



PM Modi reaching Sri Lanka today to express solidarity with victims of Easter Sunday attacks

Agency New Delhi June 9,
Prime Minister Narendra Modi is reaching Sri Lanka today to express solidarity with the victims of Easter Sunday attacks and reaffirm India's "Neighbourhood First" policy. He will become the first head of government to visit the country after the Easter attacks which killed 258 people

including 45 foreigners. Unity in efforts for eradicating terrorism, maritime security in the Indian ocean region and cooperation in economic development are some of key areas of bilateral discussion to be held when PM Modi has an official one to one meeting with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The latter is scheduled to receive and see off PM Modi at the airport, signifying the close ties between the two neighbors and importance attached by Sri Lanka to this visit. Mr Modi will receive a ceremonial reception followed by lunch where all Cabinet ministers and provincial governors will be present. Leader of opposition Mahinda Rajapaksa and Tamil leader R A Sampanthan will call on the

Prime Minister during his stay. Mr Modi will also meet and greet Indian community staying in Sri Lanka before departing in the afternoon. Security is tight in capital Colombo and special traffic plan are in place to ensure ease of movement. Several landmarks in the city have been decorated with national flags of both countries and billboards to welcome PM Modi.

New Delhi and Male to intensify economic and cultural relations

Agency New Delhi June 9,
India and Maldives have agreed to further enhance close cooperation between the two countries and decided to intensify economic and cultural relations. The two countries reviewed an array of bilateral relations during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the Maldives yesterday. Prime Minister Modi and Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih laid emphasis on the regional cooperation for development. The two leaders agreed on the need to harness the advantages of regional and sub-regional transport and

connectivity, renewable energy, education, environment and sustainable development for mutual advantage. Briefing media, Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale informed that Prime Minister Modi and President Solih reaffirmed their unequivocal and uncompromising position against terrorism in all its forms both within the region and elsewhere. He said India and Maldives agreed on the importance of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean Region, and to strengthen coordination in enhancing maritime security in the region. Earlier addressing Majlis, Maldives Parliament, Mr Modi called for a global meeting to

eliminate terrorism and warned against state sponsored terror activities. The Prime Minister stressed upon the need for working together to combat climate change issues and also for maintaining peace and calm in the Indian Ocean region. Mr Modi said both the nations have agreed upon a ferry service between Kochi and Male. After delegation level talks, India and Maldives signed five Memoranda of Understanding and a technical Agreement. The Prime Minister held a series of meeting with Maldivian leaders during the visit. Mr Modi has been conferred upon the prestigious Order of Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddeen during the visit.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Maldives held significance in many ways. During his first overseas visit after assuming office for the second term, Mr Modi could emphasize India's concerns by mentioning three major global challenges while addressing Majlis, Maldives Parliament. Though he raised India's strong voice against Terrorism on many a forum earlier, his specific remarks about state sponsored terrorism and call for concerted global action on the lines of Paris Climate Change Agreement sends clear signal for a need for an urgent global action against terrorism in all forms. During the visit, India reaffirms its Neighbourhood first policy while Maldives strongly conveyed its India first policy.

Sport News

Pakistan cricketers wanted to 'celebrate differently' after India's Army cap move, PM Imran Khan rejects - Reports



Agency New Delhi June 9,
Amid the ongoing controversy over MS Dhoni sporting an Army insignia during the ongoing World Cup, it has come to fore that the Pakistan team wanted to celebrate India's wickets 'differently' when the two teams meet in an ICC World Cup 2019 match at Manchester on June 16. According to reports, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan rejected the request and advised the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) to tell the cricketers to only stick to cricket during the India-Pakistan World Cup match. "Prime Minister Khan has clearly conveyed to the players that they must enjoy the game and not indulge in overt show of political diplomacy or aggression. He is clear that sport should not blend with politics, hence there will not be anything like what the Indian cricket team did recently," A senior official in the Pakistan

establishment was quoted as saying by Mumbai Mirror. Sarfaraz's men apparently wanted to celebrate 'differently' in retaliation to the Men in Blue wearing army caps during an ODI against Australia in March. It should be remembered that after the Pulwama terrorist attack in which 40 CRPF jawans had lost their lives, the Men in Blue had sported camouflage caps in Ranchi. The entire team, along with Dhoni, was seen sporting camouflage caps in their bid to pay tribute to the security personnel who lost their lives in the terror attack on February 14. Confirming the development, a senior Pakistan journalist said PCB turned the cricketers' request. "Reports state that the PCB has told its players to stick to cricket and turned down a request from Sarfaraz Ahmed and his team to celebrate India's wickets 'differently' in

retaliation to Kohli and Co. wearing army caps during an ODI against Australia in March," tweeted Sadiq. He also said that PCB chairman Ehsan Mani, while turning down the request, said, "We will not resort to what the other party has done. There could be sporadic celebrations in case of a hundred, like Misbah-ul-Haq's push-ups during the Lord's Test in 2016 which was a tribute to the army, but nothing different at the fall of a wicket." Meanwhile, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has requested the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to get the "Balidaan Badge" removed from Dhoni's gloves which he was seen sporting during India's World Cup opener against South Africa. Following this, the BCCI had requested the world sport governing body to allow Dhoni to sport the Army insignia.

Writer sues publisher for \$13.4 million after losing book deal over a tweet

Agency Washington June 9,
A writer who faced social media backlash for calling out a transit worker eating on a train sued her publisher Friday after it cancelled her book deal over the controversy. Lawyers for Natasha Tynes filed suit against publisher Rare Bird Lit, Inc. in Los Angeles County Superior Court, saying the company breached its contract and defamed the Maryland

author. She's seeking \$13.4 million in damages. In May, Tynes tweeted a picture of a female worker eating on a Washington Metro train with the message: "When you're on your morning commute & see @wmata employee in UNIFORM eating on the train I thought we were not allowed to eat on the train. This is unacceptable. Hope @wmata responds." When the D.C.-area agency's Twitter account reached out for

more information, Tynes replied with the time, the train and the direction it was travelling. But scores of Twitter users criticized her for shaming the black worker, despite being a minority writer. Tynes is Jordanian American. A transit worker union official said at the time that woman had been taking a break while going from one job to another. The union official also noted that Metro Transit police no longer enforce the ban on eating and

drinking on trains. Tynes later apologized, deleted the tweet and took down her personal website. But the publishing house, which didn't respond to an email seeking comment Saturday, swiftly condemned her comments and said it was cancelling her book deal. Tynes "did something truly horrible today in tweeting a picture of a metro worker eating her breakfast on the train this morning and drawing attention to her employer," Rare Birds said in a statement. "Black women face a constant barrage of this kind of inappropriate behavior directed toward them and a constant policing of their bodies."

In the lawsuit, Tynes' lawyers say the company's inflammatory statements forced their client to temporarily flee back to Jordan with her family because they endured weeks of online harassment, including death threats and racial slurs. The incident also caused Tynes "extreme emotional distress" and prompted her hospitalization for chest pains, severe anxiety and suicidal thoughts, according to the lawsuit.

French Open: Ashleigh Barty clinches her first Grand Slam singles title



Agency New Delhi June 9,
In French Open Tennis, Australian Ashleigh Barty won her first Grand Slam singles title after easing past Czech teenager Marketa Vondrousova in straight sets in the women's final. In men's singles top seed Novak Djokovic saw his 26-match winning streak in Grand Slams snapped at the hands of fourth-seeded Dominic Thiem in full sets in semifinals yesterday.

In the women's final, No. 8 seed Barty outclassed Vondrousova 6-1, 6-3 in one hour and 10 minutes. In men's singles, Djokovic, lost to Thiem 2-6, 6-3, 5-7, 7-5, 5-7 in a marathon semifinal marred by wind and rain. Thiem will now seek revenge on Nadal after losing last year's summit clash to the ace Spaniard in straight sets. Nadal on Friday beat Swiss legend Roger Federer 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 at the Philippe-Chatrier Court in the 39th meeting

between the two stalwarts. In the men's doubles final, German pair of Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies got past home favorites Jeremy Chardy and Fabrice Martin 6-2, 7-6 (3). The German pair of Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies has become only the second team in the Open era to win the men's doubles title at the French Open on its Roland Garros debut. Krawietz and Mies beat French duo Jeremy Chardy and Fabrice Martin 6-2, 7-6 (3).

V Prez expresses concern over political discourse reaching new low

Agency New Delhi June 9,
Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has expressed concern over political discourse reaching a new low and called for reversing the trend. Addressing a function in Hyderabad yesterday, Mr Naidu lamented over frequent disruptions in Parliament and state legislatures. He said that reducing the legitimate forums to disruptive platforms was a

clear negation of the vision of the Constitutional makers. Mr Naidu said, it is apathy towards the hopes and aspirations of the people and it is a betrayal of the people's faith in these pillars of democracy. The Vice President said that the nation must step up its relentless crusade against hunger, poverty, illiteracy and disease and translate the economic growth into happiness for the masses through good health,

education, employment, improved infrastructure and amenities. Emphasizing on the need to further accelerate reforms Mr. Naidu said that the whole world was looking towards India for investments and stressed that it was the time to accelerate the reforms initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India the third largest economy in the coming years.

Assam Rifles Conducts Security Meet

IGAR (South) Imphal June 9,
Keithelmanbi Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of IGAR (South) conducted a security meet at Lilong Company Operating Base (COB). The security forum was attended by the Meira Paibis, Ward Councilors along with representatives of local youth clubs. During the meet various aspects concerning security in the area were discussed and the locals were sensitized on current



situation existing in the area of responsibility. An interaction was carried out on necessary measures to be undertaken for

maintaining a strict vigil against illicit activities in the area. In addition to the security issues, future action plan in respect of civic action projects like medical camps, recruitment in Assam Rifles and Army and career counseling for youth were also discussed during the meet. The locals expressed their gratitude and appreciated the efforts of Assam Rifles for conduct of such security meetings and ensuring peace in the area and assured their commitment and assistance in maintaining the same. The security meet concluded with tea and refreshments for all the attendees.

ICC World Cup: India to take on Australia at Oval

Agency New Delhi June 9,
In the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, today, India will take on Australia at the Oval at 3 in the afternoon. All India Radio will broadcast ball-by-ball bilingual commentary alternately in Hindi and English from 2:30

pm onwards. This can be listened on Rajdhani and FM Rainbow Network and DTH (Hindi). England beat Bangladesh by 106 runs in Cardiff last night. Earlier Bangladesh won the toss and elected to field. England made 386 for the loss of six wickets. While Jason Roy scored a brilliant

153 off 121 balls, Jos Buttler made 64. In another match, New Zealand defeated Afghanistan by seven wickets at Taunton. New Zealand chase down the target of 173 runs in 32.1 overs. Captain Kane Williamson led the way with an unbeaten 79 from 99 balls.