



Visitors during an exhibition 'Parakram Parv' on weapons of the Indian Army at Rajpath, in New Delhi on Saturday

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PM stresses importance of character building

NEW DELHI, SEPT 29 /-- Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday emphasised the importance of character-building over literacy and called for "wholesome education in the country. Modi was addressing the inaugural ceremony of "Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence" organised by the ministry of human resource development. "Knowledge and education are not re-



stricted to books. The purpose of education is to enable balanced growth of every dimension of a human being, which is not possible without innovation," Modi said. "Ambedkar, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Ram Manohar Lohiya always emphasised on character-building over literacy. Swami Vivekananda stressed on wholesome education that makes us a human," he added. The Prime Minister asserted that without innovation life would become a burden. "Innovation is very important because without it, life seems like a burden. In our ancient universities, like Takshshila, Nalanda and Vikramashila, innovation was given emphasis along with knowledge. I insist that students should give knowledge in classrooms of college, university but they also add them to the aspirations of the country," he said. Stressing upon the need for "interlinking" the institutions, the Prime Minister said no country or person can live in isolation. "Our universities and colleges should be leveraged to find solutions to the challenges facing us. We should interlink institutions to innovate and incubate. The students should link their classroom learnings to the aspirations of the country," he said. Modi emphasised the importance of preparing good teachers for society. "Scholars and students can take responsibility for spreading digital literacy, and generating greater awareness of government programmes that can improve ease of living. Youth has given 'Brand India' a global identity," he said. The theme of the conference is to deliberate on the challenges facing the Indian education system and to work out a plan for a paradigm shift both in terms of achieving academic outcomes and also in regulation of education.

How can talks be pursued with a nation that glorifies 'killers', Sushma asks world leaders

UNITED NATIONS, SEPT 29 /-- Calling out Pakistan's "lie" that India is sabotaging the dialogue process, external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj today asked world leaders how can talks be pursued in the midst of "terrorist bloodshed" with a nation that "glorifies killers". In a hard-hitting retort to Pakistan, Swaraj said India has made many efforts to have talks with Islamabad and the only reason they have stopped is because of Pakistan's behaviour. "We are accused of sabotaging the process of talks. This is a complete lie. We believe that talks are the only rational means to resolve the most complex of disputes. Talks with Pakistan have begun many times. If they stopped, it was only because of Pakistan's behaviour," she said in her address to the General Debate of the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly here. The Indian leader told the world body that after assuming power, Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggesting a meeting between the countries' foreign ministers on the margins of the General Assembly. India accepted the proposal but within hours of its acceptance, news came that terrorists had killed three Indian jawans, Swaraj said. "Does this indicate a desire for dialogue," Swaraj asked. She informed the General Assembly that various groups working in India over the years have tried the peace option. Prime Minister Modi, by inviting the Heads of the SAARC nations to his swearing in ceremony, had begun his attempt for dialogue on his very first day in office. Swaraj said she too had in December 2016, personally gone to Islamabad and of-

fered a comprehensive bilateral dialogue. "But soon after, Pakistan-sponsored terrorists attacked our air force base in Pathankot on January 2. Please explain to me how we could pursue talks in the midst of terrorist bloodshed," she asked. Swaraj also slammed Pakistan for time and again accus-



ing her right to reply, displayed some photographs as "proof" of human rights violations by India. In a major goof-up and embarrassment for Pakistan on the global stage, the photographs turned out to be from another country, the minister noted. "Similar false accusations have become a part of its

domestic political and electoral compulsions" were behind New Delhi's reluctance to talk to the new government in Islamabad. External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and Qureshi were slated to meet on the sidelines of the ongoing UN General Assembly session in New York. However, India called off the meeting last week, citing the brutal killings of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad releasing postage stamps "glorifying" slain Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani. "Why are they reluctant?"

Standard rhetoric," Swaraj said. It may be added here that Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has alleged that India's "domestic political and electoral compulsions" were behind New Delhi's reluctance to talk to the new government in Islamabad. External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and Qureshi were slated to meet on the sidelines of the ongoing UN General Assembly session in New York. However, India called off the meeting last week, citing the brutal killings of three policemen in Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad releasing postage stamps "glorifying" slain Kashmiri militant Burhan Wani. "Why are they reluctant?"

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Simply politics, elections...they are scared of the electorate. They are swaying the pendulum to such an extreme (that), now they're finding it difficult to bring it back. And (with) the elections round the corner, they (Indian government) felt that it could boom-erang," Qureshi said on Friday in response to a question at an event organised by the Asia Society here. India has maintained that there can be no talks with Pakistan unless it stops supporting terrorists. On Thursday also, Swaraj, in a huge snub to Pakistan, left a meeting of the SAARC foreign ministers early, which was attended by Qureshi. Responding to a query about the incident, Qureshi said, "I wish we were going to smile at each other. But (I) could see the immense strain (on Swaraj's face). And when she left, she wasn't even willing to engage with the media...I could see the pressure, I could see the political (pressure) on her." So, politics, nothing else, politics, domestic politics (made India reluctant to talk to Pakistan)," he said. It was said to see how "a regional forum (SAARC) had become hostage" to the needs of one nation, Qureshi added. The Pakistani foreign minister, who is scheduled to meet the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday, said, "Today India is a strategic partner of Pakistan unless it stops supporting terrorists. But we feel that Pakistan is an ally who has always stood with the US." Qureshi said whenever Pakistan stood with the US, it has benefited America. "Whether it was the Cold War, the Soviet invasion or the 9/11 terror attack, we were the ones to stand with the US and collectively we decimated that evil," he said. (PTT)

Those who take innocent human lives in pursuit of war by other means are defenders of inhuman behaviour, not of human rights. Pakistan glorifies killers; it refuses to see the blood of innocents

Beijing defends move to block India's bids at UN to list Azhar Masood as global terrorist

WASHINGTON, SEPT 29 /-- Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi has defended Beijing's repeated blockage of India's bids at the United Nations to list chief of Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) Azhar Masood as a global terrorist, arguing that the issue lacks "consensus" among the members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) as well as the "directly concerned" parties - India and Pakistan. Azhar is accused of several deadly terrorist attacks in India, including one on the Uri military base in Kashmir in 2016 in which 17 security personnel were killed. A veto-wielding permanent member of the UNSC, China has repeatedly blocked India's move - supported by the US, Britain and France - to designate Azhar a terrorist under the Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council. The JeM, founded by Azhar, has already been in the UN's list of banned terrorist outfits. "If all parties come to a consensus, we will support it. But it is the parties that are rightly concerned who are not coming around to the same conclusion, like India and Pakistan don't have the same conclusions," Wang said on Friday in response to a question on China defending Pakistan-based terrorist in the UNSC at a conference organised by the American think-tank Council on Foreign Relations. The Chinese minister said if the parties "directly concerned" are able to come to a consensus, then "together we will be able to push the process forward." "We think that is the better way to go, and we will stay in close touch with India on this issue because we also have very good ties with the Indian side. We hope to see an early consensus, and for-gether we can contribute to the fight against terror, the foreign minister said. China and Pakistan are considered all-



weather allies. Wang, who is currently in New York to attend the 73rd annual session of the United Nations General Assembly, argued that listing of terrorists should be based on proof and claimed that there is not enough evidence against Masood. "Whether these people are terrorists or not, there should be solid facts and proof. If there is irrefutable evidence, no one can turn its back on it. I don't think Pakistan will do that," he asserted. He also praised Pakistan for its fight against terrorism. "China is against all forms of terrorism... We have been supporting and encouraging Pakistan in its efforts in fighting terrorism... Years ago, at the request of the US, Pakistan participated in the fight against al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. It paid a heavy price for that and has made a huge contribution. We believe that there should be a fair judgment of what they (Pakistan) did," Wang said.



Sourav Ganguly, Nita Ambani and Abhishek Bachchan at the inauguration of ISL Season 5 at Salt Lake Stadium

Data of 50 m FB users at risk after security breach, accounts from India likely hit

WASHINGTON, SEPT 29 /-- Data of 50 million Facebook users have been exposed following a massive security breach by unknown hackers, its chief executive officer (CEO) Mark Zuckerberg said, amid fears that a significant number of the accounts affected could be from India. "The precautionary measure taken by the social media giant has impacted another 40 million users, Zuckerberg said today. In a conference call with newsmen, he did not give a country-wise of the user accounts hit by the data breach. However, a significant number of affected users are expected to be from India, given that the company has the maximum 270 million users in the country. It has 2 billion global users. Facebook did not immediately respond to a PTI question on the number of accounts affected in India. "On Tuesday afternoon, our engineering team found an attack affect-

ing up to 50 million accounts on Facebook. The attackers exploited a vulnerability in the code of the View As feature which is a privacy feature that lets people see what their Facebook profile would look like to another person," Zuckerberg said. "The vulnerability allowed the attackers to steal Facebook access tokens - which are the equivalent of a digital key - which the attackers could have used to take over or access people's accounts," he said. Stressing that the investigation into the incident was still at a nascent stage, Zuckerberg said the social media giant does not know if any of the accounts were misused or who was behind the cyberattacks. "So far, our initial investigation has not shown that these tokens were used to access any private messages or posts or to post anything to these accounts," he said. Facebook has taken steps to patch the security flaw to prevent this attacker - or any other attacker - from

being able to steal additional access tokens. Facebook has invalidated access tokens for the accounts, causing those users to be logged out. "These people will now have to log back in to access their accounts again and we will also notify these people in a message on top of their News Feed about what happened when they log back in," the chief executive officer said. In addition to getting in touch with law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, Zuckerberg said Facebook is logging out all users who used the "View As" feature since the flaw was introduced last year as a precautionary measure. "This will require another 40 million people - or more - to log back into their accounts," he said. "This is a really serious security issue. And we're taking it really seriously. We have a major security effort at the company that harnesses all of our surfaces, and investigates issues like this," he said in response to a question. (PTT)

Documentary on Bahadur Shah Zafar screened to packed house in Delhi

NEW DELHI, SEPT 29 /-- An hour-long documentary on the last Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah Zafar, meticulously researched and filmed over three years, was screened to a packed house in the national capital, titled, "The Last Mughal: Bahadur Shah Zafar", and made by the Films Division, the documentary had its first official screening

Friday evening at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) here. The audience included university students, scholars, researchers, professors, government officials, history buffs and poetry admirers. While the main conference room at the IGNCA, where the film was screened, got jam-packed, people continued to queue in to listen to

the tale of the famed last Mughal, so the documentary was also partially screened on a small screen in the lounge area where some even sat on the floor or stood near the door to catch his story. Suresh Sharma, who directed the project, and was present during the screening, said, he was overwhelmed by the response from the city. "The project was commissioned by the Films Division in 2015 and then an extensive research was carried out. The film was shot in Delhi, Kanpur, Allahabad, Lucknow and Rangoon

(now Yangon)," he told PTI. Sharma said the appeal of Zafar's persona is still so strong, especially his poetic side, which fascinates many, given he was a king and died an inglorious death. The film in Hindi also uses rare archival images and footage to piece together the story of the last Mughal, complemented with interviews of historians Irfan Habib, Harbans Mukhia, poet Javed Akhtar and author of 'The Last Mughal' William Dalrymple. One of the rarest images is that

of a wooden building in which Zafar is said to have been imprisoned in Rangoon in Burma after being exiled from India by the British as shown in the film. "For research, I went to the National Archives, researchers, historians and read and referenced so many books. It was a labour of love and as seen in the film many people interviewed expressed sentiments that the remains of the Zafar be brought back to Delhi, if not wholly, at least symbolically, a portion of its soil," Sharma said.

Triple Talaq ordinance against women: Owaisi

HYDERABAD, SEPT 29 /-- Alleging that the ordinance issued by the NDA government on triple talaq was "against women" and the fundamental rights of the Constitution, AIMM president Asaduddin Owaisi has demanded its withdrawal. "Supreme Court in its decision has not said anywhere that triple talaq is unconstitutional. Supreme Court said we set aside the triple talaq ordinance addressing a meeting here Friday night to protest the ordinance that makes Triple Talaq illegal. The Ordinance is against the 'fundamental rights' of the Constitution, he claimed. "This ordinance is against Muslim women. Instead of doing justice to Muslim women, this ordinance will also increase in the wake of the Right to Equality, the AIMM chief alleged that the ordinance was "discriminatory towards Muslim men" as they get three years as punishment if proven guilty in a court of law. "The ordinance gets only one year jail sentence (under a different law). "Why this discrimination Mr Modi, you tell us," he asked. The ordinance is against Muslim women as the burden of proof is on women that her ex-husband said 'talaq' thrice. Owaisi further claimed that the de-termination of women would also increase in the wake of the ordinance. "If BJP government has so much affection, allocate Rs 500 crore. No allocation of even a paisa..." he said. There are 24 lakh, including 22 lakh non-Muslim women, who are not with their husbands and justice should be done to them also, he said. Referring to Supreme Court judgements on Section 497 and 377 of IPC, he sought to know how the government could hand out punishment for Triple Talaq. "When 377 (criminalising adult gay sex) is dismissed, 497 (adultery) is dismissed, how can you give punishment in Triple Talaq? When they are decriminalised, how can this be criminal?" he asked. The Supreme Court had on September 27 declared that adultery is not a crime and struck down the anti-adultery law, saying it was unconstitutional as it denied the individuality of women and treated them as "chattel of husbands." A resolution passed at the meeting, under the aegis of United Muslim Forum, demanded that the government take back the ordinance. "The United Muslim Forum also demands the government to ensure that the religious and cultural rights and freedom guaranteed to Muslims by the Constitution are implemented in letter and spirit and not tampered in any manner," it said. (PTT)

AT A GLANCE

Executive shot dead by constables in UP
L U C K N O W / G O A R K H I P U R / A 38-year-old man was shot dead early this morning by a policeman when he allegedly refused to stop his car for checking in Lucknow's posh Gomti Nagar neighbourhood, police said. Two constables were arrested on the basis of a FIR filed by Apple executive Vivek Tiwari's colleague Sana Khan, who was travelling with him. Uttara Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath said a CBI inquiry will be recommended if needed.