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President Biden Calls for Caution in Gaza Response

SAM Desk: In a recent interview, President Biden urged Israel to avoid reoccupying Gaza in the wake of the Hamas (See Page 05)



"Kareena Kapoor Khan Shares Insights on Working with the Three Khans of Bollywood"

Entertainment Desk: Renowned Bollywood actress (See Page 06)



"Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Declares State of Emergency"

SAM Desk: In response to the ongoing conflict between Israel (See Page 02)



Aasha Home Care

News at a glance

Hamas 'Top Secret' Document, Report Reveals order: Kill As Many, Take Hostages

SAM Desk: Recently discovered documents shed light on extensive plans (See Page 04)

Israeli Military Issues Stern Warning of Imminent Large-Scale Attack on Gaza City

SAM Desk: Israel's military is rapidly advancing toward a large-scale counteroffensive in Gaza City, prompting thousands of Palestinians to evacuate the area over the past (See Page 04)

"New York City Embarks on Historic 60-Mile Greenway Expansion Project"

SAM Desk: New York City Mayor Eric Adams, alongside key city officials, unveiled a groundbreaking initiative to expand the city's greenway network, which will encompass an impressive 60 miles of greenway corridors. (See Page 04)

BNP's Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir Calls for Movement to Topple Government

Dhaka Office: At a youth rally, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir announced the commencement of the final phase of their movement to overthrow (See Page 05)

"New Yorkers Rally for Peace Amid Israel-Hamas Conflict"



Photo Credit - Jonathan C. Hyman

Jubayer Sarkar

On Friday night, hundreds of New Yorkers took to the streets in a pair of protests to express their

concerns about the ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel. The demonstrations, one in Brooklyn and another in Manhattan, both concluded with arrests.

In Brooklyn, a protest organized by a Jewish peace group opposing Israel's plans to invade Gaza gathered hundreds of people near Grand (See Page 02)

"Proof that American politics is in trouble: Americans Seek Change Amid Record Disillusionment with Political System"

Mahrma Mim

In recent years, a series of polls have exposed a growing frustration among Americans with the state of the nation's political landscape. The prevalence of disillusionment among voters has become so common that it often goes unreported by the media. However, last week, the Pew Research Center conducted a comprehensive survey that was so dire and eye-opening that it demanded attention.

To sum up, Pew's findings show that trust in the government has plummeted (See Page 02)



Photo Credit - DANIELA GOYA-TOCCHETTO

New Yorkers Rally

(Continued from page 1)

Army Plaza. The protesters took a strong stand by blocking traffic at an intersection, leading to 57 arrests, as confirmed by the police.

Notable among those arrested was state Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani (D-Queens), who stated in a news release that they are "on the brink of genocide of the Palestinian people." Mamdani also condemned the "horrific" actions of Hamas, labeling them as "murders" of Israeli citizens.

Assemblywoman Marcela Mitaynes (D-Brooklyn) was also among those arrested, according to a police source. Both Mamdani and Mitaynes were issued summonses for blocking vehicular traffic, while specific charges against other protesters were not disclosed.

The protest in Brooklyn was organized by Jewish Voice for Peace, a group expressing concerns about "mass atrocities" being carried out by the Israeli government in Gaza. They called for a halt to further arming of the Israeli government to prevent escalating violence.

Protesters also gathered outside the home of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), who is planning a visit to Israel with a congressional delegation.

In Manhattan, a predominantly peaceful protest involving around 2,500 people took place in Midtown to show support for Palestinian freedom.

The protest began at Times Square and moved down E. 42nd St. toward the United Nations, resulting in three arrests on disorderly conduct charges, as reported by the police.

Shuayb Siddique, a 23-year-old mechanical engineer from Queens who attended the Manhattan event, emphasized the dire conditions in Gaza, stating, "You have a people in an open-air prison, and they're cutting off the food, the water, and the electricity. They're killing them." Many in the group displayed Palestinian flags and wore keffiyehs, traditional Palestinian headscarves.

The police deployed 6,000 officers across the city to safeguard sensitive locations and monitor protests, according to a police source.

Proof that American politics

to a 70-year low, while disdain for both major political parties has reached unprecedented levels. Shockingly, a mere 4 percent of adults believe that the political system is functioning effectively. This reveals more than just a disgruntled population tired of a few errant politicians; it underscores a systemic crisis in American democracy. Understandably, the poll also reflects a widespread call for substantial structural changes to the political system, as voters hold little hope for imminent improvement.

As a former government official, I can empathize with the sentiments expressed in the Pew survey. It is undeniable that the political process is dominated by special interests, awash in campaign contributions, and entangled in partisan conflicts.

Nonetheless, there is still room for hope. The way to transform our politics is through active participation and a touch of innovation. This is precisely why I have chosen to align myself with a movement known as No Labels, which

is dedicated to addressing the very issues highlighted in the Pew survey. We are working diligently to secure a ballot line on the 2024 state voting ballot, which could serve as a launchpad for an independent Unity Ticket featuring a Republican and a Democrat as running mates.

No Labels regards this as an emergency measure and would only present its ballot line to the Unity Ticket if the American people remain dissatisfied with the two major parties. Although our initiative has faced relentless criticism from both political ends, a deeper examination of Pew's extensive survey results reveals why the concept of a Unity Ticket could be precisely what Americans are yearning for.

To begin, the poll demonstrates that the Republican and Democratic parties are equally unpopular, with four times as many Americans holding unfavorable views of both parties now compared to 2002. Critics of No Labels, particularly on the left, often wrongly assert that only the Republican Party and former President Donald Trump are unpopular. They fear that by providing voters with an independent third choice, we will split the anti-Trump vote and potentially cost the Democrats the election. However, they overlook a fundamental fact: neither major party is currently enjoying popularity, and voters are desperately seeking an alternative.

Secondly, the poll reaffirms the arguments put forth by No Labels in recent months: voters are dissatisfied with the candidates put forward by both parties. A majority, over 63 percent, express dissatisfaction with the presidential candidates from both sides. Furthermore, outside the presidential race, only a quarter of voters believe that the current political candidates are of good quality. This is a clear indication that something is amiss in how the parties select their candidates.

Thirdly, and perhaps most damning, a staggering 86 percent of Americans perceive politics as a domain where Republicans and Democrats prioritize fighting each other over solving the nation's problems.

This situation necessitates a solution. Unless something substantial occurs in the next six months to rekindle hope among voters, the Unity Ticket may emerge as the most viable and genuine solution to address their concerns. It has the potential to unite the common-sense majorities from both sides into a new political alliance that rejects extremism and genuinely tackles the issues that matter to voters. Moreover, it could serve as a catalyst for the Republican and Democratic parties to reorient their strategies and once again compete for the support of the vast political middle in America.

While the Pew poll results may paint a bleak picture, they also underscore the wisdom of the American people. Voters are astutely aware that something is amiss, and they recognize that the political system is not functioning as intended. Their ire is rightly directed at the establishment leaders of both parties who promote extremism while suppressing voices that seek genuine solutions to the nation's problems.

The American public has pinpointed the problem, and it is this realization that fills me with confidence that they will recognize a viable solution when they see it.

Florida Governor Ron



(Continued from page 1)

and Hamas, Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida declared a state of emergency. This declaration allows the Florida Division of Emergency Management to facilitate the return of Floridians from Israel and transport essential supplies to the region.

The announcement came as some commercial airlines suspended their services to Israel due to the escalating war initiated by Hamas' surprise attack on Israel.

Governor DeSantis' order also includes the activation of the Florida National Guard and Florida State Guard as necessary. It directs Division of Emergency Management Director Kevin Guthrie to implement a comprehensive emergency-management plan, including logistical, rescue, and evacuation operations.

While the order enables the Division of Emergency Management to bring Floridians back to the United States and transport supplies to Israel, specific details about these efforts were not provided in the announcement.

Governor DeSantis, currently on a two-day trip to New Hampshire for his bid for the Republican presidential nomination, highlighted that more than 20,000 Americans are currently in Israel and wish to return home but face challenges in doing so.

The Biden administration has also begun arranging charter flights to transport Americans in Israel to locations in Europe. John Kirby, a spokesman for the National Security Council, mentioned during a White House briefing that these efforts are intended to assist U.S. citizens and their immediate family members in leaving Israel.

While concrete figures regarding the number of Americans seeking to depart Israel were not available, Kirby noted that there are American citizens who desire to leave the country.

As of Thursday afternoon, 27 Americans had lost their lives in the conflict, and 14 Americans were unaccounted for.

Part of Governor DeSantis' emergency order addressed concerns related to demonstrations and fundraising campaigns throughout the United States, including Florida, aimed at intimidating the Jewish population and supporting Hamas. It anticipates a strain on state and local law enforcement resources and makes funds from the state's Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund available to address the situation.

This emergency declaration reflects Florida's response to the evolving situation in Israel and its commitment to supporting Americans affected by the conflict.

NYC's Role in Aiding Migrant Families

New York City, with its iconic Statue of Liberty, has long stood as a symbol of hope and dreams for countless souls from around the world. As new waves of migrant families seek shelter and a better life on American shores, NYC can and should play a pivotal role in their integration and support. Some of the ways they can do it include the following:

Resource Centers: NYC can develop community centers specifically tailored for migrant families. These can be hubs for legal aid, language classes, job placement services, and cultural integration workshops. Offering a one-stop solution can ease the overwhelming challenge of starting afresh in a new land.

Education Access: Ensuring migrant children receive quality education is crucial. The city can work towards simplified school enrollment processes for migrant families, provide multilingual support in schools, and design after-school programs to help these children catch up and integrate seamlessly.

Medical Care: Migrant families often arrive after enduring arduous journeys and traumatic experiences. Establishing clinics with multilingual staff that cater to the unique needs of these families, along with providing counseling services, is essential.

Housing Solutions: Affordable housing can be one of the most daunting challenges for migrant families. NYC can explore partnerships with NGOs, private entities, and community organizations to create short-term housing solutions while assisting families in finding long-term accommodations.

Strengthen Legal Support: Navigating the U.S. immigration system can be complex. NYC can further invest in providing free or low-cost legal consultations and representation for migrant families, ensuring they understand their rights and the paths available to them.

Job Training and Placement: Economic self-sufficiency is key to successful integration. By offering vocational training tailored to the city's job market needs and establishing partnerships with businesses for job placements, NYC can ensure that migrant families find stable footing quickly.

Promote Cultural Events: Cultural festivals, events, and workshops celebrating the heritage of migrant groups not only allow them to stay connected with their roots but also educate and enrich the wider community, fostering understanding and acceptance.

As one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities, NYC has both the resources and the moral imperative to play a decisive role in the well-being of migrant families. By doing so, the city can once again reaffirm its reputation as a beacon of hope, not just in symbolism but in action.



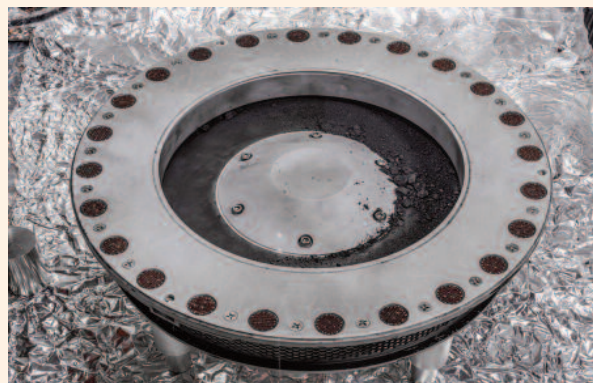
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NASA unveils first asteroid samples brought back by spacecraft



SAM Desk: NASA on Wednesday showed off its first asteroid samples delivered last month by a spacecraft — a jumble of black dust and rubble that's the most ever returned to Earth, reports AP.

Scientists anticipated getting a cupful but are still unsure how much was grabbed from the carbon-rich asteroid named Bennu, almost 60 million miles (97 million kilometres) away. That's because the main sample chamber has yet to be opened, officials said during an event at Johnson Space Center in Houston.

"It's been going slow and meticulous, but the science is already starting," said the mission's lead scientist, Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona.

NASA's Osiris-Rex spacecraft collected the samples three years ago from the surface of Bennu and then dropped them off sealed in a capsule during a flyby of Earth last month. The expected cupful was far more than the teaspoon or so that Japan brought back from a pair of missions.

Black dust and particles were scattered around the outside edge of the internal sample chamber, according to Lauretta. He said there's still "a whole treasure chest of extraterrestrial material" to be studied. The samples are priceless, the preserved building blocks from the dawn of the solar system.

No one at Wednesday's celebration at Johnson got to see any of the samples firsthand — just photos and video. The asteroid pieces were behind locked doors in a new lab at the space centre, accessible only to scientists in protective gear.

Besides carbon, the asteroid rubble holds water in the form of water-bearing clay minerals, Lauretta and others pointed out.

"That is how we think water got to the Earth," he said. "Minerals like we're seeing from Bennu landed on Earth 4 billion years ago to 4.5 billion years ago, making our world habitable."

That was one of the primary reasons for the \$1 billion, seven-year mission: to help learn how the solar system — and Earth in particular — formed. "You can't get more exciting than that," said NASA Administrator Bill Nelson.

Back in 2020, Lauretta and his team lost some of their haul when the lid on the sample container jammed a few days after the spacecraft collected the material. It vacuumed up so many pieces from Bennu that small rocks got lodged under the lid and prevented it from closing, sending pieces floating off into space.

That's why scientists did not have a precise measurement of what was coming back; they estimated 250 grams, or about a cupful, ahead of the Sept. 24 landing in the Utah desert. They won't have a good count until the container is opened, within two weeks or so.

Much of the material shown

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Hamas 'Top Secret'



Photo Credit - Abed Rahim Khatib

(Continued from page 1)

by Hamas to target Israeli civilians, particularly focusing on elementary schools and a youth center in the Israeli kibbutz of Kfar Sa'ad. The documents, considered "top secret" in Arabic, outline directives for two trained Hamas units to infiltrate villages, target areas with civilian gatherings, and maximize casualties. Israeli authorities are still working to ascertain the extent of the damage in Kfar Sa'ad, as reported by NBC News.

On Saturday, the Israeli Defense Forces confirmed that Hamas was holding over 120 civilians captive in Gaza.

The documents, found on the bodies of Hamas operatives by Israeli first responders, included detailed maps and indicated Hamas's intent to either kill civilians or hold them as hostages.

One document titled "Top Secret" provided instructions for an attack on Kfar Sa'ad, instructing "Combat unit 1" to "contain the new Da'at school," while "Combat unit 2" was directed to "collect hostages," "search the Bnei Akiva youth center," and "search the old Da'at school."

Another page labeled "Top Secret Maneuver" outlined a plan for a Hamas unit to secure Kfar Saad's east side while a second unit controlled the west.

Hamas units were instructed to "kill as many as possible" and "capture hostages" as part of their plan. Additionally, the plan involved surrounding a dining hall and holding hostages inside.

These documents are currently under analysis by Israeli officials, according to NBC's sources within the Israeli army and government.

According to Israeli officials, the documents indicate that Hamas systematically gathered intelligence on kibbutzim bordering Gaza and developed specific attack plans for each village, intentionally targeting women and children.

Contrary to Hamas's claims of not targeting children, a video released by Hamas showed operatives holding and feeding Israeli children taken hostage. The Israeli Defense Forces responded to the video, emphasizing the suffering of the children and their parents in this ordeal.

Meanwhile, Yossi Landau, a commander of ZAKA, an Israeli first responder organization, reported seeing tragic scenes of murdered babies, children, and mothers.

The documents reveal that two Hamas units were to approach Kfar Sa'ad from different assembly points. Kibbutz Kfar Aza suffered significant damage in the October 7 attack on Israel.

On Tuesday, the bodies of Israeli residents

and Hamas operatives were found outside charred houses in the Kfar Aza kibbutz, indicating the extent of devastation caused by the attack, as reported by CNN.

Israeli Military Issues



Photo Credit - Amir Levy/Getty Images

(Continued from page 1)

24 hours. On Saturday night local time, Israel's chief military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, urged residents in Gaza to move south, anticipating a ground assault in northern Gaza. Hagari announced, "We are going to attack Gaza City very broadly soon." In a separate statement, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) revealed its readiness for "the next stages of the war," indicating preparations for a wide array of operational offensive plans. These plans include coordinated strikes from the air, sea, and land, with a significant focus on ground operations.

On Friday, an unprecedented evacuation order from the Israeli military affected over 1 million residents, about half of Gaza's population, primarily in the northern region. According to Israeli military spokesperson Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, northern Gaza is the primary target for Israel's next counterattack, aiming to strike at Hamas leaders.

"Gaza City is where the focus and the hub of Hamas activities are, that is where most of the commanders are, most of their infrastructure and their ability to continue to operate," said Conricus on Saturday. He further stated that Israeli troops are currently positioned around the Gaza Strip, preparing for the next stage of operations. Two main evacuation routes were available until 4 p.m. local time.

Meanwhile, the Rafah crossing in southern Gaza remained open until 5 p.m. local time (10 a.m. ET) to facilitate the departure of Americans seeking to leave Gaza. U.S. officials estimated that between 500 and 600 Palestinian Americans were in Gaza, though the exact number looking to depart was uncertain.

Efforts to evacuate northern Gaza have been complicated by ongoing Israeli airstrikes and the significant presence of Israeli troops and armored vehicles just outside Gaza's border fence.

On Saturday morning, President Biden announced that the U.S. was collaborating with Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and the United Nations to provide support to ease the humanitarian consequences of the conflict and advocate for the upholding of the law of war.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to discuss the situation with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud.

Amid the ongoing conflict, Gazans also grapple with electricity and clean water shortages, as Israel tightened its siege of Gaza on Wednesday. Hospitals now rely solely on

backup generators.

The power shortage has also impacted Gaza's water supply, leaving residents with only unsanitary wells, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. Gazans describe the water supply crisis as dire, affecting even basic tasks like brushing teeth.

Israel launched a massive response to the deadly attack by Hamas militants, resulting in over 1,300 deaths in southern Israel. In the bombardment of Gaza, more than 2,200 Palestinians have been killed. On Friday, the Israeli military conducted limited raids into the Gaza Strip in an effort to locate Israelis kidnapped by Hamas.

Israeli forces recovered the bodies of several missing Israelis and found items that could lead to the discovery of more. Israeli military spokesperson Hagari mentioned that troops destroyed "terrorist infrastructure and squads, including a Hamas unit that fired anti-tank missiles toward Israel."

According to Lt. Col. Richard Hecht, about 265 Israeli soldiers have lost their lives, while 120 people remain hostages in Gaza. Violence in the West Bank, also known as Judea and Samaria, increased, leading the IDF to take action in the region.

The situation further escalated with an attack by Jewish settlers on Palestinians in the West Bank, captured on video by the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem.

Israel withdrew its troops and civilians from Gaza in 2005 after nearly four decades of presence in the territory. Since then, Israeli forces have re-entered Gaza multiple times to combat Hamas. The most extensive operation occurred in 2014, lasting seven weeks and resulting in 2,000 Palestinian casualties and over 70 Israeli deaths. While it was a significant setback for Hamas, the militant group managed to rebuild.

New York City Embarks

(Continued from page 1)

This ambitious project aims to bridge gaps in the outer-borough greenway system, thereby creating a vast network of green and eco-friendly transportation options across Queens, Staten Island, Brooklyn, and the Bronx.

Mayor Adams emphasized the significance of this expansion, underscoring the goal of creating a truly five-borough administration that offers safe, sustainable, and healthier transportation choices to all New Yorkers. This extensive greenway expansion is a direct response to the surging popularity of biking and will enhance connectivity throughout the city. This milestone expansion, supported by a \$7.25 million federal RAISE grant, will initiate a collaborative, community-driven approach to develop implementation plans for each of the five greenway corridors. The initiative will focus on short- and long-term projects, filling critical gaps in the existing greenway network, improving cyclist and pedestrian safety, and granting more New Yorkers access to employment opportunities.

The identified corridors are as follows:

Queens Waterfront, Gantry Plaza State Park to Little Bay Park (16 miles): This greenway corridor will strengthen cycling routes, offering better connectivity from Long Island City and Astoria to East Elmhurst and College Point, Queens. Running alongside the Long Island Sound, this route

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New York City Embarks



Photo - NYC.gov

(Continued from page 4)

will not only enhance transportation options but also improve park access in diverse Queens neighborhoods.

Historic Brooklyn, Coney Island to Highland Park (12 miles): This corridor will address gaps in the greenway network, connecting Coney Island to Highland Park in Brooklyn and Queens. The route will also enhance cycling access to the busy transit hub at Broadway Junction.

Staten Island Waterfront, Goethals Bridge to Verrazzano Bridge (10 miles): This greenway will create a safe cycling and walking route along Staten Island's North Shore, promoting easy access to various destinations in the area, including the St. George Ferry Terminal, Goethals Bridge, and East Shore beachfront.

South Bronx, Randall's Island Park to SUNY Maritime (15 miles): The greenway will provide much-needed waterfront access and safer commutes for Bronx residents, connecting to industrial job centers and enhancing connections between waterfront parks.

Southern Queens, Spring Creek Park to Brookville Park (seven miles): The Southern Queens Greenway will connect John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) to the rest of the borough, promoting sustainable transportation for airport workers and the surrounding community.

These expansion projects, with planning staggered over the coming years, will be developed collaboratively by the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks), and the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC). The implementation plans will pave the way for capital projects and identify further funding opportunities to bring these greenways to life.

This substantial greenway expansion signifies a crucial investment in the future of New York City, focusing on green and sustainable trans-

portation options, enhancing connectivity between boroughs, and improving overall quality of life for residents. Cycling in the city has reached unprecedented levels, making the development of a comprehensive greenway network all the more pertinent.

Key figures and organizations have hailed this announcement as a crucial step toward a more sustainable and connected future for the city, promising benefits such as reduced carbon emissions, enhanced safety for cyclists and pedestrians, and increased access to economic development opportunities. By closing the gaps in the greenway network, the city is working to create more equitable and reliable cycling infrastructure for all New Yorkers, fostering a greener, healthier, and more vibrant New York.

BNP's Fakhru Islam



Dipu Malakar/Prothom Aalo

(Continued from page 1)

the Awami League government. He urged BNP members to prepare and put forth their full efforts to ensure the movement's success and called for the fall of the current regime. Fakhru also expressed their goal to secure the release of BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia for medical treatment abroad through an unstoppable movement.

He stated that many have sacrificed their lives and families have suffered severe losses in their struggle, leaving them with no time to look back. Fakhru mentioned the upcoming Durga Puja festival as the launching point for the ultimate opposition movement.

The Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal organized the rally at BNP's Nayapaltan central office. Thousands of young people from various regions, identifiable by their red and green caps, joined the gathering. Fakhru regarded the youth's massive assembly as a historic event that would inspire the nation to engage in the final movement with renewed determination. He expressed confidence in defeating the current government through their peaceful movement, challenging the legitimacy of the government and questioning whether it was constitutionally legal. Fakhru argued that the government had acted unconstitutionally to stay in power and called for their resignation to allow a neutral government to oversee the next election in a fair and credible manner.

President Biden Calls

(Continued from page 1)

assault, where more than 1,300 people, including 29 Americans, lost their lives.

President Biden, who has shown staunch support for Israel, emphasized that while Hamas poses a significant challenge, they do not represent all Palestinians. He cautioned against a full-scale occupation of Gaza but highlighted the importance of addressing extremist elements within the territory.

The president's comments came as he contemplated a visit to Israel to demonstrate solidarity, following Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's invitation. He expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and emphasized the need for a safe corridor for civilians to access essential supplies.

While President Biden didn't explicitly sug-

gest a temporary ground offensive, he endorsed the goal of eliminating Hamas, which the U.S. and the European Union classify as a terrorist group. He also noted that the Israelis must do everything possible to minimize harm to innocent civilians.

The prospect of a ground offensive into Gaza is met with concerns about the safety of both Israeli forces and Palestinian civilians. President Biden asserted that

Israel should act in accordance with international standards and facilitate access to vital resources for Gaza's innocent population.

The president's interview also covered his aspirations for diplomatic ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia and the potential for improved relations in the Middle East. President Biden remains committed to addressing global challenges and creating a better world.

NASA unveils first asteroid

(Continued from page 3)

Wednesday was overflow from when the lid was stuck open before everything could be sealed inside the return capsule. The larger visible rocks were under an inch (2.5 centimetres) in size.

"We have a bounty of samples on our hands already and we're not even inside" the main sample container, said NASA astromaterials curator Francis McCubbin.

Once the samples are archived, the team will dole out particles to researchers around the world, while saving a fair amount for future analysis when better technology should be available.

NASA has another asteroid-chasing spacecraft on a Florida launch pad, ready to blast off later this week. The destination will be a rare asteroid made of metal named Psyche. No samples will be coming back.

"Asian Business Leaders Converge in New York: Economic Contributions Recognized by the Asian American Chamber of Commerce"



S.M. Solaiman, New York: Due to their residence in the US, thousands of business owners from 48 Asian countries are making significant contributions to the US economy. However, due to a lack of community leadership, they are not fully benefiting from the opportunities and legal assistance offered by the US government. Speakers believe that by uniting under the banner of the American Chamber of Commerce, it's possible to fully utilize these benefits. In a business conference held at the Jackson Heights Juice Center in New York, under the leadership of Joy Choudhury, the president of the Asian American Chamber of Commerce, leaders expressed these hopes. Businesspeople from 48 Asian countries, including China and Bangladesh, contribute

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Asian Business Leaders

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40% to the US GDP. Small and medium-sized businesses from Asia control 62% of the total business. However, due to some legal restrictions, these entrepreneurs cannot fully utilize all the facilities provided by the US government. Thus, there's a call to strengthen the Asian-American Chamber. Not just the chamber leaders, but other chamber heads, New York State commissioners, city commissioners, and representatives from various government agencies attended the conference. They assured comprehensive support for business expansion from the government's side. Organizing such an event that unites business owners from 48 Asian countries in New York



was a first. The Asian Chamber of Commerce honored business leaders from 10 Asian countries, including Bangladesh, for their contributions to the US economic development. At the business conference, speeches were given by: New York State Assemblyman Steven Raga, New York City Small Business Executive Director Michael Fog, New York State Port Authority Director Mr. Hars, Indonesian Leader Attorney Eve Cho Guileragon, New York Queens Community Board Member Abdur Rahim Howlader, Mohammad Ali, Jamaica Friends Society Secretary Jay Molla Sani, CPA Mohammad Chishti, New York Bangladesh Press Club Organizing Secretary SM Solayman, and several Asian American business leaders.

Stranger Beats E Train Rider with Stolen Umbrella at Jackson Heights Subway Hub

SAM Desk: In an unsettling incident at the Jackson Heights subway hub on Roosevelt Avenue, a 41-year-old E train rider was attacked by a stranger who used the victim's umbrella as a weapon, according to authorities.

The incident took place inside the 74th Street station on Sunday morning around 6:20 a.m., as reported by the police from the 110th Precinct in Elmhurst. The victim was approached by an unidentified man who, upon seeing the umbrella, snatched it from the victim's possession. He proceeded to strike the victim on the wrist and over his head using the stolen umbrella.

The attacker then boarded a northbound E train that arrived at the station during the assault. The injured victim made his way to Elmhurst Hospital, where he received medical treatment for swelling to his head and wrist.

The NYPD has released a surveillance photo of the suspect, describing him as an individual between 18 and 30 years old, approximately 6 feet tall, with a dark complexion, short black hair, and a thin mustache. At the time of the incident, the suspect was wearing sunglasses, a gray sweatshirt, and gray sweatpants.

The police are seeking information from the



Photo Credit - NYPD

public and have urged anyone with details about the attacker to contact the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS. This incident is part of a concerning trend in the 110th Precinct, which has reported 577

felony assaults in 2023, marking a 39.4% increase compared to the same time last year when 414 cases were reported, according to the latest CompStat report.

"Man Pushed onto Subway Tracks in Violent 72nd Street and Broadway Incident"

SAM Desk: The NYPD is actively seeking two individuals accused of violently pushing a 32-year-old man onto the subway tracks at 72nd Street and Broadway. The harrowing incident occurred when the victim was disembarking from a northbound 2 train at approximately 2:30 a.m. on a Saturday.

According to police reports, the victim was engaged in an argument with two other men. The dispute escalated as the two assailants proceeded to kick and punch the man before ultimately pushing him onto the subway tracks. As a result of this distressing incident, the victim sustained injuries, including a broken nose and finger. He was subsequently transported to the hospital and is reported to be in stable condition. The NYPD is actively investigating the case and seeking any information that can lead to the identification and apprehension of the individuals responsible for this shocking assault.



NYPD
CRIMEstoppers
1800-577-8477 (TIPS)

Photo Credit - NYPD



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Vows to Hold General Election No Matter What

Labib Pranto: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made a resolute declaration that the next general election will proceed regardless of attempts by the opposition, particularly the BNP, to obstruct it. Addressing a grand rally organized by Dhaka city (north) Awami League, she asserted that the people will freely exercise their voting rights.

The rally, originally planned for October 7 to commemorate the soft opening of the third terminal of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, was postponed due to adverse weather conditions.

Thousands of Awami League supporters gathered at the Civil Aviation Authority's residential area in Kawla for the rally. During her address, Prime Minister Hasina, who is also the president of the AL, expressed her concerns that a party associated with corruption and criminal elements could jeopardize the country's progress if it were to come to power. She urged the people to support the "boat," the symbol of the Awami League, in the upcoming general election. The Prime Minister emphasized the dilemma the BNP is facing concerning its participation in the parliamentary polls, raising questions about the party's leadership and intentions.

Hasina asserted that the BNP is well aware that the "boat" symbol is likely to secure votes if the election proceeds. She believes that the AL will win, leading to further progress in the country. She called upon the people to stay vigilant to prevent any attempts by the BNP

Prime Minister Hasina, who is also the president of the AL, expressed her concerns that a party associated with corruption and criminal elements could jeopardize the country's progress if it were to come to power. She urged the people to support the "boat," the symbol of the Awami League, in the upcoming general election. The Prime Minister emphasized the dilemma the BNP is facing concerning its participation in the parliamentary polls, raising questions about the party's leadership and intentions.

to disrupt the elections.

The Prime Minister also emphasized that she would remain in power if the people support the "boat." She appealed to the public, highlighting the choice between development by voting for the "boat" or potential destruction by supporting BNP-Jamaat.

She dismissed the BNP's attempts to seek foreign support, placing her confidence in the power of the people. Hasina credited the AL's victory in the 2008, 2014, and 2018 general elections for the significant development projects undertaken in Bangladesh. These projects include the Padma Bridge, metro rail, elevated expressway, Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, Dhaka airport's third terminal, and the

tunnel under the Karnaphuli in Chattogram. She also announced upcoming projects to alleviate the people's suffering.

The Prime Minister concluded her speech by calling on the people to help identify hoarders and black marketers, assuring that the government will take stringent action against them to alleviate the people's suffering. Several other prominent figures from the Awami League also spoke at the rally, including AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader, presidium members Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, Shajahan Khan, and Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Joint General Secretary Hasan Mahmud, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, and Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam.

Awami League Warns BNP Against Planned Dhaka Siege



Photo: Sajed Hossain

Dhaka Office: Awami League general secretary, Obaidul Quader, issued a stern warning to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) regarding their plan to lay siege to Dhaka city on October 18. Speaking at a rally in Dhaka, Quader cautioned the BNP about the potential consequences, making reference to the events in Shapla Chattar where a police crackdown on a hard-line Islamist group in May 2013 resulted in over a dozen fatalities.

He emphasized that the BNP's intended action was part of a "deep conspiracy" and suggested that the BNP was mobilizing individuals from across the country, booking hotels, under-construction buildings, and empty plots in Dhaka.

Quader called upon Awami League members and associated groups to gather at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque on October 18 and threatened to respond by besieging the BNP if they attempted to seize Dhaka city. He criticized BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir for suggesting that Western support for democracy was bolstering the BNP's movement for a credible election under a neutral government. Quader asserted that Western entities had conveyed their impartiality, refuting Fakhrul's claims as lies and rumors.

Awami League leaders and associates, includ-



ing Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Mirza Azam, expressed concerns over the BNP's movements, fearing a situation involving the safety of Khaleda Zia, the BNP chairperson.

The youth wing of the Awami League, Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, also encouraged their members to prepare for countering the BNP's alleged conspiracy.

"Politics in Bangladesh: Where Drama Meets Democracy"



Shaikh Hasina & Khaleda Zia

Sakhwat Hossain

In the enchanting land of Bangladesh, where vibrant culture, lush landscapes, and mouth-watering cuisine often steal the spotlight, a different kind of performance takes center stage – the theatrical and often entertaining world of politics. As the world's eighth-most populous country, Bangladesh has carved out its unique niche in the political theater of South Asia, where intrigue, drama, and democracy harmoniously coexist.

A Theatrical Democracy

Walk through the bustling streets of Dhaka, and you might encounter impromptu rallies, passionate speeches, and fervent debates that seem to spring up around every corner. Politics isn't just a subject reserved for the parliament floor; it's a live-action spectacle that frequently plays out in public spaces, broadcasted on the nightly news, and debated at roadside tea stalls.

Bangladesh's politics is a high-energy, dynamic affair. With over 160 million people, it's no surprise that passionate opinions, colorful banners, and spirited marches are a part of everyday life. It's not uncommon for rallies to feature boisterous music, giant mascots, and leaders engaging in heated rhetoric that could rival the most dramatic soap operas.

Iconic Political Dynasties

Bangladesh's political landscape is characterized by prominent dynasties. Two of the most

Bangladesh's political landscape is characterized by prominent dynasties. Two of the most prominent families, the Hasinas and the Zias, have dominated the country's political scene for decades. The rivalry between Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia is the stuff of legend, and the battles they've waged, both in the political arena and the courtroom, are the stuff of drama.

prominent families, the Hasinas and the Zias, have dominated the country's political scene for decades. The rivalry between Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia is the stuff of legend, and the battles they've waged, both in the political arena and the courtroom, are the stuff of drama.

With numerous arrests, trials, and political intrigue to rival a Shakespearean tragedy, it's clear that this political saga has been anything but dull. Even as these families have held sway over the country's governance, the power struggles have played out in real-time, offering plenty of fodder for water cooler con-

versations and the front pages of newspapers.

The Power of Protests

Bangladesh has a long history of passionate protests and movements. From the 1971 War of Independence to the recent "Road Safety" protests in 2018, citizens often take to the streets to voice their concerns. Protests are both a tool for change and a form of political expression. They range from peaceful demonstrations to larger gatherings, where activists use humor and creativity to make their point. Whether it's street art, vibrant slogans, or the cultural significance of song and dance, protests in Bangladesh often blend creativity and politics to create a tapestry of captivating moments that can both educate and entertain.

The Future of Bangladesh's Political Theater

As Bangladesh continues to grow and evolve, its political scene will inevitably follow suit. While the country faces its share of challenges and complexities, its people's passion for politics, their enduring sense of humor, and the colorful world they've created offer a unique lens through which to view this dynamic and democratic nation.

Bangladesh's political landscape might be unconventional and sometimes chaotic, but it reflects the nation's spirit. It's a reminder that even in the most challenging and turbulent times, humor, creativity, and a sense of theater can always find their place in the drama of democracy.

The Stock Market in Bangladesh is Failing?



Economics Desk: Once upon a time, IPOs were the talk of the town in Bangladesh. People eagerly waited in long queues to deposit their IPO application fees, hoping for a chance to participate in lottery subscriptions. Those who were lucky enough to secure IPO shares often enjoyed substantial profits with relatively low investment risks. However, times have changed, and the landscape of IPO investments has evolved significantly.

In recent years, general investors have become increasingly disinterested in applying for IPOs. The allure of substantial capital gains from these applications has waned. As a result, the number of active BO (Beneficiary Owner) accounts has seen a concerning decline. On January 1, 2023, Central Depository Bangladesh Limited reported 1,861,722 active BO accounts. Just nine months later, this number dropped by 111,137, representing around 6.34% of the total BO accounts.

Female participation in the market remains notably low, accounting for only 25% of the total BO account holders. Historically, many primary market investors shifted their focus to the secondary market after realizing profits from their IPO subscriptions. However, IPOs no longer offer the same investment appeal as before, leading to the decline in BO accounts and difficulty in attracting new investors to the secondary market.

To address these issues, it is essential to make stock brokerage services more accessible to a larger number of individuals. While the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) is currently reaching out to foreign investors, it's crucial to focus on local market investors, as foreign trading con-



tributes only 4-5% of the total turnover and has been declining due to foreign exchange market instability.

Over the past decade, an increasing number of people in Bangladesh have seen improved financial conditions due to rising per capita income and individual earnings. However, these savings are not being invested in the stock market. Accessibility to stock brokerage services is a key challenge. Many educated individuals remain uninvolved due to fear, lack of knowledge, or ignorance of the potential benefits of investing. The stock market's image was severely tarnished by the market collapse in 2010, and public confidence has

yet to fully recover.

To revitalize the market, the BSEC must work on building investor confidence through good governance, strict compliance, state-of-the-art technological advancements, and advanced cybersecurity measures. Transparency in market operations, effective communication of regulations and policies, regular financial literacy programs, and robust investor protection laws with swift legal recourse in cases of malpractice are vital elements in re-establishing trust in the market.

With the implementation of these strategies, the Bangladeshi stock market has the potential to shine brightly once again.



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Rebecca Blackwell/AP

Judge Chutkan Issues Gag Order, Restricting Trump's Public Statements

SAM Desk: A federal judge has imposed a gag order on former President Donald Trump, limiting his ability to make certain statements regarding the federal prosecution led by special counsel Jack Smith into his alleged attempt to subvert the 2020 presidential election.

The order issued by Judge Tanya Chutkan restricts Trump's public remarks to prevent targeting court personnel, potential witnesses, the special counsel, and his staff. It does not limit disparaging comments about Washington, D.C., where the jury trial will take place, or certain comments about the Justice Department. Any violations of this order could result in sanctions.

During the hearing, Judge Chutkan emphasized that the restrictions are in place to prevent language that poses a danger to the administration of justice. She asserted that being a presidential candidate does not grant carte blanche to vilify public servants merely performing their duties.

The judge raised concerns about the highly charged language used in Trump's social media posts and public remarks, suggesting that they might encourage harm against the special counsel and his team. She pointed to a post in which Trump referred to Smith as a "thug" and questioned whether it was appropriate for a criminal defendant to use such language to describe a prosecutor.

Trump's attorney, John Lauro, argued against the restrictions, asserting that the proceedings were politically motivated and that the former president should be allowed to speak out about the case's political aspects. However,

Judge Chutkan maintained that political arguments had no place in her courtroom.

Chutkan also emphasized that Trump, as a criminal defendant, must follow his conditions of release and is subject to court-imposed restrictions to prevent intimidating witnesses or jurors.

Prosecutors argued that Trump's public attacks against potential witnesses, including former Vice President Mike Pence and former Attorney General Bill Barr, could lead to witness intimidation by his followers. They clarified that the goal of the restrictions was not to impede Trump's ability to campaign but to ensure a fair trial by limiting statements

aimed at influencing the venue or potential jurors.

Trump's legal team had previously attacked the proposed order, claiming that it infringed on his First Amendment rights and suggested that it was designed to hinder his presidential campaign.

The trial date remains set for early March, and Judge Chutkan made it clear that the trial would not be affected by the election cycle. It's worth noting that any restrictions on Trump's speech may become a subject of appeal in the case, along with claims that the federal cases are being rushed to secure a conviction before the election.



Judge Tanya Chutkan



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Mayor Adams Stands Against Anti-semitism, Condemns Hamas Terrorism

Sajid Simanto: Mayor Eric Adams delivered a powerful speech today, denouncing antisemitism and condemning Hamas terrorism in the wake of a conflict that has claimed the lives of more than 3,200 Israelis and Palestinians, including at least 27 Americans.

In his address, Mayor Adams firmly stated, "We are not all right when Hamas believes that they are fighting on behalf of something and their destructive, despicable action that was carried out. We are not all right when we still have hostages who have not come home to their family. We are not all right, and we're not going to say we have a stiff upper lip and act like everything is fine. Everything is not fine."

Adams expressed his unwavering support for Israel's right to self-defense, a sentiment shared by President Biden and other world leaders. Still, he acknowledged that the civilian casualties resulting from Israel's retaliatory strikes, compounded by Hamas terrorists using human shields, have ignited anti-Israel sentiment and antisemitism, both domestically and abroad.

Hamas recently called for a "Day of Rage," culminating a week of protests across the nation against Israel's response to the Gaza attacks. These events, including a rally promoted by the local Democratic Socialists of America chapter, saw pro-Hamas demon-



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strators using antisemitic imagery to taunt Israel supporters, further exacerbating tensions.

Mayor Adams addressed the grim reality that antisemitism has been on the rise in the U.S. and worldwide, with data indicating a worrying increase in antisemitic incidents over the past year. New York City, home to the largest Jewish population outside of Israel, is standing united against this resurgence of hatred.

"We will not be all right until every person responsible for this act is held accountable. And we don't have to pretend," Mayor Adams declared, recognizing the city's religious leaders who have vehemently condemned the hatred and antisemitism displayed on one of the holiest days of the year.

Concluding his speech, Mayor Adams called for unity in the fight against antisemitism and terrorism. He highlighted that this struggle transcends any one community, stating, "Your fight is my fight. That swastika not only displays the pain of antisemitism, it displays the pain of racism among African Americans. You marched with us with Dr. King. You stood with us in all our fights. We're going to stand with you and stand united together. And we don't have to be all right. We should be angry at what we saw."

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Photo Credit - Luiz C. Ribeiro

"New York City Contemplates Forcing Migrant Families to Leave Shelters After 60 Days, Alarming Advocates"

SAM Desk: New York City is reportedly considering a significant policy change that would require migrant families with children to vacate their assigned homeless shelters after 60 days and reapply for shelter. This potential move is causing concern, as it could disrupt the lives of the youngest shelter residents.

Although the news was initially reported by the Daily News on Friday morning, the mayor's office has neither confirmed nor denied the proposed shelter shift. According to sources familiar with the matter, this could be the Adams administration's most drastic attempt thus far to reduce services for the more than 60,000 migrants currently in the city's shelter system.

If implemented, this policy would displace tens of thousands of homeless migrant children who are currently enrolled in the city's public school system. Additionally, it may force families awaiting new shelter placements to stay in congregate settings, which contradicts the city's long-standing shelter rules viewing such arrangements as dangerous.

Advocacy groups, including the Legal Aid Society and the Coalition for the Homeless, have condemned the potential policy change, arguing that it would disrupt the lives of homeless students and create chaos for their schools. They pointed out the difficulties that parents would face, having to choose between re-enrolling their children or spending the day traveling across the city to their current school.

Johanna Rodriguez, one of the affected mi-



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grants, expressed her concerns, emphasizing the impact on children who are already settled in their schools. She mentioned that she and her partner cannot find stable jobs without a work permit and are still working on their immigration case.

The Adams administration has already suspended many shelter rules for migrants living in emergency shelters and hotels. Adult migrants are currently required to leave the shelter system after 30 days, with many reapplying and enduring long wait times. A surge in new arrivals, totaling as many as 600 in a day, has exacerbated these long lines.

A group of 135 healthcare workers recently sent a letter to Mayor Adams, calling shelter limits "cruel and counterproductive." They

emphasized that secure housing is essential for physical, mental, and financial health, and homeless families, including migrants, deserve adequate resources and care.

The new policy could affect more than 160 sites housing approximately 13,500 migrant families with children, totaling about 47,800 people. It remains unclear how the 60-day limit on shelter stays will be managed by city school officials, and the potential consequences for school attendance and children's education are raising concerns.

Advocates and council members are expressing alarm over the potential policy change, emphasizing the need for a thoughtful and compassionate approach to addressing homelessness among migrant families.

India Clinches a Commanding Victory Over Pakistan in ICC Men's Cricket World Cup



Sports Desk: In the grandiose Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India, thousands of cricket fans donning blue India shirts came together to witness an enthralling show-down between arch-rivals India and Pakistan in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. Amidst the sea of blue, the home team emerged triumphant with a convincing seven-wicket win over Pakistan in a match embedded with geopolitical significance.

Described as one of the most intense sporting grudge matches globally, India-Pakistan cricket encounters are always imbued with the complex geopolitical dynamics that delineate the two nations. Though pockets of Pakistan supporters were present, their numbers were limited due to the bureaucratic barriers and historical mistrust that restricts movement between the two countries.

Pakistan's head coach, Mickey Arthur, commented on the atmosphere, noting that the event felt more like a bilateral series than a World Cup match. He emphasized that the limited Pakistani presence played a role, but he refrained from using it as an excuse, emphasizing the importance of focusing on the game itself.

The two teams had not competed on Indian soil for seven years, and Pakistan had never managed to secure a victory over India at a men's World Cup. Initially, Pakistan appeared strong, but they lost their momentum, ultimately succumbing to a total of 191 all-out



after being 155-3 at one stage, as India's bowlers tore through their lineup. India, led by an exceptional performance from Rohit Sharma, made short work of the chase, comfortably reaching Pakistan's total with a whopping 117 balls to spare.

Rohit Sharma, the star of the match, exhibited exemplary batting skills with his 86 off 63 balls, leading India to victory. He also lauded

India's bowlers for restricting Pakistan to a modest score and maintained the importance of balance in approaching the upcoming matches in the tournament.

As India gears up for their next match against Bangladesh, and Pakistan prepares to face Australia, the cricketing world eagerly anticipates more thrilling encounters in the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

Putin and Xi Meet in Beijing Amid Geopolitical Turmoil

International Desk: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping are set to meet in Beijing, marking their first encounter since the onset of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This high-level meeting underlines the ongoing efforts of these two powerful autocrats to reshape the global balance of power, offering an alternative to Western influence.

The meeting is taking place as the world grapples with rising tensions in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Israel's conflict with Hamas. Both China and Russia have criticized Israel's actions, thereby further emphasizing their joint stance against Western policies.

China is hosting the Belt and Road Forum, a significant diplomatic event marking a decade of Xi's global infrastructure funding drive, with over 140 countries expected to participate. This provides Putin with an opportunity to demonstrate Russia's continued alliance with China.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has put the China-Russia partnership to the test. While Beijing has claimed neutrality, it has strengthened its relationship with Russia in various areas, including trade, security cooperation, and military drills. The strong relationship between Xi and Putin has further demonstrated their alignment against the West.

During the forum, Putin is expected to gain international exposure and exhibit Russia's al-



Photo Credit Xie Huanchi/Xinhua

liance with China. The meeting will also serve as an opportunity for both leaders to discuss the escalating conflict between Israel and Hamas and potentially project a vision for peace.

Despite the turmoil in Ukraine, the China-Russia partnership has grown stronger, prompting China to emphasize its neutrality in the Ukraine conflict while strengthening its

relationship with Russia. As they continue to challenge Western influence, this partnership may play a significant role in shaping the new global order.

The meeting is closely watched by the international community as it may provide insights into the evolving dynamics of global politics and diplomacy in the face of ongoing conflicts and challenges.

Belarusian President Warns US Actions Could Lead to Nuclear Conflict

International Desk: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has expressed concerns that the United States' support for Ukraine, including the provision of long-range missiles, could push Russia to use nuclear weapons. He emphasized that if such a missile struck Russian territory, Moscow would have to respond, potentially leading to a catastrophic situation.

Lukashenko's remarks come in the context of escalating tensions in the region, including Russia's invasion of Ukraine and ongoing conflicts. He warned that the fanning of tensions could lead Russia to consider using nuclear weapons, suggesting that Russia might "take out the red button and put it on the table."

His comments follow Russian President Vladimir Putin's statement that it might be possible to revoke the ratification of a treaty banning nuclear tests. This has raised concerns about the potential for a renewed arms race and increased nuclear threats.

Lukashenko also commented on the uncertain fate of US Congress aid for Ukraine, suggest-



Contributor/Getty Images

ing that it could serve as a signal for Ukraine to accelerate its counteroffensive. He claimed that the US might be seeking a Ukrainian victory on the battlefield to boost President Joe Biden's approval ratings.

The situation in the region remains highly complex, with ongoing conflicts, concerns about nuclear threats, and the involvement of multiple global powers.



PHOTOGRAPH: JORDAN VONDERHAAR/GETTY IMAGES

"Elon Musk is not the smartest Tech Leader in the world"

SCI-TECH Desk: In 1993, a research study by Psychology professor Peter Borkenau from the University of Bielefeld in Germany had suggested that an individual's ability to articulate effectively is a strong indicator of intelligence. Fast forward to today, a recent language analysis of 100 American executives has unveiled the brightest minds among tech leaders in the United States and beyond Silicon Valley.

According to a comprehensive language analysis conducted by Preply, an e-learning platform based in Brookline, Massachusetts, billionaire Elon Musk doesn't top the list of the most intelligent tech executives in the United States.

Preply's report states, "A person's use of language is one of the most transparent indicators of their intelligence. Their proficiency in utilizing an extensive vocabulary, their skill in employing nuanced expressions, and the complexity of their sentence structures all shed light on the depth of their thinking and comprehension."

"To provide insight into this, we analyzed dialogues from 100 American executives, scrutinizing common linguistic patterns to

identify CEOs who consistently exhibit remarkable intelligence through their language."

The platform conducted an in-depth analysis of transcripts from public appearances by various chief executives, with each transcript receiving a score out of 100 points. The speeches analyzed varied from 60 to 180 minutes of dialogue for each executive. The analysis considered vocabulary breadth, vocabulary sophistication, textual readability, critical thinking, and contextual relevance of the executives' speeches.

So, who emerges as the smartest tech CEO?

According to Preply's analysis, Demis Hassabis, the CEO of Artificial Intelligence company DeepMind, leads the pack among 100 tech leaders active in the United States, with an impressive score of 87.33. Following closely are Stephen Schwarzman of Blackstone (74.33), renowned investment strategist Warren Buffet (74.00), David Solomon of Goldman Sachs (71.33), and former Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos (71.00) as the top five most intelligent tech leaders, respectively.

Jensen Huang of Nvidia (70.33), Reed Hastings of Netflix (70.00), Mark Zuckerberg of Meta Platforms (69.67), and Bob Iger of Disney (69.33) secured the sixth to ninth positions in the list.

Interestingly, Elon Musk, a prominent figure in the tech world, was ranked 16th in the list of most intelligent tech leaders, with an intelligence score of 64.33.

Other notable rankings include OpenAI's Sam Altman at 34th place (59.33) and former Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey at 81st with an intelligence score of 45.33.

Among Indian-origin tech leaders in the United States, Adobe's Shantanu Narayan ranked 27th (61.33), followed by Vas Narasimhan of Novartis at 29th place (61.00), and Sandeep Mathrani of WeWork at 30th place (60.77).

Microsoft's Satya Nadella secured the 36th spot (59.00), and IBM's Arvind Krishna was placed at 48th (55.00).

Notably, Google CEO Sundar Pichai was ranked 71st with an intelligence score of 50.00, and Raj Subramaniam of FedEx was placed 99th with an intelligence score of 31.33.

South Asian Nations Express Varied Stances on Hamas Attacks, But United in Supporting Two-State Solution



Photo Credit: AP Photo/Anjum Naveed

SAM Desk: In the aftermath of Hamas' extensive assault on Israel on October 7, South Asian countries have voiced their responses, revealing a mix of perspectives on the conflict, while unanimously supporting a two-state solution for the region. This attack marked Hamas' most ambitious strike against Israel launched from Gaza.

While the geographical distance separates South Asia from the conflict zone, the repercussions of the violence have directly and indirectly impacted the region. Only four out of eight South Asian countries—Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan—maintain diplomatic ties with Israel.

Nepal has reported ten of its citizens killed in the attacks, with hundreds seeking shelter in bunkers. In response, Nepal has initiated the air-lifting of 253 citizens from the war zone, primarily students who were studying and working in Israel.

India is also taking steps to facilitate the return of Indian citizens from Israel following the attacks.

The responses from South Asian countries have varied, shedding light on their perspectives:

1. **India:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed solidarity with Israel through a message on social media, reflecting the significant improvement in India-Israel relations. The Ministry of External Affairs reaffirmed

While the geographical distance separates South Asia from the conflict zone, the repercussions of the violence have directly and indirectly impacted the region.

Only four out of eight South Asian countries—Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan—maintain diplomatic ties with Israel.

India's support for a "sovereign, independent, and viable state of Palestine at peace with Israel," reiterating its commitment to the two-state solution.

2. **Nepal:** The Nepali government strongly condemned the terrorist attack and expressed solidarity with Israel. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, in a recent speech at the United Nations General Assembly, reiterated Nepal's commitment to peace for the Palestinian people and consistently supported a two-state solution.

3. **Sri Lanka:** Sri Lanka expressed deep concern over the attacks and called for an immediate end to hostilities. Colombo supports a "negotiated settlement in line with internationally agreed parameters of two states based on the 1967 borders."

4. **Pakistan:** Pakistan has been monitoring the situation in the Middle East and called

for the establishment of a "viable, sovereign, and contiguous State of Palestine."

5. **Bangladesh:** Bangladesh strongly condemned the armed conflict and cautioned Israel that "living under Israeli occupation and forced settlements in Palestinian territory will not pave the way for peace." Dhaka reiterated the viability of a two-state solution.

6. **Afghanistan:** The Taliban-led Afghan government asserted that the conflict resulted from Israeli Zionists' actions, leading to the oppression of the Palestinian people and disrespect for Muslim holy places.

There is a clear divide in South Asian countries' views on Hamas, with India and Nepal labeling the group as terrorists while the Muslim-majority countries in the region, which lack diplomatic ties with Israel, have not directly blamed Hamas, expressing sympathy or support for its actions.

Despite these differing views, South Asian nations remain united in supporting a two-state solution as the only viable path to lasting peace in the region. However, the specifics of what this entails differ among these nations. Hamas' activities, alongside considerations of realpolitik, have led some countries to become less sympathetic to Hamas, even as they continue to support the establishment of a Palestinian state. Continued attacks by Hamas may further diminish its support among non-Muslim South Asian nations.



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UK Special Forces Accused of Killing Nine People in bed while sleeping in Afghanistan



Photo Credit - Harrison Jones & Hannah O'Grady

International Desk: An independent inquiry reported by the BBC reveals that UK special forces were responsible for the deaths of nine individuals during a night raid in Afghanistan in 2011. The victims were described as having been killed "in their beds."

On February 7, 2011, the Nad Ali region of Helmand bore witness to a tragic incident. Several families had gathered for a wake when nine people, including the youngest at 14 years old, lost their lives in what is believed to be an unlawful act.

Family members of the victims claim that the deceased were unarmed civilians who were sleeping in a single-roomed outbuilding when the tragic incident occurred.

Habibullah Alizai, the owner of the house that was invaded on that fateful day, recalled being awakened by the disturbing sounds of shouting and gunshots. He further stated that he was taken from his room and subjected to interrogation and physical abuse by the troops. Alizai also recounted the heart-wrenching moment when he discovered the lifeless bodies of his two sons and seven others.

The Special Air Service (SAS) defended their actions by asserting they acted in self-defense after coming under fire. However, Mr. Glasgow, an investigator, pointed out bullet holes in the walls of the outbuilding.

The inquiry also shed light on the troubling belief held by senior leaders that troops had a practice of eliminating males of "fighting age," even when they did not pose a direct threat.



Mohammed Tayeb, 14, was killed in Loy Bagh village in Helmand

The investigation was initiated after BBC Panorama reported that an SAS squadron had allegedly killed 54 individuals under questionable circumstances during a six-month tour.

Substantive hearings began at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on Monday, where UK special forces face accusations of "abusing" night raids to carry out "numerous"

extrajudicial executions, which were allegedly later concealed. It was reported that between 2010 and 2013, special forces executed hundreds of deliberate detention operations in the region.

The allegations have raised significant concerns, sparking a debate on the conduct of special forces during their operations in Afghanistan.

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Photo Credit - Sanjeev Verma

India's Crackdown on Critics Raises Concerns Over Free Speech: Arundhati Roy faces sedition

International Desk: Recent developments in Arundhati Roy's case highlight the Modi government's growing crackdown on its critics, leading to accusations of stifled free speech. Earlier this month, New Delhi police conducted raids on the residences of prominent journalists associated with a left-leaning news organization known for its critical scrutiny of the Indian government. They arrested the outlet's editor and a colleague, invoking India's Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), a law criticized as draconian.

In February, Indian tax authorities similarly raided the BBC's offices in New Delhi and Mumbai, alleging tax evasion. These raids followed the banning of a BBC documentary critical of Modi's alleged involvement in deadly riots over two decades ago.

The latest development came as Delhi's Lieutenant Governor, V. K. Saxena, stated that the case for sedition against Arundhati Roy and others was made and prosecution awaits court approval.

The case dates back to 2010 when Roy made comments at a conference titled "Azadi – the Only Way Ahead," using "azadi" (freedom or liberation) as a slogan for the Kashmiri independence movement. The initial complaint alleged that Roy's speeches were provocative, endangering public security by suggesting that Kashmir was never part of India and ad-



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vocating for Kashmiri independence.

Notably, two of the accused, Kashmiri separatist leader Sayed Ali Shah Geelani and Delhi University lecturer Syed Abdul Rahman Geelani, have since passed away. However, Sheikh Showkat Hussain, a former international law professor at the Central University of Kashmir, still faces charges alongside Roy.

In her 2010 speech, Roy discussed Kashmiri efforts to seek justice, particularly regarding the mass exodus of Hindus from Muslim-majority Kashmir in the early 1990s amid escalating violence.

Kashmir has been at the center of a long-standing territorial dispute between India and Pakistan, both claiming the entire region. Separatist violence in Kashmir has led to hundreds of casualties annually, as reported by human rights groups.

In 2019, the BJP campaigned to revoke Kashmir's special semi-autonomous status, eventually splitting the former state into two federal territories. India cited the move as ensuring equal laws for all citizens, promoting economic development, and countering alleged terrorism aided by Pakistan.

However, the decision heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, reigniting the Kashmir conflict.

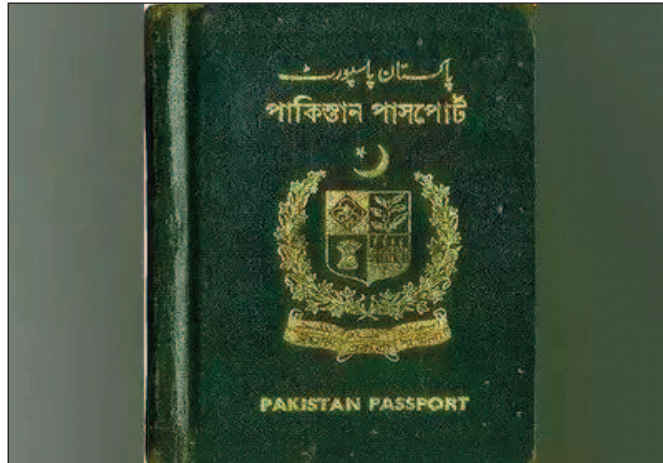
Saudi Authorities Uncover Over 12,000 Fake Pakistani Passports from Afghan Nationals

International Desk: Saudi Arabian authorities have discovered more than 12,000 counterfeit Pakistani passports in the possession of Afghan nationals, raising concerns about national institutions.

Riyadh has informed Islamabad about this alarming revelation, shedding light on how Afghan citizens acquired these fraudulent passports through various passport centers operating within Pakistan, as reported by The Express Tribune, a Pakistan-based newspaper.

In response to the situation, Pakistan's Ministry of Interior has established a high-level committee consisting of representatives from the Interior Ministry, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), and sensitive government agencies. This committee's primary responsibilities include identifying those responsible for issuing counterfeit passports and compiling a list of individuals involved. Subsequent legal actions will be pursued against these individuals in accordance with the country's laws.

This development comes on the heels of the government issuing an



ultimatum, directing all illegal foreign residents in Pakistan to leave the country by the end of October. This directive has raised concerns from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRC), which questions the profiling of Afghan nationals with a narrow view of national security.

In response, the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON) has assured that legally residing Afghan nationals in Pakistan will not face harassment or arrest. The evacuation of Afghan citizens living illegally in Pakistan began last week, with 16 trucks transporting 20 families to the Torkham border. Upon fulfilling the necessary legal requirements, these 20 families, totaling 350 people, will

be permitted to enter Afghanistan, as reported by The Express Tribune.

For decades, Islamabad has hosted millions of refugees, with a peak of up to five million Afghan refugees residing in Pakistan at one point. Official records, however, indicate a significantly lower number of individuals possessing valid refugee cards.

Signs of Resurgence: Concerns Grow as COVID-19 and Other Viruses Loom in the Winter Season

Health Desk: Flu cases have remained at low levels nationwide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recent report. However, early indications suggest that the virus is gradually starting to circulate. Alicia Budd, who leads the CDC's domestic influenza surveillance team, noted that these low levels are expected to increase in the coming weeks. Traditionally, flu seasons gain momentum in December and reach their peak in February. Unlike last year, the CDC has not observed the unusually early rise in flu activity, especially among children and teenagers. Most of the reported flu cases this season are attributed to influenza type A, specifically the H1N1 strain.

A CDC report from Thursday highlighted that the flu disproportionately affected children in the previous year. Danielle Iuliano, a senior research epidemiologist at the CDC and one of the study's authors, pointed out that the number of flu-related pediatric doctor visits and hospitalizations during the 2022-23 flu season exceeded previous years. The majority of these cases were flu type A, primarily H3N2, while approximately 20% were classified as H1N1.

Considering the experience of the previous year, Iuliano emphasized the importance of vaccinating children to prevent severe illness and hospitalizations.

Doctors recommend that everyone aged 6 months and older should receive an annual flu shot, and it's crucial to do so now. Dr. Kristin Englund, an infectious disease physician at the Cleveland Clinic, advises her patients to get vaccinated by Halloween. It takes at least



two weeks after vaccination to develop antibodies for maximum protection.

As the winter season approaches, there are concerns about a potential "triple-demic," with the flu, Covid, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) circulating simultaneously. Early signs indicate that these viruses are already spreading, albeit at relatively low levels, according to WastewaterSCAN, a group that monitors sewage for viral evidence.

Marlene Wolfe, an assistant professor of environmental health at Emory University and program director for WastewaterSCAN, reported increased rates of flu and RSV detection across the country. Although there was a late summer rise in Covid cases, Wolfe noted that current levels are still higher than during

the middle of the summer.

Doctors are encouraging people to take measures to reduce viral activity as the U.S. enters the cold and flu season, including mask-wearing in certain situations. In addition to updated Covid vaccines, a new vaccine designed to protect pregnant women and older adults from RSV is now available.

Anticipating an increase in Covid, RSV, and flu cases, the Cleveland Clinic will begin requesting that all visitors to hospitalized patients wear masks, starting next week, though it is not mandatory. The goal is to ensure the well-being of patients, who are seeking to recover rather than be exposed to additional respiratory viruses.



Shooting Incident Delays Opening of State Fair of Texas

SAM Desk: The State Fair of Texas, which typically draws thousands of visitors on Sundays, experienced a delay in opening this Sunday due to a shooting incident. The fair didn't open until 1:45 p.m. following a shooting on Saturday night where a man shot at another man, injuring three people. The victims, including two adult males and an adult female, are expected to recover, but at least one appears to have been an innocent bystander.

The suspect, identified as 22-year-old Cameron Turner, was apprehended by the police, and a gun was recovered. He is now charged with aggravated assault. The shooting occurred in the Tower Building, a food court, at around 8 p.m.

Witnesses described the chaotic scene, with people fleeing and seeking safety. Despite the incident, the State Fair of Texas reopened on Sunday, with enhanced security measures, including an open-gate weapons detection system to ensure visitors' safety.

The fair prohibits weapons on its property but allows exceptions for licensed gun owners. However, the shooting has raised concerns about the fair's gun policy, as some visitors expressed reservations about attending if guns are allowed on the premises.

The incident highlights the ongoing debate and challenges surrounding gun regulations and safety measures at public events.





Credit: AFP/Getty Images

Twin Earthquakes Rattle Humboldt County, California Coastline

SAM Desk: Humboldt County, nestled along the picturesque California coastline, was jolted by two sizable earthquakes on Monday, October 16, prompting residents and seismologists to spring into action. While these twin tremors were felt across the region, no immediate reports of significant damage or injuries have surfaced. The quakes were a stark reminder of the ongoing seismic activity in California.

The first earthquake struck at 3:20 a.m., originating just 12 miles east of Petrolia. This seismic event had a magnitude of 4.8 and reached a depth of 19 miles beneath the Earth's surface. The US Geological Survey reported that over 350 people, scattered as far away as Mendocino and Crescent City, felt the tremor.

The second earthquake, with a magnitude of 4.1, occurred just 11 minutes later at 3:31 a.m., originating in the ocean just off the California coast. This time, more than 225 individuals, including residents of Eureka and McKinleyville, reported feeling the shaking. The depth of this quake was approximately 14 miles.

Following these twin quakes, a third seismic event with a magnitude of 3.1 occurred at



The location of the epicenter of the quake which struck today, 3/8/2020, courtesy of the USGS.

6:04 a.m. This quake was centered about 12 miles east of Petrolia, further emphasizing the region's susceptibility to tectonic activity.

While Californians are no strangers to earthquakes, it is essential for residents of earthquake-prone areas to remain vigilant, be prepared, and follow established safety guidelines in the event of further seismic activity. Fortunately, swift actions and adherence to

safety measures can help mitigate potential risks during these natural events.

Humboldt County, located approximately 250 miles northwest of San Francisco, lies within the seismically active Pacific Ring of Fire. Given the geographical location and historical patterns of earthquake activity, residents and authorities must remain proactive in their readiness for any future seismic events.



Kareena Kapoor Khan Shares

(Continued from page 1)

Kareena Kapoor Khan, celebrated for her illustrious career, has had the privilege of working with all three of the iconic 'Three Khans of Bollywood'—Salman, Shah Rukh, and Aamir. In a candid interview with mid-day, she provided fascinating glimpses into their distinctive work styles and what sets them apart.

Kareena praised Shah Rukh Khan as being '20 years ahead of his time,' attributing his charisma and unique approach to his enduring stardom. She described Salman Khan as a highly confident star who often pretends to be aloof but possesses sharp awareness and at-

tentiveness. When it came to Aamir Khan, Kareena emphasized his intense dedication to his characters and films, occasionally requiring someone to tell him to 'calm down.' She spoke of how Aamir becomes consumed by his roles, turning his focus and discussions almost entirely toward his work.

Regarding Salman Khan, Kareena remarked, "His confidence is on another level. It's not like he isn't aware. He's always a bit like he's not listening or he's sleeping, but he's listening to everything. He's as sharp as a knife." She noted about Aamir, "He becomes obsessed with his character, all he thinks about is work. He lives with those characters, and that's all he talks about. That's his personality, and we love Aamir Khan for that." When

asked if it gets 'unnerving' at times, she mentioned that she occasionally has to remind him to 'calm down' when his immersion becomes too intense.

Kareena also praised Shah Rukh Khan, emphasizing that he's the 'biggest star India has ever seen.' She marveled at his exceptional qualities, describing him as someone who extends his efforts not only to his character but to every individual on the set. She acknowledged his multitasking abilities and his capacity to make others feel comfortable in his presence. Kareena pointed out that despite Shah Rukh Khan's immense stardom, he has a kind and caring demeanor, which makes everyone around him feel at ease.

BNP Publicity Secretary Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie Sent to Jail

Dhaka Office: In connection with an attack on police that occurred in front of Dhaka City College on May 23, a Dhaka court has ordered the detention of BNP publicity secretary Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mamunur Rashid issued the order after Annie was brought before the court following four days of remand, as confirmed by a police official from the court.

The magistrate has also approved a petition for the proper treatment of Annie inside the jail.

Annie was initially placed on a four-day remand by another Dhaka court on October 11, following a seven-day remand request by the police. On the same day, he was arrested at his Dhanmondi residence in connection with the case filed at Dhanmondi Police Station on May 24.



California's Wettest Year on Record Brings Relief and New Concerns



Mark Abramson for The New York Times

SAM Desk: Over the past 12 months, California experienced an exceptionally rainy period, which has been among the wettest ever recorded in the state. This abundant rainfall has revitalized California's lakes, groundwater, and reservoirs, providing a significant contrast to the severe drought conditions of the previous three years.

During the most recent water year, which ended two weeks ago, California received 141 percent of its average annual rainfall, with the state's snowpack reaching its deepest level in four decades. The surplus water reserves have put California's reservoirs at 128 percent of their typical levels for this time of year.

The newfound abundance in precipitation has

brought relief to California's water resources, particularly its lakes and groundwater supplies. State water officials attribute the favorable weather conditions to preventing extreme flooding, which was a significant concern earlier in the year. Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources, described the year as a "miracle" due to the balanced distribution of rainfall and the lack of rapid snowmelt.

This excess of moisture has also had a positive impact on California's fire season, with significantly fewer acres burned compared to the previous five years. The rains from Hurricane Hilary played a crucial role in Southern California by providing relief during the peak of fire season.

While it is too early to predict the weather patterns for the new water year, the arrival of El Niño, expected to continue through the winter, suggests the likelihood of more rain and snow in California. Preparations for potential flooding risks are underway, as last year's levee breaches resulted in considerable damage to communities.

However, with an approaching El Niño, officials remain vigilant and focus on flood infrastructure and monitoring flood-prone areas, especially along the California coast.

In other news, California has introduced speed cameras to enhance pedestrian safety and has become the first state to ban the use of Red Dye No. 3 in food, following the F.D.A.'s previous ban on its use in cosmetics.

The best way to resolve the Hamas hostage crisis



Photo: Reuters

SAM Desk: In Gaza, as many as 150 hostages are being detained, and 17 Americans are unaccounted for, with Hamas suspected of involvement, according to the White House. The situation has raised fears as Hamas has threatened to execute these hostages and broadcast the executions if Israel strikes Gaza without prior warning. The approach with the least potential risk to the hostages appears to be through negotiated releases. One government that holds some sway with Hamas is Qatar, known for providing substantial financial aid to impoverished Gaza residents in recent years. Qatar has also demonstrated its ability to facilitate such releases, as seen last month when they helped secure the freedom of five American prisoners held by Iran, which also involved the unfreezing of \$6 billion in Iranian oil revenues for humanitarian use.

Qatari officials have already initiated discussions with Hamas regarding potential arrangements for the release of the detained hostages.

It's worth noting that past exchanges have seen Hamas driving a hard bargain, such as the 2011 release of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, which resulted in more than 1,000 Palestinian prisoners being swapped for his freedom.

While negotiated releases are an option, there

In past hostage situations, rescue missions have proven perilous for those held captive, even when executed by highly trained special operations forces. A tragic example occurred in 2010 when British aid worker Linda Norgrove, kidnapped by the Taliban, lost her life during a rescue operation conducted by US Navy SEAL Team Six. An internal investigation later revealed that Norgrove was killed by a fragmentation grenade thrown by a member of the SEAL team during the operation.

are also alternatives, including rescue operations, often conducted by special operations forces. However, these operations require precise knowledge of the hostages' location, and US special operations forces have offered support to Israel but have not embarked on ground missions to rescue the hostages.

Given the current lack of information about the hostages' whereabouts and the complex network of Hamas-controlled underground tunnels throughout Gaza, locating the hostages would prove exceptionally challenging, particularly if they are concealed within these tunnels.

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Hostage-takers can also resort to violence during rescue operations, as was witnessed in 2014 when American journalist Luke Somers was killed by his al Qaeda captors during a SEAL Team Six rescue operation.

A study conducted in 2017, which I co-authored for New America, a prominent research institution, examined 42 cases over the previous 15 years where Western hostages were seized by terrorist groups and a rescue attempt was made. The study discovered that in 20% of these cases, the rescue operation resulted in the death of the hostages.

In summary, a negotiated release mediated by Qatar appears to offer the lowest-risk option for freeing the hostages. An encouraging first step would be the release of children and elderly hostages currently in the custody of Hamas.

Aasha Home Care Hosts Dream Frame Service Nazrul Sangeet Musical Event



President & CEO Aakash Rahman and Chairman Esha Rahman handing a Letter of Acknowledgement to Dr. Nirupoma Rahman



Dr. Nirupoma Rahman on the stage, at Aasha Party Hall in Jamaica

SAM Desk: On Sunday night, Aasha Home Care hosted a Nazrul Sangeet musical event at Aasha Party Hall in Jamaica. Dr. Nirupoma Rahman was the performer, who

was later awarded with a Letter of Acknowledgement by the President and CEO of Aasha Home Care, Aakash Rahman, and Chairman, Esha Rahman. It was night to celebrate the

beauty of Nazrul Sangeet, and there were many people at the event that came to relish the evening with their loved ones and friends."



President and CEO of Aasha Home Care, Aakash Rahman watching the performance with the guests



Chairman of Aasha Home Care, Esha Rahman watching the performance with the guests



Will Smith Breaks Silence on Separation from Jada Pinkett Smith

Entertainment Desk: Will Smith, 55, has spoken out after his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, 52, publicly revealed their separation of seven years for the first time. Responding to a comment request from The New York Times, Will Smith opened up about what he learned from Jada's new memoir, "Worthy." He mentioned that the book woke him up and made him realize that Jada is more resilient, clever, and compassionate than he had previously under-

stood. In an email, Will Smith explained that after being with someone for more than half of your life, emotional blindness can set in, causing one to lose sensitivity to the hidden nuances and subtle beauties of their partner. Jada Pinkett Smith recently admitted in an interview for NBC News that they've been living separate lives for seven years but have chosen not to get divorced. She explained that she made a promise to work through any challenges,

leading them to exhaust themselves in trying to make their relationship work. The public revelation has brought relief to their children, Willow Smith, 22, and Jaden Smith, 25, who are supportive of their parents being true to themselves and not holding any more secrets. The situation highlights the complexities of long-term relationships and the importance of open communication.



University of Texas Offers Literary Course on Taylor Swift's Lyrics

Entertainment Desk: The University of Texas at Austin has introduced an intriguing literary course titled "The Taylor Swift Songbook" for Fall 2022. Taught by Dr. Elizabeth Scala, the course delves into literary studies and research methods, utilizing Taylor Swift's lyrics as the foundation for teaching a range of literary skills. English Professor Elizabeth Scala clarified that she selected Taylor Swift's songwriting for literary analysis because "Taylor Swift writes her own lyrics." The course emphasizes the examination of Taylor

Swift's songs as literary writings and how the artist employs traditional poetic devices, figures, and tropes in her work. It is not centered on celebrity or fame. According to the official course description, students will explore topics such as gender, authenticity, authorship, and the influence of readers and fans on artists and writers. The course requires students to engage with Taylor Swift's recent albums, including "Red (Taylor's Version)," "Lover," "Folklore," and "Evermore," but also encourages discussions on her older songs.

This course represents an innovative approach to exploring contemporary literature while drawing connections to literary works from the past. It seeks to underscore the literary elements within Taylor Swift's songwriting and her influence on modern literary culture. The University of Texas has a history of offering unique courses that blend pop culture and academics, as previously seen with the class "Beyoncé Feminism, Rihanna Womanism," which focused on deciphering contemporary Black feminism.



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