

Wide Angle



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Is She Malala?

It was a strange coincidence.

I was reading the news that Malala Yousafzai got an admission into Oxford. And at the time of my reading it, I was actually travelling from London to Oxford.

It was on August 18. And before starting my journey, I had picked up 'Metro', which is a freely available newspaper in London's many public places.

Metro reported that Malala had earlier been given a conditional offer by Oxford; and that she has now aced in her A-Level exams, to qualify.

Today, my thoughts went back to that afternoon of August for two reasons.

Firstly, because I just read news about Malala again. And, this time, the news is that she is being angrily targeted, 'for wearing jeans' to her college.

Secondly, and more importantly, it is also because I came across an article on 'Newsweek' website (dated Thursday, 19 October 2017) titled: "Taliban in Pakistan Attacks Malala in Latest Issue of Women's Magazine"; a tirade against Malala's education itself.

Let us look at the 'dress' problem first.

What has bothered many people is that this young woman who began attending classes, at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford is not dressing up to their expectations.

An unverified picture of her - in skinny jeans and high-heeled boots - has been going viral on social media, with people making derogatory comments and vicious attacks.

Some have been so brutal in their criticism that they were even comparing her to some porn star.

According to UK's Daily Mail, one venomous message posted on Twitter and re-published in the Pakistani media said: 'That was the reason the bullet directly targeted her head long time ago.' And another said: 'Look at hypocrite Malala wearing pants! Is she even a Muslim?'

Oh, how quick we are to judge and condemn, and how low we are ready to stoop, in order to moralise on matters which don't concern us!

With our 'holier than thou' attitude, we are ready to lambast anyone who holds views contrary to our own.

If my opinion of a young woman's 'appropriate dress' is different from your opinion, just remember, I am always right, in all my opinions.

If I believe that your dress is western, and if I believe that, by donning it, you are betraying your eastern religion, culture, and country, just remember, I am always right, in all my beliefs.

This overshadows all other facts.

How does it matter if Malala was barely 13 when she boldly spoke up for girl's education? How does it matter that she was barely 14 when she was inhumanly shot at, by the Taliban?

She was 17 when she won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize. She is now 20, as she begins her classes at Oxford.

So, can we just stop? And let that young woman live the way she wants to live? And dress the way she wants to dress?

No. We have to sit on our magisterial thrones pointing at her dress. And pointing her to a place where she must remain, if she must fit the mould we have made in our minds, for her!

The Newsweek article states that Taliban's English-language magazine entitled "Sunnat-e-Khaura", or the "Way of Khaura", attacks Malala with fierce words saying: "The one you call education is not right education; because you got it from kuffar"!

Maybe, it is. But, let us wish her success in the education she chose. Let us wish her strength to ignore vicious comments. And to keep on moving.

(The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or position of this newspaper.)

Tillerson to travel to Saudi, Qatar, South Asia

Washington

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will travel to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Pakistan, India and Geneva from October 20-27, the State Department announced yesterday.

State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said that in Riyadh, Tillerson would take part in the inaugural Coordination Council meeting between the governments of Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Tillerson will also meet with various Saudi leaders "to discuss the conflict in Yemen, the ongoing Gulf dispute, Iran, and a number of other important regional and bilateral issues." The US top diplomat will then travel to Doha, where he will meet with Qatari leaders and US military officials "to discuss joint counterterrorism efforts, the ongoing Gulf dispute, and other regional and bilateral issues, including Iran and Iraq." Tillerson will then make his "inaugural visit to South Asia as Secretary of State, reaffirming the Administration's comprehensive strategy toward the region," Nauert affirmed.

She indicated that in



Rex Tillerson

Islamabad, Tillerson would meet with senior Pakistani leaders "to discuss our continued strong bilateral cooperation, Pakistan's critical role in the success of our South Asia strategy, and the expanding economic ties between our two countries." In

New Delhi, Tillerson will meet with senior Indian leaders "to discuss further strengthening our strategic partnership and collaboration on security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," she noted.

Finally, in Geneva, Tillerson will meet with the office of

the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Organization for Migration, and the International Committee of the Red Cross "to discuss a number of the current global humanitarian crises." (KUNA)

Missing Pets



FENDI - Male Russian Blue, 4 yrs, spayed, microchipped, escaped over garden wall, wearing collar w/o name, Tubli (near Al Anwar shop), 5/11/16, BD400 REWARD. **39625885/33956008/ 36673636**



WIBER - Male Shih Tzu, age unknown, not wearing collar or ID tag, cleaning men reported he was seen near a villa - went around asking neighbors, believed he was STOLEN, Hamad Town (near Roundabout 5), 28/6/17. **33366097**



LUKAS - Male Persian, 7 mos, neutered, not wearing collar or ID, unsure how disappeared, Saar (near primary girls school/Collage University), 18/4/17. **33772520**



TINKER BELL - Female Shitzu mix, 3 yrs, spayed, black w white mark on chest/chin, wearing patterned collar, followed someone out, suspect STOLEN, behind St Christophers Junior School (by Twin Palms Riding School), 12/1/17. **39975151**



BLUE - Male Red Point Siamese, 1 yr, not wearing collar or ID, gate left open, may have been STOLEN, Saar (Almarkh 35 Ave/Cinema Saar), 19/1/17, BD50 REWARD, **35637527 or 35016599**



TOTO - Male Shitzu, 8 yrs, neutered, pet sitter walking three dogs off lead and Toto ran away, barks at men and other dogs, not wearing collar or ID, Saar (close to Geant Easy). 21/4/17, REWARD BD100 **33366234/35592368/34356018**