

The South Asian
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Since March 2002



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Trump Vs "The Squad"

Trump slams progressive congress women at fiery 'MAGA' rally in North Carolina



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Indian-origin man who drowned his wife in bathtub convicted in US



pattern of controlling behaviour. During their marriage, Kaur needed heart surgery. She chose to be treated in the United States. However, Grewal wanted her to have the surgery in Canada. Prosecutor Juan Martinez said the surgery was important to the trial because it showed Kaur cared about herself, while Grewal only cared about what was best for him.

(News Agencies)- An Indian-origin man extradited from India has been convicted by a US court for killing his estranged wife 12 years ago when she asked for a divorce, according to media reports. Avtar Grewal, 44, who was extradited to the US in 2011, was found guilty of first-degree murder by the jury on Monday, for strangulating and submerging his 30-year-old wife Navneet Kaur in a bathtub in the Phoenix suburb of Ahwatukee in 2007, the Arizona Republic reported. His sentencing is scheduled for August 23. The two got married in India in 2005, but had a long-distance relationship. Grewal

was living in Canada while Kaur was in the US on a visa. Prosecutors told the court that Grewal showed his "true colours" immediately after he married Kaur. Grewal would call his wife multiple times to find out her location, according to prosecutors. When she didn't answer the phone, he would call her office and other people. Defence attorneys argued that Grewal killed his wife on accident and then made multiple attempts to take his own life. However, prosecutors argued the murder was premeditated and Grewal had a

Around the time of her death, Kaur told Grewal over the phone that she wanted a divorce. Grewal travelled from Canada to her Ahwatukee home so they could talk about it. Kaur picked him up from the airport and took him to her house. Kaur repeated her desire of wanting a divorce and admitted to cheating on Grewal, according to defense attorneys. The couple started to argue and it escalated to the two slapping each other, the defense attorneys said. He strangled her and then submerged her in a bathtub of water.

Indian lawyer Karuna Nundy on UK panel for new media framework



(News Agencies)- Karuna Nundy, a New Delhi-based lawyer specialising in human rights and media issues, has been appointed to a new panel of experts by the Foreign Office to develop legal frameworks to protect media freedom across the world. An independent body convened at the request of the UK and Canadian governments, the panel is chaired by David Neuberger, former president of the UK Supreme Court. Its deputy chairperson is Amal Clooney, who has been appointed special envoy on media freedom by foreign

secretary Jeremy Hunt. The panel's constitution and mandate were announced during a conference on media freedom organised by the UK and Canadian governments last week. The 16-member panel includes Hina Jilani from Pakistan, besides experts from other countries. The panel is expected to examine legal and policy initiatives that countries can adopt to improve media freedom that includes proposing legal and other initiatives to ensure existing international obligations relating to media freedom are enforced.

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New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy Announces Economic Mission Trip to India



Seven-Day, Six-City Trip to India This September Will Strengthen Economic Ties, Promote Business Investments in New Jersey
Governor Murphy Will Be the First Governor in New Jersey History to Visit India on Official Business

(By our staff reporter) The focus of the mission is to strengthen economic ties with New Jersey: Governor Phil Murphy will lead a seven-day, six-city economic mission trip to India in September. The delegation will visit six cities, including Delhi, Agra, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Gandhinagar. The focus of the mission is to strengthen economic ties with one of New Jersey's largest trade and investment partners, cultivate international investment opportunities in the Garden State, and deepen cultural and educational ties between New Jersey and India.

Indian-origin UK cop pleads guilty to buying porn on duty

The homeowner had left the property and Maharaj was waiting there for an undertaker to attend. The member of the public subsequently made a formal complaint and in September the matter was referred to the IOPC.



(News Agencies)- A he was on duty in 2018, officials serving Indian-origin officer of Scotland Yard has pleaded guilty to fraud after he purchased the pornography using a member of the public's cable television while

to be sentenced August 6. He denied making the purchase during investigations by the Independent Office for Public Conduct (IOPC).

Maharaj, who is based in Earlsfield in the London borough of Wandsworth, was on duty following the death of a child at the property in February 2018, when he purchased access to pornographic channels using the account of the property owner.

The homeowner had left the property and Maharaj was waiting there for an undertaker to attend. The member of the public subsequently made a formal

complaint and in September the matter was referred to the IOPC.

"We found evidence that indicated PC Maharaj was the only person present at the property when the purchases, which cost £25.96, were made. We also found evidence that suggested PC Maharaj may have falsified his attendance log to cover his actions", IOPC said.

IOPC's Sal Naseem said: "PC Maharaj's behaviour was shocking and even more so given he was guarding the property in the absence of the

homeowner. Not only were his actions deceitful but he caused considerable distress for the family involved who were dealing with the sudden death of a family member".

"Our investigation showed that PC Maharaj was the only person in the property who could have downloaded access to pornographic channels at the time the account was accessed...I am sorry that the family involved had to deal with this while also coping with the tragic loss of their child."

A Former Top Manhattan Art Dealer Has Been Charged in an Antiquities Smuggling Racket

(News Agencies) New York — An art dealer who authorities called one of the most prolific smugglers in the world and seven others were charged with trafficking more than \$140 million in stolen antiquities, prosecutors said Wednesday. Authorities described the case as one of the largest of its kind, saying the conspiracy began more than three decades ago and involved more than 2,600 recovered artifacts, including statues and ancient masterworks. A criminal complaint filed in Manhattan state court said the smuggling was orchestrated by Subhash Kapoor, a New York art gallery owner who was arrested in Germany in 2011 and later extradited to India, where he faces similar charges. An email seeking comment was sent to

Kapoor's defense attorney. The prosecution involves artifacts stolen from Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Pakistan and other countries that were sold for profit to dealers and collectors around the world. Some of the items appeared in world-renowned museums without officials realizing they were ill-gotten gains. "These are, in many instances, priceless works that represent the culture and history of the countries from which they were stolen," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. told The Associated Press in an interview. "They are of enormous value." In all, authorities said, the network trafficked more than \$143 million worth of antiquities. The international investigation was called "Operation Hidden Idol."

Launch of 'Queue Management System'



(News Agencies)- The Consulate General of India, New York has launched 'Queue Management System' to manage queues of applicants who come to the Consulate for various services and also to improve the overall quality

and delivery of services rendered at the Consulate. The new Queue Management System (QMS) considerably reduces the waiting time in availing the consular services. The Queue Management System was inaugurated by Ambassador of India to the United States Mr. Harsh Vardhan Shringla today at Consulate General of India, New York. Ambassador was also apprised of various initiatives taken by Consulate General of India, New York for the welfare of the applicants availing consular services at the Consulate, such as free coffee and free photocopying machine and internet facilities. Consul General informed that about 150000 persons are provided with various services by the Consulate annually. Ambassador Shringla also interacted with applicants present at the Consulate. Applicants lauded various initiatives taken by CGI, New York to improve the overall quality and effective delivery of services. Queue Management System considerably reduces the waiting time and will make delivery of Consular services a hassle free and comfortable experience.

South Asian Night organized



(By our staff reporter) - Exec Dir Asian American Recently South Asian Night was organized at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow, Nassau County executive Laura Curran, Deputy Majority Leader of the New York State Assembly Phil Ramos and Mrs

Angela Ramos, Commissioner of Parks Eileen Krieb, Chairman, Nassau County Human Rights Commission Bobby K. Kalotee

, Commissioner Zahid Syed, Singh, IAAC Chariman Deepak Former Commissioner Bansal, ADF Chairman Mohinder Sharanjit Singh Thind, IDP S Taneja and many other noted USA Chairman Jasbir Jay community leaders attended.

Scotland Yard questions Indians in UK's forced marriage crackdown

The passengers arriving from Bengaluru and Mumbai were questioned by Scotland Yard as part of the UK's week-long crackdown on forced marriages.

(By our staff reporter) - Over 100 passengers arriving from India at Heathrow were questioned on Tuesday as part of a 'pro-active operation' by Scotland Yard and Border Force to raise awareness of forced marriage, an issue that figures often during summer holidays. India is among top three countries linked to forced marriages dealt with by the Forced Marriages Unit (FMU) of the British Home and Foreign Office. Figures released in May revealed that FMU handled 110 India-linked cases in 2018 (the top two are Pakistan: 769; Bangladesh: 157). The passengers arriving from

Bengaluru and Mumbai were questioned as part of the week-long crackdown on forced marriages, reports said. The questioning was part of what the police called 'preventative and detection work' in relation to inbound flights that have travelled from or via 'countries of prevalence' for forced marriage, female genital mutilation and honour-based abuse and breast ironing. Officials describe forced marriage as where one or both spouses do not, or in the case of some people with learning disabilities, cannot, consent to the marriage. The victim is threatened, bullied, abused or

coerced into getting married. Forced marriage is illegal in the UK. There have been instances when UK citizens were taken on holiday to the countries of their origin and forced to marry to non-British individuals for purposes such as immigration into the UK. According to the FMU, "The proportion of cases linked to India in 2018 was similar to previous years. There was a higher proportion of older victims as well as male victims compared to other focus countries. This is most likely due to the fact that many of these cases involved reluctant sponsors". "Almost 30% of cases were linked to



London. There were cases linked to 13 of the 32 London boroughs," it added. Under the week-long programme, officials are working with NGOs such as the Sharan Project, Southall Black Sisters and Karma Nirvana to undertake a combination of educational, safeguarding and enforcement

activities. These include enhanced training about forced marriage to officers and staff who work at Heathrow Airport; preventative work with passengers on inbound flights from 'countries of prevalence'; and intelligence-led checks on passengers.

The United States is wrong on Iran

**Washington unilaterally breached the nuclear deal.
For a solution, it should lift the sanctions**

(News Agencies)-On May 8, 2018, the Donald Trump administration abrogated the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and blatantly breached the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231, unilaterally, single handedly and in isolation.

With this step, the United States (US) left Iran with a heavy burden of new JCPOA-emanated obligations vis-à-vis no rights and economic guarantees promised and clearly stipulated there. This was dishonest and deceitful. It then began to leverage economic terrorism, coupled with an ever-increasing barrage of its so-called unilateral sanctions against the Iranian people. It thus not only punished the exemplary behaviour of Iran of maintaining peace and stability through serving the cause of world's non-proliferation movement, but it also rewarded Isis/ Daesh terrorist groups - and their patrons in the region - who were already defeated by Iran.

The Trump administration is

misleading global public opinion, in tune with the US' old-fashioned colonialist "divide and rule" and post-colonial 'offshore balancing' paradigms, simply to reassert the country's dwindled domination. Iran is just doing whatever it can to resist US' illegitimate, rogue and outlawed activities including, but not limited to, the breach of the JCPOA, the UNSC resolution 2231, and the Paris agreement on climate change.

Washington's oppressive activities in Iran can be traced back to 1953, when the Central Intelligence Agency orchestrated a coup to remove Iran's elected Prime Minister, Mohammad Mossadegh. After instituting the rule of the Shah, the US encouraged him to establish a nuclear programme. The US built Iran's first nuclear reactor in 1967, and the West continued to provide nuclear technology to his government.

After the Shah was toppled in 1979, the Islamic Republic of Iran under the leadership of the late Imam Khomeini, cancelled his

plans for a large nuclear energy sector, retaining only those facilities that had already been established. He also declared that nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) were haram (forbidden in Islam). When Iraq attacked Iran with chemical weapons, with the tacit support of the Ronald Reagan administration, Iran refrained from responding in kind despite having the requisite technology. In 2003, the late Imam Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, also issued an unambiguous fatwa against nuclear weapons.

In spite of these facts, successive US administrations imposed sanctions on Iran, demanding that it completely halt uranium enrichment.

It was only during President Barack Obama's second term that the US sought a temporary truce, leading to the JCPOA. The pact recognised Iran's right to maintain a civilian nuclear programme, but placed significant restrictions on its size



and scope for 10 to 15 years. Most importantly, Tehran reiterated that "under no circumstances" would it "seek... nuclear weapons." The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was granted unprecedented powers to inspect Iran's nuclear activities, and has, up to 15 times, verified Tehran's compliance. Three hundred and eighty five cases of cooperation with its

Complementary Access mechanism also belongs to Iran. So, Trump's withdrawal from the JCPOA can only be interpreted as a message that the US is not interested at all in arms control, but would rather initiate a direct conflict with independent rule-based countries like Iran.

Iran exercised over 13 months of strategic patience and cooperation with all the remaining JCPOA participants, during which it continued to scrupulously fulfil its undertakings under the JCPOA. But the remaining participants failed to compensate and mitigate the distorted balance of the deal.

Congress approach needs to fit political realities



The purist view is that the "high command" culture, which is a euphemism for the hold exercised by the Nehru-Gandhi family, needs to be dismantled; or, at least, incrementally pushed towards collective decision-making.

(News Agencies)- What must the Congress do to stem mass-scale desertions by its legislators? The simple answer would be: put its house in order. But the party's problems aren't easily resolvable. It requires a major attitudinal change, organisational restructuring, and a workable devolution of power. The purist view is that the "high command" culture, which is a euphemism for the hold exercised by the Nehru-Gandhi family, needs to be dismantled; or, at least, incrementally pushed towards collective decision-

making. The key first step in that direction should be the restoration of the primacy of the Congress Working Committee (CWC). Over the years, the party's supreme consultative, decision-making platform predating India's Independence from the British rule, has become a talking shop. CWC functions as if it is programmed to authorise the high command to act on its behalf, and on its discretion, on key issues. The carte blanche covers the setting up of alliances, anointing chief ministers and reshuffling ministers in states

where the party has power. The regimen has stunted the growth of the provincial leadership, in turn impacting the rise of new faces at the national level.

While it indeed is impractical to leave decision-making to multi-member forums, vesting all power in one individual or family is self-defeating and antidemocratic. The answer lies, perhaps, in smaller, issue-specific sub-committees of CWC that can revert to the party president or CWC itself in the absence of a consensus.

That's the kind of collective decision-making architecture the Congress needs to insulate itself from the charges of being dynasty-driven and lacking inner-party democracy. To make the transformation credible,

elections should be held for CWC and the presidency.

This kind of surgery, so to speak, is an option. But is the party in good enough health to undergo the procedure, especially when it's withering away in states where it is out of power and is at risk where it has governments with nebulous numbers?

To top it all, elections are due in four state assemblies over the next few months.

The idea of organisational polls is laudable, insisted party old-timers with whom I spoke. But is it doable, or advisable at the current juncture, wondered many among them. To flag the pitfalls, a few recalled the All India Congress Committee's Tirupati session of 1992, when elections were held to CWC which then-

president PV Narasimha Rao quickly dissolved and replaced with a nominated body.

Past experience informs that copybook internal democracy in political parties could be an unrealistic goal that accentuates group-ism and triggers factionalism. "Why do we want more factions in the party? Don't we already have many?" argued a veteran who is no longer an active politician. He felt that Sonia Gandhi should take over as interim chief to stabilise the Congress the way she did after Sitaram Kesri in the late 1990s. The déjà vu will reassure party persons besides checking dissipation of the sort seen in Telangana, Goa and Karnataka. "Sonia should return to continue the story.

New asylum rules protect true refugees and the integrity of the process

Since Congressional Democrats adamantly refuse to close gaping loopholes in our political asylum system that have triggered a crisis at our southern border, the White House is stepping in. The Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Justice (DOJ) jointly issued an interim rule that bars people who enter, or attempt to enter, the United States illegally from seeking political asylum if they failed to request asylum in a safe third country they had transited on their way to the United States.

This is common sense: true refugees don't get to pick and choose where they seek asylum. In short, the new rule makes it clear that the purpose of political asylum is to protect people who are in imminent danger in their homelands, not to provide them their ideal landing spot. People who claim to be fleeing persecution in their homelands have an obligation to seek protection in the first safe country they arrive in. "Safe" means free from persecution and retribution. Safe does not mean economically prosperous, or even a lack of crime. Rather, it means protecting them outside the borders of the countries where they claim to fear for their lives or physical safety. Our current asylum process is a shambles. It allows economic migrants to exploit our humanitarian policies. Migrants understand that setting foot on U.S. soil and entering a request for political asylum is a virtual guarantee that they will be released into the country, pending a hearing on their case sometime in the distant future, which many do not show up for. A mere 11 percent of asylum claims are ultimately granted, but nearly all of the other 89 percent remain in the country as illegal immigrants, knowing there is little chance that they will ever be removed. The abuse of our political asylum process is not only making a mockery of our humanitarian policies, but it is paralyzing our immigration court system - predictably overwhelmed by an unlimited number of cases marching across our borders.

There are now some 900,000 pending asylum cases in our immigration courts, more than 100,000 of which have been entered just since the start of the current fiscal year. These ever-growing backlogs and our limited capacity to detain people pending a hearing are themselves an invitation for more abuse. In a world awash in people who suffer legitimate persecution, and the limited capacity of the United States and other Western nations to absorb refugees, allowing the widespread abuse of our asylum policies is unconscionable and unfair. The current chaos allows entry to migrants who have the ability to reach our borders, either because of

proximity or the ability to pay smugglers to get them here from far-flung parts of the globe, while legitimate refugees wait years, even decades, to be resettled.

Policymaking by the issuance of administrative rules is never ideal. But in the face of an ever-worsening crisis and politically-driven obstruction of needed reforms to our asylum laws in Congress, the action by DHS and DOJ is the only option for putting an end to the clear abuse of our humanitarian policies. Section 208 of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1158, delegates to the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to establish "any other conditions or limitations on the consideration of an application for asylum."

"The rule issued by DOJ and DHS falls well within the authority delegated to those departments, and well within the realm of common sense. Evidence clearly suggests that the surge of asylum seekers at our southern border is not being driven by worsening conditions in the primary Central American sending countries. While violence and social dysfunction continue to be hallmarks of those countries, murder rates in the region have fallen in recent years. Rather, it is the near certainty of admission to the United States, and the vastly better economic conditions here, that are driving the border crisis.

The new asylum rule will not leave anyone who is in need of protection without it. True refugees who need a safe haven will get it in the first country that is a signatory to international conventions on the protection of refugees and asylum seekers. Mexico, the country through which most asylum seekers transit on their way to the U.S. border, is not only a signatory, but also strengthened its commitment to protecting refugees as recently as 2011. Under the new rule, the United States will continue to honor its legal and moral obligation to allow people to seek asylum when this is the first safe country they arrive in, at a U.S. embassy or consulate anywhere in the world, or even at a legal port of entry. But we have no legal or moral obligation to allow people to crash our borders in order to file specious asylum claims in the expectation that they will be allowed to remain here indefinitely. Our asylum process and judicial system were designed to offer protection to those who need it and to uphold our laws. Instead, they are being used to create intolerable chaos and paralysis that must be stopped.

By Dan Stein

Democrats commit political suicide on immigration

Amidst a border crisis that has morphed into a national security and a humanitarian crisis, leading contenders for the Democratic presidential nomination have all but endorsed open borders. During the first of the candidate debates, the Democrats expressed broad support for decriminalizing illegal immigration. The candidates also expressed unanimous opposition to removing any illegal immigrant who is not also a violent felon. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has taken the same position. With the possible exception of former Vice President Joe Biden (whose momentary hesitation will no doubt result in another abject apology in the near future), the Democratic presidential hopefuls committed to lavish social benefits for illegal immigrants, including publicly funded health care coverage.

The first of many debates may have delighted the Democratic Party's most animated supporters, but it is alarming many of the party's more sober ones. In the space of just a few days, left-leaning journalists, constitutional scholars, and even President Obama's Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson penned opinion pieces warning that the party's increasingly radical stances on immigration pose - for them - a nightmare scenario: Donald Trump taking the oath of office again on Jan. 20, 2021. One might logically think that the reverse would also be true - that the Republican response to Democrats driving themselves off a cliff would be to help them do just that. The American public - particularly those who live in swing states and congressional districts that will determine not just control of the White House, but also Congress - is alarmed about what is happening at the border.

Polls consistently show that immigration now tops the list of voter concerns and that there is strong support for securing the border, ending asylum abuse, and ending catch-and-release policies. Republicans are in control of the Senate, where bills that would do all of those things are teed up and ready to go. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., just needs to schedule a floor debate and a vote - something he has inexplicably refrained from doing. Getting this legislation over the 60-vote hurdle necessary to bring bills to the floor for a final vote is no easy task in the current hyperpartisan climate in Washington.

But McConnell and the Republicans are in a no-lose situation. If they can peel away a handful of purple state Democrats, they can claim credit for addressing a top-of-the-mind concern for American voters. In essence, they would force their political rivals to make a difficult choice. Do they side with concerns of the vast majority of Americans, or do they side with radicals? Pelosi rules the House by virtue of some two-dozen members from "purple" districts. Many replaced Republican members by very slim margins.

Do these freshmen Democrats really want to go into the next election having blocked asylum reform and border security, while having increased and improved detention facilities for families and minors?

Do they want to do so with someone at the head of their party's ticket who calls for decriminalizing illegal immigration and giving everyone who shows up government-funded health insurance?

Ira Mehlman



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Delhi's Kabul challenge: Finding diplomatic space

There is a correlation between Pakistan's presence and India's absence on the table

India should prepare for a potential new chapter in today's Great Game in Afghanistan, in which it will be reduced to a footnote. Even now, this is not preordained. That India is not part of the present talks between the United States, Pakistan, China and Russia on the future of Afghanistan is no surprise. India was not part of the original three-nation talks from which these were derived, and has regularly been excluded from most of the Afghan-related talks. There is a strong correlation between Pakistan's presence at the table and India's exclusion. What has made the present talks different from

the past several years of fruitless negotiations is the determination of the United States president, Donald Trump, to bring an end to US's military presence in Afghanistan, irrespective of the regional consequences. The present negotiations notably exclude both India and the present Kabul government. India's interest lies in keeping the Taliban and, therefore, a Pakistan-aligned regime out of Kabul. This has helped keep Islamabad mentally and militarily fearful of a two-front conflict and reduced its capacity to cause mischief to India. India has accomplished

this strategic goal vicariously through the US campaign against the Taliban. India has contributed large amounts of aid to Afghanistan and, for a while, deployed paramilitary units. But all this was a derivative of the US posture. Since President Barack Obama promised to pull out of Afghanistan in 2009, the real determinant of the Indian presence in Afghanistan has been the internal debate in the US. The US withdrawal is not yet a done deal. There are many even within the Trump administration who do not support his policy, but its likelihood is greater than it has ever been.



India should begin to work on policy options that presume a much greater Pakistani influence in Afghanistan. New Delhi lacks the finance, the weapons and geographical proximity to sustain the Kabul regime. But it should consider breaking earlier

taboos like reaching out to the Taliban, many of whom are wary of Islamabad. It should leverage the fear of countries like Iran, the Central Asian republics, and even China have of an unstable Afghanistan. It should also give thought to the security and military

fallout of a Pakistan that feels it has achieved it has secured its western flank. The game is not over yet, but the rules are being rewritten and India, despite its many limitations, should seek to influence the process as much as possible.

What happened when they told me, 'go back to your country'



"Go back to your country" and "love it or leave it" -- those were taunts thrown at me 28 years ago in high school. When the President of the United States tweeted something similar about members of Congress on Sunday, it brought back some painful memories but also some hopeful ones, that our communities can resist the forces of racial exclusion and demagoguery. Racial tensions and disputes over American foreign policy were commonly discussed in the early 1990s, with news of the Persian Gulf War and the Rodney King

beating. I was the editor of our school newspaper, and had written some critical opinion pieces about our domestic and foreign policies, as many editorial writers do. However, some students at the school were not happy with my outspokenness. They tried to shut me down through intimidation, putting up "wanted posters" across the school saying that if I didn't like how things were going in America, I should just leave the country and go back to India. I had certainly felt my minority status before that incident. This was conservative, small-town central Massachusetts, a region at

political odds with a state that has sent liberal stalwarts like Ted Kennedy and Elizabeth Warren to the US Senate. And I was one of about 10 nonwhites in a high school of 1,600 students (one of the others was my younger brother). Whatever racial exclusion our family had felt was of the subtler New England variety -- not much in the way of racial slurs or threats of violence, but plenty of jokes and innuendo. The school leadership's initial reaction to the incident was not encouraging; the principal thought that the "wanted posters" were uncalled for, but he didn't think they were

racist. We got to know each other better, however, and over time he came to understand how minority students experienced life in our school. He must have spoken to his friends and colleagues, too, because when I gave my valedictory graduation speech a few months later, pointing out the danger of false patriotism implied in "love it or leave it," I got a standing ovation from most in the room -- students, teachers, and parents alike. What I said during my graduation speech was that critics like myself did not love America any less than those with opposing points of view. Indeed, criticism had a long and storied history in the United States to make the country better and stronger. I also noted that those seeking to shut down opposing points of view by wrapping themselves in the flag were actually peddling in a false kind of patriotism. True patriotism entailed listening intently to everyone, cheerleaders and critics alike, and figuring out ways to collectively improve

America. Those guiding principles are still applicable today, nearly three decades later. Of course, it is far more concerning when it's not simply high school students using intimidating and racist expressions like "go back to your country" when they're unhappy with someone's point of view. When it's the President of the United States doing it -- with the full power of the bully pulpit, command of the executive branch, and support from conservative news and talk radio -- the damage to American norms can be far greater. But only if these actions go unchallenged. How can we repair the damage that has already been done? First, we need to make it abundantly clear, as I tried to do nearly 30 years ago, that rhetoric like "go back to your country" is not only anti-immigrant, but is also anti-American. Immigrants have been critical to America's advancement throughout its history. We also need to make it clear that "love it or leave it" is

not a patriotic move that makes America great, but rather one that weakens our country by silencing those who wish to make it better. We also need to make sure that this pushback does not fall into our conventional pattern of Democrat versus Republican, liberal versus conservative. Independents, moderate Republicans, and even principled conservative Republicans need to see this as an important and defining moment, to affirm the value of immigrants as well as non-immigrants, and the importance of listening not only to those who share our points of view but also those who don't. So far, too many principled conservatives and moderate Republicans have been silent. Finally, we need to make sure that our conversations on immigration and race get grounded in the day-to-day realities of local communities, rather than through the outrage machines of national politics, social media, and talk radio.

On track for the moon mission

India's second unmanned moon mission, Chandrayaan 2, was put on hold 56 minutes and 24 seconds before its scheduled lift-off at 2.51 am on Monday, from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. This was due to the discovery of a technical snag in Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro)'s next-generation launch vehicle, GSLV Mk-III, which is indigenously designed to carry heavier payloads deeper into space. The timely detection of the glitch in the fully loaded and fuelled launch vehicle saved the 3.8-tonne spacecraft from potentially exploding, and

destroying close to a decade worth of research, which began in 2008.

Chandrayaan 2 is a Rs 978-crore mission, which comprises an orbiter and a lander with a rover that is designed to soft-land between two lunar craters in the south pole of the moon to study the topography, seismography and chemical and mineral composition of lunar rocks. The next window for launch is during the new moon on July 29 and 30. An expert committee is already reviewing whether the rocket can be fixed in time and be

equipped for a successful liftoff by the end of the month. After July, the next launch window for a lift-off is in September this year. Scientists at Isro remain optimistic, as aborting lift-offs because of technical glitches is not unusual around the world. Most recently, Nasa delayed its \$1.5 billion Parker Solar Probe to study the sun's atmosphere by a day because of a technical glitch before lift-off on August 12, 2018. Failed missions after lift-offs are more common, such as Israel's Beresheet spacecraft's lander

and rover crashing while attempting to make a soft-landing on the moon in April this year; Soyuz launcher carrying two astronauts to the International Space Station making an emergency landing in October 2018 because of a booster failure; and US government's military satellite Zuma launched Elon Musk's SpaceX's reportedly crashing into the sea after three attempts in January 2018.

Isro has had 72 successful launch missions, including two successful deployments of communication satellites by

GSLV Mk-III in June 2017 and in November last year. Each launch mission carries successful satellites. With Isro scientists saying the Chandrayaan 2 glitch in the launcher is minor can be addressed quickly, the lunar mission remains on track to make India the fourth country after the US, Russia and China to make a technically complex soft-landing on moon. It will be the world's first landing on the far side of the moon, and the second major space exploration success for India after Chandrayaan 1's discovery of water on the moon in 2008.

India's energy transition is now the world's energy transition



A decade ago India had less than 20 megawatts (MW) of solar power, had the largest number of people without access to modern energy, and had the reputation of being a naysayer in climate negotiations. The country now has 124,771 MW of renewable energy capacity (including large

hydropower), has brought (intermittently) clean cooking energy to 720 million more people and new electricity connections to 350 million more people, and was critical to the Paris agreement on climate change while spearheading the International Solar Alliance. This story is not known well, not told

well, and not always playing out well. The European Union (EU) gets more than 30% electricity from renewables. Now four eastern European nations are blocking a proposal for net-zero emissions by 2050. The US got only 17.6% electricity from renewables in the 12 months ending April 2019 even as the Trump administration withdrew from the Paris Agreement. Rich countries need to act bolder and faster for other countries to hope for any remaining carbon space. India's progress looks more remarkable in comparison. India already gets 21% of electricity from renewables (including large hydropower). CEEW researchers calculate that this could rise to 47% by

2040. Renewables provide 35% of the total generation capacity, against 41% in the EU and 20% in the US. Now, India is contemplating 500,000 MW of RE capacity by 2030. This massive growth in capacity addition is happening at much lower levels of per capita income or size of the electricity sector. This is what a leapfrog looks like. This unfolding revolution is, however, hemmed in by legacy issues and overconfidence with short-term policy successes. The most important legacy issue is the financial health of distribution companies. When the UDAY scheme was launched in March 2015, discoms had outstanding debt of ₹4.3 lakh crore. Since then, 16 states issued bonds;

aggregate technical and commercial losses fell to 18.29% for 26 states (target of 15%); gap between average cost of supply and average revenue realised dropped to 26 paise per unit; and 25 states undertook some tariff revision. Yet, discom debt is again creeping up to ₹2.3 lakh crore. Without fixing electricity governance, India's energy transition looks uncertain. Similarly, energy poverty has not been eliminated. Connections are not enough; what matters is quality of energy received. CEEW's flagship ACCESS survey reveals that a third of rural households in the bottommost tier of electricity access cite reliability of supply as a major bottleneck.

India needs to reboot its counter-insurgency doctrine

The old military proverb that "Generals fight the last war" illustrates a common trap of strategic thinking - the propensity of expending energy on past battles, instead of reorganising for new challenges. This manifests itself in a classic paradox; nations with large armies lose small wars. The mighty American army - which bludgeoned its way through German defences on D-Day, wrested Europe from the Nazi control and crushed the Third Reich - is haplessly embroiled in Afghanistan. Before them, the Soviet Union, which held more than a dozen nations in its iron grasp, could not subdue a ragtag of Afghan warlords who pushed back the

mighty Soviet army with World War II weapons. Closer home, the Indian armed forces, which routed nearly a 100,000 Pakistani troops and sliced Pakistan into two halves' in 1971, has been struggling with insurgency in Kashmir for over two decades now. Large nations lose small wars because of three reasons. The first is because they don't even acknowledge that they are losing. Or that the tactics of the 'last war' no longer hold relevance for the next one. The classical war model of two or more nations pitting its military against each other is long passé. Yet nations and armies continue to prepare, arm and organise themselves exactly along the lines of large scale pitched battles, while

facing a dramatically different guerrilla warfare on the ground in Kashmir Valley. So a tense, fragile state of no war, no peace, barely held together by several divisions of troops is celebrated as a victory. And tactically, maybe it can be called that. Our junior officers have shown remarkable courage and sense of responsibility in field operations. It can be considered as a victory even at an operational level in that the Army has adapted itself to a very different sort of operations than what they were trained for. For instance, the strike formations (tanks, propelled artillery, mechanised infantry, etc) are trained and equipped for massive operations spreading across



thousands of square kilometres of theatres - facing similar formations on the other side. And yet, thousands of those troops serve in counter-insurgency operations within a densely populated Valley basin no bigger than 135 kilometres in length.

However, this agility and adaptiveness notwithstanding, at the strategic level, our adversary has managed to tie down and erode a massive proportion of our resources at a negligible cost to itself. And that is the strategic purpose of any war.

When human endeavour beat human imagination

Every emotion, quality and nuance of sport came alive on Sunday. Were there really only two winners?

Invisible, magical sparks flew out of tennis racquet strings and cricket bat handles, enveloping London, and through the power of broadcast, briefly shrouding the entire world in a force field of sporting excellence. That may indeed be the simplest explanation for what happened on the Super-est of all Sundays, when two events, only 10 miles apart at the Meccas of cricket and tennis, came together to demonstrate every nuance, quality and emotion associated with watching and playing sport. Over the course of a few extraordinary hours, which ended in moments of pure Mary Poppins-induced magic, a Wimbledon final was won for the first time in a tie-break from 12-12 in the final set; and World Cup winners were crowned on the number of boundaries hit after the match and the Super Over were tied. It was as if some divine plot was unfolding before our eyes.

And that's where things get really interesting, because sport - unlike cinema, music, literature and art - follows no script. It is a strange being, this Sport. Stripped to the basics, it could be defined simply as the human manifestation of the principle of action-reaction. Bowler runs in to bowl, determined to knock stumps over - action. Batsman marks his spot and tries to hoick said bowler over extra-cover - reaction. Fielder runs across the boundary to cut off shot; batsman scampers down the crease and dives to prevent being run out. Over time, as players get better, margins begin narrowing. Bowler acquires the ability to hurl 10 kinds of deliveries; batsman the skill to play 10 different strokes to each delivery; fields can be set in 100 different ways to account for each stroke. Conjure with all these permutations, and you arrive at an animal whose next move is impossible to predict.

You can weigh it down with the burdens of history, nationalism or individualism, and yet it remains liberated by the autonomy of free will. The magnificence of the two displays on Sunday night lies not just in how unpredictable they were, but in how desperately the exponents of sport tried to tame the beast while willing it to run wild; in how ardously watchers of sport wanted their chosen one to triumph while grudgingly admiring the other. Was it their desperation for a first World Cup title that fuelled England and New Zealand to split hairs for a tie, and then split the split hair in the tie-breaker? So what was it that willed a 37-year-old Roger Federer, with eight Wimbledon and 20 Grand Slam titles, and a 32-year-old Novak Djokovic, the world number one with 15 Grand Slams of his own, to not give in over nearly five gruelling hours?



Any attempt to examine sport as a pursuit of victory is bound to throw up such a dichotomy. For, after rising above a certain level, sport transforms into the pursuit of perfection, strangely devoid of the outcome. When two perfectionists, or groups of perfectionists, are locked in the kind of battles they were on Sunday night, the result is no longer the most important thing. This pursuit for perfection resonates across fields. The Russian-American composer Igor Stravinsky was asked what his greatest moment was: when he completed a symphony, when he heard it played the first time

by an orchestra, or when it was heralded as one of the great works of all time? No, no, no, he replied. It was when he was sitting at the piano, trying to look for the right note, and finally, after three or four hours, he found it. "That's the moment," he said. "There is nothing like it." Of course, the history books will remember the 2019 Wimbledon as a victory for Novak Djokovic and the 2019 cricket World Cup as the first time England lifted the trophy. But were there really only two winners on Sunday night?

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Government planning water reforms by bringing in new model law

The law is likely to be called the model water resources regulatory authority bill and only Maharashtra has such a body functioning since 2005, an official said, requesting anonymity.

(News Agencies)- The Narendra Modi government is drawing up a legislative package for water-sector reforms, including a model law aimed at managing what has become the scarcest resource in over a third of the country's districts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has nudged citizens to be judicious with water use, as a dire scarcity takes hold in many states. Last month, he wrote to panchayats, or village administrations, across the country, asking them to conserve water. The government has identified 1,592 blocks in 256 districts as seriously water-depleted. Discussions are on at Jal Shakti, as the water resources ministry is now called, mechanisms to be set up by each state government, as the onus of replenishing water resources falls squarely in the states' domain, according to a constitutional division of jurisdictions. The law is likely to be called the model water resources regulatory authority bill and only Maharashtra has such a body functioning since 2005, an official said, requesting anonymity. Each state ought to have one going forward, he said. Water audits will be a key function of these authorities. Without water audits, many states don't even know their consumption requirements, private or bulk, and patterns. "How do you then plan? If you run low on supply, audits help you turn off the tap for non-essential

use or make arrangements to keep supply going," a second official said. Parts of Chennai have gone without piped water for several months now. The city's crisis was aggravated when Tamil Nadu received 55% less rains during the so-called winter monsoon in December 2018, according to weather bureau data. The government also plans to bring a second model law stipulating legal provisions for re-using and recycling water. Model laws are passed by the central government to offer a framework for states to legislate in areas where they have exclusive control, such as water. A



combination of over-drawing of ground water through the decades and changes in rainfall patterns has precipitated India's water crisis. Per capita availability has seen a decadal fall of 14%, declining to 1,544 cubic metres in 2011 from 1,816 cubic metres in 2001, according to figures presented by Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Parliament this week. With only 4% of the world's water resources and 16% of the global population, India's water crisis is headed towards an inflection point. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a "Jal Jeevan Mission" in Budget 2019-20 to provide potable water to every rural household by 2024, in step with the government's larger thrust on water conservation and providing safe drinking water to all parts of the country.

A Delhi court on Tuesday granted bail to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in a defamation case filed by a BJP leader.



(News Agencies)-A Delhi court on Tuesday granted bail to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in a defamation case filed by a BJP leader. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Samar Vishal granted relief to Kejriwal on a personal bond of Rs 10,000 after he appeared before the court. Rajeev Babbar, who had moved the application on behalf of the Delhi unit of BJP, seeking action against Arvind Kejriwal, Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Gupta, MLA Manoj Kumar and Aam Aadmi Party spokesperson Atishi. Gupta and Manoj Kumar, too, were granted bail by the court while Atishi had sought exemption from court appearance on Tuesday. The next date of hearing in the case is July 25. Babbar had accused the AAP leaders of "harming the reputation" of BJP by alleging that over 30 lakh names were deleted from the voters' list in Delhi by the election commission at the party's behest. In a tweet in December last year, Arvind Kejriwal had alleged that the deleted voters included "4 lakh banyas, 8 lakh Muslims, 15 lakh poorvanchalis and 3 lakh rest". In an earlier hearing, the Election Commission of India refuted the allegations by AAP leaders and said they were "baseless and without facts". The poll panel had told the court that addition and deletion of names in the electoral rolls is a regular exercise undertaken without any influence of a political party or a private agency.

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No 'My Lord' please, Rajasthan HC judges tell advocates

Other courts, including the highest in the land, the Supreme Court of India, have expressed similar sentiments in the past, but none has done so through a resolution passed by all judges (the so-called full court) of a high court.

(News Agencies)- Judges of the Rajasthan High Court passed a resolution advising advocates to refrain from addressing them as "My Lord" and "Your Lordship", a practice that dates back to India's colonial past that the judges said wasn't in keeping with "the mandate of equality enshrined in the Constitution".

Other courts, including the highest in the land, the Supreme Court of India, have expressed similar sentiments in the past, but none has done so through a resolution passed by all judges

(the so-called full court) of a high court. On July 14, all the judges of the Rajasthan high court met and unanimously resolved that the old and archaic practice of addressing judges as "My Lord" or "Your Lordship" must be done away with. "To honour the mandate of equality enshrined in the Constitution of India the full court in its meeting dated 14.07.2019 has unanimously resolved to request the counsels and those who appear before the court to desist from addressing the honourable judges as 'My Lord' and 'Your Lordship,' reads the

resolution, put out by the Registrar General of the high court. According to one of the judges who attended the meeting: "The resolution is basically an advisory to the advocates to do away with using terms such as 'My Lord' and 'Your Lordship'. There is no compulsion on lawyers to follow the resolution and they are free to use any respectable form of address." Interestingly, the present Chief Justice of Rajasthan high court, Justice Ravindra Bhatt, passed a similar advisory for advocates, when he



was a judge of the Delhi high court. In 2007, Justice Bhatt and Justice Dr S Muralidhar of the Delhi high court put out a note in the Daily Cause List of their respective courts which said: "Advocates are requested to try and avoid addressing the judges as 'My Lord' and 'Your Lordship'." In 2009, a judge of the Madras

high court, Justice Chandru said the same thing in a direction to lawyers. The legal fraternity welcomed the move. Bar Council of Rajasthan chairman, Chiranji Lal Saini, said: "It is a much-needed move and should have been done long back. It is a step in the direction of humanity."

Closed since Balakot strike, Pakistan reopens airspace for all civilian traffic

The country had earlier claimed that it would not open its airspace for commercial flights until India removed its fighter jets from forward Indian airbases.



(News Agencies)- Pakistan has said it has reopened its airspace to all civilian planes following months of restrictions after the Indian Air

Force (IAF) carried out airstrikes on a Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror camp in Balakot earlier this year. Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority cancelled the Notice to

Airmen (NOTAM) for its airspace from 12:38am on Tuesday, a step taken by India as well. Airlines are likely to resume normal routes through Pakistan airspace after the restrictions were lifted. "With immediate effect, Pakistan airspace is open for all type of civilian traffic on published ATS (Air Traffic Service) routes," the NOTAM issued by the authority said. Pakistan had earlier said it would not open its airspace for commercial flights

until India removed its fighter jets from forward Indian airbases. The neighbouring country had fully shut its airspace on the eastern border with India after the strike on Balakot on February 26. The strikes on the terror camp were in response to the JeM-perpetrated terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama on February 14. Forty personnel of the Central Reserve Police force (CRPF) were killed in the attack. In March, Pakistan

partially opened its airspace but did not allow Indian flight to fly over its airspace. It opened one of its 11 air routes for west-bound flights from India mid-April -- airlines like Air India and Turkish Airlines have started using it. Foreign airlines using Indian airspace have been forced to take costly detours because they cannot fly over Pakistan. The closure mainly affects flights from Europe to Southeast Asia.

Saravana Bhavan founder ordered to serve time for murder shifted to ICU

P Rajagopal, founder of the Saravana Bhavan restaurant chain had surrendered on July 9 to serve a life term for murdering an employee whose wife he wanted to marry,

(News Agencies)- The Madras High Court (MHC) on Tuesday allowed Saravana Bhavan restaurant chain owner P Rajagopal (72) who is serving life term in a murder case, to seek treatment at a private hospital for a range of health issues. A division bench of Justice M M Sundaresh and Justice M Nirmal Kumar gave the order on a petition filed by Rajagopal's son R Saravanan. Hours after Rajagopal who was also known as Dosa King surrendered before an Additional Magistrate Court's Judge in Chennai on July 9, he was

admitted to the prisoner's ward of Stanley Government Medical College Hospital. According to doctors who were treating Rajagopal, the convict's health was deteriorating since Saturday. "Since Rajagopal has diabetes, hypertension and kidney-related issues, he is critical now. As his kidneys are failing, he is admitted into the Intensive Care Unit and on the ventilator support," P Ramesh, Resident Medical Officer, Stanley Government Medical College said. On Monday, Saravanan filed a petition in the high court stating that he was not in a position

attend his ailing father. "While our father was taking prescribed drugs for his age-related ailments all these days under the directions of doctors, the nature of drugs and treatment were changed at Stanley Government hospital. So, his health has started deteriorating since Saturday last. He suffered a cardiac arrest on Saturday and has started recovering only from Sunday," Saravanan said in his petition. He also said that the Stanley hospital lacks some medical facilities which are essential for his father's treatment. "Some of the tests



suggested by the doctors who attend to my father are unavailable at Stanley hospital. In order to improve his health, we want to treat our father in a private hospital, preferably at Vijaya Health Center or SRM hospital where Rajagopal had been treated in the past," Saravanan further stated. He also stated that keeping his father in Stanley Government

Medical College Hospital was a violation of rights under Article 21 of the Constitution. The judges who heard the matter on Tuesday asked the Tamil Nadu government to file the medication details of Rajagopal. Even as the government pleader submitted the details, the Court allowed for Rajagopal to be treated at a private hospital.

Mumbai's coastal road project jammed after court cancels environmental nod

The Bombay High Court struck down the Coastal Regulation Zone's clearance for its Coastal Road, which is a part of the Eastern Freeway. Bombay HC also observed that the area is conducive for coral growth.

(News Agencies)- In a major setback for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the Bombay high court on Tuesday struck down the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance for its Rs. 14,000 crore Coastal Road, which is part of the Eastern Freeway to be constructed to provide an alternate speedy connect between South Mumbai and Western suburbs. The division bench of Chief Justice Pradeep Nandrajog and Justice Nitin Jamdar struck down the CRZ clearance for the ambitious civic project primarily on the ground that it was granted without conducting proper scientific

study and Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests overlooked the deficiency. MCZMA had recommended CRZ approval for Coastal Road on January 4, 2017 and the final approval came from the environment ministry on May 11, 2017. The other reason, according to the bench, for striking down the CRZ clearance was the failure to take into consideration the impact of metro rail network being constructed across the city. "The impact of the metro of being able to transport commuters was extremely necessary and

important keeping in mind that the reclamation of land to construct a coastal road is permitted only in an exceptional case," said the bench. While deciding a bunch of public interest litigations concerning the Coastal Road, the bench also rejected BMC's stand that no environmental clearance (EC) was required for the project. The civic body had claimed that coastal road was an exempted activity and therefore no prior environmental clearance was required for the Rs. 14,000Cr project. It was also argued on behalf of the civic body that since environmental impact assessment was done for CRZ clearances, there was substantial compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment notification as well. The bench held that environmental clearance was required for the coastal road primarily in view of the fact that



70 of the 90 hectares land to be reclaimed for the project has been proposed to be used for recreational purposes like open green spaces, parks, cycling and jogging tracks, parking lots and bus depots. "Sheer volume of the area, which is 90 hectare, would require the project activity to be treated as an area development project," the bench said. All area development projects are covered under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of 2011 and thus required prior environmental clearance. The court also held that the BMC could not have commenced work on the coastal road without obtaining permission under the

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in view of presence of corals found in intra-tidal zone where the coastal road project has been proposed. "Notwithstanding the fact that corals presence is minuscule the same shows that ecosystem in the area in question is conducive to the Corals," the bench said, adding, "It establishes that the area is ecologically sensitive having geo-morphological features which play a role in maintaining integrity of the species and thus, MCGM could not have commenced the works in question without obtaining permission under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

NU guard cracks varsity entrance, to study Russian



(News Agencies)- When Ramjal Meena first stepped into Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) as a security guard in 2014, he had no clue he will enrol in the same university as a student some day. Last week, the 34-year-old first-generation learner from Rajasthan's Karauli cracked the JNU entrance examination for admission into BA Russian (Hons). "What makes JNU different is that people here do not believe in social hierarchy. Everyone - teachers and students - encouraged me; now they congratulate me. I feel like I have become famous overnight," Meena said. Son of a daily wager, Meena attended a government school in his village Bhajera. However, he had to discontinue his education later. "The nearest college was 28-30 km away. Moreover, I had to work to help my father too," he said. But the grit to learn never left him. Last year, he graduated in Political Science, History and Hindi

through distance learning from Rajasthan University. Vice-chancellor M? Jagadesh Kumar said, "We have always encouraged students from diverse backgrounds. We nurture them by providing them critical thinking ability." Meena, who is married and has three daughters, lives in a one-room-set in Munirka. "Though I got really busy addressing my family's financial issues, the regret of not joining a regular college was always there. But when I saw the academic environment here, the dream was revived," he said. Meena prepared for the entrance exam between and after duty hours. "I follow newspapers through apps on my phone. Besides, students also helped me get PDF notes." He chose to study a foreign language so he could "see places". "I have heard those who study foreign languages get to visit foreign countries. Moreover, I want to try my luck in civil services," he said.



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Balakot raid proved IAF's precision strike powers, says Air Chief Dhanoa

Air Chief Marshal Dhanoa said the Balakot strikes proved that the IAF had the capability to carry out operations across the full spectrum of operations and this was achieved through "long planning and induction" of platforms.

(News Agencies)-Indian Air Force chief BS Dhanoa on Tuesday asserted that the February 26 raid on a terror base in Pakistan's Balakot demonstrated the Air Force's capability to carry out precision strikes from a standoff distance. Speaking at a seminar on 20 years of Operation Safed Sagar, the code name for the IAF's action during the Kargil war, Air Chief Marshal Dhanoa said the Balakot strikes proved that the IAF had the capability to carry out operations across the full spectrum of operations and this was achieved through "long planning and induction" of platforms.

"That's the big change that has taken place over the years," he asserted, crediting his predecessors for laying the

foundation for enhanced capabilities.

The strike on the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terror camp in Balakot was India's response to the February 14 Pulwama suicide attack in which 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) troopers were killed. The IAF's Mirage-2000s hit three targets in Balakot with five Israeli-origin Spice 2000 bombs with penetrator warheads that allowed them to pierce through the rooftops before exploding inside to cause maximum damage.

Pakistan Air Force fighters made a failed attempt to bomb Indian military installations on February 27, leading to an aerial engagement along the Line of Control during which an Indian combat jet was shot down and its pilot captured and briefly

detained by Pakistan. The neighbouring air force also lost a fighter plane in the aerial skirmish.

The air chief said the February 27 skirmish served to illustrate the IAF's network centric warfare capabilities. Dhanoa, who was commanding a MiG-21 squadron during the 1999 conflict, said the IAF was prepared for a Kargil-like operation. "Like all good generals, we are prepared to fight the last war. If Kargil comes again, we are very well prepared," the IAF chief said.

In his speech, Dhanoa recalled the air action that took place during the Kargil conflict during which MiG-21 aircraft carried out air-to-ground bombing at night in the mountains for the first time. He spoke at length



about the operational limitations that existed only on Mirage-2000 in 1999 and the innovative ways adopted by the IAF to overcome the difficulties.

He said the developments that took place post Kargil had transformed the IAF's capability to counter any kind of air threat in conventional and sub-conventional domains. He said precision bombing capabilities

that existed only on Mirage-2000 during Kargil were now available on Su-30, Jaguar, MiG-29 and MiG-27 upgraded planes.

Dhanoa further said that while Pakistan had upgraded its capabilities swiftly after Kargil due to a "faster decision cycle," India had also moved forward significantly in that direction in recent years.

Learn to listen, Owaisi Sahab': Amit Shah's advice for Hyderabad MP

(News Agencies)-Union Home minister Amit Shah had word of advice for AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday during a discussion on an amendment bill that seeks to strengthen National Investigation Agency (NIA) by empowering it to probe offences committed outside India against Indian citizens or affecting the interests of India. "Learn to listen also Owaisi Sahab, this will not work," Shah told the Hyderabad MP, who heads All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), after he objected to a part of BJP MP Satya Pal Singh's

speech during the discussion on the amendment bill, reports ANI. Moving the amendment Bill for consideration and passage in the House, Minister of State for Home G. Kishan Reddy said that terrorism is a dangerous problem and senior leaders have been victims. Reddy said that the new law will allow the NIA to probe cases of terrorism targeting Indians and Indian assets abroad, and also empower the agency to investigate cases of arms and human trafficking besides those linked to cyber terrorism. "We want to fight terrorism with zero tolerance

and have brought this bill in national interest. I pray to all of you for its passage," he said. The minister said that NIA probes have yielded good results and out of the 272 cases registered, judgment has been delivered in 52 cases, while there is conviction in 46 other cases. Earlier, several opposition members, including N K Premachandran and Saugata Roy, questioned the government's decision to push for a discussion amid the ongoing budget-related debates but Speaker Om Birla ruled that a debate can start.

Solan building collapse: Inapplicable building by-laws, rampant construction led to tragedy

As construction bylaws are not applicable in the area, the owner did not seek permission before adding two more floors to the original structure.

(News Agencies)- With unregulated construction rampant in rural areas of Solan, the collapse of a four-storeyed building in Kumarhatti on Sunday seemed to be inevitable. The tragedy could have been averted had building bylaws been applicable in the area. Ten years ago, the building, which collapsed like a house of cards claiming 14 lives, had only two floors to begin with. Overtime another two floors were added with the fourth storey added some eight months ago; and all this without strengthening the building's foundation.

As construction bylaws are not applicable in the area, the owner did not seek permission before

adding floors to the original structure. Deputy commissioner KC Chaman agreed that construction bylaws of the town and country planning (TCP) department were not applicable as the area fell under a panchayat. "The reason behind the building's collapse will be clear once the SDM conducts a probe. The chief minister has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident. A report will be submitted in two weeks," he said. Adjoining the collapsed building, another seven-storeyed apartment is under construction. A resident of the area, Aruna Jaiswal, said as many as 47 trees were cut without permission to build the

apartments. "Due to rampant deforestation, the soil in the area has become loose. Incessant rainfall has only made things worse. Poor drainage is another issue in the area," said Aruna a hotelier, whose husband is a visiting professor at IIT Roorkee. History repeats itself

Four years ago, another building in the same neighbourhood had collapsed. Those within the building escaped in the nick of time after they noticed the widening cracks. This time around, the victims had no warning before the building went down. Recently, the wall of a private school in the area also collapsed and the house of a



resident developed cracks due to excessive use of large machines. However, no efforts were made to monitor the construction.

Most residents say the foundation of the building was too weak to take the load of the fourth storey. Barog panchayat secretary Talsi Ram said panchayats do not have authority to regulate construction. "The government must establish standard construction norms for

villages on the border of urban areas or give panchayats the authority to monitor construction," he said.

Sudharshan Kumar, a government employee, who lives in the area suggested that the government extend TCP bylaws to all state highways to ensure regularised construction irrespective of whether they fall in urban or rural areas.

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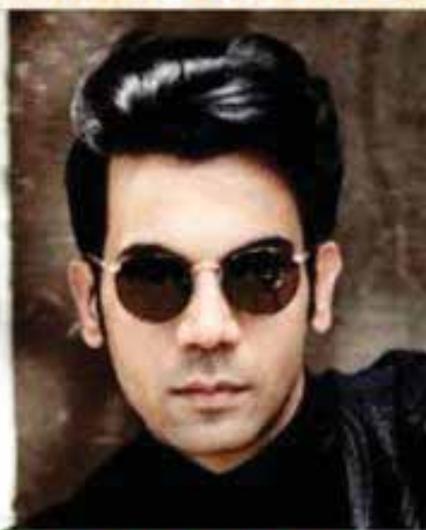
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Trump slams progressive congress women at fiery 'MAGA' rally in North Carolina

President Trump, at a fiery "Make America Great Again" campaign rally Wednesday night in Greenville, North Carolina, blasted four progressive congresswomen, Reps. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts, with whom he continues to spar after an ongoing feud over comments he made against them that critics deemed "racist."

"Let 'em leave... they're always telling us how to run it, how to do this, how to do that. You know what? If they don't love it, tell 'em to leave it," Trump said of the congresswomen, doubling down on similar comments he made on Twitter earlier in the week.

Trump slammed Omar on Wednesday saying she "smeared U.S. service members in 'Black Hawk Down.' She slandered the brave Americans trying to keep peace in Somalia," a dig at her Somali-American heritage.

Trump also said Omar blamed America for the economic crisis in Venezuela and refused to condemn Al Qaeda.

Meantime, many in the crowd shouted, "send her back." Omar later responded by quoting Maya Angelou. Trump moved on to his critique of Tlaib, saying she "used the F-word to describe the presidency and your president." "That's not nice, even for me," Trump said. "That's not somebody who loves our country." The president then took aim at Ocasio-Cortez, whom he mocked for her "three different names," saying she inaccurately described the migrant holding facilities at the southern border as concentration camps.

Of Pressley, Trump said the congresswoman "thinks that people with the same skin color all need to think the same. She said, 'we don't need any more brown faces that don't want to be brown voices, we don't need black faces that don't want to be a black voice,'" a reference to remarks she gave at a conference this past weekend. "Can you imagine if I said that?" At the top of his remarks Wednesday night, Trump celebrated the House's decision to shelve impeachment proceedings against him.

I just heard that the United States House of Representatives has overwhelmingly voted to kill the most ridiculous project I ever

worked on," Trump said, referring to an impeachment resolution proposed by Rep. Al Green, D-Texas, that was widely opposed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and other top Democrats.

"The resolution-- how stupid is that-- on impeachment."

Trump called the 332-95 vote to sideline the impeachment resolution Wednesday "totally lopsided" and instead touted the strong economy and low unemployment numbers under his administration.

"And, they want to try and impeach," he said. "It's a disgrace."

This past Sunday, Trump called for the progressive

congresswomen to "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came. Then come back and show us how it is done."

The four congresswomen Trump apparently referenced are all American citizens and three of them were born in the United States.

The congresswomen, along with several other lawmakers, condemned the statements as racist and Trump fired back saying "Those Tweets were NOT Racist. I don't have a Racist bone in my body!"

Ocasio-Cortez rebutted the president Tuesday, saying, "You have a racist mind in your head, and a racist heart in your chest.

That's why you violate the rights of children and tell the Congresswomen who represent your home borough, to 'go back to my country.'"

Trump also lambasted former Special Counsel Robert Mueller's yearslong investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 elections, calling the "witch hunt" "bullsh--."

"Could you imagine what it could have been if we didn't have the witch hunt," he said. "What happened to me with this witch hunt should never be allowed to happen to another president of the United States, never ever again." "Democrats have never been further outside of the mainstream. They're going

crazy," Trump continued, alluding to the infighting between Democrats in Congress. He proceeded to slam 2020 hopeful Bernie Sanders I-Vt., calling him "desperate" for promising voters universal healthcare and free tuition for college students. "I think they're all sad when you get right down to it," Trump said of the 24 Democrats running for president in 2020. The president revived criticism of Democratic candidate Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., referring to her as "Pocahontas," and making fun of her claimed ancestry as a Native American, which she later retracted. "The Indians got together and they said, 'We don't want her,'" he mocked.

The Trump Outrage Cycle: indignation, rinse, repeat.

The president's latest offensive comments are playing out in wearily predictable fashion.

Democrats have long believed Donald Trump's brand of scab-picking politics is deplorable, and now they have made it official, with a House of Representatives resolution condemning the president for urging four congresswomen to "go back" to other countries if they insist on being so critical of his leadership of this one.

There it was: clear and simple language from the people's chamber, calling out "racist statements" for what they were, citing history from the Founding Fathers to Ronald Reagan, defending universal truths about what it means to be an American.

Or maybe it was this: a puffed-up ride by Democrats on a high horse, a symbolic gesture that unintentionally symbolized how in contemporary America there are no universal truths — only angry words and party-line votes, everything either a weapon or shield in the nonstop ideological and cultural wars.

Could there be some Americans left out there who generally have an open mind toward Trump, didn't know what to make of his nativist attacks on four left-leaning women of color known as "the squad," and after carefully considering the House debate and the righteous denunciations of Democrats were brought around to the conviction that Trump's comments were indeed unacceptably racist? One way to answer is to return to the canonical statement, from a Democratic perspective, on Trump's perverse appeal: Hillary Clinton's 2016 description of his supporters as "a basket of deplorables." Recall, however, that she said only half fit that definition, "racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic — you name it." The other half, as Clinton saw it, are decent people who are simply in despair about their fading life prospects and willing to put faith in Trump because they perceived no other place to put it.

Perhaps some in that second half will now conclude, in the wake of the House resolution

(passed with four Republican votes, plus newly independent Rep. Justin Amash), that this time Trump went too far, even for him. In which case, this time is somehow different from the other times when important figures in both parties and in the media said he had gone too far, even for him, and predicted his imminent ruin. That's what they said after Trump mocked John McCain for being captured in Vietnam, after his "grab them by the pussy" tape was uncovered, after firing his FBI director because he refused to do his personal bidding, after referring to developing nations populated by blacks as "shithole countries." And on and on.

Who knows what percentage of Trump supporters are motivated by rank prejudice of the sort invoked by Clinton, who cited no specific data to support of her claim.

My personal and professional encounters with the Trump voter include many people who don't fit into the "basket of deplorables" yet whose life prospects are just fine. They cringe when Trump goes from merely provocative to outright prejudiced. At the same time, my guess is that far higher than half of Trump voters are motivated by something not quite the same as what Clinton described: Enjoyment that Trump says so many things that she, along with most Democrats, and many in the media find genuinely deplorable. They don't endorse racism, but admire Trump for seeming not to care that Nancy Pelosi calls him racist.

In my experience, that bond links nearly all Trump supporters in some way: They see him puncturing liberal pieties, and offending elite sensibilities broadly, and like it. His partisans don't need to agree with Trump's words or actions — they may even find some of them off-putting — and still find the indignation of Democrats and the media more off-putting.

The modern incarnation of conservative politics of resentment goes back to Richard Nixon, and historical precedents go back

decades before that. Trump's innovation, on display again this week, is to market this as a kind of national entertainment, which a significant percentage of Americans — in admiration or contempt — find compulsively absorbing.

The resolution that House Democrats see as righteous will be seen in other quarters as self-righteous. That isn't necessarily a reason not to pass it, but it's a guarantee that the story moves beyond the original provocation to the response to the provocation, which has been the real engine of Trumpism.

Surely Trump knew his original weekend tweet calling on the four to "go back" looked foolish. While all four women he attacked were minorities, only one, Rep. Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, was born outside the country, and she moved to the United States as a child and was naturalized 20 years ago at age 17. He had unified the Democratic Party at the very moment they had been fraying. But Trump recognizes that he has a seemingly inexhaustible ability to call the question: Which side are you on? Revels in it, even. It was the predictable answers to this question that gave the past several days such a paradoxical quality. In one light, events moved at an astonishing blur. He said what?! Can you believe it?

Historian Jon Meacham said Trump's comments place him with Andrew Johnson in the late 1860s as "the most racist president in American history." News organizations abandoned usual conventions to call the remarks "racist" without the usual attributions and qualifications like "critics allege" or "flirted with." It was less than 60 hours from thumbs swiping Trump's keyboard Sunday morning to passage of the House resolution Tuesday evening.

In another light, fundamental dynamics weren't moving at all. Yes, Trump said that and no one at this point was genuinely surprised.

Former cop and teacher jumps into race to take on AOC: Dems 'knocking each other over' to embrace socialism

"I think this transcends party, I think people are really interested in local representation and that's something that we've seriously lacked in that district for a long time," he said. As a retired high school government teacher of 21 years, Cummings said education will be a large focus of his campaign. As for his opinion on socialism, Cummings said he is not a fan.

"I despise socialism, I despise everything about it. For many years, the Democrats have flirted with socialism ... and now they are almost knocking each other over to see who can grab the socialist ring first." "When you're doing so in a climate where the economy is really chugging along, unemployment is low...everything seems to be moving in the right direction, and

now you're going to flip the script? I think it's outrageous and I think people know that at the local level." Later in the interview, Cummings touted his pitch for the people of Queens and the Bronx. "My message is I am you, I've lived and worked in that district my entire life. I shop where the people shop, I live where they live, I eat where they eat - I know where

the good restaurants are, I sit on the Cross Bronx like everybody else, and that message resonates," he said. Cummings joins four other Republicans who have filed to run for the seat: Businesswoman Scherie Murray, medical journalist Ruth Papazian, construction contractor Miguel Hernandez and entrepreneur Antoine Tucker. The GOP primary will take place in June

2020. In a Fox News exclusive interview, Murray - a Jamaican immigrant and businesswoman - called Ocasio-Cortez a "crisis" for the district. "Instead of focusing on us, she's focusing on being famous. Mainly rolling back progress and authoring the job-killing Green New Deal and killing the Amazon New York deal," she said.

Trump praises himself in Hafiz Saeed tweet, experts say Pak pulled a fast one

"Finding him was never an issue," tweeted Husain Haqqani, the former Pakistani ambassador to the United States. "He operated freely and was highly visible. He has been arrested and released many times over. @POTUS shd immediately fire whoever gave him the wrong information." Justice Pickholz was unmoved and labeled Mr. Epstein a level-three sex offender, which meant his name and address would be on a state registry of sex offenders for life. His lawyers appealed the decision, but an appellate panel

upheld the ruling. During the appeal, the Manhattan district attorney's office did an about-face, admitting Ms. Gaffney had misinterpreted the law and stating there was "no basis for a downward departure" from the highest rating. On Tuesday, Mr. Vance said he had not learned about the hearing or the subsequent appeal until well after they happened. He added he had not even heard of Mr. Epstein at the time, and he was not typically kept informed about every sex-offender status hearing. He said in reviewing the

transcript of the hearing he did not believe Ms. Gaffney "was going out on a ledge for the defendant." "I see the lawyer for our office arguing on a point of law where she thought she was right but she was wrong," he said. Ms. Gaffney, who was never disciplined for her decision, left the Manhattan district attorney's office in September. She did not respond to messages on Tuesday seeking comment. Saeed was released from house arrest in November 2017, drawing a sharp rebuke and warning from

the United States. "The United States strongly condemns the release of Lashkar-e-Taiba leader Hafiz Saeed from house arrest in Pakistan and calls for his immediate re-arrest and prosecution," the White House press secretary's office had said in a statement. Islamabad disregarded the threat, and President Trump announced the suspension of all security-related aid to Pakistan after a few weeks in the new year. Saeed has been arrested and released several times, "usually

just before high level visits by US officials to Pakistan or Pakistani officials to the US", said a Pakistan expert. The LeT founder was also detained soon after 9/11, for instance, and the Mumbai attacks to "appease the Americans". He has never been brought to trial and has been allowed to operate freely, despite a \$10 million American bounty for information leading to his arrest and prosecution. He has even tried to mainstream himself by contesting elections.

Thornton 'T.D.' Barnes, Area 51 veteran: Why the proposed September storming of Area 51 is a terrible idea

missile and radar schools, and tracking hundreds of missile intercept missions over New Mexico and the western United States. Deploying with the first-ever Hawk missile combat battalion, I spent thousands of hours radar searching for hostile aircraft flying the skies over Europe. Following my 10-and-a-half years of military service, I spent several years on a NASA High Range radar site in Nevada tracking the X-15, XB-70, lifting bodies that became the space shuttle, the lunar landing vehicle development for the Apollo moon landings, and a countless number of secret flights out of Area 51 located 65 miles away. In 1968, I joined the Special Projects Team for the Central Intelligence Agency's projects at Area 51 where I participated in tracking missions using almost every radar existing at the time, including those of the Soviet Union. During all these years of radar tracking and working with astronauts, test pilots and military pilots, not once did I ever think that I'd seen, nor did I ever hear a pilot say that he or she

had seen an alien spacecraft. The Facebook warriors, thinking that they will find aliens at Area 51 are ludicrous -- there is no basis for their thinking so whatsoever. They have no smoking gun. First and foremost, what these people signed up for is not merely an act of trespass, it could well wind up being treated as terrorism. In fact, how do those participating know who is behind this plan? How do they even know that the organizers are not connected to ISIS or some other adversary or enemy using them to disrupt or penetrate the national security of the United States? There is no question that this is a conspiracy, even if it is said to be tongue-in-cheek, to penetrate a highly classified government installation. Those conspiring to "storm" or overrun the Area 51 installation should be concerned about the legal aspects, including the risk of being liable for the actions of their co-conspirators. What if someone is hurt during this unlawful activity? All the co-conspirators could well be held responsible for the actions of

one. All of the above aside, physically swarming Area 51 as in the movie "Independence Day," is pure Hollywood. In the real world, Area 51 is a remote rectangular no-fly area measuring 23 by 25 miles inside the Nevada Test and Training Range, a military training area used by the United States Air Force Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base. The NTTR land area includes a "simulated Integrated Air Defense System," several individual ranges with 1,200 targets, and four remote communication sites. Area 51 also borders the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository and the Nevada National Security Site, the location of 739 nuclear tests conducted by the United States Department of Energy. Consequently, the possibility of 1 million or more people storming Area 51 will require the participants to brave and survive trespass through an aerial gunnery and bombing range heavily utilized for electronic combat ranges, aircraft control and warning, and for Blue Flag, Green Flag, and Red Flag exercises.

Former porn star set to lead XXXchurch as founder focuses on 'Christian Cannabis'

He had led the online parachurch group for 17 years. "I have seen this ministry grow beyond my wildest dreams. From our very first outreach in 2002 at the largest porn show in the nation to the millions of people struggling with addiction that have found a safe place of hope, healing, and recovery here," Gross said in a statement. It's something that has been on his mind since 2013, and earlier this year he said he heard the Lord tell him: "Give XXXchurch to Brittni and Rich De La Mora to lead." "Brittni is a former porn star we met while she was still in the industry, and we fostered a relationship with her as she began hers with Christ. What God has done in her life in the last seven years is nothing short of a beautiful miracle," he said. De La Mora shared she heard about XXXchurch while she was still active in porn. "I used to call them the 'Jesus Loves Porn Stars People,'" she said. "This message pierced my heart. I used to wonder, 'Could Jesus really love me? Because I sure don't deserve it. I sell myself for

money. How could He ever love me?" "But XXXchurch showed me with their continuous acts of love and kindness that YES, Jesus really did love me," De La Mora continued. "In fact, He loved me so much that He refused to leave me in my misery. Who would have ever thought that in my sin, God would connect me with a ministry that many years later He would ask me to lead? Certainly not me, but this is the grace of our God." To know that this is who will lead this ministry brings a smile to my face like no other," Gross added. "I could never have seen that coming 17 years ago when we went to our first porn show and everyone was asking why I was doing this ministry." PORN STAR-TURNED-PASTOR SAYS SHE WANTS 'EVERYONE TO EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF GOD' Gross said he will continue offering the couple guidance. We believe that God is going to do a new thing in this ministry," De La Mora said. "There have been so many lives that have been greatly impacted by the work of the XXXchurch.com, mine included, but God is not done yet."



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CVS eye drops, ointment added to nationwide recall over sterility concerns



threatening infections or death," the recall notice stated, adding that the CVS Health-branded products were only sold at CVS locations. The recall comes four days after Altaira issued a voluntary recall for several eye drops and ointments sold

(News Agencies)- Dozens of CVS Health-branded eye drops and ointment were added to the nationwide recall last week over sterility concerns. Altaira Pharmaceuticals, Inc. announced Wednesday it was recalling several over-the-counter eye products over "a lack of sterility assurance." The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said the New York-based company was recalling the products as a "precautionary measure" and there have been no reports of injuries. "Administration of a non-sterile product intended to be sterile may result in serious and potentially life-

at Walmart and Walgreens due to the same concerns. Those who purchased any of the products affected are urged to contact Altaira by calling 1-800-258-2471 or emailing otcdruggist@aol.com. Customers who've experienced adverse reactions or other problems while using any of the recalled products should contact their physician or health care provider. The products affected by the recall and their product numbers are listed below. For more information on lot numbers, expiration dates and initial ship dates, visit the FDA's website.

Colombian man busted trying to smuggle cocaine under his wig



(News Agencies)- A Colombian man who looked nervous coming out of his flight in Barcelona, Spain caught the attention of security officials not for his actions, but for his very unusual looking wig. In particular, officials noticed the height of his wig. When officers approached the 65-year-old man, who had just arrived on a flight from Bogota, they asked him to remove his wig. Beneath the small

toupee, officers found a packet containing 503 grams of cocaine glued to his head, Spanish newspaper La Vanguardia reported. Police said the street value for the drugs was about \$33,650. The man, who was not identified, was immediately arrested. Spain is one of the main European ports of entry for Colombian cocaine with passengers acting as mules frequently getting caught by authorities trying to

smuggle small quantities of the drug. On one occasion, officers in Barcelona discovered a package of drugs strapped to his abdomen. He told police that he had also swallowed 35 condoms filled with the drug, The Guardian reported. In May, 12 people were arrested in Spain in connection to a cocaine-smuggling ring that mixed the drug with industrial plastic pellets in a bid to avoid detection.

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US moves to block asylum for migrants crossing Mexico



A new rule redefining asylum eligibility -- to take effect on Tuesday -- is the latest attempt to stem the flow of undocumented migrants into the country, and comes with the White House frustrated at Congress's failure to toughen immigration laws.

(News Agencies)- Cracking down on migration has been a signature policy of President Donald Trump. "The United States is a generous country but is being completely overwhelmed by the burdens associated with apprehending and processing hundreds of thousands of aliens along the southern border," Attorney General Bill Barr said in a statement. "This rule will decrease forum shopping by economic migrants and those who

seek to exploit our asylum system to obtain entry to the United States," Barr added.

Central American migrants targeted

The White House's new rule targets the recent stream of hundreds of thousands of migrants from Central America and other countries who have tried to cross into the United States from Mexico and request asylum. These requests -- increasingly made by families saying they have fled endemic violence and poverty in their countries -- allow the applicants to remain in the United States and to move around freely while their cases are adjudicated,

which can take two years. Many disappear into the country and never appear in court for their hearings, immigration officials say.

The new rule declares ineligible for asylum any migrants who enter the United States from the southern border and who have not asked for asylum protection in any of the countries they crossed to get to the United States.

The rule includes exceptions for people who can demonstrate they are victims of torture or persecution. But it was not clear whether the White House expects the migrants to seek asylum in the countries they first travel to -- Guatemala and

Mexico mainly -- or simply apply for asylum in the United States while waiting in those countries.

Legal challenge expected The rule could quickly run into legal challenges that have repeatedly stymied the White House's efforts to slow the number of migrants entering the country without documentation. The American Civil Liberties Union announced that it was preparing to sue to block the new rule. "The Trump administration is trying to unilaterally reverse our country's legal and moral commitment to protect those fleeing danger. This new rule is patently unlawful and we will sue swiftly," said Lee Gelernt, deputy

director of the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project. Democratic Representative Bennie Thompson, chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, called the new asylum rule "xenophobic" and "racist." "It is unlawful and must be stopped by the courts. We need immigration policies that affirm the American values that the President is all too eager to trample on," said Thompson.

Migrant numbers hit 13-year high - The number of border-crossers detained by the US Border Patrol surged to a 13-year high of more than 144,000 in May before easing to 104,000 in June -- still up 142 percent from a year earlier.

US scientist raped, murdered in Greece; 6 days later body found in bunker

Suzanne Eaton, a molecular biologist, was raped and murdered by a farmer, on the Greek island of Crete.

(News Agencies)- A 27-year-old farmer on the Greek island on Crete has confessed to raping and murdering an American scientist before dumping her body in an abandoned World War II bunker, police said Tuesday.

"The primary suspect has confessed," Crete police director Constantinos Lagoudakis told reporters.

The body of Suzanne Eaton, a molecular biologist at the Max Planck Institute at Dresden University, was found near the city of Chania nearly a week after she was last seen by friends on July 2. Eaton, 59, had been attending a conference near the city and had gone out hiking on the day of her murder, leaving behind her

cellphone, the police said. Police said the suspect, a married father of two, and son of a local priest, had twice run over Eaton with his car to incapacitate her. He then put her in the trunk of the car and drove to the bunker's remote location, near the settlement of Xamoudochori, where he sexually assaulted her. A coroner attributed

Eaton's death to asphyxiation.

The little-known bunker had been used by German occupation forces during World War II.

Eaton's body was found by cave explorers six days after she disappeared, police said.

She is survived by her husband, British scientist Anthony Hyman, and two



sons. In a statement it was "deeply shocked and disturbed by this tragic event". Max Planck Institute said

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Elderly woman alleges deed scam on her home; accused says he's 'innocent'



(News Agencies)- A Queens woman who spent two decades keeping a roof over her children's heads is now in danger of losing it to people she claims have duped her.

Kathleen Duberry has been fighting in Queens Supreme Court for four years, arguing that the people she met with to agree on a loan modification on her home are actually scam artists trying to swindle her.

"They really took advantage of me," she said. "They lied to me."

Those people claim that Duberry, 63, knew full well that she was signing papers to sell her home, on which she owed thousands of dollars in back mortgage payments.

Of the three people and one company

that Duberry named as defendants in her complaint, one has already been convicted of fraud in a separate matter. His name is Raj Maddiwar.

Maddiwar was found guilty last summer in Manhattan Federal Court of tricking homeowners into selling debt-laden properties at a discount. He's listed as Duberry's attorney on a contract of sale for her Jamaica home. She claims in court documents that he didn't tell her the contract was for a short sale, that she was led to believe it was for a loan modification. She also questions how she came to meet Maddiwar the day she signed on the dotted line. A short sale of the property would have netted less than the amount of debt against it.

"I went there in the morning. They were in the back room. They came out. Maddiwar introduced himself as my lawyer," Duberry recalled. "I said, 'I don't think you're my lawyer.' How did he become my lawyer?"

In her complaint, Duberry, who gets around with a walker and goes for dialysis three times a week, also accused CNM Analytics, its president Carrmen

Mansfield, and real estate broker Roger Hans of acting as secret confederates and violating state home equity theft laws. The complaint was filed in Queens Supreme Court.

She claims in the complaint that Maddiwar and Hans were connected to CNM before they became involved with her and that it was Hans, not her, who "hired" Maddiwar to represent her. She claims in court papers that she did not sign off on the deal even though they claim she did. "I never signed a contract agreeing to a short sale," she stated in a March 7, 2016, affidavit. "I did not sign the papers that Mr. Hans has attached to his motion." Maddiwar also was the attorney for retired plumber Dairus Griffiths when he apparently signed away his Bedford-Stuyvesant home, which Griffiths disputes and is being investigated by the Brooklyn District Attorney's office. Griffiths claimed in a December 2017 sworn statement that he "never appointed any attorney" to handle the sale of his home, though he appeared to contradict himself in a later affidavit in which he said he agreed to use Maddiwar.

So-called 'ICE bae,' a Latina border patrol officer, is taking social media by storm



(News Agencies)- A female Border Patrol officer has gone viral - with social media users dubbing the woman #IceBae - on account of her dolled-up appearance. "Holy s-t...I think I'm coming down with a case of undocumentation," wrote @VibeHi on Twitter, who was one of countless users to share the BPD agent's photo on Monday, along with a video she posted. "#IceBae could detain me for however long she wants," another said.

The female officer was providing security for Vice President Mike Pence during his recent border visit when she was photographed standing outside of a holding cell.

A Twitter account purportedly belonging to the woman surfaced early Monday and identified her as Kiara Cervantes, of Texas. A video was posted later in the afternoon, claiming the page was authentic.

"Just woke up...saw that I needed to make a video so y'all could believe that it's me," said the woman purporting herself to be Cervantes. "It's me - I'm a Customs officer based in Texas and yeah, I don't know what else to say."

The woman later posted a message, saying she was "in awe" by all the attention she was receiving - some of which has been very negative. "This country is a mess, we are praising and trending #IceBae when she is literally a guard at a CONCENTRATION CAMP, guarding CHILDREN IN CAGES, RIPPING FAMILIES APART AT THE BORDER," seethed one Twitter user. "You're all sick, honestly."

Another person said, "#IceBae is actively aiding in the internment of men, women, and children without trial or even so much as humane living conditions. She, along with every other officer going along with this is a traitor to the very ideas of justice and freedom."

But Cervantes wasn't paying any mind to her haters and instead focused on "the support" she's been receiving.

"My job is so hectic at this moment but I am grateful," she tweeted Monday night. "I love protecting my country! And I love my supporters!"

The purported BPD agent had been answering questions throughout the day from both fans and people outraged with her newfound fame.

Disney heiress Abigail Disney says she was 'livid' about worker conditions at theme park after going undercover

(News Agencies)- Walt Disney Co. heiress Abigail Disney said "The Happiest Place on Earth" isn't bringing joy to theme park employees.

Disney revealed to Yahoo! News' "Through Her Eyes" that she recently went undercover to Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif., and was left "livid" after seeing the conditions employees endured. The heiress said she decided to conduct her own investigation after a distressed worker contacted her on Facebook. "Every single one of these people I talked to were saying, 'I don't know how I can maintain this face of joy and warmth when I have to go home and forage for food in other people's garbage,'" she told Yahoo! News in an interview published Monday. "I was so livid when I came out of there because, you know, my grandfather taught me to revere these people that take your tickets, that pour your soda," Disney added. "Those people are much of the recipe for success." Disney, who does not have an active role in the company, then directed her criticism toward Bob Iger, saying the Disney CEO isn't doing enough to help the company's employees. "Bob needs to understand he's an employee, just the same as the people scrubbing gum off the sidewalk are employees," the heiress said. "And they're entitled to all the same dignity and human rights that he is." Disney's



comments came the same day Bloomberg reported the theme park was tracking guests through its smartphone apps and electronic wristband MagicBand. Theme park officials can then see which rides attendees prefer and what TV and film merchandise is flying off the shelves. In April, Disney made headlines when she wrote an op-ed in The Washington Post slamming Iger for his \$65.6 million salary. The CEO earned 1,424 times more than the median Disney employee last year, according to a study by Equilar. The company has faced criticism in recent years over its pay policies at Disneyland and other theme parks. "The system is the problem, and the people inside of the system who are perfectly comfortable with the system are the problem," the philanthropist and filmmaker said in Monday's interview. "I don't think any president of the United States has as much power as some CEOs in this

country." A Disney spokesperson said in a statement to Fox News on Monday that the company, under Iger's leadership, has made an initial commitment of \$150 million to fund its Disney Aspire initiative for the first five years. The program, which Disney plans to continue investing in in the future, is aimed at providing employees the opportunity to pursue higher education. "Disney is at the forefront of providing workforce education, which is widely recognized as the best way to create economic opportunity for employees and empower upward mobility," the statement read. "Our Disney Aspire initiative is the most comprehensive employee education program in the country, covering 100 percent of all tuition costs, books and fees so our hourly workers can pursue higher education free of charge, and graduate free of debt." "Disney also provides flexible schedules and subsidized childcare to make it easier for employees to take advantage of this opportunity--and we're proud that more than 40 percent of our 88,000-plus hourly employees have already signed up to participate," the spokesperson added. "American workers need meaningful change; they deserve smart policies and practical programs, like Disney Aspire, that empower them to achieve their goals and ensure they are part of the most competitive workforce in the world."

The scary truth behind generic drugs in India

Often, generic drugs manufacturers produce medicines of higher quality for European and American markets, where regulation is tighter, whilst blithely selling inferior and ineffective drugs in India

Perhaps because I'm a hypochondriac, I have great faith in medicine. Whenever I pop a pill, I do so in the full confidence it will work. To my horror, I now discover that's terribly mistaken in the case of many generic drugs and, particularly, those made in India. A large number are actually ineffective and a few even harmful.

This is the key message of a book to be published next week called *Bottle of Lies: Ranbaxy and the dark side of Indian Pharma*. According to its dust jacket, its author, Katherine Eban, "relies on over 20,000 FDA (US Food and Drug Administration) documents and interviews with over 240 people to show how fraud and treachery are deeply entrenched in much of the (generic drugs) industry in India and raises troubling questions about some of its biggest names - Wockhardt, Dr.

Reddy's, Glenmark and RPG Life Sciences".

At the core of this book is its research into the shameful story of Ranbaxy. In 2013, in a well-covered court case in America, the company pleaded guilty to seven charges of selling adulterated drugs and paid \$500 million in fines. This is what Eban concludes of Ranbaxy's approach to testing drugs before they are sold - "You had to test the drugs to see if they were properly formulated, stable and effective. The resulting data was the only thing that proved the medicine would cure instead of kill. Yet Ranbaxy was treating data as an entirely fungible marketing tool ... it was an outright fraud that could mean the difference between life and death ... the company manipulated almost every aspect of its manufacturing process to quickly produce impressive-

looking data that would bolster its bottom-line."

Often generic drugs manufacturers - not just Ranbaxy - produce medicines of higher quality for European and American markets, where regulation is tighter, whilst blithely selling inferior and ineffective drugs in India. Dinesh Thakur, the man who blew the whistle on Ranbaxy, told Eban: "Testing the drugs for India was just a waste of time ... because no regulators ever looked at the data ... (companies) just invented the dossiers on their own and sent them to the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). What was needed for the DCGI was not real data but good connections."

Eban's book is full of hair-raising accounts of visits by US FDA regulators to manufacturing plants in India where fraud, insanitary conditions and



deliberately poor standards of manufacturing are revealed. In the microbiology laboratory of one plant, where they were testing for microbes and bacteria, the actual samples didn't exist: "They were testing nothing. The entire laboratory was a fake." If even a quarter of what Eban reveals is true, it is frightening. It means our faith in Indian generic medicines is often misplaced. They frequently don't work.

Sometimes, no matter how many tablets you take, they will not treat the disease or infection. If it's of any comfort, that's also true of many Chinese generic drugs.

In September 2014, Dinesh Thakur, who is clearly one of Eban's main sources, sought a meeting with Harsh Vardhan, both then and now our health minister, to alert him to the problem.

It's not about streamlining, it is about freedom of the Press

If you aren't a journalist, you may find it tough to understand why there is so much anger in the media over a new finance ministry directive that requires even accredited reporters to have confirmed appointments before they can enter the building. The government insists that this is a mere streamlining of procedure, but press bodies have called it an attempt to gag the media. Others have presented it as an example of the entitlement of journalists who are claiming special privileges for themselves. The move, which could easily extend to other ministries, must be revoked.

It is at best, paternalistic about the reporting process, and at worst, one more attempt to restrict access to information by an administration that has made no secret about the disdain it feels for much of the mainstream media. The fact that the decision has come right on the heels of an annual budget - the precise period when reporters need to be

pounding the pavement and meeting their sources - makes the decision even more problematic.

If these restrictions are aped by other ministers, it will defeat the purpose of accreditation or of obtaining what are called Press Information Bureau (PIB) credentials. It is important to understand that the process to get a PIB card is a long and elaborate one, which requires a "security clearance" at the highest level. No reporter is cleared for this unless she has been vetted by the home ministry and the police. The very idea of the credential is to allow you unrestricted entry to most government establishments (except certain classified, off-bound areas). If appointments have to be sought before a PIB journalist can even enter a government office, what is the purpose of the accreditation to begin with?

The other critical thing to understand is how terrified

bureaucrats have become about meeting journalists. In this, they take their cue from the top. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah do interact with journalists but are known to have strong likes and dislikes. Many officials, who would have interacted freely at a different time, now constantly look over their shoulders. The general consensus in the political establishment is that it is better to be safe than sorry; in other words the path of least resistance is in avoiding journalists altogether.

In these circumstances, insisting on a pre-fixed appointment as a condition for a reporter's entry simply means a written register would record every meeting between an official and a reporter. If this isn't Orwellian, what is? And why would any bureaucrat take the risk - especially for meeting a reporter who may be working on a less than flattering story on the government?

There's a sobering truth to Trump's racist tweets that we don't like to admit



President Trump's critics may not like to admit it, but there's an element of truth in the racist tweets he sent this weekend. Trump told four nonwhite Democratic congresswomen that they should "go back" to the "crime infested places" where they came from, even though three of the four were born in the US and the fourth is a naturalized citizen. Critics pounced. But in some ways those four lawmakers -- Democratic Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and Ayanna Pressley -- really do belong to another country. In one America, people react with shock when a President issues vile racist tweets against women

lawmakers. In the other America, people say nothing. In one America, people speak out in protest after a President claims that African, Haitian, and Salvadoran immigrants come from "sh**hole" countries. In the other America, people nod in agreement. In one America, people become outraged when administration officials snatch migrant children from their mothers' arms and detain them for weeks in filthy conditions with no repercussions. In the other America, people remain silent. And in one America, people condemn a President for describing protestors alongside neo-Nazis as "very fine people." In the other America, people shrug.

Tackling climate change needs strong political will

The two reports I read suggest practical measures which can be taken to provide protection from the impact of climate change and clean the air we breath. They both require governments to broaden their vision beyond the bickering and concentrate on long-term measures

Two reports in the British daily, The Guardian, over the last week or so have strengthened my conviction that climate change deniers like US President Trump should be ignored. Anyhow, I have never understood how, in the face of so much evidence to the contrary, climate change deniers are prepared to take the risk that they are wrong, and thereby be willing to expose the world to the possibility of a cataclysmic disaster. Surely that is a risk not worth taking. The reports have also confirmed my conviction that we need to broaden our concern about climate change beyond policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions levels. It's not that they are unimportant. A recent survey conducted by King's College London, suggests that eight year-old children living in the English city of Birmingham could have their lives shortened by seven months on average because of breathing toxic air. As usual it is the poor - those

living, in the most deprived areas of the city - who are at the greatest risk.

The first report I read comes from the United Nations where the Secretary General's special representative on disaster risk reduction spoke to The Guardian. Mami Mizutori, has warned that climate change is very much with us already. According to her, climate related disasters occur weekly. We notice the major disasters, among which she lists the current drought here in India, but she says "lower impact events that are causing death, displacement and suffering are occurring much faster than predicted". According to Mizutori, the emphasis so far has been on cutting green house gases. Now we need to concentrate also on mitigating their impact. This means building infrastructure such as housing, factories, roads and railways, electricity and water supply systems which are resilient to the effects of floods, droughts, storms, and extreme

heat. Slum dwellers in Indian cities are particularly at risk from the hazards caused by climate change.

Mizutori said, "nature based solutions such as mangrove swamps, forests and wetlands that could form, natural barriers to flooding should be a priority." I also read a report on a study published in the journal Science. It stresses the urgent need to go beyond curbing emissions of greenhouse gases and take out the emissions which have already been pumped into the atmosphere. This study also suggests a natural solution, making use of a tree's capability to absorb and store the gases causing global warming. The study is the work of a team led by Tom Crowther, a professor in environmental studies at Zurich university in Switzerland. The team has mapped the world to measure how many more trees could be planted without encroaching on



land which carries crops or urban areas. The area, the team reckons, is equivalent to the whole of Russia and China. Describing the results of his team's mapping Crowther has said, "This new quantitative evaluation shows that forest restoration is not just one of our climate change solutions, it is overwhelmingly the top one"

Who is to plant the trees and who is to pay for them? In the BBC radio programme, Science in Action, Crowther said, "All it requires is us humans on the ground getting involved ourselves either by restoring ecosystems ourselves or by giving money to people who are restoring ecosystems."

The two reports I read suggest practical measures which can be taken to provide protection from the impact of climate change and clean the air we breath. They both require governments to broaden their vision beyond the bickering over the amount of climate change producing gases they will allow each country to produce and concentrate on these and other long-term measures. To bring about that change will require popular pressure on politicians. As Crowther has said, "we the people need to get directly involved too." In India we need to revive the Chipko Andolan movement on a country wide scale, and this time by planting new trees as well as defending existing ones.

How Donald Trump pushed Iran to the bomb

Since the day he took office, President Donald Trump has been caught in an Iran trap, or more precisely, two traps. The first led the President to withdraw from the Iran nuclear agreement and pursue a "maximum pressure" campaign. The second trap will almost certainly lead to air strikes against Iran's nuclear facilities, perhaps within the year. Following that attack, Iran will likely respond by kicking out international inspectors and going for the bomb. If that happens, Iran will have gone from the most inspected country in the world and, by all serious accounts, a country that was in compliance with the international nuclear agreement to a country armed with nuclear weapons. Iran will represent the second country to have obtained nuclear weapons in the Middle East, arguably the most dangerous region in the world.

It does not have to turn out that way, but if it does, the outcome will first and foremost be the result of the President's decisions. The Iranian bomb will

be his most important legacy as president. After Trump leaves office, after the child internment centers are finally closed, after climate change rules are back in force, Iran will still have the bomb. So, how did we get there?

The first trap was laid before Mr. Trump took office. Congressional hawks who preferred regime change to diplomacy tried to scuttle the international nuclear agreement. Having failed, they supported a legal process requiring the president to periodically certify that Iran was abiding by its obligations. The agreement's enemies expected Iran to cheat and hoped the certification process would provide a future opportunity for Congress to kill the deal. At that point, in 2015, no one could imagine that Donald Trump would be the next president.

But Trump won the election. And after taking office, it was clear that he hated having to sign the certifications every 120 days, even if every organ of the US government dutifully reported that Iran was keeping its end of the

bargain. Certification forced him to stew about President Barack Obama's agreement over and over again. Eventually, it seems, the emotional and impulsive President could take it no more. But Trump was not content with simply withdrawing. Instead, he sought to punish Iran and all the other countries, including America's European allies, who remained in the agreement.

(Last week, the White House issued a head-scratching statement, insisting that "even before the deal's existence, Iran was violating its terms.")

The administration's new policy of "maximum pressure" combined insults, threats, and most of all, attempts to strangle the Iranian economy, to bring its life-sustaining oil imports to "zero" and to sanction any person, company, or country that so much as looked at Tehran. In April and May, the US went so far as to sanction Iran's Supreme Leader and part of its military. And that's when things started



to change. In the beginning, Iran had responded to the American onslaught with its own version of strategic patience. Tehran stayed in the agreement, maintained its compliance, negotiated with the Europeans to mitigate the effects of the sanctions, and let the US diplomatically isolate itself -- evidently planning to wait things out. The Iranians have now shifted strategy. Rather than lying on the ground waiting to be kicked again, they are pushing back. Iran is not looking to provoke a war -- a war it would surely lose -- but it will raise the

cost of Trump's "maximum pressure" policy.

Oil tankers have been disabled and a drone shot down (the US has blamed Iran for the former, which it denies, and the two countries have disputed the specifics of the latter incident), but the heart of Iran's new strategy revolves around its civilian nuclear program. Step by step, starting with smaller actions and progressing to more consequential ones, Iran is backing away from the restrictions specified in the agreement.

Style Trends 2019

Nail couture beauty looks like a pro

We got leading make-up maven Kapil Bhalla and Vipul Bhagat to suggest ways to nail these fresh off the runway looks.

Paris Couture Week Fall Winter 19 saw design houses reinterpreting strong femininity with powerful beauty looks. Pronounced cat eyes offset minimal dewy fresh-faced make-up on the runways of Chanel, Christian Dior, Stephane Rolland and Elie Saab. Maria Grazia Chiuri at Dior sent out models in gothic eyes with veiled faces and Chanel's chic librarian sported a pared-down version of the same. Elie Saab's Oriental nymph sported stretched out cat eyes and Stephane Rolland opted for full-on, blown-up smokiness. However, in terms of make-up, couturiers kept it natural and fresh-faced. We got leading make-up maven Kapil Bhalla and Vipul Bhagat to suggest ways to nail these fresh off the runway looks.

Chanel - Extended cat eyes with minimal make-up by Kapil Bhalla
Your skin prep is important. Leave in moisturiser for some time. Add a few drops of the foundation and blend it in. Apply a minimal hint of the peach blusher. The eyeliner application is important here. Start from the outer corners and go half way in with either a gel or a liquid eye liner. Then apply the mascara. Opt for either a lip balm or a nude lip. Use a highlighter powder and if you are very fair, stick to the gold family of colours. For a darker skin tone, you could use a stronger hue of gold. Mix a bit of shine in your regular powder.

Stephane Rolland - Dramatic smokey eye by Kapil Bhalla
In terms of eye colours, pick from either cement, browns or earthy tones as these tones complement all the eye colours. For instance, blend soft grey in brown and black. First do a regular black eyeliner and then make it intense. Use an off-white pencil inside to open the eye and smoke up the bottom. The mascara application has to complement the eyes. With darker eyes you need a foundation because otherwise, it doesn't stand out. Keep the lip colour nude or apply a lip balm for a chic finish.
Christian Dior - Gothic eyes by Vipul Bhagat
Start with a lot of kajal inside the



eyes and then buff it up with an eye shadow. Put loads of mascara to pull off the gothic vibe. Emphasise your lashes a lot as they tend to get lost in the smokey eyes. Pronounce the eye brows also. Keep the make-up is natural and use a clear lipglass.
Elie Saab - Oriental bride eyes

by Vipul Bhagat
Use a coral eye shadow and enhance it by shading and stretching it out. There's no mascara usage in this look and they have let the cat eyes do the talking. Use a lip colour like sour hue which defines the lips. In terms of the base, they have used a very little sheen on her nose.

Burberry Monogram Is the Latest Must-Have in Fashion

Under creative director Riccardo Tisci, the company is trying to move its handbags and clothes up-market to compete with the likes of Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior.



Burberry Group Plc just pulled a rabbit out of its vintage check hat. The British luxury brand-which is in the middle of a business turnaround - reported same-store sales growth of 4% in the three months to June 29, double what was expected by analysts. The performance is all the more notable given the disruption to its Hong Kong stores from the city's

recent protests. Under creative director Riccardo Tisci, the company is trying to move its handbags and clothes up-market to compete with the likes of Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior. Tisci's new monogram, based on the initials of the founder Thomas Burberry, is proving a hit with Chinese millennials. Having the Burberry

name emblazoned on bags and sweatshirts is winning the hearts of young Asian shoppers, as are the limited edition "drops" of products sold via Instagram and China's WeChat. Tisci's collection now makes up about half of the Burberry range and its sales rose by a "strong double-digit percentage." The shares jumped more than 10% on



Tuesday after the sales update was published, taking the increase since the end of May to 30%. Sterling's weakness is helping too. Investors are clearly betting that Tisci's creations can do the same thing for Burberry that Gucci's recent success did for the French luxury group Kering SA. And with more of his collection due in the next nine months, there are some grounds for optimism. Burberry estimates that three-quarters of its product range will be from the new designer by March next year. Yet Burberry isn't quite free of its recent travails just yet. It still

has a lot of old stock hanging around and a U.S. distribution network that needs refreshing. As a result, Burberry maintained its outlook for flat revenue and operating profit margin for this financial year. Keeping a lid on expectations at this stage is wise because there's scope for setbacks. While Chinese shoppers have led the Burberry revival, sales to them now account for about 40% of the group total. That means any trade war-related consumer slowdown might hurt demand. Burberry also needs to better exploit the Tisci buzz.

Smoothie bowls - Your health fix this summer

Four years ago, the humble smoothie got a makeover and became an Instagram sensation. Now, exquisite-looking smoothie bowls are finding their way into the diets of health-conscious Indians

Do a search for #smoothiebowl on Instagram, and it'll cough up two million posts. And that's just one of the hundreds of hashtags that Instagrammers use, to tag their photos of delicate, beautiful-looking smoothie bowls. In 2015, Telegraph.co.uk predicted that smoothie bowls were going to become "food's next big trend". Right enough, people all over the world caught on to the ingenious idea of serving a thick smoothie in an open bowl, instead of a tall glass, and garnishing it with a variety of toppings, arranged such as to make it look #instasensational, while being #instagood for your body!

In India too, smoothie bowls are becoming a hit, with fans swearing by its health benefits, good looks and incredible tastes. Holistic health coach Bhavna Kapoor, who offers personalised coaching programmes through www.healthnut.in, loves making a delicious green smoothie of banana, mango, mint, curry leaves and soaked figs blended together and topped with frozen pomegranates and mango slices. "Smoothie bowls are not just delicious or pretty to look at, they also pack in a bunch of macro and micro nutrients and are very energising," Kapoor says. Depending on what goes into the making of a smoothie bowl, it can be had for

breakfast or an evening snack-if fruit-based, or lunch or dinner-if made of vegetables. "It helps one to incorporate a good amount of fresh fruits and vegetables in their daily diet, in a way that's filling and satisfying," says Kapoor. "Other nutrient-dense foods such as leafy greens, seeds, nuts and berries

can be added too, which many of us don't know how to include in our daily meals." Several restaurants across metros have now started including smoothie bowls in their menus as well. One of the first to introduce organic smoothie bowls to their menu in India is the Mumbai-based Sequel Bistro & Juice Bar. It offers four types of rejuvenating smoothie bowls, such as the Matcha Detox Bowl and the Immunity Booster Acai Bowl. "The idea



was to create pre/post workout bowls that are nutrient-dense, taste delicious and are completely natural," says Vanika Choudhary, founder and chef at Sequel. "We also use a diverse mix of super foods, such as moringa, cacao, acai, spirulina etc." She says that smoothie bowls are easy on digestion, loaded with probiotics if you add yogurt, and a great way to incorporate both seasonal and local fruits and berries.

Choudhary however, advises a word of caution, "Watch out for the ones that are loaded with sugar, made with store-bought artificial products and have stabilisers, thickeners or preservatives to improve shelf-life." In Mumbai, you can also find exquisite, fresh smoothie bowls at Jamjar Diner, Santé Spa Cuisine and Kitchen Garden by Suzette, while Super Bowls, Cafe Tesu, Another Fine Day and Fab Café are the go-to places in Delhi NCR.

Sustainable eating: Forget synthetic meat, lab grown dairy is here

The search for sustainable, healthy alternatives to meat currently has two paths: the meat-mimicking veggie burger and lab-grown proteins. But in the land of dairy, there's only plant-based alternatives like cashew "butter" and almond milk.



The search for sustainable, healthy alternatives to meat currently has two paths: the meat-mimicking veggie burger and lab-grown proteins. But in the land of dairy, there's only plant-based alternatives like cashew "butter" and almond milk. Whether you're milking them or slaughtering them, industrial cattle husbandry is bad for the planet. Studies show it to be a key culprit in the climate crisis and a source of localized environmental damage. The refrigerator aisle has been full of plant-based dairy for some time, but now there are a few startups who, like the purveyors of cultured meat, want to take dairy one step further.

Already under siege by falling milk sales, Big Dairy lobbyists have been lashing out at makers of plant-based rivals as they grow market-share. But their next enemy may be coming from the laboratory, in the form of synthetic whey, and investors are already lining up. While fewer people are drinking cow's milk, they're still eating yogurt and cheese, and a crucial protein that comes from making those products is whey. It's relatively flavorless and incorporates well into a range of food formulations for everyone from infants to adults. There's already a huge market for it, as demand for whey protein and whey-based products is on the

rise thanks to consumer demand for protein in everything, from bars to shakes.

The U.S. is the single largest exporter of whey products, with estimated sales of \$10 billion last year. BCC Research said the category will grow by 6% annually through 2023. But for all its popularity, all that whey still comes from cows, a fact increasingly seen as a liability for climate- and health-conscious dairy and protein lovers.

Ryan Pandya saw an opportunity in this consumer conundrum. He wants to be the first to market a non-animal whey protein through his San Francisco area-based company, Perfect Day. Like other food startup founders, Pandya and partner Perumal Gandhi are both vegan. Rather than forego the taste of real cheese and dairy for poor vegan substitutes, the pair decided to invent their own version of the real thing. The startup focused on the well-worn food path of microbial fermentation-harnessing custom

yeast and bacteria to grow the proteins that make milk taste like milk.

But first, the company and others like it face some big hurdles: consumer squeamishness and regulatory reviews that may end up focusing more on the genetically modified organisms [GMO] used to make lab-grown whey. Five years ago, Perfect Day joined the synthetic biology accelerator IndieBio as it searched for microbes that could be engineered to make functional milk proteins. Today, it has more than 60 employees, \$60 million in funding and says that it's produced one metric ton of lab-grown whey (for scale, the U.S. uses more than 200,000 metric tons of all types of whey annually). Late last year, agriculture giant Archer Daniels Midland agreed to invest in Perfect Day as the startup seeks to lower the cost of making whey. "When you're creating something that already exists, there is already an established

price point," said Victoria de la Huerga, vice president of ADM Ventures. "The goal for companies that are leveraging new technology to make new food is you have to make it affordable." Though it's still early days, Perfect Day contends its proteins require 98% less water and 65% less energy than that required to produce whey from cows. The company said it hopes to one day license its ingredients so they can be used by food manufacturers in a range of products-but those involved concede that scaling the effort won't be easy. Still, Perfect Day Chief Technical Officer Tim Geistlinger said the process is "fully adaptive-you can do it anywhere in the world and it doesn't matter how hot it is." Having come over from plant-based burger maker Beyond Meat, Geistlinger argued that "if you want to raise your flag on sustainability or tolerance to climate change, this one solves a lot of things."

Seriously Cyrus: The crush from college

Cyrus Broacha gives advice on relationships, dating and more.



I am a 23-year-old girl who has had a huge crush on a guy from college. Although I have never spoken to him and I don't know if he knows about my existence, but I can't seem to get over him, even though it's been a year since college ended. How do I get over my obsession? Please help. - KS

KS, what the hell did you do in college? It's like shopping in New York, after you've returned to Delhi. When in New York Shop in New York, when in London

Shop in London, when in Yemen, er.....run. Okay please disregard. What I've written, we are starting again. Being in love with someone you don't interact with, is like being in love with photograph. Of course after 27 years of marriage, many would prefer the photograph. Having squandered your college time, KS, you need a ruse to get him. Like maybe a friend needs admission to the college and would he have some influence.

Let's establish contact, see how he reacts. If he's friendly enough you stay in touch, if not, don't worry at least you got your graduation from college.

I am a 23-year-old and I have never been in a relationship till date. I was initially afraid to get into one and now, I am used to being single. Even if someone approaches me, I am not really sure of how to respond or reciprocate. I wanted to know if I'm heading right or is there

something I need to do? - PS

The Japanese agriculturist Dr HATO TAMAHARA, wrote a book on how relationships were very overrated. He had 7 failed relationships. From parents to his three wives. Finally, he found happiness with a potted plant. However, that lasted only 39 days, as the plant died after HATO overslept and forgot to water it. Being in relationships is great, but after being in one for a while, you yearn for freedom. This is called Human Nature. There is faulty winning in our 'human nature'. This is maybe because God was having an off day, or something the chimpanzee's passed on

married as soon as possible and I want to focus on my studies now. I have been trying to convince him for the past six months but nothing seems to work out. How do I sort this? - SK

SK, remember what the Poet Rumi wrote. 'Force is not' love.



to our ancestors in the DNA. So whatever we have after some time, we want the opposite. This explains why after Spicy Bhel-Puri we want a nice ice-cream. So don't be so gung ho on being in a relationship. It's something that's always good, bad and ugly. I am an 18-year-old girl and I am in a relationship with a guy who is 12 years elder to me. The problem is that he wants to get

Force is mass multiplied by acceleration. Okay, maybe it wasn't Rumi. He's 30 looking to get married. You are eighteen and at this age you should look forward to only one thing. Becoming nineteen..... Then, twenty, and so on. Just because he's older he shouldn't be allowed to steam roll you. If you needed a bull dozer, it's much cheaper to just rent one.

The art of mood lighting: How to pull off the perfect setting for an intimate dinner

Nothing beats the romantic allure of mood lighting. A clever play of light and shadows could instantly uplift the aura of an intimate sit-down dinner at home. However, not many realise that the biggest mistake one could make when planning a cosy evening is using white lights like the harsh glare of a fluorescent tube. The trick lies

glow. You can also use a mix of dainty tea lights, scented candles, and filigreed candle holders for a play of shadow and light," shares Upasana Virmani, Category Manager - Home Décor, Art and Menswear, Jaypore.

In addition, multiple accent lights can create a beautiful effect in a room. Focal attention and

conversational pieces accentuate drama at a house party or if you have a date coming over for a quiet meal. "Choose lights that highlight your personal style. Fun options could include lamps incorporating figurines such as



in not turning on the ceiling lights, which most builder houses have nowadays. Instead of that, work with table lamps and candles to enliven the setting. "Opt for lower watt lamps and lights, dimmers are a great idea, basically anything to mimic a soft

side-table lamps," suggests Raseel Gujral Founder, Casa Paradox.

More than investing in something which is trendy, pick something you love and improve it with light. Extrapolate lighting as both an

Here's how you can pull off the perfect setting for an intimate dinner or when you have a date coming over.



accent and mood-setter for any room in your home. "3000 kelvin colour is perfect to bring in the warmth one needs to create the dark romantic mood. So incandescent bulbs or halogen bring the desired result more easily," says Prateek Jain, Co-Founder klove Studio. Clear twinkle lights can be ideal to

place under or behind the furniture. In the kitchen, you could even place them below or above cabinets for a toasty effect. However, proceed with caution in the placement as this type of light can easily look out of place. "The best option is to use them in an indirect method of placement

and to reap the intimate atmosphere. Moreover, coloured twinkle lights can add to the effect of intimacy by stimulating certain moods, as mentioned above. For a romantic atmosphere, choose clear or white twinkle to boost the feelings of love and calm," adds Raseel.

Super 30 movie review

Hrithik Roshan tries hard in this ordinary film about an extraordinary man

Super 30 movie review: Emotional manipulation gets in the way of inspiration in Vikas Bahl's latest film starring Hrithik Roshan as maths genius Anand Kumar.

Super 30

Director: Vikas Bahl

Cast: Hrithik Roshan, Mrunal Thakur, Pankaj Tripathi

Rating: 2/5

When you exaggerate the extraordinary, it looks ordinary. Mathematics whiz and educator Anand Kumar has led a remarkable life, coaching hundreds of underprivileged children past the rigours of the Indian Institute of Technology entrance exams. His story deserves attention, but director Vikas Bahl confoundingly embellishes it into typical filmi fare in Super 30. For some reason, Kumar's actual triumph wasn't enough - therefore the filmmakers added clichéd adversity. The odds may have challenged Kumar, but the Hrithik Roshan version features armed hitmen, evil

politicians and moustached villains.

Hrithik Roshan isn't bad, though his problematic brown face-paint is inconsistent to the point of distraction. The actor plays guilelessness with charm in Super 30 as a Patna boy hungry for the most advanced mathematical equations he can lay his hands on, a boy who hides a smile about a girl shyly behind a gamchha. His eyes gleam only when discussing numbers and talking to students, but Super 30 pushes Roshan into awkward directions - like a nutty Paisa-Paisa song where he's briefly corrupted by money and tight shirts - and hands him too much melodrama. And, as we all know by now, whenever Roshan needs to dial it up a notch, he lets his nostrils do the emoting. Still, there is less of that here - at least at the start. I loved the

opening gambit, featuring this young man wanting to get published in an academic journal not for prestige but because contributors get a lifetime subscription. The scene where he's obsessively solving a groundbreaking equation on his walls is reminiscent of Gus Van Sant's Good Will Hunting, where a janitor was a math genius.

Kumar wins the subscription and gets admission to Cambridge University, but can't raise the funds for travel, even as his father (played by the reliably excellent Virendra Saxena) overextends himself. He falls back to selling paapad made by his mother, when a coaching institute tycoon called Lallan starts leveraging him into a brand for his institutes.

In the film, Kumar opens his own, entirely free institute for 30 kids, which is noble but untrue. In



reality, Kumar founded a successful institute which allowed him to support his famed 'Super 30' programme. Here the drama comes from poor kids forced to share rice. Set to the operatic background score of an Old Spice commercial, all the emotional manipulation gets in the way of inspiration.

The cast is solid, particularly Aditya Shrivastava as Lallan, who

appears to have something up his sleeve even when his character doesn't. The kids Roshan guides have fun in smartly depicted scenes about math. Then, the genre flips: Kumar is shot in the stomach, and the film turns into 'Home Alone: Physics Edition.' Super 30 couldn't possibly have been written by one of Kumar's students. It doesn't add up.

Yesterday movie review

Danny Boyle delivers his best crowd-pleaser since Slumdog Millionaire; an irresistible love letter to the Beatles



Yesterday

Director - Danny Boyle

Cast - Himesh Patel, Lily James, Ed Sheeran, Kate McKinnon, Sanjeev Bhaskar, Meera Syal

Rating - 4.5/5

What would a world without the Beatles' music be like? Would it be different? Would we be different? Would the complete erasure - from hearts, minds and history books - of Let it Be and Hey Jude and, indeed, Yesterday, change our perception of life? Of each other? Of ourselves?

That's the fantastic premise of

Yesterday, the new film by director Danny Boyle and writer Richard Curtis, which asks these questions, and then adds a layer of complexity by proving answers. The world would be a more melancholic place, it suggests; less free-spirited and more proper. Ed Sheeran would still be popular, but, for obvious reasons, there would be no Oasis.

It is the world in which struggling musician Jack Malik wakes up, after getting knocked unconscious in a bus accident, and finding that he is the only

Yesterday movie review: The unbeatable combination of Danny Boyle and Richard Curtis has delivered a comedy for the ages; a wonderful love letter to the Beatles. Rating: 4.5/5.

person who has any memory of the Fab Four. Yesterday, Jack was a down-on-his-luck singer-songwriter, who'd performed what was likely his final show. He was convinced that his music wasn't speaking to anyone but himself, and, perhaps his childhood friend and ad-hoc manager, Ellie, played by Lily James. He was in desperate need of a miracle, and then he got one. Today, he's sitting on a gold mine of greatness, faced with a rather difficult moral conundrum.

After a couple of ridiculously funny scenes in which he begins to accept his new reality - there is a lot of Googling and more than a few incredulous looks - Jack decides to start performing the Beatles' greatest hits, and pass them off as his own. You don't

really hate him for it; it's what anyone in his position would have done, especially if they had his natural musical talent.

The first time he plays a Beatles number is for his friends. It's Yesterday. They're immediately stunned. "Oh my God, when did you write that?" Ellie asks. "I didn't write it, Paul McCartney wrote it," Jack says, suspecting a practical joke, "You know; John, Paul, George and Ringo? The Beatles?" It's Yesterday, he says in disbelief, "It's one of the greatest songs ever written!" "Well, it's not Coldplay; it's not Fix You," an impatient friend responds.

The first hour of Yesterday is impossible to resist, with scene after scene of irrepressible charm. Just as memorable as the one I just mentioned is the

another in which Jack plays Let it Be for his parents, and is interrupted by the doorbell and the phone; domesticity getting in the way of his dreams. "Christ, this is Let it Be!" he yells at his mum and dad, played by Meera Syal and Sanjeev Bhaskar, "You're the first people on Earth to hear this song!"

What struck me the most about Yesterday is what a harmonious symphony it is between the frenetic visual style of Boyle's films, and the unmistakable earnestness of Curtis' movies. Like McCartney and Lennon, they complement each other, and bring out the best in each other's work. In a way, it is another rags-to-riches story of a South Asian man, like Boyle's most successful film, Slumdog Millionaire.

Fatima Sana Shaikh's Macau holiday has food and art as its highlights

Fatima Sana Shaikh is currently holidaying in Macau and has been updating fans with pictures from her vacation.

Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh is currently holidaying in Macau and her pictures from the vacation are now going viral. She made her Bollywood debut with Aamir Khan's *Dangal* where she featured with Zaira Wasim and Sakshi Tanwar.

In one set of the pictures, Fatima has a delicious lunch laid out in front but she has her eyes on other's plates. She captioned the pictures, "Kyunki, Dusre ke plate main kya hai. Jaan na zaroori hai Had the yummiest lunch at the Golden peacock today."

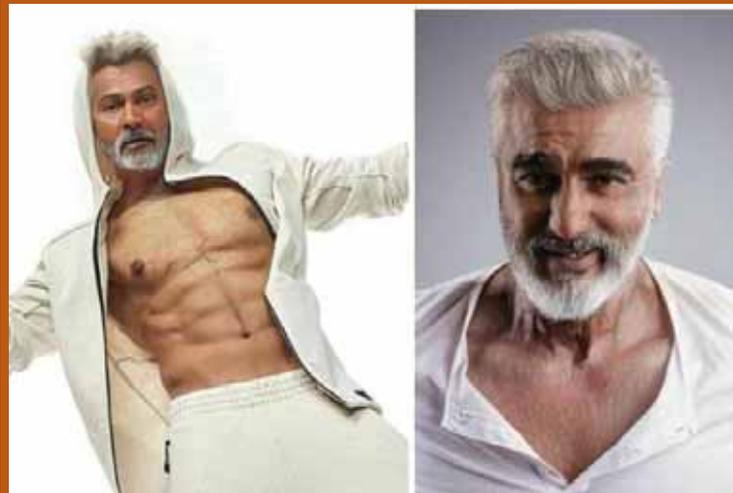
Fatima was last seen in *Thugs of Hindostan* that also starred Katrina Kaif, Aamir Khan and Amitabh Bachchan and turned out to be a dud at the box office. Fatima essayed the role of a warrior in the film.

She will next be seen in *Bhoot Police*, a horror comedy in 3D, which is all set to go on floors in August and will star Saif Ali Khan. It will be directed by Pavan Kripalani, who earlier helmed films like *Ragini MMS* and *Phobia*, among others. Reportedly, the film was initially titled *Tantrik* and Abhishek Bachchan was set to play the lead role. The release date of the film has not been revealed by the makers yet.

Fatima is also rumoured to be a part of Anurag Basu's *Ludo* that also stars Vidya Balan, Rajkumar Rao, Abhishek Bachchan, Sanya Malhotra, Pankaj Tripathi and Aditya Roy Kapur. The film is said to be a sequel to Anurag's *Life In A Metro*.



Varun Dhawan, Arjun Kapoor share pics of their older self, Janhvi Kapoor goes 'OMG'



If this is how older men are going to look, then we certainly live in a beautiful world. A new app, which shows you how one will look when one is 50-60 years old, is gaining popularity and the latest celebrity to try it is actor Varun Dhawan.

Sharing his before and after look, Varun wrote: "70 years of reebokXvarundhawan P.s I didn't stop training. A lot of people feel this is the way @anilskapoor will look when he's 100."

He also revealed how fans were having fun seeing his picture and speculating that this is how actor Anil Kapoor will look when he is 100! The actor got words of appreciation from Ayushmann Khurrana and Sonakshi Sinha.

On Tuesday, Arjun shared his before and after photo, a look which seems to have become a hit. Sharing the picture, Arjun wrote: "Old age hit me like .." Sister Janhvi Kapoor couldn't control her excitement at the transformation and simply wrote "OMG". While actor Vicky Kaushal's brother Sunny called him 'Sharat Saxena', the veteran Bollywood actor who often appears as villains, Arjun's uncle actor Sanjay Kapoor simply wrote "good looking old man".

According to various reports actor Sonam Kapoor shared an image of hers at old age as Instagram?story, edited by her fans. A picture of showing older Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone is also going viral online. It looks like an image from their wedding reception was used in the FaceApp.

Varun, meanwhile, is preparing for his next release, director-choreographer Remo D'Souza's *Street dancer 3D*, where Varun will co-star with actor Shraddha Kapoor.

Varun also has his dad's David Dhawan's remake of the latter's 90s hit film, *Coolie No 1*. The film will see him being paired with actor Sara Ali Khan. As per recent reports, David will retain the hit song from the film, *Main Toh Raste Se* and will not tamper with it, but plans to simply recreate it.

Diljit Dosanjh on Kareena Kapoor: 'Even today, I get nervous while having a conversation with her'

Diljit Dosanjh has always been in awe of his *Udta Punjab* co-star Kareena Kapoor Khan and now, even after working with her in two films, he claims he gets nervous talking to her.

Actor Diljit Dosanjh, who is a self-confessed fan of Kareena Kapoor Khan and made his Bollywood debut with her in *Udta Punjab*, has said even after two films with the star, he feels nervous each time he has a conversation with her.

In an interview to *Mid Day*, Diljit said, "It is fun to work with Kareena. She can do the same scene over and over again without losing her spontaneity. But even today, I get nervous while having a

conversation with her." After his debut with *Udta Punjab*, Diljit and Kareena will be seen together in *Good News* that also features Kiara Advani and Akshay Kumar in the lead roles. He also said, "I don't get too many offers for comedies, most of the films that come my way are serious dramas. So, when Maddock Films approached me, I thought this was a completely different character from what I have played so far in Hindi and Punjabi films."

Further, talking about his film choices, he told the tabloid, "I don't have a godfather, so I have to choose from the roles offered to me. Also, I have been vocal about the fact that I won't do roles that require me to remove my turban. That narrows down my options further. But times are changing. In *Good News*, my character originally wasn't a Punjabi, but the makers decided to cast me because they liked my work."



Megan Barton Hanson sports a patterned cut-out jumpsuit as she shops for lingerie with *Celebs Go Dating* co-star Nathan Henry

She is gearing up to find love once again on the latest series of *Celebs Go Dating*.

And Megan Barton Hanson showed off her racy side as she shopped for lingerie with co-star Nathan Henry in London on Wednesday.

The *Love Island* star, 25, teased a glimpse of her braless cleavage in a baroque print jumpsuit with a racy cut-out across the décolletage.

Risking a wardrobe malfunction, the blonde beauty oozed confidence as she flashed her assets and her taut midriff in the jumpsuit while strolling along. The garment was adorned with a white, emerald green, gold and black Versace-inspired print, flowing into chic flared trousers.

The star boosted her height with gold metallic peep-toe

heels with lace-up detail.

Her ombre tresses were styled in soft waves, parted on the side, while a rich palette of make-up enhanced her pretty features.

The star was in a saucy mood as she stepped into a lingerie store with *Geordie Shore* star Nathan, 27, with the pair in high spirits as they perused some lacy underwear.

Last weekend, Megan was spotted sharing several passionate kisses with male model Louis Simonon, who is pals with Rita Ora, Cara Delevingne and Daisy Lowe outside Soho House.

The stunner, who recently told *MailOnline* she was single, couldn't resist packing on the PDA with the son of *Clash* bassist Paul Simonon as they put on an extremely cosy and flirtatious display and swapped

numbers.

Megan is the first bisexual celebrity to appear on *Celebs Go Dating* and in a show first relationship expert Anna Williamson recently revealed that Megan will date men and women on the show.

Anna told *The Sun*: 'Hey, if somebody tells you they're bisexual, it would be remiss of us to not give her what she wants.'

'We've opened up our books even more for Megan, to find some lovely ladies as well as some lovely men.'

She added: 'I think Megan is a very confident young woman who is ready to explore that side of her, so I would be very hopeful.'

Megan is newly-single after dramatically splitting from her *Love Island* boyfriend Wes Nelson earlier this year.



Hailey Bieber strips down to her bikini with surfer Kelia Moniz for sultry *Roxy Sister* campaign



Another shot had her pose next to Kelia in a \$90 one-piece staring the camera down.

'This striped one piece is one of my go to pieces from the Sister collection. Go shop it now on roxy.com! #RoxyXSister,' she captioned the image on Instagram.

Her hair and glam was kept consistent with her bronzed physique taking center stage. World champion surfer and model, Kelia, shared a different shot for her fans.

Showcasing their sisterly bond, Hailey had her arm wrapped around the Hawaii beauty as

She follows a balanced health and fitness regime that keeps her bikini body ready all year round. And that came in handy for Hailey Bieber (nee: Baldwin) for her collaboration with Australian swim line Roxy. On Wednesday images from the second *Sister* campaign with fellow model Kelia Moniz, 26, were shared and the blonde looked dazzling.

One image saw Hailey strip down to a caramel toned two-piece that showcased a hint of cleavage while still keeping her modest. She teamed the look

with a matching pair of bottoms, with the set retailing for \$100. The wife of Justin Bieber added a \$60 striped shirt of the same color tone to her look over the top. All eyes were on Hailey's toned stomach and long,

lean legs as she posed in front of the picturesque setting.

The beauty's short blonde tresses were kept wet with her glam minimal to just a light sweep of blush and a natural lip.



they posed ocean-side.

'There are some we call besties, then there's those we call sisters. This one right here is my Sister. And today is the drop of our second collection with Roxy.'

Former cop and teacher jumps into race to take on AOC: Dems 'knocking each other over' to embrace socialism



(News Agencies) - John Cummings, a retired teacher and former NYPD Harbor Unit officer, is joining a group of Republicans who intend to challenge Democratic Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in 2020. In an interview with "Fox and Friends," Wednesday,

Cummings explained that while he had been encouraged by his students to run for some time, he had long considered it impossible to beat then-incumbent Congressman Joe Crowley. "The present congresswoman, Ocasio-Cortez, obviously ruined that excuse for me,"

he joked. In 2018, Ocasio-Cortez's GOP opponent, Anthony Pappas, won just 14 percent of the vote. Cummings said he understands that winning as a Republican in the overwhelmingly blue district will be an "uphill battle," but he is confident he can pull it off.

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Trump praises himself in Hafiz Saeed tweet, experts say Pak pulled a fast one



(News Agencies) - US President Donald Trump on Wednesday welcomed the arrest of the Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) head and Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed saying "great pressure was applied over the last two years to find him", when the terrorist kingpin was not exactly in hiding and had, in fact, been released by Pakistani authorities in November 2017. The President's tweet came as the White House prepares to receive Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan for the two leaders' meeting on Monday. "After a ten year search, the so-called "mastermind" of the Mumbai Terror attacks has been arrested in Pakistan," President Trump wrote on Twitter. "Great pressure has been exerted over the last two years to find him!" Veteran Pakistan experts and watchers, however, were quick to point to a problem in the post. Saeed who founded the Lashkar-e-Taiba which carried out the 26/11 Mumbai attack, was not in hiding.

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Italian woman dies after getting nose job to celebrate birthday, reports say



(News Agencies) - An Italian woman reportedly died after going under the knife for a nose job that she had been gifted for her 21st birthday. Maria Chiara Mete, who allegedly complained about the shape of her nose to friends and family, was reportedly under the care of surgeons at Casa del Sole, in Formia, Italy. Mete went in for a rhinoplasty on June 17, but family members claim something went wrong and went into cardiac arrest before falling into a coma, CEN reported. They claim she was transferred to a larger hospital in Latina, where she was declared brain dead. She died shortly after, according to CEN. We can't

understand how you can die at the age of 21 because of a nose operation," her uncle said, according to CEN. A rhinoplasty, also referred to as a nose job, enhances facial harmony and proportions of the nose, but can also address breathing issues, according to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. In the U.S., nearly 220,000 rhinoplasties are performed each year, making it the most common facial plastic surgery procedure. Her case is reportedly under investigation and an autopsy has been ordered to determine the cause of death.

Former porn star set to lead XXXchurch as founder focuses on 'Christian Cannabis'



(News Agencies) - Brittni De La Mora spent almost a decade in the porn industry - until she found Jesus. She met members of XXXchurch, a ministry that helps people overcome pornography addiction, and they helped her discover her sense of worth, she said. Now, she's set to lead the church with her husband, Richard, at a time when the two are expecting their first child. "My husband and I will be the new faces of XXXchurch.com," De La Mora shared on the website. "We are humbled and honored that God has called us to this ministry." Craig Gross, who recently launched ChristianCannabis.com to start a broader dialogue about pot and faith after his own journey of healing, made the announcement last Friday on the XXXchurch website.

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Thornton 'T.D.' Barnes, Area 51 veteran: Why the proposed September storming of Area 51 is a terrible idea



(News Agencies) - A crazy Facebook event page went viral this the past week with more than 1 million users responding that they would go to the top-secret military installation, Area 51 in Nevada on Sept. 20 at 3 a.m. with the purpose being: "let's see them aliens." As a military and Area 51 veteran, the news of this mad event leaves me baffled. Merely naming the Facebook event, "Storm Area 51, They Can't Stop All of Us" speaks of incredibly irresponsible and naive thinking by a horde of "iPad Warriors" who don't have a clue about the many consequences should they attempt to storm Area 51, or any other military installation for that matter. Rightfully so, the event has already prompted warnings from the U.S. military. Here's why those signing up for this ridiculous boondoggle should consider staying home to play "Full Spectrum Warrior" on their Xbox. Before I was assigned to projects at Area 51, I served in Korea as an Army intelligence specialist, attending over two years in the Army air defense surface-to-air

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