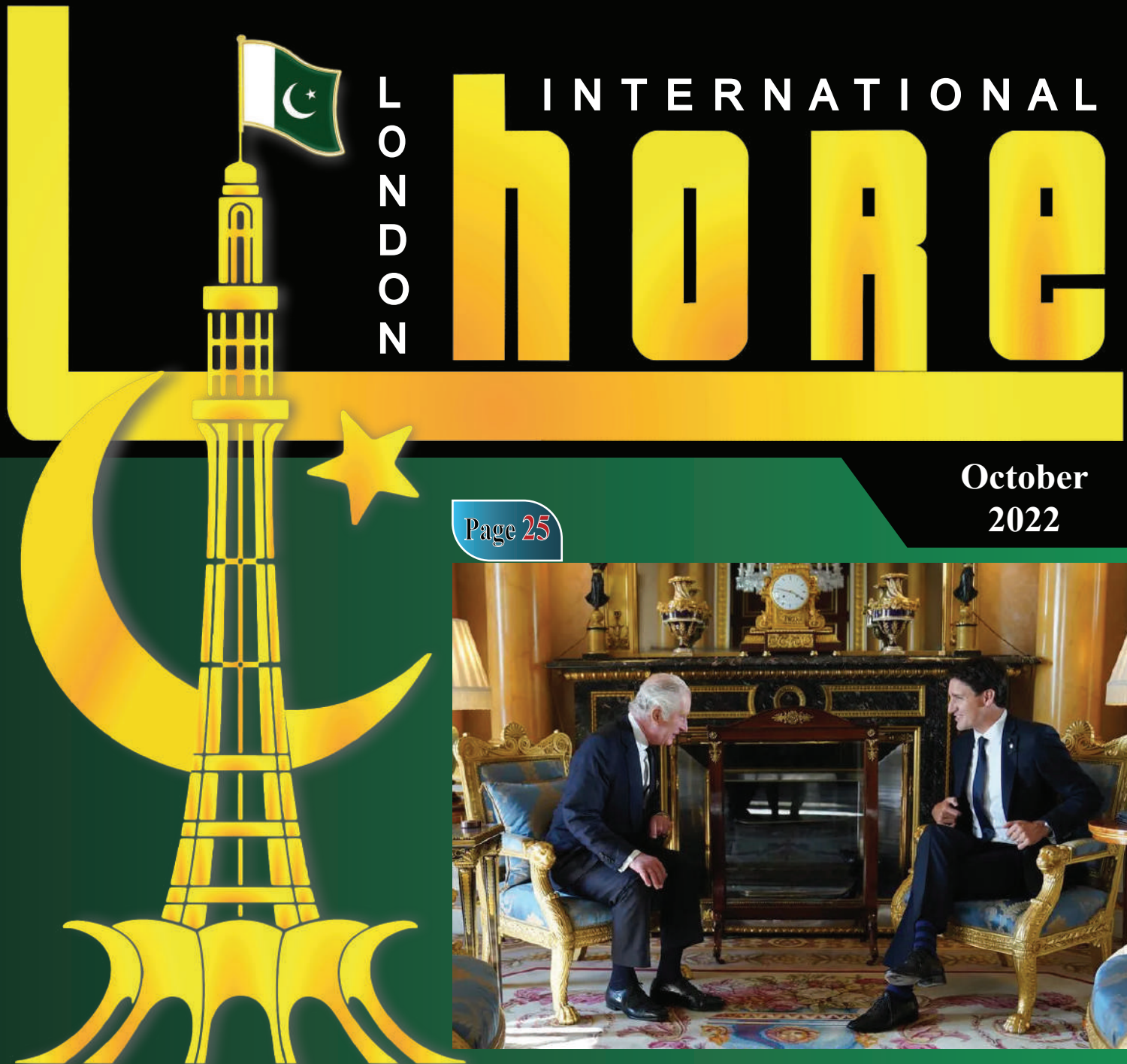


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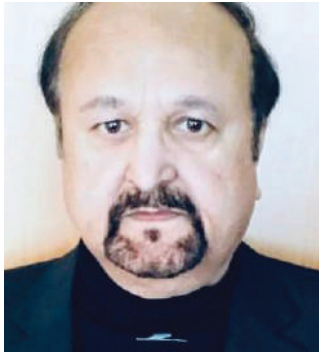


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Editorial



Dr. Busharat Elahi Jamil

In these days Pakistan is facing worst and unprecedented flood of the history, with sufficient dismaying statistic of the devastation and demolition to shiver through humanity. The main reason being the heavy rain cycles were caused by the climate changes. Usually Pakistan has 3 to 4 monsoon seasonal rain cycles but in topical spell Pakistan faced 8 which is extra ordinary.

Since June 2022, according to UNICEF reports, more than 33 million including 3.4 million children have been effected, which is around 16% of the south Asian population. Moreover, this number is drastically swelling. Hundreds of time more rains smashed 3000 KM long highways, 130 bridges, half million houses and a lot more partially effected from June to August 2022.

Total damages of this disastrous flood according to the Bloomberg report are “far greater than \$10 billion”. The electricity infrastructure, internet, telecommunication and gas lines have been knocked down. Due to the distressed infrastructure, administrative machinery is still unable to reach the flood victims. Federal and provincial governments have entirely failed to locate and approach the said victims. Until then disaster management authority is unable to calculate the exact estimate of human and financial losses.

4 According to UNICEF, millions of people are displaced, IDRF reported that 1136 people including 343 kids have died and more than one million houses are ruined. Sindh is the

most effected province as Sindh Government's poor planning and policies are still adding to the miseries of the people. Generally people are suffering from water born diseases, doctors are not willing to serve in the affected areas and fake medicines are increasing the death toll as well.

Political leadership has failed to contain the situations and miseries of the flood victims. Politics won and people lost. Political heads and elites seem only worried about their own properties rather than the masses. In future, politicians need to be tied instead of being make embankments on the water to avoid such losses. The maladministration and poor policies are more dangerous than the flood. Contemporary politics in Pakistan established the fact that country and nation is way beyond the core interests of the political elite.

Unfortunately, both PTI and PDM are using flood for their political objectives and gains. This flood also gives birth to black-marketing, law and order, political mileage, self-interest, accusation, financial crisis, moral crisis, brutal use of democracy and end of national unity and integration. Furthermore, agricultural and industrial crisis are in line. This is the time for Pakistan to look for a loyal and sincere leadership because with these circumstances Pakistan's future could only be poverty, human disastrous, famine and social demolition.

Nehru, Iqbal And Jinnah: The Debates That Defined Pakistan

The debates that Nehru entered into with Iqbal and Jinnah are still relevant because some of the issues discussed then are pertinent to Pakistanis even today

By: Yasser Latif Hamdani



Tripurdaman Singh and Adeel Hussain, an Indian and a Pakistani historian, have co-authored the book, *Nehru, the debates that defined India*. This book contains rich primary source material on the debates that the first prime minister of India undertook with four stalwarts of his time, Iqbal, Jinnah, Patel and Mookerjee. With Patel he sparred over China and communism. His debate with Mookerjee was about the nature of the first amendment to the Indian constitution through which Nehru's administration sought to curb the right to freedom of expression and speech. The debate with Iqbal was over theological questions and the debate with Jinnah was about Muslim political demands. All five of these men were barristers called to the bar in England and Wales. Jinnah, Iqbal and Mookerjee were called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, Nehru at Inner Temple Inn and Patel at Middle Temple Inn. This makes the debates between them all the more interesting. While the authors of this book say that these debates defined India, these debates equally defined Pakistan. Even the Mookerjee debate which speaks about the curbs on freedom of expression and speech is relevant because the clawbacks adopted by all

three constitutions of Pakistan seem like a replica of the Indian constitution post-first amendment. For most Pakistanis though the debates that Nehru entered into with Iqbal and Jinnah are relevant even today. They make for interesting reading because some of the issues discussed in these debates are issues Pakistanis are still grappling with. Of the two men – held in such high esteem by Pakistanis – Nehru seems to have had a special fondness for Iqbal and equal disdain for Jinnah. As the book reminds us Iqbal on his deathbed had told Nehru: "What is there in common between Jinnah and you? He is a politician, you are a patriot." Of course Iqbal and Nehru had much in common. Both were Cambridge educated barristers who were not enamoured by the practice of law, unlike Jinnah who was considered one of the finest barristers if not the top barrister in India. Iqbal and Nehru were both Kashmiris and of Brahmin stock even though Iqbal's Sapru ancestors had converted to Islam. What seems to have ignited the Iqbal-Nehru public debate was an article that Iqbal wrote on the issue of Ahmadis (who he insisted on calling Qadianis – probably distinguishing them from the Lahori

sub-sect). In this, Iqbal endeavoured to explain his point of view vis a vis the much maligned sect in terms of the “threat” it posed to Islamic solidarity and the belief in finality of prophethood and described the whole Ahmadi movement a return to Magian culture. He further asked the British government to declare Ahmadis a separate community from Muslims. Nehru’s riposte came in three parts but it was somewhat strange that he should have responded at all. After all, as the authors point out, “it would not have escaped Nehru’s notice that only Ahmadiyya delegates stood by Jinnah’s proposals to bolster constitutional safeguards for Indian Muslims in the Nehru Report.” Therefore, to Nehru, Iqbal’s blistering attack on Ahmadis must have been very surprising. Things did not fit neatly into the equation that Nehru had set up. The gist of Nehru’s argument was that the colonial state should not be brought into determining such a dispute. In this new equation, Jinnah and Nehru were on the one side, and Iqbal on the other i.e. secular minded politicians versus a religious poet-philosopher on the question of state’s interference into the personal religious domain.

Jinnah and Nehru were on the one side, and Iqbal on the other i.e. secular minded politicians versus a religious poet-philosopher on the question of state’s interference into the personal religious domain.

Jinnah would go on to resist tremendous pressures from the orthodoxy to turn Ahmadis out of the Muslim League and even more ironically Nehru supported Majlis-e-Ahrar — a rabidly sectarian and bigoted organisation – which essentially shared Iqbal’s views on Ahmadis. It was a strange and ironic twist that after having so valiantly defended the Ahmadis in 1935, Nehru should have turned to Majlis-e-Ahrar despite the ideological congruence that Ahrar had to Iqbal’s views. Both Nehru and Jinnah had been right that the state had no right to determine a person’s faith and

relationship with the God, but political expediency makes people do strange things. The first part of Nehru’s response dealt with the question of Islamic solidarity and how it affected the genuine development of nationalism. The second part of his response was a blistering attack on Aga Khan and Ismailis – something which catches the reader by surprise. It is full of sarcasm and seeks to portray Aga Khan as the lackey of British imperialism as well as being a bad Muslim exploiting his followers financially. The point however that Nehru makes is that if Ahmadis were disrupting the solidarity of Islam, Aga Khan and his followers with their heterodox beliefs should also have been considered heretical, because, according to Nehru, Ismailis believed that Aga Khan was divine. The third part is where Nehru asks the orthodox of all religions to unite citing his encounter with anti-Sarda bill protests where conservative Muslims and Hindus chanted slogans side by side. The bill, which was passed as the Child Marriages Restraint Act 1929, fixed the minimum age of marriage for girls. Interestingly one of the bill’s chief proponents was none other than Mohammed Ali Jinnah himself, which makes Nehru’s later acerbic attacks on Jinnah all the more ironic. It was Jinnah who bore the brunt of religious reaction repeatedly. It was Jinnah who faced the orthodox among Hindus and Muslims during the Khilafat and Non-cooperation movement. Nehru would later attack Jinnah as having become petty minded because of what to Nehru seemed religious posturing. He must have had a hard time fitting Jinnah into a box. One wonders what Nehru thought of Majlis-e-Ahrar when they called Jinnah Kafir-e-Azam or the great infidel. To understand the Jinnah-Nehru dispute, one has to read the correspondence between them. The dispute between Jinnah and Nehru was always about how power sharing would happen between Hindus and Muslims in the post-Independence India. Nehru

believed that religious identity had no place in politics while Jinnah had come to believe that Muslims as a minority needed specific safeguards in the post-India constitution, including guaranteed share in the government. It is often overlooked that in 1937, the Muslim League and Congress fought the elections together with an understanding that they would form coalition governments. Both the Congress and Muslim League failed to make inroads into Punjab and Bengal but the Muslim League did win on Muslim seats in the UP, and Bombay. The Congress, which had won the overall majority, refused to fulfill its pledge to form a coalition government with the Muslim League, with Nehru almost arrogantly asking the League members to join the Congress first. Nehru had a very nuanced – if not always balanced – opinion of Jinnah. In his book *The Discovery of India*, Nehru notes: “Mr. M. A. Jinnah himself was more advanced than most of his colleagues of the Moslem League. Indeed he stood head and shoulders above them and had therefore become the indispensable leader. From public platforms he confessed his great dissatisfaction with the opportunism, and sometimes even worse failings, of his colleagues. He knew well that a great part of the advanced, selfless, and courageous element among the Moslems had joined and worked with the Congress. And yet some destiny or course of events had thrown him among the very people for whom he had no respect. He was their leader but he could only keep them together by becoming himself a prisoner to their reactionary ideologies. Not that he was an unwilling prisoner, so far as the ideologies were concerned, for despite his external modernism, he belonged to an older generation which was hardly aware of modern political thought or development.He had left the Congress when the organization had taken a political leap forward. The gap had widened as the Congress developed an economic and mass

outlook. But Mr. Jinnah seemed to have remained ideologically in that identical place where he stood a generation ago, or rather he had gone further back, for now he condemned both India’s unity and democracy... It took him a long time to realize that what he had stood for throughout a fairly long life was nonsensical.”

Those who have read Jinnah’s speeches in the legislature know that Jinnah was ahead of his times when considering issues of the day, and well aware of modern political thought and development.

And then this: “Mr. Jinnah was a different type. He was able, tenacious, and not open to the lure of office, which had been such a failing of so many others.” To Nehru, Jinnah had left the Congress because the party had taken a step forward presumably of becoming a mass movement. Of course the irony here is that the Congress became a mass movement by fanning the same kind of religious reaction in both Hindus and Muslims that Nehru himself complained of and Jinnah’s break with the Congress came because of Jinnah’s utter distaste for that kind of politics. Here, again, there was common ground that Nehru could have built on but tragically some sort of self-righteousness prevented him from doing so. Those who have read Jinnah’s speeches in the legislature know that Jinnah was ahead of his times when considering issues of the day, and well aware of modern political thought and development. In the Jinnah-Nehru exchange of 1938, we see these issues coming to fore. The great duel that the two stalwarts engage in revolves entirely around the question of representation. Jinnah wanted Nehru to deal with the Muslim League as the sole representative body of Muslims just as the Congress had done so in 1916 at Lucknow. Nehru, somewhat arrogantly, replied, “There are special Muslim organizations such as the Jamiat-ul-Ulema, the Proja Party, the Ahrars and others, which claim attention. Inevitably

the more important the organization, the more the attention paid to it, but this importance does not come from outside recognition but from inherent strength. And the other organizations, even though they might be younger and smaller, cannot be ignored.” This seemed to have cut deeply for Jinnah because he responded with, “Here I may add that in my opinion, as I have publicly stated so often, that unless the Congress recognizes the Muslim League on a footing of complete equality and is prepared as such to negotiate for a Hindu-Muslim settlement, we shall have to wait and depend upon our inherent strength which will ‘determine the measure of importance or distinction it possesses’.” The tragedy was – as stated above – that Nehru was elevating bigoted sectarian organisations as examples of why the Muslim League could not be the sole representative body for Muslims. For all of Nehru’s complaints against the British about dividing and ruling India, here Nehru was dividing Muslims to rule them. A settlement in 1937-1938 was more than possible but for this. On the one hand Nehru stood for secular Indian nationalism, on the other he supported bigoted right-wing religious Islamist organisations. This was nothing new of course. The alliance between the Congress and the Islamist religious parties went back to the Khilafat Movement, where the Khilafatists had emerged as Gandhi’s greatest allies, and together they had set about isolating and alienating secular Muslim voices such as that of Jinnah. While one understands that Gandhi, being a religious man himself, was likely to support religiously-inclined of other faiths, Nehru’s reliance on parties like the Jamiat-e-Ulema Hind and Majlis-e-Ahrar seems out of place with his secular ideology and nationalism.

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<https://www.thefridaytimes.com/2022/09/07/nehru-iqbal-and-jinnah-the-debates-that-defined-pakistan/>

Angelina Jolie arrives in Pakistan to help flood victims

KARACHI: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Special Envoy and Hollywood actor Angelina Jolie Tuesday arrived in Pakistan to support communities affected by the devastating floods. Cataclysmic floods and heavy rains across the country have impacted 33 million people and submerged one-third of the country under water. Jolie is visiting to witness and gain an understanding of the situation and to hear from affected people about their needs. She will also talk about steps to prevent such suffering in the future, read a statement issued by International Rescue Committee (IRC). Jolie, who previously visited victims of the 2010 floods and the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, will visit the IRC’s emergency response operations and local organisations assisting displaced people including Afghan refugees. Pakistan, which has contributed just 1% of global carbon emissions, is also the second largest host of refugees globally, its people having sheltered Afghan refugees for over forty years. Jolie will highlight the need for urgent support for the Pakistani people and long-term solutions to address the multiplying crises of climate change, human displacement and protracted insecurity we are witnessing globally. Jolie will see first-hand how countries like Pakistan are paying the greatest cost for a crisis they did not cause. Her visit will shed light on this issue and prompt the international community - particularly states contributing the most to carbon emissions - to act and provide urgent support to countries bearing the brunt of the climate crisis, read the statement. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/993093-angelina-jolie-arrives-in-pakistan-to-help-flood-victims>

What if Allama Iqbal had remained an Ahmadi?

Instead of the eagle, his symbol would probably have been the snake – out to bite the Ummah, out to hurt the...



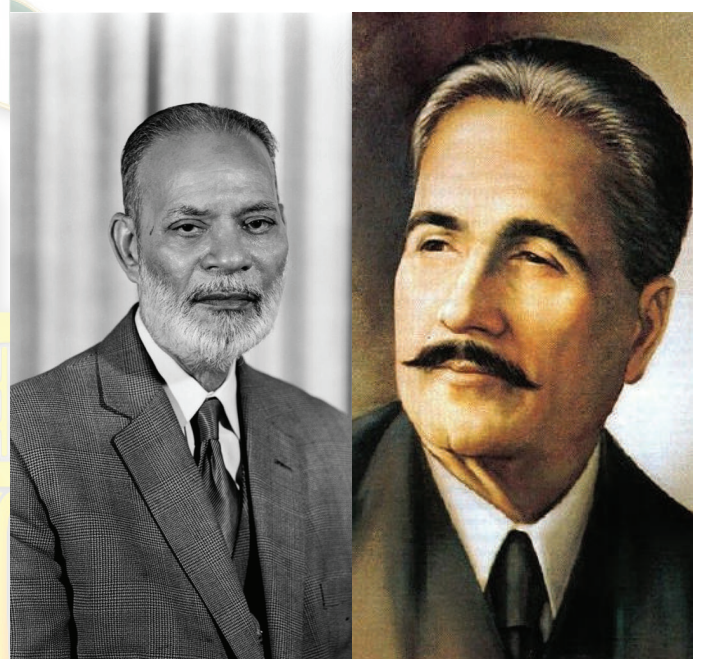
Kashif Chaudhry

Sir Chaudhry Muhammad Zafarullah Khan was one of the leading founding fathers of Pakistan. You know, the Pakistan Resolution that our national struggle was based on? He drafted it. He was the first foreign minister of Pakistan. He was known for his eloquent representation of Pakistan at the United Nations and is the only Pakistani to have served as the President of the United Nations General Assembly, and that of the International Court of Justice in Hague. While working in international diplomacy, Sir Zafarullah Khan's tireless advocacy for the freedom of Arab states and for the resolution of the Kashmir and Palestine issues is well known. The King of Jordan, His Majesty the Late King Hussein bin Talal, invited Mr Khan to his palace in 1953 and awarded him the highest honour in his Kingdom for Mr Khan's heroic and courageous fight for the cause of Palestine. When he passed away, the King paid him a personal tribute in these words:

"He was indeed a champion of the Arab cause and his ceaseless efforts whether among the Muslim and non-aligned countries or at the International Court of Justice will remain for ever a shining example of a great man truly dedicated to our faith and civilisation." (Review of Religions Sept/Oct 1986, page 6)

Paying tribute to his bold stance on Palestine, the Iraqi Foreign Minister at the time, Mr Muhammad Fadhel al-Jamali, said:

"In fact, it was not possible for any Arab,



however capable and competent he may be, to serve the cause of Palestine in a manner in which this distinguished and great man dedicated himself. We expect from all Arabs and followers of Islam that they will never forget this great Muslim fighter. After Palestine, the services of this man for the independence of Libya also deserve admiration. In the United Nations, his struggle for the rights of Arabs formed the basis of firm and lasting friendship between us." (Al-Sabah Oct 10, 1985)

Many other world leaders expressed similar sentiment and hailed him as a hero of the Arab world and of human rights in general. King Faisal al Saud's letter is also worth reading in this regard. Sir Zafarullah Khan was also a prolific author on Islam and human rights.

Think for a minute. Is there anyone who comes close to his achievements for a progressive Pakistan and a free and empowered

Muslim world in general? Yet, he is rarely mentioned in Pakistani textbooks, and unfortunately not even acknowledged as the founding father that he was. And we all know why – he was an Ahmadi. Now consider this:

What if Sir Zafarullah Khan had left the Ahmadi community just as Sir Muhammad Iqbal did? Today, he would have been the shining star of right-wing Pakistan. Chapters in Pakistani textbooks would have been dedicated to his work. There would have been endless songs singing his praise, and every time the state of the Muslim world was discussed, he would have been presented as an icon, a flag bearer of our rights and freedoms. Mullahs would have been heads over heels in love with him. He would have been declared the saviour of the Ummah. Every Pakistan – young and old – would have been celebrating his legacy like no other.

And now consider this.

What if Sir Allama Iqbal had remained an Ahmadi?

For those who do not know, Allama Iqbal joined the Ahmadi community at the hands of its founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, in 1897. He is known to have said,

“If you want to see Islam alive in this age, you must visit Qadian.”

He considered the founder of the Ahmadi community as the most prolific theologian in the Muslim world. Sometime after the demise of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Allama Iqbal left the Ahmadi community. It is not clear exactly when, but he continued to be in close contact with the Ahmadi leadership till at least 1931, when he vouched for the Ahmadi Khalifa as the most able person to lead as the first president of the newly founded all-India Kashmir Committee. His parents and elder brother remained Ahmadis.

Back to the question – what if Allama Iqbal remained an Ahmadi?

Today, he would have been absolutely no one. He would have been abused and ridiculed by mullahs and right-wing Pakistan. Instead of the eagle, his symbol would probably have been the snake – out to bite the Ummah, out to hurt the Muslims, an agent of the western imperialist powers. And much proof – like his knighthood and his poems in reverence of the British rule and the Queen – would have been found, tailored and then floated around. While official books would probably only have dedicated a one-liner to his role in the Pakistani Movement, there would have been no shortage of books in the market condemning him and his work. He would have made the perfect poster boy for a ‘British agent out to destroy the Ummah’ – sound familiar?

And this is our tragedy.

We are fond of reading history with glasses coloured in religious prejudice and intellectual dishonesty. We do not honour people for their services, as much as we do for their perceived proximity with us on the religious spectrum. This is just one of the numerous examples of how our religious biases have influenced the history taught to us in Pakistani schools and media. But while we continue to commit crimes against our own selves by distorting the history, the truth is like the sun; it does not remain hidden for long, and it shines even brighter in this age of global connection and information. I am certain, a few generations down, we will be forced to embrace intellectual honesty and honour Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan for the real superhero that he was. For in celebrating a shining star, we do the star no honour, we honour ourselves. So, to answer the question, what if Allama Iqbal remained Ahmadi and Zafarullah Khan did not? Zafarullah Khan would have been our Iqbal today and Iqbal our Zafarullah Khan.

<https://tribune.com.pk/article/30242/what-if-allama-iqbal-had-remained-an-ahmadi>

Sindh Resistance struggle!

By: Badaruddin Kalhoro, Bureau Chief Lahore International London



Although in the history of Pakistan, Sindh has only experienced good times, but the day of October 14, 1955 brought a dark period of misfortunes for Sindh, which lasted for almost fifteen years (from October 14, 1955 to July 1, 1970). In the period from 1847 to 1935, after 88 years, Sindh was not an independent country, but the provincial status it had gained was taken away from this country in 1955. When the British conquered Sindh in 1843, there were 103 years out of a period of 170 years, in which Sindh could not get a separate administrative status and the rest of the time Sindh was divided into provincial status. Before the decade from 1937 to 1947, Sindh could not benefit due to the Internal parliamentary political chaos and the independence that Sindh has enjoyed even after the 15-year black period of one unit after partition is an open secret. Therefore, it can be said that for the last 170 years, Sindh has not been able to get its real independent status. Although the declaration of unity was made on October 14, 1955, in reality, its foundations, as far as thought was concerned, had been conditioned by the formation of Pakistan. In November 1947, Jinnah's adviser on economic affairs, Sir Archibald Rowlands, was the first to give this advice, which Jinnah did not oppose, but he avoided it by saying that the conditions were not yet favorable for him. I want to apply one unit. Finally, in the Constituent Assembly on March 2, 1949, Malik Feroze Khan Noon presented the same proposal, which Begum Jahanara Shahnaz supported and said that the thirty-four districts of West Pakistan should be merged to form one province. The tragedy of history is that the then secretary general of the Muslim League, Muhammad Yusuf Khattak, who claimed the struggle for provincial autonomy in the British rule, also said that this would bring an end to provincialism in Pakistan. was personally frozen. The then Chief Minister of Punjab, Mian Mumtaz Dalutana, opposed the federal system in Pakistan and emphasized on the system based on centralization of powers in the country, which was in favor of Punjab and was not a real federal system but a unitary system. The only newspaper from Sindh strongly opposed it, which was subsequently closed without any notice as punishment for the same 'crime'. However, due to multi-faceted opposition, the plan was postponed by the Constituent Assembly until January 1953. Mr. GM Syed from Sindh strongly opposed it as the leader of the opposition in the Sindh Assembly and also the Sindh Hari Committee also took a very strict stand on it. It should also be noted on the record that the Deputy President of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan Muhammad Hashim Ghazdar also opposed the one unit formula. Actually, after the defeat of the Muslim League in Bengal and the alliance between Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy's Awami League and Fazal Haq's Krishak Sarmak Party, the United Front won 233 seats out of 309 seats, both the Muslim League and Punjab had decided in their hearts that one Without the establishment of the unit, their illegitimate interests will not be fulfilled. The fact is that the movement against one unit in Sindh had already started before its establishment. Comrade Hyder Bakhsh Jatui took a very strong stand on this and interpreted it with Greater Punjab. Sindh Assembly members Pir Hasan Bakhsh, Sardar Ali Gohar, Ali Nawaz Dehraj, Ameer Bakhsh Mehr, Mir Sunder Khan Sundarani, Shafqat Hussain Mousavi, Abdul Hameed Jatui, Syed Khair Shah and Mirullah Chachi issued a joint statement and rejected it. At that stage, the former interior minister of Sindh, Qazi Muhammad Akbar,

also opposed it. On August 23, 1954, the All Parties Convention was held in Nawabshah, which was presided over by Advocate Ghulam Qadir. Fifteen thousand people participated in this convention, out of which about ten thousand were farmers. The son of Qazi Faiz Muhammad, a pauper of Sindh, had an important role in it. A committee named "Security of Sindh" was also formed in this convention. Meanwhile, the supporters of One Unit were not silent and finally on September 3, 1954, a regular meeting was held for One Unit, in which 32 out of 56 members of the House participated. The contradiction between Sindh and Punjab about the one unit became more clear when Punjab Malik Feroze Khan Noon strongly supported it and the then Chief Minister of Sindh Pirzadi Abdul Sattar strongly opposed it. The justification for this was that due to the specific conditions of the country, the model of zonal federalism would be formed in Pakistan (while zonal federalism had nothing to do with the concept of one unit. Belgium still has a system of zonal federalism today. 1940s Lahore The resolution can also be called zonal federalism) Pirzadi Abdul Sattar, Khan Qayyum Khan of Sarhad and Bengalis strongly opposed in the meeting. "Karachi Sindhi Committee" held a meeting on November 3, 1954 and opposed it and praised the role of Pirzadi Abdul Sattar, while Pirzadi Abdul Sattar made an emergency visit to the whole of Sindh and tried to mobilize the people. Seeing the strong opposition of Sindh, the then Governor General Ghulam Muhammad brought Pir Ali Muhammad Rashidi from Sindh with him and put the burden on him to create favorable conditions for him in Sindh, who was not only an intelligent politician and intellectual but also Muhammad Ayub. It was also very close. As a result, on November 18, 1954, Pir Ali Mohammad Rashidi supported the plan through a press conference and the government made it clear that the government will deal with the opposition. One of the tragedies of history is that the Punjab ruling class gave

the responsibility of implementing unity to a dummy prime minister, Muhammad Ali Bogra, who was a Bengali. On November 22, Bogra came to Sindh and convened a meeting of politicians of Sindh and urged them to support One Unit. After that meeting, Sindh rose up and as a result, Sindh's national voice newspaper Al Wahid was closed. In the same meeting Bogra announced about the implementation of one unit. It is a tragedy of history that Khairpur was the first state to support it, followed by Bahawalpur state. Finally, a conspiracy was prepared by the Sindh Assembly to pass a resolution in favor of One Unit and a plan was prepared to remove Pirzadi Abdul Sattar, who was opposed to One Unit, and replace him with Muhammad Ayub Khari as the Chief Minister of Sindh. It should be remembered that Ayub Khari was declared ineligible for four years under "Paruda" because he opposed the separation of Karachi from Sindh. Muhammad Ali Bogra became the prime minister and this was the reason why Nazimuddin's government was dismissed and a Bengali Muhammad Ali Bogra was made the prime minister of the country, because the ruling class of Punjab wanted to take this job from a Bengali. Wanted, because it mainly went to the small provinces of West Pakistan as well as the majority democratic right of Bengal. At that time, Governor General Ghulam Muhammad was sitting like the owner of the country. Ayub Khari was offered that if he becomes the chief minister and passes a resolution/bill in support of one unit, he will be appointed as a minister in the central cabinet after the establishment of one unit. Ayub Khoro was not even a member of the Sindh Assembly at that time, he was elected unopposed from the Tandi Adam-Shahdadpur seat. It should be remembered that Qazi Faiz Muhammad, Rao Fateh Muhammad, Arif Ali Shah and Dr. Majeed Nizami wanted to oppose him, but their vehicles were stopped 2 miles away while submitting the form. The time was up and Ayub Khoro was elected unopposed as

the member of Sindh and then the Chief Minister. This whole strategy was of a brilliant mind Pir Ali Muhammad Rashidi. On December 11, 1954, a resolution was presented in the Sindh Assembly in support of one unit, which was presented by Pir Ali Muhammad Rashidi. How this resolution was presented and how it was passed is also a great tragedy of history. First of all, the meeting was held in the durbar hall of the court in Hyderabad instead of Karachi, and those members, whom Khari and Rashidi were sure would oppose, were not allowed to enter the durbar hall but the court premises. . They took Mir Ghulam Ali Talpar to Umarkot on the condition that he get down from the car, from where he was put on a camel and detained in Mithi. Cases were established against members who were likely to oppose one unit, and finally 11th December 1954 proved to be a black day in the modern history of Sindh. The resolution was passed against political, national and geographical existence and in support of one unit. Out of the 110 members of the Sindh Assembly, 8 members were absent or detained, 98 members voted in favor of it and four members voted against it. These four members were Abdul Hameed Khan Jatoti, Ghulam Mustafa Khan Bhargari, Pir Elahi Bakhsh and Sheikh Khurshid Ahmed, while Mr. GM Syed was already detained. However, the attack on the existence of Sindh came from its guardian Constituent Assembly. The center was originally from Sindh, so as soon as the bill was passed from Sindh, it was announced on December 14, 1954 that the establishment of one unit would be implemented next year, and finally one unit was practically implemented from October 14, 1954. In West Pakistan, Mushtaq Gormani was appointed as the new governor and Dr. Khan as the chief minister. The reasons for appointing Dr. Khan as the Chief Minister of West Pakistan were strategic, because one was that Jinnah Sahib dismissed the condition of Dr. Khan's government to become a country, the other was to satisfy the ruling class and establishment Pash-

tuns and the third important The reason is that since West Pakistan practically meant Greater Punjab, by appointing a Pashtun leader as the Chief Minister, an attempt was made to give the impression that Punjab does not have the power in West Pakistan. It was the strong struggle of Sindhi writers, intellectuals, poets and national workers, as a result of which national consciousness was created among the youth of Sindh, the Fourth March struggle came to the fore and the foundations of strong student politics were laid in Sindh. Hundreds of student leaders including Yusuf Leghari, Yusuf Talpar, Lala Qadir, Iqbal Tareen are the product of this struggle. In fact, the multi-faceted struggle against the One Unit trained the Sindhi society and the process of national consciousness and national resistance and movement accelerated in Sindh, but unfortunately, this national consciousness of Sindh could not take the form of an extraordinary political organization. . Although many national and progressive organizations were formed in Sindh after this struggle, they remained workers' organizations. They could not take the form of large public national or revolutionary organizations and now, after four decades, all the traditions that arose during the struggle for unity look weak. Although there are thousand times more difficult conditions in Sindh today than during the period of unity, but today Sindh does not see the required strong role of writers, intellectuals, national workers or political parties claiming national politics. Even today, on July 1, 1970, under the announcement of Yahya Khan, the unit was disbanded, and it was not possible for the ruling class to continue it. Today, apparently, there is no single unit, but the non-federal mentality and illegitimate interests that made the unit exist today, and the system of looting the oppressed nations and provinces other than Punjab is still the same today. is the. Therefore, now we have to be proud of the struggle against one unit and also think for the future of Sindh and determine our national role.

Two passenger planes collide at Heathrow: Korean jet 'clips' Icelandic 767 while taxiing at the London airport sparking huge emergency response

- Two passenger planes collided with each other this evening at Heathrow
- Incident occurred between jets while taxiing, emergency services are on scene
- A passenger onboard one of the planes said there was 'no apparent danger'



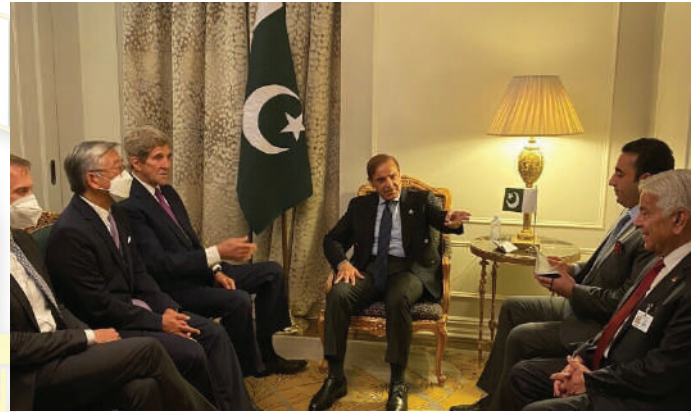
Emergency services rushed onto the tarmac at Heathrow Airport after two planes crashed into each other while taxiing this evening. Heathrow has confirmed the incident between two commercial passenger planes took place around 8pm tonight and that no injuries were reported. A Korean Air 777 plane 'scraped into' an Icelandair 767 jet, an eye witness clarified that it wasn't a 'full on' collision. The Korean Air flight Flight #KE908 was due to leave London at 19:35 to Seoul, Korea. A picture appears to show the considerable damage done to the Icelandair's tail by the Korean Air's wing. One passenger wrote on Twitter: 'Pretty sure we scrapped another plane with our wing tip while taxiing. 'We have been told that we are going back to the gate due to a technical issue. 'But that was 15 mins ago and we haven't moved.' Another person who was also on board said there was 'No apparent danger' and that 'nobody' was hurt. Passenger Randy DV said: 'Flight officially cancelled, but glad everyone is safe, better that this happened in tarmac and not in flight.' Another passenger added: 'We hit another plane while taxiing. I saw it out the window. Wingtip scrapped the tail of another plane.' While a third said: 'Surrounded by about ten police cars and a couple of fire

engines. 'Apparently the plane has "a technical problem".' The same user added: 'can't say we felt anything from the inside. No apparent danger, nobody hurt'. A passenger on the Korean Air flight told the Daily Star: 'I was watching out the window thinking we were awful close to the tail for a parked plane. 'And then it looked like we grazed it. 'The captain hasn't really told us much except we are going back to the gate due to a technical issue. 'But the last communication was about 45 mins ago.' Richard on Twitter said: 'I'm on the flight they are blocking. We were taxiing to the runway and then suddenly got stopped by all these emergency services.' 'We are now being told we are returning to the gate due to a technical issue.' A spokesman for Heathrow Airport said: 'Emergency services are attending an incident involving two aircraft on the airfield. 'No injuries have been reported but emergency services are attending to ensure all passengers and crew are safe and well.' The incident is under investigation. Arrivals and departures at the airport have been running normally.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11260105/Emergency-services-race-scene-two-planes-collide-Heathrow-airport.html>

PM Shehbaz Apprises World Leaders of Flood Crisis in Pakistan on Sidelines of UNGA Session

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, during his meetings with world leaders on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, apprised them of the flood crisis in Pakistan, it emerged on Wednesday. The premier highlighted the need for collective action to deal with climate change. “I also told them that Pakistan is keen to build partnerships in the realms of trade and economy,” he said in a tweet. Among the leaders the prime minister met was US Special Envoy for Climate Change John Kerry. The two leaders discussed the devastating floods in Pakistan, the \$55 million provided by the US in assistance so far, and the “urgent need to work together” to fight the climate crisis and prevent future tragedies, Kerry said in a tweet. “My heart goes out to the affected communities and the Pakistani people,” he added. The prime minister also met International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva who expressed deep sympathy for Pakistan and its people. “The IMF will continue to support Pakistan under the current program to help ease the pain of the Pakistani people,” Georgieva said in a tweet. Later in the day, PM Shehbaz held a meeting with World Bank President David Malpass and told him about the climate crises in Pakistan. Apart from meeting other leaders, the prime minister will attend a dinner reception to be hosted by US President Joe Biden. Meetings with Microsoft founder Bill Gates, UNSG Antonio Guterres, Chinese President Premier Li Keqiang and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida will also be a part of PM Shehbaz’s engagements.



Pakistan requires huge investment for climate resilience: FM Bilawal

Separately, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, in a meeting with Scott Nathan, the head of the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) — a US agency that invests money in lower and middle-income countries, highlighted the need for leveraging the private sector in building disaster resilience covering infrastructure development, renewable energy, livelihood and businesses for women, and rejuvenation of agriculture. He underlined that Pakistan would require a “huge investment” to develop climate resilience. Bilawal said that mobilising additional capital through institutions such as DFC, including through coordinated efforts with other development finance institutions, was imperative to ensure that we adequately address the challenge of climate change.

Furthermore, he briefed the DFC head on the devastating floods in Pakistan and the government of Pakistan’s efforts to manage the crisis. He expressed gratitude for the flood relief assistance provided by the US government. In his response, Nathan reaffirmed DFC’s interest in collaborating with Pakistan’s private sector and assured continued

engagement to identify projects ready for investment by US Corporate sector. The foreign minister, subsequently, invited Nathan to visit Pakistan, who accepted the invitation.

Reversal of Indian unilateral actions in IIOJK

Later in the day, in an address at the 12th Ministerial Meeting of the UN Group of Friends of Mediation on 'Avoiding Humanitarian Crises Through Mediation', Bilawal urged the UN chief to avail the full panoply of mediatory measures to persuade India to reverse its unilateral measures in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Security Council should give full support to the secretary-general in using his good offices to this end, he said. The minister pointed out that nearly 77 years after the signing of the Charter, the challenges and threats to peace and security were perhaps more complex, but the Charter's purposes and principles remained valid and immutable. "It is imperative to reaffirm our commitment and confidence in these principles and to promote solutions to disputes and conflicts, between large and small States, on the basis of these principles," Bilawal remarked. He also told the participants that Jammu and Kashmir dispute was one of the oldest issues on the agenda of the Council. "Unfortunately, over the last 7 decades, India obstructed the efforts of the UN mechanisms to implement the UNSC resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. The continuation of India's illegal actions was manifested in the unilateral measures taken on and since 5 August 2019 to annex the occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir without even the fig leaf of legal justification or plebiscite," Bilawal added.

16 'Pakistan drowning in debt'

At the opening UNGA session yesterday, PM Shehbaz urged the international community to stay engaged with the country as it deals with this huge humanitarian crisis as the UN

chief highlighted that Pakistan was not just drowning in floodwater but also in debt.

"I recently saw it with my own eyes in Pakistan — where one-third of the country is submerged by a 'monsoon on steroids'," said the UN chief during a forceful address to world leaders gathered for the opening day of the General Assembly's high-level debate.

Guterres repeated the appeal he first made during his recent visit to Pakistan where he urged lenders to consider debt reduction to help those nations that were facing a possible economic collapse. He urged the lenders to set up "an effective mechanism of debt relief for developing countries, including middle-income countries, in debt distress". Meanwhile, at the welcome reception on Tuesday, the prime minister interacted with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, held bilateral meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron, President of Spain Pedro Sanchez Perez-Castejon, Chancellor of Austria Karl Nehammer and President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Sayyid Ebrahim Raisi.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1711267>

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Canadian Mormon teenager, 19, begged her parents to buy her a plane ticket home before she was stabbed to death by British boyfriend, 23, she had met online

By: Elizabeth Haigh And Jacob Thorburn

The family of a Canadian teenager who was murdered by her 'possessive' British boyfriend have revealed she had begged her relatives to buy her a plane ticket home before she was brutally stabbed to death. 'Jealous' and 'abusive' Jack Sepple, 23, of Tennyson Road, Chelmsford, Essex, admitted to killing Ashley Wadsworth, 19, at his Essex home just two weeks before Valentine's Day and days before she was due to be reunited with family.

Police found him lying in a pool of blood in bed next to her body, which had been punctured with 'multiple' stab wounds. The couple are understood to have first met virtually on a dating app - with the teenager flying across the Atlantic on a six-month tourist visa to be with her new boyfriend after seeing pictures of him online. Aspiring lawyer Ashley, who was a Mormon, had upended her 'small-town life' but had been just days away from flying back to Vernon, British Columbia when she was found dead. But family members told DailyMail.com she had begged them to buy her a ticket home and spoke of Sepple's possessive and abusive behavior in the days leading up to her death. Earlier this year she posted photos online of her 'amazing trip to London', where she had been sightseeing with Sepple, who has the word 'Hope' inked just below his right eye and various other tattoos across his face and neck. But the idyllic lifestyle they tried to share online hid a dark truth. Ashley's sister Hailey, 21, claims to have witnessed Sepple beating her sister while on FaceTime and accused the 'controlling' boyfriend of deleting her social media content and replacing photographs with ones that included him. Other close friends warned Ashley was forced to set up 'secret' social media accounts to warn friends of her

new boyfriend's increasingly concerning attitude after he allegedly tried to stop her speaking with friends. After the Wadsworths scraped together enough cash to pay for a flight back to British Columbia, relatives claim Sepple's violent behaviour took a turn for the worse when Ashley told him she was returning to Canada. Standing in the dock today at Chelmsford Crown Court dressed in a white t-shirt, Sepple showed little emotion and used just two words: 'I'm guilty'. He will now be jailed for life in sentencing later this year. Judge Christopher Morgan told him: 'You know that by your plea of guilty of murder there is only one sentence and that is to be passed and that is a life sentence.' Her 18-year-old cousin, Kali, also shared her fears that Ashley was moving halfway across the world to meet up with a stranger she had only met online. She told DailyMail.com: 'From the beginning when she decided to go to England for a guy, I was like why are you doing that? It's really stupid. 'Obviously, I never thought something like this would happen. I was just like, wow, this is stupid – he has face tattoos, what are you doing? 'I was like, you're too good for him anyway; you could get someone awesome in your own city.' Devastated Kali added: 'He [Sepple] had been very possessive over her belongings – her phone especially. He was going through her social media and the reason he acted out was because he had seen an old chat. 'The reason this entire fight started from the beginning was because he had seen an old chat where she flirted with somebody. 'He freaked out over it and Ashley was on FaceTime with Hailey and she watched him just start beating her. 'Then [Hailey] reached out and tried to get her an earlier plane ticket. He

had logged into all her social medias, deleted all her posts and changed all her passwords and smashed her phone. 'Ashley couldn't call for help – she was in a whole different country, even if she could call for help, who would she call apart from the police? I don't know if she did but I know a few people did.' One friend, Daniel Seaman, told DailyBeast that Ashley had allegedly cried out for help using different social media accounts because 'her boyfriend didn't want to talk with us a lot of the time.' The teenager's death prompted an outpouring of grief from the Chelmsford community, as well as international tributes. Vigils were held for her in local parks, and friends from Vernon were quick to share their memories of her. In a statement released by Miss Wadsworth's family, they said she was a 'kind and beautiful woman' with an 'unforgettable laugh', while loved ones celebrated her 'spontaneous, witty, kind personality'. Ms Wadsworth was originally from Vernon, British Colombia, and reportedly met Sepple through an online dating app. She wrote on Facebook that she had moved to Chelmsford in November 2021. She had been due to fly home to see her family just days later. Ms Wadsworth converted to Mormonism when she turned 18 before moving to England on November 12 to 'escape small-town life.' She moved in with Sepple and the couple were pictured visiting many British monuments and tourist attractions together. It is understood Sepple's family had accompanied the couple on a tour of London and a trip to Kent. In a family tribute released by Essex Police earlier this month, Ashley's family celebrated her 'spontaneous, witty, kind personality' and remembered her 'unforgettable laugh'. They added: 'Ashley, you are beautiful to us, and we will miss you very, very, much.' An inquest hearing held earlier this month heard she died from multiple stab wounds to the chest. In a brief hearing at Chelmsford Crown Court on Wednesday, Sepple's barrister said a psychiatrist had indicated that the defendant was fit to plead. The court clerk read the single charge of

murder and Sepple, standing in the secure dock in a long white sleeved top and with tattoos on his face and hand, replied: 'I'm guilty.' The hearing was told that the teenager was found unresponsive and paramedics pronounced her dead at 4.38pm. A post-mortem examination recorded her provisional medical cause of death as 'stab wounds to the chest', the coroner's officer said. Essex's senior coroner, Lincoln Brookes, suspended the inquest proceedings pending the outcome of the criminal investigation. The teenager was described as 'fiercely loving and loyal to her family and friends'. Ashley's older sister Hailey said she will always treasure her younger sibling as her 'best friend.' And her niece, Paisley, called her Aunty Ashley the 'best aunty ever' and thanked her for saving up her own money to buy her a first swing set. Her family admired the teen's sense of adventure, having travelled extensively within Canada and also to Mexico, California and England. She developed her desire for life experience while abroad and a love of language - speaking English, French and Spanish. Ashley had dreams of becoming a lawyer and had been accepted to Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, British Columbia. She had also recently found her faith and was excited to share that with others. Her family previously thanked the people of Chelmsford and specifically the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Helen and the Taylor family who organised a vigil for Ashley after her death, for their support. They said: 'It has touched us so deeply, there are truly no words to express our gratitude. 'They were able to do something for Ashley that we couldn't, and we will be forever thankful. 'How lucky are we to have people from across the world care so much about a family that they have never met?' Ms Wadsworth's 'devastated' grandfather Jeff Wadsworth, 66, spoke out after her death about how he encouraged Ms Wadsworth to travel to the UK and thought she would have 'the time of her life'. He told DailyMail.com he felt reassured because he thought the United Kingdom

was a safe place. He said: 'We're just devastated. I can't believe it. I encouraged her to go – I thought it was going to be the time of her life. 'I never thought something like this would happen in England – I thought it was the safest place in the world. And it is a safe place – this is such a not normal thing.' Judge Christopher Morgan told Sepple: 'By your plea of guilty to murder there's only one sentence that can be passed and that's a life sentence.' He remanded the defendant in custody until a date to be fixed administratively, when he will be sentenced.
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11188989/British-man-23-admits-murdering-19-year-old-Canadian-girlfriend-Ashley-Wadsworth.html>

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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May Allah be with you - Amen

Cristoforetti becomes first European woman to command ISS

PARIS: Italy's Samantha Cristoforetti on Wednesday became the first European woman to take over command of the International Space Station during a ceremony broadcast live from space. The outgoing commander, Russian cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev, used the occasion to seemingly make a rare space-bound reference to the war in Ukraine, saying that "despite the storms on Earth, our international cooperation continues". During a relaxed ceremony, Artemyev handed Cristoforetti a golden key, symbolising that she is the new commander of the space station until she returns to Earth on October 10. Cristoforetti, a 45-year-old European Space Agency astronaut and former Italian air force pilot, arrived for her second tour on the ISS in April. She holds the record for the longest stay in space by a woman after spending 199 days in orbit in 2014 and 2015. She is fifth woman — and the first non-US woman — to become commander since the role was created in 2000. The space station, long a symbol of closer post-Cold War ties between Russia and the United States, has been in a difficult position since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February. Moscow responded with outrage at unprecedented sanctions over the war and the ISS has been one of the last remaining areas of cooperation between Russia and the West. Artemyev praised the work of all 10 people onboard the space station — four Americans, five Russians and Cristoforetti. He said he viewed the ISS as "a continuation of the Apollo-Soyuz programme," the first crewed international space mission carried out jointly by the United States and Soviet Union in 1975 in the midst of the Cold War.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1712509/cristoforetti-becomes-first-european-woman-to-command-iss>

Donald Trump sued for 'years of bank, tax and insurance fraud'

The suit, more than 220 pages long, details alleged efforts by Mr Trump to inflate his personal net worth to get better loan agreements while also deflating his worth to gain better tax benefits - and could effectively be a "death penalty" for his organisation.

Donald Trump and three of his children have been served with a lawsuit alleging "years of bank, tax and insurance fraud".

New York attorney general Letitia James is suing the former US president, his family, and the Trump Organisation. If successful, it could halt Mr Trump's ability to do business in the state for years - and even includes a referral for possible federal prosecution. The penalties could effectively be a "death penalty" for his organisation, Ms James said. The suit, more than 220 pages in length, details alleged efforts by Mr Trump to inflate his personal net worth to attract favourable loan agreements while also deflating his worth and holdings to gain better tax benefits. It also named the former president's sons Donald Trump Jr and Eric, and his daughter Ivanka Trump as defendants. Ms James is asking a court to bar Mr Trump and his children from serving as officers or directors in any New York business. The Trump Organisation has denied any wrongdoing. Mr Trump in a social media post called the action "another witch-hunt." and one of his lawyer's labelled it "meritless". At a news conference, Ms James said the suit alleged more than 200 instances of fraud over 10 years. "While the AG's office says they are not seeking a dissolution of the Trump Organisation, the penalties they seek could amount to an effective 'death penalty' for the Trump Organisation to continue in New York," she added. The lawsuit came on the same day the Justice Department said Mr Trump has failed to provide any evidence he declassified records seized from his Florida estate. The former president had



sued the Justice Department after the FBI search in August at his Mar-a-Lago home, asking for the investigation to be frozen while an independent lawyer was appointed to oversee it. Of the more than 11,000 documents seized by the FBI, about 100 had classified markings. Mr Trump had claimed at the time he was President he had declassified them. However, the Justice Department's lawyers wrote in a filing late on Tuesday: "Plaintiff again implies that he could have declassified the records before leaving office. "As before, however, Plaintiff conspicuously fails to represent, much less show, that he actually took that step." The Justice Department is conducting a criminal investigation of Mr Trump for retaining government records, some marked as highly classified, including top secret, after leaving office in January 2021. Mr Trump has denied wrongdoing and has said the investigation is a partisan attack.

<https://news.sky.com/story/amp/donald-trump-sued-for-years-of-bank-tax-and-insurance-fraud-12702782>

Queen's Farewell Makes Britain Proud Again, Just For One Day

By: John Crace



We can be Heroes, Just for One Day. In death, Queen Elizabeth first gave us The Queue. A chance for the UK to show its gentler, more united self. That we could be quite nice to one another if we put our minds to it. Then, at her funeral, her second gift was to – temporarily at least – give the country back a sense of its importance. Thoughts that we were a nation in decline, with a large number of its population unsure if they could afford to eat and heat in the coming months, were put on hold. We had a history worth celebrating. We and the country did matter. Leaders from around the world were gathering at Westminster Abbey to pay their respects to our late queen in an unrivalled ceremony of pomp and pageantry. We could tell ourselves that no one else could have given their head of state a better send off. We were the centre of attention. We were a superpower. We could be proud. Delusional, maybe. But proud. Just for one day. The guests started to arrive at the abbey shortly after 8am. One of the first was a top-hatted Jacob Rees-Mogg. Then came selected members of the public, non-reigning monarchs – take a bow the Prince of Venice and the Margrave of Baden – and other politicians. Next were the minor heads of state, many of whom were bussed in. Several tried to show their orange invites at the door. They were just waved through. No one was expecting any gatecrashers for this event. The only uninvited guest turned out to be the spider that had got into the flowers on the Queen's coffin. We never did get to see who was put next to the North Koreans. Or if there was an unofficial Naughty Step for dodgy regimes. The seating plan must have been a logistical nightmare. Joe Biden arrived in his own car and had to

wait at the west door to allow the procession of holders of the Victoria and George Cross to take their seats ahead of him. Then came the former prime ministers. First John Major, by all accounts the Queen's favourite, and ending with Boris Johnson, by all accounts the most loathed. Her last service to the country while she was alive was to see the back of him. Johnson was seated next to the Mays. But unlike at Westminster Hall several days earlier, this time Theresa could put her husband, Philip, between her and Boris. Philip didn't seem especially pleased to have drawn the short straw. The minor royals took their places – James Severn, the son of Prince Edward, is only 14 but has still managed to accrue a couple of medals – along with the Princess of Wales and her two eldest children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte. The succession subtext was inescapable. All is well with the House of Windsor. Meanwhile, over at Westminster Hall, the Queen's four children along with the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sussex were getting ready to walk behind the coffin as it was pulled on a gun carriage by more than 140 sailors. Andrew and Harry were once again wearing morning suits rather than military uniform. It seemed harsh on Harry to be given the same punishment as Andrew but the royal family can be ruthless when they want to be. Outside the abbey, there were a few cheers but mostly a sense of quiet. Even the planes had been diverted. The one interruption, on the BBC at least, was the sound of Huw Edwards telling everyone what they could already see and promising that there would be no commentary during the service itself. A blessed relief. The past 10 days of having to talk solemn banalities for 14 hours a

day have driven Edwards understandably a bit mad. It's almost as if he now considers himself to be an integral part of the royal household. Someone without whom it can no longer function. The whole occasion was at the same time quintessentially British in its ceremony and also profoundly un-British. Normally, we try to tuck death away into somewhere where it can't be seen. Or felt. Somewhere we can pretend it isn't the price we pay for living. Yet here we had death take centre stage. The Queen's coffin in the centre of the abbey. It felt somehow healing. After opening prayers and hymns, Lady Scotland read the first lesson, taken from Corinthians. She spoke superbly, so much so that even those of no faith could half believe that faith might triumph over death. That there was an after-life. Liz Truss predictably murdered the second lesson from St John. Speaking aloud is not her strong point and she has yet to realise that punctuation is there to help you make sense of the text. Still her deathly monotone wasn't entirely out of place at a funeral and the Queen would have been pleased it was anyone but Boris reading it. The archbishop of Canterbury also had a few comments to make on world leaders in general and Johnson in particular during his sermon that was unashamedly political. Only those, like the Queen, who served a higher power first and foremost would be remembered. Those whose only God was their own fragile ego would be forgotten. There were more surprises near the end of the service with the Queen's choice of Charles Wesley's Love Divine. This hymn is a Methodist anthem. The anti-establishment religion given voice at the most establishment of occasions. Perhaps the Queen was a more complex and conflicted woman with regards to her faith than many had thought. Perhaps there was an egalitarian side to her that got lost among the privilege. The King looked thoughtful as the congregation gave a spine-tingling rendition of the

national anthem. Well he might. He's not just grieving his mother, he's got to follow her example. Who knows if the country will ever come to love him as much as they loved the Queen? Or indeed if he can hold the monarchy together. William and Harry often seem more interested in their personal feuds. Without the Queen the whole thing might fall apart. After the service, military bands played a medley of funeral marches as the cortege processed up to Wellington Arch. The Heralds and the Pursuivants, looking like extras from a Disney theme park, tried to march in time while not stepping in the horse poo, while the senior royals took their places behind the gun carriage. Their London farewell was to oversee the transfer of the Queen to the hearse. Some flowers were thrown, but this was no Princess Di moment. A time for grandeur and dignity rather than touchy-feely emotions. The final public act took place in St George's Chapel, Windsor. Despite a congregation of 800, it felt intimate. Almost as if we were intruding on something private. Something historic as the mace, orb and crown were removed from the coffin. Something majestic as the lord chamberlain broke the wand of office and laid it on the coffin. Something unbearable as the King stood in front of the coffin while it descended into the vault. The last we would see of the queen. Charles looked so lonely. Lost even. As if he'd waited 73 years for this moment and now didn't know if he really wanted it. The bagpipe lament spoke for him. As it did for all of us. Rest in peace.

- This article was amended on 20 September 2022. After the service the cortege processed up to Wellington Arch, not Marble Arch as stated in an earlier version.

<https://amp.theguardian.com/politics/2022/sep/19/queens-farewell-makes-uk-proud-again-just-for-one-day-john-crace>

Nelson: This Time The Conservatives have Elected a Potential Game-changer

By: Chris Nelson



First a confession: such are the remarkable goings-on these days among the Alberta Tories that what's been happening to the Conservatives on the national stage seemed little more than a distant distraction from the feature event. Anyhow, that bunch usually elects only nice guys as leaders, who believe being a mini-me Grit is the route to power: the same general platform, just watered down a touch. Not surprisingly they keep losing to the Liberals. Why go for the knock-off version if you can have the real thing? So, when the latest fellow called it quits and another Tory leadership contest ensued, it didn't exactly make the heart go pitter-patter with fervent anticipation. Except, a few weeks ago, I came across a YouTube video called Breakfast With Justin, and the political ground shifted. Now, I'm way too cynical to be swept away by any politician, but I've also been around long enough to spot a potential game-changer. And that's Pierre Poilievre. First off, this fellow did everything you're not supposed to do during that broadcast: have strangers wandering to and fro in the café background, stuff food into your mouth while delivering your

message, and allow a segment to stand where you choke on your own words. Yet it worked a treat. Finally, here was someone — and a Tory no less — to give Justin Trudeau a run for the marbles based purely upon charisma. OK, this charisma stuff sounds a bit trite. Perhaps it is. But such is the world we now inhabit, with endless social media sound bites stretching a minute into an eternity, that unless you can compete in that arena your message and program will be lost, drowned under the boatload of false emotion and fake sincerity our current prime minister conjures up at will, thereby fooling enough Canadians to believe he feels our pain and shares our struggles. But, of course, he doesn't. How could he? Trudeau was born into an elite Montreal family and his path to the prime minister's chair was essentially ordained following his emotional appearance at his father's nationally televised funeral. Atop of such name recognition, there were those movie-star good looks allied to an acting ability to emote ad nauseam. This no doubt iced the cake for Grit grandees looking for a future leader. So, before debating programs and poli-

cies, anyone challenging our prime minister must first nullify that advantage because, to enough voters, style overrides substance; this being especially true during Trudeau's ascendancy, following a decade of Stephen Harper's leadership, a man whose attributes were the mirror opposite. But after seven years, the good looks, endless apologies and emotive overreach fade. People get bored with the routine, no matter how well it's played.

Subsequently, the PM's previous calling card of emotional connection is becoming his weak spot. (Sorry, forget actual policy — only people like me bother about that stuff, though Poilievre's support for curtailing future Green tax increases, expanding the export of LNG and reducing those mammoth federal deficits must count for something, especially here in Alberta.) And, when it comes to feeling our pain and understanding our challenges, Poilievre's background puts him well ahead of Trudeau in any common-Canadian sweepstakes. Born in Calgary in 1979 to an unwed 16-year-old and then adopted by French-Canadian schoolteachers, Poilievre grew up in the Shawnessy area, graduating from Henry Wise Wood High School before studying international relations at the University of Calgary. From there, he moved to Ottawa and became one of Canada's youngest-ever MPs. That's not the resume of someone born slurping from any silver spoon. But right now, after crushing other contenders for the Tory crown last weekend by capturing 68 per cent of votes on the first ballot, Poilievre is the most dominant, rising force in national politics. Pundits are already sharpening the knives, claiming he's too much of a populist, too arrogant and must surely soften his stance to be prime minister. Yes, just like those other recent Tory leaders — the ones who failed.

<https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/nelson-this-time-the-conservatives-have-elected-a-potential-game-changer>

Danish monkeypox vaccine maker widens deal with Canada

COPENHAGEN: Danish drugmaker Bavarian Nordic, the lone laboratory manufacturing a licensed vaccine against monkeypox, announced Tuesday a revised supply deal with Canada worth up to \$470 million. The agreement with Canada's public health agency is worth about \$234 million, with an additional \$180 million in contract options for further doses over 10 years, the company said in a statement. A multi-year deal valued up to \$20 million was also signed with the country's defence department. The deal extends a \$56 million contract signed with Canada in June. Bavarian Nordic said the majority of the doses will be delivered in 2023. Marketed as Jynneos in the United States, Imvanex in Europe and Imvamune in Canada, the vaccine is against smallpox, a deadly disease eradicated in 1980, that is currently used against monkeypox. According to the data from the World Health Organization (WHO), as of September 19, there were 61,753 confirmed cases and 23 associated deaths in more than 100 countries, the vast majority of which are in Europe and North America. However, since mid-August the number of new daily cases has been slowing. Monkeypox is not usually fatal but often manifests itself through fever, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, chills, exhaustion and a chickenpox-like rash on the hands and face. WHO has cautioned against stigmatisation of those infected, stressing that the disease can affect anyone.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/993099-danish-monkeypox-vaccine-maker-widens-deal-with-canada>

Under Queen Elizabeth's seven-decade reign, the Commonwealth gained meaning

Without the Queen, the relevance of the Commonwealth will depend on the relevance of King Charles within it

By: Rosie DiManno

LONDON — A rush to the exits of the Commonwealth is being greatly exaggerated, to paraphrase Mark Twain, who was actually misquoted by a reporter who'd asked the novelist for a response to false rumours of his death. Just as exaggerations about Queen Elizabeth II as the culpable perpetuator of brutish British colonialism — downright bollocks in some hysterical corners of the commentariat — have been coming fast and furious over the past week. There is, in fact, a waiting list for countries that want in, while a handful have either proceeded out or telegraphed their intentions to do so, now that a beloved monarch — the glue that allegedly held the thing together — has gone to her just reward. Just earlier this year, two nations that have zero historical connection to Britain or Empire — Togo and Gabon, both former French colonies — were accepted into the treehouse gang, following in the footsteps of Rwanda (colonized by Germany and Belgium) and Mozambique (Portugal). Which brings inclusion for the multinational organization — second only in membership to the United Nations — to 56, encompassing 2.6 billion people. Of those, 15 realms still have the sovereign, King Charles III now, as their head of state. Canada, as one of The Originals, has, but for pockets of republicanism now and then, expressed no interest in seeking a divorce. In any event, abolishing the monarchy necessitates Parliament, the House of Commons, the Senate, all 10 provinces and the territories agreeing to amend the Constitution. “Number One, that would require constitutional change and we’ve gone through that in Canada in the past and it has



not been an experience that we would like to repeat frequently,” High Commissioner Ralph Goodale tells the Star. “When you open one thing in the Constitution, you open everything in the Constitution. It’s a long, difficult and sometimes can be an acrimonious process, so the practicalities of constitutional change are not very realistic.” It’s certainly had ups and downs, transitioning from rather meaningless to quite meaningful during the Queen’s seven decades at the prow of HMS Commonwealth, rendering the institution palatable even to countries that experienced violent independence from the Crown. Kenneth Kaunda, first president of Zambia, once said it was the Queen’s essence that made possible metamorphosis from Empire to Commonwealth — the equality of states. “Without that, many of us would have left.” When the Queen famously danced with President Kwame Nkrumah on her visit to Ghana in 1961 — Nkrumah a founding revolutionary — that two-step was credited with accomplishing the significant political feat of ensuring that Nkrumah wouldn’t take his country out of the Commonwealth, triggering a massive parachuting. The Commonwealth was established during the

reign of George VI, who truthfully had little interest in the organization. It was a lot more fun being King than head of the Commonwealth. However, the institution was dear to his daughter's heart, arguably her most profound legacy as an establishment linking north, south, east and west, rich nations and poor nations of every ethnicity and creed. During Elizabeth's reign, she made upwards of 200 tours of Commonwealth countries, to keep them existentially close. The Queen's very first tour of the Commonwealth, five months after her coronation, covered 40,000 miles and lasted seven months. It would become her life's work and she was chair of the board. Barbados waved bye-bye in 2021 — a move undertaken undemocratically, gone republican without the bother of a referendum — and Jamaica will likely be the next to go, already moving in that direction. The government last year announced plans to seek reparations for an estimated 600,000 Africans who were shipped to the island for the benefit of British slaveowners. Belize has announced a constitutional review of Commonwealth. Antigua and Barbuda will hold a referendum on ditching monarchy within the next three years, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said this week, moments after declaring Charles as King of the Caribbean nation. But Australia and New Zealand, both with republican-minded prime ministers, have backed off, each saying in the wake of Her Majesty's death that any severing is far down the road. (Australia's republicans took it on the chin in a 1999 referendum.) While the Queen couldn't exercise any political power under constitutional monarchy, she certainly could and did in her capacity as head of the Commonwealth. As well — this needs repeating, apparently — she also oversaw the decolonizing of Empire, actually helping to ease the decoupling. It might well be asked, what purpose does the Commonwealth serve in the 21st century? Goodale argues that poses another question: "Change

to what? You can argue just the abstract notion that we should change this but really does beg the question — what is the alternative that you are proposing? "That's where all proposals falter. Because if we are to change, it needs to be to something better. And what is that better model that you see in the world for a head of state? Is that the American model, that seems to have had a lot of difficulties recently?" Indeed, former president Donald Trump seems hell-bent on bringing America to the verge of anti-democratic authoritarianism and nativist anarchy. "Where is the model in the world that works better than this one," Goodale continues. "You can argue pros and cons but at the end of the end it comes down to a proposition of, if it ain't broke, don't fix it." Goodale describes the Commonwealth as a "truly amazing multilateral organization with a great deal of potential," although that potential hasn't been maximally tapped. "It's just an invaluable, diverse forum that you couldn't create today if you sat down to invent a multilateral, multinational organization. The transformation that took place, dropping the trappings of Empire and developing a more family atmosphere, a friendly family of nations where all are considered equal. That was nurtured over 70 years by Her Majesty. She certainly boosted the Commonwealth on its way, but I think even she would say today that the Commonwealth is not dependent on the existence of the monarchy."

Most members, in fact, are republics. "What it does depend on is good, solid, transparent, accountable leadership and administration. Secondly, it's got to have clear priorities ... pursue what it's good at in order to be relevant for the future." Goodale ticks off where those priorities should lie: Promoting good governance among its members, defending and pursuing human rights, including gender equality and LGBTQ2 rights, education, fighting climate change — rising ocean levels of particular urgency to the organiza-

tion's small island nations — global health. "And then finally, food and security. That means having the courage to call out countries like Russia that are threatening the world with starvation because they want to have a war in Ukraine." Goodale adds: "No other organization has as much scope, other than the UN. And Canada, I think, can play a really vital role in moving the Commonwealth in these directions, more so than the original government in the U.K. could do because of the colonial legacy. A country like Canada I think can be actually more effective as a convenor in pulling people together and moving the whole apparatus in the right direction." Denuded of Queen Elizabeth and her subtly persuasive personality, the relevance of the Commonwealth will depend a great deal on the relevance of King Charles within it. Although there's no hereditary structure to "Head of the Commonwealth," his mother, at the alliance's 2018 summit, made an explicit plea for Charles to be allowed to succeed her in that position, which was granted, although it will come to a vote again in a few years. The King has been advised to capitalize on the wellspring of sympathy and goodwill for the House of Windsor by embarking soon on a tour of Commonwealth countries — most especially monarchies — and buffing the alliance as a bulwark of freedom against an increasingly dangerous world. Make no mistake. The chorus of colonial legacy tantrums notwithstanding, Britain remains a highly regarded entity, font of civilization and civility, even in its diminished state and, at the moment, tempest-swept by economic, political and social convulsions. Far removed from Rule Britannia but kinship-close to ménage a cinquante-six Commonwealth.

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/star-columnists/2022/09/17/under-queen-elizabeths-seven-decade-reign-the-commonwealth-gained-meaning.html>

Nasa scraps Moon launch due to storm



WASHINGTON: Nasa has called off the scheduled Tuesday launch of its historic uncrewed mission to the Moon due to a tropical storm that is forecast to strengthen as it approaches Florida. After two previously canceled launch attempts, Nasa is weighing returning the Artemis 1 mission rocket to its assembly site under the threat of extreme weather. "Nasa is forgoing a launch opportunity... and preparing for rollback (from the launchpad), while continuing to watch the weather forecast associated with Tropical Storm Ian," it said on Saturday. The US National Hurricane Centre (NHC) said Ian is due to "rapidly intensify" over the weekend as it moves toward Florida, home to the Kennedy Space Centre, from which the rocket is set to launch. Currently south of Jamaica, the storm is expected to approach Florida's west coast "at or near major hurricane strength" early next week, threatening storm surge, flooding and hurricane-force winds across much of the state, the NHC said. On the launchpad, the giant orange and white Space Launch System (SLS) rocket can withstand wind gusts of up to 137 kilometres (85 miles) per hour. But if it has to be sheltered, the current launch window, which runs until October 4, will be missed. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1711835/nasa-scraps-moon-launch-due-to-storm>



What Biden Can Teach The King

LONDON — One man scraped his way to the top. The other was born into a dynasty. One man is an Irish Catholic who keeps a rosary in his pocket. The other lost his favorite great-uncle to an IRA terrorist attack. One man's mother told him to never bow down to the queen. The other's mother was queen. But when Joe Biden sees Charles Philip Arthur George Windsor in London on Sunday ahead of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, the two men might find they have a great deal in common, at least in this moment.



The two septuagenarians each see themselves as a bulwark against forces trying to overthrow everything they stand for. Biden says he ran for president because of the violence in Charlottesville and is laying the groundwork to run again in 2024 to save democracy from former president Donald Trump. Charles must fend off separatist movements in Scotland, Northern Ireland and across the commonwealth while his country's government contends with the continuing challenges of Brexit, which was an ill-conceived economic divorce from Europe. Both men know about waiting. Charles has been an understudy forever, the oldest person to ever ascend to the British throne in the millennium-long history of the royal family. He has been heir apparent since his mother became queen in 1952. Biden is the oldest president in U.S. history and came to the presidency on his third try overcoming staggering odds and the doubts of his own party. Each grapples with unfavorable comparisons to his predecessor. Charles seems doomed never to be as popular as Elizabeth II, just as Biden chafes under the aura of

awe that still surrounds former president Barack Obama (at least from Democrats). Both must now show uncharacteristic self-discipline to succeed as heads of state. Both have known personal pain and heartache; both have complex relationships with their youngest son; both men had to look after young children who lost their mom in tragic car crashes. Each earned a reputation as a gaffe machine. Biden ended his first bid for the presidency in 1987 after being caught plagiarizing from the speeches, and even the life story, of British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock. In 2012, he warned a Black audience in the South that Mitt Romney would “put y’all back in chains.” In his prime, he was notorious for turning brief addresses into hour-long stemwinders. In his twilight years, he’s learned to curb this habit and stop himself. Charles said in 2010 that he talked to his plants, and that they talked back. In 1992, while still married to Princess Diana, he compared himself to a tampon in a leaked phone call with Camilla Parker Bowles, who is now queen consort. Over the years, Charles routinely sent private letters to cabinet ministers — dubbed “black spider memos” because

of his spooky handwriting — on topics ranging from the Iraq War to organic farming. Both are green — or, at least, greenish. Charles has been sounding the alarm about the planet since his first major speech on pollution in 1970. While environmentalism has never been central to Biden's brand, the issue actually helped catapult his early political career. As a county councilman in 1971, he successfully marshaled opposition to kill a planned refinery in Delaware and ran commercials about the environment when he first ran for Senate. In the mid-1980s, he was one of the first senators to introduce climate change legislation. Biden and Charles are likely transitional figures. Biden described himself during the 2020 campaign as "a bridge" to the next generation of Democratic leaders. Pundits here in London speak about Charles as a short-timer in tones similar to those that people across the pond use when speculating over whether Biden will run again. Coming from two countries which share a "special relationship," the two men have little or none themselves. Biden most recently saw Charles at the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Glasgow last fall. Then the Prince of Wales, Charles said the warming planet poses "an even greater existential threat" than the coronavirus pandemic and required "a warlike footing." Biden praised his advocacy: "We need you badly," he told the prince. "I'm not just saying that." The biggest lesson the American can offer the Brit now? More forbearance. Biden was dismissed as a political force several times in his long career, including as recently as just a few months ago. The president is stepping more confidently now, a 79-year-old example of how to play the long game. That's something a 73-year-old, just starting out as king, can believe in.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/09/16/biden-charles-twins-in-arms/>

Fifa Qatar World Cup: 3 UAE airlines among 13 to start services at Doha International Airport

Qatar has announced that 13 airlines will begin operations at Doha International Airport. The services will be effective from September 15 to December 30 this year, according to Hamad International Airport's official website. Last week it was announced that Qatar will reopen Doha International Airport ahead of the Fifa World Cup 2022 that is expected to draw more than a million visitors. The Doha airport has been in semi-retirement since it was replaced in 2014 by the nearby Hamad International Airport. Below is the full list of the 13 airlines, including 3 from the UAE - Etihad Airways, Flydubai, and Air Arabia.

1. Air Arabia , 2. Air Cairo , 3. Badr Airlines , 4. Ethiopian Airlines , 5. Etihad Airways , 6. Flydubai , 7. Himalaya Airlines , 8. Jazeera Airways, 9. Nepal Airlines , 10. Pakistan International Airlines , 11. Pegasus Airlines , 12. SalamAir , 13. Tarco Aviation

The departure and arrival terminals of the airport can each handle 2,000 departing passengers per hour. There are 83 check-in desks, 52 departure immigration counters and arrival immigration counters, and 22 boarding gates. The airport is located 15 minutes from the centre of the city and 30 minutes from most of the Fifa World Cup stadiums.

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/aviation/fifa-qatar-world-cup-3-uae-airlines-among-13-to-start-services-at-doha-international-airport>

Justice Dept. Charges 48 in Brazen Pandemic Aid Fraud in Minnesota

The defendants were charged with stealing \$240 million intended to feed children, in what appears to be the largest theft so far from a pandemic-era program.

By David A. Fahrenthold



MINNEAPOLIS — The Justice Department said on Tuesday that it had charged 48 people with running a brazen fraud against anti-hunger programs in the coronavirus pandemic, stealing \$240 million by billing the government for meals they did not serve to children who did not exist. The case, in Minnesota, is the largest fraud uncovered in any pandemic-relief program, prosecutors said, standing out even in a period when heavy federal spending and lax oversight allowed a spree of scams with few recent parallels. The Minnesota operation, prosecutors said, involved faked receipts for 125 million meals. At times, it was especially bold: One accused conspirator told the government he had fed 5,000 children a day in a second-story apartment. Other defendants in the case seemed to put minimal effort into disguising what they were doing, using the website listofrandomnames.com to create a fake list of children they could charge for feeding. Others used a number-generating program to produce ages for the children they

were supposedly feeding, which led the ages to fluctuate wildly each time the group updated its list of those nonexistent children, court papers said. But their scheme — details of which were reported in The New York Times in March — still pulled in millions of dollars per week, prosecutors said in court papers, because government officials had relaxed oversight of the feeding program during the pandemic and because the other defendants had help from a trusted insider. That insider was Aimee Bock, the founder of a nonprofit group, Feeding Our Future, that the State of Minnesota relied on as a watchdog to stop fraud at feeding sites. But Ms. Bock did the opposite, the indictments said: When pandemic-relief programs flooded the programs with money, she exploited her position to bring in nearly 200 new feeding operations she knew were submitting fake or inflated invoices. Even when the government of Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, raised questions, Ms. Bock rebuffed them by filing a lawsuit and accusing

state officials of discriminating against her group's largely East African clientele. "In effect, Feeding Our Future operated a pay-to-play scheme in which individuals seeking to operate fraudulent sites under the sponsorship of Feeding Our Future had to kick back a portion of their fraudulent proceeds," one indictment said, according to a copy obtained by The Times. "The subjects in this case weren't interested in feeding our future," Michael Paul, a special agent for the F.B.I., said at a news conference on Tuesday, when the charges were announced. "They were interested in feeding their own gluttony." The defendants were indicted on charges that included wire fraud, bribery involving federal programs and money laundering. Prosecutors said the conspirators laundered money by routing the funds they stole through a web of shell companies. Prosecutors initially announced charges against 47 people, then charged another Tuesday evening before she left using a one-way ticket to Ethiopia. The case is the largest brought by the Justice Department as it scrambles to address waves of fraud involving pandemic-era programs that sent billions of dollars of aid into the economy, often with few strings attached and little oversight. The Labor Department's inspector general's office has opened 39,000 investigations. At the Small Business Administration, about 50 agents have been sorting through two million potentially fraudulent loan applications. And while the sheer volume of cases all but ensures that some cases will go unaddressed, the prosecutions in Minnesota signal that the Justice Department is moving aggressively on others. The indictments said the defendants spent their money on real estate in the United States, Kenya and Turkey, as well as on cars and luxury goods. The Justice Department is seeking to seize many of those purchases, including more than 20 cars, more than 40 properties, guns, cryptocurrency and a Louis Vuitton duffel bag. Prosecutors said on Tuesday that many defendants had been arrested

or had turned themselves in. They said some had left the country but declined to say how many. Ms. Bock pleaded not guilty Tuesday afternoon in federal court in Minneapolis and was released to await trial. Kenneth Udoibok, her lawyer, said afterward that "we still maintain that she was unaware of any fraudulent activities." Prosecutors said that those indicted included Sharmarke Issa, the former chairman of the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, and Abdi Nur Salah, a former aide to Mayor Jacob Frey of Minneapolis, a Democrat. Both men were publicly connected to this case earlier in the year because of their ties to a property that prosecutors said was bought with stolen money. Also among the people indicted was a Feeding Our Future employee, Abdikerm Abdelahi Eidleh, who was accused of taking kickbacks from people involved in the scheme. Three of the 48 defendants — including another of the nonprofit's employees, Hadith Yusuf Ahmed — were charged via "criminal information" rather than a grand jury indictment. The state blocked Feeding Our Future from receiving more aid money after the F.B.I. served search warrants in the case in January. The nonprofit group sought to dissolve at the time, but Attorney General Keith Ellison of Minnesota, a Democrat, blocked the move. Mr. Ellison asked a judge to supervise the group while he investigated whether it broke state charity laws. That investigation appears to be continuing. As described by prosecutors, the participants targeted two federal food-aid programs, which were administered through state governments. They were intended to feed children in after-school programs and summer camps. But when the pandemic hit, Congress rejiggered the programs to reach millions of children stuck at home, pouring in billions of dollars more and changing the rules to let families pick up meals to go. As funding went up, however, oversight went down: State officials, for instance, no longer had to check on feeding sites in person. That

left one last line of defense: the so-called watchdog sponsors, like Feeding Our Future. Those nonprofit groups served as conduits for money, from the states to individual feeding sites, and they were supposed to be on guard against fraud. But the system also gave those watchdogs a reason not to bark: They could keep 10 to 15 percent of the money that flowed through them. In this case, the indictments said, Ms. Bock's group kept the money flowing to increase its own cut. "The defendants exploited the Covid-19 pandemic — and the resulting program changes — to enrich themselves," the indictments say. Feeding Our Future had started before the pandemic as a small sponsor overseeing \$3.5 million in funding. It never had an accountant on staff and sometimes struggled with basic governance, even allowing its nonprofit status to expire for a time. But by 2021, Feeding Our Future was handling \$197 million in annual funding. Under its umbrella, the indictments said, six different groups began to operate similar frauds. The conspirators would often register new companies or nonprofits, then quickly sign them up as feeding operations under the supervision of Feeding Our Future. Then, the indictments said, the new groups would soon report that they were feeding thousands of children per day — numbers that put them among the biggest feeding operations in the state — and began reaping thousands or millions of dollars in federal payments. In Minneapolis, for instance, a man named Guhaad Hashi Said told the state that he was serving 5,000 meals, twice a day, at a new facility called Advance Youth Athletic Development. The site he listed was an unlikely place for anyone to feed children en masse: The address was a second-story apartment.

Mr. Said was one of those indicted; the indictment said he was paid \$2.9 million out of federal money routed through the state and Feeding Our Future. But the indictment said that Mr. Said provided "only a fraction" of the meals he claimed. In an interview this year,

Mr. Said said that he had never claimed to serve 5,000 meals a day in the first place. In other cases, prosecutors said, feeding sites submitted invoices that were suspiciously consistent, with thousands of children listed as attending, day after day with no variation. "No one got sick. No one missed a meal. No one was away," said Andrew M. Luger, the U.S. attorney for Minnesota, whose prosecutors are handling the case. "Same children. Every single day. Every single week." In 2020, Minnesota officials grew concerned by the speed at which Feeding Our Future was creating new distribution sites and began giving them more scrutiny. In November of that year, the nonprofit responded defiantly, filing a lawsuit that accused state officials of discrimination. The suit said the state was harming children by delaying the start of Feeding Our Future's new operations. "Every day that goes by, hundreds of the state's most vulnerable children are going without much-needed meals," it said. Several of the sites where the state had sought to delay operations later became centers of fraud, according to the indictments. In response to Feeding Our Future's lawsuit, a state court judge ruled that Minnesota had not taken the steps necessary to block the payments. After that, in April 2021, frustrated state officials turned to the F.B.I. — and continued paying Feeding Our Future and its partners while federal agents investigated. The state "moved quickly and repeatedly raised the issue to federal authorities until we were able to find someone who would take the troubling spending as seriously as we were," said Kevin Burns, a spokesman for the Minnesota Department of Education, which handled the food-aid money. Republicans in the State Senate released a report this month, before the indictments were made public, accusing the state's Education Department of "dereliction of duty" for failing to stop Feeding Our Future sooner. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/09/20/us/politics/pandemic-aid-fraud-minnesota.html>



Democrats will struggle to keep control of Congress in midterms, expert says

Ray Fair's latest analysis suggests Democrats will get 46.7% of the national vote – and he usually comes within 3% of the final tally

Since 1978 Ray Fair, professor of Economics at Yale University, has been using economic data to predict US election outcomes. His bare-boned, strictly by the numbers approach has a fairly impressive record, usually coming within 3% of the final tally. Sadly for Democrats – if Fair's on track again this time – the Biden administration will struggle to keep control of Congress in November's crucial midterm elections. Elections are noisy events and this year's is no different. Recent polling suggests Joe Biden is on a roll, reclaiming some of the ground he lost earlier in his presidency. The Democrats have passed major legislation. There has been a surge in women registering to vote after the supreme court overturned *Roe v Wade*. Abortion rights drove voters to the polls in deep-red Kansas. Gas prices, if not overall inflation, are falling. In the meantime, Donald Trump and the candidates he has backed are dominating the headlines and helping Democrats' poll numbers. But if Fair is right, we can largely set aside the personalities and the issues: the economy is the signal behind the noise and Biden is still in trouble. Using data going back to 1916 Fair's latest analysis suggests that Democrats will get 46.7% of the national vote in November – down from the 51.3% in 2020 when Biden defeated Donald Trump and took control of the House and a slim majority in the Senate. Fair's model looks at the national picture, he doesn't dig down to state battles and won't be drawn into more granular prognostications. But given the gloomy economic picture in recent months, his prediction is unlikely to improve before November and suggests a loss in the House and a very tough

fight to keep control of the Senate. When Fair's last prediction was published in July, the Democrats' share of the vote had fallen from 48.99% in October “due to two fewer strong growth quarters and slightly higher inflation”. The economic malaise has only deepened since then. “This prediction is based on business as usual,” said Fair. “It's based on estimations back to 1918, 100-plus years of data. In that period what seems to matter, election after election, is inflation, output, growth and the penalty you get for being the incumbent party in the White House.” Fair will update his model before the election and given its economic focus, Biden's percentages are unlikely to improve. Inflation remains close to a 40-year high – soaring prices are now costing the average American household an extra \$717 a month. The US economy has shrunk for two consecutive quarters, a sign taken by many as a harbinger of recession. Interest rates are rising at their sharpest pace since the 1990s as the Federal Reserve fights to tamp down price rises. The strength of the economic headwinds Biden faces are apparent even in his improving poll numbers. About 69% of Americans think the nation's economy is getting worse – the highest percentage since 2008 – according to a recent ABC News/Washington Post poll. Fair doesn't think elections are only about the economy. “This is not a perfect story, there's room for other stories in each election,” he said. Given the equations narrow, economic focus he said it was “reasonable” that people were now looking at what other factors might affect the Democratic vote share in the midterms. One factor that may have skewed his

results in the past, and could do again, is Donald Trump. In 2016 Fair's model predicted Hillary Clinton would beat Trump. She did win 2.9m more votes than Trump, securing 48.2% of the vote to Trump's 46.1%. But she lost in the electoral college. This time too Trump could be a factor, although he is difficult to measure. "There are many reasons why the Democrats may do better. Certainly Trump could be one of them," said Fair. But history – or at least the history that Fair measures – suggests for all the recent positive polling, the Democrats face an uphill struggle this November. "How large is the error I make on average? It's about 3 percentage points. If the prediction is 47 that would get you up to 50. So it's a long shot that the Democrats would get more than half," he said. ... we have a small favour to ask. Millions are turning to the Guardian for open, independent, quality news every day, and readers in 180 countries around the world now support us financially. We believe everyone deserves access to information that's grounded in science and truth, and analysis rooted in authority and integrity. That's why we made a different choice: to keep our reporting open for all readers, regardless of where they live or what they can afford to pay. This means more people can be better informed, united, and inspired to take meaningful action. In these perilous times, a truth-seeking global news organisation like the Guardian is essential. We have no shareholders or billionaire owner, meaning our journalism is free from commercial and political influence – this makes us different. When it's never been more important, our independence allows us to fearlessly investigate, challenge and expose those in power.

34 <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/sep/22/democrats-congress-midterms-biden-ray-fair>

UAE travellers alert: Passengers must declare cash, items worth more than Dh58,000 when visiting Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) have made it mandatory for passengers to declare cash or items amounting to SAR60,000 (Dh58,578) or more. If travelling from UAE or any other country, each passenger must disclose the cash they are carrying in any currency, traveller's cheques, bank cheques, gold bullions or precious metals, or jewellery valued at SAR60,000 or more. The Customs authority stressed that the declaration must be made whether the passenger travels to or departs from the Kingdom. This procedure is in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of the Anti-Money Laundering Law issued by Royal Decree (M / 20) dated 5/2/1439 H. Also, goods which are subject to prohibition, restriction or taxes and fees must be disclosed in accordance with the provisions of Article 60 of the Common Customs Law ratified by Royal Decree (M / 41) dated 3/11/1423.

Why declaration is needed : The Saudi Customs said the declaration is important to ensure the passenger's well-being. The declaration also protects travellers from being charged with money laundering, smuggling or evasion of tax and duties. Passengers must disclose the items, fill out the declaration form, and submit it online via the application or Customs' website.

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/aviation/uae-travellers-alert-passengers-must-declare-cash-items-worth-more-than-dh58000-when-visiting-sau?amp=1>

Australia's Optus says personal data possibly compromised in hack

Telecom says it is probing possible unauthorised access of information including names, addresses and passport numbers.

Optus, Australia's second-largest telecom, has disclosed that customers' personal data may have been compromised in a cyberattack against the company. Optus said on Thursday that it was investigating the possible unauthorised access of customer information, including names, addresses, dates of birth, phone numbers, email addresses, and driver's licence and passport numbers. The Sydney-based telecom said it had "shut down" the attack immediately after its discovery and was not anywhere of any customers suffering harm, but advised customers to have "heightened awareness" about usual or fraudulent activity on their accounts. The company said it was working with Australia's cybersecurity centre to address any risks to customers and had notified the police and the country's information commissioner about the attack. It did not specify when the attack occurred or how many customers may be affected. Optus services, voicemails and texts, payment details, and account passwords were not compromised in the hacking, the company said.

"We are devastated to discover that we have been subject to a cyberattack that has resulted in the disclosure of our customers' personal information to someone who shouldn't see it," Optus Chief Executive Officer Kelly Bayer Rosmarin said in a statement. "As soon as we knew, we took action to block the attack and began an immediate investigation. While not everyone may be affected and our investigation is not yet complete, we want all of our customers to be aware of what has happened as soon as possible so that they can increase their vigilance." Bayer Rosmarin added that the company was "very sorry" about the



incident and "engaging with all the relevant authorities and organisations, to help safeguard our customers as much as possible."

The cyberattack is the latest in a string of recent data breaches and cyberattacks involving leading companies, with September alone seeing related announcements by Samsung, North Face, American Airlines, Uber and Rockstar. Trevor Long, a technology industry analyst based in Sydney, Australia, speculated the incident could turn out to be biggest breach of personal data involving an Australian company. "It is reprehensible that Optus has not yet notified customers and didn't make the announcement as a media alert and instead just posted it on their media site," Long told Al Jazeera. "We are always at risk, and this will happen again and again – sadly. The best we can do is regularly change our passwords, ensure we have two factor authentication in all places, and regularly check our financial accounts and credit report for any unauthorised activity."

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/9/22/australias-optus-says-personal-data-possibly-compromised-in-hack>

Iran's Raisi meets European leaders at UN amid nuclear deadlock

Macron reportedly offers new proposals to Raisi, but a breakthrough still appears unlikely as US midterm elections loom.

By: Maziar Motamedi



Tehran, Iran – Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi and his delegation have held meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron and other top European leaders as a deadlock over their 2015 nuclear deal remains in place. Raisi, accompanied by Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani, also sat down on Tuesday with European Council President Charles Michel, and the bloc's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and his deputy Enrique Mora, who act as coordinators of the nuclear talks that began in April 2021. Bagheri and Mora then held separate talks that are thought to be predominantly focused on stalled efforts to restore the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), as the nuclear deal that the United States unilaterally abandoned in 2018 is formally known. According to Raisi's website, the Iranian president emphasised a major demand to his French counterpart that an inquiry by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) into several Iranian nuclear sites revolving around unexplained nuclear particles must be concluded for any agreement. "The agency's approach towards technical issues must be away from pressures by others, and we believe that achieving an agreement will not be possible without closing Iran's cases," Raisi told Macron. Raisi also said, "Europe must show in action that its policies are separate from those of the US and does not follow the wishes and policies of the US." Macron reportedly offered proposals to advance the talks that have once more stalled after Iran gave its latest written response to a European draft text earlier this month. "Iran and the agency are able to resolve existing

cases and we won't exert political pressure on the agency on this issue," the French president was quoted as saying on Raisi's website. Speaking to Michel, Raisi asked, "If safeguards issues are not resolved, what guarantee is there that the three European countries won't again propose and pursue a resolution against the Islamic Republic of Iran the day after an agreement?" The E3 – France, Germany and the United Kingdom – and the United States introduced a resolution censuring Iran in June, which led to Iran dismantling 28 agency cameras at its nuclear sites. The Western allies also read out a statement at the IAEA board last week in condemnation of Iran's lack of cooperation with the agency which was backed by 56 countries, including two-thirds of the board. Tuesday's meetings come one day after France's foreign minister, Catherine Colonna, urged Tehran to take the offer on the table to restore the landmark accord, saying the window of opportunity "is about to close". Borrell had also said he saw little chance of progress at the UN General Assembly, reinforcing speculation that there will be no real progress at least until after the upcoming US midterm elections next month. Meanwhile, Israel remains the biggest opponent of the nuclear deal, with Mossad chief David Barnea saying earlier this month that even a restored JCPOA will not give Iran "immunity" from Israeli operations.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/20/irans-raisi-meets-european-leaders-at-un-amid-nuclear-deadlock>

What issues did Middle East leaders raise in UNGA address?

Middle East leaders at UNGA express concerns about Ukraine war, Israel's occupation of Palestine and Iran's nuclear deal.

Leaders from the Middle East gathered at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) commonly expressed concern about the Russian war on Ukraine and its consequences on global inflation, gas prices, and food – in addition to the fissures it opened among major powers in a way not seen since the Cold War.

The loss of important grain and fertiliser exports from Ukraine and Russia has triggered a food crisis, especially in developing countries, and inflation and a rising cost of living in many others. Some of the Middle Eastern issues addressed these issues, but each also spoke of local or regional crises that have affected their countries in particular.

Jordan: King Abdullah II of Jordan said the pandemic, exacerbated by the crisis in Ukraine, has disrupted global supply chains and increased hunger. Many well-off countries experiencing empty food shelves for the first time “are discovering a truth that people in developing countries have known for a long time – for countries to thrive, affordable food must get to every family’s table,” he said. “On a global level, this demands collective measures to ensure fair access to affordable food, and speed the movement of staples to countries in need,” Abdullah said. The monarch also spoke of the climate crisis and the need for “global partnerships” to affect change in an issue that has left a devastating impact on many countries. “We see more opportunities to work with partners to



preserve precious world heritage sites and natural wonders – the unique Dead Sea, the sacred Jordan River, and the resilient coral reefs of the Gulf of Aqaba – which are all threatened by climate change.” Abdullah spoke of the refugee crisis in the Middle East. Jordan has historically welcomed refugees fleeing wars in neighbouring countries, including Iraqis and Syrians. He specifically referred to Palestinian refugees, whose rights, he said, should be supported to ensure “that Palestinian refugee children have schools to go to, and access to appropriate medical care.” Jerusalem, its Muslim and Christian holy sites, was also a key part of the king’s speech. Jordan has been the official custodian of Christian and Muslim holy places in Jerusalem since 1924 and ensuring the status quo in the holy city, especially at the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, has been a contentious issue discussed among Israeli and Jordanian officials. “Today, the future of Jerusalem is an urgent concern. The city is holy to billions of Muslims, Christians, and Jews around the

world. Undermining Jerusalem's legal and historical status quo triggers global tensions and deepens religious divides," he said. "Today, Christianity in the Holy City is under fire. The rights of churches in Jerusalem are threatened. This cannot continue. Christianity is vital to the past and present of our region and the Holy Land. It must remain an integral part of our future."

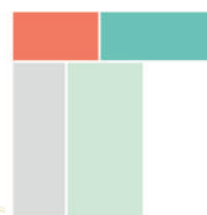
Qatar: The emir of Qatar has said that the UN Security Council must compel Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian territories. In his speech before the General Assembly, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani said, "The Security Council must shoulder its responsibility and must compel Israel to end the occupation of Palestinian territories and to establish a Palestinian state along the borders of 1967 with East Jerusalem as its capital." The emir warned that "failure to implement international resolutions and in light of the continuous change of the situation on the ground, the occupation and its settlement activities is pursuing a policy of fait accompli". "This will change the rules of the conflict and will change the format of solidarity in the future. At this juncture, I stress that we stand in full solidarity with the brotherly Palestinian people in its aspiration to achieve justice," he said. The Qatari emir spoke on a number of regional issues such as conflicts in Libya, Yemen and Syria. He backed the revival of Iran nuclear agreement, saying "it would be in the interest of the security and stability of the region." Sheikh Tamim used the occasion to welcome the world in November for the FIFA World Cup. "In this tournament, which will be held for the first time in an Arab Muslim country, and for the first time in the Middle East in general, the world will see that one of the small- and medium-size countries is able to host global events with exceptional success, in addition to its ability to provide a spacious ambience for diversity and constructive interaction between peoples," he said.

Turkey: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan emphasised to world leaders at the UN headquarters the need for a peaceful solution to the war on Ukraine, stopping short of providing any tangible steps. "That may not necessarily be reflective of Turkey's shortcomings, in so much as it is a fact of where we are right now, where nobody or country has been able to find practical steps to put an end to this war," said Al Jazeera correspondent Jamal Elshayyal. "That said, maybe Ankara's position is a lot more promising than others in that it has succeeded in finding common ground to some of the knock-on effects of this war, particularly with regards to food security and the global supply chain of grain and other important things coming out of there," he added. Erdogan did not limit his speech to the war on Ukraine; he also spoke about other conflicts, most recently the one between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Libya, Iraq, Syria, as well as other challenges facing the world. "But ultimately Erdogan's main message to delegates was one of seeking support for his country's attempt at conflict resolution," Elshayyal said. Erdogan also made a renewed emphasis on the need for the UN to reform itself, "highlighting his position that the world is greater than five, referencing the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and how it is unfair and unjust that they have veto power over many significant decisions that impact billions of people around the world".



Iran: In his speech on Wednesday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said Tehran is not seeking nuclear weapons and is serious about reviving a nuclear deal formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). “Our wish is only one thing: observance of commitments,” he said. He demanded guarantees that the United States will not again abandon Tehran’s 2015 nuclear deal with major powers, as it did under former President Donald Trump’s administration in 2018. “We have before us the experience of America’s withdrawal from the [deal],” Raisi said at the UN General Assembly. “With that experience and this perspective, can we ignore the important issue of guarantees for a durable agreement?” Raisi also called for Trump to face trial for the 2020 assassination of Iran’s General Qassem Soleimani, who headed the elite Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), in a US drone attack. The Iranian president also sought to deflect criticism of last week’s death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in custody, which has unleashed protests across several cities. “The Islamic Republic of Iran rejects some of the double standards of some governments vis-a-vis human rights,” Raisi said. “[So long as] we have this double standard where attention is solely focused on one side and not all equally, we will not have true justice and fairness. “Human rights belong to all, but unfortunately, it is trampled upon by many governments,” he added, referring to the discovery of unmarked graves of Indigenous people in Canada, the suffering of the Palestinians, and images of migrant children held in cages in the United States.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/21/mideast-leaders-express-concern-over-ukraine-war-regional-crises>



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North Korea Keeps Its Options Open in Selling Weapons to Russia | Opinion

By: Daniel R. DePetrìs



Russian President Vladimir Putin doesn't have many friends these days. His decision to invade, pummel, and occupy Ukrainian territory has transitioned Russia into a pariah state in the West. Trade between Russia and the European Union, worth 247.8 billion euros per year before the war, is now a shell of its former self. U.S.-Russia ties are practically severed, Europe no longer views Russia as a reliable energy supplier, and Russian citizens who wish to travel to the EU are forced to pay more for their visas. But there is one country that has stood by Russia's side for the duration of the war—and it's not China. Despite Xi Jinping's proclamations of having a "no limits" friendship with Moscow, the Chinese leader remains concerned about breaking U.S. export rules to help Russia acquire sensitive military technology. But North Korea, the small, poor, isolated nuclear-armed state in Northeast Asia, has offered Putin a degree of political support that makes Beijing's look pale in comparison. And unlike China, which must ensure its bridges with the West remain intact (Beijing's total trade with the U.S. and the EU in 2021 amounted to more than \$1.3

trillion), Pyongyang's open endorsement of Russia's policy in Ukraine won't cost the North Koreans much at all in terms of damage to its reputation or economy. For North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, a stronger relationship with Moscow is a no-brainer. While Russia and North Korea have always maintained formal diplomatic relations and have a long, deep history between them (Kim Jong-un can thank the late Soviet leader Joseph Stalin for turning his family into a political dynasty), Pyongyang's words of encouragement and its effusive praise of Moscow have been over-the-top ever since the war in Ukraine began on Feb. 24.

Four days after the invasion, the Kim dynasty recycled the Kremlin's talking points by blaming the U.S. and its NATO allies for instigating the conflict. North Korea was only one of five countries that opposed a U.N. General Assembly Resolution calling on Russia to "immediately, completely and unconditionally" withdraw its troops from Ukraine. In mid-July, the North became only the third country to formally recognize the Russia-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic and

Donetsk People's Republic as independent states. According to Russian officials, North Korean construction companies have offered to rebuild parts of Russian-occupied territory in the Donbas region and are hinting that North Korean laborers could be sent to perform the work. Meanwhile, the U.S. intelligence community has recently assessed that Moscow is turning to North Korea for millions of artillery shells and rockets, a sign that Russia's defense industrial complex is struggling to sustain armaments production at a time when long-range Ukrainian strikes are destroying Russian ammunition depots well beyond the frontlines. All of this activity would suggest that Kim Jong-un, who is dealing with a stringent U.S. sanctions regime of his own, is hell-bent on providing Putin with seemingly unlimited assistance during the most consequential period of the Russian leader's 22-year tenure. But it would be wrong to assume Kim is doing all of this out of the kindness of his heart. In reality, running to Russia's corner is a shrewd tactical move. Consider North Korea's geopolitical situation. Notwithstanding its small inventory of nuclear warheads and an increasingly impressive missile program, the North is a highly vulnerable state in a tough neighborhood. Pyongyang is surrounded by countries much wealthier, diplomatically relevant, and militarily powerful than it could dream of being. Two of those states, Japan and South Korea, have the luxury of being U.S. treaty allies. The North's hyper-vigilant efforts to contain the coronavirus shaved off a large portion of its already dismal economy, with overall trade decreasing by over 78 percent in 2020. If it wasn't for China, the Kim dynasty would be in even more desperate straits. Despite endorsing multiple U.N. Security Council Resolutions against the North since 2006, China often breaks those very same resolutions by looking the other way as illicit commerce proceeds along the border. Beijing has been more vocal

in its opposition to additional U.N. sanctions measures, even vetoing (in coordination with Russia) Washington's attempt in May to strengthen the economic restrictions in retaliation for Pyongyang's missile tests. Yet as rosy as China-North Korea relations appear at the moment, it would be dangerous for Kim to assume the bonhomie will last indefinitely. Indeed, ties between the two have had repeated ups and downs, with the North sometimes viewing China as duplicitous and Chinese leaders, Xi Jinping included, often viewing the Kim dynasty as a troublemaker ungrateful for Beijing's support. Xi only sought to repair the relationship with Pyongyang after it became clear that Kim was attempting a rapprochement with the U.S. The two may tolerate each other, but they most certainly don't trust one another. Therefore, Pyongyang's aid binge to Russia isn't about sending gifts to Putin as much as a concerted campaign by Kim himself to diversify North Korea's foreign relationships and lessen its dependence on China. Kim is, in effect, mimicking the strategy his grandfather, Kim Il-Sung, used throughout the Cold War, when he played Beijing and Moscow off of each other in order to enhance the North's freedom of movement. Put simply, the North hopes to use closer ties with Russia to get out from underneath China's foot. One of the golden rules of geopolitics is to avoid relying too much on a single country. Russia's war in Ukraine has given the North Koreans an opportunity to correct course, and Kim Jong-un intends to take full advantage.

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The views expressed in this article are the writer's own.

<https://www.newsweek.com/north-korea-keeps-its-options-open-selling-weapons-russia-opinion-1743460>

India playing its own Taiwan card on China

India has not publicly endorsed 'One China' policy for years while closer ties to Taiwan fit with Delhi's 'Act East' drive

By: Narayanan Hari Gopalan Lakshmi And Yves Tiberghien



Somewhat surprisingly, India took ten days to comment on US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan and the ensuing large-scale live-fire drills launched by China. On August 12, New Delhi stated that it sought a "de-escalation of tensions." Then on August 28, New Delhi accused Beijing of militarizing the Taiwan Strait through its High Commissioner in Sri Lanka. Absent from New Delhi's statements was any confirmation of support for the "One China" policy. India has not publicly supported the "One China" policy for more than 12 years as a protest against Beijing's practice of issuing stapled visas to visitors from Arunachal Pradesh — a border region administered by India but which China claims as part of southern Tibet. India's strategic ambiguity over the "One China" policy affects its relationship with Taiwan. New Delhi has been slow to capitalize on the opportunity offered by Taiwan's New Southbound Policy, an initiative that aims to strengthen Taipei's relations with ASEAN, South Asia and Oceania. That needs to change if New Delhi wishes

to become an important stakeholder in the Indo-Pacific region. India needs to strengthen trade and people-to-people ties with Taipei by explicitly mentioning Taiwan in its Indo-Pacific policy. The deepening of ties is not just a response to the present chill in India's relationship with China, it reflects the congruence of interests between the two democracies and growing public support for better relations in Taiwan and India. Despite pursuing multilateral partnerships under the umbrella of pacts such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), India has been wary of explicitly formulating an Indo-Pacific strategy for fear of antagonizing Beijing — a reticence that has gradually disappeared over the past five years. After China and India were involved in a stand-off along Bhutan's Doklam plateau in 2021, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined India's first Indo-Pacific policy framework in June 2018. The document explicitly states that it is not a China containment strategy while declaring that ASEAN is central to India's Indo-Pacific

vision. It then stresses the importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes, an open trade regime and the sustainable development of maritime resources and security. The strategy also focuses on deepening regional connectivity. Strengthening the relationship with Taiwan would come under the umbrella of supporting an “open trade regime” and “deepening connectivity” — both of which align with India’s “Act East” approach and Taiwan’s “New Southbound Policy.” India’s Indo-Pacific stance has been further calibrated since 2018. India has stepped up its engagement with its Quad partners over five Quad meetings. India has also started taking a more vocal stance on South China Sea disputes, declaring in July 2020 that the region should be considered a part of the “global commons.” It has since deployed frontline warships to the South China Sea. India has also worked with Japan and Australia to achieve regional supply chain resilience. In their first official conversation in September 2020, Modi and former Japanese prime minister Yoshihide Suga agreed that the “economic architecture of a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region must be premised on resilient supply chains.” Meanwhile, New Delhi’s Oceania division aims to draw India’s administrative and diplomatic focus on a region stretching from the western Pacific to the Andaman Sea. Strengthening ties with Taiwan would be a valuable addition to India’s Indo-Pacific policy. Following the Doklam stand-off in 2018, the Ministry of External Affairs submitted a report that called for a “flexible approach” when dealing with China, including by increasing connections with Taiwan. People in Taiwan show an increasing, although still divided, level of support for closer links with New Delhi.

Despite strong support for strengthening bilateral ties, the relationship between India and Taiwan has significantly underperformed. While trade grew from US\$1 billion in 2000

to over \$7 billion in 2019, it comprises only 1% of Taiwan’s total trade. The number of Taiwanese tourists in India was only 33,500 in 2016 — roughly the same as the number of Indian tourists in Taiwan. Some argue that India should designate Taiwan as a trade partner, conclude free trade negotiations started in 2021 and prioritize deepening people-to-people ties in politics, think tanks and universities. The free trade agreement, when completed, is likely to have a strong semiconductor component, with companies such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) and United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC) invited to set up facilities in India. The growing diaspora of highly educated Indian professionals in Taiwan, around 5,000 in number, could also play a major role in enhancing people-to-people ties. The projected rise in the number of Indian students pursuing university education in Taiwan, which increased from around 1,000 in 2015 to 2,239 in 2020–2021, could help increase connectivity between the two countries. It is time for India to stop being too deferential towards Beijing and seize its Taiwan moment by moving quickly on two fronts — trade and people-to-people ties. New Delhi could achieve this by incorporating Taiwan into its Indo-Pacific policy and boosting tourism and educational links with Taipei.

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<https://asiatimes.com/2022/09/india-playing-its-own-taiwan-card-on-china/>

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