

DECEMBER 2017 Vol 8, Issue 12

Padmavati, the real story Malik Muhammad Jayasi told 224 years after Alauddin Khilji

Padmavati is based on an epic composed by medieval Sufi poet Malik Muhammad Jayasi. Now a Sanjay Leela Bhansali film based on the epic has raked up a huge controversy, 477 years after it was composed.

Upcoming Bollywood film Padmavati is at the centre of a row with Shri Rajput Karni Sena threatening to do a "Surpanakha" (nose-chopping) to actor Deepika Padukone, who has played the lead female character in the Sanjay Leela Bhansali movie.

The Karni Sena has demanded cuts in some of the scenes from the film, which is slated for December 1 release. The Sena has threatened a nationwide agitation and called for a bandh on the day of the release of Padmavati.

The BJP and Congress have been sympathetic towards the demands made by the Karni Sena. Different bodies from Rajasthan to Bihar, and the UP government have urged the Centre to intervene, claiming that the film hurts the sentiments of the Rajput community in particular and the Hindus in general.



HISTORY BEHIND PADMAVATI

Film Padmavati is based on the epic Padmavat, composed by medieval age Sufi poet Malik Muhammad Jayasi from the days of the Bhakti Movement, which produced Tulsidas, Surdas and Kabir among hundreds of others.

Padmavat tells a story, which historians don't value much, treating it as a work of fiction of the queen of Chittor named Padmavati, who was coveted by Delhi's sultan Alauddin Khilji , known for his military conquests across India and strong market regulations in the capital to keep the prices of articles in control. Alauddin Khilji attacked and captured the Fort of Chittor in 1306. The Delhi sultan died in 1316. Padmavat was composed by Jayasi in 1540. Alauddin Khilji and Padmavat of Jayasi are separated by 224 years and over 650 kilometres (Jayasi's grave is near Amethi). (ALSO READ: Who was Allaudin Khilji?)

Padmavat has the distinction of being the first epic in people's dialect Awadhi, the same language that the great poet Tulsidas used for his literary works, including the Ramacharitmanas.

WHAT JAYASI WROTE IN PADMAVAT?

Padmavati's father Gandharvasen does not approve of her friendship with Hiraman and ordered the bird to be killed. But, the bird flies away to escape punishment. It is trapped by a bird catcher, who sells it to Ratnasen, the king of Chittor. Impressed by its qualities, Ratnasen of Chittor keeps Hiraman as his pet. Hiraman describes the pristine beauty of Padmavati to Ratnasen, who develops a deep love for the Singhal queen. Ratnasen plans a clandestine visit, but with 16,000 of his guards and followers, to Singhaldweep.

RATNASEN AND PADMAVATI

Upon reaching Singhaldweep, Ratnasen resorts to extreme, austere prayers at a Shiva temple. The news reaches Padmavati, who visits the temple but fails to see Ratnasen. When the Chittor king learns about Padmavati's visit to the temple and his missed chance, he is so anguished and pained that he decides to kill self. As Ratnasen prepares to commit suicide, Lord Shiva and Parvati appear before him and suggest him to march to the fort of Singhaldweep to claim Padmavati. Still disguised as an ascetic, Ratnasen marches on to the fort with his followers. But he was captured by the forces of Gandharvasen.

As Ratnasen was to be executed, his followers reveal his true identity to the Singhaldweep ruler. A surprised Gandharvasen marries off his daughter Padmavati to Ratnasen and also hands him over 16,000 Singhal Padmini (the best grade women - Jayasi does not define the criteria for declaring a woman as the best grade). PADMAVATI AND NAGMATI

While Ratnasen marries Padmavati in Singhaldweep, his first queen Nagmati longs for him in Chittor. She sends a bird messenger to Singhaldweep, sharing her feelings with Ratnasen, who starts his journey to Chittor.

Ratnasen loses most of his followers to a storm in the sea lying between the mainland and Singhaldweep. But, his love and devotion for Padmavati impresses the sea god, who gives him valuable gifts. Laden with gifts and prizes, Rantasen and Padmavati land at Puri in modern day Odisha.

ALAUDDIN KHILJI MAKES ENTRY

Before Raghav Chetan sets on his journey outside the kingdom of Chittor, Padmavati gives him one of her bangles. Accustomed to royal favours, Raghav Chetan seeks shelter at Delhi sultan Alauddin Khilji's court.

Alauddin Khilji asks Raghav Chetan about the bangle, upon which the banished Brahmin describes the beauty of Padmavati in a manner such that it incites lust in the sultan for the Chittor queen. He sets out to have a glimpse of the queen. Alauddin Khilji lays a siege of the Chittor fort and demands Padmavati for himself but fails to defeat the king. The siege continues without success and as a compromise, Alauddin Khilji is invited as a guest inside the fort against the advice of Gora and Badal, the valiant military generals of Ratnasen.

During his stay as the royal guest, Alauddin Khilji captures a glimpse of Padmavati. As he is about to leave and Ratnasen comes to see off the Delhi sultan, Alauddin Khilji kidnaps the Chittor king and flees.



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Asia Times US

ISSN 2159-9645

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U.S. Military Jets Have 'No Business' in Black Sea, Says **Russian General After 'Unsafe' Intercept**

After the U.S. accused Russia of buzzing one of its jets in an "unsafe" way over the Black Sea, a decorated Russian general has fired back, saying American airmen had no business flying in these European waters to begin with.

The incident involved a dramatic close call between a Russian Su-30 fighter jet and a U.S. P-8A Poseidon, disrupting the routine practice of intercepting non-ally aircraft near national waters. Russia has access to the Black Sea but so do three U.S. allies, as well as occasional military training partners Ukraine and Georgia. Traffic above the shared waters in Europe's southeast has resulted in a handful of tense encounters since relations with Moscow deteriorated in 2014 and the near miss between the Russian and U.S. jets was among the more spectacular.

According to the Pentagon, the Russian fighter swooped in to follow the U.S. aircraft while in international airspace-an acceptable precaution after identifying a foreign jet, even though the P-8A had its transponders on. However

NATO's secretary-general apologized to Turkey over military

exercises during which Turkey's founding leader, Mustafa Kemal

Ataturk, and current president,

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, were reportedly depicted as 'enemies.'

Erdogan said Turkey withdrew

Centre in Stavanger, Norway,

in protest of the incident and

The Turkish president said

Ataturk's picture and his own

name were featured on an 'enemy

'There can be no such unity, no

to his ruling party's provincial

such alliance,' he said in an address

slammed the alliance.

chart' during the drills.

leaders.

40 of its soldiers participating in

the drills at NATO's Joint Warfare

the Russian jet crossed in front of the U.S. plane from right to left, the Pentagon told CNN, engaging its afterburners, thereby prompting the U.S. Poseidon to spanner into "a 15-degree roll and violent turbulence."

The Russian military subsequently confirmed that the intercept over international waters did take place but did not address the accusation that the maneuver was unsafe or reveal other details about the incident, state news agency Itar-Tass reported. State media coverage has been overwhelmingly skeptical about claims that Moscow's aircraft was at fault. The Russian fighter "spoiled the

plans of the American reconnaissance jet," Russian state TV channel Rossiya 24 reported, while state-run Sputnik radio cited a professor at Russia's military studies academy concluding that Russia's "military aviation just doesn't fly that way." U.S. Navy flight pilots are seen aboard the Boeing P-8A Poseidon plane before its departure to take part in the search for the ARA San Juan submarine missing at sea, at a military air base in Bahia Blanca, Argentina,



November 26. Argentine Navy/ waters Handout/Reuters

Also speaking to state news agency RIA Novosti, the retired deputy commander of Russia's air force, Nikolay Antoshkin, dismissed the U.S. reaction. "Our jet simply indicated, approached, the airman had a look and demonstrated that [the Poseidon] must leave," Antoshkin, said on Tuesday.

"Americans have nothing to do in the Black Sea. This is an enclosed sea," Antoshkin said, lamenting that in Soviet times, when Moscow controlled all but Turkey's ports in the Black Sea, foreign air forces did not fly freely above the

Since then, ex-Communist states Bulgaria and Romania have joined Turkey in the U.S.-led NATO alliance, while former Soviet states Ukraine and Georgia have expressed a desire to join, but cannot embark on the process because Russian-backed troops hold parts of their territory. After Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea in 2014, Turkey has said the absence of a regional NATO force in the Black Sea allows Moscow to shape the sea like "[almost] a Russian

NATO head forced to apologise to Turkey

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg issued a statement saying: 'I apologize for the offense caused.'He said the incident was the result of an 'individual's actions' and didn't reflect the views of the alliance.

The individual, described as a civilian contractor seconded by Norway and not a NATO employee, was removed from the exercise and an investigation was underway, Stoltenberg said.'It will be for the Norwegian authorities to decide on any disciplinary action,' Stoltenberg added.

'Turkey is a valued NATO ally, which makes important contributions to allied security.' The Joint Warfare Centre is a multi-national NATO unit based in Stavanger, 300 kilometers (186



lake."

miles) southwest of Oslo. It is currently led by Maj. Gen. Andrzej Reudowicz of Poland. According to its website, it has a staff of 250 made up of civilians from 11 NATO member states, including Turkey.

In March, the Norwegian government caused fury in Turkey by

granting political asylum to five Turkish officers based in Norway who had refused to return home after the failed July 2016 coup attempt in Turkey. The five officers said that they feared being arrested and tortured in Turkey

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Above: Qawwal Fareed Ayaz and party performing in Dallas on Nov 25th. Right: Hameed Baig, Mohammed Nasir and Shafi Baig enjoying the Qawwalis





Sanjeev Jain, Tarun Pandey and Nasir Siddiqi, Nasir of Hiba Entertainment brings one more time SALMAN KHAN Live in Dallas , Texas Only One Show in Texas on June Friday 29th, 2018





At a get together with Dr. Basheer Ahmed and Mirza Perwaiz Baig, standing from left are Syed Iftaqar, Rafeeq Ahmed, Afroz Lateef. Shahid Ahmed. Shawkat Mohammed, Azeem Quadeer, Syed Sajid Afsar, Syed Fayyaz Ali and Syed Azhar Bukhari.

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Annual Awards Appreciation luncheon at Greater Dallas Asian American Chamber of Commerce, Dallas

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Dr Asim Shah executive vice chair in the Menninger Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Baylor College of Medicine on FOX 26 discussing how to deal with Holiday stress



Houston Council Members Robert Gallegos and Amanda Edwards visited calligraphy station. It was nice to write their names in Nastaliq script. — with Zafar Zaf Tahir and Qaisar Q Imam and Zulfikhar Ali

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ISLAMIC ARTS FESTIVAL

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November 11th - 12th, 2017

Free Admission! All Welcome!





Amazing display of artwork on this first day of the festival. From ceramic time to Turkish calligraphy, from miniature art to glasswork at Islamic Arts Festival, Houston.

Sarah eMERCH

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DECEMBER 2017 WWW.Asia Times.US PAGE 7 13-year-old Saanvi Sreejit to Represent Texas at National American Miss Pageant 2017

Many of us know that actress Priyanka Chopra, while studying in the United States in her teens, was bullied and laughed at for her brown skin. With the Indian community growing and thriving in the US, the picture has improved. Recently, 17-year-old Indian American Himanvi Panidepu defied all stereotypes about brown complexion to win the Miss Virginia Teen USA 2018 title. Now, 13-year-old Saanvi Sreejit is all set to represent Texas at the National American Miss pageant on November 19 in California.

An 8th grader at Fowler Middle School in Plano, Texas Indian American Saanvi Sreejit had successfully contested for the crown of Miss Texas Pre-Teen in July 2017. She beat out as many as 180 contestants in three rounds of the beauty contest personal introduction, formal wear and one-on-one interviews - to win the crown. Saanvi Sreejit not only earned the distinction of being the 'State Queen: Miss Texas Pre-Teen 2017' but went on to stand out in the 'Top Model' and 'Miss Spirit' categories. She gave an outstanding account of herself in the friendship and sportsmanship rounds too. Nothing could hold her back from being among the top five in other categories such as talent, photogenic, casual wear, acting, and spokes model. Born in India and based in Texas, Saanvi Sreejit is one of the members of the Girls

Scout of USA. She is also associated with several organizations including Best Buddy International and ACE-North Texas Performing Arts. She made Texas her home when she was a 4th grader. Saying that she dons a hat with multiple feathers is not an exaggeration.

Also Read: Austin Indian American Teen's Philanthropy in Rural Rajasthan

The 'Miss Texas Pre-Teen 2017' title winner, Saanvi Sreejit has earned laurels in theatre, music and debate competitions, but she never rests on them. Driven by her passion for acting, she has worked in several major theater plays staged across Dallas, Plano, Fairview, Frisco, San Antonio and McKinney. Marion in Funhouse Theatre, and Macbeth at Fairview Youth theatre have been her favorite characters and popular roles. An assistant director for Fowler Middle School's fall musical theatre productions in Plano, Saanvi Sreejit came out with flying colors in impromptu speeches and open interpretations at the DFW Speech and Debate Competition. She also proved to be an extraordinary vocalist in the University Interscholastic League Solo and Ensemble. She made a mark as a 'Budding Artist' finalist at the Wildflower Arts and Music

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The National American Miss pageant is held every year to recognize and award young women nationwide based on a set of parameters including talent, intelligence, knowledge, beauty, poise and presentation. Winners are awarded \$1.5 -Indian Eagle

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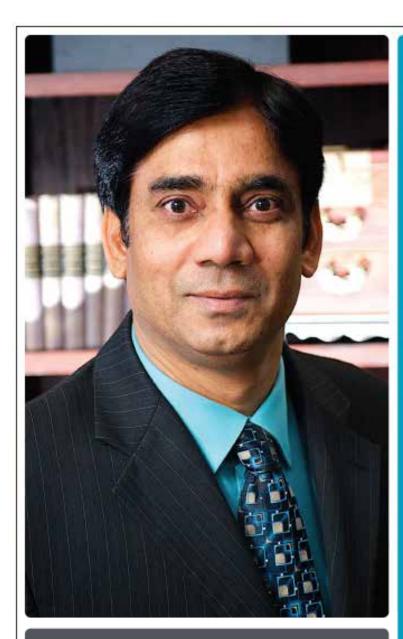
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you do it for.

DECEMBER 2017 WWW.Asia Times.US Al-Noor International presented PAGE 9 14th Naatia Mushaira in Dallas

Asia Times report

Al-Noor International presented 14th Naatia Mushaira on Nov 10th at FunAsia complex in Richardson TX. Janab Noor Amrohvi has been conducting these Mushairas for the last fourteen years in Dallas. Noor Amrohvi is the founder of Al-Noor. Al-Noor presents two Mushairas every year. One Adabi and another Naatia. Noor Amrohvi is very dedicated and serious about conducting these events. This is his passion and he himself is a poet. This mushaira had poets come in from different cities of USA. Mr. Shawkat Mohammed of New York Life and Mr. Azhar Bukhari played an important role in providing comfort and hospitality to the guest poets.

Mohtarama Umme Habiba, the famous Naat Reciter and Janab Hamid Amrohvi flew in from Chicago and mesmerized the audience. Other poets were Dr. Shamsa Qureshi, Khalid Irfan, Iqbal Haider, Ijaz Yunus. Umar Abidi, Mrs. Naheed Shad, Ms. Zohra Chishti, Masood Qazi, Manzoor Qazi, Mrs. Ghazala Habeeb Aman Khan Dil, Saeed Qureshi and Noor Amrohvi. Chief Guest was Mr. Sami Khan who arrrived from Atlanta with his family.

In his brief speech Noor Amrohvi thanked all the attendees and sponsors of the event, especially Dr. Azeem Qureshi and Dr. Shamsa Qureshi for their role in making this event happen.

Shoeb Khan did an excellent job of Photography and Videograpy.

Media present were Mr. Raja Zahid Khanzada of Jago Times and Mr. Azeem A. Quadeer of Asia Times. Other notable attendees were Mr. Rafeeq Ahmed, Irfan Ali, Syed Iftakhar, Mohammed Abdur-Rahman, Abdul Hameed, Javed Gill.

Sweets were distrubuted to every attendee, a courtesy of Shahida Bawa of Kayanath Boutique, Arlington.









www.Asia Times.US **PAGE 10 DECEMBER 2017** BIRTHDAYS **DECEMBER -CONGRATS** IN



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DECEMBER 2017

Farewell given by very good friends of Nizam Ali Khan in #BBQNIGHTS ByGhazal singer Nizam Alizafer bhai - Faizan Nawab - Saif Nawab !!! Farid Ali Khan and others are seen in
the pictureOwaisi Sahab in Madina



Ghazal singer Nizam Ali Khan with Janab Ahmed uddin Owaisi Sahab in Madina





By Mir Mohsin Ali

RIYADH — Aligarh Muslim University Vice Chancellor Dr. Tariq Mansoor, who was the chief guest, invited AMU alumni to visit the University and participate in the academic affairs of their concerned department to motivate the students — a new concept of past helping the present with their experiences.

This practice has already begun with the AMU alumni in US organizing several programs in four faculties, with a gradual extension to all departments in the next six months.

He extended this invite during the bicentenary celebrations of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan organized by Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys Association Riyadh Chapter at Riyadh Palace Hotel. He invited AMU alumni across the world to participate in this program. They can visit the University for few days, set out from their annual visit to India. Dr. Tariq also announced that AMU has signed a MoU with Queen Elizabeth hospital, Birmingham, which is regarded as one of the best medical colleges in Europe.

Four faculty members have been sent there for two-year fellowship program. The alumni in UK has facilitated the signing of the MoU. He requested AMU alumni to contribute in the development of university. Other than financial support they can help the University in many ways, he added.



Mohammed Ashraf with Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi(minister of minority affairs) Mohammed Khaleequr Rahman Janab Zafar Sareshwala (Vice chancellor Maulana Azad National Urdu university)



DAGES



Farewell of Dr. Rafatullah, Researchers, at King Saud University at Mezbaan Restaurant. Thanks Venkateswaran Narayanan First Secretary, at Indian Embassy, Riyadh, Chief Guest and Kundan Lal Gothwal Guest of honor, Mohammed Quaiser, Special Guest. Along with others Mir Mohsin Ali and Mohammed Azizuddin are also seen in the picture

DECEMBER 2017 WWW.Asia Times.US PAGE 12 Urinary incontinence: Common and manageable DECEMBER 2017

As a primary care doctor, I see a lot of women dealing with the inconvenience, discomfort, and embarrassment of urinary incontinence (unintended leaking of urine). Some are comfortable bringing this up right away. Others suffer needlessly because they feel too shy or awkward to mention it.

The truth is, an estimated 45% of women experience some form of urinary incontinence at some point in their lives. That's almost half of all women! It's a very big deal. Urinary incontinence can negatively affect physical and emotional well-being. For example, women may avoid going out because they're worried about having an accident away from home. Other problems include sexual dysfunction and depression.

Types of urinary incontinence

We usually think of two main categories of incontinence: Stress incontinence: Leaking of urine with coughing, sneezing, sex, or impact exercise, like running and jumping. This is related to damaged and/or weak pelvic floor muscles, and is common in younger women who have given birth vaginally.

Urge incontinence: Sudden and unpredictable overwhelming urge to urinate, with leaking of small to large amounts of urine. This sometimes also goes along with needing to go often that can occur day and night. It is more common in women who are overweight, or have diabetes or other neurological issues such as dementia or strokes. The problem is thought to be due to spasms of the bladder. A lot of things can worsen symptoms, such as caffeine, diuretics ("water pills" used for high blood pressure), drinking too much fluid, and bladder infections. The most common form of incontinence, called "mixed," has features of both these categories. But the kind of incontinence really doesn't matter. What women need to know is that there are solutions.

Get your life back by taking charge of urinary incontinence — here's how

First, talk to a healthcare provider: There are readily identifiable medical factors that can cause or worsen in-

continence. Certain medications, uncontrolled diabetes, bladder infections, constipation, and menopausal changes to name a few. Your primary care doctor can help identify and treat many of these issues.

Then take care of the area: I have seen many patients who have skin rashes and infections in their genital area due to excessive moisture. Some are using menstrual pads, or even balled-up tissues or folded paper towels for their urinary leakage, or nothing at all. If moisture isn't absorbed, it will damage the skin and cause problems. Sometimes the issue is reluctance to explore the world of incontinence pads (which are now available in a variety of brands and styles), but often, sadly, it's the expense. Some insurances, including Medicaid, will cover incontinence pads; healthcare spending accounts are an option for some people as well. Barrier ointments, even plain old petroleum jelly, can help to protect skin from moisture. Daily bathing is also helpful.

Hold off on medication or surgery: Many women don't realize that lifestyle changes, physical and behavioral therapies are the preferred first-line method of treatment. Watch the fluid intake: Limit bladder-irritating beverages such as caffeinated or acidic drinks (alcohol, coffee, black tea, green tea, sodas and seltzers with citric acid added). For women who make nighttime trips to the bathroom, decreasing fluid intake in the evening (especially alcohol) can help.

Lose a few pounds: Extra abdominal fat can create pressure on the bladder. Losing just 5% of body weight can help a lot. But even losing a few pounds can improve symptoms.

Exercise: The more physically active a woman is, the less likely she is to suffer from urinary incontinence. This may be related to better core and pelvic floor muscle tone in women with increased fitness.

Pelvic floor exercises and physical therapy: Those Kegel squeezes can really work! They're not difficult, but it's important to do them correctly. Believe it or not, formal pelvic floor physical therapy with a trained provider can

be hugely helpful. These therapists are usually women. They will take a careful history and then assess anatomy, muscle control, and strength, and then outline a guided exercise program. Once my patients get over their initial hesitation, they almost always see a benefit. Bladder training: Scheduling bathroom visits can help women to "train" an overactive bladder. Sometimes bladder training is done along with pelvic floor physical therapy, and can be more successful that way. And if all that doesn't help...

Talk to a healthcare provider again. There are several medications that may help. For women with postmenopausal vaginal and vulvar changes (called atrophy), an estrogen cream or ring can help a great deal. It may take as long as four months to see an effect, and though topical estrogen is low-risk, hormone therapy is not for everyone. There are also medications specifically for urinary incontinence, though frankly none are likely to be a cure. IONAL In fact, all the pills we see advertised (such as anticholinergics, the most commonly prescribed) only result in one or two less incontinence episodes per day, at best. Plus, there are many side effects, such as sleepiness, confusion, dry eyes, dry mouth, and constipation. These medications are especially dangerous in the elderly. Even the newer medications aren't much different in terms of efficacy and side effect profile.

The important takeaway messages about urinary incontinence

Here's what women really need to know:

If you suffer from incontinence, know that you are not alone.

Talk to your healthcare provider about it. Make sure there's nothing else going on that should be addressed. Try lifestyle changes, behavior and physical therapies first, and second, and third.

Be cautious with all medications, and weigh risk, benefits, and side effects carefully with your doctor.





NTERNAT

DECEMBER 2017 WWW.Asia Times.US PAGE 13 Robert Mugabe resigns after 37 years as Zimbabwe's leader

Robert Mugabe resigned as Zimbabwe's President after 37 years of autocratic rule, finally succumbing to the pressure of a military takeover and the humiliation of impeachment.

The announcement came minutes into a joint session of the Zimbabwean Parliament in Harare, convened to prise the 93-year-old from power.

As the speaker read out a letter from Mugabe, lawmakers broke out in thunderous applause. The impeachment proceedings were immediately suspended. Mugabe's successor, according to a spokesman for the ZANU-PF party, will be former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa, whose firing by Mugabe precipitated the crisis.

In the streets outside, crowds erupted in rapturous celebrations, dancing and cheering in joy, raising their fists and waving Zimbabwean flags. It was the culmination of an extraordinary week in the history of Zimbabwe that began when the country's military leaders staged an unprecedented intervention to prevent the ascent to power of Mugabe's 52-year-old wife, Grace. When the crisis started, it bore all the hallmarks of a coup. At the end, it almost resembled a popular revolt. "We think that this is the work of God," one young man told CNN in Harare. "We were in crisis for a long time, and this is a new day for Zimbabweans." Mugabe's letter: The ousted President insisted his resignation was voluntary. "I have resigned to allow smooth transfer of power," he wrote. "Kindly give public notice of my decision as soon as possible."

Successor lined up: Mnangagwa was the ZANU-PF's pick to succeed Mugabe, according to Simon Khaya Moyo, a spokesman for the ZANU-PF party. Mnangagwa will be sworn in within 48 hours of the Parliament speaker announcing Mugabe's resignation.

International reaction: Theresa May, the Prime Minister of Britain, from which Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980, said Mugabe's resignation provided the country "with an opportunity to forge a new path free of the oppression that characterized his rule." What happened

Mugabe's announcement was an acknowledgment of the inevitable. In reality, he lost his grip on power six days ago when the country's top generals launched what amounted to a military coup, placing the veteran leader under house arrest. After nearly four decades of unimpeded rule, which began amid the triumph of independence from Britain, Mugabe's political downfall unfolded in just two weeks. The crisis began on November 6 when Mugabe fired Mnangagwa as vice president, in an apparent attempt to clear a path for his wife, Grace Mugabe, to succeed him. Army generals and senior figures in Mugabe's ZANU-PF party, suspicious of the first lady's lavish lifestyle and political ambitions, were horrified by the possibility

she could take over. On Tuesday, tanks were seen outside Harare and in the early hours of Wednesday morning, an army spokesman appeared on state TV to declare that a military operation was underway. By dawn it was clear that Mugabe was under house arrest, and his grip on power ebbing away. But Mugabe clung to power for a further six days, quitting only after his party ousted him as leader, and Parliament began impeachment proceedings. The whereabouts of the former President

and his wife were unknown on Tuesday. Grace Mugabe -- dubbed "Gucci Grace" for her penchant for extravagant shopping expeditions -- has not been seen since the day of the military takeover. Her husband's last appearance was during a television statement

What comes next

ZANU-PF ousted Mugabe as leader of the party and installed Mnangagwa in his place Mnangagwa has not been seen in the country since his dismissal on November 6, but he broke his silence on Tuesday to add his voice to those calling on Mugabe to resign. Mnangagwa, who enjoys widespread support in the military, was widely believed to be in touch with senior generals behind the scenes.

Mnangagwa: A 'tyrant' who could be Zimbabwe's next president

As Zimbabweans celebrated the demise



of Mugabe on Tuesday, it was unclear whether they would welcome Mnangagwa Nicknamed "The Crocodile" for his political cunning and longevity, Mnanagagwa served as Mugabe's right-hand man for years.

He has been accused of orchestrating a string of massacres in the early 1980s to consolidate Mugabe's power, when he served as the leader's spy chief. The violence left up to 20,000 dead, mostly supporters of Mugabe's political opponents. Mnangagwa denies the allegations. In late 2000, a cable written by a US diplomat in Harare, Earl Irving, described Mnangagwa as "widely feared and despised throughout the country," warning he could be "an even more repressive leader" than Mugabe if he were to succeed him.

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Saudi prince freed in 'billion-dollar deal' after graft probe

Riyadh, Nov 29 (AFP) Saudi Arabia has freed influential Prince Miteb bin Abdullah, following a "settlement" with authorities reportedly exceeding USD 1 billion, more than three weeks after he was detained in a sweeping anti- corruption purge.

The former National Guard chief was among more than 200 princes, ministers and businessmen who were rounded up earlier this month, as Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman tightens his grip on power.

Prince Miteb, once seen as a contender to the throne, is the most high-profile royal to be released so far as the government appears to be striking monetary settlements with some of the detainees in exchange for their freedom.

"Yes, Prince Miteb was released this morning (Tuesday)," a source close to the government told AFP, without outlining the terms of his release. The prince was released after paying more than USD 1 billion in a "settlement deal" with authorities, Bloomberg News cited an unnamed official as saying.

The prince was not reachable for comment.

Saudi information ministry officials also could not confirm the development but posts on social media by members of the royal family suggested he had been freed.

Princess Nouf bint Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Saud posted an old image of Prince Miteb on a verified Twitter account with the message: "Praise be to Allah. Peace be upon you".

In a similar post with the picture of a smiling prince, Princess Abeer bint Khaled bin Abdullah tweeted: "May god grant you a long life, give you health and keep you safe for us."

Before his arrest the 64-year-old son of the late king Abdullah was sacked as the head

of the National Guard, an internal security force that has long been seen as a locus of tribal power.

Some analysts saw Prince Miteb's removal as an attempt by Prince Mohammed, who is also Saudi defence minister, to consolidate his control over the security services.

But Saudi authorities insist the purge was meant solely to target endemic corruption as the kingdom seeks to diversify its oildependent economy.

In an interview with the New York Times published last week, Prince Mohammed said 95 per cent of those detained agree to a "settlement", or handing over ill-gotten assets or cash to the Saudi state treasury.

Saudi Arabia's attorney general estimates at least USD 100 billion has been misused in embezzlement or corruption over several decades.

"The apparent release of Prince Miteb may be a sign that the Saudi authorities are making progress in agreeing settlements with detainees," said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a fellow at the Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University.

"It's an attempt to resolve the situation in a manner that minimises social fallout from the crown prince's recent move and addresses concerns over the political risk of doing business in Saudi Arabia," Ulrichsen told AFP.

The purge has triggered uncertainty among businesses that could lead to capital flight or derail reforms, experts say, at a time when the kingdom is seeking to attract badly needed investments to offset a protracted oil slump.

Other high-profile targets of the crackdown include billionaire Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, dubbed the Warren Buffett of Saudi Arabia.

Many of the detainees have been held at Riyadh's Ritz- Carlton hotel, which has been turned into a luxury prison. PAGES

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ATA (American Telugu Association) leader Krishna Mushyam to invite me, Asad Mohammad, Prem Raj Yadav and Ali Masqati for honoring Shri Chinna Jeyar Swamy of Shamshabad, Hyderabad, who is on a tour to USA



with Nick Patel, Rafi Hussain and others at a wedding in Chicago



Syed Akram Mohiuddin of Riyadh & Chicago hosted a nice dinner at his residence in Linconwood for Cricketer Asad Mohammad son of Legendary former Cricket captain of India Mohammed Azharuddin





Welcome dinner at my residence in Linconwood, Illinois to visitors from Hyderabad Mr Ali Musqati State Telugu Desam party Vice President, Ali Misri bussiness man , Faiz Mohiuddin of Maqdoom Brothers, Ibrahim Bin Mahfus, Body Builders Esa Misri along with his three sons



CHICAGO PAG

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Pictures taken at Birthday of Ayana grand daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Waliuddin

FIA Chicago Announces new board for 2018 by Unanimous decision. FIA Founders: Sunil Shah, Onkar Sangha.

Founding Members: Mukesh Shah, Rita Singh, Dhitu Bhagwakar The New Team for 2018 is President - Neil Khot Executive Vice Presidents - Hitesh Gandhi and Ninad Daftari Vice Presidents - Ali Khan, Payal Shah, Jatinder Bedi and Gurmeet Singh Dhalwan Secretary - Abir Maru Jt. Secretary - Harsh Shah Treasurer - Aishwarya Sharma Directors - Shital Daftari, Dharmesh Gandhi, Gitanjali Maru, Ila Patel, Dr. Kamal Patel, Chetan Patel, Altaf Bukhari, Nirav Shah, Hansal Patel and Kishor Bhanji



Syed Khalil ullah Meeting with U .S. Congressman Danny K. Davis





wareness & Advoca

Mr. Sher Rajput and others at 10th Annual CCN Benefit Dinner





Dr Riaz Baber, Amein Haider, Consul General of Pakistan Mr Tirmizi, Salim Arif and Madan Kulkarni — at The Meadows Club.







At a function tonight at Chicago Hyderabadi Architects together From Right to Left - Ar Zahyr siddiqui, Ar A R Saleem, Ar Mumtaz Khan and Ar Ziaul Hasan

DECEMBER 2017WWW.Asia Times.USPAGE 17Gujarat Cultural Association, Chicago, Celebrated Diwali, with a

musical masterpiece, the essence of S. D. Burman

Asian Media USA ©

Chicago IL: Gujarat Cultural Association (GCA) hosted Diwali celebrations, accompanied by an electrifying Music Concert, the essence of Maestro S. D. Berman. The Sold out event was held at Meadows Club, on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 2950 W. Golf Rd Rolling Meadows, IL. the program was exceedingly successful with the active support of the Sponsors, Executive Board, GCA members and volunteers. Occasion was graced by dignitaries present from all different professions such as political, entertainment, education, business, medical, IT (Information Technology). Among them were, Cook county board of commissioner Toni Preckwinkle and Board of review commissioner Dan Patlak, Lt Governor Evelyn Sanghinetti, Mr. O. P. Meena from Consulate General of India's Office, Mr. Iftekhar Shareef, Bhavesh Patel, Anuja Gupta, Dr. Ann Lata Kaliyal.

The program started with welcome speech and lamp lighting. The Chief Guest was Sunil Shah, the founding president of the Schaumburg FIA and he entertained the audience with his witty speech.

To preserve cultural, religious, and various other traditions, Gujarat Cultural Association was established by brain child and founding member Mr. Kanti Patel in 1973. GCA launched a platform for the old and young family members to get-together to promote share and express the common feelings of love, compassion, and sacrifice involved in an every Gujarati's heart. GCA Chair Mr. Kanti Patel stated in his speech famous quote of the poet Khabarder "Where ever in the world there is a residing Gujarati member, you will always find that person represents entire state of Gujarat". We should not only celebrate Diwali as a festival but also understand its true message, implement it in our daily lives, and commit to the path of virtue, rather than that of evil, in order to emerge victorious. Wishing every one very happy, healthy and prosperous upcoming New Year, Kanti S. Patel, Chairman of GCA con-

cluded his speech by requesting everyone for their continued support co-operation and participation in future events.

Every year GCA organized picnics, sports competition, and musical events. It also collaborates with other national organizations like Federation of India Association (FIA), the Indo-American Democratic organization (IDOA) etc. to promote the goal of our Indian-Americans to achieve the success political arena in this foreign land.

MC was 'Evergreen' Mrs. Hetal Patel. She invited Chief Guest on stage Tony Prickwinkle. Tony thanked Gujarat Culture Association for tireless work by its member, especially Kanti Patel. She congratulated leadership and entrepreneurship of the community of diaspora from Gujarat and especially paid special tribute to Mahatma Gandhi who also hailed from Gujarat in India.

Four Extraordinary individuals were honored with lifetime achievement awards; Mr. Pratap Gohil of Sumit Construction, Mr. Chandresh Bhrambhatt for his outstanding achievements as a Hotelier and Mr. Bharat Patel for being an outstanding entrepreneur.

"Unity of mind and heart bring us to gather to calibrate Diwali festivity. I offer warm greetings to the members and friends of the Gujarat Cultural Association for organizing and celebrating the annual Diwali Dinner and Musical Program. Again, my sincere congratulations to the Gujarat Cultural Association on its annual Diwali dinner, and wish the Gujarat Cultural Association, and all who comprise it, every

continued success" Said by Mr. Dipak Vyas Chairman and CEO of Redberri Corporation.

Mr. O. P. Meena, representing Consul General of India in Chicago, congratulated GCA for organizing this GALA and wished everyone happy Diwali, which symbolizes joy, hope, and positive energy, focuses on the triumph of light over darkness and compassion over hatred. He added that the message of Diwali is universal in nature.

Eagerly awaited event 'A Fitting Musical Extravaganza in Memory of Mr. S. D. Berman, Golden Era of Indian film music's the most successful Bollywood musician of the Indian Film industry', followed in to late hours of night.

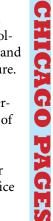
Sponsors: Dr Bharat and Panna Barai, Dr. Nita Patel [Dentist], Patel Brothers, Air India, Verandah, Motel 6, Sajmil Builder, Transitions Home Health Care, Law office of Wolin and Rosen etc.

Executive Board: Mr. Kanti S. Patel (Chairman), Mr. Girish Patel (President); Dr. Manish Brahmbhatt (Vic President); Mr. Dinesh Patel (Treasurer), Mr. Hemang Patel (Joint Secretary), Mr. Kanu Parekh (Culture Secretary), Mrs. Geeta Bhatt (Joint Culture Secretary) and Mr. Bhailal Patel (Trustee)

Board of Directors: Mr. Jyotindra Patel, Mr. Yogi Patel, Mr. Vijay Patel, Mr. Dilip Patel, Mr. Nilesh Patel, Mr. Subhash Majmudar and Mr. Gopal Trivedi Volunteers: Mrs. Jyoti Pate, Mrs. Ansuya Patel, Mrs. Daxa Mehta, Mrs. Geeta Patel and Ms. Ami Mehta

Banquet Chairman: Jyotindra Patel & Gita J. Patel



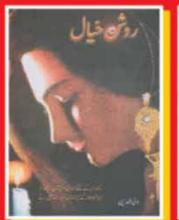


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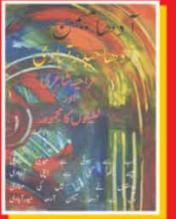
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Dedicated Healthcare Professional, Author and Emcee Adha Memon Adha Hyderabadi, Roshan Khayal, Musurahaton Ka Safar

Wall Uddin



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NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COLLEGE



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

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

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

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

PROGRAMS

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



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

Housing

APPLY NOW

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



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

Visa Process

Upon review of your admission application package and acceptance, NWSC will provide you with a Letter of Acceptance and completed Form I-20, which is required for the F-1 Visa. CHICAGO PAGES

CHICAGO PAGES

Tuition and Fees

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

Tuition and Living Expenses

admissions@nwsc.edu

Admissions

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

htsHousing is readily availableoin the northwest Chicagoed toarea, and as a service toaths instudents, NWSC willosedprovide a list of availableSChousing options. NWSC hasare inarrangements with privateapartment owners nearbyfor incoming students.

1.847.290.6425

NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COLLEGE 5999 S. New Wilke Road Rolling Meadows Illinois, 60008



DECEMBER 2017 WWW.Asia Times.US PAGE Indian medical student, 20, is crowned **PAGE 20 Miss World 2017**

An Indian medical student has been crowned Miss World following a glamorous event in China, making her country the joint-most successful nation in the pageant's history along with Venezuela. Manushi Chhillar became India's sixth winner of the prestigious beauty show, following in the footsteps of successful Bollywood actresses Priyanka Chopra and Aishwarya Rai.

Chhillar's win means that India and Venezuela have both won the competition a record six times each over the course of its 67 year history. The 20-year-old beauty winner is a trained Indian classical dancer who enjoys painting. The Miss World website also says that she hopes to open a chain of non-profit hospitals in rural areas.

Following her success, she tweeted: 'Thank you, everyone, for your constant love, support. This one's for India.' She has retweeted a number of different articles relating to success and has become a trending topic on the social media site Twitter.

Among those to come out and congratulate her include Manohar Lal Khattar - the minister of her home state of Harvana.

She was crowed the winner by last year's winner, Stephanie del Valle of Puerto Rico, at the ceremony in the Chinese coastal city of Sanya. Britain's Stephanie Hill and Mexico's Andrea Meza completed the other podium place finishes.

It was the fifth time in 10 years China

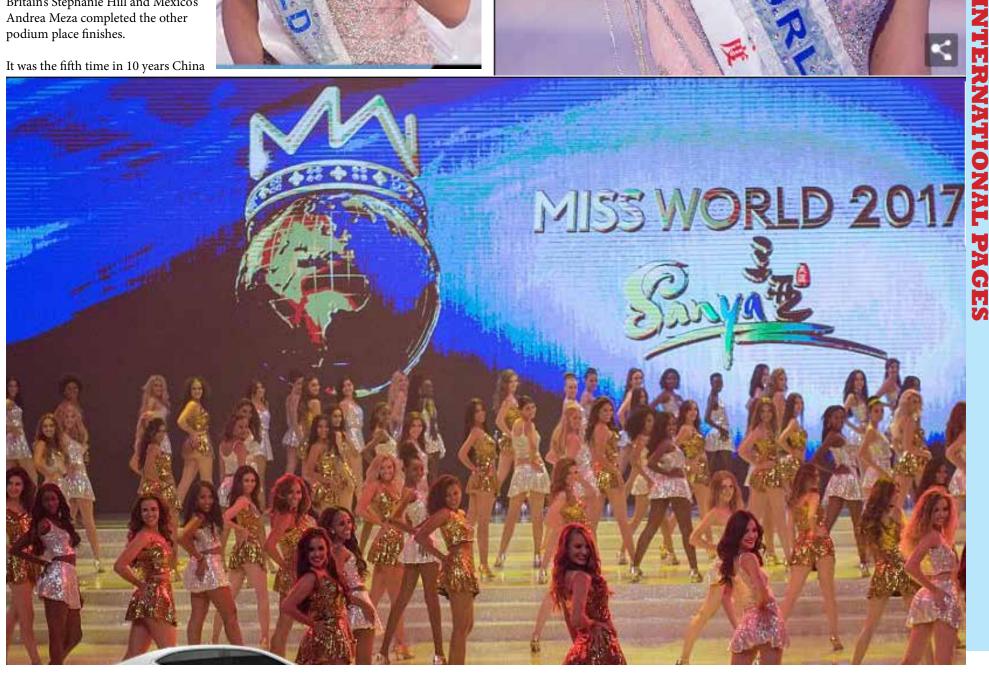
has held the prestigious competition. At the previous time the competition was held in Sanya, controversy erupted after officials in Hong Kong stopped Miss Canada, Anastasia Lin, from boarding a plane bound China's Hainan Island, saying she would not recieve a visa.

And last year, Lin was reportedly told not to speak by pageant bosses not to speak out about human rights abuses in China.



She did not compete in this year's event, with China represented by high school student Cvnthia Menard.





DECEMBER 2017 'I am fighting for the freedom of COAS asks P

'I am fighting for the freedom of Pakistan and Kashmir' Hafiz Saeed says after release



Addressing a sermon at Lahore's Jamia Masjid Al Qadsia a day after walking free, Jamaatud Dawa (JuD) leader Hafiz Saeed said that he is "fighting for the freedom of Pakistan and Kashmir."

The JuD chief claimed that he had been placed under house arrest for fighting for the rights of Kashmiris and suggested that the country's leaders are making decisions under external pressure.

"If the leaders of the Pakistan start making their own decisions, they will no longer face external pressure," the leader of the proscribed group said.

The JuD chief said that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif was ousted because he had betrayed the people of Kashmir. He further alleged that India is involved in terrorist activities in Pakistan.

"Peace cannot be established in Pakistan if terrorists such as Kulbashan Jadhav continue to enter the country," Saeed said, referring to the Indian spy who was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court in April on charges of espionage and terrorism.

Washington 'deeply concerned' Washington said it was "deeply concerned" with the release of the JuD chief, who carries a bounty of \$10 million announced by the US for his role in terror activities.

"Lashkar-e-Taiba is a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization responsible for the death of hundreds of innocent civilians in terrorist attacks, including a number of American citizens," US State Department spokesman Heather Nauert said, referring to the party which is considered to be a front for JuD.

"The Pakistani government should make sure that he is arrested and charged for his crimes," Nauert added. India had slammed the release of the JuD chief, whose 300-day house arrest 30-day detention expired on Thursday at midnight. India claims that the JuD head was the mastermind of 2008 Mumbai attacks that left 166 people dead. Ten gunmen, including Ajmal Kasab, had gone on a killing spree in the city after reaching the city from Karachi by sea, India says.

A spokesperson for the JuD rubbished the criticism in a statement issued Friday evening, saying that: "Hafiz Saeed is an advocate of peace and a philanthropist."

He condemned "American concern" over Saeed's release, insisting that Pakistan's judiciary is independent and any attempt to question its decisions is equivalent to interfering in the country's internal matters.

The Foreign Office issued a similarly worded response to India's 'concerns', stating that: "The courts in Pakistan, pursuant to their constitutional duty, are determined to uphold rule of law and due process for all citizens of Pakistan."

"Legal processes are anchored in rule of law, not dictates of politics and posturing," the FO's spokesperson said.

"It is in the interest of all states to speak and act in a manner that is consistent with the imperatives of adhering to rule of law at the national and international levels."

Brushing aside insinuations that Hafiz Saeed's release was akin to support of terrorist outfits, the FO said: "Pakistan's resolve, actions and successes in the fight against terrorism, terrorist violence and terrorists is unmatched in the world. Pakistan condemns and opposes all forms of terrorism by any individual or group. Pakistan also opposes and condemns acts of terrorism inside Pakistan and elsewhere by India, which claims to be a champion of democracy, and international law."

COAS asks PM Abbasi to tackle Islamabad protest 'peacefully'

Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa advised Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Saturday to "handle the Islamabad dharna peacefully" as violent clashes erupted between security forces and protesters in the capital city during a clearance operation at the Faizabad Interchange.

At least 139 people including protesters and security forces were injured as police, the Frontier Constabulary and other law enforcement agencies employed teargas shelling and rubber bullets to disperse the agitators, who have held an 18-day-long sit-in despite repeated requests by the government to clear the area. In response, the protesters have been using stones and rocks to attack the advancing security forces.

The crackdown ordered by the Islamabad High Court was launched after the last of a long series of deadlines lapsed today morning without response from the agitating parties.

Roughly 8,500 elite police and paramilitary troops in riot gear are taking part in the clearance operation of over 2,000 protesters in the capital city.

Explore: Operation underway to break up sit-in at Islamabad's Faizabad Interchange; over 150 arrested tary leaderships were on the same page when it came to the country's security, and that the army was duty-bound to carry out the government's instructions.

Life in Islamabad disrupted

The capital administration had, on Nov 5, warned the TLY and ST against holding any sit-in in Islamabad, saying that a ban on public gatherings had already been imposed in the city.

The parties were also informed that Islamabad's Parade Ground had been reserved for such gatherings and holding a rally somewhere else in the capital would be unlawful.

The organisers had not sought any permission for the rally or the sit-in. On Nov 8, the protesters blocked the expressway that connects Islamabad with Rawalpindi.

Since then, the metro service has also been halted. According to the Metro Bus Authority (MBA), more than 100,000 people used the service between the twin cities daily.

IHC Justice Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui on Friday asked "why contempt of court proceedings may not be initiated against him



Following the news of the clearance operation, religious parties began protesting in other cities, including Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad and Badin.

Director General (DG) Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor tweeted that the army chief telephoned the prime minister and suggested the clearance operation in Islamabad be handled peacefully, "avoiding violence from both sides as it is not in national interest and cohesion."

Earlier this week, the military's spokesperson said the army would abide by whatever decision the government took regarding the clearance of the Faizabad Interchange, although it would be preferable to address the situation through peaceful means.

The DG ISPR said that the civil and mili-

[Ahsan Iqbal]. He is directed to appear in person on the next date".

The IHC order noted that: "Patients dying for want of access to hospitals, traders crying for lack of business activity, students are being deprived from their right to education and right of free movement of almost six million people of twin cities usurped by dictatorial act of one person and passive approach of law enforcing agencies [is] adding to the miseries of citizens".

The court order, however, advised the district administration not to use "firearms" during the clearance operation, if one was required. TERNATIONAL

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www.Asia Times.US Nawaz Sharif

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Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif (Urdu/Punjabi: born 25 December 1949) is a Pakistani business magnate and politician served as the Prime Minister of Pakistan from 2013 until he was disqualified for life from office by the Supreme Court of Pakistan in 2017. He had previously served as the Prime Minister twice in the 90s (1990–93 and 1997–99) and the Chief Minister of Punjab from 1985 to 1990. He is Pakistan's longestserving prime minister.

Born into the upper-middle class Sharif family in Lahore, he is the son of Ittefaq and Sharif Group founder, Muhammad Sharif, and the elder-brother of threePakistan and another paramilitary offensive in 2017. [8][9] Sharif's third term is also underpinned by social centrism rather than the social conservatism which guided his prior two terms. Sharif's third term has brought macroeconomic stability with the help of substantial loans from the IMF, and multi-billion dollar investment deals with China. However, he has faced criticism over rising sovereign debt, which has risen by 35%.[14] Sharif's family has come under judicial scrutiny over the Panama Papers.

On 28 July 2017, Sharif was barred from public office by the Supreme Court of Pakistan for a period of 10



time elected Punjab Chief Minister, Shehbaz. According to the Election Commission of Pakistan He has a net worth of PKR 1.6 billion. Sharif studied business at Government College and later law at the University of Punjab before entering politics in the later 1970s. In 1981, Sharif was appointed by Zia-ul-Haq's regime as the Minister of Finance for the province of Punjab. Backed by a loose coalition of conservatives, he was elected as the Chief Minister of Punjab in 1985 and re-elected after the end of martial law in 1988. In 1990, Sharif led a conservative alliance to victory and became Prime Minister. Later it was alleged that the election was rigged in favour of Sharif by the Pakistani intelligence agency, the ISI, channeling millions of rupees into his election campaign.

Sharif's first administration came to an end when then President Ghulam dismissed Sharif on corruption charges. Sharif successfully challenged the dismissal in the Supreme Court,[4] but both men were ultimately persuaded to step down in 1993 by army chief Waheed.[4] Sharif's second term also saw tussles with the judiciary and the military. Sharif also forcibly relieved General Karamat from command and replaced him with Musharraf in 1998.[5] However, the Kargil War led to a deterioration of his relations with Musharraf. When he attempted to relieve Musharraf from his command on 12 October 1999, the military instead ousted Sharif's government and exiled him to Saudi Arabia.

In the 2013 elections, Sharif's Muslim League formed a coalition government with Sharif Prime Minister in Parliament.

On the security front, in 2015 the military launched an offensive to remove extremist groups in northwestern

years. He was also put on the Exit Control List to prevent him from leaving the country, pending the NAB's continued investigation of corruption charges against Sharif and his three children, Mariam, Hussain and Hassan. Sharif submitted his resignation after the ruling. Sharif had a history of strong tirades against 'container politics'. However, he himself is all set to do the same{(npov}} after he was disqualified by Supreme Court of Pakistan in the Panama Papers case, vehemently criticizing the apex court and its ruling. {(w Nawaz Sharif was born in Lahore, Punjab on 25 December 1949. The Sharif family are Punjabis of Kashmiri origin. His father, Muhammad Sharif, was an upper-middle-class businessman and industrialist whose family had emigrated from Anantnag in Kashmir for business, and eventually settled in the village of Jati Umra in Amritsar district, Punjab at the beginning of the twentieth century. His mother's family came from Pulwama. After the movement led by Jinnah and his struggle to create Pakistan in 1947, his parents migrated from Amritsar to Lahore. His father followed the teachings of the Ahl-i Hadith. His family owns Ittefaq Group, a multimillion-dollar steel conglomerate and Sharif Group, a conglomerate company with holdings in agriculture, transport and sugar mills.

He is married to Kalsoom Nawaz Sharif, who is also descended from a Kashmiri family. His brother Shahbaz Sharif is the incumbent Chief Minister of Punjab province, while his nephew Hamza Shahbaz Sharif is a member of the National Assembly. His daughter Maryam Nawaz is currently the chairperson for the prime minister's youth initiative. Maryam is married to politician Muhammad Safdar Awan. His other daughter, Asma Nawaz, is married to Ali Dar, son of Ishaq Dar, the current finance minister of Pakistan. [25][31] The personal residence of the Sharif family, Raiwind Palace, is located in Jati Umra, Raiwind, on the outskirts of Lahore. He also has a residence in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, known as the Sharif Villa, where he lived during his years in exile. His elder son, Hussain Nawaz, is a businessman based in Saudi Arabia and currently resides in the Jeddah house. His younger son, Hassan Nawaz, is also a businessman and lives in London.

He went to Saint Anthony High School. He graduated from the Government College University (GCU) with an art and business degree and then received a law degree from the Law College of Punjab University in Lahore. Nawaz Sharif underwent heart surgery in May 2016 in London. It was his second open-heart operation. His deteriorating health forced him to undergo an open heart surgery only three days before the presentation of country's annual budget. Many opposition leaders and the legal fraternity, including former Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry have raised important questions impending constitutional crisis in the country. Chaudhry called for electing a new interim Prime Minister to avoid the crisis. Nawaz Sharif started his political career during the period of nationalization policies introduced by former Prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The Sharif family were financially devastated after the family steel business was nationalised, and Sharif jumped into national politics soon afterwards. In 1976 Sharif joined the Pakistan Muslim League, a conservative front rooted in the Punjab province. He initially focused on regaining control of his steel plants from the government. [24] In May 1980 Ghulam Jilani Khan, the recently appointed Governor of the Punjab Province and a former Director-General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), initiated a search for new urban leaders; Sharif was one of the men he found and promoted, quickly making him Finance Minister of the Punjab. In 1981, Sharif joined the Punjab Advisory Board under General Zia-ul-Haq and principally rose to public and political prominence as a staunch proponent of the military government of General Muhammad Ziaul-Haq during the 1980s.

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PAGE

He maintained close relations with Zia-ul-Haq, who soon agreed to return the steel mill which had been lost to nationalisation by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Sharif maintained an alliance with General Rahimuddin Khan, who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. During his political career, Sharif also had close ties with the Director-General of ISI, Lieutenant-General (retired) Hamid Gul, who played a substantial role in the formation of the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI) – a conservative political alliance that supported Sharif.

Sharif invested in Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich Arab countries in the Middle East to rebuild his steel empire. According to personal accounts and his time spent with Sharif, American historian Stephen Philips Cohen states in his book Idea of Pakistan: "Nawaz Sharif never forgave Bhutto after his steel empire was lost into the hands of Bhutto; and even after [Bhutto's] terrible end, Sharif publicly refused to forgive the soul of Bhutto or the Pakistan Peoples Party." After coming to national power in 1990, Sharif attempted to reverse Bhutto's nationalisation policies, introducing an economy based on privatisation and economic liberalisation.

Wikipedia

ER 2017 WWW.Asia Times.US PAC American private security contractors are carrying out'interrogations'

on princes and billionaires arrested in crackdown - source Daily Mail

Saudi princes and billionaire businessmen arrested in a power grab earlier this month are being strung up by their feet and beaten by American private security contractors, a source in the country tells DailyMail.com. The group of the country's most powerful figures were arrested in a crackdown ordered by Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman three weeks ago as he ordered the detention of at least 11 fellow princes and hundreds of businessmen and government officials over claims of corruption.

Just last month, the Crown Prince vowed to restore 'moderate, open Islam' in the kingdom and relaxed a number of its ultra-conservative rules, including lifting a ban on women driving.

DailyMail.com can disclose that the arrests have been followed by 'interrogations' which a source said were being carried out by 'American mercenaries' brought in to work for the 32-year-old crown prince, who is now the kingdom's most powerful figure.

'They are beating them, torturing them, slapping them, insulting them. They want to break them down,' the source told DailyMail.com.

'Blackwater' has been named by DailyMail.com's source as the firm involved, and the claim of its presence in Saudi Arabia has also been made on Arabic social media, and by Lebanon's president.

The firm's successor, Academi, strongly denies even being in Saudi Arabia and says it does not engage in torture, which it is illegal for any U.S. citizen to commit anywhere in the world.

The Saudi crown prince, according to the source, has also confiscated more than \$194 billion from the bank accounts and seized assets of those arrested. The source said that in the febrile atmosphere in the kingdom, Prince Mohammed has bypassed the normal security forces in keeping the princes and other billion-



aires at the Ritz Carlton hotel in Riyadh.

'All the guards in charge are private security because MBS (Mohammed Bin Salman) doesn't want Saudi officers there who have been saluting those detainees all their lives,' said the source, who asked to remain anonymous.

'Outside the hotels where they are being detained you see the armored vehicles of the Saudi special forces. But inside, it's a private security company.

'They've transferred all the guys from Abu Dhabi. Now they are in charge of everything,' said the source. The source said that Salman, often referred to by his initials MBS, is conducting some of the interrogations himself.

'When it's something big he asks them questions,' the source said.

'He speaks to them very nicely in the interrogation, and then he leaves the room, and the mercenaries go in. The prisoners are slapped, insulted, hung up, tortured.' The source says the crown prince is desperate to assert his authority through fear and wants to uncover an alleged network of foreign officials who have taken bribes from Saudi princes.

The source said that the name 'Blackwater' is being circulated as providing the mercenaries.

The controversial private security company, however, no longer exists under that name and is now Academi. A spokesperson for Constellis, Academi's parent company, denied the claims.

The spokesperson told DailyMail.com that it has no presence in Saudi Arabia and does not carry out interrogations.

'Constellis through Academi does not now or have we ever provided interrogative services,' they said. 'We do not provide security services in KSA (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), we have no contact or connection with any government official or private party regarding this



allegation.

When asked if Academi workers were involved in any kind of violence during these interrogations, the spokesperson said: 'No. Academi has no presence in KSA. We do not have interrogators, nor do we provide any interrogators, advisors or other similar services.' They added: 'Academi does not participate in interrogative services for any government or private customer. Academi has a zero tolerance policy for violence. We

operate legally, morally, ethically and in compliance with local and US laws.' The name Blackwater, however, has previously surfaced

in the Middle East in the wake of the round-up. The Lebanese President tweeted that the country's former prime minister Saad Hariri was being detained in Riyadh by Blackwater guards, but later deleted the tweet. 'Lebanese authorities have unconfirmed information that the Blackwater firm is guarding Hariri and his family - not official Saudi security forces,' Michel Aoun, the President of Lebanon, tweeted last Wednesday. A high-profile Saudi twitter account, @ Ahdjadid, which posts what is said to be inside information, also claimed Salman has brought in at least 150 'Blackwater' guards. Saudi whistleblower Ahdjadid tweeted: 'The first group of Blackwater mercenaries arrived in Saudi Arabia a

week after the toppling of bin Nayef [Salman's predecessor as crown prince].

'They were around 150 fighters. Bin Salman sent some of them to secure bin Nayef's place of detention and the rest he used for his own protection.'

The abuse claims were also raised recently in an article in the New York Times.

A doctor at a hospital in Riyadh and a US official told the Times that as many as 17 detainees had needed medical treatment.

But Fatimah Baeshen, spokeswoman for the Saudi Embassy in Washington, told the newspaper that the arrests were for 'white collar' crimes and that the country's public prosecutor was ensuring that the arrests are 'complying with the relevant laws and regulations'.

In his name: The arrests carry the authority of King Salman, but have made his son Prince Mohammed unquestionably the most powerful man in the kingdom +7 In his name: The arrests carry the authority of King Salman, but have made his son Prince Mohammed unquestionably the most powerful man in the kingdom Among those arrested on allegations of corruption is Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, the Saudi King's nephew

who is worth more than \$17bn according to Forbes, and owns stakes in Twitter, Lyft and Citigroup. DailyMail.com's source claims the crown prince lulled

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Alwaleed into a false sense of security, inviting him to a meeting at his Al Yamamah palace, then sent officers to arrest him the night before the meeting.

'Suddenly at 2.45am all his guards were disarmed, the royal guards of MBS storm in,' said the source. 'He's dragged from his own bedroom in his pajamas, handcuffed, put in the back of an SUV, and interrogated like a criminal.

'They hung them upside down, just to send a message. 'They told them that "we've made your charges public, the world knows that you've been arrested on these charges.""

After the arrests, a picture was given to DailyMail.com of the Saudi royals sleeping on thin mattresses in the ballroom of the five star Ritz Carlton Hotel in Riyadh. A US State Department source told the New York Times Salman was 'behaving recklessly without sufficient consideration to the likely consequences of his behavior, and that has the potential to damage US interests.'

However, the arrests drew praise from President Donald Trump, who tweeted that he had 'great confidence in King Salman and the crown prince of Saudi Arabia' after the corruption crackdown earlier this month. Torture by a US citizen abroad has only been prosecuted

in America once. In 2008 the Boston-born son of former Liberian Presi-

dent Charles Taylor was found guilty by a US court of horrific torture.

The jury in Miami found Charles 'Chuckie' Taylor Jr.



ATIONAL guilty on all eight counts brought against him, including allegations he and his cohorts tortured victims in Liberia by applying electric shocks to their genitals, burning them with hot irons and melting plastic and rubbing salt PAGE

At the time Sigal Mandelker, the then deputy assistant attorney general with the crime division of the U.S. Department of Justice, said: 'It sends a very powerful message to human rights violators worldwide that they are not welcome here.'

in their open wounds.

Taylor was arrested at Miami International Airport in 2006 and pleaded guilty to a charge of lying about his father's identity on a passport application.

He was later indicted for torturing victims when he was the commander of a paramilitary security force called the Antiterrorist Unit - known as the 'Demon Forces' that protected the elder Taylor while he was president of Liberia.



DECEMBER 2017 WWW.Asia Times.US **PAGE 24** Britain's Prince Harry to marry US actress Meghan Markle

LONDON: Britain's Prince Harry and US actress Meghan Markle announced they were engaged and would get married in the spring of next year.

Harry, 33, Queen Elizabeth's grandson and fifth-in-line to the British throne, and Markle, 36, best known for her role in the US TV legal drama "Suits", got engaged earlier this month in London.

"Prince Harry has informed Her Majesty The Queen and other close members of his family. Prince Harry has also sought and received the blessing of Ms Markle's parents," a statement issued by Prince Charles said.

The queen, who had to give her assent for the union, and her husband Prince Philip are delighted, a Buckingham Palace spokesman said.

Harry and Markle, who is a divorcee, met in July 2016 after they were introduced through friends.

The prince, the youngest son of heir-tothe-throne Prince Charles and his first wife Princess Diana, publicly confirmed their relationship months later in a rebuke to the media over its alleged intrusion into Markle's private life.

But it was not until September that they made their first public appearance together at the Invictus Games in Toronto, a sports event for wounded veterans. "We're in love," Markle told Vanity Fair magazine that month. "I'm sure there

will be a time when we will have to come forward and present ourselves and have stories to tell, but I hope what people will understand is that this is our time. The couple are due to appear together for the media later on Monday and a broadcast interview will also be aired.

"This is a time of huge celebration and excitement for two people in love and, on behalf of myself, the government and the country, I wish them great happiness for the future," British Prime Minister Theresa May said on Twitter.

ROYAL WEDDING

The wedding is likely to attract huge attention across the world, as did the marriage of Harry's elder brother William to Kate Middleton in 2011.

"We are very excited for Harry and Meghan," William and Kate said in a statement. "It has been wonderful getting to know Meghan and to see how happy she

and Harry are together." In his office's warning to the media, Harry referred to the sexism and racism directed at Markle, whose father is white and her mother African-American.

"We are incredibly happy for Meghan and Harry. Our daughter has always been a kind and loving person," Markle's parents Thomas Markle and Doria Ragland said in a statement.

"To see her union with Harry, who shares the same qualities, is a source of great joy for us as parents. We wish them a lifetime of happiness and are very excited for their future together."

Harry's previous girlfriends included Zimbabwe-born Chelsy Davy, who he dated on and off

for about five years, and actress Cressida Bonas.

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Educated at the exclusive Eton College, Harry's teenage years were overshadowed by negative press headlines, fostering an intense dislike which he and his brother harboured because of the way papers hounded their mother. She died in a Paris car crash in 1997 while being chased by paparazzi.

Harry was portrayed as a royal wild child and playboy prince, and in 2002 he admitted smoking cannabis and getting drunk when underage in a pub near the royal family's country estate amid suggestions he had fallen in with a bad crowd. He later scuffled with paparazzi outside a London nightclub and drew outrage by dressing as a Nazi officer at a costume party.

But he turned around his image after joining the army, where he spent 10 years and included two tours of duty in Afghanistan. He said it was a role where he felt he could be himself without media scrutiny or any other trappings of his gilded upbringing. Even when he was photographed partying naked and playing billiards in a private room in Las Vegas in 2012, the response was less critical and more understanding. "It was probably a classic example of me



being too much army, and not enough prince," he said of the Vegas incident. He left the army in 2015 to focus on royal duties and charity work, particularly the welfare of military veterans, and continuing his mother's work helping those with Aids, and mental health issues.

His easy-going manner with the public has made him one of the most popular members of the Windsors. That has put him at the forefront of a rebranding of the monarchy as modern and relevant, a far cry from the perception of a hopelessly out-of-touch institution following the 1997 death of Diana.

To coincide with the 20th anniversary of her death this year, Harry opened up about his own trauma at losing his mother at a young age, and was even quoted as saying he wanted out of the royal family altogether.

"I didn't want to be in the position I was in, but I eventually pulled my head out of the sand, started listening to people and decided to use my role for good," he said. "I am now fired up and energized and love charity stuff, meeting people and making them laugh." "FAIRYTALE"

Like William's wife Kate, Meghan will not become a princess in her own right after marrying Harry. However, Harry, like his brother, is likely to be made a duke

when he marries, meaning Meghan would become a duchess.

Markle was born in Los Angeles in 1981. Her father was a TV lighting director for soaps and sitcoms and her mother a clinical therapist.

She made her first TV appearance in a 2002 episode of medical drama "General Hospital" has appeared in a number of TV shows and films, such as "Horrible Bosses", but achieved greatest fame for her starring part as Rachel Zane in the ongoing "Suits" series. In 2011, she married film producer Trevor Engelson but they divorced two years later. She had her own lifestyle blog thetig.com, which she recently shut down, and like her future husband has become a prominent humanitarian campaigner. The couple will live in Nottingham Cottage at Kensington Palace "I sometimes still feel I am living in a goldfish bowl, but I now manage it better," Harry said in an interview with a US magazine Newsweek published in June 2017.

"But I am determined to have a relatively normal life, and if I am lucky enough to have children, they can have one too." In Video: Prince Harry to marry actress Meghan Markle in 2018

Indian Man Shot In Mississippi

A 21-year-old Indian man has been shot dead in front of his house during a robbery in the US state of Mississippi, according to a media report, days after another Indian student was killed by four armed robbers.

Sandeep Singh was shot in the stomach during a robbery reported on Sunday in the Jackson city, Mississippi, police was quoted as saying by WAPT, an ABC-affiliated television station.

A group of men who investigators believe are responsible for a string of robberies could be connected to a fatal shooting, Jackson police officials said yesterday. Mr Singh, and two other men were standing outside their house when a man in a mask and a hoodie walked up to them, police said.

The robber took money and cellphones from them. As the robber ran away, he fired shots at the victims and one of the bullets hit Mr Singh, police said.

Mr Singh was taken to the University of Mississippi Medical Center, where he died on Monday, police said. His death is the city's 58th homicide for the year, the report said.

Mr Singh, had gone to the US around four years ago on a tourist visa and later got a work permit there. He was from Jalandhar.

The shooter is described as wearing a gray hooded shirt and was armed with a 9 mm pistol, police said. The gunman could be one of a group of armed men believed to be responsible for recent armed robberies of businesses and individuals throughout the northwest Jackson area, police said.

"In an attempt to conceal their identities, they have their faces covered with bandannas and/or masks. The suspects have also been observed wearing hooded sweatshirts and gloves," Commander Tyree Jones said in a news release. This is second such incident of killing of an Indian youth in the US in the past two weeks.

On November 16, a 21-year-old Indian student was shot dead allegedly by four armed robbers, including an Indian-origin man, at a grocery store in the US state of California.

INTERNATIONAL PAG

www.Asia Times.US **PAGE 25 DECEMBER 2017** Safety **28 BASIC KITCHEN SAFETY TIPS**

Make sure all wires, cords and plugs on your appliances are not frayed and that the plugs have 3-prong grounded connections. This would include coffee makers, toasters, blenders, microwaves, mixers, etc.

Don't use extension cords. You can obtain a junction box that has built-in GFI (ground fault interrupters). This will allow you extra plug in space and the GFI will kick in if there is a power shortage. Helps avoid water/electrical shock accidents.

Get rid of any appliance that is broken or damaged. New ones are very inexpensive these days. If a new one would bust your budget, try garage and tag sales (just make sure you're not buying somebody else's broken appliance).

Put a childproof lock not only on the cabinets with your medicines and cleaning supplies, but also your oven.

Don't leave the kitchen with pots & pans cooking on the stove. Make sure to turn off burners as soon as you take the pot off.

Avoid wearing inappropriate clothing while cooking. That means loose sleeves and sweaters.

Keep dish towels, pot holders and oven mitts away from the stove.

Keep matches and lighters in high places where curious little hands can't reach them.

If using candles in the kitchen, don't leave the room (or home) while they're burning. Make sure they are in a safe place and are in flame proof containers.

Check furniture, curtains, dish towels, etc. to be sure they are not blocking heaters or vents.

Keep a fire extinguisher in or near the kitchen, but not near the stove or the heater.

In case of a grease fire, salt and/or baking soda will help if you do not have a fire extinguisher.

Keep emergency numbers handy - 911 is easy to remember, but phone numbers to Poison Control might take longer.

Scalding is one of the most common injuries in the kitchen. Make sure to turn pot handles away from the front of the stove and away from little curious hands. Scalding can occur from hot steam as well. Be careful when lifting lids from hot food (including opening that hot bag of microwave popcorn)!

Handling Knives: (a) Always cut away from your body when using a knife. It can slip and cut you, (b) Always use a cutting board, (c) Protect your counter tops, (d) Keep blades sharp, (e) Keep knives clean (including handle) slippery handles can cause injuries, (f) Don't put knives in a sink of soapy water - they may not be seen and accidents can occur, (g) Wash and dry carefully keeping sharp edge away from your hands, (h) Always lay them flat, never on the back or edge, (i) Don't attempt to catch a knife as it falls - better it hits the floor than cut your hand, (j) Wash knives with warm soapy water after each use. Be sure appliances are unplugged before touching sharp edges (blenders, can openers, mixers, etc.).



Never stick a fork in a toaster to retrieve trapped toast you may get shocking results.

Always be sure the blender is unplugged before touching the blades.

Be careful about sharp edges: scissors, broken glass, potato peeler, etc.

Never ever, ever leave cooking foods unattended - not even for a minute.

Casualness causes casualties - don't answer or talk on the phone while cooking - you can be distracted and injuries

INTERNATIONAL PAG Clean up spills immediately - wet floors are slippery when wet. H S

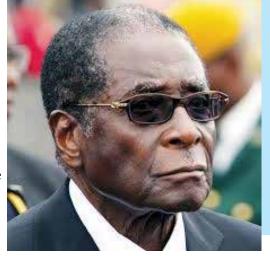
Keep the kitchen floor clear or toys and other items. Be certain that walking areas are always clear of toys and other items.

Keep young children out of the kitchen while cooking. Always use a step-stool to reach high places. Store cleaning supplies and all chemicals in a safe place. Use safety latches.



Robert Mugabe resigns

Robert Gabriel Mugabe is a Zimbabwean revolutionary and politician. He was the leader of Zimbabwe from 1980 to 2017, serving as Prime Minister from 1980 to 1987 and as President from 1987 to 2017.



www.Asia Times.US 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. Curlying 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

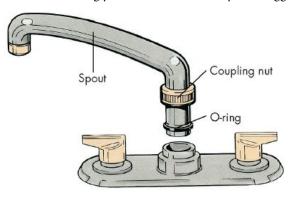
Mold and mildew can be a constant battle in some bathrooms, due to a combination of high levels of moisture and poor ventilation. As a landlord, you will want to keep on top of mold for a number of reasons. Yes, it is unsightly, and it can smell bad; but it is also a red flag for bigger problems, such 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.

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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. INTERNATIONAL

PAGES

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.

Internal hemorrhoid External hemorrhoid

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-ofmotion 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.

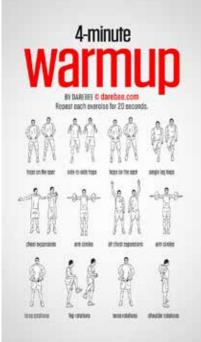
1. Focus on form, not weight. Good form means aligning your body correctly and moving smoothly through an exercise. Poor form can prompt injuries and slow gains. "I often start people with very light weights because I want them to get their alignment and form right," says master trainer Josie Gardiner. 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. INTERNATIONAL PAGES

DECEMBER 2017 WWW.Asia Times.US PAGE 28 Why is Christmas Day on the 25th December?

Christmas is celebrated to remember the birth of of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God.

The name 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ (or Jesus). A Mass service (which is sometimes called Communion or Eucharist) is where Christians remember that Jesus died for us and then came back to life. The 'Christ-Mass' service was the only one that was allowed to take place after sunset (and before sunrise the next day), so people had it at Midnight! So we get the name Christ-Mass, shortened to Christmas.

Christmas is now celebrated by people around the world, whether they are Christians or not. It's a time when family and friends come together and remember the good things they have. People, and especially children, also like Christmas as it's a time when you give and receive presents!

The Date of Christmas

No one knows the real birthday of Jesus! No date is given in the Bible, so why do we celebrate it on the 25th December? The early Christians certainly had many arguments as to when it should be celebrated! Also, the birth of Jesus probably didn't happen in the year 1 but slightly earlier, somewhere between 2 BCE/BC and 7 BCE/BC (there isn't a 0 - the years go from 1 BC/BCE to 1!).

Calendar showing 25th December The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25th was in 336, during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine (he was the first Christian Roman Emperor). A few years later, Pope Julius I officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th December.

However, there are many different traditions and theories as to why Christmas is celebrated on December 25th.

A very early Christian tradition said that the day when Mary was told that she would have a very special baby, Jesus (called the Annunciation) was on March 25th - and it's still celebrated today on the 25th March. Nine months after the 25th March is the 25th December! March 25th was also the day some early Christians thought the world had been made, and also the day that Jesus died on when he was an adult. The date of March 25th was chosen because people had calculated that was the day on which Jesus died as an adult (the 14th of Nisan in the Jewish calendar) and they thought that Jesus was born and had died on the same day of the year.

Some people also think that December 25th might have also been chosen because the Winter Solstice and the ancient pagan Roman midwinter festivals called 'Saturnalia' and 'Dies Natalis Solis Invicti' took place in December around this date - so it was a time when people already celebrated things. The Winter Solstice is the day where there is the shortest time between the sun rising and the sun setting. It happens on December 21st or 22nd. To pagans this meant that the winter was over and spring was coming and they had a festival to celebrate it and worshipped the sun for winning over the darkness of winter. In Scandinavia, and some other parts of northern Europe, the Winter Solstice is known as Yule and is where we get Yule Logs from. In Eastern Europe the midwinter festival is called Koleda.

The Roman Festival of Saturnalia took place between December 17th and 23rd and honoured the Roman god Saturn. Dies Natalis Solis Invicti means 'birthday of the unconquered sun' and was held on December 25th (when the Romans thought the Winter Solstice took place) and was the 'birthday' of the Pagan Sun god Mithra. In the pagan religion of Mithraism, the holy day was Sunday and is where get that word from!

The Roman emperor Aurelian created 'Sol Invictus' in 274. But the records of early Christian connecting 14th Nisan to 25th March and so the 25th December go back to around 200!

The Jewish festival of Lights, Hanukkah starts on the 25th of Kislev (the month in the Jewish calendar that occurs at about the same time as December). Hanukkah celebrates when the Jewish people were able to re-dedicate and worship in their Temple, in Jerusalem, again following many years of not being allowed to practice their religion.

Jesus was a Jew, so this could be another reason that helped the early Church choose December the 25th for the date of Christmas!

Christmas had also been celebrated by the early Church on January 6th, when they also celebrated the Epiphany (which means the revelation that Jesus was God's son) and the Baptism of Jesus. Now Epiphany mainly celebrates the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus, but back then it celebrated both things! Jesus's Baptism was originally seen as more important than his birth, as this was when he started his ministry. But soon people wanted a separate day to celebrate his birth.

Most of the world uses the 'Gregorian Calendar' implemented by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582. Before that the 'Roman' or Julian Calendar was used (named after Julius Caesar). The Gregorian calendar is more accurate that the Roman calendar which had too many days in a year! When the switch was made 10 days were lost, so that the day that followed the 4th October 1582 was 15th October 1582. In the UK the change of calendars was made in 1752. The day after 2nd September 1752 was 14th September 1752.



Many Orthodox and Coptic Churches still use the Julian Calendar and so celebrate Christmas on the 7th January (which is when December 25th would have been on the Julian calendar). And the Armenian Apostolic Church celebrates it on the 6th January! In some part of the UK, January 6th is still called 'Old Christmas' as this would have been the day that Christmas would have celebrated on, if the calendar hadn't been changed. Some people didn't want to use the new calendar as they thought it 'cheated' them out of 11 days!

#161909146 / gettyimages.com Christians believe that Jesus is the light of the world, so the early Christians thought that this was the right time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. They also took over some of the customs from the Winter Solstice and gave them Christian meanings, like Holly, Mistletoe and even Christmas Carols!

St Augustine was the person who really started Christmas in the UK by introducing Christianity in the 6th century. He came from countries that used the Roman Calendar, so western countries celebrate Christmas on the 25th December. Then people from Britain and Western Europe took Christmas on the 25th December all over the world!

If you'd like to know more about the history behind the dating of Christmas, then read this very good article on Bible History Daily (goes to another site).

So when was Jesus Born?

There's a strong and practical reason why Jesus might not have been born in the winter, but in the spring or the autumn! It can get very cold in the winter and it's unlikely that the shepherds would have been keeping sheep out on the hills (as those hills can get quite a lot of snow sometimes!).

During the spring (in March or April) there's a Jewish festival called 'Passover'. This festival remembers when the Jews had escaped from slavery in Egypt about 1500 years before Jesus was born. Lots of lambs would have been needed during the Passover Festival, to be sacrificed in the Temple in Jerusalem. Jews from all over the Roman Empire traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival, so it would have been a good time for the Romans to take a census. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem for the census (Bethlehem is about six miles from Jerusalem).

Many people who have studied the Bible, think that Sukkot would be a likely time for the birth of Jesus as it might fit with the description of there being 'no room in the inn'. It also would have been a good time to take the Roman Census as many Jews went to Jerusalem for the festival and they would have brought their own tents/ shelters with them! (It wouldn't have been practical for Joseph and Mary to carry their own shelter as Mary was pregnant.)

The possibilities for the Star of Bethlehem seems to point either spring or autumn.

So whenever you celebrate Christmas, remember that you're celebrating a real event that happened about 2000 years ago, that God sent his Son into the world as a Christmas present for everyone!

As well as Christmas and the solstice, there are some other festivals that are held in late December. Hanukkah is celebrated by Jews; and the festival of Kwanzaa is celebrated by some Africans and African Americans takes place from December 26th to January 1st.

In the autumn (in September or October) there's the Jewish festival of 'Sukkot' or 'The Feast of Tabernacles'. It's the festival that's mentioned the most times in the Bible! It is when Jewish people remember that they depended on God for all they had after they had escaped from Egypt and spent 40 years in the desert. It also celebrates the end of the harvest. During the festival, Jews live outside in temporary shelters (the word 'tabernacle' come from a latin word meaning 'booth' or 'hut'). **INTERNATIONAL PAGES**

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MERRY	ELF	REINDEER
JINGLEBELL	CAROLS	PRESENTS

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

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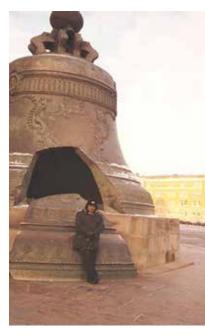




Two Crazy Indians in the Freezing Moscow Winter

On the Christmas of 1991, the eighth President of Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, handed over the power and the codes of the nuclear weapons and missiles to the new leader Boris Yeltsin. The former republics of Soviet Union had formed a Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The new Russian Republic was struggling to settle down with its new found free market reforms exacerbated by the talk of mafias ruling the economy. The new leadership was making all efforts to maintain its status as a super power assuring its allies of continued patronage and supplies of technology and hardware. India enjoyed a very special relationship as most of its technology for defense industries had origins in the erstwhile Soviet Union. The individual Republics of Soviet Union had denounced the treaty which had created the Soviet Union which had now lost its influence and hold on the East European countries of the Warsaw Pact. During the good old days India had acquired technology from East European countries too, under a buy back arrangement of defense hardware. Being a public-sector, HMT had acquired technology for manufacture of Agricultural tractors and for Lamps and Lamp making Machinery from Czechoslovakia and Hungary respectively.

HMT-Zetor agricultural tractors were very successful and a market leader in India for a considerable period of time. However, with the liberalization in India since 1991, major international players like John Deere, New Holland, Renault and others had set up their plants in India. The bifurcation of Czechoslovakia into Czech Republic and Slovakia had Zetor Headquarters with Marketing Division located in Prague and its Factory located near Bratislava in Slovakia, which eventually became two different organizations with no connection to each other. The main asset of Zetor was the sales network of thousands of dealers all over the world, which attracted the American Fortune 100 company John Deere and they quickly bought Zetor for its brand value. It was a huge



John Deere which benefitted greatly in their launch of tractors in the East European markets. These changes had a serious impact on HMT as it was continuing to import critical components such as ancillaries that were not developed in India due to the lack of sufficient off take of volumes. The Board of HMT was very concerned and directed the

opportunity for

company to identify a suitable technology partner com pany from the former Soviet Union as it was not feasible to tie up with western companies like Fiat, Renault, etc., who were reluctant to give and share their technology. It was November 1997 and I was asked to accompany the chief of Tractor Business Group to Russia and scout for technology from a Russian Company called IMT with factories in Serbia and offices in Moscow. Mr.Babbar, the Executive Director, a burly Punjabi top notch Automobile Engineer with only a few months left to retire and I planned to fly Air India from Delhi to Moscow as it had revenue sharing arrangement with Aeroflot. I was

hesitant to fly Aeroflot for the fear of flying in an Ilyushin aircraft, which were not popular with fliers or known for passenger comfort. Anyway, after carefully choosing the date scheduled for Air India and hoping to see an aircraft with Maharaja's emblem on that chosen day, we both were shocked to see that under the arrangement with Air India, all aircrafts and crew were Russian. The interiors of the aircraft were not inviting and the Business Class was quite appalling. Any way we had no choice and were escorted to the seats by the crew. We were expecting the crew to be synonymous to Bond girls like Anna Amasova, Rosa Klebb or Tatyana Romanova. However we were



disappointed. Meanwhile the Captain, who reminded me of General Arkady Ourumov of The Golden Eye, walked in and enquired about our comfort, thankfully. The flight took off and the noise was so loud that I felt I am rocketing from a Cosmo-drome somewhere in Kazakhstan. After a while a hostess gave us some Russian labeled drink and some cold snacks matching the somber mood of our welcome. My colleague, a hard-core Punjabi was enjoying his drink and whispering in my ear that ultimately we drink to get some intoxication and the brand of the drink matters very little. I appreciated his rustic and practical view. After many hours on the noisy flight, we landed at Moscow airport with a huge thud and sigh of relief. Our agent Valery Gustoff, a six plus footer and large man recognized us as we were the only two Indian passengers and was waving at us with a welcome sign. He was carrying a huge bundle of leather coats. After the exchange of greetings, he told us in his broken American style English," you are the craziest persons I have ever met, who have insisted to be in Moscow at the end of November to do business". I could not agree more with him and he quickly gave the warm coats he had brought and asked us to wear three more overcoats over our modest warm clothing which I had thought would have been appropriate and enough for this visit. It was very cold in the environs of minus thirty-eight degree Celsius, as was announced during landing. Valery was a huge young man who grabbed our suitcases effortlessly and directed us to the car park with him. The distance from the terminal to car park was hardly fifty meters, yet the stretch appeared endless and my ears were paining as if they were being sliced open. Valery was walking comfortably without gloves and smiling at us. From the Airport he drove us straight to a typical Russian bar and made us drink six neat vodkas each suggesting that it would keep us warm for some time till we reach our hotel. I was just following the Valery's instructions as he was being part of the solution and I had no choice whatsoever. He had booked us at Hotel Moscow (now named as Hilton Moscow Leningradskaya), with the lobby front desk nearly one hundred feet long with about fifty front office ladies attending to customers. It was a sight to remember. The hotel boasts of five thousand rooms! The rooms were barely furnished,

By M.S.Zahed Ex-CMD HMT

cold with nothing to drink or eat, and alluding me to remain warm clothed in the room too. The next morning we met Valery in the breakfast area of the hotel along with Ms.Yana Zarkowitch, an older Russian woman who was to be our interpreter for next five days. The deal was USD 50 per work ing day with lunch and dinner



on us. Our delegation included Babbar, Valery, Yana and myself with Valery's Lada car our transport around Moscow. On our first working day we went to the KZB Tractor testing Lab and observed all the models. The next day we started our meetings and KZB was willing to give their technology; but first we had to introduce the product in India. The major issue now was stocking sufficient spares at strategic points in India. A package of CKDs to assemble, spares to stock and training to technicians who would assemble the tractors at Pinjore and Haryana was worked out and an MOU entered to be ratified by our respective Boards. All this was worked out with difficulties in interpretation even with Yana's help.

Yana, in between the work, took us to the most famous tourist spots in this coldest megacity on earth. Kremlin, Red Square, Lenin's Mausoleum, St.Basil's Cathedral; to name a few. Moscow is a major political, economic, cultural, and scientific center of Russia and Eastern Europe,

as well as the largest city entirely on the European continent. Most interesting to me was the Tsar Bell cast in 1733-1735 on the order of Empress Anna Loannovna by hereditary Muscovy casters and bell founders Ivan Motorin and his son Mikhail. Even now the Tsar Bell is considered the biggest in the world. It weighs about 202 ton,



6.14 meter high with a diameter of 6.6 meters. Moscow has been ranked as the ninth most expensive city in the world by Mercer and has one of the world's largest urban economies, being ranked as an alpha global city according to the Globalization and World Cities Research Network. It is also one of the fastest growing tourist destinations in the world according to the MasterCard Global Destination Cities Index. Yana, being an old timer preferred Soviet Union to Russian Republic and held the western powers responsible for dismembering the Soviet Union and suggested that the relations with India would not be the same again. She would take all the leftovers of lunches and dinners to feed her pet dog. During these lunches and dinners, we got to know more about the conditions in Moscow. Yana mentioned how even some nuclear scientists were now working as domestic helps due to economic and political conditions, and how the mafias were running many important businesses. While we were indulging in serious "bilateral discussions" with Valery and Yana, somewhere in the background the crooner was singing Raj Kapoor's "Awara hoon", perhaps expressing hospitality to two crazy Indians in a restaurant who were away from home. He was sending also his warmth as a tribute to great Indian showman Raj Kapoor, who has spread India across, even in the cold world. We left Moscow next day to Zagreb in search of mission solutions...

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DECEMBER 2017 www.Asia Times.US HINDI MOVIE RELEASE DATES

Оре	pening Title		Director	Cast	Genre	Studio(Production House)
		Tera Intezaar	Raajeev Waalia	Arbaaz Khan, Sunny Leone, Arya Babbar, Sudha Chandran, Salil Ankola, Hanif Noyda, Richa Sharma, Bhani Singh, Gauhar Khan	Romentic Thriller	Bageshree Films
	1	Firangi	Rajiv Dhingra	Kapil Sharma, Varun Badola, Rajpal Yadav, Ishita Dutta, Monica Gill, Inaamulhaq, Raju Shrivastav, Aanjjan Srivastav, Maryam Zakaria, Edward Sonnenblick	Comedy Film	K9 Films
		102 Not Out	Umesh Shukla	Amitabh Bachchan, Rishi Kapoor	Drama	T-Series
D		Fukrey Returns	Mrighdeep Singh Lamba	Pulkit Samrat, Priya Anand, Varun Sharma, Ali Fazal, Manjot Singh, Richa Chadda, Vishakha Singh, Sayani Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Rajpal Yadav	Comedy	Excel Entertainment
D E C	8	Game Over	Paresh Vinodray Savani	Rajesh Sharma, Yashpal Sharma, Gurleen Chopra	Suspense/Thriller	Dream Machine, Koning Entertainment & Dream International
C		Sallu ki Shaadi	Mohammad Israr Ansari	Zeenat Aman, Kiran Kumar, Asrani, Kshayp, Arshin and Sandeep Anand	Comedy Drama	Aman Film Production, Angel's Production, Brosis Production House, Worldwide Records,
	15	Office #thebrightesthorrorfilm	Danish	Karan Sharma, Nishi Singh, Drisha More, Ameet Dawar, Priyanka Chauhan, Ricky Nandal, Faizal Khan, Love Ahuja, Avi Rakheja	Psychological Horror -Thriller	Full Frame Entertainment (Pvt) LTD Sharib Raza
	22	Tiger Zinda Hai	Ali Abbas Zafar	Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif, Paresh Rawal, Sudeep, Angad Bedi, Gavie Chahal, Girish Karnad, Kumud Mishra	Action/Drama	Yash Raj Films
	29	Mangal Ho	Pritish Chakraborty	Pritish Chakraborty, Aanushka Ramesh, Sanjay Mishra, Annu Kapoor, Vrajesh Hirjee, Swati Kumar, Sunit Razdan	Sci-Fi/Comedy	Ascent Films

Kadvi Hawa - Review

STORY

In a village affected by climate change and scanty rainfall, a blind farmer strikes a deal with the debt recovery agent to save his son from a debt trap.

REVIEW

Gunu Baba (Ranvir Shorey) descends on the village of Mahua like the harbinger of death. As a loan recovery agent, whenever he goes to a village, he claims a few lives of the poor farmers as they commit suicide when they fail to pay back their loans. For this reason, they call him 'Yamdoot'. A blind farmer Hedu (Sanjay Mishra) knows that his own son Mukund (Bhupesh Singh) owes a considerable amount to the lender. He can feel Mukund's depression and helplessness and is scared that one day he, too, will take his own life. So he lands up at the bank and asks Gunu to waive-off the loan. But that's like asking a lion to live off grass. However, one day, Hedu comes up with a plan wherein he tips-off Gunu whenever any of his fellow, debt-ridden farmers comes across some money. This way, Gunu will know just exactly whom to approach to clear his debt. This is a tough choice for Hedu to make; turning against his fellow villagers. But with his crop failing this year again, morals can be put on a hold for survival. In fact, he starts to give bigger tips when he senses his son is sinking further into depression. The question then is, how far will he go on with the scheming? Will the weight of the guilt ever get too heavy?

Ranvir Shorey as a villain appears all too human when you understand just why he is choosing to do what he does. With a thick Odiya accent and a permanent scowl on his face, he carries of his role well. Sanjay Mishra, too, is effortless in his role of a blind, worldly-wise old man. This may be one of the best performances he has given, as he hops around on his stick thinking ways of getting his son out of the conundrum. With his dhoti and bedraggled look, just like the film's poster, he blends into the landscape. What's

Shaadi Abhi Baaki Hai

Two young people from contrasting social strata fall head-over-heels in love with one another and mutually decide to tie the knot. But, the negative entities in their lives have chalked out an evil plan to separate them.

REVIEW: All hell breaks loose when a foreign-return rich girl Jugnu (Mansi Dovhal) gets into a steady relationship with a local lad Jaan (Amit Bhaskar) whose socioeconomic standing is nowhere close to her wealthy-yet-classless family. Puffed with pride, the brothers and their father (Prem Chopra) choose 'dignity' over social embarrassment and that's where the bizarre series of senseless twists and turns begin.

'Shaadi Abhi Baaki Hai' is one of those romantic comedies that has touched upon ill-practices prevalent in Indian society (like dowry harassment, honour killing etc.) nice about the film is that filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda never tries to shove global warming in your face. He shows how, the changes happen gradually, like a failing crop. But the effects of it, like the loan a farmer takes, linger on.

The chemistry between Ranveer and Sanjay is darkly entertaining. You may even feel guilty while enjoying a moment of black humour in scenes between the two actors. With powerful dialogues by Nitin Dixit and achingly beautiful lyrics by Mukta Bhatt, the film is an engrossing watch. For a serious film on global warming, Kadvi Hawa is nonpreachy and entirely watchable.



but has not been able to do justice to it. The writerdirector has not put much thought into the central idea and all other sub-plots that she has introduced in the film. The plot of this film—pretty much like its shoddy camera work, amateur acting, clumsy editing - is directionless. Events, like the bride and groom preparing for marriage to getting shot dead, happen randomly.

Veteran actors Prem Chopra and Sanjay Mishra do make parts of the film watchable with their villainous and comic acts respectively. Besides these actors, all other elements in it add more confusion and melodrama to the already riddled storyline of 'Shaadi Abhi Baaki Hai'. At two hours of runtime, this Shaadi feels like it won't ever get over!



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Ivanka Trump with Indian PM Narendra Modi: A Royal Dinner at Royal Palace, Falaknuma, Hyderabad



Sufi Festival 2017



International Sufi Convention "The Historical Significance of Sufirm in Promotion of World Peace"

Organized by: All India Markazi Majlis-e-Chistia in cohesion with The 5^{es} Annual International Jashan-e-Khusrau

> Inaugural and Cultural Function Sunday, 3rd December 2017 Time: 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm Academic Session Monday, 4th December 2017 Time: 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm <u>Venue:</u> Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad

You are cordially invited to attend 2 Day Convention



Complaint has been lodged for praising the last Nizam of Hyderabad

A complaint has been lodged by Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) vice-president against Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao for hurting sentiments of Hindus by praising the last Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan.

BJYM leader Singapuram Bharat Raj said KCR distorted history of Hyderabad and praised Nizam in a bid to appease Muslims.

In his complaint registered on Thursday, he claimed that Nizam had refused to collaborate with the Indian Union and negotiated for a merger with Pakistan, Raj told Hindustan Times. "Thousands of people of Telangana, particularly the Hindus, had lost their lives in fighting against the oppressive regime of the Nizam. It was recorded in the history that the private army of the Nizam had resorted to large-scale atrocities on Hindus, raped thousands of women and paraded them nakedly on streets. KCR is ignoring all these facts and is praising the Nizam only to appease the minorities for the sake of power," he added.

Moreover, KCR hurt the sentiments of Hindus by praising such a tyrant, Raj said. He asked the police for the necessary action against Telangana CM, he added.

Meanwhile, Inspector B Ramesh of

Mahankali police station confirmed that he had received a complaint from BJYM leader. "We are examining the genuineness of the complaint and further action will be taken only after taking the legal opinion," Ramesh said.

Last week during a discussion on minority, KCR had described last Nizam a noble ruler who took up welfare and developmental work in the state.

"The erstwhile Andhra rulers had wrongly projected the Nizam and showed him as a villain. I am going to get the history of Hyderabad rewritten to project the true picture of the Nizam. After all, he was our king," KCR had said.



HYDERABAD

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www.Asia Times.US **DECEMBER** 2017 **PAGE 35** Ghazals compiled by Janab Hasan Chishti Sb Chicago عدد ديمحن كلشن ت بيدديواتي كبسال هبات تمہاری المجمن سے اُٹھ کے دیوائے کہاں جاتے اگر جاتے بدول والے تو پیچائے کہاں حب تے جودابيته بوئم بدوه افساف كبان حسات ند متاهم توريادي كافسات كبسال حسات Waliuddin ل شاعر وہاں جانا چھوڑ دیتا ہوں تکل کر دیر وکھب سے اگر ملتا نہ میخانہ اگردنیا چمن ہوتی تو دیرانے کہاں حساتے بوااحچا كمحفل مب ووہم ب دور بين بي بي وكرندتهم دل مضطر كوسجهان كبسان حسات تو محكرات ہوتے انسال خداجات كمال جاتے حسيلوا تيا بوااينوں مسير كوتى غب رتو دكاا جس محفل سے ند ملے داد وہاں شعر سنانا چھوڑ دیتا ہوں تمب اری بے رُخی نے لاج رکھ کی بادہ خانہ کی جمیں دیکھا مرمخل تو نظریں بھک گستیں اُن کی اگر ہوتے بھی اپنے توبر کانے کہاں حسباتے تم تعموں سے پلادیت تو بنانے کہاں جب تے نظر الرجم - توشر مان كب ال حب ات وعائمي دومحبت بم في من كرتم كو كصادى سا ب حسینوں کو عینک والا چہرہ پسند نہیں آتا حسيلو اچم بوا كام آكن ديواكل اين اگر مبدود ہوجب تا در میخانہ رندوں پر بدجلتي شمع محفل ميساتويردا في كب ال حب ات جبال وه موتى بين وبال عينك لگانا چيور ديتا مول وكرند بم زمان بحركو مجماف كبسال حساق توبيانوں كاكيا بوتانيد مخاف كبسال حسبات تم بن في محكم وولت دي يزااحسان فسنسر مايا قتيل ابنا مقدر غم ب يكاند اكر بوتا خرد والے تو اکثر ایت کلمشن تھوڑ دیتے ہیں زمان بمركة كرباته تجياات كبسال جات ☆☆☆ تو گراپنے پرائے ہم سے پچائے کہاں حباتے حسن کلشن کے دیوانے بیل دیوانے کہاں جاتے Designing by: HASAN SHAREEF شاعر شکا کو میں جس حال میں ہوں میرے صنم رہنے دے محمه طارق غازي کوئی کام نہ بول میرے ہاتھوں میں قلم رہنے دے الطلة مورى كر جمان موز جواني شمما ایلی ب نوری کر یوں حسن کمانی سمی میں تو شاعر ہوں، میرا دل ہے برا بی نازک ایم نے وہا کہ کمی ایس ایک کبانی سجما یم و جن می می افسان کی ماند رب ال ف با ی تی روز ف اجو ے کا الد ی جمی کیا پر راجہ کی رائی کی اطيباعجاز میں تو پٹانے سے بھی مرجاؤں گا، بم رہنے دے رمن الذق كم الجم مكاني "مجم ات سے کیا داد کے طالب ہوں کر جس تے کل شب غزل ار بود کرون ان کا چانا میرے انھن تو فت اکم کا پانی کچا *** م بان تر وی بر دبان میں م نے بین کی ابی کر جا رک معتبر توغم بھی دے اگر تو تر نے غم میں کیانہیں ایل چک کو ج ماند انانی سما بات ایے کو کمی مم پڑھنے یہ تجدر اوت ای ان ا ما ک دان ک هوش الم تو بردهن وجدان كه دل کرتا ہے کھانے کو بریانی کہاب اور پائے ے وہ خوشی حرام جو تیری عطا نہیں دب کمنا مجانی اے راے بہتی مجما اب کلر بے دکرتی وقت د موم ہے د رے پھر سے کہیں وہ سنری دال کا نہ ذکر کردے كيد أ م ل مد تا مال م یں "یا ایا تراحت کاہوں کما کہ ای رحمت تری بلاتی رہی مجھ کو بار بار جس کا جانی خیر اور ان کر بھی جانی سجھا تی کے میر می اللہ و دانی می اللے ایک دن بیگم بھی مان لے مجھ کو شاعر فم این کا طومت کا گرفی کی ایا سال کا فر اے او جس فے طارق کیکن بیہ اور بات کہ میں نے سانہیں ''میرے خدا مجھے اتنا تو معتبر کردے'' بتحصی کرم کی بھیک ہی مانگی ہے اے خدا میرے لبوں یہ اور تو کوئی دعا نہیں ملك زاد دمنظوراحمر انورعلى رومى

نہ خوف برق نہ خوف شرر گئے ہے بچھے خود اپنے باغ کے پھولوں ہے ڈر گئے ہے بچھے مجیب درد کا رشتہ ہے ساری دنیا میں کہیں ہو جاتا مکاں اپنا گھر گئے ہے بچھے میں ایک جام ہوں کس کس کے ہونٹ تک پینچوں غضب کی پیاس لیے ہر بشر گئے ہے بچھے تراش لیتا ہوں اس سے بچی آئینے منظور کسی کے ہاتھ کا پتھر اگر گئے ہے بچھے .

غیر تو غیر ہیں، غیروں سے شکایت کیسی

صرف اپنوں ہی سے اپنوں کا گلہ ہوتا ہے

بچھ میں ترے علاوہ کوئی دوسرا نہیں مشکل ہے کیا جو بخش دے میرا گناہ تو میرا گناہ تیرے کرم سے بڑا نہیں اس سر کو سر فرازی بھلا کس طرح ملے جس سر پہ رحمتوں کا تری آ سرا نہیں جو لذتیں لبی ہیں کلام مجید میں اطبیب کسی زبان میں وہ ذائقہ نہیں

سينے ميں بيں بى مولى تيرى تجلياں

ار سی روی اور سی روی لوگ کہتے ہیں PAGES

AGES

لوگ کہتے ہیں مجھے سودائی، کیا پڑتا ہے فرق تیری ألفت میں ہوئی رسوائی، کیا پڑتا ہے فرق دل ہوا آباد اُس کی یاد سے تنبا کہاں! تم کو گر محسوں ہو تنبائی، کیا پڑتا ہے فرق پس اُس کا ہے قصور حرز جاں میرے لئے تظیہ ہو یا ہو برم آرائی، کیا پڑتا ہے فرق رکھ دیا ہے رزم گاہ عشق میں ہم نے قدم سرخروئی ہو کہ ہو پسپائی، کیا پڑتا ہے فرق لوگ نہ سمجھیں اُسے دانائی، کیا پڑتا ہے فرق

غزل

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On the lighter side....

A man brought some prescription tablets and started cutting off the edges. Do you know why? He wanted to avoid the side effects.

Two men were in a forest, when a lion came roaring towards them. One of them throws sand into the lion's eyes and then runs. The second man stays, unmoved.

The first man looks back and shouts, "Why are you not running?"

The second man replies, "Why should I be running? You're the one who threw the sand."

A man enters the kitchen, opens the sugar box, looks inside and closes it.

He does it again and again. Why?

Because the doctor told him to check his sugar levels regularly.

During a visit to our friend's home in Canada, we were welcomed with a wonderful breakfast. But my six-yearold daughter was not impressed.

"Your pancakes are smaller than my mom's," she told him.

He replied, "That's because of the exchange rate."

Teacher to the class: "How can we keep our school clean?" Student: "By staying at home?"

A police officer said to a motorist, "What were you doing? Your car was zigzagging like crazy!"

"I'm learning to drive."

- "Without an instructor in the car?"
- "Oh, yes. It's an online course."



Seen on the door of a repair shop:

WE CAN FIX ANYTHING! (Please knock on the doorthe bell doesn't work.)

Father: "Take a look at and learn something from your classmate Lucy. She got an A on the last exam."

Son: "Actually Dad, that's the reason I failed... I WAS looking at her."

A couple was having a discussion about family finances.

Finally the husband exploded, "If it weren't for my money, the house wouldn't be here!"

The wife replied, "Honey, if it weren't for your money, you wouldn't be here!"

Phone Call Duration Boy to boy: 1 minute Boy to dad: 30 seconds

Boy to mom: 2 minutes Boy to girl: 1 hour Girl to girl: 2 hours Girl to boy: 1 Missed call

Husband to wife: 15 seconds Wife to husband: 15 missed calls

A husband and wife had a big argument. Frustrated and fed up, the wife called up her mom and said, "We fought again, I can't do this anymore. I am coming to live with you."

Mom said, "No darling, he must pay for his mistake. I am coming to live with you."

A woman entered the hospital to deliver her 15th child. "Congratulations," said the nurse, "but don't you think this is enough?"

The woman replied, "Are you kidding? This is the only vacation I get each year."

A mathematician wanders back home at 3 a.m. and proceeds to get an earful from his wife.

"You're late!" she yells. "You said you'd be home by 11:45!"

"Actually," the mathematician replies coolly, "I said I'd be home by a quarter of 12."

An angry motorist went back to a garage where he had purchased an expensive battery for his car just six months earlier.

"Listen", the motorist grumbled to the owner of the garage, "when I bought this battery you said it would be the last battery my car would ever need. It died after only six months!"

"Sorry," apologized the garage owner. "I didn't think your car would last longer than that."



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