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[Masud Ahmad Khan \(https://nation.com.pk/Columnist/masud-ahmad-khan\)](https://nation.com.pk/Columnist/masud-ahmad-khan)

August 24, 2020

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The Siachen Glacier was discovered in 1907 and is the world's largest glacier outside of the polar regions. It is 72 kilometres long and 3 kilometres wide. The glacier emanates near the Indra Koli Pass, on the Pak China border, 37 nautical miles southeast of K2. Then, it runs along the Salto Range in a south eastern direction until it joins river Nubra.

The Siachen Glacier can be accessed through five passes: Sia la (23960 feet), Bilafond la (20210 feet), Gyong la (18500 feet), Yarma la (20000 feet) and Chulong la 19000 feet. Its surrounding region was not demarcated in the 1949 Karachi Agreement which defined the ceasefire line (CFL). Beyond NJ 9842, the ceasefire line was identified as "thence north to the glacier". NJ 9842 is located about 12 miles north of river Shyok in the Saltoro Mountains of the Karakoram Range. From this point, the north of the Chinese border area was left un-demarcated due to inaccessibility and extreme inhospitable terrain.

According to the Indian Line of Control (LOC), which extends northward beyond NJ 9842, along the Saltoro Range and up to Sia Kangri, the entire Siachen Glacier belongs to them. Pakistan stands with its boundary alignment beyond NJ 9842 eastward, up to the Karakoram Pass. Even in the 1972 Simla Agreement, there is no mention of the area beyond NJ 9842. Pakistan controlled and administered this region since 1947, as India, as well as the international community, acknowledged its de facto control in the area. Accordingly, several mountaineering, trekking and hiking expeditions to the Siachen Glacier were authorised by Pakistan. Foreign expeditions kept coming to scale the Karakoram Range.

Pakistan reports 633 coronavirus in one day (<https://nation.com.pk/21-Sep-2020/coronavirus-kills-4-pakistanis-infects-633-in-one-day>).

Atlases reflecting Pakistan's version of the Line of Control (LoC) were produced in the US and UK by National Geographic and Encyclopaedia Britannica (1979). It was also reflected in the maps produced by the prestigious American Alpine Journal and Hugh Swift's Classic Trekkers Guide to the Himalaya and the Karakoram. Martin A Sugarman has mentioned in his book, War Above Clouds, that Sir Owen Dixon, the first UN representative in Pakistan and India, also mentioned that the Siachen Glacier falls within the Northern Areas (Gilgit-Baltistan) of Pakistan in his report to the Security Council. Former analyst Ravi Rikhye in his book, The Fourth Round, included a map putting the Siachen Glacier clearly inside Pakistani territory. The book, The Western Front, published in India in 1984 by Lt Gen K.P Candeth (R), includes several maps that support Pakistan's claims as well.

The Siachen Glacier is important for the defence of Ladakh as it guards routes to Leh also overlooks the Shaksgam Valley. Control of the glacier by India, according to Happymon Jacob, is "mostly symbolic and political, not strategic or military". India's attention was caught only after mountaineering maps placed Siachen inside Pakistan

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after which it sent several expeditions to the first mission was sent in 1978, followed by another in 1980 to Sia Kangri and Saltoro. In 1981, another mission was sent to Indra Col and Bilafond la as well.

[Dozens of Israeli settlers storm Al-Aqsa complex \(https://nation.com.pk/21-Sep-2020/dozens-of-israeli-settlers-storm-al-aqsa-complex\)](https://nation.com.pk/21-Sep-2020/dozens-of-israeli-settlers-storm-al-aqsa-complex)

Today India controls Sia la, Bilafond la and the Gyong la, the three passes of the Saltoro ridge located west of the glacier. In contrast, Pakistan controls the glacial valley west of the Saltoro ridge.

The tactical advantage gained by India in occupying two key northern passes was neutralized when Pakistan deployed forces to three southern passes along the Saltoro range. Pakistan's army blocked Indian access to K2 by establishing one of the highest military posts, Conway Saddle (6032 meters), at the junction of the Karakoram and Saltoro Range. Pakistan controls the Baltoro glacier, the third longest glacier of world outside of the Polar Regions, which houses some of the world's famous peaks. Four of the five peaks are located in Pakistan -K2, Broad Peak and Gasherbrums.

Pakistan also controls Sia Kangri, located adjacent to Conway Saddle, close to Gasherbrums. Sia Kangri overlooks the Baltoro Glacier to the west, Chinese territory to the north and Indira Col, Sia la, Siachen Glacier to its east and south east respectively. In 1987, the Pakistan army launched a successful operation to gain control of some heights of the Saltoro range and occupied an area called Quaid post at 21200 feet. India occupied this post after several unsuccessful attacks only when five SSG personnel ran out of ammunition and supply to the base was logistically impossible at the time. They fought to death, killing 54 Indian soldiers before embracing shahadat. In May 1989 another attempt was made in Chumik, when there were indications of Indian intentions to occupy some heights in the sector. In a daring operation, a key observation post at 21300 feet was occupied by Lt. Naveed and a Non-Commissioned Officer, suspended from a lama helicopter. They repulsed several Indian attacks.

[UK Health Secretary says Britain at 'tipping point' \(https://nation.com.pk/21-Sep-2020/uk-health-secretary-says-britain-at-tipping-point\)](https://nation.com.pk/21-Sep-2020/uk-health-secretary-says-britain-at-tipping-point)

With the recent success of the Chinese PLA in occupied Ladakh, where they have a 15-20-kilometre area in Galwan, Depsang and Pangong Tso, the glacier has been seriously threatened from a joint operation by the Chinese and Pakistan army. Talks to

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settle the issue were held from time to time. The issue was discussed during the 5th round of defence secretary level talks in 1989, where it was agreed to withdraw all troops. However, the next day, India backed out of the commitment. In 1992, another agreement was concluded during the visit of Rajiv Gandhi to Pakistan. However, once again, the Indian side came out with a plea of “authentication of the current position” which Pakistan refused to accept as it would amount to legalising Indian aggression. In 2004, again India insisted on the authentication of their current position while Pakistan stressed on the implementation of the understanding reached in 1989. In 2006 it was agreed to establish a zone of disengagement in the area.

UN welcomes, Turkey opposes Libyan PM's decision to step down

(<https://nation.com.pk/20-Sep-2020/un-welcomes-turkey-opposes-libyan-pm-s-decision-to-step-down>).

According to Khursheed Kasuri's book, 'Neither a Hawk nor a Dove', Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said, while visiting that, “Siachen should be turned into a mountain of peace”. However due to opposition from the defence minister of the time, Antony, nothing progressed. Let us salute the sacrifices, valour and spirit of the soldiers of the Pakistan Army who are defending the motherland despite extremely difficult odds in the world highest battlefield.

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^ | v • Reply • Share >



Zarzan → Sanjeev • 6 days ago

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shaan • a month ago

This circus joker is in a hurry? Instead of waiting to get all 72 virgins afterlife he lays claims all Virgins in the paki town are his own? too greedy circus troops of pakistan?

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Zarzan → shaan • 6 days ago

Looks you have too much cow gobar(shit) in u r puny Indian brain. All virgins will be Indian men. Hahahaha. Pak will take their virginity and they scream with joy.

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Rosewoods • a month ago

Go and take it.

^ | v • Reply • Share >

Kumar • a month ago

Keep dreaming!

^ | v • Reply • Share >

SKChadha • a month ago

Oh why SiaChin? By IK's drawing on paper, entire J&K is now in Pakistan. Come and take it.



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Total Cases

31,079,041

Total Deaths

960,992

188

countries/regions

◀ Totals ▶

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ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE

Opposition demands PM's resignation, announces protests

! Pakistan Democratic Movement formed to send govt packing | 26-point resolution calls for new elections, reduction in prices of commodities, transparent elections in Gilg | Joint rallies to be held in Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Lahore in October, November | Long March towards Islamabad in January



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Shaukat Bhutto Zardari, Opposition leader and President PPP, Asif Ali Zardari, Vice President PPP, Asif Ali Zardari, and other leaders of various political parties attending an All Parties Conference.

Ministers, advisors react strongly to speeches in APC

! Shiba Farooq demands state institutions to take notice of Nawaz

US Senators demand designation of India as 'Country of concern'

MANAGERIAL
 ISLAMABAD

The opposition parties at the All Parties Conference on Sunday launched Pakistan Movement a movement against the federal government and demanded immediate resignation of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Speaking at a joint news conference after the APC, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan Muslim League (PML) President Shehbaz Sharif and Inayatullah Khan (I) leader and Pakistan Forum leader said that the country could no longer live under Khan at the helm.

Speaking out the 30-point resolution passed by the APC, Zardari said the PPP had been excluded in coalition government. "The alliance

agreement is an imposed and unconstitutional one," he said.

The main point of the resolution included immediate resignation of Prime Minister Imran Khan and start of a countrywide protest campaign which will be participated by farmers, students, teachers, laborers, students, and newly elected and general public.

Anything to the opposition parties against Khan will be held in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore and other cities in the country in future and nationwide strikes will be held in protest.

Opposition leader Zardari said that the alliance government and long March towards Islamabad will be held in January 2021. The resolution urged that the coalition government should not interfere in the

NEW STORY REPORTERS ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan's speech inappropriately, illogical | SA Rashid says all criminals, criminals gathered in APC

Prime Minister Imran Khan's Special Address to the nation through a live telecast on Sunday evening, as reported by the opposition parties in the All Parties Conference held in Islamabad.

Whereas for Imran Khan and Shehbaz Sharif, Khan and Zardari were not talking to the address of the APC, Zardari said that the opposition parties in the APC should be united with the coalition government.

Talking to a press conference, he said, "Imran Khan should be united with the coalition government."

Live-telecast of Sharif's speech incident of media freedom: Farooq

Live telecast of Prime Minister Imran Khan's speech on Sunday evening, as reported by the opposition parties in the All Parties Conference held in Islamabad.

Whereas for Imran Khan and Shehbaz Sharif, Khan and Zardari were not talking to the address of the APC, Zardari said that the opposition parties in the APC should be united with the coalition government.

Talking to a press conference, he said, "Imran Khan should be united with the coalition government."

stated that the police were engaged in the past but before making such statements, he should remember that he was not a politician but a leader. Khan had been elected prime minister for the first time in 2018 and he had been elected for the first time in 2018 and he had been elected for the first time in 2018.

He said that the opposition parties in the APC should be united with the coalition government.

Talking to a press conference, he said, "Imran Khan should be united with the coalition government."

The "Question to keep America in India", a broad coalition of the anti-American and US-based and right-wing organizations and activists, Sunday criticized a letter written by American US Secretary for Secretary of State Mike Pompeo regarding the US law enforcement. The US law enforcement is a federal institution that is not necessary to be destroyed as a foundation of American Constitution (EPC), which is the US Constitution's official name for constitution that are the world's most advanced of religious freedom.

The American letter was signed by the Republican senators and four Democratic senators and sent to Secretary Pompeo that week. Should the US government decide not to accept the recommendations made by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), a federal commission, the letter requests the State Department to inform US Congress of its next steps within 30 days of making that determination.

Last year, the US Congress



LAHORE: PML supports challenging to speech of prime minister Imran Khan at a meeting of Pakistan Movement. Photo by Pakistan News

Zardari pledges 'real democracy'

Shehbaz Sharif terms federal govt a failure

NEW STORY REPORTERS ISLAMABAD

Opposition parties today promised to hold the first All Parties Conference in Islamabad on Sunday evening, as reported by the opposition parties in the All Parties Conference held in Islamabad.

Whereas for Imran Khan and Shehbaz Sharif, Khan and Zardari were not talking to the address of the APC, Zardari said that the opposition parties in the APC should be united with the coalition government.

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Nawaz's confrontational speech stuns party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT ISLAMABAD

The PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif's speech appeared to have stunned his party members with whom it appeared the contents of the speech were not previously revealed.

The speech was delivered from Lahore and was heard by the live show by Maryam Nawaz Sharif on Twitter. Party members reported that the speech was a brilliant speech that indicated that the thinking of the leader of PML-N (Nawaz Sharif) had not been revealed to the public. The timing of the speech was also a surprise.

There were also no signs of resignation that the government is leaving PML-N or any of the other party members of the APC. Government members reported that the speech, which was delivered to the party, was well-received and that the timing of the speech was a surprise.

PM allowed live-telecast of Nawaz Sharif's speech

NEW STORY REPORTERS ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Imran Khan allowed the live telecast of Nawaz Sharif's speech at the All Parties Conference (APC) on Sunday evening, as reported by the opposition parties in the All Parties Conference held in Islamabad.

Whereas for Imran Khan and Shehbaz Sharif, Khan and Zardari were not talking to the address of the APC, Zardari said that the opposition parties in the APC should be united with the coalition government.

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