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Dynamics of Militancy after Fazlullah's Pick



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Aziz, Khurshid Review Pakistan-India Ties

Islamabad: Adviser to the prime minister on National Security and Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz Tuesday held a meeting with Indian Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid in New

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere. Both sides reviewed bilateral relations in a constructive and forward looking manner, said a statement issued by Pakistan's ministry of foreign affairs.

According to a statement issued by the Indian ministry of external affairs, both diplomats agreed on having a meeting of DGMOs of the two countries at the earliest to address the issue of LoC violation Besides they discussed other issues, including the Mumbai trial.

Aziz, who is currently on a three-day official visit in New Delhi, participated in a Europe-Asia meeting on Monday.

Sartaj Aziz also held a meeting with leaders of Hurriyat Conference on Sunday, who reminded him to include Kashmiris in future peace talks between India and Pakistan.

Nawaz Hails Pakistan Army Martyrs



File photo: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and COAS General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani ride a jeep during a 2013 military exercise

Islamabad: In the wake of ongoing debate over 'martyrs and traitors,' Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Tues-day commended "Ghazis (living) and Shaheeds (martyrs)" of Pakistan Army for sacrificing their today for ensuring a better tomorrow for future generations.

Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) chief Munawar Hassan's controversial statements giving the certificate of martyrdom to Hakimullah Mehsud, the former chief of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) killed in a US drone attack, and deriding military personnel who have rendered sacrifices

in the war against terrorists, have drawn strong ire of the army which had sought an unconditional apology from him.

The statements have also drawn strong reactions from political forces of the country demanding

SC Allows New Schedule for Local Govt. Polls

Islamabad: The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted a request of the Election Commission of Pakistan to hold local government (LG) elections in accordance with the new schedule, DawnNews reported.

The ECP's request for the extension in dates to hold LG polls was granted by an apex court bench headed by Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry.

According to the new schedule approved by the SC, local government elections in Punjab are to be held on Jan 30, in Balochistan on Dec 7,and in Sindh on Jan 18. Polling in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the cantonment boards is to be held during the month of February.

Advocate General Sindh Khalid Javed told the bench that the ECP was experiencing great difficulties and that was why an extension in the election date had been requested.

The Supreme Court had earlier directed the Election Commission to follow the schedules presented by the Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan provincial governments to hold local government polls.

Musharraf Moves SHC to Strike Name off ECL

Karachi: Lawyers for former president Gen (R) Pervez Musharraf filed an appeal in the Sindh High Court on Tuesday pleading to strike the exdictator's name off the Exit Control

The application filed by the former army chief pleads the court to modify its earlier order, restraining him from leaving the country.

Release orders for Musharraf, who remained under house arrest for more than six months in his sprawling Chak Shahzad farmhouse, were issued Wednesday last week, two days after a court granted him bail in the murder case of Lal Masjid cleric Abdul Rasheed Ghazi.

Musharraf has been granted bail in all cases against him since his return to Pakistan in a bid to contest general elections in May.

He was being tried for his alleged involvement in the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the killing of MUSHARRAF, P29

Malala Steals the Show at Star-packed Glamor Awards



New York: There was a flamboyant pop star. A legendary singer. A TV star, some supermodels, and one of the world's most powerful philanthropists. Even a former MALALA, P29

secretary of state who may soon be running for presi-

But of all the prominent women who appeared onstage Monday night at the Glamour Women of the Year awards, no one received more acclaim and adoration than a teenager whom no one had heard of little more than a year ago - 16-year-old Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai.

We love you, Malala!" shouted a group of young girls from a high balcony in Carnegie Hall, where the annual event was held. The teenager blew back a kiss, and proceeded to give an impassioned speech.

"I believe the gun has no power at all," said Malala, who caught the world's attention when the Taliban shot her in the head in October 2012 for criticizing the group's interpretation of Islam, which limits girls' access to education. She has since gained global prominence, has started The Malala Fund to support education for girls, and recently released a memoir, "I Am Malala."

"I believe the gun has no power because a gun can only kill," she said. "But a pen can give life."

It wasn't just the crowd that was taken with Malala; her fellow honorees referred to her often as they took the stage, and the night's most flamboyant honoree, Lady Gaga, said she wished this month's Glamour magazine cover, which features her, had been devoted to Malala instead.

South Africa Overwhelm Pakistan in First Twenty20

Dubai: South Africa outclassed Pakistan with a commanding nine wicket win in the first Twenty20 international in Dubai on Wednesday to go 1-0 up in the two-match series.

Dale Steyn took 3-15 in his four hostile overs as Pakistan were restricted to 98-9, their lowest Twenty20 total against South Africa -- after they won the toss and opted

South Africa easily reached the target in 14.3 overs with opener Quinton de Kock hitting a 38ball 48 not out with skipper Faf du Plessis making an unbeaten 37 and knocking off the runs without being troubled by Pakistan's spin-packed

The second and final Twenty20 will also be played in Dubai on Fri-

Pakistan's batsmen once again failed to fire. Umar Akmal with a 41ball 49 was the only batsman to put up any resistance in an CRICKET, P29

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SCMCO Organizes Two Sports Tournaments



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Misbah ul Haq Worried about 2015 World Cup



Hasina Moin: From Ankahi to Hamsafar



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Accolades for Nasreen Haroon at Second Annual Trailblazing Awards





Nasreen Haroon addresses the gathering

■ By Leila Shauk in dialo

CTransformation starts here," Rabbi Sarah Bassin told us in a high ceilinged vast space with wooden beams above in the progressive Helms Bakery complex. It is a building that is about change, being in the present, and is culturally trendy with its many new popular restaurants and stores. Newground, a Muslim-Jewish partnership for change, was formed by the Muslim Public Affairs Council and Progressive Jewish Alliance. It is now an independent group that is sponsored by Community Partners at the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission. They hosted their second annual Trailblazing Áwards at this exciting location, and this year they honored Dr Judith Glass and Nasreen Haroon.

The event was cordial and optimistic. Jews and Muslims united in celebration of two outstanding women in their respective communities. Lunch was served, friends and family mingled, and Bassin standing at the podium spoke quite aptly about change. "Newground was founded to create a national model for healthy relations, productive engagement, and social change between American Muslims and Jews" (muslimjewishnewground.org). This theme was emphasized throughout the event when each of the several speakers spoke about the profound impact and positivity that Dr Glass and Haroon illustrated.

Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas spoke about Dr Glass as a lover of democracy and a phenomenal economics teacher who encouraged students to think about ethics and engage

in dialogue.

Councilman Bill Rosendahl immediately got a round of applause when he said, "I happen to believe that there is one God, and we are all God's children." He spoke about Nasreen's positive, peaceful, and loving energy as being at the core of her success. She was a regular guest on four of his distinct public affairs television shows: The God Squad, The Mideast Perspective, Beyond the Beltway, and The Week in Review. Every time she appeared on set, she would speak of everyone as being a team and having the same rights. Rosendahl said, "I happen to believe that we're all in this mix together, and she [Nasreen] knows that, she has demonstrated that. She would say, 'We all matter; we are all part of the human condition; Palestinians have rights too."

Rosendahl subsequently spoke about Nasreen's role as a "fantastic artist." Her vivid paintings are displayed in many US Embassies around the world; her efforts to build bridges and connect everyone is now on a global scale. He described how her oils and colors bring out a brilliant energy to the viewer, and that they are beautiful pieces with meaning. She's not only a speaking ambassador for peace and change in her local community but also globally via her artwork she is an international model of those motifs.

Coming back to where he started, Rosendahl concluded with the idea that "...we are all connected, all one family, all God's children; we're here because we're lovers; we love life, we love ourselves, we love our neighbors as ourselves, and we don't judge, and that is the religion. Everyone is looking for a positive mo-

ment in their day -- for something hopeful -- and whenever Nasreen would come up [to me], I would get that from her. We should all work together to make the world a better place." His words of truth were powerful, and they resonated with everyone in the room.

Omar Haroon, Nasreen's son, came up to the podium with his sister, Sana Haroon, to briefly speak before presenting their mom with her award. Omar, like his mother, promotes hope and positivity; he is running for LA County Assessor in an attempt to make a meaningful difference in his community just as his grandfather, Mr Ahmad Adaya, who was known for his philanthropy and generosity. Omar spoke about the Muslim stereotypes he would notice in school textbooks in LA; when he was 12 years old, he corrected his teacher repeatedly because their book was wrong -- as a result she allowed him to correct their textbook so that the entire class benefited. Even then, before 9/11, there was an inaccurate perspective on Islam.

Omar encouraged Nasreen to speak at his school. Students responded positively to her speech -- many had a lot of questions -- and they were finally learning true Islam. Following that first speech, Nasreen was constantly called to speak at schools and events. Omar concluded by saying how proud his family and him are of Nasreen's accomplishments.

Finally, the award was presented to Nasreen and it was her turn to speak. She started with many thanks: first to the audience for being there on a Sunday afternoon, then to her family, and lastly to the community. She spoke about how lucky she has been to have been sur-

rounded by a plethora of good people: "People are really good; human nature tends to be good." There, her optimism and warmth that Rosendahl spoke about. She mentioned being terrified to speak when she gave a speech at the Third Street Promenade in Santa Monica after 9/11. People around her were so supportive that they put their arms around her and even escorted her back to her car.

A shoutout to Rosendahl was a must: she said he's a "...genuine, good, and giving man who does so much for the country and so much for LA. He was kind enough to keep calling me to appear on his shows." More gratitude followed. She thanked Muslim Public Affairs Council and the Islamic Center of Southern California for giving her opportunities to speak and letting her say whatever she wanted.

Her parents, Mr Ahmad Adaya and Mrs Amina Adaya, believed in justice and the truth -- her mother (only surviving parent) still does -- she expressed a huge thanks to them. That seed of doing what is right, saying the truth, and sharing it with others so that we can all understand each other better and see that we are a family came from her parents. In her early days of public speeches on Islam, she would speak at a synagogue and her parents would attend and donate money to show their support.

In retrospect, she noted how lucky she has been and that it is so interesting how one's journey unfolds. She gave her first speech as a volunteer at Santa Monica High School thinking that if she could change one mind that would be good enough. And now? She has an award that illustrates her extensive influence.

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SCMCO Organizes Badminton and Volleyball Tournaments



COMMUNITY



Southern California Muslims Community Organization (SCMCO) organized the First Award Ceremony for Badminton & Volleyball Tournaments 2013 on October 5th,

It had organized the First Joint Masjid Badminton Tournament on June 22nd at the San Gabriel Valley Badminton Club. The Second Joint Masjid Volleyball Tournament was held on Sept 22nd at the American Sports Center. Almost 120 players from different masajid participated in the Tournament. Sheikh Yassir Fazaga (Religious Leader of Orange County Islamic Foundation, Mission Viejo, California) and Imam Suhail Hasan Mulla (Assistant Religious Director at the Islamic Society of Orange County) participated in the

tournament. Due to sickness Sheikh Mohammed Faqih (Imam of the Islamic Institute of Orange County) could not play but supported SC-MCO and his team.

The award ceremony was held at Islamic Society of Orange County. Board Member of Islamic Shura Council of Southern California Mr. Kalim Farooqi was the Chief Guest. SCMCO member Arif Hyder opened the proceedings with a warm welcome to everyone. SCMCO member Ayaz Kallem Ullah recited the a Qur'anic Surah with translation.

SCMCO Chairperson Dawar Naqvi thanked everyone for their support during his short speech. He said SCMCO's mission was to organize activities and mobilize the community to establish TOURNAMENT, P29

ICH, Islamic Center Of Hawthorne, 3rd CIC, Cypress Islamic Center, 3rd

Brothers Open	Brothers Over 50	Brothers Under 16	Brothers Doubles	Sisters Open	Sisters Under 16	Sisters Doubles
Syafruddinunk	Tariq Sultan	Abdullah Ali	Ali Akbar	Uzma Ahmad	Sana Fazalbhoy	Fadhila Rizqi Fahma
First Place	First Place	First Place	Adi Susmono First Place	First Place	First Place	Khikhmah Khoirotunnisa First Place
Usman Majid	Amjad Naqvi	Junaid Sadiq	Sodikin Muljono	Fadhila Rizqi Fahma	Maryam Ali	
Second Place	Second Place	Second Place	Syafruddinunk	Second Place	Second Place	
Adi Susmono	Munawer	Hammad	Second Place Faisal Qadri	Anam Fazalbhoy	Anam Fazalbhoy	
Adi Susmono	Fazalbhoy	Rahmatullah	Faisai Qadii	Anam Fazaibnoy	Anam Fazaibnoy	
	Third Place	Third Place	Farhan Qadr	Third Place	Third Place	
Third Place	Time Flace	Tillid Flace	Third Place			
Sodikin Muljono		Hamza Lakhani	Ali Haque			
Third Place		Third Place	Usman Asrar			
			Third Place			

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CAIR-LA & SAC-LA Host Immigration Clinic for Syrian Nationals and Refugees

ore than two dozen Syrian nationals and refugees attended an immigration clinic hosted by the Greater Los Angeles Area chapters of the Syrian American Council (SAC-LA) and the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-LA) this past Sunday, November 10.

The clinic aimed to assist Syrian nationals with their applications for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), an immigration status that permits a citizen of another country to live and work in the United States, as well as travel with a temporary passport for a designated period of time. The temporary status is typically granted to citizens of other countries who cannot return home safely due to violence, war, or natural disasters.

Syrians in the United States were originally granted temporary protected status in March 2012, giving them a temporary refuge from the violence and lack of security in their country. The status usually lasts for 18 months before it needs renewal or re-designation. Earlier this year, the Department of Homeland Security extended the existing TPS designation for Syrian nationals through March 31, 2015.

According to DHS "a Syrian national, or an individual having no nationality who last habitually resided in Syria, may be eligible for TPS under the re-designation if he or she has continuously resided in the United



been continuously physically pres- pressed his wish to go to Syria "to help ent in the United States since Oct. 1, the mujahideen...in any way I can."

unteered their time to educate and claimed. encourage eligible Syrians to register graduate of the American University for the struggle. School of Law.

touched by the stories that the refu- armed militant groups. gees shared, and given the scale and nature of the conflict, it's comforting ber 2 at the Raleigh-Durham airport to know we are doing something pos- in North Carolina just before boarditive in these individuals' lives."

Pakistani Charged for Wanting to Fight in Syria

Washington, DC: A Pakistani living legally in the United States has been charged with attempting to join an al Qaeda linked militant group in Syria after falling for an FBI sting, the Justice Department said Tuesday.

Basit Javed Sheikh, 29, allegedly contacted an undercover FBI agent, believing him to be a member of Jabhat al-Nusrah, which the State Department identifies as a Syrian al Qaeda affiliate.

According to the US attorney's office in North Carolina, where Sheikh States since June 17, 2013 and has was charged last week, he allegedly ex-

Asked how he planned to help, CAIR-LA staff, pro bono attor- Sheikh responded, "Logistics, media, neys, and recent law graduates vol- fight too, God willing," the statement

According to a 25-page affidavit for the status before the December 16 from FBI agent Jason Maslow, Sheikh deadline. Among the clinic volunteers allegedly told him in an online voice was Noor Kurdi, a Syrian-American call that he was ready to "be a martyr"

The agent also described how, The volunteers and I were hon-starting in April 2013, the Pakistani ored to help the more than 25 Syrians reportedly posted several times on and their families who visited the Facebook in support of Jabhat alclinic," Kurdi said. "Each of us was Nusrah, one of Syria's most prominent

> Sheikh was arrested on Noveming a plane.



Hiba Khan Wins Naperville Youth **Service Award**

Naperville: In recognition of her outstanding service to the community Mayor A. George Pradel and the Naperville City Council, together with KidsMatter, are presenting Hiba Khan with the 2013 Naperville Youth Service Award.

As young Pakistani American, Hiba Khan has made a difference in the life of the local community with her remarkable volunteerism and dedication. She is the daughter of Dr Aftab Khan

She has been chosen by Pamela Briggs of Edward Hospital and Health Services to receive the prestigious Naperville Youth Service Award for 2013.

Since 1993 , the City of Naperville has presented the Naperville Youth Service Award to honor outstanding volunteer efforts by local Naperville area youth, and to encourage all youth to get involved in community service that will give them a sense of purpose, provide them with valuable hands-on experiences, and ignite the volunteer spirit that has helped make Naperville the thriving community that it

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Marvel's Pakistani-American Superhero



■ By Riaz Haq

The new Ms. Marvel's real name is Kamala Khan, a stani-American girl from Jersey City, New Jersey. "Kamala has all of her opportunities in front her and she is loaded with potential, but her parents' high expectations come with tons of pressure," says Marvel's press release. "When Kamala suddenly gets powers that give her the opportunity to be just like her idol, Captain Marvel, it challenges the very core of her conservative

Kamala Khan as Ms. Marvel is the first comic book character from Marvel Entertainment who is both female and Muslim. It is part of the American comic giants efforts to reflect a growing diversity among its

The new Ms. Marvel series is mainly the work of two women: G. Willow Wilson, a convert to Islam who created the character, and Sana Amanat who edits it.

Here's how Wilson describes the main character of the comic: "Islam is both an essential part of her identity and something she struggles mightily with. She's not a poster girl for the re-

ligion, or some kind of token minority. She does not cover her hair - most Ámerican Muslim women don't and she's going through a rebellious phase. She wants to go to parties and stay out past 9 PM and feel "normal." Yet at the same time, she feels the need to defend her family and their beliefs".

Ms. Wilson says the series is "about the universal experience of all American teenagers, feeling kind of isolated and finding what they are." Though here, she told New York Times, that happens "through the lens of being a Muslim-American" with superpowers.

Elaborating on the superhero character, series editor Sana Amanat said in an interview published on-Marvel.com website: "As much as Islam is a part of Kamala's identity, this book isn't preaching about religion or the Islamic faith in particular. It's about what happens when you struggle with the labels imposed on you, and how that forms your sense of self. It's a struggle we've all faced in one form or another, and isn't just particular to Kamala because she's Muslim. Her religion is just one aspect of the many ways she defines herself".

The Marvel series is set for launch in February, 2014. Earlier this year, Pakistan's GeoTV launched Burka Avenger. Its superhero is a hope Congress hears that immigramild mannered school teacher who fights feudal villains and terrorists getting in the way of girls' education. Burka Avenger series is inspired by the story of Malala Yousufzai, a Pakistan teenage school girl who miraculously survived an assassination attempt by the Taliban in Swat Valley last year. Malala has since become an international icon for girls' education worldwide. The United Nations degirls' education.

Jews & Muslims Join Together for Comprehensive Immigration Reform



Washington, DC: American Jews and American Muslims Wednsday called on Congress in a joint statement to pass comprehensive immigration reform with a meaningful path to citizenship. In joining together as unlikely allies, Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice and the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) renewed their united push to refocus Congress' attention on the nation's most pressing domestic policy crisis.

The following is a joint statement from Alan van Capelle, CEO of Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice, and Haris Tarin, Director of MPAC's Washington, DC, office:

In combining our voices, we tion reform is a priority issue across Americas many diverse communities, bringing together even those that many believe have little in common. In fact, America's Jewish and Muslim communities share the collective experience of facing xenophobia and prejudice for their culture and faith, and being treated as outsiders in our home country.

'Comprehensive immigration clared Malala's 16th birthday this year reform has long been a priority issue on July 12 as Malala Day to focus on for both our communities, as many of our families share stories of immigrating to the US Both of our communities have deep roots here. But both of our communities also know firsthand the struggle to find acceptance in our adopted homeland.

"Eleven million people in this country contribute to our economy and strengthen the fabric of our communities, but are living without the basic civil rights and protections that the rest of us enjoy. This fundamental injustice cuts against the core values as a nation, as people of faith, and is especially compelling to the Muslim and Jewish communities who value America's enduring history as a welcoming and compassionate nation.

"Our coming together today to call on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform is, in itself, a testament to the great potential of an America with a just and inclusive immigration system. In other parts of the world, sadly, such a collaboration would be all but impossible. America's strength is derived from its ability to draw the best and the brightest from all walks of life, including all and excluding none.

"We urge you to come together, as we have, to pass comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship, and keep America