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Editorial

Dr. Busharat Elahi Jamil - Assistant Editor



Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founding father of the Nation wanted to see a vibrant and prosperous Pakistan, in which the people of Pakistan play their respective role in its development. In this regard, his instructions and messages for as long as the world endures serve as a milestone for the Pakistani nation. According to the current situations, in Pakistan his guidelines and expectations hold a great significance.

Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on July 7, 1947 clearly believed that Pakistan is not a radicalized Islamic state but only a Muslim majority state.

...there remains the far greater task of constructing and building up Pakistan which will require every ounce of our energy, but by the Grace of God we shall build up this new greatest Muslim sovereign state in the world with complete unity, discipline and faith...

Quaid-i-Azam on December 28, 1947 he stated and gave a hope rewarded by the accomplishment of his illustrious motto faith, unity and discipline:

We are going through fire: the sunshine has yet to come. But I have no doubt that with unity, faith and discipline we will not only remain the fifth largest state in the world but will compare with any nation of the world...we must sink individualism and petty jealousies and make up our minds to serve the people with honesty and faithfulness. We are passing through a period of fear, danger and menace. We must have faith, unity and discipline.

On August 24, 1947 Mr. Jinnah ardently delivered that now Pakistan is for Pakistanis and they will determine the fate of Pakistan not the individuals or external forces:

...nothing on earth now will succeed in touching Pakistan, whose roots are now truly and deeply laid...I pray to God that he who has bestowed on us this great boon of a sovereign state may now give our people courage to bear their grief, fortify their patience and enable them, in spite of all provocation, to preserve intact the peace of Pakistan for the sake of Pakistan.

For the Muslims of Pakistan on August 31, 1947 he passionately indicated as:

Let us now plan to build and reconstruct and regenerate our great nation and our sovereign state of Pakistan which, you know, is not only the biggest Muslim State in the world but the fifth biggest sovereign State in the World. Now is the time, chance and opportunity for every Mussalman to make his or her fullest and best contribution and make the greatest sacrifice and work ceaselessly in the service of our nation and make Pakistan one of the greatest nations of the world.

Jinnah's aspirations demonstrate his honesty towards Pakistan; in fact he was the most loyalists Pakistani. We can restore the grace and the importance of Pakistan by following his valuable instructions and messages and this is as well the need of the time.



Opinion: It's all about oil

By M A Niazi

Trump's Iran war, oil ambitions and Israel's role come under scrutiny as Saudi Arabia moves for F-35s. The column also examines US interests, Iran's response, the Gulf's fears and the political implications of the Gujranwala by-election.

So we've finally got an explanation of the US attack on Iran. US President Donald Trump has said that he'll take Iranian oil the way he took Venezuelan. So it seems as if it was never about Iran's nuclear programme after all. Or maybe that was why Israel joined in.

For Trump, it's been about oil. From his campaign battlecry of "Drill, baby; drill!" to the oil industry, and his claim that global warming is just a conspiracy to stop the USA becoming great again, he has been almost as obsequious in his deference to the oil industry as to Israel. Well, Israel is explainable by the rabid Zionism of his son-in-law Jared Kushner, as well as his go-to man Steve Witcoff. I have never heard that the New York real-estate business is particularly a node for pro-Israel or Zionist elements, but Trump seems to have found them.

I suspect that he has also found a nest of oilmen, though his first Secretary of State was Rex Tillerson, who had been CEO of Exxon. Though I don't associate some like Tillerson with the Iran on Iran. That would be a scheme dreamed up by an old-fashioned Texas oilman, someone wearing lizardskin cowboy boots, and a belt with a huge shiny buckle, not to mention a string tie. That oilman would probably have been a wildcatter, and the huge car he drives would have whitewall tires. He would smoke huge cigars, probably smuggled Havanas and drink rotgut whiskey.

If I was the King of Saudi Arabia, the President of the UAE, the Sultan of Oman, or the head of state of any oil producer, I would be very, very scared of Trump. His preferred mode of dealing with them is apparently either killing or kidnapping.

After what was done to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, it seems that Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro should count himself lucky to be alive.

The remaining Iranians are apparently applying a sort of dollars-and-cents approach that those oilman would appreciate. Specifically these oilmen are probably close in age to Trump, who is now 80, and at least one of them is probably a companion of Trump's nightly potations, where I suspect he gets some of his most outrageous ideas. That cabal tells him that it's a brilliant idea, that he's the President of the USA and can do anything, and that they're ready to fight anyone on his behalf. Then they wake up the next morning with a splitting headache and swearing not to sit so late with Trump. And then scramble wildly for their smartphones, hoping against hope that Trump hasn't posted any of their bright ideas as his own. But he has.... And Iran gets attacked.

Iran seems to have adopted the 'Arithmetic on the Frontier' as described by Rudyard Kipling in his Departmental Ditties and other Verses of 1886: 'Two thousand pounds of education/Drops to a ten-rupee jezail.' Of course, 140 years ago, the main target was people, so when an expensively-educated young officer was killed, one wondered at the cost. Now few American servicemen have been killed, but the loss of F-35s is grievous, for they cost about \$500 million apiece.

Saudi Arabia has been very kindly allowed to buy 48 for \$24.5 billion, which has upset Israel no end, and its demanding 'compensation', to wit arms not sold to them up to now, like bunkerbuster bombs and other stuff. One big difference is that Saudi Arabia will pay for the planes itself, while the US taxpayer will pay for the Israeli purchases. Well, at the end of the day, the arms dealers and makers will be laughing all the way to the bank.

Closer to home, the by-election in Gujranwala caused by the death of PML(N) MNA Mahmood Bashir Virk has been fixed for November 8. It is a test for Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz, who has an ex officio right to win the seat for her party. It does help that Virk was sitting on a majority of 73,000.

Jemima Goldsmith has remarried. So Imran can probably feel now that the boot is on the other foot, the agonies that Khawar Maneka must have felt when Imran married his wife. And his sons may be feeling the way Maneka's sons did when Imran married their mother. It's interesting that both of Imran's ex-wives have remarried. He should stick to his present wife.

Source:<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2026/09/20/its-all-about-oil?shem=aimgspe>,



CNN, MS NOW and Politico file lawsuit against Trump's White House ban

By Alicia Curry and Bernd Debusmann

CNN, Politico and MS NOW have said they will sue the Trump administration after the three US media outlets were barred from the White House.

President Donald Trump announced the ban on Friday, accusing the organisations of writing “fiction or lies” about his team. The companies said their reporters were denied access to the building on Saturday.

In a joint statement on Monday, they said they were pursuing legal action to “defend the principle that the government does not decide what the press reports”.

Major US TV networks later suspended their White House pooled coverage of Trump as he headed to New York for the United Nations General Assembly.

Trump, reacting to news of the lawsuit, called the news organisations “Third Rate Clowns” and “Crooked and Corrupt Press” that “trivialise and demean” his achievements.

“Fake News people and publications that only write negatively, and who violate our National Security by writing false and defamatory stories with unknown ‘sources,’ shouldn’t be allowed access to the most important Office anywhere in the World,” Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

He added that “almost without question” his team will file an appeal.

The First Amendment forbids the government from “abridging” the freedom of the press - language that courts have traditionally interpreted as preventing the government from discriminating against the media based on the content of their coverage.

The statement from CNN, Politico and MS NOW said: “Without notice or process, the White House revoked our journalists’ credentials because it objected to our

reporting.

“Left unchallenged, this threatens press freedom and the public’s right to independent journalism free from government interference.”

The media organisations filed the lawsuit on Monday in US District Court in Washington, asking a judge to quickly rule Trump’s ban unconstitutional and prevent his aides from enforcing it.

On Monday morning, major US TV networks pulled out of White House pool duties, which sees media organisations share material with each other to save on costs and space when broadcasting presidential events to the American public.

Fox News Washington bureau chief Bryan Boughton, who currently holds a rotating role helping to organise media TV crews covering the White House, wrote in an email seen by the BBC that “effective today, the TV pool will not be covering designated as pool coverage” of President Trump.

The message said the move followed the White House “preventing” CNN from fulfilling its pool duties for Trump’s trip to New York and that “there will be no replacement pool put in place”.

CNN - one of only five US news outlets in the White House press pool for live television - was originally due to cover Trump’s trip to the UN General Assembly in New York on Monday and Tuesday.

But on Monday morning, the five-seat CNN booth in the basement of the White House press area - typically manned throughout the day from the early hours of the morning - was empty and closed. Screens and monitors inside were turned off.

Instead, a CNN crew was outside the secured area of the White House grounds, broadcasting live from a public pavement.

Five TV networks, ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox News and NBC, issued a joint statement: “The public has a vital interest in receiving accurate, independent information about its government.

“No administration should restrict a news organisation because it objects to its reporting.”

Those five networks are considered the only ones with the money and infrastructure to distribute live coverage from the White House and presidential events.

For now, the White House media slot has remained vacant and instead the conservative TV outlet, Real America’s Voice, was listed as “secondary” crew on Trump’s trip to New York.

Several US outlets also announced that they would not participate in coverage of pooled events, with some saying they would not share still images from Trump events either.

Later on Monday, Trump met with New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani for an hour-

long discussion. Afterwards, the two held a news conference, which was covered by New York media.

“I told the president that we’re going to have all of the members of the press here on the lawn, and that is something that I believe in,” Mamdani said.

Trump continued his criticism of the media at the event, saying that journalists always say that they will boycott, but they “never boycott” him.

On Monday evening, the White House launched a streaming channel on its site called Trump TV, which began by replaying remarks from Trump during a visit to Mount Rushmore in July.

Announcing his ban on CNN, Politico and MS NOW last week, Trump did not mention specific stories or reporting that prompted the move, but later said “it’s really just cumulative stories over the last few years”.

The US president added that there “may be others to join them”.

When later asked by a reporter what he meant by this, Trump responded: “Others to come in terms of fake news? Well, you know, the New York Times is fake news, the Washington Post is fake news.”

In February, the White House announced it was taking control of the press pool which has access to Trump and had for more than a century been managed by the White House Correspondents’ Association.

The same month, the administration moved to bar Associated Press (AP) reporters and photographers from spaces where access is limited, such as the Oval Office or Air Force One, because of the outlet’s usage of the term “Gulf of Mexico” instead of “Gulf of America”. AP filed a lawsuit and the case remains ongoing.

There have been a few instances of other administrations attempting to limit certain outlets’ access.

The Obama administration tried to exclude Fox News from participating in a press pool interview with an administration official in 2009.

But after pushback from the other four networks in the pool, Fox News was granted access. Unlike with Trump’s exclusion of CNN, MS Now and Politico, the Obama administration did not try to bar Fox News from all pool coverage, just one specific interview.

Trump has been frequently critical of news organisations and his administration has launched legal action against a series of outlets, including the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the BBC.

Some of the lawsuits have resulted in media organisations agreeing to pay multi-million-dollar settlements. Trump’s lawsuit against the BBC is ongoing.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cm0e32rwwrryo?shem=aimgspe>,

Canada, the UK and Australia should investigate the WCK attack in Gaza



Israel has made clear it is unwilling to hold to account those responsible for the deaths of seven humanitarian workers.

The Israeli army has concluded its probe into the 2024 drone strikes that killed seven humanitarian workers from the World Central Kitchen (WCK). The verdict? No criminal investigation is warranted. No explanation was provided.

The decision not to pursue criminal responsibility for the attack was slammed by Western states as “shameful”. Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand called it “unacceptable”. The Australian government said it was “outraged”. The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared it was “disappointed”.

If Western states are indeed dissatisfied with the outcome of the Israeli probe, then they should investigate the crime themselves. They have the institutional capacity and legal right to do so. Not pursuing an investigation would mean they accept Israeli impunity for the killing of their aid workers in Gaza.

Images taken in the wake of the drone strikes on the WCK convoy show a charred hole where Israeli missiles breached the roof of the organisation’s vehicles – right next to its logo. The three cars in the WCK convoy were clearly marked, and their movements across the Gaza Strip were coordinated in real time with Israeli forces.

Such precautions were not enough to protect the lives of Lalzawmi Frankcom (Australia, 43 years old), Damian Sobol (Poland, 35), Saifeddin Issam Ayad Abutaha (Palestine, 25), Jacob Flickinger (dual citizen of the US and Canada, 33), or British

citizens John Chapman (57), James Henderson (33) and James Kirby (47). They are among the more than 1,000 humanitarian aid workers killed in Gaza since 2023. The attack on the WCK convoy has the hallmarks of a potential war crime. Canada's Anand intimated as much when she referred to the laws of armed conflict in stating that "Canada expects international humanitarian law to be upheld".

Importantly, even if the attack was conducted in error, as Israel has claimed, it may still constitute a war crime. Calling an attack a "tragic mistake" is not a magic wand that absolves perpetrators of responsibility. If those involved in the strikes were acting recklessly, with clear disregard for civilian life, they may be liable for war crimes under international law.

The commander who ordered the strikes on the WCK convoy, Colonel Nochi Mendel, said in an interview, "I am not sorry for what I did."

That an Israeli officer is showing no remorse for taking civilian life is hardly surprising. A culture of impunity breeds under such conditions, one in which perpetrators do not fear the consequences of their actions.

Indeed, it is almost certain that the Israeli army has calculated that, however angry Western powers are over the decision not to pursue a criminal investigation, it is just hot air and will not be met with action. Those powers should prove them wrong.

London, Canberra and Ottawa have stated they will "continue to seek answers" on behalf of the families of those slain in the WCK attack. But they should not waste their time seeking them from those who have clearly demonstrated no interest in holding those responsible for the WCK attack accountable. They should instead act themselves.

The United Kingdom, Canada and Australia have the legal authority, expertise and resources to exercise jurisdiction over atrocity crimes committed in Gaza. They can do so by exercising what is called universal jurisdiction, which allows states to investigate and prosecute international crimes – war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide – even when committed abroad by foreigners against foreigners. In this instance, those killed include their own citizens. Their obligations and interest to pursue accountability are thus even more obvious.

So, what should happen next? Canada, the UK and Australia should announce a joint criminal investigation into suspected war crimes committed in the WCK attack. They can also invite other states to join in. Poland, for example, also has the legal ability to exercise universal jurisdiction.

Canada has already taken some steps in investigating war crimes in Palestine. In

2024, the Canadian police launched a “structural investigation” into international crimes committed in Gaza. This process collects evidence that can be used later in cases against perpetrators who enter Canadian jurisdiction.

Of course, just opening a criminal investigation does not mean that anyone will be prosecuted. But it could provide the victims’ families their best shot at seeking justice. It would be a sign that states are willing to dedicate resources to holding perpetrators accountable.

Moreover, if warrants are ultimately issued by Canada, the UK and Australia, and if any of the suspected perpetrators travel abroad, they could potentially be subject to extradition to one of the countries to be prosecuted.

The decision to dismiss a criminal investigation into the WCK attacks is indeed unacceptable. And those states whose citizens were killed must pursue their own criminal inquiry into the suspected war crimes committed against humanitarians in Gaza.

Source: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2026/9/15/canada-the-uk-and-australia-should-investigate-the-wck-attack-in-gaza?shem=aimspe>,

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Major Qazi Bashir Ahmad Shaheed. A Eulogy



By Masood A Qazi MD FACC. FAHA



I can never forget the day of Sept. 6, 1965 — a day of cataclysmic events. On that fateful day, I was the first one to receive the devastating news that my dear brother, my gallant hero, Major Qazi Bashir Ahmad, had offered the supreme sacrifice and embraced Shahadat, while valiantly fighting against a numerically superior and well-entrenched, redoubtable enemy in the Chhamb-Jurian Sector in occupied Kashmir.

We were obviously shell-shocked, stunned and felt totally crushed. And then we heard the horrid and dreadful news of the enemy's three-pronged dastardly attack on Lahore. The raging and hellish flames of the war, which had already cruelly taken my valiant brother, had now fully engulfed the nation, with disastrous consequences.

My brother whom we called, Dada Jaan or simply Dada was extremely well read and had wide interests in multiple avenues. My brother was genuinely a "Renaissance man," with a delightfully multi-faceted personality. He was not only a brilliant scholar and gentleman but also a staunch patriot, an intrepid soldier and a lion-hearted warrior.

He was dashing, debonair and daring. Allah Taala had gifted him with a gracious, magnetic persona, a splendid sense of humor, marvelous charm and innate dignity. His glamorous style and charming mannerisms were emulated by quite a few youngsters and junior officers. His tremendous self-confidence and poise were exemplary. He had a special gift of what the French would call "savoir faire." He had an exquisitely refined sense of aesthetics and love for the finer things in life.

Dada Jaan was extremely well read and had wide interests in multiple avenues. During his spell-binding conversations, he could facilely quote from Shakespeare, Allama Iqbal, Akhtar Shirani or the famous Pushto poets Khushal Khan Khattak and Rahman Baba. He himself was a great writer (as is evident from his letters) and wrote poetry himself. As if he had a premonition and foreboding of his impending Shahadat, in one haunting and poignant poem, during his last days, he recorded his own poetry with a heartfelt message for his wife (whom he loved deeply) of sabr, fortitude and solace, when he is gone. That poem still brings tears to our eyes.

Dada Jaan spoke several languages fluently and, for fun, would sometimes speak Pushto

in the native accents of various regions of NWFP and Baluchistan, where he was stationed as an Army officer. When I was in Medical College, I ,accompanied by two classmates/friends who were born and raised in Kenya ,visited my brother in Peshawar Cantonment.

Dada jaan discussed with them the history, culture, flora and fauna of Kenya with such authority that they were awe-struck and asked if he had spent time in Kenya — which, of course, he had not. He would talk to me about USA, its history, culture, gangsters, gun fighters, its military, with amazing ease while he had never visited USA.

He exhibited incredible fascination about world history, geography and geopolitics in his riveting conversations His father-in-law had some property dispute and apparently was not too pleased with his lawyer's competence. Dada jaan wrote for him a treatise about the dispute which earned plaudits from his father-in-law and others who were amazed at his grasp of the property laws

I recall an interesting anecdote when my brother was driving a colleague and friend named Major B. to Landi Kotal (Khyber). I also accompanied them. There was light-hearted conversation, persiflage and banter between friends, when suddenly Major "B" started bragging about his superb command of the English language . He also boasted that he held a Master's degree in English.

Dada Jaan,in a jovial mood, then started teasing him and started asking him the meaning, pronunciation and spellings of certain "difficult" English words. The good Major was quite mortified and chastened. He immediately pleaded with my brother that he felt embarrassed since I as a youngster was also present there.

Dada jaan had won prizes in essay competitions in his regiment and also prizes, for pistol-shooting competitions , which were displayed in the house Allah Taala had generously granted him numerous sterling attributes. He would recite the Holy Quran in the most mellifluous and captivating voice. I remember when my illustrious father ,a man of God , Hazrat Qazi Mohammad Yousaf Faruqi RA, passed away on Friday,January 4th,1963,in the mosque, in the midst of offering prayers,My brother's breathtakingly beautiful recitation of Sura Yaseen put the audience in an extraordinary spiritual trance. He was strikingly handsome and had an aura of manliness, virility and nobility about him. He was ineffably graceful and exceptionally charming.

Family members, while admiring some young man, would often say that so-and-so is fabulously handsome "like our Bashir." His letters from the front were full of patriotic zeal and his resolute resolve to fight gallantly and defend the homeland.

In one letter that he wrote from the front, he quoted the warrior Pushto poet, Khushal Khan Khattak. The couplet can be loosely translated as follows: 'The eternal triumph belongs to the sword of valor, whether it is Kabul or Kashmir. It is the brave heart who is honored in songs and sorrowful lamentations.'

The couplet is almost prophetic and prescient since he embraced Shahadat in Kashmir! From the official military reports,it is evident that he fought with great honor and proved his mettle while spearheading the victorious offensive against a formidable and

redoubtable enemy. The intrepid and dauntless warrior that he was, he sustained the lethal wounds on his chest and attained the everlasting honorable life of a Shaheed.

May Allah Taala grant him an exalted and lofty status in Jannat-ul-Firdous , in the hallowed company of our Lord and Master , Hazrat Khatam -Un -Nabbeen ,Mohammad Mustafa SA and continue to shower His blessings on the Shaheed's family and loved ones. Ameen.

I do want to mention that, unfortunately, the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada have not been acknowledged, nor been eulogized or acclaimed to the extent that they deserve. Ahmadi (heroic)officers who displayed unmatched courage and sacrificed themselves for this homeland, are now called traitors and Ahmadis are being persecuted and subjected to inhuman suffering, humiliation and misery in their own homeland, mostly by ignorant, misguided fanatics who were sworn enemies of Quaid-e-Azam and Pakistan! It is an undeniable fact that Ahmadi Muslims wholeheartedly supported the movement for the creation of Pakistan with unflinching commitment and devotion. Stalwarts like Sir Zafrulla Khan, Dr. Abdus Salam and M. M. Ahmad and so many others,provided yeoman's service and served with great distinction and honor.

Major General Nazir Ahmad who was the commander of the first army parade , in honor of Quid e Azam , after the establishment of Pakistan. Legendary and highly decorated , renowned generals likeAkhtar Hussain Malik, Abdul Ali Malik and Iftikhar Janjua (who is probably the only general who embraced Shahadat on the battlefield in Chhamb Sector) and Major General Nasir Ahmad (wounded in battle) fought valiantly and defended the country honorably. Air Marshal Zafar Chaudhry, Squadron leader Khalifa Munir Ud Din and so many other Ahmadi Shaheens ,showed their grit, courage and mettle.

The list of gallant Ahmadi officers/soldiers / pilots who sacrificed themselves for the nation is very long.

It is a colossal tragedy and Unforgivable perfidy that now Ahmadis are shamelessly labelled as traitors and treated as outcasts and pariahs.

A vicious and hideous campaign of hatred, vilification and terror was launched by the obnoxious extremists. Ironically, these same misguided zealots were sworn enemies of Quaid-e-Azam and the creation of Pakistan and they fought tooth and nail against it. Now they are the fictitious, fervent patriots!

An inhuman, brutal and heinous "crusade" has been raging with dreadful atrocities, violence and mayhem against law-abiding, innocent citizens.

This is most despicable and reprehensible and must be condemned categorically and unequivocally.

The noble blood and sacrifice of the Shuhada must not be disgraced and dishonored.

May Allah ,the Almighty ,shower them with infinite mercy and blessings.

Aameen.



**Buckingham
Palace
denies
Charles said
Diana would
be forgotten
'soon
enough'**

Buckingham Palace has denied claims in a new book that in the days after Diana's death, then-Prince Charles told Earl Spencer "rest assured, we'll forget her soon enough".

Buckingham Palace has hit back at claims made in an upcoming book written by Diana's brother Earl Spencer.

The book claims in the days after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, then-Prince Charles told her brother "rest assured, we'll forget her soon enough".

The comment was allegedly made during the arrangements for Diana's funeral where Prince William and Prince Harry, then aged 15 and 12, would walk in their mother's funeral procession in September 1997.

In response to the claims, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said Charles is "mindful that the pain of fraternal grief can cloud reason".

"While we do not comment on books as a matter of principle, His Majesty is mindful that the pain of fraternal grief can cloud reason, affect judgment and colour memory in ways others do not recognise, even many years after such a loss," the statement adds.

The allegations were made in the book *Swan Song: Diana, My Sister*, which is being serialised in the Daily Mail - and is due to be published next week.

The book also claims the Earl insisted Diana would not have wanted her young sons to have made the difficult public walk.

Sky News' royal correspondent Laura Bundock described the statement from Buckingham Palace as a "really remarkable intervention" and a "very robust response" which is "beyond punchy".

“It is, as they say very unusual for them to make any comment about a book. They normally do not comment on books,” she added.

Bundock noted Buckingham Palace didn't respond to Prince Harry's book *Spare*.

“This is a very different situation, [I think] at this point they feel they simply cannot stay silent given who has written the book, Diana's brother, given the subject of the book, Diana herself, and given the nature of the allegations made,” Bundock added.

Princess Diana died in a Paris car crash in August 1997.

William, Harry, Charles, Prince Philip and the Earl walked behind Diana's coffin in a funeral procession through central London to the funeral service at Westminster Abbey.

Source: <https://news.sky.com/story/buckingham-palace-hits-back-over-claims-made-in-earl-spencer-book-13588704?dicbo=v2-ioGY34c&shem=aimgspe>,

Iran President slams US and Israel in defiant UN speech

By Najam-ul-Saqib

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian delivered a high-stakes, defiant address to world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly.

In his rare wartime speech, Pezeshkian strongly rejected accusations of terrorism, arguing instead that Iran and its people have long been the primary targets of Western aggression and unlawful military strikes.

Allegations against the US and Israel

During the assembly, the Iranian leader held up photographs of casualties, directly blaming the United States and Israel for executing destructive attacks on Iranian soil.

He maintained that Tehran's recent military actions were strictly defensive measures aimed at safeguarding national sovereignty.

Furthermore, Pezeshkian criticized Washington's coercive foreign policy, stating that Iran would never yield to external pressure or military intimidation.

Walkout and diplomatic standoff

The fiery speech sparked immediate tension in the hall, prompting the American delegation to walk out of the chamber in protest as Pezeshkian directly challenged Washington's rhetoric.

Despite the intense confrontation, the Iranian president signaled a willingness to engage in future diplomatic talks – provided they occur without coercive threats or unilateral demands.

Source: <https://jang.com.pk/en/73728-iran-president-slams-us-and-israel-in-defiant-un-speech-news?shem=aimgspe>,



Specialist courts for rape cases to be rolled out in England and Wales

By Patrick Jackson



Specialist courts to handle cases of rape and other sexual offences will be introduced across England and Wales over the next two years, the prime minister has announced.

Each crown court will have at least one courtroom set up to hear such cases, while alleged victims will be able to view proceedings remotely and give evidence from a separate room via video link.

They will also be provided with private entrances and waiting rooms to separate them from defendants, though this will be dependent on the architecture of each building.

Rape Crisis England and Wales said this was a “significant step forward” that would introduce several reforms it had been requesting for years.

“Taken together, they reflect the urgency of ensuring that courts are fit for purpose and properly meet the needs of victims and survivors, which is crucial to securing justice,” the charity’s chief executive, Ciara Bergman, said.

Charities have complained that low prosecution rates for sexual offences and delays to court proceedings had dissuaded victims from coming forward or pursuing justice.

Just 2.8% of rape offences recorded by police led to prosecutions in the year ending March 2024 and were the crimes that took the longest to investigate.

A prior ONS study, using data from 2017-2020, suggested that only a sixth of the actual number of rape and attempted rape victims had reported their assault to the police, with more than a third saying this was because they felt the police

could not help or that the process would be humiliating.

Victims minister Alex Davies-Jones said the new measures were part of efforts to bring down a backlog of Crown Court cases, which stood at 80,098 at the end of March.

Rape Crisis England and Wales said 15,373 of these cases - 19% - related to sexual offences.

Davies-Jones told BBC Breakfast that the introduction of specialist courtrooms "isn't enough on its own" to tackle the backlog and stressed the importance of the Courts and Tribunals Bill to improve "timeliness, effectiveness and also prevention".

The Conservatives say the "long overdue" move should not come with restricting the number of jury trials, which is another provision of the bill.

Under the new measures, expected to cost around £23m of the Ministry of Justice's budget, court staff will also be given "trauma-informed training" and a single person of contact will be assigned to each survivor.

From next month, trials will be given a fixed date rather than placed on floating lists in what Prime Minister Andy Burnham said was an effort to "rebalance the scales of justice and put victims first".

There are 84 crown court buildings across England and Wales, containing around 500 courtrooms, and Davies-Jones said the government was determined that every one of them would have at least one specialist rape and sexual offences courtroom by 2028.

Where architecture might prevent courtroom upgrades, Davies-Jones said staff would be expected to co-ordinate a "trauma informed approach" - for instance by scheduling different arrival times and rooms to give evidence from for victims and defendants.

The government said the changes follow Labour MP Charlotte Nichols showing "immense strength and bravery" in speaking publicly about being raped and calling for changes to the justice system.

Nichols waived her automatic right to anonymity in March when she made a Commons speech in which she described having to wait more than 1,000 days to go to court.

Earlier this year, the government announced that rape victims would be given access to specialist legal advice throughout the criminal justice process.

Labour promised in its 2024 manifesto to halve violence against women and girls within a decade.

"For too long, victims of rape and serious sexual offences have felt let down by our justice system," Burnham said.

“Prosecution rates for rape remain shamefully low, with many victims waiting years for justice. This is not good enough.”

Nichols accused the then-Justice Secretary David Lammy of using victims as a “cudgel” to push through his reforms of the legal system when she spoke publicly for the first time about being raped.

She was criticising the Courts and Tribunals Bill’s plans to limit jury trials to cases with a likely prison sentence of three years or more.

Nichols said she had waited 1,088 days to go to court, with every day being “agony”. Her attacker, she said, was acquitted at crown court but subsequently ordered to pay compensation after she won a civil case against him.

“It is because I have endured every indignity that our broken criminal justice system could mete out that I care what kind of reform will actually deliver justice for survivors and victims of crime more widely,” she said.

The Conservatives said in response to news of the specialist courts roll-out that tackling delays to criminal rape trials was “long overdue”, while pushing Labour to commit to scrapping plans to restrict jury trials.

“The fact that victims have been withdrawing their cases because they have taken too long has been a disgrace,” said shadow justice secretary Nick Timothy.

“Labour need to get courts sitting throughout the year, end the delays and clear the backlog – not undermine our right to a trial by jury.”

Last year, the Salford Survivor Project charity said victims of rape and sexual assault were being “failed by the system” as court backlogs reached a record high.

The long delays for cases to go to trial were having a serious impact on victims’ mental health, it said.

A few months later, a woman who says she was sexually assaulted by a taxi driver on her 21st birthday told BBC News she had dropped the case because of court delays.

She reported the alleged incident in early 2022 and gave evidence in court in December 2023, but the case was adjourned until September 2024 when the judge fell ill.

“I couldn’t let this hurt me further,” she said.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c5lympv9nw3jo?shem=aimgspe>,



Most prolific murdering ring

The most murders carried out by members of a mutually supportive group is at least 40, committed by the “Angel Makers of Nagyrév” in Hungary between 1911 and 1929. The members of this group were women who poisoned their husbands and other family members using arsenic supplied by the village’s midwife, Zsuzsanna Fazekas. A total of 29 women were put on trial for the murders between 1929 and 1931, but just 16 were convicted. An inquest held in the early 1930s identified another 82 deaths in the area as suspicious, and it was believed that there may have been many more.

Nagyrév is a small village located around 25 km to the south of Szolnok in central Hungary. It lies on a narrow peninsula between the meandering river Tisa and an oxbow lake, connected to neighbouring villages by dirt roads that were impassable for much of the year. At the time of the killings, it was a rural and impoverished settlement of about 1,500 people where the routine of daily life had not changed significantly in centuries.

The village had no doctor, and its only point of contact with the official apparatus of the Austro-Hungarian state was the county gendarme, who visited Nagyrév every few weeks to hear grievances and take official reports. As a consequence of this isolation, Zsuzsanna Fazekas served not only as the village midwife, but also its de-facto doctor, counsellor and matchmaker. Many referred to her as the tudósasszony or “wise woman”, a term historically associated with witches.

The earliest murders ascribed to the women of Nagyrév occurred in 1911, around the time that Fazekas arrived in the village. However, while she would become a key figure in the poisoning ring, it’s not clear that she instigated it. The seemingly undetectable nature of arsenic was known to the women of the region, and there

had been high-profile poisonings in the area before. The most notable was the “Mari Jäger Affair”, a series of arsenic poisonings that occurred in the village of Hódmezővásárhely (around 60 km south of Nagyrév) in 1894. The driving force behind that series of killings was the eponymous Mari Jäger, also the village midwife.

The women of the town appear to have formed a mutually supportive group who encouraged and helped cover up each other’s murders. Zsuzsanna Fazekas was a charismatic, well-respected figure whose views on the morality and necessity of the killings reassured the other members of the group. She also provided the arsenic, which she distilled by boiling down arsenic-laced flypaper.

Arsenic was, for many years, regarded as the perfect murder weapon. It is an odourless, tasteless and colourless substance that can be easily added to food or drink unnoticed. It acts relatively slowly, and in a way that is easily mistaken for many common maladies of the era, such as typhoid, alcohol poisoning or cholera. At the time of the murders, it was also extremely cheap and readily available either as a pure salt (for use as a pesticide) or as an ingredient in household products. In a village with no doctor and where the men were often in poor health, the Angel Makers were able to kill with impunity.

This came to an end in late June 1929, when the Szolnoki Újság newspaper published an anonymous letter, written by a citizen of Nagyrév, accusing the women of the village of murdering their husbands. The police arrived shortly after, and quickly realized that there seemed to be foul play involved in many of the deaths.

Two country doctors, Imre Orsós and Izodor Kánitz, were brought in to carry out the autopsies of the exhumed villagers. In most cases, years, or even decades, had elapsed since the alleged crimes, so there often wasn’t much of a body to study. They were helped however, by arsenic’s great drawback as a murder weapon; because it is a heavy metal and relatively nonreactive, it remains present in the tissues of its victims long after death, and can even be reliably detected in the burial clothes, coffin materials or surrounding soil after the body has decomposed.

A total of 29 women were charged with murder, and two men – husbands of accused women – were charged with conspiracy. Zsuzsanna Fazekas, ostracized by the community and under suspicion of murder, committed suicide before she could be arrested. Only 16 of those charged were actually convicted however, as beyond the chemical evidence of arsenic in the graves, in most cases there was nothing to connect them to the crime.

Source:<https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/777715-most-prolific-murder-ring>



Rental rules in Ontario change today. Here's what tenants and landlords need to know

The Residential Tenancies Act is updated with tighter deadlines for late rent repayment

A batch of changes to Ontario's Residential Tenancies Act (RTA) comes into force on Monday, including shorter deadlines for tenants who landlords say have fallen behind on rent payments.

The RTA amendments, some of which were brought into force on July 1, come out of two bills — Bill 60 and Bill 97.

Earlier in the summer, they were described by a spokesperson for Ontario's housing minister as being necessary to “restore balance and rebuild confidence in Ontario's rental housing market.”

As of Monday, Sept. 21, here are the major changes that will impact both tenants and landlords:

If a tenant falls behind on rent and is issued what's called an N4 eviction notice (a legal document demanding the money) the tenant now has seven days instead of 14 days to pay. If they don't, the landlord can apply for an eviction.

Tenants who want to raise their own issues at an eviction hearing at the Landlord and Tenant Board, such as problems with their unit, now have to pay half of the rent they allegedly owe in order to do so.

The RTA now has a formal definition of “persistent late payment,” instead of leaving

it open. It's defined as rent being paid more than seven days late on at least three different occasions over any six-month period.

A landlord who evicts a tenant for their own or their family's personal use with at least 120 days of notice no longer has to provide that tenant with compensation or the offer of an alternative unit.

Finally, if a landlord evicts a tenant for personal use, the intended new occupant has to move in within 60 days, or the eviction is presumed to be in bad faith.

Will this lead to faster evictions?

Ontario has billed the changes to the RTA as a way to address delays and backlogs at Ontario's Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB), where non-urgent applications have been known to sit for months before being considered.

A spokesperson for Tribunals Ontario, which oversees the LTB, told CBC News it's been preparing for the RTA updates with "no impact anticipated on caseload or application processing times."

But both landlord groups and some tenant advocates have questioned whether the changes will mean fewer LTB delays.

The halved deadline to pay back late rent "just means you can file the paperwork a little sooner at the LTB," said Kayla Andrade, founder of the landlord advocacy group Ontario Landlords Watch.

"It doesn't mean that you're going to get your hearing any faster."

The Small Ownership Landlords of Ontario group has raised similar concerns, arguing that the LTB should allow landlords to skip a hearing altogether for non-payment of rent disputes and instead be able to use a faster-moving mediation process.

Andrade is supportive of the formalizing of the definition of "persistent non-payment of rent," telling CBC News that previously, "you didn't know... exactly what the [adjudicator] would consider as persistent late payments. It's good to have something concrete."

Tenant advocates call changes a 'smokescreen'

Tenant organizations have also argued that the RTA updates fail to address the cause of bottlenecks at the LTB.

In a release, the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations said efficiency was merely a "smokescreen" for "eroding tenants' rights."

Dania Majid, director of duty counsel for the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario, told CBC News that her legal clinic is deeply concerned that the changes make it easier for tenants to be evicted. But that wouldn't necessarily happen faster, she said.

The switch from 14 to seven days to repay rent will "trigger more hearings. And that's going to trigger a backlog," she said.

Majid says she expects a similar outcome from one of the earlier July 1 RTA updates, which halves the amount of time for tenants and landlords to request a review of an LTB decision.

"If you're not able to provide your materials in time at the LTB to request a review there, people are going to end up at the divisional court and that's going to create a backlog there," she said.

Then there's the requirement that tenants pay 50 per cent of the unpaid rent they allegedly owe in order to raise other complaints at their eviction hearing.

"Now the tenant has to file a separate application to raise these issues... when the entire matter could have just been handled at the same hearing," said Majid

CBC News asked the Ministry of Housing how tenants can recover the money they paid before a hearing if it's found they don't actually owe it. The ministry did not reply by publication time.

Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/residential-tenancies-act-updates-9.7349885?shem=aimgspe>,

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AP style guidance on Gulf of Mexico, Mount McKinley

By Amanda Barrett,

President Donald Trump has signed an executive order to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. The body of water has shared borders between the U.S. and Mexico. Trump's order only carries authority within the United States. Mexico, as well as other countries and international bodies, do not have to recognize the name change.

The Gulf of Mexico has carried that name for more than 400 years. The Associated Press will refer to it by its original name while acknowledging the new name Trump has chosen. As a global news agency that disseminates news around the world, the AP must ensure that place names and geography are easily recognizable to all audiences.

The AP regularly reviews its style guidance regarding name changes, in part to ensure its guidance reflects common usage. We'll continue to apply that approach to this guidance and make updates as needed.

There are other examples where the AP refers to a geographical place by more than one name. For example, the Gulf of California is sometimes referred to as the Sea of Cortez. The U.S. government has designated that body of water as the Gulf of California, while Mexico recognizes it as the Sea of Cortez.

President Trump also signed an executive order to revert the name of North America's tallest peak, Denali in Alaska, to Mount McKinley. Former President Barack Obama changed the official name to Denali in 2015 to reflect the traditions of Alaska Natives as well as the preference of many Alaska residents. Trump said in his executive order that he wanted to "restore the name of a great president,

William McKinley, to Mount McKinley.”

The Associated Press will use the official name change to Mount McKinley. The area lies solely in the United States and as president, Trump has the authority to change federal geographical names within the country.

The AP Stylebook will be updated to reflect both decisions.

Source:<https://www.ap.org/the-definitive-source/announcements/ap-style-guidance-on-gulf-of-mexico-mount-mckinley/?shem=aimgspe>,

Egypt's Amina Orfi becomes youngest women's squash world number one at 19

By Anushe Engineer

Amina Orfi has become the youngest women's world number one in squash after a thrilling victory in the Qatar Classic last week saw her clinch the crown and top the rankings. At 19 years and two months old, the Egyptian eclipsed the previous record set by New Zealand's Susan Devoy, who was 20 years and two months old in 1984.

Orfi dethroned compatriot Hania El Hammamy from world number one when she defeated the 26-year-old 3-2 in the Qatar Classic final (7-11, 11-7, 11-8, 7-11, 12-10). The victory earned Orfi her first Platinum title, third major victory and 15th win of her career.



“Sweat, tears, heartbreaks, and tons of sacrifices all for this moment,” she wrote in an Instagram post on Monday, when the official Professional Squash Association (PSA) rankings update weekly. Orfi's historic milestone is the latest of her outstanding year. In May, she became the youngest world champion at 18 years and 10 months when she beat then world number two Nour El-Sherbini in a thrilling five-game final at the World Championships in Egypt.

The win made her the first player to hold both the world junior and senior PSA championship titles at the same time. The PSA is the global governing body for men's and women's professional squash circuits. “It feels amazing,” Orfi said after her victory in Doha on Friday.

“To become world champion and become world number one in the same year is a dream that I've had since I was very young and I really want to enjoy it. “I want to just stay at this level now and keep trying to improve every day. I want to stay on top now that I'm the world number one, and I want to win a lot more titles too,” said Orfi, who has been in the world's top three since last October.

Source:<https://www.aljazeera.com/sports/2026/9/21/egypts-amina-orfi-becomes-youngest-womens-squash-world-number-one-at-19>

A photograph of Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendira Debyavati, the eldest child of Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn. She is shown from the chest up, wearing a traditional Thai orange garment and a large, ornate gold necklace. She is looking slightly to her right with a gentle expression. In the background, a man in a white military uniform with gold epaulettes is partially visible, with his hand raised in a gesture. The text of the article is overlaid on the top right of the image.

Thai princess dies at 47 following years-long coma, Royal Palace says

Story by Reuters

BangkokReuters — Thailand's Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendira Debyavati, the eldest child of Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn, has died at 47, the royal palace said on Friday, after multiple health problems and nearly four years in a coma.

The princess was hospitalized in December 2022 after a sudden loss of consciousness caused by a heart condition while visiting the northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima. Bajrakitiyabha was flown by helicopter to the capital Bangkok for treatment.

She died on Thursday evening, after her condition worsened due to an intra-abdominal infection, colitis, low blood pressure, arrhythmias, and blood clotting disorders, the palace statement said.

Bajrakitiyabha, popularly known as Princess Pa, was born on December 7, 1978, to the then Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn and his first wife, Princess Soamsawali.

In Thailand, she will be remembered for her prominent role in public life, her efforts to improve the livelihoods of female prisoners, and her diplomatic career.

She studied law at Cornell University, obtaining a Master's degree and a Doctorate, and worked as an attorney in the Thai Office of the Attorney-General between 2006 and 2011.

From 2012 to 2014, she was Thailand's ambassador to Austria, Slovenia

and Slovakia, before returning to the attorney-general's office in Bangkok.

She also founded a charity promoting the rights of female inmates, particularly those who were pregnant while in jail.

In 2017, Bajrakitiyabha was appointed as the goodwill ambassador for the rule of law in Southeast Asia by the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

She transferred to the army in 2021, where she was bestowed the rank of a general and served as a chief of staff in the Royal Security Command.

The princess was one of King Vajiralongkorn's three children who have formal titles and are eligible to take the throne under the constitution.

In October last year, Thailand's Queen Mother passed away at 93.

The palace will hold royal funeral rites, while the government is expected to declare a period of national mourning.

Source; https://edition.cnn.com/2026/06/11/asia/thailand-princess-bajrakitiyabha-death-intl-hnk?iid=cnn_buildContentRecirc_end_recirc&recs_exp=up-next-article-end&tenant_id=related.en&shem=aimgspe,

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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May Allah be with you - Amen



US refusal to issue visas to Palestinian delegation violates international agreements: Hamas

By Anadolu Agency

UN General Assembly allows Palestine to address its 81st session's general debate through a prerecorded speech

Hamas on Monday condemned the US refusal to grant visas to a Palestinian delegation seeking to attend UN General Assembly meetings.

"The decision constitutes a flagrant violation of the international conventions and agreements governing the work of the UN headquarters and a continuation of the policy of complete US bias toward the Zionist occupation," Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem said in a statement.

The restriction has continued for a second year. In 2025, Washington denied visas to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and other officials to attend the meetings, forcing Abbas to participate by video link.

On Thursday, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution allowing the State of Palestine to participate in the general debate of its 81st session through a prerecorded address by its president to be shown in the Assembly Hall.

The resolution was backed by 152 countries, opposed by three, with four abstentions.

On Thursday, the Palestinian Foreign Ministry rejected Washington's decision to extend visa restrictions on Palestinian officials over alleged failures to meet commitments toward the US, calling for the measure to be halted and for direct Palestinian-US dialogue to begin.

Under the 1947 UN Headquarters Agreement between the organisation and the US, Washington, as the host country, is required to facilitate access to the UN headquarters in New York for representatives of states and entities participating in UN activities.

Palestine has held the status of a non-member observer state at the UN since 2012.

Of the UN's 193 member states, 160 recognise the State of Palestine, which is also a member of more than 100 international organisations and treaties, according to the Palestinian Foreign Ministry.

Israel and the US oppose such recognition, while Washington has used its veto

power at the UN Security Council to block Palestine from obtaining full UN membership instead of its current status.

Since October. 8, 2023, Israel has killed more than 73,000 Palestinians and injured over 174,000 others in its genocide in Gaza, most of them women and children.

Successive US administrations have provided Israel with military, financial and diplomatic support, including protection from accountability at the UN Security Council through the use of the veto.

In 1948, Israel was established on lands seized by armed Zionist groups that carried out massacres and displaced at least 750,000 Palestinians. Israel later occupied the remaining Palestinian territories and continues to reject withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian state as stipulated in UN resolutions.

Source: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2630580/us-refusal-to-issue-visas-to-palestinian-delegation-violates-international-agreements-hamas?shem=aimgspe>,

Super El Nino heatwave threatens 450,000 lives globally, study warns

By Najam-ul-Saqib

A devastating “super” El Nino event could lead to over 450,000 heat-related deaths worldwide by February, according to a landmark study by researchers at the Climate Impact Lab.

An unprecedented rise in global temps

The climate pattern, which began in mid-2026, is on track to become the strongest on record. Scientists project that land temperatures will sit 1.2°C above average causing a massive 44% spike in extremely hot days. The crisis is compounding the baseline warming caused by global climate change.

Global South faces worst toll

The projected mortality is overwhelmingly concentrated in lower-income regions across the Global South, where populations face intense seasonal heat alongside limited access to adaptation resources like air conditioning.

The Sahel region in Africa is forecasted to suffer the highest toll, with 66,800 excess deaths – nearly half occurring in Nigeria alone. Southeast Asian nations, alongside India and Brazil, are projected to see tens of thousands of casualties as summer hits the Southern Hemisphere.

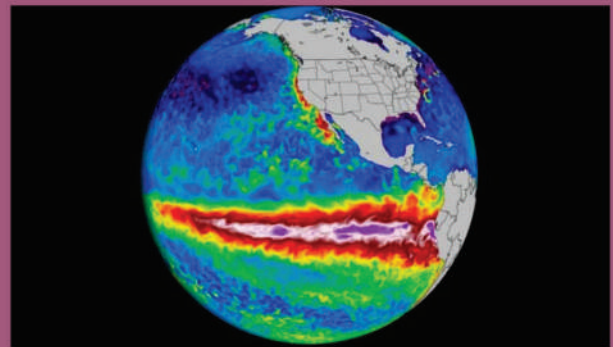
Urgent call for preventive action

Beyond heat stress, experts warn of secondary disasters like extreme droughts, wildfires, and flash floods. However, researchers emphasize that this projection acts as a crucial early-warning map.

Governments can save thousands of lives right now by launching targeted intervention strategies, including community cooling centers, early warning systems and mandatory workplace heat breaks for outdoor labor.

Without immediate adaptation, experts fear these extreme conditions will become the world’s new baseline weather pattern within two decades.

Source: <https://jang.com.pk/en/73735-super-el-nino-heatwave-threatens-450000-lives-globally-study-warns-news?shem=aimgspe>,





Book Review: Islam and Human Rights

By Sir Zafrulla Khan

Reviewed by Zia H Shah MD, Chief Editor of the Muslim Times

Sir Zafrulla was a polymath and the first Foreign Minister of Pakistan and took office in 1947.

He served concurrently as leader of Pakistan's delegation to the UN (1947-54). From 1954 to 1961 he served as a member of the International Court of Justice at The Hague. He again represented Pakistan at the UN in 1961-64 and served as president of the UN General Assembly in 1962-63. Returning to the International Court of Justice in 1964, he served as the court's president from 1970 to 1973.

He played an important role in the development of the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He saw numerous parallels in the teachings of the holy Quran and these articles and wrote a book to demonstrate that to the world.

In his view Islam was about human rights and creating a compassionate and just society should be a constant goal of each Muslim.

In his booklet he discussed each Article in the light of various verses of the holy Quran.

He introduces the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the following words:

The Declaration of Human Rights does not, in the accepted juristic sense of the term, constitutes a "law". It stands, nevertheless, as a shining milestone along the long, and often difficult and weary, path trodden by Man down the corridors of History, through centuries of suffering and tribulation, towards the goal of freedom, justice and equality. Man's struggle for freedom, justice and equality has been waged in all ages and in many fields and theatres, with varying fortunes. Each of these battles, and the ground won in each, have, in turn, forwarded the cause of Man

and have contributed towards the formulation and adoption of the Declaration, which is entitled to rank with the great historical documents and Charters directed towards the same objective.

He summarized the dark chapters of history and the hope for the future of humanity in the following words:

How is it that in the last half of the twentieth century, after having passed through the shattering and devastating experience of two world wars and in the shadow of a nuclear holocaust, despite all the effort that has so far been put forth to the contrary, man continues to be the victim of discrimination, intolerance and cruelty at the hands of his fellow man? One would have thought that man's daily increasing knowledge of the working of the laws of nature and his growing mastery over the forces of nature, which has opened for every one of us the prospect of a richer, fuller and happier life, would have brought in their wake an era in which man could dispense with the weapons of greed, selfishness, exploitation and dominance which had so far been regarded, albeit utterly erroneously, as contributing towards the welfare and prosperity of those who were, from time to time, in a position to employ them. For, indeed, the truth is daily becoming more manifest, as experience in every field continues to furnish fresh confirmation, that the prosperity of all is promoted through mutual sharing and co-operation rather than through the exploitation and domination of some by others. It must be our constant endeavour to bring this home to all in every corner of the globe.

In correlating the Articles to the Islamic teachings he says:

In studying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from the Islamic point of view, we must remember that while Islam lays down broad values and standards which clearly endorse the spirit and purpose of the Declaration, it does not pronounce verbatim on all the specific provisions of the Declaration.

Regarding the Preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its relation to Islam he writes:

The Preamble of the Declaration recalls in general terms the values and purposes which the Declaration is designed to secure and the methods through which they might be secured.

The preceding sections have drawn attention to some of these values as being part of those that Islam seeks to inculcate and establish. These and some others will be considered in somewhat greater detail with reference to the specific articles of the Declaration. So far as the Preamble is concerned it should be enough to point out that Islam lays the duty of constantly promulgating Islamic values upon every individual Muslim. The generic word for these values is ma'roof, meaning that which is good, equitable, desirable.

Source: <https://themuslimtimes.info/2022/01/07/book-review-islam-and-human-rights-3/>



Powerful Typhoon Dujuan drenches Tokyo area

By Jesse Johnson and Jessica Speed

Typhoon Dujuan brought heavy rain to the Izu Islands and the Kanto region on Monday, with advisories and evacuation orders issued for some areas as Japan marks its Silver Week holidays.

The Japan Meteorological Agency urged residents in the Izu Islands and Kanto, as well as Pacific coastal areas of Tokai and Tohoku, to remain on high alert for landslides and violent winds, as well as flooding in low-lying areas, swollen or overflowing rivers and high waves.

One person in Miyazaki Prefecture was confirmed dead as a result of the typhoon, and another sustained minor injuries, according to a report released Monday afternoon by the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

Northern parts of the Izu island chain received a Level 5 landslide warning, while other areas in the Kanto region received Level 4 warnings for heavy rain, landslides and flooding.

At a news conference Monday afternoon, Takuya Hosomi, director of the weather agency's forecasting division, warned that "in areas corresponding to Level 4, a major disaster could occur at any time," and urged those in affected areas to check the level of disaster risk in their current location and carefully review the evacuation information issued by local municipalities.

People in urban areas are advised to remain on the alert for flooded roads and to avoid underground facilities where water could accumulate and vehicles could become trapped.

The powerful typhoon's arrival has coincided with Silver Week, which runs through Wednesday, with the storm likely to disrupt transport networks and wreak havoc on cultural events.

As of 4 p.m. Monday, the year's 25th named storm was located about 130 kilometers southeast of the coastal city of Katsuura, Chiba Prefecture, moving northeast at 35 kph. It had an atmospheric pressure of 960 hectopascals at its center, with maximum sustained winds of 40 meters per second and maximum gusts of up to 55 meters per second.

In the 24 hours through 4:40 p.m. Monday, 672.5 millimeters of rainfall was recorded in Izu Oshima in the Izu chain, while the Sakahata area of the city of Kimitsu, Chiba Prefecture, saw 324 mm of rain, according to the weather agency.

In the subsequent 24 hours through 6 p.m. Tuesday, rainfall could reach up to 200 mm in the Kanto region and 100 mm in the Izu Islands, while Tohoku could see 100 mm and Tokai 80 mm, the agency said.

The Tokyo Game Show, which began Thursday, announced the cancellation of Monday's program, shortening the five-day video game extravaganza by a day.

The storm also saw Japan Airlines cancel 120 domestic flights and All Nippon Airlines cancel 140 flights, according to NHK.

East Japan Railway announced partial and full-day suspensions of operations on some lines in Chiba and Ibaraki prefectures as well as western Tokyo on Monday.

Source: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2026/09/21/japan/typhoon-dujuan-japan/?shem=aimgspe>,



Seeds of Hatred, Trees of Gunpowder, and Humanity's Lost World

By Hairan Mohmand

The world today resembles a strange garden. Barbed wires stretch across borders, walls have risen between peoples, poison has entered public discourse, and gunpowder lies buried beneath the soil. Human beings claim that science, technology, communication and industry have brought the world closer together, yet the same humanity continues to create distances between nations and communities that may take generations to overcome.

Afghans and Pakistanis remain connected by language, culture, traditions, faith, blood, trade and history, yet suspicion and hostility between the two sides have reached disturbing levels. The important question is: who plants these seeds of hatred? Does every Pakistani hate Afghans? Does every Afghan consider Pakistanis enemies? Does every Indian hate Pakistanis, and does every Pakistani regard Indians as enemies?

The lives of ordinary people tell a different story. Workers want bread, farmers need water, students need education, mothers want safety for their children and young people want employment. Ordinary people need peace far more than hostility. The forces that turn this natural desire for peace into hatred must therefore be examined carefully.

States formulate security policies, intelligence agencies assess threats, militaries defend national interests and governments warn citizens about dangers. These are legitimate functions of a state. The problem begins when security concerns are transformed into a permanent psychology of fear and hostility. If one generation is taught that the person across the border is not a human being but a threat, the next generation inherits the same fear. Thus, the border is no longer merely drawn on the land; it is also drawn inside the human mind.

It would, however, be an oversimplification to place the entire responsibility for hatred on intelligence agencies or governments. Hatred has become a multidimensional industry in which political interests, electoral calculations, the economics of war, arms markets, extremist recruitment, sensationalist journalism and profit-driven social-media systems

can all play a role.

Sometimes a political leader finds an external enemy useful for diverting attention from domestic failures. A government may invoke fear in the name of national unity, while opposition groups may use accusations of betrayal for political advantage. Extremist organisations, meanwhile, require an enemy image to justify their own existence.

Gunpowder is not found only inside guns. A false message can become gunpowder. A fabricated photograph can become gunpowder. A hateful speech, an unverified report or an educational narrative that teaches children to despise another nation can also become gunpowder. In the digital age, misinformation can spread faster than truth and turn public anger into real-world violence.

Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan offer a painful example. The two peoples share deep connections that cannot simply disappear because of political disagreements. Yet border disputes, terrorism allegations, military operations, the refugee question and mutual distrust have increasingly affected relations between ordinary citizens.

Pakistan has repeatedly raised security concerns and the presence of militant groups as fundamental issues, while Afghanistan has its own grievances and security concerns. Both sides present arguments, but the dead are not parties to any argument. A mother who loses her son does not see the political logic offered by either side; she sees only the silence that descends upon her home.

The India-Pakistan relationship has been trapped in a similar cycle. The partition of 1947 divided territory, families, memories and communities. Wars, Kashmir, terrorism, water disputes, border tensions and political rhetoric repeatedly renewed the old fears. Over time, the image of the enemy became embedded in national consciousness.

Children encounter wars through textbooks, young people encounter provocative narratives through social media, and political gatherings often reproduce harsh language. Gradually, these images become part of national identity. Before people see each other's societies as they really are, they often see the enemy that has been constructed for them.

Yet the quiet truth behind all wars is that ordinary people are rarely their principal beneficiaries; they are usually their greatest victims. They pay through taxes, inflation, unemployment, displacement, destroyed homes and psychological trauma. When security spending expands without balance, schools, hospitals, water supplies, employment and infrastructure can suffer. Even after a conflict ends, its economic and emotional wounds may remain for decades.

This raises another important question: if ordinary people do not benefit from hostility, who does?

The global arms market is an obvious part of the answer, although it would be inaccurate to describe every conflict simply as a conspiracy of arms dealers. Genuine security threats, terrorism, territorial disputes and regional rivalries are real. The real challenge is to distinguish genuine danger from manufactured fear. A society that cannot make that distinction becomes vulnerable to manipulation.

Independent journalism, strong institutions, transparent policies and meaningful education are therefore essential. The journalist's responsibility is not to make a nation happy but to pursue the truth. The teacher's responsibility is not to create enemies but to teach students to question, investigate and understand. The politician's responsibility is not to sell fear but to build a future. The state must protect its citizens from genuine threats without constructing a permanent house of hatred inside their minds.

Religious and community leaders also carry an important responsibility. Differences of nationality, language, sect or political opinion should not be allowed to become justification for denying another human being dignity and humanity.

Social media has made the problem even more complicated. Hatred no longer needs a major newspaper or official speech. A false message can reach millions within seconds. Content that produces anger, fear and outrage often receives greater attention, allowing misinformation to travel rapidly. Hatred can therefore become not only a political instrument but also part of an attention-driven digital economy.

Public awareness, responsible journalism, fact-checking and digital literacy have consequently become essential elements of modern peace-building.

The world now needs a broader understanding of security. National security cannot be measured only by the number of missiles, tanks and weapons a country possesses. Trust among people is also a form of security. Pakistan and Afghanistan should preserve channels of dialogue, trade, education and people-to-people contact even while addressing serious disagreements. India and Pakistan can do the same.

Political and security disputes cannot be resolved overnight. Kashmir, terrorism, border disagreements and competing national interests require serious and sustained diplomacy. But reducing hatred can begin immediately by refusing to treat an entire people as an enemy.

Ultimately, the most dangerous gunpowder in the world is not the ammunition stored in warehouses; it is the gunpowder buried inside the human mind. A bullet may kill one person, but an ideology of hatred can destroy generations. A war may destroy a city, but permanent hostility can separate entire peoples.

If humanity genuinely wants to rid the world of gunpowder, it must first remove the seeds of hatred from the human mind. Peace will begin when an Afghan, a Pakistani, an Indian and every other human being learns to see another person as a human being before seeing them through the labels of borders, nationality or politics.

Only then can the thorny trees that have grown from decades of hatred begin to wither, and in humanity's exhausted garden, the trees of peace, trust and love begin to grow again.



Make The Guest Feel At Home

By *Bilal Ahmad Shamim*

The ancient Indian ideal of hospitality is beautifully epitomized in the Sanskrit maxim “Atithi Devo Bhava”—the guest is to be regarded as god himself. It embodies a profound moral principle: to treat a guest with consideration, dignity, and respect.

True hospitality means putting oneself, at least temporarily, in the position of the guest. Food, in particular, is an important part of hospitality. It is about making the guest feel welcome—not about demonstrating the host’s own preferences.

Indeed, imposing one’s own choices upon a guest is parochialism disguised as generosity.

The Indian tradition offers an extraordinary illustration of the ideal of selfless concern in the story of King Shibi and the hawk. A dove, pursued by a hawk, sought refuge with King Shibi. The king, having given his word to protect the helpless creature, was unwilling to surrender it even when the hawk demanded its prey. Rather than betray the dove, Shibi offered his own flesh in its place.

This is the spirit behind the highest conception of hospitality- the dignity and welfare of the guest come before the convenience of the host.

Against this noble ideal stands the familiar fable of the Fox and the Crane in which the Fox invites the Crane to dinner but serves the meal on a flat plate, from which the Crane, with its long beak, can hardly eat. The Fox has apparently offered hospitality, but only on his own cunning terms.

Later, the Crane invites the Fox to dinner and serves the food in a narrow-necked vessel. The Crane can easily reach the food with its long beak, while the Fox is

unable to eat.

What appears on the surface to be a dinner invitation becomes an exchange of calculated discourtesy.

That is the real moral of the fable.

Hospitality is not measured merely by what we offer; it is measured by whether we have considered the person to whom we are offering it.

A guest is not a captive.

An invitation is not a command.

And hospitality is not an opportunity to exercise dominance.

The same principle applies beyond the dining table. It applies whenever people of different backgrounds, cultures, habits, or traditions interact. Genuine hospitality requires flexibility and generosity of spirit. It requires us to recognize that what is perfectly acceptable to us may be inappropriate, uncomfortable, or even unacceptable to someone else.

This is particularly important when hospitality is extended across cultural or social boundaries.

There is nothing admirable about winning a trivial battle at the cost of goodwill. A person may congratulate himself for having outmanoeuvred a guest, but the guest will remember the insult long after the host has forgotten his supposed victory. Worse still, deliberate discourtesy often invites retaliation. The Crane's response to the Fox is a reminder that people rarely forget how they have been treated.

One should therefore be careful before celebrating a momentary victory achieved through discourtesy. It may invite a 'tit for tat' reprisal.

Diplomacy, like hospitality, is built upon reciprocity. Respect encourages respect; generosity creates goodwill. Conversely, arrogance, humiliation, and the deliberate imposition of one's will can produce resentment—and resentment has a long memory.

A host who genuinely honours his guest does not boast about what he forced the guest to accept.

He takes quiet satisfaction in knowing that his guest felt respected, comfortable, and welcome.

Anything else may look like a victory—but, like the Fox's dinner, it may simply be the beginning of the next meal.

An eye on Balochistan border



The intensifying Yemeni Houthi strikes on Saudi Arabia have triggered a debate over the possible activation of the Makkah accord. Statements and clarifications about possible and emerging scenarios are coming from all stakeholders.

But a recent incident in Saravan county in Sistan-Baluchestan, close to the Pakistan border, has also drawn attention to the Iran-Pakistan border region. This has broadened the debate over the Gulf region's security and evolving geopolitics, and Pakistan's role in it.

The incident was reported on Sept 12, when heavy fighting between Iranian security forces and unidentified gunmen spread across parts of Saravan, with reports of attacks on military vehicles and dozens of security personnel killed or wounded. Although the identity of the armed group is not yet clear, some analysts have attributed the attack to Jaish al-Adl or the People's Fighters Front, an alliance of several groups, reportedly including Jaish al-Adl.

Since the start of the conflict in West Asia, Balochistan's security dynamics have changed. The conflict has altered the operating environment in which an existing insurgency was already functioning.

The BLA and other allied groups have intensified their terrorist activities. The economic blockade announced by these groups has disrupted transportation and halted economic activity, particularly in the mineral sector. The closure of the frontier with Afghanistan and the partial closure of the border with Iran have contributed to the crisis. Taken together, these developments have affected the

region's security, internal political dynamics and geopolitical environment, bringing new risks to the province.

An angle that has largely been overlooked in the broader conflict theatre in this area is the state of affairs along the Pakistan-Iran border, which stretches for around 900 kilometres and where multiple violent religious and nationalist insurgent groups, as well as transnational criminal networks, operate. The border's porous nature raises further security concerns. According to media reports, Pakistani security institutions had placed Balochistan on high alert because of the possible fallout from the Iran war.

The situation along the Pakistan-Iran border in the broader conflict has been largely overlooked.

The Jan 16, 2024, Iranian strike inside Pakistan, allegedly targeting Jaish al-Adl hideouts, followed by Pakistan's retaliatory strikes on militant targets in Iran, changed the dynamics of their bilateral relations and prompted greater security cooperation. That cooperation has largely remained intact.

However, the recent Saravan attack has raised questions about how the changing regional environment could affect the future course of frontier security, particularly as Pakistan's border with Afghanistan remains closed and Iran is an alternative, although very expensive, route for transnational trade.

For Iran, if the Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) has to concentrate its resources on US and Israeli strikes, the Strait of Hormuz and operations in the Gulf, Sistan-Baluchestan could become a peripheral theatre competing for Iranian security resources. Any escalation of tensions between Iran and Pakistan is in neither country's interest. However, non-state actors always try to find an opportunity in evolving conflicts, especially when wider regional contexts provide them with more meaning and relevance in the conflict theatre.

The BLA and other insurgent groups appear to have viewed the war as an opportunity to escalate their operations, perhaps hoping that they could eventually be considered as potential proxies against Iran, as happened in Syria with America's partnership with the Syrian Democratic Forces. The SDF was a coalition that included Kurdish armed groups such as the YPG and YPJ, along with Syrian Arab and Assyrian/ Christian elements.

The BLA has also issued a few statements supporting US strikes on Iran. Perhaps the BLA believes it can find meaning in the wider conflict in West Asia. Still, the BLA is missing a point in its calculation: the convergence of US, Pakistani, and

Saudi geopolitical and strategic interests will persist in the coming years.

At the same time, Jaish al-Adl and several smaller groups have reportedly sought to broaden their activities against the Quds Force and IRGC. The group remained relatively quiet until Iranian security forces launched an operation against suspected terrorists in Saravan last August, reportedly apprehending several Jaish al-Adl members and killing one. During the operation, security forces said they recovered a significant arsenal of military hardware, including dozens of Kalashnikov automatic rifles, hand grenades, RPG-7 launchers, around 20 kilograms of C-4 military-grade explosives, 150 rounds of ammunition, and several Starlink satellite internet devices.

The Saravan operation reported last week has since been interpreted in multiple ways, mostly based on assumptions rather than established evidence. One popular theory links the attack to the intensification of Houthi strikes on Saudi Arabia.

The incident also occurred while Pakistan was diplomatically engaged with Iran. According to a media report, subsequently denied by Pakistan, Islamabad had conveyed a Saudi message to Tehran asking Iran to restrain the Houthis.

A popular perception in the border region of Balochistan is that if Iran can use the Houthis as a proxy against Saudi Arabia, it must also expect the possibility of a similar reaction from Saudi Arabia. The Sunni militias operating in Sistan-Baluchestan, from Jundullah to the People's Fighters Front, are said to be proxies of foreign powers including the US and Saudi Arabia. That perception is nurturing new theories. A few of them are critical of Pakistan too.

Whether such perceptions translate into an actual Saudi strategy is another question. But perceptions themselves can influence the behaviour of armed groups and local actors, particularly in a region where terrorist networks, cross-border tribal connections and informal economic networks overlap.

Beyond all the theories surrounding the strategic calculus of West Asia and the prospects of Saudi proxies emerging along the Pakistan-Iran border, one fact remains clear: Pakistan cannot afford further chaos in the border region of Balochistan. Any expansion of the regional conflict in an already fragile security environment could make the country's internal security dynamics considerably more complex.

Source: <https://www.dawn.com/news/2031271/an-eye-on-balochistan-border?shem=aimspe>,



Global Recognition: British-Bangladeshi Philanthropist Mansoor Ahmad BEM Featured at Humanitarian Congress Berlin

Renowned British-Bangladeshi philanthropist and British Empire Medal (BEM) recipient, Mansoor Ahmad, has achieved further international acclaim following his high-profile participation at the Humanitarian Congress Berlin 2026.

Invited as a special guest, Ahmad contributed to the high-level, two-day summit held on April 21–22, 2026, at the Silent Green Kulturquartier. Themed “Humanitarianism(s) in Transition: Between Ideals, Power and Agency,” this year’s Congress tackled pressing challenges within the global aid sector, including declining donor funding, growing politicisation, and the systemic erosion of international humanitarian law. The prestigious event was delivered through a unique partnership of leading global organisations, including Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Doctors of the World, the German Red Cross, Oxfam Germany, and The New Humanitarian.

Throughout the summit, Ahmad engaged in a series of strategic bilateral discussions focused on the evolution of aid delivery and the preservation of international law. Key meetings included dialogues with the Director of International Cooperation at the German Red Cross, the Gambian High Commissioner to Germany, and the Head of Unit for Humanitarian Aid Thematic Policies & International Humanitarian Law.

Ahmad also collaborated with specialist researchers from the Centre for the Study of Existential Risk (CSER) at the University of Cambridge, as well as the Middle East Editor for The New Humanitarian, with whom he discussed ongoing regional crises and the vital role of investigative journalism in ensuring aid accountability. These

high-level exchanges addressed critical global themes, such as the protection of civilians in active conflict zones, the rising threats of global systemic risks, and the imperative shift toward localised humanitarian responses.

Ahmad's lifelong dedication to peaceful coexistence, education, and community integration has earned him an extraordinary array of domestic and international accolades. In addition to the British Empire Medal (BEM), his honours include the British Citizen Award, the International Humanitarian Prize, the House of Lords Award for Community Cohesion and Integration, and the Mayor's Covid-19 Award. He

has also received formal recognition from the Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, the House of Commons recognition, the All England Lawn Tennis Club recognition, School Governor Award, and Community Awards.

As an established speaker on the world stage, Ahmad frequently addresses major global forums. His previous speaking engagements include presentations at the United Kingdom Houses of Parliament, the United Nations in Geneva, the European Humanitarian Forum in Brussels, the International Forum of Civic Participation in Moscow, and the Humanitarian Xchange in London. Through his extensive portfolio of published analysis in prestigious journals and national dailies, Ahmad continues to shape the international discourse on humanitarian action, civil integration, and global stability.

Mansoor has built a distinguished career collaborating with leading international humanitarian organizations to advance global welfare. His extensive social impact spans international policy advocacy, civic integration, and crisis relief. Grounded in a lifelong dedication to humanitarian service, he currently lends his expertise as the Regional Expert for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

