

# Indian Held By Pakistan As Spy For Six Years Returns

# Bangladesh Marks Victory Day



Bangladesh's Jatiya Oikya Front supporters display pictures of former president Ziaur Rahman and former prime minister Khaleda Zia as they march in a rally to mark the Victory Day in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Sunday, Dec. 16, 2018. The Victory Day celebrated on December 16 marks the anniversary of Bangladesh's victory in the India-aided war against Pakistan. (AP Photo)

ATTARI/WAGAH: Hamid Nehal Ansari, the Mumbai man who was released from a Pakistani jail after six years for alleged espionage charges, crossed over to the Indian side at the Attari-Wagah border in Punjab on Tuesday.

A weary looking bespectacled Ansari in a jacket, muffler and a pashtun cap, was welcomed by his parents, Nehal and Fauzia and a large contingent of activists and officials. Stepping on to the Indian side, the 33-year-old along with his family knelt down and touched the soil of his motherland with their foreheads. As Ansari, stood up, he first hugged his mother and then embraced his father in an emotional reunion. The three were then whisked away by

the authorities.

Pakistan had alleged that Ansari, an engineer, was an "Indian spy" who illegally entered the country. For the family, it was an ordeal since November 2012 when he left the country for Kabul for employment and then was reported "missing". He reportedly became friendly with a Pakistan girl on social media and reached Kohat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to save her from a forced marriage.

On November 12, 2012, Ansari crossed over from Afghanistan border in Jalalabad to Peshawar in Pakistan where he was nabbed by Pakistan intelligence. Later, a military court sentenced him to three years in jail, a term that he completed on December 15.

## Military Satellite Launched

SRIHARIKOTA: Rounding off the year 2018, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Wednesday successfully launched a military communication satellite GSAT-7A for the Indian Air Force.

At 4.10 p.m. the GSLV-F11 rocket ascended into the sky from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre with a long fiery orange flame at its tail.

Slightly over 19 minutes into its flight, the Indian rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch

Vehicle-F11 (GSLV-F11) rocket slung the satellite in a geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO).

The GSAT-7A will be pushed up further to its final geostationary orbit firing its onboard motors in the days to come.

The GSAT-7A is the heaviest communication satellite to be lifted by a GSLV Mk II rocket.

The 2,250 kg GSAT-7A is the 35th communication satellite built by ISRO. The satellite will beef up the communication capabilities of the IAF

## Where Is My Uighur Wife?



Pakistani national Mir Aman speaks to The Associated Press with his daughters Shahnaz, right, and Shakeela, in Islamabad, Pakistan. Scores of Pakistani men, like Aman, whose Muslim Uighur wives have disappeared into internment camps in China feel helpless, fighting a wall of silence as they struggle to reunite their families. Political and economic factors, including concerns about losing out on vast Chinese investments, have kept Muslim countries like Pakistan quiet about the plight of their fellow Muslims, being weaned off their faith in so-called re-education camps. (AP Photo/B.K. Bangash)

## Indian Passports Go Missing

NEW DELHI: Passports of 23 Indians who had applied for Pakistan visa have reportedly gone missing from Pakistan High Commission. They had applied for Pakistani visa for a religious visit, through an agent.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) received reports of missing passports of 23 Indians has now revoked all missing passports. It has also tak-

en up the issue with the Pakistan High Commission.

Several passport holders have filed an FIR with the police. Pakistan issued visas to over 3,800 Indian Sikh pilgrims to participate in the 549th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak from November 21 to 30. Pakistan has denied any involvement and blamed a Delhi-based travel agent for the missing passports.

## India, Maldives To Deepen Security Cooperation In The Indian Ocean

NEW DELHI: India and the Maldives on Monday agreed to deepen cooperation to maintain peace and security in the Indian Ocean region as New Delhi extended lines of credit worth \$1.4 billion to the archipelago nation following delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih here.

The two sides also signed four agreements, including on cultural cooperation, IT and electronics cooperation and on improving the ecosystem for agribusiness.

"President Solih and I agree that to maintain peace and security in the Indian Ocean region, we need to deepen our cooperation," Modi said while jointly addressing the media with Solih.

"Both India and the Maldives share equal interest and stake in the development and stability of our region," he said.

Stating that the security interests of the two countries are related to each other, Modi said that there is also unanimity on

the sustainability of this region and to be conscious of each other's interests and concerns. "We will not allow the use of our countries to harm each other," he said.

"I want to work together with President Solih for the bright future of our region, and utilise all possibilities in the relationship between India and Maldives."

According to a joint statement issued following the talks, both leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation to enhance maritime security in the Indian Ocean region through coordinated patrolling and aerial surveillance, exchange of information and capacity building.

"The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment and support for increased cooperation in combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations both within the region and elsewhere," it stated. The Prime Minister hailed Maldives' decision to re-join the Commonwealth and welcomed the country as the newest member of the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

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## Yameen Quizzed Over Accounts

MALE: Police in the Maldives said they questioned the country's defeated former strongman president over complaints of alleged illegal financial transactions on Saturday, a day after they froze bank accounts with millions of dollars.

Police said they found transactions of big sums of money through accounts opened by Yameen Abdul Gayoom over five years of his presidency. They said accounts with nearly \$6.5 million in both U.S. dollars and Maldivian currency had been frozen pending further investigations.

Yameen said police questioned him over cash received ahead of the September presidential election and complaints that \$1 million linked to a financial scam allegedly were found in his account. He said the \$1 million allegedly linked to a \$79 million fraud has already been investigated by the police.