Pak’s ‘wrong policies’ reason for global isolation: Musharraf

Even as Islamabad becomes an international pariah following the Uri terror attack, Pakistan’s former President Pervez Musharraf has blamed the Nawaz Sharif government’s “wrong policies” for its global isolation, Dawn reported.

And while Islamabad’s getting marginalized globally, Prime Minister Sharif is getting no love from his countrymen either.

Cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan blamed Sharif’s “great love of money” for Pakistan being in the state it is currently. And Musharraf+, too, alleged corruption in high places for the sorry state of underdevelopment in his country.

"It is astonishing that the government has taken and spent a loan of $35 billion but not a single beneficial megaproject has been completed with that money. Instead, the people have been suffering because of the government’s corruption," the retired army general said.

Of course, Musharraf also took the opportunity to criticize India for its "accusations" against Pakistan.

New Delhi, he said, is only good at hurling threats, and that if the Pakistani military decides to act on them the response will assume a far more practical form.

"India should realise that Pakistan is not Bhutan. India has a habit of levelling allegations against Pakistan each time there’s an attack on its soil," he said.

Musharraf said he wanted to return to Pakistan to right all these wrongs but that he couldn’t so that now as it “would be of no use.”

"I have a problem in my backbone which is being treated. Coming back to Pakistan now will be of no use because I will not be allowed to move about freely," he said.

He said he would return to the country once the cases initiated against him reached a logical conclusion.

MS Dhoni: Movie Review

The biopic on India’s celebrated skipper, MS Dhoni (played by Sushant Singh Rajput) is the cricketer’s ode to his well-wishers, friends and family, who stood by him at all times - in success and failure. Their immense contribution in fulfilling his dream, his faith in himself and ability to battle professional and personal setbacks, forms the story.

REVIEW: If you are a diehard fan of MS Dhoni and cricket (in that order), you are bound to love this film, which reveres its protagonist. Despite the glorification, what works is Sushant’s impeccable portrayal of a stoic Dhoni and the latter’s inspiring untold story - his journey from being a ticket collector to a renowned attacking batsman/wicket-keeper/captain.

Sushant internalises his character and becomes MSD, without heavily mimicking the cricketer. He even nails his iconic helicopter shot and restrained personality. The actor scores a winning knock. The film also boasts of a spectacular first-half, which showcases Dhoni’s initial struggle as an aspiring professional cricketer. It reminds you why sportsmen deserve the fame and money they get.

Neeraj Pandey recreates Dhoni’s Ranchi life beautifully. He keeps it authentic and relatable. This one scene shot at Kharagpur station particularly stands out. Sushant is seen trying to make his way through a sea of people. It’s him going against the tide, summing up Dhoni’s life journey as well. Support-
It’s not just what you do, it’s who you do it for.

My knowledge, experience, and integrity have allowed me to help people secure their financial futures. Let me help you secure yours.

Shawkat Mohammed
Agent
New York Life Insurance Company
12201 Merit Dr
Suite 1000
Dallas, TX 75251
(817) 320-9439
mohammeds@ft.newyorklife.com

Member of the
2014 Million Dollar Round Table

MDRT is recognized throughout the Industry as the standard of excellence in life insurance sales performance.

Life Insurance. Retirement. Long-Term Care.
I am immensely honored to introduce the newly created Board of Advisors. I am grateful to the personalities who have accepted my invitation to join Asia Times US as an Advisor. Asia Times will reach greater heights under their leadership and advise. I will keep you posted as the Board gets expanded. Thank you for your continued Readership.

Azeem A. Quadeer  
Editor in Chief / Publisher

---

Navtej Sarna appointed Indian ambassador to the US

The government appointed Indian high commissioner to the United Kingdom, Navtej Sarna, as the country's new ambassador to the United States. A 1980-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Sarna will take over from Arun Kumar Singh, who has retired from the service.

"Navtej Singh Sarna (IFS: 1980) has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to the United State of America. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly," external affairs ministry said.

Sarna, who has authored several books, fiction as well as non-fiction, had succeeded Ranjan Mathai as India’s envoy to the UK. The 59-year-old career diplomat served as the ministry’s spokesperson from 2002 to 2008, the longest anyone has served the MEA in that capacity. He then headed for Tel Aviv, serving as India’s ambassador to Israel till 2012. For two years from August 2012, Sarna served as additional secretary in-charge of international organisations.
As the second largest and most populous state in the United States of America, Texas’s population is increasing rapidly year to year. There are currently 58 Fortune 500 companies located in Texas offering jobs in commerce, manufacturing, energy and agriculture. Housing prices are extremely low in Texas and there is no income tax to pay. With a state motto that simply reads ‘friendship’, Texas certainly sounds like the place to be. Based on a number of livability factors such as crime rate, high school graduation rate, and cost of living, as well as the number of great amenities in the area, we’ve collated a list of the best 10 places to live in Texas. Enjoy!

1) Fredericksburg

Undeniably the most European city in Texas, Fredericksburg is also one of the most desirable places to live. A unique place that was founded by German settlers in 1846 and named after Prince Frederick of Prussia, Fredericksburg is home to just over 10 thousand people and is colloquially known as Fritztown.

Located in Gillespie County, Texas, Fredericksburg is cooler than much of the rest of Texas, an important detail in a state that regularly sizzles at 90 degrees and above. The unemployment rate in Fredericksburg is below average with just 4.3 percent of people out of work, a figure over 40 percent lower than the rest of the state.

Fredericksburg is also one of the best towns in the state for education with impressive high school graduation scores and a ratio of one teacher for every 12 students. In addition to the great quality of living statistics, Fredericksburg has a nationally registered historic district as well as a wonderfully diverse agricultural industry that brings in tourists from all over the world.

2) New Territory

Located in Fort Bend County, Texas, New Territory is a master-planned community that only came into being in 1989. Just a 30-minute drive from Houston, New Territory was designed to create homes for around 17 thousand residents across 42 carefully planned neighborhoods. If this all sounds a little micromanaged, wait until you see the advantage of this kind of forward planning.

There are 450 acres of parks, greenbelt land and recreation centers in New Territory. Plus, the community amenities are second to none. New Territory even has its own private police patrol service, all paid for by residents’ taxes.

Median income in New Territory is way higher than the average as are house prices, but this is offset by the almost non-existent crime rate which is 65 percent lower than the rest of Texas. The impressive education system sees 17 percent more of its kids graduate high school. The only downside to living in New Territory is its longer commuter distance from Houston.

3) Hewitt

A small city located in McLennan County, Texas — Hewitt is around one hundred miles from Dallas. Hewitt’s motto is the understated phrase, ‘life just right’, but overall quality of life is more than ‘just right’ in Hewitt — it’s outstanding.

There are only around 13 thousand people living in the city of Hewitt, but on average they enjoy a household income that is more than 30 percent higher than the rest of Texas, an important figure considering the cost of living in Hewitt is significantly low.

A significant commercial hub, Hewitt is home to a number of manufacturing and agricultural industries that help to keep the employment rate high. Hewitt is also an area of historical interest and it was once a significant producer of cotton.

Residents of Hewitt don’t have much to complain about, except perhaps the summer heat which can reach stifling heights. Finally, impressively low crime rates make Hewitt one of the best places to live in Texas.

4) Midland

Midland is a big city of upwards of 150 thousand people located in Midland County, West Texas. An oil boom city, Midland, has swelled in recent years in size, population and, most noticeably, height. Nicknamed ‘the tall city’, Midland has long been known for its impressive downtown skyline.

Midland scores well on liveability polls as its unemployment rate is just 4.1 percent, the lowest in the entire state of Texas. Home prices are slightly higher than average in Midland, but that’s to be expected from a city that gets an A+ for its amenities (that were surely once used by Midland’s most famous former resident, First Lady Laura Bush).

Culture is important to Midlanders, and the city is home to the Museum of the South West, The Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale, and its own community theatre. Many cultural events in Midland center around the wonderful facilities at Midland College, the next step for many students graduating from Midland’s three impressive high schools.

5) Hutto

Hutto an extremely desirable place to live, ranking in the top 50 most liveable places in Texas according to a recent poll by AreaVibe. Located just outside of Austin, in Williamson County, Hutto is perfectly positioned to give its residents an escape from Austin without cutting off easy access.

Hutto is one of the safest places to be in all of Texas with a crime rate that is 76 percent lower than the state average. The high school graduation rate in Hutto is high, 17 percent higher than the state average. A small city with approximately 23 thousand people, Hutto, nevertheless, has a huge number of amenities to keep its residents fed, watered and entertained. With such great reasons to live in Hutto, you would expect the house prices and cost of living to be sky-high, but happily that is not so. The cost of living is only slightly higher than the average cost across Texas and Hutto average home value is just 10 percent higher.

6) Sugar Land

With a name as sweet as Sugar Land, who wouldn’t want to live in this unique city? Sugar Land is actually located within Houston and is one of the most affluent and prosperous places in all of Texas. Sugar Land ranks 60th on AreaVibes list of the best places to live in Texas, a ranking that would be way higher if the cost of living didn’t let it down.

Unemployment rates in Sugar Land are amongst the lowest in the state, a statistic helped along by its proximity to the huge job market of Houston. The crime rate in Sugar Land is half of that of the rest of the state and high school graduation is 20 percent higher. All of this comes at a cost, however, as housing prices in Sugar Land are almost 100 percent higher than the rest of Texas. Luckily those wealthy Sugar Landers are earning more than 100 percent more than the average Texan.

7) The Woodlands

Like New Territory, The Woodlands is a master-planned community established in the mid-seventies. Just 28 miles north of Houston on the Interstate 45, The Woodlands is said to have a very strong sense of community and the average citizen is very active in local politics. Living in this sort of suburban oasis is not cheap though. Housing prices in The Woodlands are over 400 percent higher than the rest of Texas and the cost of living is over 80 percent higher, making The Woodlands unaffordable for most.

The city is said to have a very strong sense of community and the average citizen is very active in local politics. Living in this sort of suburban oasis is not cheap though. Housing prices in The Woodlands are over 400 percent higher than the rest of Texas and the cost of living is over 80 percent higher, making The Woodlands unaffordable for most.

8) McKinney

We’re taking a trip to North Dallas for the big city of McKinney. With 130 thousand people, McKinney scores very well in the liveability polls when it comes to education, crime and unemployment. Crime rates are 42 percent lower than the state average and high school graduation is 17 percent higher.

McKinney’s motto is ‘unique by nature’, a reference to its long history and many appealing qualities. Incorporated in 1848, McKinney has experienced a population surge in recent years due in part to the appeal of its historic downtown area, great amenities, and the natural beauty that surrounds it.

McKinney has an impressively low unemployment rate and its average household income is around 60 percent higher than that of the rest of Texas. Again, you have to pay for big city amenities with small town charm, so the cost of living in McKinney is 20 percent higher than the state average.

9) Rollingwood

Rollingwood, Texas is a small community located in Travis County, Texas, and according to AreaVibes, is the 4th most liveable place in Texas. Rollingwood is technically a city, but with a population of just over one thousand, Rollingwood is more like a village.

Within this perfect little village there is hardly any crime, at all, as Rollingwood enjoys an average crime rate that is over 80 percent lower than the Texas average. There are also hardly any high school dropouts so the high school graduation rate is over 30 percent higher than the average.

10) League City

Located just 25 miles south of Houston, League City is another favorite amongst big city commuters. League City has a lot more to offer than just a pleasing morning commute, though. The quality of life in League City is consistently high, a fact that has no doubt led to the recent surge in population taking its number of residents beyond 80 thousand.

Ranked in the top 30 places to live in Texas by AreaVibes, League City has a crime rate that is 40 percent lower than the rest of Texas and a high school graduation rate that is 20 percent higher. The employment stats are good with an unemployment rate of just 4.1 percent and an average household income at 70 percent higher than the rest of the state.

The largest city in Galveston County, League City is growing rapidly and is thought to be the best place in the county, and one of the best places in the state for those looking for work.
Hyderabad Society of North Texas
... Bringing Hyderabad Community Together In The Dallas/Fort Worth Metropolex

Presents

Shaam-E-Hyderabad

Saturday
November 12th
6:00PM to 12AM

2016

Special Performance By
Fareed Ayaz
Abu Muhammad & Brothers
Qawwal

Curtis Culwell Center
4999 Naaman Forest Blvd, Garland TX 75040

Ticket
$50 per person

For Information & Sponsorship
Aasia Ali: 972.786.2078
Mohammed Hameed: 469.544.4118
Mohammed Shawkat: 817.320.9439

Rahat Arifuddin: 214.680.8045
Ayaz Qureshi: 817.966.5673
Mir Hadi Ali: 972.553.3500

www.hsntdfw.com | f.hsntdfw

Hyderabad Society of North Texas is a non-profit organization
Designer furniture at lowest price

HUGE SALE Discount on floor sample

Custom Furniture

Store Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday: Closed.
6222 N. Lincoln Ave. Chicago, IL 60659
Tel: 773-267-7000 Fax: 773-267-0177

www.UniqueFurniture.us
CHICAGO PAGES

Chicago Community leaders Bid Farewell to Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mahmood Ali

A glittering dinner reception was hosted by FIA’s prominent Trustee Iftekhar Shareef and Aftab Baig to bid a warm farewell to Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana Mohammad Mahmood Ali on his successful whirlwind trip to Chicago and New York at the Monty’s Banquets in Bensenville, IL last Thursday that drew the attendance of well-known community and business leaders eclipsed only by the hilarious slapstick performances presented by the visiting movie artists.

The evening’s farewell reception was ostensibly enhanced by great comic performance presentations by a bevy of rising movie artists from Hyderabad who dominated the evening’s exhilaration with uncontainable laughter as each presentation by Mast Ali aka Saleem Pheku, Aziz Nasr “Jahangir” brought the entire house down with the tumultuous humorous performances evoking applause, laughter and cheers. The evening’s performances were recognized and applauded along with the entire “The Angrez” movie team including Mr. Srivastava “Ismail Bhai, Model Feroz Khan, actress Dolly Tomar, actress Kavya Sharma and other artists who are currently shooting their new movie sequel “Hungama in Chicago” produced by Ms. Uroosa Rahim of Chicago and Syed Hussain director from Hyderabad.

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mohammad Mahmood Ali extensively thanked the host Iftekhar Shareef and the prominent attendees assembled to bid him a warm farewell and was particularly appreciative of the warm welcome fused with heartfelt hospitality during his visit to Chicago. Deputy Chief Minister Mahmood Ali especially extolled Chicago’s NRI community for their unyielding passion in being eager to lend partnership in investing and promoting the state of Telangana and pledged his ongoing engagement in strategic dialogue with Indian diaspora that seeks to ameliorate and strengthen the relations with the state of Telangana.

The reception host Iftekhar Shareef in his remarks described the visit of Deputy Chief Minister Mahmood Ali to Chicago and New York in historic terms and principally attributed it to the enthusiasm, zest and energy of the Deputy Chief Minister in meeting the NRI communities in a back-to-back programs in which he addressed a series of public meetings, community receptions and one-on-one meetings with business/community leaders. Iftekhar Shareef said his visit to Chicago and New York augurs groundswell opportunities for NRIs to forge partnership with the state of Telangana and play a vital role as Telangana Ambassadors in promoting the state. Iftekhar Shareef also thanked the Angrez movie team for their performance in the evening and praised their extraordinary cinematic contribution.

Keerthi Kumar Ravoori, FIA’s Trustee in his remarks characterized Deputy Chief Minister Mahmood Ali as a man of humility, warmth, and sincerity and, more importantly, his accessibility when he first met him in Hyderabad last year. Keerthi Kumar Ravoori said under his able supportive leadership the state of Telangana is poised to embark on a new chapter replete with growth and glowing prosperity.


Mayor of London Hon Sadiq Khan visits Chicago

Mayor Sadiq Khan's first official trip to North America as London's mayor began on 15th Sept, 2016 when he met with Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Mayor Mr. Khan is in the U.S. along with several leaders in Britain's tech industry to promote trade between the two countries.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan, while on a trip to the northern U.S. city of Chicago Thursday, argued that new immigrants in America should not have to assimilate into American culture, but the government should instead do more to help them build "cohesive communities."

"One of the lessons from around the world is that a laissez-faire or hands-off approach to social integration doesn't work.

We need rules, institutions and support to enable people to integrate into cohesive communities and for the avoidance of doubt, Mr Khan said: "In the wake of Brexit it is hugely important that we strengthen London's ties with other major cities.

Mayor Emanuel touched on this and his own Jewish faith when describing inclusiveness and investment in all neighborhoods of their respective cities. "Whether you're Muslim or Jewish, we as fathers share a vision and desire for our children that's no different because of our faith," Emanuel said.

Chicago City Tour:

Mayor Rahm Emanuel spent Friday showing London Mayor Sadiq Khan around Chicago. In a brief set of remarks, Emanuel said Chicago's Riverwalk served as an example for what Khan might be able to do along the Thames River in London. Khan lauded the concept of "democratizing the river" and opening up the space to people from all walks of life.

Chicago Council on Global Affairs:

Mr Khan gave a keynote speech to the Chicago Council for Global Affairs and meet Mr. Shahid Khan, the owner of Fulham FC and NFL team Jacksonville Jaguars, to discuss investment in London.

Mayor Khan met the British Business council members and discussed about investment and ventures for London cities.

"London will remain open for business despite his country's decision on BREXIT” Mayor Sadiq Khan

Signs of Alliance:

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and his London counterpart Sadiq Khan stressed their friendship across national and religious divides Friday as they toured Chicago and signed a pact on sharing technology and business interests. The two mayors participated in a panel discussion moderated by "Chicago Tonight" host Phil Ponce at 1871, a shared space for tech startups at the Merchandise Mart.

Mayor Sadiq Khan will head to New York and will visit the Clinton Global Initiative during its annual meeting, where he will be joined on stage by Chelsea Clinton.

Mr Khan will also meet New York Mayor Bill de Blasio and visit the New York Stock Exchange where he will join businesswomen to ring the closing bell.
Urdu Institute, Chicago, USA

Venue:
Glendale Heights Public Library
25 E Fullerton Ave,
Glendale Heights, IL 60139

Sunday
Oct. 2nd 2016
01.00 pm. to
04.00 pm

For More Information:

- Amin Haider 630-269-1449
- Jawed Aslam 630-926-0235
- Zaheer Kazmi 630-915-4415
- Khurram Syed 630-715-7608
- Dr. Sairah Alvi 630-750-6027
- Dr. Lateef Saif 630-220-0901,
- Aejaz & Shagufta Hashmi 630-527-0595
- Mohammad Kamran 312-320-0909
- Sohail Bari 630-709-9467
- Sadia Uqaili 630-400-2430
Mr. Waliuddin presented his book "MUSKURAHATOON KA SAFAR" to H.E. Honorable Jalil Abbas Jilani, Ambassador of Pakistan at a function in Chicago. "It was an honor to present my two books to him for which he had very positive comments" said Mr. Waliuddin. Mr. Talat Rashid is also seen in the picture.

Mr. Sher Mohammed Rajput, social activist, greeted Mr. Mahmood Ali, Deputy CM of Telangana State.

Consul General of India, Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, with his wife Farha Sayeed attended 4th Annual IndiaFest Milwaukee 2016 in Wisconsin. Dr. Ausaf Sayeed extended warm greetings "I sincerely appreciate and commend the welfare and organizational work being done by Spindle India Inc., in reaching out to a large segment of society.

Mr. Minaj Akhter and Mr. Khan Lateef Khan, with Hon'ble Chief Justice Ismail Sahab. Since then he was practicing in the Bombay High Court at Mumbai till his elevation as Judge of that Court on 22nd January, 2001. ... He was Assistant Government Pleader and Assistant Prosecutor in the High Court at Mumbai during 1986-1991. 2015 citizens of Telangana awarded Mahatma Gandhi peace and harmony award. He is retired from high court but serving in many organizations.

Mahijit Virdi, one of the Advisors at Asia Times US with Gurdas Maan in Chicago.
GMR Hyderabad Duty Free Ties up with American Telugu Association

Hyderabad Duty Free (HDF), a 100% subsidiary of GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. (GHIAL), has announced a unique promotional scheme for American Telugu Association (ATA) under its ‘customer connect’ program to reach out to the Telugu diaspora residing in the US. This exclusive scheme for ATA members was formally announced by Mr. Hanmanth Reddy, founder of American Telugu Association in presence of Honorable Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana State, Mr. Mohammed Mahmood Ali; Dr Ausaf Sayeed, Consul General of India at Chicago; Mr. Iftekhar Shareef, President of Telangana Association of North America among many more dignitaries, during the American Telugu Association Meet organized at Naperville, Chicago in the US state of Illinois.

Under this program, ATA members can now enjoy exclusive offers at Hyderabad Duty Free stores at the arrivals and departures of GMR Hyderabad International Airport. This connect program will also include periodic communication on Duty Free products, and round the year events and promotional activities happening at Hyderabad Duty Free. The members will also receive quarterly magazines of Hyderabad Duty Free which covers interesting happenings in the city and region in addition to Duty Free updates.

Under this unique promotional offer, the members of American Telugu Association will enjoy an additional top-up discount of up to 15% over and above the regular discounts & offers running in the store. At the Arrivals store, ATA members will get additional flat discount of 10% and 15% on every purchase above $100 and $250 respectively. At the Departures store, the members will get an additional flat discount of 7.5% and 10% on the purchase above $50 and $100 respectively.

This discount will be applicable on the entire range of products available at Hyderabad Duty Free, making this one of the most unique schemes for any Duty Free in the world. Furthermore, in-line with the objective to establish a connect with the Telugu diaspora, the program has a unique feature where these discounts will also be available to travelling family members (spouse and children) along with the main member.

With this unique promotional offer, Hyderabad Duty free will be offering lowest ever prices which would be give an overall benefit of up to 25-30% (considering the periodic regular offers) to ATA members. To avail this attractive benefit, ATA members will have to present the valid ATA membership card or copy at the billing counter.

Speaking on this occasion, Mr. SGK Kishore, Chairman, Hyderabad Duty Free, said, “Hyderabad Duty Free represents the city of Hyderabad and entire Region. With a wide range of international products along with attractive offers and gifts running round the year in our stores, we offer compelling value proposition to our valued customers and passengers travelling through the Hyderabad International Airport. We have recently started our initiative to further strengthen our relationship with key customer segments under the ‘Mana Hyderabad…Mana Duty Free’ program. Our association with the members of American Telugu Association is a major initiation in this regard through which we would like the ATA members to make ‘Hyderabad Duty Free’ as their preferred shopping destination while travelling.”

Also speaking during this event, Mr. Hanmanth Reddy, Founder and former President ATA, said, “We are delighted that Hyderabad Duty Free has gone extra mile to initiate a promotional scheme dedicated to ATA members. I must appreciate and thank HDF for this initiative. I’m sure that every member of ATA will appreciate this gesture and shop at Hyderabad Duty Free to avail the benefit.”

American Telugu Association (ATA) is a not-for-profit organization which was started in early part of 1990 focussing Telugu origin people in the USA. The main purpose of the organization is to assist and promote literary, cultural, educational, religious, social, economic, health and community activities of the people of Telugu origin as well as to promote exchange programs for students, scientists, and professionals of Telugu origin between the United States of America, Canada and India and other countries.
Classical Ghazal Singer Ustad Mohammed Wasif Sahab performing at a private party at Shafi Baig's residence in Dallas, TX. The singer came from California and is on a 5 states Tour. He is accompanied by Ahmed Baig in his tour.
October 2016

Breathtaking dances performed at AIA Group Dance competition

Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: Over 400 people gathered to witness the talent of Illinois area with outstanding performances of talent by youth. Association of Indians in America, Inc. Illinois Chapter (AIA) proudly organized ‘Group Dance Competition Youth Talent Show on Saturday - August 27, 2016 at Harper College Auditorium, 1200 W Algonquin Rd, Palatine, IL from 5:00pm to 8 pm. This was really a unique performance by the Best in the Business. High Voltage Dance Performances were presented by 19 top teams from Illinois. This was hailed by more than 400 strong appreciative Spectators. It was full house there was no place to seat including the audience where standing behind to get a glimpse of it. No one wanted to leave. The talent show consisted of performances by youth, as well as a talented group of elders between 60 to 65 years.

Program commenced by Beena Patel, 1st female President of AIA. She introduced additional AIA members, namely Vice President Neal Patel and Chairperson Santosh Pandey, past President Salil Mishra, Secretary Harish Kolasani, Joint-Secretary Dr. Hina Patel, Treasurer Sujata Sharma and Joint-Treasurer Nipa Shah.

Beena, in her welcoming speech, announced that as per tradition AIA will present three different events in 2016. 1st and foremost is the AIA Dance Competition being held today, 2nd, celebrating Gandhi Jayanti and finally Celebrating Asian American heritage month. She thanked both vice presidents Santosh Pandey and Neal Patel for helping organizing event.

Likewise she also thanked Secretary Harish Kolasani and Dr. Hina Patel for their eagerness to do whatever it takes to complete the task. Equally pertinent members Nipa Shah and Sujata Sharma received congratulation due their huge effort in promoting this event. Gratitude was also extended to Hina Trivedi and Lucy Pandey for their hard for making all these appreciation certificates for the participants. Beena Patel introduced members at large: Dr. Asish Sen, Lucy Pandey, Heena Trivedi and committee members: Om Dhingra, Sujata Sharma, Lucy Pandey, Prem Mehrotra, Manoranjan Mishra, Santosh Pandey was the Emcee and conducted the program enthusiastically. He is also the Vice President was the brain child behind this spectacular show set the tone for the event. Throughout the show he kept the audience entertained and live with joke punches and taking skills.

Sidharth Karnam began the program with “Shree Gene-

Beena extended heartfelt congratulations to choreogra-

mentally and thanked college students from Loyola Univer-

ity for participating in Acapella singing during intermis-

sion.

All the performance team where given a beautiful par-


ticipant certificate from AIA which was designed by Lucy

Pandey.

At the end of contest, three top winners were announced. Beena Patel invited all the participating groups on stage and commended their performances and said it was difficult for the judges to decide who the best is. Due to very close and fierce contest, judges took more than 20 min to decide the winners. Every group which had performed had unique style and presence. There was varieties of dance in competition representing the entire colorful vibrant India. It nice to see our Indian American youth performing so well. This was one of the best performance of year 2016.

Neal Patel from Medstar Laboratory presented the Tro-

phies and the cash prizes of $750, $351 to the winners as follows.

1st Prize $750 to Jal - Soorya Dance School - Jinno Var-
ghees;
2nd Prize 2nd prize 2nd prize of $351 to winner Agni -
Bollywood Rhythms Choreographer Bhagya Nagesh
3rd. Prize $851 to the winner Nache Mayuri Dynamos

Choreographer Mayuri

Rajesh

The Association of Indians in America (AIA) is the old-
est national association of Asian Indians in America. It was founded on August 20, 1967 after the United States Congress passed the Immigration Act during 1965-66, repealing the Asian Exclusion Act of 1917. The Constitution of the AIA was adopted in 1970 and was incorporated in 1971. AIA obtained the IRS exempt status in 1973. AIA is the grass root national organization of Asian Immigrants in the United States, fostered on the democratic principles of “one member one vote”, with chapters and membership spread across the United States of America. AIA repre-

sents the hopes and aspirations of those immigrants who are united by their common bond of Indian Heritage and American Commitment.

Sponsors were Neal and Raj Patel from Medstar labora-
tory, Mafat Patel from Patel Brothers, Salil Mishra from Millennium Bank, Prem Marthota from General Energy Corporation, Anil Sharma from Insurance World Agency, Inc., Ghanshyam Pandey, Papa Johns Skokie, State Farm Agent Esha Patel, Maya Patel from Holiday inn Rolling Meadows, Hina Trivedi Chicago Indo US Lions Club President, Dr. Hina and Hemant Patel, Dr. Ritesh Patel, Kishore and Deepika Chugh and Hema and Shashant Bhatt, Harish Kolansai from NRI Seva Foundation, Santosh Kumar from Metropolitan Asian Family Services.

Judges were Monica Kapoor, Madhbra Sabe, Swapna pula, Chandrarsi Das and Devi Annamalai.

The vote of thanks was proposed by the Secretary Harish Kolansai who thanked the Dance Gurus for continuing dance education to our children and parents for keep-

ing and nurturing our culture alive for years to come by instilling traditional values in them. Harish Kolansai also thanked the Sponsors and Media.
Indian nationalist leader Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, more commonly known as Mahatma Gandhi, was born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, Kathiawar, India, which was then part of the British Empire. His father, Karamchand Gandhi, served as a chief minister in Porbandar and other states in western India. His mother, Putlibai, was a deeply religious woman who fasted regularly. Gandhi grew up worshiping the Hindu god Vishnu and following Jainism, a morally rigorous ancient Indian religion that espoused non-violence, fasting, meditation and vegetarianism.

Young Gandhi was a shy, unremarkable student who was so timid that he slept with the lights on even as a teenager. At the age of 13, he wed Kasturba Makanji, a merchant's daughter, in an arranged marriage.

In 1885, Gandhi endured the passing of his father and shortly after that the death of his young baby. Although Gandhi was interested in becoming a doctor, his father had hoped he would also become a government minister, so his family steered him to enter the legal profession. Shortly after the birth of the first of four surviving sons, 18-year-old Gandhi sailed for London, England, in 1888 to study law. The young Indian struggled with the transition to Western culture, and during his three-year stay in London, he became more committed to a meatless diet, joining the executive committee of the London Vegetarian Society, and started to read a variety of sacred texts to learn more about world religions.

Upon returning to India in 1891, Gandhi learned that his mother had died just weeks earlier. Then, he struggled to gain his footing as a lawyer. In his first courtroom case, a nervous Gandhi blanked when the time came to cross-examine a witness. He immediately fled the courtroom after reimbursing his client for his legal fees. After struggling to find work in India, Gandhi obtained a one-year contract to perform legal services in South Africa. Shortly after the birth of another son, he sailed for Durban in the South African state of Natal in April 1893.

Spiritual and Political Leader

When Gandhi arrived in South Africa, he was quickly appalled by the discrimination and racial segregation faced by Indian immigrants at the hands of white British and Boer authorities. Upon his first appearance in a Durban courtroom, Gandhi was asked to remove his turban. He refused and left the court instead. The Natal Advertiser mocked him in print as “an unwelcome visitor.”

A seminal moment in Gandhi’s life occurred days later on June 7, 1893, during a train trip to Pretoria when a white man objected to his presence in the first-class railway compartment, although he had a ticket. Refusing to move to the back of the train, Gandhi was forcibly removed and thrown off the train at a station in Pietermaritzburg. His act of civil disobedience awoke in him a determination to devote himself to fighting the “deep disease of color prejudice.” He vowed that night to “try, if possible, to root out the disease and suffer hardships in the process.” From that night forward, the small, unassuming man would grow into a giant force for civil rights.

Gandhi formed the Natal Indian Congress in 1894 to fight discrimination. At the end of his year-long contract, he prepared to return to India until he learned at his farewell party of a bill before the Natal Legislative Assembly that would deprive Indians of the right to vote. Fellow immigrants convinced Gandhi to stay and lead the fight against the legislation. Although Gandhi could not prevent the law’s passage, he drew international attention to the injustice.

After a brief trip to India in late 1896 and early 1897, Gandhi returned to South Africa with his wife and two children. Kasturba would give birth to two more sons in South Africa, one in 1897 and one in 1900. Gandhi ran a thriving legal practice, and at the outbreak of the Boer War, he raised an all-Indian ambulance corps of 1,100 volunteers to support the British cause, arguing that if Indians expected to have full rights of citizenship in the British Empire, they also needed to shoulder their responsibilities as well.

Gandhi continued to study world religions during his years in South Africa. “The religious spirit within me became a living force,” he wrote of his time there. He immersed himself in sacred Hindu spiritual texts and adopted a life of simplicity, austerity and celibacy that was free of material goods.

In 1906, Gandhi organized his first mass civil-disobedience campaign, which he called “Satyagraha” (“truth and firmness”), in reaction to the Transvaal government’s new restrictions on the rights of Indians, including the refusal to recognize Hindu marriages. After years of protests, the
government imprisoned hundreds of Indians in 1913, including Gandhi. Under pressure, the South African gov-
ernment accepted a compromise negotiated by Gandhi and General Jan Christian Smuts that included recogni-
tion of Hindu marriages and the abolition of a poll tax for Indians. When Gandhi sailed from South Africa in 1914 to return home, Smuts wrote, "The saint has left our shores, I sincerely hope forever."

Fight for Indian Liberation

After spending several months in London at the outbreak of World War I, Gandhi returned in 1915 to India, which was still under the firm control of the British, and found-
ed an ashram in Ahmedabad open to all castes. Wearing a simple loincloth and shawl, Gandhi lived an austere life devoted to prayer, fasting and meditation. He became known as "Mahatma," which means "great soul."

In 1919, however, Gandhi had a political reawakening when the newly enacted Rowlatt Act authorized Brit-
ish authorities to imprison those suspected of sedition without trial. In response, Gandhi called for a Satyagraha campaign of peaceful protests and strikes. Violence broke out instead, which culminated on April 13, 1919, in the Massacre of Amritsar when troops led by British Briga-
dier General Reginald Dyer fired machine guns into a crowd of unarmed demonstrators and killed nearly 400 people. No longer able to pledge allegiance to the British government, Gandhi returned the medals he earned for his military service in South Africa and opposed Britain's mandatory military draft of Indians to serve in World War I.

Gandhi became a leading figure in the Indian home-rule movement. Calling for mass boycotts, he urged govern-
ment officials to stop working for the Crown, students to stop attending government schools, soldiers to leave their posts and citizens to stop paying taxes and purchas-
ing British goods. Rather than buy British-manufactured clothes, he began to use a portable spinning wheel to produce his own cloth, and the spinning wheel soon be-
came a symbol of Indian independence and self-reliance. Gandhi assumed the leadership of the Indian National Congress and advocated a policy of non-violence and non-cooperation to achieve home rule.

After British authorities arrested Gandhi in 1922, he pleaded guilty to three counts of sedition. Although sen-
tenced to a six-year imprisonment, Gandhi was released in February 1924 after appendicitis surgery. He discov-
ered upon his release that relations between India's Hin-
dus and Muslims had devolved during his time in jail, and upon his release that relations between India's Hin-
dus and Muslims had devolved during his time in jail, and

ting Gandhi embarked on a six-day fast to protest the British decision to segregate the "untouchables," those on the lowest rung of India's caste system, by allotting them separate electorates. The public outcry forced the British to amend the proposal.

After his eventual release, Gandhi left the Indian National Congress in 1934, and leadership passed to his protégé Jawaharlal Nehru. He again stepped away from politics to focus on education, poverty and the problems afflicting India's rural areas.

As Great Britain found itself engulfed in World War II in 1942, though, Gandhi launched the "Quit India" move-
ment that called for the immediate British withdrawal from the country. In August 1942, the British arrested Gandhi, his wife and other leaders of the Indian National Congress and detained them in the Aga Khan Palace in present-day Pune. "I have not become the King's First Min-
ister in order to preside at the liquidation of the British Empire," Prime Minister Winston Churchill told Parliament in support of the crackdown. With his health failing, Gandhi was released after a 19-month detention, but not before his 74-year-old wife died in his arms in February 1944.

After the Labour Party defeated Churchill's Conservatives in the British general election of 1945, it began negotia-
tions for Indian independence with the Indian National Congress and Mohammad Ali Jinnah's Muslim League. Gandhi played an active role in the negotiations, but he could not prevail in his hope for a unified India. Instead, the final plan called for the partition of the subcontinent along religious lines into two independent states—pre-
dominantly Hindu India and predominantly Muslim Pakistan.

Violence between Hindus and Muslims flared even before independence took effect on August 15, 1947. Afterwards, the killings multiplied. Gandhi toured riot-torn areas in an appeal for peace and fasted in an attempt to end the bloodshed. Some Hindus, however, increasingly viewed Gandhi as a traitor for expressing sympathy toward Mus-
lims.

Assassination

In the late afternoon of January 30, 1948, the 78-year-old Gandhi, still weakened from repeated hunger strikes, clung to his two grandnieces as they led him from his liv-
ing quarters in New Delhi's Birla House to a prayer meet-
ing. Hindu extremist Nathuram Godse, upset at Gandhi's tolerance of Muslims, knelt before the Mahatma before pulling out a semiautomatic pistol and shooting him three times at point-blank range. The violent act took the life of a pacifist who spent his life preaching non-violence. Godse and a co-conspirator were executed by hanging in November 1949, while additional conspirators were sentenced to life in prison.

Death and Legacy

Even after his death, Gandhi's commitment to non-
violence and his belief in simple living—making his own clothes, eating a vegetarian diet and using fasts for self-purification as well as a means of protest—have been a beacon of hope for oppressed and marginalized people throughout the world. Satyagraha remains one of the most potent philosophies in freedom struggles through-
out the world today, and Gandhi's actions inspired future human rights movements around the globe, including those of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in the United States and Nelson Mandela in South Africa.
Former Israeli PM says ‘reckless’ Netanyahu harmed US aid

Jerusalem (AFP) - A former Israeli prime minister on Thursday said incumbent premier Benjamin Netanyahu eroded national security and the size of US defence aid by “irresponsible” handling of relations with Washington.

“Netanyahu’s reckless conduct has... undermined Israel’s security,” Ehud Barak wrote in a Washington Post op-ed.

“Israel will receive $3.8 billion a year -- an important contribution to our security but far less than what could have been obtained before the prime minister chose to blatantly interfere with US politics.”

The United States on Wednesday promised Israel $38 billion between 2019 and 2028 to buy advanced planes and weaponry and boost its missile defence shield, the biggest pledge of military aid in US history.

Barak and other critics say that an even more generous deal could have been achieved if Netanyahu had not campaigned so publicly and vociferously against a nuclear agreement with Iran backed by US President Barack Obama.

Frosty relations between the two leaders went into a deep chill last year, after Netanyahu appeared before the US Congress to lobby against the Iran deal.

“Expressing our opposition to the Iran nuclear deal was certainly legitimate,” Barak wrote.

“But instead of holding a candid dialogue behind closed doors with President Obama, Netanyahu went behind his back.”

The previous 10-year aid package amounted to $30 billion, but did not include the $5 billion US assistance for missile defence contained in the update.

Barak served as the Labour party’s prime minister between 1999 and 2001 then as defence minister from 2009 to 2013 in a coalition government under Netanyahu.

Barak and other critics say that an even more generous deal could have been achieved if Netanyahu had not campaigned so publicly and vociferously against a nuclear agreement with Iran backed by US President Barack Obama.

The highly decorated former armed forces chief said

in the past allowed Israel to spend 26.3 percent of the aid outside the United States, a privilege which gave a valuable boost to the Jewish state’s own advanced defence industry.

Another condition is that Israel agrees not to lobby the US Congress for extra missile defence funding, except in emergencies and only with the agreement of the US administration.

The White House viewed the appearance as unprecedented interference by a foreign leader.
Riyadh – The Telangana government has prepared the draft NRI policy to address the problems faced by people who have migrated to other countries especially Gulf nations from the state in search of livelihood. Minister for Industries and Information Technology K.T. Rama Rao, who also holds the portfolio of NRI affairs sought the views and suggestions from NRI organizations and individuals to frame the effective policy.

He assured that effective steps will be being taken to ensure capable youngsters, who wish to migrate to Gulf countries, are not cheated by middlemen. He made it clear that only those who migrate legally, with appropriate visas, will get necessary benefits, in case of an untoward incidents.

Riyadh based organization All India United Society (AIUS) held a group discussion and gathered views and suggestions from various organizations. AIUS compiled these suggestions and on behalf of all the organization sent as memorandum to Telangana government.

Speaking on this occasion key note speaker Joint Editor of NRIs website www.yahind.com and author of the book “Expat Ride”, Mohammed Saifuddin urged the government of Telangana to take strict measures to curb the trade of so called Independent Visa (Asad Visa) and create awareness among the youth to travel foreign countries only by legal means.

Even though it is known that the Independent visa trade is illegal, many travel agents release advertisements in the local newspapers offering the visas, they should be banned.

In his presentation on the problems of gulf NRIs; Saifuddin highlighted the issues and problems under four categories of job seekers, domestic workers, workers in gulf countries and gulf returnees.

Saifuddin also said that in most of the runaway cases of housemaids; it was observed that women runs away from their employer within few months of starting the job. It shows that there is some serious psychological problems for housemaids to adjust themselves in the new atmosphere. He suggested that NRI’s ministry of Telangana state should conduct the detailed study to find out the root cause of this so that the runaway cases would be reduced in future. Former housemaids should be contacted for this.

Mohammed Saifuddin has written many articles on the problems of Indian workers in Gulf countries which were published on www.yahind.com and his book “Expat Ride” on same issue was published few years back.

Syed Zia ur Rahman, CEO, Yahind.com who attended the meeting called by NRI Minister of Telangana state in India, briefed about the steps taken by the Telangana state and also the suggestions and views presented by other organizations.

He also said that NRI Minister K Tarakarama Rao is very young, energetic and dynamic leader who is open to accept the suggestions from NRI organization and individuals.

Mohammed Jabbar, President, NRI Telangana Forum said special rehabilitation schemes should be there for the returning NRIs. Venu Madhev Pogaku, President, Telugu Kalaa Kheltra (TKK) highlighted the issue of transporting the dead bodies to India. He said many dead bodies are lying in the consortium from long time, ranging between three to twelve months period awaiting to complete the legal procedures and formalities from India and Saudi Arabia.

He suggested that this process should be speed up by refining the policies.

Mohammed Zubair, Vice President, Golden Telangana Welfare Association said that investment opportunities should be created to start small and medium enterprises by low income NRIs from Gulf countries. The workshop should be conducted for training and orientation of labor migrating to gulf countries.

Syed Masood Ali, Chairman, Success International School said most of the foreign exchange to Telangana is coming from gulf countries accordingly their problems should be dealt with high priority.

Mohammed Murzaffaruddin, Chief Patron, Jazakaal said most of the foreign exchange to Telangana is coming from gulf countries accordingly their problems should be dealt with high priority.

Mohammed Jaibar, President, NRI Telangana Forum said special rehabilitation schemes should be there for the returning NRIs. Venu Madhev Pogaku, President, Telugu Kalaa Kheltra (TKK) highlighted the issue of transporting the dead bodies to India. He said many dead bodies are lying in the consortium from long time, ranging between three to twelve months period awaiting to complete the legal procedures and formalities from India and Saudi Arabia.

He suggested that this process should be speed up by refining the policies.

Mohammed Zubair, Vice President, Golden Telangana Welfare Association said that investment opportunities should be created to start small and medium enterprises by low income NRIs from Gulf countries. The workshop should be conducted for training and orientation of labor migrating to gulf countries.

Syed Masood Ali, Chairman, Success International School said most of the foreign exchange to Telangana is coming from gulf countries accordingly their problems should be dealt with high priority.

Mohammed Murzaffaruddin, Chief Patron, Jazakaal
Hillary...will she make the History

I'm not great at taking it easy, even under ordinary circumstances, and sitting home was pretty much the last place I wanted to be with just one month until Election Day. But having a few days to myself was actually a gift. I talked with some old friends and spent time with our very sweet dogs. And I did some thinking. The campaign trail doesn't really encourage reflection, and it's important to sit with your thoughts every now and then.

People like me—we're lucky. When I'm under the weather, I can afford to take a few days off. Millions of Americans can't. They either go to work sick, or they lose a paycheck. Lots of Americans still don't even have insurance—or they do, but it's too expensive to actually use. So they toss back Tylenols, chug orange juice, and hope that cough or cold or virus goes away on its own.

And lots of working parents can't afford child care. It costs as much as college tuition in many states, so millions of moms and dads have no backup if they get sick—they're on their own. I've met so many people living on a razor's edge—one illness away from losing their job, one paycheck away from losing their home.

Events like these are mere bumps in the road for some families—but for others, they are catastrophic. And that disparity goes against everything we stand for as Americans.

Some things shouldn't come down to luck. Some things should be within reach for every American, no matter what—like financial security, affordable health care, and the peace of mind that comes with knowing that if something goes wrong, your family will be okay. That's why I got into this race: to fight for everyone working hard, often against the odds, to support their families and contribute to our country. I want to tear down all the barriers standing in their way.

I'm running for the factory workers and food servers who on their feet all day—and the nurses looking after patients all night. I'm running for the young people who dream of changing our country and world for the better, and I'm running for all the parents and grandparents supporting those dreams by dedicating every dollar they can to their education.

Now, we're in the final stretch. There are just 53 days left. I'm going to be campaigning hard all the way until Election Day, talking about my ideas for our country everywhere I go—from reining in Wall Street to creating good-paying jobs to, yes, guaranteed paid family leave, so that no one in this country ever has to choose between taking care of their family (or themselves) and a paycheck.

We need a president who's spent years fighting for these issues, and who has a plan to support all families, in all their configurations. And if I have the honor of serving as your president, no one will fight harder for your children and your families—because this is the work of my life, and I'm not stopping now.

What Donald Trump just did is a disgrace. Expressing zero regret for years of pushing a racist conspiracy theory, Trump again appointed himself judge and jury on President Obama's citizenship. Leading the birther movement is deplorable. Attempting to say it "did a great service" to the president who Trump attacked is asinine. When Trump tries to deflect blame for denying that President Obama was born in America, he is lying. Again, Trump turns his faults on others. Psychologists call it "projecting." Kids call it "I'm rubber, you're glue." This shouldn't have to be said: You don't just get to say someone else did the worst things you've done. It doesn't work. No one buys it.

While Peres has been praised abroad and in Israel as a peacemaker, many Palestinians view him very differently, citing his involvement in successive Arab-Israeli wars and the occupation of Palestinian territory.

He was also prime minister in 1996 when more than 100 civilians were killed while sheltering at a UN peacekeepers' base in the Lebanese village of Qana fired upon by Israel.

Diana Buttu, former spokeswoman for the Palestinian Authority, tweeted: “Peres was an unrepentant war criminal. Revisionist history won’t work”
India has "all legal and globally accepted right" to respond to any attack on her sovereignty and territory, Bangladesh said on Thursday after Indian Army carried out surgical strikes against terror bases across the Line of Control but called for "restraint" from all sides.

"India has got all legal, internationally accepted right to make a response to any attack on her sovereignty and her soil," Iqbal Chowdhury, Advisor to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said.

Commenting on the Kashmir issue, he said it is a "bilateral dispute" and there has been a "violation from the other side".

"It (Kashmir issue) has been a long, continued dispute and there has been a... violation from the other side and Bangladesh always believes that any aggression or attack on the sovereignty of the independence and legal right of a country is not acceptable and Bangladesh always feels that any country must honour and respect the sovereignty of a third country," he said.

Chowdhury said after Bangladesh premier Hasina came to power, she had asserted that Bangladeshi soil will not be allowed to house any terrorist group and to plan or organise any attack or activity on the Indian side, and has been "very committed on this point that (there is) zero tolerance to any (such) type of activity."

"...I think that the Indian government and the people have all the right to rebuff and to combat any type of aggression from any quarter whether it is from a neighbouring country," he told an Indian TV channel over phone.

He, however, appealed for "restraint" from all sides for a peaceful neighbourhood.

"Bangladesh always feels that in these type of things, there should be restraint from all sides because we believe that in the SAARC countries, we need to live in a peaceful environment, honouring the sovereignty rights of each member country," he added.

UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon condemns Uri terror attack

UNITED NATIONS: Condemning the militant attack on an army camp in North Kashmir’s Uri town that killed 17 soldiers, UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon hoped the perpetrators of the crime will be brought to justice and re-establishing stability and preventing any further loss of life will be the priority of “all involved.”

“The United Nations is following developments closely and shares the concerns of people living in the region for peace,” a statement issued by Ban’s spokesperson here said.

Ban expressed hope that the perpetrators of the attack will be brought to justice and all stakeholders will meet their responsibilities to maintain peace and stability. “The secretary-general hopes that the perpetrators of this crime will be identified and brought to justice,” it said.

He “hopes that all involved will prioritise the re-establishment of stability and prevent any further loss of life. The secretary-general encourages all stakeholders to meet their respective responsibilities to maintain peace and stability,” the statement said.

Condemning the “militant attack,” Ban expressed his “deepest sympathy and condolences” to the families of the soldiers who lost their lives and to the government of India and wished a speedy recovery to those injured in the attack.

Meanwhile, Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro, who succeeded Iranian President Hassan Rouhani as the head of the Non-Aligned Movement, also expressed solidarity with the people of India “who have suffered a terrorist attack.”

“We are committed along with our brotherly people of the world to get into the depth of this problem that has generated proliferation of terrorist movements, which doesn’t respect life and the need for coexistence of people,” he said at a press conference after the summit in Margarita Island yesterday.

In one of the deadliest attacks on the Army in recent years, 17 soldiers were killed and 19 others injured as heavily armed militants stormed a battalion headquarters of the force in North Kashmir’s Uri town.

Four militants involved in the terror strike were killed by the Army. The attack comes two years after militants had carried out a similar type of attack at Mohra in the same area. Ten security personnel were killed in the attack that took place on December 5, 2014.
Patience Jonathan, the colorful wife of Nigeria’s ex-president, Goodluck Jonathan, has become the latest high profile Nigerian embroiled in a corruption-related scandal. Nigeria’s anti-graft agency, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has frozen accounts containing $31.4 million controlled by the former first lady who claims some of the money was for payment of medical bills.

In a bid to regain control of the accounts, Mrs Jonathan is suing the EFCC, describing the blockage of access to the accounts as efforts to “indirectly harass or harangue” her. Patience Jonathan’s corruption scandal is the latest in a string of cases the EFCC has been involved in since president Buhari took office last year.

Buhari has made good on his campaign promise to launch probes into government agencies and institutions. Six months after taking office, Buhari’s administration arrested Sambo Dasuki, the former national security advisor for financial misappropriation of about $2 billion earmarked for military equipment amid the Boko Haram insurgency. Military chiefs have also been questioned and, in some cases, detained over similar charges.

But while the EFCC has been busy under the Buhari administration, it has little to show for its efforts so far. Despite instituting multiple cases of theft of state funds against several high profile Nigerians, the agency has not secured any convictions. The agency’s inability to secure convictions has undercut the potency of Buhari’s anti-corruption campaign which has been dismissed by Nigeria’s main opposition party as being “investigated on the pages of the newspapers.”

Ibrahim Magu, head of EFCC, has blamed the lack of progress on lawyers who help money launderers “to escape justice.”

The agency’s inability to secure convictions has undercut the potency of Buhari’s anti-corruption campaign which has been dismissed by Nigeria’s main opposition party as being “investigated on the pages of the newspapers.” Given the prevalence of partisan politics in Nigeria, the presidency has also been forced to deny claims that its anti-corruption fight simply targets opposition party members.

While Buhari’s reputation as a leader with integrity probably remains intact for now, Nigerians’ early hopes that he would be able to rapidly stamp out corruption and round up former perpetuators is beginning to fade.

Nigeria downgraded by S&P, advised by Africa’s richest man to sell assets

Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote told CNBC that a wave of asset selling by the government could be the best way to boost Nigeria’s recession-hit economy.

“I think the real challenge for us is now for us to have the political will in terms of selling some assets,” he told CNBC Africa on Friday.

“I think it’s an easier route than the IMF (International Monetary Fund) or the World Bank to borrow money, because what you need to do is actually to beef up the reserves.”

Dangote spoke to CNBC Africa before Nigeria’s credit rating was downgraded to B from B+ by S&P Global Ratings on Friday.

“Nigeria’s economy has weakened more than we expected owing to a marked contraction in oil production, a restrictive foreign exchange regime (Exchange: NGN=) and delayed fiscal stimulus,” S&P said in a report on the downgrade.

Nigeria’s economy is set to contract on an annual basis in 2016 for the first time in 21 years, with its all-important oil industry suffering under weak global prices. The country’s gross domestic product (GDP) dropped by 2.06 percent in the second quarter of 2016, after falling 0.36 percent in the previous three months.

Dangote is worth $12.5 billion and is the richest man in Africa, according to Forbes. He is the owner Dangote Group, which bills itself as the biggest manufacturing conglomerate in West Africa and has interests in commodities.

Dangote told CNBC that Nigeria, which rivals with South Africa to be the continent’s biggest economy, should have been diversified a long time ago. He lamented its overreliance on oil.

However, he was optimistic that Nigeria would exit recession in the fourth quarter of this year and said the country “had all the answers” to bounce back to health.

He urged the government to sell assets in some of its joint ventures with the private sector in an open tender process. He said that Africa Finance Corporation - a development finance institution established in 2007 - would fetch close to $800 million. He said policymakers should also look to sell 100 percent of the country’s stake in Nigeria LNG Limited, a natural resources firm.

“If I had challenges in my company, I would not hesitate to sell assets, to remain afloat, to get to the better times, because it doesn’t make any sense for me to keep any assets and then suffocate the whole organization,” Dangote told CNBC.

A $31 million scandal with Nigeria’s ex-first lady shows the scale of Buhari’s anti-corruption battle
New Delhi’s decision to boycott the 19th Saarc Summit in Islamabad next November followed by Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Bhutan’s decision to do the same resulted in the cancellation of the summit. Nepal, the current Saarc chairperson, announced it from Kathmandu.

The South Asian neighbours India and Pakistan have been at loggerheads since their independence from Great Britain in 1947. Upon obtaining freedom and sovereignty, both India and Pakistan did not waste time in invading and dividing Jammu and Kashmir which lay a sandwich between them. Both conducted 3 deadly wars over the status of Kashmir Valley.

And both want Kashmir lands to decorate their own territories and in the process over 100,000 Kashmiris (mostly Muslims) lost their lives as Indian forces mercilessly have run them over with guns and traps.

Indian attempt to isolate Pakistan

India does not want to surrender Kashmir to Kashmiris while Pakistan seeks to get Kashmir from India. It is because of Kashmir India got WMD with the help of UN veto members, followed by Pakistan doing the same. India and Pakistan cause tensions in the region by regular cross-border terror attacks essentially to terrorize the besieged Kashmiris. One has no idea if they have some secret understanding on Kashmir as well.

One gets the impression that India is indeed angry with Pakistan for internationalizing the Kashmir issue and refusing to accept the joint operational reality as such.

India is annoyed that its regular complaints to Washington against Pakistan has not worked in its favour. It appears New Delhi wants Washington to cooperate with declaring Pakistan a terrorist nation.

Having failed to isolate Pakistan internationally by tactfully drawing USA to its side of story against Kashmir, New India aims at isolating Pakistan in the region by taking a decision to bypass the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meeting to be held in Islamabad.

In what is seen by New Delhi’s anti-Pakistan strategists as another snub in the series to Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided not to attend the SAARC summit to be held in Islamabad in November. Not just that; India has been pressurizing other regional countries also not to attend the summit so that Pakistan stands isolated.

PM Modi feels all efforts to impress the regional leaders during his swearing in ceremony have failed and will not be able to attend the summit. "Due to increased level of violence and fighting as a result of imposed terrorism on Afghanistan, President of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has said that it was pressurizing Pakistan to act against "terror" safe havens within its borders. “Well, I mean, clearly we've talked about that before, while we've seen Pakistan make progress on some of the terrorist groups operating within its own borders and carrying out attacks within Pakistan's borders, that we continue to put pressure on Pakistan to respond to those groups who are, quota/ unquote, ‘seeking safe haven on Pakistan's borders’, that— who are intent on carrying out attacks elsewhere in the region," US State Department deputy spokesperson Mark Toner said in the daily press briefing in Washington on Tuesday.

The USA is one of the nine observer members of Saarc, the others being Australia, China, the European Union, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar and South Korea. Toner said: "Want to see closer relations and a normalization of relations, frankly, between India and Pakistan." It would be the—to the benefit of the region. And we want to see de-escalation in the political discourse between the two countries and greater communication and coordination between them," he said.

Blame game spreads

New Delhi had earlier blamed the Pakistan-based Jash-e-Mohammed terrorist outfit for the September 18 as well as the January 2 Pathankot air base attack in Punjab. However, it came out later that attacks were ‘engineered’ mainly in order only to blame Pakistan so that it does not demand Kashmir which is under Indian occupation.

Meanwhile, as a routine matter, Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar summoned Pakistani High Commissioner Abdul Basit and made a demarche that proved Islamabad’s links to the attack. Former Pakistani president general Musharraf (born in Delhi), speaking to Indian TV channels, questioned the rationale of just blaming Pakistan and said all base attacks taking place in India and even in USA.

Concerned about the water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over river Cauvery, Modi has said that India would revisit the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan that calls for sharing of the waters of the six rivers of the Indus basin with Pakistan while indicating that the most favoured nation (MFN) trade status granted to the neighbour in 1996 might be revoked.

Following the diplomatic blitzkrieg launched by New Delhi, Pakistan is virtually getting isolated in the region with Afghanistan, which gets regular funds for developmental and perhaps anti-Pakistani operations across the border, joining India in boycotting the annual Saarc Summit scheduled to be hosted by Islamabad in November.

Due to increased level of violence and fighting as a result of imposed terrorism on Afghanistan, President of Afghanistan Mohammad Ashraf Ghani with his responsibilities as the Commander in Chief will be fully engaged, and will not be able to attend the summit," sources quoted Kabul as saying in a message to Saarc chair Nepal.

Dr. Abdul Ruff, an educationist and author, columnist, an expert on Mideast affairs, Chancellor-Founder of Center for International Affairs (CIA);
Donald Trump Exposes His Shallowness
K. Ashraf

Mr. Trump tried to bully around Ms Hilary Clinton early on in the first presidential debate. He thought he would get away with Ms Hilary Clinton as he always did against his opponents during republican primaries. He simply did not know what he was up against. Apparently he tried to put down Ms. Clinton by calling her Secretary Clinton over and over. He did not know he was waking a sleeping lioness in Hilary Clinton by calling her Secretary Clinton. Of course, her experience as Secretary of State is her great asset. As soon as the Secretary of State woke up in Hilary Clinton Donald Trump was practically knocked down. From that moment on she kept hitting him and poor Donald Trump could not get up from the floor. She totally dismantled him.

Few days back I was discussing the first debate between Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump with few friends. Their opinion was: Donald Trump is bullish and unpredictable. My response was he won’t be able to play his tricks against her. When she will use decades of her government experience along with sophistication of her arguments he will act like a sitting duck. That’s what precisely happened tonight in the first presidential debate.

Ms. Clinton has a sharp memory. Her facts are on her fingertips. Donald Trump has a very deceptive memory. He can talk about issues, but he cannot support his positions on those issues with facts and figures. Although US presidential are not all about facts and figures, but facts and figures do matter. One has to know to use them to his advantage. Donald Trump always mixes up his facts and figures.

Is this scenario going to change in next two debates. I doubt it will. The issues will get more complicated in next two debates. The questions in next two debates will require more grip on facts and figures. Hillary Clinton the most of undecided voters make up their minds with third debate, but still some still want to wait till the last minute. If race gets real tight then those voters matter too. Political networks of various political organizations also play important role as they vote for their preferred candidates in big chunks.

Having said all that I think Hilary Clinton did excellent job. She is a sure winner in this debate on all accounts. She was in total control of debate from beginning to the end. If she keeps up her success level in next two debates it will be very difficult for Mr. Trump to beat her in the election in November.

Pakistani actor Ali Zafar’s brother Danyal loses out Bollywood break

If reports are to be believed then Pakistani artists hoping to pursue a career in the Bollywood film industry, are reconsidering their options. The latest addition to that list is actor Ali Zafar’s hunky young brother Danyal. According to reports, Danyal was in talks to make his big Bollywood debut in a Karan Johar film starring Fawad Khan and Katrina Kaif. The film that is said to be set in the backdrop of a ‘winter wedding’ in North India, would have also featured the young lad. However, with the ongoing political tension after the Uri attacks, and the MNS party threatening to ‘throw out’ Pakistani artists from the country, the fate of this upcoming love story is yet to be decided. The ace Bollywood director is keeping his fingers crossed as his film ‘Ae Dil Hai Mushkil’ starring Ranbir Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Anushka Sharma and Pak actor Fawad Khan, nears it release this Diwali.

Sania Mirza-Barbora Strycova win Pan Pacific Open

Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Barbora Strycova thrashed China’s Chen Liang and Zhaoxuan Yang in straight sets to clinch the Pan Pacific Open women’s doubles title on Saturday.

In a lop-sided affair, the Indo-Czech pair defeated the Chinese 6-1, 6-1 in just 51 minutes.

Sania and Strycova, on Friday defeated unseeded pair of Canada’s Gabriela Dabrowski and Spain’s Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez 4-6, 6-3, 10-5 in semi-final.

Coming to the match, the Sania-Strycova pair started the proceedings on a positive note. In no time they took the lead and pushed back their opponents to bag the first set. In the second set, the Chinese pair tried to bounce back but Sania-Strycova managed to hold them to bag the title. Liang and Yang made three double faults while the Indo-Czech pair made only one.

This is Sania’s 40th doubles title, of which 18 have come since the beginning of 2015. She had earlier won the same title with Zimbabwe player Cara Black twice. Earlier, Sania and Strycova won the Cincinnati Open last month by beating Swiss great Martina Hingis and Coco Vandeweghe 7-5, 6-4 in the summit clash.
Nearly every Hindi cinema-goer has a "favourite Mehmood moment." Mine is from the 1966 comedy Pyar Kiye Jaa. The fact that in a film that also stars the mad genius Kishore Kumar, Mehmood’s show-stopping turn is a testament to both his classic talent for physical comedy and stardom. Those days, many of Mehmood’s films were South remakes and Pyar Kiye Jaa is no different. He was roped in to play the role originally enacted by the great Tamil comedian Nagesh. Big shoes but who better than Mehmood to fill it?

Mehmood plays Atma, an aspiring filmmaker who has named his company, Wah Wah Productions because, as he deadpans, “People will go ‘wah wah’ at every film of mine.” Is it a meta-joke? He’s making a horror film without a title. The logic being, the audience will watch the film breathlessly right till the end in their curiosity to know what the film is called. The poster will have a big question mark in place of the title.

Who would want to bankroll such a lunatic concept? His dad played by the indomitable Om Prakash, a moneybag who’s sure his son is good for nothing and deserves none of his wealth, walks right into the trap. Om Prakash is both frustrated at Atma’s wasted life and also unusually curious about what’s cooking in his "khopdi." On a dark night, they settle in for a story narration and what follows is a rib-tickling scene with Om Prakash getting all sweaty and spooky after hearing about, among other absurdities, a forest where “fishes are grazing grass and snakes are flying.” To strike fear into his father’s heart, Atma makes all kinds of animal noises complete with a haunting background score befitting a Ramsay movie. And then, it dawns on you – he’s called Atma! Is there a ghostly connection? You will never know.

What you do know is that the scene required either a leap of imagination and logic or a serious confidence in the art of nonsense. Whatever it was, Mehmood had that. He put his voice artistry and mimicry skills to tremendous use and made the scene more than memorable. Om Prakash’s petrified look and gestures are in total harmony with Mehmood, a Ramsay reincarnation.

It’s difficult to imagine Hindi film comedy without Bollywood’s original Bhaijaan. Mehmood may have long passed away but his influence is evident in the comic styles of David Dhawan, Govinda, Sajid Khan, Johnny Lever, Ritesh Deshmukh – the list is endless. A Mehmood movie comes with an assurance of fun, frolic, drama, dance and great music. Well, dancing came naturally to him and so did acting and performance. His father, Mumtaz Ali, was a great dancer-actor in the 1940s. Give anything to Mehmood and he could turn it into something only he could do. For example, the song ‘Hum Kaale Hai’ from 1965’s ‘Gumnaam’ has a Mehmood touch to it.

Mehmood, Mehmood birthday, Mehmood actor, Mehmood film, Mehmood life, Mehmood roles, Mehmood best films Mehmood’s films were South remakes and Pyar Kiye Jaa is no different. In some ways, Mehmood was destined to be in cinema. He began as a child actor in Ashok Kumar’s ‘Kismet’ (1943). But it was Guru Dutt who spotted the young lad and gave him his first break. According to a blog by Amitabh Bachchan, who calls Mehmood his godfather, “He never forgot that gesture – a large photograph of Guru Dutt adorned his bedroom.” Mehmood went on to develop his own style of comedy. At his peak, he was paid more than the film’s hero and it’s easy to see why. With top dollars rolling in, he was living a flamboyant life. A big spendthrift, he bought a farm just to keep his horses. This flashiness may have something to do with his royal blood.

“He lived like a king both in terms of his lifestyle but also his large-heartedness. He looked after our extended kutumb of 150 people. He loved cars and at one point he owned a fleet of 24 cars including a Stingray, Dodge, Impala, MG, Jaguar and others,” his brother Anwar Ali recollected in a 2015 Filmfare interview. Reportedly, his then-protégé Amitabh Bachchan would steal from Mehmood’s car collection to “impress his girlfriends.”

Mehmood had great faith in the young Amitabh. Ameen Sayani, the radio broadcaster, once asked him about his horses. “The fastest horse is Amitabh,” Mehmood replied. “The day he picks up speed he will leave everyone behind.” Amitabh Bachchan, mehmood Mehmood had great faith in the young Amitabh Bachchan. In some ways, he foresaw Amitabh Bachchan’s success.

Towards the end, however, an ageing Mehmood who cared for Bachchan as a younger brother became bitter and lashed out at him in interviews. It was one of the ugliest fallouts in Bollywood but Bachchan kept a dignified silence.

Multi-faceted as he was, Mehmood also dabbled in filmmaking. Surprisingly, as a director, he stayed away from comedies and focussed instead on serious films with social messages, including ‘Kunwara Baap’ based on his son’s disability. Mehmood Multi-faceted as he was, Mehmood also dabbled in filmmaking. He had a rough personal life starting from his father’s alcoholism to his son’s disability and the financial responsibility of tending to the large family. In fact, he often dwelt on the irony of his life. He used to say that he made people laugh for a living but wondered why his own life was so sad and tragic.

As Chaplin said, “Life is a tragedy when seen in close-up, but a comedy in long-shot.” (Shaikh Ayaz is a writer and journalist based in Mumbai. He also paints.)
Dil Sala Sanki

Movie Review

STORY: What happens when your boss, who is the biggest gangster in town, falls head over heels for the love of your life? What will you do, when he won’t stop at anything, even if it means killing his wife, to marry your girl, and you’re the only thing in his way?

REVIEW: Badal (Yogesh Kumar) is a violent kid who fulfills his childhood ambition to join the gang of dreaded hinterland Mafioso, Bachcha Babu (Jimmy Sheirgill). Just as he joins his childhood idol’s gang, enters the love of his life, Megha (Madalsa Sharma). Some eve teasing and a song later, we’re not sure if Megha hates Badal, as she claims in the film, or whether she’s mad at him, as she claims in the songs. But her father, Sharmaji (Shakti Kapoor), is definitely miffed and approaches Bachcha Babu to keep the eve-teasing Badal away from her. This is a bad move on Sharmaji’s part, as Bachcha Babu turns out to be an unknown devil to Badal’s known one, and has now has developed some serious hots for Megha. Nothing will stop him from marrying her; consent be damned! He beats Badal senseless, leaving him to die on the outskirts of the city and goes on preparing for his wedding. But Badal isn’t easy to kill as he returns from the dead. He crashes the wedding reception of Megha and Bachcha Babu, singing and dancing, and rescues the bride, courtesy a single stunt-jump and a wheelie. They both run away until they’re caught up at the film’s climax, which is supremely guessable.

Yogesh Kumar is promising as a cocky goon in certain scenes in his Bollywood debut, but the weak story with even weaker dialogues, doesn’t allow the young actor to do much. Similar is the case with Madalsa Sharma. Jimmy Sheirgill refurbishes his act from Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster. It’s a joy to see Shakti Kapoor as a victim, and not the oppressor for once, and he does a decent job. Hrishitaa Bhatt has more of a cameo than an actual role in the film, as Bachcha Babu’s poetry spouting wife.

The only saving grace is the film’s length, which at 110 minutes, keeps your head from going ‘sanki’.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi+ understands the "pain" of the people of Balochistan+, the leadership of which has sought India's help for the "first time in 70 years", a prominent Baloch leader said on Saturday.

Activist Mazdak Dilshad Baloch expressed satisfaction with the Indian response to the "Baloch appeal", saying Modi's Independence Day speech+ had played "a major role in spreading awareness" about the "atrocities" of the Pakistani state on Balochistan+.

But, during the event on 'Baloch Nationality' where the young leader spoke, social commentator Tarek Fatah countered his claim, saying exiled Baloch leader Brahm-dagh Bugti+ had been to India for medical treatment. Bugti has recently sought asylum in India.+

"India is with us. Narendra Modi understands our pain. In the last 70 years, no Baloch leader has come to India. But now, we have come and we are happy with the response. We thank (external affairs minister) Sushma Swaraj for her UNGA speech.

"Today, even an autowallah asks me whether I am the same Baloch Modi spoke about. Since August 15, I have had many such encounters," Mazdak said.

He also took a dig at Pakistan over the recent surgical strikes of the Indian Army+ on terror launchpads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and the subsequent denial of the Pakistani civilian and military leadership of the same, saying "everyone knows" who staged the attack on the army base at Uri+ in Kashmir.

Describing as "false" the distinction made between the Pakistani state and its people, Mazdak questioned the latter's "silence" on the "acts of oppression" at Balochistan.

"But, they voiced their opposition against the terror attack in Paris," he said.

The event, organised by right-wing thinktank India Policy Foundation and attended by many at Constitution Club, was punctuated with slogans of "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Pakistan Murdabad".

BJP MP Udit Raj was present in the audience.

Former diplomat Vivek Katju, who termed the Baloch issue the "unfinished agenda of partition", and retired armyman GD Bakshi were among the other speakers at the event. A booklet, titled 'Balochistan: What World Needs to Know', was released on the occasion.

However, Mazdak put Kashmir in the same bracket with Balochistan and Sindh while speaking about the aspiration for "freedom" of the people of these places.

"Baloch people are being tortured, executed...bodies are dropped from aircraft to create terror...the worst part is, they enjoy killing us," he said, claiming that the Baloch leadership had approached (independent India's first Prime Minister) Jawaharlal Nehru, but did not get a "favourable response".

Mazdak claimed that "99 per cent" of the Baloch Sardars were "siding with the Pakistani state" as they were "opportunists", adding that the movement was being led by the "common men and not one or two leaders".

IPF director Rakesh Sinha hit out at Amnesty International, the Western powers and UNHCR for "making noises" on Kashmir, but "turning a blind eye" towards Balochistan. "They work with an agenda," he alleged.
"Hello, police department? I've lost my cat and… "

"I'm sorry lady, but this is not a police job, you can try calling…"

"But you don't understand, this is a very intelligent cat. He is almost human. He can practically talk."

"Well, in that case ma'am, you'd better hang up. He may be trying to call you right now."

Jake came rushing in to see his Dad. "Dad!" he puffed, "Is it true that an apple a day keeps the doctor away?"

"That's what they say," said his Dad.

"Well, give me an apple quick! I've just broken the doctor's window!"

When Mary was pregnant, her five year old, Billy, was utterly amazed and a little bit disbelieving that his sister was growing in his mom's tummy. So one day when the baby was especially active, she asked Billy to place his tiny hands on her tummy to feel the baby kick.

But when he did, the baby was suddenly still. "Oh, Billy, she must have decided to take a nap," shrugged his mother.

"A nap?" Billy marveled. "You mean there's a bed in there too?"

I was visiting a friend who could not find her cordless phone. After several minutes of searching, her young daughter spoke up.

"You know what they should invent? A phone that stays connected to its base so it never gets lost."

Years of smoking finally caught up with my friend John one morning when he keeled over at work, clutching his heart. He was rushed to a hospital and peppered with questions.

"Do you smoke?" asked a paramedic.

"No," John whispered. "I quit."

"That's good. When did you quit?"

"Around 9:30 this morning."

I'm not the easiest guy in the world to get along with. So when our anniversary rolled around, I wanted my wife to know how much I appreciated her tolerating me for the past 20 years. I ordered flowers and told the florist to enclose a card that read, 'Thanks for putting up with me so long.'

When my wife got the delivery, she called me at work.

"Just where do you think you going?" she asked.

"What do you mean?" I said.

She read the card aloud as the florist had written it: "Thanks for putting up with me. So long."

College meals are generally unpopular with those who have to eat them, and sometimes with good reason.

"What kind of pie do you call this?" asked one student indignantly.

"What's it taste like?" asked the cook.

"Glue!"

"Then it's apple pie... the plum pie tastes like soap."

From a passenger ship one can see a bearded man on a small island who is shouting and desperately waving his hands. He gets more and more animated with each passing moment.

"Who is it?" a passenger asks the captain.

"I've no idea. Every year when we pass, he goes mad like that."

A man was going bald and told his friends he was going to get a rabbit tattooed on his head as it was a lot cheaper than an implant or a toupee.

His friends asked how getting a rabbit tattooed on his head would help?

The man replied, "Well, at least from a distance it will look like hare."