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Globally Recognized Editor-in-Chief: Azeem A. Quadeer, M.S., P.E.

MARCH 2019 Vol 10, Issue 3

Pakistan frees captured Indian pilot Abhinandan in peace gesture

Indian Air Force (IAF) Wing Commander Abhinandan — who was captured by Pakistan after his MiG 21 Bison aircraft was shot down by a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) jet — was handed over in a gesture of peace to India at the Wagah border.

He was filmed walking across the Wagah pavilion at around 9pm in civilian clothes.

The pilot was accompanied to the border by the International Committee of the Red Cross, reported the Associated Press. His handover took several hours as a roster of procedures were completed including a medical checkup to verify his health and condition before being handed over to his countrymen.

Abhinandan was arrested on Feb 27 after his aircraft was shot down by the PAF upon violating Pakistani airspace, the statement.

“I am a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force. I was in search of the target when your [Pakistan] Air Force shot me down. I had to eject the plane which had sustained damage. As soon as I ejected and when my parachute opened and when I fell down, I had a pistol with me.”

“There were many people. I had only one way to save myself: I dropped my pistol and tried to run,” he was heard saying in the video.

“People chased me, their emotions were running high. Just then, two Pakistani Army officials came and saved me. Pakistani army captains saved from the people and did not let any harm come to me. They took me to their unit where I was administered first aid and then I was taken to the hospital where I further underwent a medical exam and received more aid,” he said.

“The Pakistan Army is a very professional service. I see peace in it. I have spent time with the Pakistan Army [and] I am very impressed.”

“Indian media always stretches the truth,” he regretted. “The smallest of things are presented in a very incendiary manner and people get misled.”



China welcomes Pakistan ‘goodwill signal’

China said it welcomes the “goodwill signal” by Pakistan in releasing captured Indian Air Force pilot Abhinandan Varthaman as a gesture of peace. Wing Commander Varthaman returned to India, a day after Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan announced that the pilot would be released “in our desire for peace”.

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ briefing, China’s Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said that China had, from the beginning, called upon both sides to exercise restraint, ease tensions, and engage in dialogue. “China welcomes the goodwill signal by the Pakistan side. De-escalation serves common interest of both sides,” Lu said. “Encourage both sides to make a joint effort to deal with the relevant issue.”

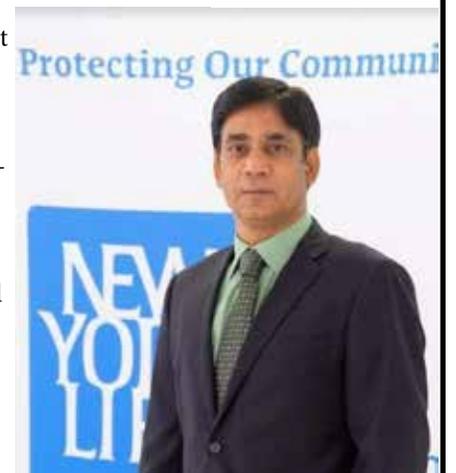
He reiterated that China hopes to see regional peace and stability. China Daily, the state-owned English-language daily newspaper, in its editorial headlined ‘India, Pakistan need to rein in their animosity’, stated: “As a good neighbour of both Pakistan and India, China, in particular, has expressed “deep concern” over the situation, urging the two arch-rivals to “exercise restraint” and resolve their dispute through dialogue.” It noted that “nationalistic hysteria” is on the “rise in both countries”, and that leaders of both India and Pakistan “will have to work hard to ensure they are not hijacked by the mood of the public, especially after tit-for-tat airstrikes in which both sides claimed they shot down each other’s fighter jets and the Pakistanis said they captured at least one Indian pilot”. The editorial reiterated Beijing’s stance on respecting the sovereignty of a country’s territory. Critiquing India, it stated, “The anger over the heavy casualties is understandable. But using warplanes to bomb targets deep inside another sovereign

Congratulations Shawkat Mohammed on achieving Million Dollar Round Table Top of the Table recognition 7th year in a row.

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Shawkat Mohammed being humble and caring in nature his natural drive to selflessly help towards the betterment of the community. He is a man with big heart, very much involve with any kind of charity. He gained his respect by pure hard work and integrity



country’s territory has only aggravated the situation. As has the rhetoric of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is keen to present a strong image ahead of the coming elections. It is worth noting that shortly after Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan assumed power last year, he invited Modi for dialogue, although the invitation was rejected by New Delhi.”

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Former Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in Dallas

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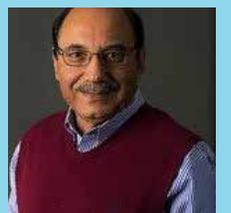
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CAIR-Chicago Annual Dinner focused on creating change through supporting, running and winning- elected office.

Congresswoman Rashida Harbi Tlaib Received standing ovation from 1000 plus Chicago community last night at 15th Annual CAIR Chicago Banquate, Drury Lane, Oak Brook. Congresswoman Tlaib was the key note speaker and the speech was outstanding and spoke from the heart. In 2018, Tlaib won the Democratic nomination for the United States House of Representatives seat from Michigan's 13th congressional district. She ran unopposed in the general election and became the first Palestinian-American woman in Congress and, with Ilhan Omar, one of the first two Muslim women elected to Congress. Congratulations to Dilara Alim Sayeed and Abdelnasser Rashid for the well deserved award. This year's them was Our rights, Our Voice, Our Values. Picture by Syed Khalil Ullah.



www.AsiaTimes.US

ISSN 2159-9645

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Glorious wedding ceremony of Dr Zeeshan Qureshi

Dr, Zeeshan Qureshi, son of Dr. Shamsa Qureshi & Dr Azeem Qureshi's Wedding reception took place on Jan 12, 2019. Dr Iram qureshi and Dr Adeel showed joy and happiness. Dr. Zeeshan Qureshi is a mastermind genius with moral values and virtues to his credit. His wedding ceremony was arranged in one of the excellent and luxurious hotels of Frisco. Presence of highly respected personalities including over 100 doctors added pretty colors of joy and happiness. The gathering rejoiced showered by their blessing on Zeeshan (bride groom) Eraj (bride). This wedding was different from others because people from various walks of life attended the marriage. Dr. Shamsa Qureshi is a poet and lyricist. She has presented her own lyrics in her melodious voice to make this celebration more memorable. Dr Shamsa qureshi thanks all guest from Ca especially her big brother Mr Ajmal yaqoob Khan his wife Sadaf and his family her Uncle Mr Masood Siddiqui from Chicago her elder sister Ghazala Siddiqui especially bridal family and Dr Zeeshan 's friends who made Valima memorable and successful. Popular poet Mr. Noor Amrohvi wished the couple good luck and happy married life in poetic form (Sahera). It was so well presented that it received a lot of appreciation and good round of applause. Guests enjoyed delicious dinner praised the charming new couple. Dr. Shamsa Qureshi's poetry is mind storming. The marriage party was superb. All the guests complimented and congratulated Dr. Shamsa Qureshi for the best and beautiful event. This late-night marvelous program continued to entertain the people. Presence of prominent personalities like Azhar Azeez, Raja Zahed Akhter Khanzada, Dr. Noor Amrohvi, Shaik Aijaz, Irfan Ali, Shawkath, Mohammed, Mubasher Warraich. Mohd Shah and others.





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Cosmic Dance of Sun, Earth and other Planets

Dr. Navaneet Pandurangan, Edison NJ



Humans are always fascinated by the origin and movements of the Sun, Earth, Moon, Planets, and stars. Many cultures developed many interesting mythological stories in the past. In this article, we are going to discuss the questions such as Why the moon is not falling on the Earth? Why Earth is not falling on the sun? Why planets are revolving elliptical around the sun?

For the readers with little time, the quick scientific answer is "Earth keeps falling onto Sun due to the gravity but keeps missing it due to its speed and trajectory."

In the past, humans came up with creative imaginations about the movement of the Sun and planets. They were very remarkable with many ideas and mythological stories. In the Hindu Puranas, the Sun God circumnavigates mount Himalayas every day. Vindhya mountains of India grew taller, obstructed the Sun path and caused problems to Gods and humans. Later obeyed to sage Agastya's words and stopped growing. According to one Hindu myth, eclipse happens when Rahu dragon's head swallows the Sun. Hanuman in his childhood mistaking Sun for fruit and trying to eat it. At the same time, Rahu was trying to swallow Sun for the eclipse.

Hearing this Lord Indra got angry, stuck Hanuman child with his Vajra weapon and made the child unconscious. Ravan, in Ramayana, had defeated all the Devas and had brought all the Grahas (planets in astrology) under his control. Once he kept all the planets suppressed beneath his leg.

In Egyptian culture, Sun God Ra at night returned to the east via the underworld and reborn each day. This reflects the typical Egyptian idea of immortality. In Greek legend, the Apollo, rode a chariot pulled by fiery horses across the sky and gives the light to the world. In the Chinese tale, ten suns caused too much heat in the past, so the emperor Dijun sent the archer Yi to shoot all suns and leaving only one. The Aztecs believed their sun God, requires blood from the human heart for his survival and they offered human sacrifice.

Few hundred years ago, Galileo faced Roman inquisition and indefinite house arrest by Pope Urban VIII for saying the Earth is revolving around the sun. The Book of Genesis states that the planet Earth was created three days before the sun, moon, and stars and originally favored the geocentric model. His telescopic observations favored the heliocentric model and conflicted with the teachings of

the powerful Roman Catholic Church.

Now let us discuss in terms of science. The question Newton asked was "Why doesn't the Moon fall toward the Earth?" This was a fascinating scientific question of his day when no one had previously asked such questions.

Newton was convinced that the planets must follow the same physical laws observed on Earth. Newton's law of universal gravitation states that the gravitational force between any two objects is proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them. In the laboratory, if you hang two heavy balls with a long wire, you can observe balls come close due to the gravitational attraction between them. Distances are shorter at the bottom of the wire than at the top.

According to Newton's first law, planets/objects in motion stay in motion. For example, if you release swing high in the playground, it rides down due to gravity. But it does not stop once it reaches the middle, it moves all the way up to another side. Why? Because objects in motion stay in motion according to Newton's first law. It swings back again and again till it

completely stops. Now you push with a little twist on the swing, it moves in circular motion. If there is no friction and no air, the swing can continue to rotate around for a very long time. Gravity acts like the rope which keeps attracting the Earth to the sun but the sideways speed of the planets keep them balanced in the circular orbits. Earth is going sideways faster and keeps missing the sun like a twisted swing moves the circular or elliptical motion. Moon is also falling onto Earth continuously but keeps missing the Earth.

Earth is moving around the sun for a few billion years and will continue for billions of years. If the Sun's gravitation is not strong enough, the Earth might escape. Modern observations also suggest that the moon is moving away from Earth by 1.6 inches per year as Earth rotation is slowing.

I am sure you will have many questions than answers such as Why Earth's orbit not circular?, How/When did the Earth put into its orbit originally? And What are the gravitational influence of the Sun, Moon, Planets, and Stars on Earth?

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Rao Kamran Ali with former Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz

Makkah governor opens Hajj workshop

Makkah Gov. Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, who is also the chairman of the Central Hajj Committee, inaugurated the Hajj workshop on Monday. The aim of the workshop is to prepare for the next Hajj season. Minister of Hajj and Umrah Dr. Mohammed Bentin, Under-secretary for Makkah region Hisham bin Abdulrahman Al-Faleh and a number of directors of government and private sector departments attended the event. The Makkah governor extended thanks and appreciation to King Salman and

crown prince for their direct supervision of all services to facilitate Hajj pilgrims. Al-Faisal praised the success of the last year's Hajj and gave the credit to King Salman's government and to all relevant authorities. Makkah Deputy Gov. Prince Abdullah bin Bandar participated in workshops and panel discussions to improve Hajj-related services. Al-Faleh said the workshop covered five themes: Transport, housing, subsistence, services and facilities, and reception and

departure, along with 20 other topics. More than 200 experts from 50 Hajj-related authorities are taking part in the workshop. Al-Faleh said the workshops were organized in accordance with the directives of the Makkah governor and his deputy to find ways to provide the best services to pilgrims.



Madinah governor opens conference promoting true understanding of Islam

Madinah Gov. Prince Faisal bin Salman opened the 23rd session of the conference of International Islamic Fiqh Academy (IIFA).

The five-day event is being held in collaboration with the Islamic University in Madinah under the patronage of King Salman. It serves as a platform for religious scholars and researchers to present their research and studies based on the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

Based on the research findings, scholars will suggest ways to eradicate social and economic issues facing the Muslim world.

The aim of the event is to promote the true understanding of Islam and its tolerant nature. The conference will also highlight the role of scholars in educating the masses and in enlightening the Islamic world.

Several officials and academics told the Saudi Press Agency that the Islamic

Shariah has the ability to achieve social harmony and human happiness. The Shariah, they added, has the solution to all human

problems. However, they stressed the need to refer to authentic religious sources to



find those solutions.

Saudi Arabia names first woman envoy to Washington at critical time

AFP - Anuj Chopra

Khartoum (AFP) - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir swore in a new premier Sunday as riot police confronted hundreds of demonstrators calling on the veteran leader to resign. Saudi Arabia named a princess as its first woman ambassador to the United States, a key appointment as the fallout over journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder tests relations between the allies.

Princess Rima bint Bandar replaced Prince Khalid bin Salman, the younger brother of the powerful crown prince who was appointed vice defence minister in a flurry of late-night royal decrees announced on state media.

The reshuffle comes as Saudi Arabia seeks to quell an international outcry over Khashoggi's murder last October in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, which strained relations with its key ally Washington.

After initially denying they knew anything of Khashoggi's disappearance, the kingdom finally acknowledged that Saudi agents killed him inside the consulate, but described it as a rogue operation.

Princess Rima faces hostile US lawmakers who have threatened tough action against Saudi Arabia over the brutal killing amid claims that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman -- the kingdom's de-facto ruler -- was personally responsible.

The Saudi government has denied he had anything to do with the murder of Khashoggi, a royal insider-turned-critic who was a columnist with the Washington Post.

"The appointment of a new envoy signifies an attempt by Riyadh to try and re-set relations with Washington and draw a line under the Khashoggi affair, however unlikely that may be in practice, at least with Congress," Kristian Ulrichsen, a fellow at Rice University's Baker Institute in the United States, told AFP.

- 'First female ambassador' -

Princess Rima, the daughter of a former long-time ambassador to the US, has been a leading advocate of female

The princess previously worked at the kingdom's General Sports Authority, where she led a campaign to increase women's participation in sports.

"Princess Rima becomes the first female ambassador in Saudi history and the first female with a rank of minister -- a strong signal to the integration of women into the government and workforce," Ali Shihabi, founder of the pro-Saudi think-tank Arabia Foundation, said on Twitter.

Prince Khalid, a son of the king who served as ambassador since 2017, had been expected to leave Washington for some time -- particularly after the global outcry over Khashoggi tarnished the kingdom's reputation.

His new appointment as deputy defence minister comes as a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia remains bogged down in a four-year conflict in neighbouring Yemen.

A separate royal decree on Saturday ordered a one-month salary bonus for frontline military officials on the kingdom's southern border.

- 'Difficult portfolio' -

Prince Khalid, a former Saudi air force pilot, takes his post a year after the crown prince -- who also serves as the defence minister -- announced a military reform plan and a dramatic overhaul of top defence commanders.

"As the Yemen war drags on and the military reform programme continues to move painstakingly slow, Prince Khalid is gaining a difficult portfolio but one that is critical to his father, brother and the kingdom," Becca Wasser, a policy analyst at the US-based RAND Corporation, told AFP.



"Prince Mohammed has struggled to delegate authority within this file which has rendered some efforts -- chiefly military reform -- stagnant, and Prince Khalid's appointment may be an attempt to reinvigorate these initiatives."

Shihabi said Prince Khalid will virtually have the same authority as the defence minister, shouldering some of the burden on the crown prince.

Khashoggi's killing has refocused attention on the Saudi-led coalition's bombing campaign in Yemen, which is gripped by what the UN calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

A key challenge for Princess Rima will be to win over US lawmakers, who earlier this month voted overwhelmingly to end American involvement in the Saudi war effort in Yemen, dealing a rebuke to President Donald Trump who has publicly thrown his support behind the crown prince.

US lawmakers this month also said they were probing whether Trump was rushing to sell sensitive nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia, voicing fears that it could be misused to make an atomic bomb.



Business Excellence Award 2018 conferred upon Dr. Syed N Masood, Founder, CEO & Managing Director of Success International Schools in Riyadh & 6 other persons from different countries by His Excellency Shri Mahendra Singh-ji Ambassador of Nepal to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr. S.M Showkat Pervez Sahab Principal and HOI, International Indian School, Riyadh & Mr. Abood Bamokarah, Managing Director of Bawader Alnagaa at a glittering function - Riyadh Carnival 2019 organized by Friends Creations,



Dr. Syed N Masood, Ms. Sameera Aziz, (Saudi) from Jeddah, KSA, Chairperson, Saudi Media Personality & Business Women, a Journalist, Writer, Novelist, Film Director & Producer (Saudi & Bollywood Films) Film Production, TV & Radio Presenter, Theatre Artist & Campaigner, Urdu Poetess, and many other things a very very long list of her work she was also conferred with an Business Excellence Award 2018.



On the occasion of 10th Annual Former President of India Dr. Zakir Hussain Memorial Award Distribution Programme, Mumtaz Ali Akram once again honoured the Award for the BEST AND TOP NRI for the year 2018 - 19 for the Social Services in abroad and India and the Award presented by honourable Justice Mr. Basha Nawaz Khan, Chairman Mr. Mohammed Qamruddin, Cabinet Rank Minister Telangana State Minorities Commission, Chairman Urdu Academy Mr. Raheemuddin Aansari, Additional DCP of CCS Mr. Bari, Assistant Commissioner of Customs Mr. Mir Anwar Mohiuddin, Mr. Syed Sikander Mashooqi President Dr Zakir Hussain Memorial Committee Social Org and many more dignitaries.

Newly formed Advisory Board, Middle East Region



Asia Times US is proud to include MR. KAREEMULLAH HUSSAINI BIYABANI ASSISTANT CEO TAKAMUL NATIONAL AGRICULTURE COMPANY RIYADH, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA in the Newly formed Advisory Board, Middle East Region



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This Page is dedicated to Middle East News and events.

If you like to have your event covered please contact

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Congratulations to HRH Princess Reema Bint Bandar Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on being appointed as first female Ambassador, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United States of America. In this photograph Princess Reema Bint Bandar Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud & Osama Massoud. — with Osama Massoud.

Photo credit: Syed Masood

Prince Muhammad's visit to India and Pakistan



IFTEKHAR SHAREEF PAGE



Chicago's Indian Americans stages a huge protest rally in front of Pakistan and Chinese Consulate Office

Iftekhar Shareef with Indian Counsel General Ms. Neeta Bhushan and others



Council on American Islamic Relations' 15th annual banquet.

Report and Pictures Syed Khalil Ullah

More than thousand of people gathered for the Council on American Islamic Relations' 15th annual banquet.

Theme of the event was "Our Rights Our Voices Our Values" which celebrated the diversity of the Muslim American community.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR- Chicago) hosted a 15th at Oakbrook Terrace on February 9th, 2019 at Drury Lane in Oakbrook.

Sold-out event was a hit with more than 1000 attendees the attendance was so large and impressive.

The event was emceed by CAIR-Florida's very own Hassan Shibly. The event began with a stunning recitation of the Quran by Ismail Sayeedi from ICN and translation by the Siham Naser.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is a nonprofit, grassroots civil rights and advocacy organization. CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties organization, with affiliate offices nationwide. Its national headquarters is located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Since its establishment in 1994, CAIR has worked to promote a positive image of Islam and Muslims in America. Through media relations, lobbying, education and advocacy, CAIR work to make sure a Muslim voice is represented, CAIR seeks to empower American Muslims and encourage their participation in political and social activism. CAIR-Chicago Annual Dinner focused on creating change through supporting, running and winning- elected office.

Through the video documentary CAIR-Chicago shared the exciting projects that it has been busy with over the past years.

Ahmed Rehab Executive Director, CAIR-Chicago's explains about CAIR outlined the goals, activities, expansion plans, and the need for funds to continue meeting the growing needs of the to defend civil rights, fight bigotry, and promote tolerance. We

are fighting for every one of our families against Islamophobia and discrimination and for empowerment. He Also Said, "Widening the tent to include everybody is truly to make America strong."

More than 70 officials joined the event, including members of congress Raja Krishnamurthy, mercurial Congressman Chuy Garcia and the unapologetic Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib.

According to an organizer said "Today we saw a huge line for photos with Rashida Tlaib was a mile long and was a bit of a commotion (was not expecting that). We had not seen anything like it in 15 years of any community event. But it was telling to see what her achievement meant for a community long expected to sit in the political bleachers rather than jump into the court and dribble the ball."

Congresswoman Chuy Garcia as the guest speaker and Congresswoman. He said, "We defend our sisters and brother of the Muslim faith." Rashida Tlaib was the keynote speaker and the speech were outstanding and spoke from the heart. She delivered a keen reminder of commitment to supporting the cause of civil rights. She said, "I will carry you with me always, but I need you to carry me."

The Fundraising was effectively conducted by Sheikh Hassan Aly (Imam and Director at The Mecca Center). He achieved \$290,000 in twenty minutes before the Dinner.

Community Activists Dilara Alim Sayeed and Abdelnasser Rashid received the Community service award.

At the end of the event Dr. Mazen Kudaimi, CAIR-Chicago's Chairman, thanks all tremendous support of key partners from the Chicagoland mosques, coalitions, interfaith groups, companies, community members and sponsors make this event successful.



Voice of Indian American Voters (VIA) hosted a forum of Chicago Mayoral Candidates for the Indian community. Sun 2/10 Taft Highschool Chicago 12-2 Seen in the Pic are Anil R Shah, Sunil Shah, Syed Hussaini, Gladson Varghese and others

Harish Kolasani elected as Federation of Indian Associations Chicago President for 2019-2020

Harish Kolasani a young community leader who gained prominence for his long-standing tenure of exemplary leadership for NRI Seva Foundation - has been elected as the new Federation of Indian Associations-Chicago [FIA] President for 2019-2020 at the General Body Meeting held on February 22, 2019 at North Shore Banquet Hall in Chicago. Harish Kolasani a well-known frontline community figure of the Indian American community who served FIA for 7 years has been unanimously elected with collective acclamation - along with the newly elected executive board team comprising of: Ajeet Singh as Executive Vice President; Vishal Chhabria, Amrit Patel, Ruth Verma as Vice Presidents; Satish Dadepogu as Secretary; Emanuel Neela as Treasurer; Uma Katiki as Joint Secretary & Khurram Syed as Joint Treasurer.

Duly constituted Election Committee under the Chair-



manship of Iftekhar Shareef conducted the FIA elections with Keerthi Kumar Ravoori and Ajai Agnihotri serving as co-chairs. With stringent adherence to the bylaws of FIA, the elections were conducted with due diligence with the three-member election committee affirming the elections after screening nominations forms, membership forms then announced, clarified, validated and then went on to certify the elections consistent with the provisions of the FIA constitution.

The general body meeting began with incumbent FIA President Dr. Sanhita Agnihotri welcoming the representatives of FIA organizations who went on to thank them for their steadfast support in helping FIA cross milestones. Dr. Sanhita Agnihotri comprehensively outlined the accomplishments of FIA under her leadership tenure and the programs she initiated and pledged enthusiastic support to the new team.

Newly elected FIA President Harish Kolasani -- who championed years of charitable and humanitarian work under the aegis of NRI Seva Foundation as its President - in his remarks, expressed immense gratitude to FIA members for bestowing him such a remarkable opportunity to serve as FIA President with such resounding strength of unanimity. Harish Kolasani announced - we will embark on a new journey with our team taking bold, aspiring fresh approach to undertake grand new initiatives that have been hitherto beyond the scope of traditional FIA and added under his leadership FIA stands steadfastly committed to promoting community's shared vision,



values and mission.

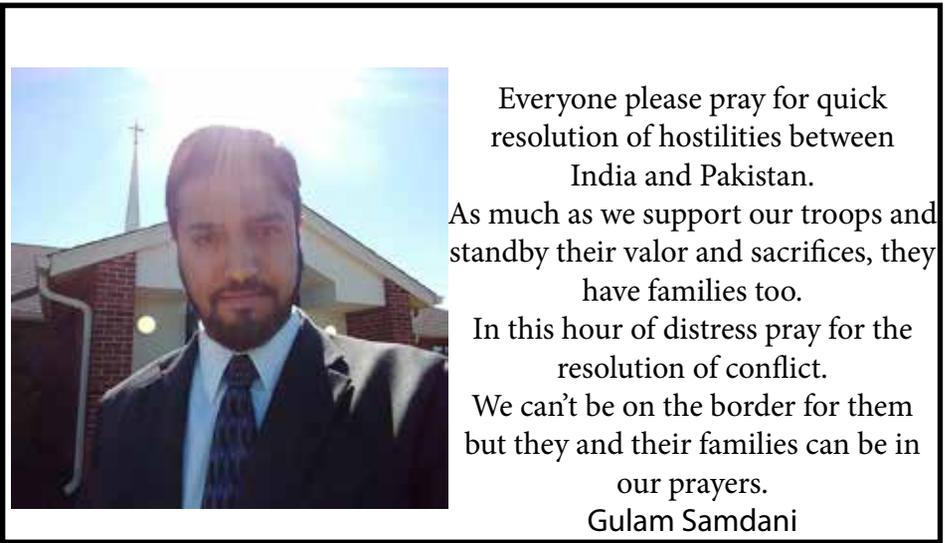
Harish Kolasani reiterated that he and his new team will be an agent of change and said FIA will witness a paradigm shift in the way FIA functions and will enthusiastically undertake ambitious largescale community-oriented program initiatives that will bring honor and recognition to Indian Americans and will strive to help foster greater community coalition to host meaningful events and programs of majestic scale.

The general body meeting closed with FIA's incoming Secretary Satish Dadepogu who proposed a vote of thanks.



DJ Shahid Lateef
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Mr. Waliuddin and Roshan Waliuddin in Karachi



Everyone please pray for quick resolution of hostilities between India and Pakistan. As much as we support our troops and standby their valor and sacrifices, they have families too. In this hour of distress pray for the resolution of conflict. We can't be on the border for them but they and their families can be in our prayers. Gulam Samdani

36th Annual Lunar New Year Celebration



Pravin's 5th Memorial service, Another Amazing event after 5 years. Congresswomen Jan Schkowsky, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Mayor Dan DiMaria, State Rep and Chicago Mayor Candidate La Shawn Ford, Gladson Varghese and many others attended.

OFFICIAL MESSAGE FROM AIR INDIA OFFICE DUE TO CURRENT CONDITIONS IN INDIA & PAKISTAN

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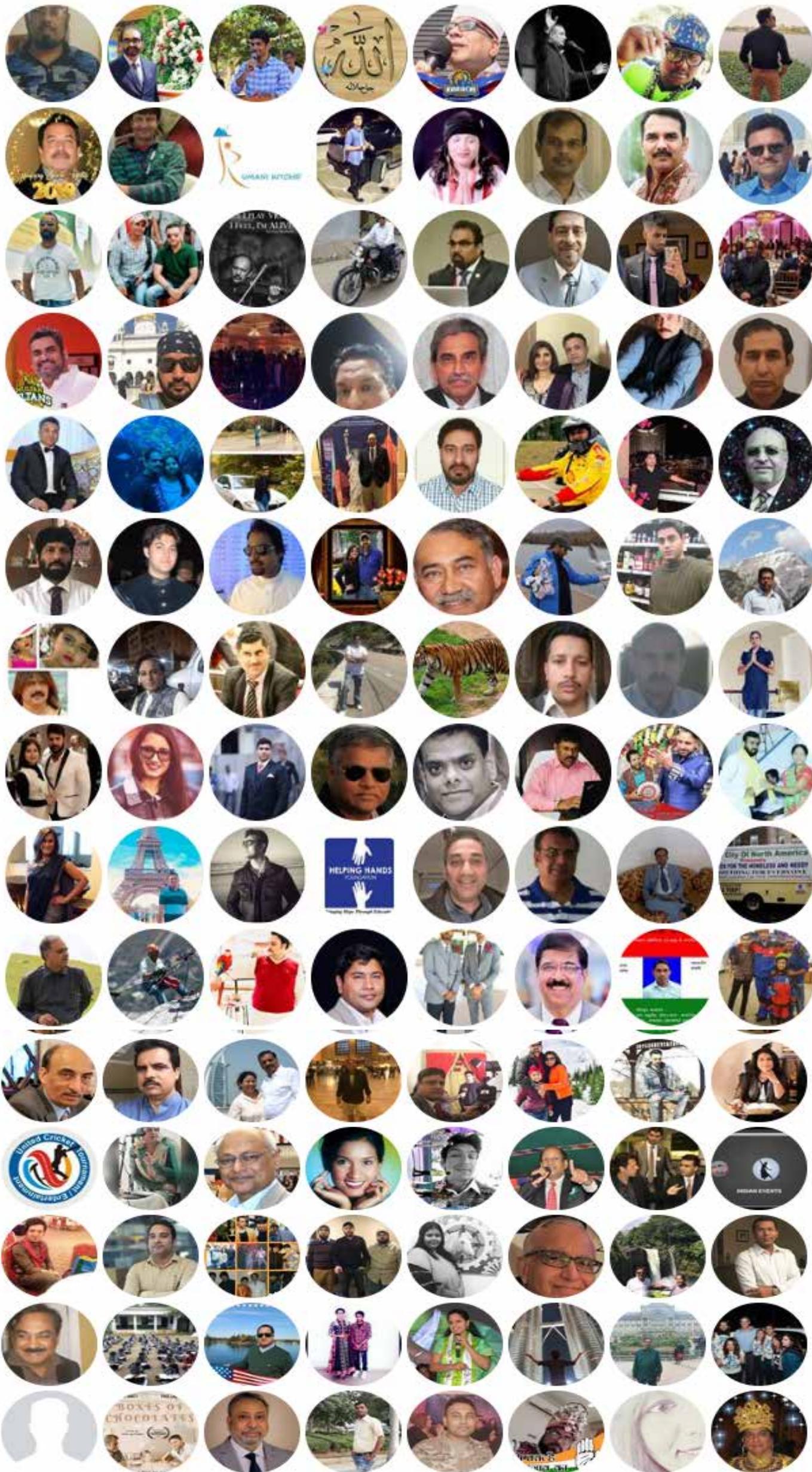
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INTERNATIONAL PAGES



New Sudan PM sworn in amid protests against state of emergency

Khartoum (AFP) - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir swore in a new premier as riot police confronted hundreds of demonstrators calling on the veteran leader to resign after he imposed a state of emergency across the country.

Bashir declared a year-long emergency on Friday after a deadly crackdown failed to suppress weeks of protests against his three-decade rule.

The president, who swept to power in an Islamist-backed coup in 1989, dissolved the cabinet and provincial governments, and pledged to bring in technocrats to help end the economic crisis -- the key factor behind the protests.

On Sunday, the former governor of the agricultural state of Jazeera, Mohamed Tahir Eila, was sworn in as the new prime minister at a ceremony, an AFP photographer said.

Defence Minister General Awad Ibnouf was sworn in as the first vice president after his predecessor Bakri Hassan Saleh was sacked by Bashir.

Bashir also swore in 16 army officers and two officers from the National Intelligence and Security Service dressed in military uniforms as new governors for the country's 18 provinces.

"Today, a new chapter begins in Sudan's history," Bashir, dressed in a military uniform, said at the ceremony.

"This chapter needs special people like you to lead... in order to guarantee security and stability in the country."

Bashir is expected to announce an entire new cabinet as he pushes on with sweeping top level changes in the face of nationwide protests that have rocked his rule. 'Message to president' -

Even as the new officials took oath, hundreds of protesters rallied in Omdurman, the twin city of Khartoum, against the state of emergency.

"We want to give the president a message that the state of emergency will not deter us," said Sawsan Bashir who participated in the Omdurman rally.

"Our aim is to overthrow this regime and we will do it." Protesters also demonstrated in the capital's districts of Burri and Shambat, according to witnesses.

Riot police swiftly confronted protesters in Omdurman and Burri with tear gas, witnesses said.

Protest organisers have vowed to continue



with daily rallies, accusing Bashir and his officials of economic mismanagement that has led to soaring food prices and shortage of foreign currency.

Deadly clashes between protesters and security forces have left 31 people dead since protests first erupted on December 19, officials say.

Chicago's Indian Americans stages a huge protest rally in front of Pakistan and Chinese Consulate Office

Chicago IL: With the chants of "Bharat Matha Ki Jai" reverberating on the famed Michigan Avenue corridor, a massive congregation of deeply grieved Indian Americans bearing tricolor Indian and star-spangled American flags with placards of denouncing Pakistan for promoting terrorism - thundered through the famed Michigan Ave corridor with a huge protest rally in front of Pakistan Consulate Office that which shifted to the Chinese Consulate Office in what can be described as the largest rally of the Indian Americans in downtown Chicago on Thursday, February 21, 2019.

For the first time ever, the protest rally marched to the Chinese Consulate office to show displeasure and chastise Chinese government for their explicit support to Pakistan. More than 400 motivated Indian Americans assembled to show strength of unity and solidarity with the fallen soldiers. Large convoys of remarkable size of Indian Americans arrived in buses, cars and trains to show solidarity with India especially the victims of Pulwama terrorist attack perpetrated with active connivance of Pakistan. Raising slogans within an earshot of Pakistani Consul General, the crowds continued to raise the protest decibels. In some remarks, emotions were visible but the resolve was unmistakably firm with each pledging to do their part to awaken the world community of these seemingly frequent murderous assaults on Indians. The protest rally and the aftermath has spilled over massively on an unprecedented scale in the social media with texts pouring in at astonishing speed filling up the platform with grief, sorrow and anger for the cowardly terrorist attack and vowed that Indian Americans will launch a sustained campaign against Pakistan until it stops the cross-border terrorism. With the patriotic fervor spilling over on the sidewalks of Michigan Ave. all the way to the Chinese Consulate Office down a mile away on Erie Street. The slogans and remarks were interspersed with grief and outrage at the dastardly attack on 40 helpless

CRPF soldiers who were ambushed with a suicide attack. Dr. Bharat Barai, a prominent Indian American community leader in his remarks welcomed the outpouring support of the Indian Americans gathered on a cold afternoon and thanked them for their unfailing patriotic spirit. Dr. Bharat Barai chastised Pakistan for their continued mayhem with their repeated murderous rampage in Him outlined 5000 years history of India with Kashmir as an epicenter of Religious, Educational, Cultural heritage. After 1947 partition of India, the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir signed an instrument of accession with India, ratified by the elected constituent Assembly. He thanked the World powers including USA, UK, France, Russia, many Islamic countries for condemning the Pulwama attack and supporting India. FIA's prominent Trustee Iftekhar Shareef in his remarks expressed outrage and demanded Pakistan cease & desist from perpetrating terrorism mayhem in India. Iftekhar Shareef urged the International communities to join India in collectively condemning this heinous act. Harish Kolasani, Rally Coordinator said if Pakistan were able to kill one Indian, there would be one million who will rise up against them. Harish Kolasani who managed logistics said the rally will bear a huge impact. Dr. Sanhita Agnihotri deeply lamented the loss of lives of the soldiers and pledged that the Indian American community will formulate a plan to support the families of the victims. Keerthi Kumar Ravoori said we mourn the loss of life of the soldiers in this deadliest terrorist attack in India and challenged Pakistan government to take proactive measurable actions to snub the scourge of terrorism. From there, the Protesters went to the Chinese Consulate. They showed placards denouncing China's double talk on terrorism. On one side, China denounces all terrorism. On the other side, China has consistently blocked UN Security Council from proscribing the Pakistani terrorist organizations. Lashkar e Taiba and its leader Hafiz Saeed;



Jaish e Muhammed and its leader Masood Azhar have been responsible for many terror attacks including Mumbai terrorist attack killing 176 people and recent Pulwama attack killing 44 people. A memorandum was delivered to the Chinese Consulate.

The protest rally was largely led by among others: Hemant Patel, Nirav Patel, J.D. Digvanker, Shamkanth Sheth, Prasad Yelalmanchi, Amar Upadhyay, Nitin Garg, Pandya, Chirayu Parikh and Amitabh Mittal. Each of them articulated messages that summarized that Pakistan is a hub of terrorism and is constantly manufacturing company of terrorist; while harboring and nurturing them to be a dark men of death. In a statement, Hemant Patel said Terrorism in not only a political issue; it is also an ideological war, which is affecting the entire humanity. The suicide bombers are brainwashed from their infancy, they are fed with hatred against humanity, and these merchants of death are assured of reward in paradise for killing people. Pakistani connection was found in most major terror attacks in the world. A request was made to the Muslim Community to educate and restrain the Jihadi ideology and terrorism.

Indian-American couple from Hyderabad found dead with gunshot wounds in Texas

News

Texas: Indian-American couple from Hyderabad found dead with gunshot wounds

NewsBytes Shiladitya Ray,NewsBytes Tue, 19 Feb 4:18 AM GMT-6

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Texas: Indian-American couple from Hyderabad found dead with gunshot wounds

19 Feb 2019: Texas: Indian-American couple from Hyderabad found dead with gunshot wounds

In an apparent case of 'murder-suicide', an Indian-American couple from Hyderabad was found dead in their home in Texas with gunshot wounds.

However, the couple's 16-year-old daughter, who was also home at the time of the incident escaped the ordeal unhurt.

The couple is also survived by their 21-year-old son, who is studying at the University of Texas.

The incident came to light when the couple's neighbors called the cops at around 5.40am on February 18, after hearing gunshots.

When police arrived, they found the wife, 46-year-old Shanti Nakirekanti, dead in the driveway with a gunshot wound to the head.

The husband, 51-year-old Sreenivas, was found dead in the bedroom with a gunshot wound to the chest.

Fact: The couple's daughter was asleep during the incident

The couple's daughter, who was at home during the incident, told police that she had been asleep, and was unaware of what had happened. She is now in the



custody of the family's friends.

Deceased: What we know about the deceased couple Both husband and wife had received their education from the Texas A&M University. Shanti, an M.S. in computer science from the university, was working as a project lead architect at United Airlines.

Sreenivas, meanwhile, held a Master's degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University, and an MBA from Rice University in Houston, Texas. He was a director at an energy company in Houston.

Investigation: Domestic discord could have led to the incident, police say A small handgun was retrieved from the bedroom

where it was found lying beside Sreenivas' corpse.

Cops have said that the deaths appear to be a case of 'murder-suicide' wherein Sreenivas shot Shanti before killing himself.

However, the reason behind the murder-suicide is unknown as of now, and the police suspect that it could have been the result of a domestic discord.

Fact: There is no danger to residents: Police "There is no danger to residents and SLPD is not looking for any suspects. The two fatalities fit the scenario of a murder-suicide. This case is still under investigation," said the Sugar Land Police Department (SLPD) in a press statement.

Mayor Steve Chirico Reiterates His Commitment to Make Naperville a Model City in the Midwest

“The multifaceted development of Naperville, under the dynamic stewardship of Mayor Steve Chirico, is a sure guarantee of his success in a second term”

Naperville Mayor Steve Chirico, running for re-election, kick-started his campaign on Thursday, January 24th at Features Bar and Grill. In addition to free admission, attendees enjoyed cocktails, appetizers and speeches from elected officials and community leaders. The strong support of his campaign co-chairs, Pam Davis, Kristin Fitzgerald, Scott Wehrli and John Zediker combined with the enthusiasm of the diverse Host Committee drew a crowd of more than 400 residents and supporters. In his inspiring address, Chirico stated that during his 3.5 years as Mayor of Naperville he conceptualized and executed strategic initiatives to ensure that Naperville thrives as a vibrant business hub, a role model for neighborhood safety and a destination for quality education. Chirico spoke at length about the quality school districts, spacious parks, great restaurants, citizen-friendly property taxes, responsible fiscal policy, strong local economy, progressive police department, competent fire department and significant efforts toward pro-environmental sustainability. The Mayor also highlighted the Connect for Life Program - a great community resource. Chirico shared that with the

Connect for Life program, Naperville Police are able to help those with prescription drug addiction. “There will be no arrests and no charges. The police department is not about arresting people or giving tickets in this situation...they are there to help, educate and share resources,” he added. Chirico assured that in his second term as Mayor, he will continue his work to diversify the tax base through economic development initiatives and will focus on next steps to ensure Naperville can retain our senior population and attract young professionals. The Overwhelming Public Support “Mayor Steve Chirico is easily accessible, business-friendly, and, above all, he a friend of our community. He will, therefore, be an asset as the Naperville Mayor”, said one of the community leader. “Naperville’s heritage has helped shape the values of our community and Steve firmly believes in the same values. He, therefore, will lead us into the next generation of prosperity”, stated by one of the Naperville resident. “The worth-emulating and multifaceted development of Naperville, under the enlightened leadership of Steve Chirico as the mayor, is a sure guarantee of his

success in his second term too”—opined a large number of his die-hard supporters belonging to different walks of life from the Naperville community. An Impressive Track Record

After serving four years as a Naperville City Councilman, Steve ran for Mayor in 2015 believing he could help guide Naperville through a transitioning economy. In 2015, he was elected Mayor and since then has been instrumental in working toward a sustainable financial plan that is focused on lower debt, a strong and diverse tax base and a predictable cost structure that stabilizes the city’s pension and debt payments. Community Involvement As Mayor, Steve has worked closely with community leaders and residents to protect Naperville’s rich history while helping to shape its developmental trajectory and widespread prosperity. Steve believes he can continue to work with community leaders and residents to achieve and maintain a vibrant and well-balanced



community. The event was attended by many elected officials including Illinois House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, Illinois State Representative Grant Wehrli, Councilwomen Judith Brodhead, Councilman Kevin Coyne, Councilman Paul Hinterlong, Councilman John Krummen, Councilman Dr. Benjamin M. White and community leaders from various groups. Councilman Dr. Benjamin White kicked off the rally with a welcome speech. Steve and his wife Julie have seven children, three grandchildren and two dogs.



The Indo-American Center staff spent time at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) Summit 2019: Redefining Citizenship For All. The staff members took part in this summit experience with many powerful community organizations as an opportunity to celebrate what we have been able to accomplish together. Throughout the ICIRR Summit, there was discussion for the 2019 plan for our clients and IAC community! There is a lot in store and we are eager to share in these accomplishments and events with you as we establish all we have learned.

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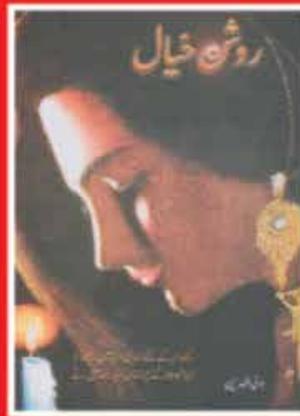
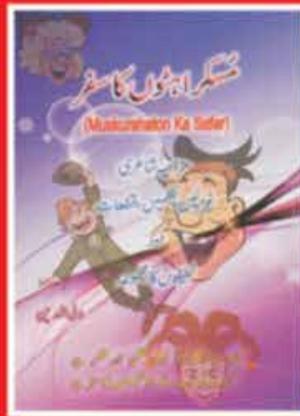
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NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COLLEGE



During his time as a renowned professor and researcher in academia, Dr. Mohammed T. AliNiazee recognized the increasing tuition rates, increasing student loans and debts, and increasing time periods required for acquiring a college degree. Confronting this imbalance, NWSC is here to make a difference by offering more student guidance, smaller classes, and three full terms per year (rather than two). A culmination of his longtime dream of establishing a world class center of education founded on

the principles of service, compassion, and quality, Professor AliNiazee took early retirement after nearly 40 years of a successful career in academia to establish NWSC. Dr. AliNiazee and the NWSC team are dedicated to building a private, non-profit school of higher education that provides affordable and quality education dedicated to science, medicine, and the humanities.

A cultural hub with numerous advanced centers for healthcare and medicine, Chicago was selected as the city to establish NWSC. In 2008, President AliNiazee acquired the property in Rolling Meadows, IL that is now NWSC. After establishing the Corporate Board and the Board of Regents, M.A.Q. Khan (late), a retired professor of biology for the University of Illinois at Chicago joined NWSC as the Chairman of the Board of Regents, and was appointed as the college's Vice President. Dr. Khan was instrumental in this formative period at NWSC. Additional faculty and staff were hired by Dr. AliNiazee as the school started to grow.

Since its founding in 2008, NWSC has made great progress and continues to diligently work toward providing the very best educational environment. Currently, NWSC is an accredited institution offering accelerated degree seeking and healthcare certification programs. Since NWSC's first two students in 2009, nearly 500 students have graduated over the past six years. Recent highlights of NWSC's journey include attaining Title IV funding approval in May 2016 and initial institutional accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools (ACICS) in August 2014. If past performance is any indicator, NWSC has a bright future ahead.

PROGRAMS

NWSC is committed to preparing its students for advancement and growth in the field of biology. Students whose major is biology explore and understand the concepts and fundamentals of living organisms.



Our undergraduates excel in preparation for graduate school and medical school, and either option will prepare students for a variety of careers and enable them to be highly sought-after in this competitive, rapidly evolving, and expanding field.

APPLY NOW

Northwest Suburban College warmly welcomes international students to join our diverse community of knowledge-seekers. Regardless of where you call home, when you join NWSC, you will be part of a family that nurtures you both academically and socially.



NWSC teachers provide academic and student support, offering advice and resources to explore the many attractions of the Chicago area. At NWSC, you have the advantage of small class sizes that allow for direct attention from your professor and a close community to call your second home.

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NWSC believes that nothing should hinder the pursuit of education, so we strive to provide an affordable education for our students. Our low tuition rates, combined with our quality, direct instruction and caring community, offers more for less.

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International students seeking admission to NWSC are encouraged to apply at least 3 months in advance of the proposed admission date. NWSC trimester start dates are in the first weeks of September, January, and May.

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Housing is readily available in the northwest Chicago area, and as a service to students, NWSC will provide a list of available housing options. NWSC has arrangements with private apartment owners nearby for incoming students.

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U.S. VISA AVAILABILITY IN FEBRUARY 2019 For Pakistan, Bangladesh & India

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U.S. VISA AVAILABILITY IN MARCH 2019

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1 st Unmarried sons & daughters Of U.S. Citizens	Oct., 22, 2011	Oct., 22, 2011
2-A Spouses and unmarried childrens of permanent residents	Jan., 08, 2017	Jan., 08, 2017
2-B Unmarried sons & daughters (21 yrs. of age or older) of permanent residents	Aug., 01, 2012	Aug., 01, 2012
3 rd Married sons & daughters of US citizens	Sept., 08, 2006	Sept., 08, 2006
4 th Brothers & sisters of adult U.S. citizens	Sept., 22, 2005	July 08, 2004
EMPLOYMENT BASED CATEGORY		
1 st Priority workers	Jan., 01, 2018	Feb., 22, 2017
2 nd Members of the professions holding advanced degree or persons of exceptional ability	Current	April 09, 2009
3 rd Skilled workers Other workers	Current Current	May 22, 2009 May 22, 2009
4 th Certain special immigrants Certain religious workers	Current U	Current U
5 th Non-regional centers Regional centers	Current U	Current U

Rezwanul Haque, Candidate for Streamwood Village Trustee, Holds Candidate Meet & Greet Event with IL Secretary of State, Jesse White



Streamwood, IL: Several candidates from various local elections gathered Friday night at Lazzat Banquets in Streamwood for a candidate Meet and Greet. Among the candidates in attendance were Candidate for Village of Schaumburg President, Nafees Rahman, & Candidate for the Elgin Community College Board Nazneen Hashmi. To show their support, Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, State Representative Fred Crespo, Streamwood Park District Vice President Raees Yawar, Streamwood library Trustee Asad Khan Community Relations Member Amin Haider, and Community Leader Moon Khan were in attendance. Hanover Park Mayor Rod

Craig, who intended on speaking at the event, was unable to be in attendance. Farooq Patel, Khurram Syed, Nasir Jahangir, Dr. Baseer Qazi, Kaleem Rahim, Noman Khan, Basith Khan, and Viqar Qureshi helped organize the event. All candidates are extremely grateful for all of the support they received from attendees, sitting public officials, organizers, and other candidates. They anticipate this wave of support will continue to grow as voters begin casting vote-by-mail ballots. For those not casting participating in early voting, the candidates look forward to your support on Election Day April 2nd 2019.



Chicago Telugu Association helps Feed Hungry Children

285,000 Meals prepared and packed to serve poor children

Chicago, IL: Chicago Telugu Association (CTA) successfully conducted packing of meals for malnourished poor children at Feed My Starving Children at North Central College, Naperville, Illinois, USA. About 175 volunteers on a very cold evening gathered in Chicago to help FMSC prepare and pack the food for hungry children in the world under Feed My Hungry Children. The CTA team led by President Nagendra Vege helped FMSC in packing on the day 285,000 meals which will serve 785 kids in Dominican Republic for one year. The event was coordinated and lead by President Nagendra Vege, CTA Founding members Ravi Achanta, Praveen Moturu, Seshu Uppalapati, Rao Achanta and core members Bhushan Beemsetty, Deva Subramaniam, Venu Uppalapati, Fareed Khan, Harish Jannu, Adil Ahmed, Bala Choda, Mohammed Rehman, Bhargav Kavuri, Kalyan karumuri, pavan naramreddy, Surya Garde, Bhanu Soma, Vijay Babu Krishnamurthy, Raghu Reddy, Murali Parmi, Rahul Viratapu and Krishna Rangaraju.

Women members of CTA, Rani Vege, Bhavani Saraswati, Mounika Chebrolu, Madhavi Tippisetty, Tanuja Sajja, Sudha Kunchanapalli, Sujana Achanta, Madhavi Achanta, Poornima, Kavitha, and Srilakshmi Mandava helped in successfully conducting the event. Speaking on the occasion of Mr. Ravi Achanta, Mr. Praveen Moturu and Mr. Nagendra Vege congratulated the team and commended their participation. Feed My Hungry Children appreciated Chicago Telugu Association for their continued support for many years. For CTA this is the largest food charity event in 5 years. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a non-profit organization

committed to feeding children hungry in body and spirit. Volunteer's hand-pack meals specially formulated for malnourished children, and we send them to partners around the world where they're used to operate orphanages, schools, clinics

and feeding programs to break the cycle of poverty. FMSC thanked CTA volunteers for their generosity to help poor children across world.



Attacks on Kashmiris: Mehbooba, Omar say SC did what Centre should've done

Attacks on Kashmiris: Mehbooba, Omar say SC did what Centre should've done [The Indian Express]
The Indian Express 22 February 2019
Kashmir civilian killings: 3-day strike called as political parties condemn civilian killings, call it a 'massacre'
Both the leaders welcomed the apex court's directive to 11 states. (Express Photo by Shuaib Masoodi)

Hours after the Supreme Court took cognizance of assault on Kashmiri students in the aftermath of Pulwama attack, and directed 11 states to take "prompt" action to prevent such incidents, former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah on Friday welcomed the apex court's decision.

The Supreme Court, while hearing a petition on incidents of threat and violence against Kashmiri students today, sought

a response from states where such cases were reported following the Pulwama terror attack and directed their chief secretaries and DGPs to take "prompt" and necessary action.

SC tells states, UTs to promptly act against assault, social boycott of Kashmiris post-Pulwama attack

"Relieved about the SC order to ensure Kashmiri students based outside J&K are not harassed or face social boycott. Shameful that the honourable judiciary took decisive action where others conveniently turned a blind eye," PDP chief Mehbooba wrote on Twitter.

National Conference vice-president Abdullah said he was grateful to the Supreme Court for doing what the government at the Centre should have done. "Grateful to the Hon Supreme Court of

India for doing what our elected leadership in Delhi should have been doing. The union HRD minister was busy living in denial & a Governor was busy issuing threats. Thank goodness the Hon SC stepped in," Abdullah said in a tweet.



Why attack young Kashmiris for Pulwama attack, a crime committed by someone else?

Following the court's decision, the chief secretaries and DGPs of Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand, and the Delhi Police commissioner have been directed to prevent incidents of "threat, assault and social boycott" of Kashmiris, including students.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi also directed that the police officers, who were earlier appointed as nodal officers to deal with lynching incidents, would now be responsible to deal with cases of assaults on Kashmiris.

The bench was hearing a plea of Tariq Ad-eeb seeking a direction to the Centre and the states to prevent incidents of assaults, threats and social boycott of Kashmiris in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

Swami Hansdevacharya, key figure in Ram temple movement dies in road accident

Swami Hansdevacharya, a key figure associated with the Ram temple movement, died on Friday in a road accident in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district. Three of his associates traveling with him were injured in the accident. They were admitted to a community health centre in Bangarmau.

The accident took place early in the morning near Devkhari village of Ganj Moradabad on Agra-Lucknow expressway. The seer was heading to Haridwar from Prayagraj (Allahabad). The driver is said to have slept while driving the SUV, which crashed into the truck ahead.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and BJP president Amit Shah condoled the demise of Hansdevacharya, who was the leader of the Bairagis campaigning for construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya at the site where Babri Masjid existed.

The mosque was demolished in December 1992 by karsevaks (volunteers) who had gathered in the UP town following a call given by Vishwa Hindu Parishad and supported by the Bharatiya Janata Party to push for construction of a Ram temple there. The VHP and the BJP have maintained that it was the place where Lord Ram was born.

The Supreme Court is hearing the title suit in the matter after a judgment of the Allahabad High Court was challenged before it. The high court, in 2010, ruled that the disputed land should be divided into three equal parts among three parties including the one representing Ram Lalla.



Hans Devacharya was an influential seer,

who also headed an all-India body of saints.

NTR Mahanayakudu Row: Krish Opens Up About His 'Issues' With Balakrishna

A few days ago, it was reported that Nandamuri Balakrishna was mighty upset with Krish for doing the NTR Biopic in two parts and had given him a piece of his mind. The reports also claimed that NBK was unhappy about the response to the NTR Mahanayakudu trailer and had decided against promoting the film. Now, Krish has broken his silence on his 'cold war' with Balakrishna.

While talking to a leading daily, he said that he is good friends with NBK and has no issues with him. He also said that NTR Mahanayakudu would 'outdo expectations'. "Actually I don't know who has created such rumors, but there is no animosity between me and Balayya garu. We're very good friends and in fact very confident that Mahanayakudu will outdo all the expectations," he added.

Krish also made it clear that contrary to popular perception, NBK was the one who decided to do the film in two parts.

"The idea of two parts is (came) much earlier than I've joined this film. So there is no point that I've crafted that idea," added the director.

NTR Mahanayakudu, which revolves around NTR's political life, is slated to hit screens tomorrow (February 22, 2019). Besides the 'Natasimha', it also features Bollywood actress Vidya Balan and Rana Daggubati in the lead.



Alabama mother begs to return to US, says moving to Syria and marrying ISIS fighters was 'a big mistake'

With U.S.-backed forces closing in on ISIS in Syria, young mother Hoda Muthana is pleading for a second chance and the opportunity to return home to her family in Alabama.

"I realized I've made a big mistake and I know I've ruined my future and my son's future and I deeply, deeply regret it," she said in an interview with The Guardian newspaper. Muthana is one of 1,500 foreign women and children living in a Kurdish-run refugee camp in northern Syria. Muthana's family lawyer, Hassan Shibly, told ABC News the young mother was "brainwashed" by ISIS and now feels "tremendous remorse."

"This is a young, vulnerable woman who was brainwashed and manipulated by monsters who took advantage of her," Shibly said in an interview that airs on "Good Morning America" on Tuesday morning. "Hooda is absolutely disgusted by the person she became while under the spell." In 2017, Muthana's father told ABC News' Diane Sawyer that he'd been proud when she seemed to become more devout about religion. He said he had no idea that she was secretly taking cues from ISIS recruiters sending her messages over the phone.

"I never thought in my life that it would happen to us, to me, to my family, but it happened," he said. "It could happen to any other family."

Muthana, who now has an 18-month-old son, left Alabama four years ago at the age of 19. She spread ISIS propaganda online, calling for attacks on Americans. According to AL.com, she tweeted messages encouraging

people to "spill American blood."

Now, after surrendering to Kurdish authorities, she told the Guardian that she fears for her safety.

"From what I heard, if they were to read my messages, I would have been killed," she said. Muthana has been married three times to ISIS fighters. Twice, she was made a widow.

In a letter obtained exclusively by ABC News, she described herself as a "naive, angry and arrogant" young woman when she set out for Syria. Muthana said she thought she understood her religious beliefs and had stopped listening to her family.

"That was a big mistake," she said in the letter.

"During my years in Syria I would see and experience a way of life and the terrible effects of war which changed me. Seeing bloodshed up close changed me. Motherhood changed me. Seeing friends, children and the men I married dying changed me. Seeing how different a society could be compared to the beloved America I was born and raised into changed me," she said. "Being where I was and seeing the ppl around me scared me because I realized I didn't want to be a part of this. My beliefs weren't the same as theirs. In my quiet moments, in between bombings, starvation, cold and fear I would look at my beautiful little boy and know that I didn't belong here and neither did he. I would think sometimes of my family, my friends and the life that I knew and I realized how I didn't appreciate or maybe even really understand how impor-



tant the freedoms that we have in America are. I do now. To say that I regret my past words, any pain that I caused my family and any concerns I would cause my country would be hard for me to really express properly. Muthana is expected to be brought home to face justice, which President Donald Trump has pushed other countries to do as well.

Muthana's family lawyer told ABC News she wants to return to the United States to be "accountable for her choices," and to hopefully be a powerful voice to ensure that others don't repeat the mistakes she made.

"She wants to make amends by doing her best to speak out and ensure that she can protect other young individuals being brainwashed and taken advantage of in the same way she has," Shibly said in the interview on "GMA." "She's willing to risk her life right now to condemn ISIS."

Another wave of retail store closures coming. 'No light at the end of the tunnel'

Already, 2,187 store closures have been announced by retailers in 2019, according to Coresight Research. That stems from names including: Gymboree, J.C. Penney, Charlotte Russe and Ann Taylor parent company Ascena Retail.

Analysts say the U.S. is still "over-stored." Another wave of store closures is expected to hit shopping centers and malls this year with "no light at the end of the tunnel," according to a new research report.

Retailers have already announced 2,187 new store closures since Jan. 1, including Gymboree, J.C. Penney, Charlotte Russe and Ann Taylor parent company Ascena Retail, according to Coresight Research. That's up 23 percent from the number of announcements documented at the same time last year, the market research group said. And there's "potentially many more on the way due to companies currently in the bankruptcy process and more on the horizon."

In 2018, Coresight tracked 5,524 store closure announcements in the U.S., which was down more than 30 percent

from a record 8,139 closures announced in 2017. David Simon, CEO of the largest mall operator in the U.S., Simon Property Group, recently said the pace of store closures was slowing, but he expected more in 2019, with a handful of private equity-backed retailers on his so-called watch list. Analysts say the U.S. is still "over-stored," especially when compared with other countries. As more purchases are happening online, there's less of a need for so much retail real estate. And the retailers that are still opening new locations are thinking much smaller. Already this year, Coresight said retailers have announced 1,411 store openings (offsetting about 65 percent of store closures), largely stemming from dollar and discount chains.

Department store chains and specialty apparel retailers, meanwhile, are the two categories within retail still expected to shrink. But not everyone views store closures as bad news.

"You don't always look at store closures as a negative thing," said Brandon Famous, senior managing director



of the retail advisory group at commercial real estate services firm CBRE. "That doesn't always dictate consumer sentiment. All the numbers point up," he added, referring to the industry forecasts for retail sales growth in 2019. "With any vacant department store, an owner has the opportunity to increase their rent, to reinvigorate or reinvent the space," Famous said. "In many cases a landlord looks forward to the opportunity of getting that space back. In many cases it will be a positive thing."

Mohammed bin Salman orders release of 850 Indian prisoners

Marking another significant point in India-Saudi Arabia ties, Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman, has ordered the release of 850 Indian prisoners lodged in jails in his country on the request of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, read a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs.

Along with the release of the prisoners, the External Affairs Ministry said the Saudi Crown Prince has also announced the increase in quota for Indian Haj pilgrims to 2 lakh at the request of PM Modi. "

Another big deliverable! At the request of the PM @narendramodi, His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia has ordered the release of 850 Indian prisoners lodged in Saudi jails," Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

The Saudi Crown Prince arrived in India a day after his visit to Pakistan. In a special gesture which emphasises the importance India attaches to its gulf partner (Saudi Arabia) PM Modi broke protocol to personally receive the Saudi prince and welcomed him with a warm hug at Palam airport.



Rafale Deal: Supreme Court Agrees To Hear Review Petition

New Delhi, February 21: The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to hear the review petition in the Rafale deal case. The apex court today admitted the review plea filed against its earlier verdict on no probe into the Rafale deal. The court also agreed to hear lawyer Prashant Bhushan's plea seeking perjury prosecution of some officials for 'misleading court' in the Rafale case. Rafale Row: There's No Scandal, Says Dassault Aviation CEO Eric Trappier at Aero India Show 2019.

Also Read | After Crackdown on Separatists in Jammu & Kashmir, MHA Airlifts 100 Para Companies to Srinagar

The Supreme Court had on December 14 dismissed a batch of pleas challenging the deal between India and France for procurement of 36 Rafale jets, saying there was no occasion to "really doubt the decision making process" warranting setting aside of the contract. Rafale

Price Could Have Been Reduced, Says CAG; Criticises Selection of Fighter Jets.

The apex court had rejected the pleas seeking lodging of an FIR and a court-monitored probe into alleged irregularities in the Rs 58,000-crore deal, in which both the countries have entered into an inter-governmental agreement (IGA). Meanwhile, speaking on the Rafale deal controversy, Dassault Aviation Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Eric Trappier on Wednesday said that there was "no scandal with Rafale deal". The CEO also added that besides 36 fighter jets, if the Indian government wants more aircraft, then we will be "pleased to deliver".

The opposition has been accusing Modi government of extending benefits to businessman Anil Ambani by buy-



ing overpriced Rafale fighter jets and helping Reliance get the offset contract from Dassault. The opposition-led by Congress has been highlighting the Rafale deal ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

US: 70-year-old Indian-origin man admits to multi-million dollar immigration fraud

A 70-year-old man of Indian-origin, Hardev Panesar, living in the US, has admitted to running a multi-million dollar immigration scam that is said to have duped over a 100 people.

According to the US Department of Justice (DoJ), Panesar pled guilty to his crimes in the San Diego Federal Court on Thursday, and agreed to pay back \$2.5mn to the victims.

Here's more.

Panesar: Panesar would charge exorbitant sums from his victims

Born in Kenya, and fluent in five languages, Panesar had, for years, pretended to be a US government official in a bid to trick immigrants.

Over a five-year period, Panesar told dozens of immigrants that he was an official of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and promised to get their families legal immigration status in exchange for sums ranging between \$20,000 and

\$40,000.

Arrest: He had been arrested in June 2017

Yet, that's not all.

Apart from his fraudulent activities, Panesar would often threaten clients with violence when they asked for their money back. In one case, he even threatened to behead someone.

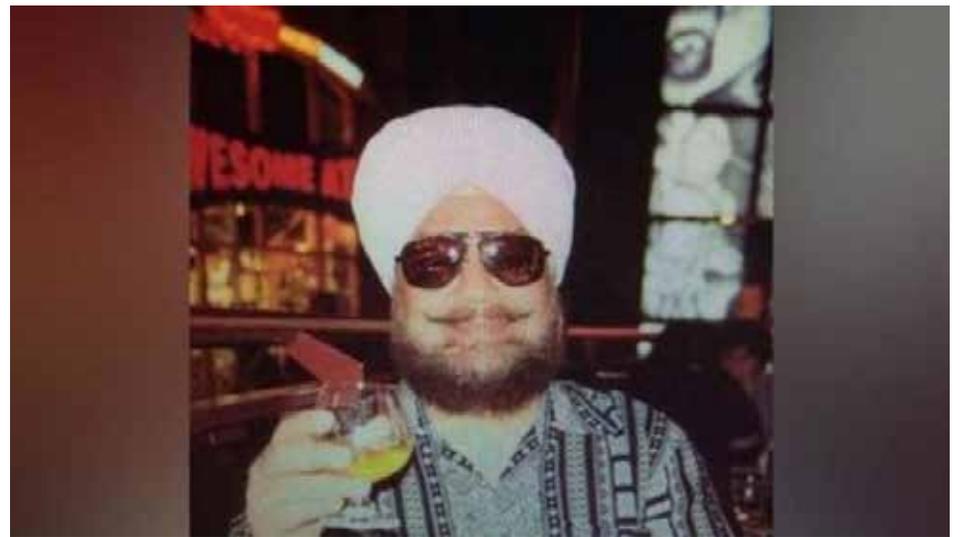
After a year-long investigation by the FBI, Panesar was arrested in June 2017, but was granted bail on a \$100,000 bond.

Then, things took a turn.

Escape: In June last year, Panesar had escaped to Mexico

In January last year, Panesar's attorney appealed that he be allowed to leave his home detention between 6am and 10pm.

Owing to Panesar having performed well on his bail bond, the court granted him permission.



the US in August.

Months later, in June 2018, Panesar tampered with his GPS anklet, and fled to Mexico, just before his trial was about to begin.

Other details: However, he was deported, and faces 20 years in prison

However, Panesar's escape was short-lived, and Mexican authorities caught him within a month and deported him back to

Out of options, Panesar has now cut short the trial process, and has pleaded guilty.

While the court is slated to sentence him in May, one of his associates has been handed a nearly four-year prison term.

Panesar faces a maximum prison term of 20 years.

Pompeo Denies 'ISIS Bride' Request to Return to U.S.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Wednesday that an Alabama woman who fled to Syria to join ISIS in 2014 is not a U.S. citizen and, as a result, is not entitled to return to the U.S. with her 18-month-old son, as she had hoped to do.

"Ms. Hoda Muthana is not a U.S. citizen and will not be admitted into the United States," Pompeo said in a statement. "She does not have any legal basis, no valid U.S. passport, no right to a passport, nor any visa to travel to the United States. We continue to strongly advise all U.S. citizens not to travel to Syria."

Muthana, 24, was taken to a refugee camp in northeast Syria by Kurdish forces after escaping ISIS territory.

An attorney representing Muthana's parents claims she is a U.S. citizen despite the fact that her father was serving as a Yemeni diplomat when she was born in New Jersey, which, according to the State Department, means she is not entitled to birthright citizenship.

Muthana's son was fathered by one of the three ISIS fighters she was married to during her time in the caliphate. In a 2015 tweet, she urged Americans to carry out domestic terror attacks.

"Americans wake up! Men and women altogether. You have much to do while you live under our greatest enemy, enough of your sleeping!" she wrote, according to The Guardian. "Go on drivebys, and spill all of their blood, or rent a big truck and drive all over them. Veterans, Patriots, Memorial, etc day . . . Kill them."

In a recent interview with The Guardian, Muthana pleaded with U.S. officials to allow her return to America, citing her youth and immaturity at the time she fled to Syria.

"I would tell them please forgive me for being so ignorant, and I was really young and ignorant and I was 19 when I decided to leave," she said.



More from National Review
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Report: Pompeo Bucks Advisers, Backs Continued Support for Saudi War in Yemen

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An Encounter With The Author Of Kuch Meri Baki Tulsi ki

By M.S.Zahed ,Ex-CMD, HMT

The Boards of Public Sector Undertakings in India normally are made of a CMD, Functional Directors, Independent Directors, Functional Directors and a Company Secretary. All Directors are appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), who is the nominal owner/shareholder of the companies. As per Companies Act, SEBI guidelines and the management practices, the PSUs are board managed, audited by, internal auditors, statutory auditors CAG. In spite of such a charged functional responsibilities to the Board, there is not an institution in India, which formally trains an executive to qualify to be a Director or a CMD. Invariably a good performing executive in a particular discipline is made a director, for which he may not be suitable otherwise. But, then there is no better system. Government has created Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), for interviewing and recommending candidates for appointment by ACC. PESB is made up of members who are generally retired civil servants who enjoy the perks more than what they are required to do. During an interview, if they get a call from, say from PMO, the job is done. PESB would recommend two names and the choice has to be in that order. I was made CMD during July 2002, though not being the first choice, the first choice lacked a Vigilance clearance from CVC. During this period the company was in a very turbulent period due to lack of liquidity and attrition. I had seven companies to oversee, spread over the states of Karnataka, AP, Kerala, Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, J&K with employee strength of about 25000. The workers unions AITUC, INTUC, HMS, etc had taken full advantage of declining financial health of the company coupled with lack of focus by the Government. When the management attempts to bring an order in the administration, the Unions would indulge in sending petitions

to the MPs, Ministries, PMO et al. and local MPs gladly issue a covering letter and even ask some questions in the Lok Sabha. I too had my share of getting undesirable publicity in print and electronic media. Looking back, it is fun and perhaps all managers enjoy after they retire recalling the happenings.

The Bangalore Factory which was in perpetual need of funds for salaries, statutory dues, etc. was centre of focus as was located near the Corporate head quarters. Employees use to take frequent loans from their Provident Fund (EPF) citing some reason or the other. The employees including officers waiting for their loans from EPF, to be sanctioned would approach the Union leaders, who in turn bully their way with the PF Officer, intimidate him and get the files of their supporters cleared for payment. There was utter lack of discipline and the office bearers of the Unions were like warlords and law unto themselves. The previous management seemed very benevolent towards the Union leaders, no attendance punch card, and a monthly hired taxi to move around in Bangalore. The taxi would even make some private trips for others to earn some money for them. The situation was pathetic I had to do something, to begin with, I introduced attendance card punching for all employees including the CMD. I directed the Wages dept to link salaries to attendance of the leaders as was the practice for others. The effect was devastating on them. Across the country in all 21 factories, the Union leaders suffered huge salary cuts. They could not take it, and petitions and anonymous letters poured into PMO/Ministry through all important offices with allegations of all sorts.

As a Chairman of Group of seven companies. I had many Board meetings to attend and of course the Board of Holding Co. was at the apex, with an Additional Sec-

retary, senior IAS officer from WB cadre from UP and a JS also a senior IAS officer of Punjab cadre, a Punjabi as directors. When one such meeting was to take place my security intelligence informed me that a group of nearly twenty union leaders have met the Additional Secretary in his hotel room and have submitted petition against CMD. The Board meeting began as scheduled and after couple of agenda items, the additional secretary suddenly pulled out a paper and started mentioning about the details of petition, I just requested him to hold on and asked him the item serial number of the agenda which he is reading, he said it is not in the agenda, then I politely told him that I am the Chairman of the meeting and nothing can be placed without the approval of the Chairman. The senior bureaucrat had no choice but to keep quiet throughout the meeting, skipped the customary Lunch after the meeting, and left for airport to catch the flight to Delhi. After few days he called me from Delhi and regretted his behavior during the Board meeting.

Few years passed by and I had retired, he use to frequent Bangalore to visit his daughter and every visit we use to jointly break the bread in a quiet restaurant or in the Club house of KSCA. He has taken up to writing books on spiritual subjects, and recently he wrote a book titled "Kuch Meri Baki Tulsi Ki", the proceeds of the sale of copies he generously donated to the victims of floods in Utrakhand. Now, whenever, he is in the town, we never miss to have a pure vegetarian meal together sans garlic and onions, in one of the famous vegetarian restaurants of Bangalore.

(Author can be reached at mszahed@hotmail.com)

Canada looks to reunite Syrian family after fire claims seven kids

Ottawa (AFP) - Canada is looking to quickly bring over siblings of a Syrian refugee distraught over the loss of her seven children in a Halifax house fire, the prime minister said. "The immigration minister is seized with this particular case," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said when asked if Ottawa would fast-track the immigration or asylum process to bring the woman's brothers to Canada in order to provide her with family support.

The family was among tens of thousands of Syrian refugees welcomed by Canada over the past four years.

"We're looking at what can be done within our (immigration and refugee) system to give this family a little solace in a time of unbelievable tragedy," Trudeau said during a trip to Halifax.

Kawthar Barho, 30, and her family had fled the northern Syrian city of Raqa, where Islamic State militants had established their de facto capital.



They settled in the Atlantic port city of Halifax in 2017. A video posted on social media showed a small crowd cheering their arrival at the airport.

Neighbors said they heard an explosion in the middle of the night Tuesday before seeing flames ravage the family's two-storey house.

Barho remains in hospital, and has been reportedly repeating the name of her youngest child, Abdullah, who was only four months old.

Ahmed, 15, Rola, 12, Mohammed, 10, Ghala, 8, Hala, 4, and Rana, 3, also died in the blaze -- which police are continuing to investigate.

Her husband Ebraheim suffered severe burns and is fighting for his life.

Wednesday night, Trudeau attended a vigil in Halifax for the young victims.

Officials would not comment on the specific case, citing strict privacy laws, but said Immigration Minister Ahmed Hussen has discretion to fast-track asylum or immigration cases, including



security and medical screenings, in special circumstances.

Locals have been grieving with the mother.

"For the past year and a half, the children have been able to enjoy life as kids should be able to: going to school, riding bicycles, swimming, having friends, running in the yard, celebrating birthday parties and hanging out with the neighbors on their porch swing," the Heart Society, the non-profit group that sponsored the family, said in an online post.

"They loved every minute of it, and it seems impossible we won't hear their laughter and feel their hugs again," it said.

Millions of Syrians have fled years of civil war that have left more than 360,000 people dead.

IS YOUR AIRBAG DEFECTIVE?

Nearly 70 million Takata airbag inflators, in approximately 47 million vehicles, are or will be under recall in the United States by 2020.

Even a minor fender bender can cause these airbag inflators to rupture, spraying metal shrapnel into drivers and passengers.

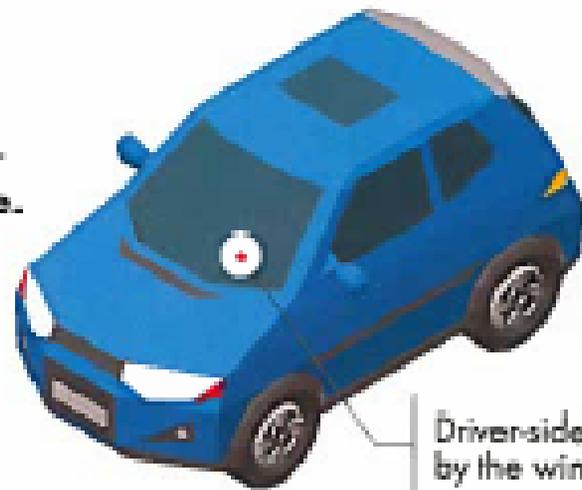
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NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V904 Manufacturer : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. Subject : Rear Coil Springs May Fracture Make Model Model Years VOLKSWAGEN ATLAS 2018-2019 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 2015 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2019 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V906 Manufacturer : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC. Subject : Incorrect Headlight Adjustment/ FMVSS 108 Make Model Model Years MERCEDES BENZ C300 2018 MERCEDES BENZ C300 4MATIC 2018 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V907 Manufacturer : Kia Motors America Subject : High Pressure Fuel Pipe May Leak Make Model Model Years KIA OPTIMA 2011-2017 KIA SORENTO 2012-2017 KIA SPORTAGE 2011-2018 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V911 Manufacturer : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC. Subject : Horizontal Headlight Adjustment/ FMVSS 108 Make Model Model Years MERCEDES BENZ CLS450 2019 MERCEDES BENZ CLS53 2019 NHTSA Recall ID Number :	18V915 Manufacturer : Nissan North America, Inc. Subject : Rear Door May Open When Window Is Lowered Make Model Model Years NISSAN ALTIMA 2015-2017 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V916 Manufacturer : Nissan North America, Inc. Subject : ABS Valve May Remain Open after ABS Event Make Model Model Years NISSAN MURANO 2009 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V917 Manufacturer : Chrysler (FCA US LLC) Subject : Instrument Cluster May Fail Make Model Model Years JEEP CHEROKEE 2019 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V919 Manufacturer : Toyne Inc. Subject : Brake Lights May Randomly Illuminate/ FMVSS 108 Make Model Model Years TOYNE FIRE APPARATUS 2017-2018 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 18V921 Manufacturer : Honda (American Honda Motor Co.) Subject : Vehicle May Lose Power Make Model Model Years HONDA CLARITY FUEL CELL 2017-2018 NHTSA Recall ID Number :	18V934 Manufacturer : Hyundai Motor America Subject : High Pressure Fuel Pipe May Leak Make Model Model Years HYUNDAI SANTA FE SPORT 2013-2014 HYUNDAI SONATA 2011-2014 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 19V019 Manufacturer : General Motors LLC Subject : Driver's Frontal Air Bag Inflator May Explode Make Model Model Years CHEVROLET MALIBU 2010-2011 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 19V020 Manufacturer : Chrysler (FCA US LLC) Subject : Loose Ground Causing Power Steering Assist Loss Make Model Model Years RAM 1500 2019 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 19V021 Manufacturer : Chrysler (FCA US LLC) Subject : Steering Linkage may Separate Make Model Model Years RAM 2500 2014-2017 RAM 3500 2013-2017 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 19V053 Manufacturer : Honda (American Honda Motor Co.) Subject : Fuel Pump Feed Port May Crack And Leak	Make Model Model Years HONDA RIDGELINE 2017-2019 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 19V060 Manufacturer : Honda (American Honda Motor Co.) Subject : Reduced Fuel Pump Performance May Cause Stall Make Model Model Years ACURA MDX 2016-2018 ACURA TLX 2015-2019 HONDA ACCORD 2015-2017 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 19V067 Manufacturer : Chrysler (FCA US LLC) Subject : Brake Pedal May Separate From Pedal Assembly Make Model Model Years RAM 1500 2019 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 19V070 Manufacturer : Daimler Vans USA, LLC Subject : Loss of Steering without Warning Make Model Model Years MERCEDES BENZ SPRINTER (VS30) 2019 NHTSA Recall ID Number : 19V075 Manufacturer : Ford Motor Company Subject : Unexpected Transmission Downshift Make Model Model Years FORD F-150 2011-2013
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Makes Good On Her Promise Of Paying Staffers A “Living Wage”

Staffers working for Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez will be paid a minimum of \$52,000 per year, a major shift from the archaic congressional tradition of paying staff well below a living wage. The announcement comes two months after the New York congresswoman made headlines when she said she would pay congressional interns \$15 per hour and offer them benefits — another rarity, since these positions have often been unpaid.

According to a 2018 analysis by the independent congressional research firm LegiStorm, the median salary for some entry-level staff roles in Congress typically range from \$32,000 to \$36,000. In a place like Washington, D.C. — one of the most expensive cities in the country where rent averages \$2,100 per month — that means congressional staffers have traditionally found themselves moonlighting as food industry workers or taking other jobs to make ends meet.

But Ocasio-Cortez, who knows the struggle of juggling multiple gigs all too well, says that it was important to lead by example. “Leadership starts with our choices. That’s why I decided that no one on my staff will make less than \$52k/year. It’s likely one of the highest entry-level salaries on the Hill. We pinch pennies elsewhere, but it’s worth every dime to pay a living wage,” she tweeted. The Members’ Representational Allowances for the 2019

fiscal year — i.e. the operational budget given to members of Congress every session for managing their offices in D.C. and their respective districts — is \$574 million, still lower than the high of \$660 million in 2010.

To afford paying staffers a minimum of \$52,000, Ocasio-Cortez’s office has a salary cap of \$80,000 — well below the median pay for positions such as chief of staff, which usually receive a salary of \$154,000. And it seems like the congresswoman’s team is willing to take the pay cuts in order to offer lower-level staff a living wage. Ocasio-Cortez’s team will be comprised by 18 people — the limit for congressional offices — and her chief of staff Saikat Chakrabarti has previously said there are no volunteers in the office. Of course, this move has displeased some of Ocasio-Cortez’s critics. Fox & Friends co-host Pete Hegseth said on Sunday said the trade-off was an example of “communism and socialism.”



Ocasio-Cortez fired back on Twitter, saying: “The GOP is so disconnected from the basic idea that people should be paid enough to live that Fox actually thinks me paying a living wage in my office is ‘communism.’ So the next time GOP screams ‘socialist,’ know that’s their go-to attack for any common-sense, humane policy.”

Cook Says Apple Is 'Rolling the Dice' on Future Products

Apple Inc. Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook said he has “never been more optimistic” about where the company is today and where it’s heading. In a pep talk to investors, Cook said the iPhone maker is “planting seeds” and “rolling the dice” on future products that will just “blow you away.”

Speaking at the company’s annual general meeting in Cupertino, California, Cook reiterated that the iPhone maker is still on track to double revenue from services in 2020 from the nearly \$25 billion in 2016. Referencing speaking notes on an iPad, Cook touched on several of the company’s product categories.

He said eventually the goal is to lower the price on the \$1,200 MacBook Air laptop with a higher-resolution

screen and said there’s a “long, great roadmap of fantastic” products related to the Apple Watch and AirPods. He indicated that more health features would come to the smartwatch.

Apple shares rose more than 1 percent in afternoon trading Friday in New York. The stock was down before Cook started speaking.

Investors are waiting for Apple to come up with a next big thing as demand for its best-selling product, the iPhone, slows, leading to the company’s first holiday-quarter sales decline since 2001. Cook has often mentioned augmented reality as a game changing technology and Apple is working on a pair of AR glasses. In the meantime, the company is focusing on a growing services businesses and rising

sales of other devices like the Watch and AirPods. Cook noted that Apple bought 18 companies in 2018 and is constantly on the lookout for more acquisitions.

The CEO also fielded questions from investors about privacy, diversity and politics. In an apparent jab at Facebook Inc. and Google, Cook criticized companies that build data profiles of their users, and reiterated that Apple is pushing for regulation against such practice. One shareholder noted that although Apple management’s political opinion appears to differ from the Trump administration’s, the company has still been able to successfully to work with the U.S. government.

At Apple’s recommendation, shareholders rejected a proposal to disclose the ideology of board nominees. Those in favor of the proposal indicated their desire for Apple’s board to have a more diverse set of political opinions, and one shareholder said the board needs more shareholder input.

Shareholders rejected a proposal to give wider access to nominate board members. The entire board, which includes Cook, former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Walt Disney Co. CEO Bob Iger, was re-elected.

One shareholder criticized Apple for donating \$1 million to the Southern Poverty Law Center in the wake of the violent Charlottesville, Virginia, attack in 2017. The shareholder indicated that if Apple’s board was more diverse politically, the company might not have made the donation. Much of the room clapped when another shareholder rebuked the suggestion that Apple shouldn’t have given money to the center, which monitors hate groups and combats discrimination.



Mercedes-Benz Recall | Automated System Problem

Mercedes-Benz Vehicles Recalled for Partially Automated Driving System Problem

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tionship with advertisers on this site.

Mercedes-Benz is recalling 6,200 S-Class sedans, coupes, and convertibles from the 2018 and 2019 model years because their automated steering functions, such as lane centering and lane keeping assist, may

continue to work even when the driver’s hands are off the wheel for a prolonged period of time.

When it is working as intended, the system should sound a warning if it doesn’t detect the driver’s hands on the wheel. If the

driver doesn’t respond to repeated warnings, the car will turn on its hazard lights and slowly come to a stop.

The system’s failure is a problem because a driver’s inattention may increase the risk of a crash, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Additionally, the system may not trigger warnings that tell drivers to keep their hands on the wheel and won’t bring the vehicle to a complete stop automatically.

The recall follows a similar problem with the 2019 Lincoln Nautilus SUV. Approximately 2,700 of the SUVs were recalled in January because of a faulty hands-off detection system.

The Details
Vehicles Recalled

- 2018 to 2019 Mercedes-Benz S63 AMG, S450 4Matic, and S560 4Matic sedans
- 2018 Mercedes-Benz S560 coupes and Maybach S560 sedans
- 2018 Mercedes-Benz S63 AMG 4Matic coupes and convertibles

All affected vehicles were manufactured from Feb. 7, 2017, through Aug. 3, 2018, and equipped with Active Steering Assist.

The problem: On vehicles equipped with Active Steering Assist, partially automated steering functions may remain engaged without warning to the driver (as the system is supposed to do) when a driver’s hands are off the wheel for a prolonged period of time.

The fix: Dealerships will perform a software update to the Active Steering Assist system at no cost to owners.

How to contact the manufacturer: Mercedes-Benz began notifying owners of affected vehicles Feb. 15, 2019. Owners may contact Mercedes-Benz customer service at 800-367-6372.



HINDI MOVIE RELEASE DATES

Opening	Title	Director	Cast	Genre
M A R	<i>Luka Chuppi</i>	Laxman Utekar	Kartik Aaryan · Kriti Sanon · Aparshakti Khurana · Pankaj Tripathi · Vinay Pathak	Romantic comedy
	<i>Sonchiriya</i>	Abhishek Chaubey	Sushant Singh Rajput · Bhumi Pednekar · Manoj Bajpayee · Ranvir Shorey · Ashutosh Rana	Crime Drama
	<i>Hamid</i>	Aijaz Khan	Talha Arshad Reshi · Rasika Dugal · Vikas Kumar · Sumit Kaul	Drama
	<i>Badla</i>	Sujoy Ghosh	Amitabh Bachchan · Taapsee Pannu	Drama /Thriller
	<i>Photograph</i>	Ritesh Batra	Nawazuddin Siddiqui · Sanya Malhotra	Drama
	<i>Milan Talkies</i>	Tigmanshu Dhulia	Ali Fazal · Shraddha Srinath · Reecha Sinha · Ashutosh Rana · Sanjay Mishra · Sikandar Kher	Drama
	<i>Mere Pyare Prime Minister</i>	Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra	Anjali Patil · Makarand Deshpande · Rasika Aagashe · Sonia Albizuri · Syna Anand · Adarsh Bharti · Om Kanojija	Social Drama
	<i>Kesari</i>	Anurag Singh	Akshay Kumar · Parineeti Chopra · Mir Sarwar · Ashwath Bhatt · Pawan Malhotra · Rana Ranbir · Mohit Raina · Vipin Sharma	Drama/historical
	<i>Mard Ko Dard Nahi Hota</i>	Vasan Bala	Abhimanyu Dassani · Radhika Madan · Gulshan Devaiah · Mahesh Manjrekar · Jimit Trivedi · Shweta Basu Prasad	Action/Black Comedy
	<i>Mental Hai Kya</i>	Prakash Kovelamudi	Kangana Ranaut · Rajkummar Rao	Black comedy
<i>Notebook</i>	Nitin Kakkar	Zaheer Iqbal · Pranutan Bahl	Drama	

Inida-Pak attacks affect Salman Khan's "Bharat"

The Pulwama terror attack has made Bollywood rethink its priorities as the angst against Pakistan has risen sky high all across the country and nobody wants to see Pakistani artistes being a part of Bollywood or any other industry for that matter. While Salman Khan had previously given Atif Aslam and Rahat Fateh Ali Khan a platform in Tiger Zinda Hai and Sultan, dozens of fans have warned him not to include any Pakistani artistes in Bharat and if he ever does so, they will not watch the film.

Salman Khan Knows He Can't Ignore His Fans!

"Salman knows this time he can't ignore the demand to ban the Pakistani singers. He had earlier gotten away with it," said a source to BollywoodHungama.

The Stakes Are High At The Moment

"He seems to think the voices of Rahat Fateh Ali Khan and Atif Aslam suit him. And that may be true. But there are far bigger truths to tackle right now. To cling stubbornly to the unwanted elements for purely selfish reasons would damage Salman's reputation severely. That is a risk he is not willing to take."

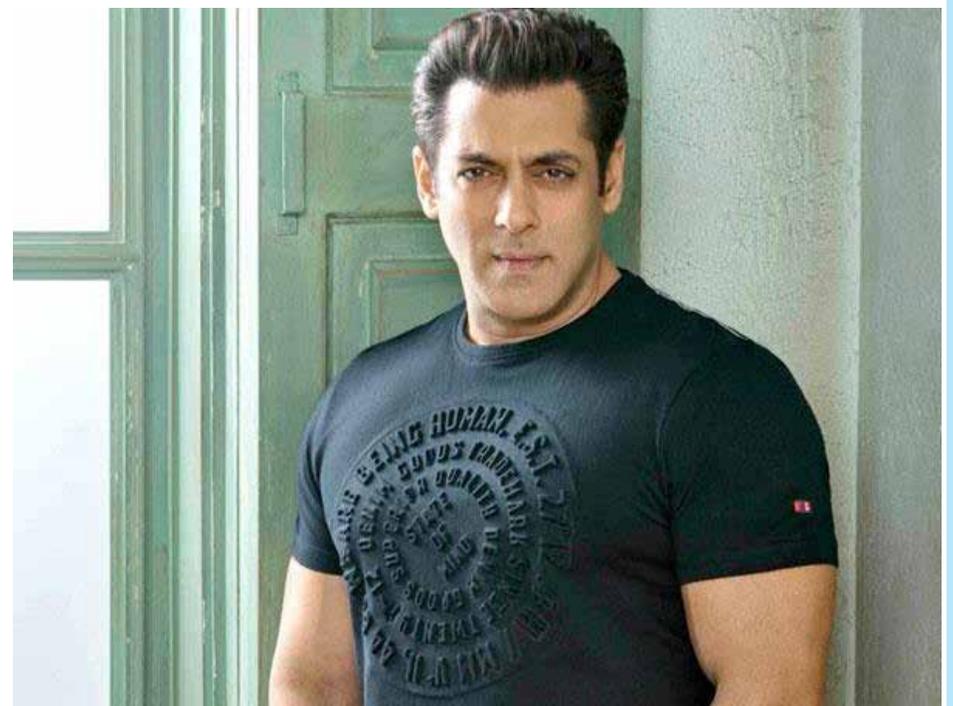
Pakistani Singers In Bharat Have Been Dropped

"They will re-record the songs in Indian voices and pretend the other voices from over the barbed fence never happened," the source summed it up.

Salman Khan Donated A Substantial Sum To The Martyr's Fund

Right after the Pulwama terror attack which martyred 44 Indian soldiers, Salman Khan donated a substantial amount to the martyr's funds and helped the families who are in grief and sadness.

Bharat – Grand Release



Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and Disha Patani starrer Bharat is all set to hit the theatres for Eid 2019. The movie is directed by Ali Abbas Zafar and co-produced by Atul Agnihotri. There's huge expectations on the film and we're sure Salman Khan will not disappoint his fans.



Salman Khan parties hard with his gang

It was an evening to celebrate as the stars lined up to dance to their favourite Bollywood tunes after an exciting match of cricket. Sohail Khan's team in the Celebrity Cricket League won its inaugural match. Of course, the victory called for a party and the internet was treated to videos of their favourite Bollywood celebrities including the "Bhai" himself being the highlight of the celebrations. Salman Khan cheered for Sohail Khan's team.

In the videos surfaced on the internet, we can see Salman Khan partying along with Badshah, Bobby Deol, Riteish Deshmukh, Saqib Saleem, Daisy Shah and Sunil Shetty. The stars could be seen dancing as if there is no tomorrow. In one of the video, we can also see Salman giving a shout out on Bobby Deol's Instagram live.

The actors were also seen crooning and dancing to hit

Bollywood numbers like "Kudi Naal Ishq Mitha", "O O Jaane Jaana" and "Chalti Hai Kya 9 Se 12."



Malaika Arora impresses with her latest look post her trip to Switzerland

Malaika Arora is a fashion diva. She was snapped by the paps at Bandra today and the 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' girl looked extremely impressive. Dressed in a white turtle neck sweater with buttons on the sleeves paired with black pants and red colored knee length boots, Malaika looked extremely stunning and bright.

Malaika waved at the shutterbugs as she stepped out of her car and made way into the building. For the uninitiated, she returned from Switzerland where she had been to attend the pre-



wedding bash of Aakash Ambani and Shloka Mehta. The actress was seen at the celebrations in St Moritz with boyfriend Arjun Kapoor.

However, the actress is back and already in the headline for her stunning attire. Malaika completed her look with her hair tied up high and those oversized shades. Malaika Arora's sensuous dance steps and song sequences definitely make a space in everyone's playlists. And now news is that the actress will set the silver screen ablaze with her dance number 'Hello Hello' from Vishal Bhardwaj's 'Pataakha'.

According to reports, when asked about her experience while shooting for the song, she reportedly said that it was indeed a fun experience. Further, she went on and said that she had immense respect for Vishal and Gulzar and singer Rekha Bharadwaj who sung the song, as all of them came together and weaved their magic; and that she is very happy to be a part of the track.

Kareena Kapoor Khan is dressed to kill at 'Veere Di Wed-

ding' promotions

Kareena Kapoor Khan is back with a bang and is killing it in 'Veere Di Wedding.' The actress plays the lead in the upcoming multi-starrer which is about the topsy turvy ride of a girl gang of four including Sonam Kapoor, Swara Bhasker and Shikha Talsania. The film also stars Sumeet Vyas as the male lead opposite Kareena. The diva who is at her fittest best and rarely misses her gym date turned up in a super gorgeous avatar for the film's promotions. Looking scorching hot in a sheer black dress, Bebo is adding on to the summer heat with her glam appeal.



Shah Rukh Khan expresses his gratitude to IAF Wing Commander Abhinandan

An Indian Air Force plane had crashed in Pakistan post which their Army had found Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman.

Post his capture, Pakistan shared videos of him being safe and sound and yesterday, Pakistan's PM, Imran Khan revealed that they will be releasing Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman as a gesture of peace.



Many actors from Bollywood including, Shah Rukh Khan, Riteish Deshmukh, Emraan Hashmi and more have been expressing their happiness on this issue.

As the nation awaits the arrival of Indian Air Force Wing Commander, Abhinandan Varthaman, Bollywood's superstar Shah Rukh Khan took to Twitter to express his gratitude to the brave soldier. Shah Rukh Khan took to Twitter and shared a photo of the Indian flag along with what he felt on the return of IAF Wing Commander.

Sonchiriya Story:

Set in the ravines of 1970's Chambal, the film follows a bunch of dacoits led by Man Singh (Manoj Bajpayee) as they battle with the cops and their own conscience.

Sonchiriya Review: You can run away from people but how do you escape yourself? You can silence the detractors but how do you silence your conscience? Under its rugged exterior, Sonchiriya is a spiritual puzzle on redemption, remorse and salvation, backed by stellar performances, captivating cinematography and provocative dialogue.

Staying true to his style, Abhishek Chaubey gets into the heartlands of India to take a closer, gritty look at those who think they have sinned. What lies beyond their rebellious deeds and what goes on in their minds as they stare death in the face, forms the story.

Outlaws can have morals and principles,

while the so called righteous people can be devils in disguise. Whom do you trust?

Spectacularly shot across the barren valleys of Madhya Pradesh, Chaubey tries to get a perspective on what defines good and bad through his protagonists — Man Singh and his men, Vakil (Ranvir Shorey) and Lakhna (Sushant Singh Rajput). They are God fearing bandits, who question their sense of purpose and existence.

Though centred around dacoits, cops, gun battle, ambush and dangerous confrontations in the dark of the night, the film isn't really about crime but the aftermath of it and the curse that follows the perpetrators of violence. Can they silence their inner demons or do they get consumed by it?

The provocative film addresses the laws of nature... snakes prey on mice and vultures prey on snakes. Those who kill, will be killed eventually. What's also hard-hitting is its social commentary.

Shoaib Ibrahim declares himself 'joru ka ghulam' on first anniversary with Dipika Kakar

One of the most lovable couples of television – Dipika Kakar and Shoaib Ibrahim are celebrating their first anniversary today. The couple met on the sets of the television show Sasural Simar Ka and struck a close bond. After dating for many years, the actors tied the knot last year in Shoaib's hometown in Uttar Pradesh.

Shoaib and Dipika have taken a break from work and are celebrating their special day with their family and close friends in a farmhouse in Alibaug. Various fan clubs have been posting pictures from their outing on their social media page. While the boys' gang has been having a fun time in the pool, Dipika, her sister-in-law and mother-in-law enjoyed their time by putting mehndi on their palms.

At midnight, the couple cut a cake to mark the special occasion. Giving his message loud and clear, Shoaib was seen singing "Main joru ka ghulam" to a blushing Dipika in one of the videos.

Talking about the changes in their relationship post marriage, Dipika had earlier shared with indianexpress.com, "Yes, definitely there are a lot of changes. The most important part is the feeling of belonging. It's really beau-

tiful but I don't know how to define it in words. To be officially together is a great emotion. And I really carry his name with a lot of pride."

Echoing her thoughts, Shoaib had said, "I really can't express it in words but there's a constant happy feeling. Now when you get late at work, you feel bad and want to rush home,"

Last year, Dipika Kakar faced some criticism for choosing to do Bigg Boss just a few months after her wedding. But the actor made it clear that it was their financial responsibility that made her stay away from Shoaib for more than three months. The couple's sacrifice paid out well as Dipika was announced the winner of Bigg Boss 12.



Here are more photos and videos from Shoaib and Dipika's anniversary celebration:

While Dipika will be soon seen in mature love story opposite Karan V Grover, Shoaib recently made his Bollywood debut with Battalion 609.

پروفیسر سرور قریشی
(شکاگو، امریکہ)

ڈاکٹر توفیق انصاری احمد

شکاگو کے علمی و ادبی حلقوں کی نمائندہ شخصیت



ڈاکٹر توفیق انصاری احمد کا شمار عالم ادب کے ان گنے پنے فنکاروں میں کیا جاتا ہے جنہوں نے وقت کے مزاج کو سمجھتے ہوئے، وقت کی رفتار کے مطابق، اپنے قلم کا موثر استعمال کر کے، اپنی منفر د سوچ اور نمائندہ شخصیت کی بدولت مشرق و مغرب سے قدم قدم پر اپنے فکر و فن کی داد حاصل کی اور کہا کہ۔

مجھ کو میرے حال پہ چھوڑ دجیسا بھی ہوں، اچھا ہوں دنیا والے اپنی کہہ لیں، میں تو اپنی کہتا ہوں ڈاکٹر توفیق انصاری احمد کا تعلق ہندوستان میں دکنی تہذیب کے نمائندہ شہر حیدرآباد فرخندہ بنیاد سے ہے۔ حیدرآباد دکن کے ادبی ماحول میں آنکھیں کھولنے کی وجہ ابتداء ہی سے اردو اور ہٹا چھوڑنا رہی۔ پھر اس پر یکتائے زمانہ اساتذہ کی تعلیم و تربیت نے سونے پر سہاگہ کا کام کیا۔ فن خطاطی میں شہرہ آفاق استاد زمانہ سے رجوع ہو کر اس فن میں دسترس حاصل کی۔ شاعری کی ابتداء ثانوی جماعت کے آغاز سے ہوئی۔ ملک کے ممتاز جریدوں میں تخلیقات کی اشاعت کا سلسلہ ابتدائی زمانہ سے ہوا۔ فن شاعری میں حیدرآباد کے گھنٹہ مشق استاد جن حضرت علامہ قدر عریضی سے شرف تلمذ حاصل رہا جن کا سلسلہ حضرت نادر علی برتر اور ظہیر دہلوی سے ہوتا ہوا حضرت مرزا اسد اللہ خاں غالب دہلوی تک پہنچتا ہے۔ اس طرح توفیق انصاری احمد شاعری کے شہرہ تلمذ میں غالب دہلوی کے سلسلہ کی پختگی کرتی ہیں۔

شعر و شاعری کی دنیا سے ہٹ کر توفیق انصاری احمد میں وہ

ساری خوبیاں موجود ہیں جو اک اچھی اور کامیاب زندگی گزارنے کے لئے ضروری ہیں۔ وہ اک اعلیٰ محقق، عمدہ قلم کار، باشعور دانشور، باصلاحیت منتظم اور مخلص انسان ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ اپنی بات اور ذہن کے پکے ہیں۔ انہوں نے اپنی مصروف زندگی میں جو کچھ سیکھا اور جو کچھ حاصل کیا اس کو اپنی حد میں رکھا تاکہ علم و عمل کا توازن برقرار رہ سکے۔ فن کو فن سمجھ کر سلیقہ سے استعمال کرنا اور بیجا نمائش اور رقابتوں سے درگزر کر کے راہ راست پر چلنا توفیق انصاری کی زندگی کا خاصہ ہے۔ جامعہ عثمانیہ اور جامعہ زراعتیہ سے اعلیٰ ڈگریوں کی تکمیل کے بعد حیدرآباد میں فیلڈ اور ریسرچ کے ممتاز عہدوں پر فائز رہنے کے بعد امریکہ آگئے اور یہیں کے بورسے، امریکہ میں مزید اعلیٰ تعلیم کے حصول کے بعد توفیق انصاری آج کل حکومت امریکہ کی سیول سروس سے متعلق ہیں۔ ڈاکٹر توفیق انصاری احمد امریکہ میں تقریباً ۳۳ سال سے مقیم رہ کر مذہبی، ادبی، تعلیمی و سماجی میدانوں میں خاموش خدمت انجام دے رہے ہیں اور کچھ اس طرح کہ۔

کام کی ذہن ہے تو، ہم کام کیے جاتے ہیں کام کرنا ہے ہمیں، نام سے کیا لینا ہے توفیق انصاری اک مخلص دوست اور ہمدرد انسان ہیں۔ نام نمود اور شہرت پسندی سے دور رہتے ہیں اور سیدھی سادھی انکسارانہ زندگی گزارنے کے قائل ہیں۔ شکاگو کی شہرہ آفاق تنظیم ”دی ٹائیس یو ایس اے“ کے مشیر اعلیٰ اور خدمت گزار مانے جاتے ہیں اور

نثر و اشاعت کا گہرا تجربہ رکھتے ہیں۔

ڈاکٹر توفیق انصاری احمد کا گو میں فروغ شاعری کے اُس دور سے تعلق رکھتے ہیں جب یہاں مقامی شاعروں میں یہ مشکل تمام چار پانچ شاعر ہوا کرتے تھے اور اب یہ تعداد، اک اندازہ کے مطابق چار پانچ سے بڑھ کر چالیس پچاس ہو گئی ہے۔

1980ء میں توفیق انصاری کے لکھے ہوئے گیتوں کا اک الہم ”بیاتے گیت“ کے نام سے شائع ہو کر مقبول ہو چکا ہے شاعری کے دو مجموعے ”دشت تننا“ اور ”در دشت ترک“ منظر عام پر آچکے ہیں۔ جہان نعت، منقبت اور مذہبی موضوعات پر مشتمل مجموعہ ”کلام“ اور ”ادارادت“ زیر ترتیب و اشاعت ہے۔ ”بیاض شب“ اور ”قص روایات“ شاعری کی دیگر ترتیب شدہ کتابیں ہیں۔ ”اپنا گھر“ وقتاً فوقتاً لکھے ہوئے موضوعاتی مضامین کا مجموعہ ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ اخلاقیات کے پروجیکٹ پر کام کا سلسلہ جاری ہے۔ دکنی تہذیب کے پیش بہادر شوکت تاریخی صورت میں محفوظ کرنے کے لئے کوشاں رہتے ہیں۔

ڈاکٹر توفیق انصاری احمد اعلیٰ، مذہبی و ادبی دنیا کی اک جانی پہچانی اور مسلمہ شخصیت کا نام ہے۔ زندگی علم و ہنر سے متعلق رہی اور عرصہ نثر و شاعری نصف صدی پر محیط ہے۔ توفیق انصاری کا مطالعہ وسیع اور نظر عمیق ہے۔ وہ جو کچھ کہتے ہیں دیکھ بھال کر اور سوچ سمجھ کر کہتے ہیں۔ اپنی محفلیں اپنے مزاج کے مطابق بڑی نفاست اور بڑے اہتمام سے سمجھتے ہیں۔ تحت و ترنم، دونوں طرح اپنے مخصوص انداز سے شعر پڑھتے ہیں اور کچھ ایسا پڑھتے ہیں کہ شعر کی زندہ تصویر بن جاتے ہیں۔ پابند و غیر پابند تمام اصناف سخن پر استاداانہ دسترس رکھتے ہیں۔ فرماتے ہیں۔

وقت قاتل تھا مگر اپنی خطا تھی توفیق جو ہوا ٹھیک ہوا، وقت کو الزام نہ دو آپ کی جدائی نے یہ سبق دیا ہم کو موت جتنی آساں ہے، زینت اتنی مشکل ہے دو روز کی حیات میں خوشیوں کا کیا مقام ہر غم کا احرام، کیسے جا رہا ہوں میں ڈاکٹر توفیق انصاری احمد کی اک مسالکی غزل کے چند اشعار ملاحظہ کیجئے۔

حالات نے ہر موڑ پہ اک خون کیا ہے لوگوں نے سدا وقت کو الزام دیا ہے ناکامی کی آغوش میں لاشوں کا ہے انبار اُمید نے چھرا ہے پہ دم توڑ دیا ہے انصاف کی کرسی پہ بھلا کس کو بٹھائیں اب شہر میں قاتل کے سوا کون بچا ہے کس گام پہ کھائی ہے خیالات نے ٹھوکر کس موڑ پہ کس درد کا، احساس ہوا ہے ملتی رہیں، ہر وقت سزاؤں پہ سزائیں ہر ایک سزا، اپنے گناہوں کی سزا ہے اچھائی کے اندر تھی بُرائی ہی بُرائی ہے اچھا جسے سمجھے تھے، وہی غصہ بُرا ہے توفیق تہاہل ہے یہاں حد سے زیادہ انجان میں سب لوگ مگر سب کو پتہ ہے

☆☆☆

☆☆☆☆☆☆

غزل

اُس نے محفل جو سجائی ہوگی نیند آنکھوں کی نہیں یوں اڑتی آگ ہر دل میں لگائی ہوگی یاد اس شوخ کی آئی ہوگی جس نے جاں اپنی بچائی ہوگی حسن یوسف تو ہوا ہے عنقا منزل عشق نہ پانی ہوگی کس پہ قربان خدائی ہوگی اس نے جب زلف ہٹائی ہوگی بھول کر بھی نہ یہ سوچا تھا کبھی شب ہی میں صبح نمائی ہوگی تم سے اے جان جدائی ہوگی چاند شرمندہ نظر آتا ہے زہر کو دل کی دوا کہتے ہو ان کی صورت نظر آئی ہوگی پھر تو قاتل نے بنائی ہوگی

ایک سٹاٹا یہاں ہے قیاض
داستاں تم نے سنائی ہوگی

قیاض وردگ



شیخہ نصیر الدین بسمل ابو العلامی



ہیں ملائک ترے دربانِ مدینہ والے
تو ہی اُس کا ہے نگہبانِ مدینہ والے
تجھ پہ سو جان سے قربانِ مدینہ والے
شاہد ان سب کا ہے قرآنِ مدینہ والے
تیرا عالم پہ ہے احسانِ مدینہ والے
اس قدر تجھ پہ ہے ایتقانِ مدینہ والے
ہاتھ میں ہے تیسرا دامنِ مدینہ والے
ہے مرے دل کا یہ ارمانِ مدینہ والے
تیرے بسمل کو ترے در کی گدائی جو ملے
وقت کا وہ بنے سلطانِ مدینہ والے



حسن کردار سے نورے مجسم ہوجا
کہ ابلیس بھی تجھے دیکھے تو مسلمان ہوجا

نیاز گلبرگوی



پچھ اور بڑھ گئی ہے خلخس کم نہیں ہوئی
اس کی نظر جو بھولے سے برہم نہیں ہوئی
سارے چراغ اپنے تمنا کے بجھ گئے
اک لو ہے تیرے یاد کی مدہم نہیں ہوئی
اے حسن غم نواز کوئی تازہ واردات
مدت سے اپنی چشم طلب غم نہیں ہوئی
دامن تمہاری یاد کا چھوٹا نہیں کبھی
یورش غم جہاں کی ادھر کم نہیں ہوئی
دنیا کی کم نگاہی کا شکوہ فضول ہے
جب تیری چشم ناز ہی محرم نہیں ہوئی
وہ زندگی بغیر طلوع سحر رہی
جو زندگی شریک شب غم نہیں ہوئی
اک ہم ہی بے نیاز مرت رہے نیاز
راحت جہاں میں کس کو فراہم نہیں ہوئی



توقین انصاری احمد غزل

منا ہے خوب ملہ ہم کو دل لگانے کا
خیال آ نہ سکا پھر سے مسکانے کا
گئی ہوئی ہے بکھری، کہ بھج نہیں سکتی
کیا ہے کام ہواؤں نے، گھر جانے کا
ترپ رہے ہیں، ترپنے میں لطف آتا ہے
جب مزہ ہے محبت میں چوٹ کمانے کا
ہمارا جو تھ سے ہوتے، ہوش بھی ہوتے رخصت
کیا زمانہ تری روٹی جتانے کا
دیا ہے وقت نے دھکے پہ اس طرح دھکے
بھگتا نہ کوئی فیصلہ زمانے کا
ستا کے ہم کو کوئی کہہ رہا ہے دنیا سے
تھی ڈگر ہے، نیا سوز ہے، لمانے کا
سقم کے بعد کرم ہے، کرم کے بعد سقم
طریقہ خوب لگا گیا ستانے کا
نہ جانے کب کوئی عہد کہیں اٹ جائے
بھروسہ کچھ بھی نہیں ہے، کسی زمانے کا
وہی ہے صاحب توقیر آج کل تو تیری
نہیں شعور تھے طرف آزمانے کا



تمہیں آتا نہیں نفرت کے انکار سے بچنا دینا
گھر کیسے کہاں سے تم نے شعلوں کو ہوا دینا
مری بے چینیوں کے زخم پر ہیں نیند کے مرہم
مجھے جب بھی سکوں کی نیند آجائے، چکا دینا
کہیں پر بھی کبھی میں پاؤں پھیرا کر نہیں سوتا
مجھے بھی دل میں اپنے ایک چادر کی جگہ دینا
شعور آداب محفل کا نہیں، رندان محفل کو
اگر یہ حد سے بڑھ جائیں تو محفل سے اٹھا دینا
محبت کے پجاری افرقوں کو دوٹ دیتے ہیں
بہت پیچیدہ ہوتا ہے محبت کو سزا دینا
ہے پہنچنے کا مرحلہ کیا؟ "کھنکھن" کہتے ہیں؟
کبھی تم خشک سا اک سج، مٹی میں دبا دینا
وفا کا ہر ثبوت اس نے مرا، غموں پر رکھا ہے
مزین اب پھر سے اہرام جفا مجھ پر لگا دینا

زندگی میں یہ بہتر بھی آزمانا چاہیے
جنگ کسی اپنے سے ہو تو ہار جانا چاہیے
پروین شاکر

Ghazals compiled by
Janab Hasan Chishti Sb
Chicago



Waliuddin

وزیر تعلیم

آپ کی نظروں نے سمجھا ووٹ کے قابل مجھے
لیڈروں اور لیڈروں کی صف میں کر دیا شامل مجھے
آج کل تو خیر سے میں وزیر تعلیم ہوں
کم از کم اب تو نہ کہے ان پڑھ جاہل مجھے

☆☆☆

ایکشن

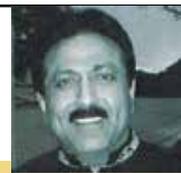
بنے آسپلی کے ممبر تھا ٹھٹ بات کا زمانہ
گھر میں تھی بیوی باہر بھی تھا ایک ٹھکانہ
جب سے ہمارے ایکشن ہو گیا ہے ٹینشن
"ملی خاک میں محبت جلا دل کا آشیانہ"

☆☆☆

جانشیننی

جانشیننی کا سلسلہ شروع ہو گیا ہے
مغرب سے سورج طلوع ہو گیا ہے
بھٹو خاندان کے مقابل نواز خاندان ہے
پر ہالی ووڈ نہیں ہے یہ پاکستان ہے

گو ذرا سی بات پر برسوں کے یارانے گئے
لیکن اتنا تو ہوا کچھ لوگ پہچانے گئے
خاطر غزنوی
04, Nov, 1925 06, July, 2008



نور امروہی

سننے ہیں کہ غالب کے طرفدار بہت ہیں
دنیا میں قلم کم ہیں قلم کار بہت ہیں
پھر صبح ہی آجیگی آثار بہت ہیں
دنیا میں ابھی صاحب کردار بہت ہیں
شہرت کے ستر میں ہوتو یہ دھیان میں رکھنا
چڑھتے ہوئے سورج کے پرستار بہت ہیں
کچھ ایسا کرو بھر کی تفسیر بدل دو
تم گن نہ سکو گے یہاں بہار بہت ہیں
عیار ہی فنکار کا بنتا ہے حوالہ
کہنے کو میرے پاس بھی اشعار بہت ہیں

اب ہنڈہ معیار شہادت ہے کہاں وہ
عہاں نہیں ملتے علمدار بہت ہیں
ہر ایک سے ملنے کی ضرورت ہی نہیں نور
قلخس ہوں گر احباب تو دوچار بہت ہیں

آن کا شعر

(حسن حبشی)



بے آسرا ہے رکھ کے بھی وہ آسرا ہے ہزار
حاصل جسے حیات میں ماں کی دُعا نہیں
آستانہ

کہیں بھی مجھ کو مرا گھر نظر نہیں آتا
خیال و خواب کا منظر نظر نہیں آتا

دلوں کے سچ ہے اک فاصلہ سا نفرت کا
خلوص و پیار کا ساگر نظر نہیں آتا

ادھر ادھر تو ہیں بکھرے بدن کے اعضاء سب
کہیں بھی مجھ کو مرا سر نظر نہیں آتا

کسی کو بخت سے آگاہ کیا کرے گا وہ
جسے خود اپنا مقدر نظر نہیں آتا

سنا تو ہے کہ ہوا قتل پھر نیا سورج
ہوا کے ہاتھ میں خنجر نظر نہیں آتا

ہر اک سست ہے آئینہ وقت کا داؤد
کسی کے ہاتھ میں پتھر نظر نہیں آتا



غزل

رشکِ قلم



بدریت

درندے آدمی کی شکل میں اب دندانے ہیں
اور ہم سب بے حسی کے قہقہے ہر دم لگاتے ہیں
کسی بھی گاؤں قریے شہر میں کوئی نہیں محفوظ
ہوں کے سب پجاری خون کی ہولی مناتے ہیں
یہاں ہر روز ہی معصوم جانوں کا ہے نذرانہ
مناظر اہل دل کو خون کے آنسو زلاتے ہیں
یہ وحشت، بدریت کا زمانہ ختم کب ہوگا
حشام یہ سوچ کر خود آئینے میں ڈوب جاتے ہیں
حشام احمد سید

نے کچھ زاویے اُگنے لگے ہیں ﴿﴾ نظر میں آئینے اُگنے لگے ہیں
فلک بھی اب مری جاگیر ہوگا ﴿﴾ کہ پد آب سوچ کے اُگنے لگے ہیں
سفر کرنا تو واجب ہو گیا ہے ﴿﴾ یہاں اب راستے اُگنے لگے ہیں
مرے ہاتھوں میں جتنے حاشیے تھے ﴿﴾ اب اتنے دائرے اُگنے لگے ہیں
نہ ہوں گے ختم شاید زندگی بھر ﴿﴾ یہاں وہ سلسلے اُگنے لگے ہیں
بہت ہی دُور جا کر بس گئی ہو ﴿﴾ جہی تو فاصلے اُگنے لگے ہیں
قلم کاغذ پہ میں نے رکھ دیا تو ﴿﴾ غزل میں قافیے اُگنے لگے ہیں
ہتھیلی پر تو میری، اُلجھنوں کے ﴿﴾ دھڑا دھڑ حاشیے اُگنے لگے ہیں
تخیل میں ہزاروں پھول اب تو ﴿﴾ تمہارے رنگ کے اُگنے لگے ہیں
مرے ماتھے پہ جگنو بیٹھتے ہی ﴿﴾ نظر میں قہقہے اُگنے لگے ہیں
وہیں پر ڈوبنے والا ملے گا ﴿﴾ جہاں پر بلبلے اُگنے لگے ہیں

On the lighter side...

An interim school superintendent, speaking at a city-wide PTA luncheon, assured members that he was always happy to hear from them about problems. He told them, "You can call me day or night, at this number . . ."

Suddenly there was a cry from the assistant superintendent. "Hey," he exclaimed, "that's MY number!"

One day a man drove his secretary home after she fell quite ill at work. Although this was an innocent gesture, he decided not to mention it to his wife, who tended to get jealous easily.

Later, that night the man and his wife were driving to a restaurant.

Suddenly he looked down and spotted a high-heel shoe half hidden under the passenger seat. Not wanting to be conspicuous, he waited until his wife was looking out her window before he scooped up the shoe and tossed it out of the car. With a sigh of relief, he pulled into the restaurant parking lot. That's when he noticed his wife squirming around in her seat.

"Honey," she asked, "have you seen my other shoe?"

Woman: Do you love me?

Man: Yes, dear.

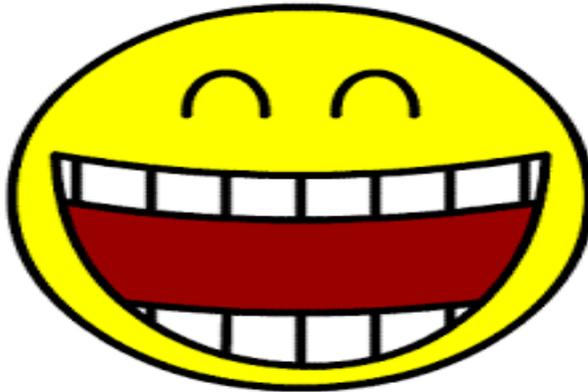
Woman: Would you die for me?

Man: No... mine is an undying love.

Which runs faster, HOT or COLD?

HOT because anyone can catch a COLD.

A man phoned to find out whether he could get insurance



if the nearby volcano erupted...

They assured him he would be covered.

I went into my local bookstore and asked for a book on turtles.

"Hardback?" the assistant asked.

"Yes," I replied, "with little heads too."

My friend Kimberly announced that she had started a diet to lose some pounds she had put on recently.

"Good!" I exclaimed. "I'm ready to start a diet too. We can be dieting buddies and help each other out. When I feel the urge to drive out and get a burger and fries, I'll call you first."

"Great!" she replied. "I'll ride with you"

A young man enters a bar and sees a beautiful lady at the counter. He moves closer to her and starts a conversation.

Man: "Hello beautiful..."

Woman: "Hi. Man: "My name is Solomon."

Woman: "So?" Man: "Lomon."

The young man comes running into the store and says to his buddy, "Tommy, somebody just stole your pickup truck from the parking lot!"

Tommy reacts, "Did you see who it was?"

The young man answers, "No, I couldn't tell... but I did get his license plate number!"

What happened when two weathermen each broke an arm and a leg in an accident?

They were worried about the four casts.

A couple moved to the country after retirement. One mild winter, they had a bit of a problem with rodents in the garage. So they bought a sub-sonic mouse repellent, a plug-in type that emits some kind of sound that drives off mice. The husband was showing it to their neighbor and explaining that it was an animal repellent. He told her that it worked on everything from mice to elephants.

"Really!?" she said. "Mice to elephants, eh?" sounding a bit skeptical.

"Yes," he replied, seriously. "We've had it here for a couple of weeks now, and we haven't had a single elephant in the garage the whole time!"

A man goes to a doctor and says, "Doctor, I have a very serious problem. I only hear half of everything."

"That can't be," answers the doctor. "Either you can hear everything or you hear nothing. Tell you what, Let us see. Repeat after me... Ninety Six."

The man quickly replies, "Forty eight!"



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