

Paigaam

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Bringing awareness of the real Palestine

Recent bombardment by land and air by Israel on the civilian population of Gaza continues to horrify the public. But atrocities on the people of Palestine never end on a ceasefire. An evening event held at the Al-Hikmah centre focussed on showing the wider difficulties and apartheid faced by Palestinians after the cameras have been switched off.

Chair of IMWS, Mohamed Mulla, opened the evening, which saw representatives from all three

Abrahamic faiths, address a full house at the centre.

Molana Hashim Sacha, chair of Rabetah Ulema Batley, delivered a presentation outlining the geography of Palestine and its importance within Islam.

Director of the Middle East Monitor, Dawood Abdullah, in a passionate speech raised the many concerns and questions humanity has been asking. Dr Abdullah asked when hospitals, schools and children playing on the beach are targets "where is justice and accountability?"

Adding under international law, Palestinians should be protected as they are under occupation, yet the US and UK are providing arms to the occupier, Israel.

He added, "Israel has decided how many calories the Palestinian people should be having everyday, that is how calculated and insidious they are being,

"Israel is a state that thinks and acts like it's above the law."

His talk hit home the feelings within people in the audience

from all backgrounds and faiths.

Rabbi Cohen, from Manchester, explained the difference between Judaism and Zionism, stressing "we are all shocked, horrified and sickened by what we have seen." He explained how for centuries Muslims, Christians and Jews have lived side by side in a region important to all three faiths.

He explained how Zionism is relatively new and does not reflect true Judaism, and how the Zionist view of an Israeli state contravenes their own belief.

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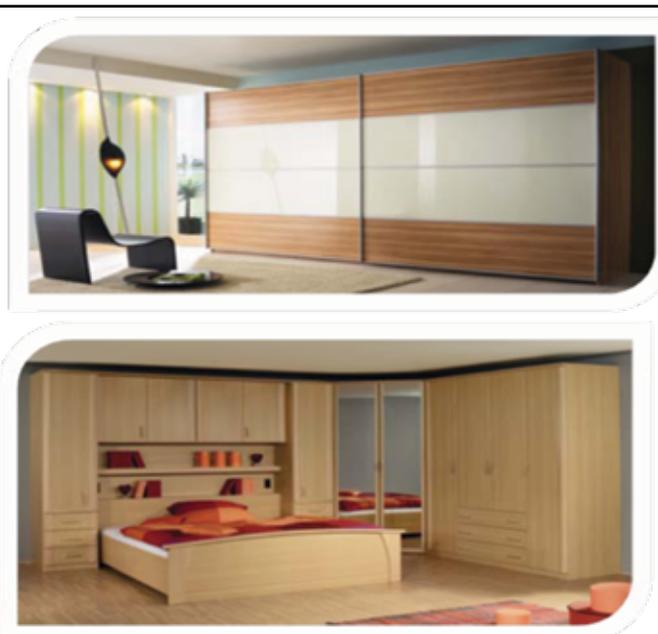


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Letter to the Editor

For the August Bank Holiday weekend, I was fortunate to go on the IMWS Retreat at Kingswood, Dearne Valley in Doncaster.

The event was professionally planned and the volunteers are a credit to themselves and the IMWS. I loved every minute!

Plenty of challenging activities (canoeing, leap of faith, problem solving, crate stack etc. BBQ etc. etc.) had been organised and challenging they were..... at one point we had a 'dangling' doctor!

Along with the volunteers, we had several young Aalims and Maulana Suleman Makda Sahib as Ameer led all the Namaz. Informative Islamic programmes including practical demonstrations and Q and A sessions were also a feature. This was very beneficial.

Where others failed to take up the offer, I guess I benefitted. I am sure the IMWS and the Youth Committee will carry on the fantastic work and people will help themselves, get involved and reap the benefits.

Please pass on my Duas and thanks to all at the IMWS, in particular, all the volunteers.

Wasalaam.

Imran Patel
Batley

Like most people in our community we are all appalled and disgusted at the carnage and destruction of Gaza in this auspicious month. The subjugation and humiliation of the Palestinian has continued for decades, often unabated and with tacit compliance of major nations of the world. Unfortunately I cannot truly express all my feelings in this short letter but I will say this:

We must all do everything in our power for this never to happen again. Lets use this occasion to ensure that we continue the fight for Palestinians all round the world and all become more pro-active and determine to make a change from now on. Our voices have to be heard, especially our young and students at universities. Lets use all our diplomatic channels to hold all politicians accountable and all our economic power to at least make a difference this time.

Their will be a lot of battles and setbacks ahead, but we must all be steadfast and ensure our message gets across to the wider community.

The anti-apartheid movement in South Africa struggled for years, but eventually they triumphed. Nelson Mandela famously said, "We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians."

The brave children and people of Palestinian deserve our support.

name & address supplied

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Unity the spectacular sequel

The Unity Men and Kids Eid fun day came back bigger and stronger in its second year with more crowd-pleasing attractions to continue offering a fun day with a twist.

This year's fun day, attended by over 1500 visitors, saw all the popular activities from 2013 lined up again including the laser quest, Rodeo Bull, Giant Slide and of course the bouncy castle, but the new inclusions took the event much further than before.

Fair ground rides, including a pony carousel and swings, became a focal point in the main car park at the Al-Hikmah Centre. Whilst the Laser Quest was joined behind Bayt Al Hikmah by the even more popular Zorb Ball

ramp.

The Zorb ball had been a talking point prior to the day and seeing it in action, as it rolled down the inflated ramp for the first time, it was clear to be a favourite.

As well as outdoor activities the day also had plenty of indoor games ranging from the traditional carrom board to fully interactive racing car simulators.

Stalls selling pizzas, ice cones and clothing gave the fun loving crowd more of a variety than the previous year.

Along with the activities IMWS ran their own barbeque with food, drinks and other materials kindly supplied by Northern Catering Supplies Limited. In the spirit of the community fun day,

the catering suppliers made their contribution a donation. IMWS would like to thank Northern Caterers for their generosity.

The Unity fun day was organised by the IMWS Youth sub-committee and chair Moosa Rawat thanked all who attended and helped and told Paigaam it was "a warm fun filled day which is always pleasing especially for the children and also gives mums a day off.

"A lasting memory of the day will remain of the beautiful nasheed recitation by little children from the Kholwadia family who spiritually enlightened the atmosphere.

"A big thank you to all who attended, please continue to support us as ultimately we do it for pleasing our creator and for you the whole community."



The fun day was launched in 2013 as an Eid celebration following Ramadhaan and aimed at men and children as a variation to the traditional women and children fun days. This year's event offered a host of activities with a something for everyone of all ages plan, and the youth committee hope to build on its continued success.

First IMWS carrom king crowned

The Al-Hikmah centre hosted the first ever IMWS carrom competition last month, with around 30 entrants.

The event which was held in an IMWS conference room attracted a strong crowd, as spectators saw highly skilled participants duke it out on the carrom board.

Despite the close competition, the 15 contestants vying for the crown of IMWS carrom champion were whittled down to just two as Muzaffar Pathan and Ebrahim Waza made the final.

The best-of-three final was a nail biting affair. In a see-saw match both Waza and Pathan fought gallantly with Waza taking the lead.

But Pathan fought back to make it all square to set up a nail-biting finale. The final game saw a drawn out battle between the two as neither man gave an inch to his opponent.

However after a protracted game lasting over 20 minutes Pathan completed a superb comeback to defeat his opponent, being crowned the IMWS carrom champion.

Shahed Mayet who oversaw the event said: "It was a very successful event.

"All the players were very skilful and showed great enthusiasm, they all wanted to win and they all showed great sportsmanship."

At the end of the competition held on 24 August, trophies were presented by Mohammed Mulla, Chair of IMWS and elected member Aziz Daji.

Mr Mulla stated a desire for a carrom competition to be held every year. "It's going to be an annual event now," he said.

Ebrahim G Karolia who co-ordinated the event said: "It went well, everybody enjoyed themselves."

A lot of participants are eager

to play again and were already asking when the next tournament would be held.

"People are interested [in carrom]. They were asking when we're going to hold the next event," said Mr Karolia.

The tournament featured five carrom boards which were lent by local people. Mr Karolia says, "A big thank you to those who lent us their carrom boards.

"The event was really well organised by the IMWS, so jazakallah to them and to Shahed who helped oversee proceedings,



also a big thank you to all who participated and came to watch the event."

Carrom is a strike and pocket game that retains a great deal of interest in south Asia.

IMWS Youth Retreat climbs great heights

August Bank Holiday Weekend saw the IMWS Youth Sub Committee's first Islamic Youth Retreat at Kingswood Activity Centre (Dearne Valley, Doncaster).

Around 50 people young and old accompanied by local Ulema (scholars) attended the weekend long recreation facility which is well known for educational and leisure. People from Batley and other areas such as Bolton and Manchester took part in activities including canoeing, archery, boulder climbing, the infamous leap of faith, Halal BBQ, crate stacking and Jacob's ladder.

The weekend was carried out with three major aims in mind, to engage young people in

group activities in an Islamic environment, create a link between young people and the Ulema and lastly to encourage people to start and carry on with their 5 daily Salaah. Lastly participants were shown a practical demonstration on how to perform Salaah.

Apart from being an activities weekend local Ulema were also present to do small informal talks on the importance of Salaah and respecting parents. A Q&A session allowed people to ask about aspects they were unsure off.

More than being just an activities weekend people were taught important team skills and problem solving skills. Participants were a credit to themselves by breaking the centres crate stack-

ing record of 21 crates to a new record of 23. Centre staff also commented on how well they behaved and how positive the young people were.

The retreat was organised by the IMWS Youth Sub-Committee and subsidised by IMWS.

IMWS is hoping to run future events like this so please keep a lookout in Paigaam, Radio IMWS and our social media sites. The IMWS Youth Sub-Committee meets once a month to plan activities, events such as the Retreat and other spiritual and recreational activities and events. Anyone interested please call IMWS on 01925 500555 or email the Youth Sub-Committee: youthclub@imws.org.uk.



Some of the feedback

Food

"Most of the food was nice, like the BBQ was good, but generally I thought the lunch at Kingswood was a bit dry and can be improved."

Volunteers

"I thought the volunteers were really nice people because if I had any problems I could always ask any of the volunteers for help. Also, I thought that the Ulema were excellent because they were down to earth people who I could ask any question about improving my life and pleasing the Almighty." "The Volunteers and Ulema were very helpful. They were always ready to help and answer any questions. The volunteers and Ulama created and made a fun learning environment."

Accommodation

"I thought the place was good overall. Although the drying room was useless, as it didn't dry my clothes properly."

Activities

"I thought the activities were brilliant as it help me build my confidence and my team skills. Also, I had lots of fun with competing against other people." "The activities were all fun, enjoying and challenging."

Value of Money

"It was worth the money but we should have stayed longer." "It was good value for money as

these activities are expensive to do."

What are your thoughts on IMWS as an organisation?

"I honestly think that in the past 2 or 3 years IMWS have improved as an organisation, by making a youth group so that they can bring our community together, by organising activities."

Any Other Comments

"The age range in this activity should have been a bit more broader. More of these kind of activities should happen throughout the year."

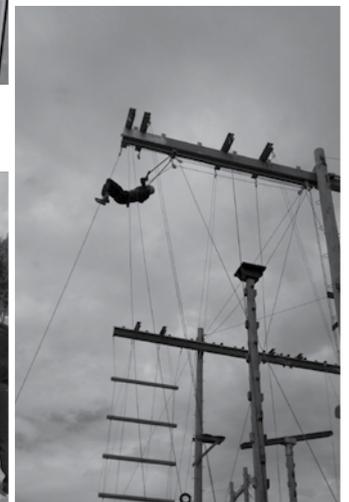
Would you recommend this to anyone?

"Yes, I would, as I had a great time." "Would you be interested in coming again?"

"Yes, I would because I would like to try all the other activities that Kingswood have."

"Was very pleasant to be with the youth workers from IMWS along side Moulana Suleman Makda Sab, Moulana Yunus Patel Sab, Moulana Shoaib Patel Sab and Ahmed Bhai Sufi. The team was well behaved and the lesson I learnt was to build a well establish link with IMWS, Ulemah-e-Kiraam, professionals and the youth of today. Together love, mercy and care was taken on board, Masha-Allah." *Moulana Muhammad Ali Mangera Sahib*

"Good experience and a very nice journey." *Moulana Suleman Makda Sahib*





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"Muslims and Jews have lived peacefully for hundreds of years, up until the Zionists came along and said, 'we're taking over because it says so in the Bible,' yet they don't even believe in the Bible. How ridiculous is the logic behind that?"

Said Rabbi Cohen.

Bishop Tony Robinson, Bishop of Pontefract, also condemned the slaughter in Gaza saying he was appalled by what was

happening and how the public at large had been "horrified by the pictures we've seen."

Local pensioner Ken Hodgson spent three months between January and April this year in Area C of the West Bank as part of a project by Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI).

He explained how EAPPI remain apolitical and do not take sides, neither being pro-Palestinian or pro-Israeli, but take only the side of human rights.

In a slide show presentation Mr Hodgson told the story of a number of cases where human rights abuses had been witnessed.

The rights of Palestinians on such basic matters as drinking water and the imposed restrictions by Israel shocked many listeners, and brought an awareness of how Palestinian farmers and people in general were being driven to destruction.

As he recalled stories of individuals having been targeted openly by the IDF and the illegal settlers, which amount to around half a million now, the long term suffering became more visible.

"Demolitions of houses are cyclic, Palestinians are forced off their land, denied building permits - so they are forced to build houses without permits - the Israelis then demolish unauthorised houses because they don't have permits." He said.

Mr Hodgson said not all settlers are alike. He mentioned their were armed fanatics who carry guns in public, arms directly funded and made in the US, and how these fanatics have served in the Israeli

military and therefore know how to use these weapons to kill.

Harrowing stories of teenagers being taken from schools beaten before witnesses and then taken for a greater beating by the IDF was common, he said.



Friends of Al-Aqsa chair, Ismail Patel, pointed out how we are all conditioned by the media and only take note once the bombing starts. Once the media goes quiet, so do we.

He told the audience how social media has played a big part and how this has its own pros and cons.

In a brief but powerful address he said, "Activism without knowledge is dangerous - peoples energy is being wasted. Just as knowledge without activism is also dangerous.

"Be informed. Join reputable organisations like FOA. Organise your activism for an impact.

"There is no point having a list of 20 companies to boycott for it to then fizzle out, target your boycotting for maximum impact."

FOA have a seven point action plan on their website which the public is being encouraged to support.

The Chair of IMWS, Mohamed Mulla, said, "The feeling is running very high amongst the people of Batley and Dewsbury. Irrespective of people's religious beliefs everyone feels very strongly about the indiscriminate slaughter of women and children by the IDF. I hope that by doing this event the core issues have been highlighted and people have better understanding of what other actions they can take to register their disapproval of Israeli oppression in the Palestine."

All the speakers showed their support for lobbying MPs and the BDS campaign as a way to bring about a lasting peace in the region.

Boycott in mind

The atrocities committed by the Israeli government against the people of Gaza, has led many to take action.

Although many may feel helpless at the situation in Gaza as the Israeli Defence Forces massacre thousands of innocent Gazans, amongst them many who happen to be women and children, there is one effective way in which your voice can be heard - boycott.

Innovative Minds have been working on educating and promoting a boycott of companies who actively support Israel as it continues to commit war crimes.

The Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement isn't new; it is a global campaign that has been going since 2005. The BDS's aims are to put economic and political pressure on Israel to end the suffering it has imposed on Palestine.

There is real power in boycott. The boycott of South Africa played a key role in bringing an end to the apartheid era.

Website Innovative Minds puts together a list of companies that have dealings with Israel to provide better knowledge to those who object to Israeli oppression of Palestinian people.

One of the biggest names on the boycott list is soft drinks producer Coca-Cola. It has a long standing association with Israel, in fact in 1997 Coca-Cola was honoured by an Israeli Governmental Economic Mission, for its support of Israel and refusal to accept the Arab League boycott of Israel.

Coca-Cola also honoured war-criminal Brigadier-General Ben-Eliezer - the man responsible for the execution of over 300 Egyptian POWs. Ben-Eliezer also served as a Defence Minister under Ariel Sharon.

The JCC Maccabi Games which has a goal of cultivating Jewish youth to "encourage their identification with the state of Israel" is sponsored by Coca-Cola, as part of this Coca-Cola has sponsored young children to visit Israeli military bases.

These are just some of the ways in which everyone's favourite beverage maker has been funding Israel.

There are other names whose

boycott is urged as well. Nestle is the world's largest food company and it also happens to own over 53% of Osem, the Israeli food manufacturer worth over \$850million.

Nestle also has nine factories in Israel and when you compare that to the number of factories it has in China (18) and Russia (11) and the comparative size differences in these countries it shows the clear support Israel has of Nestle.

McDonalds and Starbucks are both exposed to the boycott as well. The call for a boycott on McDonald is due to its corporate links to the Jewish United Fund (which runs family missions to Israel, which incorporates trips to Israeli military bases) and the Jewish Federation (Its task is to fight campaigns that equate Israel with apartheid South Africa).

Coffee giant Starbucks' founder Howard Schultz is an active Zionist. He has been showered with honours by pro-Zionist bodies and his propaganda has been praised by the Israeli Foreign Ministry as key to Israel's PR success.

Then there is the need to check the label on fresh fruit and vegetables. Friends of Al-Aqsa ran a successful campaign in persuading Muslims to boycott Israeli dates during Ramadan.

The same needs to be done on other fruit and vegetable which comes from Israel year around for an effective boycott to be implemented.

Electronic giants Motorola, Intel and IBM are also listed on the boycott list for various dealings with Israel, in Motorola's case providing the Israeli army with means to communicate.

Despite the quantity of major companies, many whom we've come to rely on to provide valuable services to us in our daily lives. The inconveniences are minor compared to the suffering of Gazans.

The hope is that an effective boycott will put sufficient pressure on these firms to either pull-out or for them in turn to put pressure on the Israeli government to end the persecution of Palestine.

Ceasefire but not a time to sleep

After 50 days of relentless death and destruction a ceasefire was brokered by the Egyptians, but this is not the time for the world at large to fall back into hibernation awakening only when the bombs start falling again.

The ceasefire itself really doesn't promise much more than what the ceasefire in 2012 promised – that was never delivered. But Israel and its political supporters worldwide have suffered more than they expected.

Its international reputation took an absolute pasting and can not be attributed to governments but the public worldwide. Scenes of protests flew down social media timelines almost blanking any other posts.

This has had an impact not only on Israel but governments across the world. What had started with governments backing Israel in public press releases soon went to silence, and although the humanitarian suffering of the Gazans didn't receive the sympathetic dialogue leaders should have given, the silence spoke of what the public had achieved.

Of course in any protest or demonstration we all want political leaders to step up to a press conference pedestal and announce support for public opinion, but this rarely happens in reality.

Public pressure through protests and boycotts does work, but falling silent when the jobs not done wipes away all that's gained faster.

It's why now is not the time to sleep, but to keep our eyes wide open through lobbying, boycotting and being aware of what is happening across Palestine.

MY JOURNEY TO PALESTINE

By Haarisah Pandor age: 11

Eleven year old Haarisah Pandor from Dewsbury along with her family visited Masjid Al-Aqsa and Palestine this Ramadhaan. Below she gives a brief account of her experience.

The day had finally arrived. After months of waiting excitement filled my heart. I could already smell the warm, musky, spicy smell of the old city in my mind.

Alhamdulillah at around 3pm on the 24th July 2014 which was the 26th fast of Ramadan and the 27th taraweeh we entered Palestine. After freshening up we started our short walk to AL-AQSA for maghrib. As soon as we set foot outside I could feel the sad sombre atmosphere in the air. Looking around me I could see lots of mini checkpoints which were surrounded by the Israeli soldiers carrying big snipers. After going through several checkpoints we were stopped at the last one. Myself, my mum and the rest of the women in our group were allowed to go through but my brother uncle and cousin were not. My mum was holding on to my brother trying to tell the soldiers he was only 12, but they didn't care. It made me think about those Palestinian boys who travel all the way from the west bank just to pray in this blessed masjid only to be stopped. Stopped for absolutely nothing. As I started walking towards the masjid the happiness in my heart drained and the same sombre feeling took its place. I

kept thinking if my family were going to be safe. That's when I fully understood what life was actually like for the Palestinians.

Throughout the taraweeh prayers all we heard were gunshots, rubber bullets and tear gas being fired. We had no idea what was going on. I was beginning to feel anxious about my family but looking around me all the Palestinians looked so calm. Again I realised that it is because this is normal life for them. How sad I thought to myself. After a very emotional Dua we started heading back to our hotel. There was chaos everywhere, the streets were littered with stones, fire was burning in a skip and the vans that spray the disgusting chemical water were everywhere. Once again my thoughts drifted to my family. A sense of relief came over me when we saw them near our hotel.

My brother said they had tried for at least 5 hours to try and get



into AL-AQSA but with no success. Angry and frustrated they gave up and prayed on the streets outside. The next day jumma was the same. Even then the Palestinians don't give up. They continue to take the short journey from their homes, which can take hours due to the checkpoints.

The rest of the week was pretty calm. We met lots of lovely people, who welcomed us open heartedly. But the people of Palestine don't want us to weep for them. They want us to go there and see Palestine with our own eyes. They want us to show our solidarity to them. Even if you don't have the opportunity you can always show your support by boycotting companies that support Israel.

Warsi resigns over PM's 'morally indefensible' stand

Baroness Sayeeda Warsi's resignation last month was greeted by humanitarians across the country with a cheer. Not for leaving her post but because a Tory peer had spoken out and said what the public had been saying for weeks.

In an interview with Channel 4 News, the Baroness from Dewsbury called the government's stance 'morally indefensible' and suggested David Cameron had been 'mealy mouthed' over the attacks.

"I think for me, it's morally indefensible.

"More than a quarter of the Gazan population displaced,

nearly 2,000 people killed, nearly 400 innocent children killed – we still cannot find the words to say we condemn this

"These issues are far too serious for us to have been mealy-mouthed and for us to be dragging our heels," she said.

Lady Warsi had already been quite vocal on the recent Israeli attacks through her Twitter account, and spoke of her regret for not speaking out last year during the Palestinian appeal for UN recognition, where Britain opted not to vote.

But her decision to resign over it displayed a frustration against her party's leadership.

The former senior Foreign Office minister must have had detailed discussions, (and her resignation letter certainly says she did) with fellow ministers and the PM regarding the British government's position.

Even her resignation was posted on Twitter first, showing what seems to be a real annoyance against the stance David Cameron has taken on this massacre.

Following her resignation she told the BBC "By resigning and stepping down I can live with myself."

Lady Warsi in 2011 stated 'Islamophobia has passed the dinner table test'

Her resignation though tipped by the PM's stance on Gaza might not be solely for that reason. It is well known high level campaigns to remove her from her positions have been on going for years.

Lady Warsi has said in an interview her resignation will allow her to speak more freely. She is also known to have been keeping a diary. When, and if, that hits the bookstores, it is likely to reveal what has really been happening whilst this northern Muslim woman has been trying to represent minorities and faiths in a government that has pushed both far down the order.

THE FALLACY OF ISRAELI CLAIMING VICTORY OVER HAMAS

By Baser Akoodie

There are some who may argue that Hamas won the current war although it still seems to be continuing. Although some experts may argue that Israel suffered much less casualties and Hamas have been dealt with a significantly blow in terms of loss of life and other capabilities.

Israel almost certainly may be able to claim a tactical victory but they have suffered a strategic defeat.

At a tactical level the Iron Dome defence system has kept Israeli casualties to a minimum. Furthermore many Hamas tunnels have been destroyed and their capability of firing rockets have been significantly reduced.

However the strategic victory belongs to Hamas and the Palestinians. Israeli citizens have enjoyed a high standard of living and have given the impression to the world of a stable and vibrant democracy. Hamas strategic objective is to shatter Israel's sense of normality and tranquillity. Just look at the reaction and panic of the Israel government when Ben Gurion Airport was closed because of a rocket landing near the airport.

During the dark days of Apartheid, I remember arguing with Londoners explaining to them that South Africa was not a true democracy and often the high standard of living of a minority was often at the expense of the

poor majority. Do not be fooled by the pictures of beautiful beaches in Cape Town and Skyscrapers of Johannesburg, Beneath the surface there was tremendous internal turmoil even amongst the minority Afrikaner People. My view is that this conception is starting to emerge regarding the image of Israel around the world.



Similarly the persistent low level firing of Hamas rockets has caused enormous disruption. Rockets triggered warning sirens in almost all major Israeli cities. Tourism must have definitely fallen during the recent conflict.

Whilst the rockets thankfully have not taken many lives, they have certainly created a sense of panic, leaving people to often scramble for shelters several times a day and shattered the illusion of invincibility and the fact that what happens in Gaza does not affect life in Israel.

Hamas may have already won the strategic war. Thousands of Palestin-

ian casualties especially the often one sided bombardment, has led many in Western eyes, to perceive Israel as the aggressor. Secondly to many people around the world, Hamas now seen as the defender of Palestinian people and also the champion of Palestinian rights and self determination. They are now admired for withstanding an onslaught from one of the worlds largest and most powerful armies. This was not the aim of the Israeli government or indeed their citizens.

The high casualties by the Israel army in relevant terms have also exposed the vulnerability of the Israel army in dealing with a small resistance group with very little sophisticated weapons but a lot of cunning, steadfastness and also determination which has perhaps taken Israeli by surprise.

Many people around the world may no longer view Hamas as a terrorist group after witnessing the wanton and unnecessary destruction in Gaza.

Furthermore in the absence of many achievements the Israelis are also trying to fake the fall of Hamas. The world has seen the destruction and mass killing perpetrated by IDF soldiers and whilst the Israeli government may dismiss the huge global criticism as anti Semitism, most people are now seeing through this argument and have seen the destruction caused for what it is. Many now view

the war as a major power trying to subjugate and crush the will and determination of a neglected people who are just trying to achieve a legitimate homeland and to live in peace. The images on social media of wanton destruction and killing of innocent civilians and children has resonated around the world.

The typical Israeli citizen now understands has happened to their economy especially during the last few weeks. The worldwide call for sanctions and disinvestment has awoken a large section of the population and comparisons are often drawn with the sanction of the Old South African apartheid regime. People are now determined more than ever to get involved in boycotts and other forms of sanctions which will certainly damage the Israeli economy in the long run.

A recent survey in Israel thinks neither side won the conflict but still approve the Israeli government actions. However in the long run when the economy weakens and the fall out from this dangerous conflict is fully examined, Israeli may not like the fact that the strategic and long term victory will be that of Hamas. It is then they will question their existing leaders and perhaps consider bringing a change of government which will hopefully bring about the lasting peace, security and economic advancements which both Palestinians and Israelis deserve.

'We Love Batley' displays towns true unity

By Yousuf Zubair

A celebratory event was held in Batley, to showcase and further enrich the strong sense of unity, cohesion and respect that resonates throughout the local community. The event was organised jointly between Kirklees Faiths Forum and Kirklees Council, who provided an opportunity for both adults and children to enjoy themselves, whilst pondering upon and talking about all that is great about the healthy and fruit-

ful relationships between each of the unique people that make up our diverse Batley community.

On Sunday 10th August, a number of people attended the unity event, each of them flourishing their own 'We Love Batley' balloon, designed in the colours of Batley's coat of arms- maroon and gold. The attendees were able to enjoy a wide variety of performances, stalls and activities. Locally written and influenced poetry recitations, face painting, became highlights and everyone's favourite, quite unsurprisingly, seemed to be the delicious cupcakes on offer.

This event was particularly significant as its primary goal was to counter the hatred, dis-

crimination and fear-mongering imposed upon the towns market square by the EDL the day before.

A collective goal, however, was achieved as a considerable number of the local community participated, with not a feeling of necessity but one of triumph.

Muslims, Christians and those of no faith from toddlers to pensioners turned up to show the solidarity and strength of the community, each of them wielding smiles to display a proud and continued sense of belonging to Batley.



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Passing of a community stalwart Farid Karolia

Last month sadly saw the passing of a local stalwart who had dedicated his life toward the betterment of society and in particular young people. Farid Karolia leaves behind a legacy of selfless acts for the greater good.

Over five decades, Faridbhai dedicated his life to promote cricket in the minority communities across Batley and Dewsbury. In 2010 he received an outstanding service to cricket award and in 2012 the Yorkshire Cricket Board renamed their annual under 11's trophy after the man who worked tirelessly and influenced so many young people.

A short while before he passed away he was notified of winning the 'Numan Shabbir Syed Award for Services to Black Minority Ethnic Cricket' presented by Yorkshire CC. The award was collected on his behalf by his brother Yusuf Mia Karolia just days after Faridbhai passed away.

As one of the founder members of Mount Cricket Club and told Paigaam how it was formed because of a lack of playing opportunities for Asian cricketers in the area. In 2008 when Batley CC were struggling and looking

for someone to take over the running of it, Faridbhai saw it as more than an opportunity, he saw it as an achievement. The same club where he was once told by a player 'no Asian would ever play' for the club, was now looking to be rescued by local Asian cricketers. Subsequently Faridbhai became chair at the club.



His dedication and selfless acts saw the fondness he held for 'his boys' equally reciprocated by his youngsters. During an interview with Paigaam last year he told us of how at the funeral of his first wife in 2009 a number of unfamiliar

youngsters led a gentleman to ask if they were at the right funeral, they replied 'Farid uncle is like our second father.' Farid told us this meant more to him than the cabinet full of trophies behind him, adding:

"Those words were the best words. That these kids look at me that way, and it is appreciated."

Even with his dedication to cricket he still had time to help in other areas including as a volunteer at the IMWS. As well as representing Dark Lane and MPIT on the executive committee Farid played an important role coaching U13s and U15s in the Al-Hikmah Sports Hall. He was also responsible for one of the worlds most famous Umpires Dickie Bird attending an opening ceremony at the centre. The humble gentleman's role at IMWS lasted many years and the community is better off for it.

Faridbhai's brother, Yusuf Mia, told us of how fortunate he was to have Faridbhai as a brother and how he encouraged him towards cricket from a young age. He said "His [Farid's] values were family, friendship, unity, community and

humanity, and he best expressed these through being honest, being helpful, his humour and cricket.

"He was a simple man who always worked for the greater good and very humble."

Faridbhai's humour was legendary, it seemed none could walk away from a meeting with him without having a laugh and, as Yusuf Mia recalls, "always putting a smile on peoples faces even through adversity."

It was this closeness which he so easily gained with people that led to so many attending his funeral prayer, and so many needing to be consoled.

His words of wisdom were just as powerful, a favoured quote 'You know that a team has been led by a brilliant leader when the leader moves on and the team continues to be brilliant' speaks volumes in selflessness.

He undoubtedly was a remarkable individual who touched many lives over many years. As his brother sums up, "A father, a brother, a role model and everybody's best friend."

May the Almighty grant Farid Bhai a high status in Jannah, give patience to his loved ones and allow the rest of us to learn the lessons of a truly selfless community stalwart.

Sports clubs reach out to local children

Around 200 children took part in a sports day held at the Batley Cricket Club ground which inspired young children towards a variety of sports. The two day event, though opened to all children, gave particular focus to children living with a disability or having additional needs.

During the two four hour slots held across Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 August parents had the chance to drop their children off at the sports field on Mount Pleasant, Batley, where members of Batley CC, Batley Bulldogs, Sparks Skills and other organisation worked with the children on fun activities.

Children had the chance to improve skills in cricket, rounders, rugby, football, arts and crafts and archery.

Yusuf Mia Karolia, from Batley Cricket, said, "This was a fabulous fun event. We benefitted from the support and teamwork from various local organisations and also volunteers over the two days.

"we look forward to our next event at Easter and encourage other local organisations to join us."

Jon Humpleby, Community Manager at Batley Bulldogs, said, "were very pleased to be involved delivering activities at the event.

"One of the most positive aspects was the teamwork and mutual support of all the coaches involved and we certainly feel we have built some very positive and exciting relations with especially Batley Cricket Club and

Spark Skills and we would be delighted to do more partnership work in the future.

"From our perspective we were particularly pleased to have engaged with young people from the local Asian community who are not familiar with rugby or with the club."

Shamim Waza, Director of Spark Skills, said "We were really proud to be part of this event which brought together various organisations to work together and support local young children with disability or additional needs.

"This has built a firm foundation for us to build on."

It was a busy month for Bat-

ley Cricket. As well as enjoying cricketing success, just a week before the sports day they held a charity 20Twenty cricket tournament for Gaza. The day saw four teams compete for the Farid Karolia Trophy, with the ultimate winning team from Batley consisting of a number of young players the late Farid had coached.

As well as a football competition and other events the charity programme had a very successful 'hit a six' competition with the ball flying in all directions. The event raised over £24K.





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Batley library under threat

All but two libraries in Kirklees are under threat of closure as the council says it looks to make cuts to the tune of £140million a year.

Only Dewsbury and Huddersfield libraries would be left open, meaning that Batley library would be shut down and 100 jobs lost.

This is one of two options being considered. The other would see hubs in Dewsbury, Batley, Cleckheaton, Birstall, Heckmondwike and Mirfield – but it isn't known whether towns would have to compete for these hubs.

The second option would still see 60 jobs lost.

Kirklees council says the decision is as a result of funding being cut by central government.

Batley and Spen MP Mike Wood said that the cuts would be "impossible" to reverse in the future.

Mr Wood said: "I am very concerned that all four of the libraries in Batley and Spen are under threat. This is not something I want to see nor my constituents.

"I have no doubt this is something our councillors don't want either."

Conservative MP for Dewsbury Simon Reevell criticised Kirklees council saying "Lots of local authorities are being asked to save a lot of money. I don't accept

those are the only options."

However Kirklees council leader Cllr David Sheard hit back saying "What is his suggestion? We wouldn't be talking about a nuclear option if we didn't have £140m cut from our budget every year."

He went on to warn that further services face cuts in addition to libraries.

A petition which had been launched by the Batley History Group last January after rumours had surfaced that the Batley library building was to be sold off, has been revived.

Library restructuring is due to go on until April 2017.

The petition to save Batley library can be found here: http://petition.kirklees.public-i.tv/epetition_core/community/petition/2154



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Freshers: I'm a Muslim get me out of here

Starting university can be a daunting time for many. It's a brave new world, with new doors opening to new avenues leading to new people.

The first two weeks are labelled "fresher weeks," an opportunity for new students to have "fun" and get to meet new people.

But being a "fresher" can be problematic for Muslim students. A lot of the events designed to break students into university life are centred on a deeply ingrained western culture that would never fit even as a square peg in the rounded hole of Islam.

Come September as you pass through the many university towns and cities you will see promo girls handing out leaflets for cheap booze filled nights.

A lot of these nights are not planned by the universities or their unions and as a result they have no control over the nature of these events or even who, when or how they target.

But when you're jettisoned into new environs the pressure to fit in can sometimes take its toll on Muslim students. There are those who simply clam up and decide

that not engaging with any social aspects of university life is the best way forward.

Then there are those who may be led down these dark avenues of hedonism.

There is however a happy medium to engaging with the social aspects of university whilst maintaining your religious integrity and it all starts at freshers.

Burbling under the boozefueled antics is a cornucopia of weird, wonderful and mesmerizing groups and societies.

Many universities have an Islamic society which enables Muslim students to take solace with like-minded people. But there are

other brilliant student societies; look for literary clubs, debating societies, political groups.

If things haven't gone to plan during freshers and you're left feeling isolated, don't fear because you still have your course

to get your teeth into. There, so long as you're willing to smile and engage with people you'll be making friends in no time.

A lot of whom you will be bumping into in your professional career, later on in life.

The most important thing that a Muslim student can do is maintain his/her religious integrity,

because losing that will mean you lose your identity as well.

Speaking from experience, you will gain the respect of non-Muslims amongst your cohort as well, for your religious discipline.



Confusion looms over new District Committee powers

The first meeting of the new Batley and Spennings District Committee was clouded in confusion as to the actual decisions the committee will be responsible for and the public consultation due to be conducted in October.

Kirklees Council have implemented four district committees replacing the existing area committees. The announcement in June suggested devolving some decision-making powers to local councillors, community organisations and local people. But the first meeting held at Batley Town hall towards the end of August showed councillors were unclear to the actual role the committees will play, and that the scheme was in a transitional period.

Public consultation is due to be conducted in October, almost two months after the committees began their first meetings.

Members of the public from across the Batley and Spennings wards who attended the meeting asked how well the date and venue had been promoted. Around 60 people attended which is a fraction of the community. There were also concerns raised why less than half of the elected councillors were present.

Budgets for the committees are yet to be set and the role yet to be clarified, but a sense of suspicion lingered in the atmosphere as to why this change had been pushed through council without any public or wider council consultation.

Commonwealth Games: Two Batley brothers have proud parents sprinting with joy

In a quiet, unassuming office a father of three from Batley is beaming with pride.

Both of Akhtar Kasia's older children Fayaz Kasia, 19 and Aadilhusain Kasia, 22 were chosen as two of the three medal bearers from the UK.

Akhtar said: "It was a long application process; they had to visit Glasgow a few times for an interview and stuff.

"They obviously specified that they wanted to be medal bearers, because my eldest had already done the ceremonies at the London Olympics and Paralympics he had a bit of experience in terms of the application process.

"So with his guidance my middle son Fayaz got involved as well and they got chosen as medal bearers."

Fayaz handled the medal ceremonies at the boxing and weight-

lifting, whilst Aadilhusain took care of presentation duties at the athletics.

Over the games the duo met several athletes as well as rubbing



shoulders with key people. Fayaz helped present the gold medal to boxer Nicola Adams and also met professional boxer Amir Khan.

"My eldest [Aadilhusain] met all the athletes including Usain Bolt

and he took a selfie with Usain Bolt as well," says Akhtar.

Both of the boys were joined by their family at the conclusion of the games, as the whole family was won over by the warmth of the Glaswegians.

Proud father Akhtar visited them when he could due to work commitments, but has been in touch with both his sons and eager to share photos he reaches for his phone, scrolling through various snaps they have taken.

"We're quite proud to be honest because there were only three people from the whole of the UK who got chosen as medal bearers and they were two of them.

"There were a lot of other volunteers but in regards to the medal ceremonies because it's a prestige event," he says.

Many Muslims will have missed out on the Commonwealth Games due to them being held in Ramadan and for Fayaz and

Aadilhusain the games presented a challenge as they were on duty from 2 til 12 whilst fasting.

But the day after Eid the whole team took both of them out to celebrate Eid in recognition of their efforts whilst fasting.

One reason why Akhtar is so supportive of his children is because of his youngest child Ayub, who has downs syndrome. "I'm highly motivated because of my Ayub that's why I encourage my other two kids to go and do better, I want them to be an example and Ayub is an example with his disability within our community."

Both his medal bearing sons have come away with plenty of inspiration says Akhtar. "Fayaz was doing the weightlifting and because the Paralympic weightlifting was happening at the same time he saw people with no legs lifting 180-200 kilo weights and that's kind of inspired him."

THE
LEGAL
COLUMN

by Baser Akoodie

EMPLOYEE'S RIGHT TO REQUEST FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

From 30 June 2014, all employees have the right to ask their employer for a change of contractual terms and conditions of employment so that they can work flexibly, provided they have worked for 26 weeks continuously by the date on which the application is made. Previously the right only applied to the parents of children under 17 (or 18 in the case

of parents of disabled children) or to those with caring responsibilities for an adult.

The statutory procedure for considering request is now removed and replaced by the ACAS code of Practice. This contains guidance on an employer's duty to consider all request in a reasonable manner and to reach a decision within three months (unless an extension is agreed). However, employers can refuse a request on business grounds, provided it is for one or more of 8 reasons specified in the EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT 1996. All employers should consider applications carefully and must not discriminate against protracted groups like disable people.

In addition an employer must also ensure that part time workers are treated consistently with other workers. The Acas code of practice can be found on the ACAS website.

Report hate crime Muslims urged



Muslims in Leeds are being urged to report hate crime, as police look to improve the way they record such incidents.

In an attempt to show the numbers of offences committed against particular religious groups, West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner Mark Burns-Williamson pledged to look at recording hate crimes.

Despite various sets of data gathered by organisations such as Tell Mama, which show that hate crime against Muslims has risen. Building Bridges project co-ordinator, Tafazal Mohammed said it was difficult to assess whether there was a rise in Islamophobia in Leeds.

"In some parts of London there is evidence that anti-Muslim hate crimes have gone up several hundred per cent," said Tafazal.

There was a need for more statistics in Leeds. He said: "In Leeds we

have got anecdotal evidence, but we want to be a bit more statistical in terms of trying to identify the extent of the problem.

"A lot of people won't report it because they think it's a waste of time and nothing will be done about it. We're trying to say that if they don't report it, in a sense they can't complain if nothing is done."

Andrew Bolland of Stop Hate UK, a Leeds based organisation said: "In general we haven't seen any dramatic spikes across Leeds or West Yorkshire. The number of recorded hate crimes of all types has actually gone down, but that doesn't necessarily mean that fewer crimes are happening – it could be because victims don't know how or choose not to report."

The Report It! initiative is being run by the Building Bridges project from the Hamara centre in Beeston. An announcement is expected this autumn as work continues on reporting of hate crime a spokesperson for the police and crime commissioner said.

In Kirklees more reporting centres are being opened as well as victims and witnesses can report and seek help at their local Kirklees library.

Rotherham inquiry failed to protect vulnerable children

An independent Inquiry commissioned by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council has found serious failings in local authorities protecting vulnerable children. The report author Professor Alexis Jay OBE found around 1400 children were sexually exploited over a period 16 years, and found the main perpetrators were gangs of men with Pakistani heritage. It also states young girls from all backgrounds were at risk.

The appalling nature of the abuse has horrified the public. Victims of child sexual exploitation (CSE) were raped by multiple perpetrators, trafficked to other towns and cities in the North of England, abducted, beaten, tortured and intimidated.

According to an earlier report the violent nature of the gangs meant not only the victims but the local Asian community who had suspicions against the perpetrators feared speaking out as they would themselves be targeted by the gang.

Another report published in 2006 described how the appeal of organised sexual exploitation for Asian gangs had changed from personal gratification to 'career and financial opportunities to young Asian men who got involved'.

Professor Jay states in the latest report that there is no simple link between race and child sexual exploitation, and across the UK the greatest numbers of perpetrators of CSE are white men. She also says although the majority of victims were white girls, women and girls of Pakistani-heritage are also targeted.

The report states: "Local Pakistani women's groups described how Pakistani-heritage girls were

targeted by taxi drivers and on occasion by older men lying in wait outside school gates at dinner times and after school. They also cited cases in Rotherham where Pakistani landlords had befriended Pakistani women and girls on their own for purposes of sex, then passed on their name to other men who had then contacted them for sex. The women and girls feared reporting such incidents to the Police because it would affect their future marriage prospects."

The UK Muslim Women's Network produced a report on CSE last year which found 35 case studies of women from across the UK who were victims, the majority of whom were Muslim. It highlighted that Asian girls were being sexually exploited where authorities were failing to identify or support them. They were most vulnerable to men from their own communities who manipulated cultural norms to prevent them from reporting their abuse.

The Deputy Children's Commissioner's report reached a similar conclusion stating "one of these myths was that only white girls are victims of sexual exploitation by Asian or Muslim males.

"This belief flies in the face of evidence that shows that those who violate children are most likely to target those who are closest to them and most easily accessible."

The report states over the first twelve years covered by the Inquiry, the collective failures of political and officer leadership were blatant. It says from the beginning there was growing evidence that child sexual exploitation was a serious problem in Rotherham.



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MENINGITIS (ACWY) VACCINATION
& TRAVEL ADVICE CLINIC

FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2014

CLINIC: 7:30PM - 9PM

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7 STEPS TO HELP GAZA



www.foa.org.uk/news/take-7-steps-for-gaza

Israel's latest atrocity in Gaza has led to thousands of you asking what you can do to help. FOA has put together a guide on a number of different campaigns which we hope you will each sign up to, so that collectively, we can help end the suffering of the Palestinian people.

DETAILS OF THESE CAMPAIGNS CAN BE FOUND BY NAVIGATING TO THE RELEVANT LINK BELOW:

1 BOYCOTT – #CHECKTHELABEL

Boycott Israeli Produce - Supermarket Campaign

<http://www.foa.org.uk/campaigns/boycott-israeli-produce>

Sainsbury's Campaign

<http://www.foa.org.uk/campaigns/as-ramadhan-approaches-tell-sainsburys-not-to-sell-stolen-dates>

2 PETITION

Sign the petition 'Stop Arming Israel'

<http://www.foa.org.uk/page/petition>

3 LOBBY YOUR MP – WRITE TO YOUR MP/PRIME MINISTER

i. EDM 250 – Ask your MP to sign this Early Day Motion

<http://www.foa.org.uk/campaigns/lobby-your-mp-and-ask-them-to-sign-edm-250>

ii. Ask your MP these Questions

<http://www.foa.org.uk/page/What-is-your-position-on-Gaza>

iii. Write to David Cameron

<http://www.foa.org.uk/page/write-to-david-cameron>

4 LOBBY SAUDI ARABIA

End the contract with G4S and condemn Israeli aggression

<http://www.foa.org.uk/page/sample-letter-letter-to-saudi-ambassador>

5 SUPPORT FOA

i. Become a FOA member

<http://www.foa.org.uk/donate>

ii. Join your local branch, contact dewsburyandbatley@aqsa.org.uk.

6 FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES & ACTION ALERTS:

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7 REMEMBER GAZA IN YOUR PRAYERS



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بٹلے میلہ

BATLEY FESTIVAL

Saturday 27th September 11am - 4pm

IN BATLEY TOWN CENTRE

Dazzling entertainment, family stalls, poetry, art and a mechanical hippo - Batley Festival is back and bigger than ever! Head to Batley Town Centre for a fun packed Festival Day of family entertainment and activities for all ages to enjoy.

- Batley Town Hall
- Library and Art Gallery
- Memorial Gardens
- Market Place

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www.kirklees.gov.uk/events



ORGANISED BY BATLEY VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTED BY KIRKLEES COUNCIL

twitter: @batleyfestival

Controversial changes come into force at Dewsbury Hospital

A children's assessment unit has been opened at Dewsbury Hospital beginning the implementation of controversial cuts which caused protests and petitions last year.

The new unit has been opened at the side of the A&E department and means most children requiring overnight admission will be transferred to Pinderfields. Ward 7 (children's ward at Dewsbury) is now being used only as an outpatient and day care unit.

According to Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust 80 per cent of children who currently stay at hospital will be treated at the assessment unit, and around one to two children daily will have to be transferred to Pinderfields.

The Secretary of State Jeremy Hunt gave the plans the official go ahead last October and though recent-



ly selected Labour PPC's, Jo Cox and Paula Sherriff, launched a petition after the new head of the NHS, Simon Stevens, said he favoured smaller community based hospitals the cuts have already begun.

Changes to the children's services at the hospital have now been implemented and

the changes to maternity and A&E are likely to follow soon.

The Trust had said during the public consultation the changes were likely to come into effect around 2016/17. Which places the new children's assessment unit ahead of schedule.

UK Gujarati poets gain recognition in new books

Gujarati Writers Guild UK and Gujarati Writers Forum Batley joined forces in a Mushaira (poetry) programme which saw the launch of three books featuring work from poets living in the UK with a Gujarati heritage.

Writer and compiler of the books Dr Balvant Jani, dean of Gujarati Bhasha Bhavan, Saurashtra University, Rajkot, was the chief guest and spoke of the extensive research he had conducted to find the hidden poets across Britain.

Over a five-year period Dr Jani found some 71 poets and their literature features in the books launched during the event at the PKWA.

His Books Varta dhara (short stories compilation), Nibandh dhara (compilation of essays) and Kavya dhara (compilation of poetry) were launched at the evening programme which also included a reading or 'Mushaira' segment.

Artist Bob Clayton celebrated the richness of Gujarati poets by presenting the IMWS chair Mohamed Mulla with a painting featuring couplets from Batley's Ahmad Gul and Ismail Daji and Dr Adam Tankarvi from Bolton.

The evening saw a commemorative plaque presented by renowned poet Brian Lewis on behalf of GWG UK and GWF Batley.

Two strikes and your banned!

The transport secretary recently suggested doubling the in place three points for using a mobile phone whilst driving. This would inevitably mean if caught twice the culprit would face a motoring ban.

Driving and using your mobile phone is hardly a sensible act, and yet it has become so common even the most conscientious driver occasionally tries to get away at a sneak peak of what that last alert ring was all about.

The existing three points and a £100 fine, which could go up to £1000, doesn't seem to be discouraging enough. Motoring groups have even said some motorists are not aware that checking social media sites whilst driving is illegal.

Some are of the opinion it's fine to check your mobile whilst stationary at a set of lights - according to research from a motoring

group - it isn't.

The law states it is illegal to ride a motorcycle or drive using handheld phones or similar devices and that this rule also applies whilst stopped at traffic lights or queuing in traffic. In some cases the driver can be taken to court and banned from driving outright.

As for new drivers, if they get six or more penalty points within two years of passing they would lose their licence.

In fact the law states a mobile phone can only be used in a vehicle to call the emergency services or when the vehicle is parked safely.

Hands-free devices can be used, however, if a police officer thinks you are distracted by using them, you could still be stopped and penalised.

But even with existing fines and penalties drivers continue to use

a mobile thinking they can get away with it.

Alternative ideas have been suggested such as wifi lay-bys, where free internet access might encourage drivers not to take the risk of using their smart phones whilst driving. Smart idea but in the fast paced world we live in would people pull over even for free wifi?

Another is to have signal jammers fitted to cars. The idea being if the alerts are not coming in the driver will remain focussed on the road ahead. The down side- how to decipher between the drivers phone and the passengers. And the idea stumbles there.

Belgium road safety experts tried a different method in 2012. They told learners the government had brought in an extra test of texting and driving without



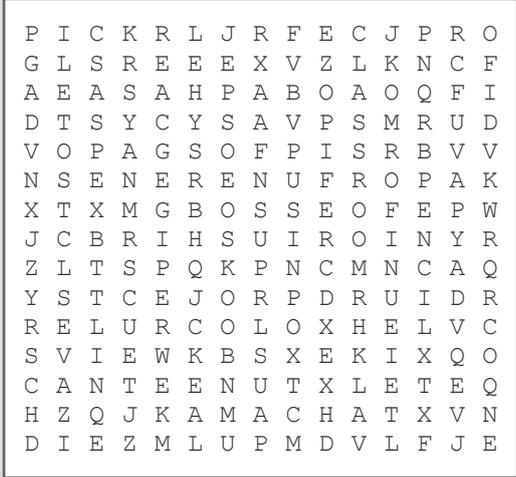
hitting any of the positioned obstacles. Of course it was a lie, but as the learners crashed into the obstacles, it suddenly dawned on them as to the dangers of using your mobile whilst driving.

The shock therapy and the doubling of points on your licence may well be the answer to an offence which continues to rise. Around 1.3 million accidents last year were blamed on the driver using a mobile phone, that's 26 per cent of all pileups.

Kids Corner

Back To School

- ASSEMBLY
- BOOKS
- CANTEEN
- CLASSROOM
- CRAYONS
- DESK
- EXERCISE
- LESSON
- PAPER
- PENCIL
- PLAYGROUND
- PROJECTS
- RULER
- TEACHER UNIFORM



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 - 2nd Prize: Trophy
 - 3rd Prize: Trophy
- Trophies sponsored by IMWS

Playground Funnies

- Q: Knock, knock----Who's There?----Woo----
Woo who?
A: Don't get so excited, it's just a joke.
- Q: How can you tell the ocean is friendly?
A: It waves.
- Q: Waiter, this food tastes kind of funny?
A: Then why aren't you laughing!
- Q: What do you give to a sick lemon?
A: Lemon aid!

Solve any puzzle and send it in to WIN a PRIZE!!!

Decode the sentence!

Crack the code to reveal a message

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
8	5							26																	

I A A AC C
26 8 24 9 4 8 25 22 16 13 7 13 2 8 5 11 16 13 1 5 17 13 19 19

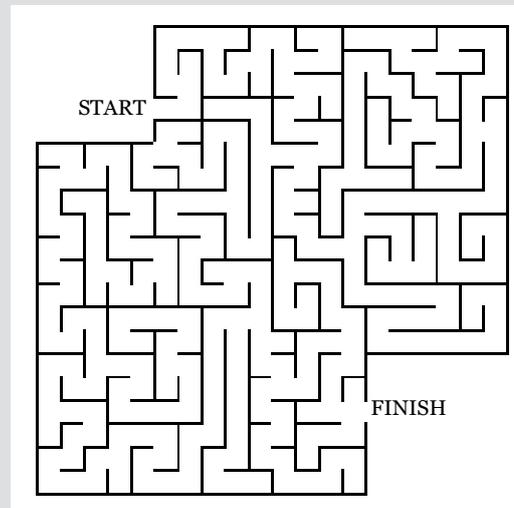
This one's a bit harder. Can you do it?

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
5	16												25												

N N N N
22 24 21 25 0 10 6 11 21 24 3 21 25 1 4 19 25 10 24 20 25 22 12 21 6

4 24 22 3 3 6 10 4 5 22 25 16 3 10 5 25

Find Your Way Through The Maze



Winner! Winner! Winner!

- 1st Laiba Tanveer (Dewsbury)
- 2nd Huzaifah Saiyed (Dewsbury)
- 3rd Huzaifah Rawat (Batley)

Please collect your prizes from the Al-Hikmah Centre.

Terms and conditions apply.

Name and address of winning entries will be published. Age limit 13.

Please send this page with your

name, address, postcode, age and telephone number before 20th September 2014 to:

Kiddies Competition, Al-Hikmah Centre,
28 Track Road, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7AA

Full Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Postcode: _____ Date: _____
 Age: _____ Tel. No.: _____

Health Page

A Healthy Hajj

Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam that is compulsory for every Muslim. There are great physical and spiritual benefits for the believers in this great act of worship. The aim of this article is to provide some tips and answer some common health related questions for pilgrims.

Do I have to perform Hajj if I am unwell?

Islam is a religion of tolerance and understanding and therefore somebody who is physically unable to perform the Hajj because of illness or infirmity are exempt from going. For example, people who have chest pain at rest or minimal exertion due to angina or heart disease.

What effect may the climate and environment have on my health?

There are undoubtedly many benefits to be derived from the Holy Land and many people return from Hajj with positive changes to their lives.

Annually more than 2 million people travel to Makkah during Hajj and this can result in overcrowding. Depending on when you travel, the temperatures could reach as high as 45 degrees and strenuous exertion during the Hajj rites can result in heat stroke or dehydration. There is also the risk of developing blisters on the feet as well as catching coughs and colds.

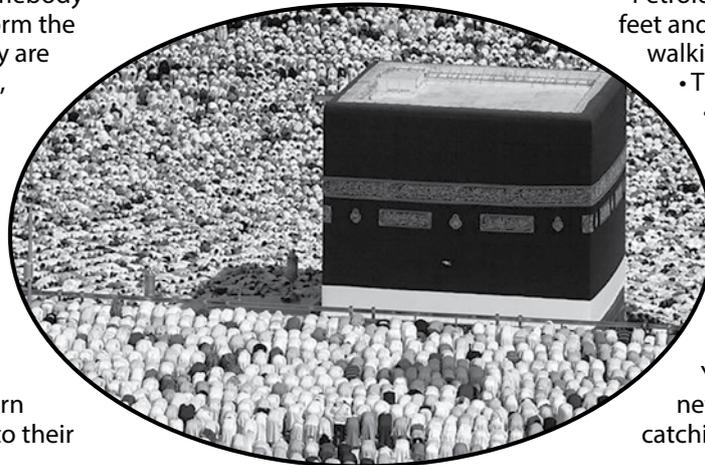
Why do I need to have a Meningitis ACWY vaccine?

There have been outbreaks of meningitis in pilgrims in the past. If meningitis is left untreated it could lead to death. Therefore the Saudi Government has made it mandatory for all pilgrims to have the Meningitis ACWY vaccine before issuing a visa.

Is there any tips on reducing coughs and cold during my travel?

- Wash your hands with soapy water or disinfectant, especially after coughing and sneezing.
- Use disposable tissues when coughing or sneezing and dispose of them appropriately.

- Avoid hand contact with the eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid direct contact with those showing symptoms of coughs and colds
- Practice good food safety - avoid undercooked meat or food prepared under unsanitary conditions, wash fruit and vegetables properly before eating them and avoid unpasteurised milk or milk products, including camel's milk.
- Consider wearing facemasks, especially when in crowded places.
-



Maintain good personal hygiene. There has been concerns over the MERS-CoV virus which causes serious chest infections in the middle east. The risk is relatively low to UK travellers in the Middle-East and pilgrims are advised to follow the above tips.

Should I have any other vaccinations?

You should also consider vaccinations against typhoid, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and polio. If you are aged over 65 years or suffer from chronic diseases you should also consider the Flu jab and the pneumococcal jab. Ensure that you have your jabs at least 10 days before you travel. Speak to your GP or the practice nurse at your local surgery for further information.

What medical kit should I carry with me?

If you are prescribed medicines by your GP, ensure that you take these medicines with you.

The following are items that you should consider taking with you . You can

purchase most of these from your local chemist or supermarket:

- Simple painkillers- Paracetamol or Ibuprofen
- Plasters, bandages, scissors
- Oral rehydration salts (eg Dioralyte)
- Anti-diarrheal tablets (eg Loperamide)
- Good footwear
- Suncream (Non Perfumed) to avoid sunburns especially if you are fair skinned
- Antiseptic cream (eg Sudocrem)
- Petroleum jelly (eg Vaseline) for the feet and groin to avoid irritation when walking
- Throat lozenges
- Clove oil for toothache
- A white umbrella
- Water flask

Other Tips

Avoid using roadside barbers and use designated barbers. You should ensure that they use new blades to minimise the risk of catching viruses like Hepatitis B & C.

Try to avoid the midday sun and use an umbrella to reflect the sun but remember that head coverings are prohibited for men during Hajj.

Some female pilgrims may wish to delay menstruation if it is scheduled to occur during Hajj and this should be discussed well in advance with the GP who may prescribe hormonal therapy.

Be careful with what you eat. Remember the rule to avoid food poisoning: Boil it, Cook it, Peel it or Forget it!

Consider gradually increasing your physical activity- for example, building upto walking a few miles a day before you travel.

Free health care is provided for all pilgrims with 24 hour access. There are plenty of chemists where you can purchase medicines. If you are travelling via other countries then you should consider travel insurance.

સમાચારોની ઝલક :

કરોડપતિઓની સંખ્યામાં ભારત આઠમાં ક્રમે :

ભારતમાં રહેતા કરોડપતિઓની સંખ્યા ઓસ્ટ્રેલીયા, રશિયા અને ફ્રાન્સ કરતા પણ વધારે હોવાનું બહાર આવ્યું છે. વર્લ્ડ વેલ્થ મારફ્ટ તાજેતરમાં કરવામાં આવેલ એક સર્વેમાં જાણવા મળ્યું છે કે દસ મિલિયન ડોલર એટલે કે ૬૧ કરોડ રૂપિયા અથવા તેથી વધુ મૂડી ધરાવતા કરોડપતિઓની સૂચિમાં ભારતનો આઠમો નંબર આવે છે. ભારતમાં અમેરિકા, ચીન, જર્મની કરતા ઓછા કરોડપતિઓ છે પરંતુ સિંગાપોર અને કેનેડા કરતા વધુ કરોડપતિઓ છે.

ભારતમાં કરોડપતિઓની સંખ્યા ૧૪૮૦૦ છે. વિશ્વના દેશોની વાતો કરીએ તો અમેરિકામાં સૌથી વધુ ૧,૮૩૫૦૦ કરોડપતિઓ છે બીજા નંબરે ચીનમાં ૨૬૬૦૦ ત્રીજા નંબરે જર્મની ૨૫૪૦૦ ચોથા નંબરે યુ.કે. માં ૨૧૭૦૦ જાપાનમાં ૨૧૦૦૦ સ્વીટ્ઝર્લેન્ડમાં ૧૮૩૦૦ જ્યારે હોંગકોંગમાં ૧૫૪૦૦ કરોડપતિઓ છે.

દર આઠમાં એક કેદી વિદેશી :

યુ.કે.માં જેલની સજા ભોગવી રહેલ કેદીઓમાં દર આઠ કેદીઓમાં એક કેદી વિદેશી હોવાનું એક રિપોર્ટમાં બહાર આવ્યું છે. જેલમાં મુસ્લિમ કેદીઓની સંખ્યામાં પણ છ ટકા વધારો થઈ તે સંખ્યા ૧૨ હજાર ઉપર પહોંચી છે. આ ઉપરાંત હત્યા અને બળાત્કારના કેસોમાં એક હજારથી વધુ અપરાધીઓ નાસ્તા ફરે છે. આ રિપોર્ટમાં જેલમાં થતા હિંસાના બનાવોમાં પણ વધારો નોંધાયો છે. માર્ચના અંત સુધીમાં આવા હિંસાના કે હુમલાના કુલ ૩૩૬૩ બનાવો બન્યા હતા. જે સંખ્યા અગાઉના વર્ષે ૨૯૬૪ની હતી.

ઓછું પાણી પીનારમાં ડાયાબિટીસનો ખતરો :

ફ્રાન્સ ખાતે જનરલ ડાયાબિટીસના કેસના સંશોધનમાં જાણવા મળ્યું છે કે, જે લોકો એક દિવસમાં બે ગ્લાસ કે તેનાથી ઓછું પાણી પીવે છે તેમાં હાઈ બ્લડ સુગરનું પ્રમાણ જોવા મળે છે. અને તેના કારણે આવા લોકો ડાયાબિટીસગ્રસ્ત થઈ શકે છે. અભ્યાસમાં જાણવા મળ્યું છે કે બે ગ્લાસથી ઓછું પાણી પીનારા લોકોમાં ડાયાબિટીસનો ખતરો વધી જાય છે. આનાથી જાણવા મળે છે કે, વધુ પ્રમાણમાં પાણી પીવું ખૂબજ ઉપયોગી છે. શરીરમાં ઓછા પાણીના કારણે શ્રેણીબદ્ધ રોગ થઈ શકે છે. આપણાં ડોક્ટરો કે કન્સલ્ટન્ટનો પણ દિવસમાં ચાર કે તેથી વધુ ગ્લાસ પાણી નિયમિત રીતે પીવા સલાહ આપતા હોય છે. જે તરફ આપણે દરેકે ધ્યાન આપવું ખૂબજ જરૂરી છે.

તમે સાચા સુખને ક્યારે માણી શકો ?

ન્યુયોર્કમાં થયેલ એક સંશોધનમાં જાણવા મળ્યું છે કે, જો તમે વાર્ષિક ૪૫ હજાર પાઉન્ડથી ઓછું કમાતા હોવ તો તમે સાચા સુખને માણી શકો છો. ન્યુયોર્કની સ્ટેટ યુનિવર્સિટીના ડો. મરિયમ તાલેલના જણાવ્યા મુજબ એક વ્યક્તિની કમાણીનો આંક જ્યારે ૪૫હજાર પાઉન્ડ પાર કરી જાય છે તે પછી તે

કોર્પોરેટ વિશ્વની સીડી ચઢવામાં વ્યસ્ત થઈ જાય છે. અને તે સુખ માણવાનું ભૂલી જતો હોય છે. તેમનું એમ પણ કહેવું છે કે, વાર્ષિક ૪૪૭૦૦ પાઉન્ડ કે તેથી ઓછું કમાનારા લોકો તેનાથી વધુ કમાણી કરનારા લોકો કરતા વધુ સંતોષજનક જીવન જીવતા હોય છે.

આપણે પણ રોજબરોજની જિંદગીમાં જોઈએ છીએ કે જેમની પાસે વધુ સંપત્તિ હોય છે તે તેનાથી પણ વધુ કમાવવા જીવન જીવવાની શૈલી ભૂલી જાય છે. અને તેઓ જીવનની સાચી મજા માણી શકતા નથી. જ્યારે એવા કેટલાય લોકો છે જેઓ પોતાને મળતી કમાઈમાં સંતોષ અનુભવે છે અને જિંદગીનો લ્હાવો લઈ સુખમય જીવન ગુજારે છે.

મિલિયનો પાઉન્ડનો ટેક્ષ કાઉન્સિલે કર્યો માફ :

કર્કલીઝ કાઉન્સિલ ઓથોરિટીએ એપ્રિલ ૨૦૧૩ થી માર્ચ ૨૦૧૪ દરમ્યાન ૭.૪ મિલિયન પાઉન્ડના રેન્ટ, કાઉન્સિલ ટેક્ષ અને બીઝનેસ ટેક્ષ માફ (રાઈટ ઓફ) કર્યા છે. ગયા વર્ષે (૨૦૧૨-૧૩ માં) ૮.૧ મિલિયન પાઉન્ડના આવા ટેક્ષો માફ કરવામાં આવ્યા હતા.

રીસોર્સિસ કેબીનેટ સભ્ય કાઉન્સિલર ગ્રેહામ ટર્નરે જણાવ્યું હતું કે, ઘણાં ઓછા એવા લોકો છે જેઓ સમયસર આ પ્રકારના ટેક્ષો ભરતા નથી. પરંતુ સાથે જ કાઉન્સિલ આ અંગે ફીકરમંદ રહી ટેક્ષ વસુલી (ટેક્ષ રીકવરી) ના પગલા ભરે છે. તેમણે વધુમાં કહ્યું હતું કે, ટેક્ષની આ રકમ લેણદારો પાસેથી વસુલ કરવા ટેક્ષ વસુલી પદ્ધતિ અને કામગીરીનો ખર્ચ વધુ થાય છે. ઉપરાંત લેણદારોને શોધવામાં પણ નિષ્ફળતા મળે છે.

આવા સંજોગોમાં લોકોના મનમાં એક પ્રશ્ન જરૂર ઊભો થાય છે કે, શું દર વર્ષે કાઉન્સિલ આવા મિલિયનો પાઉન્ડના ટેક્ષો રાઈટ ઓફ કરી નુકસાન સહન કરે છે અને બીજી તરફ તેમની સુવિધાઓમાં સ્પેન્ડિંગ કટ કરે છે તે કેટલું વ્યાજબી છે? શું ટેક્ષ વસુલીની સારી પદ્ધતિ અમલી ન બનાવી શકાય? આખરે આ નુકસાનનો બોજો તો કર્કલીઝમાં રહેતા લોકો ઉપર જ પડે છે.

ભારત ખાતે ટામેટાના ભાવ આસ્માને :

ભારતના શાકભાજીના બજારોમાં હાલમાં ટામેટાની તંગી જોવા મળી રહી છે. ટામેટાના એક કિલોના ભાવ પેટ્રોલના એક લીટરના ભાવ કરતા પણ વધારે થયા છે. ગયા માસમાં તો શાકભાજીના ગોડાઉન અને દુકાનોમાંથી ટામેટાની ચોરીના અનેક બનાવોથી લોકોમાં આશ્ચર્યની લાગણી જોવા મળી હતી. કોંગ્રેસની યુપીએ સરકારના સમયમાં કાંદાના ભાવો જ્યારે ઉંચે જતાં ત્યારે ગળામાં કાંદાના હાર પહેરીને દેખાવો કરનારા ભાજપના નેતાઓ ટામેટાના ભાવ અંગે ચૂપ કેમ છે? તેવા પ્રશ્નો પૂછાય રહ્યા છે. ટામેટાના સંગ્રહ અને ઓછા પાકના કારણે ભાવો આસ્માને જઈ રહ્યા છે. સંગ્રહખોરો સામે કોઈ પગલા ભાજપ સરકાર કેમ લેતી નથી તે બાબતે પણ પ્રજામાં રોષ જોવા મળે છે. હોટલોમાંથી પણ ટામેટા અદ્રશ્ય થઈ ગયા છે. પરિણામે ગરીબ અને મધ્યમ વર્ગના લોકોમાં ચિંતા ફેલાય રહી છે.

હાલાત અને આમાલનો

એક બીજા સાથે જોડ

-મહંમદ યુસુફ સૂફી લાજપુરી, બાટલી.

જ્યારે આપણે કુરઆન મજીદનો મુતાલો કરીએ છીએ તો આપણને કુરઆન પોતાના ચોખ્ખા શબ્દોમાં ખબરદાર કરે છે કે, આ દુનિયામાં થતા જુલ્મ, અત્યાચાર અને ફસાદનું મુળ કારણ ઈન્સાનના ખોટા અકીદા અને ખરાબ આમાલ છે. એનું સાફ એલાન અલ્લાહતઆલાએ કુરઆને કરીમમાં પણ કર્યું છે.

પ્રથમ પોતાનો મુહાસબો

અલ્લાહતઆલાની હિકમત અને કાનુને ઈલાહીની રોશનીમાં આ વાત સારી રીતે સાફ થઈ જાય છે કે આજે પૂરી દુનિયામાં મુસલમાનો ઉપર જે જુલ્મ કરવામાં આવી રહ્યા છે, અને પરેશાન કરવામાં આવી રહ્યા છે. એ હાલતમાં પોતાના ઉપર આવવાવાળી મુશીબતો અને પરેશાનીઓને દુનિયાના સામે ફરિયાદ કરવાથી અને બીજાને એના જીમ્મેદાર બનાવવા અને એ માટે જરૂરત વિનાના વધુ પડતા અસબાબોના કારણો શોધવા પહેલા આપણે પ્રથમ પોતાનો મુહાસબો, હિસાબ કરી લેવું જોઈએ. અને પોતાને બદલવાની કોશિશ કરવી જોઈએ. કારણ કે અલ્લાહતઆલાએ હાલાતના પરિવર્તન, તબ્દીલીનો વાયદો પોતાના હાલાત બદલવા ઉપર આધાર રાખ્યો છે. અલ્લાહતઆલાનો ઈરશાદ છે કે અલ્લાહતઆલા તે કોમની હાલત નથી બદલતા જે પોતાની હાલતને બદલવાની પોતે ફિકર ન કરે. જેને એક શાયરે પોતાના શેરમાં ખૂબ કહ્યું છે, ખુદાને આજતક ઉસ કોમકી હાલત નહીં બદલી ન હો જીનકો ખ્યાલ આપ અપની હાલત કો બદલનેકા.

ઈમાનની કસોટી

મુસલમાનનું ઈમાન હાલાત અને આઝમાઈશ, કસોટીના સમયે જાહેર થાય છે. કારણ કે એવા સમયે તે ખૂબ દુઆઓ કરે છે. પરંતુ કબુલીયતની અસરો તેને દેખાતી નથી. હવે એક તે મુસલમાન જેને અલ્લાહતઆલાની મસ્લેહત અને હિકમતના ઉપર પુરૂં યકીન અને ભરોસો હોવાના કારણે તેની ઉમ્મીદ ખતમ થતી નથી, ચારો તરફથી માયુસીના કારણો વધારે હોવા છતાં પણ ના ઉમ્મીદ થતા નથી. આવા સમયે ખાસ કરીને અલ્લાહને ગુનાહો કરી નારાજ કરતા નથી. બલકે અલ્લાહના અહકામ અને હઝરત નબીએ કરીમ સ.અ.વ. ની સુન્નત ઉપર ઈસ્તેકામાત સાથે જમી, દટી રહે છે.

જ્યારે બીજા નંબર ઉપર તે મુસલમાનો જે ચાહે છે કે, દુઆની કબુલીયતની અસર તરત જાહીર થઈ જાય. અને અગર અસર જાહીર ન થાય તો તે અલ્લાહતઆલાથી નારાજ થવા લાગે છે. તો તેનું ઈમાન કમજોર છે. એ એમ સમજે છે કે કબુલીયત મારો હક છે. અલ્લાહ ઉપર જરૂરી છે કે હાલાત તરત બદલી નાંખે.

સાથે તે પોતાના આમાલની મંજૂરીની માંગ કરી રહ્યો છે. હકીકત તો એ છે કે આવા સમયે કહે કે, તુ હમે નવાઝ દે તો યે તેરા કરમ હે વરના, તેરી રહમતો કા બદલા હમારી બંદગી નહીં હય

ગુનાહોની સજા પણ દુનિયામાં

સાથે એ વાત પણ યાદ રાખવા જેવી છે કે, ગુનાહોની સજા આખિરતથી પહેલાં દુનિયામાં પણ શરૂ થઈ જાય છે. કોઈ પણ ગુનાહ કરો પરેશાની શરૂ થઈ જાય છે. દિલ બેચેન થઈ જાય છે. રાતની ઊંઘ ઊડી જાય છે. કદી અવલાદ તરફથી કે કદી પત્ની તરફથી કે પછી વેપાર, ધંધા નોકરીથી કોઈ રીતે પરેશાની તણાવ, ડીપ્રેશન, ટેન્શનની જિંદગી ગુજરતી હોય છે.

જે લોકો દુનિયામાં આઝાદ જિંદગી ગુજારે છે અને ખુલ્લમ ખુલ્લા ગુનાહો કરતા રહે છે, કોઈ એમ સમજે કે, એઓને ઘણીજ સુખવાળી જિંદગી મળેલી છે પરંતુ આ બધું ઉપર ઉપરનું જ હોય છે. તેઓની બેચેન રાત્રીઓ, દિલની પરેશાનીઓ અજીબ પ્રકારની હોય છે. જેમના ઉપર વિતતી હશે તે જ જાણતા હશે. આપણે હંમેશા અલ્લાહતઆલાની નાફરમાનીવાળી જિંદગીથી બચતા રહેવું જોઈએ. આલ્લાહપાક આપણા સૌની આવા દરેક પ્રકારની જિંદગીથી જેનાથી રાત્રિની ઊંઘ ઊડી જાય, દિલ બેચેન થઈ જાઈ, ડીપ્રેશન અને ટેન્શનની જિંદગી ગુજરે હંમેશાં હિફાઝત ફરમાવે આમીન.

હાલાત અને આમાલ વિષે પ્રશ્ન અને ઉત્તર

જે દોરમાં ઉમ્મતે મુસ્લિમ (મુસલમાન ઉમ્મત) અને પુરી દુનિયાના લોકો દાખિલ થઈ ગયા છે, જેવા હાલાત દુનિયાના સ્ટેજ પર અલ્લાહતઆલાની તકદીરથી વજુદમાં આવી રહ્યા છે. આ હાલાતે ઘણાં સવાલો દિમાગમાં ઊભા કર્યા છે. જરૂરત છે કે, આ સવાલોના જવાબો શોધવામાં આવે. તે કુરઆન મજીદમાં દરેક જરૂરી સવાલોના જવાબો મૌજુદ છે. અને હઝરત નબીએ કરીમ સ.અ.વ. તે ઈરશાદોમાં જ્યાં અલ્લાહતઆલાની કિતાબની તફસીલ અને વિગત યોખવટ છે. અને ખુલફએ રાશીદીન (ચારો ખલીફા) ના દોરથી માર્ગદર્શન મળે છે.

શું અલ્લાહતઆલા બેબસ છે? શું અલ્લાહ બેખબર છે? તે શક અને સવાલો આજે દરેકના દિલો-દિમાગમાં પોતાનો રસ્તો બનાવવાની કોશિશ કરી રહ્યા છે. જે સવાલ શયતાન આપણાં દિમાગમાં નાખીને કદમને પાછળ હટાવવાની ભરપૂર કોશિષ કરી રહ્યો છે.

ક્યું મન્નતે માંગતા હે ઓરો કે દરબાર સે
વો કોનસા કામ હે જો હોતા નહીં તેરે પરવરદિગારસે
જબ એ કહા કે હમ પર હાલાત હે
જવાબ મીલા કે પેહલે અપને આમાલ દેખ.

એક સુવાક્ય

આ દુનિયાનો નિયમ છે, જ્યાં સુધી કામ છે, તો તમારું નામ છે,
નહીં તો દૂરથી જ સલામ છે.

વિચાર વિનિમય

-અહમદ ગુલ

મીઠી વાણી

તાજેતરમાં એક નાનકડી પરંતુ સુંદર બોધદાયક વાર્તા વાંચવા મળી.

બે કીડી હતી. એકનું મોઢું ખાંડ હતું, જ્યારે બીજીનું મીઠું. બન્ને આપસમાં ચર્ચા કરતી હતી, મીઠું મોઢુંવાળીએ કહ્યું કે, હું તો ખાંડની (સુગર) ની ટેકરી પરથી આવી છું એટલે માંડ મોઢું મીઠું છે. બીજીએ કહ્યું કે, હું તો મીઠાં (સોલ્ટ) ની ટેકરીએથી આવી છું એટલે માંડ મોઢું ખાંડ. મીઠાં મોઢુંવાળીએ કહ્યું કે, ચાલ મારી સાથે તને ખાંડની ટેકરી પર લઈ જાઉં. તારું મોઢું પણ મીઠું થઈ જશે. બન્ને ખાંડની ટેકરી પર ગયા. થોડી વાર પછી મીઠાં મોઢુંવાળીએ પૂછ્યું “તારું મોઢું મીઠું થયું કે નહિ?” પેલીએ ના પાડી કે “માંડ મોઢું તો મીઠું નથી થયું. માંડ મોં તો હજી ખાંડ જ છે.” પેલી કીડીને આશ્ચર્ય થયું. કંઈક વિચાર કર્યા પછી કહ્યું “ તારું મોઢું જરા ખોલ તો” પેલી બીજી કીડીએ મોઢું ખોલ્યું. મીઠાં મોઢુંવાળીએ કહ્યું કે, “તારા મોઢામાં તો હજી મીઠા (સોલ્ટ) ની ગાંગડી છે. તે કાઢી નાંખ. જ્યાં સુધી એ મોઢાંમાં રહેશે ત્યાં સુધી તને બધું જ ખાંડ લાગવાનું.”

આપણે પણ મોઢું મીઠું કરવું છે પરંતુ ગાંગડી મોઢાંમાંથી કાઢવી નથી. માણસ કડવાશ થૂંકી નથી નાંખતો, પણ એનો ઉપયોગ બીજા પર થૂં થૂં કરવામાં કરે છે. અહીં કહેવાનું તાત્પર્ય એ છે, આપણને મીઠાશથી વર્તવાનું ગમે છે, પરંતુ આપણા મોંમાંથી ઝરતા કડવા વેણ પર કાબુ મેળવવાની કોશિશ કરવી નથી. માણસે સારા થવું છે, પરંતુ હૃદયમાં વસી ગયેલી ઈર્ષા, અહમ અને શબ્દોની કડવાશને છોડવી નથી, અને જ્યાં સુધી આપણાં વર્તનમાં ફેરફાર નહીં થાય ત્યાં સુધી આપણે સંબંધોની મીઠાશને સમજી શકીશું નહીં. જરૂર છે આપણાં વર્તનમાં નમ્રતા અને સદવર્તન અપનાવવાની.

આપણે વહેવાર અને વર્તન કોઈ પૂર્વગ્રહ આધારિત ન હોવો જોઈએ, અને ત્યાં સુધી વેરભાવની કોઈ ગાંઠ ન બાંધો. અને ‘માણસમાત્ર ભૂલને પાત્ર’ એ આધારે અગર બંધાઈ પણ જાય તો એટલી હળવી બાંધો કે, એને સહેલાઈથી છોડી શકાય.

વાતચીતમાં મૂઢવાણી અને બે મીઠાં બોલથી સામેની વ્યક્તિ પર તમારા વ્યક્તિત્વની ઊમદા છાપ ઊભી કરી શકો છો અને સંબંધોની એક સુંદર ઈમારત યણી શકો છો. જરૂર છે આચરણમાં સ્હેજ પરિવર્તનની. આપણી બોલચાલ, આપણી વાણી અને બીજા સાથે આપણો નમ્ર વ્યવહારથી સામેવાળાના દિલમાં એક સારી છબી ઊભી કરવામાં આપણે અવશ્ય સફળ થઈ શકીએ છીએ.

આ છે બીજેપી/સંઘના સમર્થકો

તાજેતરમાં પ્રગટ થયેલ એક રિપોર્ટ અનુસાર ચોંકાવનારી વિગત બહાર આવી છે કે, ભારતની લઘુમતી કોમ કેવી રીતે હાંસિયામાં ધકેલી દેવાના પ્રયત્નો અને કાવાદાવા રચાઈ રહ્યા છે, અને હિન્દુ રાષ્ટ્ર રચવા માટે તન, મન અને ધનથી મદદ કરવા કંઈ કેટલા દેશોમાં બીજેપીના સમર્થકો ફેલાયેલા છે.

છેલ્લા ૧૨ વર્ષમાં માત્ર અમેરિકામાંથી એ કટ્ટરપંથી સમર્થકોએ ૫૫૦ લાખ ડોલરની નાણાંકીય મદદ મોકલાવી હતી. જેનો મુખ્ય હેતુ મુસ્લિમો અને દલિતો (હિન્દુઓમાં પછાત ગણાતી કોમ) ને તમામ સુવિધાઓથી વંચિત રાખવા, શિક્ષણ ક્ષેત્રે પાછળ રાખવા, વેપાર ધંધા અને નોકરીઓથી વંચિત રાખવાનો હતો. મતલબ કે લઘુમતિઓની પ્રગતિને રૂંધવાના બદ ઈરાદાથી આવી નાણાંકીય સહાય બીજેપી અને સંઘ પરિવારને કરોડો રૂપિયામાં મળી રહી છે.

અન્ય એનજીઓ (N.G.O.) ને મળતી પરદેશથી ચેરિટિ રૂપે આર્થિક સહાય પર ચાંપતી દેખરેખ રાખવાનું મોદી સરકાર ગંભીરતાથી વિચારી રહી છે. જેમાં સંઘને મળતા નાણાં પરત્વે એવી કોઈ તપાસ કરવામાં આવશે નહીં. મતલબ કે, ભવિષ્યમાં જો કોઈ નિયંત્રણ લાદવામાં આવશે તો સંઘને એવા નિયંત્રણથી બાકાત રાખવામાં આવશે. અગર એ સમાચારમાં સચ્ચાઈ હશે તો આવા એક તરફી નિર્ણયોથી અન્ય કોમોને મળતી પરદેશની સહાય પર જબરી અસર થશે. અને ખાસ કરીને મુસ્લિમોના હિતાર્થે કામ કરતી સંસ્થાઓને ભારે નુકસાન થવાની સંભાવના છે.

ગાઝલ

ઘર તો માણસથી શોભે છે,
હર યુગ માણસ ને શોધે છે.
કાલે તેની યાદો થાશે,
જે આજે આંબો રોપે છે.
તું ગઈ છે તે દિનથી બેટી,
આ આંગણ તુજને શોધે છે.
માતા ઘરડાં ઘરમાં રે' છે,
એવું કંઈ બેટો બોલે છે.
આજે તો લોહી ઉડવાનું,
આજે આ માણસ ટોળે છે.
મારી પીડા મારાં ગીતો,
મારાથી મુજને જોડે છે.
મોડે મોડે 'ગુલ' સમજાયું,
એ કોની બોલી બોલે છે.
-અહમદ ગુલ, બાટલી.

શું આપણે જુસ્સો પાણીના પરપોટા સમાન છે

ગયા માસમાં ગુરૂવાર તારીખ ૭મી ઓગષ્ટ ના રોજ અલ-હિકમાહ સેન્ટર, બાટલી ખાતે પેલેસ્ટાઈન અવેરનેસ પ્રોગ્રામના એક સુંદર કાર્યક્રમનું આયોજન ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી, બાટલી અને રાબેતા ઉલ ઉલ્મા, બાટલીના સહયોગથી કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. જેમાં ખૂબજ ઉચ્ચ કોટીના વક્તાઓને એકજ મંચ ઉપર આમંત્રિત કરાયા હતા. જેમાં મૌલાના હાસિમ સાયા (ચેરમેન રાબેતા ઉલ ઉલ્મા, બાટલી.) ઈસ્માઈલ આદમ પટેલ (ચેરમેન ફેન્ડઝ ઓફ અલ-અક્સા, યુ.કે.) રબાઈ કોહેન (માન્ચેસ્ટર), ટોની રોબિન્સન (બિશપ) વગેરેનો સમાવેશ હતો. દરેક વક્તાઓએ ઈઝરાઈલ અને ગાઝાના ઈતિહાસથી ગાઝામાં વખતોવખત જે ગોઝારા બનાવો બની રહ્યા છે અને વિશ્વના દેશોનો એ અંગે શું પ્રતિભાવ છે તેની સમજ અને વિગત બતાવવામાં આવી હતી. ઉપરાંત આવા સંજોગોમાં આપણી શું ફરજ છે? અને આપણે શું કરવું જોઈએ? અને શું કરી શકીએ? તેની પણ વિગતથી સમજ આપવામાં આવી હતી. મુબારકબાદી આપણી આ સંસ્થાને કે જેમણે અથાગ પ્રયત્નો અને સમય તથા પૈસાનો ભોગ આપી આવા સુંદર અને કાબેલ વક્તાઓને બોલાવી આપણને તેમને સાંભળવાનો અને પરિસ્થિતિઓથી માહિતગાર થવાનો મોકો આપ્યો.

પરંતુ અફસોસની વાત છે કે, રમઝાનના મુબારક મહીનામાં શરૂ થયેલ ગાઝાના આ ગોઝાર હુમલા વખતે ઉત્સાહનો ઉભરો બતાવતી આપણી બાટલી અને ડ્યુઝબરીની કોમ્યુનિટિના સભ્યોને આવા સુંદર પ્રોગ્રામમાં હાજરી આપી પોતાનો સપોર્ટ કે સોલીડારીટી બતાવવાની જરૂરત પણ દેખાઈ નહીં. આશા હતી કે આ પ્રોગ્રામમાં હિકમાહ સેન્ટરના બન્ને હોલો ભરાઈ જશે, પરંતુ અફસોસ કે લગભગ ૨૦૦ જેટલા વ્યક્તિઓની હાજરી આપણાં માટે અત્યંત ખેદજનક હતી.

આવું જ કંઈક આ સંસ્થા તરફથી આયોજીત થતા ઘણાં પ્રોગ્રામમાં આપણાં સમાજના લોકોની નજીવી હાજરીથી કાર્યકર્તાઓ પણ શરમની લાગણી અનુભવે છે, અને બહારથી આવનાર વિધ્વાન વક્તાઓ ઉપર પણ તેની ખરાબ અસર પડે છે. છેલ્લા સાત માસમાં અલ-હિકમાહ સેન્ટર ખાતે કમિટિના અથાગ પ્રયત્નોથી એન્યુલ લેકચર, શીરા કોન્ફરન્સ, યુથ યુનિટિ ઇન ડે જેવા ખૂબજ અગત્યના પ્રોગ્રામો આપણી કોમ્યુનિટિના લાભાર્થે થયા હતા. પરંતુ દુઃખદ ઘટના એ હતી કે તેમાં લોકોની હાજરી ખૂબજ ઓછી હતી. જો ભવિષ્યમાં પણ આવુંજ થતું રહ્યું, તો આવા અગત્યના અને જરૂરી પ્રોગ્રામો રાખતા પહેલા સંસ્થાએ પણ વિચાર કરવો પડશે.

સ્વાભાવિક રીતે કોઈ પણ સેમિનાર કે પ્રોગ્રામ વગેરેની સફળતાનો આધાર તે પ્રોગ્રામમાં લોકોની હાજરી કે મેદની ઉપર હોય છે. ઉપરાંત તે સભાઓમાં લોકોની હાજરી અને તે

પ્રત્યેના રસ અને સભાનતાથી વક્તાઓને પણ બચાનો કે વક્તવ્યો વગેરે રજૂ કરવામાં સહકાર મળે છે. કોઈ પણ સંસ્થા જે તે પ્રોગ્રામનું આયોજન કરે તેમાં સમય, પૈસા, અને મહેનત વપરાતી હોય છે. આટલા બધા પ્રયત્નો પછી આયોજિત આવા પ્રોગ્રામોનો લ્હાવો મળતો હોય ત્યારે સમાજના એક સદસ્ય તરીકે આપણી પણ ફરજ બને છે કે આપણાં કામકાજમાંથી થોડો સમય કાઢી એમાં હાજરી આપીએ. જેથી તેનો લાભ દરેકને મળી શકે.

આવું પણ બને !

વિશ્વના અનેક દેશોમાં હોસ્પિટલ તરફથી દર્દીઓ પ્રત્યે દાખવવામાં આવતી બેદરકારી કે ભૂલના અનેક બનાવો આપણે સાંભળીએ છીએ. ઓસ્ટ્રેલીયાના મેલ્બોર્ન શહેરની ઓસ્ટીન હોસ્પિટલમાં પણ કંઈક આવુંજ બન્યું હતું. હોસ્પિટલમાં સારવાર લઈ રહેલ ૨૦૦ જેટલા દર્દીઓને હોસ્પિટલમાંથી રજા આપવાના (ડીસ્ચાર્જ) કેસમાં ઓફીસરની ભૂલના કારણે દર્દીઓના જીપી ને ડીસ્ચાર્જના બદલે દર્દીઓ મરણ પામ્યા છે એવા લેટરો મોકલવામાં આવ્યા હતા. ભૂલનું કારણ એ હતું કે ડીસ્ચાર્જ અને મરણના સ્ટાનડર્ડ લેટરમાં ડીસ્ચાર્જની જગ્યાએ અધિકારીએ મરણના ટેમ્પલેટ કાગળનો ઉપયોગ કર્યો હતો. આ બાબતની ખબર ત્યારે પડી જ્યારે કે એક દર્દીના સગાએ ફેમિલિ મેમ્બરને આશ્વાસન પાઠવવા ફોન કર્યો હતો. પાછળથી હોસ્પિટલના અધિકારીઓએ પત્ર લખી આ અંગે માફી માંગી હતી પરંતુ આવી ભૂલના કારણે જીપી અને સગાઓ ખૂબજ નારાજ હતા.

એક જ ભૂલ આપણે જિંદગીભર કરતા રહ્યા
ધૂળ ચેરા પર હતી અને
આપણે અરિસો સાફ કરતા રહ્યા.

રેડિયો IMWS ! ગુજરાતી પ્રોગામ

દર બુધવારે સાંજના ૮ થી ૯ વાગે

રફીક ડભાડ અને સાથીઓ ગુજરાતીમાં ફૂલદાની કાર્યક્રમ રજૂ કરશે. અને બીજા બુધવારે ગુજરાતીમાં આપણીવાત કાર્યક્રમ અહમદ ગુલ અને સાથીઓ રજૂ કરશે. સામાજિક, ધાર્મિક, રાજકીય, સાહિત્યિક, શૈક્ષણિક, રોજબરોજના બનાવો અને આરોગ્ય જેવા વિવિધ વિષયો પર રસપ્રદ રજૂઆત અને ચર્ચાઓ તથા ઈન્ટરવ્યુ સાંભળવાનું ચૂકશો નહીં.

શ્રોતાજનો ! રેડિયોને સફળ બનાવવા આટલું જરૂર કરો...

૧. નિયમિત આ પ્રોગ્રામને સાંભળો. ૨. કાર્યક્રમમાં ફોન ધ્વારા ભાગ લ્યો. ૩. તમારા વિચારો, સજેશનો, ટિકા ટિપ્પણી અમને જણાવો અને ૪. પ્રેઝન્ટર બની ગુજરાતી પ્રોગામને સફળ બનાવો.

બાટલીમાં પુસ્તક વિમોચન અને મુશાયરો

રવિવાર તા. ૧૭મી ઓગષ્ટ ૨૦૧૪ના રોજ બાટલીના PKWA Centre ખાતે સૌરાષ્ટ્ર યુનિવર્સિટી, રાજકોટના ગુજરાતી ભાષા ભવનના વડા ડૉ બળવંત જાની દ્વારા સંપાદિત ત્રણ પુસ્તકોના વિમોચન માટે એક કાર્યક્રમનું આયોજન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું. આ કાર્યક્રમ અહીંની બે જાણીતી સાહિત્યિક સંસ્થાઓ ગુજરાતી રાઈટર્સ ફોરમ, બાટલી અને ગુજરાતી રાઈટર્સ ગિલ્ડ, યુ.કે. દ્વારા યોજવામાં આવ્યો હતો. ડૉ જાનીએ ઝીણવટભર્યા સંશોધન અને અથાગ મહેનતને પરિણામે જે ત્રણ પુસ્તકોનું સચોટ અને સુંદર સંપાદન કર્યું છે તે પુસ્તકોમાં (૧) બ્રિટીશ ગુજરાતી ડાયસ્પોરા કાવ્ય ધારા (૨) બ્રિટીશ ગુજરાતી ડાયસ્પોરા વાર્તા ધારા અને (૩) બ્રિટીશ ગુજરાતી ડાયસ્પોરા નિબંધ ધારાનો સમાવેશ થાય છે.

એ હકીકત છે કે બ્રિટન સ્થિત ગુજરાતી કવિઓ, ગઝલકારો, વાર્તાકારો અને લેખકોની અત્યાર સુધી ગુજરાતમાં જોઈએ તેવી અને તેટલી નોંધ લેવાઈ નથી. ગુજરાતથી હજારો માઈલ દૂર રહીને પણ રોજ રોટી કમાવાની સાથે સાથે ગુજરાતી ભાષા, સંસ્કૃતિ-સંસ્કાર અને અસ્મિતાને જાળવી રાખવા પોતાની કલમ દ્વારા અહીંના લેખકો કવિઓએ જે અલ્પ પ્રયાસો કર્યા છે તેને ઉજાગર કરવાનું એક ઉમદા કામ ડૉ જાની સાહેબે કર્યું છે. બ્રિટનભરમાં પથરાયેલા આ કવિ લેખક ગણનો સમ્પર્ક કરી જરૂરી માહિતી એકત્ર કરવાનું કામ ખરેખર મુશ્કેલ હતું. ડૉ જાનીએ આ પડકાર ઝીલી લઈ પોતે હાથ ધરેલા સંશોધનકાર્યને બખૂબી પાર પાડ્યું છે જે આ પુસ્તકોને વાંચતાં જોઈ શકાય છે. સંપાદનનું કઠિન કામ ઉપાડી લઈ તેને અંજામ સુધી પહોંચાડી આ સુજ્ઞ સંપાદકે આપણને સોને ખરેખર ઉપકૃત કર્યા છે.

કાર્યક્રમની શરૂઆત કરતાં ગુજરાતી રાઈટર્સ ફોરમ, બાટલીના સેક્રેટરી ઇસ્માઈલ દાજીએ ‘ફોરમ’ની પ્રવૃત્તિઓ પર પ્રકાશ ફેંક્યો હતો અને મહેમાનો તથા ઉપસ્થિત શ્રોતાઓનું સ્વાગત કર્યું હતું. ત્યાર બાદ ગુજરાતી રાઈટર્સ ગિલ્ડ, યુ.કે.ના સેક્રેટરી સિરાજ પટેલ પગથનવીએ ગિલ્ડની સ્થાપના અને વિકાસયાત્રા પર ઘણી વિગતે વાત કરતાં જણાવ્યું હતું કે સ્થાપનાકાળથી લઈ આજ સુધીમાં ગિલ્ડે યુ.કે.ના વિવિધ ટાઉનો અને શહેરોમાં સો જેટલા મુશાયરાઓનું આયોજન કરી લોકોને ગઝલો-હઝલોની લહાણી કરાવવા સાથે છેલ્લા પાંચ દાયકાથી અહીં બ્રિટનમાં અને ખાસ કરીને લેક્ષાયરમાં ગુજરાતી ભાષાને જીવંત રાખી છે.

ગુજરાતી રાઈટર્સ ફોરમ, બાટલીના પ્રમુખ કવિ અહમદ ગુલે ‘ફોરમ’ની સ્થાપનાનો ટૂંકો ઇતિહાસ રજૂ કર્યો હતો અને એની પ્રવૃત્તિઓ પર પ્રકાશ ફેંકતાં જણાવ્યું હતું કે ફોરમની સ્થાપનાથી આજ સુધી સંસ્થાએ દેશપરદેશથી અનેક નામાકિત કવિઓ-લેખકોને અહીં નિમંત્રી સ્થાનિક કવિઓને પ્રોત્સાહન અને માર્ગદર્શન પૂરું પાડ્યું છે અને અહીં યોર્કશાયરમાં પણ સાહિત્યિક કાર્યક્રમો, શિબિરો અને મુશાયરાઓનું આયોજન કરતા રહી ગુજરાતી ભાષાની માવજત કરી છે.

અહમદ ટંકારવીએ બ્રિટીશ ગુજરાતી ડાયસ્પોરા પ્રોજેક્ટ વિષે વાત કરતાં જણાવ્યું હતું કે અહીં બ્રિટનના સાહિત્ય જગત વિષે છવાયેલા ધુમ્મસને ખસેડવાનું કામ ડૉ બળવંત જાનીએ કર્યું છે. ડૉ જગદીશ દવેના શબ્દો ટાંકતાં તેમણે આ કામને એક ગૌરવપ્રદ ઘટના તરીકે બિરદાવ્યું હતું.

હવે પુસ્તક વિમોચનની ઘડી આવી પડી હતી. વાર્તાધારા પુસ્તકનું વિમોચન બાટલીના જાણીતા જી.પી. અને સમાજસેવક ડૉ રાજપુરાએ, નિબંધ ધારા પુસ્તકનું IQEvent સેવીલ ટાઉન, ડ્યુજબરીના માલિક અને સાહિત્યપ્રેમી ઇકબાલ ઘોરીવાલાએ તથા કાવ્ય ધારાનું લંડનથી પધારેલ કવયિત્રી ભારતી પંકજે કર્યું હતું.

મુખ્ય મહેમાન ડૉ બળવંત જાનીએ પોતે હાથ ધરેલા પ્રોજેક્ટની રૂપરેખા રજૂ કરી હતી. ગુજરાતમાં બ્રિટીશ ગુજરાતી ડાયસ્પોરા સાહિત્ય વિષે જે ધુમ્મસિયો ખ્યાલ ત્યાંના સાહિત્યકારોમાં પ્રવર્તે છે તેને દૂર કરી અહીંના સર્જકોનું સાચું ચિત્ર રજૂ કરવાનો તેમણે પ્રયાસ કર્યો છે. આજ સુધી બ્રિટનના ગુજરાતી સાહિત્ય સર્જનની ગુજરાતમાં કોઈ ખાસ નોંધ લેવાઈ નથી. તેમણે આ ત્રણ પુસ્તકોમાં સંપાદિત કરેલ માહિતી ‘ધુમ્મસ પછીના ઉઘાડ’ની જેમ બ્રિટનના ગુજરાતી સાહિત્યકારોને પણ પ્રકાશમાં લાવશે એવી આશા વ્યક્ત કરી હતી. તેમણે પોતાના સંશોધન કાર્ય દરમિયાન દરેક ઠેકાણે તેમને મળેલા સુંદર સહકાર અને પ્રેમ, આદરની ભારોભાર કદર કરી આભારની લાગણી વ્યક્ત કરી હતી. તેમનો જન્મ દિવસ હોવાથી ડૉ રાજપુરા અને તેમના પત્ની આબેદાબહેને સૌને આશ્ચર્યમાં નાંખતાં સળગતી મીણબત્તી સાથે ડૉ જાની સામે બર્થડે કેક રજૂ કરી ‘હેપી બર્થડે ટુ યુ’ના કોરસ સાથે તેમના જન્મ દિવસની ઉજવણી કરી હતી. આ સમયે ડૉ જાની ભાવવિભોર થઈ ગયા હતા. બંને સંસ્થાઓ તરફથી કવિ બ્રાયન લૂઈસના હસ્તે એક સુંદર પ્લાક અર્પણ કરી ડૉ જાનીનું સન્માન કરવામાં આવ્યું હતું.

અધ્યક્ષસ્થાનેથી બોલતાં કવિ પંકજ વોરાએ આને એક ઐતિહાસિક ઘટના ગણાવી ડૉ જાનીનો આભાર માન્યો હતો.

છેલ્લે મુશાયરાની શરૂઆત કરતાં ગઝલકાર મહેક ટંકારવીએ હાજર રહેલા ૨૦ જેટલા કવિઓને પૂરતા સમયના અભાવે ઝડપથી રજૂ કરવાનું કપરું કામ ઉપાડી લીધું હતું. બોલ્ટન, બ્લેકબર્ન અને બાટલીના સ્થાનિક કવિઓ ઉપરાંત લેસ્ટરથી બેદાર લાજપુરી, દિલીપ ગજજર, મધુબેન ચાંપાનેરિયા, લંડનથી પંકજ વોરા અને ભારતી પંકજ તથા અંગેજ કવિ બ્રાયન લૂઈસે પોતાનાં કાવ્યો રજૂ કર્યા હતાં.

મહેક ટંકારવીએ આભારવિધિ કરતાં કાર્યક્રમમાં હાજર રહેલા સાહિત્ય રસિકો અને ગઝલફહેમ શ્રોતાઓનો, તમામ કવિમિત્રોનો, મુખ્ય મહેમાન ડૉ બળવંત જાનીનો અને કાર્યક્રમના અધ્યક્ષ કવિ પંકજ વોરા અને તેમના પત્ની ભારતી પંકજનો, સહયોગ બદલ ઇકબાલ ઘોરીવાલાનો અને કાર્યક્રમના આયોજનની સંપૂર્ણ જવાબદારી ઉપાડી લઈ તેને સરસ રીતે પાર પાડવા બદલ અહમદ ગુલ અને તેમના સાથીઓનો આભાર માન્યો હતો.

ભોજનને ન્યાય આપી ૬.૩૦ વાગ્યે શરૂ થયેલો પુસ્તક વિમોચન અને મુશાયરાનો આ કાર્યક્રમ રાતના ૮.૩૦ વાગ્યે સમાપ્ત થયો હતો.

فلسطینی اسرائیلی جیلوں میں قید 2000

فلسطین میں انسانی حقوق کے لیے کام کرنے والے گروپوں نے انکشاف کیا ہے کہ قابض اسرائیلی فوج نے پچھلے دو ماہ کے دوران فلسطین کے مختلف شہروں میں وحشیانہ کریک ڈاؤن میں 2000 فلسطینیوں کو حراست میں لے کر جیلوں میں ڈالا۔ زیادہ تر گرفتاریاں مقبوضہ مغربی کنارے کے شہروں، بیت المقدس اور فلسطین کے دوسرے مقامات سے کی گئی جس کے بعد اسرائیلی جیلوں میں پابند سلاسل فلسطینیوں کی تعداد 5 سے بڑھ کر 7000 ہو گئی ہے۔ مرکز اطلاعات فلسطین کے مطابق اسٹڈی سینٹر برائے امور اسیران کی جانب سے جاری ایک تازہ رپورٹ میں بتایا گیا ہے کہ نہتے فلسطینیوں کی بلا جواز گرفتاریوں کا تازہ سلسلہ وسط جوں میں مغربی کنارے کے الخلیل شہر میں تین یہودی آبادکاروں کی پر اسرار گم شدگی کے بعد شروع ہوا۔ ایک ماہ میں اسرائیلی فوج نے مغربی کنارے کے مختلف شہروں میں 150 سرچ آپریشن اور گرفتاریوں کے لیے کریک ڈاؤن کیے جن میں خواتین، بچوں سمیت سیکڑوں فلسطینیوں کو قید کر کے جیلوں میں ڈال دیا گیا۔ حراست میں لیے جانے والے بڑی تعداد میں شہریوں کو بغیر کسی الزام کے انتظامی حراست میں منتقل کر دیا گیا۔ گرفتاریوں کے تازہ فلسطینیوں کے خلاف اسرائیلی عدالتوں سے عجلت میں مقدمات قائم کرائے گئے اور انہیں دانستہ طور پر جیلوں میں پابند سلاسل کرنے کی راہ ہموار کی گئی۔ فلسطینی اسیران کے امور پر نظر رکھنے والے تجزیہ نگار عبدالناصر فردوانہ نے اس موضوع پر انسانی حقوق کے ادارے سے بات کرتے ہوئے بتایا کہ حراست میں لیے گئے قیدیوں کو بھیڑ بکریوں کی طرح عقوبت خانوں میں ٹھونسا گیا ہے جہاں انہیں بنیادی انسانی حقوق بھی میسر نہیں ہیں۔ زخمیوں میں کئی زخمی اور مریض ہیں لیکن وہ اسرائیلی فوج کے خالمانہ ہتھکنڈوں کا سامنا کرتے ہوئے اب جیلوں میں بدترین مظالم بھی جھیل رہے ہیں۔

کشمیر میں افسپا کو فوراً ہٹایا جائے، ایمنسٹی انٹرنیشنل

سرینگر: ایمنسٹی انٹرنیشنل نے کہا ہے کہ کشمیر میں نافذ افسپا ہٹانے سے مسئلے کے حل کی شروعات ہو سکتی ہیں۔ بھارتی میڈیا کے مطابق ایمنسٹی انٹرنیشنل نے اپنے جاری بیان میں کہا ہے کہ افسپا کی وجہ سے پولیس فورسز کو بے پناہ اختیارات حاصل ہیں۔ جس کی وجہ سے کشمیر میں انسانی حقوق کی پامالیوں کے واقعات رونما ہو رہے ہیں۔ بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ زیندر مودی نے بار بار انسانی حقوق کو تحفظ فراہم کرنے اور لوگوں کو ان کا حق دلانے کا وعدہ کیا ہے۔ جس پر من و عن عمل کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ ایمنسٹی انٹرنیشنل کے ڈپٹی چیف ایگزیکٹو برائے انڈیا ایشیائی کمار ویتھ نے مرکزی حکومت پر زور دیا کہ وہ ریاست جوں و کشمیر اور شمالی مشرقی ریاستوں میں افسپا کو ہٹانے کیلئے فوری طور پر اقدامات اٹھائے۔ ایمنسٹی انٹرنیشنل کے مطابق افسپا نافذ رہنے کی وجہ سے ریاست جوں و کشمیر اور شمالی مشرقی ریاستوں میں انسانی حقوق کی خلاف ورزیوں کا نہ تھننے والا سلسلہ مسلسل جاری ہے اور ملوث اہلکاروں کو اس قانون کے تحت سزا بھی دی جاسکتی ہے۔

نسلی اقلیتی ووٹروں کو نظر انداز کیا گیا، سعیدہ وارثی

لندن: غزہ میں اسرائیلی جارحیت پر مستعفی برطانوی وزیر سعیدہ وارثی نے کہا کہ وزیر اعظم ڈیوڈ کیمرن نے نسلی اقلیتی ووٹروں کو نظر انداز کیا۔ قدامت پسند پارٹی کو آئندہ انتخابات میں شکست ہوگی۔ پاکستانی نژاد سابق وزیر سعیدہ وارثی نے خبردار کیا کہ وزیر اعظم ڈیوڈ کیمرن کی جماعت کنزرویٹوز آئندہ سال ہونے والے عام انتخابات میں نسلی اقلیتی ووٹروں کو نظر انداز کرنے کے باعث شکست سے دوچار ہو جائے گی۔ سعیدہ وارثی گذشتہ ہفتے برطانوی حکومت کی غزہ کے بارے میں پالیسی پر احتجاجاً مستعفی ہو گئی تھیں۔ انہوں نے ٹوئٹر پر اپنے استعفیٰ میں لکھا تھا کہ وہ ڈیوڈ کیمرن کی اخلاقی طور پر ناقابل دفاع اسرائیلی نواز پالیسی کی مزید حمایت نہیں کر سکتیں۔ وارثی نے برطانوی اخبارات سنڈے ٹائمز اور انڈی پیپٹنٹ میں کو دیے گئے انٹرویو میں خبردار کیا کہ کنزرویٹوز آئندہ انتخابات میں شکست کے لئے تیار ہو جائیں۔

داعش کے جنگجو برطانیہ کیلئے براہ راست خطرہ ہیں، ڈیوڈ کیمرن

لندن: برطانوی وزیر اعظم ڈیوڈ کیمرن نے متنبہ کیا ہے کہ دولت اسلامی عراق و شام ”داعش“ کے جنگجو برطانیہ کے لیے براہ راست خطرہ ہیں۔ ایسے میں مملکت کو اپنی تمام تر فوجی صلاحیت استعمال کرتے ہوئے ان کی پیش قدمی روکنا ہوگی۔ برطانوی اخبار سنڈے ٹیلگراف میں اپنے مضمون میں ڈیوڈ کیمرن کا کہنا تھا کہ ”اگر ہم نے غیر معمولی خطرناک دہشت گرد تحریک کا حملہ روکنے کے لیے اقدام نہ اٹھایا تو یہ زیادہ مضبوط ہوتی جائے گی جس کے بعد اس بات کا امکان بڑھ جائے گا کہ یہ ہمیں برطانیہ کی سڑکوں پر نشانہ بنانے لگیں۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ مجھے اس بات سے اتفاق ہے کہ ہمیں قبضے اور لڑائی کے لیے فوجیں بھیجنے سے گریز کرنا چاہئے، تاہم روشن مستقبل کے لیے ہمیں طویل المیعاد منصوبے کی ضرورت ہے۔ کنزرویٹوز پارٹی کے رہنما نے خبردار کیا مغرب کو کئی نسلوں تک جہد و جدوجہد کرنا ہوگی۔ ڈیوڈ کیمرن نے مزید کہا کہ اس مقصد کے لیے برطانیہ کو سعودی عرب، قطر، مصر، ترکی اور شاید ایران کے ساتھ ملکر کام کرنے کی ضرورت ہے۔ ایک سرکردہ اینگلیکن پادری نے ڈیوڈ کیمرن کی مشرق وسطیٰ پالیسی کو ایک خط میں ہدف تنقید بنایا۔ اس موقف کی حمایت کینٹنبری کے آرک بشپ جسٹن ویلبے نے بھی کی تھی۔ آبرور اخبار کو تحریر کردہ خط میں بشپ آف لیڈز نیکولس بینز نے کہا کہ دنیا میں تیزی سے پروان چڑھتے ہوئے اسلامی انتہا پسندی کے رجحان کو روکنے کے لئے ہمارے پاس مربوط اور جامع اپروچ کی کمی ہے۔ کیمرن کا یہ بیان عراق میں داعش کے جنگجوؤں کے ہاتھوں کئی درجن دیہاتیوں کے قتل عام کے واقعات کے اگلے روز سامنے آیا ہے۔ دنیا عراق میں کئی برسوں سے اقتدار پر براہمان نوری الماکی کی ایوان وزیر اعظم سے رخصتی کے بعد قدرے سکون محسوس کرتے ہوئے در بدر عراقی عوام کو امداد اور کردوں کو اسلحہ فراہم کر رہی ہے۔ دریں اثناء برطانوی وزیر دفاع مائیکل فالن نے ایک بیان میں کہا کہ ان کا ملک شمالی عراق پر اپنی نگران پروازیں جاری رکھے گا تا کہ مزید اقلیتی گروپوں کو داعش کے حملوں سے بچایا جاسکے۔

آخر میں حضرت مفتی احمد خانپوری صاحب مدظلہ کی رقت آمیز دعائوں پر مسجد نور کی ایک پریکٹس، پرمسرت، پر لطف، پر نور مجلس کا اختتام ہوا۔

کیا ہے رابطہ آہ و فغاں سے
زمیں کو کام ہے کچھ آسمان سے

[فیضانِ محبت]

اس کے بعد یہ مبارک قافلہ مع علماء صلحانے مغرب کی نماز ڈیوڑھری مسجد دارالعلم میں ادا فرمائی۔ جہاں شام کے وقت کا طالبات کے قائم شدہ مدرسہ میں افتتاح صحیح بخاری شریف کی پروق مجلس قائم ہوئی۔ اس موقع پر ڈیوڑھری کے پرانے ممتاز عالم دین حضرت مولانا مفتی یعقوب قاسمی صاحب مدظلہ کی شرکت باوجود مرض و ضعف و پیرانہ سالی کے قابل تحسین تھی۔ نیز اس مسجد کے روح رواں و محرک و فعال علام دین حضرت مقبول صاحب مدظلہ کی محنت و کوشش قابل قدر تھی۔

دعا کے بعد مسجد کے معاونین و منتظمین کی مبارک جماعت نے سارے مہمان عظام اور علماء کرام کو پر تکلف شاندار دعوت کی تھی۔ ایسی خدمات کے لئے ہمیشہ اہل دارالعلم پیش پیش رہتی ہے جو قابل مبارک باد ہے۔

حماس کا مسجد اقصیٰ کی تقسیم کی اسرائیلی سازشیں ناکام بنانیکا

مطالبہ

اسلامی تحریک مزاحمت حماس نے اردن سے پر زور مطالبہ کیا ہے کہ وہ قبلہ اول کو: غزہ تقسیم کرنے کی اسرائیلی سازشوں کا سختی سے نوٹس لیتے ہوئے اپنی ذمہ داریاں پوری کرے اور مسجد اقصیٰ کو تقسیم کرنے کی ریشہ دوانیوں سے بچائے۔ مرکز اطلاعات فلسطین کے مطابق حماس کی جانب سے جاری ایک بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ ہم برادر ملک اردن سے مطالبہ کرتے ہیں کہ وہ مسجد اقصیٰ المبارک کے نگران اور اس کے متولی کی حیثیت سے قبلہ اول کو صیہونی ریشہ دوانیوں اور تقسیم کی سازشوں سے بچانے کے لیے موثر اقدامات کرے۔ حماس نے عرب لیگ اور اسلامی تعاون تنظیم او آئی سی سے بھی اپیل کی کہ وہ فلسطین میں مسلمانوں اور مسیحی برادری کے مقدس مقامات کے تحفظ کے لیے ٹھوس اقدامات کریں۔ حماس کا کہنا ہے کہ اسرائیل ایک منظم سازش کے تحت مسجد اقصیٰ کو مسلمانوں اور یہودیوں کے مابین زمانی اور مکانی طور پر تقسیم کرنے کی سازش کر رہا ہے۔ حماس اس گھناؤنی سازش کو قبلہ اول کے مستقبل کے حوالے سے نہایت خطرناک سمجھتی ہے۔ مسجد اقصیٰ کو تقسیم کرنا اور یہودیوں کو اس میں مذہبی رسومات کی کھلی چھٹی دینا اس مقدس مقام کی نہ صرف توہین ہے بلکہ اسے دنیا کے نقشے سے مٹانے کی سازشوں کا حصہ ہے۔ چونکہ اردن اس وقت مسجد اقصیٰ اور بیت المقدس کی تمام اسلامی مقدسات کا نگران اور متولی ملک ہے۔ اس لیے موجودہ حالات میں عمان حکومت کی ذمہ داریاں بھی بڑھ جاتی ہیں۔ اردن کو چاہیے کہ وہ مسجد اقصیٰ کی تقسیم کی ناپاک صیہونی سازشوں کو ناکام بنانے کے لیے فوری لائحہ عمل مرتب کرے۔

مسجد نور کی ایک پر نور مجلس اور مجلس افتتاح صحیح بخاری شریف۔

{ایم یوسف صوفی}

اجتماعی عید الفطر کی فرحت و مسرت سے سرشار ہو کر مورخہ ۱۳ شوال المکرم ۱۴۳۵ ہجری بمطابق ۱۹ اگست ۲۰۱۴ بروز سینیچر عصر کی نماز کے بعد ڈارک لین مسجد نور میں ایک روحانی و نورانی مجلس کا انعقاد ہوا۔ جس میں انڈیا کے معروف و مقبول مفتی مدرسہ جامعہ اسلامیہ ڈابھیل کے شیخ الحدیث مفتی اعظم حضرت مولانا احمد خانپوری صاحب مدظلہ اور مدرسہ ہذا کے نائب مفتی اور استاد حدیث و مخلص مقرر حضرت مولانا مفتی محمود باردولی صاحب مدظلہ اور جانشین فقیہ الامت حضرت مولانا مفتی ابراہیم پانڈور صاحب مدظلہ افریقی اور مدرسہ جامعہ حسینہ راندیر کے شیخ الحدیث اور صدر مفتی حضرت مولانا مفتی اسماعیل کچھولوی صاحب مدظلہ کی تشریف آوری کے ساتھ علماء و صلحا کے جمع ہونے پر ایک شاندار اجتماع ہوا تھا۔

اولاً "مسجد نور کے پیش امام حضرت مولانا قاری ام حنیف صاحب نے مہمان عظام کا شاندار پریکٹس خیر مقدم کیا۔ اولاً "۱۵-۱۵ منٹ ہر ایک بزرگوں کو بیانات کے لئے وقت کی قلت پر عنایت کی گئی۔ لہذا مفتی محمود باردولی صاحب نے مجلس کے موضوع کے مطابق نکاح کے شاندار موضوع پر مختصر مگر بہترین بیان فرمایا۔ جو اپنی فراست سے صرف ۱۱ منٹ پر مکمل فرمایا۔ اس کے بعد سائو تھ افریقہ سے تشریف لانے والے حضرت مولانا مفتی ابراہیم پانڈور صاحب نے شکر کے اعلیٰ موضوع پر صرف ۱۰ منٹ فضائل بیان فرمائے۔

اس کے بعد مجمع کو شدت سے جن ہستی کا انتظار تھا حضرت مولانا مفتی شیخ احمد خانپوری صاحب مدظلہ نے اپنے بصیرت افروز و روح پرور خطاب میں صحابہ کرام کے مناقب، محبت و عظمت کے سلسلہ میں اور سچ بولنے کی فضیلت پر تا تکہ معاشرہ میں صدق کی وجہ سے محبت و اتحاد کی فضا قائم ہو، ہر عوام و خواص کو اپنی ایمانی فراست سے متوجہ فرمایا۔ اس کے بعد ایک سنت سے لبریز اور حدیث کی روشنی میں اعظم نکاح جو بالکل تکلف و تکلیف سے خالی ہو دو خاندان عالیہ مولانا مفتی مرغوب احمد صاحب لاجپوری مدظلہ کی صاحب زادی سلخما اور مولانا قاری ام حنیف صاحب کے صاحب زادے مولانا ایم منیب صاحب کا عقد نکاح ہوا۔ چونکہ امت اس کے برعکس نکاح کا معائنہ کرنے کا عادی ہو چکا تھا۔ اس دور فتن میں اور انتشار و اختلاف کے ماحول میں ایک ایسا نکاح کا جو معاشرہ کے رائج ماحول کے بالکل خلاف ہو۔

سادہ و سنت کے موافق نکاح کا مشاہدہ بھی کر لے جس کا تذکرہ ہر منبر و محراب سے سنایا جاتا ہے جو صرف کان سنت سے سرشار ہوتے تھے۔ مگر تقریباً "نظر سے او جھل تھا۔ الّا۔۔۔"

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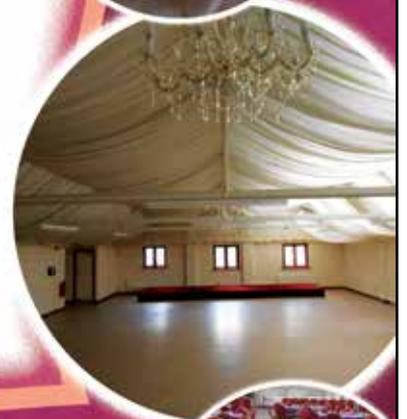
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