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## Controversial Muslim televangelist Zakir Naik banned from Toronto conference

KATHRYN BLAZE CARLSON | June 22, 2010 7:00 AM ET  
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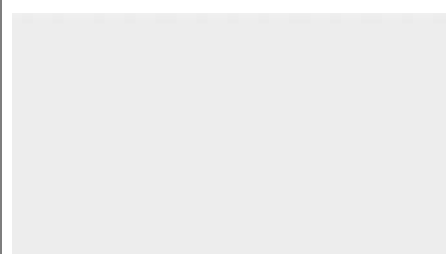
Shane Doan, who turns 36 in October, is a legitimate power forward who scored 22 goals and 50 points last season as captain of the Phoenix Coyotes. Fred Greenslade/Reuters

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An Indian Muslim televangelist who was banned from Britain last week for “unacceptable behaviour” will not be allowed into Canada to speak at an upcoming conference in Toronto, sources familiar with the situation have told the *National Post*.



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Dear Prudence: Emily Yoffe answers readers' burning questions. This week's batch includes

Dr. Zakir Naik, who has said “every Muslim should be a terrorist” and that Jews are “our staunchest enemy,” was to headline next month’s Journey of Faith Conference — which is billed as one of North America’s largest Islamic conferences and is expected to attract upward of 10,000 people.

Dr. Naik, the Mumbai-based founder of Peace TV and a widely respected lecturer in India, has a laundry list of views that could have led to his exclusion from the U.K. and Canada, both of which require an Indian citizen to obtain a visitor visa.

The 44-year-old medical doctor recommends capital punishment for homosexuals and the death penalty for those who abandon Islam as their faith.

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He has said that a man is within his right to beat his wife “lightly,” though in a July 2009 YouTube video he cautioned against hitting her on the face or leaving a mark.

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The “[Keep Zakir Naik Out of Canada](#)” Facebook group, which was launched over the weekend, also points out his view that western women make themselves “more susceptible to rape” by wearing revealing clothing.

Among the chief reasons, British Home Secretary Theresa May decided to quash Dr. Naik’s U.K. speaking tour later this month, however, were comments he made in a widely circulated 2007 video.



young parents with a very active sex life and extremely late thank you notes

## How Rory McIlroy is hoping Niall Horan of One Direction can help him win the Masters



There is a palpable sense that McIlroy, as he chases the final quarter of a career grand slam, is desperate not to become the headline draw here

## Boy, 12, has near perfect bracket in NCAA basketball pool, but too young to claim \$20,000 prize trip to Maui



'I'm irritated,' Sam Holtz of Chicago told ESPN. 'Yes, I'm still proud of my accomplishment, but I'm not happy with the decision'

## 'Baron of Botox' dies soon after 'devastating' caricature of him by Martin Short



Dr. Fredric Brandt was found dead at his home in on Sunday night and a spokesperson for the Miami Police Department confirmed that he apparently committed suicide

## There may be 40-billion Earth-like planets. Why hasn't SETI heard from them?



Scott Van Wynsberghe: Of course, UFO buffs would argue that aliens have been showing themselves all along, but SETI people tend to scorn that

## Seven reasons to fear for humanity, Tuesday edition, including this: The China Tourist Syndrome



Kelly McParland: Greece discovers it's the Germans who owe THEM money for Second World War reparations. Now there's a coincidence

## You'd be foolish to write off Tiger Woods at the Masters, no matter how bad he's played this year



Tiger Woods spoke, and you couldn't not listen. He was there, and you couldn't not look

## Dustin Johnson playing well, Adam Scott knows what it takes: 10 players who could win the Masters

Cam Cole: This list could easily be numbered in reverse order, but here

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"If [Osama bin Laden] is fighting the enemies of Islam, I am for him ... If he is terrorizing a terrorist, if he is terrorizing America the terrorist, the biggest terrorist, I am with him," said Dr. Naik, who has delivered hundreds of talks in India, Canada, the U.S. and the Middle East. "Every Muslim should be a terrorist."

Tarek Fatah, founder of the Muslim Canadian Congress, said he and the congress have been informed that Dr. Naik will be "stopped at the airport," and sources familiar with the situation confirmed Dr. Naik does not have a visa to enter Canada.

"We are very happy that government agencies, having been made aware of his statements, have taken this decision," Mr. Fatah said, adding that he sent a mass email to federal MPs last week, warning them of Dr. Naik's views. "We certainly don't want hate-mongers to come here."

"To me, the rules as to who can come into this country were written for this kind of person," echoed Bernie Farber, CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress. "The comments are highly inflammatory, and highly provocative. When you put them together in one cauldron, you have a stew of hatred."

Dr. Naik, president of the Islamic Research Foundation in Mumbai, was reached via email on Monday but would not comment on his pending visit to Toronto. In fact, Dr. Naik may not yet know that he is unwelcome in Canada, sources said.

In his email to the *National Post*, Dr. Naik pointed to a June 20 statement regarding the "overzealous and islamophobic exclusion order" issued by the U.K. The statement seeks to clarify his comments, which the foundation argues were "taken out of context."

The Journey of Faith Conference is chaired by Imam Saed Rageah, whose Toronto mosque, the Abu Huraira Centre, made headlines last fall after a group of young worshippers vanished and were feared to have joined a Somali militant group. Imam Ragaeh declined an interview request yesterday, but passed along a web video via email of Dr. Naik defending his comments and promising to challenge the U.K. ban.



are 10 players who ought to be coming down the stretch with a chance to win

## Blue Jays' R.A. Dickey feeling 'confident' after making changes to avoid struggles of Aprils past



As the knuckleballer reviewed his first two seasons as a Blue Jay, two related factors nagged at him. His Aprils were sluggish. And he walked too many batters

## Give us our volume knobs back! Seven modern car features that secretly drive us crazy



Was there something wrong with volume knobs and manual parking brakes that required them to be made more complicated?

## Artist behind botched Lucille Ball statue in her hometown apologizes for 'my most unsettling sculpture'



The sculptor didn't quite capture the comedian's essence, with her intense glare and toothy grimace making her look more like a serial killer

## The top two best-selling books on Amazon right now are colouring books for adults. Seriously



Decoding the peculiar rise of children's books designed for adult readers, such as Johanna Basford's 'Secret Garden' and 'Enchanted Forest'

## Kobo announces a new e-reader aimed at printed book lovers, and yes, there are plenty of them left



Is the market saturated for e-readers saturated, or will Kobo's seven day challenge actually convert the print-loving masses?

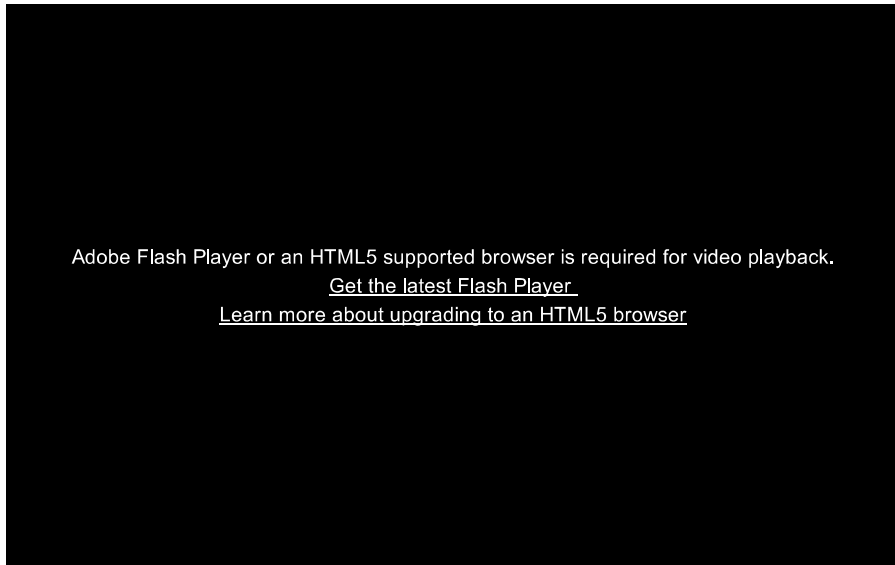
## The truth behind 'haunted' houses? Toxic moulds can cause severe hallucinations, researchers say



Think your house is haunted? You may just have a mould problem. That's what a group of researchers believe could be the cause of many spectral sightings

## Game of Thrones returns, John Oliver goes to Russia and Carl's Jr. comes to Canada: The week in Snap Judgments

Welcome back to Snap Judgments, a weekly



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According to the [Journey of Faith](#) event website, the “hope” of the July 2-4 conference at the downtown Metro Toronto Convention Centre is for Muslims to “renew their forgotten relationship” with the Quran. As of last night, the site still listed Dr. Naik as a featured speaker.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada declined to comment on the case yesterday, citing the Privacy Act.

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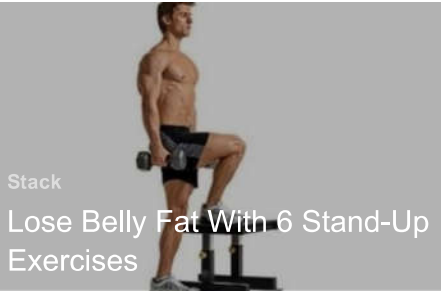


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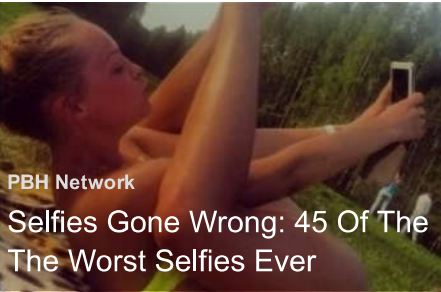
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