depth had been: 1) to offset India’s influence in Afghanistan by installing there a Pakistan-friendly government; 2) by replacing Pashtun nationalist and separatist sentiment with Islamism; 3) by training and preserving the ideological non-state actors for Pakistan’s regional policy objective and 4) by keeping the Durand Line contested.

To reinforce Pakistan’s security perception, the US-India relations came full circle with the return of the Republican government of George W Bush in 2001. The US took a ‘less absolutist’ view of New Delhi’s nuclear aspirations. The Republicans described India as “one of the largest democracies of the twenty-first century”, and proclaimed that the Bush administration would be “more sensitive to Indian security concerns, and more willing to accommodate India’s own aspirations to be a great power”.

As the war on terrorism broke out, India found a golden

opportunity to heighten its security concerns against Pakistan and flaunt it as a 'rogue' country sponsoring terrorism in Indian occupied Kashmir. It had almost become a custom with many countries to link their militants with Al Qaeda and become recipients of the many benefits it brings. Burma did it with the Rohingya, persecuted and crushed them as the "Taliban". India was no exception. It was quick to link Kashmir, the flashpoint of Pakistan-India rivalry, with the War on Terror and achieved several important military, political, economic and nuclear agreements with the US. It also helped India put the Kashmir issue into the deep freezer.

The war against terror had made Kabul the 'new Kashmir' a battleground for India-Pakistan rivalry; but choosing to ignore

this strategic change, the US obsessed with capturing Osama bin Laden, made a major mistake. By 2005-06, Musharraf was accusing Karzai of giving access to Indian agents of Pakistan's western borders and blamed India's RAW for funding the Baloch tribes in Balochistan. Many senior Pakistani military officials noted that the aim was to "de-nuclearise", "de-radicalise" and de-Islamise" Pakistan. To achieve this purpose, they had joined hands. The difference between the two is: "The Americans act out of 'stupidity', as its actions have been counterproductive to its interests. Indians, on the other hand, have promoted their interests 'cunningly'. Knowing exactly what they are doing."

Published in The Express Tribune, November 26th, 2020.

DOES AMIT SHAH NEED A HISTORY LESSON ON KASHMIR?

"Jammu and Kashmir has been, is and will always remain an integral part of India. Indian people will no longer tolerate an unholy 'global gathabndhan' against our national interest. Amit Shah, Home Minister of India. November 17, 2020

"Mr. Minister, Kashmiris have yet to assent to be part of India and then we could share the Indian national interest. Respectfully wish to remind you about your word of honor at the United Nations." Dr. Syed Nazir Gilani:

"The Governments of Pakistan and India have ample opportunities to articulate their positions and make them known to the world. Not so the people of Kashmir. I neither pretend impartiality nor claim a thorough knowledge of, or adherence to, the position of any particular section of Kashmiri opinion. But I think that an attempt to see the conflict from a Kashmiri and human perspective may not be useless in any mental exercise towards its resolution." Ambassador Yusuf Buch.

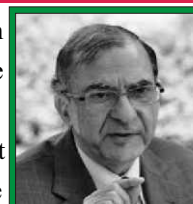
The insensitive comment by Mr. Amit Shah needs to be supplemented by some observations both from an objective perspective and also as Ambassador Buch suggests, from the viewpoint of the people of Jammu & Kashmir itself. These deserve to be borne in mind by policy-making agencies and personalities of major Capitals of the world.

To me the best answer that could be given to Amit Shah was provided by Greg Anderson, a National Basketball Association player, when he said, "The Law of Win/Win says, 'Let's not do it your way or my way; let's do it the best way'."

I believe the best way to resolve the Kashmir conflict is through listening to Mahatma Gandhi, who said on July 29, 1947 in Delhi, "The real sovereign of the state are the people. The ruler is a servant of the people. If he is not so then he is not the ruler. This is my firm belief, and that is why I became a rebel against the British because the British claimed to be the rulers of India,

and I refused to recognize them as such. In Kashmir too the power belongs to the public. Let them do as they want."

Now, the question needs to be asked: at what point of time and by what reasonable means did Kashmir become an integral part



Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai

of India? The Indian officials have put forth various hypothesis at different times to justify their stand that Kashmir was the integral part of India. Let us analyze them one by one.

One: By the Instrument of Accession signed by Maharajah on October 27, 1947.

To begin with, it is a historical fact that when Britain was liquidating its empire in the subcontinent, the tripartite agreement of Britain, the National Congress and the Muslim League partitioned British India into two independent countries: India & Pakistan. As this settlement also meant the end of British paramountcy over the autonomous principalities called States, these were supposed to merge with one of the two countries in accordance with the wishes of the people and the principle of partition. Kashmir was a predominantly Muslim-majority State; besides, it was far more contiguous with Pakistan than with India. It was therefore, expected to accede to Pakistan.

Faced with the insurgency of his people, the Maharajah fled the capital Srinagar, on October 25, 1947 and arranged that India send its army to help him crush the rebellion. India, coveting the territory, set one condition on its armed intervention, that the Maharajah must sign an Instrument of Accession to India. Maharaja signed but Lord Mountbatten accepted it subject to the reference to the people. Between October and December of 1947, the Azad Kashmir forces successfully resisted India's armed intervention and liberated one-third of the State. Realizing it could not quell the resistance, India brought the

issue to the United Nations in January 1948.

There was much in the submissions at the United Nations that was controversial, but the proposal of a plebiscite was not. This is clear from the statement made on January 15, 1948 by Indian delegate, Sir Gopalaswami Ayyangar, at Security Council, "... Whether she [Kashmir] should withdraw from her accession to India, and either accede to India or remain independent, with a right to claim admission as a member of the UN all this we have recognised to be matter for unfettered decision by the people of Kashmir after normal life is restored there." So, it is clear that India itself acknowledge that the accession was subject to plebiscite under international auspices.

Second: By the decision of the Jammu & Kashmir Constituent Assembly?

Besides, UN Security Council resolution #92 of 1951 and 122 of 1957, Ambassador Quevedo of Ecuador said it the best during the 539th meeting of the Security Council on March 30, 1951 that, "In the present circumstances, the constituent assembly of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be considered as representing the people as a whole or as a free manifestation of the people's will, and the decisions of such an assembly can neither change nor deprive of their effect the international undertakings entered into by India and Pakistan in respect of the plebiscite."

Third: By the sheer passage of time?

Much is being made of the fact that seven decades have passed since the principled solution was formulated by the United Nations with almost universal support. The passage of time cannot invalidate an enduring and irreplaceable principle the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir. If passage of time were allowed to extinguish solemn international agreements, then the United Nations Charter should suffer the same fate as the resolutions on Kashmir. If non-implementation were to render an agreement defunct, then the Geneva Convention in twenty-first century in many countries is in no better state than these resolutions.

Fourth: By the elections held periodically in the Indian occupied Kashmir?

But these elections are known to have been rigged. Here are few illustrations;

"Elections in Kashmir have been rigged from the beginning... the methods changed from elections to elections." PK Dave,

Former Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir 1991

Arundhati Roy, Booker Prizewinner said on September 27, 2009, "Elections in Kashmir have had a long and fascinating past. The blatantly rigged state election of 1987 was the immediate provocation for the armed uprising that began in 1990."

Dr. Shri Prakash in his book, 'Twenty Tumultuous Years Insights in to Indian Polity' on page 568 writes, "The Kashmiri anger actually began with the mass rigging of elections in 1987. There is no use putting life in a corpse. Kashmiri leaders from Farooq Abdullah downwards have lost their credibility, they are totally irrelevant."

Amy Waldman wrote in the New York Times on August 24, 2002 that "Rigged elections in Kashmir in 1989 helped trigger the armed uprising."

Doesn't Amit Shah behave like prime minister Nehru about whom, President John F. Kennedy said, "Pandit Nehru has the ability to talk scholarly about every issue under the sun, but as soon as there is any mention of Kashmir, he instantaneously puts his head down and fixes his eyes on the floor fixed in the button-hole of his sherwani and keeps quiet and sinks deep into a state of meditation like a Yogi."

Sounder minds must prevail. More rational methods of dealing with Kashmir conflict must be sought. Repeating the same mistakes while expecting different results has long ago been found to be the path of failure. Seventy-three years should demonstrate both India & Pakistan a need for a change in policy, a policy that accepts the need for coming together in a process that accepts the right of all people to determine their own destiny.

What should be the procedure for putting the dispute on the road to a settlement? The better way would be to ask the Secretary General of the United Nations, with the concurrence of the Security Council, to engage himself, directly or through a representative of high international standing, in a sustained effort of facilitation which should (a) ensure that the position of the people of Kashmir is fully taken into account and (b) aim at a settlement within a reasonable time-frame, providing for a transitional period, if necessary, for a calming effect.

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RECOGNISING ISRAEL

The planned futuristic Saudi city of Neom on the Red Sea coast was the venue of the G20 virtual summit last week, but something of greater importance happened there on Sunday night that may mark a tectonic shift in regional geopolitics. The reported covert meeting between the Israeli prime minister and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is seen as the most significant move yet towards the recognition of Israel by the kingdom.

While the Saudi foreign minister has denied that any such meeting took place, some Israeli officials have confirmed that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the head of Israel's Mossad spy agency had flown to Saudi Arabia on Sunday night. There have been reports of informal contacts between the two countries in the past, but it would be the first direct interaction at the highest official level.

Many analysts believe that it is just a matter of time before the two sides establish diplomatic relations. The kingdom has already blessed the recognition of the Jewish state by the UAE, Bahrain and Sudan. The development may be seen as a diplomatic triumph for outgoing US President Donald Trump, but it also illustrates the fast-changing dynamics of Middle East politics mainly resulting from Saudi-Iran rivalry.

Curiously, it is all happening as the government of Prime Minister Netanyahu pursues a more ruthless policy of expanding Jewish settlements into occupied Palestinian territory and annexing them to Israel. Unstinted support from the Trump administration gave further impetus to Israeli expansionism. Trump not only shifted the US embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem but also approved Israeli expansionism.

In January this year, President Trump announced what he described as the 'deal of the century', which attempted to impose a one-sided 'solution' on the Palestinians. It provided for unilateral Israeli annexation of significant territory in the West Bank and all the settlements. It virtually buried the two-state policy by further sidelining the Palestinians. Meanwhile, Jared Kushner's peace plan succeeded in persuading the UAE and Bahrain to recognize their secret liaison with Israel. Trump's son-in-law is seen as the architect of the Trumpian Middle East policy.

The expected recognition of Israel by Saudi Arabia would certainly be the biggest coup for the maverick president. It is true that Riyadh for long had maintained secret contacts with Israel, but they became more pronounced with the rise of the ambitious crown prince who has developed a special relationship with Trump and Kushner.

A major reason for their closeness was Trump's aggressive

policy towards Iran. Saudi Arabia, along with Israel, was among the nations who hailed Trump's decision to pull America out of the Iran nuclear deal. Trump had also looked on the other side of Saudi military

intervention in Yemen. Their mutual hostility towards Iran has also been a major factor in bringing Israel and Saudi Arabia closer.

Over the past few years, Riyadh has been sending out signals that it was ready for greater cooperation with Israel. Mohammed bin Salman has been quoted as saying that he didn't consider Israel an enemy. But the fear of a backlash from extremist elements stopped him from establishing open official relations with that country. The absence of a public reaction from the UAE and Bahrain over their recognition of Israel might have given him the confidence to break the taboo. In a marked shift, Riyadh lifted restrictions on the publication of news and articles about Israel.

With Egypt and Jordan having recognized the Jewish state a long time ago, there are now fewer Middle Eastern Muslim countries that have not ended their boycott of Israel. A major justification given by the UAE for formalising its relations has been that it could stop Israel from establishing new settlements in the occupied territory, but there is no indication of Netanyahu agreeing to any such demand.

Normalisation of ties with Israel without a two-state solution could further isolate Palestinians and intensify conflict in the Middle East. There is no likelihood of any major change in American policy in the region under the incoming Biden administration except for the possibility of revival of the Iran nuclear deal.

Surely any Saudi move to open up to Israel would be welcomed by the incoming US president who hails from the Democratic Party. It remains to be seen whether the new administration is able to persuade Israel to suspend the establishment of new settlements and its planned annexation of part of the West Bank.

The shifting sands of the Middle East have also opened a discussion on whether Pakistan should revisit its policy towards Israel. In a recent interview, Prime Minister Imran Khan mentioned pressure from some unspecified foreign leaders to normalise relations with the Jewish state. But the foreign ministry denied there was any suggestion to review Pakistan's policy.

While the stated policy is that there is no question of changing the country's stance without Palestinians getting their rights,



Zahid Hussain

there have been reports of Pakistan maintaining covert contacts with Israel as in the case of the latter's country's military help during the 1980s' Afghan resistance against the Soviets. There had been some public encounter between officials of the two countries after 9/11, eg a brief meeting between Khurshid Kasuri, the then foreign minister, and his Israeli counterpart in Istanbul in September 2005. Israel hailed the meeting as "historic and a huge breakthrough". But the event drew criticism at home.

A major demonstration of Israel's desire to improve relations with Pakistan was seen when Gen Musharraf was invited to address the American Jewish Congress during his visit to New

York in September 2005. The military ruler was greeted by a standing ovation for initiating public diplomatic contacts with Israel. A moved Musharraf said he did not expect a Pakistani leader "to be greeted by this community with this sort of ovation".

Musharraf spoke about Pakistan-Israel relations, and said there was no natural enmity between the two countries. But it was not possible for him to normalise relations with the Jewish state without risking his survival in power. Any move to recognise Israel will be seen as a betrayal to the Palestinian cause.

The writer is an author and journalist.

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KASHMIRIS STRIPPED OF DIGITAL RIGHTS IN DUAL LOCKDOWN

By Caitlin Allen

As of 19th November, there are 104,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 1613 deaths in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. With a dual lockdown and sustained internet bans, individuals are struggling to perform basic tasks.

How much longer in lockdown? A question that's been at the forefront of minds everywhere. For those living in Indian-administered Kashmir, it's been the question for over a year.

The pandemic has created an intensity of shared experience across the globe. But lockdown conditions are all-too-familiar in this disputed Himalayan region. The health lockdown, which 7 million Kashmiris entered in March, has merged with a pre-existing military one.

Panicked stockpiling, deserted streets, bans on large gatherings and the closure of schools have all been part of life since August 2019, when the Indian government stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its semi-autonomous status. It imposed direct rule from Delhi and a curfew on India's only majority Muslim state.

In recent months, large swathes of the world have come to rely on technology as never before. Yet, as Kashmiris grapple with another form of lockdown this time to cope with the health crisis technology provides little relief.

Throttled internet speeds are a part of life under military lockdown.

"This virus has brought the entire world on its knees", says Aakash Hassan, a young Kashmiri journalist from Srinagar. "But, even now, when internet is the most important tool available to people, the government is denying us this basic right".

Kashmir's military lockdown, which began on August 5th 2019, plunged individuals into communications darkness overnight. Without warning, landlines, broadband and mobile phone connection were all severed. A measure "to prevent militancy and stop the spread of misinformation", according to

the Indian government.

This was the start of the longest internet shutdown the world has yet seen and one that is still not over.



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Before coronavirus hit, the impact of the communications blockade had already been far-reaching. Pharmacists' inability to contact suppliers led to medical shortages. In some instances, hospital authorities had no way of contacting the families of injured patients. And it could take weeks or months for news to reach people about the death of a family member or friend.

When the internet blackout was first imposed, just getting his stories out required great resourcefulness from Mr Hassan. He and other journalists would wait outside Srinagar airport, memory sticks in hand. They would scan passengers for a friendly-looking stranger boarding a flight, to trust with their

work, hoping the information would reach its destination.

Yet the strangest, most frustrating part of it all: from his home in blacked-out Srinagar, “there was no way to even check if the story had been published or not.”

Since August 2019, restrictions have gradually eased. Landlines were the first to come back, and, after 7 months, internet was finally restored in early March. But only in 2G. Even the availability of 2G is unpredictable, severed by the government for days at a time following outbreaks of violence. It imposed another temporary blackout after the killing of Kashmiri militant Riyaz Naikoo.

Now, persistent poor internet connection in the midst of pandemic is hindering access to basic health and education rights.

Glacial internet speeds prevent medics in the region from accessing vital information from the global health community. “Downloading the latest COVID-19 guidelines takes aeons,” says a local doctor, who wishes to remain anonymous. “And there is no possibility of attending video seminars for health updates”.

Kashmiri doctor, Khawar Achakzai, has used his 2G twitter access to vent his frustration, after he waited “a whole night” for a single research paper to download, to prepare for a shift at the emergency room in a Srinagar hospital.

Health workers aren't the only ones struggling to cope with this dual lockdown. COVID-19, on top of earlier restrictions and the limited scope of 2G internet, has left Kashmiri students in despair. Over the past year, students have resorted to drastic measures to perform basic online tasks. Before the return of 2G, some would board a train from Srinagar, dubbed 'the Internet Express', and travel for hours to the nearest internet café in Banihal to submit a single form for a university entrance exam. In February, schools reopened in the Kashmir Valley for the first time since the start of military lockdown. Finally, it seemed, things were improving.

Within less than a fortnight, the virus had forced them to shut again.

“Students are incredibly frustrated”, says Mr Hassan. “They hadn't attended a single class since August (2019) and online learning was impossible.”

Today, it remains a great challenge. 2G internet hampers their ability to download educational resources or take part in video

lectures.

Map showing total number of internet shutdowns in India.



Kashmir: 184 (Source: internetshutdowns.in)

The Indian government insists that the ban is “absolutely necessary” for “maintaining public order”, since high speed internet is a tool to coordinate terror attacks.

India shuts off the internet more than any other country in the world, according to the Software Freedom Law Centre. Last year, it was responsible for 121 shutdowns, out of the global total of 196.

Kashmir is not unique. Shutdowns have been imposed in Assam, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi. But Kashmir's internet bans are on a different scale altogether.

Communication blockades are an economically costly tool of repression. While the entire world is now grappling with the financial consequences of Covid-19, even last December, Kashmir's Chamber of Commerce and Industry estimated that the military lockdown has already cost the Kashmiri economy over \$2.4 billion.

This communications blockade has not applied to everyone. Phones belonging to officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the army and bureaucrats are all “whitelisted” meaning they have functioned as normal, with full-speed internet, throughout the military and health lockdown.

“The Indian government can stop and start internet on particular numbers, as per their will and wish” explains Mr Hassan. If they chose to, “they could restore full internet on the phones of doctors”.

TWO SCALES DEFINE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION LIMITS

(Iftikhar Gilani)

***The writer is a senior journalist at AnadoluAgency.**

It is not easy to hold emotions, after visiting the Holocaust Museum in the heart of West Jerusalem. In dim lights, getting

transported into history, with slow gloomy music playing in the background, videos and pictures of trains whistling the past carrying Jews to concentration camps, shrieks of people being lashed and dragged to gas chambers melts even the stone-

Hearted person.

After experiencing such inhuman treatment, it was expected that the victims and their progeny would respect the values of humanity. But just years after World War II ended, the newly born Jewish state Israel began heaping a similar treatment on Palestinians and continues to rob them of their lives and livelihood.

And those in the West, who perpetuated inhuman crimes on Jews in the early 20th century, have now turned to Muslims as new punching bags. While promoting Islamophobia, they do not leave any occasion to attack Muslims and their symbols to make them feel mediocre.

Whether Danish cartoon issue of 2005 or a decade later Dutch parliamentarian Geert Wilders adding fuel to the fire by announcing a contest of cartoons depicting Prophet Muhammad or Charlie Hebdo, a French satirical weekly, joining them, the West takes shield of freedom of speech and expression to dismisses concerns of hurt Muslims. The reaction of protesting Muslims is dismissed as narrow mindedness contrary to modern-day values of democracy.

The trend to hurt Muslims is not now confined to the West only. In India -- the largest democracy in the world -- a pattern is emerging to incite the Muslim community by targeting the Prophet and his family members. The only silver lining is that unlike France, the government has not approved such things directly. But the inaction against hate-mongers speaks volumes.

Like senior journalist and former Secretary-General of Press Club of India Pushpendra Kulshrestha, several persons have been relentlessly posting blasphemous videos, contributing to Islamophobia. Many people, who have worked in the IT cell of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have come on record, claiming that they were given specific training to incite and hurt feelings of the Muslim community.

Under garb of freedom of expression

All this is done under the garb of freedom of expression, although the Indian constitution explicitly puts reasonable restrictions on the exercise of this right. Indian courts have made it clear that free expression cannot be equated or confused with a license to make unfounded and irresponsible charges or inciting hatred. Seven acts like defamation, contempt of court, the security of the state, damaging friendly relations with other states, inciting people to commit offense, sedition, and acts that perturb public order and peace have been kept out of the purview of the freedom of speech.

More than 100 books stand banned in India. Only recently a book Adivasis Will Not Dance authored by Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar was banned. Earlier in 2015 another book by Tamil

writer Pramul Murgan was not only banned, but its publishers were directed to burn all copies on their shelf. The author had challenged an ancient custom of Hinduism called Niyog, under which a childless woman is allowed to have physical relations outside marriage.

Similarly, the European countries also have put reasonable restrictions on freedom of expression. If that was not so, the courts in various European countries could not have prosecuted and sentenced authors, artists, and political activists, who indulge in the denial of the Holocaust. Since 1998, so far 20 people have been prosecuted and awarded severe sentences, with penalties for denying the Holocaust.

While there is no disagreement on keeping the Holocaust under the ambit of reasonable restrictions, there cannot be dual standards while demarcating boundaries of freedom of expression.

Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right that needs to be upheld, but no civilized society can swallow absolute freedom, which only means anarchy. Such a situation will prove the maxim, might is right, and seize rights of weaker sections. Therefore, journalistic freedom, though invaluable cannot be used to heap insults on Muslims and create a situation that was created for Jews in the early 20th century.

Promote tolerance

The need of the hour is to promote tolerance, liberal attitudes, pluralistic values and to develop an enduring attitude to bear each other. Muslims living in the West also need to reach out to people, instead of ghettoizing themselves. Their reactions should not be rash but with the logic that fits into the persona of the Prophet. Leading Pakistani Islamic scholar Muneer Ahmed Khalili has mentioned that Muslims have failed to tell the world that Holy Quran does not belong to Muslims, but to humanity, and they do not have any exclusivity on Prophet Muhammad, as he is blessing and mercy, for the whole mankind.

An acclaimed Leftist ideologue Kobad Gandhi, who spent some years in Delhi's Tihar Jail was put in a cell with a fellow Muslim prisoner for some months. After his release, he said that he came to know the first time that many values of communism had been preached in the Arab world 1,400 years ago by Prophet Muhammad.

Ball rests in OIC court

While it is time for Muslim organizations to reach out, a bigger duty rests on the shoulders of heads of Muslim nations, and more so on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). A few years ago, Saudi Arabia decided to terminate its diplomatic and trade relations with Canada, just because Toronto had raised concerns about human rights violations in the country. But the country never adopted such an attitude with those

countries, who are responsible for hurting Muslim sentiments. It is the insensitivity of Muslim rulers largely and shameless attitude that gives fuel to such elements to target Muslim symbols and the Prophet.

There is an urgent need for the OIC to call a session of its leaders and collectively take the lead in breaking this cycle of hate caused by Islamophobic acts. Similar red lines need to be drawn, which should define and ban blasphemous acts against religious symbols as Israel has drawn in the case of Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism. If any country, group, or individuals

crosses such redlines, they should be made to pay the costs.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan rightly put out in a letter to heads of Muslim nations that blasphemy against any prophet, including those of Christianity and Judaism, should be "unacceptable". The world cannot continue on a hate spiral which only benefits extremists and not only make the world more dangerous but prepare raw minds for another Holocaust.

****Opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of Anadolu Agency.**

KASHMIR, PAKISTAN AND ISSUE OF SELF-DETERMINATION

(Professor (Dr.) Imtiaz Kham)

All these years since the division of Indian sub-continent Pakistan has been considered as exponent for right of self-determination in Indian Occupied Kashmir (IOK) and bulwark against Indian tyranny. People of Kashmir have always looked towards Pakistan with the hope that this is the nation which will enable them to break their shackles of slavery and steer them to the path of freedom from Indian occupation. But in the recent years, some of the enigmatic statements and actions emerging from that country have created serious doubts in the Kashmiri minds. One of the recent examples is the seminar which was conducted at the prestigious venue of Islamabad and addressed by senior most officials of Government of Pakistan. To the utter dismay of all the freedom loving people of Kashmir the topic of discussion was "Restoration of autonomy and peace in IOK". This is a serious drift from the usual stand taken by the government of Pakistan: which is right of self-determination for people of Kashmir as promised by United Nations Security Council resolutions.

This could be dismissed as a lone incident and diplomatic faux pas by the Foreign office of Pakistan. However, there are some recent incidents which present a serious conundrum for people of the region and they remain mystified about the current policies of Pakistani government as regards to Kashmir problem. To quote one or two examples Foreign Minister Qureshi not a long time ago praised the post 370 abrogation stand taken by Farooq Abdullah. In a very recent interview on GNN TV when asked about Kashmir issue, Prime Minister Imran Khan stated that Indians have started realizing their mistake of abrogating article 370 and they have released some of the Kashmiri leaders. The Prime Minister is totally misinformed and Indians have not shown any such remorse. The fact of the matter is that till today almost all the pro freedom leaders are languishing in Indian jails and only people who have been set free are politicians like Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti who favor accession of

Kashmir to India. They are toxic to the cause and should not be touched even with a barge pole. These politicians are lackeys of Indian government and raise their voices only when they are deprived of plum posts. Once the goal is achieved they happily dance to their tunes and willingly collaborate in the decisions that are highly detrimental to the cause of self-determination. This should be made emphatically clear to higher echelons in the Pakistani government.

There should be a unwavering support for right of self-determination for the Kashmiri people. Under no circumstances the deviation from this stand should be allowed. Freedom of speech should be practiced but not at the cost of national security. In this regard I want to quote the manuscript authored by Dr. Moeed Yusuf who currently serves as National Security Advisor to Government of Pakistan. In this paper Dr. Yusuf states "Our analysis suggests that the dispute may be more 'ripe' for resolution today than it has ever been in the past. For the first time in the dispute's history, there is growing convergence over a core element of the solution, i.e. granting autonomy to Kashmiris." This kind of thought process is highly supportive of previous Indian stand on Kashmir and should be unequivocally castigated, chastised, discouraged. This is a flagrant violation of United Nations resolution and any individual in the government or opposition should be issued a public opprobrium for digressing from the official stand of Pakistan.

Overall it can be construed that in the recent years Pakistan has exhibited lackadaisical and slapdash approach towards Kashmir problem and it is the demand of the hour that their policies need to undergo radical transformation. It is undeniable that over the years Pakistan has paid immense price both in terms of men and material in fighting for Kashmir cause but over the last several years their actions have been languid and have not proven to be fruitful.

In the prevailing situation we have to do a serious brainstorming to determine the strategy needed to counter this

problem. Some of the measures need to be avoided. We should not put all the emphasis on human right issues and ignoring right of self-determination. Human right abuses are the symptoms of struggle for right of self-determination, which is the main ailment. The solution to the problem cannot be attained by addressing the symptoms alone. You have to take care of the ailment.

I want to state that I have been scientific writer since last 25 years. During this period, I have both submitted and reviewed grants. Any proposal which is deemed to cause incremental advancement in the field gets kiss of death. Also the grant which is categorized as overambitious gets triaged. So we need proposals which are well balanced and enable to move the field forward. Overall we should bring about a paradigm shift as far as this issue is considered. Obviously old strategies have not brought our goals to fruition and new course needs to be adopted. The question which demands strong attention is what steps Pakistan should take which can lead the people of Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination. Appreciating their limitations, albeit certain of these measures may result in positive outcomes and prove beneficial in the current situation:

A national consensus on Kashmir should be developed in Pakistan including both representatives of government and all opposition parties. This has not happened so far and onus of taking initiative in this direction lies on the party in power. They should set aside their political bickering and speak on this issue with one voice.

There should be both long-term and short-term policy on the issue. Currently it appears that decisions are taken in an arbitrary manner without any road map. "No success without strategy". Time is of essence and these steps should be taken with minimal delay. Indian government every other day is introducing fresh barbaric laws in IOK.

The mention about Kashmir issue should not be restricted to ceremonial occasions like black day (Oct 27) Kashmir day (Feb. 5) or July 13. I must mention here that at present every day in Kashmir is a "black day". There should be a round the year plan for Kashmir which may be subjected to change with emerging situation.

Just taking out processions on the streets of major Pakistani

cities on ceremonial occasions with sloganeering and chest thumping crowd may not yield tangible results. There should be strong effort to extract support from international community. Foreign Minister of Pakistan should lead a delegation to important countries and acquaint them about the problem and expostulate eloquently about the consequences of leaving this issue unresolved. We should remember during East Pakistan problem in 1971, Indira Gandhi who was the Prime Minister of India at that time took a whirlwind tour of major countries of the world and adequately articulated the case of India in front of these governments.

Time and again we have emphasized that Pakistan should have a special desk on Kashmir in all the major embassies of the world so that any new development is communicated rapidly to the foreign offices of these governments. We were informed by the foreign minister Qureshi that such desks exist, but this is not the case in Washington embassy. Based on this information I am highly skeptical about their presence in other countries. On several occasions Pakistan has been requested to approach and register a case against India at International Court of Justice for crimes against humanity. There is formidable evidence for the crimes like existence of mass graves, use of pellet guns, gang rapes for which India should be held accountable.

Under no circumstances Gilgit Baltistan should be annexed to Pakistan. This will provide unwanted legitimacy to Indian actions and they will throw a full media blitz on this issue.

I am sorry for going overboard as I found it difficult to present my thoughts in limited space. My heart is broken due to the current dilemma we are facing. I remember my father who was ardent lover of the freedom movement. This is during early nineties when the movement was in full steam. One day while sipping tea I found him in a somber mood. When I asked him if everything was okay he told me and I quote "Imtiaz I think I may not live the day when Kashmir attains the freedom but I am sure you will get to set your foot on the land of Kashmir bereft of foreign occupation". Unfortunately, today the idea of free Kashmir remains a mirage, a distant dream. Let us hope there is a divine intervention and my children get a chance.

Dr. Imtiaz Khan, Professor at School of Medicine and Health Sciences, The George Washington University, Washington, DC

PORTRAIT OF SECULAR INDIA

The track what Indian ruling elites have opted to travel on is leading to nowhere but to the country's annihilation. India got emancipated as a secular state and its constitution also defines it as such. Thus, it can survive only when it stands secular. Its founding leaders Mahatma Gandhi, Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru

and subsequent Congress leaders genuinely had the pride of its being a secular state. The Congress party with secular narrative prevailed upon Indian politics for decades and, so long as it stood in power, India posed



Bahri Karam Khan

Charming face before the global communities. For a state like India, demographically featured with pluralism and diversity, nothing other than secularism does suit. And, it is secularism indeed that has, so far, gone a long way in maintaining its integrity. Unfortunately, however, three decades back, the political landscape got infested with Hindu nationalism when the current ruling BJP resorted to the politics of religiosity for simple reason that without the same it couldn't compete the secular Congress. In December 1992, it demolished historic Babri Mosque sorrowful scenes of which the Muslims would never be able to forget. The BJP, that hardly could have a couple of seats in Lok Sabha by 1980s, via exploiting anti-Muslim passions of extremist Hindus voters, eventually ascended to power.

The BJP, it should be kept in mind, is political wing of the cluster of right-wing hardcore militant organizations including inter alia RSS and VHP labelled as Sang Parivar. They all are champions of the fascist 'Hindutva ideology' put forward by a Hindu bigot Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, back in 1923. Hindutva is major form of Hindu nationalism which, at the core, is anti-Muslim. The Nationalist Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the predecessor of ruling BJP, was founded by Syama Prasad Mukherjee, who together with Savarkar is known as 'father' of Hindu nationalism in India. Hence, implementation of Hindutva agenda is BJP's topmost priority. It was this spirit in view that the premier Narendra Modi-led BJP's government, in its first spell of power in 2014 onwards, embarked on steering India out of a secular state to a purely Hindu state. It is the same butcher Modi that had blood bath of hundreds of Muslims in Gujarat when he was the state Chief Minister there in 2002.

His first tenure was therefore featured with many anti-Muslim actions. To quote a few, cow slaughtering was banned in all the states (save a few) and, on mere allegation of violation, many Muslims and Dalits were lynched with no action taken against culprits. Triple talaq (divorce), an eminent provision of Muslim family laws, was criminalized. Muslims related names of places were changed inter alia including the historic city of Allahabad that was renamed as Prayag and it was planned to change other such names including Ahmadabad. And, in his second tenure, the disciple of Savarkar turned even more gruesome for the Muslims. Through the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the immigrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh have been allowed citizenship provided they are non-Muslims.

Imagine, the citizenry is conditioned with religion; what a joke? Alongside, National Register of Citizens (NRC) is to be maintained and whosoever fails to prove their bona fide citizenship — obviously the Muslims for having no documentary evidence — may be disenfranchised.

The Indian Supreme Court's flawed and biased ruling to build Ram temple on site of the razed Babri Mosque and laying its foundation by Modi in person is another landmark for secular India to turn into Hindu Rashtra where majoritarianism and authoritarianism would be the supreme laws and norms of the society. Through it, is conveyed an emphatic message to Muslims either to shun living in the rashtra or adapt to Hindutva culture. And, thus, it is another blot added to the blotted face Modi already has. Then, see its bizarre and draconian action in IoK too. Its special constitutional status has been done away with and further steps whatever needed for changing demography of this Muslim majority state in favour of India have accordingly been taken. Alongside, under complete lockdown, holocaust of armless Kashmiris is going on. Such Nazian act will however inflame further the already sizzling fire in the valley.

These are what Hindu nationalist government has done so far and, consequently, the Gandhian and Nehruvian secular India is transforming into the Sarvakarian and Mookerjian Hindu Rashtra with intolerance as its hallmark. And victims to such unprecedented Hindu chauvinism are the non-Hindu minorities viz Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and the low caste Dalits. Particularly, for Muslims, the situation has turned horrifying to an extent beyond which they are unable to afford bigotry any further. Apparently, no option remains with 180 million Muslims but to demand a 'safe-haven' in the Hindu Rashtra. This is despite India already having to counter serious uprisings in many of its states. Apart from Kashmir; Sikhs' movement for autonomous Khalistan is an open secret. In other states like Assam, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh, too, insurrections have been going on since long. In such critical condition, the de jure secular India can, by no means, afford to get converted into the de facto theocratic India. It is for these reasons the intelligentsia from within and outside have got convinced that Modi is swiftly driving the Rashtra towards disintegration and he is likely to turn another Mikhail Gorbachev on the score.

The writer is a retired officer of Provincial Management Service, KP.

WE WILL ALL BE NOMADS NOW

[Nayeema Ahmad Mahjoor](#)

The writer is an ex editor of BBC and penguin author of 'Lost in terror'. More than one million nomads of Jammu and Kashmir, mostly from the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities, who prefer to live in temporary sheds or mud houses in the forests and mountains, are facing forcible evictions from the government. The action has outraged all political and social circles across the region. Contrary to Kashmiri Muslims, the nomads of Jammu and Kashmir are widely believed to be convicted Indians who have never played any significant role in the freedom movement. After the partition of India and Pakistan, the majority of Muslims started a movement against the 'accession to India' by the then maharaja that left two countries with the volatile legacy of fighting wars, proxies and animosities unabated.

Public and political circles have expressed deep concern over the live coverage of the recent demolition and eviction of the nomads' temporary homes on media channels. "It has become a pattern of [the] BJP to intimidate first and then make it into [a] viral video to instil fear among Muslims", says Jamal Khan who had received an eviction notice recently. Some nomadic tribes have been accused of helping young people cross the border into Pakistan during the armed movement in the past. Yet, mainstream politicians have always considered them a safe vote bank and have never questioned their loyalty. Not a single political party thriving on this vote bank has ever thought seriously about the welfare, education and housing of these tribes roaming in the mountains, deserts and jungles. As per recent surveys, 95 percent of their population is illiterate, jobless and homeless.

They are a very hard working and religious people, and strict followers of their traditions. Wherever they go, they leave behind mud huts, quench their thirst with waterfalls, give birth in the open fields and eat organic food which is the secret of their health. I got a chance a decade ago to stay with a few nomad families and walked for three months with them. My documentary series 'Ghumaantu' on the nomads for the BBC looked deep into their unique lifestyle, customs and hardships. Under the Forest Act of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, gypsies were entitled to temporary residence in forests and mountains. They had rights to raise their livestock and subsist on local farming. Because of the inclement weather in Kashmir, they prefer to stay in the forests of the valley for about six months of summer and return to the hilly areas of Jammu for the remaining six months.

After the transfer of the state to the Union Territory on August 5

last year, when J&K was robbed of its constitution, identity and special status, more than 100 central laws were applied to Jammu and Kashmir except the Forest Act 2006 which would have allowed the gypsies to regain all these rights of grazing, farming and dwelling. Most of them have expressed fear that Hindutva policies were adopted to evict them from mud huts under the guise of saving the forests, and are expecting an amended forest act.

Harassing, evicting and banning temporary accommodation in the jungles after the rape and death of a seven-year-old nomad girl in the Rasana village of Kathua is seen as the beginning of a series of systematic policies by Hindu groups in Jammu. The forcible eviction process started soon after the heinous Rasana crime and before J&K was stripped of its special status.

Javed Rahi, an expert on tribal affairs, says: "The issue actually escalated when some environmental activists in Jammu petitioned the court that many Gujjars and Bakkerwals have taken over the forest land and they need to be evicted. It is important to note that the court issued an order to evict them out of the forests and pastures. Many families have received eviction notices and many already evicted. We have filed a petition in this regard in which we have requested to give rights to the gypsies under the Central Forest Act."

Muslims in Jammu feel terrified and have not forgotten the bloodshed of the 1940s during the partition of the Subcontinent when, according to some think tank reports, the Jansangh and the Maharaja's Dogra army killed three to five lakh Muslims and hundreds of thousands were forced to leave home and cross the border. A senior journalist from Jammu says that "such conditions are being deliberately recreated that a few percent of Muslims now left in Jammu will be forced to migrate from here."

The Muslims of Jammu were somewhat relieved by the Roshni Act which was introduced by Farooq Abdullah's government in 2001, by which the ownership of government land which has been occupied by some people could be obtained against a fixed amount. The objective was to generate another source of income for the government as well. According to an estimate of the government, giving property rights of 21,000 kanals of land could have earned the government Rs25,000 crore, but evidence shows that its benefits were grabbed by influential politicians, businessmen and top officials whose list is presumed to be compiled by the present government.

A few weeks ago, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court declared the 'Roshni scheme' illegal and unconstitutional. The court ordered an inquiry by the investigating agency, CBI.

Immediately after the verdict, most of the structures in the Muslim areas of Jammu and in the hilly areas of Kashmir began to be demolished. The demolition drive was condemned by mainstream leaders, who accused the BJP of plotting to evict Kashmiri Muslims from their land and dwellings.

Explaining this, the whistleblower on the Rasana rape case and human rights activist, Talib Hussain says, "The BJP in Jammu has been campaigning against Muslims for a long time under a well-organized conspiracy but they could not find any Muslim to target and make [a] viral video on social network platforms to create fear. Although, Kashmiri truck drivers or labourers are occasionally targeted if they pass by. They have now started intimidating Gujjars and Bakkarwals as a soft target. The plan was executed by spreading hatred against them, accusing them of stealing cattle and illegally occupying forest lands which has made them suspicious in the eyes of [the] Dogra community of

[the] Jammu region.

"It is, in fact, linked to [the] rape of Asifa when Ekta Manch and BJP ministers marched in favor of the perpetrators of rape. When the process of snatching citizenship rights from 22 crore Muslims in India is being carried out by [the] Hindutva regime, what could be the fate of these poor communities of Gujjars?"

Obviously, Muslims belonging to every class, sect or ethnicity in Jammu and Kashmir are the target of the BJP's Hindutva policy for which work is in full swing on an integrated program to eradicate the Muslim character of the region. More than 100 mega industrial projects are said to have been approved to destroy the forests of Kashmir. Soon the day will come when Ambanis and Adanis will be feudal lords of Kashmir, while homeless Kashmiris will be seen working in their own orchards on a daily wage basis. That is the dream of Hindutva for every Muslim in J&K.

CPEC: INDIA SPONSORING TERRORISM TO DESTABILIZE THE PROJECT



Muhammad Hanif

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is being jointly constructed with the Chinese investment of US \$ 62 billion. The project comprises a network of energy producing plants (hydro, coal, and solar powered), roads, railways, airports, dry ports, fibre optic lines for communications and industrial zones being built in Pakistan to connect Kashgar city of China with the Gwadar Port of Pakistan. The CPEC is being

built as a pilot project of China's Belt and Road (B&R) Initiative, that is aimed at interconnecting various regions and continents of the world as part of Chinese President XI Jinping's vision of shared destinies with China's neighbours and beyond through joint infrastructure and economic development projects.

The CPEC will interconnect China, Central Asian Republics (CARs), Russia, the Middle East and Africa through the warm

waters of the Arabian Sea for facilitating wider and large scale trade, investment and tourism which will help bring prosperity to the people of these areas. As the CPEC project is designed to help boost Pakistan's economic development, it can be rightly called as a gateway to the prosperity of Pakistan. The CPEC will benefit not only Pakistan and China, but the whole region, including, Afghanistan, Iran, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, CARs, Russia, ASEAN, the Middle East and North African countries.

Whereas all the above mentioned South Asian and the countries of other neighbouring regions have shown their interest in joining the CPEC, it is only India that has declined to join this project. Rather, India has started opposing the CPEC, thus denying huge economic benefits the CPEC can accrue to its people to address its rampant poverty. Also, instead of using CPEC to transport its goods to Afghanistan and CARs just within two days, India chose a very long and costly trade route with these countries through the sea to Iran's Chabahar port, to Afghanistan to the CARs via road that will take about two months for the goods to reach the CARs.

India's opposition to the CPEC is deeply ingrained in its strategy of attaining its hegemony in South Asia by preferring geopolitics over Geo-economics. As Pakistan does not accept Indian hegemony, India is trying to weaken Pakistan economically by containing its CPEC boosted economic development. India is not only opposing the CPEC through diplomatic statements, it is in fact, sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan using the Afghan soil to destabilize the construction of the CPEC. In this context, India is sponsoring sabotage and terrorist attacks along the CPEC route in KP and Balochistan provinces by using its Embassy and Consulates in Afghanistan to deter the Chinese engineers from working on the project. In this context, the confessions of Kulbhushan Jadhav, Indian Naval Spy Officer, that he was assigned to destabilize Balochistan by sponsoring terrorism, and the 14 November 2020 joint press conference by the Pakistani Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mehmood Qureshi and the DG ISPR, Major General Babar Iftikhar, containing evidence of India's involvement in sponsoring terrorism in Balochistan, KP and Karachi, are a sufficient proof that India is sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan.

As published by the Business Recorder and the Echo News dated 15 November 2020, in the above mentioned presser, The FM and DG ISPR presented a dossier detailing India's involvement in sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan. The salient

features of the dossier described areas follows. Pakistan has the evidence that while it is combating terrorism, India is promoting terrorism in Pakistan by using its soil to surround Pakistan "in a web of terrorism". India has distributed Rs22 billion for the purpose of promoting and carrying out terror attacks in Pakistan. India's objectives are to destabilize Pakistan and to disrupt the development of the CPEC as India knows that the project's success can be an economic game changer for Pakistan.

The Indian Consulates operating along Pakistan borders have become hubs of terrorist sponsorship against Pakistan. Indian intelligence agencies, RAW and DIA are providing money, weapons, equipment, explosive devices (IEDs), suicide jackets and training support to the dissidents. The Indian intelligence agent, Colonel Rajesh, who works at the Indian embassy in Afghanistan, is the primary planner and coordinator of terrorist attacks in Pakistan. Pakistan has evidence of terrorist financing from India because RAW conducted transactions through Indian banks to promote terrorism in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. New Delhi has intensified its contacts with all the brands of terrorists, sub-nationalists and dissidents who operate against Pakistan.

To destabilize the CPEC, New Delhi has set up a cell in the RAW offices with the sole objective to disrupt the CPEC projects. According to the global village, the cell operates under the supervision of Indian Premier Narendra Modi. A sum of Rs.80 billion has been allocated to the cell for this purpose. There are also reports that India has established a 700-strong militia to target CPEC projects. Pakistan is well prepared to counter India's evil designs and it has established and deployed two security divisions to safeguard the projects and the personnel working on them. Pakistan plans to present this dossier to the UN, the OIC and P5.

Given the alarming situation referred to above, in order to counter India's nefarious designs, Pakistan must take the case to the UNSC, to the OIC, the FATF and other important international fora and to lay out India's strategy to sponsor terrorism in Pakistan.

Pakistan should also present the evidence to the P5 countries to convince them that India must be declared by the UNSC, a state sponsoring terrorism and liable to international sanctions, and its name should be on the FATF blacklist. If the international community does not act aggressively against India, the situation will eventually lead to a catastrophic war between two nuclear neighbours.

INDIA'S TERRORIST PLOT AGAINST PAKISTAN

Under the façade of democracy India has long been engaged in pushing its hegemonic designs by fomenting trouble in neighbouring countries, including Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Nepal. Now Pakistan has come out with solid, irrefutable evidence of India covertly sponsoring terrorism in Balochistan and its other provinces. Holding a joint media conference recently, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and DG ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar explained in detail how India was sabotaging the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and supporting terrorism in Pakistan. Briefing the media, the country's top diplomat and the military spokesperson presented a dossier detailing India's involvement in terror attacks in Pakistan. Numerous video clips and audio clips, along with documents, were presented during the media conference as proof of Indian handlers and terrorists communicating with each other and Indian intelligence operatives giving instructions to their agents in Pakistan. The dossier contains elaborate details proving India's involvement in numberless acts of sabotage, bombings and killings across Pakistan.

International opinion has acknowledged that over a few years, Islamabad has scored remarkable success in fighting terrorism and smashing militants' networks targeting the people of Pakistan. But, in a nefarious attempt to undo the achievements of Islamabad, India has been weaving a dark web of terrorist rings aimed at sully the image of Pakistan which has emerged as the frontline state in the war on terror.

There is incontrovertible proof of Indian intelligence agencies supporting terrorist groups who have been exposed and outlawed by Pakistan. A study of the trail of events over the last three years shows that India has enlisted various terrorist organisations which were driven out of Pakistan by its security forces. The recent upsurge in violence in Pakistan is a direct consequence of New Delhi's intensified engagements with various groups of terrorists, sub-nationalists and dissidents operating against Pakistan.

Evidence has surfaced to show that India has hatched a multi-layered plot to destabilise Pakistan. According to intelligence reports, New Delhi has now planned an upsurge in terrorist activities in Pakistan, especially in its urban centres, in coming days with a view to rattle Pakistan. The recent terrorist attack on the Karachi stock exchange building and an endless series of suicide bombings and target killings in Balochistan and KPK are standing proofs of India's diabolical designs against Pakistan.

An officer of RAW named Anurag Singh gave \$0.5 million

dollars to terrorists who attacked Pearl Continental Hotel Gwadar sometime back. Indian embassies and consulates operating along Pakistan's borders with Afghanistan have become a hub of terror sponsorship against Pakistan, with Indian ambassadors



Dr. Jumma Khan Marri

in Afghanistan supervising and directing the terrorist operations. In one such recent instance, Indian ambassador in Afghanistan and Indian consular in Jalalabad held detailed discussions with co-conspirators to provide financial support to TTP and dissident Baloch elements. The Indian mission in Afghanistan has also paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to sub-nationalist groups under the garb of humanitarian assistance. Details of the transactions for such activities are in possession of the authorities in Pakistan. India is also trying to defame Pakistan by creating 'Daesh-e-Pakistan'. As per available evidence, recently 30 Indian Daesh militants were relocated from India to various camps along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border by two Indian intelligence agencies operatives. These militants were handed over to Daesh Commander Shiekh Abdul Rahimalias Abdul Rehman Muslim Dost.

A prime target of India's terrorist plan is CPEC which is universally acknowledged as an economic game changer for Pakistan. To this end New Delhi has established a special cell within its intelligence agency tasked with sabotaging CPEC projects. The cell with a hefty sum of Rs 80 billion at its disposal works directly under the supervision of the Indian prime minister and its mandate is to ensure the failure of CPEC at any cost. Simultaneously, India has established a 700-strong militia to mount terrorist attacks on CPEC projects through militants specially trained for this purpose.

Another target of the Indian subversive activities is Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) where it is trying to fuel sectarian strife and foment trouble against the federal government through sectarian and sub-nationalist groups. In this connection, a meeting was held by India's Ministry of Home Affairs to "deliberate upon the methodology to trigger negative reactions" with regard to the provisional provincial status of the region. To this end, various subversive operations in Kashmir and GB have been planned in the coming months.

According to security experts, the Indian terrorist plot has three main objectives. The first is to create turmoil in Pakistan and thus impede its pace of peaceful progress. The second objective is to unsettle Pakistan's economy and scuttle its development plans. The third objective is to create political instability in

Pakistan through its paid agents. To fulfil its designs, New Delhi is reported to have distributed Rs22 billion so far among sub-nationalist groups, sectarian outfits and terrorist cells to create divisions and disaffection among people.

All the evidences cited above are enough to get India declared a rogue state because it is providing financial and material support to various terrorist organisations, including UN designated terrorist outfits Jammāt-ul-Ahrar (JUA),

Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The international community must take strong notice of India's flagrant violation of international laws and conventions and the threat it poses to peace in the region. Pakistan has presented the dossier on India's state terrorism to UN, OIC and P5 Countries, and it is now for the world to act before it is too late.

The writer is a senior political activist from Balochistan.

WHO WILL BE THE BENEFICIARY OF AFGHAN PEACE?

Afghanistan is again at the crossroads. Outgoing US President Donald Trump has directed withdrawal of the remaining forces from Afghanistan, while retaining 2,500, which according to critics is highly insufficient to meet the grave security challenges in the war-ravaged country. In the meantime, Prime Minister Imran Khan's first-ever visit to Kabul on November 19, and his joint press conference with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani reflected consensus between the two countries to help establish peace in Afghanistan against all odds.

In 2020, two major developments which can help unleash the process of peace in beleaguered Afghanistan relate to the February Doha Agreement between the US and the Taliban for the former's withdrawal of forces and the latter's readiness to not resort to violence and attacks on American troops. Subsequently, the Doha talks also paved the way for the holding of intra-Afghan peace dialogue involving the Afghan government, the Taliban, civil society groups and other political figures of Afghanistan to agree on a mechanism for a lasting peace in the war-torn country.

One wonders if it is that easy to transform Afghanistan from a conflict and violent-ridden to a peaceful country. Who will be the beneficiary if peace is established in Afghanistan? Why do Afghans remain divided in order to put their own house in order? Since July 1973, when monarchy was abolished in Afghanistan and power was seized by Sardar Daud, the first cousin of emperor Zahir Shah, the country has been in turmoil which reached its peak in April 1978, when Daud was assassinated in a coup on April 27, 1978, which brought the pro-Soviet People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) in power and culminated into the Soviet military intervention on December 27, 1979. The rest is history.

Around one million Afghans have been killed in foreign military interventions of Soviet Union (1979-89) and the US-led coalition forces from October 2001 till today. Millions of Afghans are rendered homeless and ended up as refugees in Pakistan, Iran and other countries. Three generations of Afghans have been destroyed in civil war and foreign intervention in their country and still there is no letup as far as

violence and terrorism is concerned. What is the future of 40 million Afghans because unless the country is stable and peaceful it will continue to destabilise its neighbours particularly Pakistan.



Dr. Moonis Ahmar

Based on the ground realities, one can figure out three reasons to prove that peace will not return to Afghanistan so soon. First, the culture of Afghanistan militates against hope and efforts for peace in the turbulent country. Still categorised as tribal and ultra-conservative, with no hope of enlightenment, tolerance and harmony at the societal level, whether it is the Afghan government, the Taliban, warlords or political parties, there is marginal ownership among Afghans as far as the peace process, political pluralism and democracy is concerned. Periodic suicide and rocket attacks and numerous acts of violence claimed by Daesh, the Taliban and other militant groups is sufficient to prove how difficult it is to establish the rule of law. Absence of awareness for peace and security in their country is a major reason for violence and armed conflicts in Afghanistan.

When there is a meagre support and political will among local stakeholders for the people of Afghanistan to be a major beneficiary of peace, how can one expect a breakthrough as far as a meaningful agreement to end decades of armed conflict is concerned? For the elites of Afghanistan, who are the beneficiaries of this conflict, the ordeals and sufferings of the common people do not matter. Second, it is not only the people of Afghanistan who are to be the real beneficiary of longstanding peace in their war-torn country. There are to be other benefactors, including Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan's Central Asian neighbours. As rightly said by PM Imran Khan that after Afghans, Pakistanis would be the real beneficiaries of peace in Afghanistan. Yet, while Pakistan and other Afghan neighbours can benefit from peace, they can certainly not do much to stabilise things because of internal dynamics. Knowing that they will be the major beneficiary of peace, why have the Afghan people failed? Why have they transformed Afghanistan of 1973 which was stable and peaceful into a failed state?

Blaming external powers and neighbours for playing havoc with Afghanistan will not help because at the end of the day only those who wield power are responsible for perpetual violence and bloodshed in the country.

Yet there are those who have enormously benefited from decades of wars and violence in Afghanistan. There are those who made a lot of money in the name of Afghan jihad and also those who earned millions of dollars after the dismantling of the Taliban regime and foreign intervention. During Musharraf's regime hundreds of wanted Al Qaeda and Taliban members were handed over to the US after taking enormous amounts of money. The mafias in Pakistan and Afghanistan along with military contractors of the US are also the beneficiaries of wars in Afghanistan. Furthermore, a major beneficiary of killing fields in Afghanistan are the warlords who after the US-led military intervention and the overthrow of the Taliban regime emerged as real estate tycoons and investors. Nowhere are the Afghan people the beneficiaries as they are the ones who have suffered endlessly.

Third, political wisdom and prudence of the Afghan people and of the political parties will go a long way in transforming Afghanistan from a conflict to a zone of peace and tranquility. But, such wishful thinking militates against ground realities of the unfortunate country. Billions of dollars of foreign aid and investment after 9/11 poured into Afghanistan to rebuild and

reconstruct the country by restructuring its justice system, armed forces, police and bureaucracy but no qualitative change took place in terms of rule of law, justice system and good governance. The US spent around \$1 trillion in Afghanistan in its longest war but has almost withdrawn without achieving the desired results. Afghanistan is as violent and insecure as it was two decades ago because its leadership neither has ownership nor political will and determination to put their own house in order.

The way out from the prevailing predicament of Afghanistan is unity and determination of the people of Afghanistan and their leadership to sort out issues themselves which are of a domestic nature instead of being dependent on external powers. About 80% of Afghan budget is financed from external sources and neither the human nor enormous natural/mineral resources are utilised by those in power in Afghanistan. One can only hope that sanity will prevail in Afghanistan and its people will get a break from decades of violence and bloodshed. With around 99% population composed of Muslims, it is ironical how Muslims can kill Muslims without regret of causing loss of innocent lives. Afghans must be innovative in how to establish peace in their own country.

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WORLD SHOULD ACT AGAINST INDIA

Editorial Pakistan Observer

Indian state sponsored terrorism is no longer a secret. Pakistan is amongst the worst affected by this terrorism. New Delhi through its intelligence agency RAW is patronizing and providing all-out support to terrorist groups to perpetrate acts of terrorism in Pakistan.

A meeting of Corps Commanders presided over by Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Tuesday expressed serious concerns over Indian efforts to destabilize Pakistan. Last week, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and DG ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar presented a dossier containing irrefutable evidence of Indian involvement in acts of terrorism in Pakistan. Apart from this dossier, reports emanating from the UN and the US have also disclosed as to how India is playing a dangerous game against Pakistan. The top secret files of the US Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) uncovered the involvement of Indian banks, including the state-owned banks, in money laundering through transactions used in facilitating and financing acts of terrorism, particularly in

the region. All these reports prove true the admission statement made by Kulbhushan Jadhav that he was sent to Pakistan to foment militancy and sabotage the multibillion dollars China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project. Then what is happening both in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as against minorities especially Muslims in India is known to everybody. For how long, the world will show indifference to the crimes that Modi junta is committing against humanity. It is now or never for the world community to rise above its political and economic expediency and take a decisive action against the terrorist country. Sanctions should be imposed on India whilst the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) should blacklist it until it corrects its course. If India is not stopped today, it will have serious and dangerous consequences for peace and stability of not only this volatile region but the world at large. Muslim countries have also a responsibility. As regards Pakistan's defence forces are concerned, we have no doubt in saying they, fully backed by the nation, are fully prepared to respond to any Indian misadventure.

News Section

President Alvi for highlighting Kashmir dispute

Islamabad (KMS): President Dr Arif Alvi has asked Pakistan's



Ambassador-designate to Egypt Sajid Bilal to highlight the Kashmir dispute during his stay in Egypt. In a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Egypt, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, here, President Alvi asked him to particularly highlight the atrocities being committed by India against the Muslim population of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in the host country.

President Alvi also said Pakistan attached great significance to its relations with Egypt and desired to further promote and diversify bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interests. He said both countries enjoyed close ties, which needed to be further strengthened in the areas of trade, cultural and defence. He expressed the confidence that he would make concerted efforts for improving the bilateral relations with Egypt.

Kashmiris, Palestinians need unity of purpose'

Azad Kashmir president, think tank director argue for cooperation, collaboration among Kashmiris, Palestinians
Ankara (Riyaz ul Khaliq) Kashmiris and Palestinians need "unity of purpose" among themselves to succeed in their common struggle, experts and advocates speaking at a video conference said on Wednesday.

At the conference titled, A conversation on Kashmir and Palestine and the Struggle for Freedom, President of Pakistani-administered Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Masood Khan said the movements of both freedom movements should cooperate and collaborate at international forums. "The issues have come out of the nationalism borders because of civilizational fault lines," he said. The conference was jointly hosted by Istanbul-based think tank Center for Islam and Global Affairs (CIGA) and Kashmir Civitas, an international advocacy group. "India is using the cover of COVID-19 to ethnically cleanse Kashmiris. They are being persecuted because they are Muslims," Khan said. Khan said: "The Israeli state is doing the same to the Palestinians what Nazis did in the 1930s and India has taken a leaf from the Israeli playbook [...] it is adopting the

so-called Nuremberg laws in Indian-occupied Kashmir which are aimed at forcing people to migrate." However, he added that there were "signs of renaissance in the Muslim world." "I've toured Turkey, Malaysia and other countries, despite conflicts in the Muslims world, there is an opportunity for coalition building." CIGA Director Sami Al-Arian, himself a Palestinian, drew similarities between the issues of Kashmir and Palestine, saying both were born out of British imperialism.

"The Kashmir dispute and Palestinian issue are so similar that both the nations have been promised the right to self-



determination, which have not been fulfilled," said Al-Arian.

Al-Arian argued that India and Israel were "increasingly cooperating, in order to coordinate their tactics of occupation." "The prime ministers of both the countries are hostile to the indigenous faith of the people, especially Islam," said Al-Arian, who is also a Public Affairs Professor at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University. For his part, President Khan warned that the situation in Kashmir could "lead to war" between Pakistan and India. "There can be a rise in armed resistance in Kashmir [against India] [...] one cannot suppress 14 million like this," he added. Kashmir, a Muslim-majority Himalayan region, is held by India and Pakistan in parts and claimed by both in full. A small sliver of Kashmir is also held by China.

Since they were partitioned in 1947, the two countries have fought three wars in 1948, 1965, and 1971 two of them over Kashmir.

Some Kashmiri groups in Jammu and Kashmir have been fighting against Indian rule for independence, or for unification with neighboring Pakistan.

According to several human rights organizations, thousands of people have reportedly been killed in the conflict in the region since 1989.

Asserting that Kashmiris and Palestinians needed "strong leadership and unity of purpose," al-Arian said: "We need to

bring people together as a common goal for the two movements."

"All those who believe in justice and truth must emphasize that from Kashmir to Palestine, occupation is a crime."

Al-Arian, who lived in the US for four decades until 2015, said: "There is a need to start and coordinating the BDS [Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions] movement, it needs to be embraced, go beyond Israel."

"There are millions of Indians who live in Muslim lands, in the Gulf, taking billions of dollars home [...] these are small steps, but over the time, it will accumulate," he added.

Khan, in turn, said Pakistan and Kashmir were always on the side of Palestinians.

"The two nations are facing an existential threat and if the international community does not act, these entities, their cultures, populations will be wiped out," he said.

He urged the making of coalitions "not just in the Muslim world but across the continents, religious and political spectrum."

AJK PM Farooq Haider, COAS Bajwa discuss matters of mutual interest: DG ISPR

Rawalpindi (Dunya News) Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K)



Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider Khan met Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Director General Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar said in his tweet on Thursday.

The DG ISPR told that Raja Farooq Haider and General Qamar Javed Bajwa discussed matters of mutual interest, particularly the situation on the Line of Control (LoC) and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

COAS Bajwa reiterated Pakistan Army's utmost support and commitment to the Kashmir cause and the people of Kashmir, Major General Babar Iftikhar said.

AJK premier asks Islamabad to expose Indian designs

Muzaffarabad: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider on Saturday asked Islamabad to alert the international community about Indian designs, fearing



it could resort to some mischief like that of the one in February last year. "I have full faith in Pakistan army, which has given befitting replies to India in the past and will continue to do so in future, but I want the government of Pakistan to seriously ponder the likelihood of any other misadventure by India like it had done in the wake of Pulwama attack," he said at a press conference, referring to the intrusion of Indian jets into Pakistani airspace in February last year.

"Though militarily we are prepared [to face India], we should also make full preparations on the diplomatic front and tell the world that India is out to do some mischief... The [central] government should fulfill its responsibilities in this regard," he added. Referring to an encounter in Kupwara sector on the night of Nov 7 and 8, which the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) had also referred to in its Friday's press release, the AJK prime minister maintained that the UN Charter gave right to people to engage in an armed struggle for freedom of their motherland from the occupiers and oppressors.

"It is also the responsibility of the neighbouring countries, such as Pakistan and China, to extend material support to the people who have been enslaved by India in blatant violation of the UN Security Council resolutions," he said.

Quoting COAS Qamar Javed Bajwa, who he met the other day, Mr Haider said Pakistan army had conveyed a message to the Indian army to restrict its attacks [shelling] to the military installations on the opposite side rather than the civilian populations.

However, the Indian army did not agree to it for it had been reduced to an unprofessional militia, he said.

He said around 610,000 people inhabited the areas along the Line of Control (LoC) and by abruptly resorting to unprovoked and indiscriminate shelling, India wanted to achieve two objectives.

Elaborating, he said, India was out to frighten the LoC residents into leaving their homes to render Pakistan army all alone in those areas because it knew that no army could win any war without support from the local population

Continuing, he said, India also wanted to create unrest in AJK

because it was a difficult task to permanently rehabilitate a population of more than 600,000 from along the LoC elsewhere in the 5000 sq. miles small AJK territory. To a question about what had been discussed by him with Gen Bajwa he said they talked about many issues but since he was under an oath he could not say anything that could alert or benefit the enemy.

To a question about his tweet in the wake of yesterday's losses due to Indian shelling, he reiterated that Pakistan army was fully capable of defending every inch of AJK.

To another question, he said no government could divide Jammu and Kashmir and if at all any such decision was taken, it would be with the mutual consultation of Kashmiris from all units of the erstwhile princely state.

Mr Haider also invited AJK leadership "in this hour of trial" to forge unity to give a befitting answer to Indian aggression.

"I have no issues with whatever statements you give against me, but I want them to get united... True we don't have weapons in our hands but national unity is more powerful than weapons."

FM Qureshi urges OIC to raise its voice against Islamophobia



NIAMEY: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday urged the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to raise its voice against Islamophobia ahead of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers' meeting on November 27. FM Qureshi, leading the Pakistani delegation, landed in Niger on Thursday following which he had a meeting with the OIC Secretary-General Yousef Bin Ahmad Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Othaimeen. Talking about Muslims around the world, he said that the community has been deeply concerned about the rising trend of Islamophobia. "The OIC should send a message to discourage Islamophobia," the foreign minister urged.

Moreover, FM Qureshi said that India's Hindutva ideology is a

threat to the security of the South Asian region.

During the talks, Qureshi expressed concerns over the serious human rights violations being committed in the Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJK).

"India aims to change the population ratio in occupied Jammu and Kashmir," the foreign minister informed Othaimeen.

The 47th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation will start on Friday in Niamey, Niger.

This two-day session from November 27-28 has been long awaited by Pakistan, which had earlier called for an Emergency Session of the CFM to take up the draconian decision of India in which it revoked the special status of the IOJK.

Representatives of 57 OIC member states and five observer states are expected to attend the meeting.

Aside from the moot, the FM is expected to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts and heads of delegations of member states.

Pak rep presents dossier to UNSG on India's sponsorship of terrorism

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN) Munir Akram called on United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New York and presented him the Pakistan's dossier, containing irrefutable evidence of India's sponsorship of terrorism in the country. During the meeting that took place at the UN Headquarters in New York he briefed the UN Secretary General about the Indian involvement in terrorist activities in Pakistan. Ambassador Akram apprised the UN chief that Indian was involved in orchestrating terrorist attacks in Pakistan and demanded him to take note of this.

Later, addressing a virtual news conference Munir Akram said India is involved in sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan and in the region and wants to paralyse Pakistan's economy. He said the UN Security Council's team is also investigating Indian terrorism in Pakistan which is an open violation of United Nation charter and international laws. Munir Akram said the Pakistan's dossier of Indian terrorism will also be handed over to the member countries of UN Security Council. He said India is continuously involved in ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) and Pakistan reserves the right to defence itself against any kind of Indian aggression.

The ambassador said Indian is also consistently involved in sabotaging the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which has a pivotal role in Pakistan's development.

Indian shelling injures 11 civilians, including 4 kids, at a wedding in AJK village

(Tariq Naqash) At least 11 people, including four children, were injured in Azad Jammu and Kashmir's Kotli district on Sunday



after a mortar shell, fired by Indian forces from across the Line of Control (LoC), hit a house where a wedding function was underway. Indian forces had resorted to "unprovoked" shelling, which continued for over an hour, at around 10am in the Seri sector, Khuiratta subdivision Assistant Commissioner Syed Naseem Abbas said.

Initial reports had suggested that one of the victims, a seven-year-old girl named Hoorain, had been martyred. It later emerged, however, that she was unconscious due to traumatic brain injury. The child is in critical condition and will undergo

surgery at Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Rawalpindi tomorrow. Three other children, aged five, nine and 10 years, also among the injured. Another victim, 50-year-old Zoobena Ajaib, who suffered several fractures, was also being shifted to CMH, Rawalpindi owing to her serious condition. Other victims include Hoorain's mother Sajida Kausar, 35, Suman, 20, Muhammad Hanif, 60, Sarwar Jan, 55, Arooj Zaroob, 22 and

50-year-old Khurshid Begum. Due to a government-imposed lockdown, the wedding was being held at home, AC Abbas said. He further said that two victims had been discharged from a local health facility after treatment, while the remaining injured were taken to District Headquarters Hospital, Kotli. Medical Superintendent Dr Nasrullah Sadiq said that seven victims had been admitted at the DHQ Hospital and were out of danger. Earlier, rumours that Hoorain had passed away had circulated on social media and even AJK Prime Minister Raja Farooq Haider had said that she had been martyred.



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN IOK

(From Jan 1989 till Nov 30, 2020)

Total Killings *	95,724
Custodial Killings	7,155
Civilian arrested	161,163
Structures Arsoned/Destroyed	110,375
Women Widowed	22,924
Children Orphaned	107,811
Women gang-raped / Molested	11,231

— STOP KILLING IN — KASHMIR

