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ISSUE 2

THE STORY OF FARAH BAKER

.....and many others

by Shikharr Chandra



Just how would you define the daily life of an average teenager? They are carefree, gleeful and get a chance to explore themselves. A quick glance at the street and one can easily spot a young child wandering across the playground holding her mother's hand or playing ball as their parents watch.

Every parent has big dreams for their child - from them growing up and becoming doctors to establishing a career in sports. Cutting down on their own expenses to provide their child with the best opportunities with respect to studies as well

as outdoor facilities, parents tend to sacrifice a lot for the betterment of their child's future.

But what about young Farah Baker? At sixteen years old, she has built a huge list of followers on twitter. Exciting life for any young teenager out there who craves attention. But it's not all gold and glitter in Farah's life.

This sixteen year old like many others in Gaza is amongst the major sufferers of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine.

More than 30% of the killings in Gaza have been those of young children. Families have been displaced, houses have crumbled and even the schools have been destroyed. The daily life of a young teenager has been nothing short of a battle.

"Around 400,000 children are showing symptoms of distress, including bed wetting, clinging onto parents, nightmares, and are in need of psychosocial support", UNICEF mentioned in their report.

"In the name of humanity the violence must stop," UN secretary general Ban Ki Moon said in his speech a few months back. Despite his continued appeal, bombings in one of the most crowded areas of Gaza resulted in massive extermination of children and women.

With shortage of food and water in almost the entire Gaza, the tussle to get a proper diet let

alone a balanced one remains a major fight. The citizens are unable to get proper meals throughout the day and the scarcity of clean water could play as a catalyst for an outbreak of a major disease in the near future.

Packed foods along with medicines and clothing's are being distributed to those in need but even they are bounded by certain limitations. The lack of funds have been a major factor and although continuous appeals for funding have been made, the situation has hardly improved

A large number of minors have lost their lives and numerous have been left injured. Some are in urgent need of psychological treatment but sadly there is no one to help them out. Just how much can a young mind take? It is a matter of real shame that amidst all the blame game surrounding the Hamas and Israel, it is the innocent life of the youth's that is under such serious danger.

The youth of Gaza has been extremely vulnerable to nuclear attacks. Targeting playgrounds and UN shelters, the children have been left with very little to choose from. While some were lucky to have survived the bombings, most of them have been left orphaned. The rest though, still stroll around in search of their loved ones.

Rather than waking up to the chirping sound of a bird, it is the continuous resonation of gunshots and rockets that a young kid of Gaza has become accustomed to over the past few months.

"Hugs can do great amounts of good, especially for children," Princess Diana once said and that is all what these young ones need at present. Someone to guide them with a warm smile, holding their hand and reminding them that humanity still exists.

GETTING CANDID WITH THE JUDGE

by Srishti Sharma

Reporter: Initially there were a lot of confusions regarding the procedure of the ICJ. Do they still continue?

Judge: Since this is a new committee, we had to do a lot of changes and you need to understand that when you're doing an MUN, it cannot go on as a perfect ICJ setting. So once the procedure was understood by the Counsels and the Judges, procedure went on really well. Both the sides are really prepared.

Reporter: Are the discussions of the Court progressing in the manner which you expected them to?

Judge: Yes, the discussions are progressing in the manner we expected them to. We are taking it issue by issue. From the issues that were highlighted, we found out the issues of law and started taking them individually. So the committee is going the way it should.

Reporter: What would you say about the legitimacy of the referendum that was held in Crimea?

Judge: I would not like to give an opinion on that before the judgement comes out.



Reporter: The Counsel of Ukraine was questioned on the authenticity of the facts mentioned in their memorial. What, according to you, is the importance of a memorial?

Judge: The memo is actually the most important submission that is done in the ICJ because that bases your entire argument. In every memo, you will see factual conflicts. For a change we did not have a lot of factual conflicts in this committee. They pointed out that there was some plagiarism but actual conflicts, like one country saying this and the other country saying something entirely different, didn't happen.

They're doing a good job. We don't want to make it a political issue. We want to stick to the legal aspects. So what we are focusing on is basically the law in question.

Reporter: How was your experience of judging a committee in SYMMUN'14?

Judge: This is actually my first experience of MUN in India. I have done MUNs in the USA. Everybody is not as punctual as I'd like. Apart from that, I think I've really enjoyed being here, both while the committee is going on and after that.



Historically, peace initiatives have been followed by conflicts.

CAN INDIA TRUST PAKISTAN?

by Kumar Satyam

India is moving towards a state, where the infiltration by Pakistani soldiers and Kashmiri militants in the Indian side of the Line of Control (LOC) has caused disappointment, and comes as a big hindrance in the peace process of the two countries.

Disappointing Response

In context to his sustained talks on border issues, and the subsequent infiltration by Pakistan, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had famously remarked in 1998 that the two countries can alter their history, but not their geography.

Nawaz Sharif, when questioned on the intrusion, blatantly responded with mere denial of even knowing the situation and that he was informed by Vajpayee, through an "urgent phone call".

War Readiness

The primary focus of Pakistani infiltrations has always been the capturing of Kashmir, which started after the demarcation of the Sir Creek line, and the assumed "weakening" of the Indian military. Although the previous wars have confirmed the Indian military's supremacy over that of Pakistan's, the Indian foreign policy, stating the use of force, has further complicated the situation on the Indian side.

Current Scenario

The current relationship of India and Pakistan is as fragile as a thread. Every time a peace process starts gaining momentum, it is murdered with anti-national venom on either side of the LOC. The prospect of a good sustained relation looks bleak.



UNVEILING THE ABBERATIONS

by Arham Siddiqui

Q.1) Delegate of China, you made a noteworthy point that your country is Democratic. Give one parameter other than periodic elections to substantiate your point?

Ans. Sir, periodic elections are themselves an integral part of democracy, and we as a country conduct elections regularly.

Follow up: Q2.) Ma'am, indeed elections are beneficial, but the country hardly offers a choice to the people. They are left with no alternative and have to stick to the same political ideology. Any comment?

Ans. We have various representatives from the same party that people are allowed to choose from. Also, it is not necessary that choices offered by other countries to their citizens are relevant.

Follow up: Q. 3) Delegate, transparency in the free flow of stances and decisions taken by the government is much sought after in a democracy. But China has a back hand in doing so and much has not been achieved in this regard. Do you agree?

Ans. We agree to the point being raised. We are undertaking serious action to bring about transparency and accountability within the government. However, since China is a developing economy, we are bound to restrict some decisions to ourselves.

Q.4) Delegate of Russia, what steps have you taken to attract the lost foreign investments in your country post Crimea?

Ans. Sir, in sectors such as agriculture and industry, the country is self-sufficient to invest. The country has discouraged foreign investments from USA and its allies and asked multi-national companies (MNC) to leave, due to their bad policies, which is a subtle exclamation.

Q.5) Delegate of India, please throw light on some of the concrete measures taken via the Fiscal policy to curb the high statutory liquidity ratio?

Ans. We consider the world to be a family. Sadly, it is depressing to say that country has not taken such measures in recent times but we assure constructive interventions to tackle the situation.

Q.6) Representative from the World- Bank, do you agree to the allegations made by the BRICS towards your biased approach and

Ans. We strongly resent the allegations. These countries owe a lot of money to the World Bank which they are not in a position to repay, as their present economic conditions suggest. Moreover, the sanctions are imposed on nominal goals in particular.

AN UTOPIAN ABODE

As I climb up the tree of life,

I feel like i have never felt more alive,

It is the time to blur the lines of communities and religion,

Walk with pride and put away feelings of desolation.

The dreams that crawl in my skin, as long as I feel comfortable in the surface I am in.

Going along the waves,

Passing through the shadows; I move up to hitch but it blows;

They cast empty dreams in it,

I aspire to fill them with my grit.

I'll build a bridge of dreams that connects to a city where I see humanity lying,

Where a part of people can never die, and the other part keeps on flying.



AFRICA TAKES A BACKSEAT AS TIBET TAKES THE CENTRE STAGE

It seems so ironical when a plaguing issue at hand is undermined in terms of the popularity attached to it. With the culmination of the discussions in the Crisis committee, it once again became evident how a single issue can overpower several other impinging concerns at large.

It's indeed sad that the African delegation present could not even stand up to their own issues as the committee deliberated upon every other issue apart from Africa.

Zimbabwe, one of the underdeveloped nations when asked that why has there been no significant effort made by the African nations to stage their apathy, the reply was even more confusing. It goes, "The African sub-continent is in grave danger due to the rampant abuse, but what is happening in Tibet seems to shake the conscience of our government. We shall wait for the situation to get better before we deliberate our issues."

It was clear right from the first hour of the discussion that Africa would never get a chance to raise their voices. And the worst bit being, they themselves seemed least interested in being a part of the discussion.

The reason for the same, still remains uncertain. Were they too afraid of the anarchical forces? Or were just too patient



waiting for their turn? But to their dismay and to millions suffering back home, the wait is long but over.

What they do not understand is, the gruesome conditions persisting in their entire continent is a direct repercussion of Chinese activities. So what is of prior importance, is to resolve what is happening in Africa as it shall axiomatically take Tibet into account.

This can only worsen the plot in Africa. It shall also give liberty to the terrorist outfits to uphold their propagandas that may run riots in the name of revolution.

It is cynical anecdote for a continent weeping for help. And when there is a chance to raise an alarm, the opportunity is let off.

The new dawn in Tibet may be resounding of happiness, but in Africa the dusk of gloom shall continue to prevail. And the question, time again the people of Africa shall ask, "How long will our children go to sleep empty stomach?"

GHANA'S DEVIL GAME

by Guncha Dhir

Ghana's main stance is in full accordance to its Non-Alignment Policy. As a country, which utilizes nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, Ghana sees the benefit in the International Nuclear Fuel Bank Proposal, but is appalled that basic issue such as the funding and governance of such a fuel bank has not been discussed at all.

Further, Ghana pointed the representative of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by saying that IAEA is violating its own nuclear policy. Also, it was claimed that policies are not violated by groups; it is in fact done by individuals as the individuals have their own policies. "IAEA is forgetting that it is an organization working for the benefit of the countries", Ghana added.

Ghana's catchphrase in the conference was "Let's make it mutual." The representative of

Ghana believes that every country wants nuclear resources, but not the risks associated with it.

The Republic of Ghana also pointed out that a country having 'no nuclear capability' (reprocessing or enrichment facilities) or 'nuclear ambition' would be rather a short sighted choice.



According to the representative of Ghana, there are three major regional confrontations that are major hurdles in establishing Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (NWFZ). These include, Israel-Iran in the Middle-East, India-Pakistan in South-Eastern Asia, and South Korea and Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Ghana believes that, the lack of representatives of certain countries in the discussion, has thrown the flow of debate into disarray, despite the homogeneous efforts to discuss the topic.

For now, Ghana is comfortable playing the Devil's Advocate in order to ensure that all the topics are discussed comprehensively and rationally without being skimmed.

DEVOID OF ZEROES IN THE ZERO HOUR?

by Kanika Sahijwani

The delirious question of placing the International Fuel Bank while considering the care-taking nation refrains from forming a monopoly of its own. Bosnia blatantly avowed its trepidation that may arise if the P5 nations did the safeguarding.

Ghana proposed the use of nuclear energy for peaceful measures by violating the Morocco Convention having received fissile material from China.

The deliberation on the agenda was indeed a concoction of resilience and pandemonium. Yes Kuwait, every coin does have two sides and needless to mention, "nuclear weapon is not a toy provided to a child during 'Diwali'." Possessing arms for protection from easily penetrable boundary of nations should be dealt with new solutions while giving up -upon the ambition of possessing nuclear weapons.

Pakistan stoutly portrayed its ambivalent stance on the instability or stability with regard to the justification of its stand for not signing the

Non Proliferation Treaty. We were stumped as to how it were "Being rational in usage" to cause instability in the South Asia. Indeed, the NPT and IAEA" has flaws and no effective implementation".

It's ironic how quickly the Indian President realized that its flag was not upside down (Better late than never, maybe?). Though, it did do the 'astounding' by mentioning Pakistan's interest in obtaining the Fuel banks from a 'thief'. While India took years of research for setting up tests in Pokhran, it was indeed a question worth ruminating how Pakistan released its missile 10 days after India.

Pakistan, however, also eluded by averring the dire need of the hour to focus on solutions for combating the issue of monopolization of Fuel Banks instead of indulging into "regional allegations".

With chaos aplenty, the day closed with a sense of mutual aid. Hope the council recognizes its stand on coming with viable solutions and restoring global peace among the 'other things' of precious.





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