

1260

Kublai Khan, grandson of Genghis Khan, becomes ruler of the Mongol Empire



1941

Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie returns to Addis Ababa

1955

West Germany is granted full sovereignty by its three occupying powers

1965

First large-scale US Army ground units arrive in South Vietnam

1980

Siege at Iranian Embassy in London ends as the SAS and police storm the building

# n drone attack



The Kremlin attack came as Russia prepares to mark one of its main holidays of May 9 -- celebrating the Soviet victory over the Nazis -- with a traditional military parade on Red Square

believes "deserves to be sanctioned for his criminal actions here, in the capital of international law."

Zelensky called for a special tribunal to be created to hold Russia to account for its "crime of aggression".

"There should be responsibility for this crime. And this can only be enforced by the tribunal," he told diplomats and officials at the court.

The Netherlands has pledged both financial and military support to Ukraine since Russia launched its offensive in February 2022.

Zelensky also met Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, and said that Ukraine was "realistic" that it would not be able to join NATO while still fighting Russia.

"But we want a very clear message that we will be in NATO after the war," he said.

Putin has used Ukraine's wish to join the alliance to justify launching his offensive.

On the day of the alleged Kremlin attack, Ukraine said Russia shelled the southern Kherson region, including in a strike on a supermarket.

At least 23 people died, and 46 were wounded in the strikes, officials said.

placed, everything will be like new. There is no other damage."

## 'Criminal actions'

As Moscow accused the US of planning the Kremlin attack, Ukraine's Zelensky arrived on a surprise visit to The Hague.

He visited the International Criminal Court, which in March issued an arrest warrant for Putin over the alleged illegal deportation of Ukrainian children.

"We all want to see a different Vladimir here," Zelensky said, referring to the Russian President, his namesake, who he be-

## Pakistan foreign minister says 'happy' on rare visit to India



A vehicle carrying Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrives in a convoy to attend the SCO meeting in Benaulim in Goa

AFP | Benaulim

Pakistan's foreign minister arrived in India yesterday to take part in an international conference, the first official visit by a senior Pakistani official to the country's eastern neighbour since 2016.

The South Asian neighbours have fought three full-fledged wars since they were created at the partition of the Indian sub-continent in 1947, and relations between the nuclear-armed countries have remained tense in recent years.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is in the Indian coastal resort state of Goa for a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting of foreign ministers, along with counterparts from China and Russia.

"I am very happy that today I have arrived here leading the delegation of Pakistan," he told reporters.

Bhutto gave no indication whether he would hold one-on-one talks with his opposite number in India, but said he hoped the SCO meeting would be "very

**I am very happy that today I have arrived here leading the delegation of Pakistan**

BILAWAL BHUTTO ZARDARI

successful".

Pakistan suspended trade and diplomatic ties with India in 2019.

Both countries withdrew their top diplomats and several consular staff were expelled or withdrawn in tit-for-tat measures.

That development came after a military standoff earlier in the year that saw both countries launch air strikes and an Indian fighter jet shot down.

The most recent visit to India by a high-ranking Pakistan diplomat was in 2016, when Sartaj Aziz -- then the senior foreign affairs adviser to the prime minister -- travelled there.

India currently holds the rotating presidency of the SCO, a forum established in 2001 that also includes several Central Asian states, rivalling Western institutions.



TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



On #FirefightersDay, we honour and thank all firefighters who risk their lives to save others. Firefighters are at the heart of our #EUCivilProtectionMechanism, helping out other firefighting teams when they are overwhelmed with an emergency. Thank you for your devotion and solidarity!

@JanezLenarcic

02



The climate crisis is a health crisis. @WHO welcomes @COP28\_UAE's strategic decisions to include health at the centre of #COP28 discussions and hold the first-ever health and climate ministerial meeting.

@DrTedros

03



Small businesses employ nearly half of the nation's private sector workforce. They are essential to our communities and our prosperity.

@VP

04



For too long, Big Oil has made huge profits and failed to invest those back into production. It's time we end special tax treatment for oil and gas company investments, saving the taxpayer over \$30 billion in the process. That's what my budget does.

@POTUS

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

## A checkpoint established for future peace and stability



SHAHIN ABDULLAYEV

The South Caucasus is the crossroads between resource-rich Central Asia and resource-hungry European economy. Peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan will foster the prosperity not just of the Armenians and Azerbaijanis but of all Eurasia. The resounding victory of Azerbaijan in the Second Karabakh War of 2020 created an historic opportunity to turn the page, to leave hostilities behind and normalize relations based on international law.

To seize this opportunity, the West must acquire a better awareness of the irrefutable facts on which the Azerbaijani views are based. Unfortunately, Armenia, its diaspora and foreign supporters have recently launched a propaganda campaign designed to obscure these facts from view. The immediate goal of the campaign is to bring American and European pressure to bear on Baku. The longer-term goal is to scuttle the peace process that began in November 2020, when Armenia acknowledged its defeat in the war.

The disinformation campaign focuses on events along the Lachin Road, linking Armenia with the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, and it advances two main claims. First, that "blockade" of the road, which began on Dec. 12 by Azerbaijani environmental activists created a humanitarian disaster, endangering the lives of about 25 thousand ethnic Armenians in Kara-

in its sovereign territories, on the border with Armenia, at the beginning of the Lachin-Khankendi to ensure transparency of road traffic, the rule of law, and, thus, the safety of traffic. We should state that mentioned control mechanism is being coordinated with the Russian peace-keeping contingent.

Let's take these misleading claims in turn, starting with the alleged humanitarian crisis. Humanitarian shipments, including medicines, food, and other essential goods, move easily into Karabakh. Local civilians facing urgent medical and other essential needs can leave for Armenia and return along the road.

To prevent any humanitarian crisis, Baku gave the International Red Cross unimpeded access to the road. It is recorded that 614 vehicles of RC and 5178 of Russian peacekeepers moved through the corridor in each direction freely. Soldiers of Russia, Armenia's greatest ally, are better placed than any other international actor to reassure Yerevan regarding the physical security of Karabakh Armenians.

Which brings us to the second spurious claim, namely, that Azerbaijan is denying ethnic Armenians in Karabakh their rights. Understanding why this is a blatant falsehood requires historical context, though it is quickly told. During the First Karabakh War, which ended in 1994, Armenian forces occupied and ethnically cleansed Karabakh and other surrounding Azerbaijani territories of ethnic Azerbaijanis. They killed, raped, and tortured many hundreds of innocent civilians, driving over 800,000 people from their homes in Karabakh and 250,000 Azerbaijanis forced to relocate from present-day Armenia often in the dead of winter, with the Khojaly massacre being the peak of this barbarity.

These crimes, committed with impunity and still awaiting justice, were well documented while they happened. In the wake of this, international law and every major power in the world reaffirms Karabakh as sovereign Azerbaijani territory, and full restoration of effective Azerbaijani control of Karabakh is seen as the basis for a just and lasting peace. For this reason, UN Security Council Resolutions 822, 853, 874 and 884 all demand the "complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal" of Armenian forces from the territory of Azerbaijan. Even now, 10,000 Armenia's troops and as many as 15,000 terrorists and militias remain in Karabakh—a time bomb threatening peace and stability.

The UN issued those orders in 1993. For nearly three decades Azerbaijanis waited patiently for the international community to implement them. Meanwhile, Armenia played for time, just as it is doing now: talking about peace, preparing for war, and spreading misinformation. Its forces looted Azerbaijani towns and villages, erasing every sign of Azerbaijani cultural heritage, and plundered its mineral resources. Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev has said that During occupation Armenia destroyed 65 of 67 mosques in Azerbaijan and used to keep pigs and cows in mosques in Nagorno-Karabakh when it was under their occupation for about 30 years.

By 2020, Azerbaijan's patience had worn thin. In the Second Karabakh War, it demonstrated its resolute determination to reclaim its stolen land.

Time is of essence. Sane policy grounded in reality can still prevent new tragedies. Yerevan must stop relying on dreams and fantasies and deal with hard facts. Armenia and its allies must stop using the Armenians of Karabakh as pawns in a cynical game of power politics. If those involved in facilitating the peace process will read the realities accurately, they can help Armenia avoid the mistakes of the past and make the peace of the brave.

*(The author is Azerbaijan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia. The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Daily Tribune)*

Since April 23rd the units of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan established a border crossing point in its sovereign territories, on the border with Armenia, at the beginning of the Lachin-Khankendi to ensure transparency of road traffic, the rule of law, and, thus, the safety of traffic

bakh. Second, that it is part of a wider effort by Azerbaijan to deny the Karabakh Armenians their rights and security.

In the Trilateral Statement of Nov. 10, 2020 (the agreement signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia that brought the Second Karabakh to an end), Armenia agreed to accept new reality on the ground and build peace. Ever since, however, Armenia has misused the Lachin road to export from Karabakh to Armenia plundered Azerbaijani mineral resources; build up its military forces in Karabakh; infiltrate third-country nationals to erect new fortifications; and smuggle in landmines. Currently, the threat of landmines is continuing and 299 Azerbaijanis became victims of landmine explosions since the end of the 44-day patriotic war which is terror against Azerbaijanis.

These are not the actions of a country preparing for peace—and Azerbaijan is all too familiar with these tactics. It will not permit Armenia, once again, to ensnare it in interminable negotiations all the while preparing for war. As to the Lachin road, transparency of any movement along it must be immediately guaranteed.

As a result of this, since April 23rd the units of the State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan established a border crossing point