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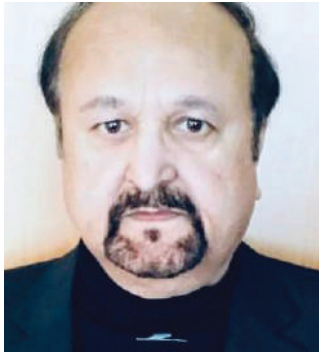


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Editorial



Dr. Busharat Elahi Jamil

Pakistan's traditional politics suggests its sole purpose not to serve the nation but only the mal-practices of cruelty, inhumanity, in-tolerance and scoring personal objectives. The power politics changed the meanings of democracy in Pakistan limiting this game of throne to 2% class with confounded powers.

This certain political stratum has no concern with 98% general population and the development of the country. These are the people or the generations of those lords or aristocrats who have never faced poverty or realities of daily life means that they have no taste of the real life. Their politics is lacks true political ethics, tolerance and factual democratic spirit, which leads them to a state of absolute ignorance. This very ignorance dictates to challenge each other's political as well as religious status, which is not appropriate by all means for the solidarity and unity of the country. These shameless practices rather lead them to a chaos.

Current un-natural collative government of PDM is consisted on various schools of thoughts like religious, nationalist, racist, liberal and rigid political assemblages. Historically, it is clear from their political history that they are partially in a collation only due to their opportunistic and personal objectives.

- 4 Because they will contest next elections according to their own party manifestos, and their current philosophy is temporary and diverse to their own party manifestos.

Imran Khan and his PTI is surrounded by the traditional and opportunistic politicians. He enchants slogans to uplift the lower classes of the society, basic rights, improve the services sector and proper representation of weak classes. However, his practices contradict because he failed to score a reasonable representation in the parliament from the lower stratum. Landlords, business class and industrialists reached the parliament using the political platform of the PTI. Moreover, he was a critic of the inherent politics, but in recent by-elections PTI awarded their ticket to Maharbao Qureshi the daughter of Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

The antagonistic politics of the recent opposition and government coalitions have created political awareness and social burnout among the common people. Furthermore, social media and somehow electronic media played vital role in it. These political factors may work as a wake-up call to open pool of talent, obsolete ideas and so-called services of the traditional politicians. And if the people continue to wake up like this, the day is not far when corrupt politicians will be held accountable. Furthermore, it determines that in the coming decades, there will be a successful player in Pakistani politics to represent the common people and the third power must also realize this. Otherwise the consequences have the potential to target their prestige and dignity in the country.

I'm not convinced about US conspiracy:

President Arif Alvi

President Alvi raised suspicions about the PTI's narrative of US conspiracy and called for an investigation into the matter, as he isn't "convinced" of the idea

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi Monday raised suspicions about the PTI's narrative of US conspiracy and called for an investigation into the matter, as he isn't "convinced" of the idea. In an interview with a news channel, President Alvi said he was not convinced that the United States had lodged a conspiracy (to oust Imran). "The letter [foreign cipher] has been sent to the Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial and investigation should be held in this regard," he said. Imran had brandished a "threat letter", which was said to be the cipher, on March 27 in a public gathering before his ouster, claiming that his government had been threatened by the US and the then opposition was involved in the conspiracy. However, the government as well as the United States have rejected the allegations. Commenting on the former prime minister, the president said Imran became frustrated after the PTI's ouster in April asserting that the party chief should be held answerable for his current statements. "It was Khan's decision to boycott the assembly proceeding [...] had he asked me, I would have suggested something else," Alvi said. Alvi cited two major issues at hand — the economic crisis and general elections — while endorsing the idea of a dialogue among all the stakeholders. The president clarified that he wasn't a "broker"; however, he would still want the leaders to reach a consensus on the dwindling economy. Regarding the army, Alvi said that the institution should remain "neutral", but refrained from elaborating on the term "neutral". Talking to another news channel, Alvi said he would approve the appointment of the next COAS in line with the procedure laid out



in the Constitution. He said in the past too, the opposition was consulted on the appointment of the army chief. A similar discussion with the then opposition was held when PTI chief Imran Khan extended the three-year term of General Qamar Javed Bajwa in 2019, the president pointed out. In 2019, he said, the National Assembly approved a law to extend Gen Bajwa's terms after questions were raised before the Supreme Court of Pakistan. Alvi has been constantly backing the idea of grand dialogue between the political parties, as he believes issues can be resolved through dialogue. In response to a question on bridging the gap between the incumbent government and PTI, Alvi said he was impartial as the president of the country and that his affiliation with the PTI was a thing of the past. "The party is my past. It is a very good past." The president said there were several problems in the country that even "a maverick" could not solve alone. A president could only make efforts to bridge that gulf, he stated.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/998760-i-m-not-convinced-about-us-conspiracy-president-alvi>

Killing cancer

By: Zarrar Khuhro



FIRST, the bad news: not only are more and more people getting cancer, the average age of those developing cancer is also getting lower. That latter fact has been quantified by researchers at Brigham and Women's hospital, who note that "the incidence of early onset cancers — including breast, colon, oesophagus, kidney, liver and pancreas — has dramatically increased around the world, with the rise beginning around 1990", and that more and more people under 50 are being diagnosed with cancer. Simply put, the risk of developing cancer is increasing with each new generation. Why is this? We could argue that this is due to better diagnostic tools and procedures, which are detecting cases earlier than was previously the norm, but that is a partial explanation at best, and an increase in risk factors, such as the prevalence of processed food, increased stress and the sleep deprivation it causes, and a whole host of environmental and lifestyle factors may also be blamed. But there is good news too, and that is that cancer mortality rates are dropping. Again, this is not just a factor of early detection but also advances in treatments. However, there is still a long way to go before this scourge can truly be tamed. Some (more) good news is that there are many rather innovative treatments being developed which, we may hope, will go a long way in turning cancer into a highly manageable condition. Take rectal cancer, for example. The Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York recently conducted a trial of an immunotherapy treatment (this aims to harness the body's own immune system to fight cancer) on 18 rectal cancer patients, all of whom were

given a drug called dostarlimab for six months. Amazingly, and to the surprise of both the researchers and the patients, all 18 found that their tumours had entirely disappeared without the need for any radiotherapy or chemotherapy. This is the kind of result that is rarely, if ever, seen in such trials, and though the test size was small and this treatment is only truly effective on rectal cancers with a particular mutation, the trial is groundbreaking enough to provide some real hope for those suffering from other types of cancer as well.

Many rather innovative treatments are being developed.

Given that we have just about emerged from the Covid-19 epidemic largely unscathed (at least as far as we can compare it with previous pandemics) thanks to the rapid development of effective vaccines, it begs the question: can we develop a vaccine for cancer? Well, Uğur Şahin and Özlem Türeci, the husband and wife pair who co-founded BioNTech — the firm that partnered with Pfizer to develop the mRNA Covid vaccine — believe that this is possible. Simply put, the mRNA Covid vaccine works by "ferrying the genetic instructions for essentially harmless spike proteins on the Covid virus into the body", which acts like a "wanted poster" for the virus and tells the body's immune and defence systems what to look for and attack. A hypothetical cancer vaccine would work the same way: by carrying genetic information about the cancer into the body and helping the immune system seek out and destroy cancer cells. While BioNTech

was already working on this prior to the pandemic, Türeci says that what they learned in the process of developing the Covid vaccine will help in the development of a cancer vaccine. Rather optimistically, the couple feels that some form of vaccine may even be available by the year 2030, but a note of caution is also required as many hurdles await. One problem is that while bacteria and viruses appear 'foreign' to our immune systems, cancer cells can appear quite similar to healthy, normal cells. An individual's tumours can also be unique in some ways, and so training the immune system to identify those cells and not target healthy cells could prove a challenge. If not vaccines, then how about training a virus to hunt down cancer cells? In 2005, virologist Grant McFadden was studying a rabbit virus and found that it also attacked human cancer cells. While virotherapy (as this field is called) is not new, interest has spiked given new advances in immunotherapy. Virotherapy may be particularly effective for cases of multiple myeloma because not only do the viruses not attack healthy cells (the way a cancer vaccine might), they can also spread throughout the entire body, thus finding cancer cells 'hiding' deep in the bone marrow. Essentially, virotherapy turns an enemy into an ally. Ever heard of the zombie ant fungus? Known as cordyceps, this insidious mushroom infects insects and literally takes over their bodies while feeding on them and sprouting from their bodies. While harmless to humans, the active compound cordycepin has been shown to fight cancer cells and shrink tumours.

Either one or all of these therapies — individually or jointly — may well lead to a day when cancer is as treatable as a viral infection. Let's hope we live long enough to see that happen.

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1716638/kill-cancer>

Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai returns to Pakistan to help flood victims



Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has reached Pakistan to help flood victims. She landed at the Karachi airport amid strict security, Geo News reported Tuesday morning. Malala's parents are also visiting with her. The Pakistani education rights icon last visited Pakistan nearly four years ago in 2018. It was the first time she returned home to her native Swat Valley after being shot by the Taliban there. In October 2012, Malala — then 15 years old — was shot in the head at point-blank range by Taliban gunmen as she was returning from her school in the Swat Valley. She suffered bullet injuries and was admitted to the military hospital Peshawar but was later flown to London for further treatment. The shooting drew widespread international condemnation. She has become an internationally recognised symbol of resistance to the Taliban's efforts of denying women education and other rights. In 2014, Yousafzai became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize at the age of 17 in recognition of her efforts for children's rights. The Nobel laureate has now returned to the country for the second time to provide help to the affected people in the flood-hit areas of Sindh.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/998920-nobel-laureate-malala-yousafzai-returns-to-pakistan>

How Pakistan can prevent another flood disaster

There are a number of science-based actions Pakistan can take to improve its capacity to deal with floods and minimise their effect.

By: Mohsin Hafeez

As the flood waters receded across huge swathes of Pakistan in September, they revealed devastating losses. More than 1,500 people died, while 33 million suffered the loss of livestock, crops, homes and livelihoods. This tragedy has highlighted the desperate urgency of reinforcing climate defences, in Pakistan and elsewhere. Though the effect of this year's deluge has been unprecedented, the number of major floods has already doubled over the last two decades and eight of the 10 countries most affected by climate disasters are in Asia. Without greater long-term investment from the international community into science-based solutions, risk-proof infrastructure and national capacity, these kinds of climate extremes will continue to leave a trail of destruction in the countries that can least afford them. The latest climate science makes clear that the only way to reduce the likelihood of similar events in the future is to bring down global emissions, predominantly in high-income countries. But proven strategies also exist for buffering Pakistan and similarly vulnerable nations against the effect of floods, drought and heatwaves, which strike at the very heart of a country's development by jeopardising food systems, rural livelihoods and ecosystem health. To take one example, early warning systems that make use of weather data and modelling can alert authorities to an expected flood and give them time to start evacuations and put in place contingencies for critical sectors, such as agriculture. Flood inundation models, developed by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and partners, have helped to anticipate the depth and extent of flooding in Sri Lanka, allowing governments and communities to take preemp-

tive measures that reduce the negative effects. Insurance schemes supported by the government can also help small-scale farmers, businesses and households recover after a climate event. IWMI and its partners have piloted index-based flood insurance in India and Bangladesh, offering protection for agricultural livelihoods during floods, limiting the long-term effect on food systems and food security. Compensation for flood damage to crops totalled \$150,000 between 2017 and 2020, allowing 7,000 families to repair their homes and farms, and recover from the losses. Another example is the use of nature-based solutions, or green infrastructure, to harness the ability of ecosystems like wetlands to regulate water flow and absorb flood water. Pakistan's Water Apportionment Accord of 1991 allocated percentage rights to provincial governments to the Indus River, including the use of excessive flood water supplies to keep small storages for the provinces. However, water storage using nature-based solutions has not been practised to date by any provincial government. That should change. A 2018 study on flooding in Sri Lanka showed that wetlands could absorb 39 percent of the water during storms. In the 1970s, when the importance of these areas came to the fore, they accounted for some 7,800 square kilometres (3,010sq miles) of Pakistan's territory. In recent years, many wetlands have been degraded due to human activity and climate change; restoring them could help manage future floods. Similarly, restoring forests, or reforestation, can increase the resilience of ecosystems, prevent soil erosion and reduce the risk of flash floods. The Pakistan government has already launched the Ten Billion Tree Tsunami

project, a tree-planting initiative to revive forests and wildlife resources in the country. Planting and cultivating mangrove forests, for example, has also been found to help prevent coastal erosion. Evidence-based frameworks for strengthening and managing the design and implementation of water infrastructure projects can also help climate-proof key services and sectors. The management of dams is one area where science can help make a difference. In the case of the Gomal Zam Dam, on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the problems with water governance could prevent the project from reaching its full potential. IWMI has been working with the Pakistani authorities to improve best practices in water management and incorporate scientific data to help minimise the negative effects of floods. Improving the management of other water infrastructure projects in Pakistan can help build more climate resilience on the local level. Meanwhile, the agricultural sector also needs greater investment to develop and implement climate-resilient tools and technologies that better cope with the effect of flooding and droughts. For example, new varieties of crops and livestock bred to be more tolerant of climate extremes can help safeguard agricultural production and livelihoods, along with more diverse forms of water management for farming, including rainwater harvesting and managed aquifer recharge. The flood may finally be over in Pakistan but it will not be the last. That is why it is crucial to embrace preventive science-based solutions and make sure that the effect of the next disaster does not reach the same scale. This will be the message of this year's Pakistan Water Week to be held from October 24 to 28. The good news is that the government of Pakistan has already started updating the national flood protection plan and adopting global best practices for updating the flood risk framework. Other governments should follow suit.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2022/10/11/how-pakistan-can-prevent-another-flood-disaster>

Uber closes operations across several cities in Pakistan, including Karachi

KARACHI: Popular ride-hailing service Uber Tuesday decided to cease its operations in Karachi, Multan, Faisalabad, Peshawar, and Islamabad with immediate effect. In a statement, Uber said that it will continue to serve these five cities with its subsidiary brand Careem. The ride-hailing service, however, will continue to operate in Lahore. "Riders and driver partners may use the Careem app in these five cities," read the statement. The ride-hailing company said that the Uber app will continue to be available in Lahore with new product launches to support earners during these difficult times. "When we acquired Careem, it was always our belief that the two companies could come together to complement each other's strengths and better serve the region through tailored experiences," said a spokesperson of the company. The spokesperson said that they knew this was a difficult time for the teams who have worked incredibly hard to build this business over the past few years. Uber said that it greatly appreciates everyone's contributions and its priority is to minimise the impact on their employees, drivers, riders, and hero partners who use the Uber app during this change in the cities. In its statement, Careem said that it will continue to serve customers across 10 operational cities — including the cities where Uber has discontinued its service. "We are investing in growing our operations and providing our customers with safer, more reliable, and affordable mobility solutions," the company said. "Careem continues to serve customers in Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Multan, Faisalabad and Peshawar, confidently, in addition to 5 other cities where we operate."

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/998997-uber-closes-operations-across-pakistan-including-karachi>

Arshad Sharif: Mystery Over Killing Of Pakistani Journalist In Kenya

By Emmanuel Igunza

The shooting dead of a prominent Pakistani investigative journalist by police in Kenya caused outrage in his home country, leaving many wondering how such a thing could have happened. Thousands turned up to Arshad Sharif's funeral on Thursday in Islamabad to mourn the well-known critic of Pakistan's military. Opponents of the current Pakistani government believe that he was targeted in a plot organised in Pakistan. But Kenya's police, in an initial report, said the 49-year-old was shot dead in a moving vehicle in a case of mistaken identity. Pakistan says it has sent investigators to Kenya to help with the inquiry into what took place.



What happened?

Late on Sunday evening, Sharif was a passenger in a Toyota Land Cruiser travelling on an unpaved rural road around 30km (20 miles) from the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. Shots were then fired at the vehicle by police, killing the journalist. But exactly why is not clear.

The police have issued contradictory statements regarding the shooting. In one account, they say that Sharif was in a vehicle that was mistaken for one that had been reported stolen. The initial police report said officers were on the look-out for the missing vehicle when he was killed. According to this report, the driver of Sharif's Land Cruiser disobeyed orders to stop at a roadblock and officers then shot at the car at least eight times as it moved away, killing the journalist in the process. In a second version of events from police, one of the people inside the vehicle fired first and then officers responded by shooting back. Police say one officer was hit in the hand as a

result of the exchange of fire. There are two key questions for investigators:

- How did police mistake the Toyota Land Cruiser, a large four-wheel-drive car, for the vehicle reported stolen - a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter, which is a delivery van?

- Why did the police not try to demobilise the vehicle by shooting at the tyres?

These will be among the issues to be considered by the police's Internal Affairs Unit as well as the police watchdog, the Independent Police Oversight Authority, which are both looking into what happened.

Why was Sharif in Kenya?

It is not clear when Sharif first arrived in Kenya, or if he was travelling on a business or tourist visa. What is known however, is that he left Pakistan in August and had been in the United Arab Emirates and possibly the UK.

Sharif was known as a vocal supporter of ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan and had complained of harassment before he left. Following his death, his lawyer Shoaib Razzaq said that the Pakistani government had approached authorities in Dubai with a request to have him extradited to Pakistan.

Knowing this, Sharif quickly sought protection in Kenya, where he could easily get a visa on arrival and already had friends and contacts who could host him, Mr Razzaq said. At the time of his death, Sharif was in the car with another Pakistani national believed to be resident in Kenya. It is thought that Sharif had been living in the country with this friend.

But there may have been a work connection. Kenyan investigative journalist John Allan Namu said that he had been interviewed for a yet-to-be-released documentary that Sharif was working on. A trailer for the film shows that it is an expose on corruption in Pakistan. It is not clear what the link with Kenya is and Namu later clarified that though he had been interviewed in Kenya he had not actually met Sharif.

Have Kenya's police been involved in targeted killings?

Sharif's killing could have been an unfortunate accident, but his death and the recent arrest of nine police officers over the July disappearance of two Indian nationals and their driver, have once again shone a spotlight on Kenya's police service. For decades, specialised or elite squads within the police, such as the now disbanded Special Services Unit (SSU), have been accused of carrying out extrajudicial killings, abductions and torture of suspects. The cases have been an open secret but the recent announcement by newly elected President William Ruto of the closure of the SSU was the first time a head of state had openly spoken about atrocities committed by police. A consortium of international and local NGOs say independent investigations have linked more than 600 killings to special units within the police service. Some police officers have also been accused of hiring their guns to criminals or hiring themselves out to carry out assassinations. But none of these cases have yet made it to trial. The arrest of the nine police officers in

connection with the disappearance of the two Indian nationals has been seen as a landmark. Although these are only charges at the moment and there have been no convictions, even the fiercest critics of the government have lauded this as a first step in addressing police excesses. On Friday, Kenya's chief prosecutor said several senior police officers could be charged with crimes against humanity for offences, including murdering a baby, committed during and after the 2017 election campaign.

Why would someone want to kill Sharif?

As a backer of former Prime Minister Khan and a critic of the military, Sharif had made many enemies. Before he left Pakistan he faced possible sedition charges and his TV programme was banned after suggesting that the military was involved with the removal of Mr Khan in April. Accusations about his killing have been flying around with various figures calling press conferences to air their theories. Faisal Vawda, at one time a minister in Mr Khan's government, alleged that though Sharif was killed in Kenya, the plan was hatched in Pakistan - though not by establishment figures - and he had the evidence to prove it. The former prime minister himself said he had learnt about a plot to kill Sharif earlier in the year and had then suggested he leave Pakistan. And in a highly unusual move, the head of the country's military intelligence, Lt Gen Nadeem Ahmed Anjum, addressed journalists and named a whole series of people - including senior media figures - who knew about Sharif's movements and may somehow have been connected to his death.

He added that the military was not threatening his life.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-63426794.amp>

Never Give Nor Take An Excuse.

By: Badaruddin Kalhoro, Bureau Chief Sind
Lahore International London



Generations of Iranian women who have fought for their freedom. For more than two weeks, protests have spread around Iran, with women leading the way. In the context of criminal law, incitement is the act of encouraging someone else to commit a crime. Different forms of instigation may be prohibited in different jurisdictions. An inchoate offence is one that is prohibited when harm is intended but may or may not have really happened.

The development of new motivational numbers on a regular basis is one of the reasons Iran's government dissenters have endured. Elnaz Rekabi, a sport rambler who last week competed in a global competition in South Korea without wearing a headscarf, is in last place. She defied the Islamic Regime's strict dress code for women. The police easily didn't see what was going to happen. Crowds cheered Rekabi at the Tehran field while yelling, "Elnaz, Hero!" The joyful event was a deliberate act of defiance by the hundreds of Iranians who dared to risk joining Rekabi in her uncertain fate given that the field was swarming with security personnel, whether in uniform or in mufti. The civil road protests, which were started by Mahsa Amini's death while under guardianship, have not been diminished by the government's cathartic actions. The crowds don't seem to be intimidated by new heroes and idols; instead, they seem to be propelled by them to greater heights of disobedience, including the burning of statues and images of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, and calls for the execution of his successor, Ali Khamenei. Every week for the past month, the rallying cry "Jin! Jiyam!

Azadi" (Women, Life, Freedom) has been louder. Since this revolution is being spearheaded by women, ladies like Nika Shakarami, who was killed after setting fire to her scarf, and girls like Amini and Rekabi have served as major sources of encouragement. The ranks of eminent protestors embrace the outcast, just as Shervin Hajipour, a singer who turned heartbroken online cries about Amini's death into lyrics for a song that has become the protest movement's anthem, did. On suspicion of "propaganda against the system" and "inciting persons to violent acts," he was also detained. This can be significant for how long the protests last. According to Holly Dagres, a senior scholar and nonresident at the Atlantic Council, the protesters have been called Iranian GenZ. The two important historical occurrences—1979 Khomeini's revolution and the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq War—upon which the Islamic Republic grounds its claim to legitimacy are evidently unknown to them, as evidenced by this. The second source of legitimacy for the regime, Islam, is likewise threatened by the fact that younger people tend to be less devout than their parents. The government's use of religion to support rigid social norms that young people find repulsive, like the clothing code for women, doesn't help. The Islamic Republic has had four decades since its founding, but it hasn't been able to put an end to the protests with force. Instead, the regime has relied on stale slogans and tales of sacrifices made for the cause. Iranian Generation Z has its own catchphrases, cause, and martyrs in the form of Amini and Rekabi. Some protestors may be largely driven by political griev-

ances and democratic demands, particularly in large cities where a sizable population of students and political activists reside. However, the research that is currently available implies that small cities' unexpected involvement is most often motivated by economic issues. In actuality, the demonstrations in small places are not a fight for freedom, democracy, or women's rights. Instead, they represent the rage of the regular people against a stagnate economy and declining living conditions, which they blame on the inefficiency, corruption, and mismanagement of the ruling elites.

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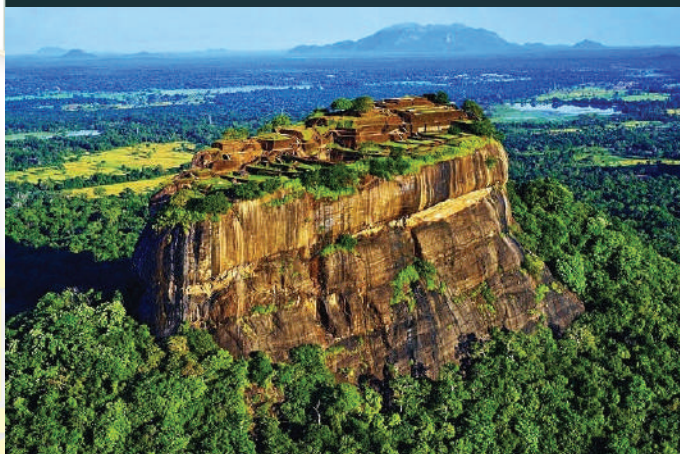
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An Ancient City Built by the Gods, The Lost City of Sigiriya!



Stunning, breathtaking, mysterious: Those who have seen the remains of the ancient city of Sigiriya in Sri Lanka with their own eyes will find many words to describe their impressions . Built on top of a huge boulder, the fortifications continue to fascinate us to this day.

Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in the early 1980s, the tranquility still fascinates countless tourists from all over the world. But what have we already learned about the legendary rock city, whose history goes back more than 1,500 years? And why are some people still convinced that Sigiriya was not built by humans at all - but by divine beings? Let's look for answers together.

<https://www.thearchaeologist.org/blog/an-ancient-city-built-by-the-gods-the-lost-city-of-sigiriya?format=amp>

Individual Cells Found To Be Smarter And More Autonomous Than Previously Believed



Cells have been found to be far more autonomous, and intelligent than previously believed. Author of the research, Lucas Pelkmans says, "Adequate decision-making by individual cells uses multimodal perception, allowing cells to integrate outside signals like growth factors with information from inside the cell, such as the number of cellular organelles." In some situations, the internal cues can override external stimuli, for example in tumours where the state of the cells prevent the action of anti-proliferative drugs. Pelkmans says, "Such resistance to drugs is a major problem in the fight against cancer. The solution may come from taking into account the contextual cues that individual cells experience and ultimately altering them." Multiple signaling modes on the surfaces of the cells, the local environment inside cells, and the number of organelles were some of the factors investigated using a complex technique. First author of the study, Bernhard Kramer says, "To do this, we used '4i', a method developed at UZH, which allows us to simultaneously visualise and quantify up to 80 different proteins and

protein modifications in single cells using fluorescence microscopy." The researchers found that the number of internal organelles, for example the number of mitochondria, was tightly coupled to the variability in the actions of sensors across the cells, influencing how external stimulus was perceived by a cell.

Additionally, each sensor was found to integrate a different clue from within the cues. The decision to proliferate or not when faced with a growth stimulus was found to be mediated within the cell by the perception of multiple sensors, and modulated by the internal state of the cells. Kramer says, "For any specific decision of a cell, all outside signals and internal cues have to be viewed in concert. Single cells are thus able to make adequate context-dependent decisions - and are therefore clearly smarter than previously thought."

A paper describing the findings has been published in Science.

<https://feed.rhino-news.com/multifeed-detail-template/static/half/detail/20220725/493684774620102745.html>

Rishi Sunak Officially Becomes Prime Minister and Forms Cabinet

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak asked Jeremy Hunt to stay on as Britain's top finance minister, and also kept his predecessor's foreign and defense secretaries in place.

LONDON — Rishi Sunak officially took over as Britain's 57th prime minister on Tuesday, vowing to fix the mistakes made by his predecessor, Liz Truss, and quickly worked to form a cabinet with an emphasis on continuity and stability. In one of his most important appointments, Mr. Sunak selected Jeremy Hunt to remain as chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Hunt assumed the role early this month in a bid by Ms. Truss to calm the market turmoil caused by her sweeping tax cut plan. He quickly reversed virtually all of her proposals. Mr. Sunak decided to keep James Cleverly, who supported Boris Johnson in the most recent leadership contest, in the foreign secretary post. Ben Wallace, who has built a high profile as defense secretary, also keeps his post. Wallace had supported Boris Johnson in the leadership race. Mr. Sunak also reappointed Suella Braverman, who resigned as home secretary only last week, ostensibly because of a breach of security rules. Having her in his cabinet is a gesture to the party's right-wing: She is a hard-liner on cutting immigration numbers. The 42-year-old son of Indian immigrants, Mr. Sunak won the Conservative Party contest to replace Ms. Truss on Monday, just seven weeks after she took power. Now, he confronts the twin challenge of reunifying his fractured party and navigating Britain through its gravest economic crisis in a generation. Here's what else to know about Britain's leadership transition:



have a political mandate. That was aimed at both potential rebels in his own party and at the opposition Labour Party, which has called for an immediate general election.

- A former chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Sunak is expected to pull Britain back to more mainstream policies after Ms. Truss's failed experiment in trickle-down economics, which rattled financial markets and damaged Britain's fiscal reputation. Her policies were not born of bad intentions, he said, but he described them as "mistakes nonetheless."
- Britain's straitened public finances will require painful spending cuts, which will test Mr. Sunak's political skills. Last summer, he found it hard to sell his tough-love message to party members in a previous leadership campaign.

<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2022/10/25/world/uk-prime-minister-rishi-sunak>

UK joins international effort to uncover first moments of the universe

US-led project examines fraction of a second after big bang and 'how all the structures in the night sky started'.

By: Ian Sample

16 Researchers from the UK are joining an international effort to uncover what the universe looked like a fraction of a second after it burst into existence, and how the cosmic order we see today emerged from primordial chaos. Six UK universities are to crunch data and build new instrumentation for the Simons Observatory, a group of telescopes that scan the heavens from a vantage point on Cerro Toco, 5,300 metres above the Atacama desert in Chile. The observatory houses a 20ft telescope and three smaller 16in instruments which measure the cosmic microwave background (CMB) – the heat left over from the birth of the universe. UK scientists will build two further telescopes to boost the facility's sensitivity. Dr Colin Vincent, associate director for astronomy at the Science and Technology Facilities Council, said funding for UK researchers would allow them to "spearhead discoveries" alongside teams from other countries and uncover "the secrets from the very dawn of time". US radio astronomers stumbled on the existence of the CMB in the 1960s when they delved into the origins of a puzzling "hum" that came from all corners of the sky. The mysterious microwaves were duly traced back to the heat from the beginning of the universe, which cooled as it expanded. Through detailed measurements of the CMB, astronomers hope to learn what the universe looked like a trillionth of a trillionth of a second after the universe began. Many scientists believe that tiny fluctuations in energy in the early universe became seeds for galaxies and clusters of galaxies as the universe went through a profound period of expansion known as cosmic inflation. The Simons Observatory aims to measure the CMB so accurately that researchers can work out which of the many

proposed models of inflation the universe seems to have followed. The observatory also aims to shed light on dark matter, the mysterious invisible substance that clings to galaxies, and the proposed dark energy thought to drive the expansion of the universe, and hunt for primordial gravitational waves – brief shudders in spacetime that may have raced across the universe from the moment it arose. The US-led project involves 85 institutes from 13 countries, with Imperial College London and the universities of Cambridge, Cardiff, Manchester, Oxford and Sussex committing to new projects at the observatory from next month. Prof Erminia Calabrese at the School of Physics and Astronomy in Cardiff said the observatory will map the microwave sky with unprecedented sensitivity over the next decade. "Tiny fluctuations in the CMB radiation tell us about the origins, content and evolution of the universe, and how all the structures that we see in the night sky today started," she said. "Cardiff has been a member of the Simons Observatory since its inception, but this new UK investment will significantly expand its participation and enable new contributions on hardware and data processing with unique UK technologies." Prof Mark Devlin, a spokesperson for the Simons Observatory at the University of Pennsylvania, said he was "very excited" by the UK teams joining the project. "The addition of the new telescopes and researchers will be a significant addition to our programme and will help to ensure Simons Observatory returns amazing science for years to come," he said.

<https://amp.theguardian.com/science/2022/oct/17/uk-joins-international-effort-to-uncover-first-moments-of-the-universe>

Poland suggests hosting US nuclear weapons amid growing fears of Putin's threats

Request is widely seen as symbolic, as moving nuclear warheads closer to Russia would make them less militarily useful. By: Julian Borger

Poland says it has asked to have US nuclear weapons based on its territory, amid growing fears that Vladimir Putin could resort to using nuclear arms in Ukraine to stave off a rout of his invading army. The request from the Polish president, Andrzej Duda, is widely seen as symbolic, as moving nuclear warheads closer to Russia would make them more vulnerable and less militarily useful, according to experts. Furthermore, the White House has said it had not received such a request. "We're not aware of this issue being raised and would refer you to the government of Poland," a US official said. Duda's announcement appears to be the latest example of nuclear signalling as the US and its allies seek to deter Putin from the first nuclear use in battle since 1945, while preparing potential responses if deterrence fails that would have maximum punitive impact while containing the risk of escalation to all-out nuclear war. Previous war games conducted by US administrations have shown that is a fine, and fuzzy, line to tread, given the uncertainty over Putin's state of mind, and his record of giant miscalculations over Ukraine. Duda's remarks on basing nuclear weapons followed changes in the constitution of neighbouring Belarus that would allow Russian nuclear weapons to be based on its territory. The Polish president said there was "a potential opportunity" for Poland to take part in "nuclear sharing", by which pilots from the host country are trained to fly missions carrying US nuclear bombs, which are stored on their territory. "We have spoken with American leaders about whether the United States is considering such a possibility. The issue is open," Duda told Gazeta Polska. Moving US



nuclear weapons into Poland could be a violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Nato-Russia Founding Act in 1997, after the end of the cold war in which Nato stated it had no plan to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of new members. Russia has meanwhile violated its own commitments under the act. Nuclear experts also added it made little strategic sense for Poland or Nato. The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) estimates the US has 100 nuclear weapons left over in Europe in the aftermath of the cold war, spread among the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Turkey. They are all B61 bombs which had been seen as militarily obsolete with no mission in the event of a war with Russia. Arms control experts have long called for them to be removed from Europe. However, they have been modernised as the B61-12, with fins that allow its fall to be guided, which is expected to enter service this year. The bombs have also been designed to be carried by new F-35A Lightning II stealth fighter jets, which would potentially make it part of the active US nuclear arsenal. Hans Kristensen, director of FAS's nuclear information project, said the B61-12 storage sites in Europe are being

upgraded and strengthened. "The reason they're doing that is to protect that force against what they consider the growing threat from Russia's conventional missiles, so it would be an extraordinarily strange development if Nato therefore decided to move nuclear weapons closer to the Russian borders," Kristensen said. Poland has raised the issue at a time when the prospect of nuclear weapons use is higher than at any time since the cold war, and arguably since the Cuban missile crisis 60 years ago this month. Putin has threatened to use all means at his disposal to defend Russian territory at the same time as declaring the annexation of four more Ukrainian regions. He made the declaration as Russian troops were in retreat in the face of a Ukrainian counter-offensive. The White House has warned of "catastrophic consequences" if Putin did resort to using nuclear weapons, but did not specify what those would be. It has said it has warned Russian officials privately, but it is not clear how much more specific those warnings have been. Zbigniew Rau, the Polish foreign minister, said last week the consequences should be non-nuclear but "devastating". David Petraeus, who was formerly the head of US Central Command and CIA director, said on Sunday that one possible response would be US-led Nato conventional strikes on Russian forces inside Ukraine and even the sinking of Russia's Black Sea fleet. In reality, Nato is unlikely to be part of any response, as it would require agreement by its 30 members. More likely it would involve Washington and its closest allies like the UK. "There are ongoing discussions and have been for a while about various scenarios and how we might react," an official in Washington said. US European Command is also doing scenario planning, the official said, adding that "there is no concrete set of actions" planned. The dilemma facing the military planners is how to act in such a way that Putin does not benefit mili-

tarily from using a nuclear weapon, but not so forcefully that escalation spins out of control and leads inexorably to nuclear war between Nato and Russia. Much would depend on what Putin did. The Russians could stage a "demonstration" nuclear detonation over the Black Sea, or a high-altitude airburst that generates an electromagnetic pulse that fries the electricity infrastructure of any city below. Those actions, however, would cause international outrage with little if any effect on the course of the war. The use of a nuclear weapon against Ukrainian military targets or a city, with the aim of shocking Kyiv into surrender or acceptance of partial Russian occupation would represent a far greater transgression. The range of responses in that case would include further sanctions, including secondary sanctions targeting anyone or any country buying Russian oil. Stepping up arms supplies to Kyiv, including longer-range missiles and jets the Ukrainians have been demanding, is another option. Actual Nato strikes against Russian military targets in Ukraine, would represent a huge leap, turning the conflict into a war between Russia and Nato, something policymakers have spent nearly 80 years trying to prevent. "The reaction to nuclear use would be just as important as the nuclear use itself," Mariana Budjeryn, senior research associate at the project on managing the atom at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Centre. "If it does force Ukraine into some kind of settlement and the allies think we're throwing in the towel on this, then it does show that, hey, nuclear arms really get you what you want," Budjeryn said. "If nuclear weapons are used, and that only makes everyone a lot more upset and hardens the resolve and somehow stops Russia in its tracks, then it's a different story."

<https://amp.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/05/poland-us-nuclear-wars-russia-putin-ukraine>

Girl 'stolen' by travellers at age four in Yorkshire and taken to Canada, New Zealand and Australia is finally reunited with her family 53 YEARS later who admitted: 'We NEVER thought this would happen'

By: Arthur Parashar And Natasha Anderson



A woman who was 'stolen' from her family in the UK when she was just four years old and raised by travellers in Canada and New Zealand, before settling down in Australia, has been reunited with her biological family.

Susan Gervaise, 57, was taken from her biological family in Pontefract, West Yorkshire in 1969 after the travellers invited her on holiday to a Disney theme park. The couple, from Scotland, asked Ms Gervaise's birth mother if she could accompany them on the trip and promised to return her to England afterwards. The travellers, who had been provided a copy of her birth certificate, instead took Ms Gervaise to Canada, then Australia and later New Zealand. The couple raised her as their own daughter. Ms Gervaise, who was born Susan Preece, said she had believed her biological family disowned her and that her so-called adoptive parents 'spoiled' her 'rotten.' She didn't learn

she had been stolen until she was 16 and hadn't connected with her birth family until 53 years after her disappearance. Ms Gervaise, after tracking down her biological relatives on Facebook, has now been reunited with four of her six biological siblings back in West Yorkshire. Ms Gervaise, a grandmother-of-four, who now lives in Australia, had lived in an old vicarage on a traveller's site in Pontefract, West Yorkshire as a child in 1969. She met the couple who ended up 'stealing' her at the old vicarage. 'As a child I lived with my six siblings in an old vicarage on a traveller's site. We weren't travellers,' she explained. 'My mum was on her own and we were all in and out of foster care. 'I was befriended by a couple on the site who were from Scotland, the woman, who I call my mum, had MS and they had two sons. 'I think they wanted a girl. They asked my mum if they could take me to Disney and she gave



them my birth certificate so I could be put on their passport.' At that time, a child could travel internationally with a birth certificate and parental permission. Ms Gervaise's 'host family' instead added her name to their family's passport, allowing her to join them abroad. She continued: 'They took me to Canada then Australia and later New Zealand. This was always their plan. 'I lived with the travelling community and lived a cherished life where I was spoiled rotten. 'My mum died from MS when I was 10, but even then, being raised in the hub of a travelling community I was very loved. 'I have always been happy growing up. I travelled the world.' Ms Gervaise always knew she had her birth certificate but kept being told she had been put up for adoption. She only discovered she had been taken when she needed to get a passport to return to Australia from New Zealand, aged 16. 'We went to New Zealand and I didn't need a passport to get into the country, but when it came to returning to Australia, I did,' she told The Wakefield Express. 'I applied, but I needed a signature from my mother or father – that's when dad told me they didn't adopt me, I had been stolen.' Ms Gervaise had to wait until she was 18 to apply for an adult passport and returned to Australia at 19, where she met her husband and had three children and four grandchildren. Her 'father' died when she was 21. 'The enormity of what happened to me didn't hit me, I just carried on with my life,' she said. 'It was only when somebody who was adopted asked me what my family back in the UK would be feeling and that was a lightbulb moment for me.' After her

husband instigated the search and sent out a Facebook appeal on the local Knottingley and Ferrybridge Community page in June, her family were located within 30 minutes. All of her siblings are still alive and all but one still lives around Pontefract. The mother-of-three now wants to show others that there is hope for missing children after she was finally able to put her biological family's mind at ease and tell them she had always been safe and loved. She said: 'When I spoke to my family they were crying hysterically because I was alive.' The mother, who is in the UK until October 20, coincided her visit back home to meet them during her 57th birthday so she could throw a party with her family. She said: 'To this day we don't know why the police were never involved. I'm thinking it must have been because my mum gave them permission to take me and the fact we were in and out of foster care. 'But there have been several appeals through Missing Persons over the years and my mum continually returned to the traveller's site after moving away to look for me.' Unfortunately she would never be reunited with her biological mother who tragically died eight years ago, meaning she never found out that her daughter was safe. Ms Gervaise's niece, Emma McFadyen, said: 'It was said that Susan's mother did go out looking for her over the years, but with no luck. 'After she died there were so many questions that remained unanswered. Things were different back then. There was no paper trail, no police report. 'We never thought this would happen. It's been amazing - especially for my mum. She has Parkinson's and dementia, so it's amazing she's been reunited with her sister before she deteriorates. She's now complete.' Ms Gervaise said: 'It gives a message to anybody who has lost somebody that miracles do happen. There is hope.'

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11287639/Girl-stolen-travellers-aged-four-reunited-birth-family-53-years-later.html>

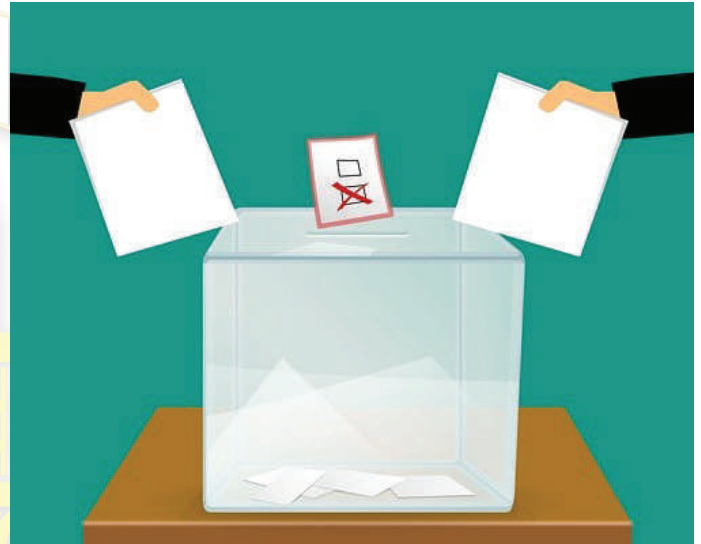
Blind Faith To Partisan Politics

By: Masood Ashraf



From the first official drafting of the Articles of Confederation in 1777 to the ratifying of the United States Constitution in 1787, systems of government and their viability in American politics have always been the key issue in progressing our nation forward.

It was on November 25, 1783 when the last British military position left the United States, marking the finality of the historic American Revolution that defined and declared the independence of the United States as a free nation from British rule. It was upon the basis of seeking liberty from the British Monarchy that the founding fathers of this nation sought to seek autonomy for not only themselves, but future generations of this country. Shortly after, when initially discussing what system of government would best fit the ideals and hopes of this new era that was to begin for the now free and independent colonies, many ideas came into question. Constitutional Monarchism, Oligarchism, Dictatorship, Theocracy and Totalitarianism, were just a few of the examples that were debated and thoroughly evaluated among Framers. In the end, the type of government which we hold to be not only self-evident but true as Americans, was the democratic system; a system of government in which elected representatives held positions and the decisions about the nation were based on the majority vote of those who compromised the population. In today's world, there is not only much opposition to the economic system of Islam, but also an incredible level of ignorance which is the main contributor of many misconceptions that most the world has about the religion and its true teachings. In truth, there



is an incredible number of similarities between the system of government which we hold and apply today and the democratic ideals and practices that are encouraged in Islam. It is the basics of Islamic teachings to conduct fair and free elections in which representatives are appointed by the citizens to govern and reflect the wishes of the population that elected them. The foundation of all its systems is the principle that ultimate sovereignty and rule belongs to the creator of all of us. There is no individual superior to God, and there is no sense of divine rule; the idea that an individual has a "god given" right to authority and leadership. After being appointed through a fair and just democratic process, an individual who holds any responsibility regarding the affairs of the estate is not only answerable to the people, but God as well. If politicians keep this in mind, they are less keen to act on selfish impulses, or even believe for a brief moment that they can swindle the people they are answerable to. It is important to note that this religion denounces any sense of hereditary kingship,

all situations where individuals do not have equal opportunities to make their mark in politics, and all circumstances that deprive citizens of their rights. Among many other ideals, Islam absolutely condemns hatred of any kind toward any race of people, solidly stands with advocacy of women's rights, and encourages the upbringing of the poor and underprivileged communities. The basic precepts of governance in Islam includes (1) advocating a democratic system (2) defining authority as not a right, but a trust (3) governments must provide honor, life and property to its citizens (4) practice absolute justice, impartiality and fairness and finally reminding all individuals that they are accountable to God. Upon fully understanding that there are various parallels between the system of government used in the United States and western world that written in Islamic teachings, it can be noted that Islam is in fact a religion that values honesty, fairness, and integrity above all else. Misconceptions about the religion generally arise from individuals who seek to misrepresent the true and honest teachings, and gain benefit or justification behind their own twisted interpretation of the words. It is not within fairness to judge and scrutinize an entire religion based on the negative actions of a few who claim to follow its beliefs. In actuality, Islam in Arabic directly translates to the word peace.

There are some things in life that are complicated, however there are others that are quite simple. The idea of a democratic republic; establishing the people's right to elect individuals who will reflect their ideas and values, is simple. In the words of Thomas Paine, the author of Common Sense which sought to argue that independence and liberty are a nation's duty to create and maintain, "My country is the world, and my religion is to do good."

French author Annie Ernaux has won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature.

By: Emily Temple



This morning, the Swedish Academy awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature to the French author Annie Ernaux "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory."

Annie Ernaux is the author of some twenty works of fiction and memoir, winner of the Prix Renaudot for *A Man's Place*, and of the Marguerite Yourcenar Prize for her body of work, and recently the winner of the International Strega Prize and the French-American Translation Prize and shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize for *The Years*.

For once, the oddsmakers and predictors did okay!

<https://lithub.com/french-author-annie-ernaux-has-won-the-2022-nobel-prize-in-literature/>

China's Xi Secures Third Term, Stacks Leadership Team with Allies

Chinese Communist Party elects Xi Jinping as its general secretary for a precedent-breaking third term, introduces a Politburo Standing Committee stacked with loyalists.



China's President Xi Jinping has secured a historic third term as the Communist Party's leader, cementing his place as the nation's most influential ruler since Mao Zedong. The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) elected Xi as its general secretary for a precedent-breaking five-year term on Sunday, tilting the country decisively back towards one-man rule after decades of power-sharing among its elites. Xi is now all but certain to sail through to a third term as China's president, due to be formally announced during the government's annual legislative sessions in March next year. The CCP also named a seven-member Politburo Standing Committee (PSC) led by Xi, its inner circle of power dominated by the party leader's allies. Xi introduced the new lineup, walking at the head of the group as he lead them onto the stage at Beijing's Great Hall of the People to meet reporters. Shanghai Communist Party chief Li Qiang followed Xi, meaning that he is likely to succeed Li Keqiang as premier when the latter retires in March. The other members of China's top governing body are Zhao Leji and Wang Huning, who return from the previous committee and newcomers Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi. "I wish to thank the whole party sincerely for the trust you have placed in us," Xi said after his appointment, and promised to "work diligently in the performance of our duties to prove worthy of the great trust of our party and our people". All of the PSC's new members are perceived to have close allegiance to the 69-year-old Xi, who was also named the chairman of the Central Military Commission. "An abnormally lopsided victory for one faction, which is rare in the tradition of the Communist Party, in the past there would be a rough balance of power," Willy Lam, Senior Fellow at US think-tank the Jamestown Foundation, told Reuters. "It means there won't be any checks and balances. Xi Jinping also has total control over the larger Politburo and Central Committee," he said. The unveiling of the Standing Committee and the larger 24-member Politburo comes a day after the closing of the ruling Communist Party's 20th Congress, where amendments were added to the party charter aimed at cementing the core status of Xi and the guiding role of his political thought within the party. The Standing Committee lineup is further confirmation that Xi's grip on power is undiminished by the events of a tumultuous year, including a sharp economic slowdown, frustration over his zero-COVID policy, and China's increasing estrangement from the West, exacerbated by his support for Russia's Vladimir Putin. "In terms of policymaking, it does mean that there is likely to be more deference to Xi Jinping's own views about how to move the country and the economy forward," Alvin Tan, head of Asia FX strategy at RBC Capital Markets in Singapore, told Reuters.

"I can imagine that zero-COVID policy is likely more entrenched, and there's going to be further push on this issue of common prosperity and the like," he said.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/23/xi-jinping-secures-historic-third-term-as-chinas-leader>

Maharajah Duleep Singh: Indian boy king's warm friendship with Queen Victoria

By: Gaggan Sabherwal



24 An ongoing exhibition in the UK shines a spotlight on the remarkable life of the last Sikh emperor of the Punjab - Maharajah Duleep Singh. Duleep Singh was the youngest son of Maharajah Ranjit Singh, who founded the Sikh empire in the Punjab in 1799. After the deaths of his father and brother, Duleep Singh became ruler of the kingdom at the age of five, but was removed from the throne after Britain annexed the Punjab in 1849. At the age of 15, he arrived in England and ended up spending the rest of his life in the country. Over the years, a warm friendship would develop between Britain's reigning monarch - Queen Victoria - and the former king of the Punjab. The exhibition at the Archive Centre in Norwich offers a glimpse into this unlikely friendship. It coincides with the last Sikh emperor's 129th birth anniversary, celebrated on 22 October. "One of my favourite items in the exhibition is a signed journal by Queen Victoria which reads: To Maharajah Duleep

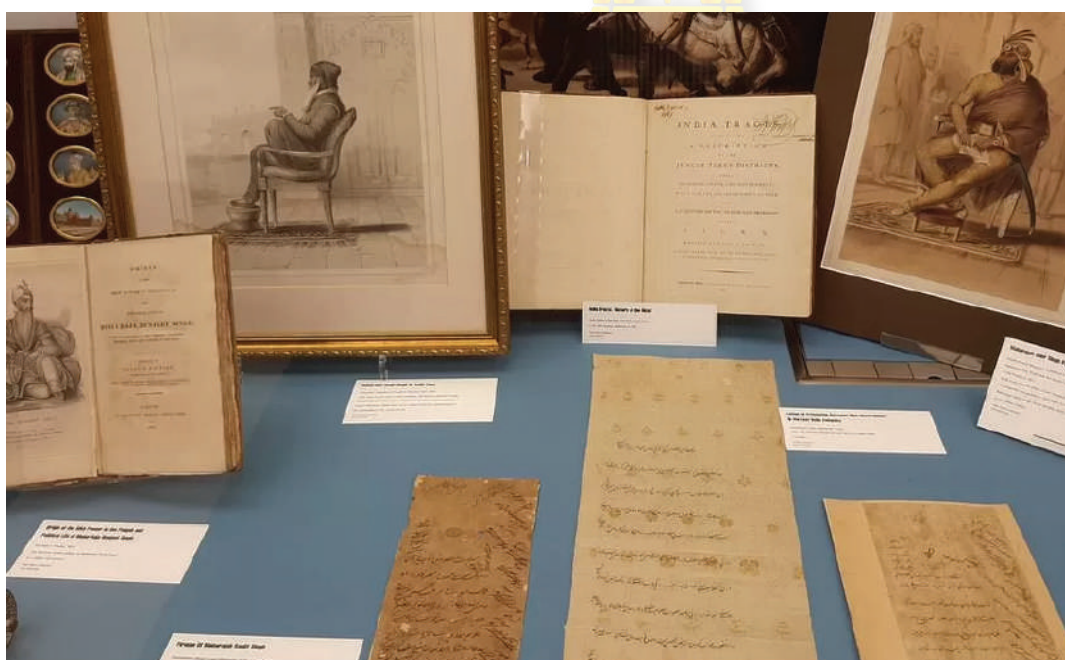
Singh from his affectionate friend, Victoria, Windsor Castle, March 1868," says UK-based historian and art collector Peter Bance. "This is a really intimate and personal inscription [by the Queen] referring to the former King of the Punjab as her friend," he adds. Mr Bance has loaned his personal collection of memorabilia on Duleep Singh and says that this is the first time that many of these historic objects are being displayed to the public. He hopes "visitors will enjoy seeing these [objects] as much as I did discovering them". Through various artefacts, the exhibition traces the fascinating life of Duleep Singh. After the young maharajah was stripped of his sovereignty and his mother was imprisoned, he was put under the guardianship of army surgeon Sir John Spencer Login and his wife, Lady Login. During this period, Duleep Singh began exploring Christianity and a Bible gifted by his attendant in 1850 is included in the exhibition. Also on display is a velvet

jacket worn by the former emperor, shooting paraphernalia he used on hunting trips with the then Prince of Wales - later King Edward VII, as well as his photographs and letters. Duleep Singh married Bamba Muller, daughter of a German banker, in 1864 and made Elveden Hall, a stately home in the Suffolk countryside, their family home. The couple had six children and the exhibition has on display garments worn by his daughters, Princess Catherine, Princess Bamba and Princess Sophia. Princesses Bamba and Sophia were well-known suffragists who supported women's right to vote in the early 1900s. A military uniform and objects belonging to Duleep Singh's second son, Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, are also part of the exhibition. Mr Bance has been researching and collecting artefacts related to Duleep Singh and his family for over 25 years. "I came to Norfolk with a Sikh society group from our university campus, and while we were visiting, I insisted that we stop at Maharajah Duleep Singh's grave at Elveden," he says. He also didn't know much about Duleep Singh and his legacy at the time. While he was visiting the grave, an elderly lady informed him about a museum that was dedicated to the erstwhile ruler of the Punjab and his family. Through his research, Mr Bance learnt that the



years later, he donated the museum to the local people along with a number of personal artefacts. On asking the museum's curator for books on the family, Mr Bance says he was told that "they had books on Duleep Singh but nothing on his children". To find out more about the Sikh ruler's life, Mr Bance says he placed a series of advertisements in the newspaper, asking locals to share any information they had about Duleep Singh's children. Over the next six months, he received over 300 letters from people informing him that they either knew one of the family members or were in possession of some artefact related to them. "I started recording these people's interviews and writing down their memories," says Mr Bance. He also began collecting artefacts, which some people gave for free,

while others he had to purchase. "I hope that this exhibition will be a springboard for the younger generation of British Indians to delve into their history and discover interesting artefacts that are out there."



<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-63225177.amp>

India gives in, Pakistan maintains 'neutrality' on Russia

Pakistan abstains from voting on a motion to reject Russian demand for a secret ballot in UNGA on Ukraine annexation.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan abstained from voting on a motion to reject Russian demand for a secret ballot in the UN General Assembly on the resolution to condemn Moscow's 'illegal' annexation of four regions of Ukraine. India, however, in a major shift in its policy surprisingly succumbed to the pressure from the West especially the US to vote against Russia, held on late Monday night at UN headquarters in New York.

The move by Islamabad to abstain from voting on a procedural matter suggested that it would maintain its stance when the actual resolution condemning Russian annexation of Ukrainian territory would be tabled before the UNGA either on Wednesday or Thursday. The United Nations General Assembly voted on Monday to reject Russia's call for the 193-member body to hold a secret ballot later this week on whether to condemn Moscow's move to annex four partially occupied regions in Ukraine, according to Reuters. The General Assembly decided, with 107 votes in favour, that it would hold a public vote – not a secret ballot – on a draft resolution that condemns Russia's "illegal so-called referenda" and the "attempted illegal annexation". Diplomats said the vote on the resolution would likely be held on Wednesday or Thursday. Only 13 countries on Monday opposed holding a public vote on the draft resolution, another 39 countries abstained and the remaining countries – including Russia and China – did not vote. Russia had argued that Western lobbying meant that "it may be very difficult if positions are expressed publicly." During the meeting on Monday Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia questioned the push to



condemn Moscow. Pakistan was approached by the US and other European countries to vote in favour of the resolution as it has maintained a delicate balance since the eruption of Russia-Ukrainian conflict. In March, Pakistan joined India, China and other countries to abstain from the voting on a resolution condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The move drew a strong reaction from the US and its western allies and both Pakistan and India came under tremendous pressure to shed neutrality. New Delhi's move to reject Russia's demand for a secret ballot on the resolution suggested that it finally decided to side with the West. Meanwhile, despite Pakistan's recent flurry of engagements with the US and European countries, it is still trying to maintain neutrality. The US and its allies believe that maintaining neutrality on the issue of Russian invasion of Ukraine is tantamount to supporting Moscow.

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2381035/india-gives-in-pakistan-maintains-neutrality-on-russia>

Kim Jong Un taunts the US by firing TWO ballistic missiles towards Japan after Washington and South Korea conducted military drills amid spiralling regional tensions

- Japan's Ministry of Defence confirmed the missile launch in a tweet at 6.09am
- It comes after Kim Jong Un fired first missile over Japan in five years on Tuesday
- Tuesday's launch sparked joint missile drills by South Korea and United States

By: Laurence Dollimore

North Korean despot Kim Jong Un has fired two more ballistic missiles towards Japan as tensions with the US continue to mount. Thursday's missile launch, announced by South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff, was the sixth in 12 days and the first since the reclusive regime fired an intermediate-range missile over its easterly neighbour on Tuesday. That launch, the first of its kind in five years, sparked joint missile drills by South Korea and the United States and a return of aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan to the sea between Korea and Japan. The latest missile launches suggest Kim Jong Un is determined to continue with weapons tests aimed at boosting his nuclear arsenal in defiance of international sanctions. Many experts believe Kim's goal is to eventually win US recognition as a legitimate nuclear state and the lifting of said sanctions, though the international community to date has shown no sign of allowing that to happen. Thursday's missiles were launched 22 minutes apart from the North's capital region and landed between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. The first missile flew 350 kilometers (217 miles) and reached a maximum altitude of 80 kilometers (50 miles) and the second flew 800 kilometers (497 miles) on an apogee of 60 kilometers (37 miles). The flight details were similar to Japanese assessments announced by Defense Minister



Yasukazu Hamada, who confirmed that the missiles didn't reach Japan's exclusive economic zone. He added that the second missile was possibly launched on an 'irregular' trajectory. It is a term that has been previously used to describe the flight characteristics of a North Korean weapon modeled after Russia's Iskander missile, which travels at low altitudes and is designed to be maneuverable in flight to improve its chances of evading missile defenses. South Korea's military said it has boosted its surveillance posture and maintains readiness in close coordination with the United States. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said North Korea's continued launches were 'absolutely intolerable.' Separately on Thursday, North Korea condemned the US for repositioning its aircraft carrier in the waters off the Korean



peninsula. The move posed a 'serious threat' to the stability in the region, it said in a statement released by the reclusive nation's foreign ministry. It comes a day after the US accused China and Russia of enabling North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. They accused the countries of protecting Pyongyang from attempts to strengthen UN Security Council sanctions, which were imposed over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes. 'The DPRK (North Korea) has enjoyed blanket protection from two members of this council,' US Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said. 'In short, two permanent members of the Security Council have enabled Kim Jong Un.' The 15-member council met on Wednesday after North Korea test-fired a ballistic missile on Tuesday that soared over Japan for the first time in five years and prompted a warning for residents there to take cover. China and Russia did not want a public council meeting, arguing that it would not be conducive to easing the situation. After the meeting on Wednesday, nine Security Council members - the US, Britain, France, Albania, Brazil, India, Ireland, Norway and United Arab Emirates - condemned North Korea's missile launch in a joint statement. But China's deputy UN ambassador, Geng Shuang, said the Security Council needed to play a constructive role 'instead of relying solely on strong rhetoric or pressure.' 'Discussions and deliberations

should contribute to a detente, rather than fueling escalation. They should promote the resumption of dialogue instead of widening differences and forge unity instead of creating divisions,' he said. In May, China and Russia vetoed a US-led push to impose more UN sanctions on North Korea over its renewed ballistic missile launches, publicly splitting the Security Council for the first time since it started punishing Pyongyang in 2006. Russia's deputy UN ambassador, Anna Evstigneeva, told the Security Council that 'introducing new sanctions against DPRK is a dead end' and brings 'zero results.' 'We are convinced that the UN and Security Council mechanisms need to be used to support the inter-Korean dialogue and multilateral negotiations rather than becoming an impediment to them,' she said. North Korea has for years been banned from conducting nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches by the Security Council, which has strengthened sanctions on Pyongyang over the years to try and cut off funding for those programs. In recent years, veto powers China and Russia have suggested U.N. sanctions on North Korea be eased for humanitarian purposes and to entice Pyongyang back to stalled international talks aimed at persuading Kim to denuclearize. 'This is a clear effort by China and Russia to reward DPRK for their bad actions and cannot be taken seriously by this council,' said Thomas-Greenfield, referring to North Korea's formal name - the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. China and Russia blamed joint military exercises by the United States and South Korea for provoking North Korea. Thomas-Greenfield rejected the remarks, saying there is 'no equivalency between these two activities.'

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11285061/North-Korea-fires-ballistic-missile-Japan-amid-ratcheting-tensions-US.html>

Elon Musk X: What life is like on a super-app in Asia

By Tessa Wong



I'm stuck at home taking care of a sick child, when a familiar feeling suddenly hits - a craving for durian. But there's no need to head out to a durian stall or supermarket to buy the tropical fruit, lug it home, and wrestle open its spiky husk. I just whip out my phone, open an app called Grab, and make a few taps.

Forty-five minutes later, there's a knock on my door. A deliveryman hands over a bag: it's my durian, freshly shucked and sealed in plastic tubs, ready to eat. From ordering cabs and food, to paying our bills and booking holidays, super-apps like Grab offer a mindboggling array of services. They don't exist yet in the West - Elon Musk is thinking of creating one called X - but in many parts of Asia they've already been a vital part of our everyday lives for the past few years. I mostly use Grab to get a ride home after a night out, or order Thai takeaway when I haven't got the energy to cook dinner for the family.

But many in Singapore also use it to send parcels and documents, or shop online - one colleague just purchased a home karaoke set. Other extensions allow you to book bus and ferry tickets, make hotel reservations, and even arrange for someone to come to your home and do a professional Covid swab test. These can be paid for through the app's finance system. There's an e-wallet linked to your bank account or credit card, or you can set up instalment plans, or pay with points which you earn with every activity done through the app. It can also be used for cashless payments - you pay for items at a shop by scanning a QR code with the app, or you can get a physical card linked to your account. But Grab is not the only player in town.

There are super-apps aplenty from Indonesia's GoJek to India's PayTM and they allow you to do even more, such as book a manicure, order fuel for your motorbike, pay your traffic fine and purchase gold. They have caught on in a region of digital natives - in South East Asia alone, about three-quarters of our population use the internet, and of that group, 88% own a smartphone. Then, there's China's WeChat - the original Asian super-app said to be the inspiration for Mr Musk's X. It's a messaging and social media platform that's evolved into one of the region's biggest apps in terms of its range of services and number of users. At last count it's estimated to have 1.29 billion users in China alone. WeChat is also one of China's biggest payment networks, with consumers using it to pay for goods and services and to send money to each other.

Some research suggests that a Chinese user spends as much as a third of their waking life on WeChat alone. Much has been written about how its ubiquity in Chinese everyday life, operating in a society tightly controlled by the government has seen WeChat become a tool of surveillance and censorship. Messag-



es, posts and even accounts are routinely blocked for content deemed politically sensitive, and there are concerns of how it could contribute to the various controversial "social credit" schemes in China, where citizens' lives can be restricted based on their bank credit scores or social behaviour. In 2020, WeChat introduced its own scoring system where users get extra privileges if they have good in-app credit records.

The example of WeChat highlights the main concern about super-apps - with everyone doing practically everything on just a few platforms, these apps end up collecting a vast trove of data on people, and could wield some power over our daily lives. How such data is treated and to what extent governments should have access to it will be part of the debate in societies where privacy is particularly prized. Mr Musk's X super-app - if it does come to fruition - may be seen by some with suspicion as a double-edged Swiss Army knife. For others though, the convenience and simplicity of living life on one app is an easy trade-off to make. There's always the option of scaling back their use, for those with deep concerns about privacy. And in open markets, specialty apps will continue to vie for users' attention, reducing the likelihood of most of the data ending up in the hands of just one or two companies - one reason for WeChat's dominance in China is because some apps like Twitter and WhatsApp are blocked there. Here in Singapore, I don't do everything on Grab. It's not because I distrust it, but I prefer using specialty apps to do other things like grocery shopping and buying clothes as they're just better at it. So I'm fine with Grab humming away in the recesses of my phone because it doesn't know everything about me, just some things - like the fact that I love delivery durian.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-63113517>

Saudi Arabia considers duty free alcohol sale at airports

New plans being examined for transit travellers



Saudi Arabia is considering introducing alcohol sales in duty free areas of selected airports, Arabian Business understands.

The plans would see limited sales of alcohol, initially for international transit passengers, in specific airports. It is believed that strict requirements would have to be met, and the sales only available to passengers travelling on designated routes. No final decision has been made, but a consultation process is underway with key stakeholders, sources said. The sale or consumption of alcohol is currently banned in the kingdom. Last month the Wall Street Journal reported that Saudi Arabia is planning to allow a beach resort in its megaproject Neom to serve alcohol. Scheduled to open as soon as next year, the beach resort on Red Sea's Sindalah island is expected to offer a premium wine bar, a separate cocktail bar, and a bar for "champagne and desserts," WSJ reported, citing documents dated January.

<https://www.arabianbusiness.com/industries/retail/saudi-arabia-considers-duty-free-alcohol-sale-at-airports>

Why Girls Friendships Are Different?

By: Sabrina Intisar



From a young age, it becomes apparent that boy friendships are different from girl friendships. Boys prefer sports and recreational activities, while girls prefer to sit and talk quietly, but why does this difference exist?

Boys and girls approach friendship in different ways. You yourself must have felt it around you. Boys or girls talk to each other about emotional conversations and matters of personal nature. On the other hand, friendships among men are based on practical things, like watching sports together, playing video games together, etc.

The difference between the friendships of boys and girls is evident from a young age

Oxford University psychologist Robin Dunbar has been studying friendship for over fifty years. Their research shows that the difference in friendships between boys and girls is evident from an early age. According to Robin Dunbar, an analysis of thousands of photos on Facebook supports his position. Most of the pictures of women are with their close friends. On the contrary, most of the pictures of men are with friends during some social activity or sports etc. It is usually very rare for a man or boy to share a photo with his best friend. The results revealed in the analysis of social networking websites are also evident in real life. Even in primary schools, we can see that girls initially want to play next to boys in more running games, but as time goes by, they prefer to spend time with other girls and talk. Robyn Dunbar, a psychologist at the University of Oxford, also studied how, when busy with work and children, women still find time for communication and friendships. Another interesting observation was

that the mother-daughter bond grows stronger over time. Telephone records of volunteers in Europe show that while a person spends most of his or her life talking with his or her partner, it is during midlife or middle age that mothers usually talk to their daughters the most. They make telephone calls. Anna M. Martinez-Aleman, a professor at Boston College in the United States, studied female friendships at the university in the mid-90s. They concluded that close friendships influenced women's social activities, their identity formation, and their intellectual understanding of their place in the world. Professor Ana M. Martínez-Aleman contacted the same women 10 years later to see what their social world was like: did they maintain friendships? Many women did. The friendship actually increased as the women got older. Family can certainly play a role in human relationships. For example: A 2019 study published in the American Journal of Primatology indicates that the better a teenage girl gets along with her mother, the more likely she is to have a close friendship. Although social research has repeatedly noted the very different nature of male and female friendships, the reasons for this are difficult to understand. It requires an answer to a long-debated and politically complex question: Are male and female brains different? To what extent are gender differences traced back to nature and to what extent are they nurtured? Some studies have tried to answer this question. But it seems that as soon as a study is published, a review criticizing its methods follows. So until now, why male and female friendships are different, there is no clear answer.

Pakistan Airlines Flight Attendant “Disappears” In Toronto (Again)

By: Ben Schlappig

A PIA flight attendant has gone missing during a layover in Toronto. Specifically, on October 14, 2022, a flight attendant operated flight PK781 from Islamabad (ISB) to Toronto (YYZ). The flight attendant was scheduled to operate the return flight on Sunday, October 16, 2022, but didn't show up. At that point he was reported as missing. This was confirmed by PIA's general manager of corporate communications: “One of our crew Mr. Ijaz Shah who operated as operating crew on PK781 of 14Oct went missing after the flight.” The man has now been reported to the Canada Border Services Agency. Of course we've seen some bad things happen to flight attendants around the globe, so we hope he's okay. However, given the history of PIA crews going missing, I think it's likely that this was intentional.

This is a pretty common occurrence at PIA

- In 2018, a PIA flight attendant went “missing” during a layover in Toronto, and didn't show up for the return flight
- In 2020, a PIA flight attendant went “missing” during a layover in Toronto; when contacted by the airline, he said he was going to another city, and then became unreachable
- In 2021, a PIA flight attendant went “missing” during a layover in Toronto, and didn't show up for the return flight

After the previous incident, PIA claimed it would change protocols to avoid these issues going forward. Specifically, the airline pledged to hold onto crew passports during layovers, and require hotel security to make sure crews check-in, stay the night, etc.

I'm not sure if these protocols were ever introduced, but of course even that will only do so much. If someone wants to escape and is happy to ditch their passport, then there's nothing the airline can do. At least in each of these cases, this was done during a layover, and didn't impact any other people at the airline directly. Contrast that to the 2014 incident where an Ethiopian Airlines pilot hijacked his own plane in order to seek asylum in Switzerland.

Bottom line

A Pakistan Airlines flight attendant has disappeared in Toronto for the fourth time in recent years. It seems pretty clear that these are just people looking for a new life in another country. It's pretty interesting how this happens so often in Toronto — I wonder if this comes down to Canada having good laws for those seeking asylum, if it's a country people just want to settle in for a better life, or if it happens just as much in other countries, but isn't reported.

<https://onemileatatime.com/news/pakistan-airlines-flight-attendant-disappears-toronto/>

The Islamic Science of The Slaughtering of Animals

By: Rumana Ashraf, RN

The process of slaughtering an animal for human consumption has varied from culture to culture, religion to religion, and from era to era. Different societies ranging from the Mesopotamians in 4000 BCE to modern day Americans, have evolved and practices used to slaughter animals for human consumption have changed over time. Islam has also provided guidelines in regard to this matter. The Holy Quran states

“O ye who believe, eat of the lawful and wholesome things We have provided for you, and render thanks to Allah, if truly it is He Whom you worship” (2:173)

“He has made unlawful to you only that which dies of itself, and blood and the flesh of swine, and that on which the name of any other than Allah has been invoked. But he who is driven by necessity, being neither disobedient nor exceeding the limit, it shall be no sin for him. Surely, Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.” (2:174)

In the religion of Islam, there is a very specific method of slaughtering animals that makes the meat halal for eating. Certain methods that are used to stun animals before slaughter to kill are not permitted due to the complex scientific reasoning behind the meat becoming unfit for eating. Inducing livestock into a state of cardiac arrest is one of the most common methods of stunning before slaughtering. Cardiac arrest is a medical term used to describe the sudden loss of functioning of the heart. In humans, oftentimes it is seen that resuscitation with CPR and shock measures are used when an individual goes into cardiac arrest in an attempt to revive the normal function of the heart. In American and European countries, putting livestock into cardiac



arrest is done to include a loss of consciousness so the animal feels no pain when slaughtered. However in the Islamic religion, this is prohibited because of multiple reasons that make the meat toxic. When a person has a heart attack, an enzyme called Troponin is released. Troponin is not normally found in the blood, but is sent into the bloodstream when the heart muscle becomes damaged. The greater the severity of damage to the heart muscle, the more this enzyme is excreted. Venipunctures for laboratory testing are done to analyze individuals' current state of heart damage, past heart attacks, and potential risks for future cardiac complications. Creatinine Kinase is another protein that becomes elevated when there is abnormal inflammation or damage to the heart as a result of multiple cardiac conditions like heart attacks and heart failures. When heart muscles become damaged, the muscle cells split open and contents are leaked into the bloodstream.

Therefore a rise in creatinine kinase levels may indicate a recent cardiac injury or current cardiac problems. Animals are subject to the same physiological responses when they suffer cardiac injuries. Other practices of slaughtering animals that are considered haram is the killing of an animal by piercing/stabbing its stomach and umbilical region. The reason for this is that there are a number of structures and organs that are located in those regions that contain waste products that could prove unhealthy to consume if ruptured. Stabbing or piercing an animal in the stomach can release stored gastric contents throughout the animal. Normal gastric secretions have specific chemical characteristics that serve in digesting food. The acidic property of gastric fluids allows for the breakdown of ingested materials. If those acidic fluids were to leak, they would burn and damage the surrounding organs and internal integrity of the animal. Therefore it is prohibited to consume an animal that has been slaughtered by stabbing in the stomach. With the same respect, it is also prohibited to consume an animal that has been slaughtered by stabbing in the umbilical region, because the umbilical region contains the reproductive organs and bladder. If the bladder were to rupture it would release retained urine and the fluids would contaminate the surrounding internal integrity of the animal. To sum up, the Islamic way to slaughter animals for human consumption is evidently the best practice to promote both the best level of comfort and minimization of pain to the animal, and prevent diseases to the consuming individual. To start, the animal's neck is severed around the jugular artery to immediately stop blood flow to the brain. By doing this, the animal becomes stunned and lightheaded from the lack of blood supply, therefore minimizing pain to an almost unfeeling level. It is important not to cut the head off completely, because the priority is to simply sever the jugular

artery to cut off circulation to the brain, and then move immediately to remove the organs of the stomach and umbilical area. An incision is made in the stomach area next to assess the quality of the internal organs. Many times an animal's state of health and suitability for consumption can be determined by how healthy the animal's internal organs are. For example, if an animal's liver is noted to have cirrhosis (liver damage) upon assessment, it can be concluded that the animal may be unfit to eat because of potential toxins, infection, or disease the animal may have. If the liver appears to be normal and healthy, then the process to continue to prepare the animal for consumption is resumed. Following this step, the internal organs of the animal are taken out including the stomach, intestines, bladder etc. It is important not to puncture any of the organs while removing, because it is important not to rupture any internal fluids like gastric acid, bile or urine into the surrounding flesh meant to eat. There are numerous other steps according to the Islamic method of preparing an animal, however for the purposes of our essay today, only a few key points have been noted.

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Forced Marriage

By Munazza Abbasi LL.B (Hons)



What is a Forced Marriage?

“There is a rise of religious fundamentalism. There is more pressure on women to conform to traditional roles” (Hanana Siddiqui, Spokeswoman for Southall Black Sisters).

Definition of Marriage

Marriage is the social, religious, spiritual or legal union of individuals. Lord Penzance defined marriage in the case of *Hyde v Hyde* as “the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others.” It has been suggested that marriage should be viewed as a contractually acquired status. This “aqd” (contract in Arabic), which binds two people in a relationship with each other, bestows numerous covenants consisting of rights and obligations on both parties. Where such covenants are broken by either party, the legal consequence that will flow automatically is that the contract is subjected to annulment and the marriage will be declared voidable if the parties wish to carry out such a procedure.

Defining a Forced Marriage under British Law

There is no hard definition of a forced marriage provided by the law. An ambiguity thus arises in defining where to strike the line of distinction between an arranged marriage, which is a widely accepted and performed practice, and a forced marriage. The Home Office's Working Group has however, attempted to address this issue of uncertainty by providing a definition of a forced marriage as: ‘a marriage conducted without valid consent of both parties, where duress is ... invariably a factor.’ In a typical forced marriage scenario, the victim is taken abroad to her country of

origin for a family holiday, or to visit a sick relative, or to attend a funeral of a family member. This false pretence in most cases, leads to the harsh reality of getting the victim married to a spouse of their parents' choice without their consent. In the vast majority of these are the child finally gives in to their parents' wishes and goes ahead with the marriage. The element of duress within this definition of forced marriage does not confine to including physical coercion. It also includes an element of emotional duress. Victims often suffer lengthy rides on emotional rollercoasters as they are blackmailed over long periods of time, with ‘family honour’ being the main reason, thus resulting in emotional duress. In extreme cases, physical force may be applied to the victim to compel him or her to go ahead with the marriage. In some circumstances, both emotional and physical pressure is applied to the victim. An example of duress being applied to the victim was demonstrated in the case of PVR (*Forced Marriage: Annulment: Procedure*), where the victim's consent was extracted by physical force when her mother pushed her head forward three times as it to nod and consenting to the marriage. Emotional pressure was also used in this case, as the mother and brother of the victim used emotional blackmail to coerce her to enter into the marriage. In other cases, the victim tries to get help from a family member often a cousin) or a friend in the UK to elope from her place of residence, either before or after the marriage takes place. Where the victim is forced into marriage abroad, the UK then intervenes in helping the victim to be released and ensures their safe return to the UK.

Where the victim is of a dual nationality, there is often no problem for the UK to intervene with the receiving country, if their law permits dual citizenship (for example, India). However, where a dual nationality is not allowed in the receiving country, for example, in Pakistan, a problem may arise for the UK to intervene and facilitate the safe return of the UK citizen.

Forced Marriage vs. Arranged Marriage:

Forced marriages are often confused with arranged marriages. Many people from different communities across the globe still elect to opt in to the procedure of an arranged marriage, as it remains a widely acceptable practice, which has been (and still is) operated successfully around the world over a protracted period of time. Forced marriages, on the other hand is an inexcusable practice that is condemned by many people who view it as an attack on the proclaimed right to enter freely into a marriage. It is therefore, important to differentiate the two practices from one another. In an arranged marriage, the elder members of the families, often the "vali" (father) take the lead in choosing the marriage partner and arranging the match, but the potential spouses have a choice whether or not to proceed with the marriage. They give their full and free consent to the marriage to take place. In a forced marriage there is no choice. The alliance is fixed and the marriage is conducted without the spouse, or both spouses, having a say whether to proceed or not. It is this element of consent that distinguishes an arranged marriage from a forced marriage. Sir Peter Singer, High Court Judge, adequately conveys the significance of this distinction by describing a forced marriage as: A wildebeest, or a rhinoceros, which may be difficult to describe, but few people have a problem recognising one when they see it for the first time charging towards them. The absence of consent sticks out as the horn of the rhinoceros or the incongruous assemblage of the gnu

(When is an arranged marriage a forced marriage? *International Family Law Journal*, 2001). An obvious "legal and ethical distinction has been drawn by the courts" between the two juxtaposing practices. Sir Singer J conveys that: Social expectations can of themselves impose emotional pressure...arranged may become forced but forced is always different from arranged. It can be suggested that the tradition of forced marriages evolved from the process of arranged marriages, and the use of the practice developed in order to secure and enforce an arranged marriage. As Abdullahi An-Na'im (Professor of International law at the Emory university, USA) suggests that forced marriage is a "continuum of arranged marriages, defined by degrees of coercion and consent" (Working Group report on forced marriages). "He further suggests that a clear distinction needs to be drawn between arranged and forced unions, characterising the former as "legitimate" and the latter as "objectionable." A line needs to be drawn between where persuasion ends and where coercion begins, in order to identify which category a particular case falls within. The question thus arises where the balance needs to be struck. A victim put it best when she voiced her opinion, "a person knows when they're being forced into a marriage against their will, that must be the starting point." In the case of *NS v MI* (2006), a classic forced marriage case, Judge Munby J described arranged marriages to be "perfectly lawful...not merely to be supported but respected" and describes the practice as "a conventional concept in many societies" (Justice Minister Bridget Prentice at the Ethnic Minority Foundation Seminar held on 11 March 2008 in London). Whereas, forced marriage is described as an appalling and indefensible practice (according to Justice Minister Bridget Prentice at the Ethnic Minority Foundation Seminar, 2008). This reflects that arranged marriages and forced marriages

should never be diffused with each other, and the distinction between the two is a significantly fragile one. However, the distinction between forced marriages and arranged marriages is not entirely black and white and the test is a subjective test - is it pressure on this particular person? All the circumstances surrounding that particular case in question need to be looked at when detecting whether the marriage is arranged or coerced.

A Breach of Human Rights:

This insidious practice can be regarded as a form of domestic violence and an abuse of human rights, as it entails violations of an individual's autonomy and freedom. It falls within the context of domestic violence, as it is a pattern of abusive and controlling behaviour through which the perpetrator seeks to exert power over the victim. The practice violates numerous internationally recognised human rights norms, and is supported and recognised in many international conventions.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is one of the major influential conventions that acknowledges consent as the essential element of a valid marriage. The Human Rights Act 1998 (HRA) and The European Convention for the protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) states that: "Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses." Where this essential requirement is lacking in a marriage, and where the intending spouse(s) enters into the union involuntarily, it is deemed to be a forced marriage, thus resulting in an infringement of this fundamental human right. The HRA 1998, incorporating the Convention Rights from the ECHR also condemns such an abuse of human rights, as it upholds the right to marry and to found a family under Article 12: Men and women of marriageable age have the right to marry and to found a family, according to the national laws governing the exercise of this right.

Keyhole in space' fascinates social media users



An image captured by the Hubble Space Telescope recently shared on Twitter that shows a "keyhole" among the stars has fascinated social media users. The picture comes from the constellation Orion nearly 1,350 light years away. According to the European Space Agency, the image is of a "reflection nebula" which only becomes visible when it is illuminated from within. A newly born star V380 Orionis provides this light, acting like a lamp in a dingy room. Amid the light in the centre is a black region that looks like a keyhole. "You would need a big key to unlock this peculiar picture of the week from Hubble," the official Twitter account of Hubble said. "This image shows NGC 1999, a reflection nebula in the constellation Orion. NGC 1999 is composed of detritus left over from the formation of a newborn star." ESA said in a blog that experts have still not figured out the origin of the keyhole void. The image was first taken in 1999. With this image, the Hubble Telescope reminded people of its importance as the new James Webb Space Telescope takes over people's hearts. People have also used their own imaginations, sharing what they see in the picture. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/1003460-keyhole-in-space-fascinates-social-media-users>

5 Foods King Charles III Refuses To Eat

Foods King Charles detests

Just like his late mother Queen Elizabeth II, there are certain food habits of King Charles III that are very peculiar. Apart from the royal rule of banning certain foods like garlic and shellfish, there are several foods that King Charles doesn't like to eat. He is a sustainable eater and does not like to eat anything at lunch-time. Today, we bring you some of the foods that the new King detests. Take a look.



Foie Gras

It's a delicacy consumed by many people across the world but is something that King Charles refuses to eat. This delicacy is nothing, but the enlarged liver of a duck or goose and has been banned in royal kitchens since 2008. This is a luxurious French dish enjoyed by many in fine dining restaurants and is priced more than average. According to a report by Marie Claire, this dish was banned after a resident of Bristol wrote to the then-prince describing the animal welfare concerns surrounding the controversial product. Per People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), His Royal Highness' Deputy Master of the Household replied to the letter writer with assurances that the product was banned.



Chocolate

While the late Queen Elizabeth II loved gorging on chocolates now and then, apparently King Charles III cannot stand the sight of this dessert. According to Hello! Magazine, the former manager of the Welsh Culinary Team - Graham Tinsley MBE confirmed that King Charles doesn't like chocolate at all. Thus, they have to consider their choices before deciding on the menu.



Coffee

King Charles detests coffee. Just like fellow Royal members, he loves to have his tea and is very particular about it. According to reports, there are rules for each type of tea consumed by King Charles as different kinds of sweeteners are added to his tea, and even the placement of the teacup handle and spoon are very particular. From Earl Grey Tea and Green Tea to English Breakfast Tea, there King Charles has a fascination for different types of teas.



Biscuit Cookies

He is a fan of these cookies made with butter, potatoes, and grain as disclosed by Waitrose & Partners. But, many don't know that his fascination with these cookies is so much that he loves to eat them warm. As per MyLondon, King Charles likes his biscuits pre-warmed to a certain temperature, otherwise, he doesn't like eating them at all. Also, according to Insider, "The staff keeps a warming pan just to make sure they are hot enough for his liking."



Meat and Dairy

In an interview with The BBC Breakfast in 2021 King Charles disclosed that to support sustainable eating habits, he doesn't eat 'meat and fish two days a week'. Also, he avoids consuming any form of dairy products for one day a week.



Other eating habits of King Charles

Apparently, King Charles is a true foodie but abides by all the royal eating habits and thus avoids consuming any such foods that break the royal rules. One of his popular eating habits is that he avoids consuming any foods that are not seasonal.



Enjoys dinner more than breakfast/lunch

King Charles III most preferred and loved meal is dinner. It is this time of the day that he loves eating his favourite foods. As per a report, the former chef to the Royal family Darren McGrady once said that King Charles loves eating Pan-seared Lamb that's served with Wild Mushrooms Risotto. Apparently, the wild mushrooms used for making this dish are sourced from Balmoral Castle.

The daily diet of King Charles III

If we talk about the daily diet of King Charles III, Hello! Magazine reports that he loves to have eggs for breakfast in several forms and Cheesy Baked Eggs is one of his favourite dishes. While for dinner, the King enjoys eating hearty meals made with fresh produce that is produced at their own estate. According to Hello Magazine, one of his peculiar eating habits is to take a boiled egg with every meal. Though the king hates eating sweets and chocolate, he has a fascination for honey that he loves to mix with his teas.

https://m.timesofindia.com/life-style/-food-news/5-foods-king-charles-iii-refuses-to-eat/amp_etphotostory/94824336.cms

Latest Sanctions Are Not Enough to Show U.S. Support of Iranian Protesters | Opinion

By: Ileana Ros-lehtinen



On Sept. 22, the U.S. departments of Treasury and State announced economic sanctions targeting Iran's "morality police" and seven individual security officials involved in both suppression of women's rights and the escalating crackdown on protests over the past few weeks. The uprising started when in mid-September a 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, was apprehended by the morality police and accused of wearing loose head covering. According to eyewitnesses, she was physically assaulted, and later fell into a coma. Her tragic death three days later provided the initial spark for widespread protests. Since then, the Iranian people, tired of a rock-bottom economy and decades of brutal repression, have targeted the entire regime and are calling for "an end to the Islamic republic." Anti-regime rallies have to date surged to at least 80 cities, according to The New York Times, and over 150 cities, based on credible opposition reports. Although inter-

net blackouts in Iran make it difficult to verify the number of casualties, dozens—close to 200 according to one tally—have been brutally killed while thousands have been detained. The real figures are believed to be much higher. While the new U.S. sanctions are an appropriate first step, they should have been imposed the moment the White House became aware of the unrest and ensuing crackdown. Nonetheless, sanctions are an insufficient response. Despite the Iranian regime President Ebrahim Raisi's threats of a "decisive" backlash, "this year's protests are different" than all previous rounds, and young people are "bolder than ever," according to analysts. Therefore, as it becomes increasingly clear that the current unrest rivals the scope and significance of each of the eight uprisings that have taken place since the end of 2017, the U.S. government must resolve to expand sanctions to their very limit, and to bring other democratic nations on board with a strat-

egy for supporting the Iranian people in their push for democratic regime change. Such strategy has been absent from the Western response to each of the previous uprisings, and the result in some cases has been devastating for ordinary Iranians. During the largest of those uprisings in November 2019, the regime systematically murdered 1,500 peaceful protesters. International actors condemned the repression in general terms but did not take measures to hold the perpetrators accountable. That lack of accountability almost certainly contributed to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's decision, a year and a half after the 2019 crackdown, to appoint Raisi as the new president of the regime. As judiciary chief at the time of that uprising, Raisi was ultimately responsible for the campaign of torture that targeted its participants for months after the 2019 protests. After Iran's sham presidential election in June 2021, Amnesty International's secretary general Agnès Callamard lamented that Raisi had ascended to the country's second highest office instead of being "investigated for the crimes against humanity of murder, enforced disappearance, and torture." Callamard also noted that this was a "grim reminder that impunity reigns supreme in Iran." The entire regime's impunity primarily stems from tepid international responses to many of its crimes and crackdowns on dissent. Raisi's record is even more barbaric. In 1988, he served as one of four officials on the Tehran "death commission" that oversaw the systematic execution of political prisoners. Nationwide, the 1988 massacre claimed an estimated 30,000 victims, the vast majority of whom were supporters of the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK), which remains the leading voice for democracy in Iran and a vital driver of uprisings and anti-theocracy activism. As a member of Congress, I supported the Iranian resistance during some of the most difficult periods, including their relocation from Iraq—where

they were targets of the regime's terrorism—to safety in Albania. Over the past few years, the organization has set up home-grown resistance units across the country. These are teams of activists integrated in society and capable of organizing and sustaining protests. Despite mass arrests, 5,000 members of resistance units recently sent video messages to the Free Iran World Summit in July 2022, indicating their growing prowess. Since Raisi ascended to the presidency, the regime has ramped up executions. Yet in September, the international community still shamefully gave the Iranian president an audience for his speech at the U.N. General Assembly. Raisi's trip to New York for that gathering raised serious questions about the willingness of the U.S. and its allies to reconsider their traditional policies of conciliation and appeasement in dealing with the Iranian regime. Recent sanctions do not resolve those questions. If Western powers wish to demonstrate that they support the rights of the Iranian people and the notion of accountability for Iranian officials, they should not remain silent vis-à-vis the onslaught on the Iranian people and specially against defenseless protesters. Inaction is tantamount to facilitation. It is time to recognize the rights of Iranian people to resist and rebel against brutal suppression. The resistance units deserve every support in their defense of the protesters by confronting the repressive forces. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen served in the House of Representatives from 1989 to 2019, and served as chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee

The views expressed in this article are the writer's own.

<https://www.newsweek.com/latest-sanctions-are-not-enough-show-us-support-iranian-protesters-opinion-1751661>

Is Putin's nuclear threat a bluff?

While no one can be certain in this game of military poker, Putin's "tells" all point to bluff rather than action.

By Marc Egnal

Anyone who has played poker knows that a good bluff now and then can win the pot. With little in your hand, you stare down the other players, they fold and you scoop up the chips. But it's a tactic to be used with care, and not too often. A canny opponent will call the bluff. And when they do, the stack you pushed forward disappears and you're forced from the table. Usually, you're wiser to wait for better cards and play from strength. Here's the question for the current crisis in Ukraine: does the possession of nuclear weapons deal a country a strong hand or simply encourage bluffing? Repeatedly, leaders have overvalued the diplomatic advantage these bombs bring. In 1945, as the war in Europe wound down, but before Hiroshima and Nagasaki, U.S. Secretary of War Henry Stimson predicted the weapon would become the "master card" for American policymakers. The new president, Harry Truman, agreed, asserting the weapon would "put us in a position to dictate our own terms at the end of the war." It did not. Armies on the ground, not the super-bomb, shaped the division of Europe. Despite

conveying an aura of invincibility, America's nuclear arsenal made little difference during the country's lengthy involvement in South-east Asia. As the French, increasingly dependent on U.S. support, were getting battered by the Viet Minh, Eisenhower sent to the Tonkin Gulf two carriers with nuclear-armed planes. But that threat did not prevent the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu. As one observer noted, Ike "could not identify an appropriate enemy or target to fit the massive nuclear response." Nixon, too, was certain that "nukes" — even if they weren't used — would make all the difference in Vietnam. He confided to his chief of staff, Bob Haldeman, "I call it the Madman Theory, Bob. I want the North Vietnamese to believe I've reached the point where I might do anything to stop the war. We'll just slip the word to them that, 'for God's sake, you know Nixon is obsessed about communism. We can't restrain him when he's angry — and he has his hand on the nuclear button' and Ho Chi Minh himself will be in Paris in two days begging for peace."

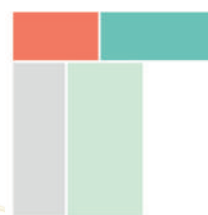
Nixon's nuclear bluff didn't work. The North Vietnamese and their allies in the South prevailed despite the brutality of conventional bombing, leading to the American withdrawal in 1973 and the Communist takeover in 1975.

Nine nations (U.S., Russia, France, China, U.K., Pakistan, India, Israel, and North Korea) now have nuclear weapons. But those



bombs have not reshaped regional conflicts. In part, the reluctance to use them is a recognition of MAD — Mutually Assured Destruction. Destroy my country, and I will destroy yours — and humanity. In part, that hesitation reveals a red line that no one dares cross. Many also recognize that the global village is a small place. Bomb Ukraine, and radioactive particles will shower on Russia. What kind of poker player is Putin? Are his threats to use nuclear weapons a bluff or do they have substance? Along with its arsenal of city-destroying InterContinental missiles, Russia has about 2,000 tactical nuclear weapons. Some are small enough to be used in field artillery. They could wipe out a single military base or irradiate a neighbourhood. While no one can be certain in this game of military poker, Putin's "tells" all point to bluff rather than action. No savvy player would insist, as Putin did, "This is not a bluff." No smart competitor would issue the same threat time and again, without (fortunately, in this case) any follow through. During the 2014 invasion of Crimea, Putin declared he was ready to use nuclear weapons. He has broadcast the same warning repeatedly since the outbreak of the Ukraine war, recently announcing that he would defend the newly annexed territories "with all the forces and means at our disposal." But even with bridges blown and soldiers fleeing, he has not backed up this grim promise. And surely Putin, or someone in his circle, recognizes the strong hands held by others at the table. The U.S. has warned Russia of the "catastrophic consequences" of using nuclear weapons. The Ukrainians, like the Vietnamese before them, soldier on successfully — ignoring the posturing about Armageddon. Sometimes a bluff is not the best tactic when waging war.

<https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2022/10/15/is-putins-nuclear-threat-a-bluff.html>



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