

**Man arrested in Indian, Pak restaurant war murder in UK**

**LONDON, NOV 10 /-/** A 51-year-old man, believed to be of Indian origin, has been arrested in Germany in connection with a murder following a restaurant war between Indian and Pakistani eateries in Scotland over 24 years ago. Police Scotland said the man, who cannot be named at this stage, was arrested on October 4, 1993, and will now be returned to Scottish jurisdiction. "It is anticipated that proceedings to return the man to Scottish jurisdiction will take his due course," a Police Scotland statement said. The arrested man is believed to be Indian-origin Avtar Singh, who was arrested as he landed in Frankfurt from a flight from Delhi. Singh was a waiter of an Indian restaurant in Ayrshire at the time of the murder and had disappeared after the murder, which local media reports at the time described as a restaurant war between rival Indian and Pakistani restaurants over migrant staff employed by them. Singh, the owner of Armaan Besseri, which has since been renamed as Ayr India, was stabbed to death outside the eatery when a group of Pakistanis clashed with Indians, the 'Ayrshire Post' had reported at the time.

**Indian-origin doctor cleared over circumcision of baby in UK**

**LONDON, NOV 10 /-/** An Indian-origin doctor from the East Midlands region of England who was arrested for allegedly circumcising a baby boy without his mother's consent has been released without charge. Dr Balvinder Mehta, a general practitioner (GP), was accused of carrying out a non-therapeutic circumcision or a procedure for religious rather than medical reasons on the three-month old baby four years ago. "The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) deemed that there would be no realistic prospect of conviction, Nottinghamshire Police said, adding that they had thoroughly investigated the incident. The baby's paternal grandmother, believed to belong to the Muslim faith, had taken the baby to Mehta's surgery in Nottingham for the procedure in July 2013. The 61-year-old GP told the police when he was arrested back in June this year that he believed the mother had consented. The police had also arrested the boy's father and paternal grandmother on suspicion of conspiracy to commit grievous bodily harm, but they were released without charge as well. In a letter to the boy's mother outlining its decision, the CPS said that had Mehta performed the operation knowing the mother did not consent, his actions may have amounted to an assault. "He may have failed in his professional obligations to discuss the issue of consent with you. But that in itself is not sufficient for there to be a criminal prosecution," it noted. The boy's parents are separated and the procedure took place when he was with his father's family. Now aged four, the boy suffers from a number of recurrent problems, including inflammation and infections, as a result of the circumcision, according to his mother. "I will fight this until my last breath if I have to, it's the only way I can possibly look my son in his eyes, she told the BBC. Human rights lawyer Saimo Chahal is appealing the CPS decision and has written a letter, "outlining numerous defects in their decision-making process and evaluation of this case". Circumcision is widely practised in both the Jewish and Muslim faiths around the world. Guidelines from the British Medical Association state that both parents should give consent for any non-therapeutic or "ritual" circumcision of children. If parents disagree, a doctor may only proceed with the permission of a UK court. Children old enough to express their opinion should be consulted, and their wishes must be taken into account. Mehta, based at Bakersfield Medical Centre in Nottingham, has declined to comment due to patient confidentiality rules. (PTI)

**India should establish forward bases to advise militaries of neighbouring countries: Think-tank**

**WASHINGTON, NOV 10 /-/** India should establish forward bases to advise armies of neighbouring nations, build special forces and enhance joint maritime patrols with the US in the Indian Ocean to meet security challenges, a US-based think-tank has recommended after the Doklam-crisis with China. The South Asia Center of Washington-based Atlantic Council, in its report 'The Sino-Indian Clash and the New Geopolitics of the Indo-Pacific' India should propose regular India-US-China talks at least on an annual basis, perhaps on the margins of the G20 or the East Asia Summit meetings aimed at minimising the risk of misperception or miscalculation. The think-tank said while China and India have substantial economic ties and common interests, particularly as both are members of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) organisations and G20 nations, nonetheless, legal territorial issues will continue to spur Indian skepticism about Chinese intentions. In a series of recommendations, the report authored by Bharath Gopalaswamy and Robert A Manning, says that there was a distinction between counterbalancing and containment. India and China were locked in a 73-day stand-off in Doklam, a tri-junction between the Sino-India and Bhutanese border near Sikkim, from June 16 this year after Indian Army personnel stopped the Chinese Army from building a road in

the area. The standoff ended on August 28 after both sides reached an understanding on a quick "disengagement" of border personnel. Noting that in a dynamic Indo-Pacific security environment, Sino-Indian ties have grown more problematic, the report said that as a democracy and a committed market-oriented economy India appears more focused than China on the rules-based global order, while trying to build a larger role and expand its voice and influence within it. It recommended that India and the US should enhance joint maritime patrols in the Indian Ocean. Both nations should seek to assert their presence in the international sea lanes where China is expanding its reach, it said noting that this would help the United States and India collectively balance the Chinese military ascent in the Indian Ocean. Additionally, the United States and India must boost bilateral security cooperation in the Asia-Pacific. India should also seek assistance from Japan and the United States in developing its indigenous shipbuilding capabilities and should consider permitting Australia to join the Malabar exercises to resurrect the initial Quadrilateral grouping, the report said. India, it said, should improve its carrier aviation capacity which will help maintain sea control in the Indian Ocean. India's military structure is based on carrier battle groups, which gives it an advantage over the Chinese Navy, it said. However,



China's push for naval modernisation over the last decade has widened the gap in the capability of both militaries, and India needs to overcome its deficits by developing a long-term plan to enhance its naval capacity, it said. "Specifically, the United States can play a major role in helping India modernise its unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) fleet," the report said. "India must seek to improve its space surveillance capacities. India already possesses a developed space program which it must utilise to serve practical military needs," said the Atlantic Council. According to Atlantic Council, primarily India should focus on replicating a national security architecture similar to that found in countries like the United States, Israel, and China. India should seek to establish a body like the United States Office of the Federal Chief Information Security Officer. "India should establish forward bases to advise the militaries of neighbouring countries. India could set up a brigade for each South Asian nation (other than Pakistan), which would take on the responsibility of training and advising the militaries of those countries," Atlantic Council said. "India could also create a satellite campus of the National Defence Academy, or an entirely new academy to train greater numbers of Bhutaneses/ Nepalis/ Bangladeshis/ Sri Lankan troops in India," it recommended. Noting that the recent use of its special forces on Pakistani territory demonstrates India's willingness to conduct asymmetrical warfare, the report said India should seek to centralise the command of all its special forces units, which are currently under the purview of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Research and Analysis Wing. (PTI)

**Philippines' Duterte says he once stabbed a person to death**

**DANANG (VIETNAM), NOV 10 /-/** Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has said he stabbed a person to death as a teenager in a defiant speech to promote his agenda at a summit of world leaders in Manila. Speaking to the local Filipino community in the Vietnamese city of Danang yesterday, Duterte also threatened to slap a UN rights reporter if he met her, and used obscene language to hit back at critics of his drug crackdown. "When I was a teenager, I would go in and out of jail. I'd have rumbles here, rumbles there," said Duterte, who is in Danang for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. "At the age of 16, I already killed someone. A real person, a rumble, a stabbing. I was just 16 years old. It was just over a look. How much more now that I am president?" Duterte won last year's presidential elections after promising to eradicate illegal drugs with an unprecedented crackdown that would see up to 100 people killed. Since he took office 16 months ago, police say they have killed 3,967 people in the crackdown. Another 2,280 people were murdered in drug-related crimes, while thousands of other deaths remain unrecorded, according to government data. Duterte, 72, remains popular with many Filipinos who believe he is making society safer. But critics at home and abroad warn that he is orchestrating a campaign of extrajudicial mass murder, carried out by corrupt police and hired vigilantes. Duterte denies the allegations. The firebrand leader consistently generates headlines for his abusive language and incendiary comments defending the drug war. Duterte said last year he would be "happy to slaughter" three million drug addicts. Duterte also said in December last year that he had personally shot dead criminal suspects when he was mayor of southern Davao city to set an example to police. (AFP)



Cardinal Peter Turkson talks with reporters during the conference "Perspectives for a World Free from Nuclear Weapons and for Integral Disarmament" at the Vatican - REUTERS

**Pope hopes to shift nuke paradigm: Deterrence to disarmament**

**VATICAN CITY, NOV 10 /-/** The Vatican today hosted Nobel laureates, UN and NATO officials and a handful of nuclear powers at a conference aimed at galvanising support for a global shift from the Cold War era policy of nuclear deterrence to one of total nuclear disarmament. Pope Francis was to address the conference, adding his voice to the campaign that produced a new UN treaty calling for the elimination of atomic weapons, and a Nobel Peace Prize for the small advocacy group that was instrumental in pushing the treaty through. Among those speaking at the two-day meeting were Beatrice Fihn, executive director of the Nobel-winning International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and Masako Wada, who survived the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and has gone on to become a prominent disarmament activist. The conference comes amid mounting tensions on the Korean peninsula and heated rhetoric between Washington and Pyongyang. But organisers, Cardinal Peter Turkson told the audience, had today that the gathering was planned well before President Donald Trump began his Asia trip, where the North Korean nuclear threat has been at the forefront of his agenda. Drawing laughs from the largely secular audience, Turkson said it was "divine providence" that the conference and US president's trip coincided. Opening the debate, the Vatican's top diplomat, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, told the confer-

**Trump will not meet with Putin in Vietnam: WH**



**DANANG (VIETNAM), NOV 10 /-/** US President Donald Trump will not hold a meeting with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a regional summit in Vietnam, the White House said today after the two countries sent mixed messages about the encounter. Relations between Moscow and Washington have plummeted as a US probe has accused Trump's former campaign aides of secretly meeting Kremlin-connected officials - a charge Moscow denies. Both leaders are attending the Asia Pacific Eco-

nomics Cooperation (APEC) forum in the city of Danang and there had been conflicting indications as to whether a face-to-face was on the cards. "Regarding a Putin meeting, there was never a meeting confirmed, and there will not be one that takes place due to scheduling conflicts on both sides," press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters just before Air Force One touched down in the Vietnamese beach resort city. However, Moscow on Friday was holding out for a potential meeting between the two leaders, who will be in Vietnam for the next two days. "There is no clarity yet," Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies, adding that officials were "continuing" attempts to agree on a meeting. Both Moscow and Trump had previously suggested that talks were likely to take place. On Sunday the US president said "it's expected we'll meet with Putin" to discuss North Korea's nuclear ambitions. Four days later Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told Russian news agencies that the two would hold a meeting in Vietnam with the time and place still to be determined. But hours later US Secretary of State Tillerson said no decision had been made on talks, which would be the first between the



two men since they met at the G20 summit in Germany in July. Trump's relationship with Moscow has haunted the first year of his administration. His former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and an associate are under house arrest on charges including conspiracy to launder money, linked to the investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller into allegations that the campaign colluded with Russia. Russia has denied allegations of interfering in the US election last year that brought Trump to power. (AFP)

Trump wants Senate hopeful to step aside if sex claims true: WH

**DANANG (VIETNAM), NOV 10 /-/** US President Donald Trump would expect Senate candidate Roy Moore to withdraw from an upcoming vote if allegations that he had a sexual encounter with a 14-year-old girl were true, the White House said today. Moore, a former judge and the Republican nominee for a vacant Senate seat in Alabama, has denied explosive allegations from four women that he pursued them when they were 18 or younger while he was in his 30s. One woman said she was just 14 at the time. "Like most Americans the president believes we cannot allow a misuse of allegation in this case one from many years ago, to destroy a person's life," White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters aboard Air Force One before Trump arrived in Vietnam to attend an Asia-Pacific summit. "However, the president believes that if these allegations are true, Judge Moore will do the right thing and step aside." The four women were interviewed under the record by The Washington Post, alleging a range of incidents while Moore was working as an assistant district attorney in Alabama. According to the Post, Leigh Corfman, now 53, said when she was 14 Moore took her into his house in the woods near Gadsden, Alabama, removed her shirt and pants, and fondled her over her bra and underpants. The allegations have sent shockwaves through Washington, with several high-profile Republicans urging the married father-of-four to quit the Senate race if the claims are true. Senator John McCain, the 2008 Republican presidential nominee, immediately declared himself "disqualifying" for Moore. Moore, 70, denies the allegations. His campaign team called the Post story "fake news." Considered an anti-establishment conservative, Moore will face Democrat Doug Jones in a special Senate election in December 12 to replace Jeff Sessions, who is now US attorney general. Experts have told US media that Alabama's Republican Party or Moore himself could withdraw his name from consideration. However, Alabama law prohibits the replacement of a senator up to 75 days before the election, meaning Moore's name will likely be on the ballot when Alabama's vote next month. (AFP)