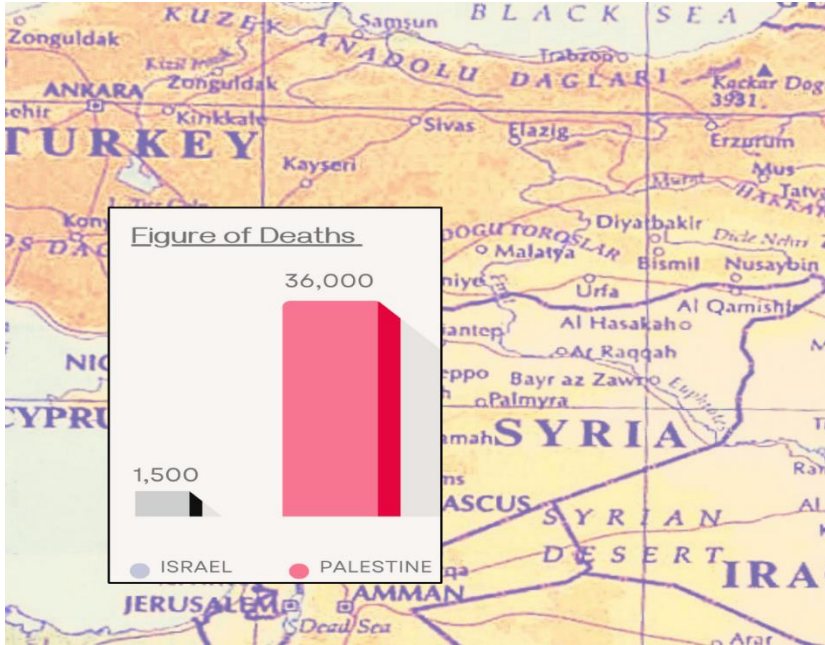




36000 killed in Palestine, Israel's 1500 dead : Gaza bleeds as world watches

Has global leadership, international community done enough to stop the killings?



The Asian Tribune

A horrific tragedy is unfolding in front of our eyes and not just the Western nations, but all the countries around Palestine have been unable to raise a strong voice, despite the scale of atrocities—deaths and destruction. Gaza has not just shown the harsh reality—the inability of global community to stop war, but it has also clearly exposed the countries that were seen as major powers. Have the important Asian countries, especially, the Middle East's oil-rich nations have been vocal enough or have they exerted adequate pressure at the diplomatic level. Further, the brutality seen in Gaza, and rising figure of deaths have completely punctured the myth of Middle East states' power and their diplomatic efforts. The magnitude of the tragedy—deaths of civilians [women & children], the extent of devastation in Gaza and the indifference of several big countries have sent a clear signal.

The tall claims that were routinely made regarding the solidarity for the cause of Palestine, come out to be hollow. The reality is that while Western countries' stand is known but after years of Middle East nations' direct, discreet and even behind-the-scene ties with Israel, have been ineffective. The United Nations appears completely helpless & there are several other serious aspects. Lack of political resolve aside, yearning for peace and intent to save lives hasn't been seen as yet. Imagine the situation and the bleak scenario when we don't hear a reasonable statesman like voice from even a single country that could have made an impact on a vast number of people across the world. On one hand, Latin American countries' stand was seen. Role of South Africa that took a principled position, has been noticed across the world. International agencies had earlier said that number of children killed due to bombardment in Gaza was 13,000.

Right now, the estimate about the number of children who died, has crossed 15,000, estimates suggest.

South Africa took a principled stand and it approached the ICJ i.e. the International Court of Justice.

Also, Latin American countries have taken stand but has there been lack of initiative & less vocal response from Middle East?

Strangely, it didn't stir leaders, as we hear few voices and it doesn't seem to have shaken the world enough. In fact, the figure is believed to be even more, as apart from bodies that were identified or recovered, a large number got buried under the rubble. There have been huge rallies in West. Student communities on campuses in US have shown solidarity with the innocent victims in Palestine, expressing open concern, taking bold stance, for peace and justice.

ANALYSIS: WHAT HAS CHANGED IN MIDDLE EAST?

The large scale killings and consequences of the conflict that has led to nearly 2 million people getting displaced, it's coverage in media and big protests are one aspect of the failure of world that couldn't intervene or stop this bloodshed.

What has caused concern is that compared to leaders in the past, the nations that surround Gaza, seem to have been less vocal and that's the talk on the streets across Asia and in the Muslim world.

The geopolitical landscape has changed, from the past. Definitely, most countries have their relationship & business interests, deals, with Israel.

From Malaysia to South Asia, internal politics in countries and the delicate power balance with other countries, the strategic ties are among the reasons. The old guard is gone & new leaders are cautious, have other priorities.

Chile has also said that it will support the case against Israel that has been brought to the ICJ i.e. the International Court of Justice. Students across the world, especially, in campuses in United States, UK and Canada have been holding protests and openly came out to rally in favour of Palestine. In Indonesia, thousands came out and expressed solidarity with the people of Gaza.

Norway, Spain and Ireland have also recognized the state of Palestine, taking the number of nations recognizing Palestine to 146.

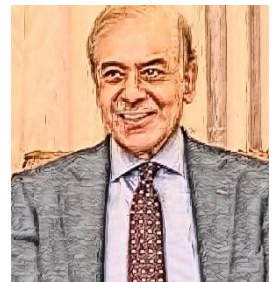
In Asia, Maldives has taken a strong position and so have many African countries.

The latest attacks on Rafah led to major displacement. Hospitals, schools and homes have been reduced to rubble & death figure is going up. It's time the world wakes up & ensure that the bloodshed ends.

Shehbaz Sharif to visit China for bolstering Sino-Pak ties

The Asian Tribune

China is all set to host the Pakistan prime minister in the first week of June. Shehbaz Sharif's visit to the country that has been one of the most oldest and trusted allies of Islamabad, is important as it is aimed at strengthening the bilateral ties. Focus is likely to be on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that has strategic value for both these nations. Sharif will be in China from June 4 to June 8. Beijing's concerns regarding the security of its workers who are involved in this project are also foremost and could be discussed, say experts.



Islamabad wants to attract Chinese businessmen for setting up industries in his country. The need for infra projects and investment in them is a prime objective. Sharif is meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping at a time when the former's country is battling economic crisis. Apart from CPEC second phase, a big infra project is also in pipeline.



Mystery surrounding Bangladesh leader's murder in India's Kolkata sends shockwaves

The member of parliament who represented Awami League went missing. The body was dismembered. 'Suspects' detained but questions remain.

The Asian Tribune

The disappearance of a member of parliament from Bangladesh who had come to India and then it was found that he had been murdered, has been a case that has drawn the attention of citizens on both sides of the border. Anwarul Azim who was an MP who was representing Jhenaidah constituency in Bangladesh, was a member of the Awami League. That he went missing from a house in New Town in Kolkata and was murdered, body dismembered as well as disposed off, shocked the people. The grisly murder of a three term member of the Jatiya Sangsad outside country has given rise to serious questions. A successful



politician, he had a controversial past. The smuggling of goods through the Bhagawanganga border and later the unlawful gold transport, were aspects that came up during earlier probes. In this visit, he came to India and stayed at his friend Gopal Biswas' house. But later went missing from a house in the New Town, Kolkata, where he was supposed to meet a woman. The pieces of body samples were sent for forensic test. Police detained suspects who originally belonged to B'desh but had different nationalities. Azim was skinned at the flat, body cut to pieces & stuffed in plastic bags for disposal. Clearly, even after arrests, a lot has to be unravelled.

South East Asia

Malaysia aims high, to turn itself into a global Chip hub

Seeks to be a major player in chip manufacturing

The Asian Tribune

The Malaysian government is aiming at turning the country into a global chip hub.

Across the world, leading companies have been diversifying the supply chains due to the friction between US and China, apart from other factors. The South East Asian country is thus aiming to benefit from the current situation.

Keeping this in mind, the National Semiconductor Strategy has also been announced.

The government would make a huge investment



in this sector.

The money would be pushed with the aim to nurture local youth and train the engineers to emerge as a centre of chip manufacturing.

Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim' has hinted that it is an ambitious plan.

Besides, this is not a sudden move as Malaysia already has foothold in this sector.

The country accounts for as much as 13% of the chip packaging and testing services, worldwide.

US, Canada, Japan are leading countries in the sector of semiconductor manufacturing.

Malaysia has the requisite facilities and it is a player in this sector. Hence, the government will also seek FDI in a bid to emerge as a major hub.

Major companies like Google have also shown interest in this move.

South East Asia

TOURISM: Thailand allows extended stay facility for visitors from 93 nations



The Asian Tribune

In a major initiative that has been made on account of the strong potential in tourism industry, Thailand has decided to open up the country, further, for the visitors. The government has announced extended

visa stay period. From June onwards, tourists from 93 countries will get the benefit of staying in the country for up to two months. Extended stay for travellers, students & workers will boost economy, say officials.