

Thinking green

Rehan Ahmed



THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY

The world youth makes up one sixth of the total population of the world. The UN defines the youth as the age group between 15 and 24 years old. Majority of these young men and women live in developing countries and their numbers are expected to rise with time.

In 1998 a resolution proclaiming August 12 as International Youth Day (IYD) was adopted during the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth. That recommendation was later endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 1999. International Youth Day was first observed worldwide on 12th August in 2000.

Every year, the IYD has a theme. The theme of the year is 'Youth Building Peace'. Globally the governments and organizations are making efforts in involving the youth in all spheres of developmental activities, environmental conservation, pollution abatement, preservation and now in harnessing and building peace in their own domain, areas, cities and countries. The IYD is also to recognize efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society. It also aims to promote ways to engage them in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities.

Since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2250 in 2015, there is growing recognition that as agents of change, young people are critical actors in conflict prevention and sustaining peace. International Youth Day 2017 is dedicated to celebrating young people's contributions to conflict prevention and transformation as well as inclusion, social justice, and sustainable peace.

Another Security Council Resolution, Resolution 2282 in 2016 recognizes that the scale and challenges of sustaining peace requires partnerships between stakeholders, including youth organizations. It also reaffirms the important role youth can play in deterring and resolving conflicts, and are key constituents in ensuring the success of both peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is also committed to fostering peaceful and inclusive societies and affirmed that "sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security". Goal 16 aims to ensure responsive, inclusive,

participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. The World Program of Action for Youth, which provides a policy framework and practical guidelines to improve the situation of young people, also encourages "promoting the active involvement of youth in maintaining peace and security".

Young people's inclusion in the peace and security agenda and in society more broadly, is key to building and sustaining peace. The process of social inclusion for youth, including participation in decision-making as well as access to quality education, health care and basic services promotes their role as active contributors to society and affords young people with opportunities to reach their potential and achieve their goals. When youth are excluded from political, economic and social spheres and processes, it can be a risk factor for violence and violent forms of conflict. Therefore, identifying and addressing the social inclusion of young people is a precondition for sustaining peace.

The involvement of youth in building and maintaining peace is critical and crucial to the long-term success of a sustainable and healthier world. Many global programs and initiatives are now involving and targeting the youth for bringing in the change.

Many activities and events that took place around the world on International Youth Day was for promoting the benefits that young people bring into the world. Many countries participate in this global event, which included youth conferences on issues such as peace, participation, environment, education and employment. Other activities include promoting the world's youth, as well as various sporting events, parades and mobile exhibitions that show case young people's achievements.

Let the youth of today focus and participate in sustainable and useful activities that promote peace, stability, harmony and understanding. We need to work together for making our home, area, city, country, region and our world more secure, safe, healthy and livable for us and our future generations.

*** Head of Waste Disposal Unit, Supreme Council for Environment, Bahrain. (rahmed@sce.gov.bh)**

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)

China, Saudi for greater trade ties

Beijing
Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli yesterday met with Saudi Arabian Minister of Energy, Industry and Mineral Resources Khalid al-Falih in Beijing, agreeing to advance industrial capacity and investment cooperation.

Zhang will visit Saudi Arabia next week and co-chair the second meeting of a high-level steering committee for coordinating bilateral cooperation between China

and Saudi Arabia with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

"China-Saudi Arabia relations have entered a fast lane of full development," said Zhang.

"China supports Saudi Arabia's efforts to safeguard stability and security and is willing to implement a list of major cooperative projects in industrial capacity and investment under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative," he added.

"I expect to visit Saudi Arabia next week and discuss with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman policy coordination and alignment of development strategies between the two sides," he said.

Al-Falih said Saudi Arabia cherishes the traditional friendship with China and is ready to make full use of the high-level steering committee to promote the docking of the Belt and Road Initiative with the "Saudi Vision 2030" growth strategy. (Xinhua)

Trump orders to create cyber warfare command



Washington

President Donald Trump ordered the US military yesterday to elevate its cyber warfare operations to a separate command, signalling a new strategic emphasis on electronic and online offensive and defensive operations.

The move means the US Cyber Command, or Cybercom, will eventually become its own entity.

"This new Unified Combatant Command will strengthen our cyberspace operations and create more opportunities to improve our nation's defence," Trump said in a statement.

"The elevation of United States Cyber Command

demonstrates our increased resolve against cyberspace threats and will help reassure our allies and partners and deter our adversaries."

The move would expand the number of the Defence Department's unified combatant commands to 10, putting cyber warfare on an equal footing with the Strategic Command, the Special Operations Command, and regional commands.

Until now cyber warfare operations have been run under the umbrella of the National Security Agency, the country's main electronic spying agency, with Admiral Michael Rogers heading both.

Rogers will retain his "dual-

hatted" role for now, but once Cybercom is fully elevated he could be replaced by another four-star general or admiral.

Cybercom is headquartered in Fort Meade, Maryland and will eventually comprise almost 6,200 personnel organised into 133 teams.

These "Cyber Mission Force" teams are already actively conducting operations and will achieve full operational capability by the end of fiscal year 2018.

Kenneth Rapuano, who is assistant secretary of defence for Homeland Defence and Global Security, said there was no firm timeline on when Cybercom would be fully stood up as a combatant command.

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