

American Muslims have duty to oppose terrorism



(Above Muhammad Chaudhry of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and Dr. ZhudJaffar (MD) president of American Muslim Forum for Democracy) on Kelly File, FOX NEWS channel share thoughts on How American Muslims should respond to terrorism)

DR. H. KOYA
EDITOR/PUBLISHER

With the rise in terrorist activities carried in the name of Islam, Muslims are being made scape goats everywhere including in USA where politicians are cashing on the upcoming election for new president for America. Regrettably, the Republicans have taken advantage of the situation and their frontrunner Donald Trump has vowed his supporters to bar Muslims from coming to USA. Well Trump is not in the Whitehouse yet and it may be his wishful thinking only. But he has created an air of intense animosity against American Muslims.

AMERICAN MUSLIM LOYALTY TO COUNTRY ROOTED IN QURAN

The Muslim perspective is that: "Allah is the King of the heaven and earth." As such their foremost obligations are to God who commands them to go unto the earth which has been made a mosque for them. Muslims are also ordered "not create disorder on earth" for Allah loves not those who create disorder on earth.

Once a Muslim enters a new country for purpose of living, his loyalty is to the country where lives not where was born. A Muslim does not have

to wait till he becomes a US citizen to take an oath of allegiance. His allegiance to United States begins the day he steps on the American soil for he knows that his Lord is the Master of heaven and the earth so he better not have any second thoughts or divided ideas about who he is serving and submitting to for peaceful living.

OVER 99% OF MUSLIMS ARE PEACE-LOVING

There's only a very tiny fraction of the so-called "Muslims" who are arrogantly engaged in terrorist activities. Remember, Islam does not allow individuals or groups to engage in

any sort of warfare. Engagement in war is a national responsibility and contingent on strict principles of peace in Islam. Where any individual or groups of individual Muslims go out of their ways to wage a war or commit an act of terrorism, their country of origin has the responsibility to deal with them in accordance with its penal code to mete our justice. And if they are caught in a country where they commit the offence, the country reserves the right to deal with them according their laws. There is no room for clemency or forgiveness for their heinous crimes like destruction of public properties and human lives as was done

recently in Paris for example.

While it is challenging to control such groups, all Muslims have a responsibility to be vigilant in observing and reporting any suspicious activities by the terrorists as their bounden duty to the country they live in and asservice to protect humanity being part of their faith. Muslims cannot afford to sit on the fence on this issue or take a compromising position with the terrorist groups and fail to report them to the law enforcement agencies.

HUBUL WATAN – LOVE FOR YOUR COUNTRY

A true Muslim is driven by the love for his

country. Once in America, a Muslim's love for USA is paramount for he is thankful to Allah for granting him an opportunity to immigrate to the land of his cherished dreams. It will be hypocritical, paradoxical and disloyal to be torn between his country of birth and United States a country he conscientiously chooses to live in for a better future. It will be playing games with God for s Muslim to live in USA and give his heart to the country of birth. His heart, mind, soul and body must be dedicated to his new home The United States of America till death departs him apart.

Prefacing Islam in America: an Interfaith America panel

A bullet point overview paves way for discussion



HAYWARD – (Mughal Restaurant) A panel discussion held here Feb by INTERFAITH AMERICA looked at the way Prefacing Islam in America is to be done in view of the rising antagonism against American Muslims.



Interfaith leader Dr. Koya dealt with a common outrage by some American church attitude on "Proselytizing" He said he wanted to deal with this misguided attitude upfront in setting tone for PREFACING ISLAM IN AMERICA

He said that there was no such thing as PROSELYTIZE in Islamic literature. A bullet point he presented became the basis for discussion for all panelists at

the Interfaith America collaborative that include:

- Proselyting
- "LA" No compulsion in faith.
- Do not create Create Disorder on Earth
- Allah loves not those who create disorder on earth.
- Entire earth is a mosque for Muslims.
- Invite with Hiqma.

He summed up his opening statements by adding

that he did not know much about other faiths and was not qualified to speak them but he said he can say with absolute conviction that Islam places a bounden duty all Muslims to invite (not force) everyone to Islam with wisdom.

Addressing the group, Hindu Priest Rev, Pandit Ranga Sami Goundar of Fiji Sangam community thanked the convener for the invitation and

expressed his delight to have come to know so much more about Islam both by the introduction and the research he had had to do for his presentation. He recounted some of the fundamentals of Islam that he said were evidence of its peaceful teaching and had nothing to do with violence or terrorist. A technology teacher in high schools in Fiji with a Master's degree, Pt. Ranga Sami taught at

the Bal Muslim College for over ten years. Pr. Goundar was followed by Anmol Sharma of Nirankari Mission of Tracy, Michael Robbie for the Jewish faith, Ms Kathleen on Christianity and Ms Moina Sadiq on Mainstream Muslim views. (Please visit Fijisun TV on 4freepress on WordPress, Fijisun.blog.blogspot.com, Facebook.fijisunusa and FijisunTV on You Tube for more detail).



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Fiji Airways launch direct flight from SFO International



FIJI NEWS

FBI Reveals New Details About Its Probe Into Hillary Clinton's Use of Private Email Server

The FBI submitted a classified declaration to a federal court judge late Friday explaining details about the bureau's "pending investigation" into the use of a private email server by Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary Clinton. The declaration addresses why the FBI can't publicly release any records about its probe in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit filed by VICE News.

In a separate public declaration, David



Hardy, the chief of the FBI's FOIA office, said there are a number of documents exchanged
CONTINUES ON PAGE-25

Allah Has 99 Names, None Stand For Violence: PM

Modi At World Sufi Forum

NEW DELHI: Denouncing terrorism at the World Sufi Forum today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Allah has 99 names and none of them stands for violence. And without naming Pakistan, he said, "When spirit and love of Sufism and not violent force of terrorism flows across the border, this region will be the paradise on earth that Amir Khusro spoke about." Terrorism, the Prime Minister said, "divides and destroys us". "When terrorism and extremism have become the most destruction of our times, the message of Sufism has global



relevance," he said at the inauguration of the four-day meet.

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IS TISI SANGAM USA READY TO SET TONE FOR UNITY?

Dr. H Koya (editor)

HAYWARD – With a successful AGM held this past Sunday March 20th, 2016, at which reportedly 26 people were present, is TISI SANGAM USA (also referred to as Hayward Sangam) ready to make a difference and forge the much needed unity among SANGAM members?

Many are very hopeful that the group can do it very successfully without

having to worry about any competing group or faction. So far there's no press release on the AGM and what would be the manifesto. It is understood that new incoming team needs time to meet and adopt a short and long term plan.

However, it was made clear at various sittings that Hayward Sangam, as it better known here in the Bay Area, will hold a few major public events every year.

UNITY IS THE KEY

The TISI SANGAM USA has a distinct edge for being the lead organization with a national body in place and several branches in the US. Plus, it is the only US SANGAM organization with direct affiliation with the original TISI Sangam back home in Fiji. Their official website carries a direct link to it as well. It makes sense, therefore, that it should focus on fostering SANGAM unity in

USA transcending all barriers.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT IT WILL HAVE

- (a) An open door policy and expand its membership to all.
- (b) A role for all to participate and contribute to the SANGAM growth, development and unity.
- (c) A clear departmentalization and description of responsibilities for its

youth and women's wings in which they play a significant role.

- (d) A well-articulated awards and recognition program.
- (e) Major focus on American Sangam youth to provide impetus, guidance and support for higher learning.
- (f) An on-going Leadership development program to keep a constant supply of skilled and trained

leaders to enable SANGAM leap forward for excellence with no room for mediocrity, mere partying and lack of clarity in vision and purpose clearly communicating both within and without the organization.

- (g) Major public events including SADHU KUP-PUSAMI MEMORIAL DAY, open air Diwali celebration and a Unity Convention.

The splinter group bent on disunity and self-serving interest

With the flagrant disregard to its own constitution and the public mandate at the tragic January 2016 AGM led by Parmeshwar Nair and Vijay the splinter group reneged on its promise to hold the AGN on the 3rd Sunday of February every year as required by its constitution. With a select reduced so called BOD, the splinter group is said to have tempered with the constitution to retain a convicted criminal as director and more close family members to keep the power base secured among themselves. Since the splinter group is not in compliance with the constitution it is said to be in contravention of the State Laws pertaining to Non-profit Corporation. It appears that their "legal advisor" lends a strong backing on their stand.

THE ILLEGAL SPLINTER GROUP IS BELIEVED TO HAVE:

- (a) Coopted new family members in the reduced BOD.
- (b) Retained a convicted criminal as a director.
- (c) Mised the public that the alleged director had withdrawn his nomination a day before the mixable January AGM
- (d) Invested funds in the risky stock market, raising questions if the group as non-profit can engage in such business.
- (e) The liberty now to use over \$90,000.00 as they please that predecessors like Gandhi Naidu and past presidents had worked to raise.

PUBLIC SUPPORT TOOK A NOSE-DIVE

The splinter group has clearly lost public support for letting it down in the January AGM and showing utter disrespect to election supervisor Ben Venkash who had ordered them to suspend the election and to hold it on the 3rd Sunday of February as stipulated in the constitution.

TICKETS OUTSTANDING UNSOLD

Hundreds of tickets printed without proper permit for a grand raffle are outstanding and collecting dust. With the sort of credibility, it will be difficult to fool the public and sell the ticket to them.

BALA NAIDU: A "HITMAN" FOR THE SPLINTER GROUP

The very highly educated, talented and articulate BOD, Mr. Bala Naidu posing as a "hitman" for the splinter group flexed his muscles to one of the FIJISUN USA team members in a public confrontation. A word of advice to him and his colleagues: If you have any issues with any FIJISUN USA reports, email the editor directly and desist forthwith from confronting, challenging, intimidating or harassing any member of the FIJISUNUSA team as this would raise legal issues. An email addressed to the editor will receive proper attention.

FORMER HANGED PAKISTANI PRESIDENT MINISTER ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO PHOTOGRAPHED NAKED BY THE ARMY: YOU TUBE REPORT



THE HAILED HERO WHO AMENDED THE PAKISTAN CONSTITUTE TO DECLARE MINORITY AHMADIS AS NON-MUSLIMS WAS ARRESTED BY HIS OWN MILITARY CHIEF ZIA UL HAQ AND PLACED IN A TIGHTLY GUARDED SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AND EVENTUALLY HANGED TO DEATH DESPITE PLEAS FOR CLEMENCY FROM WORLD LEADERS.

News

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From Fiji to Wanaka: RNZAF C-130 Hercules gets around

Last month, RNZAF 40 Squadron leader Matt "Freddy" Ferris was delivering aid in cyclone-devastated Fiji. This month he's flying the RNZAF C-130 Hercules at Warbirds Over Wanaka International Airshow. The two arenas are worlds apart and just part of his work, which has also included service in Antarctica and the Middle East. The RNZAF's humanitarian aid effort in Fiji after Cyclone Winston was one of the largest peacetime deployments to the Pacific, involving close to 500 combat engineers, soldiers, sailors and aircrew.

"We sent our Orion and search and rescue teams first then the Hercules, with aid, tarpaulins, sanitation, cooks and specialty teams," Ferris said.

For the next two weeks, he and his team provided an air bridge back and forward to Fiji, carrying equipment,



supplies and medics. The work was similar to that undertaken in Christchurch following the earthquakes.

"Doing relief work is one of the most rewarding but

bittersweet things. I would be happy if we never saw another disaster. But there is pride in being part of that helping New Zealand team," he said. Ferris was born in

Invercargill and raised in Dunedin, where he went to Kavanagh College before joining the airforce in 2004. In my last year at school, I got into flying, paid

for it with cleaning jobs. I thought I could get into this, so I threw my name into the hat," he said. Now based in Auckland, Ferris has spent nine years on the Hercules

team and now is the 40 Squadron's chief instructor. He intends to stay with the RNZAF 40 Squadron but in June changes to the Boeing 757, which were first introduced in 2003. "Same old thing, different plane," he explained. The C-130 Hercules has been in RNZAF service since the 1960s and has undergone a life extension programme that should keep the aircraft flying until 2020. The nearly 30m long aircraft is crewed by six and can carry about 92 troops. It has a range of about 7,400km. Other airforces displaying at Warbirds Over Wanaka are the Royal Australian Airforce (Hawk 127 fighter-trainer jets), the Armee de L'Aire (French Airforce, CASA CN-235-300 transport plane) and the United States Airforce (C-17 Globemaster transport plane).

Total of 294 traffic offences recorded this weekend

A total of 294 traffic offences have been recorded so far this long weekend. Police Director Traffic, SSP Mahesh Mishra says 207 people were given speeding tickets, 11 booked for careless driving, 17 taken into custody for drunk driving and 59 people have been booked for other traffic offences.

Mishra says out of the 17 taken into custody for drunk driving 7 of them were taken into custody last night. He says five cases were from the western division while two were from the central division in relation to drunk driving. According to Mishra the 10 people who were in cus-



tody for drunk driving from Thursday night and Friday have been produced in court. SSP Mishra is reminding the passengers that it is their duty to ensure that their drivers are sober and are not speeding. He adds it is also the drivers responsibility to make sure passengers reach their destination safely as their passengers life depends on them.

Easter a time for reconciliation and strengthening of relationships with others

"This is the time for us to enter into reconciliation and strengthen our relationships with all communities of faith" Those are the words of the Methodist Church Communications Secretary Reverend James Bhagwan on Easter Sunday. Bhagwan says Christians around the country celebrate Resurrection Sunday today, as the day where Jesus Christ rose from the dead after being crucified on a cross for our sins. Bhagwan says people from all walks of life can join in and be part of the Easter Sunday Resurrection Concert which will be held this afternoon at Sukuna Park with a theme 'Rise



with Christ'. Bhagwan says this is the idea of the nation rising from the ruin of Cyclone Winston and rising out of doubt and issues that we are facing in life.

He says the Fiji Council of Churches and the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy organized this concert where all people can come and enjoy music and drama for Easter.



Building code ignored says Fiji PM

The Fiji prime minister Frank Bainimarama, who has been inspecting cyclone damage, says the government is aware that some builders failed to follow the building code to save money.

He made the comment to the Fiji Sun as cabinet is due to meet on Tuesday to receive a cyclone report to continue the rehabilitation programme after last month's devastation by

Cyclone Winston.

The category five storm destroyed about 24,000 houses and inflicted material damage initially estimated to be about \$US460 million. prime minister Frank Bainimarama says contractors who had been tasked with constructing several buildings had been looking for cheaper options instead of focusing on quality.

Taichi For Oceania

Young Taichi Vakasama has qualified for the 2016 Oceania Swimming Championship.

The 16-year-old from Daliconi village in Vanuabalavu, Lau told SUNsports yesterday that this was possible through hard work and was proud to represent his country again. Taichi had previously represented Fiji at the 2014 Oceania Swimming Championship, Pacific Games and the Commonwealth Youth Games. "This year has been extremely difficult to train for the Open Nationals because of the effects of Tropical Cyclone Winston," the Nadi swimmer said. "The pools were closed for two to three weeks and cleaning of the pool took a long time before I could use it to train.

"But to get to this point and qualify is a huge relief for me and



also a huge reward because I have put so much time and effort into my preparations.

"This has been one of my aims coming into this competition, I knew it would be hard from the start because there are so many talented swimmers but I'm thankful for the competition they gave me. "As a kid, I never dreamed that I would be this fast or even be considered to com-

pete for my country, so I'm pretty proud of my achievements so far. "I take my training so seriously, I do swim training six times a week and have two gym sessions per week as well; now I know for sure it has paid off."

The Swami Vivekananda College student has already set his goals for the Oceania Championship as he says, winning a medal and breaking

records is all that matters.

"My aim this year is to at least get a few medals in the Oceania Championship, I know I will be competing with some of Oceania's best swimmers and that is a challenge I am looking forward to," he pointed out.

"We cannot improve as an athlete if we are not challenged so I want to try to break the 200 metres breaststroke record. It's the event I'm good at and also long distance freestyle. "I want to do my personal best and improve as a swimmer and take my performance up a notch, I know it will be hard but preparation starts from today. "I just want to thank my parents for giving me the most support and everyone who has been there and helped me be the swimmer I am today." The Oceania Championship will be held in Suva from June 19-24.

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Relating ours to Jesus' suffering

PEACE — shalom! (May you have fullness of life).

Peace is the first word uttered by Jesus to his disciples after he rose from the dead. Jesus greets the disciples who were still traumatised by his humiliating and brutal death. Likewise many people in Fiji are experiencing trauma as well as the loss of loved ones, homes and property in the aftermath of Severe Tropical Cyclone Winston.

Easter celebrates the most important event of the Christian tradition, namely the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. However, the writings of the New Testament have no record of Jesus actual rising from the tomb.

Revelation — a gift from God

Instead it has only accounts of the appearances of Jesus to the disciples. This means that the disciples' knowledge and experience of the Risen Jesus was given to them. In other words revelation is a gift from God. Therefore, to understand what happened on that original Easter and to reinterpret its meaning for Fiji today we turn to the disciples' experiences of the risen Jesus.

The Easter experience took place in the context of Jewish peoples' suffering and hope for liberation. Ever since the Babylonian exile around 587BC, Jews have always looked forward to their liberation when God will send a messiah.

One of the earliest records of Easter is found in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (1Cor.15:3-5): "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures,



and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the 12."

The New Testament Easter narratives taken as a whole hold the following structure:

- 1) Jesus revealed God to the disciples;
- 2) The disciples had to overcome a certain doubt or disbelief; and
- 3) The Risen Lord charged them with a mission.

Easter began with an experience. Jesus' life, teachings, miracles, suffering and death gave new meaning and purpose to the disciples. They experienced liberation, truth and hope. In other words they came to know Jesus as the Christ, the anointed one, the messiah. In Jesus they found truth that was worth living and dying for. Hence, they left everything to take up the mission of Jesus. This is the Easter good news.

Easter after Winston

What does Easter mean to the Fijian people today, especially in the context of the aftermath of Severe TC Winston?

February 20, 2016 will go

down in Fiji's history as the day Cyclone Winston, the earth's second strongest and deadliest southern hemisphere storm struck Fiji. Cyclone Winston has so far claimed 44 lives, affected 350,000, damaged or destroyed 24,000 houses, affected more than 60,000 schoolchildren, damaged churches, property, farms and rendered thousands homeless. Many people are lacking water, food, electricity and the basic life amenities.

The questions regarding death and suffering are fundamental questions for relatives of the dead, for the suffering, and for the oppressed. These questions demand meaningful answers. Without hope, without new answers — everything is bleak, dull, and lifeless.

Holy Week and the Easter Triduum invite Christians to reflect on the God revealed by Jesus' life, teachings, suffering, death and resurrection. The reflection will not be simply a matter of meditating on Jesus' suffering. It will ask, how do we talk about God to suffering and traumatic

peoples of Dawasamu, Ra, Lomaiviti, Bua, Taveuni, Savusavu - people who have lost loved ones and their lifetime investments. Christians will need to find a language for God that will address peoples' questions: "Why all this suffering?" And "Why must I suffer?"

Towards a theology of suffering

The question of suffering is one of the burning questions in today's world and perhaps the most difficult religious question of all time. Hence we cannot be talking about God without referring to suffering.

How can there be an all-loving and an all-powerful God if there is so much suffering and evil in our world? Why does God not act in the face of suffering? Why do bad things happen with seemingly no response from God?

Taking into account the aftermath of Severe TC Winston — how do we talk about God to the cyclone victims?

Gustavo Gutierrez in his book "On Job: God Talk and the

Suffering of the Innocent" argues that the question of human suffering, in particular the suffering of the innocent raises the fundamental theological question: How are we to talk about God to suffering people? He adds that we need to inquire into the possibility of finding an appropriate language about God that does justice to the situation of suffering.

Ronal Rolheiser, a prominent Catholic spiritual writer states that inside Christian theology like Peter Kreeft, CS Lewis, and Teilhard de Chardin, among others, have written insightful books on this question. He argues that Christians believe that what is ultimately at stake is human freedom and God's respect for it. God gives us freedom and (unlike most everyone else) refuses to violate it, even when it would seem beneficial to do so. Jesus reveals God as a God who redeems rather than one who rescues. God does not protect us from pain, but instead enters it and ultimately redeems it. The Christian Bible offers many texts that will help us reflect on

suffering. The book of Genesis tells the account of human suffering in the persons of Adam and Eve and the toil and suffering they had to endure as a result of their fall from grace.

The story of Israel is one of suffering and cries. The book of Job deals with unjustified suffering. Jeremiah faced failure and rejection.

In the New Testament, one can reflect on the death of Lazarus (John 11:1-44) and Jesus' own suffering. The stories of Lazarus and Jesus teach that the God we believe in doesn't necessarily intervene and rescue us from suffering and death (although we are invited to pray for that). Instead he redeems our suffering afterwards. God did not save Jesus from death on the cross even when the Jews jeered and mocked him. Instead, the Father allowed him to die on the cross and then raises him up afterwards.

Fijian Christians and churches are faced with this task, to practise charity and solidarity with the victims of Severe TC Winston, to reflect on the Scripture and church teaching; finally to find a language for God that will speak to the thousands of homeless and traumatised people of Fiji. But as Rolheiser states: "Sometimes the only answer to the question of suffering and evil is the one Jesus gave to Mary and Martha — shared helplessness, shared distress, and shared tears, with no attempt to try and explain God's seeming absence, but rather a trusting that, because God is all-loving and all-powerful, in the end all will be well and our pain will someday be redeemed in God's embrace."

Coca-Cola Gives \$150K To PM's Relief Fund

Government has received a cash donation of \$150,000 from Coca-Cola Amatil (Fiji) Limited for the Prime Minister's Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Fund.

Coca-Cola Amatil Fiji national sales and overseas business manager, Lawrence Tikaram handed over the cheque to the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu. Mr Tikaram thanked Government for its commitment to the people of Fiji and its delivery of

services during the rehabilitation period. He commended the work of the Prime Minister for inspiring many ordinary Fijians to rebuild their lives and said that the contribution was a token of appreciation to the Government.

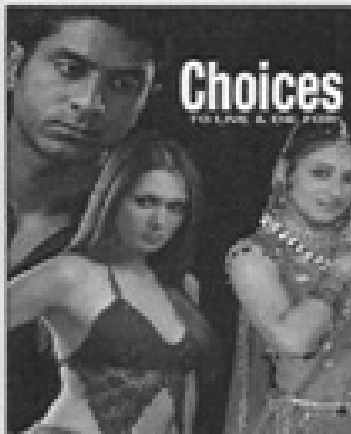
Acknowledging the donation, Mr Seruiratu conveyed the appreciation of Government and said that partnership with the private sector was critical in rebuilding Fiji. "We hope we can continue to work together and ensure economic growth," Mr Seruiratu said.



Roads Authority concerned with vandalism to new road in Nad

The Fiji Roads Authority is raising concerns on a number of vandalism acts worth \$26,000 against the newly built road from Wailoaloa road junction into Denarau in Nadi. FRA Programme Manager for the Nadi Road Upgrade Project Zaina Khan says edges and flowers which were planted along the road to help beautify the surrounding leading into Denarau have been stolen and trampled on by pedestrians.

Khan says it is costing them \$15,000 to replace these plants. She says damages to footpaths are costing them \$10,000. Khan adds apart from people carving their names they are also a number of graffiti work on the footpath. She adds these people are not sparing any newly built infrastructure as they are also damaging road signs like speed limits and direction sign which cost \$1,000 to fix. Some villages that live along this road are Narewa, Sikituru and Naqalevu. FRA is calling on these villagers to report of any citing of vandalism act to police.




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Allah Has 99 Names, None Stand For Violence : PM

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The reach of terrorism, he said, is growing and the toll is rising every year. Last year alone, over 90 countries experienced terrorist attacks... Parents in 100 countries live with daily pain of their children lost to the battlefield of Syria." But the impact of terrorism, he said, cannot be fully captured in statistics alone. "It is changing the way we live. There are forces and groups that are instruments of state policy and design." A team of Pakistani investigators are arriving in India on March 27 to collect evidence connected to the terror attack at the Pathankot air force base that took place in January. While India has cited evidence about Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad's involvement in the attack, Pakistan, in a break from tradition, has not straightaway dismissed the origin of the attackers.

In the backdrop of the Bharat Mata ki Jai slogan controversy, the Prime Minister also underscored the importance of maintaining the diversity and pluralism in Indian society. "All our people, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, believers, non-believers, are an integral part of India... Diversity is a basic reality of nature and source of richness of a society; and, it should not be a cause of discord," he added. It is this diversity, he pointed out, that has given birth to Sufism. "Sufism blossomed in India's openness and pluralism. It engaged with her spiritual tradition and evolved its own Indian ethos." More than 200 spiritual leaders, scholars and academicians are participating in the four-day event, which is being organised by All India Ulama and Mashaikh Board (AIUMB), the apex body of Sufi Dargahs in India.



Here are the top 10 quotes from PM Modi's speech

1. Of the 99 names of Allah, none stand for force and violence and the first two names denote compassionate and merciful. Allah is Rahman and Raheem... Those who spread terror in the name of religion are anti-religious.
2. When the spiritual love of Sufism, not the violent force of terrorism, flows across the border, this region will be the paradise on earth that Amir Khusrau spoke about.
3. Sufism became the face of Islam in India, even as it remained deeply rooted in the Holy Quran, and Hadis. Sufism blossomed in India's openness and pluralism. It engaged with her spiritual tradition, and evolved its own Indian ethos. And, it helped shape a distinct Islamic heritage of India.
4. It is this spirit of Sufism, the love for their country and the pride in their nation that define the Muslims in India. They are steeped in the democratic tradition of India, confident of their place in the country and invested in the future of their nation; And, above all, they are shaped by the values of the Islamic heritage of India. It upholds the highest ideals of Islam and has always rejected the forces of terrorism and extremism.
5. As a nation, we stood against colonialism and in our struggle for freedom. At the dawn of independence some chose to go away. The tallest of our leaders, such as Maulana Azad, and important spiritual leaders, such as Maulana Hussain Madani, and millions and millions of ordinary citizens, rejected the idea of division on the basis of religion.
6. Terrorism divides and destroys us. Indeed, when terrorism and extremism have become the most destructive force of our times, the message of Sufism has global relevance.
7. Terrorism uses diverse motivations and causes, none of which can be justified. Terrorists distort a religion whose cause they profess to support. They kill and destroy more in their own land and among their own people than they do elsewhere.
8. The fight against terrorism is not a confrontation against any religion. It cannot be. It is a struggle between the values of humanism and the forces of inhumanity.
9. We must reject any link between terrorism and religion. Those who spread terror in the name of religion are anti-religious.
10. We need just not constitutional provisions or legal safeguards, but also social values to build an inclusive and peaceful society, in which everyone belongs, secure about his rights and confident of her future.

PM QUOTES

From Amir Khusro

"None had a greater impact than the Sufi poet-musician Amir Khusro. Eight centuries later, his poetry and musical innovation continue to be part of the soul of Hindustani music. No one had spoken of Indian music with such passion as he had."

From Khawja Moinuddin Chishti:

"Let us be inspired by the message of Hazrat Moinuddin Chishti. Of all the worships, the worship that pleases Almighty God the most is the grant of relief to the humble and the oppressed."

Rumi

Let us remember the infinite humanism in Sufi poet Jalaluddin Rumi's words, "Contain all human faces in your own, without any judgment of them."

Hazrat Nizamuddin:

As Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya said, "Almighty holds dear those who love Him for the sake of human beings, and those who love human beings for the sake of Almighty."

Sheikh Saadi Shirrazi:

A creed echoed in the words of the great Persian Sufi poet Saadi, written in the United Nations, that human beings come from the same source: We are one family.

Bulleh Shah:

And in the wisdom of Bulleh Shah, "The Lord is mixed in every heart."

Hafiz wanted to teach Thackeray a lesson, says Davied Headley

Mumbai : Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley today disclosed before an anti-terror court here that Lashkar-e-Toiba chief and 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed had told him prior to the Mumbai terror attacks that Shiv Sena chief late Bal Thackeray "needed to be taught a lesson".

After hearing this (that Thackeray needed to be taught a lesson), Headley had told Saeed that this would be done, he said.

To a question, he said he had not requested for any time "to accomplish this task", but said "it would take six months". Yesterday, Headley had revealed that he had "arranged" a fundraising programme for the Shiv Sena in the US and had planned to invite Thackeray to the event.

The 55-year-old LeT operative, who has turned approver in the case, said that Sena man Rajaram Rege had told him that "Thackeray was sick and so may be his son and other officials may attend the programme."

Earlier this week, Headley had told the court that LeT wanted to eliminate Thackeray but the person who was assigned the job to kill the Sena chief was arrested and he managed to give police the slip. "We wanted to target the Shiv Sena chief... His name was Bal Thackeray. LeT wanted to kill him wherever a chance arose. I knew that Bal Thackeray was the head of Shiv Sena. I have no first-hand knowledge but I think an attempt was made by LeT to kill Bal Thackeray," he had said.

No specialised CISF security cover at 27 airports

New Delhi : With the terror attack on Brussels' Zaventem airport bringing to the fore fresh concerns over airport security, a report by security agencies says India has not accorded specialised CISF security cover to over two dozen of its such sensitive facilities for the last five years owing to lack of funds. A total of 27 such functional airports are being secured by other security forces like the CRPF, India Reserve Battalions (IRBs) or state police units, keeping the designated aviation security force CISF out.

A report by a department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture early this year had also expressed its concern, saying it found it "quite scary to know that the security of eight of our hyper-sensitive and 19 of our sensitive airports are not covered by the CISF which has now become the only specialised force for aviation security." The about 1.42 lakh personnel-strong Central Industrial Security Force has a dedicated and trained unit for the

task under its establishment called the Aviation Security Group (ASG) and has almost 22,000 men and women commandos in it headed by an Additional Director General-rank officer.

The force was first tasked with airport security in the year 2000, beginning with the Jaipur airport, in the aftermath of the hijack of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 and its last ASG was inducted at Diu airport in 2011.

A report recently prepared by the CISF and intelligence agencies has borrowed from the observations of the Parliamentary committee to underline the need for stepping up security at the airports.

"In the recent report... the Committee has opined civil aviation security is an integral and important element of national security. Airports are critical infrastructure and very vital from the perspective of national security.

"Any large-scale damage or terrorist attack on the airport would be catastrophic with far reaching grave implications for the

citizens and the economy. Explanations given to the committee for non-deployment of CISF at remaining airports was lack of funds," the report, accessed by PTI, said. The report also speaks about the status of CISF security cover given to airports till now, adding the committee has recommended that the force should be deployed on priority to hyper-sensitive and sensitive airports in the first go. Out of the 26 hyper-sensitive airports in the country like the ones in metro cities of Mumbai and Delhi, 18 are under the CISF cover while six like Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir and others are not. Under the sensitive category, there are 56 airports, out of which only 37 have the paramilitary's cover and amongst 16 normal airports only four have CISF security. To sum up, out of the total 98 functional airports in the country, 59 are under the CISF cover leaving out 39. Out of the 59 airports under the CISF cover, 53 are operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and six by joint ventures or private

players. "The Committee has observed that security must be adequate and in proportion to the threat perception. Funds should not come in the way of providing security. The committee has recommended that security component of PSF needs to be enhanced to be commensurate with the security expenditure and ensure that security is not compromised and the PSF security component must be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India," the report said. Passenger Service Fees (PSF) is levied to meet the expenditure on airport security and passenger facilities at Indian airports.

"The committee recommends all the airports rated hyper-sensitive from security angle be given to CISF as soon as possible followed by the sensitive airports. In view of shortages of manpower and logistics available with CISF, security of normal airports can continue with state police for the time being. But these airports also be given all modern equipment, training etc," it said.

Will China risk India investments by overplaying its hand in Nepal?

What it took for Delhi to persuade Nepal's Madhesi leaders to come to the Indian compound in Kathmandu on Thursday to celebrate Holi, we do not know. They had earlier taken a vow not to celebrate Holi.

They saw nothing to celebrate after the unceremonious collapse of their agitation following Delhi's decision to end the blockade and ease the pressure on the leadership in Kathmandu.

Unsurprisingly, Kathmandu press is rife with speculation that Delhi is preparing for another phase of confrontation and is priming up the Madhesi leaders. Indeed, South Block's reaction to the hugely successful visit by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to China suggests that Delhi is in a punishing mood. When asked about Oli's visit to China and the growing Sino-Nepali ties, the South Block spokesman snapped back:

"Nepal as a land-locked country is free to explore any practical option it wants. But our (India's) relations with Nepal have their own natural logic. Now, we are not in the comparison business. And even if you are, do ask yourself, is there any other country in the world which can have the kind of relationship that Nepal has with India?"

THE 'COMPARISON BUSINESS'

The spokesman is spot on. Nepal is critically dependent on Delhi's goodwill. But where he possibly misses the point is that the "comparison business" is not so irrelevant. The point is, what is it that draws comparison? If it is

about trade or economic linkages, who can indeed compete with India on the Nepali turf? The facts speak for themselves. To quote the spokesman:

"We (India) have at present 26 Land Custom Stations with Nepal... Two Integrated Check Posts are under construction and two more will be undertaken in the next phase. Two rail links are under construction and three more will be undertaken in the next phase... 605 kilometres of roads... are under construction... Another 900 kilometres will be undertaken in the next phase. An MoU on the Raxaul-Amlekhgunj petroleum pipeline was signed... The 600-megawatt Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar transmission line was inaugurated last month and India... is already exporting 330 megawatts of electricity to Nepal.

"Two thirds of Nepal's global trade is with India, and over 90% of their third country exports/imports transit through India. Millions of Nepalese live and work in India, and hundreds of thousands criss-cross the open India-Nepal border every single day".

Without doubt, the ground realities speak for themselves. Nonetheless, the "comparison business" is unavoidable because Oli's visit highlights that China's Nepal policies are changing course. They are increasingly assuming a thrust challenging India's dominant presence in Nepal.

RECIPROCAL REACTION

Suffice it to say, if Delhi edges closer to the United States-led containment strategy against China, it had better expect a recip-



rocal Chinese reaction in India's neighbourhood. So far China has been single-mindedly pursuing self-interests. But that may be changing. Oli's current visit to China shows that Beijing is introducing templates of bilateral cooperation with Kathmandu which have at the same time an underlying agenda to "liberate" Nepal from the Indian "hegemony". The trade and transit treaty, proposed free trade agreement, energy deal, rail links – the common thread is that Nepal's heavy dependence on India must be whittled down.

China may make the enterprise profitable for itself in business or commercial terms but the political objective will still be to bring about a new strategic balance whereby Nepal would have the resilience to stand up to Indian "bullying".

Nepal understands what China is trying to do – not to pit it against India but instead strengthen its capacity to safeguard its sovereignty and stand up to India. That is why Oli called China an "all-weather friend", invoking for the

first time a loaded expression that is characteristic of the China-Pakistan alliance.

Oli signalled a subtle geopolitical shift. Significantly, Nepal's army chief Gen. Rajendra Chhetri is going on a week-long trip to China next week no sooner than Oli returns to Kathmandu.

China is unlikely to push the envelope too far too fast and risk a backlash from India. Nepal's stability and development is very important for Beijing, since it impacts Tibet's security. But then, China doesn't have to be in a hurry. Time works in China's favour.

Below the radar China has also established contacts with the Madhesis, consistent with its approach to cultivate all political constituencies in the country. China's influence among the power brokers in Nepali politics today is such that it becomes a factor of stability for the uneasy coalition that Oli heads.

COMPETITIVE COMBATIVENESS

To be sure, China has astutely exploited to its advantage the

recent tensions in India-Nepal relations but that is only part of the story. But the conclusion becomes unavoidable that the animus that is appearing lately in China's Nepal policies is a signal of its displeasure over India's own unfriendly policies toward China during the past one-year period.

A combative edge has appeared in the India's China policies since the beginning of last year. Delhi has not bothered to maintain the careful balance between competition and cooperation in the relations with China, which the United Progressive Alliance government managed to keep. There is much greater willingness on the part of the present government to identify with the USA's rebalancing act in Asia-Pacific, so much so that senior Pentagon officials voice confidence that in a near future the US and India will undertake joint patrols of the disputed South China Sea, in areas over which China claims sovereignty.

Meanwhile, the upgrade of the US-Japan-India trilateral format, the strengthening of India's military ties with Vietnam, and likelihood of the signing of the 'foundational agreements' between the US and India – all these reflect a new openness on the part of India to identify with the US' containment strategy against China.

NO MORE COOPERATION

On the other hand, there is no visible interest in Delhi to promote cooperation with China. Trade and investment with China is not a priority for Delhi. India has blindly copied Japan's negativism toward

China's "One Belt One Road" initiatives instead of testing them or using them as means to stimulate investment and improve connectivity or strengthen regional security and stability.

Simply put, the present government is simply uninterested in exploring the potentials of cooperation with China. However, there is precious little Washington (or Japan) can do to help Delhi if the competition between India and China degenerates into rivalry. Therefore, Nepal becomes a crucial test case where India's diplomatic skills come under severe challenge.

Interestingly, China has ensured that Nepal was admitted last week as a "Dialogue Partner" of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation just before India's formal accession as a full member is complete. A commentary on Oli's visit in the Chinese communist party tabloid Global Times pointed out that Nepal is "subsumed" by the Indian economy, which has become "a small economy closest to the dominant power in the South Asian economic circle", whereas the ties between China and Nepal "do not belong to the India-dominated South Asian economic circle". Beyond a point, the argument that Nepal is too small a fry for Beijing to antagonise Delhi and jeopardise its stakes in the Indian market does not hold water. The bottom line is that India's pivot to the South China Sea affects China's core interests. And China will get the message across to Delhi that such a course is extremely unwise and will not serve India's vital interests.

Dentist beaten to death after minor scuffle



New Delhi : A 40-year-old dentist was allegedly dragged out of his residence and mercilessly thrashed by 12 persons armed with iron rods, hockey sticks and bats in West Delhi's Vikaspuri area following a minor scuffle. He died on way to hospital. Five persons, including a middle-aged woman, have been arrested and four juveniles detained, the police said.

On Wednesday night, dentist Pankaj Narang took his son and nephew to play cricket outside his house to celebrate India's

win against Bangladesh in the World Twenty20 tournament. The ball rolled onto a nearby road. As Narang's son ran after it, one Naseer (23) and a minor, who were on a motorcycle, sped past him. The bike grazed the child, leaving him terrified. A scuffle ensued.

Minutes later, Naseer and the juvenile arrived at the site accompanied by 10 persons. They allegedly dragged Narang out of his house and attacked him. Narang's brother-in-law, who was visiting the family on Holi, was thrashed too.

Eyewitnesses said some persons who tried to intervene were beaten up.

The police said Narang died of severe head injuries.

The police were informed about the incident well past midnight. By then, the accused had fled. The police obtained the CCTV footage of the incident from a nearby area and identified the attackers. They are Naseer, Amir, Ameer and Gopal, all aged 20. Naseer's mother Maesar has been arrested for instigating the attack.

37 killed, 150 injured during UP Holi revelry

Lucknow : At least 37 persons were killed and more than 150 injured in Holi-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh. In Lucknow alone, 20 persons lost their lives on the festival day. Sixteen of them were killed in road accidents while trying to either escape Holi revellers who had been moving around drunk on motorcycles or were drunk themselves. Lucknow Mayor Dinesh Sharma's cousin Puneet Gaur (50) was killed after his motorcycle was hit by a car while he was on his way to his sister's house.

Pak team arrives tomorrow; to meet witnesses, not security personnel

India plans to provide the probe team from Pakistan access to all witnesses in the Pathankot terror attack case but not security personnel from National Security Guard or the BSF.

On the eve of the arrival of Pakistan's Joint Investigation Team, official sources said India will also press for visit of its probe team to that country for carrying out investigations there. The sources said the five-member delegation led by Chief of Punjab's Counter

Terrorism Department (CTD), Additional Inspector General of Police Muhammad Tahir Rai will not be provided complete access to the Pathankot air force base but to limited areas where Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists were engaged in an 80-hour gunbattle with security forces. The Pakistani team which also comprises Lahore's Deputy Director General Intelligence Bureau Mohammad Azim Arshad, Inter-Services Intelligence's (ISI) Lt Col Tanvir Ahmed, Military

Intelligence Lt Col Irfan Mirza and Gujranwala CTD Investigating Officer Shahid Tanveer will be brought to the airbase in a special plane on March 29.

The airbase will be visually barricaded by NIA to prevent any view of its critical areas.

The team will be briefed thoroughly on March 28 at the NIA headquarters here which will include a 90-minute presentation on the investigations carried in the case so far, the sources said.

India's defence procurement policy to be launched online

Panaji: India's Defence Procurement Policy (DPP) would be launched online during Defence Expo India-2016, to be held in south Goa from Monday, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said. We will be launching the Defence Procurement Policy online during DefExpo. It will be put on Ministry's website," Parrikar told PTI ahead of the inauguration of the two-day mega event. Parrikar said expo's current edition is one of the most important events in the field of production, exports and Indianisation of the sector. He, however, clarified that 'Make in India' in the defence sector and DefExpo are two different things.

"The basic concept of Defence Expo is a commercial exchange between various companies which will happen here," the former Chief Minister said. The website of Defence Expo, monitored by the Defence Ministry, has listed 1,054 companies who will be setting up their stalls for the exhibition to be held at Naqueri-Betul village in south Goa. "Defexpo India is clearly steering the path of steady growth and has been receiving



ing overwhelming and unprecedented international response with each edition," ministry's website on the mega event said.

The exhibition will have live demonstration of air display on March 28-29 at the site which is located adjacent to the Arabian Sea. The land that was acquired for setting up an industrial estate has been temporarily allotted to the Defence Ministry for the expo. The exhibition would be spread over six lakh square metres of land.

The event earlier witnessed protest by locals and activists claiming that they were not taken into confidence. Petitions had also been filed before the Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court opposing it. The High Court, which would be hearing the matter on Wednesday, refused to stay the event.

Pakistan Army Slams its Own Generals, Praises Indian Bureaucracy

NEW DELHI: The much-maligned Indian bureaucracy got a pat on its back by its eternal rival, the Pakistan Army, which called their own babus and Generals "shady" and "inconsistent". In its top-secret Green Book, the Pakistan Army slams its Generals-turned-rulers by calling Ayub Khan a "laissez-faire leader", Yahya Khan an "impoverished leader" and Pervez Musharraf a general who couldn't go beyond autocratic rule.

Comparing the Indian leadership structure with Pakistan's, the Green Book says in India, "bureaucratic stream supports executive... In India, a combination of intellectuals, businessmen and hereditary leadership rules the masses. The democratic system has evolved and matured rapidly. Soon after Independence in 1947, politicians began to view the military with suspicion as the last supporters of the British Raj, so not



From left: Generals Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan and Pervez Musharraf

only kept it isolated from influencing decisions and policies but also fully subordinated to political leadership and bureaucracy." While defining its own bureaucracy, the book says "it is shady", leadership attribute is "inconsistent" and executive power is "vacillating". It complimented the Indian leadership development, saying "it has been systematic" while in Pakistan, "it is informal with weak civil control". Interestingly, the Green Book notes that

"bureaucratic leadership has played a partisan role instead of standing up for principles".

"Mistrust between the three streams—political, bureaucratic and military—has never been addressed by Pakistan. It still prevails and affects the desired harmonised efforts at the top tier," it says. The book says perception about public representative in India is very strong but in Pakistan, it is temporary. It also points out that the bureaucracy in Pakistan since Partition

formed the core of civil services, which "paradoxically emerged as one of the most elite and privileged servants of state". In its top-secret Green Book, the Pakistan Army has slammed its Generals-turned-rulers and bureaucracy, and praised the Indian babus.

"The political structure of Pakistan could not take roots due to a host of reasons. Where political leadership was unable to charter a course for themselves, a more organised and

trained military bureaucracy started filling in the gaps. This was by no means a sound arrangement but a need of the hour nevertheless," the book says. Although Pakistan praised Ayub Khan's rule for long, Green Book criticises him for indifference and unwilling attitude: "Ayub Khan became a laissez-faire leader towards the end and missed the opportunity to fully exploit his position of power." "General Yahya was known to be a brilliant army offi-

cer but was unable to adapt to complexity of political leadership. He can best be described as an impoverished leader."

Musharraf, a powerful military general and later ruler of Pakistan, also faced criticism by his army's publication. It says that "Musharraf had potential to be a transformational leader but the Prince's Choice of political expediency didn't allow him to go beyond autocracy and consequent strategic haze." There is no love lost between Pakistan's political establishment and army either. Green Book calls the political system immature, noting that the "political leadership has not been able to develop as other streams. Reason for the shortcomings of the political leadership has been the absence within the present political framework of any institutionalised system of checks and balances on the leadership".

Pakistan Rejects US Calls for Curbing Tactical Nuke Weapons

ISLAMABAD— Pakistan's top nuclear security advisor has rejected growing U.S. pressure and safety concerns about its production and deployment of battlefield nuclear weapons. "We are not apologetic about the development of the TNWs [tactical nuclear weapons] and they are here to stay," said Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, an advisor to the so-called National Command Authority (NCA) and a longtime custodian of the country's nuclear arsenal.

The institutions responsible for planning storage and operational deployments do make sure that "it is so balanced on ground in time and space that it is ready to react at the point where it must react and at the same time it is not sucked into the battle too early and remains safe," Kidwai told a seminar at Islamabad's Institute of Strategic Studies.

Response to US : He was apparently responding to last week's testimony before the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee by Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller, where she praised the "excellent" steps Pakistan has undertaken to secure its nuclear arsenal, but said Washington is troubled by the development of battlefield nuclear weapons.

She insisted that battlefield nuclear weapons, by their very nature, pose security threats because their security cannot be guaranteed when they are taken to the field.

"So, we are really quite concerned about this and we have made our concerns known and we will continue to press them about what we consider to be the destabilizing aspects of their battlefield nuclear weapons program,"



Gottemoeller said.

Nuclear Security Summit A: The tensions come ahead of next week's Nuclear Security Summit in Washington (March 31 - April 1), where President Barack Obama and other global leaders will discuss terrorism threats related to radiological weapons and review proposed safety measures. Leaders of Pakistan and its nuclear-armed archival India will also attend.

Islamabad's tactical nuclear weapons have been straining its traditionally roller-coaster ties with Washington since 2011, when Pakistan first tested and began producing its nuclear-capable "Nasr" ballistic missile, which has a range of 60 kilometers (36 miles). Pakistani officials justify their development of tactical nuclear weapons by citing India's so-called "Cold Start" doctrine, which they say is aimed at undertaking a quick, punitive, conventional military strike inside Pakistan. While Pakistan's long-range ballistic missiles can hit anywhere in India, Kidwai insisted the tactical nuclear weapons have been developed to keep the neighboring country's conventionally huge military from imposing a limited conflict on his country for achieving "polit-

ical objectives."

"It compelled us to plug the gap that existed at the tactical level within the nuclear system," the Pakistani advisor asserted. He reiterated Islamabad's "full spectrum" nuclear weapons program is "India-specific" and described the neighboring country as "Pakistan's only enemy."

Pakistan-India rivalry- He criticized decades of U.S.-led international moves to penalize Pakistan for developing the nuclear program while "ignoring" Indian advancements. Kidwai insisted that the punitive actions might have caused political and diplomatic setbacks to his country but said it has not impacted its efforts to defend the country against another Indian aggression. "Pakistan would not cap or curb its nuclear weapons program or accept any restrictions. All attempts in this regard... are bound to end up nowhere," he added. The Pakistani advisor particularly criticized the American media for being "completely negative, hostile and biased" towards Islamabad's nuclear program, accusing it of publishing misleading reports and claims that Pakistan possesses the world's fastest growing nuclear program.

Pakistan smeared in the colours of Holi

Pakistan this year saw Holi celebrations with much more zeal and fervor than it has in the past. The riotous celebration marks the end of winter and the arrival of spring.

People smear each other's faces with brightly hued powder, throw water balloons and spray colored water. Bonfires are lit the night before Holi to mark the victory of good over evil. On Holi day, friends and strangers shower one another



with water and powder, and sweets and home-brewed drinks are shared. A festival popularly celebrated across India, Holi is also celebrated in

its neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal which have histories and cultures coincind with our country. Click through for stunning pictures of Holi celebrations from across these nations. Hindus in Pakistan gather around a bonfire as they take part in celebrations for Holi, at the premises of the Shri Panchmukhi Hanuman Temple in Karachi, Pakistan, March 23, 2016.

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Iran President Dismisses Pakistan's RAW Spy Claim

NEW DELHI: While India has rejected allegations that its former naval officer, arrested in Pakistan, is a RAW agent, cracks began appearing in Islamabad's claims on Saturday with even Iranian President Hassan Rouhani dismissing them as a rumour. It seems Pakistan has fabricated documents on the retired naval officer, Kulbhushan Jadhav, and leaked them without realising glaring loopholes in the same.

A section of the Pakistan media, quoting Balochistan officials, reported that Jadhav was arrested from Chaman border near Afghanistan but officials in Islamabad contradicted it, claiming he was arrested near the Iranian border. India has asked for consular access to assess the facts but Pakistan so far has not agreed to it. Government sources said Jadhav owns



a cargo business in Iran and had been working out of Bandar Abbas and Chabahar ports. "It appears that he strayed into Pakistani waters. But there is also a possibility

that he was lured into Pakistan sometime back and fake documents were created on him in desperate attempts by the ISI, which is facing the heat after its several espionage

Pak of Lies

A LOOK AT THE LOOPHOLES IN PAK'S CLAIMS ON THE ALLEGED RAW AGENT

Baloch officials say Jadhav was arrested from Chaman near Afghan border

Islamabad officials claim he was taken at Iran border

Indian sources suspect Jadhav, who runs cargo business in Iran, was lured into Pakistan

Fake documents created by ISI which is facing the heat after losing several modules in India

[[

I have heard this more than 20 times. Whenever we become close to Pakistan such rumours come up... we also have close relationship with India, thus there is no problem

— HASSAN ROUHANI, Iranian President

Jadhav, who owns a small ship, may have been trapped after Pakistan came to know of his background

from Chaman. Meanwhile, Iran President Hassan Rouhani, who is visiting Pakistan, refuted claims of the Pakistan army that its chief General Raheel Sharif had discussed the alleged RAW involvement in Islamabad's internal affairs with him. His response came after the Pakistan army media wing claimed that General Raheel Sharif had discussed the issue of RAW's involvement in Balochistan with him. Literally snubbing Pakistan, the Iranian President termed RAW involvement in Balochistan a rumour.

"I have heard this more than 20 times. Whenever we become close to Pakistan such rumours come up. We have brotherly relations with Pakistan. We also have a good relationship with India, thus there is no problem," he said at a press conference.



Pakistan SGPC president Sham Singh passes away

Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbhandhak Committee (PSGPC) president Sardar Sham Singh, who put the Sikh shrines and their upkeep on world front, breathed his last on Sunday at the Combined Military Hospital in Lahore. He was not well for the last one month and admitted in the hospital for a prolong illness. He was the first president of the PSGPC, formed by the Pakistan Government in 1998, and was elected for various terms to head the bodies that look after the Sikh shrines spread all over the neighbouring country especially Pakistani Punjab.

India releases 33 Pakistani nationals detained from Jaisalmer

JAISALMER – India on Sunday has released at least 33 Pakistani nationals from their custody, claimed the relatives.

However; two people are still said to be in detention.

At least 35 Pakistani nationals were held by Indian police in the desert state of Rajasthan for having incomplete documents, the Indian media reported on Saturday.

The Pakistani nationals, who entered India through the Thar Desert via Munabav, were detained in Ramdevra District of Rajasthan.

The Indian authorities claimed that they have visa for Mathura and Haridwar but not for Ramdevra. The detained men were plan-



ning to visit the Baba Ramdev Temple where the Samadhi of Baba Ramdev stands.

It is reported that these people belong to Amarkot, Mirpur Khas and Tharparkar of Sindh province in Pakistan.

The arrests took place a day after Pakistan protested to India after capturing

modules were dismantled in India recently," the sources said.

Another official in the security establishment also said Jadhav, who owns a small ship, may

have been trapped by Pakistan authorities after they came to know of his background. They said it could be a planned operation to fabricate documents and later show the arrest

Polio Worker Killed In Pakistan's Tribal Areas

Armed men have gunned down a health official supervising an antipolio drive in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas. The incident occurred on March 26 in the Khyber tribal district, among seven located along the porous border with Afghanistan.

Local officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, told RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal that 40-year-old Akhtar Khan was in his clinic in Khyber's Lwargi area when armed men opened fire and killed him on the spot. Police said one suspect had been arrested. No one so far has claimed responsibility for the attack, but militants in the area have previously threatened and attacked polio workers in the locality. Polio vaccinators are regularly targeted in Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan, in areas outside government control, slowing progress in wiping out the debilitating disease.

Pakistan, Iran to boost security cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Vowing to further strengthen their security cooperation, Pakistan and Iran on Saturday decided to constitute a high level task force for 'identification of areas of mutual concern' and to recommend measures for 'effective redressal of those issues'.

This understanding was reached on Saturday during a meeting between Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan and Abdolreza Rahmani Fazl – interior ministers of the Pakistan and Iran, who will supervise the task force. According to an official statement, the two sides also reaffirmed their commitment to work hand in hand for achieving shared objectives and for ensuring peace and security in the region.

"It was agreed to enhance mutual cooperation in the area of security with greater

INTERIOR MINISTERS' MEETING



interaction among law enforcing agencies (LEAs) and intelligence sharing for effective border management, controlling trans-border crimes, including drugs trafficking and human smuggling," it said. The two leaders discussed the whole gamut of Pakistan-Iran relations, specially focusing on existing level of coop-

eration in the area of security, mechanism of interaction among the LEAs of the two countries, shared challenges and the way forward in removing irritants and further strengthening interaction.

Welcoming the visiting dignitary, Interior Minister Nisar observed that the government and the people of Pakistan

greatly value their friendly ties with Iran that draw their strength not only from the geographical proximity alone but also from our religious and cultural affinities. He said we must never forget that the two countries not only share borders but our concerns and destinies are intertwined and interlinked. "We must never lower our guards against those who will never miss any opportunity to sow the seeds of distrust among the two brotherly countries. We must join hands in neutralising those elements and work hand in hand for peace and socio-economic development of our people," he said.

Nisar underscored the need for further strengthening the existing mechanism for effective monitoring and management of porous Pakistan-Iran border.

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SIGNIFICANCE OF HINDU FESTIVALS

BY PT .R.S.GOONDAR

The Hindu Religion, Sanathan Dharm, philosophy and social behavior which guide them to the vedic way of life. From time to time, religious philosophers and saints have preached people to achieve the objectives of the vedic hindu sanathan dharm. Various religious and social functions are held at the temples, and at homes, where people gather to attain the spiritual knowledge and practice the true sanathan religion.

The Hindu Festivals in Sanathan Dharm play a very important role among the hindus all over the world. All hindu festivals have a deep spiritual and religious significance. Some have even social and hygenic elements in them. In every festival an individual has to do some sort of prayer, kirtan, recitation mantras or meditation. Everyday life people get tired of hard work and monotonous actions. He wants something to cheer him up. These festivals make him cheerful and happy and gives him some rest and peace.

DURGA POOJA

Durga pooja is celebrated in various parts of India and in other parts of the world by hindus in different styles, but one basic aim of this celebration is to propitiate Shakti, the Goddess Durga, in Her aspect as power to bestow upon man, wealth, auspiciousness, prosperity, knowledge, and all the potent powers. Whatever boon one may ask of her

is fulfilled. Everyone is blessed with her loving mercy and protected by her. Durga pooja is held in significance, of the victory of goddess Durga over the buffalo-headed demon, Mahishasura. This celebration is for nine days known as "Durga Navratam Pooja". Durga pooja is a greatest hindu festival in which Goddess is adored as the Mother for all.

All who live away from home return during the pooja days. Mothers reunite with their sons and daughters, and wives with their husbands. Goddess Durga represents the divine Mother. is the energy aspect of the Lord Shiva. Without Durga Shiva has no expression and without Shiva Durga has no existence. Shiva is the soul of Durga. Hinduism is the only religion in the world which has emphasised the motherhood of God. One's relationship with ones mother is the dearest and the sweetest of all human relations. The divine mother is represented as having ten different weapons in her hands, sits on a lion, which attributes Sattwa, Rajas, Tamas, knowledge, peace, lust, anger, greed, egoism and pride are all her forms.

To achieve peace, happiness, and prosperity one must make a total, unreserved and ungrudging self surrender to Her. One must worship her with faith and unflinching devotion to attain complete salvation.

VIJAYA DASHMI OR DUSSERA

The tenth day of worship of the divine Mother Durga is called Vijaya



Dashmi or Dussera, when goddess Durga's visit to her mother ends and she leaves for mount Kailas. Majority of religious preachers and sages have justified and interpreted Dussera as "Dasa-Hara"

which means the cutting of the ten heads of demon signified as passion, pride, anger, greed, infatuation, lust, hatred, jealousy, selfishness and crookedness. So we shall be rightly celebrating Dussera if we make honest effort to destroy the demon of our ego and radiate peace and love wherever we go. So Vijaya Dushmi, marks the triumphant ovation of the soul at having attained liberation and salvation while living in this world by the Durga.

DEEPAVALI

The festival falls between the end of October and the beginning of November every year.

There are various alleged origins attributed to this festival. Some celebrate this festival because Lord Vishnu married Goddess Lakshmi on this auspicious day. Some celebrate it because

Lord Rama return to Ayodhya on this blessed day after defeating Ravan. On this day also Shri Krishna killed the demon Narakasura. Whatever the origin, on this day there is an air of freedom, festivity and friendliness everywhere. It instills charity in the hearts of people. Everyone buys new clothes for the family and employees. The homes and shops are cleaned and illuminated by night with earthen oil lamps. The day is observed as Hindu's New year. Special Poojas are performed to Goddess Mata Maha Lakshmi for peace wealth and prosperity. The significance of Deepavali, the festival of lights, is to illuminate your inner light and fix the mind on this supreme light to enjoy eternal bliss of your soul.

Many Deepavali festivals have come and gone. Yet the hearts of the vast majority are as dark as the night of the new moon. The house is lit with lamps but the heart is full of the darkness. Wake up from the slumber of ignorance. Realize the constant and the eternal light of the soul, which neither rises nor sets through meditation and deep inquiry of the mind. How wonderful the world would be if we all follow this path. Material pleasure lasts momentarily, but spiritual pleasure lasts forever.

HOLI

All great hindu festivals have religious and social elements in them. Holi is no exception. Holi is the great Spring festival for hindus in India and in the

other parts of the World. This religious festival holi has several origins. One when Lord Krishna destroyed demons

Putana and Holika to save the little children. The effigy or figure of Holika is burnt on this day. Another legend is Bhakta Prahlad devotion to Lord Narayan and his subsequent escape from death at the hands of Holika. Prahlad's father, Hirankashyap punished Prahlad in many ways to change his devotion to Lord Narayan. When he failed in all his attempts, he ordered his sister Holika, who had a boon to remain unburnt even in fire, to take Prahlad on her lap and entered the blazing flames of fire. Holika burnt and vanished in the fire but Prahlad remained laughing by the grace of Lord Narayan. The Social element in holi is uniting and embracing of the great and the small, the rich and the poor, are all equal and same. Holi also means "sacrifices" burn all the impurities of the mind, such as egoism, vanity and lust through the fire of devotion and knowledge. Ignite cosmic love, mercy, generosity, truthfulness and purity in our hearts and mind. People play joyfully with colored water, and apply colored powder on each other's faces. Everyone enjoys singing folk songs "choutaals", playing drums and dancing through the streets. The call of Holi is to keep always the blaze of Godly love shining in our hearts. The inner spiritual love

illumination is the Real Holi.
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At the AIM Press Conference held Sunday March 27, 2016, a group of participants heard two guest speakers on how to build a lucrative retirement income through World

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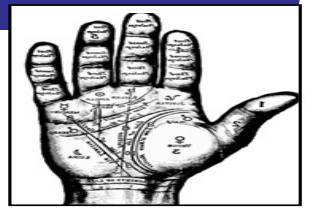
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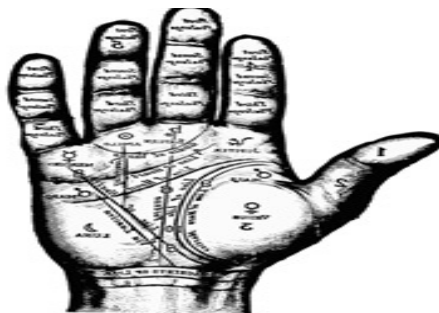
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Smoking Burns Rs.1.04-Trillion Hole in Indian Economy

Mumbai: The World Health Organisation has said the economic burden attributable to tobacco-related diseases is a staggering Rs 1,04,500 crore annually in the country and has pitched for large-size warnings on packs to control tobacco consumption in a cost-effective manner.

"The economic burden attributable to tobacco-related diseases is a staggering Rs. 1,04,500 crore annually in the country, while human cost nearly a million deaths," WHO representative in New Delhi Henk Bekedam said in a statement.

Calling for large and prominent health warnings on the packs of tobacco products, he said past

experiences have shown that this is "a cost-effective means of increasing public awareness about the health effects of tobacco use and in reducing tobacco consumption".

Besides, he termed the ongoing debate on reducing the size of warnings on tobacco products, especially on bidis and smokeless tobacco as "worrysome."

India implemented Article 11 of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) a few years back, but is still not FCTC-compliant for this provision as the tobacco pack warnings occupy only 40 per cent of the principal display area only on one side of the pack –



that makes up 20 per cent of the total display area of the pack.

The Supreme Court is

hearing a bunch of petitions on ordering large size warnings on the packs.

In terms of the health

warnings on tobacco products packages, the country fares very badly with a ranking of 136 out of 198 countries in the international status report on Cigarette Package Health Warnings 2014.

Countries ranked after 143 do not display pictorial health warnings at all.

He warned that "any reduction in the size of pack warnings will be a great setback for public health in the region, as neighboring countries, including Nepal (90 per cent), Thailand (85 per cent), Pakistan (85 per cent), Sri Lanka (80 per cent) and most recently Myanmar (75 per cent) have overcome similar challenges and notified

large pictorial warnings".

As per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey-India (GATS 2010) covering the age group 15 and above, 71 per cent of cigarette smokers notice health warnings on packages and 38 per cent think of quitting because of the warning label.

In case of bidi smokers, as many as 62 per cent of notice health warnings on the packs and 29 per cent think of quitting due to the warning. When it comes to the consumers of smokeless tobaccos, 63 per cent of them notice health warnings on the package and 34 per cent think of quitting due to the warning label, he said.

Indian Economy Cannot Surpass China's GDP: Chinese Daily

BEIJING: India cannot surpass China's GDP despite the "potential" to become a big power, a state-run Chinese daily said today, underlining that "unrealistic" praise and forecasts for India are just giving an "illusory picture".

The higher projections of India's economic growth rate in comparison to China's slowing down economy, has riled the Chinese official media which argues that India is far away in catching up with China's GDP.

"It is inescapably clear that India won't easily outgrow China as predicted by the West. From a macro perspective, China's GDP in 2015 was nearly USD 10.42 trillion, which is around 5 times as much as India's USD 2.18 trillion," an article in the Global Times said. The daily said that it is foreseeable that China's future economic growth rate may slow down slightly, but the possibility of zero and negative growth is "almost nonexistent". "As a result, there is no possibility of India surpassing China," the article



said, adding that "authors in the West never tire of choosing India to compare with China. They seem to consider that India could replace China in the near future."

"It must be admitted that India is a potential big power. But unrealistic praise and forecasts for India are just painting an illusory picture for it," the article said.

It said that though international agencies such as Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and International Monetary Fund (IMF) try to "trumpet" India's advantages, India is not yet a dominant player on the international economic arena, and it has many ingrained problems."

Pointing that India's elec-

tric power, urban water supply, public transport and other infrastructure construction are lagging behind, it said the gap between India and China has not narrowed but expanded after so many years of development. "Most of India's indicators of the level of social development today, such as life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate, power consumption, proportion of rural population and proportion of poverty, still remain at the level of China's at the end of 20th century," it said.

India's last year GDP grew at 7.2 per cent while China's decelerated to 6.9 per cent for the first time in a quarter century.

Indian economy is poised for a turnaround, believes veteran banker KV Kamath

With the \$50 billion BRICS New Development Bank on Saturday signing an agreement for its new headquarters in Shanghai and taking a major step towards disbursing its first loans, the Bank's launch could prove to be a fillip to Prime Minister Narendra Modi plans to boost infrastructure in India by opening up hundreds of millions of dollars of funds for new projects. Starting in April, loans for between 15 and 20 projects in the five BRICS countries will be approved.

A range of projects for India, from solar to roads, have been proposed and are being considered by the bank, KV Kamath, President of the New Development Bank (NDB) and veteran Indian banker, told India Today speaking at the bank's headquarters in Shanghai.

"In the case of India we have a wide variety of projects that are on the slate. We are in discussions which ones we will sequence, such as green energy, solar, water. We have projects in the road sector as well, on a variety of things, and we will

EXCLUSIVE

develop these as we go along," he said.

Kamath says with the developing world needing "about a trillion dollars every year for the next 10 years" and "a large part of that is India itself for its growth needs", multilateral banks such as the NDB could play a key role.

As China's own economy slows, economists say India is facing a crucial opportunity to close the gap on its neighbour particularly in manufacturing. Kamath says India needs to introspect why over the past 10 years it has fallen behind China. "If we look at Chinese GDP in 2000-01, India hit that GDP in 2004-05. Of course as Indians need to introspect as to what happened after in the next 8 or 9 years to put us behind so much. Because we are now looking at a 10 trillion economy here [in China] and somewhere between 2 and 3 trillion economy in India." Despite doubts about the Indian economy, Kamath believes India is poised for a turnaround, drawing a compari-

son to the early 2000s. "If you look, the twin deficits are under control, inflation is under control, I would think that growing at 7.5 per cent with aspiration for 8.5 per cent in immediate future is a good aspiration. Somebody was asking me the mood isn't good. I said the mood also is transitory. There are several ways in which you can get the mood going. If you remember in the year 2000, the very act of investing in a whole lot of instruments at that time quietly got the economy going. If you remember the challenge Indian industry faced in 1995-2000, no one would have given any chance to India at all.

I would think that India is poised at the same spot at this point in time". One of the challenges the government is facing is in securing investment as Public Sector Banks and private sector banks grapple with the problem of weak balance sheets and dealing with bad loans. Ahead of Monday's Budget, the Economic Survey on Saturday termed this twin balance sheet problem as perhaps the government's most critical challenge.

Indian economy to grow 7.7% in 2016-17: ICRA

W DELHI: Rating agency ICRA on Monday projected Indian economic growth to improve to 7.7 per cent in next fiscal, led by domestic consumption demand on the back of implementation of 7th Pay Commission and OROP recommendations.

The agency, in its Macroeconomic Update, however, said that although the fresh project pipeline appears robust, commencement of work will lag announcements, given moderate capacity

utilisation in some sectors.

"A pickup in domestic consumption post the implementation of the Seventh Central Pay Commission's recommendations and One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme for the defence services as well as a potential upturn in rural demand is expected to boost economic growth in FY17," it said.

ICRA said a sizeable portion of the planned rise of Rs 1.2 lakh crore in Plan expenditure in 2016-17 is to be funded through extra-

budgetary sources, progress on which will influence the pace of infrastructure augmentation and economic growth.

"In ICRA's view, Indian economic growth is expected to improve to 7.7 per cent in FY17," the report said.

Indian economy is estimated to have grown 7.6 per cent in current fiscal. As per official projection, growth is likely to be between 7-7.75 per cent in 2016-17. As regards project activity, it said

announcements of new project in October-December quarter of current fiscal stood at Rs 1.2 lakh crore, concentrated in electricity, machinery, transport equipment, transport services and miscellaneous services. "Value of revived projects improved to a four quarter high of Rs 40,000 crore in the third quarter of FY16, while remaining low; facilitation of clearances, lower input costs for firms are not sufficient to revive investment plans in the absence of a

pickup in demand," it said.

Project completion declined by 12.8 per cent on a year-on-year basis to Rs 80,000 crore in third quarter of current fiscal, which was dominated by electricity, transport services, construction and real estate. "A limited Rs 20,000 crore of projects stalled in the third quarter, smaller than the value of revived projects after a gap of 30 quarters," ICRA said. It said structural issues continue to affect a considerable portion of the exist-

ing project pipeline. More than two-thirds of the projects of Rs 32.2 lakh crore submitted to the Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI) are concentrated in the power, steel and petroleum and natural gas sectors.

As regards government finances, the report said five rounds of hikes in excise duty on fuels have taken place since November 2015 to boost tax revenues by Rs 17,000 crore in last five months of this fiscal.

TRADITIONALLY THERE USED TO BE 'BAISAKHI MELA' WHICH MEANS A CARNIVAL AND THIS IS STILL FOLLOWED IN MANY VILLAGES IN PUNJAB. THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS TO ENJOY THERE INCLUDING DIFFERENT TYPES OF SWINGS, TASTY AND SPICY FOOD ITEMS AND DANCE PERFORMANCES AS WELL.

Baisakhi is one of the most popular festivals celebrated in the vibrant state of Punjab to mark the harvest of Rabi crops. The festival of Baisakhi also has tremendous religious significance for the predominant Sikh population of the state as it is was on a Baisakhi Day in 1699 that Guru Gobind Singh - the revered Tenth Guru of Sikhs laid the foundation of Khalsa Panth.

Festival of Baisakhi is usually celebrated on April 13, but once in every 36 years the festival is celebrated on April 14. Joyful people of Punjab celebrate Baisakhi with exuberance and gaiety. Highpoint of Baisakhi celebrations is the performance of the traditional Bhangra and Gidda dance and the special langar served at Gurudwaras.

BAISAKHI FESTIVAL

Baisakhi is one of the major festivals of Sikhs and is celebrated with lot of enthusiasm and gaiety in the state of Punjab and all throughout the world where there is a significant Sikh population. For the large farming community of Punjab, Baisakhi Festival marks the time for harvest of rabi crops and they celebrate the day by performing joyful bhangra and gidda dance. For the Sikh community, Baisakhi Festival has tremendous religious significance as it was on a Baisakhi Day in 1699, that Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru laid the foundation of Panth Khalsa-the Order of the Pure Ones.

DATE OF BAISAKHI

Baisakhi Festival falls on the first day of Vaisakh month (April-May) according to Nanakshahi or Sikh Calendar. For this reason, Baisakhi is also popularly known as Vaisakhi. According to English calendar, the date of Baisakhi corresponds to April 13 every year and April 14 once in every 36 years. This difference in Baisakhi dates is due to the fact that day of Baisakhi is reckoned according to solar calendar and not the lunar calendar. The auspicious date of Baisakhi is celebrated all over India under different names and different set of rituals and celebrations. Baisakhi date coincides with 'Rongali Bihu' in

Festival of Baisakhi



Assam, 'Naba Barsha' in Bengal, Puthandu in Tamil Nadu and 'Pooram Vishu' in Kerala.

BAISAKHI CELEBRATIONS

People of Punjab celebrate the festival of Baisakhi with exuberance and devotion. As the festival has tremendous importance in Sikh religion, major activities of the day are organized in Gurudwaras. People wake up early to prepare for the day. Many also take bath in the holy river to mark the auspicious occasion. After getting ready people pay a visit to their neighbourhood gurdwara and take part in the special prayer meeting organized for the day. At the end of the Baisakhi ardas, congregates receive specially prepared Kara prasad or sweetened semolina. This is followed by a guru ka langar or community lunch. Later, during the day people of Sikh faith take out a Baisakhi procession under the leadership of Panj piaras. The procession moves through the major localities of the city amidst the rendition of devotional songs by the participating

men, women and children. Mock duels, bhangra and gidda performances make the procession joyous and colourful.

CELEBRATIONS BY FARMERS

For the large farming community of Punjab and Haryana, Baisakhi marks a New Year's time as it is time to harvest rabi crop. On Baisakhi, farmers thank god for the bountiful crop and pray for good times ahead. People buy new clothes and make merry by singing, dancing and enjoying the best of festive food.

Cries of "Jatta aai Baisakhi", rent the skies as gaily men and women break into the bhangra and gidda dance to express their joy. Everyday farming scenes of sowing, harvesting, winnowing and gathering of crops are expressed through zestful movements of the body to the accompaniment of ballads and dhol music. In several villages of Punjab Baisakhi Fairs are organized where besides other recreational activities, wrestling bouts are also

After the death of Guru Teg Bahadur, his son, Guru Gobind Singh became the next Guru of the Sikhs. Guru Gobind Singh wished to instill courage and strength to sacrifice among his fellow men. To fulfil his dream, Guru Gobind Singh called on the historic Baisakhi Day congregation of Sikhs at Keshgarh Sahib near Anandpur on March 30, 1699.

When thousands of people assembled for Guru's blessing, Guru Gobind Singh came out of the tent carrying an unsheathed sword. He gave a powerful speech to infuse courage amongst fellowmen. At the end of the speech he said that every great deed was preceded by equally great sacrifice and demanded that anyone prepared to give his life come forward. On the Guru's third call, a young man offered himself. The Guru took the man inside a tent and reappeared alone with a bloodied sword. Guru Gobind Singh asked for another volunteer. This was repeated another four times until a total of five Sikhs had gone into the tent with the Guru. Everyone present was worried and though that Guru Gobind Singh has killed five Sikhs. At this point Guru presented all the five men before the people. Every one present was surprised to see all five men alive and wearing turbans and saffron-coloured garments.



held.

HISTORY OF BAISAKHI

Baisakhi or Vaisakhi Festival is celebrated as the Sikh New Year and the founding of the Khalsa Panth. History of Baisakhi traces its origin from the Baisakhi Day celebrations of 1699 organized by the Tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh to form Khalsa - Brotherhood of Saint Soldiers to fight against tyranny and oppression.

STORY OF BAISAKHI

The story of Baisakhi Festival began with the martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru who was publicly beheaded by the Aurungzeb, the Mughal ruler. Aurungzeb wanted to spread Islam in India and Guru Teg Bahadur stood up for the rights of Hindus and Sikhs and the Mughals therefore saw him as a threat.

ment of the Guru himself. With the constitution of the Panj Pyare the high and low castes were amalgamated into one as among the original Panj Pyare, there was one Khatri, shopkeeper; one Jat, farmer; one Chhimba, calico printer; one Ghumar, water-carrier; and one Nai, a barber. The Guru gave the surname of Singh (Lion) to every Sikh and also took the name for himself. From Guru Gobind Rai he became Guru Gobind Singh. This was seen as a great step in national integration because society at that time was divided on the basis of religion, caste and social status.

Guru Gobind Singh also bestowed on Khalsa, the unique Sikh identity. He directed Sikhs to wear five K's: Kesh or long hair, Kangha or comb, Kripan or dagger, Kachha or shorts and a Kara or bracelet. Guru Gobind Singh also discontinued the tradition of Gurus and asked all Sikhs to accept the Grantha Sahib as their eternal guide. He urged them to come to him with their hair and beard unshorn to get baptized by the sword.

LEGENDS OF BAISAKHI

There are various legends associated with the colourful and vibrant festival of Baisakhi. A study of these interesting legends of Baisakhi reveal that the day of Baisakhi is significant not just for Sikhs but also for Hindus and Buddhists alike. Besides, it is joyous to note that as a harvest festival, people of all communities in Punjab celebrate Baisakhi in a harmonious manner.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Baisakhi Festival marks the time for the harvest of Rabi crops and is therefore celebrated with utmost joy and enthusiasm in the state of Punjab where agriculture is the predominant occupation of the people. To celebrate the occasion, people dress themselves gaily and perform the joyful bhangra and gidda dance on the tune of the dhol. Farmers in Punjab celebrate Baisakhi Festival to hilt by feasting and merrymaking before they hit on tiring but joyful task of harvesting from the next day.

Bangladesh does not lose because of trade gap with India : Tofail

"How do we lose (by importing)?" he asked while speaking at a session on trade and connectivity at Bangladesh-India cooperation conference on Sunday. Bangladesh Itihas Sammilani organised the conference in Dhaka with the Kolkata-based Center for East and Northeast Regional Studies at Bangla Academy. Tofail said nobody discusses the trade gap with China. "Everyone talks about India".

He said Bangladesh imports cotton and fabrics from India and use it for

our export-oriented apparel industry. "From where can we import, if it's not India? Uzbekistan is an option, but it is too far. That would increase the price".

"We don't have the capacity to export, despite India's duty-free access to Bangladesh," he said, asking the critics to be "realistic". Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue Prof Mustafizur Rahman also said that he did not find any problem in the trade gap with India.

He said Bangladesh could not take the advantage of the India's huge



\$448 billion import market, despite duty free privileges. The share of Bangladesh's exports in the global import of India

was a mere 0.1 percent in the 2014-15 fiscal, according to Rahman.

"When Indian investors come to Bangladesh, the

situation will change as they will be exporting from here," he said referring to the government's move of two special economic zones dedicated for India.

He said Bangladesh must do its best to take advantage of the emerging opportunities in the Indian market by doing proper "homework".

Former Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty who served between 1999 and 2002 in Dhaka, said India has \$50 billion trade gap with China. "But we are not cry-

ing in New Delhi for this". "India is a huge market. All countries want to do business here. Bangladesh must compete with the international market," he said. He said as for as Bangladesh is concerned, there is no change in Indian policy when the regime changes in New Delhi. He, however, suggested reconnecting all the historic connectivity points that existed before Partition. Academics, security experts and former diplomats of both countries attended the conference.

Take 100 MWs of power, give 10 Gbps Internet speed: India-Bangladesh deal

India on Wednesday began supplying electricity to Bangladesh in return for internet bandwidth that will help connect its North-Eastern states, a move that Prime Minister Narendra Modi described as historic.

India will supply 100 megawatt of electricity in return for 10 gigabits per second internet bandwidth. Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina launched the twin links through video conference.

"In my opinion this is an historic occasion," Modi said as he nudged Dhaka to join the space cooperation with India. India, he said, is marching shoulder-to-

shoulder with Bangladesh in its progress and today is the opening of a new chapter, he said. "In an era of inter-dependent world, the two nations have further strengthened their ties," he said. Hasina said: "The relation between the countries has further consolidated through the supply of power and Internet bandwidth."

As much as 100 MW of power will be supplied to Bangladesh from Tripura. PowerGrid Corporation of India Ltd has erected 400 KV d/c line from Suryamaninagar (Agartala) to the Indian border while its Bangladeshi counterpart, PowerGrid Corporation of

Bangladesh Ltd has laid a line from there to Comilla.

Simultaneously, a new gateway to give broadband connectivity to North-East states via Bangladesh was also opened.

"We have gateways in west and south but entire east was untouched. As part of my Act East policy, this gateway in the east is very important. The opening of eastern gateway in association with Bangladesh will bring connectivity to eastern region particularly Assam, Tripura and Sikkim," Modi said. Prime Minister said previously road connectivity between Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Bhutan had been initiated.

"Today we are doing electricity and digital connectivity... we have to cooperate in space too. It is our desire that Bangladesh joins India in space satellite mission too," he said.

"Bangladesh would observe its National day on March 26 and I pay my respect to the memory of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh. The era of good relations began during the time of 'Bangabandhu' between the two countries which still continues," said Modi. He was referring to 'Bangabandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding leader of Bangladesh and father of Hasina, saying he shared close bonds with India.

Indian president greets Bangladesh

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee has extended his greetings and felicitations to the government and people of Bangladesh on the occasion of 45th Independence and National Day, hoping the ties between Bangladesh and India to scale new heights. In a message to his Bangladesh counterpart Abdul Hamid, the Indian president said: "On behalf of the government, the people of India and on my own behalf, it gives me immense pleasure to extend warm felicitations and best wishes to you and to the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of your National Day." Mukherjee said the bilateral relations between

India and Bangladesh have grown tremendously over the past few years, according to Press Information Bureau of India. "I am confident that this relationship between our two countries will continue to expand and that our interaction and cooperation will scale new heights," the message reads. On this day in 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared independence of Bangladesh through EPR wireless at 00-30 hours on March 26, the night following March 25 from his Dhanmondi 32 house. The great leader also called upon the people to build a united resistance against the occupation forces.

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A Revived Challenge to Islam as Bangladesh's State Religion Goes to Court

DHAKA, Bangladesh — It came as a surprise to Serajul Islam Choudhury, a retired English professor, to learn that his petition to drop Islam as Bangladesh's state religion would finally be heard in court on Sunday.

For one thing, he filed the petition 28 years ago. Of the 15 friends who had signed, 10 were dead.

Back in 1988, old-school secular elites like Mr. Choudhury and his friends warned that naming Islam the state religion would set the country on a slide toward fundamentalism. But the country's military leadership, eager for the populist boost it got from passing a constitutional amendment that year to make Islam's status official, shrugged off their worries. The petition went nowhere.

This month, Bangladesh's Supreme Court announced that the petition would at last be heard. That decision came at a delicate time: The leadership of the governing

party, the Awami League, has committed to defending secular values, and anxiety prompted by a series of extremist attacks has been rising.

The petition has served as a test of public sentiment in Bangladesh, where passionate splits over the role of Islam date to the 1971 war for independence from Pakistan. Officials acknowledged nervousness as the court date approached. After prayers on Friday, Islamic groups held protests calling for the hearing to be canceled.

"This hearing will be a blow against peace, it will be a blow against law and order," said Mufti Fayeazullah, the joint secretary general of Hefazat-e-Islam, a religious movement that helped organize the rallies. "The Muslims of this country will not stand for it. Their conscience would not allow it."

Mufti Fayeazullah, like many older Islamic leaders in Bangladesh, rejects the notion that Bangladesh risks slipping into extrem-



Thousands of Muslim devotees rallied in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, on Friday to denounce a court petition seeking to remove Islam as the country's state religion

ism. He said the petition had been put forward by atheists.

"I don't like this term 'moderate' Islam," he said. "Islam is Islam. It is the way it always was. It will remain this way until the day of judgment."

Article 2a of Bangladesh's Constitution, which names Islam as the "state religion," has little practical effect. About 90 percent of Bangladeshis

are Muslim; 8.5 percent are Hindu, with tiny Buddhist and Christian minorities. Since 2009, when the Awami League took power, the Supreme Court has taken steps to shore up secular values. It reinstated Article 12 of the Constitution, which lays out "the ideal of secularism" and dates to 1972. In 2011, the court recommended reviving Mr. Choudhury's petition.

The past year has brought rising fears about Sunni Muslim extremism in Bangladesh, as domestic militant networks appeared to regroup after a period of inactivity. Six writers and intellectuals who campaigned against Islam were killed in 2015, most of them hacked to death with machetes.

In the fall came signs that the militant cells were shifting their focus, targeting Hindu priests, Christian converts and Shiite mosques. Since then, a series of attacks have been claimed by the Islamic State extremist group on social media sites. Officials deny that the organization has a presence inside the country.

Alok Sen, a Hindu activist in the Faridpur District, said religious minorities felt more vulnerable than at any time in his memory.

"I've been an activist for many years now," he said. "I've taken part in a lot of campaigns to promote the rights of religious minori-

ties, but I was never attacked. Today I no longer feel safe. Make of that what you will."

Mr. Choudhury, 79, said the rise in violence was linked to the decision to declare Islam the state religion. "It changed the whole atmosphere of the country," he said. "It gives a kind of impunity to those who act in the name of Islam. People have over the years gotten away with a lot in the name of religion, and it has led us to last year's murders."

Nerves were raw this week as the court date approached. The country's attorney general, Mahbubey Alam, said he planned to argue on Sunday for postponing further action on the petition, saying the circumstances were too contentious. He said he saw no connection between the rise in extremist violence and Islam's status as the country's official religion.

"There will always be some people trying to create havoc," he said.

Bangladesh protests over killing of teenager in Comilla

Hundreds of protesters in Bangladesh have blocked a key intersection in the capital, Dhaka, over the killing of a student in a military area.

Sohagi Jahan Tonu, 19, was found dead in high security military zone in the city of Comilla on Sunday.

There are widespread rumours that she was raped, although results from her autopsy have not been released.

Students have formed

human chains at sites across Comilla and Dhaka, demanding police find the killers.

Demonstrators gathered at the Shahbagh intersection on Friday evening, with some protesters reportedly saying they would blockade the area for an "indefinite period".

While violent crime is a serious problem in Bangladesh, correspondents say it is unusual for someone to be killed in a secured military cantonment.



The Mystery of Bangladesh's Missing Millions

HACKERS TRIED TO STEAL \$1 BILLION LAST MONTH FROM THE COUNTRY'S ACCOUNT AT THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK. NOW, OFFICIALS ARE TRYING TO TRACE \$81 MILLION.

It wasn't a conventional heist. No masked robbers with guns. No large sacks of cash. In February, someone—or more likely, a group—tried to steal almost \$1 billion from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, out of an account Bangladesh uses for international settlements. The thieves got away with \$81 million, and it's being called one of the biggest heists in history.

For the past two weeks, bank employees, an ambassador, and businessmen, have all testified at a Senate hearing in the Philippines, where the money ended up. Until recently, little was known about who orchestrated

the heist. But on Tuesday, investigators in the Philippines filed criminal complaints against two men: a businessman who organizes casino gambling trips and the president of a casino.

It's unclear how long thieves had planned the heist, but some of the accounts at the Filipino bank used to steal the money were created in May 2015. On the first Friday in February, hackers bombarded the New York Fed with dozens of requests to transfer nearly \$1 billion to accounts across the world. The Bangladeshi weekend begins on Friday—as does much of the Muslim world's—so it wasn't until



Sunday, when employees at the Bangladesh Bank began their workweek, that they saw messages from the Fed asking to confirm some of the enormous transfers. The Bangladesh Bank's messaging system

was reportedly broken, so employees tried to reach the Fed by fax and email. But it was still the weekend in the U.S., so it was only on Monday that the true scale of the heist became clear.

Getting Indian visa a 'humiliation' for Bangladeshis, says Muntassir Mamoon

"We don't want to go to India," he said at a conference on Bangladesh-India cooperation on Sunday, where he painted a rosy picture of bilateral relations except on visa and border issues.

FBCCI president Abdul Matlub Ahmad, however, challenged Mamoon's allegations and said India have eased its visa regime for Bangladeshis now. "So please visit India," he quipped. Bangladesh Ithas Sammilani, of which

Mamoon is the President organised the conference with the Kolkata-based Center for East and Northeast Regional Studies at Bangla Academy on Sunday.

Mamoon, speaking at a brief inaugural session, said both countries were on the same track in improving bilateral relations, saying that has led to resolution of contentious issues that were hanging fire for decades. He was, however, scathing in his attack on



Indian visa. "Except India, we don't need to pay bribe for getting visa in any other countries".

"Without paying Tk 4,000 or Tk 5,000, Indian visa cannot be secured," he said. "This is the kind of humiliation that we don't suffer in getting even US visa". Mamoon also termed the border killings "unacceptable" and said it was "still happening despite the Indian prime minister's directives not to shoot on the India-Bangladesh bor-

der".

Matlub Ahmad who was the founder president of India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries said that the visa problem was a story of the past when "people have to buy bricks to line up for visa". "But now the visa regime has been changed. We business people are getting five-year multiple entry visa. Tourists are getting one-year multiple visa. E-token system has been lifted for all, except for

tourists," he said.

He told those who face problems getting Indian visa to contact him. "But please visit India," he said, stressing the need of people-to-people contact in bilateral relations.

He, however, suggested Indian government to allow all port entries while issuing visas in the spirit of Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) agreement. Currently, one or two ports are being mentioned in the visa.

FBI Reveals New Details About Its Probe Into Hillary Clinton's Use of Private Email Server

Continues from page-1
between the FBI and the State Department relating to the FBI's ongoing investigation of Clinton's use of a private email server, which stored all of the official government emails Clinton sent and received during her tenure as Secretary of State. But the FBI, which consulted with attorneys within its Office of General

Counsel "who are providing legal support to the pending investigation," cannot divulge any of them without "adversely affecting" the integrity of its investigation.

Some of the documents at issue concern "server equipment and related devices obtained from former Secretary Clinton," Hardy said. The documents "consist of memoranda from

the FBI to the Department of State regarding evidence. The purpose of these communications with the Department of State was to solicit assistance in furtherance of the FBI's investigation."

VICE News sought a wide-range of records from the FBI last December related to Clinton's private email server. Specifically, we

asked the FBI for any emails and other documents retrieved from her server, thumb drive, and any other electronic equipment that has not been publicly disclosed; any correspondence and other documents between the FBI and Clinton or her representatives; correspondence between the FBI and the State Department about Clinton's

server; and any documents memorializing authorizations granted to the FBI to disclose to the media what the bureau seized from her server. In his declaration, Hardy said the FBI does not have any documents showing that the bureau communicated with Clinton or her aides nor does the FBI have any records about disclosures to the media. The FBI

has asked US District Court Judge Randolph Moss to dismiss VICE News' FOIA lawsuit on grounds that the documents it does have about Clinton's private email server are located in files pertaining to a pending investigation that is exempt from disclosure because their release would interfere with active law enforcement proceedings.

North Korea nukes Washington on video, threatens South Korea

North Korea released a new propaganda video on Saturday showing a nuclear strike on Washington and then threatened South Korea with a "merciless military strike" for slandering leader Kim Jong-Un. Pyongyang has been ramping up the bellicose rhetoric and propaganda for weeks, since the launch of annual South Korea-US war games that it views as provocative rehearsals for invasion.

Seoul and Washington made the already large-scale joint drills bigger than ever this year in response to the North's nuclear test in January and long-range rocket launch a month later. Menacingly titled "Last Chance", the video released shows a submarine-launched nuclear missile laying waste to Washington and concludes with the US flag in flames. The four-minute video romps through the history of US-Korean relations and ends with a digitally manip-



ulated sequence showing a missile surging through clouds, swerving back to Earth and slamming down in front of Washington's Lincoln Memorial. The US Capitol building explodes in the impact and a message flashes up on the screen in Korean: "If US imperialists budge an inch toward us, we will immediately hit them with nuclear (weapons)." The North has issued similar videos in the past, including one in 2013 showing the White House in a sniper's crosshairs and

the Capitol building exploding in a fireball. The latest offering was published on the North's propaganda website DPRK Today and shows images from the Korean War, the capture of US spy ship Pueblo in 1968 and the first crisis over North Korea's nuclear programme in the early 1990s.

North Korea has been pushing to acquire a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) capability which would take its nuclear strike threat to a

new level, allowing deployment far beyond the Korean peninsula and the potential to retaliate in the event of a nuclear attack. It has conducted a number of what it says were successful tests of an SLBM, but experts have questioned the claim, suggesting Pyongyang had gone little further than a "pop-up" test from a submerged platform. Tensions always rise on the Korean peninsula during the annual South-US military exercises, but have reached a particularly elevated level this year. That is partly due to the nuclear test and the UN sanctions that followed, but also because of the first-time inclusion in the drills of an operation that envisages strikes to "decapitate" North Korea's top leadership. Pyongyang has taken that as a direct threat to leader Kim Jong-Un and responded with increasingly abusive personal attacks on South Korean President Park Geun-Hye.

NATO's chief to meet Obama in April

US President Barack Obama will meet NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg next month to discuss a range of issues including the progress made to "destroy" Islamic State terror outfit. Obama will host Stoltenberg at the White House on April 4 and will reaffirm that the US stands together with NATO in the wake of the horrific terrorist attacks that struck Brussels, Belgium, the site of

NATO Headquarters on Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest said.

"The President looks forward to discussing with Secretary General Stoltenberg the progress Allies are making in the international effort to degrade and destroy ISIL, as well as the important role NATO is playing in alleviating the refugee and migrant crisis spurred in part by the terrorist group," Earnest said.



Bernie Sanders crushes Clinton in Alaska, Washington and Hawaii caucuses

Bernie Sanders appeared headed to victory margins of more than 50 percentage points in both Alaska and Washington, and led by about 40 points in Hawaii with some 90 percent of the results tallied there.

Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders easily won nominating contests in Alaska, Washington and Hawaii on Saturday, chipping away at front-runner Hillary Clinton's commanding lead in the race to pick the party's candidate for the White House. Sanders still faces a steep climb to overtake Clinton but the big victories in the West generated more momentum for his upstart campaign and could stave off calls from Democratic leaders that he should wrap up his bid in the name of party unity.

Sanders appeared headed to victory margins of more than 50 percentage points in both Alaska

and Washington, and led by about 40 points in Hawaii with some 90 percent of the results tallied there.

"We are making significant inroads in Secretary Clinton's lead and ... we have a path to victory," Sanders told cheering, chanting supporters in Madison, Wisconsin. "It is hard for anybody to deny that our campaign has the momentum." Clinton, the former secretary of state, has increasingly turned her attention toward a potential Nov. 8 general election showdown against Republican front-runner Donald Trump, claiming she is on the path to wrapping up the nomination. Heading into Saturday, she led Sanders by about 300 pledged delegates in the race for the 2,382 delegates needed to be nominated at the party's July convention in Philadelphia. Adding in the support of superdelegates — party leaders who are free to



back any candidate — she has 1,690 delegates to 946 for Sanders. Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, needs to win up to two-thirds of the remaining delegates to catch Clinton, who will keep piling up delegates even when she loses under a Democratic Party system that awards them proportionally in all states. "These wins will help him raise more funds for the next few weeks but I don't think it changes the overall equation," said Democratic strategist Jim

Manley, a Clinton supporter. "Hillary Clinton has too big a lead." But Sanders has repeatedly said he is staying in the race until the convention, pointing to big crowds at his rallies and high turnout among young and first-time voters as proof of his viability. After raising \$140 million, he has the money to fight on as long as he wants. MESSAGE RESONATES He has energized the party's liberal base and young voters with his calls to rein in Wall Street and fight

income inequality, a message that resonated in liberal Washington and other Western states. Sanders won in Utah and Idaho this week. "Don't let anybody tell you we can't win the nomination or the general election," Sanders told supporters in Wisconsin, which holds the next contest on April 5. "We are going to do both." All three contests on Saturday were caucuses, a format that has favored Sanders because it requires more commitment from voters. They also were in states with fewer of the black and Hispanic voters who have helped fuel Clinton's lead. "He was just more aligned with my values. I am young and I never knew there could be someone like him in politics," said Samantha Burton of Seattle, who said Sanders was the first candidate who had inspired her to make a donation. Jocelyn Alt, a birthing assistant at a Seattle hospital, said she backed

Clinton because she believed the times called for someone who could get things done. "She knows how to make things happen," she said. "I think Hillary is more likely to win against a Republican." After Wisconsin, the Democratic race moves to contests in New York on April 19 and a bloc of five states in the Northeast, led by Pennsylvania, on April 26. There were no contests on Saturday in the Republican race featuring Trump and rivals US Senator Ted Cruz of Texas and Ohio Governor John Kasich. On Saturday, the New York Times published a lengthy foreign policy-focused interview with Trump. The New York billionaire told the newspaper he might stop oil purchases from Saudi Arabia unless they provide troops to fight the Islamic State. Trump also told the Times he was willing to rethink traditional US alliances should he become president.

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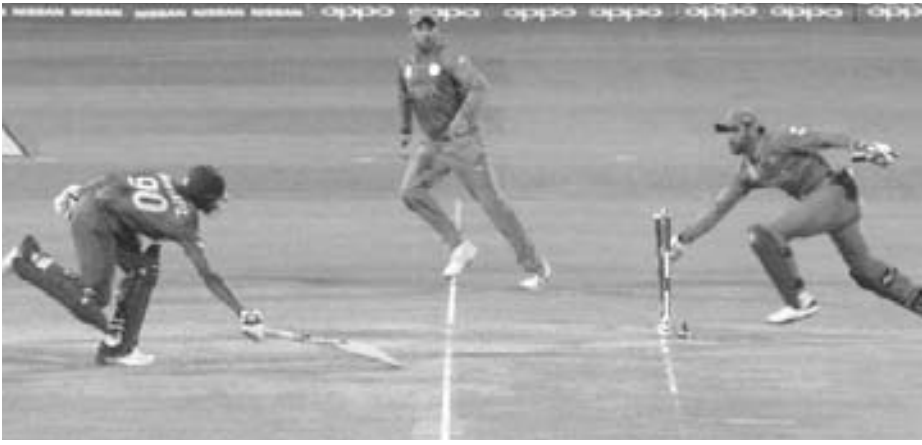
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Dhoni's final act: Sprinted like a gazelle, pounced like a tiger

Leading a cricket team may not be rocket science but India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni proved it involves a bit of physics in Wednesday's World Twenty20 heartstopper against Bangladesh.

With Bangladesh needing two runs to humble their 'Big Brother' off the final delivery from Hardik Pandya, Dhoni made a masterstroke tactical decision following another brain-storming session that marked the late stages of India's defence of a below-par total in a contest crucial to their semi-final hopes. Ideas flew in, mostly from paceman Ashish Nehra who had exhausted his quota but was eager to make sure the team benefits from his 17 years' experience of international cricket. Dhoni weighed his options before asking Pandya to bowl a back-of-the-length delivery having calculated how much time non-striker Mustafizur Rahman might take to complete a single to level the scores. "We didn't want to bowl a yorker, it had to be a back-of-the-length delivery. But how much back-of-the-length? That

was the question," the Indian captain explained after his team prevailed by the slimmest of margins. "You don't want to bowl a wide and by the time it travels to the keeper, the batsman has an opportunity to take one more run." "I think his (Pandya's) execution of the last delivery was fantastic."

With Pandya at the top of his mark, Dhoni resumed his place behind the stumps and removed his right glove to throw should there be a bye.

Pandya bowled a wide back-of-length delivery that beat Shuvagata Hom's bat and reached Dhoni who sprinted more like a gazelle than a 34-year-old at the twilight of his career and, ball in palm, thrust his fist into the stumps to run out Mustafizur. An element of luck often clinches such close contests but it was probably his captaincy that sealed India's win in the Group Two nail-biter.

Needing 17 runs off the last two overs with four wickets in hand and the well-established Mahmudullah and former captain Mushfiqur Rahim at the crease, Bangladesh stood on the verge of a famous win.

India's senior bowlers Nehra and Ravichandran Ashwin had bowled out and Jasprit Bumrah was low on confidence, having dropped a catch and conceded 26 runs in his first three overs. A pep talk from his captain and Bumrah sent down a tidy over which left Bangladesh needing 11 off the last six deliveries. "I won't like to share what I said but definitely it worked," Dhoni said of his chat with the pacer. Dhoni took almost an eternity to set his field for the final over and tinkered with it after almost every delivery, making sure the better athletes manned the fence. "I knew that once 20th over started, you can take as much time as possible, you can't get fined for it. I had the luxury of spending a bit of time," he said. Nine runs, however, came off the first three balls and put Bangladesh on the verge of victory before things went horribly wrong for them. Mushfiqur and Mahmudullah fell to successive deliveries, trying to seal the win with big shots, before Dhoni out-sprinted Mustafizur as three wickets fell in the last three balls.

World T20 : India beat Aussies by 6 wickets to Kohli-fy for semis

Every time India have stumbled into trouble this season, they have looked up to one man --- Virat Kohli. On Sunday night, his magnificent form and sheer determination once again carried India past some doubts and plenty of pressure as the hosts beat Australia to seal their World Twenty20 semi-final berth.

India's master of chases had wrapped up the emotional victory over Pakistan at the Eden Gardens, but played an even bigger innings, his unbeaten 82 off 51 balls forcing the Aussies into submission at the Punjab Cricket Association stadium. India will face West Indies in the semi-final in Mumbai on March 31 while New Zealand play England the previous day in Delhi.

In Kohli and skipper Dhoni, India have two consistent match winners and when push came to shove and the hosts needed to win the virtual quarterfinal, the duo once again guided the team home. Australia had scored a solid 160 for six after electing to bat first and the final flurry of shots from Kohli saw India race to 161 for four in 19.1 overs.

Such has been the nature of wickets on which India have played so far that this was the first time in this event that India were chasing in excess of 150.

Openers Rohit Sharma (12) and Shikhar Dhawan (13) again perished after getting starts while Suresh Raina (10) also succumbed to his old frailty --- fending a short ball. Tottering at 49 for 3, it looked an uphill task for India.

They were in further trouble



when Yuvraj Singh twisted his ankle, and despite being in pain he stuck around long enough hobbling on one leg to raise 45 for the fourth wicket along with Kohli.

As Dhoni walked in at the fall of Yuvi, the equation stood at 67 off the last six overs. It was Kohli who took over the responsibility of scoring runs quickly. Soon after reaching his second fifty of the event in 39 balls, he opened up and targeted James Faulkner. Faulkner was hammered for 19 off the 18th over. With the equation down to 20 off two overs, Kohli wasn't finished. He hit four boundaries in the 19th over bowled by paceman Nathan Coulter-Nile to bring India to within sight of victory. In the end, Kohli, unbeaten on 82 (9x4, 2x6), along with Dhoni (14 no), helped India reach home with much to spare. Australia were off to a rousing start with Usman Khawaja and Aaron Finch going after the

bowling. Skipper Steve Smith couldn't have hoped for a better start as the openers raised 52 off just 3.4 overs. Jasprit Bumrah conceded 17 runs in his first over with Khawaja carting the bowler for four boundaries.

An over later, it was the turn of Ravichandran Ashwin to go for runs. As 22 came off Ashwin's first over, Australia looked unstoppable. But Ashish Nehra provided the first breakthrough when he had Khawaja caught behind for 26 off 19 balls. After this the Indian bowlers, both pace and spin, managed to pull things back.

Hardik Pandya picked up the crucial wickets of Finch and later James Faulkner to finish with 2 for 36. Nehra (1 for 20), Ravindra Jadeja (0 for 20) and Yuvraj Singh (1 for 19) kept things tight. Shane Watson and Peter Nevill hit a couple of balls out of the park to help Australia cross 150. But it proved well short in the end.

ICC should investigate India-Bangladesh match, says former Pakistan spinner Tauseef Ahmed

Tauseef Ahmed said he could see no cricketing logic for the way Bangladesh gifted the match to India in the final over. Former Pakistan spinner Tauseef Ahmed says the ICC anti-corruption and security unit need to probe the World T20 match between India and Bangladesh since the result looks suspicious. The 57-year old, who played 34 Tests and 70 ODIs, said he could see no cricketing logic for the way Bangladesh gifted the match to India in the final over. "The way the match ended it just does not feel right to me. I think it needs to be investigated by the authorities including the ICC," he told Geo Super channel. Bangladesh lost the match in the final ball, needing two runs to win from three balls with wickets in hand. Three wickets

fell in as many balls. Bangladesh is now not an inexperienced side. They had experienced players at the crease. I don't understand how they could not first opt to tie the match and try for a big hit," he said. Tauseef, who is also head coach of the Pakistan A team and was also on the coaching staff of the Islamabad United side which recently won the Pakistan Super League, said his experience tells him that something was not right. "I don't know what to say. Best if the ICC looks into the match and holds an inquiry. Look everyone knows things do happen nowadays in cricket matches so nothing wrong in looking into the match," he added. The final ball win allowed India to stay alive in the World T20 semi-final contention race.



Afghanistan's Top Electoral Official Resigns

Afghanistan's top electoral official has resigned, in a move that could complicate efforts to organize parliamentary elections for later this year. Ahmad Yusuf Nuristani, the head of the Independent Election Commission (IEC), stepped down on March 26. A spokesman for the IEC said he had resigned in the "national interest." President Afghan Ghani accepted his resignation. Nuristani had repeatedly accused the government of meddling in the electoral process. He was in charge of organizing the 2014 presidential election, the country's first democratic transfer of power, which descended into near-chaos when both Ghani and his rival,



Abdullah claimed victory. Abdullah's supporters have long sought Nuristani's ouster, and his resignation might be seen as a concession to them. Parliamentary elections have been scheduled for October 15.

53 militants surrender in Afghanistan

Kabul : A total of 53 militants gave up fighting and surrendered their weapons in Afghanistan's Nangarhar province on Sunday, while insurgents have killed the top judge on a provincial appeals court. "Today (Sunday) we are welcoming 53 former armed oppositions, including 43 Taliban and 10 terrorists of Daesh. I am calling upon all armed opposition groups to give up fighting," Xinhua News Agency quoted a senior official as saying.

The militants were active in Achin, Nazian, Shinwar and Pachir Hagam districts over the past couple of years, the official said. All the insurgents handed over their weapons to the authorities.

Speaking on the militants' welcoming ceremony, Nangarhar provincial governor Salim Khan Kunduzi promised to provide job opportunities to them. Over 10,000 Taliban militants have given up



fighting and reintegrated with their communities since 2010, according to Afghanistan High Peace Council, the government-backed peace agency.

However, Taliban militants rejected the claim, insisting that no fighter of the group has surrendered. Meanwhile an Afghan official said insurgents have killed the top judge on a provincial appeals court.

Jawed Salangi,

spokesman for the governor of the eastern Ghazni province, said Sunday that Mohammad Anwar was ambushed and shot while in neighbouring Wardak province the day before.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the killing in an email sent to reporters. Insurgent attacks on Afghan security forces and officials have intensified across the country in the past year.

Judicial officials have long been Taliban targets. Anwar's killing comes days after the nomination of a new attorney general, Farid Hamidi. Hamidi is a former human rights commissioner whose appointment has to be approved by parliament. President Ashraf Ghani has struggled to fill key security posts, with ministers of defence and interior acting in their positions.

US airstrikes kill 30 Taliban in Afghanistan

Militant group denies claims, saying only civilians were killed in twin air raids carried out in southern Helmand province

Thirty Taliban fighters were killed in two U.S. airstrikes carried out in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, a local Afghan army spokesman said Saturday.

According to spokesman Mohamed Rasul Zazai, U.S. warplanes struck two Taliban positions in Helmand's Margie area, killing 20 militants in the first airstrike and another 10 in the second.

Speaking to reporters, Zazai said the second strike had targeted a bomb-making facility,



although he refrained from revealing the nature of the first raid's target.

The spokesman added that the airstrikes had been carried out in coordination with Afghan security forces deployed in the region, stressing that they had not

resulted in any civilian casualties.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, however, denied the army's assertions, saying in a statement that all those killed in the twin U.S. airstrikes were civilians.

Army announces Afghanistan deployment for 500 soldiers

About 500 soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division will deploy to Afghanistan this summer, the Army announced Tuesday.

The deploying soldiers will be from the division headquarters and its Sustainment Brigade headquarters. Once in Afghanistan, the Fort Hood, Texas-based soldiers will replace the 10th Mountain Division headquarters at Bagram Airfield as the National Support Element. The 1st Cavalry Division also will take responsibility for Train, Advise and Assist Command-East.

Ghazni province official says Taliban kill provincial judge in Afghanistan

An Afghan official says insurgents have killed the top judge on a provincial appeals court.

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A 'Wall of Kindness' Against a Harsh Reality in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — When the Wall of Kindness finally reached Kabul, it was an idea whose time had not quite come. The concept itself is simple: Paint an outdoor wall in a bright color, usually sky blue, decorate it with slogans about how giving to the poor enriches the giver as much as the receiver, then provision the wall with nails so passers-by can hang up clothing to donate.

The messages on the walls have varied — peace, kindness, poetry — but they have all included this command: "If you don't need it, leave it; if you need it, take it." Late last year, the first reported Wall of Kindness went up in

Mashhad, Iran, and in the ensuing three months the idea spread to other Iranian cities, then to Pakistan and as far as Xiamen, in southern China.

Once the idea reached Afghanistan a month ago, it spread quickly. Donor walls appeared all over — in the cities of Mazar-i-Sharif, Lashkar Gah and Herat, and in Faryab, Takhar and Baghlan Provinces. Kunduz, the northern city still trying to recover from its devastation during a Taliban takeover last year, had four of them.

But in Kabul no one seemed interested until a 16-year-old named Halima Behroz was watching a televised report about an Iranian wall. She turned to



her brother, Abdul Latif, 17, and said, "Let's do it."

Abdul had some experience painting walls, as a graffiti artist who roams town with a group spray-painting peace slogans and scrawling murals. He rounded up his crew, about

20 high schoolers ages 14 to 17, and with Halima started the Lantern Charity Group. Being well-brought-up, they also got their parents' permission for the project. They come from middle-class families whose parents support

education for boys and girls — and more than half are girls. They include Sakina Saidi, 14, who has two older brothers ("They don't tell me what to do") in Kabul and a father who runs a food stall in Kuwait and sends money home to pay the tuition for her private school. Sakina's father told the members of the group that he would match whatever funds they raised to get started, she said, so they pooled their pocket money and savings and soon had 7,000 afghanis, or about \$100. That would be enough for spray paint and nails, plus bus fare to transport group members to the future wall. "My father's cool," she said. Money proved to be the

least of their problems. The owner of a building in the busy downtown area of Shar-e Naw, which had an invitingly blank wall on a busy street, refused to let them use it, on the grounds that crowds might gather and attract a suicide bomber. They were turned away from Kabul University, told it would be defacing government property. In a jittery capital, they heard the security objection a lot. But here they were, a bunch of high schoolers, comparatively unafraid. What was the adults' problem? The last suicide bombing, after all, was three weeks earlier; it's not like they happen every day, and Kabul is a city of five million.

Faag at kava bar San Bruno



Editor with Fiji Trade Commissioner at Fiji Airways launch FSO



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Eden Area Interfaith Council leads the way for interfaith collaborative



It was a pleasure to connect with Julie at the Eden Church associated with the Edn Area Interfaith Council. It is our desire to continue to build on the interfaith initiatives we started over 10 years ago.

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or email me direct at drhkoya@hotmail.com

Editor/Publisher

The Muslim News

PO BOX 56491

Hayward, CA 94544

Gading Mosque update financial support needed



The Muslim News glad to learn that the Hayward-based Gading Mosque is nearing completion and is need of financial support to reach their goal and be ready to serve all udirng this Ramadhan. Here, Hajji Iqbal Khan is seeing in an interviw with the FIJISN USA TV (Please see You Tube and Facebook).

Silicon Valley Ahmadiyya Muslim Chapter ready to acquire \$1.1 Million dollar 5 acre property

In a recent communique the Baitul Baseer property team leader Nasir Khan issued an email broadcast that the Jamaat is in the "due diligence process"

to acquire a new 6 acre land in Milpitas as the present location at the Evans Road is too small to meet the growing need of the members and the public.

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- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Micheal Pare | 8) Basco | 14) Sana Khan | 21) Charbel Zoe | 28) Rakhi Sawant |
| 2) Martin Kove | 9) Ceaser | 15) Iam Lance 3 Lot | 22) Nisha Rawal | 29) Bejoy Nambiar |
| 3) Madhavan | 10) Herman Baweja | 16) Aryana Sayeed | 23) Karan Mehra | 30) Shawn Arranha |
| 4) Celina Jaytly | 11) Alicia Sixtos | 17) Shibani Kashyap | 24) Gautam Gulati | 31) Anuj Sachdeva |
| 5) John Savage | 12) Mr. Charles Radcliffe | 18) Haifa Wehbe | 25) Rakesh Mehta | 32) Luv Sinha |
| 6) Rohit. K. Verma | - Guest Of Honor | 19) Helly Luv | 26) Max Ryan | 33) Sandip Soparrkar |
| 7) Renee Victor | 13) Manish Anand - Host | 20) Ash Gupta | 27) Bahram Radan | 34) Kumar Sanu |

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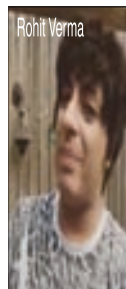
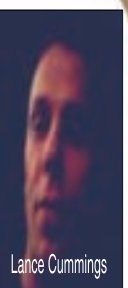
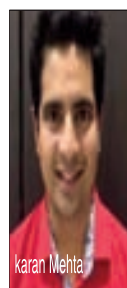
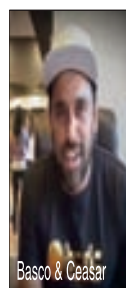
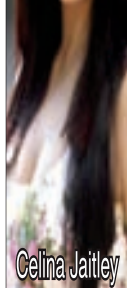
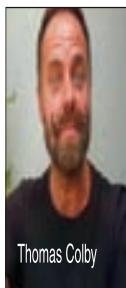
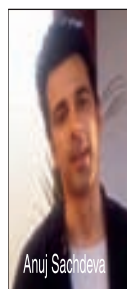
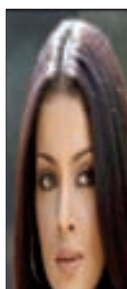
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- Best Short Film
- Best Director – Hollywood
- Best Director – Bollywood
- Best Director – World –
- Best Feature Screenplay
- Best Short Screenplay
- Best Music Video
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- Best Supporting Actress
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