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Will ICJ Enliven the Virtue of Justice?

by Srishti Sharma

"If we do not end war, war will end us." These words by H.G. Wells in 'The Shape of Things to Come' express an emotion that is clamouring in the heart and mind of every citizen and refugee who became the victim of a brutal war. But those who are in a position to change this still refuse to see the apathy, hear the distressed cries or feel the pain and sorrow. In order to end these clashes and strike a chord of peace, the United Nations was inceptioned in 1945.

The International Court of Justice is a principal Judicial Organ of the United Nations. It plays an essential role in settling the legal disputes between countries in accordance with International Law. The Court in this conference will adjudicate upon the active dispute between Ukraine and the Russian Federation on the question of Crimea.

The Russian Federation annexed the Crimean peninsula in 2014. While Russian troops were in their territory, the Crimean Parliament voted to dismiss its government, replacing the Prime Minister. A referendum was called on Crimea's autonomy. As a result of this, the Crimean Parliament became a part of the Russian Federation. However, the United Nations General Assembly passed a non-

binding Resolution declaring the Crimean referendum to be invalid and thus, the incorporation of Crimea into Russia, illegal.

The major question of concern here is whether the inclusion of the Crimean peninsula in the state of Russian Federation is legitimate or not. The era of colonization came to an end in 1999. If Crimea's position of being Russia's federal subject is not internationally proved legal; its status might be no better than that of a colony.

This question intrigues everybody and therefore the success of this committee becomes important. It is expected that the committee moves forward in the right direction with optimism. Although allegations and incessant blame can be foreseen, it is aspired that the committee members don't forgo their responsibility towards solving this grave issue.



What is next in Gaza?

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Two sides of a coin

by Guncha Dhir

Nuclear energy not only provides a relatively non-polluting source of power but is also virtually inexhaustible. With the rapidly increasing energy demand by the world's ever-growing population, this share is likely to increase in the upcoming decades. As with any other source of energy, benefits and drawbacks blindly follow. Today a number of countries with nuclear energy programs have the ability to manufacture nuclear weapons within a matter of time, if their security perceptions change due to mastering of the critical technology - uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing. The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapon technology, to promote cooperation in the peacefully sustainable uses of nuclear energy, and to further achieve nuclear, general and complete disarmament.



The representatives of different countries have their own distinct stances over the issue. Iran, a signatory to the NPT, has a large-scale nuclear development program under way, perpetuating a complete nuclear fuel-cycle. Iran's population has more than doubled in the last 2 decades due to which the country regularly imports gasoline and electricity. As the case of Russia is concerned, the production of fissile material for weapons was stopped sixteen years ago. And now it has fully ended production of weapon-grade plutonium. For United States, it considers these technologies to be of particular concern as they are of paramount importance to produce fissile materials. The United States responds to criticism of its disarmament record by pointing out that since the end of the Cold War it has eliminated over 13,000 nuclear weapons, and

80% of its deployed strategic warheads along with 90% of non-strategic warheads to NATO in the process of reducing its reliance on nuclear weapons.

As of Israel, it has not signed the NPT, but it did sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996. Isolated in the UN, Israel relies heavily on American

support. Over the years the NPT has come to be seen by many states as "a conspiracy of the nuclear 'haves' to keep the nuclear 'have-nots' in their place". This argument has roots in Article VI of the treaty which "obligates the nuclear weapons states to liquidate their nuclear stockpiles and pursue complete disarmament. The non-nuclear states see no signs of this happening.

Those states which possess nuclear weapons, but are not authorized to do so under the NPT, have not paid a significant price for their pursuit of weapons capabilities. Also, the NPT has been explicitly weakened by a number of bilateral deals made by NPT signatories, notably the United States.

UN 'Gossamer Assembly'

by Kanika Sahijwani

Discussions regarding the future of the nations are dominated by those who believe that an expanding world economy will use up natural resources and those who see no reasons, environmental or otherwise, to limit economic growth. Neither side has it right.

While DISEC covers a variety of different topics ranging from the illegal trade in weapons to conflicts dealing with non-proliferation of biological and chemical weapons, the issue being discussed for this simulation is the dire need of "Protection of Non-nuclear weapon states from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

The council hopes to put into limelight the grave discussion areas like the possibility of the non-state actors stealing or illicitly purchasing highly enriched uranium for constructing an improvised nuclear device; country's stand towards the current non-proliferation regime for the non NPT Nuclear Weapons States be brought under the same to safeguard Nuclear Weapon States. Interlink should be drawn on the limitations of current agenda at hand. Continued and enhanced international cooperation will be required to succeed in keeping nuclear materials out of the hands of terrorists as well as the sufficiency to hold any nation back from its use.

The council should focus on bridging the gap between the traditional and integrated measures of safe guard, in order to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency within the available resources. The IP hopes the discussion resonates with the agenda; refraining delegates from being one tracked and shirking from raising substantive debate.



What Next In Gaza?

by Shikharr Chandra

A family of 25 sat inside their house getting ready to eat their Iftar, the evening meal to break the Ramadan. A few minutes later, the entire family got wiped out from an Israeli airstrike, leaving the people of Gaza in shock and terror.

So far, more than 2000 people have lost their lives, more than 10,000 homes have been destroyed, hospitals and schools have been wrecked. The people of Gaza are living their worst nightmare- one that wouldn't even be wished on their worst enemy.

Just who is to be blamed for this situation? While some tend to put the blame on Israel for the killings, many have held the Hamas accountable. Sadly, it has been the civilians who have been affected the most.

The loss of their loved ones accompanied with the deprivation of basic amenities, the living condition of more than 1.8 million people in Gaza has taken a massive hit. Children are unable to start their new school year and the level of unemployment has reached an all-time high.

Waking up to the sound of gunshots and missiles, life in Gaza has been a continuous battle for the people living there. While thousands have fled away, many are still trapped in a state of destitute.

The Human Rights Council provides an opportunity for the countries to get together and look at this matter in depth.

Expectations-

- The international committee should help find a way for the people suffering in Gaza. More than 100,000 people have been injured in the entire conflict. With hospitals and ambulances destroyed, there is hardly any place for urgent medical care.
- The level of protection in this high population area has been minimal which is evident from the assassination's that have taken place. The committee should find a way to make life of these young children more sound and stable.

- Financial aid must be provided from time to time so that the re-construction of buildings can be done. Help must be provided in the agricultural sector as well.
- The international community should ensure that there is proper implementation of these rules so that the people of Gaza, like the rest of the world can live a more peaceful and stable life.
- Basic amenities must be provided to those affected by war.

Members that can be key players-

The current crisis cannot be solved without the two main participants **Israel** and **Palestine**. Both have blamed each other for the ongoing conflict which has resulted in numerous killings over the past few months. While many have blamed Israel for targeting a nation far weaker than them, the action of Hamas has also been under constant scrutiny for the constant use of arms and ammunitions instead of opting for a more peaceful route. The two must accept the blame and help maintain the ongoing attempt at ceasefire.

The **Red Cross** society throughout the Gaza crisis has played a key role in helping those affected. The Palestinian Red Cross Society has provided medical aid and has made countless appeals for funding. The human rights committee provides Red Cross with an opportunity to make an appeal to the other members in order to generate more funding and seek help in restoring the faith and humanity in Gaza.

The **United States of America** has been a major supplier of arms to Israel. Over the years they have helped the Israeli's in building up their defense system and despite knowing of the crisis in Gaza the United States have continued this supply. Being one of the major powers of the world, the US must make its stance clear regarding its role in the conflict.

Major topics to be discussed-

- The daily struggles of the people in Gaza mainly focusing on food, shelter and water.
- The economic condition, how the people are being affected and the measures being taken to cope.
- Tunnel blockage

CONCLUSION

The delegates present in the committee must look at the matter in depth and attempt to resolve the ongoing crisis.



Intrusion or Invasion?

by Kumar Satyam

At a time when Pakistan is, allegedly making inroads into the Indian territories near Kargil, the government has taken staunch decisions to counter the already captured areas. According to sources, India is planning for a war after the Defence Ministry claimed the presence of Pakistan army in Kargil.

A patrol team, reportedly has been sent to the specific areas in Kargil. In addition to that, the government has mobilized 200,000 troops to be on high alert.

It has exactly been 9 days since the first reported intrusion was detected on May 3. The involvement of Pakistan, if it is, indeed comes as a huge setback in the Indo-Pak relations which seemingly looked promising after the Lahore Declaration which vouched for a shared "vision of peace and stability".

The Lahore Declaration was a Memorandum of Understanding for the two nations to "engage in bilateral consultations on security concepts and nuclear doctrines with a view to developing measures for confidence building in the nuclear and conventional fields aimed at avoidance of conflict". Merely 4 months have passed and Pakistan has forgotten this "Peace Treat" or is too ignorant to pay any heed to it.

Coming back to India, the need of the hour is to act consciously. India needs to confine the fighting to its own side of the Line of Control to avoid internationalizing the issue, which might prove counter-productive in the long run. The government needs to build a strategy at this point considering the capturing of tactical positions in sub-terrains, which is without a doubt an advantage for the enemy.

It will be interesting to see the reply of India. Whether it will sort the issue through secretary level talks or will it take a more aggressive route to a full-fledged war, is a million dollar question. But even after all is said and done, the biggest worry that remains is the foreseeable use of nuclear weapons which can prove to be catastrophic for both nation-states.

A war is never a solution to a problem; it is a problem to a solution!



Tuning the Strings of Development

by Arham Siddiqui

The New Development Bank gathered its present form in July 2014 to cater to the needs of developing countries and serve as an alternative to the 'super-powered' organizations such as The World Bank and The International Monetary fund. An initiative by the BRICS nations, it is conceptualized to lessen or do away the economic problems that plague the member countries. Aimed at promoting ties of interdependence and prosperity by focusing profoundly on infrastructural development, it meets the basic needs in developing countries as well as research and development of cleaner technologies.

The idea behind the inception of the New Development Bank is to bestow the right to vote based on membership rather than the World Bank's notion of capital share. Therefore it is crucial to use this right carefully. Formal sources bring into light that Indonesia has been declared a candidate for full membership of the BRICS. Thus, the current flag bearers of this organization should correlate the real world consensus with their opinion to grant membership and voting rights to a country, if any, so as to bring about a connecting link to the worldly domain.

The delegates of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa are the key-players in these rounds of deliberations and discussions. It is therefore, much anticipated from these countries to be well versed with their research papers on the agenda. Thus, constructive and active participation by the delegates is expected throughout.

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything." - **George Bernard Shaw.**

It is in this regard that the Delegate of China must initiate an alteration of the country's self-centered ideology and upgrade its friendly relations with other countries. It is detrimental that Russia concentrates more on world peace and less on its annexations.

On the other hand, India needs to voice its opinion freely as the country is now in the hands of a stable government.

Again, since Brazil is the largest economy in Latin America, it must also aim to clinch a

greater stance in the global economy as well by promulgating themes in development which would be beneficial for the country in the long run.

As far as South Africa is concerned, it is expected to continue on its path of forging diplomatic and amicable relations with the other countries.

The committee formed a consensus on flexibility on the guidelines of procedure. The discussion further welcomed constructive opinions by the delegates to facilitate the formation of the mandate of the New Development Bank and conglomerated opinions so as to bring about a concrete stance to the agenda.

“The idea behind the inception of the New Development Bank is to bestow the right to vote based on membership rather than the World Bank's notion of capital share.”



Nuclear Strike: China's token of appreciation to Independent Tibet

by Gaurab Dasgupta

As Tibet finally takes in its first breath after stumbling to independence, achieved at a cost of intense barbarism and bloodshed, the struggle is far from over. According to a United Nations (UN) report, Independent Tibet is on the brink of facing a nuclear strike at the hands of a defeated opponent, China.

This update itself is capable enough to send shockwaves among the international community leave alone the actual nuclear strike. What is transparent from this move of China is, its inability to accept its loss at the hands of an inferior opponent which once was under their own domination.

But, it is not only Independent Tibet that is standing on the doorstep of catastrophe. Also sharing the borders with them are India and Nepal. So it is inevitable that how such a planned bombing could wreak havoc that world can only think of.

Another Hiroshima and Nagasaki is just lingering to transpire. Millions of lives are at stake and so is the existence of the entire human race. Not only our lives, but the lives of our forthcoming generations can be swiped off by that one trigger.

The question still remains, can one country inflict such amount of devastation on one that has won a battle they have already lost. And all this just to suffice their own greed. If this is not greed for superiority, then no reply can justify such a move.

People residing in India and Nepal, who have no actual connection to what is being happening along its borders, may have to pay a penalty so hefty that the next few generations might be left crippled. All this just because millions of years back the shift of the tectonic plates positioned these countries in such a manner.

And Nepal, a country that is still facing the brunt of its internal conflicts might just be loaded with another burden. A burden that is not by choice but by force. A burden by a battered neighbour willing to go to any extent just to stamp their authority.

It is no longer a question of a geographical cum political rivalry but something way beyond that. It is about the sanctity and peace of the entire world. When most of the

Nations today have an astounding nuclear arsenal, the repercussions cannot be even imagined of.

You might live in a nation which would have nothing to do with an armed conflict taking place almost in a diametrically position but you can very well be a part of a larger 'collateral damage' as the world very easily puts it through.

Gone are the days when retaliation was just an option, today retaliating is the only reply. You kill 40 and I shall repay back with 400. But what purpose shall it serve?? A time shall come when both the oppressor and the oppressed shall be conquered.

The world has already stood a witness to a nuclear disaster of such magnitude, so the question is do we have it in us to take another blow, a blow so ruthless that might wipe off the entire human race?

“According to a United Nations (UN) report, Independent Tibet is on the brink of facing a nuclear strike at the hands of a defeated opponent, China.”



