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GAZA suffers but growing isolation for Israel at the international stage; rise in support for Palestine, US public opinion too shows a shift

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The war in Gaza has been going on for almost two years now and has led to killings and destruction—the figure of deaths estimated from 66,000 to 100,000 for Palestinians and nearly 2,000 for Israel, however, the scale of damage and atrocities in Gaza, that continue to this day, has been unprecedented in the modern era.

While US keeps backing Israel, the latter has been facing growing isolation and pressure from international community, including European nations. In the United Nations, Palestine is now recognized by 157 out of 193 member states, which is a significant rise. World opinion has been in support of Palestine and one of the biggest changes has been the tilt in the public opinion in America.

The adult population in US, especially, the youth, are now

more supportive to Palestine than Israel, indicate recent surveys.

This is important because the US' unconditional support to Israel, emboldened the latter. Till a couple of years ago, just 138 UN member countries recognized Palestine.

Not just Europe, public opinion in America about the US' continuous support in terms of arms and funds to Tel Aviv, has seen a shift.

US policy was largely same in the Democratic regime, as well as under Republicans. But the exasperation over the killings and the bloodshed, killings and critical injuries to women and kids, the images of violence & the situation of starvation in Gaza, has now reached a point where Israel's offensive is becoming indefensible.

Hopefully, diplomacy will win and ceasefire should take place, along with a two state solution.



The US' engagement in Middle East and the continuous intervention and wars in Asia, these are not in sync with Republican party's poll promise either.

The long war has taken its toll on Gaza. It will take years for rebuilding the region but now its time to end the bloodshed, finally. [editor@asiantribune.net]

HOPE, SKEPTICISM & REALITY

Many feel that the new plan for ceasefire offers little in terms of clear promise to Palestine.

Still, if it halts the ongoing offensive on ground, it'd provide relief to residents in Gaza.

Ultimately, the Arab nations need to dig heel and take a clear, united stand.

The surge in the youths' pro-Palestinian sentiment in the West, especially, in US had become a cause of worry for the establishment.

This was the reason that the idea to ban social media app TikTok was mooted.

Finally, the recent deal was made to ensure that the app in America would be US-controlled and this would mean a change in the way it's operated—from control over data to ability to change the algorithm of the popular social media platform, which youth are using to get news and share their opinion.

One of the biggest powers in democracy and modern world, is the control over minds and shaping the public mood.

Hence, such a serious effort was made to acquire Chinese app's US operations.

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Nawab Sultan Jahan Begum: Ruler of princely state of Bhopal, first Chancellor of a University, heralded educational revolution in 20th century



Shams Ur Rehman Alavi
editor@asiantribune.net

Nawab Sultan Jahan Begum was an extraordinary woman and one of the most prominent personalities of the world in the last century—a ruler of princely state, chancellor of one of the world's leading university, who wrote books, left behind the account of her life, travelled far & wide, generously supported for the cause of education and deftly ran the affairs of Bhopal state as its ruler.

Among the hundreds of states and principalities in India, she was the sole woman ruler of a state and the first woman chancellor of a university in her era.

She visited Europe and people would come out at the ports and in events to have a look at the woman from the Oriental world [East] who was a female and ruler of a State. Few Muslim rulers in those days went to Haj because of the difficulties in that period—ranging from long sea route to the incidents that happened in the desert on route to Mecca, but she also made the pilgrimage and wrote her account of the Haj. Also, visited Turkey and met the Caliph.

This unique woman, who was equally at ease talking with British royal family in London as well as with the ordinary worker and common man in the Bhopal state, dedicated her entire life thinking about the ways to uplift women and help the poor. However, education was her prime passion and her life is testament to the fact

that she remained dedicated to this cause. The princely state of Bhopal was established by Sardar Dost Muhammad Khan, nearly three centuries ago.

It was in 1722 AD that Sardar Dost Mohammad Khan, who had extended his control in the region, decided to build a fortress in Bhopal, away from Islamnagar hamlet, which was earlier the seat of the princely state and is located around 12 km from Bhopal. From the beginning, women played an important role in the affairs of State. Sardar Dost Muhammad Khan's wife Fateh Bibi had chosen the spot for fort and the fort was named after her, as Fatehgarh fort. Even after Sardar Dost Muhammad Khan, courageous and headstrong women with a sense of self-belief appear in the history of the state, in each era. From Maaji Mamola to Nawab Qudsia Begum, Nawab Sikandar Jahan Begum and one of the most famous rulers, Nawab Shahjehan Begum, who had also financed the construction of mosque in England, and started construction of the grand, Tajul Masaajid, mosque in Bhopal, each generation saw women dominate the culture and heritage of the region. Sultan Jahan Begum was Shahjehan Begum's daughter.

Like her illustrious mother, she focused on welfare of the peasants and common citizens apart from uplifting women and focusing on the education of girls. From early age, she had been taught the Holy Quran apart from daily classes in Urdu, Arabic, Persian, English, Pashto, Mathematics, calligraphy, horse riding, target practice, apart from other subjects and arts. She was married to Nawab Ahmad Ali Khan. As she took over affairs of the State



Sultan Jahan Begum ruled the princely state of Bhopal for a quarter century, from 1901 to 1926. She was Chancellor of AMU for a decade.

in 1901, Nawab Sultan Jahan Begum, found that she had many tasks at hand—from dealing with drought to poor finances. But she began touring the entire State and went to the towns and villages to ascertain the situation at the ground. She removed corrupt officials & focused on improving administration.

Subsequently, when she had a firm grip on affairs of 'riyasat', her attention was focused on education and health. She set up schools & dispensaries. Besides, she supported Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in his efforts.

Nawab Sultan Jahan Begum led from the front and ensured that more schools were opened. Girls schools like Madarsa-e-Sultania that was affiliated to Allahabad and Birjisia Kanya Pathshala for Hindu girls were established apart from umpteen public welfare works, constructions of courts, hospitals & dispensaries.

She wrote books to guide women to raise their children properly. Also, set up ladies club and institution to teach entrepreneurship skills to women. She generously supported the educational institutions in different cities in India. She was clear in her views that Islam emancipated women and in her speeches, she urged women to learn, focus on skills and manage all the personal and household affairs, efficiently. Among her three sons, last son Hamidullah Khan became the last ruler of Bhopal state. A legendary woman with farsightedness, she will always be remembered as a symbol of women power. Also, she was a living example that a Muslim woman in Asia, could play such a major role.

Transforming society: TiF takes lead, focuses on education, training for jobs, enhancement of skills for the under privileged youth & kids

The Tarraqi I Foundation runs multiple programs, with the aim to ensure that children and youth from humble background, get better opportunities, training and acquire skills to get employment.



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The Foundation also runs multiple courses that can help youth, apart from providing access of schemes to the rural, poor and those belonging to disadvantaged sections.

It's a colossal task to bring about a social transformation and take up the cudgels to create a change on the ground, especially, when there is a huge section that is under privileged & poor.

But, there are passionate individuals who dream big and act in order to bring a positive all round change in the lives of citizens.

Many think about the issues and lament. But Amir Abidi is among those who believes in action.

The cause was close to his heart and the Tarraqi 'I' Foundation [TiF] started its work, more than a decade ago. As the extent of the issues was understood, TiF also kept expanding area of

of operation, focusing on the spheres—from enrolment of the poor children to schools, getting admission to dropout kids, again, and helping them with their studies to training youth for jobs.

Sensing that there is a dire need for vocational training and skill enhancement, he kept on widening the scope of TiF's work and over the few years, the organisation spread out from the bylanes of Delhi to other states.

From Nuh in Haryana to Tonk in Rajasthan, and other regions, Abidi relentlessly worked. Seeing his motivation and devotion to the cause, many volunteers joined.

Running courses like basic computer skills to newer skills like digital marketing, he and his team started centres that provided training to the youth from marginalized sections of the society.

TEZ, an institute offers on site and online courses to help students gain most in-demand skills required for the fast changing economy like digitized economy, web app design, AI, digital marketing, tally with GST, no code web, app building & full stack development.

Customer relationship and sales, UI and UX design, motion design, website development, basic SEO, et al.

There are also English communication classes and due to orientation sessions and vocational courses, hundreds of youth get jobs, even got placed in top corporate groups.

Several eminent personalities appreciated & thus joined the advisory board.

They include Wajahat Habibullah, Dr Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz, Ibrahim Ahmad, Satya Narayanan R, Fawzia Tarannum, Yasmin Contractor and Athar Shahab. "My vision is to make the youth aware of their inherent potential. I tell them to stay focused", says Abidi.

[Email: editor@asiantribune.net]



Will history be rewritten in Middle East?

Asad Mirza

www.asiantribune.net

As Israel pushes for Gaza takeover, several Western nations have formally announced plans to recognize a Palestinian state at the United Nations General Assembly. The move, which is being led by major western nations among others, is poised to deepen Israel's international isolation, but will the move ultimately lead to the establishment of two nations, the question lingers on.

France formally recognized the state of Palestine at a UN summit in New York co-hosted with Saudi Arabia. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who addressed the meeting via video link after the Trump administration denied him a visa, said Hamas would play no role in Palestinian governance. Around 80% of the member states in the United Nations General Assembly have till now recognized the Palestinian state, as Israel continues its invasion and settlement expansion into the occupied West Bank.

Russia, alongside all Arab countries, almost all African and Latin American countries, and most Asian countries including India and China are already on the list.

Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said on Monday that his country would host a Gaza reconstruction conference as soon as a ceasefire had been reached.

Since the start of the war in Gaza, Spain has emerged as one of the most forceful EU critics of Israel's devastating campaign, which has ravaged most of the Palestinian enclave and killed or maimed tens of thousands of its inhabitants.

When most Western countries rushed to suspend their funding of UNRWA over Israeli allegations that some of its staff had a role in the October 7 Hamas attacks, Spain chose to triple its donations, citing the UN aid

agency's critical role in providing urgently needed aid to Gaza's stricken civilian population.

South African president Ramaphosa, whose country has spearheaded efforts to hold Israel accountable at the International Court of Justice, also called for the establishment of a Palestinian state & the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa was greeted with loud applause over his country's recent recognition of the state of Palestine. He recalled Portugal's support for the two-state solution.

Brazil's President Luis Inacio Lula Da Silva, urged for international pressure on Israel to end its Gaza offensive and accept a two-state solution.

He said, that what is happening in Gaza is not only the extermination of the Palestinian people, but an attempt to destroy their dream of a Palestinian state.



Despite optimism, a section is still unconvinced about the US-Israel moves and ceasefire plan.

Palestinian Authority President, Mahmoud Abbas said Hamas will have & 'no role' in the Palestinian state.

Abbas concluded his speech with an address to 'the people of Israel & declaring that 'our future and yours depend on peace'. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres thanks France and Saudi Arabia for their efforts to rekindle hopes of a two-state solution, 'without which there can be no peace in Middle East'.

But the cynics might not be wrong in saying that the recognition of Palestine will not change anything on the ground. As reported in The Guardian, veteran negotiators, Robert Malley & Hussein Agha – in their new book, Tomorrow is Yesterday described the two state solution as a meaningless distraction and a performative notion used by diplomats for 30 years to avoid finding solutions. [Email: editor@asiantribune.net]

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