

# Paigaam

FREE Tri-Lingual Monthly Magazine est .1993



Issue 334 January 2021 Jumada Al Awwal/Jumada Al Akhirah 1442

# COVID-19 vaccine: It is your choice!

**COVID  
VACCINATION  
CENTRE  
APPOINTMENTS  
ONLY**

# UK Fatwas: Covid-19 vaccine is not Haraam

The UK has become the first country in the world to approve the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine.

In Batley, our local CCG (clinical commissioning group) is using the Al Hikmah Centre as a vaccination site for both the local and wider community.

People from a plethora of communities and backgrounds have visited the centre in order to receive their jabs and greatly appreciate the time and effort IMWS has put in fighting this pandemic.

While many people want an injection as soon as possible, others are worried about putting something unknown into their bodies.

Contrary to certain peripheries and innuendo that has been perpetuated within the local community, the new Covid-19 vaccine being rolled out across the UK has been deemed halal by both our respected Ulema across the country and a leading Muslim medical association.

When asked whether the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is Halal, leading scholars at Wifaqul Ulama released a Fatwa (religious edict) which has been signed by respected personalities such as Mufti Zubair Dudha, Mufti Zakaria Akudi, Mufti Amjad Mohammed along with one of the most senior Imam's in London, Qari Muhammad Shoyaib Nurgat of Walthamstow Masjid in London.

Although the scope of the Fatwa is limited to discussion regarding the ingredients of the BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine (exclusively) and should not be misconstrued to support vaccination in general or specifically for COVID-19, in light of the available data, an official statement and clarification provided by BioNTech, the aforementioned Ulema have concluded the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to be permissible for British Muslims.

Wifaqul Ulema's Fatwa has been backed by one of the most influential seminaries in the UK.

A fatwa signed by leading scholars Yusuf Shabbir and Mufti Shabbir Ahmad of Darul Uloom Blackburn, Mufti Muhammad Tahir of Darul Uloom Bury, and NHS consultant Mawlana Kallingal Riyad said the new Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is halal because it does not contain any components of animal origin.

A statement released on behalf of the scholars reads: "The aforementioned statement from the Government confirms that it is not sourced from animal fat, therefore it is Halal.

"The company has also confirmed this in an email to us which states: 'All lipid excipients used in COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 are either from plant-derived sources or are synthetic. The vaccine contains no animal components.'

"Please note that this answer is specific to the Pfizer BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine based on its current ingredients and does not necessarily extend to other forthcoming vaccines."

The signatories stressed that the decision to use the vaccine is a personal decision for each individual to make.

It is recommended that individuals read the patient information leaflet to understand the benefits and risks and also discuss with medical professionals should they require further information."

The British Islamic Medical Association (BIMA) said in a statement that they have consulted various experts in infectious diseases, the pharmaceutical industry, clinical medicine, commissioning, inequalities research and public health to conclude that Individuals should take the Covid-19 vaccine on the advice of their medical practitioner following informed consent.

"This is to protect these specific groups from probable and considerable risk of harm from Covid-19 infection, which is likely to be greater than any harm from taking the vaccine. We shall continually review this recommendation

as new information becomes available."

Pfizer and BioNTech claim there were no serious safety concerns from their trial. For safety purposes, they said the same number of people (nearly 45,000) as any vaccine trial had to be tested and in the same time frame.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said the government is not proposing to make the vaccine mandatory.

There are legitimate reasons not to have the vaccine including allergies and it is without doubt a very personal decision.

Although Black and Asian Britons have been severely affected throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, many are seemingly hesitant to take the new vaccine.

A study by the Queen Mary University found that barely 39 percent of people from BAME backgrounds were likely to take the vaccine as opposed to 70 percent of people from White/British backgrounds.

"Vaccine hesitancy is not to be dismissed and can be on account of a range of factors – rumour, speed of vaccine development, perception of risk, discrimination – but most important is trust," said Professor Sophie Harman who specialises in the politics of global health at Queen Mary University.

"It risks a double tragedy: racial inequality in deaths from COVID-19 and potential racial inequality in vaccine uptake."

Until August, more than a third of critically ill COVID-19 patients were from ethnic minority backgrounds.

While many experts have said discrimination has played a role, a scientist who advised the government said in October that "structural racism is not a reasonable explanation" for the increased death rate.

Of almost 362,000 people who signed up for the NHS vaccine trials, only 4.3 percent were Asian, and 0.5 percent were Black.

MP's Kemi Badenoch and Naz Shah, who are Black and Asian respectively, took part in coronavirus vaccine trials to encourage more ethnic minority volunteers, who currently are underrepresented.

Winston Morgan, a reader in toxicology and clinical biochemistry at University of East London, said vaccine hesitancy is fuelled by "structural racism, both current and historical".

"There is a clear lack of trust based on the lived experiences of many in these communities, so reassurances about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine are not being heard, or they don't believe the safety and efficacy data applies to them."

Some minority communities are cautious because they view troubling statistics as evidence of health inequalities.

For example, Black women are five times more likely to die in childbirth compared to white women.

Any lack of trust is rooted in lived experiences as opposed to conspiracy theories, said Morgan, leading to a

"circular situation" in which few ethnic minorities signed up for vaccine trials.

"The only way to regain trust is for the government to accept structural racism is playing a significant role in poorer medical outcomes," he said, "which they are unwilling to do."

Boris Johnson has urged people to take up the jab if offered it by the NHS, adding: "To all those who are scared - don't be. You have seen people take the vaccine in large numbers. There's nothing to be nervous about."

However, Sanjoy Bhattacharya, professor in the history of medicine at the University of York, said that ultimately, it is up to the government to establish trust amongst BAME communities.

"Resistance was not just linked to 'misinformation,'" he explained. "It was also the lack of official clarity around evidence of vaccinal efficacy and safety, a general disinterest amongst programme leads about wider socio-economic difficulties impacting communities, and an inability to create respectful and

trustworthy links with disadvantaged and ethnic minority groups."

In a statement the IMWS Executive committee acknowledged that some people may have reservations about the vaccine, and they have every right to protest but, it should be in a proper and civil manner.

"The use of foul language and abusive behaviour towards our staff and healthcare workers should not and will not be tolerated.

"If anyone has any worries, queries or generally unsure about COVID-19 or the vaccine itself, we encourage you to email the local health authorities and they will reply promptly to your email with correct and up to date medical advice from qualified professionals in the field.

"We know these are testing times for everyone in the community and many of us have differing views on what is happening around us. As a community especially in these times, no matter our differing views, we must stay strong and most importantly together as one."

# PCN & Curo Health Thank IMWS

It is with great excitement and a sense of pride and honour that Batley and Birstall Primary Care Network and Curo GP Federation are delivering the first Covid-19 Vaccination Programme at The Al-Hikmah Centre.

We have been offered the Al-Hikmah centre's Conference facilities known as Rabia Al-Basri Hall to run this ground-breaking programme and the support that has been offered to us by the Board, Nadeem, the General Manager, and every member of staff is absolutely exceptional.

This programme of work would not be as successful and have such a fluid model of safety for both members of the public and staff without the support of Al-Hikmah staff.

We do have to consider the population of Batley and Birstall GP Practices and ensure that we offer every single person the opportunity to receive this

potentially life-saving vaccination and although people who do not wish to have the vaccine have the choice to refuse, it is with sadness that we have encountered anti-vaccine protests.

We have been overwhelmed by public support for what we are delivering and every member of staff, although at first apprehensive because of the volatility of the vaccine, are now very proud of what they are involved in.

We would like to remind everyone that this is historical; and The Al-Hikmah Centre is first and foremost allowing this to happen.

The programme will be in place at least until 31st March 2021 and we would like to advise please do not telephone your GP Practice.

When your appointment is due, your GP Practice will telephone you to book your first appointment.

**Dr Chantel Ratcliffe – PCN Clinical Director**

**Dawn Beadle – PCN Network Lead**

**Elaine Gilliland – CEO Curo Health GP Federation**



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# Chair's Message

As we welcome in the New Year, we must reflect on the past year and pray that Almighty safeguards us all and all our family for the new year.

The past year has been a very challenging year both to us individually, our businesses and for various voluntary organisations.

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected us all in some form or other. We have all lost a close member of the family or know of someone who has lost a loved one due to this terrible disease.

We pray the Almighty grants the highest place to all our deceased and sabr to their families. Personally, I was deeply involved in the burial rites when we lost a close member of the family in December.

I feel obliged to sincerely thank you all our volunteers who are continuing to give their valuable time in helping with the burial procedures.

My executive trustees, the general manager and all the staff at the Al Hikmah

centre have worked hard not just last month but over the past year in helping out with the various projects.

We have been exceptionally busy. We continue to provide food parcels to the needy and vulnerable in our community, and also provide female hygiene packs to those in need.

As the saying goes: "Every dark cloud has a silver lining," and whilst the pandemic has been really tough on all of us, it is very heartening to see how members of our community have risen to the challenge and are helping out financially, spiritually and socially to all those in need.

I am also happy to report that our centre has been hired by our local Clinical Care Commission (CCG) to administer the Covid-19 vaccine.

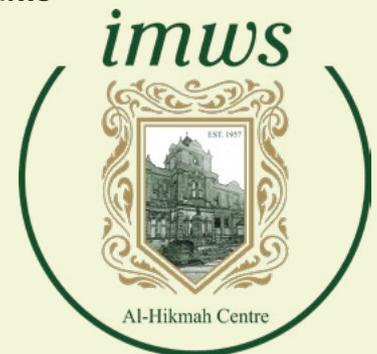
The Al Hikmah is ideally located with excellent facilities and has been highly praised by the CCG and the service users.

Most of you will aware of an unfortunate incident in relation to a video recording

in relation to a vaccine that has been administered at the centre. I just want to say that whilst any person has a right to express their opinion in a democratic society - it has to be civil and respectful manner.

I wish all the readers and their loved ones the best for the New Year and I pray that the Almighty keeps you all in the best of health and Imaan.

**With best wishes  
Dr Imtiyaz Patel  
Chair  
IMWS**



# General Manager's Column

As most of our regular readers are aware, IMWS recently launched its third major Food Programme to support our diverse community.

The food parcel deliveries will carry on after new year.

Currently we have prioritised families that are celebrating Christmas in the hope of ensuring they have food on their table.

Like any other initiative, this programme has its own challenges, however by the Grace of the Almighty and due to the sheer hard work of IMWS team and

volunteers, the programme attracted lot of positive attention and praise.

I would like to thank Simone the Community Champion from Tesco Extra in Batley for her support by promoting our programme through their customer services desk, donating presents for kids and some electrical goods.

The fact that the NHS (CCG) hand picked the Al-Hikmah centre for their vaccination programme speaks for itself.

Facilitating a programme, where 300 people are

getting vaccinated a day, has been a challenge.

However, I have told by the senior management of CURO Health, that the Al-Hikmah Centre is the best performing centre in the area and this is testament to the dedication of our staff, volunteers and management.

**Nadeem Raja  
General Manager.**

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## PAIGAAM EDITORIAL

# NEW YEAR, NEW DECADE, NEW HOPE

As we move into the year 2021 let us move forward positively into the new decade with renewed vigour, hope and a positive spirit as those are the qualities that will sustain us into the future.

We know from our history that humanity has faced many disasters in the past but we came through them and came out stronger.

What about the struggles of our forefathers who experienced far worse tragedies but remained strong and did not relent.

We must follow their example and do the same. So let us move forward into the New Year with new beginnings and hope of brighter days ahead.

Of course we know it's been a horrendous year and we will never forget the unhappy memories of the misery Covid 19 has inflicted on our lives and on our communities, nationally and across the world.

It has decimated lives and livelihood and affected all aspects of our lives, including our children's education, family celebrations, weddings, burials and many other aspects.

Covid 19 has curtailed our freedoms through Tiers and Lockdowns, forced us to distance ourselves from our loved ones and having to wear masks.

However, it is in adversity that we discover real heroes, people who have shown so much fortitude and bravery to help others and save their lives.

These heroes are the NHS workers who put their lives on the line and worked tirelessly to save others. We know many of these heroes tragically lost their own lives.

There are many other heroes who responded to the call to help others and did everything they could to help individuals and communities.

This includes the people who contributed up and down the country to provide essential food packs for those who were in need. Many communities also rallied around to support the needy.

This is the community spirit that will always come to the fore in times of adversity.

A special mention has to be made of Captain Sir Tom Moore the gritty Yorkshire man whose brilliant idea to walk in his garden for charity raised millions of pounds in the process.

On a more local level we also need to applaud the Burial and Ghusal volunteers who have done and continue to do a tremendous job helping the families of the bereaved.

This is a great service to the community and is of comfort to families at a very distressing time.

We also greatly value the contributions of local volunteers who have kept our Masjids operating under the Covid 19 regulations and also all the volunteers in our local Masjids who worked tirelessly to provide food parcels to the needy.

Now we find ourselves in

the midst of a vaccine debate.

Are vaccines safe? Are they going to have long term adverse effects?

Are they going to turn us into zombies? Is this part of some secret agenda to turn us into slaves and control us?

Is it also a part of the agenda to kill us off and reduce world population?

Those opposing these views would tell us that these people are crazy conspiracy theorists who have nothing better to do but create fear and panic with lies and misinformation.

This kind of propaganda is spread like wildfire through WhatsApp messages and social media.

It only takes seconds for messages to go viral around the world. Many of us don't know what to believe anymore. It's all mind blowing.

Despite all this let us keep a calm head and take comfort from our families, our friends and our faith.

We will get through this as sure as tomorrow is another day.

We must have faith in our hearts as that will give us hope and inner strength. **Faith is seeing light with your heart when all your eyes see is darkness.**

So let us begin with a new beginning, renewed hope and optimism.

**Every day is a day you have never seen before.**

# Alleviating hunger from Batley and Dewsbury

## Application Form for Food Parcels Commencing in November 2020

IMWS is please to announce the initiation of a new food parcels project. We will be delivering good nutritious food on your door step if you or your family have suffered greatly due to the current pandemic COVID-19 crisis.

- Has your household suffered a drop in income as a result of Corona virus of more than £50 per week on average since March 2020
- Is anyone living in your household aged over 65 or under 5 years old?
- Does anyone in your household receive a 'means tested' benefit such as Universal Credit, Supplementary Pension or local Authority Housing Benefit?
- Does anyone living in your household receive Disability Allowance or Attendance Allowance?

Alternatively, if any of the above do not apply:

- Please provide a letter from your GP to confirm that the physical or mental health of someone living in your house would be improved if you receive a free food box. Please note that IMWS will not pay any fees charged by your doctor for writing this letter.

Please fill in the below form and bring it to the Al-Hikmah Centre, or alternatively contact us

First Name

Address

Gender

DOB

Contact No

Surname

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- Standard meal with meat
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- Vegetarian meal
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I ..... Complete the form with the best of my knowledge.

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# IMWS Unveil New Logo

The Indian Muslim Welfare Society has unveiled its new logo which replaces the previous design which was first introduced in (year).

The logo and the visual design was created by a local company that has previously worked with IMWS.

This new logo is subtle but unique. Not only does this look shed the 2-D styling of its predecessor, it also also encapsulates the location of the Al Hikmah Centre and acknowledges the history of the organisation.

IMWS Chair Dr Imtiyaz Patel told Paigaam that he was pleased with the manner in which the new logo has been designed.

“Our new logo is a unifying symbol that represents us locally and globally whilst showcasing a steadfast

commitment to make life better for people whom we serve on a local, national and international level.” Nadeem Raja, IMWS General Manager, said the refreshed logo aims to communicate a “bolder, warmer, more confident” and “less clinical” brand persona that the community will find easier to connect to.

He said: “As a Muslim charity what we do is help people of all backgrounds and faiths and that’s what the brand is about.”

The new logo is currently being rolled out across the IMWS varied online, social media and print channels.

In addition, it is envisaged a new web site will be unveiled in January, giving users the option to donate online as well as booking the wedding hall, conference rooms and indoor football facilities online.



Let us know what you think of our new logo. Your views are important. If you have any issues that you would like to feedback to IMWS, feel free to send us an e-mail on: [info@imws.org.uk](mailto:info@imws.org.uk)



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We now require a full-time Manager to oversee and further develop our services.

The role will require experience of working with elderly and people with disability and having a good understanding of the relevant policies and our service user needs.

You will need experience and skills in contract management, financial management, budget monitoring, staff management and ability to speak Urdu or Gujarati or Panjabi is desirable. You will be required to have good IT skills and have exceptional communication and interpersonal skills.

If you think you have what it takes to join our team and drive forward our agenda into the future then we would like to hear from you.

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# Building Masjids and buying



American retail giant Walmart recently confirmed its supermarket chain Asda was sold to two brothers from Blackburn in a deal worth £6.8bn.

But who are the brothers behind EG Group?

Mohsin and Zuber Issa built up their fortune from a single petrol filling station in Bury, Greater Manchester, that was bought for £150,000.

Their Euro Garages brand, founded in 2001, has since established itself as one of the UK's fastest growing and most recognisable forecourt operators, with an expanding portfolio of around 4500 sites across the UK, mainland Europe, the USA and Australia.

Born in Blackburn, the siblings' father came to the UK from Gujarat, to find work in the textile industry.

A pious man who was close to the late, great Hafez Patel Saheb, R.A, he instilled business acumen along with deep rooted Islamic values into his family.

Thanks to such a grounded upbringing, the pair have a net worth of £3.56 billion, according to the Sunday Times Rich List, 2020.

The brothers have recently been diversifying their business interests. In February, they set up Monte Hotels Ltd and in September 2019 bought the Stanley House hotel and spa in Mellor.

In March, the EG Group purchased one of the largest KFC franchises in the UK from The Herbert Group.

The acquisition included 146 KFC restaurants and one Pizza Hut store, taking EG Group's food-to-go retail concession to more than 1,500 across ten international markets including the UK, Ireland, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Germany, US and Australia.

They have since invested £100million in Frontier Park business estate on the Blackburn/Hyndburn border including a Hampton by Hilton hotel.

The company – headquartered in a new

£35m building off Blackburn's Haslingden Road – merged with private equity firm TDR Capital's European Forecourt Retail Group in 2016 to create the EG Group as it moved into Europe and the US.

In 2019 the business reported revenues of more than £17.9bn. TDR Capital now owns half of the group, with Zuber and Mohsin each owning 25 per cent.

The brothers also want to build an 'iconic' Masjid in their home town.

The Issa Foundation's registered charity has submitted an application showcasing how they would transform a recently vacated site which was used as a school into a Masjid.

# Asda: who are the Issa brothers?



A design and access statement supporting the scheme has been received very well.

It read: "The new proposal will: maintain and improve the principle of community use on the site; redevelop a vacant brownfield site and bring it back in to an active use for the benefit of the local community; provide facilities for prayers, training, education, social care

and community integration; create an iconic building and place of worship; and promote interaction between Muslims and non-Muslims, provide a positive contribution towards Blackburn's community cohesion agenda.

"The new facility and in particular the place of worship, will provide a dedicated provision for ladies and children.

"All the facilities within the proposed Masjid and community centre will be open to the local community irrespective of their creed, colour or religion.

"The community centre will be made available for the local community as well as serving as a focal point for meetings and other events for local councillors, the health authority and others such as

social services and housing etc.

"The design of the place of worship is of contemporary Islamic architecture, having arched windows and fenestration complete with two minarets and a dome."

The council's growth boss, Councillor Phil Riley said: "It sounds as though this will be a very impressive building."



# Tracy Brabin: It is great to see that IMWS Is fighting disinformation



The Government has recently confirmed that we will be staying in Tier 3 restrictions over the festive period.

It's a difficult decision but I understand the government's caution, even though our infection rates have reduced.

The data shows us that whilst our numbers have dropped there is now a small rise in infections that meeting families over Christmas could potentially exacerbate.

I know our community has been hit hard by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

However, by working together and following the guidance we can get through this terrible time and come out of restrictions altogether and return to some normality.

I'm really glad that IMWS has volunteered space to run one of the vaccination centres here in Kirklees.

This week I visited the Al Hikmah centre and saw the impressive operation that was underway.

It is great to see the organisation helping to make sure those over 80 were given the first part of their vaccine.

I was so pleased to hear that despite some initial fears from some people about the vaccine, it has been received in a very positive manner.

The vaccine will enable us to hold our loved ones again.

Therefore, it is really important that we are vigilant against fake news online that

spreads false information which could put people's health and wellbeing at risk.

It's important we make sure all the information around the vaccine gets out to those hardest to reach as they are potentially most at risk.

Bearing in mind we are living at a time where we have a virus that disproportionately affects vulnerable people, this is of paramount importance.

I will support the council and Public Health England to get this message out to help people to support them in making an informed choice, as well as giving people facts in an accessible format.

It is so important for our collective health that this vaccine programme

is a success, but that can't happen without everyone playing their part.

May I take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you the very best over the festive period.

I honestly hope that I will be able to see you in person as soon as it is safe to.

If you have any concerns or issues in the meantime, please feel free to get in touch.

**You can always contact me by email at Tracy.Brabin.MP@parliament.uk.**

**Alternatively, please also feel free to call my office on 01924 900036.**

# New lightweight Janazah coffin now available

The IMWS Burial Service is the proud recipient a new lightweight Janazah coffin which was donated by an anonymous individual.

The rationale behind the gift was to ensure that the new Janazah coffin will be safe to handle and much easier to carry and move.

The Janazah coffin is made of a fibreglass reinforced resin-

bonded composite material which makes it strong and durable but lightweight.

It also makes it resistant to corrosion & UV damage.

Commenting on the purchase, the Chair of the IMWS Burial Committee Mohammed Laher told Paigaam: "First and foremost, I would like to thank the anonymous donor who paid to

manufacture this lightweight fibreglass Janazah coffin.

"It has side handles fitted and has been sprayed in Black.

This person is so genuine that they wished to remain anonymous and supplied the box through a third party.

As it's made from fibreglass it's very lightweight and can be carried very easily. It sides

into our hearse very easily so it will make it much easier."

Mr Laher also confirmed that IMWS currently have two aluminium Janazah coffins in case more than one is required at any given time.

However, since they are very heavy to carry, it is envisaged another fibreglass coffin will be purchased for the local community in due course.



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# Local GP lambasts Covid conspiracy theories and takes the vaccine himself

Local GP Ismail Lunat has derided conspiracy theories regarding the Covid 19 vaccine and opted to take the Covid-19 vaccine himself in order to reassure local people.

The soft spoken 41-year-old spoke out after a post claiming that the the COVID-19 vaccine could lead to infertility in women went viral on Facebook and elsewhere.

The post declares the vaccine is "female sterilization," according to an unidentified Pfizer head of research.

"The vaccine contains a spike protein called syncytin-1,

vital for the formation of the human placenta in women," the article's nameless author writes.

"If the vaccine works so that we form an immune response AGAINST the spike protein, we are also training the female body to attack syncytin-1, which could lead to infertility for an unspecified duration."

Ismail responded by taking the vaccine himself to allay any fears: "I am really happy that I have had it today," said Ismail.

"There is a lot of stuff going around on social media at the moment, but I wanted

to reassure everybody that this vaccine is very safe.

"The MHRA have gone through months of trials and this vaccine is absolutely safe and effective.

"There is no animal or porcine products inside this vaccine. It is suitable for vegetarians and people who have a Halal or Kosher diet.

"It is absolutely fine, and it has a ninety five percent efficacy across all age, gender and ethnicities.

"So please join me, all my friends all my colleagues, staff and all our patients

join us and get vaccinated. It's as simple as that."

Ismail's comments were reiterated by Pfizer spokeswoman Jerica Pitts who confirmed that the vaccine did not affect female fertility.

"It has been incorrectly suggested that COVID-19 vaccines will cause infertility because of a shared amino acid sequence in the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2 and a placental protein," she said in an email to the Associated Press.

"The sequence, however, is too short to plausibly give rise to autoimmunity."

## What are the side effects of the Pfizer's COVID-19 Vaccine?

Current data suggests that after two doses, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is 95 percent effective at preventing COVID-19.

The vaccine is administered in two doses, 3 weeks apart.

Certain specifics of the vaccine have yet to be studied in detail, prompting the government to release a series of precautions and special warnings.

In the new guidance the government has advised that one in 10 people may report pain at the site of injection, tiredness, muscle

pain, headache and chills. One in 100 may feel unwell or experience enlarged lymph nodes.

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before you are given the vaccine if you have a weakened immune system are on a medicine that affects the body's immune response.

Studies into how the vaccine reacts with other medicines have not been conducted, the guidance added. Medical advice should also be sought if you suffer from severe illness with high fever.

However, a mild fever or a cold, are not reasons to delay vaccination

If you have bleeding issues, bruise easily or use a medicine to inhibit blood clotting then once again, medical advice should be sought.

The vaccine is also not recommended for children under 16 years of age.

It has been recommended that pregnant women do not receive the vaccine. Women have also been advised to avoid pregnancy for at least two months after

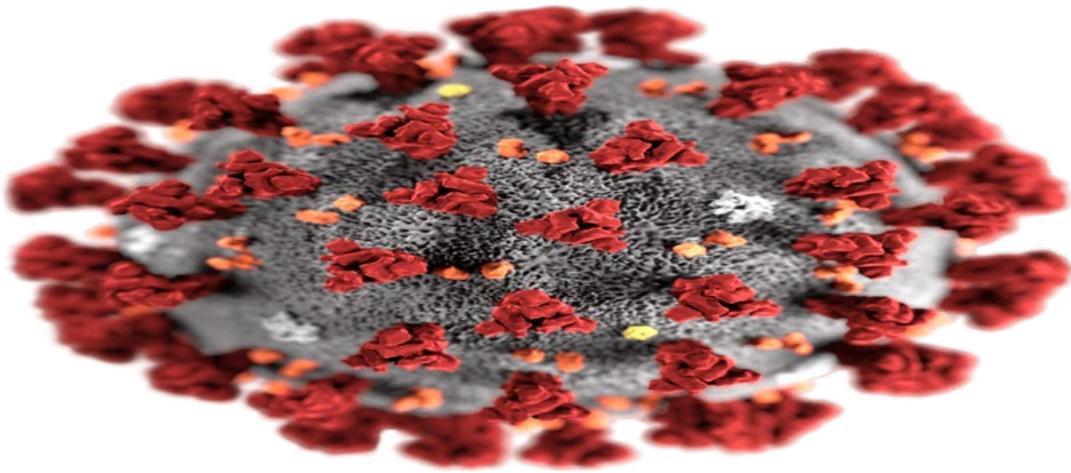
receiving their second dose.

Other commonly reported side effects of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine include fatigue, headache, and muscle pain.

Participants were more likely to report such symptoms following the second dose of the vaccine.

If you develop side effects that are bothersome and cause you discomfort, contact your doctor. If you think you might be having a severe allergic reaction, call the hospital immediately.

# Investigating COVID-19 conspiracy theories



The COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in the UK was developed by Pfizer/BioNTech.

It has met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set out by the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through all the clinical trials and safety checks all other licensed medicines go through.

The MHRA follows international standards of safety. Other vaccines will only be available on the NHS once they have been thoroughly tested to make sure they are safe and effective.

However, there has also been a lot of questionable information about how unsafe vaccines are on social media.

## Can the vaccine alter your DNA?

A vast number of claims that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine

will somehow change your DNA have been regularly posted on social media.

Indeed, the vaccine uses a small section of of the virus's genetic material - or messenger RNA.

However, "Injecting RNA into a person doesn't do anything to the DNA of a human cell," says Prof Jeffrey Almond of Oxford University.

"It works by giving the body instructions to produce a protein which is present on the surface of the coronavirus.

The immune system then learns to recognise and produce antibodies against the protein."

## Bill gates is out to get us all

Some have claimed that the Covid-19 pandemic is a front by coronavirus pandemic is a ploy by Microsoft founder Bill Gates who intends to plant a "microchip" into every single human being.

There is no evidence to

support claims that Bill Gates is planning for this.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have said the claim was "false".

However, he did admit that his foundation has been funding a lot of the research for the vaccines. "We're very agile. We're a partner in a thing called CEPI, which is the second biggest funder after the U.S. government," he said.

The U.S. need to help all of humanity, Mr. Gates said when asked of the executive order signed by President Donald Trump which prioritises distribution of the vaccine to Americans before it goes to people in other countries.

"We want the world economy be going. We want to minimise the deaths.

"And, you know, the basic technology is a German company. And so blocking international sharing and cooperation has been disruptive and a mistake during

this entire pandemic," he said.

"So, we need to ramp up the capacity of all the vaccines.

"There will be some additional ones approved in the months ahead that are easier to scale up the manufacturing. But the U.S. has benefited from other countries' work care, and we shouldn't be entirely selfish in how we go forward," he added.

## Fetus tissue is an ingredient

Claims that vaccines contain the lung tissue of an aborted fetus are categorically false.

"There are no fetal cells used in any vaccine production process," says Dr Michael Head, of the University of Southampton.

One video that was posted onto Facebook pages is supposedly an 'insider' who claims to have knowledge of what goes into the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University.

AstraZeneca say they worked with cloned cells, but these cells "are not themselves the cells of aborted babies".

The cells work like a factory to manufacture a greatly weakened form of the virus that has been adapted to function as a vaccine.

But even though the weakened virus is created using these cloned cells, this cellular material is removed when the virus is purified and not used in the vaccine.

# Saudi Arabia hoping to resume Umrah in 2021



Saudi Arabia recently started to receive International pilgrims as part of the third phase in the gradual resumption of Umrah.

However, following the announcement by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson on new Tier 4 regulations for London and the South, the Council of British Haji's have advised all British pilgrims to monitor announcements from the Saudi authorities before planning and booking a Hajj or Umrah package.

In addition, they have also advised everyone to follow the relevant travel advice.

However, at present, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office which is currently advising

against all but essential travel to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi authorities suspended the Umrah in March and significantly downsized July's Hajj pilgrimage in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, before announcing a gradual restart of Umrah earlier in November.

From November, the kingdom will allow pilgrims travelling from both inside and outside the country to perform the ritual at full capacity. This amounts to 20,000 pilgrims and 60,000 worshippers a day.

Only pilgrims between 18-50 years of age will be allowed to travel from abroad for Umrah, and they will have to provide a negative Covid-19 test upon arrival in the country.

All pilgrims coming from abroad will need to self-quarantine for three days.

The authorities said they have co-ordinated with state-owned Saudi Arabian Airlines to provide the necessary seat capacity for pilgrims arriving from abroad.

This represents the third part of Saudi Arabia's four-phase resumption plan which began on 4 October.

The first phase allowed up to 30 percent, or 6,000 domestic worshippers a day, to perform Umrah.

The second phase, which began on 18 October, allowed for up to 75 percent capacity, or 15,000 domestic worshippers a day.

Only certain countries are currently allowed to apply for Umrah Visas.

However, this will change and will be based on how countries have managed the Covid-19 pandemic.

Only travellers between the ages of 18 and 49 years of age will be allowed to apply for a Umrah visa and it is envisaged groups will be limited to 20-50 people.

A 3-day quarantine will be required upon entering the country and a Covid test 72 hours before your arrival in Saudi Arabia will be required.

For more information, please contact your local travel agent.

# Delhi court rules in favour of Tablighi Jamaat

A Delhi Court has dismissed police charges against 36 foreigners and six Indians who were accused of violating government guidelines in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak.

The accused were said to have violated visa guidelines, illegally taken part in Tablighi activities and knowingly spread Covid-19, despite many testing negative for the virus by the Indian government.

However, the accused brought forward evidence that they had informed local officers about that they intended to visit Masjids, whilst observing social distancing, thus ensuring they were not in breach of their tourist visa conditions.

Therefore, Chief Magistrate Arun Kumar Garg ruled against Narendra Modi's extremist government by acquitting all 42 individuals, insisting that by simply partaking in

Tablighi Jamaat activities, those who had been charged had not broken any laws nor had they spread Covid-19.

He also pointed out that under recent updated terms and conditions of the OCI Visa, there is no restriction on foreigners for visiting places of worship and attending normal religious activities and discourses.

He also stated that foreigners could not be prevented from visiting Masjids to observe religious practices, given the right to life and freedom of religion under articles 21 and 25 of the constitution.

The Indian government also claimed the defendants did not voluntarily come forward for testing despite public announcements asking Markaz attendees to get themselves tested for the virus.

Discussing the possibility

that the attendees spread Covid-19, the court noted that it was more likely that they were infected during their stay in the country since they had been screened at the airport on arrival.

The Indian government has been accused of using heavy handed tactics against foreigners partaking in Tablighi activities.

Dewsbury man Sohail Hughes was one of many foreigners who have been held and unfairly charged under the Epidemic Diseases Act by the Maharashtra Police.

However, along with a number of foreign nationals, he too was released without charge.

The Tablighi Jamaat was founded by the great Islamic scholar, Moulana Muhammad Ilyas al-Kandhlawi in Mewat, India, in 1926.

Sheikh Ilyas Saheb's goal was to establish a group of dedicated preachers who could revive "true" Islam.

His mission was also to revive the faith, based on its core teachings and lifestyle of its early leaders.

The movement is popular for reaching out to Muslims and reviving their faith, particularly in matters of namaz and personal behaviour.

The group has a presence in 150 countries and millions of followers.

In Britain, the late great Hafez Saheb Patel was the leader for many years and was renowned world-wide for his love for the Ummah, his kindness and his generosity.

The group's modus operandi is peaceful, and it is focused entirely on the Muslim community worldwide.

# France to Jail parents who home-school kids in 'war on Islamism'

Parents in France who home-school their children could be jailed for six months under new laws cracking down on Islamist extremism.

According to President Emmanuel Macron, the French government intend to stop kids being brainwashed amid claims that hardliners are trying to create a separate society for Muslims.

Currently an estimated

50,000 children in France are home schooled.

Ministers say some Muslims are refusing to let children attend school - and girls especially are being denied an education.

Interior minister Gérald Darmanin said: "In some areas, there are more boys than girls (in school) when we know that statistically, more girls are born. It's a scandal."

The bill makes it a crime to teach children at home - unless going to school is "impossible for reasons relating to (the child's) situation or that of the family".

Parents who break the law face a maximum sentence of six months in jail and a €7,500 fine.

To enforce the ban, every child in France could be given an identification number.

Muslim and Catholic schools will still be allowed but face stricter controls, ministers said.

Head teachers who fail to respect secular French values could be jailed for up to a year under the new law.

Other new measures include ensuring schools can resist radical demands to tone down religious or sexual education lessons.

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

## Snowball Word Search

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e	n	o	t	e	i	n	i	k	i	r	e	i	u	r
p	s	o	o	r	t	s	p	i	d	b	n	c	l	i
a	g	o	w	m	c	g	n	a	u	s	p	e	f	g
r	l	r	r	b	t	n	d	c	s	n	y	m	r	n
a	o	c	s	s	a	i	k	e	i	o	e	p	e	i
k	v	e	i	a	v	l	q	n	i	w	l	i	t	g
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l	s	a	i	c	n	i	c	s	e	a	o	a	u	e
w	i	n	t	e	r	j	t	t	u	n	w	a	c	l
y	e	s	r	n	g	s	n	w	w	h	i	t	e	s
c	n	a	s	w	i	m	e	g	n	a	r	o	u	g
s	c	a	r	f	t	i	o	n	o	m	k	o	y	s



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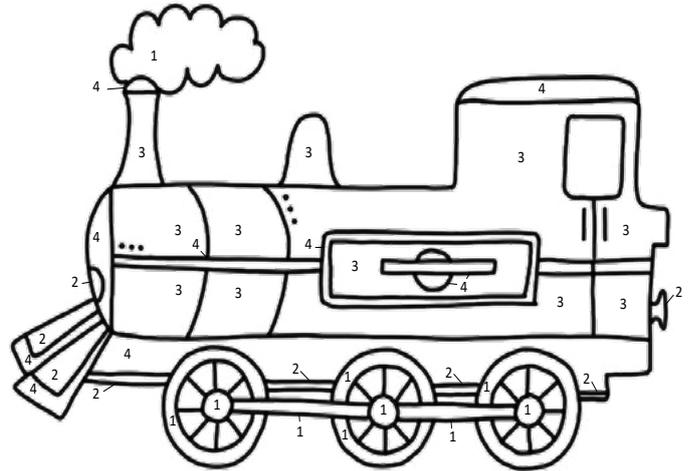
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# Paigaam Star Reviews



**Frankies!**

Before the Tier 3 restrictions, every time you drove past Frankie's in Batley, it is always relatively busy, brimming with customers.

You order at the till, then you are given one of those big buzzy flashing pagers, like you get when you go bowling to tell you when your your food is ready.

The grilled Peri Peri Chicken burger, complete with Peri Peri Sauce, Cheese, Red Onions, Lettuce and mayo is just one of the many popular options on the menu. Most of us have been there and done that. Fantastic food: 5 stars!



**Rating: 5 stars**

**Best Cheese Burger in Town!**



Making a cheeseburger is typically thought of as a straightforward process. Combine beef and seasoning and throw it in a pan or on the grill and then melt some cheese on top. It's simple enough, right?

No! the art of a creating a Cheese Burger is not as easy as it seems.

However, most surprisingly, Sizzlers in Batley have a contender for the best Cheese Burger in town.

The Quarter Pounder complete with a customary cheese slice , is served with chips, although truth be told, they should probably scrap the chips that they offer as it's a bit of a let down.

However, trust us when we say this is the real deal.

We are are surprised as you probably are, but it is certainly worth a try!

**Rating: 4 stars**



**Paratha anyone?**

Mullaco Supermarket in Dewsbury once organised a sampling day for customers to enjoy Paratha's t at the Supermarket in Thornhill Lees.

One of the top frozen brands, Shana were on hand to offer locals an opportunity to taste their products.

We can honestly say that once we took ampacket home, they went down a treat!

Around three flavours of Shana Paratha's are available; original, chilli and garlic.

We prefer the original especially when piping hot.

We certainly recommend it! Simply pop into any Mullaco in the vicinity, take home and enjoy!



**Rating: 4 stars**

# Sikh and Muslim farmers rail against Narendra Modi

Thousands of farmers have gathered in New Delhi to protest peacefully against the Indian government's farming reform bills.

The bills were passed into law by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling anti Muslim right-wing BJP Party on the 20th of September.

Modi's government has argued that the changes will give farmers more freedom.

The first proposed law, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce Bill will allow farmers to deal directly with corporations and private buyers.

The bill allows farmers to sell their produce outside government-controlled agricultural markets called 'Mandi's', which ensured prices wouldn't get too high.

It will also mark an end to a decades-old system guaranteeing minimum support prices for staple crops called an MSP.

The second bill, entitled the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, deals with pricing. The bill will push farmers, corporations and private buyers to negotiate contracts.

However, several farmers have voiced their concerns over not having the bargaining power to negotiate with corporate giants.

The bill also curtails farmers' ability to challenge contract disputes in court.

The third bill, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, seeks the "modernisation" of India's food supply chain by reducing stockpiling, removing commodities like "cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onions and potatoes" from the current list of essential commodities.

It also aims to "drive up investment in cold storages" and give farmers the "freedom to produce, hold, move, distribute and supply" their products.

However, farmers are of the opinion that the new legislation will devastate their livelihoods by driving down the prices of their products with no safeguards to protect them against corporate takeovers and exploitation.

Protests have spread across India and countries such as the UK and Canada, with many Punjabi and Sikh farmers leading the charge on the ground locally and abroad to raise awareness about the issue.

The Indian government has used military tactics to clamp down on the farmers by using water cannons along with tear gas, concrete barricades, and police batons.

However, the farmers remain strong in their resolve to see the bills repealed in order to protect their future.

Those taking part in the protests have also displayed a great deal of religious solidarity.

In a video shared on Twitter by Indian journalist Rana Ayyub, Muslim protestors seen offering prayers on the street were encircled by Sikh farmers.

The farmers continue to stand there in silence as a mark of respect so that those praying namaz could pray in peace.

"This made me emotional. Sikh brothers standing in solidarity with Muslims while they offer namaz at the farmers' protest," Ayyub wrote on Twitter.

Khalsa Aid International, a non-political organisation that has been providing protestors with shelter, clothing, food and first-aid kits, say that they are deeply troubled by what their volunteers have witnessed as protestors endure brute force by the Indian government.

"For us, it was very difficult to see the families, the elderly farmers being subjected to the water cannon and tear gas," Khalsa Aid Canada national director Jatinder Singh said.

"So our team has actually been working with the India team for several months. The protests themselves started in Punjab after these kind of three controversial bills were passed in September," Singh added.

Singh said he hopes the negotiation talks between the

dozens of farmer's unions and the Indian government will result in an outcome allowing farmers to be able to sustain their livelihoods.

He also said Khalsa Aid is not currently fundraising for the farmers, despite receiving some voluntary monetary donations from people. Singh said the donations they already received will go towards helping protestors with their humanitarian needs.

Singh said the farmers have made it clear they do not want funds to be raised for them.

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# Paigaam Legal Column



## **If You are upset about Your Neighbours Building Plans? You can take action.**

If your neighbours have obtained planning permission for building works to which you object, you may think that is the end of the matter. However, with the right legal advice you can still win the day.

A company obtained planning permission to build a large, six-bedroom family home on a vacant plot of land.

The project, however, would breach a restrictive covenant in the plot's title deeds which did now allow construction of any substantial buildings in front of a line 50 feet away from its rear boundary.

To overcome that difficulty, the company applied to the First-tier Tribunal (FTT) under the Law of Property Act Section 84 to either discharge or modify the covenant.

A couple whose home was on adjoining land objected to the application on the basis that the height and bulk of the new house would overshadow their own.

The development would

harm their views, together with their privacy and seclusion, and would greatly reduce the value of their property.

Ruling on the case, the court found that, although the new house could be regarded as overbearing, its construction would represent a reasonable, even desirable, use of an empty plot.

In refusing the company's application, however, it ruled that the covenant continued to yield practical benefits of substantial value or advantage to the couple and that it should therefore remain in place, unmodified.

Construction of such a large house, much of which would encroach over the line set by the covenant, would thoroughly spoil the rural outlook from the couple's garden and change the whole character of their property.

## **Put Your Affairs in Order and make your will!**

The serious consequences of delay in seeking legal advice was shown in a recent case in which a woman waited until she was resident in a hospice, terminally ill with cancer,

before instructing a solicitor to prepare her will.

The woman signed her will 10 days before her death.

Her main asset was a house she jointly owned with her mother, who survived her by about four years.

An issue of great importance, however, later arose as to whether they owned the property as joint tenants or as tenants in common.

If they held the property as joint tenants, the principle of survivorship applied and, on the woman's death, her half share passed automatically to her mother.

In that event, the property formed part of the mother's estate when she died and the entirety of the proceeds of its sale – more than £400,000 – fell to be distributed in accordance with her will.

If, on the other hand, they held the property as tenants in common, the woman's share of the property fell into her own estate.

On the same day that the woman made her will, she signed a notice which

indicated to sever her and her mother's joint tenancy, thereby converting it into a tenancy in common.

A letter containing the notice was sent to her mother by registered post. A few days after the woman died, however, the letter was returned undelivered.

Against the background of those unfortunate events, the executor of the mother's estate launched court proceedings. Half the proceeds of the property's sale were held in a solicitors' account pending a judicial resolution of the matter.

The High Court noted that the non-delivery of the letter meant that the mother had not been served with the notice.

That deficit had not been cured by a letter sent to the mother by the Land Registry four days before her daughter died.

The joint tenancy had therefore not been validly severed and the Court ruled that the entirety of the proceeds of sale formed part of the mother's estate.

# Lose weight and make friends at the Al Hikmah centre

more than 80% of  
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A weight has been lifted for Slimming World members at the Al Hikmah Centre by sticking together throughout 2020.

Members continued their weight loss journeys in both real life and in virtual groups supporting, motivating, and inspiring each other to enjoy a healthier lifestyle.

Slimming World Consultant Hameedah says it has been a pleasure helping her members to lose weight and improve their health.

And the results on the weighing scales speak for themselves.

Hameedah who has lost 5 stones and 4 pounds herself, said members simply loving being together.

She said: "Like a lot of slimmer's I have tried to lose weight so many times before by following numerous diets and weight loss supplements, but they were never sustainable because I'd always get tired of restricting what I ate or feel unwell.

"I thought I was destined to struggle with my weight for the rest of my life, but when I joined Slimming World it was different. I never felt like I was on a diet.

"The eating plan encourages you to eat lots of tasty, filling food like; Biryani, chicken masala, Bombay potatoes, lamb karahi and southern 'fried' fish and chips!

You are never hungry, and no foods are banned so there is no deprivation.

"I could not believe I had found a way to lose weight without starving myself!"

Family life has changed so much over the past 30 years. The juggle of hectic commutes, drop-offs, pick-ups, clubs and play dates has left us with less and less time to shop for and cook healthy family meals.

And when there are so many food outlets surrounding us no wonder it's so tempting to grab a takeaway at the end of a long day!

However, Slimming World understands the need for a family-friendly approach and that's where food optimising comes in.

It is a healthier way of eating and living, based on making small, simple changes to how you shop, cook and eat.

It does not just help you lose weight- it lays healthy foundations for the whole family that last a lifetime.

Slimming World is not just about changing what you eat. Becoming more active is important too. Their Body Magic programme means everything counts from walking to gardening, rigorous housework to washing the car.

As a Consultant Hameedah insists her role is to create a warm, supportive at-

mosphere to get people sharing their ideas and experiences to help others."

"This year has been far from easy for us all, with some people struggling more than others, but for lots of my members all of the challenges and anxieties have actually made them more determined to achieve their weight loss goals and improve their health.

"They've proved anyone wanting to lose weight and feel healthier-which research shows could protect against disease- doesn't have to give up on their dreams!"

New analysis by Diabetes UK shows that North Kirklees has the second highest prevalence in Yorkshire with 8.5 percent of people diagnosed- second only to Bradford with 10.7 percent.

Three in five adults in England are overweight or obese, and while not every case of Type 2 diabetes is caused by excessive weight, it is the single greatest risk factor for developing the condition.

Age, family history, and ethnicity can also contribute to someone's risk, with people of South Asian descent two to four times more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes.

Many cases could be prevented or delayed by healthy eating, being more active, and losing weight if overweight.

Hameedah added: "I know it can be nerve-wrecking to walk into a Slimming World group for the first time, especially at the moment.

"But I can assure anyone who's worrying about their weight that there's no judgement at Slimming World, just respect and care- and it's absolutely safe."

**To find out more about Slimming World sessions that take place every Monday at the Al Hikmah Centre (both AM and PM sessions), please call Hameedah on 07983445501.**

## નવા વર્ષનો પયગામ

-મહંમદ યુસુફ સુફી લાજપુરી, બાટલી.

૨૦૨૦નું વર્ષ સમાપ્ત થયું. ૨૦૨૧ના જાન્યુઆરીનો પ્રથમ અંક આપના હાથમાં છે. જે નવા વર્ષના પયગામના રૂપમાં એક ચિંતન, મનન અને વિચારવાનું આમંત્રણ આપે છે.

વર્ષની સમાપ્તિ ઉપર ગત વર્ષમાં થયેલા સારા નરસા કામો તરફ એક નજર દોડાવી અલ્લાહપાકની નેઅમતો ઉપર શુક્ર અદા કરવું અને ગુનાહો પર દિલથી તૌબા-ઈસ્તીગફાર કરવું જોઈએ.

આજે આપણે કયા સ્થાન પર ઊભા છે તે પણ વિચારવું રહ્યું, અને નવા વર્ષના પ્રારંભમાં શરીર અને સુન્નતના મુજબ આપણી જીવનધારાને લાવવાનો પ્રયત્ન કરવાનો પાકો ઈરાદો કરવું જોઈએ.

### કલ્પના પણ ન હતી:

પ્રથમ આપણે વીતેલા વર્ષ ૨૦૨૦ ઉપર એક ઉડતી નજર કરીએ કે, ૧લી જાન્યુઆરી ૨૦૨૦ બુધવારથી ૨૧માર્ચ શનિવાર સુધી ૮૧ દિવસોમાં આપણે કોરોના વાઈરસના સમાચાર સાંભળતા રહ્યા. પરંતુ આપણાં પૈકી મોટા ભાગના લોકો જાણતા ન હતાં કે વિશ્વના દેશોની પરિસ્થિતિમાં ગંભીર પરિવર્તન આવવાનું છે.

### પ્રથમ લોકડાઉન:

રવિવાર ૨૨મી માર્ચ અસરની નમાઝથી સંપૂર્ણ લોકડાઉન શરૂ થયું. મસ્જિદો, ઈમામ મોઅઝ્ઝીન સહિત ૩ મુસલ્લી સિવાય બંધ થઈ ગઈ. એના અંદર રમઝાનુલ મુબારક અને ઈદુલ ફિત્રનો પણ સમાવેશ હતો. રોઝા, ઈફતાર અને તરાવીહ પણ પોત પોતાના ઘરોમાં અદા થતી રહી. આવી પરિસ્થિતિ અંગે કોઈએ વિચાર્યું પણ ન હશે અને તેવી પરિસ્થિતિનો આપણે સામનો કર્યો. પ્રથમ આ લોકડાઉન ૧૦૪ દિવસ સુધી રહ્યો.

### પ્રથમ લોકડાઉન સમાપ્ત:

૨૨મી માર્ચથી લાગુ થયેલો લોકડાઉન શનિવાર ૪થી જુલાઈ ફજરની નમાઝથી થોડો હળવો થયો અને મસ્જિદો નમાઝીઓ માટે ૧-૨ મીટરની દૂરીથી, માસ્ક પહેરવું અને પોતાના મુસલ્લા લઈ જવાના સાથે ખુલી ગઈ. પરંતુ ટોયલેટ, વુજુખાના તો સદંતર બંધ રહ્યા. મુસલ્લીઓ પોતાના ઘરેથી વુજુ વગેરેથી ફારિગ થઈ મસ્જિદોમાં આવતા થયા.

### બીજા લોકડાઉનનો પ્રારંભ:

બ્રિટનમાં કોરોનાના કેસોની સંખ્યા વધતા સરકાર તરફથી તારીખ પમી નવેમ્બરના ફજરની નમાઝથી બીજી વાર લોકડાઉન શરૂ થયું. પ્રથમ લોકડાઉનની જેમ લોકોએ દરેક નમાઝો અને જુમ્માની નમાઝની પણ ઘરેથી જ અદાયગી કરી.

### બીજા લોકડાઉનનો અંત:

તારીખ ૧લી ડીસેમ્બર મંગળવાર ઈશાની નમાઝ બાદથી લોકડાઉન પૂરો થયો. જે ૨૭ દિવસ રહ્યો. પ્રથમ વખતની જેમ રજી ડીસેમ્બરથી મસ્જિદો મુસલ્લીઓ માટે ખોલવામાં આવી. પરંતુ સલામતીના જે પગલાં અને કાળજી રાખવાની છે તે ઉપર સતત ધ્યાન દોરવામાં આવતું રહ્યું. હવે હરેક મુસ્લિમોની દુઆ છે કે, ફરીથી આવા લોકડાઉન ન લાગે અને જીવન પધ્ધતિ પહેલાની જેમ સામાન્ય થઈ જાય.

ઉપરોક્ત બન્ને લોકડાઉનના સમયમાં આપણે બધાં ધીરજ અને સબર સાથે પોતાના ઘરોમાં રહ્યાં. એ દરમિયાન જે સંકટ સમય અને પરેશાનીની હાલતથી લોકો પસાર થયાં તે હાલત કોઈથી છૂપી નથી. આપણે અલ્લાહપાકની રજામંદી માટે આવા કપરા સમયનો સામનો કર્યો. અનેક લોકોએ પોતાના કેટલાક સંબંધીઓ ગુમાવ્યા અને જે કંઈ હાલાત ઉમ્મત ઉપર પેશ આવ્યા તેના ઉપર સબ્રની સાથે ઝઝુમતા રહ્યા, અને એજ ઈસ્લામની શીખ પણ છે. જેથી આવી પડેલ આવી મુસીબતોનો ઝીકર વારંવાર કરી ફરિયાદ કરવી ન જોઈએ, નહીં તો આપણે જે અલ્લાહથી રજામંદી અને સવાબ હાંસિલ કર્યો છે તે ધોવાઈ જશે. તેનો દરજો ખતમ ન થઈ જાય એની આપણે તકદારી રાખવાની જરૂર છે. કારણ કે સબર ઉપર પરવરદિગાર તરફથી અગણિત સવાબ અને આખિરતમાં તેનો આલા દરજજો મળે છે. ટૂંકમાં એ કે પોતાની નેકીની બેહદ હિફાઝત કરવાની જરૂરત છે.

### પોતાને કસુરવાર સમજે:

આ હકીકત અત્યંત અગત્યની છે કે દરેક વ્યક્તિ આવા સંજોગોમાં ફક્ત પોતાનોજ કસુરવાર સમજે અને માને કે મારા ગુનાહોની આ સજા છે. એનાથી એક લાભ એ થશે કે, જ્યારે પોતાને ગુનેહગાર સમજશે તો તોબાની તૌફીક મળશે. અને આ રીતે તે અલ્લાહની તરફ મુતવજ્જેહ થશે. ઈસ્લામના અહકામોને સમજશે અને આખિરતની તૈયારીમાં લાગી જશે.

### કેવળ એકજ ઉપાય:

વર્તમાન પરિસ્થિતિમાં દરેક મુસલમાને પોતાના ઈમાન, તવહીદ, તકદીર, તવક્કુલ અને અકીદાની હિફાઝત કરવી જોઈએ. એ ખતરામાં ન પડે તેની કાળજી રાખવી જોઈએ. કારણ કે, આ યુગ ફિતના, કસોટી અને કયામત નજીક હોવાનો યુગ છે. જેથી આપણે ખૂબજ તકદારીથી દરેક અમલ ઉપર ધ્યાન રાખવાની અને અલ્લાહપાકે બતાવેલ અહકામ તરફ પોતાને જોડવાની કોશિશ કરવું જરૂરી છે.

મોટા મોટા અકલમંદો, દાનિશ્વરો પણ હેરાન છે કે, દુનિયામાં આ બધું શું થઈ રહ્યું છે? અને ભવિષ્યમાં શું થશે? આજની આ મહામારીથી ઈન્સાન પોતાને ખૂબજ કમજોર અને નાકામ સમજી રહ્યો છે અને તે કેટલેક અંશે ખરું પણ છે. પરંતુ આપણું ઈમાન છે કે જે થવાનું છે તેને કોઈ રોકી શકનાર નથી. તકદારીના પગલા લેવાનું કામ આપણું છે. અલ્લાહથી રજામંદી માટે દરેક સમયે તૌબા, ઈસ્તીગફારનો મામૂર બનાવે, સાફ સુથરું જીવન ગુજારે, ઈસ્લામની છાપ બીજી કોમ્યુનિટીમાં પાડવાના પ્રયત્નો કરે અને અહીંની સરકારના હુકમોનું પણ પાલન કરે જે એક નાગરિક તરીકે પણ આપણી ફરજ છે.

કોરોનાની મહામારીએ આપણું જીવન બદલી નાંખ્યું છે. અને તેણે આપણાં રોજબરોજના જીવન ઉપર મોટી અસર કરી છે. પરંતુ ધીરે ધીરે આપણે હવે ટેવાયા છે. જે રીતે આ કટોકટીના સમયમાં આપણે એને અનુરૂપ જીવન જીવવાનું શીખ્યા તે નકામું ન જાય તેની કાળજી રાખવાની છે. સરકાર તરફથી હવે તો એની રસી પણ આવી ગઈ છે. આશા રાખીએ કે હાલાત પહેલા જેવા થઈ જાય. પરંતુ આ પરિસ્થિતિને અનુલક્ષી આપણે હવે તકદારી, અર્થપૂર્ણ જીવન અને ઈસ્લામના અહકામ તરફ પૂરું ધ્યાન આપીને આપણી જિંદગી બદલવાની જરૂર છે અને આજે નવા વર્ષનો એજ પયગામ પણ છે.

## ચાલો આજે કંઈક સાઈં જાણીએ

-રફીક અહમદ કબાસ

### પોતાને ખૂશ રાખવાના બહાના શોધો. કારણ કે, તકલીફ તો તમને શોધી જ રહી છે.

ઈટલીના એક ૮૦ વર્ષનો દર્દી (પેશન્ટ) જ્યારે સાજો થઈ ગયો અને હોસ્પિટલમાંથી રજા મળતાં ઘરે જવાની તૈયારી કરવા લાગ્યો ત્યારે હોસ્પિટલના એક સ્ટાફે તેના હાથમાં એક બિલ મૂકતા કહ્યું કે, તમે જે એક દિવસ વેન્ટિલેટરનો ઉપયોગ કર્યો છે તેનું આ બિલ છે જે તમારે ચૂકવવું પડશે. આ સાંભળી વૃધ્ઢ દર્દી રડવા લાગ્યો. એક સિનીયર ડોક્ટર તેની પાસે આવ્યો અને કહેવા લાગ્યો તમારી પાસે પૈસા નથી તો તમે બિલ્કુલ ફિકર કરશો નહીં. તે ડોક્ટરે હોસ્પિટલના સ્ટાફને કહ્યું આ દર્દી ઉપર પૈસા (ચાર્જ) માટે કોઈ પણ જાતનું દબાણ કરશો નહીં. તે દર્દીએ કહ્યું એવી કોઈ વાત નથી. હું પૈસા ચૂકવી શકું છું અને બિલ ચૂકવવા જેટલા પૈસા તો મારી પાસે છે. પરંતુ મેં જાણ્યું કે હોસ્પિટલમાં એક દિવસ વેન્ટિલેટર વાપરવાના બસો યુરો થાય છે. તો હું વિચારવા લાગી ગયો કે જીવનના ૮૦વર્ષ હું જીવ્યો છું. ઉપરવાળાએ મને ફીમાં વેન્ટિલેટર ઉપર રાખ્યો છે. ન જાણે મારે તેને કેટલા પૈસા ચૂકવવાના બાકી છે? ૮૦ વર્ષ જીવ્યો, ફીમાં વેન્ટિલેટર કે ઓક્સિજન વાપર્યું. પરંતુ આજ સુધી મેં તેનો આભાર પણ ન માન્યો કે થેન્ક્યું પણ ન કહ્યું. આ સાંભળી ડોક્ટરની આંખોમાં પણ આંસુ આવી ગયા.

અર્થાત ઉપરવાળાએ જિંદગી આપી છે, સમય આપ્યો છે તો પોતાના ઘરવાળાઓ સાથે હાગ કરો, દરેકને પ્યાર કરો એનાથી ઈમ્યુનિટી વધે છે. જુઓ કેવું જીવન છે, પહેલાં નાના ઘરમાં રહેતા હતા, પછી મોટું ઘર, બંગલો રહેવા નસીબ થયો. પણ હવે ઘરની ચાર દિવાલોમાં અહીંથી તહીં ફરીએ છીએ. પહેલા સાચકલ હતી પછી મોટર બાઈક આવી, પછી કાર આવી પરંતુ જુઓ હવે એકજ ઘરના એક રૂમમાંથી બીજા રૂમમાં ફરીએ છીએ. આ બધું શું શીખવે છે? આપણાં પોતાના તે પોતાનાજ છે. ઘરના ૪ કે ૬ સદસ્યો હોય તે જ. બીજી વાત કે, પહેલો સગો તે પાડોશી. એટલે કે, આપણો પહેલો રિશ્તેદાર પાડોશીજ હોય છે.

એક સાચકોલોજીસ્ટે કહ્યું, હવે મસ્ત ઊંઘ આવે છે. બાળકની જેમ હું ઊંઘું છું. વાળ ખરી રહ્યા હતા તે પણ બંધ થઈ ગયા છે. એટલે કે, ચિંતાઓ ઓછી થઈ ગઈ છે. એક કંપનીનો મેનેજર કહે છે, પહેલા હું કામના બારામાં યુસ્ત હતો. લોકોથી કટાક્ષ કરતો હતો. પરંતુ હવે હું દરેક વાત સમજવા લાગ્યો છું. કારીગરોને સારી રીતે સમજવા લાગ્યો છું. એક કોર્પોરેટ કહે છે. સવારે ઊઠું છું ત્યારે જોઉં છું મારા ઘરની બારી પાસે કેટલા પક્ષી બેઠા છે. એક જનરલ મેનેજર જ્યારે ફોન ઉઠાવે ત્યારે કહેતો હું જનરલ મેનેજર ફલાણા ફલાણા બોલું છું. હવે લોકડાઉનમાં તેમની સ્ક્રીપ્ટ બદલી ચૂકી છે. હવે ફોન ઉપર ફક્ત હેલો કહે છે. શાયદ હવે એ પોતાનો સુટ પણ ભૂલી ગયા છે. કદાચ પોતાનું પદ (ડીઝીગનેશન) પણ ભૂલી ગયા છે.

હવાએ મોસમ કા રૂખ બદલ શકતી હય,

ઔર દુવાએ મુશ્કીલો કે પલ બદલ શકતી હય.

આપણને આપણા પાલનહારની કદર નથી. જીવન જીવવા તે કેટલીય વસ્તુ આપણને ફીમાં પૂરી પાડે છે. હવા-પાણી અને રોજીના સાથે આપણે જાતજાતના ફળો, મિસ્ટાનો, એક થી એક ચઢિયાતા સ્વાદિષ્ટ ભોજનો. શું આપણે કદી એ અંગે વિચાર્યું છે? શું આપણે તેનો શુક અદા કર્યો છે? આ કુદરતી નજારો, સૃષ્ટિ, મોજશોખના સાધનો બધું તેણેજ આપ્યું છે, પરંતુ આપણે કદી પણ તેના માટે વિચાર્યું નથી. આ બધું આપનાર આપણો પાલનહાર, સર્જનહાર શું એક THANK YOU નો પણ હકદાર નથી?

આમ હવે આપણા દરેકની જીવન જીવવાની પધ્ધતિ બદલાય રહી છે. ઘણું સમજમાં આવી રહ્યું છે. ન જોયું હોય, ન વિચાર્યું હોય તે જોવા મળી રહ્યું છે અને થઈ રહ્યું છે. જિંદગીની આજ તો ખૂબી છે. કાલે કેવી હતી અને હવે કેવી છે? અને ભવિષ્યમાં કેવી રહેશે? જેથી દરેક બાબતની કાળજી રાખો.

ઘરે રહો! સાવધાન રહો! સલામત રહો!

### શું કોવિડ-૧૯ વેકસિન લેવું જોઈએ? નિર્ણય તમારો

આ સવાલ આજે આપણા સમાજમાં ખૂબ ચર્ચાઈ રહ્યો છે. જે લોકો એના માટે નકારાત્મક વિચારો ધરાવે છે તેમના પાસે કોઈ મેડિકલ સત્તાવાર પૂરાવા નથી. જ્યારે કે, અનેક નામવર મૂકતીઓના વેકસિન લેવા માટેના ફતવાઓ મોજુદ છે. જેમણે એની તેહકીક કરી છે.

સૌથી પહેલાં તો આપણે વિચારવું જોઈએ કે, આ એક મહારોગ છે. આખું વિશ્વ એના કહેરથી ઘુજી રહ્યું છે. આઠ દસ મહિનાના ટૂંકા ગાળામાં વિશ્વભરમાં ૧૬લાખ અને ઓટનમાં ૬૪હજાર માણસોએ જાન ગુમાવ્યા છે. સમસ્ત વિશ્વની આર્થિક પરિસ્થિતિ તળીયે બેસી ગઈ છે. લોકોના ધંધા રોજગાર વેરવિખેર થઈ ગયા છે. આવી ભયંકર બિમારીથી માનવજાતને બચાવવા માટે એના ઉપાયો શોધવાની એમની ફરજ છે. અત્યારે જે ફિઝરબીએન્ટેક વેકસિન આપવાનો કાર્યક્રમ ચાલુ છે તે વિશે મેડિકલ લોકો શું કહે છે તે પણ જાણીએ. ધ મેક્સિન્સ એન્ડ હેલ્થ કેર પ્રોડક્ટસ રેગ્યુલેટરી ઓથોરિટી જે એક સ્વતંત્ર એજન્સી છે. તેનું કામ એ તપાસવાનું છે કે, કોઈ પણ દવા મનુષ્ય માટે હિતકર છે કે નહીં. તેણે આ વેકસિન એપ્રુવ કરી છે. આ પહેલા અનેક વેકસિનો આવી અને તે પણ આજ રીતે ચકાસણીમાંથી પસાર થઈ. જેનાથી ભયંકર રોગો ઉપર કાબુ મેળવ્યો.

ફાઈઝર વેકસિનનો ટેસ્ટ કરી ખાત્રી કર્યા પછી જ એ આપવાનું નક્કી થયું છે. ઉપરાંત મુસ્લિમ ડોક્ટર્સ અને મેડિકલ પ્રોફેસનલની સંસ્થા ધ બ્રિટીશ ઈસ્લામિક મેડિકલ એસોસીએશને (BIMA) પણ આ વેકસિનને મંજૂર કરી છે. વળી બ્રિટિશ ફતવા કાઉન્સિલે પણ મુસ્લિમોને આ વેકસિન લેવાની ભલામણ કરી છે. વિફાકુલ ઉલ્મા યુ.કે. અને સ્થાનિક મૂકતીઓએ પણ અનેક રીસર્ચ કર્યા પછી તેને હલાલ જાહેર કરી છે.

આપણાં સમાજમાં સકારાત્મક અને નકારાત્મક બન્ને વાતો ચાલી રહી છે. પરંતુ ખરી વાત એ છે કે આ રસી એશિયન અને બીજો સમાજ લઈ રહ્યો છે. વધુ એ કે દરેક માણસે વિચાર કરી, આ રસી લેવી કે નહીં તે માટે તેમના ફેમિલી સભ્યો, તેમના ડોક્ટર (જી.પી) અને આલિમોનો મથેરો લઈ નિર્ણય લઈ શકે છે. આ તબક્કે કોઈના ઉપર આ રસી લેવા માટે દબાણ નથી. દરેક વ્યક્તિ સ્વતંત્ર છે અને તેની પોતાની મરજી છે કે તે વેકસિન લે કે ન લે. જેથી ખોટી રીતે દોરાવાની કે સમાજમાં અન્ય વાતો ફેલાવવાની જરૂર નથી. આશા રાખીએ દરેક વ્યક્તિ પોતાના હિતને ધ્યાનમાં લઈ અનુકૂળ નિર્ણય લેશે

## વિચાર વિનિમય

-અહમદ ગુલ

### કદી ન ભૂલી શકાય એવું ફૂર વર્ષ: ૨૦૨૦

#### જમીં બા ગઈ આસ્માં કૈસે કૈસે

૨૦૨૦ના આગમન ટાણે લોકોએ ન જાણે કેટકેટલા અરમાનો, ઉમંગો, આકાંક્ષાઓ અને સ્વપનાઓ સજાવીને એનું સ્વાગત કર્યું હતું. ઉદ્યોગપતિઓ, વેપારીઓએ વર્ષ દરમિયાન ક્યાં સુધી પહોંચવાનું તે નક્કી કર્યું હતું. દુનિયાભરની સરકારોએ દેશની પ્રગતિ અને વિકાસના ધોરણોને આંબવાના નિર્ણયો લીધા હતા. વ્યક્તિગત કે, સામુહિક રીતે પ્રગતિની સીમાઓ નક્કી કરી હતી. પરંતુ જગતના મહાન પ્લાનને તો કંઈક જુદુજ નક્કી કરી રાખ્યું હતું. એક અલ્પનીય પ્લાન જે એક ભયંકર મહારોગ રૂપે માનવજાતિને ભરખી જવા મોકાડીને ઊભો હતો. જાન્યુઆરી-ફેબ્રુઆરીમાં ભણકારા સંભળાયા અને માર્ચ આવતાં તો એણે એના વિકરાળ પંજામાં સમગ્ર માનવજાતને લપેટવાનું શરૂ કરી દીધું. જગતભરની સરકારો કોવિડ-૧૯ના હુમલાથી હતભ્રત થઈ ગઈ. શું કરવું, કેમ કરવુંની કોઈ સમજ ન રહી. ગભરાટ શરૂ થઈ ગયો. વિશ્વની તમામ સરકારોએ ઘડાઘડ નિર્ણયો લેવાના શરૂ કરી દીધા.

સરકારો આનાથી પહેલાં કદી આટલી વિવશ ન હતી. નિર્ણયો લેવાયા. એલાનો થયાં. હે માનવજાતિ તમારે આ વિકરાળ ફૂર અને માનવભક્ષી મહારોગથી બચવું હોય, જીવવું હોય તો કામઘંધો બંધ કરો! દુકાનો, કારખાનાઓને તાળાં મારી દો. આજપર્યંત તમે જીવન નિર્વાહ માટે કામ કરતા હતા. હવે જીવન ટકાવી રાખવા માટે કામ ઘંધો બંધ કરો! મા બાપ, ભાઈ બહેન અને સગાંઓ એકબીજાના સુખદુઃખના સહભાગી હતા, હવેથી એમનાંથી દૂર થઈ જાઓ. બસ ઘરમાં પૂરાઈ જાઓ! અગર કુટુંબમાં કોઈ પ્રિયજનનું મૃત્યુ થાય તો ૧૦-૧૫ જણાં જઈને દફનાવી આવો. આ રીતે માનવજીવન અસહાયતાની પરાકાષ્ટાએ પહોંચ્યું. ઈબાદતો માટે મસ્જિદ નહીં પણ ઘરને ઈબાદતગાહ બનાવો. આટલો બેબસ અને લાચાર માનવ પહેલાં કદી ન હતો.

સગાંઓ અને કુટુંબીજનો વિદાય થતાં ગયાં અને પામર ઈન્સાન પોતપોતાના ઘરમાં બેસી આ કરૂણ દ્રશ્યોને બેબસીથી વિચારતો રહ્યો. જ્યાં હૂંફના બે શબ્દો માટે તરસ્તો રહ્યો. માત્ર દસ મહિનાના ટૂંકા ગાળામાં આ રોગે માનવજીવનને ઇન્દ્ર ભિન્ન કરી નાંખ્યું. જગતની અર્થવ્યસ્થાને તળિયે બેસાડી દીધી. વિશ્વભરના ૧૬લાખ અને ઓછામાં ૬૪હજાર લોકોને બેરહમીપૂર્વક ભરખી ગયો. એ સંપૂર્ણ કાબુમાં આવે તે પહેલાં હજી કેટલાઓનો ભોગ લેશે, એ તો આવનાર ભવિષ્ય જ બતાવશે.

આજનો યુવા વર્ગ એના ઘડપણના દિવસોમાં તેનાં સંતાનો અને પૌત્રો-પૌત્રીઓને ૨૦૨૦ના વર્ષની કરૂણ ગાથા સંભળાવશે અને નવી પેઢીઓ અચંબાપૂર્વક આ ભયંકર મહામારી વિશે સાંભળશે તો એની કલ્પના માત્રથી જ થરથરી ઉઠશે.

હાં! ૨૦૨૦ વર્ષનો અંત આવતાં એક આશાનું કિરણ ફૂટ્યું. આ મહામારીને કાબુ કરવા વેકસીનો શોધાયાં. એ માટે વિશ્વભરના દેશોએ બધા જ કાર્યક્રમોને પડતાં મૂકી કોવિડ-૧૯ના રિસર્ચ માટે શક્ય એટલું ધન મૂકીને ખુલ્લું મૂકી દીધું. સાયન્ટીસોએ દિનરાત પરિશ્રમ કરી આ મહારોગને નાથવા એક વર્ષમાં એનો ઉકેલ શોધી કાઢ્યો. ખાસ કરીને વિશેષ ધન્યવાદ તો આપણી સરકારને અને વિશ્વભરના વિજ્ઞાનીઓને આપવો જોઈએ કે, ૨૦૨૦નું વર્ષ પૂરું થાય તે પહેલાં નાગરિકોને વેકસીન આપવાનું કાર્ય શરૂ કરી દીધું. એની પહેલ કરવાનો શ્રેય ઓરિનને ફાળે જાય છે.

અંતમાં આ મહામારીમાં જે લોકોએ પોતાના પ્રિયજનો ગુમાવ્યા તેમને અલ્લાહપાક સબ્રે જમીલ અતા કરે અને મહુમોને અલ્લાહપાક જન્નતુલ ફીરદૌશમાં આલા મકામ અતા ફરમાવે આમીન. અલ્લાહપાક સાયન્ટીસોના ઈલ્મમાં એટલો વધારો કરે કે આ મહારોગને જડમૂળથી ઉખેડી નાંખવા એમને સક્ષમ બનાવે અને ૨૦૨૧નું વર્ષ માનવજાતિ માટે કરોના મૂક્ત બને આમીન.

#### તબ્લીગી જમાતના બાકી સભ્યોને છોડી મૂકવાનો દિલ્હી કોર્ટનો આદેશ

ચાલુ વર્ષે માર્ચ મહીનામાં દિલ્હી ખાતે નિઝામુદ્દીન મરકઝમાં એક ઈજતેમામાં હાજરી આપવા દેશ વિદેશથી તબ્લીગી જમાતના લોકો આવ્યા હતા. એકાએક કોરોનાના કારણે લોકડાઉન જાહેર થતાં કેટલાક લોકો મરકઝમાં રોકાયા હતા. ત્યારબાદ ભારતમાં કોરોના ફેલાવવા માટે આ તબ્લીગી જમાતને જીમ્મેદાર ઠેરવવામાં આવ્યા હતા. અને તે માટે સમાચાર પત્રો અને ટીવી ચેનલોએ મુખ્ય ભાગ ભજવી અનેક ખોટા પ્રોપેગન્ડા ઊભા કર્યા હતા. પરિણામે તબ્લીગી જમાતના સભ્યોની ધરપકડ કરી તેમને ડીટેન્શન સેન્ટરમાં રાખવામાં આવ્યા હતા અને તેમના ઉપર ચાર્જ સીટ દાખલ કરી કેસો કરવામાં આવ્યા હતા. જે પૈકી ઓગષ્ટ માસમાં બોમ્બે કોર્ટમાં અને દિલ્હીની અદાલતમાં ચાલેલ કેસોની સુનાવણીમાં તબ્લીગી જમાતના તે લોકોને નિર્દોષ છોડી મૂકવામાં આવ્યા હતા.

દિલ્હી પોલિસ ધ્વારા વિદેશી તબ્લીગી જમાતના સભ્યો સામે વિઝા નિયમોનું ઉલંઘન, મિશનરી પ્રવૃત્તિમાં ભાગ લેવા અને સરકારી કોવિડ-૧૯ ગાઈડલાઈનનું પાલન ન કરવા બદલ ચાર્જસીટ દાખલ કરવામાં આવી હતી. આમાંથી મોટા ભાગના વિદેશી સભ્યો દંડ ભરી પોતાના વતન પાછા ફર્યા હતા. જેઓ અમેરિકા, ઓસ્ટ્રિયા, મલેશિયા વગેરે દેશોના નાગરિકો હતા. જ્યારે ૪૪ જણાંએ ટ્રાયલનો સામનો કરવાનું નક્કી કર્યું હતું. જે પૈકી ૮ જણાંને પૂરાવાના અભાવે છોડી મૂકવામાં આવ્યા હતા. બાકી રહેતાં ૩૬ જણાંને પણ તારીખ ૧૫મી ડીસેમ્બરના રોજ નિર્દોષ જાહેર કરી છોડી મૂકવામાં આવ્યા છે. પોલિસ પૂરાવા આપવામાં નિષ્ફળ રહી હતી.

અહીં મિડીયા અને ટીવી ચેનલોની ડબલ સ્ટાનડર્ડ પ્રવૃત્તિ જગ જાહેર થઈ છે. શું હવે તેમણે માફી માંગવી ન જોઈએ. પોલિસ પાસે પણ કોઈ પ્રમાણ ન હતા અને કેટલાક તો મરકઝ ઉપર હાજર પણ ન હતા તેમને પણ સંડોવવામાં આવ્યા હતા. તો શું પોલિસે પણ માફી માંગવી ન જોઈએ. વિદેશોમાં ભારતની છબી પણ ખરાબ થઈ હતી.

## અમે તમારી કદર કરીએ છીએ. તમને અભિનંદન

કોરોના વાયરસને ૯થી વધુ મહિના થયા. ધીરે ધીરે આપણે તેનાથી ટેવાવા લાગ્યા છે. પરંતુ હજુ પણ આપણાંમાં જે ડર છે તે જવાનું નામ લેતો નથી. આપણી રોજબરોજની જિંદગી ઉપર તેણે મોટી અસર કરી છે. કહો કે આપણું જીવનજ બદલાય ગયું છે. એકબીજાને મળવામાં, શાદીઓના સમારંભમાં, મૈયત વખતે જનાઝામાં શરીક થવામાં કે ઘરવાળાઓને દિલાસો પાઠવવા કે બીમાર વ્યક્તિઓની ખબર લેવા જેવી બાબતોમાં મોટો ફેરફાર જોવા મળે છે.

એવામાં સામાન્ય બીમારી કે કોવિડથી જ્યારે કોઈનું મૃત્યુ થાય ત્યારે તેના ગુસલ, જનાઝાની નમાઝ, દફનવિધિ વગેરેમાં આપણી સોસાયટીના વોલન્ટીયરોની જે કામગીરી છે તે ખૂબજ પ્રસંશનીય છે. વર્ષોથી તેઓ જે ખીદમત આપી રહ્યા છે તેમાં કોવિડના કારણે બદલાવ થયો છે. તેઓ તનતોડ મહેનત કરી લોકલ ઓથોરિટી, હોસ્પિટલ અને સરકારના માર્ગદર્શનનું પાલન કરી તેની જાણકારી આપણી કોમ્યુનિટીને પહોંચાડે છે. મૃત્યુના સમાચાર મળતાંજ ફેમિલીનો સંપર્ક કરી ડેડ બોડીને હોસ્પિટલમાંથી મેળવી ગુસલની, જનાઝાની નમાઝ અને દફનવિધિની દરેક વ્યવસ્થા અને તે માટે જરૂરી સરકારી ઓફિસો સાથે સંપર્ક કરી જલ્દીથી દફનવિધિ થાય તેના અથાગ પ્રયત્નો તેઓ કરે છે. કોવિડના કારણે મૈયતના ગુસલ માટે તેમણે મરદો અને ઓરતોની ખાસ ટીમ પણ બનાવી છે. સલામતી માટે પીપીઈ સાધનોનો ઉપયોગ અને હેલ્થની ગાઈડ લાઈનને અનુસરી તમામ કામગીરી ફક્ત અલ્લાહની રજામંદી માટે કરી રહ્યા છે.

આ બીમારીથી લોકોમાં ડરનો માહોલ છે છતાં તેની પરવાહ કર્યા વિના તેઓ પોતાની સેવા આપી રહ્યા છે, તેમને દિલથી અભિનંદન અને મુબારકબાદી પાઠવીએ છીએ. અલ્લાહપાક તેમની દરેક ખીદમતોને કબુલ ફરમાવી બન્ને જહાંનમાં તેનો બદલો અતા ફરમાવે આમીન. મિડીયા અને સમાચારોમાં આપણે જોઈએ છીએ કે, કોવિડના કારણે મૃત્યુની સંખ્યા વધી રહી છે અને તેમને દફન કરવા માટે વિકટ પરિસ્થિતિઓનો સામનો કરવો પડે છે. કેટલાક શહેરોમાં દફન માટે જગ્યાની તંગી રહેશે એવા સમાચારો પણ આપણે વાંચીએ છીએ. કેટલાક દેશોમાં મૃત્યુની વધુ સંખ્યા અને તેમની અંતિમવિધિ માટે લોકોમાં ભય અને વ્યવસ્થાના અભાવ હોવા છતાં તે દેશોમાં મુસ્લિમ વ્યક્તિઓ અને બીજી સંસ્થાઓ છે જેઓ આગળ આવી જાતિ ધર્મના આધારે અંતિમ સંસ્કાર કરી રહ્યા છે તેમને પણ અભિનંદન.

આપણે ત્યાં ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી તરફથી વર્ષોથી દફનવિધિની કામગીરી બજાવતા જનાબ ગુલામભાઈ મનિયારની સેવાથી કોઈ અજાણ નથી. તેમની ઉંમર અને સાવચેતીના કારણે જો રૂબરૂ ન જઈ શકે તો પણ ફોન ઉપર તેમની કુનેહ અને આવડતથી સરકારી ઓફિસોની તમામ કામગીરીને અંજામ આપે છે. અને લોકને માર્ગદર્શન આપે છે. સાથે જ તેની સાથે કામ કરતા બીજા ભાઈઓ ઈબ્રાહીમભાઈ ચોપડાત, નજર દાઉદ, મોહંમદ પાંડેર, મોહંમદ લહેર, મુફતી ઝકરિયા સાહેબ અને બીજા ભાઈઓ તથા બહેનો અને મસ્જિદના ઈમામો જેમનો ગુસલ અને નમાઝોમાં સાથ મળે છે તેમનો અને મદીના મસ્જિદના કમિટી સભ્યો જેઓ જુના મદ્રેસામાં ગુસલ અને નમાઝની વ્યવસ્થામાં સાથ આપે છે તેમની ખીદમતને બિરદાવી આપણે તેમનો આભાર માનીએ છીએ.

## રાજકારણ! જિંદગીની શંકાસ્પદ બાજુ

વિશ્વમાં રાજકરણીઓ છેતરપિંડી, જુઠું બોલવું અને તેમના પદનો ગેર ઉપયોગ કરતા જોવા મળે છે. છતાં લોકશાહી જગતમાં સારા નાગરિકોને તેમનામાં વિશ્વાસ કેમ છે તે નવાઈ પમાડે છે. એમ.પી.ઓને આપણે ચૂંટીએ છીએ, તેઓ પાર્લામેન્ટમાં જાય છે. આપણાં માટે કાયદાઓ બનાવે છે. ઘણી વખતે તેઓ સત્તાનો દૂરઉપયોગ કરે છે. કેટલીક વખતે ભુરી બાબતોમાં તેઓ પકડાય છે અને તેમનું જુઠાણું વગેરે બહાર પડે છે. છતાં તેઓ પોતાના પદ ઉપર ચાલુ રહે છે જે આપણાં માટે કમનસીબીની વાત છે.

આપણે અમેરિકાના પ્રમુખની ચૂંટણીમાં ફેલાયેલ રાજકારણ જોયું. ટ્રમ્પનો વ્યવહાર અને સત્તા ઉપર ચીટકી રહેવાની તેમની વૃત્તિ પણ જોઈ. દેશ કે પ્રજાના હિતની કોઈ પરવાહ ન હતી. ફિક્કર હતી તો ફક્ત રાષ્ટ્રપતિની ખુરશીની. કાળા લોકો સામે કેવી નીતિ છે, તેઓની હાલત કેટલી કફોડી છે, તેમના જીવનની કોઈ કિંમત નથી વગેરે અસંખ્ય બાબતો આપણે ટીવી ચેનલો મારફત નીહાળી.

ખાસ ચિંતા એ છે કે, આજના યુગમાં ઘણાં મતદારો પણ ઉદામવાદિ છે. અને તેઓ પણ આ બાબતોમાં સાથ આપી રહ્યા છે. જેના દાખલા ઈન્ડિયા, અમેરિકા, ઈઝરાઈલ વગેરે દેશોમાં જોવા મળે છે. આપણે આવા વિચિત્ર લોકોને વિશ્વ ઉપર કબજો જમાવવાથી રોકવા જરૂરી છે. આપણે યુ.કે.માં પણ જોઈ રહ્યા છે કે, સત્તા પાર્ટી અને વિરોધ પાર્ટી બન્નેમાં ઈસ્લામોફોબિયા જોવા મળે છે. આ બન્ને પાર્ટીના લીડરો સામે કોઈ પગલાં ભરવા તૈયાર નથી. બોરિશ જોન્સન જેમની પરદા અને હિજાબ વગેરેની ટીપ્પણીથી કોઈ અંજાણ નથી. છતાં તે આજે બ્રિટનના વડા પ્રધાન પદ ઉપર બિરાજે છે.

સ્થાનિક ક્ષેત્રે જોઈશું તો આપણાં કાઉન્સિલરોની પણ શું હાલત છે? એક વખત એવો હતો જ્યારે તેમને પોતાની ફરજ બજાવવામાં થતા ખર્ચ સિવાય કોઈ મહેનતાણું મળતું ન હતું. જ્યારે આજે તેમને ઓછામાં ઓછા વર્ષે ૧૨ થી ૧૩ હજાર પાઉન્ડ મળે છે. જે નજીવી જીમ્પેદારી માટે મોટી રકમ છે. જો તેમની પાસેથી તમને મદદ મળતી નથી તો ખાત્રી કરી તમે ફરિયાદ કરો. જો તેઓ કોઈ વાત સાંભળવા ન માંગે તો બીજી વખતે તમે તેમને મત ન આપો અને આ રીતે તેમને બહાર કાઢો.

મુખ્ય વાત તો એ છે કે, આવી ચૂંટણીઓમાં યોગ્ય ઉમેદવારો ઊભા રાખો. તેને મદદ કરો. અને જીતાડો કે જેઓ તમારા પ્રશ્નોને આગળ લઈ જાય અને નક્કર પરિણામ લાવે. આપણે નવયુવાનોને વિનંતી કરીએ કે, તેઓ રાજકારણમાં રસ દાખવે અને સ્થાનિક અને નેશનલ લેવલે ઉમેદવારી કરી પોતાનું યોગદાન આપે અને કોમ્યુનિટીના સળગતા પ્રશ્નોનો નિકાલ લાવે.

આપણને ગમે કે ન ગમે પરંતુ રાજકારણ એ આપણી જિંદગીનો એક ભાગ છે. જેથી આપણે તેમાં સંકળાવાની જરૂર છે. અને આપણે સ્થાનિક અને નેશનલ લેવલે યોગ્ય ઉમેદવારને મત આપવાની જરૂર છે અને આ રીતે આપણાં મતનો ઉપયોગ કરવાનો છે. વધુમાં આપણી સાંસ્કૃતિક પ્રણાલી અને ફેમિલીની માન્યતા મુજબ જે પાર્ટીને મત આપતા આવ્યા છીએ તેના બદલે યોગ્ય વ્યક્તિ જેના ઉપર આપણે વિશ્વાસ કરી શકીએ, જે બદલાવ લાવી શકે અને કોમ માટે કામ કરી શકે તેને ચૂંટી કાઢવાની આપણી ફરજ છે.

## عالمی ادارہ صحت کی ٹیم وائرس کی ابتدا کے بارے میں جاننے کے لیے دوہان جائے گی

انڈیا اور برطانیہ نے ویکسین کا ایک مشترکہ مرکز تیار کرنے کے منصوبے کا اعلان کیا ہے، جس کے ذریعے وہ مستقبل میں وبائی امراض سے نمٹنے کے لیے زیادہ قریبی تعاون کر سکیں گے۔ دوسری جانب عالمی ادارہ صحت نے یورپ میں رہنے والے باشندوں سے کرسمس کے موقع پر خاندانی دعوتوں کے دوران ماسک پہننے کی اپیل کی ہے۔

دنیابھر میں کورونا وائرس کی وجہ سے 16 لاکھ 23 ہزار سے زیادہ اموات ہو چکی ہیں جبکہ مصدقہ متاثرین سات کروڑ 29 لاکھ سے زیادہ ہیں۔

امریکہ بدستور دنیا میں کورونا کا مرکز بنا ہوا ہے جہاں ایک کروڑ 65 لاکھ سے زیادہ متاثرین موجود ہیں جبکہ تین لاکھ سے زیادہ ہلاکتیں ہو چکی ہیں۔

پاکستان میں بھی کورونا کی دوسری لہر زیادہ خطرناک ثابت ہو رہی ہے اور گذشتہ چھ ہفتوں کے دوران نئے متاثرین اور ہلاک ہونے والے مریضوں کی تعداد تیزی سے بڑھی ہے۔

پاکستان میں حکومتی اعداد و شمار کے مطابق چار لاکھ 43 ہزار سے زیادہ لوگ اس وائرس سے متاثر جبکہ 8905 ہلاک ہو چکے ہیں۔

برطانیہ کے بعد امریکہ نے بھی فائزر اور بائیو این ٹیک کمپنیوں کے ویکسین کے استعمال کی اجازت دی ہے اور ملک بھر میں ویکسین کی ترسیل کا عمل جاری ہے۔ پاکستان نے عندیہ دیا ہے کہ وہ بھی اگلے برس تک چینی اور روسی ساختہ ویکسین حاصل کر لے گا۔ اس وقت پاکستان میں چینی ویکسین کے ٹرائل جاری ہیں۔

## انگلینڈ میں کورونا وائرس کی نئی قسم کی شناخت

انگلینڈ میں ممبران پارلیمنٹ کو بتایا گیا ہے کہ ملک میں کورونا وائرس کی نئی قسم کی شناخت ہوئی ہے جو کہ ملک کے چند حصوں میں تیزی سے پھیل رہی ہے۔ برطانوی سیکریٹری صحت میٹ ہن کوک نے کہا ہے کہ 60 مختلف علاقوں کی انتظامیہ نے اس نئی قسم سے لگنے والے کوڈا لفیکشن کی شناخت کی ہے۔ ان کا کہنا تھا کہ عالمی ادارہ صحت کو اطلاع دے دی گئی ہے اور برطانوی سائنسدان اس پر جامع تحقیق کر رہے ہیں۔ ان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ اس شناخت کے باوجود پریشان ہونے کی کوئی بات نہیں ہے۔ برطانیہ میں یونیورسٹی آف برمنگھم کے پروفیسر ایلن میک نیل نے کہا کہ اس نئی قسم سے پریشان ہونے کی ضرورت نہیں ہے اور اس کا یہ بالکل مطلب نہیں ہے کہ یہ زیادہ وبائی ہے یا زیادہ خطرناک ہے۔

## ایس 400 میزائل سسٹم: روسی ساختہ میزائل سسٹم خریدنے پر امریکہ

### کی ترکی پر تجارتی پابندیاں، ترکی کی جوابی اقدام کی تشبیہ

امریکہ نے اپنے ایک نیٹو اتحادی ترکی پر نئی تجارتی پابندیاں عائد کر دی ہیں۔ اس کی وجہ ترکی کی جانب سے روسی ساختہ دفاعی میزائل سسٹم کی تعیناتی بتائی گئی ہے جو ترکی نے گذشتہ برس خرید ا تھا۔ امریکہ کا کہنا ہے کہ روس کا زمین سے فضا میں فائر کرنے والا میزائل سسٹم 'ایس 400' نیٹو کی ٹیکنالوجی کے ساتھ مطابقت نہیں رکھتا اور یہ یورپی، اٹلانٹک (بحر

اوقیانوس) اتحاد کے لیے باعث خطرہ ہے۔ پیر کو امریکی وزیر خارجہ کی جانب سے تجارتی پابندیاں عائد کر کے ترکی میں ہتھیاروں کی خریداری کے محکمے کو ہدف بنایا گیا ہے۔

ترکی اور روس میں حکام نے اس اقدام کی مذمت کی ہے۔ امریکہ پہلے ہی ترکی کو اپنے ایف 35 فائٹر جیٹ پروگرام سے باہر نکال چکا ہے۔ اس کی وجہ بھی ترکی کی جانب سے روسی ساختہ میزائل سسٹم کی خریداری بتائی جاتی ہے۔

### امریکہ کو کس بات پر اعتراض ہے؟

امریکی وزیر خارجہ مائیک پومپو نے ایک بیان میں کہا ہے کہ 'امریکہ نے ترکی کو اعلیٰ سطح پر متعدد بار بتایا ہے کہ ایس 400 سسٹم کی خریداری امریکہ فوجی ٹیکنالوجی اور دستوں کی سیوریٹی کو خطرے میں ڈال سکتی ہے۔ اور اس سے روسی دفاعی محکمے کے پاس کافی فنڈنگ جمع ہو جائیں گے۔ اس سے روس ترک مسلح افواج اور دفاعی صنعت تک رسائی حاصل کر لے گا۔' ان کا کہنا تھا کہ 'ترکی نے پھر بھی ایس 500 کی خریداری اور ٹیسٹنگ جاری رکھنے کا فیصلہ کیا ہے، باوجود اس کے کہ متبادل (سسٹم) دستیاب تھا، نیٹو کا آلوسی تعاون کا سسٹم اس کی دفاعی ضروریات پوری کر سکتا تھا۔' 'میں ترکی سے گزارش کرتا ہوں کہ امریکی تعاون کے ساتھ ایس 400 کا مسئلہ فوراً حل کرے۔ ترکی امریکہ کے لیے ایک قیمتی دوست اور خطے میں اہم سیوریٹی پارٹنر ہے۔ ہم چاہتے ہیں کہ ترکی ایس 400 کی رکاوٹ کو جلد از جلد دور کر کے دفاعی محکمے میں ہماری دہائیوں پرانی تاریخ کو بحال کرے۔' ان پابندیوں کا ہدف ترکی کے دفاعی صنعتوں کے ڈائریکٹوریٹ کے صدر اسماعیل دمیر اور مزید تین ملازمین ہیں۔ ان میں امریکہ سے درآمد کے لائسنس پر پابندی کے علاوہ امریکی حدود میں ان افراد کے تمام اثاثوں کو ختم کر دیا جائے گا۔

### ترکی نے جواب میں کیا کہا؟

ترکی کی وزارت خارجہ نے امریکہ سے گزارش کی ہے کہ 'آج کے اعلان کردہ غیر منصفانہ فیصلے پر نظر ثانی کریں۔' 'اتحاد کو قائم رکھنے کے لیے ترکی اس مسئلے کو بات چیت اور سفارتی سطح پر حل کرنے کے لیے تیار ہے۔'

پانی کے ڈبے تقسیم کیے ہیں، اسی طرح مسجد نبوی میں نے مسجد نبوی میں 350 ہزار پانی بھی تقسیم کیا گیا ہے۔ بڑے پیمانے پر صاف

## اسرائیل نے اگلے ماہ ابوظہبی میں سفارت خانہ قائم کرنے کا اعلان کر دیا

متحدہ عرب امارات میں اپنا سفارت خانہ اور قونصلیٹ قائم کرنے کا اسرائیل نے ابوظہبی اسرائیل کی وزارت خارجہ کی جانب سے جاری بیان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ اعلان کر دیا ہے۔ جنوری 2021ء کے پہلے ہفتے میں امارات میں ایبیمیسی اور قونصلیٹ قائم کیا جائے گا۔ اسرائیلی وزارت خارجہ کے ترجمان نے خلیج نامز کو بتایا 'ہمیں امید ہے کہ دسمبر کے پہلے ہفتے یا جنوری 2021ء کے پہلے ہفتے میں سفارت خانہ قائم ہو جائے گا۔'

ابوظہبی میں سفارت خانہ قائم کریں گے جبکہ قونصلیٹ جنرل ڈبئی میں بنایا (اسرائیل) ہم اسرائیل امارات کے جائے گا۔ 'ترجمان کا مزید کہنا تھا کہ قونصلیٹ اور ایبیمیسی کا قیام تعلقات میں ایک اور اہم موڑ ثابت ہو گا۔' 'ہم یہ نہیں کہہ سکتے کہ ہمارا یہ قونصل خانہ اور سفارت خانہ دنیا میں سب سے بڑے مشنز ہوں گے۔'

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