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PUBLISHERS OF FINE WRITING

Aleph is delighted to announce the launch of THE TALIBAN CRICKET CLUB by Timeri N. Murari on 2nd May at The Park, Chennai. Eminent journalist N. Ram will be in conversation with the author.

'A lovely, moving tale of contemporary Kabul, about love, courage, passion, tyranny and cricket. Murari has an uncommon tale to tell, and does so with imagination and empathy.'—Shashi Tharoor

'A moving, splendidly realized story of courage and grit in modern-day Kabul. I was won over by Murari's uplifting and vastly entertaining sporting tale, which reaffirms the power of friendship, fellowship and love in the face of all forms of tyranny.'—Vikas Swarup, author of Slumdog Millionaire

This is the story of Rukhsana, a savvy Afghan journalist, and someone accustomed to independence. But with the arrival of Taliban her freedoms have become severely curtailed. Unsurprisingly, she's desperate to flee Kabul, but is held back by an ailing mother and younger brother. Then, one day she's called to the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice to meet its head, the notorious Zorak Wahidi. He tells her that the winning team of the cricket match he's organizing will be sent to Pakistan for training to prepare for an international cricket match.

On the face of it, though, the idea appears ridiculous: hardly anyone in Afghanistan understands cricket, and Taliban will never embrace a game rooted in civility, fairness and equality. Only Rukhsana knows how to play cricket through her time in Delhi. The tournament offers hope for an escape for herself and her cousins. So Rukhsana starts to work on a daring plan that might just give them all the escape route they so desperately crave.

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Timeri N. Murari is an award-winning writer, filmmaker and playwright. *Time* magazine chose his film, *The Square Circle*, as one of its top ten films of 1997. His works include the bestselling novel *Taj*, which has been translated into 21 languages. *The Taliban Cricket Club*, which is based on a real-life incident, will be published around the world this year. He lives with his wife in his ancestral home in Chennai.

For more information about the book and regarding author interviews, please contact:
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