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# THE PRESSPECTIVE

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SANSKRITI SCHOOL

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INTRA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# CONTENTS

1. **Resisting the Resurgence:** *Aamiya Dhillon* of the *Vietnamese News Agency* deliberates on the challenges to be faced by the *Ad-Hoc of the African Union*
2. **The Land of the Unfortunate:** *Ananya Oberoi* of *The Guardian* sheds light on the Ukrainian crisis faced by the *UNSC*
3. **The Rise of the Anti-Phoenix:** *Ishani Khemka* of *Komsomolskaya Pravda* introduces the *Ad-Hoc of the African Union*
4. **Post Nationalism of Suez Canal, Nasser Faces Consequences:** *Ankita Hegde* of *Le Monde* shares her viewpoint on the *Advisory to Nasser*
5. **The Darkness Before Dawn Sets Upon Vietnam:** *Arjun Kochhar* of the *Chosun Ilbo* details the agenda of the *Politburo of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam*
6. **Rising Women Take On The World To A New Horizon:** *Chetanshi Singh* of *The Korean Central News Agency* writes on *United Nations Commission of Women*
7. **The Clearance Sale of the Fourth Committee:** *Gayatri Singh Sharan* of *Notimex* writes on the consecutive battles of land between the UK and Argentina over the Falklands from the *Historical General Assembly*
8. **The Role of Women In Economic Development:** *Iniyaal Kannan* of *The Straits Times* highlights the agendum of the *UN Commission on the Status of Women*
9. **Educate; Educate the Uninformed!:** *Mannat Gandotra* of the *Syrian Arab News Agency* sheds light on the workings of the *World Health Organisation*
10. **Before the United Nations....:** *Oviyaal Kannan* of *New York Times* writes about the *League of Nations*
11. **Unrest Stems From Instability, and Vietnam is Abundant in the Latter:** *Paavani Ojha* of the *Ukrainian Independent Information Agency of News* elucidates the prevalent situation in *Vietnam* and its consequences
12. **War Looms as Argentina Invades Falkland:** *Sharanya Ghosh* of *Canada Free Press* writes about Argentina's invasion of the Falklands from the *HGA*
13. **MENA region-The Hub for Terrorism:** *Sparkle Biswas* of *Emirates 24/7* write about *WHO* and healthcare in the MENA region
14. **The Suave Suez Manoeuvre?:** *Vallika Varshri* of the *BBC* reports on the perilous situation building up in the Suez Canal from *Advisory to Nasser*

## **Resisting the Resurgence**

*Aamiya Dhillon of the Vietnam News Agency deliberates on the challenges to be faced by the Ad-Hoc of the African Union*

It is widely believed that isolation is amongst the primary factors that contribute to evolution, which is often looked at in the light of progress as opposed to difference. For evolution is inherently positive, and difference reeks of what provokes insecurity and far too often, violence.

It is perhaps with this assumption, that we instinctively refuse to intermingle with those whose beliefs and behaviour can't be reconciled with our own.

With this tendency in mind, colonisers have often attempted to further the divide in the societies of their colonies. Like how Vietnam was strategically separated into Tonkin, Annam and Cochinchina with the stark economic disparity visible, Uganda too met a similar fate at the hands of its British colonisers. The North, with an Acholi majority, was primarily recruited for the military whereas the South, with a Bantu-speaking majority, consisted of small time businessmen. Post-independence, the money was concentrated in the south and the north was neglected. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was founded in such circumstances.

The movement, led by Joseph Kony, is a heterodox Christian one that aims is to establish a government which follows the Ten Commandments. It espouses the cause of the discriminated North; however, it has brutally assaulted the civilians in the region, losing popular support.

Uganda, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the Central African Republic (CAR) are the countries that have borne the brunt of this insurgency. To combat the LRA, the African Union mandated a Regional Cooperation Initiative for the elimination of the LRA (RCI-LRA) which has three components that look into different aspects of the process. The United Nations peacekeeping force, as well as several non-governmental organisations have contributed to the stabilisation of the region.

Kony's force primarily consists of males abducted at a young age who are thoroughly indoctrinated. Due to the horrendous atrocities they commit as members of the LRA, abandoning the movement and returning to their communities is not very plausible.

Through the now rescinded Amnesty Act of 2000—which pardoned members of the LRA who returned to their communities—and the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) aspect of the RCI-LRA, which has successfully used radio messages to convince members to abandon the organisation, focus has been concentrated on reducing the numbers of the 'army'.

Recent reports, however, have stated that the LRA has just been biding its time and is now poised for attack with a personnel number between 30,000 and 100,000. The ad-hoc committee has been set in place to face the challenge of addressing the situation at hand. Moreover, the organisations concerned need to assess the reasons behind individuals taking up arms, and find permanent solutions to socio-economic security. Neither the governments, nor their people can afford to continue this guerrilla war, with equally erratic solutions.

## **The Land of the Unfortunate**

*Ananya Oberoi of The Guardian sheds light on the Ukrainian crisis*

The seed of the Ukrainian crisis had been sown in 2008 with the initiation of the war between Russia and Georgia. However, this seed didn't blossom into a plant but instead acquired the form of parasite which only grew to make the situation worse. The war became one of the main reasons for ending any probable enlargement in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and opened the door to the global financial crises. The circumstances left Ukraine torn apart between the West and the East. The West attempted to intensify its relationship with Ukraine and so did Russia, for Ukraine was of a lot of importance to Russia. The people the nation were keen on strengthening ties with the European Union (EU), a poll from 2015 indicated that 46% people supported the integration with the EU while 36% opposed it. In 2012, against popular demand of the citizens, President Viktor Yanukovich yielded to his own avarice and accepted a new deal of 15 billion dollars from Russia. Within hours of the announcement the people of Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, came out on the streets to protest, but were brutally suppressed by the government. Riot police, armed guards and military bombarded the protesters and the situation escalated. This was just the beginning of what came to known as the Ukrainian crisis. The death toll only rose, the people lost hope as talks of a resolution between the opposition and president Yanukovich more or less failed, and the president fled to Russia, in order to protect himself from the angry opposition, because of the protesters. Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia, called for a military drill situated by the Ukrainian border, involving about 100,000 troops. Putin's actions sent out the message that Russia was ready for war with Ukraine; the Russian soldiers entered the Crimean peninsula.

This series of events left the population of Eastern Ukrainian regions divided into pro-Russian separatists and west leaning protesters. Ukraine has claimed that Russia provides these separatists with financial aid and weapons. On 17th July 2014, the separatist fighting became the cause of death of over 200 innocent people, who were on board a Malaysian Airlines flight which was shot down. Both the sides refused to take the blame, however, some evidence suggested that it was a Russian missile that was responsible. But Russia denied all allegations and said the investigation was biased.

The idea of optimism was being rethought as the Minsk talks came to an end and, yet again, no viable solution to the situation was found, as the town of Avidiyaka was overtaken by a surge of violence. Russia's actions have been criticised by several countries, including the United States of America. It has been stated that Russia's actions in Crimea have violated the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between Russia and Ukraine. Countries such as the USA, Canada, Japan and some members of the EU have imposed economic sanctions on scores of Russian and Ukrainian officials' businesses that have been said to be linked with situation in Crimea.

It is now up to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to put an end to this crises by finding a solution that will solve all aspects of the situation, a solution which is not only humanitarian, but also preventive of any further aggravation of the conflict. While each side in the conflict accuses each other of not fulfilling its commitments, some sort of consensus must be reached between them. The question that remains is - even if the UNSC comes up with a solution, will both the countries be able to sustain their agreements? Will the suffering of the innocent people ever come to an end? One can only wait to find out.

## **The Rise of The Anti-Phoenix**

*Ishani Khemka of the Komsomolskaya Pravda introduces the Ad-hoc of the African Union*

The Lord's Resistance Army is a devout, Christian cult originating and operating in Central Africa. Their roots can be traced back to the mid-twentieth century in the year 1968, the year the Ugandan Bush War came to an end. The Bantu speaking agriculturists were victorious against the Acholi ethnic groups and seized control of Uganda. They christened themselves the "National Resistance Army" and committed various atrocities against the opposition.

This resulted in a civil resistance movement called the "Holy Spirit Movement" headed by an Acholi spirit medium named Alice Auma, who is the main inspiration of the present day leader, Joseph Kony—the self-proclaimed messiah of the Acholis. Thus, in 1986, the armed rebels began their plan of action. In its youth, the LRA focused a majority of its attacks on the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Amuru, Nwoya, Agog and Lamwo. However, in no time at all, they expanded their reign of terror and were successful in internally displacing 1,700,000 people in Uganda.

The LRA's main objective is to voice the suppressed communities of northern Uganda and to rule Uganda while honouring the Ten Commandments listed in the Bible. Three of the Ten Commandments state: "Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal."

Therein lies the irony of the situation. The LRA today is responsible for 100,000 deaths and more than 3,400 abductions. Many operations have been carried out against the LRA such as Operation North (1991), which was a military encounter. Kony reacted with severe aggression and the operation crumbled. In March 2002, Operation Iron Fist was launched with permission of the Sudanese Government, whose main objective was to destroy the enemy's base in South Sudan. But this plan to eliminate the LRA failed as the members of the LRA fled to the hills of South Sudan and crossed back into Uganda. In 2006 however, peace talks were initiated in Juba and would have been successful if Kony had stayed true to his word. Alas, that was not meant to be and the conflict continued. This paved way to Operation Lightning Thunder, which received the support of the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo or the Armed Forces of the DRC. This was yet another one of the plethora of operations which failed at the hands of the Ugandan Government.

The operations keep piling on one after the other, each unable to fulfil its purpose. Why does this happen? The respective government has failed to learn from its previous mistakes. Yes, it is true that the LRA has trained rebels and ammunition aplenty, but the fact that it has been able to outsmart the efforts of the government as well as other is not something to be taken lightly. In 2012, the US sent 100 Special Forces to participate in the manhunt for Joseph Kony. Many locals however have shown signs of disapproval against their involvement as it has resulted in the death of many innocent civilians. These were also unsuccessful.

According to most, the LRA is no longer a threat today. It has fewer than 50 members; however Joseph Kony is still amiss. It is possible that they are lurking in the wilderness, waiting for the perfect chance to pounce upon the unsuspecting nation. For this moment, we must be prepared. The government firstly needs to properly train its troops and have different plans of action ready. There must be proper training of the army and they must have the required resources. If at all the LRA re-emerges, there must be plans of peace talks at the ready as they seemed to be the most successful of all.

Till then, the journalist wishes The AD-HOC all the very best and hopes that it is fruitful in its endeavours to eradicate the heinous group.

## **Post Nationalism of Suez Canal, Nasser Faces Consequences**

*Ankita V Hegde of Le Monde shares her viewpoint on Nasser issue*

The Suez Canal, the shortest international navigation path linking the Mediterranean Sea at Port Said and the Red Sea at Suez, is of extreme importance as it connects the eastern and western parts of the world for trade and transport purposes. Developed countries have their own interests to usurp power over the canal as it provides the shortest route to the vast oil reserves of the Middle East and other resources of Asian countries. Britain had control over the canal since the time of the Egyptian monarchs, which ended as the situation changed with the decisions taken by the then government influenced by the anti-British sentiments of the locals. Contrary to the extant laws of the canal as per Article 1 of the 1888 Suez Canal Convention, free cargo shipments to and from Israel were prohibited by the new Egyptian Government.

G.A.Nasser, an educated and experienced military personnel became the new President of Egypt in 1956. Presently, Egypt's population is impoverished and illiterate, along with the presence of extreme economic inequality. The Presidential Council of Egypt, an advisory body to President Nasser is formed with the responsibility to effectively take action and respond to arising situations, with the aim of improving the life of Egyptians.

USA is supportive of Israel, however Egypt is against this and sponsoring Palestinian Fedayeen raids on Israeli territory. Egypt's decision to purchase arms from communist Czechoslovakia, a satellite of the Soviet Union, and recognising communist China has irked the USA which then cut its funding to the Aswan Dam funding in Egypt. The Soviet Union has provided the arms to Egypt in an attempt to have control over the Middle East. Egypt ended the British occupation and dominion over the Suez Canal and the UK refused to deliver the promised arms to Egypt, thus prompting President Nasser to purchase arms from the Soviet Union. Consequently, UK cut its funding to the Aswan Dam funding in Egypt. France's imperial control over Algeria was opposed by Egypt. Nationalisation of the Suez Canal by Egypt was a severe blow to the French occupation of Algeria as supply through the Canal was not free. Cargo movement of Israel through the Canal was not free, and Egypt supported assaults on Israel.

With an international scenario as complex as this, various policy decisions on land reforms, assets confiscation, improving higher education, creation of public sector etc. have been taken during this regime. The implementation of these policies will surely result in reduction of the present inequalities over time. There is a hope that this Committee will advise Nasser appropriately on domestic and foreign affairs based on balanced and peaceful diplomacy, to take decisions that will be beneficial for the people of Egypt.



## **The Darkness Before Dawn Sets Upon Vietnam**

*Arjun Kochhar of the Chosun Ilbo details the agenda of the Politburo of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam*

*After six decades of fighting the French, independence was finally attained by Vietnam. However, everything comes at a price, and the defeat of the French by a united Vietnam caused the Southeast Asians to doubt those whom they had called their brothers for so long. Soon, this unified country became a land full of strangers.*

1955: It all begun in 1858 when the French first arrived in Vietnam. At first, they were ignored or simply considered as visitors. However, as time passed on, these so-called "guests" started planning a visit that seemed to last forever. They started dominating the areas they resided in and started planning on conquering the country. Through various battles, the French slowly and steadily took over the entire country. With time, the French extended their control to Laos, North and South Vietnam and Cambodia and called this entire region the French Indochina. Gradually, they started imposing western culture, education, ideas, language as well as Christianity on the Vietnamese. They believed that it was "the responsibility of the Western countries to bring up the backward people." Accordingly, the schooling systems were changed along with the curriculum and soon, the term, "to be modern" seemed to become equivalent to the phrase, "to being French." The French had changed so much in Vietnam that the people started to forget their culture and background. Despite various resistance movements and silent rebellions, the French retained their control on Vietnam, however, an event took place which was a boon for Vietnam but a bane for the rest of the world; The Great Depression of 1930.

The Great Depression resulted in the prices of rubber and rice falling, leading to rising rural debt, unemployment, and multiple rebellions. Over time, the revolt grew and finally, a point came when the Geneva Accords were signed and Vietnam became free from the French rule. The French moved out of the country but left behind a divided nation. The country was divided into North and South with the latter being anti-communist and the former being pro-communist.

This brings us to the present. The Politburo of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has been set up to discuss the adverse effects and prevention of the Vietnam War.

The committee will hold discussions to find ways to avoid the war and find alternatives. They will also discuss policies to bring resources to the country as it just came out of a long and seemingly never-ending colonial rule. However, war is inevitable and so if all results in war, the South must fight back with all its might so as to stop communism from spreading to the neighbouring countries. On the other hand, if the North separates from the South, both can have their desired form of government. Lastly, both opposers can either find a solution and stay away from war or go into combat to find the resulting victor and spread either communism or capitalism. In the end, whatever comes its way, the Republic of Korea must fight it and prevent the undesired communism from spreading.

## **Rising Women Take On The World To A New Horizon**

*Chetanshi Singh writes on the economic growth in North Korea and Southeast Asian Countries*

It is essential to promote women empowerment. It is critical, in terms of the agenda for development, created by the international community. The situation is worse when we consider Southeast Asian countries. There is a constant debate and dozens of speakers have come up to speak on it. North Korea has played an important role in the upliftment of women. The country has introduced laws on gender equality as well as equal labour laws. These laws have been weaved into the day to day lives of North Korean women to help them grow and progress. The supreme nation aims to reform women's rights at work and their involvement in a variety of labour forces.

Though North Korea is a militarised, male dominated country, it is the the women who are earning and the insular nation allows an unofficial market-based economy to grow. In Thailand, women are the primary contributors to the country's economic growth. Hence, initiatives are being taken to encourage the Thai government in embarking on strategies to improve women health, education and empowerment.

Overall, the efforts are aimed at protecting the rights of, and promote the opportunities for, women throughout the economic and social progress. Increased participation of women in both public and private sector is also stressed upon. North Korea has a major share in the garment industry producing dresses for women and children's clothes which are labeled under "Made in China". This industry generates employment in and around North Korea as well as other Southeast Asian countries mainly for women. The production is labor intensive because the price to quality ratio is very attractive in this industry.

Dangers being faced by women migrants working in the Philippines, often working at the lowest trends of the labor spectrum, are the first to be laid off as a result of the economic and financial crisis in the country. Further, violence is also reported in the free trade and export processing zone where contracts are insecure. A lot of work is being done to ensure that women and their jobs are safe. Notable measures include strengthening contractual agreement, control over recruitment agencies and information companies.

It is important that women are given due respect and encouragement which will enhance their credibility and status. Southeast Asian countries have a major share in the world economy and women are playing a major role in their development



### **The Clearance Sale of the Fourth Committee**

*Gayatri Singh Sharan of Notimex writes on the consecutive battles of land between the UK and Argentina over the Falklands*

The Fourth Committee is one of six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. When it was first formed, it was responsible for trusteeship and decolonization. When trusteeship was dismantled- resulting from independence being granted to all the trust territories and the sharp reduction in the number of non-self-governing territories- the workload of the committee decreased and so it was merged with the Special Political Committee which was to become the Seventh Committee. The committee deals with decolonization, Israeli-Palestinian peace process, peacekeeping, special political mission, mine actions, public information and the University for Peace.

The Falklands is an archipelago on the Southern Atlantic Ocean and it's a part of the British Overseas Territory. The islands have self-governance; however, their defence and foreign affairs were handled by the UK. Over the years, the place has faced several settlements by the UK, France, Spain and Argentina. The British claimed the islands in 1833 and on the April 2nd, Argentinian forces invaded the islands, forcing the Governor of Port Stanley, Rex Hunt to surrender. The next day, the invasion was convicted by the UNSC. Later, on the April 30th, a task force arrived in a 200 mile exclusion zone surrounding the Falklands. An Argentine cruiser General Belgrano was sunk by the British submarine HMS Conqueror, killing 320 soldiers. Two days after, the destroyer, HMS, was abandoned after being hit by a missile and killing 20 crew members. The Falklands faced two days of fierce fighting on May 28th and 29th, which resulted in Argentina surrendering and 1000 soldiers being taken as prisoners. On June 11th, the British forces settled over Mount Longdon, Two Sisters and Mount Harriet. Three Falkland civilians were later killed in a British naval bombardment. The British forces took Argentine positions on mountains overlooking Port Stanley a day after. Falkland is like a pair of boots on clearance sale. And Britain and Argentina will do anything, anything to get these pair of boots and mark them theirs. And now, it's up to them, and the other Member Nations to give each one of them what they want.

### **The Future of Model UN—How Much Brightness Does it Entail? ~Paavani Ojha**

*What started as a platform to provide intellectual debate, pragmatic dialogue and efficacious solutions for students across the globe, is slowly turning into one filled with frugality, superficiality and pretence. It was a reflection pure intellect, skill and diplomacy. However, as time progressed, the diplomatic and logical aspect took a backseat and the superfluous facet of expensive suits, fancy vocabulary and aggression over sensibility became prominent. Naturally, this led to the wide-scale degeneration of the Model UN circuit as a whole and soon there was a 'conference' being held every other week, with agendas that hold hardly any relevance, cash prizes for delegates to lure in more population and inexperienced, under qualified executive board members. Albeit harsh, unfortunately these words hold a reality. When it comes to the deterioration of an institution as valuable as Model UN, whose very purpose was to instil the fundamentals of diplomacy and debate into young minds and give them a skill set that would help them in their future, objective criticism is essential. Only then will it be possible to restore the quality and substance of what has become the Model UN circuit. We have the great power to improve and refine anything is handed to us, but with it comes the risk of using that power for reasons counterproductive to its effectiveness. It is imperative to recognise that the caliber of Model UN has declined and its restoration is essential.*

## **The Role of Women In Economic Development**

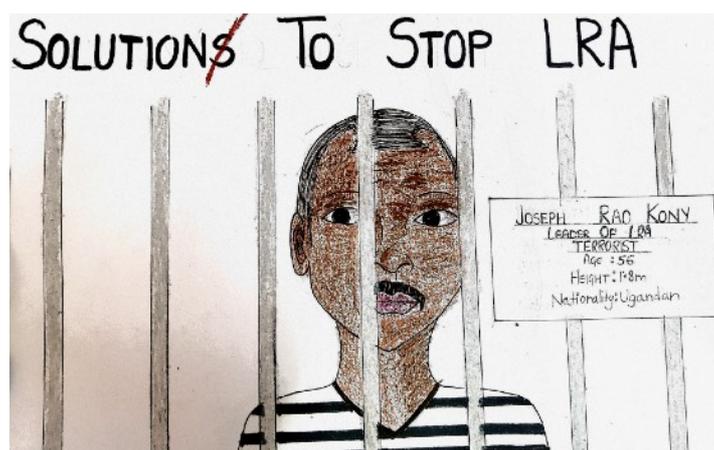
*Iniyaal Kannan of The Straits Times highlights the agendum of the UN Commission on the Status of Women*

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal intergovernmental body of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). The primary function of this significant body is to empower the multitude of women who have been repressed and neglected—both by their community and under their own roof—for time immemorial. The committee seeks to put forth guidelines and amend society in a way that will enhance women’s lives by enabling them to live with dignity and integrity.

Although women are engendered of life and are considered to be epitomes of benevolence and purity, they are subjugated and treated as subordinates in a male dominated society. In addition to being subdued, they are also exploited by means of trafficking and violence. To address these crucial issues and undermine this unacceptable treatment of women, the UNCSW was established in 1946. It comprised of 15 women representatives who first met at Lake Success, New York, in February 1947. Since then, the CSW has put forth several amendments which have been adopted by the General Assembly; the most imperative of them being The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) and Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993).

A vital component of CSW 61 will be to emphasise upon the importance of the contributions of women to economic development and identify the underlying reasons for the lack of participation of women in political and financial endeavours. This discussion is expected to yield suggestions that will help incorporate more willing women into the workforce and provide them with acceptable working environments without discrimination or prejudice.

In the majority of countries, women’s wages represent between 70-90% of men’s, with even lower ratios in some Asian and Latin American countries. As of 2011, 50.5% of the world’s working women were in vulnerable employment, often unprotected by labour legislation. By implementing laws such as The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, which prohibits sex based wage discrimination, more women would be willing to work as they are now treated as equals to their male coworkers. In Singapore, women’s participation in the workforce had increased from below 30 per cent in the 1970s to 56.5 per cent in 2010. The main reason for this significant increase was increase in literacy; in Singapore, women’s literacy had risen to 93.8 per cent and in 2011, over half of entering students in universities were female. Religious rules often restrict women to their domestic spheres. The Islamic Religious Council of Singapore has reduced polygamy to 0.08 percent by revising Sharia, the law of Islam, which now requires that men prove they are qualified for additional marriages. By making such small yet thoughtful changes, the lives of women could be changed tremendously.



### **Educate; Educate the Uninformed!**

*Mannat Gandotra of the Syrian Arab News Agency sheds light on the workings of the World Health Organisation*

Please, enlighten 'the layman' and inform 'the common person', for it would be unfortunate, if they both turn into 'one silly individual'. In our estate, no commoner is a layman.

The World Health Day is celebrated every year on 7th April; the day on which WHO's constitution came into action in 1948. The idea of this organisation was one of the first to be discussed by the diplomats when they met to form the United Nations. The aspirations of the WHO would be to ensure great health – whether physical or mental – to tackle diseases and to aim for 'fit lives' globally. The donors, UN agencies and as well as the non government agencies work together with WHO for a healthful future.

The health crisis in the Middle Eastern and North African region MENA region has escalated greatly over the past years. According to WHO, the main factors that have contributed to this are its growth in population, shift in socio-economic factors and changes in lifestyle. It is estimated that 60% of the region will be a victim to various diseases in the span of five years.

To quote Shakespeare's Julius Caesar: "The lioness would give birth on the streets", and it will be not out of bravery. At present, the region is home to both non communicable and communicable diseases. The organisation urges its delegates to focus on finding solutions to the obstacles and bring some light to the past actions taken by the World Bank, which has funded many countries in MENA region and played a key role in bettering their medical facilities. It has also provided support during the Lebanon Health Resilience Project, Jordan Emergency Health Project and the Concessional Financing Facility. The outcomes are linked to this support. Perhaps, it would be right to deem it as the international wishing well.

In the past, the WHO has addressed such concerns through programmes like UNAIDS, UNFPA et cetera. The organisation has set a list of recommendations with regard to food items being marketed in schools. Also, WHO has introduced plans to control and regulate tobacco (FCTC). The increased participation by WHO in the MENA region has been proved beneficial.

The causes of turmoil within the countries are many; be it the civil war in Syria due to the terrorist groups, the repercussions of the Iran-Iraq war or the loss faced by oil countries. The woman, children and the elderly, all have to withstand the winds. Each of them have their set of difficulties, the spectrum ranging from polygamy to isolation. Another thing on the agenda is to find a solution to the refugee crisis, and to restore peace in the area.

Earlier in February in an interview with SANA, the Syrian president Al Assad said "My responsibility is to restore the stability, in order to bring them back to Syria and find refuge in their country." Perhaps, the possible solution lies in his words.

## **Before the United Nations...**

*Oviyaal Kanan of New York Times writes about the League of Nations*

The League of Nations was first established on 10th January 1920 in Versailles, as a result of the Paris Peace Conference and the Treaty of Versailles, that helped end the First World War. It was an international institution, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland to resolve conflicts between countries, after the First World War, to promote peace. Although the idea of a “general association of nations” was proposed by the 28th president of the United States of America, Woodrow Wilson, it was never a member. Wilson’s health worsened later that year which disabled him of the opportunity to convince the Congress, who thought the Treaty limited U.S authority. The League of Nations held its first meeting on the 15th of November 1920, without the U.S.

The main organs of the League were - the Assembly, consisting of all members; a Council made up of five permanent and four rotating members; and an International court of Justice. During the 1920’s, the League incorporated new members and resolved minor conflicts. However, in the 1930’s, the League was challenged with a series of events. Japan quit after its invasion of China was objurgated, and Germany withdrew from the League in 1933. Italy conquered Ethiopia. The League couldn't penalise any country due to lack of support. World War II had been declared and The League ceased to function. the League had no army. In 1945, the League of Nations dissolved with the establishment of the United Nations, which was modelled after the former, but had more international support and machinery to avoid the failures of the League. One of the biggest disadvantages of the League was the non participation of Russia, Germany and the United States. The United Nations strives to maintain peace, with the support of more than 190 nations.

### ***Why Is India’s Sex Ratio Cursed? ~Iniyaal Kannan***

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*In many parts of the country, when a girl child is born, she is looked at with disappointment through her own mother’s eyes, although a daughter is one of the greatest gifts a mother could be bestowed with. A mother can share her purest thoughts and darkest notions with her; the faith and trust with which this unbreakable bond is forged with is indescribable, but the society—our so called “modern” society—has forced mothers, the very individuals who introduce these girls into the world, to believe that their daughters are liabilities. Instead of being nurtured and cared for, the girl child is often killed in her mother’s womb—a process called foeticide—and if it is too late, she is slaughtered immediately after her birth, with or without her mother’s consent. This practice is far more inhumane in reality than how it sounds on paper. In India, due to the various social customs such as dowry—which makes girls a financial burden—and the ever-prevailing problem of poverty, female infanticides and foeticide were and are still very common. However, this is not a recent phenomenon; in the year 1817, officials noted that female foeticide and infanticide was so entrenched that there were entire divisions of the Jadeja Rajputs in Gujarat where no female children of the clan existed. To improve the status of women in India, The Government of India has enacted laws such as The Female Infanticide Prevention Act of 1870 and has rendered Prenatal sex determination illegal. The United Nations Population Fund and India's National Human Rights Commission have supported these motions and hope to make India a better place for women. In the words of UNFPA Executive Director Thoria Ahmen Obaid, "It takes courage to move beyond denial and actively confront gender discrimination. Leadership is critical to progress for girls' and women's rights." It is the duty of every individual, male or female, to make this world a better place for all women and we must strive to end the inexcusable crimes of female infanticide and foeticide.*

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## **Unrest Stems From Instability, and Vietnam is Abundant in the Latter**

*Paavani Ojha of the Ukrainian Independent Information Agency of News elucidates the prevalent situation in Vietnam and its consequences*

January, 1955: The situation in Vietnam is highly sensitive and excruciatingly critical. The United States' involvement with South Vietnamese leaders is stirring up conflict across the nation. This intervention by the United States has further rocked the already unstable and sinking boat of Vietnamese policy.

Vietnam is a nation whose sovereignty, independence and dignity has been played with countless times by those who wish to mercilessly exploit its land, resources and people. At each grave step in Vietnamese history, there has been terrible war, great conflict, mass bloodshed and unimaginable destruction. Be it French colonisers trying to extract all its resources for profits, claiming to be the flag bearers of modernisation and everything that comes with it, or the imperialist powers from the neighbouring countries attempting to take advantage of the instability pertinent in Vietnam, the nation has been tortured with oppression and exploitation for decades.

Presently, the country is divided into two parts – the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in the North and the Republic of Vietnam in the South. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam is under the communist leader Ho Chi Minh, who overthrew the Japanese and French powers to establish a communist state. The Republic of Vietnam in the south was previously under the regime of Bao Dai, a namesake ruler whose actions were heavily influenced by the French but was soon taken over through a military coup led by Ngo Dinh Diem, who then established a more repressive and elitist regime. Although divided, the two sides remain to be in constant conflict with each other.

The reason behind the United States getting involved and aiding Diem is its fear of communism. So even though Diem's oppressive policies and administration are a threat to democracy as a whole, his opposition of communism is enough for the USA to back his regime.

The people of Vietnam, both north and south, are suffering. They have faced the perils of war which combined with an unstable leadership and a highly repressive past, have driven them to a state of extreme unrest and unbearable rage.

The Politburo has been called upon to tackle these issues and come up with fruitful methods to counter foreign interventions. It is expected to find effective ways to stabilise the Vietnamese political situation, showing the people that all hope is not lost and a united Vietnam will rise from these flames of unrest and blossom into a nation with peace, sovereignty and integrity.



## **War Looms as Argentina Invades Falkland**

*Sharanya Ghosh of Canada Free Press writes about Argentina's invasion of the Falklands*

3rd April, 1982: An emergency meeting of the United Nations General Assembly has been called today after Argentine forces invaded Falkland Islands in the wee hours of Friday, even as British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher called it an invasion of "British sovereign territory".

In what is being seen as preparation for military retaliation, the United Kingdom House of Commons backed its Armed Forces, while unanimously condemning the actions of the Argentine junta led by Lt Gen Leopoldo Galtieri. Galtieri's audacious action may have infused a sense of nationalism and exuberance in a country reeling under economic depression and civil unrest, but this adventure could lead to a serious confrontation with the UK and its allies, throwing the South American nation into a further tailspin.

That President Galtieri chose to dispatch the entire fleet into the South Atlantic, demonstrates Argentina's desire to take siege of the islands from the United Kingdom, with which it has been in a bitter diplomatic row for many years now. In fact, in a celebratory speech after the invasion, Galtieri spoke of the "necessity to put an end to the evasions of Great Britain in order to perpetuate its dominion over the islands and the zone of influence". While this led to scenes of celebrations on the streets of Buenos Aires, clearly London is riled and retaliation seems imminent.

The UNGA Committee is faced with its toughest moment in the history of the Falklands dispute as it meets to find a diplomatic solution to avoid a military conflict. While it was initially assumed to be a tactic by Buenos Aires to push back London and derive incremental concessions during future talks over the islands' sovereignty, the serious turn of events leaves little space for negotiations. Thatcher, who leads a Conservative government, will not want to risk her chances at next year's elections, while the Military junta will not want its new found popularity to wane any bit.

The United States has diplomatic relations with both the UK and Argentina. It may choose to intervene only if it is apprehensive of the possibility of the South American nation turning to the Soviet Union for help. The French and other European nations may favour UK in case of a military escalation.

War is not a solution. So, it will be important for both the UNGA as well as the Security Council to strongly condemn the aggression and ask Argentina for an immediate pullback, failing which economic sanctions may be imposed. Knowing the current state of the Argentine economy, the junta will not risk a full-fledged war or economic sanctions and is likely to back out. After all, the Falklanders are on the side of the British.

## **MENA region-The Hub for Terrorism**

*Sparkle Biswas of Emirates 24/7 write about WHO and healthcare in the MENA region*

After the establishment of the United Nations, the need of a health organisation was felt which would help maintain good health and avoid diseases throughout the world. This led to the establishment of The World Health Organisation in 1948. It was formed to advocate international health, and to provide information about human health. WHO releases informative publications on primary health care, guides for health workers and analyses health related policies for Member States.

The Middle East and the North African Region, also known as the MENA Region, includes around 20 countries including United Arab Emirates, Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Libya. The quality of health of the people in the MENA Region is rapidly deteriorating. This is due to the social unrest in most of the Middle Eastern countries. The civil war in Yemen, Syria, Libya and Iraq have caused huge and long lasting damage to human lives. Citizens of these countries have fled from their homes to neighbouring European countries. These refugees are in an urgent need of healthcare due to injuries. Due to the large amount of money needed for providing health care facilities, Europe is also hesitant to take in anymore refugees, causing them to take shelter in poverty-stricken countries like Lebanon and Jordan. The WHO can fund and provide needed health care facilities to Turkey, which has 3 million Syrian refugees and Lebanon, which has 1 million Syrian refugees. Egypt, and Jordan too has a large number of Refugees to cater to.

The terrorist attacks in Libya have taken place only after Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown, causing a political vacuum. The vulnerable state of the country was taken advantage of by the Islamic State, who set fire to a hospital, killing more than 20 people. Due to this unrest, the physical, as well as the mental health of the Libyans was affected. These constant attacks have caused the demolition of infrastructure, which includes schools. This is a huge hindrance in the development of the country due to lack of education. WHO can help in the reconstruction of these schools and also provide assistance to the people affected by the civil war and terrorism.

The MENA region also consists of many poverty stricken African countries, which are battling with malnutrition, HIV, AIDS, cholera, and malaria. These countries need to be notified about the diseases swarming around them, and advised to take safety measures.



## **The Suave Suez Manoeuvre?**

*Vallika Varshri of the BBC reports on the perilous situation building up in the Suez Canal*

London, 1956: As the tensions between Egypt and the United Kingdom (UK) continue to mount, both the countries are placed in a delicately balanced, although unarguably precarious situation which could tip in favour of either country with the slightest nudge. Not restricted to tensions between UK and Egypt, President Nasser's decisions amount to an international crisis which encompasses within it, multiple countries like Egypt, USSR, the UK, France as well as USA. Termed a dictator by influential countries like the UK and USA, it is Nasser's uncontrollable greed for power which has led to this withering crisis in the Middle East.

Perhaps the domino effect of a mere 'overlooking' by the UK, its actions have resulted in aggravating Egypt's dictator when it helped in the establishment of Israel. Being a dominantly Sunni Muslim country, Egypt was opposed to Israel's establishment resulting in both the countries being at loggerheads. Following the conflict between the UK and Egypt in 1951 due to the unilateral abrogation of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936 by Egypt and the subsequent escalation in violent hostility between the two countries, the countries were able to resolve their issues by way of the 1954 agreement that promised the phased evacuation of British troops from the Suez Canal. However, this agreement was only the calm before the storm as Egypt, in a bid to consolidate enough power to become the head of the Arab world, continued to aggravate British interests; its efforts accumulating in the nationalisation of the Suez Canal in 1956; thus reducing the chances of negotiation and resolution between the two countries to zilch.

The Advisory to Nasser was a council put together by keeping in mind the ongoing international crisis in which Egypt found itself and thereby it was only natural that President Nasser would himself spearhead its operations. Though formed with the singular object of resolving the Suez crisis, it cannot be expected out of a leader like Nasser to overlook his country's vested interest in the matter. Therefore, out of Nasser's council, driven by the thought of safeguarding and promoting Egyptian interests, one can expect a multitude of prospects to come forth from the functioning. A forefront matter that is bound to take priority will be the people itself. As a result, it can be expected out of this committee to ensure all advantages that it is able to secure in a bid to better the conditions of the state of Egypt and by extension, its people.

Egypt's alignment with Saudi Arabia in 1955 has meant that Egypt frustrated the UK's efforts to draw Jordan, Lebanon and Syria into the Baghdad pack while simultaneously making it into an enemy for the Hashemite countries. At the same time, Egypt also managed to agitate both the USA and UK when it negotiated an arms deal with Czechoslovakia in September 1955, thus leading to increased presence of Warsaw countries. Put in a precarious position in terms of its international relations, Egypt will have to navigate this extremely volatile situation with meticulous diplomatic and military strategy, a move one is to eagerly anticipate from Nasser's council. By 1956, the tensions between Egypt and UK reached a tangible point of difference. Considering the highly aggravated state of mind of both the countries and their military readiness to take action against one another, it would not be a surprise to expect pre-emptive action from Egypt's council against the UK in an effort to retain its authority in the Middle East.

In such a situation as the one in the Middle East region, it is a matter of great deliberation to predict the outcome of the situation. Governed by the inconsistent factors of day to day actions and decisions as well as the finest intricacies of diplomatic, political and military strategies, the Suez Crisis is a hard one to manoeuvre out of. However, one fact remains starkly clear: Whatever may be the outcome of the crisis, it would assuredly not be a pretty picture.



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