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

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Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed in Iran by bomb planted months before blast



Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran on Wednesday using an explosive device that had been covertly hidden in the guest house where he was staying, a source familiar with the matter told CNN.

According to the source, who had been briefed on the operation, the bomb was concealed about two months ago in the guest house where Haniyeh was known to stay in Tehran and detonated remotely once he was inside his room there.

The Iranian government and Hamas say Israel carried out the assassination. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement.

U.S. officials were briefed on the operation by Israeli officials only after the assassination, the source said.

The New York Times was the first to report the details of Haniyeh's assassination.

Iranian state media and Hamas previously indicated Haniyeh was killed by a rocket fired from outside the building.

But the revelation that a bomb was smuggled inside the guest house, which was under the protection of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, indicates a startling breach of security for the IRGC.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Wednesday: "You killed our dear guest in our house and now have paved the way for your harsh punishment."



Trump vs Harris HEAD TO HEAD



Allan Lichtman, often dubbed the "Nostradamus of US presidential elections", makes his predictions based on his "13 keys to the White House". Allan Lichtman currently favours US Vice-President and Democrat Kamala Harris over her Republican rival Donald Trump. He told News Nation that he believes "a lot would have to go wrong for Harris to lose."

Democrats, with Harris being the likely nominee after Joe Biden quit the reelection race, currently hold six of the 13 keys, according to his prediction. These include a primary contest, short-term economy, long-term economy, policy change, no scandal, and no challenger charisma.

"Right now, Democrats have lost three keys" by switching to Harris, he told News Nation.

Under his prediction model, Democrats, however, would have to lose three more keys in order for him to predict a Harris loss. But he says that's not likely to happen.

He has said that he plans to make his official prediction for the 2024 White House race after the Democratic convention in August.

I plan to make my official prediction in August after the Democratic convention.

See my assessment below on the 13 Keys Tracker on where The Keys stand NOW. Please listen to our LIVE show on 7-25-24, linked in the comments below, where we detail every Key.

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Azadi Committee team under the leadership of Khurrum Monga, seen at a dinner gathering in Irving

Benzinga

What Jeff Bezos' Purchase Of 400,000-Acre Texas Ranch Did For The Town Of Van Horn

Margaret Jackson

The arrival of Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin has turned the once-sleepy West Texas town of Van Horn into a burgeoning space industry hub.

In 2004, Bezos purchased the 30,000-acre Figure 2 Ranch just north of Van Horn. Now known as Corn Ranch, the property has grown to 400,000 acres and is the launch site for Blue Origin, the aerospace company Bezos started in 2000.

The influx of highly skilled workers revitalized local businesses, with restaurants and shops seeing a significant uptick in revenue. Blue Origin employees have also become integral to the community, volunteering at the local school and museum.

Blue Origin employs 275 people, supplemented by 50 on-site contractors. While the company recruits engineers for specialized roles, it also hires local residents for a variety of positions, including construction, procurement and food service.

Trending: Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos are bullish on one city that could dethrone New York and become the new financial capital of the US.

Lisa and Vance Cottrell own the NAPA Auto Parts franchise, which sells parts and equipment to Blue Origin. The couple also owns two restaurants, and their daughter Starvanna manages Hotel El Capitan.



The hotel fills with Blue Origin employees before a launch, and they celebrate afterward. Blue Origin's New Shepard Rocket system, a 63-foot-tall vehicle composed of a booster and crew capsule, has completed 15 unmanned test flights.

"They do a good job about making us feel like we're part of the team, and we're all pitching in



to help make it happen," Starvanna Cottrell told the Houston Chronicle.

However, the rapid transformation brought its own set of challenges. The town's economic profile has shifted dramatically, disqualifying it from certain federal grants typically reserved for low-income communities. This has left

Van Horn grappling with infrastructure issues, including a strained housing market and an aging water system.

Despite the challenges, a sense of anticipation hangs in the air. Residents are eager to see what the future holds, with the possibility of Van Horn becoming a major launch site for space tourists.

This wouldn't be the first time Bezos has revolutionized an industry. Known for transforming online retail with Amazon.com Inc., Bezos launched into the world of space exploration with a quieter approach. He launched Blue Origin in 2000, just six years after Amazon's inception, and later began construction on the West Texas launch site. Now, Blue Origin's presence has become a catalyst for Van Horn's transformation, raising both hopes and concerns for the future of the small town.

"At the beginning of Blue Origin, everything was hush, hush, hush," Paradise Beauty Salon owner Cruz Parada told the Houston Chronicle. "They wouldn't tell you what they were doing."

Blue Origin's facility is in the mountains about 25 miles north of Van Horn near another of Bezos' ambitious projects — a clock designed to keep precise time for 10,000 years. Bezos acquired his vast Texas property through a strategic land-buying spree reminiscent of Walt Disney's tactics in Florida. According to Culberson County Attorney Steve Mitchell, Bezos purchased the land piecemeal under different names to avoid driving up property prices.

"At that early stage, nobody ever really knew it was all a mosaic to put them together," Mitchell told the Chronicle.

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1 College Board (Trends in Higher Education) 2020

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IFTEKHAR SHAREEF PAGE



Mushaira in Chicago by Asif Saleem , shora includes Manzar Bhoopali, Noor Amrohi and others . Spent good times with all



Pre wedding ceremony of Moiz Ali son of Syed Ali Faheem owner of Shalimar group of banquets, seen also is Dr Ausaaf Sayeed former Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia



In Toronto for the celebration of wedding of Zulfiqar Ali khan's grandson Imran Aziz Khan son of Junaid khan

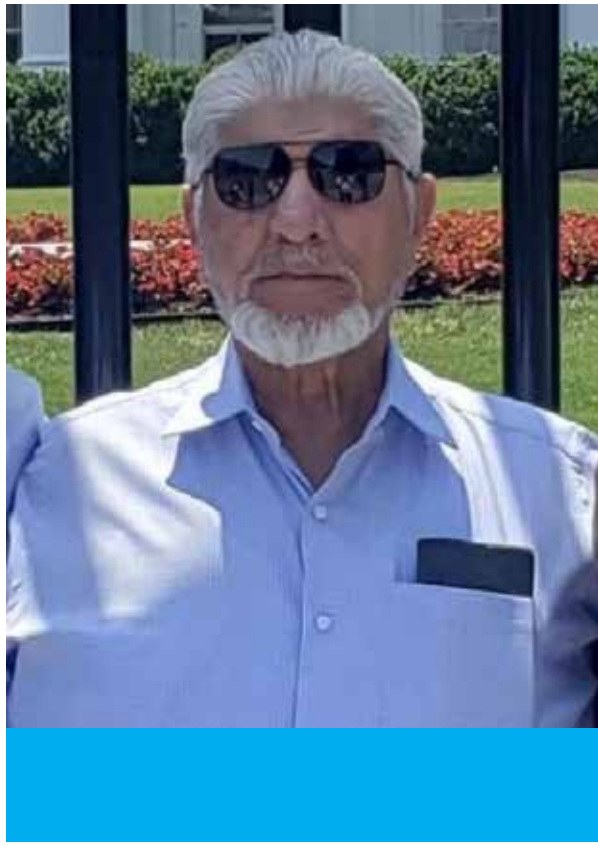
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Wali & Roshan at wedding reception in Oak brook



It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Wahid Bhai, a long-time friend and beloved member of our community. Wahid Bhai passed away peacefully today after a brief sickness.

Wahid Bhai was a familiar face at Masjid Alhuda in Schaumburg, Illinois, Known for his kindness and generosity, meeting everyone with a smiling face. He was always willing to lend a helping hand and offer wise advice. May Allah rest his soul in peace and console his grieving family.



Poet Manzar Bhopali with Chicagi dignitaries



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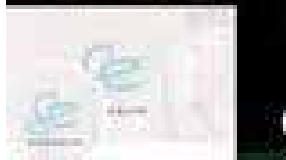
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Ashfaq For Naperville

Dear Friends and Supporters,
I hope this message finds you well. I am excited to announce that I am officially running for Naperville City Council in 2025!

As many of you know, our campaign in 2023 was a hard-fought race. Although we came up short, the experience only strengthened my resolve and commitment to serving our community. The support and encouragement I received from all of you during that time were truly inspiring, and I am more determined than ever to fight for the changes we need.

Why I'm Running Again

Our community deserves a representative who will tirelessly advocate for all. Over the past two years, I have continued to listen to your concerns, gather insights, and develop a comprehensive plan to address the issues that matter most to us.

Our Path Forward

The journey ahead will require dedication, hard work, and the support of a united community. Together, we can build on the progress we've made and overcome the challenges that lie ahead. I am committed to ensuring that our voices are heard and that our community thrives.

How You Can Help:

Petitions: Starting July 30, we will be collecting signatures to get my name on the ballot. We are targeting over 1,000 signatures, and your support will be crucial in reaching this goal. Please join us in this effort by signing the petition and volunteering to help us collect additional signatures..

Donate: Consider making a contribution to our campaign online at <https://secure.actblue.com/>

donate/supportashfaq
Volunteer: Sign up to help with canvassing, phone banking, and other campaign activities at <https://www.ashfaqornaperville.com/get-involved/>
Spread the Word: Share our campaign with your network and encourage others to get involved.



Stay Tuned
Be on the lookout for a follow-up email with details about our upcoming fundraiser. Your participation will be crucial to getting our campaign off to a strong start.

Stay Connected
Follow our campaign for the latest updates, events, and ways to get involved:

Follow Us on Facebook
Check Out Our Website

Your support and enthusiasm mean everything to us. Together, we can bring about the positive changes our community needs and deserves. Thank you for standing with me and for your commitment to our shared future.

Sincerely,
Ashfaq Syed
Naperville



At an event organised by Mohammed Hafeez



Manzar Bhopali and Afsha Usman

Ashfaq Syed reelected as the Naperville Public Library Board President for second term

I am honored to be serving on Naperville Public Library board of trustees since 2020 and humbled to be reelected today as the Naperville Public Library Board President for my second term. I am excited to embark on my year ahead to conceptualize and carry out numerous innovative activities to elevate the Naperville Public Library to new heights. I take this opportunity to thank the Board of Trustees of the Library for their confidence and trust reposed in me to carry this important responsibility.

The Naperville Public Library Board of Trustees is a governing board of community volunteers, appointed by the Mayor of the City of Naperville with the approval of the Naperville City Council. The Board is made up of nine Trustees who can each serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. The Board's responsibilities include overseeing the Library's budget and policies.

Naperville Public Library has been named the No. 1 Public Library in the U.S. in the 100,000 250,000 population category for the last 10 years and has been a beacon of pride to the entire community.

Naperville Public Library has also been named a 2022 five-star library by Library Journal, an award the library has earned 14 times since its inception in 2009. In addition, the library was ranked number one in the country in its expenditure range (\$10-\$29.9 million) for the year. Dec 19, 2022

Thanks & Regards,
Ashfaq Syed
Naperville, IL



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The Courageous Woman in the Story of KARBALA

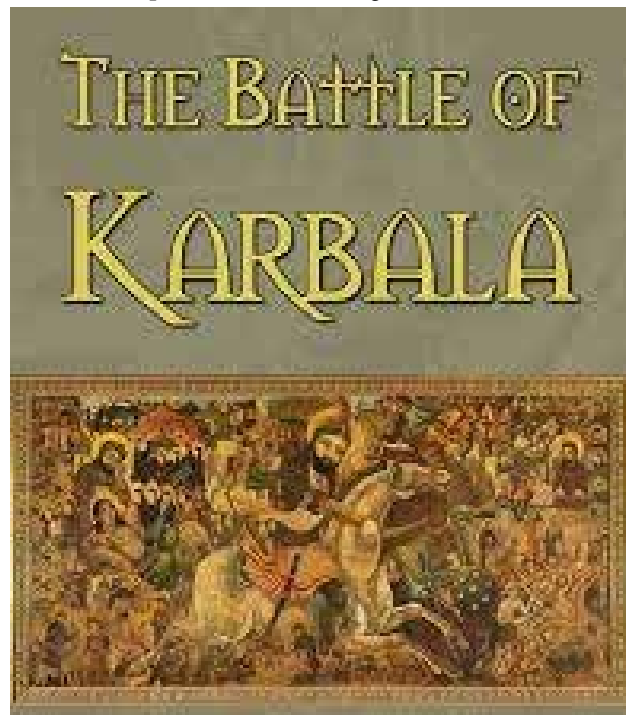
M Basheer Ahmed M D

As Muslims mark the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, the grandson of the Prophet of Islam, this week, we also take a look at the legacy of his sister, Bibi Zanaib

The Martyrdom of Imam Hussain, the grandson of the Prophet of Islam, occurred on the 10th of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar. Muslims worldwide commemorate that tragic event on this day in 680 AD. It was a battle between good and evil. Imam Hussain, the beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him), stood up against Yazid, whose father, Amir Muawiyah, made him a successor caliph (Khalifah). Yazid was impious and did not show Islamic character or behavior to be a Khalifah. Imam Hussain refused to recognize or endorse his leadership over the rapidly growing Muslim Ummah and Muslim state.

On this day (July 28th, 2023), 1400 years ago, a large force of Yazid martyred and mutilated the bodies of 72 followers of Imam Hussain. They captured and enslaved women and children and took a harsh journey of over 400 miles from Karbala to Damascus.

Muslims consider the month of Muharram unique as it is one of the four sacred months of the Islamic lunar calendar. Prophet Muhammed migrated from Makkah to



Medina to build a new society on Justice. It also marks the day of salvation for Moses and the Israelites, who successfully escaped from Egypt (where they were enslaved and persecuted) after Moses called upon God's power to part the Red Sea. Prophet (pbuh) said, "I am closer to Moses than Jews." So, he observed the fast (on that day), and Muslims followed this tradition. Muslims also fast to experience the suffering of Imam Hussain and his family, who were martyred in Karbala by Yazid's army.

An Umayyad caliph, Yazid, ordered Hussain to pledge allegiance to him, and Hussain refused because he believed Yazid's rule to be unjust and illegitimate. Umayyad Caliphate became a dynasty ignoring human dignity, freedom, and Justice. Yazid was a corrupt and immoral leader. Imam Hussain disagreed with his appointment because it was undemocratic, and the new ruler had questionable personal character. Imam Hussain was the most beloved grandson of Prophet Muhammed (PBUH) and lived as per Quranic guidance from early childhood. He remained deeply committed to the Quranic values of Justice and equality.

Imam Hussain was going to Kufa at the invitation of the local Muslim community. However, when he reached Karbala, he found nobody to support him in the Muslim community. All of them were frightened of Yazid's power and influence, whose army had killed his opponents. Imam Hussain was aware of the situation but decided to face Yazid for a dialogue.

His rejection of the pledge of allegiance to Yazid led to a massive ten-day standoff at Karbala, in modern-day Iraq, between Umayyad's enormous army and a few of Imam

Hussain's followers, which included his half-brother, wives, children, sisters, and closest friends. His supporter betrayed him, but his family stood by him in Karbala. He chose to stand his ground, knowing that he and his followers may not survive at the end of the conflict. He stood for righteousness and Justice and sacrificed his life for Islam. It is an incredibly tragic story and a constant reminder to all Muslims to stand up for what is right. We must all be courageous with an abiding commitment to stand up for Justice in the footsteps of Imam Hussain. Muslims from different sects and denominations commemorate the Martyrdom of Imam Hussain, but the Shia Muslims, of course, express their grief conventionally. They hold daily ceremonials (Majlis) and narrate the events that led to Shahadat (Martyrdom). However, besides expressing grief, it is even more essential to convey to the young people that we all should have strength like Imam Hussain to face the calamity and stand firm on the principles of righteousness and Justice. We also remember Karbala's massacre for the bravery of Hazrat Bibi Zainab, the younger sister of Hazrat Hussain, who Publicly rebuked Yazid and his followers without showing any fear even after witnessing the Martyrdom of her brother and her two teenage children. It was a shining example of her defiance against the powerful Yazid. Hazrat Zainab also saved Hazrat Zainul Abedin, the only surviving son of Hazrat Hussain, from any harm from Yazid's forces during the long journey. She also kept Bibi Sakina, daughter of Hazrat Hussain, from enslavement. After her release and return to Madina, she continued to spread the mission of Hazrat Hussain to raise her voice against oppression. We should never forget Bibi Zainab for her bravery and courage and for preserving human dignity. Despite facing the unbelievable tragedy in Karbala, she showed strong faith in God and Islam. Since the Martyrdom of Imam Hussain, the world has faced similar situations often and met with the same cowardice as the Muslim community who invited the Imam to Kufa. People are constantly influenced and frightened by people of power and do not dare to follow a true leader. For instance, in a short period of a few years and under the leadership of one of the world's worst dictators-Hitler, the entire Germany became the followers of the NAZI doctrine.

Even today, we know that people with enormous wealth and power influence millions towards extremely questionable, unethical conduct and immoral values. Seeing how some educated and sophisticated people succumb to control and influence is incredible.

Unfortunately, only dictators rule most of the Muslim World with oppression, and we have not produced a leader to follow in the footsteps of Imam Hussain. However, we have seen some world leaders who show courage, like Imam Hussain, and stand firmly against the oppressors. To name a few, Martin Luther King was against racism in the US, Nelson Mandela was against the most potent apartheid government in South Africa, and Mahatma Gandhi was against the British Empire to get India's independence. Mahatma Gandhi stated, "If I had 72 companions like Hussain, I would have freed India in 24 hours from the British; the progress of Islam resulted from the supreme sacrifice of Imam Hussein; I learned from Hussein how to achieve victory while being oppressed."

There is a saying: "Islam Zinda Hoota Hai her Karbala Ke Baad (Islam becomes alive after the massacre like Karbala)." After the massacre of Karbala, Imam Zain al-Abidin -Son of Imam Hussain, was the only adult male left alive from the household of the Imam, as he could not participate in the battle of Karbala due to high fever. He played an essential role in the aftermath of Karbala, particularly in rebuilding the moral,

spiritual, and ethical foundations of Islamic society. The post-Karbala period was one of great internal dissensions, tumult, and crises among Muslims.

People feared challenging or questioning the Umayyad Khilafat(state), not wanting to attract the state's wrath. Imam Zain al Abedin kept Islam's spiritual, ethical spirit alive by continuing to teach and give sermons in Masjid-e-Nabawi.

A Muslim dearly loves Imam-Hussain and detests his killers and will always be saddened by the story of his killing, even if they do not express those feelings on its anniversary every year. All reputable Islamic schools of thought strongly condemn those who killed Imam-Hussain. It was a sacrifice given in support of human rights and human dignity.

Unfortunately, today, Muslims of all sects practice ritualistic Islam and lose sight of the spirit of Islam and its actual Islamic teachings. Some Shia brothers and sisters do self-flagellate and beat their chests. Others beat bare shoulders with heavy steel chains attached to razor blades to remind the pain and suffering of the Martyrs of Karbala (Some Shia scholars forbid these practices). While observing these rituals, the young generation does not get the actual message, meaning, and purpose of Martyrdom.

During the Ashura, the Shia intellectuals should hold open seminars for the community to promote unity and elaborate on Imam Hussain's bold step and the sacrifice the whole family offered to uphold the Quranic principles of Justice and human dignity. People should learn that oppression and injustice are wrong and challenge the oppressor with courage and conviction. Young Muslims must have an engaging experience that communicates the meaning of Ashura.

Muslims should use this day to unite us, not a day to divide us, and despite our differences, we must give each other the benefit of the doubt and not assume ill intentions based on things that happened hundreds of years ago. Imam Hussain is a living legacy of Muslims. Shia and Sunni need to work together to uphold the legacy and sacrifice that the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, Imam Hussain, gave.

All human unity is the aim of the teachings of Islam. The doctrinal and ideological differences must not end up in bloodshed. Quran says, "And hold fast all together by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you) and be not divided among yourselves and remember with gratitude Allah's favor on you" (3:103). Quran also says: "The believers are nothing else than brothers (in Islam). So, make reconciliation between your brothers, and fear Allah, that you may receive mercy" (49:10). The unity of people makes an unbeatable strong nation. Islam lays high stress on the importance of unity. To deal with the challenges Muslim Umma faces in today's world, unity among Muslims is vital for our survival.

Dr. Basheer Ahmed is a former professor of psychiatry at South Western Medical School, Dallas, Texas, and President Emeritus Institute of Quranic Knowledge and Religious Acceptance (IQRA) North Texas.



India Independence Day

“At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which

patriotic hearts rejoiced at seeing India becoming a sovereign nation and the triumph of hundreds and thousands of

of 15th of August, 1947 that India tricolor flag was unfurled by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, on the ramparts the Red Fort, Delhi.



History

In 1947, after the World War II, Britain could see that it no longer could hold its power over India. It was becoming increasingly difficult and Indian freedom fighters were in no mood to give up. With the international support also coming to an end, Britain decided to relive India from their power but not before June 1948. However, the impending independence more so enhanced the violence between Hindus and Muslims in the provinces of Punjab and Bengal. The communal violence grew so large that it became impossible for new viceroy Lord Mountbatten to control it and as such, he advanced the date for the transfer of power, allowing less than six months for a mutually agreed plan for independence. Thus, India gained its independence on August 15, 1947 but not without paying a heavy price. Partition was done and a separate state for the Muslims was formed, with Muhammad Ali Jinnah being sworn in as Pakistan's first Governor General in Karachi. On the midnight of August 15, 1947 India was sworn in as an independent country with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as the prime minister and viceroy then as Lord Mountbatten. The official ceremony took place in Delhi. Great leaders and freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Abul Kalam Azad Jinnah, B. R. Ambedkar and Master Tara Singh are few of the many to whom India owes its freedom.

colleges across nation hoist the national flag on the rooftops and the buildings to symbolize the stature of the national flag as nation's pride. Not only the educational institutions but also offices and business areas celebrate this day. Since it is declared a national holiday by the government of India, all the institutions, government or otherwise, have holiday. People only go to offices to attend the flag hoisting ceremony. The Prime Minister addresses the Nation after the flag has been unfurled recounting the country's achievements of the year, discussing current major issues and future plans for the progress of the country. Kite-flying has also become a tradition on this day and people can be seen flying numerous kites of all colors, sizes and shapes symbolizing the freedom.

Independence Day is celebrated throughout India and every corner of the country on 15th August every year. Independence Day is celebrated by every citizen of India irrespective of caste, creed and religion. It is amazing to see how apart from the normal government offices and educational institutions the day is celebrated even in small colonies and associations. There are costume parties and people, old or young, men or women, dress up in a nationalistic way. There are many documentaries aired and grave of martyrs are paid respect. Every citizen does something or the other to mark this day of freedom. Media is not far behind as most of the channels telecast latest or classic films based on the independence theme. Also, there are patriotic programs that are organized and broadcasted. In short, every person in the country revels in the nationalistic pride.

Celebrations

The day is celebrated to commemorate the birth of the world's biggest democracy as a national holiday. All the schools and



comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new...India discovers herself again.” - Jawaharlal Nehru

After more than two hundred years of British rule, India finally won back its freedom on 15th August, 1947. All the

martyred souls. It was a birth of a new nation and a new beginning. The only fact that marred the happiness of the fruits by the blood of martyrs was the fact that the country was divided into India and Pakistan and the violent communal riots took away a number of lives. It was on the eve



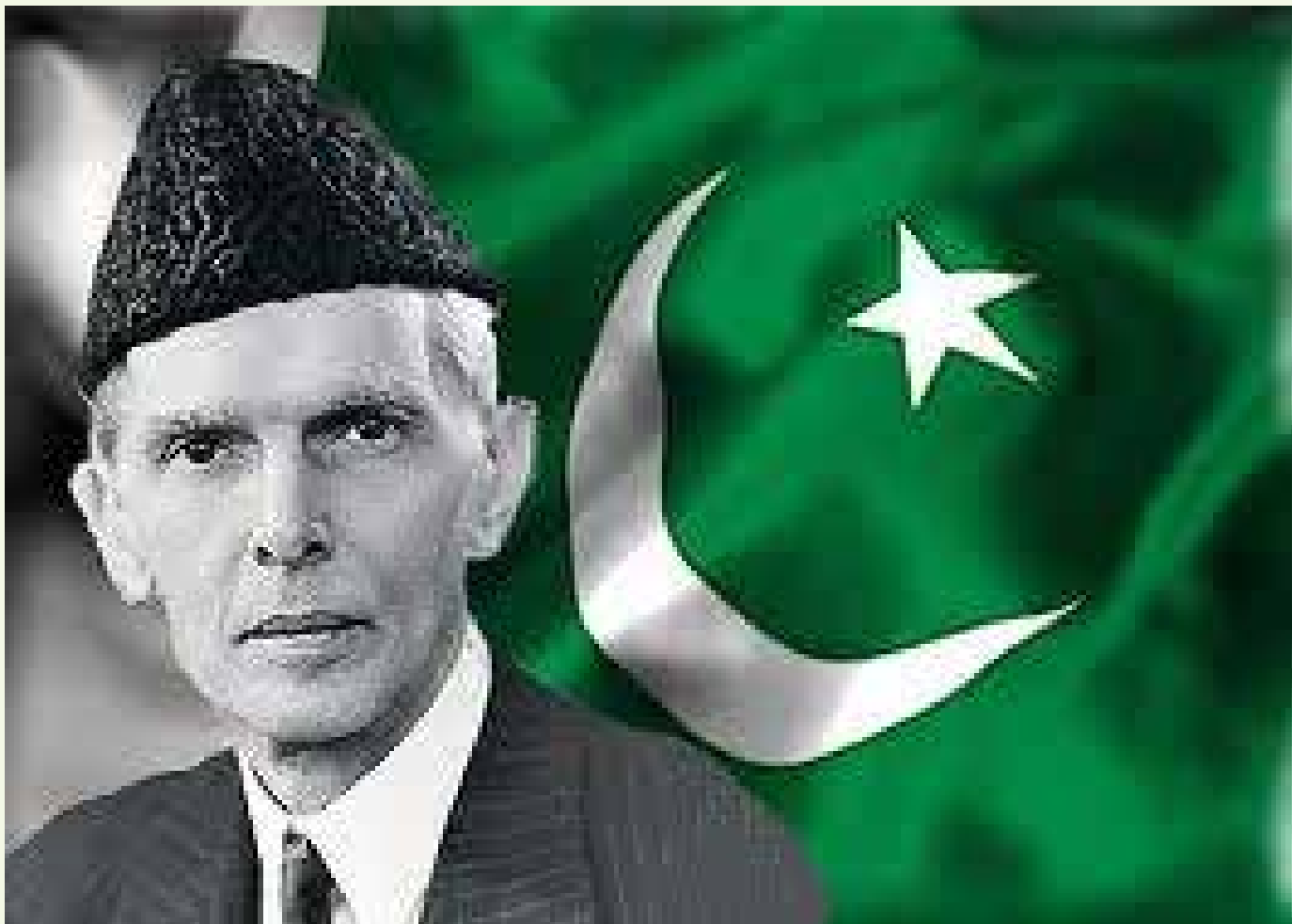
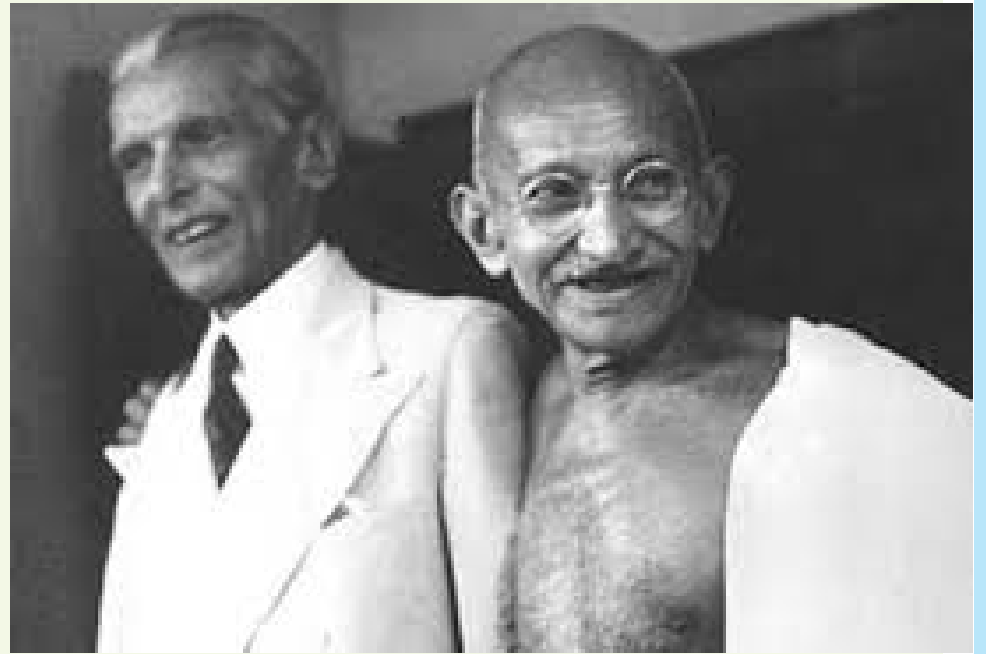
Pakistan Independence Day

Pakistan's Independence Day, which is annually held on August 14, celebrates the country's independence from the British rule on that date in 1947. This day is an occasion to promote patriotism and national unity.

Many people dress in or use the colors green and white, which are Pakistan's official colors, during Pakistan's Independence Day. ©iStockphoto.com/duncan1890

dence Day.

Pakistan's Independence Day also pays homage to people who devoted their lives for Pakistan's freedom movement and made sacrifices to attain Pakistan's independence. A change of guard takes place at national monuments, including the mausoleums of Muhammad Iqbal, who was a poet, philosopher, and politician, and Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who is considered by many as Pakistan's founder and Quaid-i-



came British India's largest political party. Major Muslim political leaders, including Muhammad Ali Jinnah, were members of the Indian National Congress and worked towards Hindu-Muslim unity and India's independence.

The All India Muslim League was founded on December 30, 1906. There was growing demand for an independent Muslim state in India. In 1930 Muhammad Iqbal presented the idea of a separate Muslim state that would geographically consist of the Muslim majority areas in the subcontinent. The word Pakistan is a conjunction of two words Pak meaning Pure and Stan meaning Land, a name coined by Choudhary Rahmat Ali.

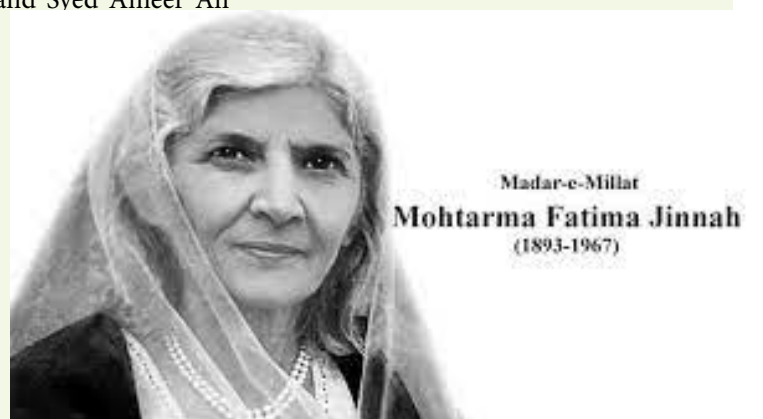
Strong Hindu nationalism gave birth to the Two Nation Theory, an ideology that is accredited as being the basis for Pakistan's creation. In 1940 the Pakistan Resolution was passed in Lahore demanding greater Muslim autonomy in British India.

After World War II, it was expected that the British colonies would soon disintegrate. The Pakistan Movement, spearheaded by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, resulted in creating a Muslim state. Pakistan gained independence from the British rule on August 14, 1947. At its birth, Pakistan had two parts commonly referred to as East and West Pakistan. In 1971 East Pakistan parted from West Pakistan and became Bangladesh.

1947. The subcontinent's inhabitants did not approve of the British rule in united India. An uprising that occurred in 1857 eventually formed the shape of a freedom movement, which exemplifies the efforts of the people of British India in gaining their independence.

Muslims ruled the subcontinent before the British incursion and suffered due to the 1857 uprising against the British East India Company. Leaders such as Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Sved Ameer Ali worked diligently for the Muslim people's political advancement.

The Indian National Congress was formed in 1885, which later on be-



What Do People Do?

People all over Pakistan celebrate Independence Day with patriotic zest. Many people who attend the Independence Day parades dress up in green and white, which are the Pakistani flag's colors. People visit national monuments and places of national significance to celebrate Independence Day. This is also a time to meet relatives, exchange gifts and visit recreational spots.

Pakistan's national flag is hoisted on public, private buildings, residences and monuments at dawn. Official buildings, including Parliament House, are decorated and colorfully lit. The prime minister and president address and congratulate the nation and talk about the day's significance. Streets and houses are decorated with candles, oil lamps and pennants. Firework shows are put together on the eve of Indepen-

Azam (supreme leader).

Events held during the day include special theatre shows, national song competitions, concerts, and Independence Day pageants. Radio and television stations broadcast national songs and specially prepared Independence Day programs.

Public Life

Independence Day is an official holiday in Pakistan on August 14. All governmental, non-governmental offices, organizations, educational institutions, post offices, and major markets are closed.

Public transport remains unavailable on all major routes. Traffic congestion is common due to Independence Day parades.

Background

The Indo-Pak subcontinent remained a British colony from 1849-

US reaches plea deal with alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed

The US has reached a plea deal with alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two other defendants accused of plotting the 2001 terror attacks, according to the Defense Department.

The pretrial agreement – reached after 27 months of negotiations – takes the death penalty off the table for Mohammed, Walid Bin Attash, and Mustafa al Hawsawi, prosecutors said in a letter, obtained by CNN, sent to the families of 9/11 victims and survivors shortly before the Department of Defense announced the news in a press release Wednesday evening.

After beginning negotiations in March 2022, the three men agreed to plead guilty to all charges, including the murder of the 2,976 people listed in the charging sheet, the families were told.

Mohammed and his co-defendants will enter guilty pleas at a plea hearing that could come as early as next week, according to the letter.

“We recognize that the status of the case in general, and this news in particular, will understandably and appropriately elicit intense emotion, and we also realize that the decision to enter into a pre-trial agreement will be met with mixed reactions amongst the thousands of family members who lost loved ones,” prosecutors wrote in the letter. “The decision to enter into a pre-trial agreement after 12 years of pre-trial litigation was not reached lightly; however, it is our collective, reasoned, and good-faith judgment that this resolution is the best path to finality and justice in this case.”

“This is the least bad deal in the real world that would ever happen,” said Peter Bergen, a terrorism expert and CNN national security analyst who has written extensively about Osama bin Laden.

The government faced the difficult challenge of advancing a case that had stalled over the course of the two decades since Mohammed’s capture in Pakistan in 2003 for his alleged involvement in the terror attacks.

“They were still in pre-trial hearings,” Bergen told CNN. “Getting some kind of deal is better.” In 2008, Mohammed was charged with a list of crimes including conspiracy, murder in violation of the law of war, attacking civilians, attacking civilian objects, intentionally causing serious bodily injury, destruction of property in violation of the law of war, and terrorism and material support of terrorism. The US had said it would seek the death penalty for Mohammed.

But the military trial against Mohammed and

his alleged co-conspirators was delayed for years as the US tried to determine how to handle the issue of torture used against Mohammed and others at secret CIA prisons in the 2000s. The issue posed a legal problem for prosecutors about whether evidence obtained through torture was admissible in court.

The trial was set to begin on January 11, 2021, but delays brought about by the resignation of two judges and the coronavirus pandemic pushed the date back again.

The three alleged conspirators will still face a sentencing hearing where the parties will present evidence to argue for an appropriate sentence short of the death penalty. That sentencing hearing will not occur before next summer, according to the letter sent to families.

“During the sentencing hearings in this case, there may be an opportunity for a member of your family to testify about the impact the September 11 attacks have had on you and your loved ones, and to provide a victim impact statement that will be considered by the military jury in determining a sentence,” prosecutors said in the letter.

The letter notes that prosecutors met with families for feedback about possible plea agreements as is required by law.

As part of the agreement, the defendants agreed to answer written questions from the surviving victims and victims’ families about their roles and reasons for conducting the attacks.

The families now have 45 days to submit questions to be answered by the alleged co-conspirators by the end of the year, the letter says. According to the letter, the prosecutors plan to travel to meet with the families in person this fall to discuss the plea agreements.

Families of victims push back
But some families pushed back on the plea agreements Brett Eagleson, the president of 9/11 Justice, an organization that represents 9/11 survivors and family members of victims, said in a statement that the families are “deeply troubled by these plea deals” and pushed for more information about Saudi Arabia’s involvement in the attacks.



“While we acknowledge the decision to avoid the death penalty, our primary concern remains access to these individuals for information. These plea deals should not perpetuate a system of closed-door agreements, where crucial information is hidden without giving the families of the victims the chance to learn the full truth.”

“We urge the administration to ensure that these deals do not close the door on obtaining critical information that can shed light on Saudi Arabia’s role in the 9/11 attacks. Our quest for justice will not waver until the full truth is revealed, and justice is served for the victims and their families,” Eagleson said.

Terry Strada, the national chair for 9/11 Families United, said the news came as a gut punch as she stepped out of a Manhattan federal courthouse Wednesday afternoon from a daylong hearing in the families’ ongoing litigation with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Strada expressed concern that the plea deal news will overshadow the newly unsealed evidence in the families’ fight to hold Saudi Arabia accountable for its purported role in the terror plot. The kingdom has denied any involvement in the attacks.

“No family member knew this was coming,” she said. “I’m very suspicious of the timing of it. This is the biggest day in our entire case. Biggest day in 23 years of trying to obtain justice for the murder of our loved ones. And they offer those guys a plea deal.”

It’s unclear where Mohammed and his co-defendants will serve out their sentences.

The Biden administration has made it a priority to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba where the defendants have been held, repatriating several detainees who were no longer considered significant threats to national security. But dozens of detainees still remain in the facility.

Oren Liebermann and Lauren del Valle, CNN

After \$4 billion Infosys demand, India may target other IT majors, source says

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Indian authorities may issue notices soon to more major IT services firms in an investigation of alleged tax evasion related to work done by their overseas offices, a government source said on Thursday, a day after Infosys was slapped with a \$4 billion tax demand.

In serving its highest-ever tax demand on Infosys, the government accused India's second-largest tech services company of evading taxes and sought 320 billion rupees (\$3.8 billion), or almost all its revenue for the quarter ended June 30. The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom), an industry lobby group, said that the tax demand "reflects a lack of understanding of industry's operating model", and that companies are facing avoidable litigation, uncertainty, as well as concerns from investors and customers due to such actions from the government.

"The government circulars issued... must be honoured in enforcement mechanisms so that notices do not create uncertainty and negatively impact perceptions on India's ease of doing business," it said.

Yet, tax authorities are not confining their investigations to Infosys. "This is an industry-wide issue," a senior tax official with knowledge of the matter told Reuters, adding that notices were likely to be sent to some other IT companies.

Infosys said late on Wednesday it had received "pre-show cause" notices from the tax authorities but believed the relevant taxes had been paid. The company said in a statement it had paid its dues and is in compliance with central and state regulations.

The source spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak to media.

India's finance ministry did not reply to an email seeking comment.

Experts said more tax notices for the same alleged violations were likely to be in the offing.

"Issuing such a substantial show-cause notice is likely to set a precedent, leading to similar notices being issued to other multinational companies, particularly in the IT sector," said Rajat Mohan, director at accounting firm MOORE Singhi.

The overseas offices carry out projects for Indian IT firms and provide services to international clients, among other functions.

Shares of Infosys were down 1% at 1,868.25 rupees on Thursday.

Infosys may be in for a long and protracted battle, some tax experts said.

"The pragmatic solution for Infosys lies in going to court and getting a stay on these proceedings," said Abhishek Rastogi, founder of Rastogi Chambers, adding that the services were provided outside India and in that case the company



should not have to pay any tax.

In the last year, India's goods and services tax department has sent more than 1,000 notices to companies, including Life Insurance Corporation of India, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Ultratech Cement.

Tax authorities have also issued notices to online gaming companies demanding a total of about 1 trillion rupees in taxes that they have allegedly evaded.

Companies have challenged these demands in tribunals and courts.

(\$1=83.7175 Indian rupees)

By Nikunj Ohri and HariPriya Sureshb

American woman found in Indian forest had been chained to tree for 40 days

An American woman has been found chained to a tree in an Indian forest where she had been for 40 days, triggering a manhunt for her former husband.

Lalita Kayi Kumar, 49, was found by a shepherd in a forest near Sonurli village, Goa, after he heard her crying for several days.

Unable to speak following her rescue, she wrote a note that alleged her ex-husband had left her to die and that she had been without food for 40 days.

She also claimed she was administered an "injection for extreme psychosis which caused severe jaws locked and inability to drink any water. Need intravenous food later ... husband tied me to a tree in a forest".

Ms Kumar was found with her legs tied to the tree but her hands unbound. A police officer said she was too weak to unchain herself. There were also reportedly marks from numerous other injuries on her body. She was wearing a see-through raincoat, an olive green shirt and worn-out brown trousers when she was found.

Police have registered a case of attempted murder against

her former husband, who is accused of chaining her up before he escaped. Relatives of the couple are being interviewed by police.

Ms Kumar was transferred to Goa Medical College for specialist treatment after doctors raised concerns about her mental health.

A hospital official said: "She is out of danger, but she is suffering from severe depression and other mental health illnesses. We have found medical prescriptions in her possession suggesting she was on antidepressants."

Documents found on Ms Kumar show that she was a resident of Tamil Nadu, a south Indian state, about 600 miles



away from the forest where she was found. It is thought that she had been living in India for the past decade. George Johnson/Yahoo/News

Americans Glimpse Jimmy Carter's Frailty and His Resolve

ATLANTA — His face was pale and gaunt, his legs were wrapped in a blanket, and his eyes never seemed to make contact with the family members huddled around him. But on Tuesday, Jimmy Carter was there, in the front row of a church in Atlanta, just a few feet from the coffin holding Rosalynn Carter, his wife of 77 years.

Carter, 99, was some 164 miles from his home in Plains, Georgia, where he had been in hospice care since February. He was brought into the church in a wheelchair, as the crowd of mourners at the memorial service looked on, many of them catching their first glimpse of him in nine months.

That he would make such a trek in his condition was, to some, shocking — and, to his family, worrisome.

And yet, it was also very true to form: a display of the tenacity, bordering on stubbornness, that has been a defining characteristic of Carter, the longest-living president in U.S. history.

“Come hell or high water, Jimmy Carter was going to use his inner resources to be there,” presidential historian Douglas Brinkley said, adding that the former president “has the most intense willpower of any person I’ve ever known.”

A strain of determination has always been core to Carter’s identity, particularly when it came to Rosalynn, who rebuffed him when he first asked to marry her. But it has also evolved into a quiet intensity that has propelled him — and at times dismayed his family and aides — as he has repeatedly defied illness and infirmity.

“He is a man of enormous stamina and strength and will,” author Kai Bird, a Carter biographer, said on CNN, as the memorial service concluded.

In 2019, after a fall left him with a black eye and stitches, he soon showed up to help build houses in Nashville, Tennessee, for Habitat for Human-

ity. “I had a No. 1 priority, and that was to come to Nashville to build houses,” Carter said at a gathering of volunteers, according to *People* magazine.

“One of the things Jesus taught was: If you have any talents, try to utilize them for the benefit of others,” Carter, then 95, told the magazine, which reported that he had 14 stitches on his head. “That’s what Rosa and I have both tried to do.”

importance of his presence at the church, where he joined some of his successors and every living presidential spouse.

“He has been this moral rock for so many people, but she really was that rock for him,” his grandson, Jason Carter, said. “He’s glad he’s not going to miss it, but we’re all worried about him.”

The Carters’ daughter, Amy Carter, said at the service that her father was not able to speak to



Former President Jimmy Carter attends the memorial service for his wife, former first lady Rosalynn Carter, at Glenn Memorial Church in Atlanta, Nov. 28, 2023. (Erin Schaff/The New York Times)

Not long after that, he fractured his pelvis. He ignored pleas from his family and staff and showed up to teach Sunday school at Maranatha Baptist Church, carefully perching on a stool in front of the congregation to offer a simple sermon about being a kind and loving neighbor.

Afterward, he and his wife stayed in their seats, as dozens of visitors from around the world lined up for pictures with them. Jimmy Carter has rarely been seen in public since he entered hospice care, and in May, the Carter Center announced that Rosalynn, a longtime advocate for greater access to mental health care, had dementia. She died on Nov. 19, at age 96.

Carter’s family expressed concerns that attending Tuesday’s service could be taxing for the former president. But they also recognized the

the attendees. So she read a love letter he wrote to his wife while he served in the Navy more than seven decades ago.

“My darling, every time I have ever been away from you, I have been thrilled when I returned to discover just how wonderful you are,” Carter wrote in the letter. “While I’m away, I try to convince myself that you really are not, could not be, as sweet and beautiful as I remember. But when I see you, I fall in love with you all over again.”

“Does that seem strange to you?” he went on. “It doesn’t to me. Goodbye, darling. Until tomorrow, Jimmy.”

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SAFE DRIVING IN INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS



Inclement weather can pose many hazards and dangerous road conditions for operators. Workers should be aware of impacting weather events and its effects on safely driving and operating vehicles and equipment.

BE PREPARED

CHECK LOCAL FORECAST

Stay caught up on the latest weather conditions for your area. In the event of severe weather, operations may need to be altered to accommodate the changes.

CONDUCT PLAY OF THE DAY

Based on current and future weather conditions, detailed communication in regards to each worker's assigned task, safe routes to take, and specific operations should be discussed in-depth.

PERFORM THOROUGH PM

Check tires, windshield wipers, fluids, lights, and other essential equipment functions that will ensure the vehicle is ready to operate safely and efficiently.

SLOW DOWN

BE DEFENSIVE & OFFENSIVE

Practice safe driving techniques related to defensive driving and Smith System 5 Keys. By using these tools, drivers can remain vigilant in their efforts to arrive safely.

USE SAFE DRIVING TOOLS

Drive with lights on and use warning devices to effectively communicate with other drivers. When pavement is wet, you should decrease speed, turn off cruise control, and increase following distance.

SEEK COVER

With a threat of excessive wind gusts, hail, or even tornadoes, limit driving to an as needed basis. Secure loads, protect vehicles and equipment, and seek shelter when severe weather is near.

STAY FOCUSED

MAINTAIN AWARENESS

Situational awareness will be essential during inclement weather. Pay careful attention to weather, roadway, and traffic conditions as they may change abruptly.

BE PROACTIVE

Remember to Stop. Speak. Act! It is important to stay engaged with the environment around you and make good decisions to ensure the safety of yourself and your teammates.

COMMUNICATE

Keep constant communication with team members about conditions. Radios will be an essential resource in the event that cell towers or electricity are impacted by storms.

HIGH WATER ON THE ROAD & AVOIDING HAZARDS



BE PREPARED

VERIFY CONDITIONS

In high water operations, it is important to remain aware of locations that may become impacted by flooding. All employees should be briefed and updated regularly regarding this information.

ENSURE ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES

Equip vehicles with necessary supplies to respond to flooded roadways. This includes PPE, signage, tools, and water/snacks, especially if employees will be stationed for long hours at these locations.

PLAN FOR MORE

Flooding creates hazardous conditions for workers. Verify that first aid kits are stocked, and fire extinguishers are charged before response.

SLOW DOWN

TURN AROUND

When roadways are covered in water, turn around and never attempt to drive through. It may be worse than what it initially appears. Vehicles are not equipped to handle high water, which may cause the engine to flood or be carried away.

BE CAUTIOUS

In the event of rain or wet pavement, drive carefully to the current conditions to avoid loss of traction on the roadway. Operators should turn off cruise control, slow down, and increase following distance.

HAVE A WAY TO ESCAPE

Avoid areas that would require backing. If backing becomes necessary, use a spotter, when available. Perform 360 walkaround to confirm surroundings are free of hazards.

STAY FOCUSED

OBSERVE SURROUNDINGS

Identify unsafe travel paths and avoid driving through these areas. Debris, fixed objects, downed powerlines, or other items may be hidden. If you don't know, don't go!

CALL A TIME-OUT

When faced with situations that may become unsafe, workers should utilize stop work authority and communicate hazards with others. When conditions improve, a new plan of action may be taken.

REMAIN ALERT

Long hours in this type of emergency response may affect workers ability to remain vigilant. It is essential to communicate with supervision about this to ensure operational readiness.

Health & Wellness

Stress symptoms: Effects on your body

Stress symptoms may be affecting your health, even though you might not realize it. You may think illness is to blame for that nagging headache, your frequent insomnia or your decreased productivity at work. But stress may actually be the culprit. Common effects of stress

Indeed, stress symptoms can affect your body, your thoughts and feelings, and your behavior. Being able to recognize common stress symptoms can give you a jump on managing them. Stress that's left unchecked can contribute to many health

problems, such as high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity and diabetes. Common effects of stress on your body

- Headache
- Muscle tension or pain
- Chest pain
- Fatigue
- Change in sex drive
- Stomach upset

Common effects of stress on your mood

- Sleep problems
- Anxiety
- Restlessness
- Lack of motivation or focus
- Feeling overwhelmed
- Irritability or anger
- Sadness or depression

Common effects of stress on your behavior

- Overeating or undereating
- Angry outbursts
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Tobacco use
- Social withdrawal
- Exercising less often

Making Sense of Vitamins and Minerals

Choosing the foods and nutrients you need to stay healthy

Vitamins and minerals are so important that health fails if you don't get a steady supply of them. Do you know what you can do to make sure your body gets enough of all the vitamins and minerals it needs? Or how these nutrients lower the risk of diseases, including stroke, diabetes, and cancers?

You can find out in Making Sense of Vitamins and Minerals, a Special Health Report from Harvard Medical School doctors. This instructive and empowering report will give you a practical under-

standing of the roles these nutrients play in protecting health and preventing illness.

Does vitamin A lower the risk of developing cataracts? Does potassium help lower blood pressure? Can vitamin C prevent colds? The report will give you the facts — and dispel the myths. (The answers, by the way, are yes, yes, and, unfortunately, no.)

Each of Harvard's 50+ Special Health Reports brings you information you can use to take charge of your health. Making Sense of Vitamins and Minerals is no

exception. The report will show you how you can improve and strengthen your daily diet to include the complete spectrum of nutrients — and do it without the expense or risk of multivitamins or multimineral supplements.

That's right. A smart, healthy diet, with delicious and wholesome foods, is the best and safest way to fulfill your body's needs for vitamins and minerals. The report will show you which foods are the best sources of these nutrients. For example, did you know that potatoes have 50% more potas-

sium per serving than bananas? Or that the best source for vitamin C is not citrus fruit but red sweet peppers?

The report will also introduce you to 50 superfoods that deliver the most nutrients per calorie. You'll be briefed on eight ways to squeeze the most nutritional benefit from the foods you prepare. And if you are worried that your diet isn't up to the challenge of delivering the vitamins and minerals you need, the report explores when and why some people need a daily supplement, and the best kind to take.

When to worry about worrying

There is no shortage of things to worry about --- from personal concerns about job security or health, to fears related to larger issues such as political conflicts or natural disasters. Temporary anxiety can be a healthy response to uncertainty and danger, but constant worry and nervousness may be a sign of generalized anxiety disorder.

Do I have generalized anxiety disorder?

You'll need your doctor's help to know for sure, but while other types of anxiety disorders arise from particular situations, generalized anxiety disorder is characterized by debilitating worry and agitation about nothing in particular, or anything at all.

People with generalized anxiety disorder tend to worry about everyday matters.

They can't shake the feeling that something bad will happen and they will not be prepared. They may worry to excess about missing an appointment, losing a job, or having an accident. Some people even worry about worrying too much.

Physical symptoms are common too, and can include a racing heart, dry mouth, upset stomach, muscle tension, sweating, trembling, and irritability. These bodily expressions of anxiety can have a negative effect on physical health. For example, people with generalized anxiety disorder are at greater risk for heart attack and other cardiovascular problems.

Taming anxiety

If you have generalized anxiety disorder, therapy — particularly cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) — can help. CBT helps

people recognize when they are misinterpreting events, exaggerating difficulties, or making unnecessarily pessimistic assumptions, and offers new ways to respond to anxiety-provoking situations.

For some people, medications can be an important part of treatment. Commonly prescribed drugs include antidepressants, such as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (like Prozac or Zoloft), or dual serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (like Effexor or Cymbalta). These drugs take longer to work than the traditional anti-anxiety drugs, but also may provide greater symptom relief over time.

Symptoms of generalized anxiety disorder

Persistent, excessive worry about several different things for at least six months

Fatigue, difficulty sleeping, or restlessness

Trouble concentrating

Irritability

Muscle tension

Feeling tense or "on edge"

Only your doctor can determine whether you meet the criteria for generalized anxiety disorder. If you think you might have this condition, don't hesitate to talk to your primary care doctor. There are many different treatments that can ease the very real discomfort of this condition.

Learn how to protect your sight as you grow older!

Sight is a precious gift. But it can be snatched away by a variety of assaults. If you are age 50 or older, I hope you will order this report from Harvard Medical School.

The Aging Eye is written specifically for adults over 50. If you are one, your risk of developing one of four disorders that pose a threat to vision — cataract, glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy — increases as you grow older.

Age is the main risk factor for these diseases. For example, half of all people between the ages of 65 and 74 have cataracts; after age 75, about 70% do. And glaucoma is most common in people over 60.

When it comes to your vision, as you grow older you've got to grow

wiser too.

That means knowing the steps you can take to prevent these vision problems. You also need to know the warning signs of vision problems, how they are diagnosed, and the best treatment options for them.

The Aging Eye will help you determine your risk of developing these disorders. It will describe their symptoms, update you on advances in diagnostic testing, and share news about advances in surgery and breakthroughs in the development of disease-arresting medications.

You'll learn what a cataract is (it's not a film on the eye), why the "air-puff" test for glaucoma is sometimes wrong (and which test is much more accurate), how your diet and lifestyle can decrease your risk of

macular degeneration, and much more.

Plus, the report will show you ways to relieve dry eye syndrome. You'll see how a procedure called conductive keratoplasty compares to LASIK to correct vision. You'll find out what causes "floaters" and "flashes." And you'll be alerted to those symptoms that signal a sight-imperiling emergency that demands immediate treatment.

Our eyes change as we get older. That's a truth we can do little about. It's the consequences we can change. Order your copy of The Aging Eye today!

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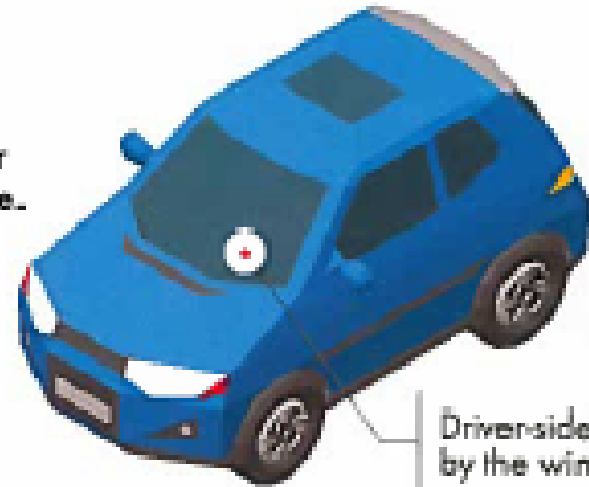
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North Korean officials seek medicine for Kim's health problems related to obesity

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has regained weight and appears to have obesity-related health problems such as high blood pressure and diabetes, and his officials are looking for new medicines abroad to treat them, South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers Monday.

The 40-year-old Kim, known for heavy drinking and smoking, comes from a family with a history of heart problems. Both his father and grandfather, who ruled North Korea before his 2011 inheritance of power, died of heart issues.

Some observers said Kim, who is about 170 centimeters (5 feet, 7 inches) tall and previously weighed 140 kilograms (308 pounds), appeared to have lost a large amount of weight in 2021, likely from changing his diet. But recent state media footage show he has regained the weight.

On Monday, the National Intelligence Service, South Korea's main spy agency, told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing that Kim is estimated to weigh about 140 kilograms (308 pounds) again and is in a high-risk group for heart disease, according to Lee Seong Kweun, one of the

lawmakers.

Lee said the NIS told lawmakers that Kim has shown symptoms of high blood pressure and diabetes since his early 30s. Another lawmaker, Park Sunwon, said the NIS believes Kim's obesity is linked to his drinking, smoking and stress.

Lee and Park quoted the NIS as saying it obtained intelligence that North Korean officials have been trying to get new medications abroad for Kim's suspected high blood pressure and diabetes.

North Korea is one of the most secretive countries in the world, and there is virtually no way for outsiders to know Kim's exact health conditions. The NIS also has a spotty record in confirming developments in North Korea.



tated.

The NIS in its Monday briefing maintained its assessment that Kim's preteen daughter, reportedly named Kim Ju Ae, is bolstering her likely status as her father's heir apparent. But the NIS said it cannot rule out the possibility that she could be replaced by one of her siblings because she hasn't been officially designated as her father's successor.

Speculation about Kim Ju Ae, who is about 10 or 11 years old, flared when she accompanied her father at high-profile public events starting in late 2022. State media called her Kim Jong Un's "most beloved" or "respected" child and churned out footage and photos proving her rising political standing and closeness with her father.

The NIS told lawmakers that at least 60% of Kim Ju Ae's public activities have involved attending military events with her father.

Kim's health is the focus of keen attention outside North Korea since he hasn't formally anointed a successor who would take charge of the country's advancing nuclear arsenal targeting the United States and its allies if he was incapacitated.

MEDALS WON BY INDIA IN ALL EDITION OF OLYMPICS TILL NOW

OLYMPIC	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1900 PARIS	0	2	0	2
1928 AMSTERDAM	1	0	0	1
1932 LOS ANGELES	1	0	0	1
1936 BERLIN	1	0	0	1
1948 LONDON	1	0	0	1
1952 HELSINKI	1	0	1	2
1956 MELBOURNE	1	0	0	1
1960 ROME	0	1	0	1
1964 TOKYO	1	0	0	1
1968 MEXICO CITY	0	0	1	1
1972 MUNICH	0	0	1	1
1980 MOSCOW	1	0	0	1
1996 ATLANTA	0	0	1	1
2000 SYDNEY	0	0	1	1
2004 ATHENS	0	1	0	1
2008 BIEJING	1	0	2	3
2012 LONDON	0	2	4	6
2016 RIO DE JANEIRO	0	1	1	2
2020 TOKYO	1	2	4	7
TOTAL	10	9	16	35



"The WiFi password is: 'buysomethingorgetout'."

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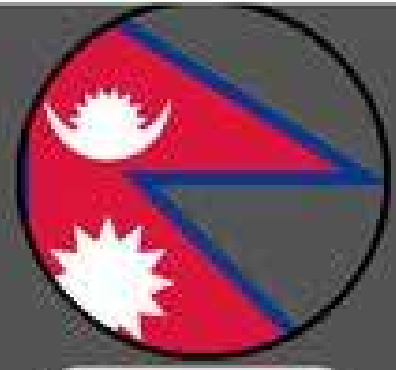
SRI LANKA



AFGHANISTAN



BANGLADESH



NEPAL

HISTORY BITES

Indian culture has evolved over the ages by India's ancient Rishi-s, who meditated on the banks of its holy rivers. The term 'Rishi' applies to a sage to whom the Gods revealed the Veda-s. The Veda-s are the very foundation of Indian civilization. The Veda-s include the knowledge of the eternal truths about the Creator, His creation and means to preserve it.

The chief classes of Rishi- are Brahma-rishi (God Brahma's manas-putra or born from his mind during the creation of the universe); Devarishi (Narada), Rajarishi (kings who became Rishi-s through their ascetic knowledge and tapasya, like Janaka).

The 2 most popular Hindu sages are:

Valmiki

The famous poet-author of the epic Ramayana. One of his ashrama-s was at present-day Bithoor near Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh state, where Luva and Kusha were born to Seeta. We can trace many of his other ashrama-s across India.

Vyasa

Maharishi Veda Vyasa is the most important Rishi in the Hindu pantheon, as he organized the Veda-s and many Purana-s. He is also the author of the Hindu epic Mahabharata. His ashrama was at Kurukshetra in present-day Haryana state.

Some of the other great Rishi-s (sages) of India are:

Kashyapa

He was one of the ancient Sapta Rishi-s (meaning 'seven sages'). Kashyapa was the son of Brahmarishi Marichi. In this manvantara (era), Kashyapa was the father of the Deva-s, Asura-s and all humankind.

Vasishtha

Vasishtha possessed the divine cow known as Kamadhenu. Vasishtha was the Guru of many illustrious kings like Harishachandra, Samvarna and God Rama. There is a Vasishtha-kunda even today in Ayodhya.

Markandeya

Ancient Rishi Markandeya was a devotee of both God Vishnu and God Shiva. Markandeya is one of the chiranjeevi – the immortals in Hinduism. On the basis of various Hindu scriptures, Markandeya lived through more yuga-s (ages). He is the author of important Hindu scriptures like the 'Devi Saptashati' (700 shlokam) on the virtues of the Divine Goddess. His ashrama was at the Shakti-peetha near Nashik.

Kapila

Rishi Kapil was born to the illustrious sage Kardam and Devahuti. He gifted the world with the Sankhya school of thought at Siddhpur in Gujarat. His pioneering work spoke about the nature of the ultimate Soul (Purusha) and primal matter (Prakruti). Prakruti is the mother of cosmic creation and all energies.

Bharadwaja

Bharadwaja was a descendant of Rishi Angira. In the epic Ramayana, God Rama along with Sita and Lakshmana met Rishi Bharadwaja at his hermitage in the holy city of Prayagraj in present-day Uttar Pradesh. Acharya Bharadwaja authored the "Yantra Sarvasva" which includes astonishing and outstand-

ing discoveries in aviation science, space science and flying machines. He has described 3 categories of flying machines: (1) One that flies on earth from one place to another. (2) One that travels from one planet to another. (3) And one that travels from one universe to another.

Sushruta

Born to Rishi Vishwamitra, Sushruta was a Shrutarishi i.e. author of shastra. He is the author of the book "Sushruta Samhita" in which he describes the foundation of Ayurveda. He is the father of surgery. Innumerable years ago, he described over 300 complicated surgical procedures like cesareans, cataract, artificial limbs, Rhinoplasty (restoration of a damaged nose), 12 types of fractures, 6 types of dislocations, urinary stones, even plastic surgery, and brain surgery. Sushruta lists 125 surgical instruments including scalpels, lancets, needles, and catheters. He has also described a number of stitching methods with the use of horse's hair as thread and fibres of bark.

Some of the other sages were:

Agastya (a legendary scholar). One of his ashrama was in Parnashala in Telangana.

Atri (a son of Brahma and a sapta Rishi). His ashrama was near Chitrakoot

Bhrigu (one of the sapta-rishi-s) and writer of the Bhrigu Samhita

Gautama whose ashrama was on the banks of River Godavari near Nashik and at Ahalya-sthana near Bhagalpur in Bihar state

Matanga whose ashrama was near Srisailam in Andhra Pradesh and Hampi in Karnataka

Parashara was an author of many ancient Indian texts. He was the grandson of Vasishtha

Pulatsya (one of the 10 Prajapati-s – sons of Brahma, and one of the sapta-rishi-s)

Brihaspati, the son of Angiras, and the Guru of the Deva-s

Shukra (son of Bhrigu), the Guru of the Asura-s

There are several notable female Rishika-s who contributed to the composition of the Vedic scriptures. The Rig Veda mentions Romasha, Lopamudra, Apala, Kadru, Visvavara, Ghosha, Juhu, Vagambhrini, Paulomi, Yami, Indrani, Savitri, and Devajami. The Sama Veda adds Nodha, Akrishtabhasha, Sikatanivavari and Gaupayana.

Colonel James Todd (British East India Company) said of India:

"Where else can we look for sages like those whose systems of philosophy were prototypes to whose works Plato, Thales & Pythagorus were disciples? Where do I find astronomers whose knowledge of planetary systems yet excites wonder in Europe as well as the architects and sculptors whose works claim our admiration, and the musicians who could make the mind oscillate from joy to sorrow, from tears to smile with the change of modes and varied intonation?" "Rishi-s from around Kaliyuga and thereafter

Jaimini

An ancient Rishi, a great philosopher of the Mimamsa school. He was the disciple of Veda Vyasa. Jaimini is also called a Kaanda-rishi, related to karma-kaanda (rituals).

Yagnyavalkya

This legendary ancient sage was a pupil of Vaisham-

payana (the original teacher of the Krishna Yajur Veda). Yagnyavalkya was author of the great ashtanga Yoga classic "Yoga Yagnyavalkya", wherein he describes its 8 limbs viz.: Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dhyana, Dharna and Samadhi (the ultimate bliss). Yoga is one of several unique contributions of India to the world. Yogic postures effectively enhance the efficiency of the respiratory, circulatory, nervous, digestive and endocrine systems and many other organs of the body. He prescribed the control of prana (life breath) as the means to control the body, mind and soul. This subsequently rewards one with good health and inner happiness.

Kanad

Founder of the Atomic Theory wherein he classified all the objects of creation into 9 elements namely: earth, water, light, fire, wind, space, time, mind and soul. Acharya Kanad was the first expounder of "Vaisheshika Darshana" – one of the 6 Hindu philosophies. He says, "Every object of creation is made of atoms which in turn connect with each other to form molecules." His statement ushered in the Atomic Theory for the first time ever in the world, thousands of years before the west. Kanad has also described the dimension and motion of atoms and their chemical reactions with each other. He is believed to have been born in Prabhas Kshetra near Dwaraka in Gujarat.

The eminent historian, T.N. Colebrook said:

"Compared to the scientists of Europe, Kanad and other Indian scientists were the global masters of this field."

Panini

Panini is known for the formulation of the 3,959 rules of Sanskrit syntax and grammar known as Ashtadhyayi ("eight chapters"). It is the foundational text of the grammatical branch of the Vedanga-s, the auxiliary scholarly disciplines of Vedic religion.

Chanakya

Vishnu Gupta or Chanakya (named after his village Chanu) or Kautilya (his gotra) was a teacher to the first Maurya Emperor Chandragupta who ruled the complete Indian Subcontinent. Chanakya authored the ancient Indian political treatise called Arthashastra. Chanakya's thoughts on economics and political science is an important precursor to Classical Economics. Chanakya's works predate Machiavelli's by thousands of years. Chanakya was a teacher in Takshashila, an ancient centre of learning.

Charaka

Acharya Charaka has been crowned as the Father of Medicine. His renowned work, the "Charaka Samhita", is considered as an encyclopedia of Ayurveda. The genius revealed the facts on human anatomy, embryology, pharmacology, blood circulation and diseases like diabetes, tuberculosis, heart disease, etc. In the "Charaka Samhita" Charaka has described the medicinal qualities and functions of 100,000 herbal plants. He has emphasized the influence of diet and activity on mind and body. He has proved the correlation of spirituality and physical health contributed greatly to diagnostic and curative sciences. He has also prescribed an ethical charter for medical practitioners two centuries prior to the Hippocratic oath.



Portrait of Bahadur Shah Zafar by the Austrian artist, August Schoefft

This portrait of Bahadur Shah Zafar by the Austrian artist, August Schoefft, depicts a dignified, reserved and rather beautiful old man with a fine aquiline nose and a carefully trimmed beard. Despite his height and surprisingly broad and muscular build, there is a profound gentleness and sensitivity in his large watery eyes with their unusually long lashes.

As a teenage prince, Zafar had always appeared in his portraits as a slightly awkward and uncertain figure, plump, visibly ill at ease and thinly bearded.

But as youth gave way to middle age he had grown into his looks, and in old age — unusually — looked finer than ever. Now in his mid-seventies, his cheeks were sallow, his nose more pronounced and his bearing more regal.

Yet as the elderly monarch kneels, wearily fingering his beads, there remains in the expression of his dark eyes something unmistakably melancholic; in the set of his full lips there is still that air of sad, patient resignation visible in the earlier pictures.

Schoefft shows Zafar a little swamped under the brocade cloth of gold which adorns him, somewhat weighed down by the huge blood-coloured rubies and the strings of vast pearls, each the size of a partridge egg, which seem to hang so heavily around his neck.

Edited excerpt taken from @williamdalrymple's book, *The Last Mughal*



Singer Parveen Sultana

Parveen Sultana is a singer who was awarded the Padmashree Award in 1976 at the age of just 23 (a record) In addition, Parveen Sultana ji has been awarded Cleopatra of Music in 1972, Gandharva Kala Nidhi in 1980, Mian Tansen Award in 1986 and Music Drama Academy Award in 1999. Parveen Sultana's voice remains evergreen even today.

Parveen Sultana, the classical singer who considers song as her conscience, has been the birthplace of Assam and the land of Karma Mumbai. They belong to Patiala family. Parveen Sultana, who belongs to the Assamese background, has made his different destination in the Patiala dynasty singing. His family has been a classical music tradition for generations. Acharya Chinmay Lahiri and Ustad Dilshad Khan are chief among the gurus of Parveen Sultana. Parveen, who had studied in the field of singing with Ustad Dilshad Khan, married Dilshad Khan in 1975. Parveen, who has sung in many films, has become a part of many concerts around the world these days along with her husband Dilshad. Though music emperor Parveen started singing at the age of five but started singing in movies with the movie "Pakiza". At the age of sixteen, Parveen came to Mumbai and by coincidence Naushad Sahab had seen Parveen's singing in a show, being impressed by the same

he gave Parveen a beautiful chance in the movie Pakiza".

Parveen gave her first stage performance in 1962, when she was 12 years old and recording music since 1965. She has started her professional business with Abdul Majid's Assamese film Moram Trishna. Sultana has sung for Gadar, Kudrat, two drops of water and Pakiza and many other Assamese movies and Bollywood movies.

Ustad Dilshad Khan Sahab's training reinforced the foundation of his talent, giving new direction to his singing, which enabled him to be a mastery in melody and other factors of classical music. They knew very well what is the place of a teacher in life. In one of his interviews, he said that- "As important is to find a good teacher, it is as important to walk on the path told by the Guru. "Probably why they sing the hardest tunes easily." His move from a slow taunt to intense taunts and lyrics, reflects his infinite confidence, the extract of that melody, emerge his sense. Whether it is a thought, a thumri or a bhajan, they present it in its purest form and attract everyone's heart.

Parveen Sultana had started singing in films from the film 'Pakiza'. Parveen came to Mumbai at the age of sixteen and here by chance



famous musician Naushad Sahab requested him to sing a little song for the background of the film 'Pakiza'. Naushad Sahab had seen Parveen's singing in a show, he was impressed by him and gave Parveen a beautiful chance. Song from the film 'Nature' "We don't know how much we love you" (Music Director R. D. Burman) and movie 'Pakiza' was most liked by 'Kaun Gali Gayo Shyam

Taking care of a pear tree

Taking care of a pear tree involves several essential practices to ensure its health, productivity, and longevity. Here are some general guidelines for caring for a pear tree:

Planting: Choose a suitable location with well-draining soil and good sunlight exposure. Plant the tree during the dormant season (late winter to early spring) to give it time to establish its roots before the growing season.

Watering: Keep the tree adequately watered, especially during the first few years after planting. Deeply water the tree once a week during dry periods, providing enough water to moisten the soil around the root zone.

Mulching: Apply a layer of organic mulch (such as wood chips or compost) around the base of the tree, but keep it away from the trunk. Mulching helps retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and improve soil health.

Pruning: Prune the pear tree during the dormant season to remove dead, diseased, or crossing branches. Proper pruning helps improve air circulation and sunlight penetration, reducing the risk of diseases.

Fertilizing: Fertilize the tree to provide essential nutrients. A balanced fertilizer with nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium can be applied in early spring before new growth begins.

Pest and Disease Management: Regularly inspect the tree for signs of pests and diseases. Apply appropriate measures such as spraying insecticides or using organic pest control methods to prevent infestations and diseases.

Thin the Fruits: After the tree has flowered and set fruit, thin out excess fruits to avoid overburdening the branches. This practice allows the remaining fruit to grow larger and improves overall tree health.

Support: If your pear tree is young or has weak branches, provide support to help it grow straight and sturdy. Staking or using tree ties can be beneficial.

Winter Protection: In colder climates, protect the tree during winter by wrapping the trunk with tree wrap or burlap to prevent sunscald and rodent damage.

Regular Inspection: Frequently inspect the tree for any signs of stress, such as yellowing leaves or unusual growth patterns, and take appropriate action to address the issue.



Remember that specific care requirements may vary depending on the pear tree variety and your local climate. It's always a good idea to consult with a local horticulturist or arborist for tailored advice on caring for your particular pear tree.

WORDS SEARCH

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CROWN OF THORNS
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10 Countries Where the U.S. Won't Send Your Social Security Payments

If you're entitled to Social Security benefits, you don't have to live in the United States to get them. Payments are sent nearly everywhere around the world, though there are some exceptions.

U.S. citizens can continue to receive payments outside the country as long as you're eligible for a payment and are in a country where payments are sent, according to the Social Security administration. If you're not a U.S. citizen, you must meet certain conditions for payment. Living "outside the United States" means you are not in one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands or American Samoa for at least 30 days in a row. The SSA considers you to be "outside the United States" until you return and stay in the U.S. for at least 30 days in a row.

If you are not a U.S. citizen, you also might have to prove you were lawfully present in the United States for that 30-day period.

As of June 2023, there are the 10 countries where the United States won't send your Social Security payments:

- Azerbaijan
- Belarus
- Cuba
- Kazakhstan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Moldova
- North Korea
- Tajikistan
- Turkmenistan

Uzbekistan

Read: Latest Social Security Proposal Would See Millions 'Receive More, and No One Would Receive Less'

If you're a U.S. citizen residing in either Cuba or North Korea, you can get all the payments the SSA withholds once you move to a country where payments are allowed. If you're not a U.S. citizen, you can't receive payments for the months you lived in Cuba or North Korea — even if you go to another country and satisfy all other requirements.

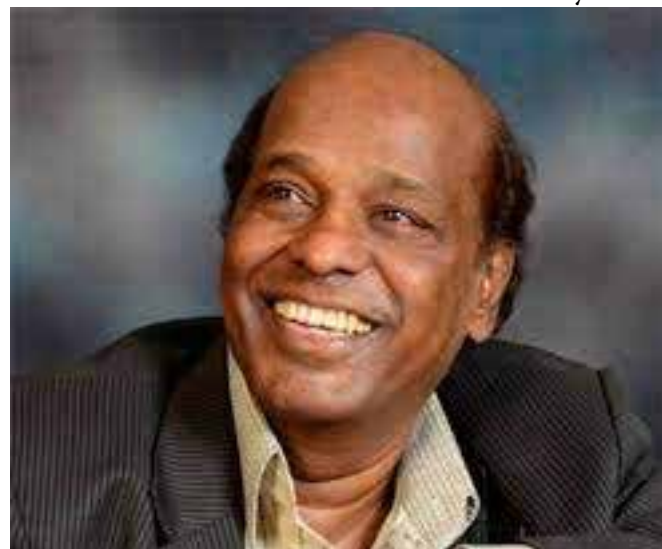
As for the other eight countries on the banned list: The SSA said it will make exceptions for certain eligible persons. To qualify for an exception, you must meet and agree to restricted payment conditions. For more information about these con-

ditions and the qualifications for an exception, contact the Social Security Administration or your Federal Benefits Unit. If you're not a U.S. citizen or don't meet one of the conditions for continued payments, the SSA will stop your payments after you've been outside the United States for six full calendar months. Once this happens, the agency can't start your payments again until you come back and stay in the U.S. for a full calendar month — meaning you must be in the U.S. on the first minute of the first day of any month and stay through the last minute of the last day of that month. The SSA might also ask you to prove you've been lawfully present in the United States for the full calendar month.

For more information, visit this SSA site or call 800-772-1213.

Rahat Sahab's feast in "Bally's Hotel"

Javed Shah Khajrana (writer)
There is a decent anecdote of old Indore. There was a poetry named loyalty. Very less participated in Mushayra, but his voice is often heard in Akashvani Lucknow. Many of his lions are very famous. Mulhija said "I did not plant the trees of dreams thinking that, Who will water the tree planted in the forest?" "Once upon a time, I brought Indore Tashreef to participate in the mushayra on the behest of Rahat Indori Sahab. Rahat Saheb had told while speaking that Wafa Begum used to say the best lion. She made such a statement that not only poetry but also poet fades in front of her. In those days, there were no five star hotels in Indore and Mushayra was not lucky enough to go to expensive hotels. That's why Rahat Sahab reached 'Balle ki Hotel' in front of the railway



station beside the Kalyan rest. The "Bally Hotel" still stands today. Indore has been leading in catering from the beginning. Bally's Hotel Meat ~ Baffle were very famous. So tasty that the eater licks even the fingers. Hotel made of tin sheets and covered with tin. There was no chair~table or bunk but arrangement of eating by laying mat on the ground. There people used to go to settle meat~baffle. Dal-Bafle is very famous in Malwa and Rajasthan, its non-veg version is meat-baffle. When Rahat Sahab reached the hotel with him, he explained to Balle ji of Balli hotel, then talked to Wafa Begum and told him that there is arrangement for food sitting on the mat, there is no table chair or bunk. Would you sit here and eat? Wafa Begum was an English teacher in Girls Inter College.

Very senior from Rahat Sahab. They had a stupidity. They said__ Oh relief !!! Rahat Saheb said_ 'It will be fun. Believe it' Somehow she dressed up. Bally's hotel was typical desi dhaba. Closed water bottles were not common. Didn't even have water mugs and steel jugs. Truck drivers who used to throw empty oil cans were cut in half and made them worth drinking water. Indori was a jugaad. In the shameful of Rahat Sahab, Lafa Begum enjoyed the meat and buffalo by throwing palanquin on the ground. Like Rahat

Sahab's host, his favorite dish means meat ~ buffalo were also appreciable. After that memorable feast, whenever Wafa Begum and Rahat Saheb face to face at Digar Makamat. Wafa wife says__ Rahat you call me to Indore once. Just call for meat ~ baffle. I will not take money for mushayra, just feed me meat and baffle with the same love by sitting on the ground. In front of Indore Railway Station Beside Kalyan Rest Home, Film Colony Road Even today, there are many catering hotels made of teen shed, among them, Bally's hotel is still present for the happy memories of hosts like Rahat Sahab. Have you seen it guys !! Rahat Indori hosted this way. Wafa Begum did not forget the feast of meat for whole life. How can I forget the love of Indori which was mixed in the feast. It seems that Rahat Indori Saheb has written this poem regarding an occasion or feast like this Sit on the sack, drink water in the axe, We are Qalandar, our host is different. When offered Javed Shah Khajrana



BEAUTIFUL DECOR



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HEALTH

Hemorrhoid help: preventing and treating flare-ups

The best way to keep hemorrhoid flare-ups at bay is to maintain healthy lifestyle habits. Preventing constipation is key. Make sure your diet always includes enough fiber to promote healthy bowel movements, and be mindful about staying well hydrated. If you need help with your water intake, keep a water bottle by your side at all times as a reminder to drink. Jazz up your water with a slice of lemon, lime, or orange.

Also, regular exercise supports good bowel function, so if you do not exercise on a regular basis, this is a good time to begin. Don't try to immediately reach the goal of at least 150 minutes per week of exercise. Begin with short periods of walking. Over time, you can increase your speed and duration of activity. Get your doctor's okay if you have any reservations about exercising or you plan to begin a vigorous routine.

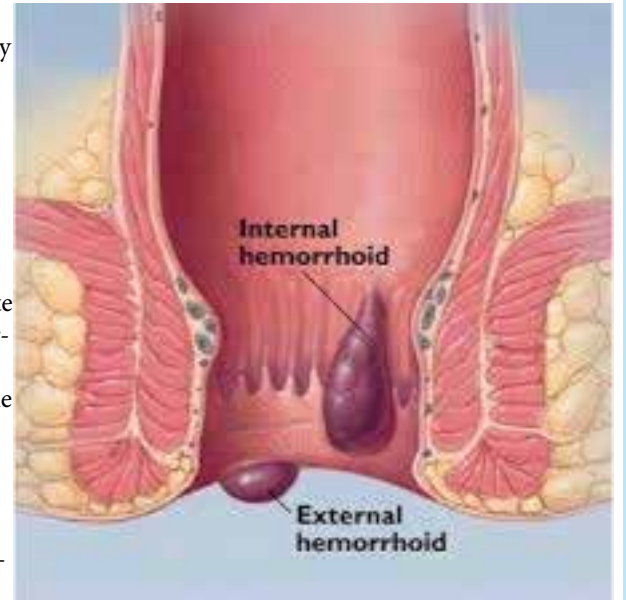
Product Page - Healing Hemorrhoids

Hemorrhoids can be unpleasant, painful, and embarrassing, but they're rarely dangerous. There are other simple, everyday habits you can develop to help with relief when a hemorrhoid flare-up arises. For example:

Less strain, more gain. Don't delay bowel movements during flareups. Always go when you feel the urge, as putting off bowel movements can cause stool to back up, leading to increased pressure and straining, which aggravates your hemorrhoids. Also, try not to sit on the toilet for long periods; this tends to make hemorrhoids push out and swell up. A way to make going to the bathroom easier — and faster — is to elevate your feet with a step stool as you sit on the toilet. This changes the position of the rectum in a way that could allow for easier passage of stools.

Keep the area clean. After every bowel movement, clean the anal area with a witch hazel pad, a soothing baby wipe, or a cotton cloth soaked in warm water. Be thorough but gentle. Aggressive rubbing and scrubbing, especially with soaps or other skin cleansers, can irritate the skin and make your hemorrhoids worse. Applying petroleum jelly or aloe vera gel to the anal area can soothe irritation after a bowel movement.

Take a soft seat. Sitting on a cushion rather than a hard surface helps reduce the swelling of existing hemorrhoids and prevents the formation of new ones.



Exercise 101: Don't skip the warm-up or cool-down

You might be eager to leap into your exercise routine and get on with the day — but don't just dive in. Starting a workout with “cold” muscles can lead to injury. It's important to start each workout with a warm-up and end with a cool-down — and that goes for true beginners, seasoned pros, and everyone in between. Workout Workbook: 9 complete workouts to help you get fit and healthy

The numbers are shocking. Just two out of 10 American adults meet recommended levels of physical activity. Nearly three out of 10 Americans ages 6 and older admit they aren't active at all, despite reams of research proving that exercise is a powerful preventive, and sometimes an antidote, for disability and illness.

Warm-up

Warming up pumps nutrient-rich, oxygenated blood to your muscles as it speeds up your heart rate and breathing. A good warm-up should last five to 10 minutes and work all major muscle groups. For best results, start slowly, then pick up the pace. Many warm-up routines focus on cardio and range-of-motion exercises, such as jumping jacks and lunges. If you prefer, you can do a simpler warm-up by walking in place while gently swinging your arms, or even dancing to a few songs.

Cool-down

After your workout, it's best to spend five to 10 minutes cooling down

through a sequence of slow movements. This helps prevent muscle cramps and dizziness while gradually slowing your breathing and heart rate. An effective cool-down also incorporates stretching exercises to relax and lengthen muscles throughout your body and improve your range of motion. To get the most out of these exercises, hold each stretch for 10 to 30 seconds. The longer you can hold a stretch, the better for improving your flexibility. As with the warm-up, it's best to flow from one stretch to the next without rests in between.

Six tips for safe strength training
Strength training isn't just for bodybuilders. Like aerobic exercise, it's important for everybody, and it should be a part of any comprehensive exercise program. Of course, if you've never trained with weights before, it can seem a little daunting. But as long as you ease into it gradually and take the proper precautions, strength training is safe for most people.

Use the six tips below to help you get the most from your strength workouts.

1. Focus on form, not weight. Good form means aligning your body correctly and moving smoothly through an exercise. Poor form can prompt injuries and slow gains. “I often start people with very light weights because I want them to get their alignment and form right,” says master trainer Josie Gardiner. Concentrate on performing slow, smooth lifts and equally controlled descents

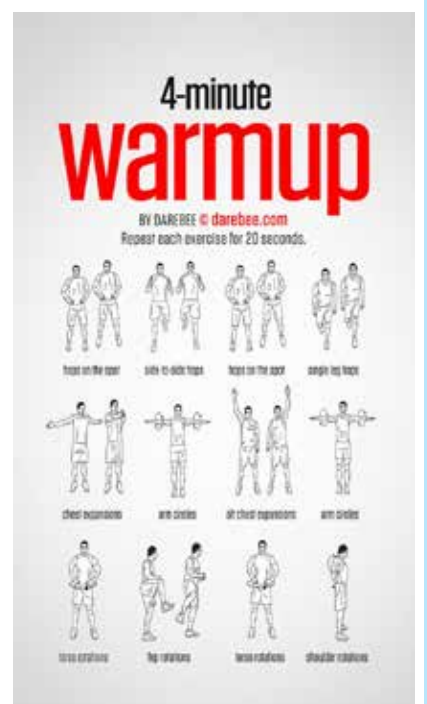
whenever you learn a new exercise. You can always add weight to challenge your muscles once you know how to move with good form.

2. Tempo, tempo. Control is very important. Tempo helps you stay in control rather than undercut gains through momentum. Sometimes switching speed — for example, taking three counts to lower a weight and one count to lift it, instead of lifting for two and lowering for two — is a useful technique for enhancing power.

3. Breathe. Blood pressure rises if you hold your breath while performing strength exercises. Exhale as you work against gravity by lifting, pushing, or pulling the weight; inhale as you release.

4. Keep challenging muscles. The “right” weight differs depending on the exercise. Choose a weight that tires the targeted muscles by the last two repetitions while still allowing you to maintain good form. If you can't do the last two reps, choose a lighter weight. When it feels too easy to complete all the reps, challenge your muscles again by adding weight (roughly 1 to 2 pounds for arms, 2 to 5 pounds for legs); adding a set to your workout (up to three sets per exercise); or working out additional days per week (as long as you rest each muscle group for 48 hours before exercising it again).

5. Practice regularly. Performing a complete upper- and lower-body strength



workout two or three times a week is ideal.

6. Give muscles time off. Strenuous exercise, like strength training, causes tiny tears in muscle tissue. Muscles grow stronger as the tears knit up. Always allow at least 48 hours between sessions for muscles to recover. For example, if you're doing split strength workouts, you might do upper body on Monday, lower body on Tuesday, upper body on Wednesday, lower body on Thursday, etc.

Landlord Solutions

Becoming a landlord is a fantastic way to invest in your future, and buying property is something that many people are choosing to do. The benefits can be enormous, but it can occasionally feel like a double-edged sword. While your investment is growing steadily in the long game, the day-to-day issues can sometimes feel overwhelming. Many landlords complain that it feels as though things in their rental properties are always breaking, and the worry of mounting costs is a real one.

Handing the job over to contractors can prove expensive, especially when there are fixes required in the kitchen and bathroom. These rooms are more than just functional; they are hubs of activity in most homes and are used to relax, socialize, pamper and bond. Unfortunately, by their very nature, the steam, heat and water present can all cause issues.

Kitchen and bathroom problems can't be ignored, but we understand that budgets are not bottomless. So, if you want to keep your tenants happy, or attract new ones, these two rooms must be maintained and kept in good working order.

Believe it or not, you can address many of the common problems yourself, and it won't eat too much into your time or your pocket. We have put this post together to share simple, low-cost DIY fixes for bathrooms and kitchens. Go ahead and bookmark it, because as a landlord you are almost guaranteed to be needing this in the future!

DIY Steps For Fixing A Leaking Faucet

A leaking faucet may seem like a minor issue that you don't need to rush to address. However, a constant drip, drip, drip can be a major source of irritation for your tenants, not to mention a waste of water. In addition, a leaking faucet can actually cause unsightly damage to your basin or bathtub, leaving it rusted or pitted. That is something that will be far more costly to put right.

When faced with this problem, you should first check that the faucet is completely turned off. The best-case scenario is that this is all it needs! If that doesn't work, then a fix will be required. But it is something you can manage yourself, with minimal outlay and a couple of tools. Simply follow the steps below.

Identify the type of faucet that you are dealing with. Does it have two handles? For instance, one for hot and one



for cold? If so, this is a compression faucet. If you have one spout (a mixer with hot and cold coming through the same 'pipe'), you will have either a ball faucet or a cartridge faucet.

Next, turn off the water using the shut-off valve, which you will find below the basin. Be sure to turn off the valve that leads to the hot water as well as the one that leads to the cold.

Depending on the model of faucet, you will need to replace the gasket, o-ring (washer), or cartridge.

You will need to remove the valve handle, which will probably require an Allen key. Then, with a wrench or pliers, remove the nut that holds the o-ring in place.

If you are dealing with a cartridge, this will need to be removed.

Take the cartridge to a hardware or plumbing store to find the correct replacement.

Replace the new cartridge or o-ring, and put everything back together in reverse order.

Be aware that some faucets require a replacement kit, and

the manufacturers generally supply detailed instructions with these.

DIY Steps For Fixing Curling Or Ripped Vinyl Flooring
Vinyl flooring is often chosen by landlords for kitchens and bathrooms, as it is low-cost to install when compared to tiles, and it is waterproof and hardwearing, flexible, soft and warm to the touch. It comes in a variety of colors, textures, and styles too, which explains why it is so popular.

However, there is a downside to this material, as it can curl up and even tear quite easily. This can look unsightly, and, even worse, can mask a real problem. Tears and curling of the vinyl can allow water to sink beneath it, where it is then trapped and unable to dry. This can result in potentially huge repair bills. The best thing to do here is act quickly to avoid any hidden damage.

Curly Vinyl

A great place to start with repairing curled vinyl is to apply heat to the affected area, using a clothes iron.

Protect the vinyl with a towel, and then apply heat using steady pressure.

Pull back the vinyl a few inches, which allows access for you to clean and dry underneath

Once the area is dry, apply a moderate amount of fresh vinyl adhesive to the area. Too much can cause ripples. Re-lay the vinyl back in place and use a heavy object to apply constant pressure to the area, maintaining this for a few hours.

Once it has dried, you can finish the job by applying a fresh bead of caulk at the joint.

Torn Vinyl

For torn vinyl, the repair process is similar: once again cleaning the area beneath the vinyl, re-applying fresh adhesive, and re-laying the patch

If the ripped area is too damaged, you can purchase a new piece of (hopefully!) matching vinyl.

Cut and remove the damaged section from the floor, following the design of the vinyl and cut a matching 'patch' from the new vinyl.

Attach the new piece using vinyl adhesive and fill the seams with a bead of caulk.

DIY Steps For Clearing A Clogged Drain

Clogged drains are not pleasant, and this is especially true when you are the landlord dealing with your tenant's drain. We don't want to know what is hiding in the pipes and causing water to run away slowly.

Fortunately, the solution can be quick, and it is super cheap. You can have the water draining nicely in a matter of minutes - with no expensive plumber invoices in sight. Pour a generous amount of baking soda into the clogged plug area, around 60 grams.

Then, follow this with approximately 120 mls of white vinegar.

The combination of the two products causes a reaction, which you will witness as fizzing and bubbling. This should clear the inside of the pipes and have everything running smoothly in no time.

You can add some lemon juice to banish any bad smells that may be emanating from the drain.

For bad blockages, leave the solution for an hour or more, and then run boiling hot water down into the drain to clear the whole thing away.

This solution does not cause damage to the pipes, and it is recommended that you repeat the process every few weeks to maintain your plumbing.

Vinegar and baking soda are far cheaper than unblocking kits and plumbers for sure! This drain unblocking solution could be a landlord's best friend.

DIY Steps To Banish Mildew And Mold

Mold and mildew can be a constant battle in some bathrooms, due to a combination of high levels of moisture and poor ventilation. As a landlord, you will want to keep on top of mold for a number of reasons. Yes, it is unsightly, and it can smell bad; but it is also a red flag for bigger problems, such as damage to plaster and walls. Most importantly of all, mold spores can be detrimental to the health of your tenants.

As an ongoing solution, it is recommended that affected areas are scrubbed with a solution of 1/3 cup of powdered laundry detergent, one liter of liquid chlorine bleach, and three liters of warm water, using a bristled brush. This should then be rinsed and dried thoroughly.

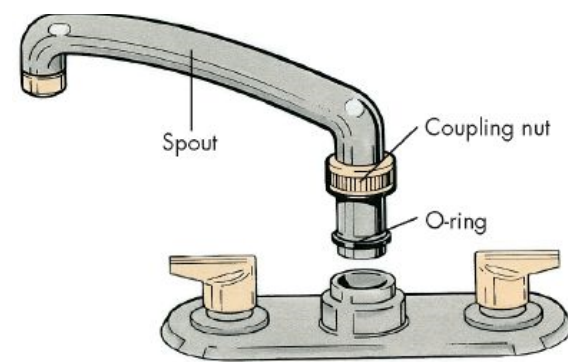
If the caulking and grout between tiles is stained too badly to remove the mold by cleaning alone, this will need to be removed, cleaned, and then reapplied.

The best way to prevent mold and mildew from returning is to keep the bathroom well ventilated and as dry as possible. You can advise your tenants to keep the windows open as much as possible while bathing and showering. Wet towels and shower curtains should be allowed to dry properly and not left scrunched up.

It is also advisable to install an extractor fan, which you can do yourself if you follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Repairing A Blocked Shower Head

This is a nice, quick, and inexpensive fix that you can do in minutes, making you the landlord of the year. Clogged



shower heads are the result of a build up of limescale, which reduces the water pressure and results in a less pleasant showering experience.

Once again, vinegar comes to the rescue here. You simply need to unscrew the shower head and first shake out any solid chunks of limescale, which look like pieces of chalk. Then, place the shower head in a large container that you have filled with one part vinegar and eight parts boiling water.

Just leave it in there to soak for as long as possible, then rinse it out with running water and fix it back into place. **DIY Solution For A Blocked Garbage Disposal**

Garbage disposal units are often expected to handle all manner of things that we chuck down the sink, and, as a landlord, it is sensible to have a conversation with tenants about the best way to keep theirs in good working order. With that said, it is generally expected that a blockage will occur at some point. Fortunately, it can be rectified relatively simply, following these steps.

Turn off the garbage disposal at the switch and check to see if the breaker has been tripped.

Reset and turn back on to see if the problem clears itself. If it is still blocked, turn off the disposal at the wall to remove all power.

Ladle out as much water and debris as possible using a spoon.

Then, use baking soda, vinegar and boiling water as per the blocked drain method above.

You may need to repeat the process a few times, but this should clear the blockage and have the disposal working again.

Fixing A Burn Mark On A Kitchen Countertop

Kitchen surfaces are not cheap, whether you have opted for laminate or wood, and it can be infuriating to see that a tenant has burned a big ring mark into the countertop. But of course, accidents do happen; minds wander or fingers are burned, and we put a pan down on reflex. Fortunately we have some DIY solutions here that may help to save you from replacing an entire section of your kitchen counter, also saving some of your hard-earned money.

Indian palaces you can actually stay in

Taj Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad

Spread over 32 acres, this opulent hotel was built in 1894 and was home to the famous Nizams of Hyderabad. Falaknuma night mean 'mirror of the sky', but the palace was built in the shape of a scorpion, with the wings acting as the scorpion's two stings. The palace's luxurious interiors reflect its decadent past and give guests the opportunity to live like kings and queens if only for a few nights.



Work on the palace started in 1464 and it was abandoned almost 500 years later in 1947. In 1991 it was opened to the public in its current avatar and is now a massive property spread over 14 levels, with stunning views of the surrounding landscape and town down below. The hotel boasts 17 rooms/suites restored to their former glory, plus hanging gardens, an amphitheatre, and a roof-top restaurant where you can immerse yourself in history and step back to medieval times.



Strategically nestled in the countryside of the Aravali range, this palace fortress overlooks one of the three main passes that provide access to the valley. Completed in 1760, the palace was constructed using local marble and features decorations of semi-precious stones in all the suites. The exteriors feature ornate traditional designs that provide an interesting juxtaposition to the modern and minimalist design seen in the interiors. This hotel offers stunning views of the surrounding hills, making it a great option for those looking to live closer to nature, but without sacrificing on modern amenities



Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur

This exquisite white marble palace floats in the middle of Udaipur's Lake Pichola and is a synonym with opulence and exclusivity. Built in the 1700s, the hotel was once the winter palace of the royal Mewar dynasty and became famous around the world when the Bond movie Octopussy was filmed there. With 18 grand suites and 65 lavish rooms, the hotel offers breathtaking views of the surrounding lake and the sparkling city of Udaipur.



Taj Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur

Perched at the highest point in Jodhpur, this magnificent hotel was once the residence of the royal family of Jodhpur, making it the sixth largest private residence in the world. The palace was completed in 1943, and was constructed using the same beautiful palm court marble that was used in the Taj Mahal. Surrounded by 26 acres of sprawling lush gardens, the hotel, which is only a wing of the palace, has 64 luxury rooms where guests can experience the royal life.



Ananda in the Himalayas, Tehri Garhwal

Perched 3,000 feet up above on a hill, this former-palace-turned-into-luxury-resort is famous for its spectacular views, which include the the River Ganges and the ancient city of Rishikesh. The Viceregal palace was built for the Maharajah of Tehri Garhwal and has been restored to its former majesty, including the maharaja's billiards room, which is home to India's oldest billiards table (over a 100 years old)



Samode Palace, Jaipur

This splendid palace was built in the early 19th century, but it is surrounded by an outer structure, ie a fort, built in the 16th century. Designed in the Indo-Saracenic style, the hotel is known for beautifully melding both Rajput and Mughal design elements. Admire the breathtaking Sheesh Mahal, the mural-lined rooms, hand-painted walls, crystal chandeliers, regal silver armchairs, and then lounge around the rooftop infinity pool to catch a sunset that shows off the Aravalis in all their glory.



Laxmi Niwas Palace, Bikaner

Commissioned in 1904 and built entirely of red sandstone, Laxmi Niwas Palace was the stately residence of Bikaner's maharaja Ganga Singh and has hosted the whose who of royalty and dignitaries, including King George V and Queen Mary. The hotel retains the palace's regal charm and grandeur, with antique artworks, period-style rococo furniture, hand-painted friezes, four-poster brass beds, and ceilings with gold inlaid carvings that make the past come alive.



Taj Rambagh Palace, Jaipur

Another stunning palace in Jaipur, Rambagh Palace was built in 1835 as a hunting lodge and royal residence for the then maharaja of Jaipur. To say this upscale palace hotel that stands on a 47-acre plot is opulent is an understatement. Think spacious rooms with extremely high ceilings, bathrooms full of marble, grand furnishings, antiques and artwork around every corner, majestic gardens where peacocks strut, a croquet lawn, and a restaurant that gives you the feeling you're dining with the queen



Neemrana Fort Palace, Alwar

This exquisite resort, built on the Aravalli hills, is one of the oldest near Jaipur.

RAAS Devigarh, Udaipur

Keepers of CoolYahoo Lifestyle

RECIPES

Jungli Chicken (Wild Chicken Curry)

Ingredients

Serves 4

- 1 Pound Chicken Breast
- ½ Onion (Medium)
- 1 Tomato
- 1 Serrano Pepper
- ⅓ Cup Cilantro Leaves
- 7 Tablespoons Plain Yogurt
- 2 Teaspoons Ginger-Garlic Paste
- 3 Cardamoms
- 3 Cloves
- 1 Cinnamon Stick
- ⅛ Teaspoon Turmeric Powder
- 1 Teaspoon Chili Powder
- ¾ Teaspoon Cumin Powder
- ⅓ Teaspoon Garam Masala
- Salt as needed
- ½ Bell Pepper (optional)
- 1 Potatoes (med- large)
- 4 Tablespoons Oil

Instructions

Step 1

Cut onion, tomato, cilantro, Serrano pepper and bell pepper fine. You can add whatever other vegetable you like to this dish.

Cut onion, tomato, cilantro, Serrano pepper and bell pepper fine. You can add whatever other vegetable you like to this dish.

Step 2

Wash chicken breast and pat dry. Cut chicken into 1 - 1 1/2 inch pieces. Depends on your preference. Set aside in a big mixing bowl.

Wash chicken breast and pat dry. Cut chicken into 1 - 1 1/2 inch pieces. Depends on your preference. Set aside in a big mixing bowl.

Step 3

Add all the ingredients on the list (except the potatoes) in the bowl. Mix it well. Poke chicken with a fork to let marinade to absorb better.

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Step 4

Cover bowl with cling wrap or foil and refrigerate for about 30 mins or till you're ready to cook it.

Cover bowl with cling wrap or foil and refrigerate for about 30 mins or till you're ready to cook it.

Step 5

Cut potatoes into 1 inch cubes. Heat 2 tbs oil in pan then add cut potatoes with a little salt. Fry till it's almost cooked then set aside.

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Step 6

When you're ready to cook. Heat remaining oil then add the marinade to the pan. The chicken will release water that will help it cook. Keep stirring.



When you're ready to cook. Heat remaining oil then add the marinade to the pan. The chicken will release water that will help it cook. Keep stirring.

Step 7

When chicken is half way cooked (about 7 mins), add the pre-fried potatoes to the curry. Keep stirring till done.

When chicken is half way cooked (about 7 mins), add the pre-fried potatoes to the curry. Keep stirring till done.

Step 8

Set in serving bowl once the curry has reached your desired consistency. I prefer this recipe drier. (OPTIONAL: Garnish with fresh cilantro). Done!

Potato Red Cabbage Tikki

Ingredients

Serves 4

- 4 Cups Peeled, cubed, boiled potato
- 1 Cup Shredded red cabbage
- 1 Cup Shredded kale
- 1 Onion, finely diced
- ½ Teaspoon Grated fresh ginger
- 2 Cloves Garlic, chopped
- 1 Egg, beaten
- ½ Teaspoon Ground cumin
- ½ Teaspoon Ground coriander
- ½ Teaspoon Medium curry powder
- 1 Pinch Salt, to taste

Instructions

Step 1

Mix all of the ingredients in a bowl.

Step 2

Until it resembles a dough.

Step 3

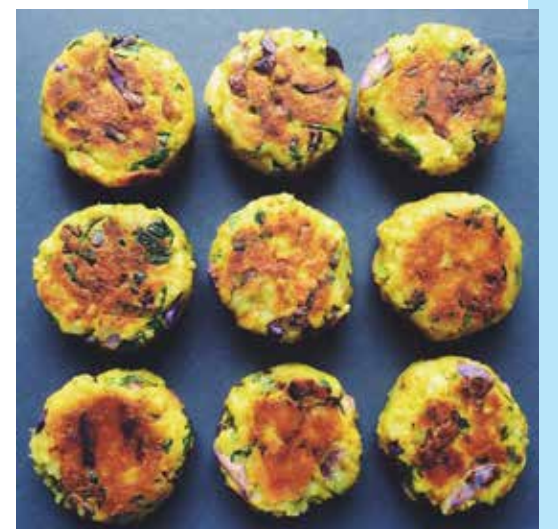
Divide the mixture into equal portions and shape into patties with your hands.

Step 4

After they have been shaped, place them in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes.

Step 5

Add some oil to a skillet. Shallow fry until golden on both sides. Drain on a paper towel and serve warm with your favorite dipping sauce.

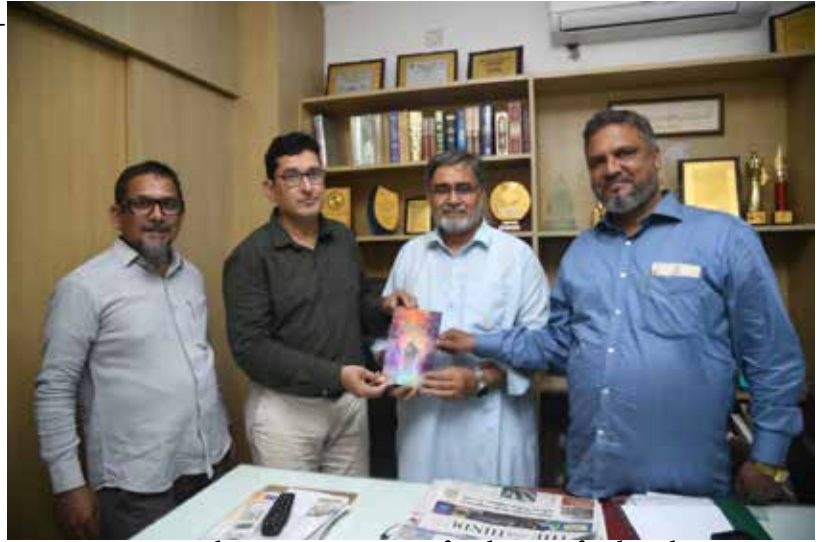


Saifuddin presented his book "Saif-o-Qalam" to Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi

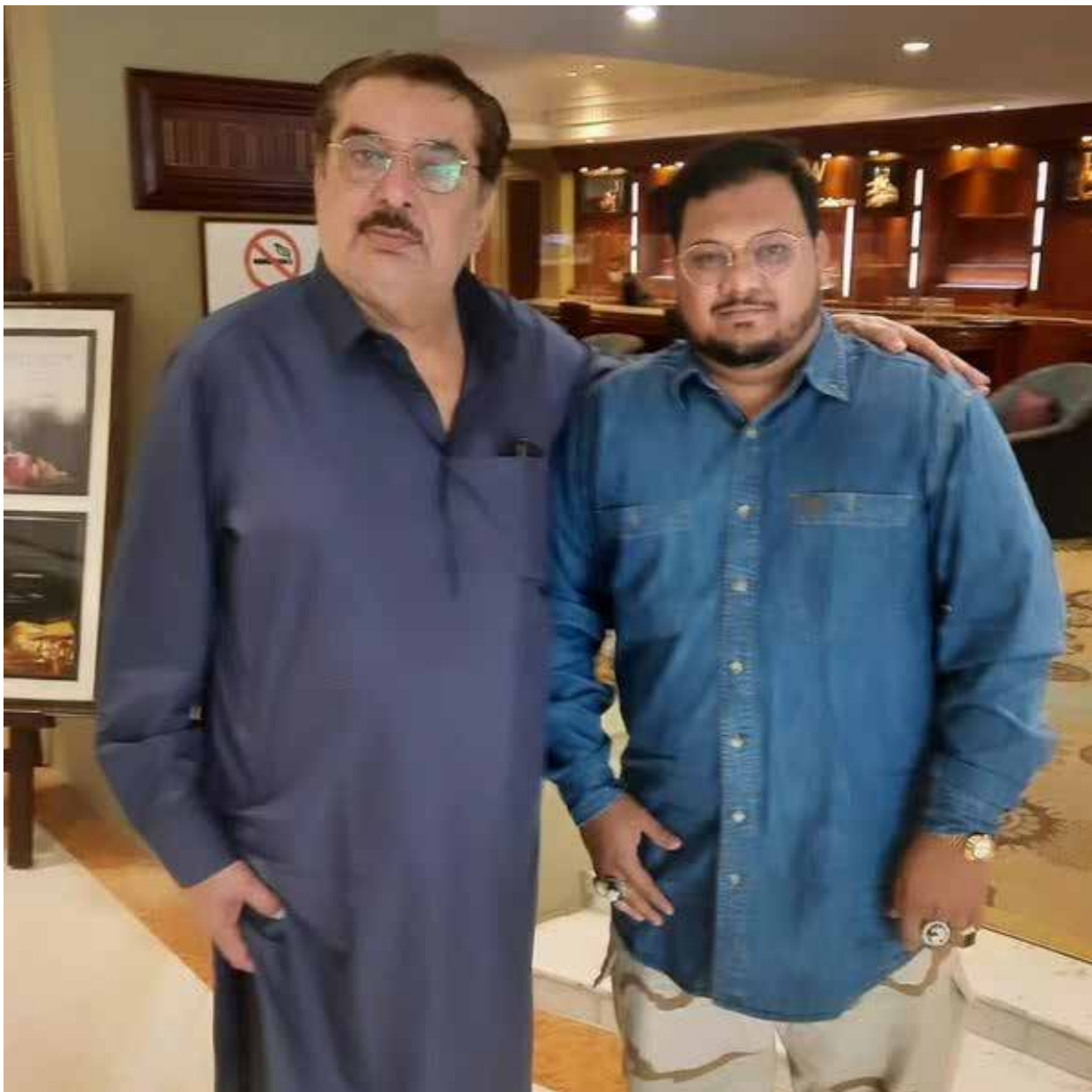
BY-MIR MOHSIN ALI

Saifuddin presented his book "Saif-o-Qalam" to Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi Mohammed Saifuddin, senior journalist and columnist of Etemaad daily presented his book "Saif-o-Qalam" based on his selected columns to the President of AIMIM and Member of Parliament Hyderabad, Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi. Earlier, he also met Chief Editor Burhanuddin Owaisi at the office of Etemaad daily and presented him the copy of "Saif-o-Qalam". Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi appreciated David's writings and encouraged his column. Moham-

mad Saifuddin along with journalist Mir Mohsin Ali met AIMIM supremo at Daarus Salaam. He also presented "Saif-o-Qalam" to MLAs Majid Hussain, Ahmad Bin Abdullah Balala and Jafar Hussain Meraj. Mohammed Saifuddin is a senior journalist and has been living in Saudi Arabia for a long time. Before moving to Saudi Arabia he worked at daily newspapers "Munsif" and "Awam". Even after moving to Saudi Arabia, Saif has



been writing as a freelancer for local newspapers in English and Urdu. Apart from this, Saifuddin's weekly column has been published in daily Etemaad for the past few years. Muhammad Saifuddin is a well-known and dynamic personality in the social circles of Saudi Arabia. He is also a renowned toastmaster. Recently he has also been elected director of Riyadh Toastmasters Club Area 1. "Saif-o-Qalam" is the second book by Saif. His first book "Expat Ride" was published almost a decade ago. It was based on the problems and issues of Indian expatriates in gulf countries.



Aijaz Shareef Mohammed is with Raza Murad in Dubai



Afsha Jabeen (Fatima Bee from Choti Choti Baten) All India Radio) Passed Away 31 July 2024

www.fb.com/ChotiChotiBaten

Mecca Masjid - Hyderabad



Mecca Masjid, also known as Makkah Masjid, is one of the oldest and most significant mosques in Hyderabad, India. It is located near the historic landmarks of Charminar and Chowmahalla Palace. The construction of the mosque began in 1614 during the reign of Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah of the Qutb Shahi dynasty and was completed in 1694 during the reign of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

The mosque's name, "Mecca Masjid," is derived from the fact that the bricks used to build the central arch of the mosque were brought from the holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia. It is believed that Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah himself laid the foundation stone of the mosque.

Mecca Masjid is an impressive example of Indo-Islamic architecture, blending Persian, Mughal, and local architectural styles. The mosque is made of granite, and its main prayer hall can accommodate thousands of worshippers at a time. The central arch, made of a single piece of granite, is a prominent feature of the mosque and is a testament to the engineering skills of that era.



The mosque's courtyard and prayer hall are adorned with beautiful arches, intricate carvings, and inscriptions from the Quran. The large and imposing structure stands as a symbol of religious harmony and cultural heritage in Hyderabad.

Mecca Masjid continues to be an important place of worship and a significant landmark, attracting visitors and devotees from all over the world. As with many historical and religious sites, it is essential to be respectful of the customs and traditions while visiting Mecca Masjid.

History:

The construction of Mecca Masjid began in 1614 during the reign of Sultan Muhammad Qutb Shah, the sixth ruler of the Qutb Shahi dynasty. It was completed in 1694 during the reign of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, who conquered the Golconda Sultanate and completed the mosque's construction. The mosque derives its name from the bricks used in its construction, which were reportedly brought from the holy city of Mecca.

Architecture:

Mecca Masjid exhibits an impressive blend of architectural styles. Its structure is a synthesis of Indian, Persian, and Mughal architecture. The mosque is made of granite, with intricate carvings and arches. The main prayer hall can accommodate thousands of worshippers at a time. The mosque's courtyard is vast and can accommodate even larger congregations during important Islamic festivals and events.



List of Bollywood films of July/Aug 2024

Opening	Title	Director	Cast	
J U L	5	<i>Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha</i>	Ajay Devgn · Tabu · Jimmy Sheirgill · Saiee Manjrekar · Shantanu Maheshwari	
		<i>Kill</i>	Laksh Lalwani · Raghav Juyal · Tanya Maniktala	
	10	<i>Wild Wild Punjab</i>	Simarpreet Singh	Varun Sharma · Sunny Singh · Manjot Singh · Jassie Gill · Patralekha Paul · Ishita Raj Sharma
	12	<i>Sarfira</i>	Sudha Kongara	Akshay Kumar · Paresh Rawal · Radhika Madan
<i>Kakuda</i>		Aditya Sarpotdar	Riteish Deshmukh · Sonakshi Sinha · Saqib Saleem	
A U G	2	<i>The Sabarmati Report</i>	Ranjan Chandel	Vikrant Massey · Raashii Khanna · Riddhi Dogra
		<i>Ulajh</i>	Sudhanshu Saria	Janhvi Kapoor · Gulshan Devaiah · Rajesh Tailang · Meiyang Chang · Roshan Mathew
	15	<i>Khel Khel Mein</i>	Mudassar Aziz	Akshay Kumar · Taapsee Pannu · Fardeen Khan · Vaani Kapoor · Ammy Virk · Pragya Jaiswal · Aditya Seal
		<i>Vedaa</i>	Nikkhil Advani	John Abraham · Tamannaah Bhatia · Sharvari · Abhishek Banerjee
		<i>Stree 2</i>	Amar Kaushik	Shraddha Kapoor · Rajkummar Rao · Aparshakti Khurana · Pankaj Tripathi · Abhishek Banerjee

Binaca Geetmala Annual List (1962)

Thumb / Rank	Song Heading	Singer / Movie	Music By / Lyricist	Actor / Category
 1	Aehsaan Tera Hogaa Mujh Par     4.53 - 508 votes	Mohammed Rafi	Shankar Jaikishan	Saira Banu, Shammi Kapoor
		Junglee (1961)	Hasrat Jaipuri	Romantic Songs
 2	Do Hanso Kaa Joda Bichhad Gayo Re     4.18 - 248 votes	Lata Mangeshkar	Naushad	Vyjayantimala
		Gunga Jumna (1961)	Shakeel Badayuni	Dard Bhare Geet
 3	Ab Kya Misal Doon Main Tumhare Shbaab Ki     4.52 - 477 votes	Mohammed Rafi	Roshan	Pradeep Kumar, Meena Kumari
		Aarti (1962)	Majrooh Sultanpuri	Tareef Songs, Romantic Songs
 4	Aap Ki Nazro Ne Samjha, Pyar Ke Kabil Mujhe     4.57 - 15280 votes	Lata Mangeshkar	Madan Mohan	Dharmendra, Mala Sinha
		Anpadh (1962)	Raja Mehdi Ali Khan	Filmfare Awards Nominee, Romantic Songs
 5	Yahoo Chahe Koyee Mujhe Junglee Kahe     4.37 - 273 votes	Mohammed Rafi	Shankar Jaikishan	Shammi Kapoor, Saira Banu
		Junglee (1961)	Shailendra	Masti Bhare Geet
 6	Kahin Deep Jale Kahin Dil     4.31 - 339 votes	Lata Mangeshkar	Hemant Kumar	Biswajeet, Waheeda Rehman
		Bees Saal Baad (1962)	Shakeel Badayuni	Haunting Songs, Filmfare Awards Winner, Filmfare Awards Nominee, Suspense Songs
 7	Teri Zulfo Se, Judai To Nahi Mangi Thi     4.48 - 269 votes	Mohammed Rafi	Shankar Jaikishan	Dev Anand, Asha Parekh, Pran
		Jab Pyar Kisi Se Hota Hai (1961)	Hasrat Jaipuri	Roothna Manaana, Sad Songs
 8	Jiya O, Jiya O Jiya Kuchh Bol Do     4.55 - 454 votes	Mohammed Rafi	Shankar Jaikishan	Dev Anand, Asha Parekh
		Jab Pyar Kisi Se Hota Hai (1961)	Hasrat Jaipuri	Masti Bhare Geet, All Time Great, Romantic Songs
 9	Dhundho Dhundho Re Saajanaa Dhundho Re Saajanaa     4.47 - 103 votes	Lata Mangeshkar, Mohammed Rafi	Naushad	Dilip Kumar, Vyjayantimala
		Gunga Jumna (1961)	Shakeel Badayuni	
 10	Ibtadaey Ishk Me Ham Saree Rat Jage     4.56 - 130 votes	Mukesh	Shankar Jaikishan	Manoj Kumar, Mala Sinha
		Hariyali Aur Rasta (1962)	Hasrat Jaipuri	Romantic

Binaca Geetmala Annual List (1962)



Shreya Ghoshal

Shreya Ghoshal (born 12 March 1984) is an Indian playback singer. She has received five National Film Awards, six Filmfare Awards including five for Best Female Playback Singer, nine Filmfare Awards South, three Kerala State Film Awards, two Tamil Nadu State Film Awards and many other awards. She has recorded songs for film music and albums in various Indian languages and has established herself as a leading playback singer of Indian cinema.

Ghoshal aspired to become a playback singer from an early age. At the age of four, she started learning music. At the age of six, she started her formal training in classical music. At the age of sixteen, she was noticed by film-maker Sanjay Leela Bhansali when she entered and won the television singing reality show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa. Following that, she made her Bollywood playback singing debut with Bhansali's romantic drama Devdas (2002) for which she received a National Film Award, a Filmfare Award for Best Female Playback Singer and Filmfare RD Burman Award for New Music Talent. Apart from playback singing, Ghoshal has appeared as a judge on several television reality shows and she also appears in music videos. She performs in musical concerts around the world. She has been honored by United States state of Ohio, where Gov. Ted Strickland declared 26 June 2010 as "Shreya Ghoshal Day". In April 2013, she was honoured in London by the selected members of House of Commons of the United Kingdom. She also featured five times in the Forbes list of the top 100 celebrities from India. In 2017, Ghoshal became the first Indian singer to have her wax figure in Madame Tussauds Museum.

Early and personal life

Shreya Ghoshal was born on 12 March 1984 to a Bengali Hindu family in Baharampur, Murshidabad district, West Bengal. She grew up in Rawatbhata, a small town near Kota in Rajasthan. Her father, Bishwajit Ghoshal is an electrical engineer and works for the Nuclear Power Corporation of India, and her mother, Sarmistha Ghoshal, is a literature post-graduate. She has a younger brother, Soumyadeep Ghoshal. At the age of four, she started learning music.

Shreya Ghoshal completed her schooling up to eighth grade at the Atomic Energy Central School in Rawatbhata. In 1995, she won the All India Light Vocal Music Competition, New Delhi, organised by Sangam Kala Group, in Light Vocal group in sub-junior level. In 1997, when her father was transferred to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, she was relocated to Mumbai, with her family and studied at the Atomic Energy Central School in Anushakti Nagar. She joined the Atomic Energy Junior College to study science. She withdrew from the junior college and enrolled at the SIES College of Arts, Science, and Commerce in Mumbai, where she took up arts with English as her major. Her mother used to help her in her rehearsals and she accompanied her on the Tanpura and started practicing mostly Bengali songs. At the age of six, Ghoshal started with her formal training in classical music. She acquired training from Late

Kalyanji Bhai for 18 months and continued her classical music training with Late Mukta Bhide in Mumbai. Her first stage performance was made at a club's annual function. When she turned six, she started her lessons in Hindustani classical music. In 2000, at the age of sixteen, she participated and won the television music reality show Sa Re Ga Ma (now Sa Re Ga Ma Pa) on the channel Zee TV. On 5 February 2015, Ghoshal married her childhood friend Shiladitya Mukhopadhyaya in a traditional Bengali ceremony. Before getting married, Ghoshal dated him for almost 10 years. According to Ghoshal, apart from being a singer she loves to travel and read books but it's cooking that has a healing effect on her.

Career

Her first ever recorded song was "Ganraj Rangi Nachato" which is a cover version of a Marathi song originally sung by Lata Mangeshkar. Her first studio album was Bendhechhi Beena, which was released on 1 January 1998, with 14 tracks. [Some of her earlier albums are O Tota Pakhi Re, Ekti Katha (1999) and Mukhor Porag (2000). Ghoshal recorded Bengali studio album Rupasi Raate (2002) Ghoshal recorded devotional songs in albums like Banomali Re (2002) and later, Krishna Bina Ache Ke (2007)

2015 started with Ghoshal's another collaboration with A.R. Rahman in Tamil film Besides rendering vocals for original Tamil duet "Pookkalae Sattru Oyivedungal" alongside Haricharan, she also dubbed its Hindi version "Tu Chale" alongside Arijit Singh and Telugu version "Poolane Kunukeyamantaa" alongside Haricharan. The original Tamil version song "Pookkalae Sattru Oyivedungal" was met with positive reviews by critics, with most critics praising the vocals of Ghoshal. Nicy V.P. from International Business Times commented on Tamil version, "Haricharan's crystal clear voice, Shreya's Hindustani driven singing lead to a chart-buster, here. With regards to Shreya Ghoshal, we have to dig deep the dictionary to come up with some new adjectives to praise her singing." Later that year, Ghoshal sang the female version of song "Hasi" from film Hamari Adhuri Kahani composed by Ami Mishra which got critical precedence over male version sung by Ami Mishra himself. Devesh Sharma from Filmfare remarked, "The female version of Hasi, sung by Shreya Ghoshal, works better than the male version, sung by guest composer Ami Mishra himself. Ghoshal elevates it with her superb effort and the softer arrangement works better for it overall. Ghoshal also performed the female version of the song "Gaaye Jaa" for the film Brothers composed by Ajay-Atul which received positive reviews from music critics. The Times of India stated, "Shreya Ghoshal scores brownie points for her rendition". Glamsham praised Ghoshal's vocals labelling them "sugary sweet and superbly controlled". Bollywood Life commented, "Shreya Ghoshal amazes the listener by making this situational song such a great listen and just for her lovely voice, one has to put this song on a loop." The same year saw Ghoshal again collaborating with Sanjay Leela Bhansali in Bajirao Mastani. She performed three songs in the film,

namely "Mohe Rang Do Laal", "Deewani Mastani" and "Pinga", all of which met with widespread critical acclaim. She also dubbed these songs in Tamil and Telugu versions of the film's soundtrack. The qawwali interlude song "Deewani Mastani" in the film fetched her sixth Filmfare Award, fifth for Best female playback singer.

In early 2016, Ghoshal provided vocals for duet "Tere Bin" from film Wazir alongside Sonu Nigam. Composed by Shantanu Moitra and written by Vidhu Vinod Chopra, the song opened to positive reviews by critics. Labelling the song as "a beautiful start for the film", critics from Bollywood Hungama commented, "Though the sound of song is quite classical for a film which is set in the current times, one can well expect that it would fit in well into the narrative. Ghoshal was next heard in song "Tum Bin Jiya" in film Sanam Re, composed by Jeet Ganguly. It was a recreation of a song with same title from 2001 film Tum Bin sung by K.S. Chitra and composed by Nikhil-Vinay. The song received positive to negative reviews. Ghoshal sang the songs "Mere Aankhon Se Nikle Aansoo" and "Ishq Ki Baarish" written by Sameer and composed by Nadeem Saifi in the film Ishq Forever for which critics compared Ghoshal singing style to veteran singer Alka Yagnik. For the song "Mere Aankhon Se Nikle Aansoo", The Times of India commented, "Shreya create magic in [the song], which is straight from the heart. Ghoshal provided vocals for song "Aatach Baya Ka Baavarla" in Marathi film Sairat composed by Ajay-Atul which was well received by critics. Ghoshal's collaboration with Ankit Tiwari in song "Jab Tum Hote Ho" from film Rustom was critically well received. Devesh Sharma of Filmfare labelled the song "sombre" and praised use of Ghoshal's "melodious" voice in the song. [Ghoshal was next heard in Tamil film Devi in which she rendered her vocals for song "Rang Rang Rangoli". Ghoshal also dubbed Hindi version of the song titled "Ranga Re" as the film was released along with Tamil in Hindi and Telugu as well with Telugu version "Rang Rang Rangare" being sung by Swetha Mohan. India West praised the Hindi version by quoting, "Ghoshal proves that she can tread Sunidhi Chauhan terrain effortlessly in parts of the song, and her strong vocals once again put up a strong case for playback singers (females)". The Tamil version of song also opened to positive reviews. In the same year, Ghoshal done an album called Gulzar In Conversation With Tagore, which consists of seven songs composed by Shantanu Moitra.

In early 2017, Ghoshal rendered "Aashiq Surrender Hua" duet along with co-singer and composer Amaal Mallik from the film Badrinath Ki Dulhania. The song in itself was much appreciated for its quirky lyrics which were penned down by lyricist: Shabbir Ahmed. "Aashiq Surrender Hua" was one of the rare songs in which Ghoshal was heard in a lower register than what she usually sings in. As Swetha Ramakrishnan from Firstpost reiterated, "The best thing about the song is Shreya



Ghoshal singing in a lower pitch; something one rarely gets to hear." In regards to the singers, Gaurang Chauhan from Bollywood Life stated, "Both are a unique choice for such a song and they nail it." [Ghoshal was next heard in "Rozana" from the film Naam Shabana for which Ghoshal's vocals were specifically met with critically positive reviews. Shriram Iyengar from Cinestaan mentioned, "Ghoshal's voice brings a mesmerising touch to the song, with a perfect balance of happiness and contentment." Praising Ghoshal's vocals in "Rozana", India West commented, "To say that she makes the best out of this increasingly rare occasion in film music is superfluous." [Apart from rendering vocals for A R Rahman composed 'Do Dilon Ke' duet along with Hariharan in the Hindi dubbed version of the film: Viceroy's House Ghoshal also lent her voice for duet 'Hans Mat Pagli' in Toilet: Ek Prem Katha alongside Sonu Nigam. Both songs were critically acclaimed. Joginder Tuteja from Bollywood Hungama stated that "The combination of Sonu-Shreya takes the song to a different altogether and worthy of repeat hear."

In 2017, Ghoshal also sang "Thodi Der" duet with co-singer and music director Farhan Saeed for the film Half Girlfriend. She received a Filmfare Award for Best Female Playback Singer nomination for the song. Komoi stated, "Ghoshal's voice as sweet as honey mesmerizes the listener in Thodi Der". Glamsham reported, "Ghoshal is simply fantastic and [song] can be put on repeat mode". In the same year, Ghoshal sang two songs in fifth episode of Mix-tape, a web series launched by T-Series for which she received positive response.



ڈاکٹر توفیق انصاری احمد
شکاگو، امریکہ

گل بو کی حکایت

سدا بہار، سبق آموز مذہبی، سماجی و اخلاقی بنیادوں کا انمول و نادر خزانہ



ڈاکٹر توفیق انصاری احمد



حضرت شیخ سعدی شیرازی رضی اللہ عنہ

51 بوسہ نہیں تو شہ چاہئے

اُردو حکایت: شیخ سعدی فرماتے ہیں: میں نے سنا کہ روم کے نواح میں اک خدا رسیدہ بزرگ ہے جو نہایت پاک طینت اور عبادت گزار ہے۔ مجھے زیارت کا اشتیاق ہوا۔ دوسروں کو اس کا علم ہوا تو وہ بھی میرے ساتھ ہو گئے اور ہم سب مل کر اس بزرگ کی زیارت کے لئے روانہ ہوئے۔ طویل اور مشکل سفر کے بعد ہم اپنی منزل پر پہنچ گئے۔ اُس وقت ہماری بڑی حالت تھی، تھک کر چور ہو چکے تھے اور بھوک سے جان لہوں پر آئی ہوئی تھی۔ اُس بزرگ نے نہایت گرجوئی سے ہمارا خیر مقدم کیا۔ ہر ایک کے ہاتھوں اور سروں کو چوما اور نہایت وقار و عزت سے سب کو بٹھایا۔ اس کے جاہ و حشم کا کوئی ٹھکانا نہ تھا۔ سونے چاندی کی ریل بیل تھی۔ خدام دوڑے پھرتے تھے۔ کھیت اور باغات پھیلے ہوئے تھے لیکن افسوس کہ اُس کا چولہا ٹھنڈا تھا۔ اُس نے ہم کو کھانا کھلانا تو درکنار اس کے بارے میں ذکر تک نہ کیا۔ البتہ خندہ پیشانی اور شریں کلامی کا یہ عالم تھا کہ بات بات پر بچھا جاتا تھا۔ اہلاً و سہلاً و مرجبا کہتے اس کی زبان نہ تھکتی تھی۔ بھلا باتوں سے ہمارے پیٹ کی آگ کیسے بجھ سکتی تھی۔ دل ہی دل میں کڑھتے اور سوچتے تھے کہ یہ بزرگ تو بے پھل کے درخت کی طرح بے فیض نکلے۔ رات ہو گئی تو اس نام نہاد بزرگ نے مصلیٰ پکڑ لیا اور تسبیح و تہلیل میں مشغول ہو گیا۔ اُس نے ساری رات اللہ اللہ کر کے گزاردی اور پلک نہ چپکائی۔ ادھر ساری رات ہم بھوک کے مارے انگاروں پر لوٹتے رہے اور جان کورتے رہے۔ صبح ہوئی تو اس بزرگ نے عبادت سے فارغ ہو کر پھر وہی میٹھی میٹھی باتیں شروع کر دیں۔ میرے ساتھیوں میں اک نوجوان نہایت خوش طبع، لطیف گو تھا۔ یہ حال دیکھ کر اُس سے رہا نہ گیا اُس نے عابد زندہ دار سے کہا کہ حضرت! ہمیں آپ کا بوسہ نہیں تو شہ چاہئے۔ آپ کی شیریں کلامی اور محبت ہمارے کس کام کی جب ہمارے پیٹ میں چوہے دوڑتے ہوں۔ بہتر ہوگا کہ آپ ہمارے سر پر جوتے مار لیں اور کھانے کو کچھ دیدیں۔

فارسی اشعار:

بہ ایثار مردان، سبق بردہ اند
نہ شب زندہ داران دل مردہ اند
کرامت جوانمردی فانِ دبی است
مقالات بیبودہ طبل تہی است

حاصل کلام:

لوگوں کو ایثار کی بدولت، بڑی سبقت حاصل ہوئی ہے۔ شب زندہ دار لوگوں کا دل مردہ نہیں ہوتا۔ اصل شرافت، سخاوت کرنا اور روٹی دینا ہے۔ بے ہودہ اور لا حاصل باتیں محض خالی ڈھول ہیں۔

منظوم ترجمہ:

بھوک کے مارے بہت ہی حال ہے اپنا برا
آپ کا بوسہ نہیں، اب ہم کو توشہ چاہئے
مارئے سر پہ، ہمارے جوتے
ہاں مگر کھانے کو، کچھ دے دیجئے
کچھ ایثار تو سبقت بڑی مل جائے گی
دل نہیں ہے اُس کا مردہ جس کی شب زندہ رہے
ہے شرافت اور سخاوت یہ کہ کچھ کھانے کو دیں
ورنہ یہ باتیں ہماری صرف خالی ڈھول ہیں



دائے مشرق، بلبل شیراز، حضرت شیخ سعدی شیرازی رضی اللہ عنہ فارسی زبان کے عالمی شہرت یافتہ ادیب، شاعر، سیاح و دانشور گزرے ہیں۔ آپ کی پیدائش تقریباً آٹھ سو سال قبل سادات کے اک معزز گھرانے میں ہوئی جو برسوں پہلے مکہ سے ہجرت کر کے شیراز میں آسا تھا۔ خاندان میں دینداری کا بول بالا تھا اس لئے ابتدائی تعلیم گھر پر ہوئی اور چھوٹی سی عمر میں تمام ضروری دینی مسائل یاد ہو گئے جس کے ساتھ عبادت، شب بیداری اور تلاوت کلام پاک کا شوق پیدا ہو گیا۔ گیارہ سال کی عمر میں کلام مجید حفظ کر لیا۔ تفسیر، فقہ، حدیث اور صرف و نحو کی ابتدائی کتابیں پڑھیں اور سن بلوغ کو پہنچنے سے پہلے ہی نہایت اعلیٰ و ارفع اخلاق و کردار کے مالک بن گئے۔ ان کی سلیقہ مندی، زہد و تقویٰ، ذہانت و دانشمندی کا ہر طرف چرچا ہو جائے گا۔ نو عمری میں والدین کے ساتھ پہلا حج کیا اور اپنی زندگی میں چودہ حج پایادہ کئے۔ بغداد کے مدرسہ نظامیہ میں تقریباً تیس سال تک مشہور زمانہ علمائے کرام سے تحصیل علم و فیض صحت حاصل کر کے قرآن، حدیث، تفسیر، منطق، فلسفہ، ریاضی اور دیگر علوم پر عبور حاصل کیا۔ ساتھ ہی کئی اجنبی زبانوں میں بھی مہارت حاصل کر لی۔ تحصیل علم سے فارغ ہو کر حضرت سعدی شیرازی نے سیاحت پر کمر باندھ لی اور عمر کا بیشتر حصہ ایشیا، آفریقہ اور دنیا کے دیگر ممالک کی سیر و سیاحت میں بسر کیا۔ کہا جاتا ہے کہ مشرقی سیاحوں میں ابن بطوطہ کے سوا شیخ سعدی سے بڑھ کر کوئی اور سیاح نہیں۔ انہوں نے سیاحت کے دوران بڑی صعوبتیں اٹھائیں اور بڑے تجربے حاصل کئے۔ ایک اندازے کے مطابق شیخ سعدی کی تصانیف تیس سے متجاوز اور ایک سے بڑھ کر ایک ہیں لیکن ان کی دو

کتابوں گلستاں اور بوستاں نے لازوال عالمی شہرت حاصل کی اور حضرت سعدی کے مقام کو بلند و بالا کر کے اوج کمال پر پہنچا دیا۔ گلستاں اور بوستاں کی بنیاد قرآن، حدیث، تربیت، اخلاقیات، تجربات، دور رس اور دانشوری پر رکھی ہوئی ہے۔ ان دو کتابوں کی حکایات میں کچھ ایسا سبق پوشیدہ ہے کہ جس کو پڑھنے کے بعد آدمی اپنے علم و عمل سے انسانیت کے اعلیٰ مقام پر پہنچ سکتا ہے اس لئے ان کا مطالعہ بنی نوع انسان کے لئے نہایت فائدہ مند ہے۔

اُردو ادب کے ممتاز ادیب و شاعر ڈاکٹر توفیق انصاری احمد نے حضرت شیخ سعدی شیرازی کی سدا بہار فارسی تصانیف گلستاں و بوستاں کی افادیت کو پیش نظر رکھتے ہوئے ان دونوں کتابوں کی منتخب حکایات کے نثری و منظوم ترجمہ کا کام کئی برس پہلے شروع کیا تھا جس کی اشاعت و رسم اجرائی کا اہتمام زیر ترتیب ہے۔ ویسے تو گلستاں و بوستاں کے تراجم دنیا کی تقریباً تمام بڑی زبانوں میں ہو چکے ہیں لیکن صرف انگریزی و عربی میں نثر کا ترجمہ نثر اور نظم کا ترجمہ نظم میں کیا گیا ہے۔ اُردو زبان میں موثر اور مفید ترجمہ کی ایسی کوئی مثال نہیں ملتی۔ ”گل بو“ (گلستاں سے گل اور بوستاں سے بو) گلستاں اور بوستاں کی منتخب مثالی حکایتوں کا اور ڈاکٹر توفیق انصاری احمد کا زیر ترتیب اُردو زبان کا وہ سب سے پہلا شاہکار مشترکہ و منفرد گلدستہ ہے جس میں فارسی نثر کا ترجمہ اُردو نثر میں اور فارسی نظم کا ترجمہ اُردو نظم میں کیا گیا ہے۔ ”گل بو کی حکایت“ کے عنوان سے ہم گلستاں و بوستاں کی حکایات کو عوامی استفادہ کی خاطر ”ایشیا نامہ کی الیکٹرانک اشاعتوں میں ثواب جاریہ کی نیت سے سلسلہ وار شائع کر رہے ہیں۔ (ادارہ)

فرق صرف اتنا ہے

ولی الدین
شاعر و ادیب

کبھی کبھی دیکھنے میں مغرب کا بڑھاپا ”مشرق کی جوانی سے بھرپور اور تندرست ہوتا ہے“ یہ جملہ کسی نے ایک زمانہ پہلے کہا تھا اگر دیکھا جائے تو حقیقت میں یہاں کے اکثر بوڑھے زندگی کے اس عمر کے حصے میں آکر اور زیادہ مصروف اور صحت مند ہونے کے چکر میں لگے رہتے ہیں۔ اپنے لوگ صحت کی اتنی زیادہ فکر نہیں کرتے ”بس جان بناؤ حلوہ پوری کھاؤ“ میں لگے رہتے ہیں، آج کل تو کورونا اور لاک ڈاؤن کی وجہ سے اتنے لوگ زیادہ باہر نہیں نکلتے تو پھر گھر میں بھی ہلکی پھلکی ضرورت کے مطابق ورزش کرتے ہیں خون کی روانی اور موٹاپا کم کرنے کی ضرورت ہے امریکا میں لوگ جم میں جا کر خوب جم کر ورزش کرتے ہیں عورتیں اور مرد دونوں صحت مند اور دلکش بننے میں لگے رہتے ہیں، مشرق کے لوگ اس عمر میں اللہ اللہ کرتے ہیں یا پھر کہہ لیں کہ ملا کی دوڑ مسجد تک ادھر گورے لوگ چاہے امریکا ہو یا کینیڈا وغیرہ سوشل سیکورٹی اور پنشن کے چیک کیسینو میں ہار جاتے ہیں کچھ لوگ کو خوف خدا تو نہیں بلکہ خود چرچ ہوتا ہے اور وہ اپنے اپنے چرچ اور گرجا گھر کا رخ کرتے ہیں جہاں یہ بھی لکھا ہوتا ہے کہ جنت کی کنجی ان کے پاس ہے کئی بڑے بوڑھے اس چکر میں پھنس جاتے ہیں اور ہزاروں ڈالر لے جاتے ہیں وہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ ایسے چندے دے کر سیدھا جنت میں جائیں گے ان کو کوئی نیک کام کرنے کی ضرورت نہیں ہے ادھر گرجا گھر کے پادری خوب عیاشی کرتے ہیں اور بڑے بڑے ٹی وی اسٹیشن لے کر ریڈیو پر نشریات کرتے رہتے ہیں اپنے دیس میں بھی کچھ سادہ لوح انسان پیروں فقیروں کے چکر میں پڑ کر زندگی بھر کی کمائی لٹا دیتے ہیں۔ اپنے اور اپنے گھر بار بیوی بچوں کے مستقبل کی صحیح طرح سے یہ پلاننگ

بھی نہیں کرتے، خدا نخواستہ ان کو کچھ ہو گیا تو ان کے بیوی بچوں کا کیا ہوگا ہے آج کے حالات میں تو ان باتوں پر زیادہ دھیان رہتا ہے۔ ”اگر زندہ رہے تو عمر کے اس حصے میں جو پلاننگ نہیں کی یا صحت جو اب جواب دے جائے تو پھر کیا ہوگا۔“ اس سلسلے میں کیا لوگ یہ بھی سمجھتے ہیں کہ ان کی اولاد بڑھاپے میں ساتھ دے گی ان کا خیال رکھے گی تو اس ناچیز کی گستاخانہ رائے یہ ہے کہ ”جاگو ہوا سویرا“ والی بات ہے۔ آپ اس خواب خرگوش سے باہر آئیں۔ جیسا کہ لوگ کہتے ہیں کہ پانچوں انگلیاں برابر نہیں ہوتیں۔ اس طرح امریکا اور کینیڈا میں

کچھ لوگ ہر بات کی پلاننگ کرتے ہیں جس طرح ہر بات کے کئی پہلو نکل آتے ہیں اس لیے کچھ لوگ ہر بات پر کہہ دیتے ہیں ”اللہ مددگار آگے کی وہ جانے“ تو اس ناچیز کا کہنا ہے کہ اللہ بھی تو ان کی مدد کرتا ہے جو اپنی مدد آپ کرتے ہیں۔ ہاتھوں کی لکیر کسی کا مقدر نہیں ہوتی بغیر محنت کے کوئی شے میں نہیں ہوتی ہر کام صحیح وقت پر کرنا چاہیے اب ذرا ایکشن کی بھی بات ہو جائے۔ امریکا کے صدر نے کورونا میں مبتلا ہونے کا ڈھونگ رچایا ہے یا پھر حقیقت ہے تو اتنی جلدی وہ اسپتال سے صحیح ہو کر واپس وائٹ ہاؤس میں آ گیا؟ ادھر ہمارے ساتھ کے کتنے ڈاکٹر اور ہیلتھ کیئررز کے پروفیشنل اس موذی مرض سے زندگی دھو بیٹھے ہیں یا پھر اس کا اسپیشل علاج کچھ خاص داؤوں اور انجکشن سے کیا گیا ہے جو عام آدمی کے لیے فراہم نہیں ہے امریکا صدر، نواز شریف، یا پھر عرب کے بادشاہوں شیخوں کی صف میں آ گیا ہے یا پھر یہ فیک نیوز ہے کہ اس کورونا ہوا تھا۔

❖❖❖

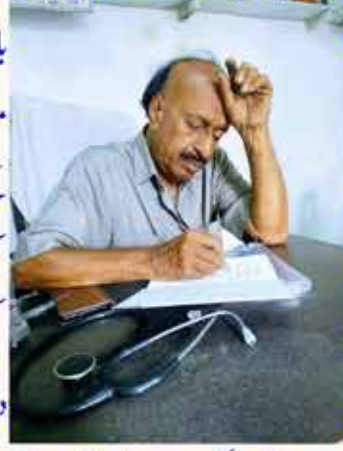
شائقین علم و ادب ڈاکٹر راہی کو کبھی فراموش نہیں کر سکتے

تعزیتی جلسہ سے دانشوران کا خراج عقیدت

بزم جوہر کی ادبی سرگرمیاں جاری رکھنے اور ٹرسٹ قائم کرنے کا ڈاکٹر روبینہ شبنم کا اعلان

اعلان کیا کہ وہ ڈاکٹر راہی کے نام سے ایک ٹرسٹ قائم کر رہی ہیں اور ایک لاکھ ٹرسٹ میں جمع کرنے کا اعلان بھی کیا ڈاکٹر روبینہ نے یہ بھی کہا کہ بزم جوہر کی ادبی سرگرمیاں بھی جاری رہیں گی۔ بعد ازاں صوفی سلطان شطاری کی نگرانی میں نعتیہ مشاعرہ کا آغاز ہوا جس کی نظامت کے فرائض لطیف الدین لطیف نے انجام دیئے۔ نعتیہ محفل میں نگران محفل کے علاوہ جلال عارف، سردار سلیم، فہیم، ظفر فاروقی، فرید سحر، قاری انیس احمد انیس، وحید پاشا قادری، لطیف الدین لطیف، شکیل حیدر، شاہ نواز ہاشمی، سعد اللہ خان نے نعتیہ کلام سنایا۔ قاری انیس احمد انیس اور صوفی سلطان شطاری کی دُعا پر اجلاس و نعتیہ محفل اختتام پذیر ہوئی۔

دیگر افراد بھی کبھی فراموش نہیں کر سکتے ڈاکٹر راہی کی خصوصیت یہ بھی تھی کہ وہ بڑی بے باکی کے ساتھ قومی و ملی مسائل پر اجلاس منعقد کر کے اپنا کلیدی نوٹ پیش کیا کرتے تھے۔ وہ جب بھی کسی سے ملتے تو بڑی خوش دلی اور پرتپاک انداز میں ملتے تھے۔ معتمد بزم جوہر ڈاکٹر روبینہ بختیار دختر راہی جو کہ کنوینر جلسہ تھیں اپنے ابتدائی کلمات میں گہرے رنج و غم کا اظہار کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ بابا ایک حساس طبیعت اور نیک دل انسان تھے۔ ان کی کمی اور شفقت مجھے ہمیشہ محسوس ہوگی۔ ڈاکٹر روبینہ شبنم نے اپنی تقریر جاری رکھتے ہوئے اجلاس میں یہ



خراج عقیدت پیش کیا اور کہا کہ ڈاکٹر راہی علم و ادب شعر و سخن کی دنیا میں اپنی ایک الگ پہچان رکھتے تھے ان کے انتقال سے ایک خلا پیدا ہوا ہے جو کہ غمگین نہیں۔ وہ ایک شاعر، ادیب و طبیب کے ساتھ ہمدرد انسان بھی تھے۔ وہ بلا مذہب و ملت اپنے مریضوں کی نہ صرف عیادت ان کے گھر جا کر کیا کرتے تھے بلکہ ضرورت مندوں کا علاج و معالجہ بھی گھر جا کر کرتے تھے یہی وجہ ہے کہ آج ڈاکٹر راہی کے اس تعزیتی جلسہ میں سامعین کی کثیر تعداد نظر آرہی ہے جو اس بات کی دلیل ہے کہ انہیں شائقین علم و ادب کے علاوہ

ڈاکٹر راہی کا تعزیتی جلسہ و نعتیہ مشاعرہ بزم جوہر کی جانب سے خواجہ شوق ہال میں جمعرات 11 جولائی کو منعقد ہوا۔ جس کی نگرانی صوفی سلطان شطاری نے کی۔ پروفیسر مجید بیدار نے جلسہ کی صدارت کی جب کہ مہمانان و مقررین کی حیثیت سے جناب جلال عارف، صاحب زادہ مجتبیٰ فہیم، ڈاکٹر اسلام الدین مجاہد، ڈاکٹر جاوید کمال، سید مسکین احمد، فرید سحر، ڈاکٹر ناظم علی اور لیاقت علی ہاشمی نے شرکت کی۔ جلسہ کا آغاز قاری انیس احمد انیس کی قرأت کلام پاک سے ہوا اور اس جلسہ کی کاروائی لطیف الدین لطیف نے چلائی سبھی مقررین نے ڈاکٹر راہی کی شخصیت، ادبی، شعری و طبی خدمات پر اپنے تاثرات کے ذریعہ بھرپور



اے ایس انٹرنیشنل کی جانب سے شکا گو شہر میں محترم منظر بھوپالی صاحب کی کتاب اعتبار ادب کا اجرا ہوا۔ کتاب اجرا کے بعد مشاعرے میں، ہیوسٹن، ڈیلاس اور شکاگو کے شعراء اور منظر بھوپالی صاحب نے حاضرین محفل نے ہر اشعار پر داد دی۔

کام یا بوجھ میں آسانی کے لئے

اَلنَّ حَفَّفَ اللّٰهُ عَنْكُمْ وَعَلِمَ اَنْ فِيْكُمْ ضَعْفًا ۗ فَاِنْ يَّكُنْ مِنْكُمْ مِّائَةٌ صَابِرَةٌ يَّغْلِبُوْا مِائَتَيْنِ ۗ
وَ اِنْ يَّكُنْ مِنْكُمْ اَلْفٌ يَّغْلِبُوْا اَلْفَيْنِ بِاِذْنِ اللّٰهِ ۗ وَاللّٰهُ مَعَ الصّٰبِرِيْنَ ﴿٦٦﴾ (پارہ ۹، سورہ انفال، آیت ۶۶)
فضیلت: ہر نماز کے بعد ایک مرتبہ یہ آیت پڑھے تو کام کے بوجھ میں آسانی پیدا ہوگی۔

تنازعات کے حل کے لئے

وَ اَلْفٌ بَيْنَ قُلُوْبِهِمْ ۗ لَوْ اَنْفَقْتَ مَا فِي الْاَرْضِ جَمِيْعًا مَّا اَلْفَتْ بَيْنَ قُلُوْبِهِمْ ۗ وَلَكِنَّ اللّٰهَ اَلْفَ بَيْنَهُمْ ۗ
اِنَّهٗ عَزِيْزٌ حَكِيْمٌ ﴿٦٣﴾ (پارہ ۹، سورہ انفال، آیت ۶۳)
فضیلت: ارکان خاندان کے درمیان تنازعات ہو تو یہ آیت کو روزانہ 11 مرتبہ پڑھے۔ ان شاء اللہ تنازعات حل ہو جائیں گے۔

خواہش اولاد پوری ہونے کے لئے

وَ لِلّٰهِ مُلْكُ السَّمٰوٰتِ وَ الْاَرْضِ وَ مَا بَيْنَهُمَا ۗ يَخْلُقُ مَا يَشَآءُ ۗ وَاللّٰهُ عَلٰى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيْرٌ ﴿١٥﴾ (پارہ ۶، سورہ المائدہ، آیت ۱۵)
فضیلت: اگر کسی کو حمل نہیں ٹھہرتا ہے اور آپ نا اُمید ہو گئے ہوں تو اس آیت کو روزانہ 41 دنوں تک 300 مرتبہ پڑھ کر کسی میٹھی چیز پر دم کر کے
میاں بیوی کو کھلائیے، ان شاء اللہ حمل ٹھہر جائے گا۔

میاں بیوی کے درمیان اختلافات دور کرنے کے لئے

وَ مِنْ اٰيٰتِهٖ اَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ اَنْفُسِكُمْ اَزْوَاجًا لِّيَسْكُنُوْا اِلَيْهَا وَ جَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَ رَحْمَةً ۗ
اِنَّ فِيْ ذٰلِكَ لَآيٰتٍ لِّقَوْمٍ يَّتَفَكَّرُوْنَ ﴿٢١﴾ (پارہ ۲۱، سورہ الروم، آیت ۲۱)
فضیلت: اگر میاں بیوی میں اختلاف ہو، آپس میں محبت نہ ہو تو اس آیت کو روزانہ 33 مرتبہ کسی میٹھی چیز پر تین دن تک پڑھ کر دم کر کے
دونوں کو کھلائیں ان شاء اللہ دونوں میں محبت پیدا ہو جائے گی۔

شدید بھوک کے لئے

وَ فِي السَّمٰوٰتِ رِزْقُكُمْ وَ مَا تَوْعَدُوْنَ ﴿٢٤﴾ (پارہ ۲، سورہ الذریات، آیت ۲۲)
فضیلت: اگر کسی کو شدید بھوک لگی تو یہ آیت 11 مرتبہ پڑھ کر پانی پر دم کرے اور کھانے سے قبل پانی پی لے۔

کھانسی سے افاقہ کے لئے

سَلٰمٌ تَقْوٰلًا مِّنْ رَّبِّ رَحِيْمٍ ﴿٥٨﴾ (پارہ ۲۳، سورہ یسین، آیت ۵۸)
فضیلت: حسب ذیل آیت کو 41 مرتبہ پڑھ کر پانی پر دم کر کے مریض کو پانی پلائیں۔ ان شاء اللہ ضرور افاقہ ہو جائے گا۔

درد شکم میں افاقہ کے لئے

وَ اللّٰهُ اٰخَرُ جَاكُم مِّنْ بُطُوْنِ اُمَّهَاتِكُمْ ﴿٤٨﴾ (پارہ ۱۳، سورہ النحل، آیت ۴۸)
فضیلت: اگر کسی کے درد شکم ہو رہا ہو تو اس آیت کو 7 بار نمک پر پڑھ کر دم کر کے مریض کو کھلائیں تو، ان شاء اللہ درد شکم میں افاقہ ہو جائے گا۔

زارا نور عباس مردوں کے حق میں بول اٹھیں

زارا نور عباس کا شمار پاکستان کی مقبول ترین ستاروں میں ہوتا ہے۔ ان کا تعلق فنکاروں کے گھرانے سے ہے اور ان کی شادی اداکار اسد صدیقی سے ہوئی ہے۔ زارا نور عباس نے ہمیشہ اپنے شوہر اسد صدیقی کی ان کے لیے سپورٹ کی تعریف کی ہے۔ انہوں نے وحی شاہ کے ساتھ اپنے حالیہ انٹرویو میں مردوں پر دباؤ کے بارے میں بات کی ہے۔ زارا نے اس بارے میں بات کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ، مردوں کو معاشرے میں اور اپنے شراکت داروں سے فائدہ اٹھانا چاہئے، کیونکہ معیشت کے دماؤ اور اس ماحول میں رہنا اور مریجز کے ذمہ داریوں میں ایک دوسرے کی مدد کرنی چاہیے، مردوں کو وقت ملنا چاہیے، جو وہ اپنے اہل خانہ کے ساتھ گزار سکیں اور انہیں ہمیشہ کام میں مصروف نہیں رہنا چاہیے۔ زارا کا یہ بھی کہنا تھا کہ مردوں کو زیادہ ہارٹ اٹیک ہوتے ہیں، اس لیے انہیں اپنی صحت پر بھی توجہ دینی چاہیے اور تمباکو نوشی ترک کرنی چاہیے۔



زارا نور عباس نے ہمیشہ اپنے شوہر اسد صدیقی کی ان کے لیے سپورٹ کی تعریف کی ہے۔ انہوں نے وحی شاہ کے ساتھ اپنے حالیہ انٹرویو میں مردوں پر دباؤ کے بارے میں بات کی ہے۔ زارا نے اس بارے میں بات کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ، مردوں کو معاشرے میں اور اپنے شراکت داروں سے فائدہ اٹھانا چاہئے، کیونکہ معیشت کے دماؤ اور اس ماحول میں رہنا اور مریجز کے ذمہ داریوں میں ایک دوسرے کی مدد کرنی چاہیے، مردوں کو وقت ملنا چاہیے، جو وہ اپنے اہل خانہ کے ساتھ گزار سکیں اور انہیں ہمیشہ کام میں مصروف نہیں رہنا چاہیے۔ زارا کا یہ بھی کہنا تھا کہ مردوں کو زیادہ ہارٹ اٹیک ہوتے ہیں، اس لیے انہیں اپنی صحت پر بھی توجہ دینی چاہیے اور تمباکو نوشی ترک کرنی چاہیے۔



ذمہ داریوں میں ایک دوسرے کی مدد کرنی چاہیے، مردوں کو وقت ملنا چاہیے، جو وہ اپنے اہل خانہ کے ساتھ گزار سکیں اور انہیں ہمیشہ کام میں مصروف نہیں رہنا چاہیے۔ زارا کا یہ بھی کہنا تھا کہ مردوں کو زیادہ ہارٹ اٹیک ہوتے ہیں، اس لیے انہیں اپنی صحت پر بھی توجہ دینی چاہیے اور تمباکو نوشی ترک کرنی چاہیے۔

دی سیمپسنز نے بدوبدی سے متعلق کیا پیش گوئی کی تھی؟

عارف اداکار عمران عباس نے دعویٰ کیا ہے کہ 'دی سیمپسنز' انٹیمیٹڈ سیریز نے چاہت فتح علی خان کے ری میک گانے 'بدو بدی' کی شہرت کی پیش گوئی پہلے ہی کر دی تھی۔ حال ہی میں اداکار نے فوٹو اینڈ ویڈیو شیئرنگ پلیٹ فارم انسٹاگرام پر اسٹوری شیئر کرتے ہوئے 'دی سیمپسنز' کی پرانی قسط کا ایک منظر اور 'بدو بدی' کی ویڈیو کا اسکرین شارٹ شیئر کیا، جس میں کافی مماثلت دکھائی دے رہی ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ہی انہوں نے لکھا کہ 'سیمپسنز' نے پھر کر دکھایا، جیسا ماضی میں کرتے آئے ہیں، سیمپسنز نے پہلے ہی بتا دیا تھا



کہ ہم پر چاہت فتح علی خان کا عذاب آئے گا۔ اداکار کی شیئر کردہ تصویر میں سیمپسنز کارٹون کیئریکٹر کا ہیروز اسٹائل چاہت فتح علی خان سے ملتا جلتا ہے جبکہ ماڈل کے لباس میں بھی مماثلت دکھائی دے رہی ہے۔ 9 ملین انسٹاگرام فالوورز کے ساتھ پاکستان کے سب سے زیادہ فالو کیے جانے والے اداکار عمران عباس سیمپسنز کی پرانی قسط اور بدوبدی میں مماثلت دیکھ کر خود بھی حیران ہیں اور اپنے فالوورز کو بھی حیرت میں مبتلا کر رہے ہیں۔



کہ ہم پر چاہت فتح علی خان کا عذاب آئے گا۔ اداکار کی شیئر کردہ تصویر میں سیمپسنز کارٹون کیئریکٹر کا ہیروز اسٹائل چاہت فتح علی خان سے ملتا جلتا ہے جبکہ ماڈل کے لباس میں بھی مماثلت دکھائی دے رہی ہے۔ اس کے ساتھ ہی انہوں نے لکھا کہ 'سیمپسنز' نے پھر کر دکھایا، جیسا ماضی میں کرتے آئے ہیں، سیمپسنز نے پہلے ہی بتا دیا تھا

شہنشاہ جذبات دلپ کمار کی کہانی جلد ہی اردو زبان میں منظر عام پر آئے گی

شہنشاہ جذبات دلپ کمار سے تین سال قبل 7 جولائی کو فلمی دنیا ایک جواہر سے محروم ہو گئی، تب دلپ کمار کی عمر 98 سال کی تھی۔



اپنی سوانح عمری میں، دلپ کمار نے عاصمہ رحمن کے ساتھ اپنی شادی کا ایک باب بھی وقف کیا ہے، جس سے ان کی ملاقات حیدرآباد میں ایک کرکٹ میچ میں ہوئی تھی، جہاں وہ اپنے شوہر کے ساتھ رہتی تھیں۔ اداکار نے انکشاف کیا کہ سائرہ بانو نے ایک شامنامہ میں سنسنی خیز انکشاف پڑھا اور اپنی اہلیہ کو تسلی دینا ان کے لیے بہت تکلیف دہ تھا۔ دلپ کمار ہندی فلموں کے مشہور اداکار مرحوم دلپ کمار کی پرانی ویڈیو آرکائیو ہو گئی ہے، جس میں ہندوستانی فلم انڈسٹری میں خراب فلموں پر آنجہانی اندرا گاندھی کی جانے والی تنقید کا منہ توڑ جواب دیا اور معاشرے کی دوسری برائیوں کی نشان دہی بھی کر دی اور اندرا گاندھی کو جواب ہو گئیں۔



امبانی خاندان کی شادی تقریب سے زیادہ سرکس بن گئی: عالیہ کیشپ

عالیہ کیشپ جو خود ایک یوٹیوبر بھی ہیں، نے اپنے ایک حالیہ بیان میں کہا ہے کہ انتہا امبانی اور رادھیکا مرچنٹ کی شادی کی تشہیر کیلئے دنیا بھر سے متاثر کن شخصیات کو مدعو کیا گیا تھا، یہ تقریب شادی سے زیادہ سرکس بن گئی۔ ہندوستانی فلموں کے ڈائریکٹر انوراگ کیشپ کی بیٹی عالیہ کیشپ نے امبانی خاندان کی شادی کے حوالے سے ایک متنازعہ تبصرہ کیا ہے۔ ہندوستان کی ہر مشہور شخصیت اس وقت ارب پتی انتہا امبانی اور رادھیکا مرچنٹ کی شادی کی عالیہ کیشپ جو خود ایک یوٹیوبر بھی ہیں، نے اپنے ایک حالیہ بیان میں کہا ہے کہ انتہا امبانی اور رادھیکا مرچنٹ کی شادی کی تشہیر کیلئے دنیا بھر سے متاثر کن شخصیات کو مدعو کیا گیا تھا۔





ولی الدین

کلام

جو دل پہ گزرتی ہے کہہ دیا ہم نے
جذبات کو شعروں میں پرو دیا ہم نے
دین و دُنیا کو ساتھ لے چلو ولی
ایک کو پایا ایک کو کھودیا ہم نے



ایک یہی سچ تم کو گوارہ نہیں ہے
وہ سب کا خدا ہے صرف تمہارا نہیں ہے
کوئی ایک ہو تو ملا دو ولی سے
جس نے مصیبت میں اس کو پکارا نہیں ہے



چھوٹی چھوٹی باتوں میں خود کو الجھا دیتے ہیں
مذہب کو یوں اپنی مرضی کا بنا دیتے ہیں
اپنوں کے ہاتھوں تباہ ہے آج دین اسلام
جیسے گھر کے چراغ ہی گھر کو آگ لگا دیتے ہیں



امجد حسید آبادی

غزل

یوں تو کیا کیا نظر نہیں آتا
کوئی تم سا نظر نہیں آتا
ڈھونڈتی ہیں جسے مری آنکھیں
وہ تماشا نظر نہیں آتا
ہو چلی ختم انتظار میں عمر
کوئی آتا نظر نہیں آتا
جھولیاں سب کی بھرتی جاتی ہیں
دینے والا نظر نہیں آتا
جو نظر آتے ہیں نہیں اپنے
جو ہے اپنا نظر نہیں آتا
دیکھ لیتا ہوں صورت آئینہ میں
داغ دل کا نظر نہیں آتا
اپنی آنکھوں سے اس کو دیکھوں گا
مجھے ایسا نظر نہیں آتا
زیر سایہ ہوں اس کے میں امجد
جس کا سایہ نظر نہیں آتا



میر انیس

غزل

اشارے کیا نکلے ناز دل ربا کے چلے
ستم کے تیر چلے نیچے قضا کے چلے
گنہ کا بوجھ جو گردن پہ ہم اٹھا کے چلے
خدا کے آگے خجالت سے سر جھکا کے چلے
پکارے کہتی تھی حسرت سے نعش عاشق کی
صنم کدھر کو ہمیں خاک میں ملا کے چلے
مثال مائی بے آب موجیں تڑپا کہیں
حباب پھوٹ کے روئے جو تم نہا کے چلے
مقام یوں ہوا اس کارگاہ دنیا میں
کہ جیسے دن کو مسافر سرائیں آ کے چلے
کسی کا دل نہ کیا ہم نے پائمال کبھی
چلے جو راہ تو چینی کو بھی بچا کے چلے
ملا جنہیں انہیں افتادگی سے اوج ملا
انہیں نے کھائی ہے ٹھوکر جو سراٹھا کے چلے
انیس دم کا بھروسہ نہیں ٹھہر جاؤ
چراغ لے کے کہاں سامنے ہوا کے چلے



حیدر علی آتش

غزل

یہ آرزو تھی تجھے گل کے رو بہ رو کرتے
ہم اور بلبل بیتاب گفتگو کرتے
پیامبر نہ میسر ہوا تو خوب ہوا
زبان غیر سے کیا شرح آرزو کرتے
مری طرح سے مہ و مہر بھی ہیں آوارہ
کسی حبیب کی یہ بھی ہیں جستجو کرتے
ہمیشہ رنگ زمانہ بدلتا رہتا ہے
سفید رنگ ہیں آخر سیاہ مو کرتے
لٹاتے دولت دنیا کو میکدے میں ہم
طلائی ساغر سے نفرتی سبو کرتے
ہمیشہ میں نے گریباں کو چاک چاک کیا
تمام عمر رفوگر رہے رفو کرتے
جو دیکھتے تری زنجیر زلف کا عالم
اسیر ہونے کی آزاد آرزو کرتے
نہ پوچھ عالم برگشتہ طالعی آتش
برستی آگ جو باراں کی آرزو کرتے



آفاق بھٹی

غزل

دے اس نے اوروں کو ساغر پہ ساغر
چھوئے مرے دل میں نشتر پہ نشتر
مریض محبت کی ہے اب یہ حالت
کہ آتے ہیں ہر وقت چکر پہ چکر
مری سخت جانی غضب رنگ لائی
ہوئے کند قاتل کے خنجر پہ خنجر
کرم ہے یہ ساقی کی دریا دلی کا
طے مجھ کو بھر بھر کے ساغر پہ ساغر
چڑھاتے ہیں تیوری دکھاتے ہیں آنکھیں
چھوئے ہیں دل میں وہ نشتر پہ نشتر
تری جستجو میں مہ و مہر دونوں
لگاتے ہیں دن رات چکر پہ چکر
مقابل ہوا ان کی چتون سے جب دل
پڑے تیر پر تیر خنجر پہ خنجر
نگاہوں نے دل میں چھوئی ہیں چھریاں
اداؤں نے مارے ہیں خنجر پہ خنجر
نہ سرکا سر اس در سے آفاق ہرگز
لگا کر اسے لاکھ ٹھوکر پہ ٹھوکر



حکیم ناصر

غزل

جب سے تو نے مجھے دیوانہ بنا رکھا ہے
سنگ ہر شخص نے ہاتھوں میں اٹھا رکھا ہے
اس کے دل پر بھی کڑی عشق میں گزری ہوگی
نام جس نے بھی محبت کا سزا رکھا ہے
پتھر و آج مرے سر پہ برستے کیوں ہو
میں نے تم کو بھی کبھی اپنا خدا رکھا ہے
اب مری دید کی دنیا بھی تماشائی ہے
تو نے کیا مجھ کو محبت میں بنا رکھا ہے
پی جا ایام کی تلخی کو بھی ہنس کر ناصر
غم کو سہنے میں بھی قدرت نے مزار رکھا ہے



اکبر حسید آبادی

غزل

آنکھ میں آنسو کا اور دل میں لہو کا کال ہے
ہے تمنا کا وہی جو زندگی کا حال ہے
یوں دھواں دینے لگا ہے جسم اور جاں کا الاؤ
جیسے رگ رگ میں رواں اک آتش سیال ہے
پھیلتے جاتے ہیں دام ناری کے دائرے
تیرے میرے درمیاں کن حادثوں کا جال ہے
گھر گئی ہے دوزمانوں کی کشاکش میں حیات
اک طرف زنجیر ماضی ایک جانب حال ہے
بحر کی راہوں سے اکبر منزل دیدار تک
یوں ہے جیسے درمیاں اک روشنی کا سال ہے



عباس تاش

غزل

دشت میں پیاس بجھاتے ہوئے مر جاتے ہیں
ہم پرندے کہیں جاتے ہوئے مر جاتے ہیں
ہم ہیں سوکھے ہوئے تالاب پہ بیٹھے ہوئے ہنس
جو تعلق کو نبھاتے ہوئے مر جاتے ہیں
گھر پہنچتا ہے کوئی اور ہمارے جیسا
ہم ترے شہر سے جاتے ہوئے مر جاتے ہیں
کس طرح لوگ چلے جاتے ہیں اٹھ کر چپ چاپ
ہم تو یہ دھیان میں لاتے ہوئے مر جاتے ہیں
ان کے بھی قتل کا الزام ہمارے سر ہے
جو ہمیں زہر پلاتے ہوئے مر جاتے ہیں
یہ محبت کی کہانی نہیں مرتی لیکن
لوگ کردار نبھاتے ہوئے مر جاتے ہیں
ہم ہیں وہ ٹوٹی ہوئی کشتیوں والے تابش
جو کناروں کو ملاتے ہوئے مر جاتے ہیں



On the lighter side....

Seven-year-old John had finished his summer vacation and gone back to school. Two days later his teacher phone his mother to tell her that John was misbehaving.

"Wait a minute," said the mother. "I had John here for two months and I never called you once when he misbehaved."

I got fired from my job as a taxi driver...

It turns out my customers didn't like it when I tried to go the extra mile.

Two friends were chatting. "I've just bought a pig!" said the first.

"But where will you keep it?" asked the second. "Your yard's much too small for a pig!"

"I'm going to keep it under my bed," replied the first.

"But what about the smell?"

"He'll soon get used to that."

I went to a restaurant. It was full. There was no place to sit and the wait was over thirty minutes.

I took out my cell phone, placed it to my ear, and said loudly, "Hey, get over here! She's here with someone else!" Six couples got up and quickly left.

What do you call a charitable person in Portland?

An Oregon donor!

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her preacher she had two final requests.

First, she wanted to be cremated. Second, she wanted her ashes scattered over Walmart.

"Walmart?" the preacher exclaimed. "Why Walmart?"

"Then I'll be sure my daughters will visit me twice a week."

I asked my daughter if she'd seen my newspaper.



She told me that newspapers are old school. She said that people use tablets nowadays and handed me her iPad. The fly didn't stand a chance.

During the final exam, the professor noticed that Billy Walters kept looking at his hand before writing down an answer on his test. This went on throughout the entire exam, leaving the professor no other choice than to interrogate the student's test-taking habit.

"Mr. Walters," the professor began. "Is there something interesting written on your palm?"

"Not at all," Billy replied. "It's all pretty boring."

Tax collector: "It is your duty as a citizen to pay taxes, and we expect you to pay them with a smile."

Taxpayer (grinning widely): "Wonderful! I thought you expected me to pay them with cash!"

"The letter 'W' is the most dangerous alphabet in the world. Because all worries start with 'W'... Who, Why, What, When, Which, Whom, Where, War, Wine, Whisky, and Wealth."

"You're forgetting one."

"Really? Which one?"

"Wife!"

As I drove into a parking lot, I noticed that a pickup truck with a dog sitting behind the wheel was rolling toward a female pedestrian. She seemed oblivious, so I hit my horn to get her attention. She looked up just in time to jump out of the way of the truck's path, and the vehicle bumped harmlessly into the curb and stopped. I rushed to the woman's side to see if she was all right.

"I'm fine," she assured me,"but I hate to think what could have happened to me if that dog hadn't honked."

Why did the triangle refuse to be friends with the circle? It found the circle pointless.

Why didn't the frog sit on the toadstool? Because there wasn't mushroom.

"If you had one dollar and you asked your father for another, how many dollars would you have?"

"One dollar."

"You don't know your arithmetic."

"You don't know my father!"

The teacher asked her student to write on the chalkboard the number 55. The student asked, "How do I do that?" Teacher replied, "Write down the number 5, and beside it add another 5."

The student wrote one 5 and stopped. The teacher inquired, "What's wrong?"

"I don't know which side to write the other 5?"

Doctor: "I've found a great new drug that can help you with your sleeping problem."

Patient: "Great, how often do I have to take it?"

Doctor: "Every two hours."



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