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PAGE 8

Nawaz Is a Clear First-Round Winner



PAGE 13

Lt-Gen Rizwan Akhtar Named New ISI Chief



PAGE 22

Why Muslims Fare Better in US than in Europe



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Eid Al-Adha to Be Celebrated on October 4

Anaheim, CA: An announcement by the Islamic Shura Council of Southern California states: The Islamic Shura Council is pleased to announce that Eid Al-Adha will be celebrated on Saturday, October 4, 2014, following the day of Arafah, the most important day of the Hajj pilgrimage, on Friday, the 3rd of October, 2014.

It has been the Shura Council's tradition to observe Eid Al-Adha in solidarity with the millions of Muslims from across the world commemorating the life and legacy of Prophet Ibrahim and his family on the day of Arafah during Hajj.

No Plans for Nawaz-Modi Meeting in New York: FO

Islamabad: The Foreign Office has confirmed that no meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi is scheduled to take place on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

MEETING, P29

Asma Jahangir Honored with 'Alternative Nobel'



Stockholm: Pakistani human rights activist Asma Jahangir and Edward Snowden are among the winners Wednesday of a Swedish human rights award, sometimes referred to as the "alternative Nobel."

The 1.5 million kronor (\$210,000) cash award was shared by Jahangir, Basil Fernando of the Asian Human Rights Commission and US environmentalist Bill McKibben.

The former National Security Agency contractor, who was honored for his disclosures of top secret surveillance programs, split

ASMA, P29

Nawaz to Return with Good Tidings



Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif arrives in New York to attend the UN General Assembly session

New York/London: Unmoved by the ongoing protest sit-ins of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Pakistan Awami Tehreek, Prime Minister Nawaz said on Wednesday that the 'London Plan' has

miserably failed. The government claims that the Islamabad Dharna was planned in a meeting between the PTI and PAT leaders in London.

"Now everyone is aware of the meeting that took place

in London between Imran Khan and Dr Tahirul Qadri," the prime minister told journalists in London on Wednesday before leaving for New York where he is scheduled to attend the 69th annual session of the United Nations General

Assembly.

"Details and motives behind the 'London Plan' have started to surface and people are witnessing what this plan has been reduced to," he said, adding that some politicians had joined hands in London to conspire against Pakistan. He further said that the Pakistani nation had 'foiled the designs' of protesters and would not forgive those who tried to hamper progress in Pakistan.

The prime minister informed that at the UN General Assembly he would speak about the hurdles Pakistan had been facing in its journey towards progress. "I will return with good tidings for the nation," he added.

Later the prime minister reached New York after a brief stopover in London. He came along with a relatively smaller delegation as compared to delegations accompanying

NAWAZ, P29

'Charter of Democracy' Was the Real London Plan



Islamabad: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Wednesday brushed aside talks of the 'London Plan' allegedly hatched with Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) chief Dr Tahirul Qadri to topple the government. Instead, PTI chief Imran Khan claimed that the real 'London Plan' was called the "Charter of Democracy" (CoD).

Addressing his supporters at D-Chowk on the 42nd day of protests, Imran said that the plan had been hatched to allow the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party to rule the country

IMRAN, P29

Chief McDonnell Visits Pakistan Link's Offices

Anaheim, CA: Long Beach Police Chief Jim McDonnell, a candidate for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's office, paid a visit to the 'Link Anaheim' offices on Friday, September 19.

He spent considerable time with the management and the editorial board to apprise them of plans to induct a wholesome change in the beleaguered Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department plagued "with scandals, federal investigations and a shattered reputation" that "more than ever needs a shift in direction and leadership," according to the Los Angeles Register. Elections for the LA County Sheriff's office are due to be held on November 4.

Chief McDonnell



From left: Councilman Ali Sajjad, Pakistan Link Editor Akhtar Faruqui, Police Chief Jim McDonnell, PL Publications President Arif Mansuri and Urdu Link Resident Editor Anwar Khawaja

had an exhaustive session with the editorial board and was later interviewed by Mr Arif Mansuri, President, PL Publica-

tions, publisher of Pakistan Link and Urdu Link. Mr Mansuri posed many searching questions and touched on a wide range

of issues - from Chief McDonnell's solid record in law enforcement; specific measures he

CHIEF, P23

Newly-appointed ISI Chief Recommended Peace with India

Islamabad: Lieutenant-General Rizwan Akhtar, the newly appointed Director General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), in 2008 argued that peace between Pakistan and India was imperative in the broader regional picture, calling for the country to "aggressively pursue rapprochement with India".

Rizwan was recently appointed by the government as next chief of the ISI and he will take charge when his predecessor Lt-Gen Zaheerul Islam retires on November 7.

In a research report for his Masters degree at the US Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, on "US-Pakistan trust deficit and the war on terror", Akhtar had argued that peaceful relations with India would not only improve regional stability but would also alleviate international concerns.

In recent years, ties between India and Pakistan have been tricky at best with India accusing Pakistani intelligence for helping to

ISI, P29

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Community Link

VOL. 24/39

Friday, September 26, 2014

2 Dhul-Hijjah 1435 H

PAGE 21

CAIR SV 12th Anniversary Banquet



PAGE 22

Hasan Chishti Gets Award for Community Service



PAGE 25

Afridi, Umar Akmal Penalized for Fitness



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First Joint Masjid Soccer Tournament Held in Irvine



It was nice to see all Imams playing soccer. Dr Ahmed Soboh, Shaykh Muhammad Faqih, Shaykh Yasir Fazaga and Shaykh Suhail Mullah represented their representative teams

By Link Staff Reporter

On August 9-10 around 550 players from various mosques of Southern Cali-

fornia got together to participate in tournament titled, "First Joint Masjid Soccer Tournament". The tournament was organized by

the Southern California Muslim Community Organization. It came to be another mega event successfully arranged by SCMCO, which

happens to be an umbrella organization of mosques in SoCal aiming to bring the Muslim community closer by way of social activities.

The tournament was held at the Orange County Great Park, Irvine. It was nice to see all Imams TOURNAMENT, P20



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TOURNAMENT FROM P19
 playing soccer with us. Dr Ahmed Soboh, Shaykh Muhammad Faqih, Shaykh Yasir Fazaga and Shaykh Suhail Mullah represented their representative teams.

Zhur Salat was led by Sheikh Yassir Fazaga from the Orange County Islamic Foundation, Mission Viejo. After the prayer he remarked in his brief address, "I have no words to describe my feelings." He thanked the organizers on arranging a truly wonderful event.

The event concluded with SC-MCO Chairperson Dawar Naqvi thanking everyone for their contribution and support. He expressed gratitude to Allah SWT for the success of the tournament. He also expressed his thanks to several individuals for their wholehearted support, including Noor Ahmed, Samir,

	FIRST PLACE	FIRST PLACE	FIRST PLACE	SECOND PLACE	SECOND PLACE	SECOND PLACE	THIRD PLACE
Over 30	Islamic Society of Corona & Norco	Islamic Center of North Valley – Lancaster		Orange County of Islamic Foundation -1			Islamic Institute of Orange County
Under 30	Islamic Center of Irvine -4	Indochinese Islamic Center	Islamic Center Of Yorba Linda	Al-Noor Foundation	Islamic Center of Irvine -2	MAS	
Under 19	Islamic Center of Inland Empire			Islamic Center of San Gabriel Valley			Islamic Education Center of Orange County
Under 14	Orange County of Islamic Foundation			Joint Masjid Team -2			Islamic Center Of Yorba Linda -2
Under 10	Joint Masjid Team			Islamic Society of Corona & Norco			Chino Valley Islamic Center
Girls	Islamic Institute of Orange County			SCVMU			Islamic Center of San Gabriel Valley

Assma Ally, Sister Samina Haq, Zafr Siddiqui, Adnan Naqvi, Hashim Zaman, Mansoor Awan, Abdul Hafiz

and many more. SCMCO also congratulated the First Joint Masjid Soccer Tournament Champions.

Best Sports Player: Brother Tariq Abdullah (ICIE) & Sister Vivian Jabar (AUCSC)



BANQUET FROM P21
 Medicine since the year 2005. Dr Najmi Minhaj introduced Shifa on stage and Dr Shagufta Yasmeen was on hand to accept the award on the group's behalf.

The final Keynote of the evening was delivered by The Honorable Ebrahim Rasool, Ambassador of South Africa in Washington. In a brief chat before the event Ambassador Rasool shared his Dutch, Indian and South-East Asian heritage (he said that his height came from the Dutch side). A long-time activist of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa starting from his High School days, his role rose to him being included in the leadership of the United Democratic Front (UDF) and the African National Congress (ANC) in South Africa. He spent time in jail and under house arrest during those days. We were lucky indeed to have an associate of the late

Nelson Mandela here in our city, proving once again that it does not get much better than this annual CAIR event in Sacramento.

Ambassador Rasool said that we in the world today are looking for answers to persistent problems. The Muslim community is no different than any other community in this world that we live in. We too are searching for answers in a rapidly changing world, he said. He added that we are witnessing horrible things carried out by non-state actors and informal movements and that the actions of formal state bodies have also been questionable. He said that we have to look and find new ways to divide the world. He sadly reflected on the fact that a night like this put together by CAIR which mixes many religions and ethnicities will (unfortunately) not make the mainstream news.

Ambassador Rasool went on

to highlight California's historical role in the fight against Apartheid and commended the efforts of those many Californians who had not seen or met a South African in their lives. Coming back to current events he said that the world today is plagued by inconsistency and that justice needs to be even and equal. He quoted from the Qur'an directing us to the singularity of the human community. He said that we should never take the right away from people to say the right thing. He also commented on the current (ISIS) headlines originating from the Middle East. "Wrong is wrong," he said. He added that injustice and discrimination need to be fought on all fronts without letting the extremists win, because that is what they are after. He added that events like this one held by CAIR are essential and that Sacramento must show the way, adding that each one of us carries within

us a part of the divine. He revisited Nelson Mandela's simplicity of beliefs in which we have to view each other through the human lens. "This world that we live in is a wonderful place of difference," he said. "Why do we not see the divine in each other before we see the skin color?" What South Africa teaches us is that we have the right to be the same and the right to be different. In essence, Ambassador Rasool called for embracing diversity and pluralism here.

The evening ended on both a humorous and a reflective note. Raffle winners were announced (prizes included tickets to a Sacramento Kings basketball game), but an odd issue came up when the winner of a trip to Mecca was announced. What do you do when the winner is not a Muslim! A closing Dua or prayer by Imam Azeez ended another memorable CAIR (SV) annual banquet.

Candle Light Vigil during PM Modi's Meeting with President Obama

A Kashmiri American Council announcement states: To demand what was pledged to the people of Jammu & Kashmir by both India and Pakistan and guaranteed by the Security Council, with the unequivocal endorsement of the United States, namely demilitarization of Kashmir and a free vote organized impartially to ascertain popular will.

To remind President Obama to fulfill his pledge that he made on October 30, 2008, "We should probably try to facilitate a better understanding between Pakistan and India and try to resolve the Kashmir crisis."

The United States paved the way for freedom around the world and the United States can help the people VIGIL, P29

CAIR Sacramento Valley 12th Anniversary Banquet Rooted in Faith



The Muslim community is no different than any other community in this world that we live in. We too are searching for answers in a rapidly changing world

■ By Ras H. Siddiqui

The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) Sacramento Valley Chapter held its 12th Anniversary Banquet at the California State University Sacramento Student Union Ballroom on Saturday, September 6th with the theme "Rooted in Faith: Growing Through Service" while highlighting the fact that the Islamic faith and people in the local community of all faiths are partners.

Throughout its many years of existence CAIR has championed the protection of civil rights of all Americans while educating and defending members of the Muslim community in this country. And it is because of its work which can be best described as "Positive Resistance" that the appreciation of this organization has expanded. Locally this professionalism that the CAIR Sacramento Valley (SV) Chapter has become known for became clear from the onset as one entered the hall.

A recitation from the Holy Qur'an by Imam Aamir Nazir from the Muslim Community of Folsom started the proceedings with a fol-

low-up translation by Imam Haazim Rashid of Masjid As-Sabur, followed by a short welcome address by CAIR-SV President T. Sami Siddiqui, who besides introducing a raffle and silent auction, emphasized that CAIR Sacramento Valley's accomplishments and its challenges would both be shared this evening. He added that CAIR's mission includes the empowerment of American Muslims. He added that international events were certainly not helping the billion plus Muslim population of the world who are being judged by the actions of a few thousand extremists. He said that locally CAIR's attorneys in northern California have addressed employment discrimination, FBI visits and school bullying, just to name a few. He added that since 9/11 there have been numerous controversies related to Mosque building, including six in California. He said that in this environment of challenges organizational goals cannot be achieved without generous donations from our community. "Tonight we want 100% participation," he said.

Next, a number of dignitaries present were introduced on stage in a "Public Officials Welcome". One cannot name them all here due to space

limitations but one in particular cannot be ignored and that is Assemblymember Mariko Yamada from California's 4th District who was on her final visit here in this official capacity. "It will not be my last time standing with you," she said. Mariko has attended all twelve of these CAIR (SV) events and even recalled the first one right after 9/11. She said that people have to stand together and work together, and our constitutional right must be protected. We must always be vigilant, she added. It must be noted here that the Japanese American community has been very supportive of our constitutional rights since 9/11 and for that area Muslims convey a big thank you!

The first keynote address of the evening was by Brooklyn-born Linda Sarsour, Director at the National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC). Linda is of Palestinian origin and said that her father left his home because he did not want to raise a family under military occupation in the West Bank. She said that she was a victim of a hate crime in New York and that any of us can be impacted. She added that 13 years after 9/11 it seems that we have not healed as a nation. She added

that experience made her a stronger advocate. She said that she was targeted because of the way she looked and for being herself. On school bullying she said, "Parents, please do not tell your children not to stand up for themselves." She added that if we as a community do not stand up for ourselves then nobody will stand up for us.

CAIR (SV) Executive Director Basim Elkarra next presented an annual report of chapter activities. He said that tonight we were connecting the world and connecting the dots, the connections of the struggle. He said that CAIR was founded 20 years ago and CAIR (SV) about 12 years ago. The organization's work gets more exciting, more challenging and more rewarding, he said. He spoke of the 400 cases of civil rights taken up in Northern California. He gave a couple of examples of these cases, one about a trip to Hajj and leave from employment which was granted, problems at school, FBI visits, and an issue about being able to wear the hijab at work. In each case, CAIR came to the aid of the individuals impacted, he said. 115 cases were taken locally in the Sacramento area. On ISIS he said that what they

have been doing has nothing to do with Islam whatsoever. Basim also took the opportunity to introduce us to future leaders in the making, members of the Muslim Youth Leadership Program.

Special Guest Speaker Dr Altaf Husain currently Vice Chairperson of ISNA shifted the emphasis of the event towards fundraising. And he did it in an amazingly different way, with carefully calibrated doses of humor. No "Hell and Damnation" wording was used. His "Cigarettes in Heaven" joke was a classic. Performance Artist Rohina Malik from Chicago brought us back to seriousness with her intense delivery against hate crimes (in a very British accent).

Not enough can be said about this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Shifa Community Clinic. A medical services provider to the underserved and a place for training students, our future doctors, it was started at the Downtown Muslim Mosque in 1994 by two dedicated community physicians. This non-profit has now expanded and has been affiliated with the UC Davis School of BANQUET, P20

Why Muslims Fare Better in America than in Europe

The State Department estimates that up to 100 American jihadists are fighting in Iraq and Syria. A video appearing to show a second American journalist being beheaded by the Islamic State is circulating. You might think this would be a difficult time to hold the annual conference of America's largest Muslim organization.

Yet the Islamic Society of North America's gathering, which took place in Detroit over the Labor Day weekend, served as a reminder of how well America is assimilating a religious minority that has often struggled to feel at home in Europe. The conference hall was filled with Muslims of different races wearing clothes that identified them with different traditions. The Islamic Boy Scouts had a stand, as did a Muslim liberal-arts college from California. People discussed how to erect mosques without infringing America's arcane building regulations, or swapped business cards in the food court. The star turn was a Southern Baptist, Jimmy Carter (whose grandson is in the news, too). The only overt hostility to Israel came from two Hasidic Jews in fur shtreimel hats, who had come from Brooklyn to announce their solidarity with the people of Gaza.

America's Muslims differ from Europe's in both quantity and origin. The census does not ask about faith, but estimates put the number of Muslims in the country at around 1% of the population, compared with 4.5% in Britain and 5% in Germany. Moreover, American Islam is not dominated by a single sect or ethnicity. When the Pew Research Centre last tried to count, in 2011, it found Muslims from 77 countries in America. Most western European countries, by contrast, have one or two dominant groups—Algerians in France, Moroccans and Turks in Holland. This matters because the jumble of groups in America makes it harder for Muslim immigrants and their descendants to lead a life apart. Different traditions get squashed together. When building mosques, says Chris McCoy, a Kentucky native who is a prolific architect of Islamic buildings, "the question is usually not whether we should have an Indian- or a Saudi-style dome but, can we afford a dome?" Mixing breeds tolerance: Pew found that most American Muslims think that their faith is open to multiple interpretations, making them the Episcopalians of the Islamic world.

America's Muslims are better off than their European co-religionists. They are almost as likely as other Americans to report a household income of \$100,000 or more. The same cannot be said of the Pakistanis who came to work in the now-defunct textile mills of northern England or the Turks who became guest workers in West Germany. Many American Muslims arrived in the 1970s to complete their higher education and ended up staying. Muzammil Siddiqi, chairman of the Fiqh Council of North America, which issues fatwas, or religious opinions, to guide the behavior of the country's Muslims, is typical: he was born in India and holds a Harvard PhD in comparative religion.

There is a stark contrast between this group and some of the more recent immigrants from Somalia, who have fewer qualifications and lower wages (as do African-American Muslims, who make up about an eighth



of the total). This divide, if anything, makes America's Muslims look more like the nation as a whole.

On various measures of integration, Muslims score fairly well. A Pew study from 2011 found that 15% of Muslims who are married or living with someone have a spouse of a different faith. This may sound low, but it is higher than the intermarriage rate for American Jews at a comparable moment in their history, and above that of modern Mormons. According to the Pentagon, there were 3,600 Muslims on active duty in the armed forces in January 2012, the most recent date for which numbers are available. This reflects a plan to recruit Muslims to fight in Islamic countries where an ability to speak Arabic or Pashto is helpful.

Alas, one or two American Muslims fight for the other side. In 2009 Nidal Hasan, a US army psychiatrist, shot and killed 13 people on a military base in Texas. He was encouraged by Anwar al-Awlaki, an American propagandist for al-Qaeda, who was himself killed in a drone strike in Yemen in 2011. The State Department says that the government has increased the scrutiny of travel plans made by people who have expressed sympathy with foreign Islamists, and will monitor Muslims returning from Iraq and Syria.

But this is hard. Douglas McCain, a 33-year-old African-American who converted to Islam in 2004 and was killed in August while fighting in Syria, travelled to the war zone via Turkey—an unremarkable place to go on holiday. Moner Abusalha, who drove a truck bomb into a restaurant in Syria in May, went to Jordan, returned to Florida and then set off on his suicide mission. In both cases relatives and friends were baffled by what the two men did. Nor is it clear that there were grounds for preventing either from travelling abroad.

A few bad apples

For the past dozen years the FBI and other agencies have been watching mosques in the hope of spotting would-be terrorists early. This has yielded little, although the FBI did reveal one alarming conspiracy in 2009, when four men were convicted of planning to shoot down planes with missiles and burn synagogues in New York. Not many American Muslims want to become terrorists. And as the deaths of Mr McCain and Mr Abusalha suggest, there is no map for the journey from basketball-loving teen to violent extremist.

If the September 11th attacks permanently altered America's view of Islam, they also changed Islam in America. Peter Skerry of Boston College says that a few decades ago it was com-

mon for religious leaders to agonize over whether it was possible to be a good Muslim and live in America. That argument disappeared almost overnight, as did the question of whether it was appropriate for American Muslims to vote. At the conference in Detroit, speakers made frequent approving references to the protection afforded to the free exercise of religion by the constitution. Mr McCoy, the architect, regretted that his elderly clients often wanted to stick a minaret on their mosques to make them look like something from back home. He longed, he said, for American Islam to create distinctive architectural forms of its own. In this, style lags substance. When it comes to their faith, America's Muslims have already made something new. - The Economist

Hasan Chishti Gets Prestigious Award for Community Service

On September 16, 2014, on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the United Cricket Tournament in Chicago, Mr Hasan Chishti was given the Community Service Award.

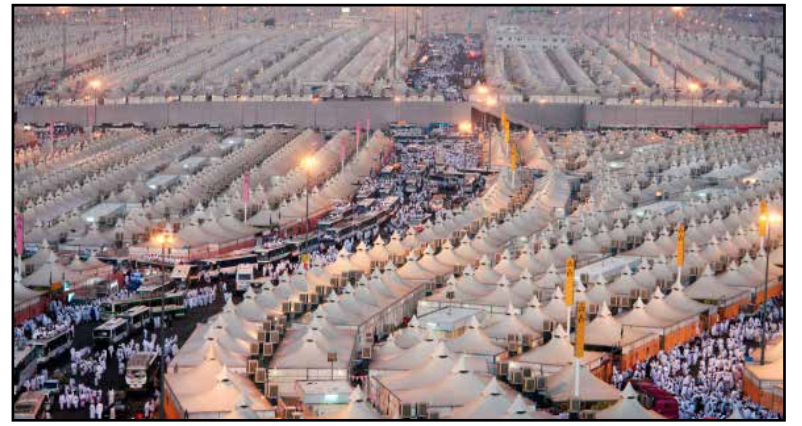


The award is a continuation of many recognitions and honors Mr Chishti has received for his writings, community service and efforts to promote human values.

Possessed of a thorough understanding of problems confronting new immigrants, Mr Chishti infuses self-confidence and reassurance on meeting them. In his capacity as General Secretary of Indian Non-Residents Association; General Secretary of Bazm-e-Urdu, a literary organization; Bazm-e-Deccan, a cultural organization and as the founding President of Urdu Journalists Association of America, he has rendered yeomen service to the community.

Born in Hyderabad, India, he obtained a BA degree from the Osmania University where he served in various administrative capacities for about 26 years. After his retirement in 1978, he was associated with the King Abdul Aziz University for one year following which he held an executive post in a Saudi-owned company for about six years. In 1986 he migrated to Chicago and worked CHISHTI, P29

UMAA Issues 2014 Hajj Advisory



Washington, DC: Each year, more than 14,000 American Muslims attend Hajj to fulfill a myriad of religious obligations. Unfortunately, last year the experience of some was marred by a sectarian attack, as reported in the Washington Times, says an UMMA message. It adds:

In response, in an effort led by Muslim Advocates, UMMA recently met with the State Department and its Consular Affairs office to discuss proactive steps individuals can take to protect themselves during the Hajj season. One of the points emphasized by the State Department was that the Consulate and Embassy are unable to provide emergency transportation, housing, or security accommodations and instead rely upon the Saudi Arabian government.

To prepare for any unforeseen problems or emergencies, UMMA provides some recommendations to Hajj travelers:

Register Online with the STEP program - The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) is a free service to allow US citizens and nationals traveling abroad to enroll with the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. This will help the US Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest. It will also help family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

Travel safely - Do not reveal personal information, such as your beliefs or sectarian affiliation to strangers or even security personnel. Also, keep private any information about your citizenship. Remain private in your interactions with others, and avoid public confrontations or arguments. If any particular situation looks threatening or dangerous, gather your group members and leave the area immediately.

If you need help - Contact the Saudi department tasked with law enforcement charged with the protection of Hajj travelers, "The National Tawafa Establishment for Pilgrims of Turkey and Muslims of Europe, Americas, and Australia", Telephone numbers from within Saudi Arabia: 012-542-7003 x101 or Mobile: 0505-608-150. Website: <http://www.teaa.com.sa/>

Other emergency phone numbers include:

Health Affairs: 012-530-8812

Lost Pilgrims: 012-530-8813

Ambulance 997

Police 999

Traffic Accidents 993

In the event of any emergency - UMMA advises you contact the US Consulate in Jeddah, which is tasked to deal with Hajj affairs. The Embassy in Riyadh is not the appropriate office to speak with for incidents related to the Hajj. You may contact the US Consulate General in Jeddah by phone at 012-667-0080.

Duty Officers will be available for

emergency assistance during the Hajj ceremonies. When contacting the Consulate, if the Duty Officer is unable to provide assistance, ask to be connected with a Consular Official or the American Citizens Services Unit.

For assistance contacting media officials or for other assistance in speaking with US Government agencies, you may also contact UMMA at info@umaamerica.net. Please contact the other offices first, as UMMA is not able to provide emergency assistance to Hajj travelers.

PFOWA and MGYW Sign Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Pakistan Foreign Office Wives Association (PFOWA), Islamabad, and Merit Grants for Young Women (MGYW), Los Angeles, on 5th September 2014. The signing ceremony was held at the Consulate General of Pakistan, Los Angeles in the presence of Consul General, Mr Tasawar Khan. PFOWA was represented by Mrs Iffat Tasawar Khan, while Dr Farhana Mohamed signed the MoU on behalf of MGYW.

MGYW is a 501(C) (3) registered non-profit organization working for the promotion of higher education among meritorious but financially underprivileged young female students of Pakistan. Since its establishment in 2000, under Pakistani American Forum, MGYW has been providing assistance to hundreds of deserving girl students in Pakistan in the form of tuition fee, books, uniforms and monthly financial assistance to continue their studies. In addition, MGYW partners with well-established charity schools that predominantly cater to educate girls in impoverished rural or urban areas of Pakistan.

PFOWA is a registered non-profit organization run by the female officers and spouses of officers of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan. It was established in 1947 to assist the deserving children of low grade employees of the Ministry, by providing them syllabus books, stationary and scholarships for higher education in Pakistan on the basis of merit. It also provides financial assistance to the widows of the Foreign Office staff and extends a helping hand in cases requiring medical assistance. PFOWA has been active in providing relief assistance during disasters like earthquakes and floods.

Since one of the main activities of PFOWA is to promote education by supporting the deserving students of the Foreign Office families as well as different charity schools, the idea MOU, P29

CHIEF FROM P1

would take to fix the problems of a police department that has 18,000 employees and an yearly budget of \$3.2 billion; his commitment to diversity and respect for people of all faiths, including Muslims; his comments on receiving numerous endorsements; and his experience in dealing with Muslim Americans and members of the Pakistani-American community – during the course of the interview.

Chief McDonnell's answers were forthright, insightful, and spontaneous and had a bearing on a wide spectrum of issues that impact the community and that had come up for discussion during the course of the interview. Some of his comments were edifying and bode well for future police-community relations. His well-meaning observations seemed to lend credence to an earlier Los Angeles Times endorsement: "It is hard to imagine a candidate better suited to the job." The Los Angeles Register's endorsement too strongly testified to Chief McDonnell's credentials for the office of Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department: "The department needs an outsider's perspective and a departure from the status quo. It is for this reason that we are endorsing Jim McDonnell for sheriff." Indisputably, Chief Jim McDonnell deserves the

wholehearted support of the community. PL Publications, the publisher of Pakistan Link and Urdu Link, endorses Jim McDonnell for LA County Sheriff.

Jim McDonnell was appointed 25th Chief of Police for the Long Beach Police Department (LBPD), the 2nd largest city in Los Angeles County, in March 2010.

McDonnell served with the Los Angeles Police Department for 29 years and held every rank in the department up to Chief of Staff, second-in-command of the LAPD. He has received numerous community and department awards, including the LAPD's highest award for bravery, the Medal of Valor.

Chief McDonnell serves on numerous Boards of Directors that focus on furthering the interests of local youth and leadership in the policing profession on a local, statewide and national level. He serves as a Commissioner of the California Commission on Peace Officers' Standards & Training (POST) and is the immediate past president of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association.

McDonnell promotes effective partnerships within the law enforcement community and recognizes how much can be accomplished by bringing people with a shared vision



Chief Jim McDonnell is interviewed by PL Publications President Arif Mansuri at the Anaheim offices of Pakistan Link

together. He was appointed to the US Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence and served in two US Department of Justice National Executive Sessions; the National Executive Session on Law Enforcement & Public Health: Inter-Disciplinary Strategies

and the National Executive Session on Police Legitimacy and Racial Reconciliation.

Chief McDonnell holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, and a Master's Degree in Public Adminis-

tration from the University of Southern California. He is also a graduate of the FBI's prestigious National Executive Institute, the Senior Management Institute for Police and has completed executive education programs at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

A Memorable Interfaith Picnic in Hopkinton Park



■ By Tahir Ali

Pictures courtesy Khalid Naseem

Hopkinton, Massachusetts: What do Homaira Naseem, Naushad Anwar, Yasmeen Ansari and Dr Shameem Ahmed have in common? They are activists and believe in meaningful get-togethers like the interfaith picnic they helped organize in Hopkinton Park this week.

The ladies worked closely together with the Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM), which is an interfaith, community-based organization. The activists explained, "RIM's volunteers, many who are organized in community clusters, help integrate clients into their communities through job preparation programs, chaplaincy services to immigrant detainees, and other forms of assistance."

Dr Ruth Bersin – RIM's Executive Director – in her opening speech thanked the various groups that participated in the interfaith effort. "People are coming, seeking asylum from all over the world. We need groups that represent different parts of the world." She made a reference to the community outreach program in terms of 'clusters' that, "are made up of representatives from several congregations in a given community that agree to work on a cooperative, interfaith process that offers clients community-based support. Partici-

pating congregations include: Lutheran, Episcopal, United Presbyterian, United Methodist, American Baptist, Roman Catholic, United Church of Christ, Unitarian, Ba'hai, Jewish, Buddhist, Sikh, Hindu, Muslim and the Society of Friends."

Kawajit Singh of New England Sikh Study Circle (nessc.org) asserted that most of the refugees do not even have the basic needs. They cannot drive and that alone becomes a big impediment for them to lead normal lives. "Transportation is the biggest concern and I take care of that – picking them up and dropping them off to wherever they need to be at." His son Angad Singh who also helps his father in his humane work said, "I am proud of what my father is doing - helping those who need it the most." Kawajit

could not forget when we attended and supported the Sikh community in the wake of the shootings by a hate monger at the Gurdhwara (Sikh Temple) in Milford. "About 200 Sikhs and 30 Muslims attended the vigil in Milford Sikh Temple. The Sikh community felt honored when we prayed in their lawn and read a statement on behalf of our Islamic centers condemning the attack." He recognized some of us who consoled and prayed at the Sikh temple. "We are there for each other," Kawajit remarked.

Donna Blackstone has been involved with RIM for over three years with just one goal in mind: to bring faith groups together with one local community. Donna leading RIM's Cluster program, said, "We are the local hand to place these displaced

individuals find employment, place their kids to school." Although these individuals are free to begin their lives, but often lack the resources to effectively do so. "RIM's clusters aim to give them the tools to become self-sustaining members of their communities," Donna explained.

Reverend Clint Barlow of Millbury Baptist Church mentioned that Dr Ruth spoke at their church last October. "Following up on that conversation our church is now getting more and more involved – what makes RIM different is that they are concentrating only on those who seek asylum." The Reverend commended the turnout and noted the gathering consisted of many ethnicities and various groups. "This is the way the world should be," the Reverend added, "if you can't

change the world, make the change where you are – at the local level."

Dr Khalid Sadozai, the President of the Islamic Society of Greater Worcester (ISGW) along with executive committee and board members - Dr Saleem Khanani and Mohammad Ilyas - met with Dr Ruth Bersin some three and a half years ago. They all agreed that Islamic centers should be represented in RIM.

Recipient of the Chime Award in 2009 for humanitarian service Dr Ruth was pleased at the turnout and the interaction among various communities. "We learn from each other," she observed.

Dr Bersin received her BS in Education from Indiana University, an MA in Religion from Colgate Rochester Divinity School, Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School and a DMin from the Graduate Theological Foundation. She received her PhD in Pastoral Psychotherapy – enough credentials to lead RIM in the right direction.

Homaira Naseem, talked of Sarpreet Singh, the leader of the Sikh Temple 'Gurdhwara' in Milford who has been working with RIM for three years who urged Muslims to be part of RIM. Homaira now urges youth to be part of RIM and take lead, because she admitted that they bring new ideas to the table. "Actually the picnic PICNIC, P29