

Documents July-December 2019

I. Foreign Policy

A. AFGHANISTAN

1. Firing incident along Pakistan-Afghanistan border

Pakistan regrets the Afghanistan government's twisting of facts about some recent incidents of firing along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

As a matter of policy, Pakistan does not fire across Pak-Afghan Border. Cross border attacks by Terrorists on Army/FC posts are responded to in self-defense only. Pakistan has formally shared location of these terrorist camps in the areas mentioned and has requested Government of Afghanistan to deploy its forces in these areas to bring it under their effective control.

We hope Afghanistan will do the needful in line with the mutual understanding on these issues.

Islamabad, 28 August 2019.

2. U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad calls on the Prime Minister

U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad called on Prime Minister Imran Khan in New York today. They discussed Afghanistan and Pakistan-U.S. joint efforts for peace in Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister appreciated Amb. Khalilzad's efforts for promoting a peaceful, political settlement in Afghanistan. He recalled that Pakistan had always held that there was no military solution to the Afghan conflict. Pakistan would, therefore, continue to support all initiatives towards achieving a sustainable peace in Afghanistan and hoped for an early resumption of the peace process.

Condemning the recent surge of violence in Afghanistan, the Prime Minister said that peace in Afghanistan was vital to advancing his Government's vision for a peaceful neighborhood and for economic development and regional stability. All parties must play their role in strengthening peace and promoting reconciliation as a shared responsibility

Amb. Khalilzad appreciated the Prime Minister's support for the Afghan peace and reconciliation process, and said he looked forward to continue working with Pakistan for peace and stability in Afghanistan.

22 September 2019.

3. Closure of Crossing Points along Pak-Afghan Border

In view of the upcoming Presidential election and in support of domestic transition in Afghanistan, it has been decided to enhance security along Pak-Afghan border by implementing following measures:

1. Strict security check of all pedestrians and trading vehicles from 26-29 September 2019.
2. Closure of all passage ways / Cargo terminals (except for emergency patients) on 27-28 September 2019.

Islamabad, 26 September 2019.

4. Joint Statement by Russia, China, the United States of America and Pakistan on the Afghan Peace Process (Moscow, October 25, 2019)

The Special Representatives of Russia, China, the United States of America held their fourth consultation on the Afghan peace process in Moscow on October 25, 2019. Russia, China, the United States and Pakistan also held the Second Round of four-party consultations. Respectful of the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, participants discussed ways to support the Afghan people's desire for a lasting peace. To that end, participants:

1. Acknowledged the widespread and sincere demand of the Afghan people for lasting peace and an end to the war.
2. Reviewed the current situation in Afghanistan and their joint efforts to reach sustainable settlement in the country by political and diplomatic means.
3. Confirmed that a sustainable peace can be achieved only through a negotiated political settlement.
4. Russia, China and Pakistan expressed their support for the earliest resumption of negotiation process and reaching an agreement between the United States of America and the Taliban movement, which will pave the way for launching Intra-Afghan talks.
The participants:
5. Committed to work with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, both government leaders and others, and the Taliban to reach a comprehensive and sustainable peace agreement that ends the war for the benefit of all Afghans and that contributes to regional stability and global security.
6. In order to create an environment conducive for negotiations, urged all sides to immediately reduce violence.

Source: www.mofa.gov.pk

B. FORIENG POLICY

Designation of Balochistan Liberation Army by the US Administration as Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT)

We have taken note of the designation by the U.S. Administration of the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) as Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

BLA remains a proscribed entity in Pakistan since 2006 and in recent times has carried out several terrorist attacks in the country.

It is hoped that this designation will ensure that BLA's space to operate is minimized.

It is important that the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and external sponsors including those glorifying these acts of terror against Pakistan are held accountable and brought to justice.

Islamabad, 2 July 2019.

C. TAJIKISTAN

1. Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Commission Meeting in Dushanbe

The 6th Session of the Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific-Technical Cooperation was held at Dushanbe on 2 July 2019. The Pakistan delegation was headed by Mr. Omar Ayub Khan, Federal Minister for Energy and Petroleum; the Tajik side was led by Mr. Usmonzoda Usmonali, Minister of Energy and Water Resources.

The two sides reviewed the progress made towards the implementation of the decisions taken during the 5th Session of the Joint Commission, held in Islamabad on 15-16 June 2016. On the sidelines, the 2nd meeting of the Joint Working Group on Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector was also held.

At the end of the Joint Commission Session, the two sides signed a Protocol recognizing the vast potential that needed to be tapped by both countries through joint efforts. The two sides also reiterated their resolve to further boost bilateral ties in diverse fields including trade, energy, road & air connectivity, banking & finance, tourism, culture, sports, education, science & technology, agriculture, and audit and accounts to mutual benefit.

Minister Omar Ayub Khan also held bilateral meetings with the Tajik Foreign Minister and the Minister for Economy and Trade, in which they two sides committed to further deepen bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. They also identified and resolved to focus on new avenues of cooperation, particularly in the fields of transport and energy connectivity.

The meetings were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. The 6th Session of the Pakistan-Tajikistan Joint Commission will help in further diversifying and strengthening the already flourishing bilateral relations between the two countries. The 7th Session of the Joint Commission is expected to be held next year in Islamabad.

Pakistan and Tajikistan enjoy close brotherly ties, underpinned by bonds of history, faith and culture and a strong resolve at the leadership level to take the relations to a new level. The bilateral relationship figures prominently in Pakistan's vision for deeper engagement with Central Asia.

Islamabad, 3 July 2019.

2. Pakistan Calls for Closer Regional Cooperation

The first Six Nations Regional Cooperation Meeting against terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal migration and organized crimes was held on 3-4 July in Istanbul, Turkey.

The countries represented at the Meeting included Turkey, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan. Pakistan delegation to the Meeting was led by Secretary for Interior Azam Suleman Khan.

The Meeting, organized by Turkey, is aimed at establishing a new cooperation mechanism among the regional countries to deal with the issues of terrorism, irregular migration, drug trafficking and organized crimes.

In his statement, Secretary Interior Azam Suleman Khan appreciated the initiative of the Republic of Turkey to enhance regional cooperation on important issues affecting all the participating countries.

He highlighted Pakistan's efforts in the fight against terrorism and the achievements the country has made in this regard. He particularly highlighted the enormous sacrifices made by the valiant armed forces and law enforcement agencies of Pakistan in countering the threat of terrorism.

The Secretary Interior also shared the efforts Pakistan has made to combat irregular migration. Referring to loss of thousands of precious lives in illegal transit, he underscored that while dealing with the issue of irregular migration, its human side must not be overlooked. He also shared Pakistan's efforts in countering drug trafficking and organized crimes.

Measures taken by Pakistan in these areas were highly appreciated.

The Interior Secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to close cooperation with regional countries to achieve the shared objectives of countering the common threats through joint efforts.

On the sidelines, the Secretary Interior held bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Islamabad, 5 July 2019

D. FRANCE

Smuggled archaeological artifacts returned to Pakistan by France

Pakistan is home to some of the oldest civilizations (Gandhara, Indus, Mehrgarh), and has a large repository of ancient artifacts. Some 512 artifacts dating back to second and third millennium BC, stolen and smuggled from Pakistan to France were seized by French Customs at Paris Airport during 2006-7.

Taking notice of the issue of stolen and seized artifacts of Pakistan in foreign countries, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi instructed the Ministry and its Missions in respective countries to engage with the host governments for their repatriation to Pakistan.

After verification of their origin and completion of tedious and protracted legal and administrative formalities, four hundred and eighty six (486) archaeological artifacts were handed over by the French government to the Embassy of Pakistan, Paris on 2 July 2019.

Mr. Rodolphe Gintz, Director General of Customs and Indirect Rights, French Ministry of Action and Public Accounts handed over the rare and precious artifacts to our Embassy in France in a simple ceremony, which was attended by French officials from concerned Ministries and Representatives from several French cultural and archaeological institutes and museums, as well as French print and electronic media.

Pakistan's Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Muhammad Amjad Aziz Qazi in his remarks thanked the Government of France, especially French Customs, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Culture for their support and cooperation in completing the formalities for the restitution of artefacts.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr. Rodolphe Gintz, Director General of French Customs, expressed satisfaction over the successful closure of nearly twelve years old case in which France fulfilled its obligations under UNESCO Convention of 1970 on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and transport of Ownership of Cultural property, to which both Pakistan and France are signatories.

Pakistan and France enjoy historical cooperation in the field of archeology. French Archeological Mission has been working in Pakistan for the last sixty years, having made important discoveries including more than seven thousand years old Mehrgarh civilization. The restitution of Pakistan origin artifacts has further strengthened the bonds of cooperation between the two countries.

Islamabad, 9 July 2019

E. QATAR

Stop Over by Prime Minister Imran Khan at Doha on Way Back from Visit to United States

On his way back to Pakistan after successful visit to the United States of America, Prime Minister Imran Khan stopped over at Doha. He was welcomed by H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister of State of Qatar and Ambassador of Pakistan Syed Ahsan Raza Shah.

The two Prime Ministers held a wide-ranging meeting during which matters pertaining to bilateral ties were discussed. Prime Minister of Pakistan recalled the recent visit of the Amir of Qatar to Pakistan and thanked Qatar for

its economic support. The two sides reaffirmed the resolve to comprehensively upgrade bilateral relations in all fields including trade, investment, energy, aviation, agricultural, tourism, manpower and people to people contacts. The positive contribution of Pakistani community in Qatar was also lauded.

Mr. Abdul Razak Dawood, Advisor to PM on Commerce, Syed Zulfikar Abbas Bukhari, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis & HRD, Foreign Secretary Mr. Sohail Mahmood and Ambassador of Pakistan Syed Ahsan Raza Shah were present during meeting.

Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani hosted a banquet dinner in honor of Prime Minister of Pakistan and his delegation. Later, Prime Minister Imran Khan left Doha for Islamabad.

Doha, Qatar, July 24, 2019

F. TUNISIA

1. On the Demise of President Beji Caid Essebsi of Tunisia

The Government and people of Pakistan are deeply grieved over the sad demise of President Beji Caid Essebsi of Tunisia. President Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Imran Khan have conveyed condolences to their respective Tunisian counterparts, expressing solidarity with the government and people of Tunisia in this hour of sorrow and grief.

President Essebsi will be remembered for upholding democratic rights and promoting the well-being of the brotherly people of Tunisia.

Islamabad, 26 July 2019.

2. Prime Minister receives Secretary General of Amnesty International

The Secretary General of Amnesty International, Mr. Komi Naidoo, called on the Prime Minister today in New York.

The Prime Minister discussed with Mr. Naidoo the dire human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ&K) since India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019.

The Prime Minister appreciated the lead role that Amnesty was playing in presenting the real state of human rights in the occupied territory and amplifying the voices of the Kashmiri population in a state of seven-week long lockdown. These efforts had helped raise international community's awareness about the continuing suffering of the Kashmiri people.

The Prime Minister lauded Amnesty's report on the use of Pellet Guns by India and their devastating impact on Kashmiri youth. The Foreign Minister noted that the two UN reports on Kashmir served as a strong basis for continued civil society advocacy in support of the Kashmiri people.

Mr. Naidoo briefed the Prime Minister on Amnesty's advocacy work on Kashmir including #LetKashmirSpeak. He updated the Prime Minister on Amnesty's work relating to climate justice and suggested consideration of

Global South advocacy by the Prime Minister on a range of climate change related issues.

22 September 2019

3. PM Imran Khan urges 'bold leadership' to fight climate change

In his remarks at the UN Climate Action Summit on 23 September in New York, Prime Minister Imran Khan urged for 'bold leadership' to fight climate change and its pervasive impacts.

Describing Climate change as one of the defining issues of our time, the Prime Minister called for partnerships as no country could address this challenge alone.

Recalling Pakistan's miniscule share in global Green House Gases (GHG) (less than 1%), but the disproportionate negative impacts of changing climate, the Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of the climate change. In this regard, the Prime Minister drew attention to the 'Billion Tree Tsunami' project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which won the distinction of being the first entity to meet and surpass pledges under the global "Bonn Challenge".

The Prime Minister referred to Pakistan's 'Eco-System Restoration Initiative' (ESRI), built upon successes of the 'Billion Tree' project. As part of this umbrella initiative, the government of Pakistan planned to plant 10 billion trees in Pakistan in the next four years and usher a green revolution in the country through wide ranging eco-system related actions.

The Prime Minister shared his three-point visionary agenda with the world leaders, encompassing implementation of global commitments; mobilizing finance; and facilitating access to and sharing of technology.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres had convened this Summit aimed at re-energizing political commitments by world leaders and to encourage raising ambition by countries, including through social and political drivers to overcome the challenges of climate change.

Islamabad, 24 September 2019. Source: www.mofa.gov.pk

G. HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Second Report of UN on Human Rights Violations in Jammu and Kashmir

Pakistan welcomes the second report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on Jammu and Kashmir, which calls for fully respecting the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu & Kashmir as protected under international law. We again welcome the OHCHR's recommendation for the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry (COI) to investigate the gross and systematic human rights violations in Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

The Report once again recognizes human rights violations in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoK). It documents in detail the excessive use of force by the Indian occupation forces, the continued use of pellet guns to kill and maim defenseless civilians, the extrajudicial killings in the garb of so-called cordon and search operations, use of various forms of arbitrary arrests and detentions to target protestors and political dissidents, the impunity from accountability enjoyed by the Indian occupation forces under the draconian Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and Public Safety Act (PSA), the use of torture, lack of credible investigation into human rights violations perpetrated by the Indian occupation forces, restrictions on expression and movement of independent journalists to prevent the voices of Kashmiris reaching the international community and targeting of Kashmiri Muslims outside Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

While we appreciate the Report's efforts to document the human rights violations in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir, we would like to reiterate that there is simply no parallel between the horrendous human rights situation in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the prevailing environment in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. Unlike IoK, which is the most militarized zone in the world, AJK and Gilgit-Baltistan remain open to foreign visitors.

As in its first report, the OHCHR's second Report has again called for respect of the Right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir as protected under international law.

The only solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is to grant the people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoK) the legitimate Right to self-determination as recognized by the numerous United Nations Security Council Resolutions, which is essential for the security and stability of South Asia and beyond.

Islamabad, 8 July 2019.

2. Statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on Jammu & Kashmir at Human Rights Council

Responding to a media question regarding remarks made today at the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights about the deteriorating situation in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K), the Spokesperson noted with appreciation the following very important points:

- a. "I am deeply concerned about the impact of recent actions by the Government of India on the human rights of Kashmiris, including restrictions on internet communications and peaceful assembly, and the detention of local political leaders and activists."
- b. "I have appealed particularly to India to ease the current lockdowns or curfews to ensure people's access to basic services; and that all due process rights are respected for those who have been detained."

- c. “It is important that the people of Kashmir are consulted and engaged in any decision-making processes that have an impact on their future.”

The Spokesperson underlined that UN High Commissioner’s concerns and calls are consistent with the position taken by the UN system vis-a’-vis the human rights situation in IOJ&K including the continuing restrictions and crackdown on fundamental rights and freedoms of the Kashmiri people.

Islamabad, 9 September 2019.

3. Joint Statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of over 50 countries at the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in IOJ&K

Below is the text of the Joint Statement delivered today by Pakistan at the UN Human Rights Council on behalf of over 50 countries from across various regions regarding the worsening human rights and humanitarian situation in IOJ&K:

Quote

“Mr. President,

The worsening human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian Administered Jammu & Kashmir, especially following decisions taken on August 5, 2019, requires urgent attention by the Human Rights Council and human rights mechanisms. We share the concern expressed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Michelle Bachelet regarding the impact of recent actions on the human rights of Kashmiris.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Special Rapporteurs in their joint press release of 22 August 2019, civil society organizations and international media have repeatedly expressed serious concerns about the unprecedented restrictions and on the continuous curfew imposed since August 5, 2019, curbing of fundamental freedoms, communications blackout and reports of wide spread torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, molestation of women, and enforced disappearances.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres in his statement of 8 August 2019 said that “the position of the United Nations on this region is governed by the Charter of the United Nations and applicable Security Council resolutions”. This position of the UN Secretary-General has also been corroborated by OHCHR’s Kashmir Reports.

Consistent with the UN Charter, Security Council resolutions, and human rights standards and international law, the international community should ask for:

- a) Respect and protection of fundamental human rights of the people of Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir, especially the right to life, liberty and security;
- b) Immediate lifting of curfew, ending the communications shutdown and release of arbitrarily detained people;

- c) Immediate halt to the excessive use of force, especially the use of pellet guns; Access of human rights organizations and international media;
- d) Implementation of the recommendations of OHCHR’s Kashmir Reports including the establishment of a UN Commission of Inquiry to investigate egregious human rights violations;
- e) Regular reporting by the UN High Commissioner for human rights on Jammu and Kashmir.
- f) We also support a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute through the implementation of the UNSC resolutions.

Unquote

Pakistan wishes to express its gratitude to the countries which became part of this Joint Statement in support of the people of Kashmir, reinforcing serious concerns of the international community about the unprecedented restrictions, continued curfew and curtailment of fundamental rights and freedom of the Kashmiri population.

Pakistan also appreciates the joint call by these countries for removal of restrictions, respect and protection of the Kashmiri people, implementation of the recommendations of UN’s Kashmir reports and peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute through the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 10 September 2019. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

H. INDIA

1. Judgement of International Court of Justice on Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav

The International Court of Justice in its judgment announced today regarding Indian serving Naval Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav has decided not to acquit / release him thus not accepting Indian pray.

Pakistan, as a responsible member of the International community, upheld its commitment from the very beginning of the case by appearing before the honourable court for the provisional measures hearing despite a very short notice. Having heard the judgment, Pakistan will now proceed as per law.

It is reiterated that Indian Naval Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav entered Pakistan without a visa on authentic Indian Passport with a fake alias Hussain Mubarak Patel. Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav is responsible for acts of sabotage, espionage and multiple terrorist incidents in which scores of innocent Pakistani citizens were killed resulting into umpteen women being widowed and numerous children becoming orphans. Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav has confessed all these acts during his trial in Pakistani court in front of a Judicial Magistrate. This is a clear case of Indian state terrorism.

Islamabad, 17 July 2019.

2. Ceasefire Violations by India on 22nd and 23rd July 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 22nd and 23rd July 2019. On 22 July 2019, in Bagsar Sector along LoC, 12 years old boy Mohammad Riaz was martyred while 18 year old Zabeeullah sustained serious injuries. On 23 July 2019, in Hotspring, Jandrot and Banchirian Sectors along LoC, an innocent civilian lady Jan Bibi was martyred while three civilians Mr. Naseem and Parveen Bibi from Hot Spring Sector and Mr. Khalid from Banchirian sector sustained serious injuries.

The Indian forces along the Line of Control and the Working boundary are continuously targeting civilian populated areas with heavy weapons. This unprecedented escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from the year 2017 when the Indian forces committed 1970 ceasefire violations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 24 July 2019.

3. Ceasefire Violations by India on 28 July 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC). On 28th July 2019, in Kailer Sector, along LoC, resulted in injuries to an innocent civilian i.e. 28 years old, Munir Hussain s/o Muhammad Din, resident of Katchar village. In Nezapir Sector, an innocent civilian lady Rehmat Jan w/o Muhammad Din, resident of village Mandhar, was martyred, while three civilians, Muhammad Naeem, s/o Muhammad Fareed, 30 years old, Zainab Bibi, w/o Muhammad Bashir, 57 years old, resident of Kirni village, Begum Jan, w/o Muhammad Qasim, 30 years old, resident of Mandhar village sustained serious injuries.

The Indian forces along the Line of Control and the Working boundary are continuously targeting civilian populated areas with heavy weapons. This unprecedented escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from the year 2017 when the Indian forces committed 1970 ceasefire violations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian

laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 29 July 2019.

4. Ceasefire Violations by India on 30 July 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 30th July 2019. On 30th July 2019 in Danna, Dhddnial, Jura, Lipa, Shardda and Shahkot sectors along LoC, an innocent civilian, 26 year old Nouman Ahmad was martyred while 9 other civilians, including women and children sustained serious injuries.

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and Working boundary have continuously been targeting civilian populated areas with heavy mortars and automatic weapons which still continues. This unprecedented escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from the year 2017 when the Indian forces committed 1970 ceasefire violations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 31 July 2019

5. Pakistan rejects baseless Indian allegations

We reject Indian allegations of cross-LOC action by Pakistan and possession of bodies. Curtailing Amarnath yatra and deployment of additional troops on baseless pretexts are designed to divert world's attention from attempts to change the demographic structure of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and unabating state-led oppression and egregious human rights violations.

Islamabad, 3 August 2019.

6. Ceasefire Violations by India on 15 August 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia today and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 15th August 2019 in Lipa and Battal Sectors resulting in shahadat of Naik Tanveer Ahmad, Lance Naik Taimoor Aslam and Sep Ramzan.

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and Working boundary have continuously been violating the 2003 ceasefire arrangement, which needs to be respected. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to instruct its forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 15 August 2019.

7. Ceasefire Violations by India

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia today and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) in Lipa and Battal Sectors, resulting in shahadat of two civilians, Mr. Muhammad Aziz and Mr. Muneeb and one armed forces personnel, Sepoy Ramzan.

The Indian occupation forces, along the LoC and Working boundary, have continuously been violating the 2003 ceasefire arrangement, which needs to be respected. The intended targeting of civilians is indeed condemnable. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to instruct its forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 16 August 2019.

8. Ceasefire Violations by India on 18 August 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia today and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 18th August 2019 in Hot Spring and Chirikot Sectors of LoC. A seven year old minor boy, Saddam s/o Noor, who got seriously injured has succumbed to injuries and has been martyred.

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and Working boundary have continuously been targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars, and automatic weapons, which still continues. This unprecedented escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from the year 2017 when the Indian forces committed 1970 ceasefire violations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 20 August 2019.

9. Ceasefire Violations by India on 27 August 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia today and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC). In the most recent ceasefire violations by the Indian forces on 27 August 2019 in Nekrun Sector of LoC, two innocent civilians Abdul Jalil and 3 years old girl Nausheen were martyred and three others have sustained serious injuries. Moreover, in Chirikot Sector of LoC, a 4 years old boy has sustained serious injuries.

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and Working boundary have continuously been targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars, and automatic weapons, which still continues. This unprecedented escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from the year 2017 when the Indian forces committed 1970 ceasefire violations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 28 August 2019.

10. Pakistan provides consular access to India for Commander Jadhav

Pursuant to the decision of the International Court of Justice, Pakistan provided consular access on 02 September, 2019 to India for Commander Kulbhushan Jadhav, Indian spy, serving Indian Naval officer and RAW operative. Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia, Charge d' Affairs of the Indian high Commission in Islamabad availed consular Access which was provided in line with Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, ICJ verdict and the laws of Pakistan.

Consular access was provided at 1200 hours and lasted for two (02) hours, in the presence of officials of the Government of Pakistan. On Indian request, there was no restriction on the language of communication. In order to ensure transparency and in line with standard operating procedures, and as conveyed to the Indian side in advance, the access was recorded.

As a responsible member of the international community and in line with our international commitments, Pakistan has provided un-impeded, uninterrupted consular access to India to Commander Jadhav.

Islamabad, 2 September 2019.

11. Ceasefire Violations by India on 14 September 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Charge de Affaires, Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia, today and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC). In the most recent ceasefire violations by the Indian forces on 14 September 2019 in Nikial and Jandrot Sectors of the LoC, targeting innocent civilians, an innocent woman Fatima Bibi, 40 years old, resident of Village Balakot, embraced shahadat while seven others, including women sustained serious injuries.

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and Working boundary have continuously been targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars, and automatic weapons, which still continues. This unprecedented escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from the year 2017 when the Indian forces committed 1970 ceasefire violations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 14 September 2019.

12. Ceasefire Violations by India on 28 and 29 September 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia again today and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 28th and 29th September 2019. Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by Indian Army in Nikial and Rakhchikri Sectors of LOC, an old lady Salamat Bibi aged 60 years and a young boy aged 13 years Zeeshan Ayub embraced Shahadat. Additionally, one lady in Nikial Sector and two civilians, including a lady in Rakhchikri Sector sustained serious injuries.

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and Working boundary have continuously been targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars, and automatic weapons, which still continues. This unprecedented escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from the year 2017 when the Indian forces committed 1970 ceasefire violations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 30 September 2019.

13. Ceasefire Violations by India on 1st October 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia again today and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 1st October 2019. Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by Indian Army in Nezapir and Bagsar Sectors of LOC, an old lady Noor Jahan aged 50 years embraced Shahadat. While, three others civilians including a lady Rashida aged 60 year, Muhammad Din aged 70 years and Zaheer sustained serious injuries.

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and Working boundary have continuously been targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars, and automatic weapons, which still continues. This unprecedented escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from the year 2017 when the Indian forces committed 1970 ceasefire violations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 2 October 2019.

I. UK

1. Hyderabad Fund Case Judgment

Pakistan has taken note of the judgment by the High Courts of Justice of the UK in the Hyderabad Fund Case, today, after a 2 weeks trial in June 2019. The judgment rejects the longstanding claims of the two major parties and upholds the claims of the heirs of Nizam of Hyderabad.

The ruling does not take into account the historical context of the transfer when India illegally annexed Hyderabad in violation of International Law and all civilized norms, leading the Nizam of Hyderabad to make desperate efforts to defend his people and the state from Indian invasion. The Nizam also raised the matter with the UN Security Council where the issue remains on the agenda to date. The Nizam as a sovereign approached Pakistan for assistance which the Government of Pakistan provided.

Pakistan is closely examining all aspects of the detailed judgment and will take further action in light of legal advice received.

Islamabad, 2 October 2019.

2. Ceasefire Violations by India on 6th & 7th October 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia again today and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) on 6th & 7th October 2019. Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by Indian Army in Chirikot Sector of LOC, an old lady Nazira Begum w/o Muhammad Hussain, aged 69 years, resident of village Kakuta embraced Shahadat, while three other civilians, Manzoor s/o Ashraf aged 43 years, Jamil s/o Misri aged 40 years and Mushtaq s/o Ghulam Muhammad aged 46 years, residents of village Kakuta sustained serious injuries.

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and Working boundary have continuously been targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars, and automatic weapons, which still continues. This unprecedented escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from the year 2017 when the Indian forces committed 1970 ceasefire violations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 8 October, 2019

3. Ceasefire Violations by India on 10th October 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia again today and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) in Sharda, Nezapir, Satwal and Bagsar Sectors on 10th October 2019. Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by Indian Army in Sharda Sector of LOC, one innocent child Faizan s/o Faiz Mir aged 10 years embraced shahadat and others sixteen innocent civilians, including six children and two ladies, sustained serious injuries. In addition to that, two got injured including a lady in Nezapir, three got injured including a child and a lady in Satwal Sector, and one got injured in Bagsar Sector.

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and Working boundary have continuously been targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars, and automatic weapons, which still continues. This unprecedented escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from the year 2017 when the Indian forces committed 1970 ceasefire violations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 11 October 2019

4. Ceasefire Violations by India on 15th October 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Deputy High Commissioner Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia again today and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) in Nezapir Sector on 15th October, 2019. Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by Indian Army in Nezapir Sector of LoC, three innocent civilians, Ghulam Qaider s/o Lal Din 55 years, Mariam Bibi 12 years and Haider Ali 10 years, residents of village Kirni, embraced shahadat, while eight others, including women and children, sustained serious injuries.

The Indian occupation forces along the LoC and Working boundary have continuously been targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy-caliber mortars, and automatic weapons, which still continues. This unprecedented escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from the year 2017 when the Indian forces committed 1970 ceasefire violations.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, international human rights and humanitarian laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 16 October, 2019.

5. Ceasefire Violations by India on 19th and 20th October 2019

The Director General (SA & SAARC), Dr. Mohammad Faisal, summoned the Indian Cd'A Mr. Gaurav Ahluwalia today and condemned the unprovoked ceasefire violations by the Indian occupation forces along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jura, Shahkot and Nausehri Sectors on 19th and 20th October, 2019. Due to indiscriminate and unprovoked firing by Indian occupation forces, including use of heavy artillery, five innocent civilians, Muhammad Rafiqat s/o Haji Azam aged 28 years, Haji Azam aged 60 years, Haji Sarfaraz s/o Ghulam Rabbani aged 47 years, residents of Village Nausadda and two non-resident civilian labourers Mr. Liaqat and Mr. Faisal, embraced shahadat, while six others, including women and children, sustained serious injuries.

The Indian occupation forces, along the LoC and Working Boundary, have continuously been targeting civilian populated areas with artillery fire, heavy calibre mortars, and automatic weapons. This escalation in ceasefire violations by India is continuing from 2017, when the Indian forces committed more than 1970 ceasefire violation.

Pakistan categorically rejects Indian media reports about so – called “launchpads” being targeted by India along the LoC. Earlier, highlighting the

Indian threat to regional peace and security, Pakistan has called upon the P5 to ask India to provide information about the so – called alleged “launchpads” and stated its willingness to arrange a visit of the P5 diplomats to those locations to expose Indian falsehood. Heinous Indian targeting of civilians is a typical attempt by India to divert international attention from the humanitarian nightmare in IOJ&K.

The deliberate targeting of civilian populated areas is indeed deplorable and contrary to human dignity, International Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws. The ceasefire violations by India are a threat to regional peace and security and may lead to a strategic miscalculation.

The Director General (SA & SAARC) urged the Indian side to respect the 2003 Ceasefire arrangement; investigate these and other incidents of ceasefire violations; instruct the Indian forces to respect the ceasefire, in letter and spirit and maintain peace on the LoC and the Working Boundary. He urged that the Indian side should permit UNMOGIP to play its mandated role as per the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Islamabad, 20 October 2019. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

J. SOUTHASIA. SAARC

Pakistan – India sign the Agreement on Kartarpur Sahib Corridor

In line with Prime Minister Imran Khan’s commitment, Pakistan’s policy of promoting inter – faith harmony and Islamic traditions of respect for all religions, Pakistan and India signed the agreement for operationalisation of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor. The agreement was signed by Dr. Mohammad Faisal, Director General (South Asia & SAARC), MOFA and Mr. S.C.L. Das, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Heads of the negotiating delegations of Pakistan and India respectively.

The agreement will facilitate visa free travel of 5000 pilgrims daily (to be enhanced on special occasions, subject to capacity), in groups or individually, on foot or by bus to visit Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib in Narowal, Pakistan, from dawn to dusk throughout the year, except on public holidays or for exigencies / emergencies, which will be notified to India in advance. Pilgrims will travel on valid Indian passport. Non resident Indians will also be required to carry their Indian origin card. Pakistan will charge USD 20/pilgrim/ visit as service charges.

Government of India will share pilgrim lists, ten days in advance. Pakistan will share the final list of pilgrims, 4 days in advance. Advance exchange of pilgrim list will facilitate pilgrims allowing them to make plans in advance and providing sufficient time to both governments for processing.

The signing of the agreement, despite the challenging environment is unprecedented and reflective of Prime Minister Imran Khan’s commitment towards facilitating Nanak Naamlevas to visit their most reverential place of

worship in line with Pakistan's Kartarpur initiative and groundbreaking ceremony last year.

As promised, Prime Minister Imran Khan will inaugurate the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor on 9th November 2019, well in time for the 550th anniversary celebrations.

Islamabad, 24 October 2019. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

K. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Prime Minister receives Chairperson of the African Union Commission

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahmat called on the Prime Minister today in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

The Prime Minister briefed the Chairperson on the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ&K) since India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019.

The Chairperson acknowledged Pakistan's historic links with and support to African countries and discussed ways to enhance interaction and engagement with AU member states and the Commission.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance Pakistan attaches to further deepening ties with Africa in the political, economic and other mutually beneficial areas.

26 September 2019. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

L. IRAN

Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to Iran

As part of his initiative to promote peace and security in the region, Prime Minister Imran Khan will be undertaking a visit to Iran on 13 October 2019.

During the visit, the Prime Minister will have meetings with the Iranian leadership, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei and President Dr. Hassan Rouhani. Besides issues relating to peace and security in the Gulf, bilateral matters and important regional developments will be discussed.

This will be the Prime Minister's second visit to Iran this year. The Prime Minister also had a bilateral meeting with the President of Iran on the sidelines of the 74th UNGA Session in New York in September 2019.

Islamabad, 12 October 2019. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

M. KASHMIR

1. Pakistan's strong demarche to India on its illegal actions with regard to Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ&K)

The Foreign Secretary summoned the Indian High Commissioner to the Foreign Office and conveyed a strong demarche on the announcements made and actions taken by the Government of India with regard to Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir today.

The Foreign Secretary conveyed Pakistan's unequivocal rejection of these illegal actions as they are in breach of international law and several UN Security Council resolutions. Pakistan's resolute condemnation of the unlawful actions aimed at further consolidating the illegal occupation of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOK) was underscored.

The Foreign Secretary also condemned the preceding pre-meditated steps such as complete lock-down of IOK, deployment of additional 180,000 troops, imposition of curfew, house arrest of Kashmiri leaders and suspension of communication services, among others.

Pakistan's consistent opposition to all Indian attempts to change the demographic structure and final status of IOK was emphasized.

The Foreign Secretary called upon India to halt and reverse its unlawful and destabilizing actions, ensure full compliance with UN Security Council resolutions, and refrain from any further action that could entail serious implications.

The Foreign Secretary reiterated that Pakistan will continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to the indigenous legitimate Kashmiri people's struggle for realization of their inalienable right to self-determination.

Islamabad, 5 August 2019.

2. Pakistan condemns curtailment of religious freedoms of Kashmiri Muslims by India

Pakistan condemns India's continuing brutal lockdown in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir and the resultant curtailment of religious freedom of millions of Kashmiris on the important festival of Eid al Adha.

Across the world, Muslims offer prayers in large congregations as part of their religious faith and injunctions on Eid Al Adha. Restrictions and curtailment of this fundamental religious freedom of millions of Kashmiri Muslims constitutes a serious violation of applicable international human rights law, to which India is a party.

With the Valley turned into a massive military prison, Kashmiris were prevented from offering the traditional prayers at Srinagar's historical Jama Masjid. The complete communications blockade of telephone (landline and cellular) and internet services for over a week, also deprived the Kashmiris from contacting their families and loved ones on this festive occasion.

These measures amount to “collective punishment” on an industrial scale and violate all principles and precepts of human rights and humanitarian law.

Pakistan calls upon the international community, including the United Nations human rights machinery and other relevant bodies, to hold India to account for these deliberate crimes against religion, violations of international law and lack of respect for human decency.

Islamabad, 12 August 2019.

3. Call by delegation led by Kashmiri Leadership from both sides of the Line of Control on the Prime Minister

A delegation of Kashmiri leaders from both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) led by Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai called on the Prime Minister today. In their discussions, they emphasized that the situation in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir was very grim and serious and was deteriorating by the minute. All Kashmiri leadership, down to the mohallah level, had been put behind bars. The Kashmiri jails had completely filled up and now the prisoners were being taken by military and other aircraft to various prisons in India. The Kashmiri youth were being lifted from their homes in the middle of the night and their subsequent whereabouts were never known. There were long queues in front of police stations and prisons of relatives trying to ascertain the location of their near and dear ones who had been arrested under the black laws of PSA and AFSPA. The hospital staff could not make it to work due to curfew and there were no medicines. The situation was of a humanitarian emergency. Steps were also underway for further political engineering and effecting demographic change.

The Prime Minister shared his serious concerns over the continuing lockdown since 5 August and the dire human rights and humanitarian situation resulting from it. He called for the immediate lifting of the curfew and other restrictions, respect for the rights and freedom of the Kashmiri people, and resolving the Kashmir dispute according to their wishes and the UN Security Council resolutions. The Prime Minister stated that he will continue to highlight the Kashmir issue at every forum and will fulfill his promise of being the “Ambassador of Kashmir”.

22 September 2019

4. Pakistan rejects “bifurcation” of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

Pakistan rejects the “bifurcation” of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. Changing of status quo in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir is in complete violation of the UN Security Council Resolutions and Bilateral Agreements between India and Pakistan, especially the Simla Agreement.

The Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory. No step by the government of India can change this. These changes are illegal and void as per the relevant UNSC Resolutions, and do not prejudice the right to self-determination of the people of Occupied Jammu & Kashmir.

Pakistan would particularly underline that the measures announced by India on 5 August 2019 were forced upon the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir through the barrel of gun by turning the region into a prison by over 900,000 Indian security forces. Political leaders, civil society members, and common people including women and young children remain under illegal detention. An iron curtain remains in place on more than 8 million Kashmiri people snapping their communications with the outside world. Curfew remains imposed and movement of people restricted. Many people, especially women and children, are being continuously abused and tortured by Indian occupation forces.

The illegal and unilateral changes effected by India are in no way an “internal matter” as the Jammu and Kashmir dispute remains on the agenda of the Security Council. Furthermore, contrary to the false projection by the Indian authorities, the purpose of these illegal changes in Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir is neither development of the region nor welfare of the Kashmiri people. The real motive is to alter the demographic structure of the Muslim majority state in pursuance of the extremist “Hindutva” ideology. The international community must take notice that transfer of civilian population from outside into IOJ&K is in grave violation of the international laws particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The people of Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir will never accept the illegal and forceful occupation. The illegal unilateral actions taken by India would only further aggravate the human rights situation in the IOJ&K and threaten to destabilize the peace, security and stability of the South Asian region as well as the world.

India should stop brutalizing the innocent Kashmiris who are suffering under its illegal occupation for the last seven decades. India should immediately withdraw its military forces from the region, remove draconian laws, restore basic human rights of the people, free all detainees, lift all restrictions on the free movement and communications, allow unimpeded and full access to the UN and other international human rights observers, including independent foreign media. It is imperative that India implements the UN Security Council Resolutions on the right of Kashmiris to self-determination, without further prevarication.

Pakistan would continue to extend its full moral, political and diplomatic support to the suffering Kashmiri brothers and sisters until the realization of the inalienable right to self-determination, in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.

Islamabad, 31 October 2019. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

N. OIC

Pakistan welcomes reaffirmation of principled stance of OIC Human Rights Commission in support of self-determination of Kashmiris and call for end to the ongoing human rights violations in IOJ&K

Pakistan welcomes the holding of OIC's Human Rights Commission (IPHRC)'s first-ever "Open Discussion" on the worsening human situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJ&K), as part of its 16th Regular Session held in Jeddah on 25-28 November 2019.

The Open Discussion session, held under IPHRC's "Standing Mechanism to Monitor Human Rights Situation in Indian Occupied Kashmir", was attended by all the Commission Members and a large number of the representatives of the OIC Member and Observer States.

Addressing the situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir in all its dimensions, the Commission has:

Strongly condemned the blatant violation of human rights in IOJ&K. There are credible reports of inflicting collective punishment. "The systematic and systemic human rights violations have a well-defined pattern tantamount to ethnic cleansing and genocide of Kashmiris."

Reaffirmed the right of self-determination of the people of IOJ&K under the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

Reiterated that India's illegal steps of 5 August 2019 were illegal and void.

Condemned the continued use of pellet guns that killed and maimed innocent and unarmed civilians, use of arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial killings, as well as targeting of Kashmiri Muslims including peaceful protestors, under fabricated charges.

Reiterated its endorsement of the recommendation of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish a Commission of Inquiry under the UN auspices to comprehensively investigate all the allegations of human rights violations.

Assailed the Government of India for not allowing a fact finding visit to the IOJ&K despite repeated requests by the IPHRC, OIC and UNOHCHR.

Agreed to undertake a visit to AJK to meet with the refugees, political parties and other civil society representatives from IOJ&K, after India's repeated denial of allowing a Fact-finding Mission to IOJ&K.

Agreed to conduct an independent case study on the 'use of pellet guns in IOJ&K by the Indian security forces against peaceful protestors including women and children.

The Commission demanded that the Government of India must:

Put an immediate end to the ongoing human rights violations in the IOJ&K; lift the inhuman curfew; restore all fundamental freedoms of Kashmiris; repeal its discriminatory laws like Armed Forces Special Power Act;

Provide access to the Fact-finding Missions of the UN, OIC and OIC-IPHRC;

Allow the OIC and ICRC to establish a 'humanitarian corridor' in IOK to reach out to the besieged population for provision of basic food and medical supplies; and

Implement, without further delay, relevant UN resolutions to allow people of Kashmir to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination through a free and fair plebiscite.

The Commission urged the United Nations and the international community to play their due role to pressurize India to take early and concrete steps in this regard.

Pakistan appreciates that, like other international human rights organizations, the IPHRC has repeatedly condemned India's illegal actions and worsening human rights situation in IOJ&K. This first-ever Open Session reflects the growing concern of the Muslim Ummah, OIC and IPHRC on the rapidly deteriorating situation in IOJ&K.

Islamabad, 29 November 2019. Source: www.mofa.gov.pk

O. RUSSIA

1. 4th Round of Pakistan-Russia Bilateral Political Consultations

The 4th round of Bilateral Political Consultations between Pakistan and Russia was held in Moscow on 2 July 2019. Additional Secretary (Europe) Mr. Zaheer A. Janjua and Mr. I.V. Morgulov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, led their respective delegations.

The two sides held a comprehensive review of the bilateral relations and identified areas for further cooperation in political, economic, trade, investment, defence, energy, agriculture, education, culture and tourism. The Additional Secretary briefed on the political and economic developments in Pakistan and invited Russian companies to benefit from Pakistan's investor friendly policies, particularly in the fields of energy, transport, infrastructure, oil and gas and tourism.

The two sides held in-depth discussions to increase cooperation in the field of agriculture and agricultural products, including post-harvest technologies, processing and value addition for meat, milk, fish and shellfish products. It was agreed that the sixth session of Inter Governmental Commission would be held in Islamabad at mutually agreed dates.

Both sides agreed to enhance parliamentary exchanges to deepen bilateral cooperation and develop understanding for each other's view. The Additional Secretary expressed satisfaction at the existing cooperation in the field of energy and called it a strong pillar of partnership. He reiterated Pakistan's commitment for early implementation of the on-going energy projects.

The Additional Secretary briefed the Russian side on the situation in South Asia, notably the recent instance of the Indian aggression and Pakistan's

measured response. He highlighted the dire human rights situation in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He appreciated Russia's constructive role in defusing tensions in South Asia.

The Additional Secretary also briefed on Pakistan's efforts aimed at peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. He emphasized that a politically negotiated settlement achieved through an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, was the only viable way forward. The Russian side expressed support for Pakistan's constructive role in the Afghan peace process.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the level of cooperation at the international fora, including the UN and agreed to continue supporting each other.

The Consultations provided an opportunity to take stock of overall relations and discuss ways and means to further enhance cooperation in diverse fields. The next round of Pakistan-Russia Bilateral Political Consultations would be held in Islamabad in 2020 on mutually convenient dates.

Islamabad, 4 July 2019.

2. Foreign Minister of Russian Federation Mr. Sergei Lavrov call on the Prime Minister

Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Mr. Sergei Lavrov called on Prime Minister Imran Khan on the sidelines of the 74th Session of the UNGA.

The Prime Minister stressed the importance attached in Pakistan's foreign policy to a qualitatively new relationship with the Russian Federation. He expressed satisfaction at the steady growth of bilateral cooperation in diverse areas including political, trade, energy, investment, security and defence fields.

The Prime Minister recalled his interaction with President Putin on the sidelines of SCO Council of Heads of State in Bishkek on 13 June 2019 and extensive exchange of views on bilateral as well as regional and international issues. He reiterated his invitation for President Putin to visit Pakistan.

The Prime Minister noted that Pakistan and Russia had maintained close contact following the unilateral and illegal Indian actions of 5 August in Occupied Jammu & Kashmir. He underscored that these actions and India's belligerent rhetoric and aggressive posture continued to pose a grave risk to regional peace and security which the international community must take serious cognizance of.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the Kashmiri population under Indian occupation had been locked down for over 53 days and international community must urge India to lift curfew and other restrictions and also play its role in the just resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Russia, it may be noted, is the President of UN Security Council for the current month.

Views were also exchanged on the Afghan peace process. Prime Minister Imran Khan reiterated that there was no military solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. He emphasized that the stalled peace process must be resumed

at the earliest to advance the objectives of peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

The Prime Minister underscored the importance of both sides consulting each other on all issues of common interest.

26 September 2019. Source: www.mofa.gov.pk

P. UNITED NATION

1. Foreign Minister's letter to the United Nations on the situation in IoK

Placed below is text of the letter addressed by the Foreign Minister to the United Nations Secretary General, Presidents of the United Nations Security Council and United Nations General Assembly on 1 August 2019:

Quote

"Excellency,

I wish to bring to your attention three inter-locking developments relating to Indian occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IoK) that entail grave dangers to regional peace and security in South Asia.

First, the growing scale and seriousness of the human rights situation in IoK. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has testified to the gravity of human rights abuses in its second report released last month. This latest report documents, extensively and independently, the full range of atrocities- killing of civilians including in custody, blinding of young Kashmiris including children through the use of pellet guns and the use of rape, torture and enforced disappearances as tools of state suppression.

These gross and systematic violations of human rights are being enabled by India through the continued application of its draconian laws in IoK and abetted by a culture of impunity rampant among security forces. The United Nations has a responsibility to speak out against these violations, documented by an independent entity such as OHCHR and occurring in a territory recognized by the UN Security Council as disputed.

Second, the pace of Indian firing and shelling across the Line of Control (LoC) is picking up again. Not only these Indian actions violate the Ceasefire Understanding of 2003 between Pakistan and India, they are causing civilian casualties and leading to heavy damages to civilian infrastructure. Left unaddressed, these unprovoked steps have the potential to escalate the situation in the area, with grave implications for peace and security.

Cross-LoC violations have been accompanied by recent India media reports highlighting leaked communications from the Indian Home Ministry about deployment of additional 10,000 or more paramilitary forces in IoK. The Indian occupied Kashmir is already the most militarized zone in the world, with over 700,000 troops deployed for several decades.

Reports of additional forces are corroborated by developments on the ground, including landing of special flights carrying these forces at Srinagar airport and additional companies reaching the Indian Occupied Kashmir Valley

by road. So far, no senior Indian government official has publically denied these media reports or to calm down the situation, lending further credence to these reports.

Reports about Indian railways authority's decision to purchase and store rations for at least a week's consumption to meet any crisis situation indicate that security situation in IOK is likely to deteriorate further. There is, therefore, a pervasive sense of fear and anxiety among the Kashmiris in IoK, which continues to grow in the wake of these developments.

Three, the aforementioned developments tend to validate widespread concerns that India is preparing ground to abolish Article 35-A of its Constitution as a first step, followed by the revocation of Article 370. Article 35-A defines the residents of IoK and limits subjects like property ownership and state citizenship to the current residents of the area.

Pakistan has consistently opposed any steps that seek to alter the demographic structure of IoK since they can materially affect the plebiscite arrangements to be held under the UN auspices. These Indian moves are also a clear breach of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, particularly with regard to realization of the right to self-determination of the Kashmiris. This is an old Indian ploy to which we had drawn your attention through Pakistan's earlier letter dated 27 April 2017.

Excellency,

Notwithstanding such Indian moves, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions provide that "the final disposition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations."

In light of the developments mentioned above, I wish to draw your attention to United Nations Security Council Resolution 38, which calls upon Pakistan and India, 'to inform the Council immediately of any material change in the situation which occurs or appears to either of them to be about to occur while the matter is under consideration by the Council, and consult with the Council thereon'.

Pakistan is of the view that the steps being taken by India, as outlined above, have the real potential to further lead to the deteriorating human rights situation in IoK as well as carry serious implications for peace and security in South Asia.

I, therefore, urge you and the United Nations to immediately take note of the serious situation and in this regard a) urge India to stall state oppression and stop human rights abuses; b) refrain from unprovoked firing across LoC; and c) halt any actions that could bring about a material change in the situation on ground, in violation of Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. I take this opportunity to reiterate Pakistan's call to establish a UN Fact-Finding Mission to visit IOK to assess the on-ground situation. Pakistan also supports the OHCHR's recommendation for establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to

investigate into the gross human rights violations. Commensurate with the gravity of evolving situation in IoK and to prevent its potential ramifications for the region, I would once again urge you to appoint a UN Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."
Unquote

Islamabad, 5 August 2019.

2. Foreign Minister writes to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

As part of continuing diplomatic outreach, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has addressed another letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights drawing her attention to the several facets of the seriously deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IOJ&K).

The Foreign Minister's letter highlights in detail the context and consequences of India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019.

The letter articulates Pakistan's deep concerns over the intensification in human suffering, further breach of the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people, and the dire humanitarian situation that has arisen as a result of India's enhanced draconian measures to implement its illegal actions.

The letter underscores that India's actions constitute flagrant violations of the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions, international law and India's own solemn commitments.

The Foreign Minister has underscored the imperative for the world community, including the United Nations, to call upon India to rescind its unilateral actions, lift the curfew and other draconian measures, and restore fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people.

The Foreign Minister's letter is being shared with the UN Security Council and all members of the United Nations.

The Foreign Minister had earlier written to the High Commissioner for Human Rights on 4 August 2019 and also held a telephonic conversation with her on 8 August 2019.

Islamabad, 3 August 2019.

3. Foreign Minister updates the UN Security Council on the situation in Indian Occupied Jammu & Kashmir

Foreign Minister Qureshi has addressed another letter to the President of the UN Security Council underscoring the continuation of troubling developments including the dire humanitarian situation as a result of total lockdown in Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir and the attendant risks to peace and security in South Asia.

Referring to the Security Council meeting of 16 August 2019, the Foreign Minister has inter alia emphasized the importance of immediate lifting

of India's indefensible lockdown of the entire Kashmiri population for three weeks and reiterated Pakistan's concerns over India staging another "false flag" operation to divert world's attention from its illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019. India's irresponsible and belligerent rhetoric on the nuclear issue has also been highlighted.

The Foreign Minister further suggested to the Security Council for doubling the number of United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) observers and persuading India to allow them to patrol on its side of the LoC as well.

In view of the consistent and grave human rights violations, and the persistence of threats emanating from India's aggressive postures and policies, the Foreign Minister called on the Council to consider all possible avenues available to it under the UN Charter to fulfill its responsibilities for the maintenance of international and regional peace and security.

The Foreign Minister has underscored Pakistan's readiness to cooperate in every possible way with the Security Council, the UN Secretary General and the world community to promote a peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Charter and the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council.

The Foreign Minister had earlier addressed communications to the President of the Security Council on 1, 6 and 13 August 2019.

Islamabad, 28 August 2019.

4. Prime Minister's visit to New York for UN General Assembly session

Prime Minister Imran Khan will lead the Pakistan delegation during the high-level week of the UN General Assembly Session in New York from 21-27 September 2019. The Foreign Minister will also attend the General Assembly session, interact with his counterparts from various countries, and address important Ministerial meetings especially the OIC Contact Group on Jammu & Kashmir.

The Prime Minister will hold several bilateral meetings with his counterparts from various regions and participate in high-level UN summits on climate change, sustainable development, universal health coverage and financing for development.

The Prime Minister will also attend and speak at high-level side events co-hosted by Pakistan and Turkey on countering hate speech and on environmental protection and poverty alleviation, co-hosted by Malaysia and Pakistan. A trilateral summit meeting of Pakistan, Malaysia and Turkey will be held on the General Assembly sidelines.

Apart from these engagements, the Prime Minister will interact with cross-section of international media outlets including meetings with editorial boards. The Prime Minister's speaking engagements at leading think-tanks and meetings with heads of major international human rights organizations are also envisaged.

The Prime Minister will deliver his address to the UN General Assembly on Friday, 27 September, and share Pakistan's perspective and position on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and its current human rights and related dimensions. The Prime Minister will also avail the opportunity to articulate Pakistan's perspective on some key contemporary issues. Overall, the centrality of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute would be emphasized through myriad engagements.

Pakistan has always been a strong advocate of and one of the leading contributors to the United Nations work in the areas of peace, security and development. The Prime Minister's visit will further reinforce Pakistan's abiding commitment to the UN Charter, international law and cooperative multilateralism, with the UN at its core.

Islamabad, 20 September 2019.

5. Pakistan elected President of the UN Commission on Trade and Development

Ambassador Khalil Hashmi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations in Geneva, was today elected President of the 11th session of the Commission on Trade and Development. The Commission is one of the key constituents on the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) based in Geneva.

The Commission is an important platform to deliberate on key trade and development issues. Pakistan's Presidency will provide an opportunity to share its experiences and to benefit from international best practices that help advance trade and development goals.

The Commission will consider reports on legal and policy aspects of trade, services, commodities, consumer protection and competition within the overall context of sustainable development. It will also consider progress in research and analysis, consensus building and technical cooperation and discuss ways to strengthen multilateral cooperation in the areas of trade and development.

Election to lead the UNCTAD reflects recognition of Pakistan's active engagement and its key role in the multilateral fora.

Islamabad, 25 November 2019.

6. Pakistan elected as Chair of 63rd Session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna, Ambassador Mansoor Ahmad Khan has been elected as the Chair of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) for its 63rd session for the year 2020.

Pakistan's unanimous election reflects another vote of confidence by the international community in Pakistan's leadership and its important role in the global policy discourse on the world drug problem.

Based in Vienna, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs is the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the main policy making entity within the UN system on world drug problem for implementing the UN drug control conventions.

In May, 2019, Pakistan was elected as Member of the Commission for a four-year term starting from 1 January 2020. Pakistan has served on the Commission for four decades since its establishment.

Following its election as the Chair, Pakistan would steer the Commission through dialogue and cooperation with all the stakeholders to address challenges related to narcotic drugs by a balanced, comprehensive and evidence-based approach.

Islamabad, 14 December 2019. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

Q. UK

Joint Statement: 4th Round of Pakistan-UK Bilateral Consultations on Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

The fourth round of Pakistan-United Kingdom Bilateral Consultations on Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament was held in Islamabad on 23 July 2019. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan delegation was led by Mr. Mohammad Kamran Akhtar, Director General (Arms Control & Disarmament). The United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office delegation was led by Ms. Samantha Job, Director for Defence and International Security.

The talks were held in an open and constructive atmosphere, with the two sides discussing issues on international arms control and non-proliferation agenda. The delegations also discussed issues relating to global and regional security and stability, as well as areas of cooperation and collaboration in multilateral fora. There was agreement that these talks were valuable and remain an important element of the ongoing engagement between both countries on Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament issues. The two sides agreed to hold the following meeting in London next year.

Islamabad, 23 July 2019. *Source:* www.mofa.gov.pk

R. US

1. Prime Minister Imran Khan holds talks with President Trump

Prime Minister Imran Khan met President Donald Trump at the White House today. This was the first summit-level engagement between Pakistan and the United States since 2015.

President Trump welcomed the Prime Minister at the entrance of the White House. The two leaders first jointly addressed the press and later had one-on-one meeting, which was followed by delegation level talks between the two sides. President Trump hosted a luncheon in the Prime Minister's honor. On arrival, the Prime Minister signed the White House Visitors' Book.

The two leaders held comprehensive discussions with a focus on building a broad-based and enduring partnership between Pakistan and the United States and strengthening cooperation between the two countries to bring peace, stability and economic prosperity in South Asia.

The two leaders reviewed progress of the Afghan peace and reconciliation process. President Trump appreciated Pakistan's contribution. Prime Minister Khan reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to continue to support the process in good faith. He added that pursuing the process was a shared responsibility.

The two leaders affirmed their resolve to work together across a broad range of areas. Both leaders acknowledged the immense opportunity and potential for mutually beneficial collaboration in diverse fields such as trade, investment, energy, economic connectivity, and defense and security cooperation. Prime Minister Khan invited the U.S. corporate sector to invest in Pakistan.

It was decided to establish a mechanism to follow-up on the understandings reached.

Prime Minister Khan briefed President Trump about his vision of socio-economic development of Pakistan. He said that "peaceful neighborhood" was a priority of Pakistan's foreign policy. He added that peace and stability in the region would allow Pakistan to harness its rich human resource potential to generate growth and spur regional connectivity.

President Trump appreciated Prime Minister Khan's vision for peace in South Asia. The Prime Minister said Pakistan was convinced that normalization of relations with India would be mutually beneficial for the two countries. He underlined that Pakistan would continue to pursue dialogue and diplomacy to resolve longstanding disputes, including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir. President Trump expressed his readiness to play a facilitating role in resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

Following the conclusion of official talks, President Trump took Prime Minister Khan and members of the delegation on a tour of the White House.

Pakistan's delegation included the Foreign Minister, Chief of Army Staff, DG (ISI), Advisors on Finance and Commerce, Special Assistant on Overseas Pakistanis, Foreign Secretary, Ambassador-at-Large on Investment and Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States.

Prime Minister Khan extended a cordial invitation to President Trump for a visit to Pakistan. The President accepted the invitation.

Islamabad, 22 July 2019.

2. Call on the Prime Minister by US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

The U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Pakistan House in Washington, today.

Expressing satisfaction at his wide-ranging talks with President Trump at the White House yesterday, the Prime Minister said that convergence on promoting a political solution in Afghanistan had created the opportunity for regional peace and stability. He added that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was vital for Pakistan. He emphasized the importance of close collaboration between Pakistan and U.S. to advance that objective.

The Prime Minister said that a strong Pakistan-U.S. partnership remained vital to the promotion of the mutual interests of the two countries as well as broader regional peace, stability and prosperity. Reiterating his government's support to a broad-based and enduring Pakistan-U.S. relationship, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to further enhance and diversify the bilateral content of the relationship in a wide range of areas.

The Prime Minister also spoke about his government's successes in countering the scourge of terrorism and his initiatives to build peace in the region. He noted that the Government of Pakistan had taken myriad administrative and legal measures to mainstream madrasahs. As part of his policy of "peaceful neighbourhood", the Prime Minister highlighted Pakistan's desire for peaceful and cooperative relations with all neighbours. He underscored the various initiatives taken to advance this objective with regard to India. The Prime Minister underlined that the peace dividend for both countries would be enormous with peaceful resolution of all outstanding disputes and would usher in an era of peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia.

Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood, Ambassador Asad M. Khan and Aftab A. Khokher Additional Secretary (Americas) joined the meeting. Secretary Pompeo was accompanied by Under-Secretary for Political Affairs David Hale, Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells and Paul W. Jones U.S. Charge d' Affaires in Islamabad.

Islamabad, 23 July 2019. Source: www.mofa.gov.pk

II: Human Rights

Human Rights Watch, World Report 2020: Pakistan

Freedom of Expression and Attacks on Civil Society

On July 9, the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) blocked three television news channels—Capital TV, 24 News HD, and Abbtakk News Network—after they broadcast speeches of opposition leaders.

The Pakistan Broadcasters Association, a private industry association, claimed that the channels were taken off air without giving them a reason or a hearing.

On July 1, PEMRA terminated a live interview with former President Asif Ali Zardari on GEO TV shortly after it began.

Events of intimidation, harassment, and surveillance of various NGOs by government authorities continued. The government used the "Regulation of INGOs in Pakistan" policy to impede the registration and functioning of international humanitarian and human rights groups.

Freedom of Religion and Belief

The provisions of Pakistan's penal code, which perpetuate discrimination against the Ahmadis, a religious minority, remain unchanged. In August, the district administration in Lahore sealed an Ahmadiyya prayer center after the local clerics objected to Ahmadis being allowed to pray openly.

Women's and Children's Rights

While numerous cases of violence against women and girls highlighted the difficulty survivors face getting justice, authorities succeeded in enforcing some key reforms.

In August, in an important enforcement of laws to prosecute so-called "honor killings," the parents of Qandeel Baloch, a Pakistani social media celebrity who was murdered by her brothers in July 2016, were denied their request to "pardon" the perpetrators. After Qandeel's murder, the parliament passed a law closing the pardon loophole used by families to protect perpetrators. However, very few cases of honor killings were prosecuted.

In July, the Supreme Court of Pakistan held that in cases of acid attacks, a mercy petition filed by the victim forgiving the perpetrator cannot be allowed because it constitutes "extreme cruelty."

The Sindh provincial cabinet approved a new law in August providing the right of women agricultural workers to have a written contract, minimum wage, welfare benefits, and gender parity in wages. The law marked the first time that Pakistan recognized the right of women agricultural workers to unionize.

In August, the national assembly's standing committee on law and justice rejected a bill proposing to fix the minimum age of marriage of girls at 18. Early marriage remains a serious problem, with 21 percent of girls in Pakistan marrying before the age of 18, according to UNICEF. A number of women and girls were trafficked to China and sold as "brides."

Terrorism, Counterterrorism, and Law Enforcement Abuses

On July 21, nine people including six policemen were killed in two attacks in Dera Ismail Khan district, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The TTP claimed responsibility for all the attacks.

Pakistani law enforcement agencies were responsible for human rights violations, including detention without charge and extrajudicial killings. Pakistan failed to enact a law criminalizing torture despite Pakistan's obligation to do so under the Convention against Torture.

On September 1, Saluhddin Ayubi in Rahim Yar Khan district, Punjab was arrested for robbing a cash machine and soon died in custody. His family claimed Ayubi, who had a mental health condition, had been tortured to death by the police. A forensic report subsequently corroborated the torture claims.

In August, the Punjab anti-corruption department accused police officers in Lahore of keeping suspects in a secret detention cell and torturing them. Punjab police ordered an inquiry.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

In July, police in Sahiwal district, Punjab, found the bodies of two transgender women who had been tortured to death. In August, Honey, a transgender woman, was shot and killed in Manshera district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Activists allege that authorities had not brought perpetrators to account.

III: Economy

IMF Board Assessment key economic performance indicators

On the completion of first review of Pakistan's economic performance, IMF has acknowledged that Pakistan's reform program is on track and already producing results. Decisive policy implementation has started to address the deep-seated problems of Pakistan's economy and to reverse its large imbalances, preserving financial stability.

The report acknowledges that the business climate has improved, and market confidence is returning. IMF further adds in its assessment that the Government recognizes that structural reforms, especially in SoE sector are key to revive economic activity and growth.

IMF has released SDR 328 million (about \$ 452.4 million), bringing total disbursements to SDR 1,044 million (approx \$1.45 billion).

The report has confirmed that End-September performance criteria (PCs) were observed with wide margins. These include:

- Zero budgetary borrowing from SBP
- Primary budget deficit ceiling
- Ceiling on government guarantees
- Zero external public payment arrears
- SBP net international reserves (NIR), net domestic assets (NDA), and swaps/forwards targets all met

In addition to above, all structural benchmarks (SBs) for end-September, except the SB on AML/CFT, were completed.

With regard to inflation outlook, IMF has lowered Inflation projection for FY20 to 11.8%, down from 13% earlier on account of this fact that the administrative and energy tariff adjustments are expected to offset the effects from weak domestic demand. Thereafter, inflation is expected to converge to 5-7%.

The report confirms that inflation has been started to stabilize, along with core inflation, and the SBP stance is appropriate (no need for further rate hikes).

However, we are of the view that we will do much better than IMF projection. As inflation during Jul-Nov was 10.8% and with measures taken we target to bring inflation down to 5% over the medium term.

With regard to the external sector, significant improvement has been witnessed. Overall, Current Account Deficit (CAD) shrunk by almost two-thirds (74%) in the Q1 FY 20 compared to the same period of FY 2019. CAD is projected to decline to 2.4% of GDP in FY20 (4.9%), which is lower than earlier IMF forecasts of 2.6%.

Total imports fell by 23% y-o-y in Q1 of FY2020, but imports of machinery and equipment were more resilient, rising about 2 % y-o-y. Exports are showing some sign of recovery, up 2% y-o-y for the same period with 17% volume growth, mainly driven by food and textiles.

The report states that transition to a market determined exchange rate has allowed the rupee to find its new equilibrium quickly, thereby, successfully correcting the 'exchange rate overvaluation' of the last 5 years.

The report has also acknowledged strong Fiscal performance in the First Quarter of FY2020 while stating Primary surplus of 0.6% of GDP and an overall deficit of 0.6% of GDP, about 1% of GDP better than programmed.

In addition, Tax revenue growth was in double-digits (net of refunds) even though customs receipts and other external sector related taxes have suffered due to import compression.

Key Concessions won by Government includes:

- Ceiling on NDA of SBP (Performance benchmark) has been enhanced to Rs 9.1 trn (8.7), an increase of Rs 339bn in FY20.
- This is positive for growth and will be utilized for concessional financing for the export industry
- Ceiling on government guarantees has been enhanced to Rs 1.8trn (1.6), an increase of Rs 252 bn in FY20
- This is positive for growth and will allow government to settle the outstanding stock of circular debt
- Floor on FBR tax collections for FY20 has been revised lower to Rs 5.2trn (5.5), due to strong improvement in non-tax revenue
- During H1 Fy20, government non tax revenue collection has hit Rs 878 bn which is 75% of full year budgeted collection of Rs 1.16 trn.
- This is positive for growth and will ease the burden on public and businesses

Current Economic Performance

Pakistan economy has witnessed significant improvements in recent months as evidenced from the performance of key economic indicators mentioned below:

Exchange rate is stable for 5 months, Rupee appreciated by 3.2% (Rs/\$ 160.1 to 154.89)(20th Dec, 2019), Stock Exchange 100-Index up 20.1 percent since 1st July, 2019 (33,996) to 40,832(20th Dec, 2019) , SBP FX Reserves increase to \$ 10.8bn (13th Dec, 2019), from 7.2bn (June 2019) , Ease of Doing index up by 28 points (108/190) and World Bank rank Pakistan in Top 10 improvers.

After 4 years of outflow, total foreign portfolio investment up \$ 1.2 bn during Jul-Nov FY20 (-330mn last year). FDI increased to 850mn (477.3mn last year)↑ 78.1%. Total foreign investment reached to \$2 Bn (last year 147mn).

Similarly, Incorporation of Companies increased 25.8 % (7,177 from 5,707) during Jul-Nov FY2020.

FBR tax collection grew by 16.8% to Rs 1615.2bn during July-November, FY2020 against Rs 1382.9bn last year. Within total FBR tax collection Domestic tax collection grew up 21.5% and Import taxes down 2.6% (import compression)

On external side, Exports increased by 4.7% to \$10.31bn during July-November, FY2020 against \$9.85bn in the same period last year, while Imports decreased by 21.1% to \$18.31bn during July-November, FY2020 against \$23.22bn in the same period last year.

Consequently, Trade deficit decreased 40.1% to \$8.002bn during July-November, FY2020 against \$13.36bn in the comparable period of last year.

Cement dispatches increased by 5.8% to 20.462 million ton (15.4million ton). Cement export increased 21.5% to 3.608 million ton (2.4 million ton).

Other Developments include

PSDP releases system is accelerated. In this regard ways & means and Finance Division endorsement is eliminated.

As a major development, PSX becomes best performing market as per Bloomberg in last three months. PSX benchmark KSE 100-Index gained around 10,500 point in last three months.

Similarly, the Moody's Investors Service upgraded Pakistan's credit rating outlook to stable from negative.

On external front, in the month of November, 2019 Exports increased 11.23% to \$2.110bn against \$1.897bn in the same month last year while Imports decreased 13.18% to \$3.648bn as compared with \$4.202bn in the comparable period last year.

In October 2019, on M-o-M, LSM registered a growth 4.01% (Sep 1.9%), indicating upward trajectory. Cement dispatches increased 10.6% in November to 4.35 million ton (3.9 million ton).

Another important development is that Karkey renegotiated to save Pakistan \$ 1.2 bn.

Circular Debt

- Monthly flow decreased from Rs 38 bn in July 2019 to about Rs 10 bn. Targeted to be zero next year.
- Strategy for dealing with the stock of debt being finalized.
- Protection for lower end consumers <300 from price rationalization.
- More effective recovery/detection of electricity theft (>50 mn).
- Ministry of Energy will issue an additional Rs 250bn Sukuks (with government guarantee) in FY2020 to retire the CPPA liabilities of the IPPs.

Compact for Jobs & Growth

- Scale up Affordable Housing devised by Naya Pakistan Housing Authority
- Additional budgetary allocation of Rs 20bn to 30bn in FY2020 to cover the 10% down payment by beneficiaries of affordable housing. The total impact of this stimulus to the economy would be equivalent to Rs 200bn to Rs 300 bn.
- Tax Credits equal to 10% of the amount of expense related to these projects including labour related costs will be allowed to the developer for the first two years

Exporter's package

- Additional credit of Rs 200bn for exporters under the Export Finance Scheme (EFS) in FY2020
 - The interest rate differential (between Kibor and EFS markup) will be paid by additional Rs 10bn subsidy by the government in FY2020
 - This will boost export sector and reduce their cost of doing business
- SBP will give additional Rs 100bn worth of lending to the exporters, to be subsidized by government through SBP profits

December 29, 2019

Source: http://www.finance.gov.pk/press_releases.html

IV: Environment

Address by Federal Minister/ Advisor to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam Khan at 25th Session of Conference of Parties (COP-25) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Your Excellency, Ms. Carolina Schmidt, President of COP 25
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Madam Executive Secretary,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Madam President,

Let me take this opportunity to first congratulate the Government and people of Chile for assuming the presidency of COP-25 and to convey our appreciation to the Government of Spain for their support in hosting the conference in the beautiful city of Madrid. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts put in by the government of Poland in their capacity as Presidency of COP 24 in carrying forward the climate agenda.

Madam President, Let us not be under any illusion. The world, as shaped by us, is now on a warpath with nature and we, the political shapers of this situation, are collectively leading the charge brigade. While nature may be resilient, it is *no longer* silent and an era of consequences is already upon us. The virulent cyclones, rising heat waves, freak floods, melting glaciers and rising sea levels are all vivid and living indicators of not only our failing battle but also of nature's forceful reply.

Madam President, this battle against nature is not a battle that *can be won* nor a battle that *should* be won. Instead, a collective retreat is needed to try and take nature on board, to allow it space to bounce back and to tread on a different path of ecologically balanced growth - before we hit the thresholds of climate irreversibility.

The politics of climate change, played out in these hallowed halls, unfortunately remains totally out of sync with the scientific evidence *and* the physical reality of climate change. If this continues, all of us may be soon destined to the dustbins of history – a history of self inflicted destruction.

Our youth is out on the streets and sees the urgency and emergency, our scientists not only see it but have already predicted the abyss facing us and our economies are already draining under the burden of forced adaptation costs.

So Madam President, let us negotiate *to act* and *not to further delay* action. Within the comity of nations, Pakistan solidly supports the Paris Consensus and at same time it faces a climate challenge which is not only unique but equally inescapable. We contribute less than 1% of the global greenhouse gas emissions but yet, every year, we keep on climbing up the ladder of climate vulnerability. The long term German Watch index, places Pakistan at

5th position in terms of climate vulnerability and 3rd in terms of the economic costs borne over this period – estimated at \$3.2 bn. Within this ranking, we also join a small and unique group of countries which is, consistently and simultaneously, appearing on *not only* the yearly but also the long term climate vulnerability index.

This, Madam President, is not an enviable position to be in, and certainly not a position of our own making nor of our own choosing, as it places Pakistan squarely on the front lines of an unfolding disaster.

Climate change, as viewed from Pakistan's lens, may well be the biggest human rights violation of history where the lives and livelihoods of billions of people has been put at risk – *all due to* the unbridled pollution and uncontrolled excesses of a few.

Pakistan does not have an option to escape climate change and its impacts. The forced climate adaptation needs remain at between \$7 to \$14 billion per annum, thus making climate compatible development an inevitable direction to take and building resilience of our vulnerable communities as well as our infrastructure, an undeniable option

While facing this daunting challenge, Pakistan remains *equally committed to raising its ambition for climate action* and lead the response in shaping a new future. A future at balance and harmony with nature and a future which can further the dreams of our youth and avoid hopelessly crushing them at the altar of an impending climate catastrophe,

Madam President - this future *is* possible. We, in Pakistan, have chosen to position ourselves to tread on a sustainable development pathway, in line with the spirit of the Paris Agreement. A paradigm shift in our business as usual is at play which involves enormous political and economic cost.

Led by our Prime Minister Imran Khan's green vision and backed with concerted action, Pakistan has been making a shift towards a "clean and green" Pakistan.

We *shifted away* from having the highest deforestation rate in Asia, by successfully planting a billion trees in KhybetPakhtunkhwa province in 4 years and increasing the provincial forest cover by 6.3%. We have now raised the bar by initiating the 10 billion tree tsunami - across the whole country. This project is helping us to generate thousands of green jobs, revive the forest biodiversity, engage the indigenous communities and energize our youth to become custodians of a green future for our nation.

Secondly, we have decided to shift away from polluting transport by framing our first electric vehicle policy which is now targeting a 30% shift to electric by 2030. Earlier this month, the city of Karachi in Pakistan launched the world's first "zero emissions" metro line – which incidentally is also the first transport project to be financed under the Green Climate fund.

Thirdly, a "Clean-Green cities index" has been initiated in 20 cities to *trigger a shift* towards improved waste management and sanitation. Concurrently, Pakistan has decided to get out of its plastic addiction by banning the single use plastic bags – which is now being enforced across the country.

Fourthly, our “Recharge Pakistan” initiative is *focused on shifting* our direction by effectively managing and prudently utilizing our water resources – turning catastrophic floods into an opportunity for recharging aquifers and naturally restoring ecosystems. This is an innovative initiative and an ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change.

Concurrently, to fulfil our growing energy needs, we are making a purposeful transition towards renewable energy by harnessing the untapped potential of wind, solar and hydro in Pakistan and are targeting a huge 60% shift towards clean “carbon free” energy by 2030.

In compliance with its responsibilities, Pakistan’s second national communications was recently submitted, the national committee on carbon markets has been set up to explore market based instruments and our NDC is being updated into an “enhanced NDC” to incorporate all the country-financed activities *practically underway* in Pakistan and reflected in our 5 point environmental agenda.

Also, Pakistan is now launching the “Eco-System Restoration Fund” as an *independent, transparent and comprehensive financial mechanism which shall* facilitate Pakistan’s transition towards climate compatible development through targeted initiatives on afforestation, biodiversity conservation and ecological restoration. All using nature based solutions to address nature based challenges. This platform will allow partners to share with Pakistan the dream of a better, low carbon and ecologically balanced future.

Finally, Madam President

While countries like Pakistan are willing to think out of the box as well as act out of the box, we urge that raising ambition is essentially seen in the context of specific national circumstances and development imperatives of developing countries as well as the unfulfilled commitments with regard to mitigation, technology transfer and provision of climate finance, all of which *need to be met urgently and to be scaled up significantly*.

Pakistan remains committed and ready to play its part in what has to be a coordinated effort based on a relationship of trust and a partnership with nature.

We have to ACT NOW because Madam President our collective INACTION will neither be forgiven nor forgotten.

I thank you.

(11-12 December 2019 Madrid, Spain)

(https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/PAKISTAN_cop25cmp15cma2_HLS_EN.pdf)