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Mohammed Noor Rahman Sheikh new consul general in Jeddah

JEDDAH: Mohammed Noor Rahman Sheikh assumed charge as India's next consul general in Jeddah

He was given a sendoff by his colleagues in New York where he was first secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations. "I am happy to be back in Jeddah," he told Arab News. "I am looking forward to serving the Indian community and the Indian pilgrims."

Sheikh's predecessor B.S. Mubarak has returned to New Delhi. Sheikh served previously in Jeddah as deputy consul general and Haj consul before moving to New York. He has returned to a city with which he is familiar and in which he is comfortable.

Just as his predecessor, Sheikh is down-to-earth and enjoys good rapport with the large Indian community in and around Jeddah. A native of Imphal in Manipur, Sheikh is a product of the famed Indian Foreign Service (2004 batch). Diplomacy is his second love with his first being the National Defense Academy (NDA).

"I look forward to receiving support and cooperation from the community in carrying out my duties," he said in his first comments on Sunday. The Jeddah position is critically important for India's Ministry of External Affairs since it has the responsibility of arranging facilities for the nearly 200,000 Indians who come for Haj every year.

There are nearly three million Indians in Saudi Arabia. Of that number, a good portion is in Makkah Region where Jeddah is the main city.

A number of former diplomats posted in Jeddah have gone on to assume important diplomatic positions for India. Prominent among them are Syed Akbaruddin, who is now India's ambassador to the United Nations, and Dr. Ausaf Sayeed who is India's consul general in Chicago.

Talmiz Ahmad, who served as both consul general in Jeddah and as ambassador in Riyadh and who has now retired, is considered one of the most outstanding Indian authorities on Middle Eastern affairs.



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We miss you Amjad Sabri

Amjad Sabri, who has been shot dead in Karachi aged 45, was one of Pakistan's most famous singers; a master of qawwali, a form of Islamic devotional music, he gained a following throughout South Asia, including Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, and among diaspora communities from the subcontinent.

Qawwali music is derived from Sufism, a mystical branch of Islam which has numerous followers in Pakistan and which is based on a philosophy of tolerance and peace. The early Muslim preachers who came to the Indian subcontinent tended to assimilate with the local culture, and created a more colourful version of Islam, embracing art, music and dance, which contrasts with the puritanical creed of today's Taliban.

Qawwali involves the repetitive and intensely emotional singing of spiritual poetry, usually in praise of Allah, or of Muslim teachers and saints. Songs often convey a relationship between the singer and God that is intensely personal, almost as if they are lovers. The singing is accompanied by a portable harmonium and a tabla, a sort of drum. Performances of qawwali often involve the audience clapping and swaying in time to the music.

Born in Karachi on December 23 1970, Amjad Farid Sabri hailed from a long line of qawwali singers. His father, Ghulam Farid Sabri, and uncle, Maqbool Ahmed Sabri, had risen to prominence in the 1960s and 1970s, when they reworked the traditional style of qawwali and also introduced the genre to the west, becoming the first qawwali singers to tour America. The family traces its musical lineage to the 16th century, claiming to be direct descendants of Mian Tansen, a famous musician at the court of the Mughal emperor Akbar the Great.

The family migrated to Pakistan in 1947, since when it has been based in Karachi.

Amjad Sabri

Amjad Sabri CREDIT: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Amjad Sabri carried on the tradition established by his father and uncle, travelling widely to India, America and Europe, and becoming known as the "rock star" of qawwali due to the contemporary touches he added to the songs. Qawwalis such as Bhar do jholi and Taaajdar-e-Haram, which he performed at shows in India and Pakistan, became popular hits.

In recent years, however, Sufi followers in Pakistan (and further afield in countries such as Bangladesh) have been targeted by the more militant forms of Islam that have gained a foothold. Sufi shrines and gatherings have been bombed, including, in 2010, the shrine of the Sufi saint Abdullah Shah Ghazi in Karachi. The same year an attack by the Taliban on the famous Data Darbar shrine in the eastern city of Lahore left 42 people dead.

Sabri appears to have become a target of the militants in 2014 when the High Court in Islamabad, responding to a petition filed by a group linked to the city's hardline Red Mosque, issued a notice of blasphemy to two private television channels which had played a qawwali, sung by Sabri, that referred to the Prophet Mohammed, during a morning show. Sabri was named in the complaint.

Sabri was travelling by car to a television studio in Karachi when he and a companion were fired upon by two gunmen riding a motorcycle, leaving them critically injured.

The Hakimullah Mehsud faction, a splinter group of the Taliban, has claimed responsibility for the murder, a spokesman for the outfit explaining that it killed Sabri because he was a "blasphemer".

He is survived by his wife and five children.

Amjad Sabri, born December 23 1970, died June 22 2016



Azeem A. Quadeer of Asia Times, Dr Siraj Ahmed and Shaheed Amjad Sabri at a live concert in Chicago



Change of Passport Outsourcing Service Provider in Consulate General of India Houston

The existing India Passport Application Centre in Houston, which is operated by M/s BLS International Services Limited [Address: BLS India Passport, USA, 9800 Northwest Fwy, Suite 602, Houston, TX- 77092; website: <http://www.blsindia-usa.com/>; Email: Houston@blsindia-usa.com; Helpline: +18459990726]

2. Consulate General of India, Houston will accept passport applications through the new India Passport Application Centre (IPAC) in Houston, which will be operated by M/s Cox and Kings Global Services. A service fee of US\$ 19.95 (inclusive of all taxes) per application will be charged at the IPAC in addition to applicable passport fees.

Details of new IPAC in Houston

Address:

India Passport Application Centre
Cox and Kings Global Services
Suite No. 220, 1001 Texas Avenue,

Binz Building, Houston TX 77002

Website: www.passport.in.ckgs.us*

* CKGS website containing contact details including telephone and Email will be operational with effect from Monday, 2 May 2016.

Timings:

Monday to Friday except holidays
Submission of passport applications: 0900 hrs. – 1530 hrs.
Collection of processed passports: 1530 hrs. – 1800 hrs.
Call Centre and Information Desk: 0900 hrs. – 1900 hrs.

3. Transition Arrangements: During the transition of outsourcing services from M/s BLS International Services Limited (BLS) to M/s Cox and Kings Global Services (CKGS), acceptance of passport applications and return of processed passports will be handled as follows:

BLS will not accept any postal application after 22 April 2016 (Friday).

Only postal applications post-marked on or before 22 April 2016 will be accepted by BLS.

BLS will not accept regular walk-in/appointment applications after 29 April 2016 (Friday).

BLS will only accept Tatkal walk-in/appointment applications from 2 May 2016 (Monday) to 6 May 2016 (Friday).

4. Return of processed passports:

Renewed passports for all passport applications accepted by BLS will be returned to applicants by BLS through walk-in collection or through postal dispatch, where the applicant has chosen for postal delivery. For passport applications under processing at the Consulate during the transition period, renewed passports

will be returned to the applicants by Consulate General of India, Houston.

Applicants are advised to check tracking status of their applications on BLS website.

BLS will also inform all those applicants by email whose renewed passports will be returned directly by the Consulate. In such cases, renewed passports will be available for walk-in collection at the Consulate [4300 Scotland Street, Houston, Texas 77007] or will be dispatched by post, where the applicant has chosen for postal delivery.

5. All applicants who have submitted their passport applications to BLS IPAC are advised to check status of their application on the BLS website and make immediate arrangements to pick up their renewed passports from BLS, if they are now available at the BLS IPAC.

6. In order to avoid any inconvenience, applicants who are not in immediate need for renewal of their passports are advised to submit their passport applications to the new IPAC on or after Monday, 9 May 2016. However, applicants may take care that their postal applications do not reach CKGS IPAC before 9 May 2016.

7. For further information / clarification, applicants may send an email to the Consulate General of India, Houston at passportcghouston@swbell.net with subject head "Transition".

Summer Tips - How to keep your home cool and save money

Hot weather has already arrived. In Texas, cooling and heating accounts for as much as 40 percent of annual home energy expenses. Take Care of Texas offers the following easy ways to keep your home cooler, helping you to save money and keep our air clean.

Use a programmable thermostat. Or adjust your thermostat during overnight hours or when no one is home. Try setting it to 78 degrees or warmer in the summer. Setting it to 7-10 degrees higher than you normally would for 8 hours a day can reduce is energy consumption as much as 10 percent.

Maintain your air conditioner. A properly functioning air conditioner is an efficient one. Replace filters every month or two during the cooling season. And that big hunk of metal outside? That's the evaporator coil. It needs plenty of airflow, so clean it once a year. Remove debris and trim foliage too, leaving at least two feet of space around it.

You can also take the burden off your air conditioner by using other methods to keep the heat down in your home:

Use ceiling fans. They circulate the air in the house and allow you to raise the thermostat

setting about 4 degrees without discomfort.

Limit the heat from your appliances. Cook outdoors on the grill, and try not to use the dishwasher, washer, and dryer during the heat of the day.

Move lamps, TVs, and other appliances away from the thermostat. The extra heat they produce can cause the air conditioner to run longer.

Install efficient lighting. It runs cooler. Only about 10 percent of the electricity that incandescent lights consume results in light — the rest is turned into heat.

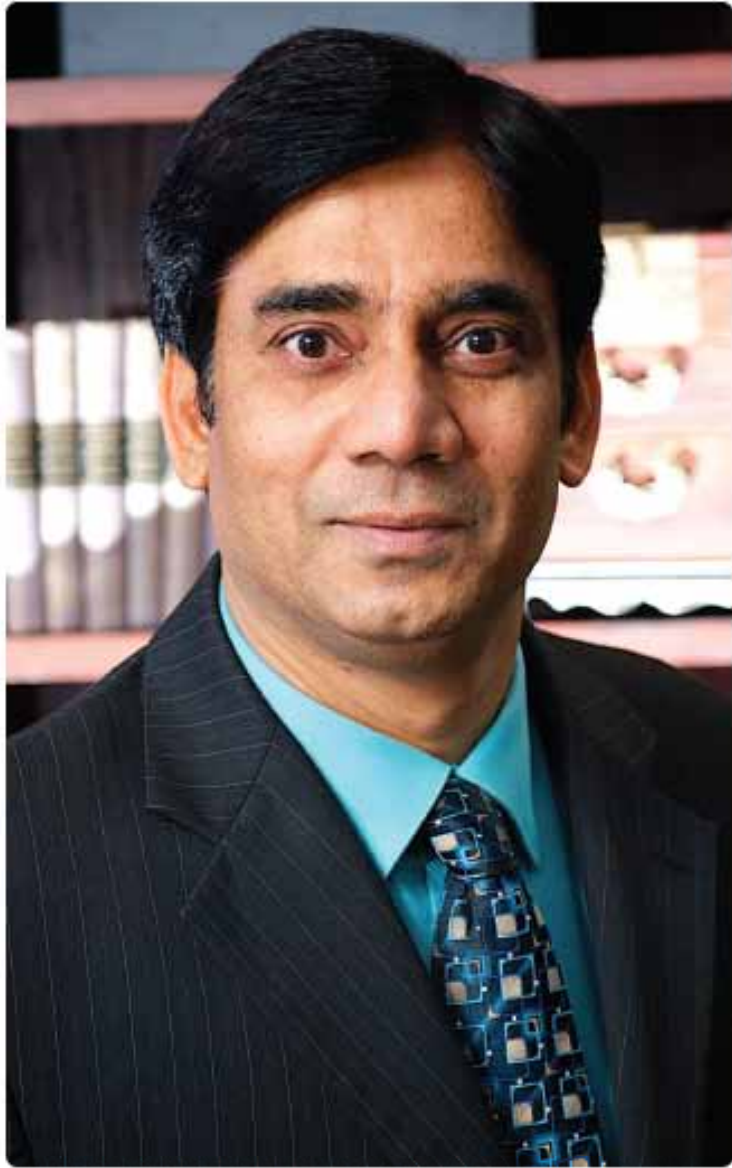
Plant shade trees and install window blinds. With less sunlight shining on your house, the internal temperature can decrease by three to six degrees in the summer and save up to 25 percent in cooling costs. Use energy-efficient window treatments and close them during the



day to block direct sunlight.

Weatherize your home. Find air leaks and seal them with caulk and weather stripping.

Seal your heating and cooling ducts. Leaky ducts can reduce your system's efficiency by as much as 20 percent. Start by sealing ducts that run through the attic, crawlspace, or garage using duct sealant or foil tape. Then wrap the ducts in insulation to keep them from getting hot



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- ICC Kairana (UP): There are 120 students and 6 teachers at ICC Kairana and providing education and intensive coaching for Medical and engineering Entrance Examinations. This Center needs Yearly expenses of \$ 20,000.
- Al-Huda Orphanage Tiruchirappalli (TN): There are 410 orphans residing at this orphanage and 76 students need immediate sponsorship for their education, boarding, food, clothes, books and healthcare. They need total yearly expenses of \$ 31,000 for these 76 students.
- Bricks Field Children School Shibdaspur(WB): There are 125 poor students and 6 teachers providing education under the shadow of trees as there are no rooms available in Bricks Fields, this school needs at least 6 classrooms to be built also need expenses towards salaries, books, uniforms and school furniture. The total budget required is \$30,000.

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Iftekhar Shareef receiving leaders for ATA Conference in Chicago

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Nizamabad MP Kalvakuntla Kavitha, at the Chicago Airport with her mother Mrs Shoba KCR



G.Malikarjun Rao (GMR) of GMR group chairman



Madhu Yashki former Member of Parliament Nizamabad, TS



Honourable Union Minister of India Shri Venkiah Naidu Garu



Governor of State of Illinois Honorable Bruce Rauner at



A P Jitender Reddy member of parliament mahabubnager, TS



Member of Parliament from Malkajgiri constituency, Hyderabad, MR Malla Reddy of Malla Reddy group of colleges.



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Shreejidwar Haveli Celebrates 8th Patotsav Traditional way

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Chicago IL: Memorial Day weekend was memorialized in Addison, IL " Pushti" way. 8th Patotsava(Anniversary) of Vaishnav samaj of Midwest was celebrated in a Grand way with jam-packed faithfuls under the auspicious presence of HDH Shasthpathadishwar Goswami 108 Shree Dwarkeshlalji Maharajshree at the Haveli. 4 day Ashtasakha Festivities were about remembering the contribution of 8 close desciples of the Pushtimarg founder Vallabhacharya-Kumbhandas, Surdas, Krishnadas,Parmanand Dass, and his son Gusaiji-Givinds wami,Chhitsuwami,Chaturbhujdas,Nanddas.

Pustimarg was founded by Shri Vallabhacharya around 1500 AD with two main principles.

1. Monoism: God and Human being are not two different entities-God is in everybody.
 2. Life is not Mithya(Mistake)- It is a gift-live it wisely.
- Some of the important aspects of Pushtimarg is 1. Raag(Playing and Hearing Haveli music), Bhog(offering pure vegetarian saatvik food to Lord Krishna-Shrinathji) and Shringar(Decorating deity of ShriNathji with beautiful clothes and jewelry according to the season).

There were 4 Beautiful manoraths-Darshans 1. Rang Mahal 2. Vivah Khel 3. Pushpa Vitan 4. Ashta Sakha Darbar prepared by tireless volunteers. Exceptional food was provided by Uru-Swati and served by Food committee volunteers.

Sunday May29, 2016 HDH Shasthpathadishwar shree Dwarkeshlalji Maharajshree 50th Birthday was celebrated by temple devotees with wishes to continue guide Vaishnavs for long. There was Garba and an entertainment program of classical Bhajans held during 4 days celebration.



Friday 18th. July 2014 the ground breaking ceremony for Haveli expansion took place in the auspicious presence of Pa. Pu. Go. Shri Dwarkeshlalji Maharajshri (Champanan -Kandivali) with blessing of Jiji -Shri Indira Betiji. Haveli is under major expansion in up-coming months. VSM appeals all to participate and visit Haveli and enjoy beautiful Darshans offered. Visit the web-site at www. Shreejidwar.org and know future festivities and upcoming Vallabhkul

visits.

More than 1,000 devotees from Chicago land and Midwest participated in the event. Youth had become the volunteers and shouldered the responsibilities of Event Planning, Parking, Food, Darshan Management, etc. Devotees praised the excellent management of every activity. Ample parking was facilitated by dedicated volunteers in sunny heat.

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Zakaah on Gold & Silver that is intended for use

The scholars are agreed that Zakaah is obligatory on gold silver & jewellery, if it reaches the nisaab (amount of wealth at which zakaah becomes obligatory), or if the owner possesses enough gold, silver and trade goods to complete the nisaab – because of the general meaning of the Quran & ahaadeeth which states that zakaah is obligatory on gold and silver.

“And those who hoard up gold and silver (Al-Kanz: the money, the Zakaah of which has not been paid) and spend them not in the way of Allaah, announce unto them a painful torment” [al-Tawbah 9:34

Al-Qurtubi said, in his tafseer of this aayah: “Ibn ‘Umar explained the meaning of this in Saheeh al-Bukhaari, when a Bedouin said to him, ‘Tell me about the aayah (interpretation of the meaning), ‘And those who hoard up gold and silver.’” Ibn ‘Umar said: ‘(It means) the one who stockpiles them and does not pay zakaah on them – woe to him. This was before (the order to pay) zakaah on them was revealed, and when it was revealed, Allaah made it a means of purification of wealth.’” (Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 2/111, ta’leeqan; 5/204, also ta’leeqan. Ibn Maajah, 1/569-570, no. 1787. Al-Bayhaqi, 4/82).

Other ahaadeeth also imply this, such as the hadeeth nar-

rated by Abu Dawood, al-Nasaa’i and al-Tirmidhi from ‘Amr ibn Shu’ayb from his father from his grandfather, (who said) that a woman came to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) with her daughter, on whose hands were two heavy bracelets of gold. He said to her, “Do you pay zakaah on these?” She said, “No.” He said, “Would you like Allaah to replace them for you with bracelets of fire on the Day of Resurrection?”

So she took them off and gave them to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and said, “These are for Allaah and His Messenger.” (Narrated by Ahmad, 2/178, 204, 208; Abu Dawood, 2/212, no. 1563; al-Tirmidhi, 3/29-30, no. 637; al-Nasaa’i, 5/38, no. 2479, 2480; al-Daaraqutni, 2/112; Ibn Abi Shaybah, 3/153; Abu ‘Ubayd in al-Amwaaal, p. 537, no. 1260 (Harraas edn.); al-Bayhaqi, 4/140).

It was narrated by Abu Dawood in his Sunan, al-Haakim in al-Mustadrak and al-Daaraqutni and al-Bayhaqi in their Sunans that ‘Aa’ishah (may Allaah be pleased with her) said: “The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) entered upon me and saw on my hands rings of silver. He said, ‘What is this, O ‘Aa’ishah?’ I said, ‘I had them made so that I could adorn myself for you, O Messenger of Allaah.’ He said, ‘Do you pay zakaah

on them?’ I said, ‘No’ or ‘Whatever Allaah wills.’ He said, ‘This would be enough to take you to Hell.’” (Narrated by Abu Dawood, 2/213, no. 1565 – this version was narrated by him; al-Daaraqutni, 2/105, 106; al-Haakim, 1/389-390; al-Bayhaqi, 4/139)

It was narrated that Umm Salamah said: “I used to wear jewellery of gold, and I said, ‘O Messenger of Allaah, is this kanz (money, the Zakaah of which has not been paid, cf. al-Tawbah 9:34)?’ He said, ‘Whatever reaches the amount at which zakaah is obligatory, then pay the zakaah.’” (Narrated by Abu Dawood, 2/212-213, no. 1564; al-Daaraqutni, 2/105; al-Haakim, 1/390; al-Bayhaqi, 4/83, 140).

There is no saheeh hadeeth which excludes jewellery. The ahaadeeth of ‘Abd-Allaah ibn ‘Amr ibn al-‘Aas, ‘Aa’ishah and Umm Salamah quoted above mention this, and these are jayyid ahaadeeth with no valid criticism concerning their isnaads, so we should act upon them.

And Allah knows best.

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Sikh American Community of Chicago holds prayers and interfaith candlelight vigil for Orlando shooting victims

Palatine, IL: In remembrance of the forty nine victims and 53 injured, in one of the worst recent mass shootings in American history, at the Pulse Night Club in Orlando Florida, on June 12, 2016, the Sikh Religious Society in Palatine, Illinois organized a prayer service and candlelight vigil.

Despite a rainy forecast, over 200 attendees gathered, comprising members of the local Sikh community, neighbors, and interfaith groups.

The event started with Kirtan (singing of Sikh hymns) in the congregation hall of the Palatine Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship). One hymn translated for the attendees on projection screen, read, "We are all born with the same divine light, then who is good and who is bad?"

Eight speakers, representing the Sikh, LGBTQ, Muslim, mental health care, and gun violence prevention communities, addressed the standing room only gathering.

Dr. Balwant Singh Hansra welcomed the guests and urged the attendees to donate to known charities or groups supporting the families and friends of the victims.

"This gathering is against hate and violence and for respect to all human life", said Rajinder Singh Mago, who outlined the purpose of the gathering and introduced Gaurav Singh who emceed the program.

Surinder Kaur Nand M.D., a psychiatrist, Nancy Mullen-Executive Director Youth Outlook, Marcus Hamilton a counselor at Youth Outlook, Satnaam Singh Mago a Sikh Youth Outreach volunteer, Azam Nizamuddin interfaith representative from Villa Park mosque, Parminder Singh Mann, a Sikh youth activist, Maria Pike of Every Town Moms against Guns, Mohammad Sarwar Nasir president of Muslim Community Center (MCC) Chicago, shared their perspectives and emphasized cohesiveness and strength in respecting and accepting diversity.

"God dwells in every heart," said Mohammad Sarwar Nasir, while reciting a couplet

in the Punjabi language.

Marcus Hamilton, who works with a local nonprofit, Youth Outlook, that offers counseling to LGBTQ children from 11 to 20 years old, holding back tears, said that as a gay man, he lost a piece of himself after the shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando on June 12.

"It was an attack on Muslims, it was an attack on Sikhs, it was an attack on Christians," Hamilton said. "It was an attack on people of good will everywhere."

The Sikh community has fresh memories of deadly hate and violence. In 2012, a man with connections to white supremacists, shot and killed six worshippers at a Sikh gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, which several speakers referred to during the evening.

There also were several calls to action to the large interfaith crowd who attended the vigil.

"We cannot pray away the violence, the shootings, the injustice and inhumanity. Let's honor their lives through action," said Gaurav Singh, who emceed the program.

"The origins of Sikhism were based on activism against tyranny and hate, and standing up for truth and justice, not only for themselves, but also for others," said Satnaam Singh Mago.

Narrating the story of a school friend Lucio, who was a regular at Pulse club in Orlando until about a month prior to this tragedy, Satnaam Singh Mago said, "We are all connected in sorrow and determination to end racial and hate violence in our communities."

Maria Pike, a Chicago woman representing gun control advocacy group, "Every Town For Gun Sense and Moms Demand Action," said the day her son was killed outside his apartment in Logan Square Chicago in 2012 was the day she became an activist.

"I'm feeling very humbled by your presence because I know that the fact that you



are here means that you care," Maria Pike told the large crowd. "It means that we are one."

Parminder Singh Mann, wanting to bring ownership and action beyond the vigils, asked the gathering, "Are we authentic in feeling the pain? Can we make it our own? Is it another community's [pain]?" He emphasized the Sikh teaching begins with the numeral one, to signify the inherent unity of not just mankind, but all there is.

Standing in solidarity against hatred and violence, a moment of silence was observed to honor the dead.

After the candlelight vigil, which included a reading of the names of the 49 victims by Jasvir Kaur and Jagjinder Singh, everyone sat down on the ground as a sign of support to lawmakers in Washington DC, who staged a sit-in on the House floor on the same day June 22.

Sarwan Singh Raju, thanked all the guests, participants and the organizers.

All the participants of the event were invited to share "langar" the community kitchen vegetarian meal.

Special arrangements were made for the Muslim guests for their prayers (Namaaz) and breaking their Roza (Ramadan fast) with water and dates before partaking "langar" at the Sikh Gurdwara.

"Beautiful is the tapestry of our nation United for the right to life, freedom and the pursuit of happiness. We break bread, share in community the best of humanity and decry the worst by honoring with action. LOVE wins," posted Maria Pike on her Facebook after attending the vigil.

The event was coordinated by Rajinder Singh Mago, Sarwan Singh Raju, Jasvir Kaur Singh, Parminder Singh Mann, Satnaam Singh Mago, Gaurav Singh, and Balwant Singh Hansra for the Sikh Religious Society, Palatine Illinois.

Photos Credit: Kamaljit Singh Virdi

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Punjab Sports Club of Milwaukee, Midwest First International Kabaddi Cup tournament

Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: Punjab Sports Club of Milwaukee held its Midwest First International Kabaddi Cup tournament on Sunday, June 5th 2016 at Gurudwara, 7512 S Howell Ave, Oak Creek, which turned out to be a big festival of fun, food and sports. Despite uncertain whether (extreme windy and cold) in the morning people not only from Chicagoland area but from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Canada, California and Wisconsin came in large numbers to enjoy this sports festival.

Gurudwara celebrates Mela of Sant Baba Prem Singh Ji Murale Wale 66th Barsi Smagam with Kirtan Darbar, Katha, Langar and open stalls and rides for kids. Over 1000 devotees enjoy Mela and watch Midwest First International Kabaddi Cup tournament.

1st match Canada east VS Canada west and Canada west won. 2nd match Royal King USA VS Midwest USA and Royal King USA won. 1 semifinal match Canada west VS Midwest USA and Midwest USA won. 2nd semifinal match Royal King USA VS Canada east and Royal King USA won. Playing for 3rd and 4th place match Canada east VS Canada west Canada west won 3rd place. Canada east got 4th place.

Final match Royal King USA VS Midwest USA. Royal King USA won 1st place and Midwest USA won 2nd place.

1st prize \$12000 sponsor by Sukhwinder Singh Ghagar family, 2nd prize \$10000 Sponsor by Rakesh Rehan owner of cafe India restaurant, 3rd prize \$7500 Sponsor by Daldev Singh Bolla owner of India garden and 4th \$6000 prize Sponsor by Gurudwara Singh Sabha Silvis Illinois.

Special thanks to Sikh temple of Wisconsin committee for their help and Bikramjit Singh Sekhon (president of Sikh temple of Wisconsin) and Jasjit Singh Sidhu.

Organizers members are Navpreet Singh Multani (Navi), Kanwarvir Singh (Kavi), Kulwinder Singh (Mintu) and Sandeep Singh (Sunny)

Executive members are Sukhwinder Singh Ghagar, Jaswinder Singh Jassi, Manjit Singh Owner of Bollywood Grill restaurant, Parmjit Singh Sidhu, Rupinder Arora, Paul Bhatia, Sukhjinder Singh, Mandeep Kler, Rakesh Rehan and Charnjit Bolla.

The sports festival was supported by Cafe India restaurant, India garden restaurant, Bollywood grill restaurant



Caldwell banker commercial Vicky Vasudeva.

Special thanks to Sikh temple of Wisconsin committee for their help and Bikramjit Singh Sekhon (president of Sikh temple of Wisconsin) and Jasjit Singh Sidhu.

There was lot of free food for the spectators who enjoyed Jalebi and Pakoras along with Chana masala, Chole, Pratha, Halwa, Dal Makhani, Lassi, and Tea. India garden

restaurant catered sweet and food. The food was free and there was no entry fee. Women also came to see the festival in large numbers.

The event was successful with the generous donation by event sponsors. The sponsors were recognized and presented plaques.

Photographs and Press release by: Asian Media USA

Mayor Steve Chirico and Mayor Emeritus George Pradel Presented 2016- Lotus Excellence Awards to students of Indian origin

NAPERVILLE, IL June 12th, 2016: Mayor Steve Chirico and Mayor Emeritus George Pradel presented 2016-Lotus Excellence Awards to students of Indian origin. The Lotus Excellence awards are an initiative of the Indian Community Outreach Board-NICO to recognize the achievers in Indian American community. The Mayor Pradel Leadership Award was announced last year at the time of his retirement and is given to a senior with outstanding leadership skills. Mayor Chirico was the chief guest at the event and addressed the students and parents with best wishes. He was happy to see and know that such bright students live in his own city of Naperville. He encouraged youth to take part in extracurricular activities and said that he was so proud of these young bright minds.

Mayor Emeritus, Pradel was the guest of honor and has always been a supporter of NICO Board and their projects. He commended the students for their hard work and encouraged them to keep following their passion and dreams.

Krishna Bansal, Chairman of the NICO welcomed the guest and said: "The primary mission of NICO is to embrace, preserve, and promote the Cultural Heritage and contributions of Indian-Americans while educating them to get involved with the City of Naperville". Krishna Bansal advised students of Indian origin to contrib-

ute to community work in large numbers and become part of this great nation. "The creation of the NICO Board-Lotus Award was inspired by a singular objective to recognize and celebrate achievements of the Indian-American youth and to encourage and inspire the future leaders of our society", he added.

Saily Joshi, a NICO Board Member said the awards were presented to students who excelled in the field of Academics, Sports, Arts (Visual, Film, Music, Dance, Digital Arts, Painting, Photography, Poetry, Drama, Theater etc.), Leadership, and Community Service. The cash award of \$500 was presented to multiple recipients in each award category. Eligible Students came from District 203, District 204, IMSA and home-schooled children. Ms. Joshi went on to mention the importance of recognizing students for all these disciplines and not just academic achievement. "It is important to encourage our next generation to excel in fields that are traditional to our community", she added.

Madhur Limdi, a NICO Board Member said: "In the Indian culture a Lotus flower is associated with many divine beings; you all must have seen the image of Goddess Lakshmi seated on a lotus flower, while showering wealth on her devotees. It is said in our ancient text, the Puranas, that Brahma created the universe while seated on

a lotus flower. The lotus plant grows in muddy water, yet is unaffected by the filth. To us, lotus is an excellent symbolic reminder of achieving superior results despite presence of undesirable elements", Madhur Kimdi added. Narayan Tata, a NICO Board Member said that art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life. A true artist finds his medium and expresses oneself so fluently that other mere mortals are

mesmerized by their creativity and resulting art. Art in its purest form gives the human soul a voice for freedom of expression. The lotus flower is thought to be one of nature's purest symbol of creation. A true student of art is one who has devoted oneself to a medium, allowing room for mistakes, learning from each resulting expression, and continuously seeking to improve in their journey to find the window to their soul.

"Awards of Excellence" were presented to Binita Gupta for her Leadership & overall



achievements. Miss Gupta received the first Mayor Pradel Award for Leadership. Nihal Dantluri and Anvita Hariharan were awarded in the Art's Category, and Murugan Narayanan and Yash Agarwal were awarded in the academic achievement. A large number of people attended the event which included board members, Naperville community leaders, and supporters from the Indian community. Those who are interested in having more information, please visit NICO Board's website- www.napervilleindian.com

Krishna Bansal, Chairman, Naperville Indian Community Outreach Contact no +1 630-300-0345.

Sialkot-Bolingbrook to be sister cities

Lahore - Sialkot and a city of USA Bolingbrook, both business hubs, will become sister cities in June, as formal procedures have been completed, it was learnt on Friday.

Moreover, the Bolingbrook has also identified a street to be named as "Sialkot Street" in reciprocation.

A summary in this regard was forwarded to the Punjab Chief Minister Mian Shehbaz Sharif for final approval of the delegation to be sent to the USA. After the nod of the CM, a delegation will fly to the US to sign the agreement.

The delegation recommended by the Punjab government would comprise representatives of the CM office, DCO Sialkot and president chamber of commerce and

Industry. The signing ceremony has been rescheduled to 28th June 2016 which was earlier 24th June.

Official sources in the Punjab government told this scribe the mission's initiative of connecting Sialkot and Bolingbrook through Sister City Engagement has been well received by all quarters.

The Sialkot Chamber of Commerce, the District Coordinator Officer (DCO) Sialkot has also conveyed their willingness to go ahead with this relationship.

Bolingbrook is the 17th largest incorporated place in Illinois and is a suburb of Chicago.

After concurrence of both of the sides,

the proposed text of the agreement will be prepared and naming of a street in Sialkot as Bolingbrook, in consultation with provincial and district governments.

The Punjab government would formally forward a summary to the Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif and after his approval, the process will be completed.

The Council General of Pakistan Chicago, USA has already made it clear that Bolingbrook, being an industrial city, with a sizable representation of the Pakistani community appears to hold great promise in Sialkot-Bolingbrook partnership. The Sister City agreement could open up new vistas of cooperation.

The President Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sialkot, supporting the proposal

of the DCO Sialkot, has ensured complete support.

He hoped the agreement would help improve business ties and create further synergies for cooperation. Official sources further informed this reporter that Bolingbrook and Sialkot have many areas of convergence in addition to their beaming and talented populations.

Bolingbrook has a population of around 80,000 comprising 25,000 Pakistanis. The Mayor of Bolingbrook is a well revered friend of the Pakistani community.

Ever since his assumption of the Mayor's office, Bolingbrook is regularly holding a flag hoisting ceremony on 14th August for the last 23 years, sources held.

MAB Weekend School Holds Awards Recognition and Graduation Ceremony

Asian Media USA ©

Bolingbrook, IL: The Muslim Association of Bolingbrook (MAB) held its annual Awards Recognition and Graduation Ceremony for the Weekend Sunday School on the field of Masjid Al-Jumu'ah, located at 351 Veterans Pkwy, Bolingbrook, IL.

The ceremony, among other things, was an occasion to remember to legacy of Muslim boxer Muhammad Ali, who passed away recently. Students were encouraged with words of wisdom and reminisced upon his legacy of having a character of excellence and being known for his strong conviction of promoting peace in being a strong and devout follower of Islam.

The ceremony consisted of perfect attendance awards and top 3 class rankings per class. There were a total of 9 students who ended up receiving their graduation diplomas from the program. Perfect attendance awards were given away by the President of the Valley View 365U School District, Steve Quigley. The MAB Weekend School goes from KG through 11th grade. Upon graduation, there is a teacher's mentorship program for students which encourages them to become part of the volunteer teaching staff as they enter college.

The MAB Board President, Anwaarullah Khan, who spoke on the occasion, said: "Dr. Taqi Taher, Chairman of the MAB Weekend School, and Mohammed Ziauddin, school Principal, have done a phenomenal job in helping take the MAB Sunday School to the next level." He lauded the contribution of Dr. Taher in developing a curriculum, which enables the students not only to learn basic tenets of the Islamic faith but also to build good character and thereby become exceptional Muslim-American Citizens. Dr. Taher has been volunteering his services in helping to establish weekend schools throughout the Chicagoland area since the 1980's. He has a PhD in Education from Northern Illinois University and is the curriculum lead for the program.

Upon the distribution of the awards to the students, the President of the Valley View 365U School District, Steve Quigley said: "Perfect attendance is fantastic in everything you do in your lives. You must show up at school and at work as everything that you missed cannot be made up. It is a great honor and prestige to have the perfect attendance award. Thank your parents as you are the ones who drove your children here every day. You are the ones who encourage your children to take part in sports or any extra-curricular activities". He urged the students to be respectful to their parents as they help them to



become a model of excellence. "Do your best in all that you do," he added.

Steve Quigley also paid rich tributes to the initiatives of the MAB Weekend School which not only helps with strengthening the engagement of the community but also demonstrates a model of excellence for students to help foster lifelong friendships and build a solid understanding of what giving back to the community entails.

Steve Quigley appreciated the volunteers of the school for helping with their time, effort, and dedication in building morale and motivation among the students to turn out to be excellent students.

Steve Quigley has been a member of the VVSD Board of Education since 2007, and has served as President since 2009 and is extremely active in the community, volunteering his time as a youth sports coach and participating in many activities with local non-profit organizations.

Dr. Ahmed Shahzad Khan, Professor of Electrical Engi-

neering at the College of Engineering and Information Sciences, DeVry University, who was the keynote speaker, congratulated the students on achieving an important milestone in the pursuit of knowledge. He highlighted that education is one of the best gifts parents can offer to their children and said: "Good education enables members of society to distinguish good from bad, and thus provides them with a moral compass", he added.

The MAB Weekend School has almost 250 students and 70 volunteers. The school runs closely in parallel with the academic school calendar year and will resume after the Labor Day holiday weekend. The school has been operational since the late 1990's, and enrollment has gone up four times the number of students in the past two years. Families are starting to move closer to the Mosque to take advantage of the School and other programs offered under the MAB umbrella.

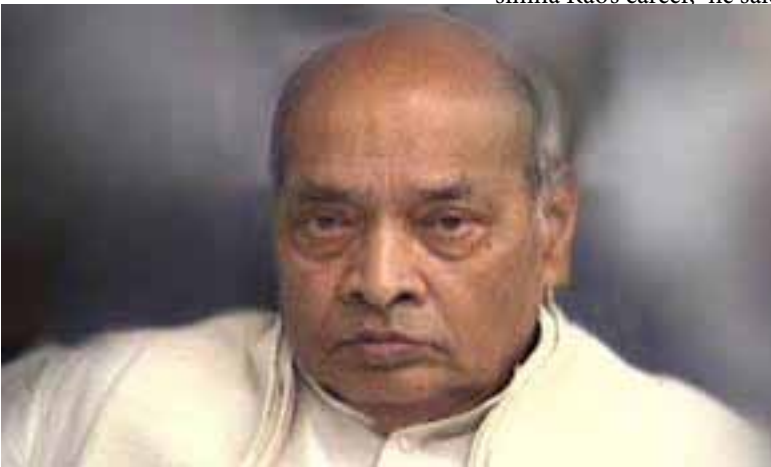
For more information about MAB programs, visit www.bolingbrookmasjid.com or follow them on Face Book.

Narasimha Rao's negative works still extract heavy toll: Ansari

New Delhi: Vice President Hamid Ansari on Monday hailed former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao for initiating basic changes in the economy with his policies of 1991 but also maintained that while his "good" works have lived on and "changed" the country, the "harm" continues to extract a heavy toll.

"The good that Narasimha Rao did to the country lives after him and has changed the very surroundings in which we live and work; the harm too lives on and continues to extract a heavy toll," Ansari said while releasing a new book "Half Lion – How P V Narasimha Rao Transformed India" penned by Vinay Sitapati.

On the demolition of Babri mosque, Ansari cited the book's assessment in which Sitapati says: "Rao wanted to protect the mosque and protect Hindu sentiments and protect himself. He ended up with the mosque destroyed, Hindus un-attracted to the Congress, and his own reputation in tatters."



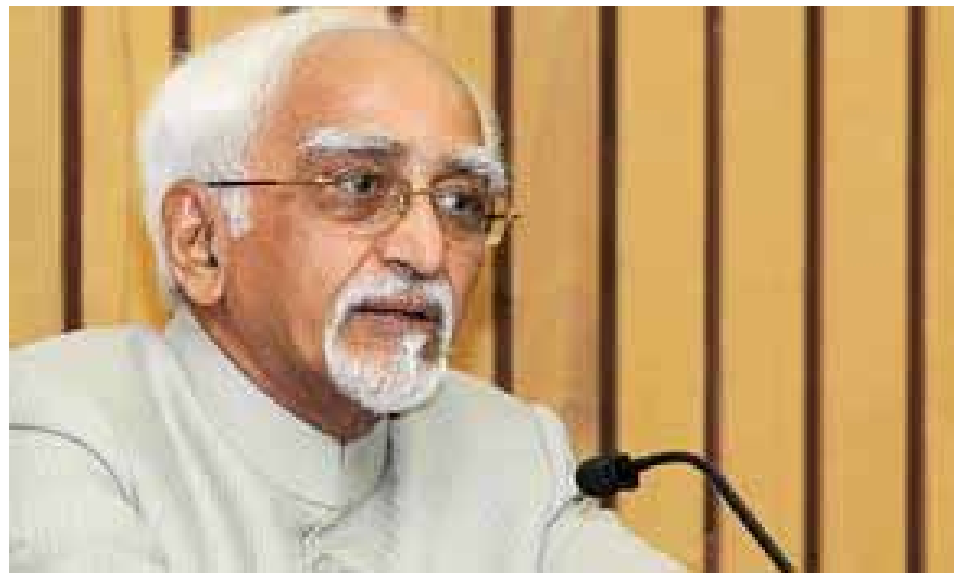
"Two sections of the book would invite commentary. These relate to the management of Parliament and to the demolition of Babri Masjid," Ansari said.

"The first was a nightmare by any standard. The Congress was around 10 seats short of a majority. The opposition was split between a right-wing BJP and a left-wing National Front. The Prime Minister was perceived to be weak; so his focus was on wide ranging consultations with the opposition to ascertain issues and seek a consensus on the parliamentary agenda."

Ansari also referred to the controversy of horse trading that almost stuck to the Rao regime and later precipitated as a major legal wrangle.

"The nemesis came with the trust vote of July 26, 1992. Survival at all cost was the government's objective. Unethical tactics were resorted to; these were eventually also found to be beyond the pale of law. The author's judgement is unequivocal: it was the worst political decision of Narasimha Rao's career," he said in a reference to the alleged JMM MPs bribery scandal.

On Babri demolition, maintaining that there is no question that Rao made the wrong decision, Sitapati had tried to



blame this on the circumstances prevailing then and the unwillingness by Rao to take a decision about imposing President's Rule.

On this Ansari further said the conclusion is unavoidable that the hesitation to act was propelled by political, rather than constitutional considerations.

On economic policies and bringing in economic reforms with Manmohan Singh as the Union Finance Minister, Ansari however said: "The crisis of 1991 was the catalyst. To him (Rao) goes the credit for grasping the opportunity, for making commendable judgements on selection of personnel, and for manoeuvring the changes very deftly through the shoals and rapids of a divided polity."

There was a panel discussion that followed the book release which was addressed by former Union minister Natwar Singh,

senior journalist Shekhar Gupta, foreign policy analyst C Raja Mohan and political scientist Pratap Bhanu Mehta.

In his remarks, senior Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar attributed Rao's "pro-Hindu mindset" encouraged the destruction of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya while Natwar Singh described the Babri Masjid demolition on December 6, 1992, as "the biggest failure" of Rao.

Aiyar, in his brief intervention also said: "We tried to persuade the Prime Minister to wake up to the danger" but added that Rao declined to do so.

"Rao was completely convinced that by talking to the sadhus and saints he could solve the problem," he said.

—IANS

Syrian refugee praised after handing in €50,000 he found hidden in donated wardrobe

A Syrian refugee has been hailed a "hero" in Germany after he handed €50,000 (£41,000) cash he found hidden in a wardrobe over to the authorities.

The 25-year-old, named by German tabloid Bild as Muhannad M, found the money in a wardrobe he was given by a charity after being granted asylum in Germany.

But instead of pocketing the cash, which could have transformed his life, he handed it in to the authorities in Minden near Hannover, the small town where he has been staying after fleeing from the war-torn Syrian city of Homs last year.

As well as €50,000 in cash, Muhannad also found savings accounts books worth more than €100,000

As well as €50,000 in cash, Muhannad also found savings accounts books worth more than €100,000

"For the police and the town he is the hero of the day," the local police said in a statement.

"This young man has behaved in an exem-

plary fashion and deserves major credit," a police spokesman said.

"It's quite often the case that someone finds a smaller amount of cash and hands it in to the police. But for it to happen with such a large sum is absolutely exceptional."

Muhannad found the money between two shelves as he was reassembling the wardrobe, which he was given by a charity to help furnish the flat where he is staying.

The cash was in €500 (£410) notes, the highest Euro denomination, which the European Central Bank is planning to phase out over fears it is mainly used by organised crime.

Muhannad said he had never seen such high-value notes before, and checked on the internet to see if the money was real.

Allah would never allow it, to finance your own interests with someone else's property Syrian refugee Muhannad M He told Bild the money would have enabled him to bring his two younger brothers to Germany if he had kept it.



"But Allah would never allow it, to finance your own interests with someone else's property," he said.

When he discovered it was real, he handed it in at the town's office for foreigners, where staff passed it on to the police.

Investigations are now underway to find the money's rightful owner. Under German law, Muhannad is entitled to a

finder's reward of 3 per cent of the total sum, or €4,500 if the savings books are included.

Despite its advanced economy, Germany remains one of the most cash-dependent countries in the world. Most Germans still pay for most purchases in cash, and there is nothing unusual about people carrying large sums.

CAIR Calls for Unity Against SIS

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, today called for unity against ISIS following a series of deadly attacks apparently carried out or inspired by that terror group in Turkey, Iraq, Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia.

In a statement, CAIR National Executive Director Nihad Awad said:

"We no longer need to make the argument that ISIS is acting outside the bounds of Islam. They have clearly demonstrated that fact by their actions. Over the past two years, these mass murderers have repeatedly attacked innocent people without regard to the principles or norms of any belief system. These attacks culminated in yesterday's bombing outside the Prophet's Mosque in the holy city of Medina.

"We call on world and regional powers to put aside their differences to defeat these extremists, to remove the brutal Assad dictatorship in Syria and to work to establish

regional stability, without which a defeated ISIS will be replaced by another extremist group feeding off the death and destruction we witness daily."

Awad recommended the use of the hashtag StopCallingISISIslamic for other individuals and groups to offer similar statements against the ISIS terror group.

CAIR recently expressed solidarity with the people of Turkey following a terror attack in Istanbul that left more than 45 people dead and many more injured. American Muslim organizations have consistently and repeatedly condemned terrorism in all its forms.

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.



ISNA Welcomes Back Dr. Tariq Ramadan



ISNA is excited to welcome back Dr. Tariq Ramadan to our annual ISNA Convention. Dr. Ramadan is an important voice in the global Muslim community and his contributions and scholarship are well known far and wide.

As many of you know, Dr. Ramadan sent an open letter to the ISNA leadership a few years ago, posing some very important questions to the ISNA leadership and Muslim community. Since then, ISNA leadership has reached out to Dr. Ramadan and fruitful discussions have taken place. These discussions raise important topics about our course moving forward. We feel that the best place to discuss these important topics is at a platform like the ISNA Convention with the community at large and leading Muslim thought leaders.

We look forward to having him and all of you join us at this year's ISNA Convention, and pray that we have beneficial discussions and sessions that will help steer us to the best course for our American Muslim com-

munity.
Register

Message from CAIR

You might remember former presidential candidate Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas). He was the one who called for America to "patrol and secure Muslim neighborhoods." He wants CAIR to stop challenging his un-American proposals.

When he declined to meet with his Muslim constituents in April, we called him out.

Misusing his power as a Senate committee chairperson this week, he held a hearing that was in many ways a CAIR-bashing session, perhaps as payback for our strong voice. At the hearing, Islam and American Muslims were put on trial.

CAIR is not going to be silenced.

When we recently shed light on the U.S. Islamophobia Network and its impact with our ground-breaking new report "Confronting Fear,"

anti-Islam groups attacked CAIR because they want us to cringe and be quiet.

Rather than becoming intimidated, we hired another staff person for our department to monitor and combat Islamophobia to further increase our capacity and effectiveness during this election year.

We are standing up and being vocal. Now is the time for you to stand and continue to stand for values, equality, and justice for all with pride.

CAIR is America's largest Muslim civil liberties and advocacy organization. Its mission is to enhance the understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims, and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

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NAVIGATING CHALLENGES,
SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES

Muslims Are Not Terrorists: A Factual Look at Terrorism and Islam - Omar Alnatour

Every time an act of terror or shooting occurs, Muslims closely watch the news with extreme trepidation praying that the suspect is not Muslim. This is not because these terrorists are likely to be Muslim but rather because in the instances where they happen to be, we see amplified mass media coverage and extreme unjustified hatred towards Muslims.

As a Muslim, I am tired of condemning terrorist attacks being carried out by inherently violent people who hijack my religion. I am tired of condemning these attacks to people who are calm and apathetic when Muslims are killed by these same radicalized terrorists.

I am tired of hearing the word "terrorist" not being used when the suspect in a terrorist attack is a non-Muslim. I am tired of the "mentally disabled" excuse being recycled when the suspect in a terrorist attack is a Caucasian. I am tired of seeing hundreds of terrorist attacks carried out by non-Muslims not get the same coverage of even a single terrorist attack where the suspect happens to be Muslim.

Above it all, I am tired of having to repeatedly say that Muslims are not terrorists. It is time we silence this Islamophobia with facts. My next five points will prove once and for all that Muslims are not terrorists:

1. Non-Muslims make up the majority of terrorists in the United States: Accord-

ing to the FBI, 94% of terrorist attacks carried out in the United States from 1980 to 2005 have been by non-Muslims. This means that an American terrorist suspect is over nine times more likely to be a non-Muslim than a Muslim. According to this same report, there were more Jewish acts of terrorism in the United States than Islamic, yet when was the last time we heard about the threat of Jewish terrorism in the media? For the same exact reasons that we cannot blame the entire religion of Judaism or Christianity for the violent actions of those carrying out crimes under the names of these religions, we have absolutely no justifiable grounds to blame Muslims for terrorism.

2. Non-Muslims make up the majority of terrorists in Europe: There have been over one thousand terrorist attacks in Europe in the past five years. Take a guess at what percent of those terrorists were Muslim. Wrong, now guess again. It's less than 2%.

3. Even if all terrorist attacks were carried out by Muslims, you still could not associate terrorism with Islam: There have been 140,000 terror attacks committed worldwide since 1970. Even if Muslims carried out all of these attacks (which is an absurd assumption given the fact mentioned in my first point), those terrorists would represent less than 0.00009 percent of all Muslims. To put things into perspective, this means that you are more likely to be struck by lightning in your lifetime than

a Muslim is likely to commit a terrorist attack during that same timespan.

4. If all Muslims are terrorists, then all Muslims are peacemakers: The same statistical assumptions being used to falsely portray Muslims as violent people can be used more accurately to portray Muslims as peaceful people. If all Muslims are terrorists because a single digit percentage of terrorists happen to be Muslim, then all Muslims are peacemakers because 5 out of the past 12 Nobel Peace Prize winners (42 percent) have been Muslims.

5. If you are scared of Muslims then you should also be scared of household furniture and toddlers: A study carried out by the University of North Carolina showed that less than 0.0002% of Americans killed since 9/11 were killed by Muslims. (Ironically, this study was done in Chapel Hill: the same place where a Caucasian non-Muslim killed three innocent Muslims as the mainstream media brushed this terrorist attack off as a parking dispute). Based on these numbers, and those of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the average American is more likely to be crushed to death by their couch or television than they are to be killed by a Muslim. As a matter of fact, Americans were more likely to be killed by a toddler in 2013 than they were by a so-called "Muslim terrorist".

When a drunk driver causes a car acci-

dent, we never blame the car manufacturer for the violent actions of that driver. This is because we understand that we cannot blame an entire car company that produces millions of safe vehicles just because one of their cars was hijacked by a reckless person who used it to cause harm. So what right do we have to blame an entire religion of over 1.6 Billion peaceful people because of the actions of a relatively insignificant few?

I will not deny that terrorism is a real threat, it definitely is. However, it is extremely incorrect to associate the words "Muslim" and "terrorist" when literally all the facts implore you to do otherwise. The only way that we as Americans can defeat terrorism at home and across the world is by accurately targeting its root causes. There have been 355 mass shootings in the United States this year and falsely blaming Muslims for the San Bernardino shooting will do absolutely nothing to address this serious problem. It is time that we begin addressing terrorism on an educated and factual level.

As an American Muslim, I plead you all to deeply consider the facts mentioned here the next time you see a news headline about Muslims and terrorism. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that". We cannot allow the disparity in media coverage to blind us from the facts and turn us into hateful people, we are smarter than that.

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Muhammed Ali constantly indulge in Zikr (praise of Allah)”; memoirs of a Hyderabad doctor

Hyderabad: US-based Hyderabad psychiatrist Dr.Khutbuddin shares his invaluable memorabilia of over 30 years of association with Muhammed Ali – from Ali's life outside the ring to his distinct psyche and magnetising charisma. Here's what made him more idiosyncratic and people's champ.

Inside the ring, Muhammed Ali was nothing less than an aggressive boxing fashionista – relentless and unforgiving, wreaking havoc on his opponents. The ooze of his determination and will made his opposition weak in the knees, whilst a brash yet poetic alter persona elevated his idiosyncratic charm. Outside the ring, he was a completely different person entailing a larger-than-life charisma, and was extraordinarily humane with the rare ability to instantly amaze anyone in his first meet.

“He was spiritual at the core, and made intense efforts to



exercise his religious duty. It is no secret that he embraced Islam at the peak of his career, but a lesser known fact is that Muhammed Ali would constantly indulge in Zikr (praise of Allah)”, recalls renowned US-based NRI Hyderabad psychiatrist Dr.Khutbuddin, who savoured over 3 decades of association with Muhammed Ali.

Dr Khutbuddin and Muhammed Ali.

Dr Khutbuddin and Muhammed Ali.

Speaking for an exclusive interview a day after attending Muhammed Ali's grand funeral in Louisville in Kentucky, Dr.Khutbuddin says “I still remember our first meeting in 1982 at a fundraising event during an Islamic Conference in Chicago. He was overwhelming soft-spoken and

listened very attentively. He gave everyone who met him equal time and great respect – the likes of which were unexpected from a celebrated sportsman of his stature.

“He instantly made people around him comfortable like it was one of his natural flairs. It made him people's man.”

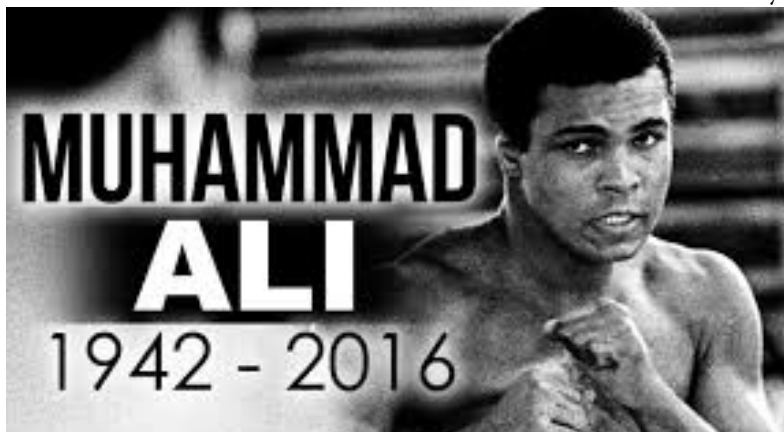
Since then, informal meetings and discussions on philanthropy, one of Ali's favorite interests, happened at Dr.Khutbuddin's place. “Ali would visit our home on most Thursdays and Fridays post afternoon prayers, and spend quality time at the dinner table, savoring home-made Indian food.”

“He loved Indian food. In fact, whatever food was left over after meal, he would say to my wife “Sister, I want to take this home. I don't want it to go waste.”

He was very compassionate, and deeply moved by the struggle to his uprising. “At one time, my son and I had a chance to knock a punch at Ali in his practice ring at home. He gave us a dozen autographed photos for memories. He was at the peak of his career.”

Dr Khutbuddin's son Mairaj and Muhammed Ali.

Dr Khutbuddin's son Mairaj and Muhammed Ali.



Despite the global fame that entailed his success as three time world heavy, and coveted status of his sportsmanship, Muhammed Ali was a ‘man of people’. He never let anyone around him feel inferior or subjacent.”

Decoding Ali's psyche, Dr.Khutbuddin says “although sports was his passion for life, his life's mission was different. He was a champion of humanity and an exemplary gentleman. He put his faith in Islam above everything. He



would visit nearby mosques (Islamic Centres, as they are called) to offer prayers and even distributed Daawah religious counselling brochures himself on several occasions.”

“Ali also loved Itar (Arabic perfume) and cherished a fragrance every time I brought him a bottle of it from my visit to Saudi Arabia.”

But what made Ali the legend we know today is his fervent drive for equality among people. While it seemed one of his most celebrated innate qualities, the attitude was likely cultivated by the discrimination Ali faced in his early years.

“Muhammed Ali didn't want others to go through the same. Perhaps, that's why when he was among people, he wanted everyone to feel they were equal to him, and nothing less.”

The rumble of his life didn't shake him, nor did the Parkinson's disease cease his courage. Dr.Khutbuddin exclaims “Muhammed Ali was an exceptionally strong man. Despite the strong influence of Parkinson's disease, his psyche was unmoved. His thoughts were

always clear and he had a strong mind.”

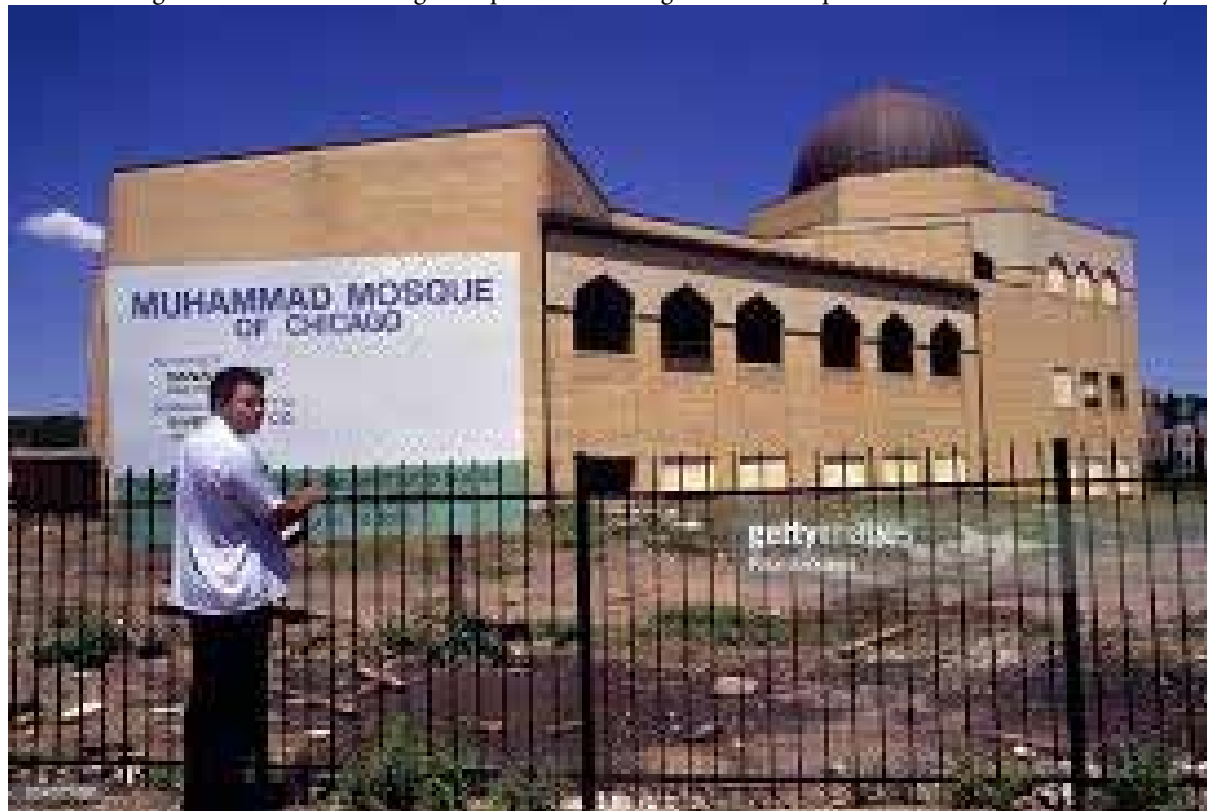
What ennobled his distinguished personality was his readiness to participate in charity and fund-raising events. “He would always be proactive. He was always ready for it”, he adds.

“While Ali has passed away, his memories never will. They are too many to cherish and too valuable to be forgotten. Our families have shared so much together”, he avers.

One for instance, “during one of our [philanthropic] discussions at dining table, his daughter Hana Ali was so inspired that she said “I want to work to help people. Several years on, today she is actually working with a social welfare organization in New York. I am very happy to see that”, he adds.

The memories run deep, and his life is a lesson for many for how a child from nowhere turned the world upside down with his determination, courage, humility and an eternal fire to ameliorate the stereotypes in the society.

Muhammed Ali had planned his own funeral meticulously. From former US President Bill Clinton to actor Billy Crystal, boxing champs Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis, footballer David Beckham, Hollywood stars Will Smith, George Foreman, actor and former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, eldest daughter of Malcolm X Atallah Shahbaz, actor and musician Common, Singer Reba McEntire, former musician Cat Stevens now known as Yusuf Islam, several Islamic scholars, heads of interfaith religious organizations, many other A-list celebrities and tens of thousands of people attended his funeral. Ali died on 3rd June 2016. He was 74.



Vehicle Recall

Your vehicle MAY be involved in a safety recall and MAY create a safety risk for you or your passengers. If left unrepaired, a potential safety defect could lead to injury or even death. Safety defects must be repaired by a dealer at no cost to you.

The following may apply to one or more of your vehicles if your vehicle is listed below. Click on the NHTSA Campaign ID number below to read more about the safety issue and the reason for the recall.

To find out if your specific vehicle is included in the recall, use our VIN Look-up Tool.

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V305
 Manufacturer : Jayco, Inc.
 Make / Model Years : JAYCO / 2017
 Subject : Incorrect Weight on Tire Labels/FMVSS 110

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V306
 Manufacturer : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
 Make / Model Years : MERCEDES BENZ / 2016
 Subject : Rear Tie Rod Lock Nuts may Loosen

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V308
 Manufacturer : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
 Make / Model Years : MERCEDES-BENZ / 2016
 Subject : Loss of Torque due to Driveshaft Bond Failure

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V316
 Manufacturer : Autocar, LLC
 Make / Model Years : AUTOCAR / 2016-2017
 Subject : Wheel Separation from Rear Axle

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V318
 Manufacturer : Heartland Recreational Vehicles, LLC
 Make / Model Years : HEARTLAND / 2016-2017
 Subject : Trailer Safety Chains may Fail

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V319
 Manufacturer : Autocar Industries, LLC
 Make / Model Years : AUTOCAR / 2016-2017
 Subject : Wheel Separation from Rear Axle

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V322
 Manufacturer : Keystone RV Company
 Make / Model Years : KEYSTONE / 2016-2017
 Subject : Incorrect Load Range Tires Installed

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V328
 Manufacturer : Ameritrans Bus, Inc.
 Make / Model Years : AMERITRANS / 2012-2016
 Subject : Incorrect GVWR on Certification Label/Part 567

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V331
 Manufacturer : National Van Builders, Inc.
 Make / Model Years : FORD / 2015
 Subject : Wheel Chair Lift Platform Cracking/Big Pivot Holes

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V332
 Manufacturer : Heartland Recreational Vehicles, LLC
 Make / Model Years : HEARTLAND / 2017
 Subject : Incorrect Tire Information on Placard/Part 567

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V335
 Manufacturer : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
 Make / Model Years : MERCEDES BENZ / 2016
 Subject : Clutch Disk Weld May Crack

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V336
 Manufacturer : Forest River, Inc.

Make / Model Years : FOREST RIVER / 2016-2017
 Subject : Shower Door Flammability/FMVSS 302

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V337
 Manufacturer : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
 Make / Model Years : VOLKSWAGEN / 2016
 Subject : Vehicle Weight Information Understated/Part 567

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V338
 Manufacturer : Stoughton Trailers, LLC
 Make / Model Years : STOUGHTON / 2015-2017
 Subject : Improperly Machined Trailer Spring Brake Valve

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V342
 Manufacturer : Daimler Vans USA, LLC
 Make / Model Years : MERCEDES-BENZ / 2016
 Subject : Improper Rear Differential Gear Weld

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V350
 Manufacturer : New England Wheels
 Make / Model Years : FORD / 2006-2015
 Subject : Wheelchair Lift/Platform Cracking/Pivot Arm Holes

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V353
 Manufacturer : Rosenbauer Motors
 Make / Model Years : ROSENBAUER / 2012-2016
 Subject : Seats may Detach from Base in a Crash/FMVSS 207

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V357
 Manufacturer : MANAC Trailers USA, Inc.
 Make / Model Years : MANAC / 2014-2015
 Subject : Coupling Plate may Detach from Trailer

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V360
 Manufacturer : Forest River, Inc.
 Make / Model Years : FOREST RIVER / 2016
 Subject : Incorrect Load Range Tires Installed/FMVSS 110

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V362
 Manufacturer : PACCAR Incorporated
 Make / Model Years : KENWORTH / 2016
 Subject : Unexpected Loss of Headlights/FMVSS 108

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V365
 Manufacturer : Transportation Collaborative, Inc.
 Make / Model Years : TRANS TECH BUS / 2014-2016
 Subject : Wheel Chair Lift Platform Cracking/Big Pivot Holes

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V368
 Manufacturer : Dejana Truck & Utility Equipment Co, Inc
 Make / Model Years : DEJANA / 2013-2016
 Subject : Valve Bank Cover May Crack and Detach

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V369
 Manufacturer : Supreme Corporation
 Make / Model Years : STARTRANS / 2008-2014
 Subject : Wheel Chair Lift Platform Cracking/Big Pivot Holes

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V370
 Manufacturer : Ducati North America
 Make / Model Years : DUCATI / 2016

Subject : Rear Wheel may have been Installed Incorrectly

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V371
 Manufacturer : Terex Advance
 Make / Model Years : TEREX ADVANCE / 2015-2016
 Subject : Driveshaft may Disconnect

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V375
 Manufacturer : Coach and Equipment Mfg Corp.
 Make / Model Years : COACH AND EQUIPMENT / 2014-2015
 Subject : Wheel Chair Lift Platform Cracking/Big Pivot Holes

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V398
 Manufacturer : Ameritrans Bus, Inc.
 Make / Model Years : AMERITRANS / 2015-2016
 Subject : Wheel Chair Lift Platform Cracking/Big Pivot Holes

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V405
 Manufacturer : Blue Bird Body Company
 Make / Model Years : BLUE BIRD / 2015-2017
 Subject : Wheel Chair Lift Platform Cracking/Big Pivot Holes

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V424
 Manufacturer : Maserati North America, Inc.
 Make / Model Years : MASERATI / 2014
 Subject : Driver may Exit Vehicle when it is not in PARK

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V430
 Manufacturer : Nissan North America, Inc.
 Make / Model Years : INFINITI / 2014-2016
 Subject : Software May Reduce Steering Ability

NHTSA Campaign ID Number : 16V437
 Manufacturer : Thor Motor Coach
 Make / Model Years : THOR MOTOR COACH / 2014-2016
 Subject : Trailer Brakes may Stay Activated

What is a recall?

When a manufacturer or the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) determines that a car or item of motor vehicle equipment creates an unreasonable risk to safety or fails to meet minimum safety standards, the manufacturer is required to fix that car or equipment at no cost to the consumer. That can be done by repairing it, replacing it, offering a refund (for equipment) or, in rare cases, repurchasing the car.

What should I do if my vehicle is included in this recall? If your vehicle is included in this recall, it is very important that you get it fixed as soon as possible given the potential danger to you and your passengers if it is not addressed. You should receive a separate letter in the mail from the vehicle manufacturer, notifying you of the recall and explaining when the remedy will be available, whom to contact to repair your vehicle or equipment, and to remind you that the repair will be done at no charge to you. If you believe your vehicle is included in the recall, but you do not receive a letter in the mail from the vehicle manufacturer, please call NHTSA's Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236, or contact your vehicle manufacturer or dealership.

Thank you for your attention to this important safety matter and for your commitment to helping save lives on America's roadways.

Nigerian militants insist on foreign mediators for talks with government

LAGOS (Reuters) - The Niger Delta Avengers, a militant group that has carried out attacks on oil facilities in Nigeria's southern oil region, said on Monday it would only negotiate with the government if independent foreign mediators were involved.

Last week the group, which wants a greater share of Nigeria's oil wealth to go to the impoverished Niger Delta region, rejected an offer from the government to hold talks.

Attacks in the southern swampland have pushed oil production to a 20-year low in what was until recently Africa's biggest oil producing nation. Its production has fallen behind Angola in the last few weeks.

In a statement on its website, the Avengers said they wanted multinational oil companies operating in the country to "commit independent mediators to this proposed dialogue" to "bring about a lasting peace".

"If need be we may review our earlier stance of not taking lives," the statement said.

On Sunday, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, one of the region's largest militant groups until it signed up for a government amnesty in 2009, urged the Avengers to take part in negotiations. [nL8N1940RK]

(Reporting by Ulf Laessing and Alexis Akwagyiram; Editing by Louise Ireland)

Israeli leader spent \$1,600 on hairdresser on New York trip



JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spent more than \$600,000 of public funds on a six-day trip to New York, including \$1,600 on a personal hairdresser, according to a newly released expense report.

The trip to the U.N. General Assembly last fall also included \$210 in laundry services, \$1,862 in meals and nearly \$20,000 to move and store furniture.

Attorney Shachar Ben Meir obtained the expense report after suing Netanyahu's office and the Foreign Ministry. He said that he requested the information in late October from Netanyahu's office and was then referred to the ministry. After he was told to wait for three months, he sued both offices in a Jerusalem court.

"It's my money and I want to know what is being done with it," he said.

The report, which he shared with The Associated Press on Thursday, threatened to reinforce the unflattering reputation Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, have gained for enjoying an expensive lifestyle out of touch with common Israelis.

It did not include charges for Sara Netanyahu on the trip. Police already have recommended that she be indicted for inflated household spending and misusing state funds on private meals and care for her ailing father.

Last month, a Jerusalem labor court awarded \$30,000 in damages to a former employee of Mrs. Netanyahu who claimed he faced yelling and unreasonable demands.

In 2013, the premier was chided for spending \$127,000 in public funds for a special sleeping cabin on a flight to London. He also ran up a \$2,700 bill that year for ice cream, mostly vanilla and pistachio.

The court documents note that the trip also incurred a charge of \$1.5 million for a flight, although it did not specify whether the flight was for the Netanyahus only or for staff as well.

Netanyahu's spokesman declined comment.

London's Mayor Bans Body-Shaming Ads on Public Transport

London Mayor Sadiq Khan announced his plan on Monday to ban body-shaming ads on the city's transportation network starting next month.

Khan, who was elected in May, said the ads targeted in the ban promote "unrealistic expectations" surrounding women's bodies. "As the father of two teenage girls, I am extremely concerned about this kind of advertising which can demean people, particularly women, and make them ashamed of their bodies," he said in a statement. "It is high time it came to an end."

The mayor of the United Kingdom's capital also said he is working with transportation authority Transport for London (TfL) to establish a group to monitor and enforce the new rules.

"Advertising on our network is unlike TV, online and print media. Our customers



cannot simply switch off or turn a page if an advertisement offends or upsets them and we have a duty to ensure the copy we carry reflects that unique environment," TfL Commercial Development Director Graeme Craig said in a statement.

Khan had promised to take action on body-shaming ads during his campaign after a specific "Beach body ready" campaign last April led to protests and an online petition with more than 70,000 signatures, The Guardian reports.

Israeli Rabbi calls for Poisoning of Palestinian Water Supply



Tel Aviv: Palestinians have grown used to Israelis stealing from their water sources then selling it back to them. Recently, Israeli authorities cut off water supplies from the northern cities of the West Bank during the hottest days of the month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast from sunrise till sunset."

A Jewish Rabbi, who called on Israeli settlers to poison water used by Palestinians in hundreds of towns and villages across the occupied West Bank, was demanded to be arrested by the foreign ministry of the Palestinian Authority (PA) on Sunday.

The Palestinian National Office for the Defense of land and resistance of settlements warned of the dangers and consequences of such calls. In its weekly report, it explained that Rabbi Shlomo Mlmad, the chairman of Coun-

cil of Rabbis in West Bank settlements, called on settlers to poison Palestinians through their water supply, which came to light by the Israeli organization 'Breaking the Silence'.

Group member Yehuda Shaul said, according to WAFAN, that the aim behind poisoning water in the West Bank is to push Palestinians out of their towns and cities in order to allow settlers to take over Palestinian lands.

"Palestinians have grown used to Israelis stealing from their water sources then selling it back to them. Recently, Israeli authorities cut off water supplies from the northern cities of the West Bank during the hottest days of the month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast from sunrise till sunset" said the ministry of foreign affairs in a press release.

Narendra Modi: Stop Racist Attacks on Africans in India!

Ten of the most respected and influential South Asian and African organisations from the UK, some with branches in Europe and internationally, have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging action over the rising tide of attacks on Africans in India.

The letter details the killing of Masonda Kitanda Oliver, the attack on Nigerian priest Kenneth Igbinosa as he returned home with his wife and four-month-old son and a number of other recent attacks, as well as the responses from BJP cabinet ministers and politicians which it says have 'trivialised [the attacks] and denied or deflected their racist nature, or even implicitly justified them'.

It goes on to say 'We in Britain are horrified and dismayed at these recent developments. Not only do Indians and other South Asians living in Britain face racism and racist violence, but there is a long history of people of African and South Asian origin working together in solidarity to

confront and challenge British racism' and urges PM Modi to ensure that '(1) immediate action is taken to bring those responsible for the recent racist attacks - including those politicians indulging in racist hate-speech like Dilip Parulekar - to justice, (2) that the survivors and the families of the victims are provided with all possible support and assistance by your government and (3) and that the government of India takes immediate steps for the development and systematic implementation of policies which aim to confront and eradicate racism in India at all levels as a matter of the utmost urgency'

The full text of the letter is as follows:

Dear Prime Minister Modi

We the undersigned strongly condemn the horrific killing of Masonda Kitanda Oliver and the spate of violent attacks on African nationals living in India. Our deepest sympathies and solidarity are with the families of the victims. In the last two years, there has been an enormous rise in

racist violence against Africans in India. Racial prejudice against Africans has, of course, been endemic in Indian society for many years - linked to historically embedded supremacist ideologies of both caste and colonialism. However, with the rise of your party to power and the total impunity given by the BJP government to Hindu supremacist gangs to harass, abuse and kill Muslims, Christians and Dalits, as well as those who racially attack people from the North-East of India, racism against Africans has also escalated.

Africans face a constant barrage of racism. Everyday experiences include being taunted on the street with overt racist slurs, denied accommodation by landlords and being stereotyped as drug-dealers, if they are men and sex-workers if they are women. In addition, there have been brutal attacks and murders and sexual violence. In February this year in a vicious attack in Bangalore, a mob assaulted a Tanzanian student, partially stripped her, and set her car on fire.

We would like particularly to highlight the events of the last month in Delhi. On May 20, 24 year-old Congolese teacher Masunda Kitanda Oliver, was bludgeoned to death. This was followed within days by a brutal attack on Nigerian priest Kenneth Igbinosa as he returned home with his wife and four-month-old son, and attacks on four separate groups of Africans also in the capital.

Far from condemning these attacks and murders, members of your government and party have trivialised them, denied or deflected their racist nature, or even implicitly justified them. For example V.K. Singh, Minister for External Affairs in your government, claimed that the press were "blowing up [a] minor scuffle as [an] attack", your foreign minister,

Sushma Swaraj, declared that the attacks were "criminal acts", but were "not racial" and tourism and culture minister Mahesh Sharma commented that 'Africa is unsafe too'. The attempt of the government to re-frame these attacks as criminal acts rather than racially motivated hate crimes allows the Indian Government to try to safeguard its economic interests in Africa whilst denying the racist ideology deeply embedded in your own party and administration, clearly demonstrated when the Tourism minister in Goa (a state ruled by your party), Dilip Parulekar, commented with overt racism that Nigerians make trouble in India and ought to be deported.

We support the decision of the African diplomatic community to boycott the Africa Day celebrations over the killings and Eritrean ambassador Alem Tsehage Woldemarian's demand that the 'problem of racism and Afro-phobia in India' be addressed by the Indian Government. We in Britain are horrified and dismayed at these recent developments. Not only do Indians and other South Asians living in Britain face racism and racist violence, but there is a long history of people of African and South Asian origin working together in solidarity to confront and challenge British racism. We demand (1) that you ensure that immediate action is taken to bring those responsible for the recent racist attacks - including those politicians indulging in racist hate-speech like Dilip Parulekar - to justice, (2) that the survivors and the families of the victims are provided with all possible support and assistance by your government and (3) that the government of India takes immediate steps for the development and systematic implementation of policies which aim to confront and eradicate racism in India at all levels as a matter of the utmost urgency.



Married Hindu girl forcibly remarried by jirga in Thar

MITHI: A jirga forcibly remarried an already-married Hindu girl to a 56-year-old man in Katayari village in Tharparkar.

Wadia Bai Meghwar and her cousin Suresh had contracted a marriage of their free will in a Karachi court on May 4, 2016. A few days later, however, a notable from Thar's Arbab family took Wadia from their home, promising to marry the couple in a traditional wedding.

"But instead of handing

her to me, her brother Gayanchand Meghwar married her off to an old man," said Suresh.

His wife has been married to Chetan Meghwar, who Suresh estimates to be 56 years old.

Inspector General (IG) Sindh AD Khawaja, taking notice of the incident ordered an inquiry and recovery of the girl.

"The girl's brother and other relatives have been arrested in a raid on Friday, and an investigation into the matter is un-

derway," said DSP Mithi Bilawal Haq Mehar.

He added that senior police officials have ordered the girl be recovered and produced in court as soon as possible.

Local activists called for a thorough inquiry into the jirga and the Hindu girl's forced remarriage, demanding severe action against all those involved under the recently-enacted Hindu Marriage Act and other laws to save the young girl.



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Sultan 2016 Indian sports-drama film directed by Ali Abbas Zafar. Produced by Aditya Chopra under Yash Raj Films banner, the film stars Salman Khan and Anushka Sharma in pivotal roles and centers around Sultan Ali Khan (Salman Khan), a wrestler who has problems in his professional and personal life. From a small town wrestler in Haryana, Sultan achieves global fame winning bouts at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi, the 2011 FILA Wrestling World Championships in Istanbul and the 2012 London Olympics.

The project was earlier announced in June 2015 with a teaser released on YouTube Khan will be seen portraying Haryana-based wrestler in the film. Khan underwent wrestling training under the guidance of Larnell Stovall.

In October 2015, there were reports of American ac-



tor Sylvester Stallone being cast in the film as Khan's on-screen coach. However, Raja Mukerji, the Executive Producer of the film cleared that Stallone would not be starring in the film. Later, Sanjay Dutt was then rumored to play the role of coach according to Khan's insistence. However, Khan later reported that he never insisted Aditya Chopra for Dutt's role.

In December 2015, Randeep Hooda was later signed to play the role of Khan's coach in the film. Amit Sadh, of Kai Po Che fame was reportedly signed for the role of young Sultan. However, in March 2016, he confirmed that

he is playing the role of Khan's younger brother. MMA fighter Tyron Woodley has been signed opposite Khan with other fighters in the film.

In January 2016, Anushka Sharma was signed to play the female lead role opposite Khan. For her role as a wrestler, Sharma took wrestling lessons for the film. In February 2016, Farah Khan was signed as the choreographer of the film, replacing Vaibhavi Merchant who left the film due to personal commitments.

Pre-production of the film started in October 2015 where Khan posted a photo of his character in the film on Facebook. Principal photography of the film started in December 2015 at N.D Studios, Karjat and JW Marriott Mumbai, where the film's first schedule was filmed. Filming of the first schedule had been completed in late December 2015. Filming of the second schedule was started in January 2016 where Khan filmed for action sequences. A song was filmed in early March 2016, choreographed by Farah. An action sequence between Khan and Sharma was reportedly filmed. Some of the sequence of the movie will feature 360 year old Jama Masjid of Delhi. In late April 2016 the lead actor Salman Khan was seen riding a scooter as a part of shooting in Muzaffarnagar.

Being not just a sports drama, Sultan also has an equally action-packed leading lady. Anushka Sharma too portrays the role of a wrestler, by the name of Aarfa. Her hard-work is quite evident in the trailer itself.

We are also introduced to the characters of Amit Sadh and Randeep Hooda in the film. Randeep will be seen as a coach who trains Sultan after the once legendary player has lost touch of the sport.

Overall, the Sultan trailer promises entertainment without making any tall claims about a pitch perfect story. The makers probably know,



however cliched it may be, this is by far the most challenging role Salman has taken in recent times. A tad bit longer trailer seems to be a give away, I hope some major twist still remains to be told!

Salman's Haryanvi accent seems okay in the trailer but it will be important to see how well he maintains it throughout the film.

Director Ali Abbas Zafar who previously helmed two average films, Mere Brother Ki Dulhan and Gunday, seems more confident now with his camera. The 'Akhada' scenes look great in the trailer and could make up for a great watch in theaters.



Priyanka Chopra reveals her 'terms' for signing 'Quantico'

Bollywood actress-turned singer-turned producer-turned international television star Priyanka Chopra, has revealed the 'terms and conditions' she laid down to star in American show 'Quantico'. According to an online report, the actress made it very clear that she was no 'small actor' and that she was used to seeing her face on posters of her Bollywood films. In a candid interview, Priyanka revealed that her Hollywood calling came at a party, when the VP of casting asked her if she would be interested in television. It was only months later that she signed a talent deal to work on a 13-episode mini-series that was expected to go on for about four months. Priyanka however made it clear that she was a leading lady and only played supporting roles when she wanted to. The star also said that she wouldn't settle for anything less than having her face on the poster. In a previous interview, Priyanka revealed that the only reason she signed on for the role was because it was different and because it 'broke stereotypes'. Priyanka is expected to begin work on the second season of 'Quantico' in July.

Priyanka Chopra was recently titled as the hottest woman by a magazine. With a parallel career in Bollywood and Hollywood, the diva has made quite a name for herself and is considered a global icon. When quizzed about how she is aiming to break stereotypes of Indian actors in the west, PC replied by saying that she wants to leave a legacy behind for children. She added that she doesn't want to be known as a spoof of Hollywood, but wants to break the stereotype of what Indian stars are. Given the manner in which her Hollywood career seems to be shaping up, we are pretty sure the desi girl won't be known as a mere spoof of Hollywood.



Scholar Dr. Aslam Farrukhi dies

KARACHI: Distinguished Urdu scholar, poet, researcher and writer Dr Aslam Farrukhi passed away after a prolonged illness here on Wednesday. He was 89. His wife and two sons survive him.

Dr Farrukhi was born on Oct 23, 1926 in Lucknow (as confirmed by family sources). His family hailed from Fatehgarh, Farrukhabad district, UP. His grandfather and father were eminent poets. His brother Anwar Ahsan Siddiqui was also a writer and scholar of great merit. After partition, Dr Farrukhi's family migrated to Karachi.

He completed his education from the Federal Government Urdu College and the University of Karachi after which he joined Radio Pakistan as a scriptwriter. He wrote features, plays and speeches for the radio. Apart from that, he taught Urdu at the S.M. College, Central Government College and the University of Karachi. He worked at the university in different capacities, including that of its registrar and as a professor at the Urdu Department.

Dr Farrukhi wrote many books and his skills as



a biographical sketch writer (khaka nigar) were considered unmatched. One example of it is his last published book, Raunaq-i-Bazm-i-Jahan. A couple of his other books in the same genre are Angan mein sitare and Guldasta-i-ahbaab. The marked feature of these compilations is lucid prose. Dr sahib's Urdu bristled with delectable phrases and well-constructed sentences, complemented by sparkling expressions used in the Urdu language.

Dr Farrukhi's PhD thesis was on the writer Mohammad Husain Azad, which was awarded the Adamji literary prize in 1965. His book Mohammad Husain Azad -- hayat-o-tasneef is regarded as one the most important works of research on the writer. Some of the other published works of Dr Farrukhi are Tazkara-

i-gulshan-i-hamaisha bahar, Urdu ki pehli kitab, Farmaya Sultanjine, Farid-o-fard-i-farid and Dabistan-i-Nizam.

Dr Farrukhi was extremely fond of Sufis, especially of Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia, on whom he penned three books. He also wrote books on children. One of Dr sahib's sons, Asif Farrukhi, is a renowned writer and the co-founder of the Karachi Literature Festival.

Dr Aslam Farrukhi's namaz-i-janaza will be held after Zuhr prayers at Madani Masjid, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, Block 5. He will be laid to rest in the Karachi University graveyard.

Published in Dawn, June 16th, 2016

Saudi Prince Reminds Donald Trump: I Bailed You Out - Twice

While Donald Trump continues to paint himself as the anti-Saudi, anti-terrorist candidate, the truth is coming to light that he may in fact be financially beholden to the Saudi Royal Family.



After Trump retweeted a photo-shopped image of Megyn Kelly, a Saudi woman (supposedly a member of the royal family) Prince Alwaleed bin Talal together, in which the image describes bin Talal as a "co-owner" of Fox News, the Prince had a few words to share:

Indeed, Prince Alwaleed (who only has a one percent stake in Fox News — hardly a co-owner) included news snippets in his tweets. One news story was the fact he had to buy Trump's yacht, which had recently been turned over to creditors when it fell a staggering \$900 million in debt.

Alwaleed also included the story of how he bought Trump Plaza Hotel in New York after promising to erase the mogul's debt. Calling it a "defeat for the real estate developer," The New York Times reports that the outstanding debt accumulated from the hotel around \$300 million, yet the Prince was able to buy it down to roughly \$25 million.

There are two questions everyone should be asking. One, how did Trump run up \$900 million in debt over a yacht, and how did he acquire \$300 million of debt from a world famous hotel? Second,

how can anymore expect Trump to be "tough" on the Saudis and the Royal Family when he owes them millions of dollars?

Can you imagine the outrage from Republicans if President Obama had over a billion dollars worth of debt paybacks to the Saudi Royal Family? Republicans though, always the hypocrites, are choosing to turn a blind eye to the issue, instead the continue to believe everything the blowhard says.

Another conflict of interest, out of dozens now pending against the presidential nominee, arises again. Once more, the Republican candidate shows how inept he is at his own financials. And he again shows that he gets his information completely from the media.

Alwaleed, a Trump-Kasich supporter, has had a few Twitter spats with the Saudi Prince, after the billionaire (and heavily indebted) called for a ban on Muslims in the United States, and Trump responded by calling him "dopey" and told him that his "daddy's money" couldn't persuade him — how ironic.

Jo Cox was working on report on anti-Muslim attacks before her death

Jo Cox, the MP who was killed outside her constituency office was going to warn of an increase in anti-Muslim attacks — particularly against women — it has emerged.

She was planning to address parliament later on to introduce a report she had been working on with the Islamophobia watchdog Tell Mama (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks), the group's director said. The study is expected to conclude that there were about 80% more attacks on Muslims in Britain in 2015 than the year before.

"She met us to talk about how people could report attacks; particularly women in her constituency," said the founder and director of Tell Mama, Fiyaz Mughal, on Sunday.

The report is the latest in an annual series on the prevalence of Islamophobic attacks. "We were hoping she would highlight the impact on Muslim women; particularly given the targeting [that exists]," Mughal said. "The majority [of incidents] at street level were [on] women and she was going to raise that."

He added that the study was based on data from his organisation and three police forces.

Mughal expects to conclude that Tell Mama saw 1,100 Islamophobic attacks in 2015 — an 80% increase on the previous year. The three forces reported a further 1,200, from which the watchdog had extrapolated to give a national estimate, he added. Mughal also said many attacks are

never reported.

According to the Times, Cox recorded a video to use at the launch, in which she referred to "exciting" discussions she had held with Tell Mama's staff. She says they talked about how she could help tackle Islamophobia and that the problem had become so bad in her constituency that "many of our young women don't feel safe when they're out on the street".

Courtesy <https://www.theguardian.com/uk->



news/2016/jun/20/jo-cox-was-working-on-report-into-anti-muslim-attacks-before-death

Islamabad, Kabul still poles apart on border gate

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani and Afghan officials remained at odds on Thursday over the issue of construction of a gate on the Pakistani side of border at Torkham.

The two countries had, after diplomatic and military contacts a day earlier, agreed to defuse the tense situation that had arisen due to skirmishes over the construction of the border gate by Pakistan, but there were disputed claims about the conditions on which the hostilities were to be ended.

After Afghan Ambassador Dr Omar Zakhilwal's meetings with Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry and Chief of General Staff Lt Gen Zubair Mehmood Hayat, Pakistani officials had said an agreement had been reached under which Afghanistan would end the hostilities and allow continuation of work on erection of the gate and in return Pakistan would allow resumption of cross-border traffic at Torkham.

But the Afghan ambassador, who had earlier himself confirmed the agreement on ceasefire, said in a statement that resumption of construction work was contrary to the understanding reached at the meeting with Gen Hayat.

"Much to my disappointment it was presented as if it was agreed to in our meet-

ing yesterday (to restart the construction work). Something that clearly was not, otherwise there would have been no need for our agreement to resolve this through talks expeditiously and amicably," Mr Zakhilwal said.

He instead claimed that the meeting with Gen Hayat had concluded with an agreement on four points, which he listed as: "An immediate ceasefire and de-escalation of tension and drawing down of our forces in Torkham on both sides; a conversation at the leadership level; immediately convening Pak/Afghan military coordination meeting to resolve this issue expeditiously and amicably; and halting the construction work to avoid any further incidents and allowing talks to resolve the dispute".

The envoy threatened to quit and return to his home country if the construction work was not stopped. In such an eventuality, he warned, his interlocutors would be responsible for the consequences.

Hitting back at the ambassador's statement, an official accused him of twisting the facts and creating confusion.

Earlier at a media briefing, Foreign Office spokesman Nafees Zakaria, without naming anybody, said: "Afghans are being

misguided."

He underscored that the purpose of holding dialogue on the Torkham dispute was to peacefully resolve the matter and plug the communication gap.

Obliquely referring to the phrasing of Ambassador Zakhilwal's statement yesterday, which used terms like 'ceasefire', 'de-escalation' and 'drawdown', the spokesman said border tensions between neighbours were "not unusual, but they don't connote larger hostilities or war-like situations".

Mr Zakaria recalled that the gate was being constructed for effective border management and controlling the cross-border movement.

He said Pakistan had shared its concern and disappointment with the Afghan government over the border clash in which several lives were lost and had urged the Afghan leadership to take necessary steps to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

"We believe effective border management serves mutual interest," he added.

NSG: In reply to a question about the Pakistani and Indian candidature for the

Nuclear Suppliers Group, the FO spokesman said Pakistan was for "a level-playing field and criteria-based approach which treat the applications of Pakistan and India in a non-discriminatory manner".

He noted that the two applications cannot be considered in isolation from the goal of maintaining strategic stability in South Asia. Strategic stability in South Asia is a critical factor to achieve non-proliferation objectives.

Mr Zakaria expressed the hope that the upcoming NSG meeting in Seoul would commence discussions on developing criteria-based approach for membership for non-NPT states while taking into consideration the imperative of regional strategic stability and benefits for the non-proliferation regime.

About Iran's response to Pakistan's letter on capture of Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav, the FO spokesman said it was a manifestation of cooperative ties between Pakistan and Iran.

Published in Dawn, June 17th, 2016

'They made my life hell', Tamil Nadu maid recounts Saudi job horror

Chennai: The return of an Indian housemaid working in Saudi Arabia, who broke her back trying to escape abusive employers, has raised fresh concerns over the working conditions of domestic workers in Gulf countries.

Dhatchayani Uma Shankar, 29, jumped from the first floor balcony of her employer's residence in Dammam a month after she started working there in March, said officials in her home state of Tamil Nadu.

After spending a month in a Saudi hospital she was flown back home to Chennai on June 16, with a steel plate in her back and shattered dreams.

"I have a loan of Rs 300,000 (\$4,500) to pay off, two children to raise and parents to take care of," she said, lying on her hos-

pital bed in Chennai where she is undergoing further treatment.

"I just wanted to earn an honest living but they made my life hell."

Her escape comes barely six months after another Indian maid from Tamil Nadu, Kasthuri Munirathinam, also tried to run away from her employers, losing an arm in the process.

Like Munirathinam and Shankar, many migrant workers move to Gulf countries in a bid to support their families at home.

Government figures show there are an estimated six million Indian migrants in the six Gulf states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Oman.

In 2015, more than 700,000 Indians moved to the Gulf states where domestic help is in high demand.

"I went to an agent someone suggested. He took three of us, including a cousin of mine, to Delhi before putting on different flights to Dubai," Shankar, who used to work as a casual labourer in Chennai said.

"I was told I had to take care of a family of four. But it was two adults and four children, one of them a toddler. I worked for up to 14 hours a day."

In a complaint lodged with state government officials, she stated that she was not allowed any breaks, was expected to take care of a 10-month-old baby while doing all other chores, given leftovers to eat and wasn't paid for the one month she worked.

"They suddenly told me I would have to stay there for five years and not two as my agent had said. When I protested, they said they would put me in a box and send me back. That made me nervous and I planned my escape," added Shankar.

Officials at the Saudi embassy in New Delhi were not immediately available for comment.

A migration survey by the Tamil Nadu state government released in 2015 showed that a migrant spends an average of 108,112 rupees (\$1,600) to a secure a job

overseas, with half going to recruitment agencies and the rest for visas and travel.

But the survey of 20,000 households also revealed that 39% of women and 21% of men who work abroad reported not receiving the promised wages.

"I am flooded with such cases," Dammam-based social worker Nass Shaukat Ali, who helped Shankar in Saudi Arabia, said in a phone interview.

"In many cases, when they land in Saudi Arabia, the first impression is not the best because of the strict norms here. The fear sets in at the airport itself and many women away from home for the first time, change their minds about working."

Ali, who is associated with cultural group Navodaya in Dammam, added that while many successfully adapt to the working conditions, those used to certain levels of freedom back home find it difficult to deal with the virtual "house arrest".

The Tamil Nadu government has announced a compensation of Rs 1 million (\$15,000) to Shankar.

"But I will only get the monthly interest out of it. How is Rs 8,000 (\$120) a month going to help me run a home?" she said.



HINDI MOVIE RELEASE DATES

11 March	<i>Global Baba</i>	Satire	Manoj Sidheshwari Tewari	Abhimanyu Singh, Sandeepa Dhar, Ravi Kishan, Pankaj Tripathi, Sanjay Mishra (actor), Akhilendra Mishra
11 March	<i>JD</i>	Drama/Thriller	Shailendra Pandey	Govind Namdev, Aman Verma, Vedita Pratap Singh, Lalit Bisht, Amit Pathak, Arvind Gaur
11 March	<i>Teraa Surroor</i>	Romance/Comedy	Shawn Arranha	Himesh Reshammiya, Farah Karimi, Monica Dogra, Naseeruddin Shah, Shekhar Kapur
11 March	<i>Ok Mein Dhokhe</i>	Drama/Thriller	Utpal S. Chaudhary	Zoya Rathore, Sapan Krishna, Vaidhei Singh, Megha Verma, Ravi Thakur, Milan Singh
18 March	<i>Kapoor & Sons</i>	Romance/Comedy	Shakun Batra	Sidharth Malhotra, Alia Bhatt, Fawad Khan, Rishi Kapoor
24 March	<i>Great Grand Masti</i>	Adult/Comedy	Indra Kumar	Ritesh Deshmukh, Vivek Oberoi, Aftab Shivdasani, Urvashi Rautela, Shraddha Das, Puja Bannerjee, Sana Khan, Sonali Raut, Ishita Dutta, Mishti, Kangna Sharma
25 March	<i>Rocky Handsome</i>	Action	Nishikant Kamat	John Abraham, Shruti Haasan, Nathalia Kaur
1 April	<i>Ki and Ka</i>	Romance/Comedy	R. Balki	Kareena Kapoor Khan, Arjun Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan
1 April	<i>Love Games</i>	Thriller	Vikram Bhatt	Patralekha, Tara Alisha Berry, Gaurav Arora
8 April	<i>Yeh Laal Rang</i>	Drama	Syed Ahmad Afzal	Randeep Hooda, Akshay Oberoi, Rajnesh Duggall, Pina Bajpai
6 May	<i>COD</i>	Comedy/Thriller	Robert Megha	Jatin Negi, Preeti Choudhury, Vikrant Khair
15 April	<i>Fan</i>	Drama/Thriller	Maneesh Sharma	Shah Rukh Khan, Waluscha De Sousa, Shriya Pilgaonkar
22 April	<i>Nil Battey Sannata</i>	Action	Ashwini Iyer Tiwari	Swara Bhaskar, Ratna Pathak, Pankaj Tripathi
29 April	<i>Baaghi: A Rebel for Love</i>	Action	Sabbir Khan	Tiger Shroff, Shraddha Kapoor, Sudheer Babu, Paras Arora
29 April	<i>Waiting</i>	Drama	Anu Menon	Naseeruddin Shah, Kalki Koechlin, Arjun Mathur, Rajat Kapoor, Suhasini Maniratnam
6 May	<i>Kaptaan</i>	Comedy	Mandeep Kumar	Gippy Grewal, Karishma Kotak, Rishaan Dutta
13 May	<i>Mirzya</i>	Romance/Drama	Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra	Harshvardhan Kapoor, Saiyami Kher, Om Puri, Art Malik, K.K. Raina
13 May	<i>Azhar</i>	Biopic	Tony D'Souza	Emraan Hashmi, Nargis Fakhri, Prachi Desai, Gautam Gulati, Huma Qureshi, Lara Dutta
20 May	<i>Saat Kadam</i>	Drama	Mohit Kumar Jha	Amit Sadh, Ronit Roy, Deeksha Seth
20 May	<i>Sarbjit</i>	Biopic	Omung Kumar	Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Randeep Hooda, Richa Chaddha
20 May	<i>Te3n</i>	Thriller	Ribhu Dasgupta	Amitabh Bachchan, Vidya Balan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui
27 May	<i>Phobia</i>	Thriller	Pawan Kiplani	Radhika Apte
3 June	<i>Housefull 3</i>	Comedy	Sajid-Farhad	Akshay Kumar, Ritesh Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Haydon, Boman Irani
3 June	<i>Jagga Jasoos</i>	Drama	Anurag Basu	Ranbir Kapoor, Katrina Kaif, Govinda, Adah Sharma
3 June	<i>Raaz Rebooted</i>	Horror	Vikram Bhatt	Emraan Hashmi, Kriti Kharbanda, Gaurav Arora, Rahul Verma
10 June	<i>Do Lafzon Ki Kahani</i>	Romantic	Deepak Tijori	Randeep Hooda, Kajal Aggarwal
17 June	<i>Udta Punjab</i>	Thriller	Abhishek Chaubey	Kareena Kapoor Khan, Shahid Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Diljit Dosanjh
3 July	<i>Raees</i>	Crime/Thriller	Rahul Dholakia	Shah Rukh Khan, Mahira Khan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub, Arya Babbar
3 July	<i>Sultan</i>	Sports/Drama	Ali Abbas Zafar	Salman Khan, Anushka Sharma, Randeep Hooda
15 July	<i>Happy Bhaag Jayegi</i>	Comedy	Mudassar Aziz	Abhay Deol, Diana Penty, Momal Sheikh, Ali Fazal
29 July	<i>Dishoom</i>	Action	Rohit Dhawan	John Abraham, Varun Dhawan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Saqib Saleem, Ram Kapoor, Nargis Fakhri, Khanna
29 July	<i>Nonsense</i>	Comedy	Sangeeth Sivan	Sharman Joshi, Vir Das, Zarine Khan
12 August	<i>Mohenjo Daro</i>	Drama	Ashutosh Gowariker	Hrithik Roshan, Pooja Hegde, Kabir Bedi, Arunoday Singh
12 August	<i>Phir Hera Pheri 3</i>	Comedy	Neeraj Vora	John Abraham, Abhishek Bachchan, Paresh Rawal
12 August	<i>Rustom</i>	Romance/Thriller	Neeraj Pandey	Akshay Kumar, Illeana D'Cruz, Esha Gupta
19 August	<i>Banjo</i>	Drama	Ravi Jadhav	Riteish Deshmukh, Nargis Fakhri
25 August	<i>A Flying Jatt</i>	Action	Remo D'Souza	Tiger Shroff, Jacqueline Fernandez, Salman Yusuff Khan, Shraddha Kapoor
2 September	<i>Dhoni: The Untold Story</i>	Sports/Biopic	Neeraj Pandey	Sushant Singh Rajput, Ram Charan, Anupam Kher, Fawad Khan, Kiara Advani, John Abraham, Za Manjot Singh
9 September	<i>Baar Baar Dekho</i>	Romance/Drama	Nitya Mehra	Sidharth Malhotra, Katrina Kaif, Ram Kapoor, Annu Kapoor
23 September	<i>Manmarziyan</i>	Romance	Sameer Sharma	Ayushmann Khurrana, Bhumi Pednekar
30 September	<i>Rangoon</i>	Romance/Drama	Vishal Bhardwaj	Shahid Kapoor, Kangana Ranaut, Saif Ali Khan

Late Saudi king's son wins appeal against payout to father's 'secret wife'



A retrial has been ordered of a £20m claim against the family of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia by his secret Palestinian wife after a controversial judge was criticised for serious "shortcomings" in dealing with the evidence.

The ruling by the master of the rolls, Lord Dyson, is a setback for the high court judge Mr Justice Peter Smith who is under investigation for his conduct in a separate case and is voluntarily refraining from sitting in any hearings.

Palestinian-born Janan Harb, 68, was awarded £12m in cash and two properties in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, in a judgment given by Smith last November.

Born to Christian parents, she had moved to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 1967 where she met Fahd. They married the following year after she converted to Islam. The relationship broke down and she left Saudi Arabia in 1970.

In sharia law, she remained married to Fahd, who suffered a stroke in 1995 and became incapacitated. Harb, who married twice subsequently, began to run short of money and met Prince Abdul Aziz bin Fahd, the king's son by another wife, in Marbella.

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She told him she planned to publish her autobiography which would inevitably disclose details of her relationship with the king and the royal household. She was paid £5m to not publish.

By 2003, Harb's finances were low again. She saw the prince at the Dorchester hotel in London. Harb maintains that at that meeting she agreed to retract comments in a legal affidavit about King Fahd's drug-taking and in return she had been promised £20m in cash and properties.

Lawyers for the prince dismissed her account, saying Harb had accosted him in the hotel lobby but he did not speak to her and there was no agreement.

In the high court, Smith accepted Harb's account and found that a binding contract had been made in her favour. He also rejected the prince's argument that he was not personally liable because he had only been an agent acting for the king.

Lawyers for the prince asked the court of appeal judges – Dyson, Lord Justice Moore-Bick and Lord Justice McFarlane – to quash that "unsustainable" award.

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Delivering judgment that there should be a retrial before a different high court judge, Dyson said Smith's handling of the evidence had fallen below the required standards.

"The court has concluded that the shortcomings in the way in which the judge dealt with the evidential issues in the case were so serious that the appeal must be allowed for that reason," Dyson said. "It has also concluded that the appeal must be allowed on the agency issue."

Smith's "approach to the evidence was unsatisfactory in a number of significant respects," the court of appeal said. "The

judge failed to draw together the evidence from the various different sources and analyse it in order to make his findings in relation to individual issues".

The judgment added: "A party in a case of this kind is entitled to expect that the judge will engage with the arguments advanced on his behalf and, insofar as the case turns on the facts, deal fully with the evidence and explain how he has come to his conclusions ... the judge failed to do this adequately in this case and the appeal must be allowed."

But Dyson rejected an allegation of "apparent bias" made against Smith. The judge had written a "shocking letter revealing possible bias" against Blackstone Chambers, the legal chambers that provided the barristers representing the prince, the court heard.

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The letter was prompted by a newspaper article by Lord Pannick QC, a member of the chambers, who appeared for the prince at an early stage in the Harb case.

Pannick's article criticised the judge's handling of an unrelated case involving British Airways, in which the judge recused himself after demanding to know what had happened to his own luggage on a flight home from Florence.

Pannick had written that the case "raises serious issues about judicial conduct that need urgent consideration by the lord chief justice".

In response, the judge wrote to Anthony Peto QC, one of two heads of Blackstone Chambers, saying: "The quite outrageous article of Pannick caused me a lot of grief and a lot of trouble."

He added: "I will no longer support your chambers; please make that clear to members of your chambers. I do not wish to be associated with chambers that have people like Pannick in it."

Lawyers for the prince told

the appeal judges that the "shocking and indefensible" letter was clear evidence of possible bias against the chambers and could have affected the outcome of the Harb case.

Dyson said one ground of appeal was that there was an appearance of bias on the part of the judge against the prince's counsel, and thereby against the prince himself.

But, he added, although the appeal court "is very critical of the judge for writing the letter", it had concluded that "the informed and fair-minded observer would not conclude that there was a real possibility" that the judge was biased against the prince.

A spokesman for the judiciary said later: "Mr Justice Peter Smith has agreed to continue to refrain from sitting at the present time."

A spokesman for the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office said: "The JCIO investigation into the BA matter is continuing. If there is a finding against any judicial office holder, a statement is published on the JCIO website. Legal proceedings are separate from the JCIO process, but a matter connected to this appeal is under investigation by the JCIO."

Mr Justice Peter Smith
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Mr Justice Peter Smith. Photograph: Chris Ison/PA

Steven Morris, a partner at the law firm Howard Kennedy who represents the prince, said: "The prince is delighted that the appeal has been allowed and that the judgment of Mr Justice Peter Smith has been set aside in its entirety. The judgment of Mr Justice Peter Smith was unsatisfactory for the reasons explained by the court of appeal.

"The judgment of the court of appeal has re-affirmed the confidence of the prince in the fair and independent resolution of disputes before the English courts. That confidence was severely undermined by the judgment of Mr Justice Peter Smith; that judgment was in key respects inconsistent with the written and oral testimony of Mrs Harb, the surrounding documents and the inherent probabilities."



KCR's failing health led to decision of Telangana formation: Jairam Ramesh

New Delhi: TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao's failing health in the wake of his fast unto death was a major factor that led to the UPA government conceding the demand for carving out Telangana from Andhra Pradesh on December 9, 2009, says former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh.

The highest echelons of the government had information that ground situation in Hyderabad was grave and "something substantial" had to be done to retrieve it, he says in his new book 'Old History and new Geography—Bifurcating Andhra Pradesh, which was released here.

"KCR's (K Chandrasekhar Rao) health was one major factor influencing the decision-making. The other was related to the role that Maoists and their sympathizers may have been playing to aggravate the situation," the Congress leader says in the 242-page book.

Ramesh, who was elected to Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh last time, was



part of the Group of Ministers (GoM) set up by the UPA government in October 2013 to prepare the legislation for the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, which was incidentally India's first state to be carved out on linguistic basis.

"Clearly, the highest echelons of the government had information that led them to believe that the ground situation in Hyderabad was grave and something really substantive had to be done

to retrieve the situation.

"The Home Minister (P Chidambaram) must have the reason to believe that the Pottu Sriramulu moment had arrived once more in Andhra Pradesh," says Ramesh.

Sriramulu, who was on fast unto death demanding separate Andhra Pradesh, died during the night of 15 December 1952. The move sparked wide spread riots.

Home Minister P Chidambaram issued the statement announcing the decision to create Telangana based on his assessment derived from intelligence and other reports.

Ramesh says the statement itself was "evidently finalised" at the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's residence with Chidambaram, Pranab Mukherjee (then Finance Minister) and K Rosaiah (then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh) present and had "apparently followed consultations with the other leaders of the Congress".

Ramesh claimed the book is a first-person, inside narrative of the process of bifurcation as observed and recorded by someone who participated in it closely. Further, the perspective is Delhi centric.

"It tells the story of how Telangana was created as I saw it and that too during a limited period October 8, 2013 and May 13 2014 when, by forces that I can only ascribe to the mysterious force called destiny, I came to occupy a pivotal role in the process of bifurcation."

At the same time, Ramesh makes it clear that "what went into the decision to bifurcate Andhra Pradesh and what determined its timing was, honestly, unknown to me."

In November 1956, a unified Telugu-speaking state of Andhra Pradesh came into being. In February 2014, Parliament bifurcated it to create two Telugu-speaking states: Telangana and Andhra

Pradesh.

Published by Rupa Publications, the book claims to provide the "context, text and subtext" to the bifurcation, which continues to be contentious.

After becoming a member of the GoM, Ramesh was the prime mover and its public face and was thus always in the crossfire as it strove to balance competing claims and differing demands to ensure a just and equitable outcome.

While there was tussle for Hyderabad, Union Ministers from Seemandhra argued that the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HDMA), which generated close to half of the undivided state's revenue, should be designated as a common capital.

The HDMA covered around 7,100 sq kms of area spanning five districts of Telangana. However, the TRS argued that if at all the city is made a common capital, then it should be restricted to Hyderabad Revenue District, which covers 217 sq kms.

"This too was briefly debated. Ultimately GoM felt that fairness demanded that the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) area be designated as the common capital zone. This spread across 625 sq kms that had been increased to about 923 sq kms in September 2013," Ramesh said in his book.


Another idea that was discussed for some time in the GoM, which was also shot down, was of a Common Capital Governance Council. Under this, the body was to be a temporary one subject to review after five years.

The governor was to be the chairperson of the council, with members being the Chief Ministers of the two states, key civil and police officers from both the state and the centre.

"The idea didn't get support on the grounds that this would simply not be acceptable to the Telangana government once the state came into being. Besides, the Home Minister, and the Home Secretary felt that the move would not stand the test of legality.

"The Law Ministry gave its opinion that such a coordination council would violate List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution dealing with the powers of the state," Ramesh said.

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HASAN CHISHTI



محترم حسن چشتی کی شادی کی ۵۷ ویں سالگرہ
اور ۸۶ ویں یوم تولد پر منظوم تاثرات

ڈاکٹر احمد علی برقی اعظمی

ہو گئے ہیں اب حسن چشتی چھیالی سال کے
ہو خزاں نا آشنا ان کی بہار زندگی
جشن شادی اور تولد میں ہے بس اک دن کافرق
ہے دعا قائم رہے یہ انبساط و سرخوشی
رونق بزم ادب ہیں اب بھی عز و شان سے
قائم و دائم رہے یہ ذوق اردو پروری
ہیں دیار غیر میں وہ ناشر شعر و ادب
انکی بزم آرائیوں کی ضوفشاں ہے روشنی
کارناموں کے ہیں ان کے قدرداں اہل نظر
فکر و فن کا ہے شاخواں ان کے برقی اعظمی



بھارت اپنی ترقی کے ساتھ پڑوسی ممالک کا بھی خیر خواہ ہے

تحریر..... گریٹش جویال..... چیف ایڈیٹر روزنامہ پیغام مادر وطن..... 9312256571

کسی بھی ملک کی خارجہ پالیسی تاریخ سے گہرا تعلق رکھتی ہے۔ بھارت کی خارجہ پالیسی بھی تاریخ اور آزادی تحریک سے تعلق رکھتی ہے۔ تاریخی ورثے کے طور پر بھارت کی خارجہ پالیسی آج ان مختلف حقائق کو سمیٹے ہوئے ہے جو کبھی بھارتی آزادی تحریک سے پیدا ہوئے تھے۔ امن بقائے باہمی اور خوشنات کا خیال ہزاروں سال پرانے اس یقیناً انتہائی غور و فکر کا نتیجہ ہے جسے مہاتما گاندھی جیسے مفکرین نے پیش کیا تھا۔ اسی طرح بھارت کی خارجہ پالیسی میں اینڈو لیشوا، سامراج اور رنگ بھیدی کی پالیسی کی مخالفت عظیم قومی تحریک کی پیداوار ہے۔ بھارت کے زیادہ تر ممالک کے ساتھ رسمی سفارتی تعلق ہیں۔ آبادی کے لحاظ سے یہ دنیا کا دوسرا سب سے بڑا ملک ہے۔ بھارت دنیا کا سب سے بڑا انتظام والا ملک بھی ہے اور اس کی معیشت دنیا کی بڑھتی ہوئی معیشتوں میں سے ایک ہے۔

قدیم دور میں بھی ہندوستان کے تمام دنیا سے تجارتی، ثقافتی اور مذہبی تعلق رہے ہیں۔ وقت کے ساتھ ساتھ ہندوستان کے کئی حصوں میں بہت سے مختلف بادشاہ رہے، بھارت کی شکل بھی مختلف ہوتارہا لیکن عالمی طور پر ہندوستان کے تعلق ہمیشہ رہے۔ اسٹریٹجک تعلقات کی بات کی جائے تو بھارت کی خاصیت یہی ہے کہ وہ کبھی بھی جارحانہ نہیں رہا۔

1947 میں اپنی آزادی کے بعد سے، بھارت نے زیادہ تر ممالک کے ساتھ خوشگوار تعلقات برقرار رکھا ہے۔ عالمی فورم پر ہندوستان ہمیشہ فعال رہا ہے۔ 1990 کے بعد اقتصادی طور پر بھی ہندوستان نے دنیا کو متاثر کیا ہے۔ اسٹریٹجک طور پر بھارت نے اپنی طاقت کو برقرار رکھا ہے اور دنیا کنسولز میں ہر ممکن حد تک شراکت کرتا رہا ہے۔ پاکستان اور چین کے ساتھ بھارت کے تعلقات کچھ کشیدہ ضرور ہیں لیکن روس کے ساتھ اسٹریٹجک تعلقات کے علاوہ ہندوستان کا اسرائیل اور فرانس کے ساتھ وسیع حفاظت تعلق ہے۔

سارک بھارت کی خارجہ پالیسیوں کا ایک اہم پہلو ہے۔ سارک خطے میں سب سے بڑا ملک ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ بھارت اقتصادی طور پر بھی کافی اہم ہے۔ وزیر اعظم نریندر مودی پہلے دن سے ہی اس بات کو بیان کرتے رہے ہیں کہ کس طرح سارک ممالک کے ساتھ بہتر تعلقات ان کی خارجہ پالیسیوں میں اہم ہے۔ مسٹر نریندر مودی نے 26 مئی 2014 کو وزیر اعظم کے طور پر اپنے حلف برداری کی تقریب کے لئے تمام سارک رہنماؤں کو مدعو کیا تھا۔ مسٹر مودی کے اس حلف برداری کی تقریب میں صدر حامد کرزئی (افغانستان)، صدر شرمین چودھری (بنگلہ دیش) (وزیر اعظم شیخ حسینہ جاپان کے پہلے مقرر دورے پر تھیں)، وزیر اعظم شیئرنگ توینگ (بھوٹان)، صدر عبداللہ یامین (مالدیپ)، وزیر اعظم سشیل کوزالا (نیپال)، وزیر اعظم نواز شریف (پاکستان) اور صدر راج کپٹھی (سری لنکا) موجود تھے۔ اگلے دن انہوں نے ان رہنماؤں کے ساتھ دوطرفہ ملاقات کی جو انتہائی کامیاب رہی۔ یہ اجلاس ایک نئے دور کے آغاز کے emblematic رہیں جس سارک ممالک کے ساتھ تعلقات کو مزید مضبوط بنانے اور اس میں بے مثال ترقی کی امیدیں ہیں۔

وزیر اعظم نے اپنا پہلا غیر ملکی دورے کے لئے بھوٹان کو منتخب کیا۔ جون 2014 میں 15 کو وہاں پہنچنے پر ان کا انتہائی گرمجوشی سے استقبال کیا گیا اور اس سفر کے دوران کئی اہم معاہدوں پر دستخط ہوئے۔ وزیر اعظم نے اس سفر کے دوران بھوٹان کی پارلیمنٹ کو بھی خطاب کیا۔ وزیر اعظم نریندر مودی کی 2014 میں کھٹمنڈو سفر 17 سال میں کسی ہندوستانی بھی وزیر اعظم کی پہلی دو سفر تھا۔ نیپال میں بھی اہم معاہدوں پر دستخط ہوئے۔ وزیر اعظم اور نیپال کے معروف رہنماؤں کے درمیان ہوئی بات چیت اور تبادلہ خیال سے ہندوستان نیپال تعلقات میں ایک تاریخی دور کی شروعات ہوئی۔ نومبر 2014 میں سارک سربراہی کانفرنس میں شرکت کے لئے مسٹر مودی ایک بار پھر نیپال شدہ جہاں انہوں نے سارک کے اعلیٰ رہنماؤں سے ملاقات کی۔

فروری 2015 سری لنکا کے میں نو منتخب صدر سر سینا بھارت آئے جو کہ جنوری 2015 میں عہدے برداری کے بعد ان کی پہلا بیرون ملک سفر تھی۔ مارچ 2015 میں وزیر اعظم سری لنکا گئے جو ماضی کئی سالوں میں کسی بھی ہندوستانی وزیر اعظم کی پہلی سفر تھا۔ اس سفر کے دوران کئی معاہدوں پر دستخط ہوئے اور وزیر اعظم نے سری لنکا کی پارلیمنٹ سے خطاب کیا اور جاپان کا بھی دورہ کیا۔ مسٹر مودی جاپان کا دورہ کرنے والے بھارت کے پہلے وزیر اعظم اور دنیا کے دوسرے لیڈر ہیں۔ جاپان میں انہوں نے حکومت ہند کی مدد سے چل رہی رہائشی منصوبے کے تحت لوگوں کو رہائش فراہم کئے اور جاپان ثقافتی مرکز کی بنیاد رکھی۔ مئی 2015 افغانستان کے صدر اشرف گھانی نے بھارت کا دورہ کیا اور دونوں ممالک نے تعلقات کو آگے بڑھانے کے لئے ایک ساتھ مل کر کام کرنے کا فیصلہ کیا۔

مئی 2015 میں بھارتی پارلیمنٹ نے متفقہ طور پر بھارت بنگلہ دیش حد سمجھوتہ بل منظور کیا جو بھارت بنگلہ دیش تعلقات میں سنگ میل ثابت ہوا۔ یہ ایک تاریخی قدم تھا۔ وزیر اعظم مسٹر مودی نے تمام سیاسی جماعتوں اور وزراء نے اعلیٰ کے کردار کی تعریف کی اور وزیر اعظم شیخ حسینہ نے بھی اس پر اپنی نیک خواہشات دیں۔ یہ امید کی جارہی ہے کہ وزیر اعظم بنگلہ دیش کے ساتھ تعلقات کو آگے اور مضبوط بنانے کے لئے جلد ہی بنگلہ دیش کا دورہ کریں گے۔ اس طرح، دو اجلاسوں، اہم معاہدوں اور دیگر افعال کے ذریعے مسٹر نریندر مودی سارک ممالک کے ساتھ تعلقات کو مضبوط بنانے کے لئے ہر ممکن کوشش کر رہے ہیں۔

اس ضمن میں تاریکین وطن کے ساتھ تعلقات کو ایک نئی سمت کے طور پر بہت بڑا قدم بھی مانا جاسکتا ہے۔ جو لوگ بھارت سے گئے ہیں لیکن بھارت کے تئیں ان کا محبت اب بھی بنا ہوا ہے۔ مہاجر بھارتی دنیا کے سب سے زیادہ فعال اور کامیاب کمیونٹیز میں سے ایک ہیں۔ وہ مقامی رسوم و رواج اور اپنے ملک کی روایات کا بہترین ملاوٹ ہیں، یہاں تک کہ اس کو فروغ دینے میں بھی ان کا حصہ ہے۔ ان کا دل اب بھی بھارت کے لئے دھڑک رہا ہے اور اس وجہ سے ضرورت پڑنے پر انہوں نے ہمیشہ بھارت کی مدد کی ہے۔ مسٹر نریندر مودی ہمیشہ سے تاریکین وطن کے درمیان مقبول ہیں جو انہیں ایک ایسے شخص کے طور پر دیکھتے ہیں جو ہندوستان میں تبدیلی لانے کے قابل ہیں۔ ہر غیر ملکی دورے میں وزیر اعظم نے تاریکین وطن سے جڑنے کی کوشش کی ہے۔ نیویارک کے میڈیسن اسکوائر گارڈن سے سڈنی کے لہوس ایرینا تک، بحر ہند میں سیشلس اور مارشس سے شنگھائی تک، ہر جگہ نریندر مودی کا بھارتی کمیونٹی نے گرمجوشی سے خیر مقدم کیا ہے۔ وزیر اعظم کی تقریر انتہائی خواہشمند اور متاثر کن رہے ہیں جس میں انہوں نے بھارت میں تبدیلی کا آغاز، لوگوں کی زندگیوں میں مثبت تبدیلی لانے کے لئے حکومت کی کوششوں اور بھارت کی ترقی میں تاریکین وطن کے کردار کے بارے میں بات کی ہے۔ ایک انتہائی ضروری اصلاحات جو کیا گیا ہے، وہ ہے۔ پیآؤ اور اوسیا کو ایک کرنے کا۔ تاریکین وطن نے اس اقدام کا خیر مقدم کیا ہے۔ ویزا قوانین میں نرمی دی گئی اور طریقہ کار کو آسان کر دیا گیا ہے۔ اس اقدام کی بھی کئی مقامات پر تعریف کی گئی ہے۔ کمیونٹی استقبال کے علاوہ ہندوستانی کمیونٹی نے مسٹر مودی کا ہوائی اڈوں پر اور مختلف اجتماعات میں بھی خیر مقدم کیا۔ بیرون ملک میں جن جن اجتماعات میں وزیر اعظم نے حصہ لیا، وہاں ہر جگہ 'مودی مودی مودی' کے سر گونجتے رہے۔ فرانس میں پہلی عالمی جنگ کی یادگار پر وزیر اعظم نے لوگوں سے کہا کہ وہ ان کا نام نہ لیں اور اس کی بجائے "شہیدوں امر رہو" کے نعرے تلاش کریں۔ وزیر اعظم تاریکین وطن کی اہم کردار کو سمجھتے ہیں اور بھارت کی ترقی کے لئے ان لوگوں کے ساتھ ہمیشہ منسلک رہنے کے لئے کوشاں ہیں۔

On the lighter side....

After surgery, the doctor said to the patient, "I am sorry, but I forgot a pair of scissors inside you. I need to..."

The patient quickly responded, "Oh don't bother doctor! If it is because of that, just tell me how much it cost and I will pay you back."

The young boy was spending a Sunday afternoon with his grandpa. Looking at pictures of his grandpa in his military uniform, the boy asked, "Grandpa, did you ever kill anyone in the war?"

"No champ, I never did."

"That's a good thing."

"You're telling me," began grandpa, "I was the cook!"

An old lady offers a bus driver some peanuts. So the driver happily eats them. Every 5 minutes she hands him another handful of peanuts.

Driver: "Why don't you eat them yourself?"

Old Lady: "I can't chew look I have no teeth."

Driver: "Then why do you buy them?"

Old lady: "I just love the chocolates around them."

"Wake up, honey. It's time to go to school."

"But why? I don't want to go to school."

"Give me two reasons why you don't want to go to school."

"One, all the children hate me. Two, all the teachers hate me."

"Oh, that's no reason. Come on, you have to go to school."

"Give me two good reasons why I should go to school?"

"One, you are fifty-two years old. Two, you are the principal!"

The room was full of pregnant women and their partners, and the class was in full swing. The instructor was teaching the women how to breathe properly, along with informing the men how to give the necessary assurances at this stage of the plan.

The teacher then announced, "Ladies, exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. And, gentlemen, it wouldn't hurt you to take the time to go walking with your partner."

The room got quiet. Finally, a man in the middle of the group raised his hand.



"Yes?" replied the teacher.

"Is it all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"

A guy dies and is sent to

hell. Satan meets him, shows him doors to three rooms, and says he must choose one to spend eternity in.

In the first room, people are standing in dirt up to their necks. The guy says, "No, let me see the next room."

In the second room, people are standing in dirt up to their noses. Guy says no again.

Finally Satan opens the third room. People are standing with dirt up to their knees, drinking coffee and eating pastries.

The guy says, "Ok, I pick this room." Satan says Ok and starts to leave, and the guy wades in and starts pouring some coffee.

On the way out Satan yells, "OK, coffee break's over. Everyone back on your heads!"

There were three men on a hill with their watches. The first man threw his watch down the hill and it broke. The second man threw his watch down the hill and it

broke. The third man threw his watch down the hill, walked all the way to the bottom, and caught it. The other two men were puzzled and asked the third man how he did it.

The third man said, "Easy. My watch is 5 minutes slow."

A doctor had been attending a rich old man for some time, but it became apparent that the old chap had not long to live. Accordingly, the doctor advised his wealthy patient to put his affairs in order.

"Oh yes, I've done that," said the old gentleman. "I've only got to make a will. And do you know what I'm going to do with all my money? I'm going to leave it to the doctor who saves my life."

Teacher: Johnny what do you want to be when you grow up?

Johnny: Either an animal Vet or a Taxidermist.

Teacher: Why did you choose such different careers?

Johnny: Well, either way you get your dog back.

I was getting ready to go to choir practice when I heard my dad say, "Don't forget a bucket."

Confused, I replied, "A bucket? Why?"

"You'll need something to help you carry a tune."



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