UN's commemoration of Nakba and the West's complicity

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Amid the risk of a third intifada Palestinians and Israelis in each looming over the Israel-Palestine conflict, the United Nations, on May 15, officially commemorated Nakba, the ethnic cleansing of roughly 700,000 Palestinians in the process of Israel's creation in 1948. Every year on May 15, while Israelis celebrate their Independence Day a moment of pride for the longpersecuted Jewish community Palestinians around the world protest the ongoing occupation and oppression.

The UN's commemoration was welcomed by Palestine, harshly condemned by Israel, and rejected by major Western friends of the latter. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has called the commemoration "historic," given the General Assembly's role to partition British-ruled Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish, with Jerusalem placed under a special international regime.

Though it is indeed a historic gesture, the international and Western support for Palestinian human rights has a faint heartbeat. The US, UK, and members of the EU, who strongly uphold the rhetoric of the two-state solution, did not attend the event. They chose to tread on the safer side, and by signalling their "neutrality" on Nakba, the West has blatantly revealed its lack of empathy for Palestinian calls for justice. This moment serves as a reflection, and a reminder, of the Western complicity in perpetuating the injustice against Palestinians. The two-state solution is not viable today, and never has been, because of the West's unconditional support for Israel, which itself is responsible for the unfinished Nakba.

For Palestinians, Nakba, which means "catastrophe," is integral to their current resistance and identity. daily occurrence. Just days before the UN's event, a five-day flare-up on the Gaza Strip left 30 Palestinians killed, injured 90 others, while destroying 50 homes and displacing 950 people. A ceasefire, negotiated by Egypt, prevented further escalation. But this movie of violence and ceasefire plays like a broken record in the region.

The Israeli attack last week came despite another fragile ceasefire in place, after cross-frontier exchanges followed the death of Khader Adnan, a prominent political figure affiliated with Islamic Jihad, in Israeli custody. Israel continues to detain Palestinians, encroach their lands, launch "pre-emptive" airstrikes on the grounds of "self-defence" against terrorist groups, Palestine's Islamist Jihad party and Iranbacked Hamas. Of course, the rise of militancy in Palestine is a matter of safety concern for Israeli citizens - as it is for Palestinian citizens. But if there was ever a debate regarding who the victim or oppressor is, the

episodic blow-up should have put that to bed.

Just last year, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the West Bank took the bloodiest turn since the second intifada, killing around 150 Palestinians and 30 Israelis. In 2021, Israeli forces killed 236 Palestinians on the Gaza Strip, and thousands lost their homes. Time and time again, the West has backed the "selfdefence" narrative that Israel has used to dodge accountability.

Palestinians are repressed in countless other forms: illegal Israeli of Palestinians, through their commitment to ensure that Israel maintains its Qualitative Military Edge to "potential regional threats." With roughly \$150 billion in financial aid, they've developed Israel's advanced military. And by being an apologist for the far-right government's misuse of military powers against Palestinian civilians, they've let Netanyahu's regime operate with impunity.

The UK, former colonisers of Palestine, also deals with the conflict with similar duplicity. (It is worth mentioning that the UK has never faced their unique historical role in Nakba, and the fact that they paved the way for the 1948 displacement of Palestinians when they issued the Balfour Declaration). In a pact signed this March, the UK pledged to confront "anti-Israel bias" in international organisations and opposed using the term "apartheid" to describe Israel's oppression of Palestine. For years, the UK has



Smoke rises following an Israeli strike in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on May 9, 2023.

settlements in the West Bank, and maintained an exclusive arms trade the apartheid system that subjects Palestinians in Israel-occupied territories to draconian laws. But Western sympathisers, who visit the region and tepidly call for peace, continue to turn a deaf ear towards the plight of Palestinians.

The carnage and instability that US, UK, Canada, Germany, Italy, welcoming the latest ceasefire and began 75 years ago continues to be a and the Netherlands – all big global reinstating their readiness to work highest standards of democracy, were among the 30 nations who outrightly voted against the UN resolution to commemorate Nakba.

Explaining the decision behind the US' absence in the UN event, the White House spokesperson told Axios that the US "has longstanding concerns over anti-Israel bias within the UN system, which is counterproductive to peace. We do not support events organized by bodies designed to perpetuate anti-Israel bias." The choice of words from the White House starkly shows that their own long-standing bias on the matter remains ironclad.

Despite their garrulous calls for a two-state solution, the US has unabashedly failed to condemn Netanyahu's settlement policies that have foreclosed the options of the two-state solution itself. Even after the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh last year, the US failed to independently suffer. Nakba will go on, as it does, launch an investigation. The US disparity in the casualties between has always backed the oppression governments will stand by it.

with Israel, and continues to supply drones that are used in surveillance and attacks on Palestinians in Gaza.

Likewise, EU member states increasingly engage in arms trade and economically beef up Israel's forces. But sanctimoniously, the It is incredibly shameful that the EU released a statement on May 14, players who claim to champion the $\,$ with "all partners to bring relief assist in achieving calm for both Israelis and Palestinians and restore a political horizon." The readiness is limited to political convenience: members of the EU did not attend the UN's commemoration of Nakba; the president of the European Commission instead sent a special message to celebrate 75 years of Israel's independence, where she praised Israel as a vibrant democracy.

When it comes to Israel and Palestine, the West finds it hard to stick to their so-called moral values, because it's politically difficult. They don't even shy away from disjoining hands with the UN and humanitarian bodies. But if they truly care about peace, the West must come to terms with its own complicity regarding the loss of Palestinian lives. Until then, Israel will have no incentive to comply with international law and Palestinians will continue to with Israel knowing that powerful

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 1 June honoree 7 Regarding 11 Steep gully 12 Not barefoot 13 Fashioned 14 In need of a massage 15 London paper 16 Future bucks 17 Bit of funding 18 Brazilian dances 19 Mile or meter 21 Lupino of film 22 Celeb stalker 25 Negative link 26 Sub spot 27 Chooses to

participate

29 Ship's front

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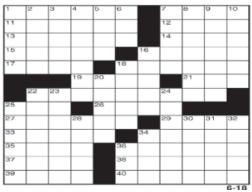
1 Extreme diets 2 Band-leader Shaw 3 "Go ahead, ask" 4 In hiding 5 Potato parts 6 Fishing pole 7 Tea growing

8 What Variety covers 9 Transport to Oz 10 Black Sea port 16 Deadly 18 Squad car sound 20 Lowest point 22 Hot 23 Chrysler Building's style 24 Cable ride 25 Create marginalia 28 Wallops 30 Swift 31 Make a speech 32 Diminished 34 Hamster

holder

36 Pewter

component



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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Bangladesh can become a semiconductor packaging hub



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STMicroelectronics, Motorola, etc.

A S M A HASEEB

going on in the country on developing a semiconductor manufacturing sector, in an effort to diversify our economy and accelerate economic growth. Semiconductor chips, or integrated circuit (IC) chips, are the brains of modern electronic devices. In 2020, more than 932 billion chips were produced in the world – that's more than 116 chips per person. You may be using more than 150 IC chips on a daily basis via your smartphone, depending on the model. In the era of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), the demand for IC chips is only going to rise, which means semiconductor manufacturing will keep growing; the semiconductor market is expected to almost double in value, to become a USD 1 trillion industry, by the end of this decade.

Manufacturing IC chips and integrating them into commercial electronic devices constitute probably the most technologically advanced and complex manufacturing value chain. Simply put, the major steps in semiconductor manufacturing include: 1) IC chip design; 2) silicon wafer production; 3) IC chip fabrication; 4) IC chip packaging, assembly and testing; and 5) integration to systems/ commercial products.

In Bangladesh, some IC designrelated activities have started recently. But that is not the focus of this article. Out of the steps listed above, IC chip fabrication, also called front-end process, consists of highly sophisticated process steps that need huge capital (several billion US dollars), highly skilled engineers and scientists, and intense involvement in (R&D). Only a few companies in the parks in Vietnam. The Philippines targeting niche areas to engage in.

Recently, there have been discussions world are able to do IC fabrication, such as TSMC, Intel, Samsung, Global Foundries, etc. At present, it is not realistic for Bangladesh to enter the IC chip fabrication sector. But what is doable right now is IC chip packaging, assembly and testing.

For simplicity, let's use "packaging" to refer to this step, which is also called back-end process. An IC chip, built on a thin single crystal silicon wafer, is vulnerable, fragile, and easily gets damaged when exposed to the ambient atmosphere. So, it must be secured in a package that provides the necessary protection against mechanical, thermal, and chemical damages. An IC chip cannot work on its own. Hence, the package must provide connection between the chip and other circuit components. The package must also dissipate the heat generated because of the current flowing through the chip so as not to overheat and destroy it.

IC packaging is technologically demanding and labourintensive. That is why this segment of semiconductor manufacturing was shifted from the West to the Asia-Pacific region in the early 1980s. Packaging has been thriving in this region that used to offer low wages e.g. in Malaysia, China, Taiwan, etc. However, labour costs in these countries have risen over the years. IC packaging is again being shifted to new, lower-wage countries. Vietnam,

taking advantage of this shift, has been able to attract multi-billiondollar foreign direct investment (FDI) in semiconductor manufacturing. Companies like Intel, Samsung, LG,

Dr ASMA Haseeb is also reaping benefits from this trend. India, too, has entered the semiconductor industry very recently in an emphatic way.

> Against this backdrop, Bangladesh can position itself to be an active player, particularly in semiconductor packaging. The country has a good number of advantages, a key advantage being the availability of cheap labour. The country has a young workforce, which is an important asset. The ongoing nationwide effort on the quality assurance of higher education should help convince investors in this techintensive sector about the supply of talents in engineering and science. Our solid experience in managing export-oriented industry in other sectors is a plus point as well.

> Recent changes in the geopolitical scenario have been compelling the global semiconductor manufacturing sector to diversify its supply chain and relocate some of the process steps to countries that pose lower risks. Bangladesh can be a beneficiary of this development. The country may aim to attract a few prominent international players to bring in FDI by providing attractive tax and other incentives, and by ensuring ease of doing business. This needs consideration and solicitation at the highest level.

> Policies should also be friendly to local entrepreneurs. Domestic entrepreneurs with lower budgets may explore the possibility of entering the IC packaging sector by targeting simpler products that require smaller investments.

The time is ripe for Bangladesh to explore the possibility of entering lucrative semiconductor manufacturing sector in a substantial way. It may be worth mentioning that semiconductor again manufacturing is probably the most complex value chain there is. So, due diligence by investing time and efforts is vital to comprehend this sector of great promise. Intermingling with international players and experts AmKor, Panasonic, Foxconn, etc have to create a solid understanding will advanced research and development been investing heavily in high-tech help in devising good policies and in

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয় क्रशाञ्नी, वित्रमान।

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co	মন্ত্রনাশয় বিভাগ		8	সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্ৰনালয়						
૦ર	এজেপি		8	সমাজসেবা অধিদক্তর,ঢাকা						
00	সংগ্ৰাহ	কে সন্তার নাম	8	মহাপরিচালক , সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর , ঢাকা এর পক্ষে জেলা প্রশাসক , বরিশাল।						
80	সংগ্রাহক সন্তার জেশা			বরিশাশ।						
00	যে কান্ধের দরপত্র		8	২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদক্ষতর এর আওতাধীন ১) সরকারী শিত পরিবার (বালক) ২) সরকারী শিত পরিবার বালিকা (উভর) ৩) সরকারী শিত পরিবার বালিকা (দক্ষিন) ৪) সরকারী দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী বিদ্যালয় ৫ মহিলা ও শিত কিশোরী হেফাজতীদের নিরাপদ আবাসন কেন্দ্র ৬) সামাজিক প্রতিবন্ধী মেয়েদের প্রশিক্ষণ ও পুনর্বাসন কেন্দ্র ৭) সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম, বরিশাল ৮) ছোটমনি নিবাস, গৈলা,আগৈলঝাড়া, বরিশাল এর নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য, খাদ্যানুষহাসিক ও শিক্ষা খাছ্য প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য এবং বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।						
06	দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ			০১, তারিখঃ ১৪.০৫.২০২৩ খ্রিঃ।						
90	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ			১৮.০৫.২০২৩ খ্রি।						
оъ	সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি		1	উত্মক দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও,টি,এম)						
do	বাজেট এবং তহবিলের উল্ল		8	রাজন্ব বাজেট জি. ও. বি.						
20	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং		8	क, च, ग, घ अंगर ७						
22	দরপত্রের প্যাকেজের নাম		8	২০২৩-২০২৪ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদফতর পরিচাশিত বিভিন্ন আবাসিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিবাসীদের জন্য খাদ্য, খাদ্যানুষংগিক ও শিক্ষা খাদ্য প্রসাধনী এবং বিবিধ মালামাল ক-গ্রুপ- খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক(অপচনশীল ও পচনশীল), খ-গ্রুপ- শিক্ষা, খাদ্য, প্রসাধনী ও জন্যান্য এবং ও গ্রুপ- বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ।						
32	দরপত্র সিডিউশ বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ		8	০৬.০৬.২০২৩ খ্রিঃ সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ৪.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ।						
20	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়		8	০৭.০৬.২০২৩ খ্রিঃ সকাল ১.০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুগুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।						
78	দরপত্র ঝোলার তারিখ ও সময়		8	০৭.০৬.২০২৩ খ্রিঃ বিকাশ ৩.০০ ঘটিকায়।						
26	কার্যাপায়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা ঃ- ক. মৃল দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়			সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান কার্যালয় এবং উপপরিচালক , জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয় , রূপাতলী , বরিশাল।						
	খ, দরপত্র দশিশ গ্রহণ		8	জেলা প্রশাসক এর কার্যালয় এক: উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, রূপাতলী, বরিশাল।						
	গ. দরপত্র দলিল খোলা		8	জেলা প্রশাসক এর কার্যালয়, বরিশাল।						
70	১৬ দরদাতার যোগ্যতা		8	 বৈধ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ট্রেঞ্জারী চালানের মূল কপি, পূর্বে অনুরূপ কাজ করার সনদপত্র, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেল, ব্যাংক সঙ্গুলতার সনদপত্র, আয়কর সনদ এবং ভ্যাট প্রদান(২০২১-২০২২) সনদ এর অধিকারী হতে হবে। 						
	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য		8	দরপত্র সিভিউপের মূল্য ট্রেন্সারী চালানের মাধ্যমে কোড ১-২৯৩১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ তে (অক্ষেরৎযোগ্য জমা দিতে হবে।						
	The l	ঞ্জ সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ		সিডিউলের মূল্য	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমান	মন্তব্য				
				¢00/-	সিডিউল মোতাবেক	সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এবং ছোট মনি নিবাস ব্যতিরেকে অন্য সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য প্রযোজ্য।				
	থ শিক্ষা, ছান্ত্য প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য			@00/-	à					
	গ	গ খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক(অপচনশীল পচন- শীল) এবং শিক্ষা, যাস্থ্য, প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য		৪০০/- ঐ ছোট ম		ছোট মনি নিবাস এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য।				
	ষ খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুষংগিক(অপচনশীল পচন-শীল) এবং শিক্ষা ,খাছ্য , প্রসাধনী ও অন্যান্য			২০০/-	à	সমন্বিত দৃষ্টি প্রতিবন্ধী শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য।				
	ভ বিবিধ মালামাল			200/-	3	জেলাধীন সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের জন্য প্রযোজ্য				

২০. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা

২১. দরপত্র আহবানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নাধার

ক) টেভার সিঞ্চিরিটি বাবদ উত্বল্প মূল্যের ৫% অর্থ পে-অর্ভারের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।

খ) পি,পি এ ২০০৬ এবং পি, পি, আর ২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ) এ প্রদন্ত ক্রয় সংক্রোম্ভ পদ্ধতি যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে। গ) গৃহীত দরদাতার নিকট হতে উদ্বন্ত দরের ১০% পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটির অর্থ প্রান্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্বাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।

ছ) "ঙ" গ্রুপের ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ প্রাপ্তি সাপেক্ষে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে।

চ) বিশেষ নির্দেশনা ঃ বিশ্বারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিঙিউলে বর্ণিত আছে।

কর্তৃপক্ষ কোণ কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করবেন

জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয় বরিশাল D ০২৪৭৮৮৩০৬৯৩

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