

HOT OFF THE PRESS

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EDITORIAL

LETTER FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

It is amazing that it has only been 2 days since the conference begun. It has felt like weeks since the opening ceremony and the Lieutenant's motivational speech. CMUN has been a meeting place for new ideas, crisis and a place where everyone can exercise their right of free speech. The inebriating energy of every delegate is shown as they rapidly write down questions to pester their fellow delegates with. This conference which is a simulation of the international press corps is a household of democracy and demands accountability. It has gone through multiple crisis in the past days which has ranged from the two prominent journalist agencies, 'Al Jazeera and Al Ahram' being seen in a meeting, talking with the terrorist brothers responsible with the Charlie Hebdo situation; to the agency of Al Ahram being linked to Al Qaeda. The committee has been a place with a roller coaster of emotions and there has never been a tedious moment. Our delegates have put in a great deal of effort outside of the committee room to provide our readers with interesting and educational content in this newsletter. I would also like to thank the logistics for their tireless efforts in making this MUN run so smoothly and make our lives so much easier. The IT has also really helped us with their efforts in making sure there were no road bumps in the committee (except the Air Conditioning issue). Every component of the conference, no matter how tiny, functions as a whole like a wheel's spokes to move it ahead and leave a lasting impression.

Nothing can lessen this dynamic committee's or the conference's overall authority and stature. Not a new site, not a shortage of room, not an unplanned disaster. The IPC is refreshing as always, promising distinction and great ideas every step of the way. It has been a great pleasure being the Assistant Director of the International Press Corps at CMUN 2024. Hopefully next year, I would be able to improve the committee as much as I can but I am sure that the spirit of the committee will remain unchanged each year, each year surpassing the other.

Yours truly,
Aarav Shah,
Assistant Director,
International Press Corps,
The Cathedral Model United Nations, 2024

INTERVIEWING BOLIVIA

By Purav Desai, The New York Times

NYT Reporter: Good afternoon delegate, what is your stance on the agenda?

Bolivia: I'm working with the USA. The USA just got convicted for engaging in drugs, but we believe that they did this to help the abducted people.

NYT Reporter: Has anyone said or done anything controversial so far?

Bolivia: I called the U.S.A. loves its country as less as its common sense

NYT Reporter: How does your country intend to deal with problems that are the sources of such drug trading?

Bolivia: We should either legalize drugs or create organizations that look into this matter with alliances.

NYT Reporter: What strategies is do you plan on implementing to reduce the demand for illicit drugs?

Bolivia: Legalizing drugs or education

NYT Reporter: What is your opinion on the U.S.A and D.E.A. trying to stop the cartels?

Bolivia: They have been constantly inefficient.

NYT Reporter: What do you think will be the effects of the privatization of the Medellin cartel?

Olivia: Colombian government getting the power to freely trade drugs and become the new hub for selling and buying.

NYT Reporter: Rate the committee:

Bolivia: Good. Very active on the second day with open floors and round robins



INTERVIEWING USSR

By Purav Desai, The New York Times

NYT Reporter: Good afternoon delegate, what is your stance on the agenda?

USSR: I think its important for drugs to be used for medicinal and research purposes to broaden the scientific horizons of us humans, but unrestricted recreational use of drugs can be extremely harmful to both individuals and countries. Our world is not equipped to handle that yet.

NYT Reporter: Has anyone said or done anything controversial so far?

USSR: The aim of this committee is to represent countries and organisations that are both anti and pro drugs, like once during an open floor, 2 separate delegates started a chant advocating for drugs.

NYT Reporter: How does your country intend to deal with problems that are the sources of such drug trading?

USSR: Currently, some of the pro drug countries are acting in a very violent and erratic manner and have even taken hostages, because people's lives are at stake, I will only be deciding what course of action to take after careful discussion and consideration with my bloc members.

NYT Reporter: What strategies is do you plan on implementing to reduce the demand for illicit drugs?

USSR: There are several solutions that can be implemented to reduce this demand, however each of these require careful consideration in their implementation. One obvious one is to integrate drug-based education into the curricula of schools and colleges

NYT Reporter: What do you think will be the effects of the privatization of the Medellin cartel?

USSR: The Medellin cartel tried to privatise to portray itself as a legal corporation and to hide from their past. Unfortunately for them, everyone in committee has seen through this, so its not likely that much change will come about.

NYT Reporter: Rate the committee:

USSR: 10/10, because whatever our grievances were, they were quickly addressed. The EB was fair and crisis was engaging and the committee room was well set up Most of all, the topic is especially pertinent to us youths who may be exposed to these same substances in the coming months and years of our life.



DEMANDS DEMANDS DEMANDS!

By Samaira Chanda, Liberation

In the recent events of the Lok Sabha, riots took place outside the parliament. The Hindus and Muslims were rioting due to events that took place during the water crisis. The Muslim rioters' leader had been shot and the Hindu rioters' leader was also killed. The rioters gave the two parties in the Lok Sabha the demands that they needed to meet in order for the riots to stop. The two members of each party (NDA & Congress) were faced with the following demands that they had to choose to either accept or reject in the midst of the pandemonium of the riot.

The demands were as follows:

MUSLIMS

1. A public ban of the Times of India from the country, and compensation from the Lok Sabha and Times of India for taking no action and allowing the destruction of the tanneries to go unnoticed.
2. A public apology from every Hindu in committee and for every BJP leader for allowing this to happen.
3. Destruction of the Kashi Vishwanath temple as it was a holy ground of Muslims during the times of Aurangzeb as a mosque used to be there.

HINDUS

1. All Muslim rioters must be arrested and forced to do labour in order to reduce their sentences. The rioters must do this by building Hindu temples and at least 25 temples must be built across India by the labourers.
 2. A public apology from every Muslim in committee and from every Congress member
 3. Taxation of Muslim holy grounds.
- The representatives of NDA accepted the demands while Congress refused to comply with the demands.



BETWEEN RED AND BLUE

By Mehr Kapoor, Al Jazeera

Richard Nixon, the President of the United States, is dead.

The Republicans and Democrats locked horns and prepared for a battle that can only be described as intense.

While the two sides had always had their differences, they mostly treated other sides with respect and consideration, and did not outwardly claim to be at war with each other. This, however, had changed.

The two parties were in the midst of a Civil War, ignited by the Democrats partnership with the USSR, and further amplified by the Watergate scandal. Neither side was without fault. The Democrats stormed the White House, and in a hostile takeover, illegally took charge of the government, along with the help of their friends from the Soviet Union. Now, the United States was without a leader, had a Republican Vice President, who was described as a “puppet” by the Democrats and was in a state of complete and utter chaos.

Two candidates, Hupert Humphrey, from the Democratic party, and Senator Lowell Weicker, from the Republican Party, poised themselves to initiate debate.

This debate was not an ordinary one- it was the debate that would decide the future of the citizens, of the cabinet, and of USA- the debate that would decide who the next President of the United States of America would be.

The two went back and forth, often cutting each-other off in an attempt to get their points across. While Weicker focused more on the Soviet partnership the Democrats had initiated, Humphrey emphasised the issues that the Republicans had caused in the past, including but not limited to the Watergate Scandal, even comparing the Republican’s policies to those of fascists.

Like a tide rapidly swinging back and forth, the two attempted to immerse themselves into constructive debate, which, however, was sorely lacking any legal evidence. While we recognise that the two candidates could not foresee this situation and therefore did not have enough time to prepare for proceedings as Presidential Candidates usually do, their attempt at convincing the audience either of them was a deserving candidate was sorely lacking.

Arguments were repetitive, questions were not answered pointedly, and no spectator, especially a US citizen, was filled with confidence in their future governance.



Interview of Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus

By Jayanti Yadav, Le Monde

The representative of Le Monde approached Mr. Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus, member of The Roman Senate, outside committee hours, and proposed various questions regarding the statements he had made within the same committee. The readers please note that this interview was conducted before his execution.

Le Monde: "You've mentioned that your mobilization of gladiator troops was purely a defensive measure due to threats within Cisalpine Gaul. However, isn't it true that such a move could easily be interpreted as preparation for offensive actions? How do you respond to accusations that you were gathering forces for a personal power grab?"

Brutus Albinus: "Let me clarify that my actions were solely driven by a responsibility to protect my the Republic of Rome itself. Cisalpine Gaul has always been a strategic region, which has been vulnerable to external threats. The decision to mobilize the gladiator troops was not taken lightly, or without any care, I like to believe that it was a necessary precaution. Suggesting that this was a move for personal gain is a huge misinterpretation. My only aim is the safety and security of the Republic, and anyone who claims anything otherwise is just trying to defame me. I am only trying to restore Rome to its former glory."

Le Monde: "You have been vocal about restoring Rome to its former glory. However, under your governance in Cisalpine Gaul, unrest has only increased. What assurances can you give that your leadership will not lead to further deterioration of the Republican values?"

Brutus Albinus: "Delegate [journalist] the unrest that you speak of in Cisalpine Gaul is just a part of the broader and bigger challenges facing Rome, not a result of my individual leadership. I have worked very hard to manage these issues with the resources that I currently have. My commitment to Rome is unwavering, and anyone who observes me in committee can ratify that. I assure you that I will continue to prioritize the stability and prosperity of Rome, above anything, and everything else. What we need now is collective action, against Julius Caesar. Together, we can overcome the challenges that he has created for us and restore Rome to its rightful place, and for this to occur, I propose immediate elections."

Le Monde: "You propose immediate elections to replace Caesar. Given the instability and unrest you've described, how do you intend to ensure that these elections are conducted fairly and without further exacerbating the current turmoil?"

Brutus Albinus: The key to ensuring fair elections lies in a united Senate, a senate united against him [Julius Caesar]. We must work together to restore order before proceeding with any electoral process. My proposal is not to rush into elections but to prepare for them by stabilizing the situation in Rome. We must engage with the public, rebuild trust, and ensure that the Senate is seen as a legitimate body capable of governing. Only then can we proceed with elections. But we continue getting more and more pressing challenges, like Mark Antony's motive to kill Caesar himself, the breaking of ties from Egypt, the mole in our committee, etc. These need to be

handled immediately, especially the mole situation, it requires a senate-wide investigation.

Le Monde: “[Delegate] You accused Mark Antony of having a motive to kill Caesar, but are you prepared to present concrete evidence to substantiate this serious allegation, or are these just baseless claims meant to deflect suspicion from yourself?”

Brutus Albinus: My accusation is based on observation and fact, and the political landscape we are in. Mark Antony's unwavering support for Caesar, even in the face of his dictatorial tendencies, raises questions about his actual intentions. I don't have direct evidence right now, but I am certain that when the stakes are this high, he will make such attempts. This is not me deflecting suspicion, this is me asking for justice. The Senate needs to unite and fight against Caesar.

Le Monde: “In the above response, you urged the senate to unite against a common enemy. How do you justify this call for unity with your divisive accusations against Mark Antony and other senators, which could further fracture the Senate?”

Brutus Albinus: Unity does not mean turning a blind eye to threats. Unity is when there is honesty and accountability. My accusations towards Mark Antony are not to divide.

The interview concluded on the above note, with Brutus Albinus swaddled in orange hues.



High tensions, Low pH

By Saisha Nanda of The Washington Post reports on the proceedings of the Futuristic Lok Sabha Session

13th March 2029, Sansad Bhavan, New Delhi: In a rather extraordinary turn of events afterlunch, the Lok Sabha convened an emergency session in the Sansad Bhavan, New Delhi, addressing the water crisis threatening the lives of millions across the nation. The Ganga water acidity test has proven to be hazardous along with the violent Haryana farmer revolt which escalated India's already critical water scarcity problems.

A once sacred symbol of purity is now on the brink of an ecological collapse with a PH level of 5.6 indicating an imminent increase in the acidity in the water. Luckily, the Ganga does not host any events requiring Prime Minister Narendra Modi to swim in the river to prove it clean.

After a thorough investigation, the Ministry of Jal Shakti attributed the above-mentioned issues to excessive religious activities taking place in the river along with images of plastic surfacing on the riverbanks depicting widespread pollution. As if the delegates did not have enough on their plate, this situation further escalated a communal cold war with certain Hindu practices being openly criticized by Muslim men which further escalated into violent clashes.

Devastating arson attacks took place near the Mata Vaishno Devi Temple in Jammu and Kashmir where the outraged Muslim community protested due to their perceived injustice towards the tannery owners in the Ganga plains, setting the surrounding forest ablaze. Fanning the fire, the Hindu-Muslim clashes worsened as it claimed the lives of five Hindu pilgrims and caused the death of the venerated Hindu religious leader, Ramdas Shankar.

Along with this, the sanctimonious Hindu temples in West Bengal including the Kali Maa temple were vandalized by Muslim protesters as this violence caught on to other regions like wildfire also reaching the Times of India editor's office in Uttar Pradesh. The publication was attacked with Molotov cocktails and stone pelting which resulted in four deaths. The next domino to fall was the essential infrastructure of the sewage treatment plants in charge of managing the pollution levels of the Ganga. Over fifty-eight Sewage treatment plants in Uttar Pradesh along with others in Bihar, Jharkhand and Delhi were forced to shut down due to the strikes organised by the Muslim labourers, as reported by the standing committee.

The closure of these facilities, which included the biggest sewage treatment plant in Asia in Lucknow, has worsened the problem, contaminating agricultural canals, and endangering the production of crops throughout North India.

Deep disagreements among the members of the Lok Sabha during the deliberations were indicative of the wider tensions in the nation. Representatives from West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, among other impacted states, demanded that the crisis underlying causes be addressed and that order be restored immediately. However, MPs and religious leaders from the Muslim and Hindu communities disagreed, accusing both sides of making things worse.

The contribution of the tannery sector to Ganga pollution was a significant point of discord where Muslim Politicians cautioned against economic marginalisation through taxes while Hindu MPs demanded stringent regulations on tanneries owned by Muslims. The religious leaders involvement further complicated the conversation when Adhiraaj Shankar, the brother of the deceased Ramdas Shankar, made an appearance at Parliament to demand stronger punishments for those he believed to be guilty of the violence.

Although there was no apparent consensus on the emergency session, the delegates pledged to carry on with discussions. The nation carefully observes the Lok Sabha to see if the members can steer the nation towards stability amidst the turmoil that continues to envelop the country.



Open floor or unspoken floor

By Saanvi Manglik, Der Spiegel

In open halls, where voices fade,
Unspoken truths in shadows laid.
The evidence, now dim and frail,
Undervalued in this tale.

The CIA, beneath the sway,
Of politics, a fleeting play.
For four years, the right did reign,
Yet secrets swirled in hidden pain.

Three centres embedded in foreign hands,
With USSR, they struck their plans.
Yet pivot comes, the blame askew,
To shift the light from what is true.

The voice call remains unheard,
voices still rising in the hall,
These seats were gained through silent lies,
Implicating what underlies.

A crisis blooms, as skies grow dim,
The Democrats,
Their scapegoats falter, twist, and bend,
As shadows chase a bitter end.

The CIA's own operative,
A voice to mask, a tale to give.
In courts avoided, truths are bent,
As Favours shift with ill intent.

The count is clear, the choice is made,
280 rise, the path is laid.
Once more the power shifts its hand,
The right takes hold across the land.
The executive branch now theirs to steer,
A new direction, sharp and clear.

Yemen's Crossroads: Power and Persuasion

By The Middle East Eye (Alina Khan)

Three authors were put to the test,
Which remains and doesn't—what's best?
The news spread fast, a thrilling sight,
Leading to a room in chaos, tight.

“Delegates!” scream the chairs, all quiet,
Except one man, who stood in riot.
The leader of Hezbollah, standing tall,
Yet in his stance, he seemed to fall.

As the committee moved, each had a chance,
Thirty seconds to change the committee's stance.
Do they deserve their spot in the room?
The votes would tell, like it or not.

With a clear majority, they bid adieu,
To Hezbollah's leader, old but true.
The USA cheered, a friend returned,
Anthony, now praised, where once he burned.

From Hezbollah's side to democracy's pride,
A sudden shift, but what did it hide?
Was it right, this power's shift?
Did they betray or did they uplift?

Is it just another Western game,
Where the aid comes with hidden shame?
Is a country ever truly free,
When foreign hands claim victory?