

India, China Escalation Threatens Regional Stability: Russia

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Russia on Thursday said any escalation in the border tension between India and China amid the global turbulence and unpredictability would further trigger regional instability in Eurasia, and the friction can be misused by other players in their geo-political purpose.

"We feel it is very important to encourage both our friendly Asian countries to be more engaged in constructive dialogue. Recent news about their commitment to exercise restraint and continue communication through diplomatic and military channels to remove tensions are absolutely welcoming developments," he added.

"Both are global and responsible neighbouring powers with huge economic and defence potential as well as civilisational wisdom," he added.

When asked whether the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the BRICS groups can play a role in defusing tensions between two of their member nations, the Russian diplomat said both the groupings have developed mechanisms for positive engagements

At an online media briefing, Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin said Russia is "naturally concerned" over the tensions between the two Asian powers, noting that it was "very important" for both the countries to engage more in "constructive dialogue".

India and China are locked in a bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over six months. Both sides are now working on proposals on disengagement of troops from the high-altitude region.

"Certainly respectful dialogue is the main tool when it comes to cooperation in the framework of the SCO and BRICS. Both associations have developed dozens of mechanisms of sector wise cooperation and let me assure you that their relevant interest is growing," he said.

At the same time, the Russian Deputy Chief of Mission made a veiled reference to the "threat" by the US to India to not go ahead with mega defence deals.

Referring to both India and China being members of the SCO and BRICS groupings, Babushkin said respectful dialogue is a main tool when it comes to cooperation in the framework of multilateral platforms.

"Russia remains in a unique position since it has special strategic relations with both India and China and these relationships are independent in nature. We are naturally concerned with the current tensions between India and China.

Talking about regional cooperation, Babushkin also mentioned about the Russia-India-China trilateral grouping.

Asked about growing ties between India and the US, Babushkin said Russia does not see any problem in the relations, adding New Delhi does not provide any reason for doubt when it comes to multilateral and bilateral commitments.

"It is clear that amid global turbulence and unpredictability, escalation between India and China would further affect regional instability in our common home Eurasia. The escalation we are witnessing can be misused by other players in their geo-political purposes," he said.

However, we believe that a peaceful solution is inevitable sooner rather than later," Babushkin said.

"New Delhi is a global power with multi-faceted and wide and diversified national interests and we respect that. India does not provide any reason for doubt when it comes to multilateral and bilateral commitments," he said.

"We know that there were attempts to pressure India and use unfair and illegal competition tools such as threats of sanctions and other restrictions," he said.

ITBP Chief Hopeful Of Peaceful Resolution

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh is expected to be resolved peacefully "very shortly", the ITBP chief S S Deswal has said, adding the infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is also being ramped up at a rapid pace.

of troops and withdrawal of weaponry from all major friction points in a time-bound manner.

nutrition and high calorie food to survive the cold. These are the working conditions on that border and being an un-demarcated border, a jawan has to be always alert," he added.

Talking to PTI during a wide-ranging interview, the director general of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) said his troops have been provided with special winter clothing and nutritious food as they brave the severe chill in eastern Ladakh where the armies of India and China are locked in a tense standoff for over six months.

All these difficulties make the very existence of human beings in that area very difficult and then conducting patrolling on the border is equally tough."

The protection of the border is undertaken by patrolling and the ITBP conducts long patrols that may extend up to 30 days, said Deswal, who leads the 90,000-strong mountain-warfare trained force.

Asked about the current military standoff with China in eastern Ladakh, Deswal said "strains in bilateral relations are already evident but we are confident these will be sorted out peacefully very shortly."

Deswal said the force does special winter stocking every winter and this time the logistics exercise has been enhanced.

The ITBP chief also spoke about his recent tour of the Ladakh front where he spent 8-9 days and decorated 291 of his personnel for showing gallantry during face-offs and skirmishes with Chinese troops in May and June.

Admin Orders Cancellation...

he added. Besides it, the official spokesperson said that Divisional Commissioner also directed the DCs to expunge all entries of illegally encroached state land from the revenue record and further upload all these details on websites of the respective districts.

Govt Cites Poll Threat To...

pre-emptive measures to create an environment of safety and security for the contesting candidates and the general public."

"These directions have had a salutary effect on misuse of data services for rumor mongering, circulation of fake news, inducement of local youth to join the (militant) ranks and coordination of (militant) activities and the situation requires continued close monitoring considering the attempts of infiltration from across the border, presence of foreign (militants) affiliated to Pak based (militant) outfits and a number of (militant) acts in recent past necessitating even complete suspension of the internet/telecom services, albeit for a limited period of time."

"The directions shall be effective from today, the 12th November, 2020 and remain in force till 26th November, 2020, unless modified earlier," the government said and directed the IGP, Kashmir and Jammu to communicate these directions to service providers forthwith and "ensure their implementation in letter and spirit."

27 PAGD Candidates File...

has the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) as its constituents, was formed last month to fight for the restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, which was revoked by the Centre in August last year.

Bukhari was speaking to reporters here after the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayat Conference -- representing the panches and sarpanches -- joined his party.

"It is a right decision and I congratulate them. I think Jammu and Kashmir is fortunate that these leaders have kept the emotions at bay and taken a practical decision," Bukhari said on the decision of the PAGD -- an amalgam of seven mainstream political parties of Jammu and Kashmir -- to contest the maiden DDC polls in the Union Territory unitedly.

"Night Patrolling In Sensitive..." in hypersensitive and border areas in the Union Territory to foil any "subversive design" to disrupt the polls.

"Industry we understand but that cannot be at the cost of our youngsters. This is not a slogan, but I assure you that we will fight to change the land laws," he said.

Room on Thursday afternoon, the DGP sought reports about the arrangements put in place by police and paramilitary force in their respective areas of responsibilities, a police spokesperson said.

The police spokesperson said that the DGP stressed upon the officers to put all the necessary security measures in place to ensure the conduct of DDC, BDC and Panchayat elections in free, fair and peaceful manner. Singh, he said emphasized upon the officers that the deployments should be made as per requirements at all sensitive places and that the personnel on the ground should be briefed regularly and the synergy at the grass-root level has to be at best for achieving better results.

"Class 12 Board Exams Begin..." Srinagar and its peripheries, an official spokesperson said.

"103-Yr-Old Woman Becomes..." died at SMHS hospital, a week after he was admitted there.

J&K Reports 617 New Corona... details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 153 cases, Baramulla 62, Budgam 43, Pulwama 18, Kupwara 22, Anantnag 34, Baniptora 29, Ganderbal 22, Kulgam 6, Shopian 2, Jammu 93, Rajouri 9, Udhampur 35, Doda 15, Kathua 16, Poonch 8, Samba 8, Kishtwar 22, Ramban 13 and Reasi 7.

"No Let Up In Cross-LoC Shelling..." and Border Out Posts (BoPs) in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district overnight, they said.

"Macchil Operation Enters Day 5..." pressed into service. There are reports that some militants may still be present in the area," he said.

"KEG Concerned At Denial Of..." expected that the decision-makers would take a view of the issue but the editors body said authorities have not taken any note of it.

"Twitter Served Notice For..." of Electronics and IT on November 9, the sources said.

"Water Scarcity Sparks Protest..." they were facing a water shortage from the past two months, adding that the department was forcing them to consume filthy water.

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with its headquarter in Leh. Twitter had earlier shown Leh as part of China, following which the IT secretary had written a stern letter to the company's CEO Jack Dorsey.

Last month, Twitter came under heavy criticism and faced backlash from social media users after its geotagging feature displayed "Jammu & Kashmir, People's Republic of China" in a live broadcast from Leh's Hall of Fame, a war memorial for fallen soldiers in Ladakh.

Also, under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, the government can lodge an FIR, which has punishment of up to 6 months of imprisonment.

MMU Forms 'J&K Halal...'

who due to his continued house detention could not attend the crucial meeting. The meeting, the MMU spokesperson said also decided that members of the board will include a Mufti from each Islamic school of thought.

"Inside Dal Dwellers' Decaying..." to live in limbo and even threatened to reverse migrate if their concerns remain unaddressed.

"Caso Ends In Shopian After..." 1500 households, remained under siege.

"3 Pulwama Youth Booked..." of the youth vouch for their innocence, police claimed they were involved in militancy.

Panchayat-Level Committees...

water into drains, manage water works, undertake water conservation measures, prevention of encroachment of tank bed land, and protection of forest, he added.

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K O V I E W

Bihar lesson

Contrary to expectations and the exit polls the BJP put up a winning performance in the Bihar Assembly polls enabling the ruling NDA to obtain majority. The NDA won an absolute majority in the state winning 125 seats, three more than the halfway mark needed for a victory. Earlier exit polls had given a convincing majority to Mahagathbandan comprising Rashtriya Janta Dal, Congress and the Communist party. But they fell short just when they were within the touching distance of the victory, securing 110 seats. The performance of the AIMIM which won five seats surprised everyone. At the same time the AIMIM was blamed for cutting the votes of Mahagathbandan enabling the BJP to nose ahead.

Be that as it may, the NDA is again forming the government the state with Nitish Kumar again its chief minister. This would be his fourth term. The outcome of the Bihar polls will continue to be parsed for days. According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the secret to winning Bihar polls is 'sabka saath, sabka vikas'. He rightly pointed out that the BJP didn't only win Bihar but also in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and even in Telangana and Ladakh.

These election results have once again raised serious questions about the ability of Congress to defeat the BJP. In his address to party workers, the PM Modi rubbed this fact in saying over the decades Congress has reduced itself to a family-run party. He called this state of affairs as the true threat to democracy. Dynasty and Democracy, he said, cannot go hand-in-hand.

And Bihar election results have vindicated the PM. Congress is now in dire straits. The party despite its claim to being India's pre-eminent secular party has never posed an ideological challenge to Modi. Neither in Gujarat where the party has successively failed to arrest Modi's juggernaut nor in the rest of the country. The BJP has now acquired a true national profile and Congress is shrinking by the day.

So, there is no dislodging the PM Modi yet. That is, if no credible political rival emerges from the shadows in the near future, a prospect which looks bleak.

A win for the Grand Alliance in the recent Bihar elections could have had a profound significance. The victory would have arrested the disarray among the secular forces and given them confidence to stand up to Modi in the upcoming state elections. One such being the election in West Bengal. As Bihar has once again highlighted, only a broad secular front against Modi could confront him with a credible challenge. Nothing short of that can.

OTHER OPINION

Year of Lockdown

Can a lockdown beat the coronavirus? Last heard, epidemiologists and economists were still locked in bitter battle over that one. But Collins Dictionary has settled it. "Lockdown" wins hands down, and has been crowned the word of this annus horribilis, leaving "coronavirus" and other pandemic-triggered words behind. The word has been quite the super-spreader, turning up in multiple languages to stand for the stringent restrictions that humans across the world have accepted on their movement and social life in the hope of taming the virus. Its etymology lies, unsurprisingly, in prison life — it once referred to a security measure to confine exuberant inmates of jails when they went out of hand. In India, it also came to mean the colossal apathy that left thousands of migrant workers stranded, hungry and desperate.

The Sars-CoV-2 outbreak has snuck up on everyday vocabulary in other ways too. In the innocent early months of this deprivation, some performed rituals in balconies hoping to "flatten the curve". Others watched WhatsApp scholars add to the "infodemic" by claiming that NASA satellites had proof that a clanging army had chased the virus away. "Covidiot" partied, others rustled up frugal "quarantine meals" and plenty of indignation. As the virus went rogue, "doom-scrolling" and reading up on dire news became a habit. The ravages of pandemics have been felt on the tongue before, of course. In 11th century England, the Black Death or the bubonic plague wiped out nearly a quarter of its population — especially, the French nobility. The vice-grip of the French language on the court and the country waned, the stock of English-speaking peasants and traders rose — and the English language gained in strength in its native kingdom.

If the human race is lucky, and if populist demagogues have not entirely short-circuited the workings of science, this pandemic might leave far fewer scars on the language. Might we even forget the meaning of lockdown? To that hope, raise a quarantine.

The Indian Express



Turning Tables
on Liberalism

'Islam' is not in crisis, liberalism is

ASAD DANDIA

Last month, French President Emmanuel Macron declared in an address to the nation that "Islam is a religion that is in crisis today all over the world". In the same speech, he unveiled a political programme for strengthening laïcité, France's unique iteration of secularism that stringently restricts religion in the public sphere. Since then, a brutal decapitation of a schoolteacher, the vicious stabbing of two Muslim women and diplomatic spat have reignited global anxieties about the entanglement between Islam and laïcité.

Much has been written about France's weaponisation of laïcité to discriminate against Muslims and on the history of French liberalism as a rationale for the brutal colonisation of millions of peoples across Asia and Africa — what it called its "mission civilisatrice" (civilising mission). This violence is as much part of French history as its revolutionary triad of liberté, égalité, and fraternité (liberty, equality and fraternity).

It is only the latter, however, that is ever mentioned as France's contribution to modernity. There is seldom a reckoning with the dark underbelly of liberalism, and the unparalleled violence that was, and continues to be, meted out to its historic Others. But Muslims — having borne the brunt of French (and other) colonialism, imperialism and racist violence — know it all too well. Indeed, for many, Macron's call for an "Islam of the Enlightenment" is viewed as the latest development in that history.

When I first read Macron's remarks about Islam in crisis, the immediate question that occurred to me was: Who is this "Islam" and has anyone checked up on them? The truth is that the trope of "Islam" as Enlightenment liberalism's oppositional foil has been discussed so much that it need not be examined here. Let us, however, take Macron's statement descriptively: Is Islam in crisis? To answer that question, we would have to begin with defining the terms.

If by "Islam", Macron means Muslim minorities in North America and Western Europe, then on the contrary, there has never been a more exciting time to be Muslim. In fact, it is precisely in "the West" — which Macron and his predecessors have long positioned as the antithesis of "Islam" — where some of the richest discourses among Muslims are emerging.

The advent of mass literacy, mass migration and information technology (including social media) have collectively facilitated a vibrant cultural and intellectual transformation among Muslims in the Global North, the likes of which preceding generations could never have imagined. Never have more Muslims been so actively engaged in creatively studying, interpreting, contesting and embodying their tradition as they are today.

Muslim women are bringing to the fore their subjectivities to assert their agency and challenge traditional authority in exegesis, ethics, politics and more, without the need for white liberal saviours. Black Muslims and Muslims of African descent, whose long history of resistance in the Americas is well-documented, are at the forefront of social justice organising, calling on people to think more capaciously about imagining a world beyond policing, prisons and the carceral logics of nation-states.

The growing body of scholarly literature on Islam in the English language, be it in academic settings or in normative confessional settings (with the two often cross-pollinating one another) — led by Muslims — further bears witness to the flourishing of Islam in the West. It is safe to say that English, once a language of Empire, reclaimed by its subjects and their descendants and now globalised, is as much an "Islamic" language as are Persian or Malay.

In the immediate aftermath of 9/11, Muslims — particularly in the United States — were compelled to position themselves as loyal patriots committed to the myths of American exceptionalism in order to avoid being suspected of being a fifth column. For a long time, Muslims sought

a "seat at the table" to demonstrate this loyalty. Today, Muslim communities are spending less time seeking a seat at the table and more time building tables of their own, without having to pander to power. They are articulating a consciousness with an acute awareness of the various structures of Islamophobic violence that have in large part been responsible for shaping their global dispossession, subjugation, surveillance and more. And yes, that includes challenging the state violence exerted by places like the

Gulf Arab states. When the world at large is witnessing an unprecedented surge in far-right movements, the breakdown of governing institutions, skyrocketing inequalities and impending climate catastrophe, it astonishes that one could suggest that Muslims or "Islam" are uniquely in crisis. We would do better to understand that our challenges are interconnected, and to suggest that "Islam" is the sole — or even a meaningful — unit of analysis or explanatory factor for crisis is ten-

The spirit of the Arab Spring is alive and well and has extended to Iraq, Algeria, Sudan and Lebanon in the last year. Palestinians and Kashmiris maintain their decades-long struggles for justice and rights against ostensibly liberal democracies.

US and France. But what if by "Islam", Macron meant the Muslim world?

There is no doubt that the "Muslim world" (in quotes because the category is not without its problematics) is struggling.

Dissidents continue to be imprisoned in Iran. The Gulf Arab monarchies marshal a façade of social liberalisation that is overshadowed by the quashing of political rights. Iraq and Afghanistan remain entangled in myriad power struggles amid the fallout of America's forever wars. The Balkans are seeing a revival of the same exclusionary nativism that led to the Bosnian genocide. Meanwhile, Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang face genocide in the present day.

While many of these crises overlap, each of them is also the consequence of particular historical circumstances that demand rigorous analyses which are beyond the purview of this essay. Even a cursory glance at the factors that shaped them makes it very clear that these crises can hardly be boxed into a totalising discourse about "Islam in crisis" — a discourse which serves as nothing more than a cover to avoid grappling with the very complicated histories that brought

It is in fact liberalism — the political philosophy birthed out of the Enlightenment which marshalled freedom, equality, and autonomy — that is in crisis.

the "Muslim world" to where it is today.

What is overlooked is that despite all of this, the spirit of the Arab Spring is alive and well and has extended to Iraq, Algeria, Sudan and Lebanon in the last year. Palestinians and Kashmiris maintain their decades-long struggles for justice and rights against ostensibly liberal democracies. Women's and minority-led movements in Turkey, Pakistan and Iran continue to galvanise against discrimination, patriarchy and state violence.

Gulf Arab dissidents refuse to toe the line of their autocrats by raising their voices against repression. Muslims of India mobilised the largest mass-led demonstrations asserting their rights. Uighur activists refuse to be silent even as the world turns a blind eye to their pain.

Against all odds, Muslim populations and their allies continue to show that when the world brings its worst, they offer their best. In the face of Pharaoh, Muslims become a Moses.

What is also overlooked is the role of liberal American and French governments in sustaining the very illiberal systems of oppression they claim to oppose. The US and France are staunch allies of Israel, India, Egypt and the

uous at best. It is in fact liberalism — the political philosophy birthed out of the Enlightenment which marshalled freedom, equality, and autonomy — that is in crisis. Its ideals are hardly exclusively of European provenance, being as they are present in numerous non-European traditions, but it is Europe's stream that dominates the global terrain today.

From the left, liberalism is charged with being founded upon violent and racist dispossession of its historic Others and birthing the system of global inequality that exists today. Its staunchest critics from this side include American philosopher Cornel West and Indian writer Pankaj Mishra. These critics argue that the "chickens have come home to roost" for liberal states, as the violence they wrought upon the world's masses has now exposed their cracks, which can no longer be veiled by the veneer of equality and freedom, which were conditional to begin with.

While critics from the left may cherish the freedoms of liberalism with the aim of transcending them through political economy, liberalism's critics from the right — such as American scholars Patrick Deneen and Adrian Vermeule — castigate its very foundations. They view it as an atomising and suffocating ideology that untethers human beings from any sense of community or social commitment to one another. While the left and right may disagree on the solutions, both know that the time for liberalism's reckoning has come. Even American political scientist Francis Fukuyama, patron-saint of liberalism, is sounding the alarm bells.

And yet as the doomsday clock continues to tick, the champions of liberalism cannot but try to vindicate the formula that brought crisis upon the world in the first place. And while they view the freedom offered by liberalism solely as the fruits of their own labour, they take no accountability for the illiberalism that was needed to sustain it. They ascribe liberalism's successes — freedom, equality, autonomy — exclusively to themselves while attributing its failures — centuries of exploitation resulting in global inequality and climate catastrophe — to "all of us".

The wretched of the Earth, as anti-colonial philosopher Frantz Fanon called them, are never given credit for liberalism's fruits but are made accountable for its poisons. Why?

Macron can rest assured that Islam will be all right; that Muslims have overcome many a crisis and will overcome many more. As for those of us who are concerned for humanity at large, now is the time to think deeply together, to lean in to one another, and to listen with a spirit of openness and empathy as we face the global crises that threaten Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Who knows, maybe this "Islam" can offer a thing or two to address liberalism's crisis.

The views expressed in this article are author's own and do not necessarily represent that of Kashmir Observer

Al Jazeera

Translation and Resistance Literature

Part-I

HUZAIFA PANDIT

The tradition of writing lived experience in Kashmir is still in infancy, a byproduct of the turmoil that Kashmir has spiraled into since 1990's. Not that Kashmir did not have a tradition of writing, on the contrary, the poetic tradition is quite old, and quite developed.

*Payaambar na naseeb hua tau khoob hua
Payaam-e-gair say kya sharah-e-arzoo kartay*

That the messenger was unavailable was fortunate
How could another one translate my desire?

The oft quoted couplet by Khwaja Haider Ali Aatish adequately highlights the perils of translation, which is premised in impossibility. I was reminded of this couplet when a few days ago, I ran into an old acquaintance who complained that literary production from Kashmir is still not up to the mark. One reason, we agreed on is that the influence of literatures produced outside Kashmir is rather limited as compared to outsiders, a lot of whom we read in translation. While it is indubitable that the peculiar socio-political conditions in Kashmir promote an aesthetic of confrontation, and realism, the argument that this justifies the self-enclosed nature of literary production doesn't hold water. A counter that could be offered, however, is that the tradition of writing lived experience in Kashmir is still in infancy, a byproduct of the turmoil that Kashmir has spiraled into since 1990's. Not that Kashmir did not have a tradition of writing, on the contrary, the poetic tradition is quite old, and quite developed. However, as with everywhere, the amalgam of identity politics and writing is a comparatively new phenomenon inaugurated by Mehjoor in the early decades of 20th century. In English, the tradition is popularly ascribed to Agha Shahid Ali, just before the onset of the new millennium. Within such a short time, it is not possible to evolve a highly stratified tradition just yet. While this counter is justified to an extent, it is not sufficient to abide by it, and give up hope and effort of diversifying the tradition. What can be done to diversify the tradition of poetry especially resistance poetry? Many things including translation! Translation represents an attempt to borrow new genres and new idioms into English. But translation itself is not a singular process.

Tejaswani Niranjana, in 'Siting Translation', points out that translation provides a context, "of contesting and contested stories attempting to account for, to recount, the asymmetry and inequality of relations between peoples, races and languages." She offers a model of translation that employs English to contest unmediated representations of colonialism and make visible the writer from the (former) colony to both the west and the readership within the country. This making visible allows post-colonial translation to emerge as a radical practice, which helps to create the desired political statement that lived experiences in marginalised spaces like Kashmir demand. Another model is offered by Pramod Nayar who argues that effective narratives of human rights can be created by using translation to create narrative communities, which will harness



tuted from violence, and suppression like Kashmir, translation then emerges as a handy tool to create narrative communities, within the world at large in general and India in particular, by converting them to recognise concrete experience of a disenfranchised people. In the spirit of Ramanujan, the Indian translator, theorist and poet, the translation aims to translate the foreign reader into a native reader i.e. a disinterested reader into one anxious and concerned about Kashmir. Translation is enacted with a specific activist zeal to transform narratives realising that ground level realities are determined by narratives e.g. the narrative of nationalism, revivalism, and Hindu majoritarianism determine the lived realities of residents of Kashmir. By extension this framing demands that counter and alternate narratives be drawn to allow the subjugated to produce more accurate representations of their condition, than presented by the subjugator.

In this column, I propose to demonstrate this model to show how a translation of two ghazals, one by Ghulam Rasool Nazki, and one by Khatir Gaznavi written in an entirely different context can be reimagined to demonstrate the lived experience of a Kashmiri on the eve of the various anniversaries of massacres, milestones in our history of disenfranchisement in general and August 5 in particular when the erstwhile state was converted into a union territory and its land rights stripped away. The translation is as follows:

On Anniversaries
Yet again today, you rake
the subject of desires of my heart:
fresh tales of salting the wounds of my heart.

I waxed eloquent with my tale, you heard me
out patiently. Else, who in the world
listens to lovers pouring out their heart?

Relic of the garden –
Flower raised in garden's shade
In deserts too, I'll speak of gardens
with a breeze in my heart.

You sculpted my idol, I followed
your lead. Ritual of idolatry
started right, thus, from Kabba's heart.

The candle burnt and wept
all night. Till dawn, all conversation
revolved around the moth's heart.
(On August 5, 2020)

Aaj phir chedi hai
Aaj phir chedi hai tumnay meray armaanon ki baat
Kaavish-e-zakhm-e-jigar kay taza afaanon ki baat

*Ik ada-e-khaas say hum nay kahee tum nay suni
Kaun sunta hai jahaan main warna deewanon ki baat*

*Jadaa-e-sehan-e-chaman, parwardaa-e-aagosh-e-gul
Hum bayabaan main bhi kehenge gulistaanon ki baat*

*Tum nay mera aur phir main nay tarsha but tera
Is tarah kaabay say chal nikli hai butkhaano.n ki baat*

*Shaama jalti hi rahee aansoon.n bahatee hi rahee
Subhu tak chalti rahee mehfil main parvaanon ki baat*

In the first couplet, the original employs the verb 'chedi' which implies 'alluded' to, an indirect hint of sorts. I translate it to 'rake' which involves a violence, a digging out as it were, which would cause agony, and hence gives full vent to the sadistic pleasure the other derives from a reminder of the subject i.e. the subject of humiliation, powerlessness and the desire to be rid of these. 'Rake', therefore, is an adequate reminder of the violence and heartache that follows any discussion of the abrogation. Moreover, kavish-e-zakhm-e-jigar literally translates into exacerbate the wounds of the heart. I translate the line into salting the wounds of heart to exaggerate the effect and bring out the full effect of the torment felt by the Kashmiri subject when commemorating the event.

The second couplet talks about narrating the tale with an 'ada-e-khaas' – a peculiar way. I translate it to 'wax eloquent' to indicate the full extent of the troubles that followed the abrogation, and the grandeur of mourning associated with the crises that were unleashed post August. I add patiently to the line even as the original only mentions 'suni' – heard. The addition of patience is simply an affirmation of the resignation that has crept into our conversations, where we repeat the same litanies of grief ad nauseam in every gathering at every instance. It is only us, who have the patience to listen to each other's narratives. People sharing each other's trauma and united by a collective suffering listen to each other, and share in each other's grief. In a word increasingly immune and impervious to the concerns of the marginalized, and having given a free pass to the subjugator to subjugate the subjugated, the aggrieved have nowhere to go but only listen to each other, to console themselves in hollow consolations and wait wistfully for some relief, some good news. Therefore, I translate 'deewanon ki baat' - conversations of lovers to 'lovers pouring out their heart' to lend more poignancy to the act of listening, and expressing.

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the power of translation to transcend limitations of the language, but also bring an audience to a textual event that especially accommodates contestations of communal identity and action. In spaces consti-

Like millions of other parents, we have been struggling to sustain the competing jobs of work, home schooling and parenting. Here's how our spring went and how the autumn will probably look: We wake up when our younger daughter climbs into our bed to tell us about her dreams, we make breakfast, and we triage the tasks everyone needs to get done during the day. These might include guided reading and arithmetic exercises for the 8-year-old, maths homework and a social studies report for her 12-year-old sister - and for the two adults in the family, both college professors, there's email, class preparation, grading, committee meetings, research supervision and scholarship.

On most days, it feels as if we get a reasonable amount of time to devote to our professional tasks. And yet we are unable to concentrate enough to complete the work.

Our strategy is to trade off being the parent "at work" and the parent on child-care duty for blocks of three hours or so. We ask the kids not to interrupt the at-work parent unless absolutely necessary. If they need to interrupt someone, it should be the parent on duty - but they should make an effort to solve problems on their own, since the

Impossible Balancing

SUZANNE EDWARDS AND LARRY SNYDER

parent on duty is trying to get professional work done, too. Invariably, both parents end up fielding questions about craft projects, complaints about sibling misdeeds and requests for snacks. Our personal responsibilities interrupt our professional ones, which interrupt our personal ones - and we

to scream, "We haven't seen anyone but you!"

Social science research underscores the costs of interrupted professional focus. In a laboratory setting, it can take upward of 20 minutes for people to get back to the task at hand after an interruption, and the quality of their work declines.

With less time to do it all, the quarantine has created more work for everyone. The waged work done by education and child-care professionals has moved into the home, where it is now performed by unwaged caregivers.

feel we are failing at all our jobs.

By dinnertime, our kids typically complain, "We haven't seen you at all today!," while we want

People skip steps in their projects when they attempt to refocus, studies have found, or repeat steps they've completed. On the other side of the

equation, our kids would certainly vouch for the decline in the quality of our parental labor. And pre-pandemic research demonstrates that working from home heightens both job stress and family conflict, particularly when it requires the kind of multitasking that quarantine demands.

With less time to do it all, the quarantine has created more work for everyone. The waged (although undercompensated) work done by education and child-care professionals - including teachers, coaches, school psychologists, technology specialists and cafeteria aides - has moved into the home, where it is now performed by unwaged caregivers. At the same time, many employers are asking more of their employees.

If our micro-experiment shows anything, it confirms what feminists have long known: Caregiving labor has to be done by someone, it will not take a back seat to caregivers' other work responsibilities, and it enables other labor that has historically been more highly valued.

Meanwhile, our responsibilities mount.

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Gulf News

Over 10 Million Danish Mink Are Slaughtered As Farms Shut Down

Agencies
Copenhagen : At least 10 million Danish mink have already been slaughtered, after farmers acted on a government order that has since been retracted because it broke the law.

large, robust business.”

Political Fight

Frederiksen's handling of the crisis has drawn condemnation from a united parliament after mink farmers were ordered to cull their herds, including healthy animals. Frederiksen's government has said it didn't know the order required new legislation.



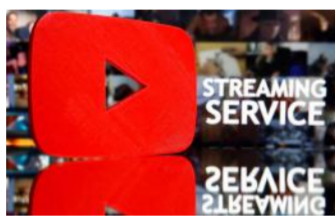
variant has the potential to derail efforts to develop a Covid vaccine. The only option left to Denmark, she says, is to cull its entire mink population of roughly 17 million animals.

50%, wants all Danish mink farming to be banned until 2022. That means breeding animals will be wiped out, effectively shuttering the industry.

YouTube Back Up After Worldwide Outage That Affected Nearly 286,000 Users

Agencies
YouTube, owned by Alphabet Inc's Google, said late on Wednesday it had fixed a glitch that led to a worldwide outage of the video-streaming service.

said in a tweet, without explaining what had caused the outage. ...And we're back - we're so sorry for the interruption. This is fixed across all devices



& YouTube services, thanks for being patient with us https://t.co/1s0qbxQqc6



Saudi King Urges World To Take 'Decisive Stance' Against Iran

Agencies

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud urged the world on Thursday to take "a decisive stance" to address efforts by Iran to develop nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, in his annual address to the top government advisory body.

di-led coalition has been battling the Tehran-aligned Houthi movement for more than five years. There was no immediate reaction from Iran to the king's remarks. Tehran described the king's UN remarks as "baseless allegations" and has denied arming groups in the Middle East.

Saudi-US relationship

But US President-elect Joe Biden pledged in his campaign to reassess ties with the kingdom, a major oil exporter and buyer of US weapons and military equipment. Saudi Arabia was an enthusiastic backer of Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran.

Pakistan, Iran concerned over growing trend of Islamophobia

Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran on Wednesday expressed concern over the growing trend of Islamophobia and agreed on close coordination to support efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan at a time when militant attacks continue inside the country and the intra-Afghan negotiations have stalled.

Prime Minister Imran Khan said during the meeting with Iranian FM that Pakistan and Iran enjoy close and cordial relations, underscoring the need to work closely for promotion of peace, security and development in the region. He also emphasized that the two countries must further strengthen bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit.

with special emphasis on bilateral trade and economic relations. He also underscored the need to work closely for promoting peace, security and development in the region. Highlighting Pakistan's efforts towards facilitating peace and stability in Afghanistan, the prime minister said that there was no military solution to the Afghan conflict.

'Countdown to catastrophe' in Yemen as UN again warns of famine

Agencies

Washington: The United Nations has once again warned of millions of men, women and children in war-torn Yemen are facing famine as it issued yet another appeal for more money to prevent it. "We are on a countdown right now to a catastrophe," UN World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director David Beasley told the UN Security Council on Wednesday.

'Yemenis not going hungry, they're being starved' In late 2017, UN aid chief Mark Lowcock warned that Yemen was then facing "the largest famine the world has seen for many decades with millions of victims". "We prevented famine two years ago," Lowcock told the Security Council on Wednesday. "More money for the aid operation is the quickest and most efficient way to support famine prevention efforts right now."



A Saudi Arabia-led military coalition intervened in Yemen in 2015, backing government forces fighting the Iran-allied Houthi group, which had captured the capital Sanaa a year earlier. Since then, more than 100,000 people - fighters and civilians - have been killed.

The UAE, which is a part of the Saudi-led coalition, did not announce any funding for this year. On Wednesday, Germany's UN Ambassador Christoph Heusgen called on its leaders to respond to the UN appeal. Lowcock described in graphic detail "the horrors inflicted by famine on the body and on the soul," saying as they starve, people, especially children, are likelier to fall sick or die from diseases they may otherwise have resisted.

22 Wedding Guests Killed As Rickshaw Falls Into Canal In Pakistan

Agencies

Peshawar, Pakistan: Twenty-two wedding guests were killed when the rickshaw they were riding in fell into a canal in northwestern Pakistan, police said Wednesday at the end of a recovery mission. The three-wheeler was overloaded with 29 people when the accident happened on Monday, near the city of Dera Ismail Khan. "We have recovered 22 bodies which include 16 women and six children", Muhammad Ramzan, a senior police official, told AFP. The victims were from the same extended family, and at least seven of them were from the same household, he added. Seven people were rescued. Bilal Muhammad Faizi, a spokesman for the local rescue agency, confirmed the number of deaths and said the last bodies were retrieved on Wednesday. Rickshaws are a common mode of transport across Pakistan, and accidents occur frequently. Pakistan has one of the world's worst records for fatal traffic accidents, mostly blamed on poor roads, badly maintained vehicles and reckless driving.

NEWSMAKERS

British Nurse Charged With Murders Of Eight Babies, 10 Attempted Killings

London: Police in the northwestern English city Chester said Wednesday they had charged a nurse with eight counts of murder and ten of attempted murder against babies at a local hospital. A 30-year-old named as Lucy Letby was arrested on Tuesday and charged with the crimes once prosecutors gave the go-ahead, Cheshire police said in a statement. The charges relate to "a number of baby deaths and non-fatal collapses at the neonatal unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital" between June 2015 and June 2016, they added. Letby is being held in custody ahead of a first appearance before magistrates in nearby Warrington on Thursday. She had previously been arrested but released without charge in 2018 and 2019.



Letby is being held in custody ahead of a first appearance before magistrates in nearby Warrington on Thursday.

New Iranian note with pale zeros symbolizes transition to new currency

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has launched a new version of the most frequently-used bank note in the country to signify a transition to the new currency toman. Four zeros on CBI's new 100,000 rials note were light-hued, a picture of the note circulating in the local media on Wednesday showed. That signified Iran's ongoing move toward toman, the new currency which will be equal to 10,000 rials once it is introduced in Iran in early 2022. A law endorsed by the previous Iranian parliament in May stipulated that a full transition to toman would need at least two years to allow markets and businesses to adapt to the



new situation. CBI chief Abdolnasser Hemmati said recently that printing bank notes with four pale zeroes had already started with a change of design applied to large denomination

currency bills. "The plan to slash four zeroes is being pursued in the new parliament but the CBI would print zeroes in a light-hued form in the new notes it prints so that it

could symbolize a transition," said Hemmati. Toman is still used as the popular denomination currency in Iran less than a century after it was dropped in favor of the rial. The popular toman is equal to 10 rials, much lower in value compared to the toman that is planned to be circulated. Government authorities have repeatedly insisted that introducing a higher currency would only serve to simplify administrative and financial processes and it has nothing to do with efforts to contain inflation in the country. The rial rebounded against international currencies in early November and after the presidential elections in the United States.

