



Mayor Brown Lauds Role Of ICC, page 6



PayPal Launches Xoom Money Transfer Service, page 10



Top Volunteers Of Peel Honoured, page 13

Canada Adopts UN Migration Agreement

OTTAWA: Canada believes that effective international cooperation is essential in order to address common challenges as well as harness the benefits of global migration.

Canada has announced its signing of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), the first global framework on all aspects of international migration. Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, made the announcement at the

Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Marrakech, Morocco.

Among the countries that have pulled out of the agreement are Poland, Bulgaria, Italy, the Czech Republic and Austria, which currently holds the EU's rotating presidency. Non-EU countries Israel, the USA and Australia also rejected the pact.

"The GCM acknowledges the serious challenges that irregular migration poses, while empha-



Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General Louise Arbour at the Conference in Morocco. (AP Photo/Mosa'ab Elshamy)

sizing the positive contributions of migrants, and the benefits of regular pathways and well-managed migration systems. Migrant and refugee flows are a growing phenomenon around the world," a release by the ministry noted.

According to the United Nations, there are currently about 258 million people on the move. Of these, 68.5 million are forcibly displaced people - including refugees and asylum seekers - who are forced to flee their homes in search of new ones due to vio-

lence, discrimination and war.

The Compact sets out 23 objectives, each focusing on one aspect of migration. Participating states are not expected to implement each action, but to view them as examples of best practices on how to achieve the objectives. It emphasizes state sovereignty as a guiding principle and that it is a state's sovereign right to control its own borders.

Canada has been actively engaged in the development of the *Continued on page 2*

Congress Sweeps Out BJP In Three States

Results Seen As Big Blow To PM Modi; TRS Keeps Telangana



Congress party supporters hold a cut-out of party President Rahul Gandhi and celebrate in New Delhi on Tuesday. . (AP Photo)

NEW DELHI: In a severe jolt to the BJP in the Hindi heartland in the "semi-finals" ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the Congress on Tuesday knocked the saffron party out of power in Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

However, in Telangana, the ruling Telangana Rashtriya Samithi (TRS)'s gamble of going for early elections paid off with the party scoring a landslide 4/5th win getting 87 seats out of 119 at stake, thrashing the Congress-led People's Front. The Congress also lost its last bastion in the Northeast when it was defeated convincingly by the Mizo National Front (MNF) ending the Congress' hold over power for

the last 10 years.

Kamal Nath was on Thursday chosen as the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, heralding Congress rule in the state after 15 years.

Kamal Nath, who flew in here late in the evening, was formally chosen leader of the state Congress legislature party after party President Rahul Gandhi decided on his name over the other aspirant Jyotiraditya Scindia, party observer A.K. Antony said.

In Rajasthan, veteran Congress leader Ashok Gehlot emerged as Congress President Rahul Gandhi's pick as the Chief Minister in Rajasthan, with state Congress President Sachin Pilot apparently giving up after putting up a spir-

ited claim for the post.

The picture became clear in the evening with Pilot, who stayed put in Delhi, appealing to party workers to maintain peace and saying that he would "welcome" any decision that will be taken by the party.

Suffering his worst defeat since coming to power in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted late in the night that he accepted the verdict with humility and would work with greater vigour for the people.

The highlight of the counting day was the ding-dong battle between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress in Madhya Pradesh where leads al *Continued on page 4*

Action Urged On Toronto Police Race Profiling, Shootings

TORONTO: Black people living in Toronto are far more likely to be injured or killed in interactions with city police, Ontario's Human Rights Commission said Monday as it called on the force to deal with what it described as a serious problem.

The findings were contained in an interim report on the commission's probe into racial profiling and discrimination by the Toronto Police Service.

After analyzing numbers from the force as well as an agency that investigates police complaints, Chief Commissioner Renu Mandhane said the data - including a finding that black people were nearly 20 times more likely to die in a police shooting than their white counterparts - should stand as proof that the force needs to take urgent action.

"The Ontario Human Rights Commission's findings ... are disturbing and they demand an explanation," Mandhane said at a news conference outlining the investigation's initial findings. "At this interim stage, we are calling on the Toronto police to acknowledge the commission's very serious human rights concerns."

Much of the data in the report was derived from cases probed by Ontario's Special Investigations Unit, an agency that looks into incidents involving police in which someone is killed, injured or accused of sexual assault.

An examination of SIU cases involving Toronto police officers between Jan. 1, 2013 and June 30, 2017 suggested black people's interactions with city police were disproportionate to their representation in the population.



Renu Mandhane

The report found that although black residents comprised 8.8 per cent of Toronto's total population, they accounted for 25 per cent of SIU investigations during the time period studied.

Black complainants were involved in 28 per cent of all use-of-force investigations, with their representation trending sharply *Continued on page 2*

Sikh Groups Upset Over 'Extremism' Tag In Report

OTTAWA: Several Sikh organizations in Canada are said to be furious with the federal government for listing 'Sikh extremism' in 2018 Public Report on the Terrorism Threat to Canada.

They are demanding that the federal government provide evidence to support the claim.

In the Section on 'The Current Terrorist Threat to Canada' Ottawa has listed:

- Sunni Islamist Extremism
- Right-Wing Extremism
- Sikh (Khalistani) Extremism
- Shia Extremism
- Extremist Travellers.

Under the sub-heading: Sikh (Khalistani) Extremism, the report reads:

"Some individuals in Canada continue to support Sikh (Khalistani) extremist ideologies and movements. This political movement aims to create an independent homeland for Sikhs called Khalistan, in India.

"Violent activities in support of an independent Sikh homeland have fallen since their height during the 1982-1993 period when individuals and groups conducted numerous terrorist attacks. The 1985 Air India bombing by

Khalistani terrorists, which killed 331 people, remains the deadliest terrorist plot ever launched in Canada.

"While attacks around the world in support of this movement have declined, support for the extreme ideologies of such groups remains.

"For example, in Canada, two key Sikh organizations, Babbar Khalsa International and the International Sikh Youth Federation, have been identified as being associated with terrorism and remain listed terrorist entities under the Criminal Code.

A statement from the Ontario Khalsa Darbar, one of the largest gurdwaras in Canada, based in Mississauga, said "Rather than defending the reputation of Canadian Sikhs and denying these baseless allegations, it appears that the Canadian government is content to capitulate to Indian demands to crack down on the Sikh activists."

Reacting to the report, The World Sikh Organization of Canada President Mukhbir Singh said WSO President Mukhbir Singh said today, "it is deeply *Continued on page 3*

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