

Rewarding terror: Netanyahu on UK, Canada, Australia recognising Palestine

JERUSALEM, Sept 22 (IANS)

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has lashed out at Britain, Canada, and Australia after the three nations announced their recognition of a Palestinian state, accusing them of “rewarding terror” in the aftermath of the October 7 Hamas assault.

He reiterated that Israel would never allow the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan River.

“There will be no Palestinian state. The response to the latest attempt to force upon us a terror state in the heart of our land will be given after my return from the United States,” Netanyahu declared.

Directing his message at the Governments of the three countries, he said, “I have a clear message to those leaders who are recognising a Palestinian state



after the horrendous October 7 massacre: You are rewarding terror with an enormous prize. And I have another message for you: It’s not going to happen. There will be no Palestinian state to the west of the Jordan River.”

Reaffirming his longstanding opposition to Palestinian statehood, Netanyahu highlighted his commitment to expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank.

“For years, I have prevented the creation of that terror state, against tremendous pressure,

both domestic and from abroad. We have done this with determination and with astute statesmanship. Moreover, we have doubled the Jewish settlement in Judea and Samaria, and we will continue on this path,” he said.

The move by Britain, Canada, and Australia to formally recognise Palestine comes as part of a wider international effort to revive momentum for a two-state solution, though the decision has been strongly criticised by both Israel and the United States.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar also condemned the decision, calling it a grave misstep.

“Most countries in the world have already recognised a Palestinian state in the past. It was wrong in the past, too. But those governments that decided to join the recognition precisely now are also doing an immoral, outrageous, and especially ugly action,” he remarked.

Kim says open to talks with US if it drops demand on denuclearisation



SEOUL, Sept 22 (IANS)

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong-un has said he has a “good memory” of US President Donald Trump and Pyongyang is open to talks with the United States if Washington drops its demand for the North’s denuclearisation.

Kim made the remarks during his speech Sunday at a two-day key parliamentary meeting, the North’s Korean Central News Agency reported Monday, after Trump expressed hope to meet with the North’s leader this year during his summit with President Lee Jae Myung last month.

The North’s leader made it clear that his country will never give up nuclear arms but said the North could sit down with the US if Washington does not demand denuclearisation as a condition for talks. “If the US drops its hollow obsession with denuclearization and wants to pursue peaceful coexistence with North Korea based on the recognition of reality, there is no reason for us not to sit down with the US,” Kim said.

“Personally, I still have a good memory of US President Trump,” he added. It marked the first time that Kim has directly commented on his ties with Trump since the US leader began his second term in January. His sister, Kim Yo-jong, said in July that personal ties between Kim and Trump are “not bad.”

Russia to stick to N-arms limits for 1 more yr after treaty expires: Putin

MOSCOW, Sept 22 (AP)

RUSSIA'S President Vladimir Putin said Monday that Moscow will adhere to nuclear arms limits for one more year under the last remaining nuclear pact with the United States that expires in February and urged Washington to follow suit.

Putin said that the termination of the 2010 New START would have negative consequences for global stability and could fuel proliferation of nuclear weapons.

"To avoid provoking a further strategic arms race and to ensure an acceptable level of predictability and restraint, we believe it is justified to try to maintain the status quo established by the New START Treaty during the current, rather turbulent period," he said in televised remarks.

"Therefore, Russia is prepared to keep adhering to the central quantitative limitations of the New START Treaty for one year after February 5, 2026."

Putin added that "based on our analysis of the situation, we will subsequently make a decision on maintaining these voluntary self-restraints."

He said that Russia expected the US to follow its example and also stick to the treaty's limits.

"We believe this measure will only be viable if the United States acts in a similar manner and does not take steps that undermine or disrupt the existing balance of deterrence potentials," the Russian leader said.

Putin instructed Russian agencies to "closely monitor relevant American activities, particularly with regard to the strategic offensive arms arsenal," with a particular emphasis on plans to "expand the strategic components of the US missile defence system, including preparations for the deployment of interceptors in space." "The practical implementation of such destabilising actions could undermine our efforts to maintain the status quo in the strategic offensive

arms sphere," Putin warned, adding that, in that case, "we will respond accordingly."

He emphasised that Moscow's honouring the pact's limits could "make a significant contribution to creating an atmosphere conducive to substantive strategic dialogue with the US," provided that other efforts are also taken to normalise bilateral relations.

The New START, signed by then-Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev, limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers. Its looming expiration and the lack of dialogue on anchoring a successor deal have worried arms control advocates.

The pact also envisaged sweeping on-site inspections to verify compliance, but they have been dormant since 2020.

In February 2023, Putin suspended Moscow's participation in the treaty, saying Russia could not allow US inspections of its nuclear sites.

4-day visit of Indian Navy's First Training Squadron boosts ties with Mozambique

NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (IANS)

JOINT training to enhance operational interoperability remained the focus of Indian Navy (ITS) four-day port call to Maputo, Mozambique, an official said on Sunday.

Demonstrating enduring maritime friendship, the ITS, comprising INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi, concluded its port visit to Maputo on Friday, the official said.

During the deployment, ITS

engaged in a series of joint training to enhance operational interoperability with the Mozambique Navy. Activities included Joint Diving Operations, Firefighting, VBSS Ops and Bridge Machinery Control integration drills. Cross-training visit of Indian Navy trainees to Marine Commando School at Katembe, Sargent School at Boane, and the Army Practising School at Manhica fostered mutual understanding and cooperation. Seariders of the Mozambique Navy embarked onboard ITS ships



for joint EEZ surveillance.

Capt Tijo K Joseph, Senior Officer of ITS, along with Commanding Officers of visiting ships, paid courtesy calls to Rear Admiral Eugenio Dias Da Silva Muatuca, Chief of the Mozambique Navy; Major General Ezequiel Muianga, Inspector of FADM; Col Candido Jose Tirano, Commandant of Maputo Air Force Base. These high-level interactions underscored the growing defence cooperation between the two nations, said an official statement.

CPEC landed Pak in \$9.5 billion debt trap

NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (IANS)

THE China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which Islamabad had envisaged as an economic game-changer is actually turning out to be a costly venture. It has failed to achieve its targets and instead landed Pakistan in a \$9.5 billion debt trap.

The initiative promised to give much-needed economic impetus to Pakistan but quickly entered uncharted waters and became mired in countless controversies. Thus CPEC has very few outcomes to showcase. This delay has cost Pakistan dearly. The overdue energy and infrastructure projects, cost overruns, and accusations of opaque contracts have cost the initiative its viability, according to an article in 'The Diplomat' news magazine.

According to economist Ali Hasanain, an Associate Professor at Lahore University of Management Sciences, CPEC's original sin was that a large number of its projects relied on foreign currencies, which ultimately clashed with Pakistan's domestic-oriented exchange rate and industrial policies, narrowing the fiscal space



for Islamabad. Currently, Pakistan owes more than \$7.5 billion for setting up power plants and additional nearly \$2 billion to Chinese energy producers in circular debt, or unpaid bills, the article states.

Due to the delay in CPEC 2.0, Pakistan has been unable to establish the industrial base needed to transform into an export-driven economy and pay off its debts. Consequently, Pakistan had to seek more loans to pay past loans – resulting in a prolonged debt crisis.

The article points out that one of the main challenges to CPEC has been the political infighting in Pakistan. In 2015, when Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) was in power, it considered itself the chief architect of the initiative. However, the Opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) accused the PML-N of corruption and inflating the cost of projects.

In 2018, the tables turned and the PTI came into the government. It attempted to reduce Pakistan's financial risk by asking the Chinese side to review all the contracts, as the new government feared they were badly negotiated – either overly expensive or on terms excessively favouring China. However, Beijing was prepared to review only those projects that had not been started. In 2019, the PTI Government engaged the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a financial bailout to solve the Balance of Payment (BOP) crisis. For this bailout, Pakistan had to share details of CPEC with the IMF. Pakistan also had to agree with IMF conditions, like fiscal consolidation, that in practice required slowing down the CPEC, which ultimately angered the Chinese, the article states.

Jaishankar, Rubio hold bilateral discussions as UNGA kicks in



of Commerce and Industry had said in a statement.

The statement added that during the last visit of officials from the office of the US Trade Representative to India on September 16, positive discussions were held on various aspects of the trade deal, and it was decided to intensify efforts in this regard.

Jaishankar, who arrived in New York on Sunday for the high-level UNGA week, will hold a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings on the sidelines of the session and will deliver the national statement at the General Debate on September 27 from the iconic green UNGA podium.

EAM DISCUSSES BILATERAL TIES WITH PHILIPPINES FOREIGN SECRETARY IN US: EAM S. Jaishankar met the Philippines Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro on Monday (Indian time), ahead of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York. Both leaders discussed cooperation between India and the Philippines in the UN and the Indo-Pacific region, following the recent state visit of the Philippines President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to India.

■ By Yoshita Singh

NEW YORK, Sept 22 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio for bilateral discussions, as the high-level 80th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) kicks in.

The meeting at Lotte New York Palace is the first face-to-face interaction between them following President Donald Trump's imposition of an additional 25 per cent tariff on India for Delhi's purchases of Russian oil, taking the total levies imposed on India

to 50 per cent.

They had last met in July in Washington DC for the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting. Their meeting takes place on the same day India and the US will hold discussions to achieve an early conclusion of a trade agreement.

A delegation led by Union Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal will meet with the US side on Monday in the city.

"The delegation plans to take forward the discussions with a view to achieving early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement," the Ministry