

# Unlawfully Detained

## Paigaam calls on the Indian Government to free Sohail Hughes

Mirfield man Sohail Hughes has been 'unlawfully' detained in India. His family including his wife and 3 year old son are distraught and they want him home.

His sister insists that Sohail and Tabligh Jamaat members from as far as Malaysia and Singapore have been detained because they are Muslim.

Sohail was a member of a Jamaat staying in a mosque with another Briton and 12 others from the Ivory Coast.

However, Sohail along with the entire group were detained and later arrested for the violation of tourist visa as well as under sections 188 (violation of order promulgated by government), 269.

(Negligently partaking in an act known to be likely to spread infection of any disease dangerous to life) and 270 (malignantly performing any act which is likely to spread disease).

His sister insists Sohail and his fellow Jamaat members have been detained because they are Muslim.

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# Unlawfully detained

The family of a Mirfield man who has been detained in India say they are distraught and shocked by the manner in which he has been 'unlawfully' treated by the Indian authorities.

Sohail Hughes, a 29-year-old joiner who was born in Dewsbury and lives in Mirfield with his wife and three-year-old son had been on an extended holiday to visit family in Gujarat before leaving to partake in a three-month Jamaat (a pilgrimage of mosques).

However, he was detained last month after falling foul of lockdown laws implemented with just four hours' notice requiring people to stay off the streets.

Sohail was offered two flights home on separate occasions. However, with all forms of transport suspended, he had no option but to stay in a local Masjid.

However, his passport was seized by the local police and he and a number of foreigners were forcibly placed into quarantine twice for a total of 35 days despite testing negative for coronavirus.

Things got worse as Sohail's bail application was then rejected and he is now being kept in the Old Central Jail in Madhya Pradesh city.

Speaking to Paigaam, Sohail's sister, Aatika said she, along with her family, cannot fathom the situation they currently find themselves in.

She said: "There are no words to describe how we are feeling at this moment in time. We are distraught and shocked at how Sohail and all the other foreigners have been treated in India, it is his motherland. Justice has to be served; we need him home."

Aatika also lambasted the "double standards" of the entire affair. She explained how people of other faiths who found themselves in similar predicaments and were stranded in yoga centres, temples and other places were free to go.

"Where were these foreigners supposed to go," said Aatika.

"However, at the same time (as Sohail) many other people were in similar situations, stranded in yoga centres, temples and other such places with nowhere else

to go but to have to wait to be repatriated. These people were free to go back to their homes, back to their countries, back to their families and loved ones, no questions asked."

Police in Bhopal have refuted what Aatika has said insisting he was detained for violating rules.

"He (Sohail) was detained with others for violating visa rules and the Foreigners Act. He was on a tourist visa and was involved in missionary work," said Police Superintendent Rajat Saklecha.

"Hughes has also been charged for disobeying the lockdown rules. They are free to put forth their side in the court for his release."

Saville Town based businessman; Saeed Patel has been speaking to senior officials Bihar in an attempt to help facilitate Sohail's release.

"I have impressed upon senior officials in Bihar that Sohail is innocent and needs to be sent home. I am also speaking with well-known solicitors in India who are working on the case and are actively pursuing the case. However, due to the covid crisis, things are being held up."

He insists the principal issue surrounding the saga is because those who are issued with tourist visas along with those who have an OCI Passport which entitles them to visit India without a visa, are not entitled to undertake any Missionary work in India.

"The issue centres around the OCI passport which the authorities have used as a political football in order to stigmatise Tabligh Jamaat and the good that they do."

Mr Patel also pointed to several discrepancies when it came to the implementation of the rules in relation to the OCI passport and missionary work. He pointed out that many Christian and Hindu missionary organisations openly propagate their message, with members around the world flying into India to help propagate their aims and objectives.

One such organisation is California based Maranatha Volunteers International.

Maranatha's first project in India took place more than 25 years ago.

Since then, the missionary

movement has steadily worked with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in India to build more than 1,600 churches and school classrooms in the country.

In New Delhi alone, where the world famous Nizamuddin Markaz is based, the Adventist membership to date is 1,501,467.

Maranatha also organise short-term mission trips averaging about 10-14 days, in order to mobilise volunteers from around the world who are willing to fund their own travel and accommodation.

The aim of the mission is for participants to undergo a transformative effect, thus ensuring they return to their countries and communities as reformed individuals who aim to have a positive impact within their own communities.

In addition, the Delhi based Ramakrishna Mission have 157 missionary centres in India alone and 208 centres spread across countries such the world.

The organisation hold events and prayer groups to promote their main goals and objectives which consist of providing educational and medical services to villagers.

He explained how senior officials of Tabligh Jamaat managed to secure the release of many of those who had travelled from within India in order to partake in visiting masjids.

However, they were unsuccessful when it came to that of Sohail and many others from as far as Malaysia, Singapore and Canada.

"The elders managed to secure the release of the Indian contingent. However, it is very unfortunate to see Sohail, who is an honest and hardworking young man along with those from other countries subjected to such degrading treatment."

For Aatika however, her brother's incarceration is for one reason alone and that is because he is a Muslim.

"He has now been confined to a detention centre until another court accepts the case.

"Why? All because he is a Muslim? It feels like a direct attack on his faith."

When approached for a

comment, a Foreign office spokesperson confirmed that they had been in direct contact with Sohail and his family.

"We are supporting a British man who has been detained in India and are in contact with the prison officials and local authorities."

Dewsbury MP Mark Eastwood told Paigaam that he has been in regular contact with the Hughes family, along with his colleague, Sajid Hussain, to give the Hughes family as much support as possible.

"I have personally raised the case with the Foreign Office at the highest levels," said Mr Eastwood.

"Also, I have spoken with the Minister for South Asia and the Commonwealth, Lord Ahmad to further raise the case with him directly.

"I have agreed with the family, that I will present the petition that is being circulated to Lord Ahmad. My team and I are doing all that we can to ensure that Sohail Hughes returns to Dewsbury safe and sound."

IMWS Chair, Dr Imtiaz Patel has written to Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab urging him to secure Sohail's release.

The letter in which Rabetah Al Ulamah, the Peace Institute and local masjids are also listed as signatories details why they are very concerned about Sohail's detention.

"Sohail is a local Dewsbury resident, his case of detention without bail for the alleged offence of spreading Covid is extremely concerning given he has been caught up in a foreign country trying to return home during the pandemic.

"We would urge you to use all opportunities available to raise the profile of his case as your constituent and update us regarding what steps are being taken by the Government to prioritise his urgent release and repatriation."

A petition to have Sohail freed had accumulated over 25,000 signatures at the time of going to press.

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

At a time of great distress due to the pandemic, a time no living person has ever experienced or is ever likely to experience, we as a community have been through a very difficult time over the past two months with the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown as a result of the pandemic.

We have had to celebrate Eid and Ramadan without our extended families, neighbours and friends. The Masaajid have been closed to the public, whereas they are normally the hub of activities. The burial rites has been restricted to just a handful of immediate family members.

Firstly I offer my deepest condolence to all the families who have lost their loved ones due to the pandemic. We pray our Creator grants all the deceased the highest place in Jannat and sabre-e-jameel to the family.

IMWS has together with the Peace Institute produced several posters and advice sheets on subjects such as: social distancing, praying of Eid namaaz and burial procedures during the lockdown and so forth, which I hope has proved useful.

We have worked with the management committee of our local Masaajid and our ulemas on how to fulfil the rights of the masjid yet still working with the government guidelines.

To date we have distributed over 500 food parcels from the Al-Hikmah Centre and are hoping to distribute further food parcels to the elderly and vulnerable in our community, not just in Batley and Dewsbury but in the surrounding areas.

I also want to thank the charity group for the sterling job they have done in raising funds for various needy projects internationally.

As always our community has responded to the call and donated very generously for both local, national and international causes.

I want to personally thank the IMWS committee, the staff, the burial team, the local masjid, the burial team and all those who have worked hard and tirelessly during this pandemic.

I pray that we all have learnt from this pandemic and the lockdown, the value of life and importance of family unity.

In addition, we have through social media (Zoom meetings) had weekly health related programs talking about important issues.

We had as guests leading health experts in their chosen fields together with local senior ulemas.

Areas discussed were: Healthy eating in Ramadan, Dental Health and Covid-19 and it's impact on the BAME community"

"Death is but a heart beat or breath away" so let us all work together with iklaas and unity for the betterment of the world we live in. The due reward of which, I pray we shall realise and appreciate in the hereafter.

As they say "every dark cloud has a silver lining", and indeed it has brought families closer, we have spent more time together as families: breaking fast together and praying namaaz in our homes as a unit.

We shall emerge from this as a stronger and more understanding community. (Ameen)

**Dr Imtiyaz A Patel (Chair, IMWS)**



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## PAIGAAM EDITORIAL

# Best of British

At the ripe old age of 100 Capt Tom Moore raised over £30m when he came up with a simple but brilliant idea of walking 100 laps in his garden to raise money for the NHS.

Of course Capt Moore deserves all the credit for taking this initiative but even he would not have dreamt that his efforts would raise such a gigantic amount of money. But who made this possible? Of course the answer is the great British public.

Isn't it amazing that the generosity of the British people always comes to the fore?

Anytime there is a disaster in the world the British people always give abundantly. There are many examples of this but one of those is the contributions in 2004 by British people of Millions for victims of the Indonesian Tsunami.

The British people actually contributed more than many countries did. Is this not truly a great example of the humanity and generosity of the British people?

We should be very proud to be British and to be part of this Great British humanity.

Of course charity is also very close to the hearts of Muslims all over the world, especially during the Holy month of Ramadhan, as apart from normal donations to very worthy causes all around the world Muslims also give an additional 2.5% of their savings known as Zakat in charity across the globe.

On a more local level, what an experience it has been for the Muslim community going through Ramadhan under

lockdown.

With no attendance at Masjids the usual 'Ramadhan ki Ronak' has been missing and has been very upsetting for the Muslim community.

However, one might say there has been a positive aspect to the lockdown which has turned every household into mini Masjids with families engaged in Jamaat prayers, fasting and devotion to their faith in the seclusion of their homes.

Generally speaking it is human nature to want to help others when we can. We can all testify to the feelings of inner warmth we get from helping someone and the human connection it engenders.

Doesn't it also warm the cockles of our hearts when we see someone helping the needy or the distressed and sometimes it brings tears to our eyes?

Does this not prove that it is within the human nature to celebrate the goodness and humanity of our race?

We are all one race no matter what colour we might be or which region of the world we hail from.

We have all seen the programmes on TV especially the Islamic channels on TV where they are trying to collect donations to give to the poor.

All channels and charity organisations collect mainly during the month of Ramadhan as that is when people are feeling most generous and also so that the Zakat moneys to be distributed can be gainfully employed to help the poor.

Over the course of the month millions of food packs will be

delivered to the needy in many remote parts of the world that only some charities reach.

Where some people don't have enough food to survive and some are probably starving to death.

Whereas, we are so fortunate to have plenty and we probably waste a lot of food also.

The fact that so many food packs are needed also indicates that there are still millions or billions of people around the world who are poor and needy and require assistance from charities.

It is a great shame that this hasn't been addressed effectively by the powers that be to eliminate world poverty.

The resources are there but the 'will' is missing. What a great shame.

If it was up to the British people and their humanity and generosity world poverty would be a thing of the past. Let the good British people run the world and see what happens.

It is also very positive the way the British Government has acknowledged the Holy month of Ramadhan and commented positively on the way the Muslim community has adapted to Ramadhan under the lockdown.

Whereas, if we look across the world we shudder to think how Muslims are being treated in India, Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Palestine, Myanmar, China and many other parts of the world.

Covid 19 has devastated the world, has destroyed our way of life and taken away our freedom.

Yet can we also, unbelievably, dare to say that some positives can be derived from it?

Of course we cannot forget or minimise the horrendous death toll in this country and all over the world.

So the question is what positives can we point to?

The response might be that this period of lockdown is allowing the Earth to recover as there is less pollution from industry, road traffic and aeroplanes.

We can see more people out walking and exercising and being friendly as we are all in this together.

The estimates are that around 44% of people are working from home. We have also had time to slow down and spend more quality time with our children and families and perhaps take some time to get to the odd jobs that we have been putting off.

Furthermore, the best news for all law abiding citizens is that the crime rates have gone down during this period.

Did we ever think that this would be possible?

What does this tell us? It tells us that human beings are very resilient and can always find ways out of adversity and make adjustments and survive.

We have made many adjustments to our way of life such as working patterns, shopping habits, learning to be patient, stay at home and also appreciate the more basic things in life.

We will come through this disastrous situation and need to remain positive.

The human race has faced far worse and come through it.

So let's be patient and hold firm dear friends.

# Tracy Brabin signs letter pressing for sanctions against Israel

Tracy Brabin stands up to Israel as Dewsbury MP Mark Eastwood explains why he did not sign the letter

127 members of parliament from across the political divide, including Batley and Spennings MP, Tracy Brabin have signed a letter sent to Prime Minister Boris Johnson demanding that the British government serves notice of severe consequences and sanctions to Israel, should they press ahead with plans to illegally annex Palestinian territory.

However, after a coalition government agreement between Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and his rival Benny Gantz, was sealed, legislation approving the annexation of the Jordan Valley and other parts of the West Bank, a key electoral pledge of Netanyahu's Likud party, was approved.

However, the Israelis are said to be awaiting the approval of the Trump administration.

The U.S. President wants annexation to be seen to be integrated into the so called 'Deal of the century' peace plan set out by his son-in-law, Jared Kushner, last year, in which a political-economic plan was drawn up to give vast military and territorial advantages to Israel while stripping the Palestinians of their own security forces and around 30 per cent of the West Bank.

The letter was organised by the Council for Arab-British Understanding (CAABU), who said the the extensiveness of the response across the UK's political spectrum on the issue "unprecedented."

The 127 members of the UK Parliament and House of Lords who signed the letter include Tracy Brabin, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, former Liberal Democrat leader Lord Menzies Campbell, former Shadow Home Secretary Dianne Abbott MP, former

Conservative Party chair Lord Chris Patten, and Sir Nicholas Soames, the grandson of Sir Winston Churchill.

Paigaam contacted the MP for Dewsbury, Mark Eastwood, on three separate occasions seeking clarification as to why his name was not on the bi-partisan letter, alongside his fellow MP's, diplomats and prominent campaigners against antisemitism such as Margaret Hodge, who said the UK did not hesitate to sanction Russia after the annexation of Crimea, insisting any move in the West Bank would warrant a similar response.

Mr Eastwood finally responded an hour before we were set to go to print with the following statement:

"Rather than signing cross-party letters, I much prefer to raise any issue with Ministers directly, as I did recently when pushing for the Government amendment to Coronavirus legislation in relation to burials and respecting religious views.

"It has also always been my position to stand up for my constituents on important foreign policy and human rights issues like this and I shall continue to do so on their behalf, as demonstrated with my recent visit to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir to highlight human rights abuses in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Now, this has come to my attention, I shall be personally raising this at the highest level."

Mr Eastwood also noted that since being elected as MP for Dewsbury, he has been selected as the Co-Chair and Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims and the Kashmir respectively.

Paigaam also contacted Tracy Brabin who provided the following comment. "This is a deeply troubling time in the Middle East as Netanyahu's government is pursuing annexation plans at a frightening rate.

"This plan is wrong and illegal according to international law and breaking the law must come with consequences.

"Our government cannot rely on rhetoric alone and must be willing to use sanctions if necessary – too much is at risk not to."

The letter said such a move would prove a "mortal blow to chances of peace between Israelis and Palestinians based on any viable two-state solution," and would be "a serious breach of international law."

They said not sanctioning Israel in such an event would contradict the precedent set in the UK's sanctioning of Russia in the wake of its annexation of Crimea in 2014.

That, they said, was a "recent example where Britain quite properly opposed such acts with appropriate measures, including robust sanctions."

The letter added: "If we are to prevent other states with territorial ambitions from copying Israeli illegal behaviour, the UK must take a lead in standing up to this aggression.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu has ignored our words. We need to prevent his government from setting this alarmingly dangerous precedent in international relations."

In addition, Shadow Foreign Secretary Lisa Nandy, has written to her Conservative counterpart, Dominic Raab, asking him to publicly state his opposition to

the annexation plan.

CAABU said in a statement: "Politicians including former cabinet members, ministers and senior diplomats, demanded actions not words in opposing any Israeli annexation."

Its Director Chris Doyle added: "Sanctions should not be entered into lightly but such an action would more than warrant it, just as we did with Russia over Crimea. For too long we have stood and watched as Israel violated Palestinian human rights."

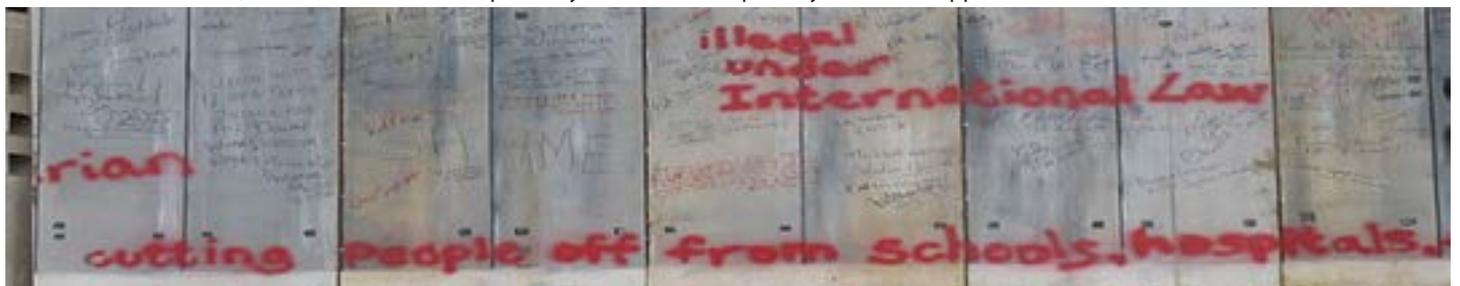
CAABU Chairman David Jones MP said: "I am sure the (UK) government understands just how serious a breach of international law any Israeli annexation of Palestinian territory would be.

"As this letter shows, it would have widespread support to hold Israel account should it cross this line.

"Sadly, this will probably require more than words; but such a violation of the rule of law cannot go unchallenged. I hope Israeli leaders will think twice before such a drastic decision, which would irrevocably destroy the chances of a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian people."

Prior to the letter being circulated in the public domain, the UK joined a diplomatic initiative taken by 10 European Union diplomats over a virtual call on Zoom warning against Israel's annexation plans.

However, the imposing sanctions of sanctions will be seen a very serious measure which will no doubt damage the relationship between Israel and the UK.



# Completion of two new family houses in South Gujarat



The IMWS charity committee is pleased to announce the successful completion of two new family houses in South Gujarat.

By the grace of Almighty, the houses have been built with the purpose of housing two very poor and needy families who were able to move into their new homes before Ramadhan.

The occupants underwent a vetting process which was overseen by members of the IMWS Executive Committee who visit India every year in order to administer projects which are completed in collaboration with our partner organisation, Alipore Social and Welfare Trust (ASWT) also known as the Alipore Hospital Trust).

As part of the strict criteria we follow, it was noted that the families were previously housed on a small piece of land in Ambheta, a village situated in the District of Navsari.

Upon investigation, it came to light that the previous accommodation in which the families lived for many years was in a dilapidated state and not fit for habitation.

The two houses were built at a cost of less than Ten thousand pounds and hopefully, will be extremely beneficial for the families who now live there along with their future generations.

The IMWS executive committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all our donors and our sister organisation in Alipore Hospital for painstakingly overseeing this worthwhile

project all the way from the beginning to ensuring everything was finalised in a satisfactory manner.

Alipore Social and Welfare Trust (ASWT) look after all our charitable projects such as student bursaries for higher education and empowerment through employment projects for poor and needy families.

Building houses for poor families has proved to be very beneficial and has improved the lives of hundreds of individuals and families who would otherwise be living in a very dire state, devoid of even the most basic of amenities one would find in the most simple accommodation, essentially ensuring a vicious cycle of poverty would have continued for generations.

IMWS Treasurer, Rafiq Dhabhad and IMWS office bearer Salim Lunat (Gul) told Paigaam about the rationale behind the successful South Gujarat Project, explaining that the project has been running for five years with three principal aims which are empowering individuals, providing scholarships and building homes for those who are in dire need whilst thanking generous contributions of members.

"Every year, we make around five or six houses and up until now we have built a total of twenty-one homes and we have planned to make another seven houses this year with these two houses already built."

In terms of scholarships,

students are given opportunities to study a number of different subjects such as MBBS, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Nursing and Mechanical Engineering with more than one hundred students benefitting from the scholarships across twenty-five villages.

"We take around 40 scholarships on offer every year for students to go onto higher education," said Mr Lunat.

"Three students have graduated and become doctors. Those who show academic promise and good behaviour generally apply for scholarships.

"In terms of empowerment and enabling people to stand on their own two feet we have helped around forty five people start fledgling businesses."

"Our aim is to empower businesses so that they can expand their businesses and one day, attain a position in which they can also give Zakat."

Furthermore, elected office bearer Ahmed Lunat (Gul) also regularly visits India and helps to

oversee the South Gujarat Project.

He explained how one family, who wish to remain anonymous donated £5,000.

"I would like to thank the family for donating such a big amount of money.

"I would like to take this opportunity to request that the people of Batley and Dewsbury get together and build houses for the poor in India so that more people are given an opportunity to own their own property in the name of the donor's family members who have left this mortal abode."

IMWS sincerely request that all our members support the South Gujarat Project continuously with any charity that you can give throughout the year.

**To find out more about the South Gujarat Project, please call us direct on 01924 500 555 or e-mail us via: [info@imws.org.uk](mailto:info@imws.org.uk)**



# IMWS provides food parcels in Gaza

IMWS recently sent thousands of pounds to help provide food parcels in various refugee camps within the Gaza Strip in Palestine. The people of Gaza who remained trapped in what is often referred to as the world's largest prison.

Once more we used our long-term partner, Palestine Welfare House to distribute the much food parcels for the needy during Ramadhan in a plethora of towns within Gaza.

Nearly two hundred families were provided with essential food parcels to see them through the holy month of Ramadhan.

We are very grateful to our partners in Palestine who meticulously worked with us on this noble mission at very short notice.

Just one of the very appreciative messages we received from the long-suffering families in Palestine showcase how dire the situation is on the ground in Gaza.

The message reads: "To brothers and sisters of Batley UK, thanks to the Almighty your donations have reached Gaza through IMWS, on behalf of very poor people in Gaza we thank you so much. Jzk."

Gaza today remains much of the same ruins we saw on circulating pictures during the summer of 2014. Its rubble streets mean many schools have been operating without a roof or even walls.

Families seen living and eating on the rubble of what once used to be a home have graced our smart phone screens.

Years of conflict has left around 80 per cent of the population dependent on international assistance according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Over 1.2 million have registered as refugees with UNHCR.

Now, the 1.8million people who reside in Gaza are facing even harsher conditions with the thought of survival not just for themselves but for their children racing through their worried minds.

The current condition in Gaza is

very complicated not only due to continuous blockade, the current COVID 19 pandemic has ensured everyone in the area is severely at risk and life has become even more unbearable for people.

So far, the Gaza health ministry has confirmed that a 77 year old woman has passed away after contracting coronavirus.

The woman had entered Palestine via the Egyptian border on May 19 and had been kept in quarantine since.

This particular case is the Palestinian enclave's first known fatality from the global pandemic, with a number of coronavirus infection cases reported amongst among its population of two million.

Munir Daji of IMWS thanked members for taking the time to donate money to Gaza and appealed for prayers and donations for all those who are suffering in such a noble and sacred land.

"Thank you very much for your donations to IMWS, your donations have been sent to the people of Gaza who are very grateful.

"IMWS works directly with the charity Palestine Welfare House which is based in Gaza to provide aid to those in need.

The appeal is open throughout the year and donations can be made directly at the Al-Hikmah Centre during normal working hours.

"Once again, we would like to remind all our members that our charity projects in Palestine, Yemen, the South Gujarat project and Myanmar are ongoing all year round, so please feel free to inquire directly if you wish to donate."

IMWS sincerely request that all our members support the South Gujarat Project continuously with any charity that you can give throughout the year.

**To find out more, please call 10924 500 555 or e-mail: info@imws.org.uk**



# To give or not to give

During the holy month of Ramadan Muslims around the world gave a portion of their wealth in the form of Zakat, Sadqah, Lillah, Fidah and Sadqatul Fitr to charity.

Giving in charity is seen as a form of self-purification and a chance to help the poor and needy whilst acknowledging that everything we have comes from The Almighty.

Zakat is one of the most prominent forms of giving to charity with 2.5 per cent of one's wealth earmarked to help the needy with the percentage rate applying to cash, gold and silver and profit-based ventures.

## Where does your money go?

Where does the money go and how can individuals be sure their money is genuinely helping others? In recent years we have seen an emergence of many high profile Muslim charities.

With charity and giving in mind, the focus has been on just how transparent these organisations are.

Allow Paigaam to tell you more about some notable charities and how they operate.

## Penny Appeal

UK registered charity Penny Appeal was launched in 2009 in to provide poverty relief across Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Its goal is to offer water solutions, mass feeding, orphan care support and the provision of emergency food and medical aid.

The charity raised £33.2 million with expenditure totalling £35.1 million.

The charity spent £26.7m (2018: £18.5m) on charitable activities, representing an increase of 44 percent from the previous year. Total charitable spend was 81% (2018: 76%) of total funds raised.

Their annual accounts for April 2019 disclosed the charity spent employed 174 people across a number of disciplines up from a head count of 144 the previous year. The charity spent £4,267,464 on staff wages as opposed to the £3,456,963 payroll figure from the previous year.

During the year, key management personnel amongst

the senior leadership team were paid £275,320 up from £201,048 from the previous year, for their services to charity.

In terms of spending a total of 67 per cent or £12,565,902 went on charitable activities, with £4,909,973 or 26 per cent designated to income generation and governance. A total of £1,153,173 or six per cent was retained for future use.

A Penny Appeal spokesman said: "Penny Appeal has a 100 per cent Zakat policy, meaning every single penny of a Zakat donation will go directly to those who need it most."

## Ummah Welfare Trust

The Ummah Welfare Trust, which is registered with the Charity Commission as the Amanat Charity Trust, describes its mission on its website as the alleviation of poverty "inspired by the Islamic teachings of empathy, generosity and selflessness".

In their annual report they insist they work on a 100 percent donations policy: "Every penny donated is used for charitable projects; nothing is removed for other purposes."

The charity covers its administration costs through a separate account which has its own sources of funding which include donations specified for administration, tax relief claimed on donations and profits from charity shops and recycled clothing.

The charity raised £30 million with charitable expenditure totalling £32.2 million between 1st April 2019 and 31st March 2020.

The charity spent over £12 million on emergency relief, over £5 million on financial assistance and additional projects including dawah, financial assistance and much more.

Their annual return to the Charity Commission disclosed they employed 157 members of staff in both full and part time capacities at both the charity and the group at a cost of £2,183,020.

## Rahma Mercy

Rahma Mercy has been working in the Balkans since 1999. The charity helps communities in the

region by providing people with opportunities to transform their lives as well as enabling families and individuals to regain their Islamic identity after years of communism which resulted in a vicious cycle of poverty, disasters and conflict.

Rahma Mercy say they are committed to spending all donations for their intended purpose.

It is for this reason that they use income accrued from the government's Gift Aid scheme along with shop sales, and donations specified for admin to cover admin expenses.

They also use, non-specified Lillah and Nafil Sadaqah funds to deliver and implement our projects.

A close look at the Rahma Mercy balance sheets as of 31 March 2019, revealed a total expenditure of £1.9 million with income standing at £1.7 million.

Expenditure on raising funds totalled over £141,000 whilst over £1.5 million was spent on charitable projects which include orphan sponsorship projects, religious schools, staff wages, Masjid construction projects, qurbani, Ramadan projects and much more.

## Islamic Relief

For every 1p that Islamic Relief spend on fundraising, the Charity say they raise an additional 10p, that's an extra 90p on top of your £1.

Therefore, every pound you spend, 87p goes directly to the needy whilst 4p goes to administrative costs and 9p to raise more funds.

The charity insists that every pound they use for fundraising, they raise £10 more.

In Syria, in 2019 alone, they provided £35 million worth of aid and in Yemen, they remain on the ground in 19 out of 22 governorates.

According to the Charity Commission, the organisation filed their latest set of accounts in December 2018 with £127.9 million raised with an expenditure figure of £128.6 million.

Lamia El Amri, Chair of the board of trustees said she was are

sincerely grateful to those whose donations provided the resources for their work: "Their generosity pushed our total income beyond last year's record figure to reach £127.9m."

Fundraising and publicity costs totalled over £7 million although this was for Islamic Relief worldwide. Whilst the cost of charitable activities topped £124 million with projects including protecting and empowering communities, supporting education and access to health care and water.

## One Nation

Based in Batley, One Nation operates in several countries around the world, including Syria, Palestine, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the UK. Their work concentrates on providing food and water to the homeless and refugees, as well as providing healthcare, and establishing sustainable projects.

One Nation say they understand the importance of Amanah; the responsibility and accountability it brings. They pride themselves on being completely transparent and aim to provide customers with feedback from the moment they donate until they have carried out the work you have donated towards.

They operate a 100 per cent donation policy and insist that they have always been transparent and that Gift Aid – the scheme which enables charities to claim an extra 25p on every £1 donated – allows them to cover the administration costs of the charity. This means every penny of the donations they receive can directly benefit those in need.

According to the One Nation's annual report, the charity raised £4.3 million with £4,056,614 spent. Admin costs totalled £403,853 whilst gift aid donations stood at £296,704.

**Should you require more information the Charity Commission's website holds details of charitable organisations in the UK, the work they do and detailed accounts, so you know exactly how your money is spent.**

# Muslims who died fighting Covid-19

The British Muslim community is paying tribute to the Muslim doctors and care workers who have died after contracting Covid 19 whilst working on the front line in the battle against the Coronavirus pandemic.

Paigaam would like to take this opportunity to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice

## **Dr Nasir Khan**

46-year-old father-of-three Dr Nasir Khan worked at Dewsbury District Hospital as a hospital consultant. He is believed to be among the youngest hospital consultants to have died after contracting Covid-19.

His son, Mahad Ali Khan, said: "My dad was a loving, caring and much-loved father, husband, son, brother and friend.."

## **Dr Furqan Ali Siddiqui**

Having graduated from Pakistan's prestigious Dow Medical College in the early 1990s, Doctor Furqan Ali Siddiqui worked as a doctor in Pakistan for many years, the highlight of which was when he was appointed the Head of A&E at Liaquat National Hospital.

The Muslim Doctors Association hailed his contribution to the NHS. Former colleague Malik Heera wrote on Facebook: "Request for special dua for the departed soul."

## **Khalid Jamil**

57-year-old Dr Khalid Jamil initially worked for the NHS in Hemel Hemstead before joining the West Hertfordshire NHS Trust in 2006, where he worked in the Bluebell ward.

Mr Jamil's daughter, Sumaiyah, told the Watford Observer that her father was a "selfless" man who would always put his family's needs before his own.

## **Rahima Bibi Sidhane**

69 year old Rahima Bibi Sidhane, a registered nurse and midwife worked at Grennell Lodge Nursing Home for over 30 years before passing away in hospital on April 12.

Ms Sidhane, who trained at Edgware General Hospital in the 1970s, was described as a "wonderful human being" by her colleagues.

Danny Shamtally, the director of

Care Unlimited, which operates the care home in south London, remembered Ms Sidhane as a friend who was dedicated to her profession.

## **Julie Omar, Redditch**

52 year old mother of two, Julie Omar worked as a trauma and orthopaedics nurse at Redditch's Alexandra Hospital, Worcestershire.

The "dedicated and highly experienced" nurse passed away at home whilst she was self-isolating after experiencing a number of Coronavirus symptoms.

## **Abdul Gellaledin**

Abdul Gellaledin, a 53-year-old ambulance care assistant moved to the UK from Sudan 30 years ago.

He passed away after contracting coronavirus from a patient he accompanied to and from hospital.

The "selfless" father-of-three was working without any personal protective equipment and alongside one of his colleagues who also developed symptoms.

## **Abdul Mabud Chowdhury**

Dr Chowdhury, 53, was a senior consultant at Homerton Hospital and had warned the Government about the chronic shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) just three weeks before his death.

On 18 March, the urologist wrote to Boris Johnson, asking him to "urgently" ensure PPE for "each and every NHS worker in the UK".

He told the prime minister that healthcare workers "are in direct contact with patients" and have a "human right like others to live in this world disease-free with our family and children".

## **Fayez Ayache**

76-year-old Fayez Ayache was a dedicated GP who worked for the NHS in Suffolk for more than 40 years.

The father-of-two who moved to the UK from Syria also ran a nose and throat clinic at Ipswich Hospital, retired two years ago but was soon back working "a couple of days a week" as a GP with North Clacton Medical Group.

His daughter said her father

returned to work because he "felt it was his duty to help" people.

## **Dr Syed Zishan Haider**

79 year old Dr Syed Zishan Haider was a practicing GP in Barking and Dagenham, where he was a senior partner at Valence Medical Centre.

Prior to that, he worked as a senior homeopathic physician at the Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine for over 30 years.

## **Areema Nasreen**

Areema Nasreen a 36-year-old staff nurse died at the Walsall Manor Hospital where she worked for over 15 years.

The mother-of-three, who did not have any underlying health issues, developed coronavirus symptoms on March 13, whilst on annual leave.

She was thought to have got better but suffered a relapse and died shortly after midnight.

## **Mohamed Sami Shousha**

Professor Mohamed Shousha, 79, died in London after contracting the virus around two weeks earlier.

"He was very keen on going to work on his final days despite the health hazards," his nephew Abdelrahman Shousha said.

"However, most likely, his work did not involve direct contact with Covid-19 patients."

## **Dr Alfa Sa'adu**

Dr Saadu, 68, became the fourth medic to die from coronavirus in the UK, two weeks after contracting the disease.

Dr Saadu's family - a wife and two sons - said he was so determined to treat patients after he retired that he carried on working part time.

"My dad was a living legend," his son Dani said. "Up until he got sick, he was still working part-time saving people."

## **Amged El-Hawrani**

Dr Amged El-Hawrani, 55, worked at Queen's Hospital, Burton, and was the third medic to die of coronavirus in the UK.

His son, Ashraf, said: "I am incredibly proud to say that, for 18 years of my life, Amged El-Hawrani was my father."

## **Dr Habib Zaidi**

76-year-old Dr Zaidi, a family

GP from Leigh-on-Sea in Essex, is thought to have been the first doctor in the UK to have been passed away after contracting Coronavirus.

He died in intensive care just 24 hours after being taken ill.

His daughter Dr Sarah Zaidi, also a GP, said news of her father's passing was "too much to bear."

## **Dr Adil El Tayar**

63 year old Dr El Tayar, a renowned organ transplant specialist who was born in Sudan was the first working NHS surgeon to die from coronavirus in Britain.

His distinguished career saw him work at hospitals around the world, including in Saudi Arabia, Sudan and two of London's biggest hospitals - St Mary's and St George's.

## **Dr Medhat Atalla**

Dr Atalla, a consultant geriatrician, has been described as "a real NHS hero".

In a statement, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals said he was "a hugely popular and respected colleague".

Tributes flooded in on social media, where one colleague wrote: "RIP you wonderful man."

## **Sadeq Elhowsh**

58-year-old Sadeq Elhowsh worked for St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust in Merseyside for 17 years.

His family said the father of four was "a wonderful husband, as well as a devoted father" and someone who "loved his work and was dedicated to supporting his patients and his colleagues".

## **Dr Saad Al-Dubbaisi**

Dr Saad Al Dubbaisi was one of the first GP's in Manchester to die from coronavirus.

Dr Al Dubbaisi had worked in the Bury area for nearly 20 years, after originally graduating from the Baghdad School of Medicine. He was also well known with the United Iraqi Medical Association for the UK and Ireland.

The Iraqi-born GP, who lived leaves behind his wife Monah and daughters Zainab and Halah, who are also both doctors.

# Srebrenica: When brutality and racism against Muslims came to the fore



**Masjid Hilal in Batley Carr is a testament to the courage and commitment that our Bosnian brothers and sisters have shown over the years**

During our Madrassah days we noticed a number of young 'white' children joined us in class at Dark Lane Masjid.

We were never formally introduced to these young boys and we assumed they were from the indigenous population to begin with. However, we quickly realised that they were Bosnian's who were in the UK as refugees.

We were unaware of the complexities of the situation that had brought them to the U.K but with their fantastic football skills and endearing boyish enthusiasm they were well liked and made many friends, even visiting the masjid's on weekends before accompanying us to our homes where we would play on our Sega Mega Drives.

However, on occasions, we would be told about the horror and violence that they had to endure before moving to the safety of the UK.

"One of my friends was raped by a soldier," said one youngster whilst I recall another youngster who can't have been older than 13 at the time saying: "Our country is destroyed but one day we will all go back and fix our house."

Unfortunately, these youngsters did not get to fix their country, but like many Bosnian's who fled their country, they made a new life for themselves here in England.

Apart from our TV screens showing images of emaciated men in concentration camps and testimonies given to journalists about what transpired, we were oblivious to the nature of the conflict.

However, upon reading into the

idiosyncrasies of what transpired, one can only shudder to think how lucky my madrassah classmates are to have ventured to the safety of the UK amidst barbaric killings and genocide.

Srebrenica in particular - offers a shocking case study in how a perfectly peaceful community was devastated overnight when Serbian forces proceeded unchallenged

11 July 2020 will be a poignant day for many people as it is the 25th anniversary of one of the worst cases of genocide I have ever come across.

In fact, it is no over exaggeration to bluntly exclaim that the Serbs unleashed the most inhumane combination of fascism, xenophobia, racism and imperialism since World War 2 took place on European soil.

Over 100,000 people were killed in the Bosnian conflict (80,000 of them Bosnian Muslims), with more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys systematically slaughtered over the course of three days in July 1995 in and around Srebrenica.

One of the most heart-breaking recollections of people in Srebrenica is that many believed that the United Nations who were deployed there, to keep the peace and protect the vulnerable would prove to be their saviours.

Unfortunately, they were not the case..

One can only imagine the abandonment felt by the innocent children in particular as the UN offered no protection against certain death at the hands of the Bosnian Serb army led by

war criminal Ratko Mladic.

Pathologist's have since painstakingly taken samples of human tissue to send off for DNA testing so that grieving wives, mothers, and children could identify the remains of their lost loved ones.

The remains of the men and boys who were identified, some with only partial remains in their coffins were buried.

How do you mourn your missing father, brother, uncle or son when their bones are scattered across multiple burial sites to cover up the truth of how and where they were killed?

Thousands of headstones have been placed. However, until they are discovered the other bodies remain scattered across the hills of eastern Bosnia.

Those who instigated the Srebrenica massacre were eventually brought to justice.

After fueling a brutal sectarian and mass murder across the Balkans, Slobodan Milosevic was ousted as president by a popular uprising in 2000.

He was later arrested and transferred to the United Nations war crimes court for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, where he stood trial on charges of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In 2006, four years into his trial, the dictator died in his prison cell in The Hague from a heart attack.

Ratko Mladic, the Serbian army general responsible for directing his troops to carry out the Srebrenica massacre was jailed for life at the Hague in 2017, more than 20 years after the Srebrenica

massacre.

Known as the "Butcher of Bosnia", Mladic was relentless in his pursuit of what he saw as the destiny of the Serb nation. He saw the war as the ideal pretext to avenge five centuries of occupation by Muslim Turks. He would refer to Bosniaks as "Turks" in order to insult them.

Mladic along with his Karadzic and his boss Radovan Karadzic were among the last suspects put on trial by the UN tribunal in The Hague.

Karadzic was served as the President of Republika Srpska during the war

He was arrested in Belgrade on 21 July 2008 and brought before Belgrade's War Crimes Court a few days later.

In March 2016, he was found guilty of the genocide in Srebrenica, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, 10 of the 11 charges in total, and sentenced to 40 years' imprisonment.

However, in 2019, Karadzic was sentenced to life in prison at an appeal court in The Hague for his role in the mass killings.

Masjid Hilal in Batley Carr is a testament to the courage and commitment that our Bosnian brothers and sisters have shown over the years, and it is a pleasure to see them embrace their religion.

There are monuments to the dead in Auschwitz, which we associate with Hitler and the evil he unleashed.

However, Srebrenica reminds us why such evil should be eradicated and we will pray and remember those who died.

# Asian and BAME communities 'two to three times' more prone to die from coronavirus

The likelihood of people from Asian and minority ethnic communities succumbing to coronavirus is substantially higher than the indigenous population, according to research undertaken by University College London (UCL) scientists.

A total of 16,272 deaths were observed over the study period.

However, ethnicity is not recorded in death certificates in England, therefore this proved to be a major limitation in the ability to study the differential impact of COVID-19 on mortality in different ethnic groups.

The largest total number of deaths in minority ethnic groups were Indian (492 deaths) and Black Caribbean (460 deaths) people. In comparison to the whole population.

After adjusting the figures to region to region, White Irish and White British ethnic groups continued to have a lower risk of death.

Academics found the risk of death from the virus for people from an Indian background was 1.7 times higher whilst for those from Bangladeshi backgrounds the statistics suggest they face a 2.41 times higher figure with people from Pakistani backgrounds having a 3.29 figure with black Caribbean people 3.24 times more likely to catch the disease than the general population.

Co-author of the research, Dr Delan Devakumar, a clinical Lecturer in Public Health at University College London who is also an honorary consultant at Public Health England, labelled the death of people from BAME backgrounds as unjust.

He said: "Rather than being an equaliser, this work shows that mortality with Covid-19 is disproportionately higher in black, Asian and minority ethnic groups.

"It is essential to tackle the underlying social and economic risk factors and barriers to healthcare that lead to these unjust deaths."

Lead author Dr Rob Aldridge,

of UCL Institute of Health Informatics, said: "Our analyses show that several minority ethnic groups have a substantially higher risk of death from Covid-19 and that regional differences in where they live may explain some, but not all, of the differences between ethnic groups.

"After we took account of age and the geographical region for those people that died from Covid-19, there remained large differences in the risk of death between ethnic groups.

"White British and white Irish groups had a lower risk of death, but Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian, black African and black Caribbean ethnic groups all had a substantially increased risk of death."

The findings are consistent with Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre (ICNARC) data which suggests that Black ethnic groups are substantially over-represented amongst critical care patients, and that BAME groups in critical care are generally more likely to require ventilation and therefore more likely to die.

A recent analysis of COVID-19 deaths in health and social care workers was undertaken using data from mainstream and social media reports.

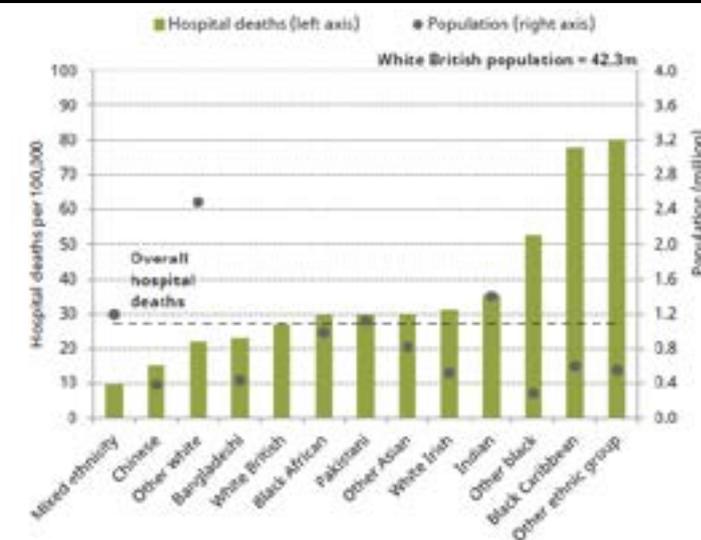
This analysis suggested that BAME deaths in nursing and support staff accounted for 64 percent of deaths, and 95 percent in medical staff, whilst these groups accounted for 20 and 44 percent of all staff.

This analysis of deaths in health and social workers, however, did not adjust for regional differences in the proportion of NHS staff coming from BAME groups.

Several other factors, some of which will be associated with geographic region, may further explain this increased risk.

Poverty is known to vary substantially by ethnic groups and geographic region in England.

Occupation is also likely to play an important role in terms of increased risk of infection as BAME people are more likely to



have occupations that involve greater social mixing and less ability to work from home. Black groups are overrepresented in caring and leisure industries; Pakistani and Bangladeshi groups are overrepresented in sales and consumer service occupations; and Black groups in public administration, education and health.

BAME groups are more likely to have a low income, be in zero hours contracts and non-salaried jobs as opposed to white ethnic groups.

This may make it harder to comply with social distancing restrictions that prevent people from working and those who are self-employed will have their earnings stop unless they sign up to a government scheme.

Living in overcrowded housing likely increases transmission risk, and BAME households were more likely to be overcrowded than White British households in recent analysis by ONS.

Increased levels of pre-existing medical conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and heart disease are known to increase the risk of severe COVID-19 disease and these are also increased in some ethnic groups.

BAME groups are more likely to work in care settings such as nursing homes, where adequate PPE to prevent infection is vital.

In addition, people from the aforementioned ethnic

backgrounds are also more likely than others to be in key worker occupational groups who have high levels of exposure to the general public and therefore high risk of infection.

Published in Wellcome Open Research, the study used NHS data of patients with a positive Covid-19 test who died in hospitals in England from March 1 to April 21 this year.

Over the study period, the NHS data showed the total number of people who had tested positive



## Al Hikmah Centre Update

Please be advised, during the Covid crisis, the Al Hikmah centre main office is open from Monday to Friday from 9am to 4 PM.

For more information please telephone 01924 500555.

Alternatively please e-mail: info@imws.org.uk

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# Why NHS Workers deserve much more than clapping on Thursdays



I was recently sent a video of family members clapping for our carers on a Thursday evening.

Although the intentions of my relatives were admirable, I believe that clapping for the NHS and those who actively work on the front line, is a momentous waste of time.

We all know that many kind-hearted souls have passed away whilst honourably treating patients and a vast number of those that are still soldering on have had to purchase their own PPE equipment.

Prayer and then the NHS are our first points of call when we're suffering, in pain or dangerously ill.

Every member of our family has been treated by an NHS worker, whether it's a GP or a hospital consultant.

We are treated by hands of doctors and nurses whilst not discounting the sterling job from support staff such as assistants, porters and cleaners. They encourage us, more often than not, they treat us like family.

I believe that it is now our turn to support them properly. Since when did clapping stop your everyday NHS worker from being sent into danger every single day?

Since when did clapping stop our undervalued care workers from inadvertently infecting their loved ones?

If I ask you about war, you will probably throw Shakespeare at me, right? "Once more into the breach, dear friends."

But we have held a patient's hand and watched them gasp their last breath, looking to you for help as the term 'visiting hours' did not apply to them as their

family members were not allowed into the hospital.

The government's Covid response should have been concise and well planned as opposed to putting our health workers in a position where they are as endangered as the patients they are trying to help, akin to being in a war zone!

When they were recruited, they were all unaware that one day they could be put in a position where they could make the ultimate sacrifice, leaving behind young children and loved ones. The suffering must be unbearable.

The rationale behind my point is that unfortunately our clapping gives the impression things are working, thus ensuring the government is not taken to account for their failings in any way, shape or form.

In actual fact, clapping allows Boris Johnson (now that he's back), Rishi Sunak, Matt Hancock and the scientists who are advising the government to join in, and clap alongside the rest of the happy clapping brigade and give the impression that they have done whatever it takes to help our gallant NHS medical staff and care workers by providing all the support they require, in the form of tests and equipment.

Our government's duty is to protect its citizens, and this also extends to all healthcare staff as we need the best medical staff and care workers to look after the population.

For example, the first NHS surgeon to die from Coronavirus was renowned transplant specialist Dr. Adil El Tayar.

He is thought to have contracted the illness while working in the A&E department at Hereford County Hospital, where he had volunteered to help fight the pandemic.

The Sudanese born specialist was 63 years old and had no idea that the patient he was treating had coronavirus.

His cousin, Dr Hisham El Khidir, a Norfolk consultant, warned that doctors were "sitting ducks"

and said more testing could have saved Dr El Tayar's life.

Dr El Tayar's career saw him work at hospitals around the world, including in Saudi Arabia, Sudan and two of London's biggest hospitals - St Mary's and St George's.

If the government cannot comprehend how important it is to protect renowned specialists such as Dr. El Tayar, then what is the point? Invariably the knock-on effect it will have on transplant patients further down the line is scary to say the least.

And how about 53-year-old Dr Abdul Mabud Chowdhury a senior consultant at Homerton Hospital who had warned the Government about the prolonged shortage of personal protective equipment three weeks before he also succumbed to Coronavirus!

On 18 March, the urologist wrote to Boris Johnson, asking him to "urgently" ensure PPE for "each and every NHS worker in the UK".

He told the prime minister that healthcare workers "are in direct contact with patients" and have a "human right like others to live in this world disease-free with our family and children."

It always seemed rather odd when the government announced that they provided many million 'pieces' of Personal Protective Equipment.

I'd have said something along the lines of protection for front line staff in the form of a plethora of masks, gloves, gowns and so forth.

However, it has since come to light that the government's accounting of the PPE provided for healthcare staff was highly imaginative.

As the BBC Panorama programme had confirmed, to count a pair of gloves, as two gloves, to include waste bags and paper towels as PPE, is to it kindly, is rather make-believe.

It's not just a disgrace, it's dangerous and a negligent of duty. They have played Russian roulette with the lives of

healthcare staff and the lives of their patients.

The COVID-19 pandemic is set to kill a huge number of people globally where this novel coronavirus has led to an outbreak that is unusually difficult to track and control which has created a level of societal and economic disruption never seen before.

The government wants us to clap for Carers every week, showcasing an all-conquering atmosphere whilst nicely diverting attention away from their own failings.

The UK is one of the richest countries in the world.

We had the money and the infrastructure to start organizing PPE and other essentials, as soon as the threat became clear at the beginning of the year.

We all value our NHS and admire the courage and dedication of healthcare staff.

In return, we should be demanding the government does not endanger them and protect them instead.

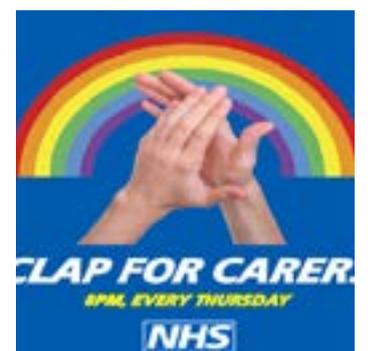
I will ask my family and friends to pray for the shaheed's who gave their lives to protect their fellow countrymen and women.

May they be at peace and may they be rewarded by The Almighty with the ultimate prize: Jannatul Firdos. Ameen.

Whistles, claps and whoops will only get our amazing NHS workers so far.

However, a national tax to help fund the NHS and give our real heroes a pay rise would surely be better than clapping?

With more money in their pockets, we will be able to help motivate and keep staff happy.



# Saudi Arabia and Egypt ban Ertugul

Saudi Arabia and Egypt have taken the bizarre step of banning the hit Turkish show, *Dirilis Ertugul*.

Turkish dramas including Ertugul have garnered a big following in Muslim-majority countries and Latin America and Asia.

However, it has recently been revealed both Egypt and Saudi Arabia have banned the popular show along with a number of hit Turkish shows.

Muslim viewers should stay not tune in according to the Global Fatwa Index which is associated with Egypt's Dar al-Iftaa, one of the Muslim world's oldest and most influential bodies responsible for giving out religious edicts, on all aspects of worship and life.

The institute claimed Ertugul is being used by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to revive the Ottoman Empire,

The Index also said that Erdogan and his supporters "export to the people and nations the idea that they are the leaders of the caliphate, responsible for supporting Muslims worldwide and being their salvation from oppression and injustice, while also seeking to implement Islamic law", according to Egyptian media. "They hide the fact that their main drive in these colonial campaigns is what Erdogan reaps from material and political gains," it added.

However, observers believe the accusations could be seen as a way by the Egyptians to gain revenge over the turks.

Relations between the two countries took a nosedive when

Turkey's president accused Egyptian authorities of murdering the former president, who died after collapsing in court during a trial, and vowed to see the Egyptians prosecuted in an international court.

Erdogan said at the time that Morsi "did not die, he was murdered" and called on the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to act on his death.

Mr Erdogan said: "Unfortunately, Mohamed Morsi was on the ground of the courtroom flailing for 20 minutes. No official there intervened. Morsi did not [die] naturally, he was killed."

The decision by Saudi Arabia to ban Ertugul and all Arabic-dubbed Turkish TV shows by MBC - the largest private media network in the Middle East - is a "political move" and "clear censorship", according to the Turkish Culture and Tourism Minister - Numan Kurtulmus.

"It is not a couple of politicians who are supposed to decide who will watch which movies or shows from their desks," said Mr Kurtulmus.

He also explained why he believes the decision to ban Ertugul does not reflect the opinion of the Emirati people, who have "deep relations" with Turkey.

"We are in a time when information technologies are developing fast. Therefore, I believe that these sanctions and censorship will not limit the choices of the audience."

Other historical blockbusters include "Magnificent Century" - which focuses on the life of

Ottoman Sultan Suleyman and his wife - and Netflix docuseries "Rise of Empires: Ottoman", which tells the story of the fall of Constantinople.

The network did not explain who took the decision to ban the soap operas or why it was made.

Relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey have been also tense since the turks sided with Qatar against the blockade imposed by Riyadh and several other Arab states.

President Erdogan has been a major supporter of the Qatari's since Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt cut diplomatic and trade relations with the Gulf nation.

The four Arab countries accused Doha of supporting "terrorism" and fostering ties with their regional rival, Iran. Qatar has repeatedly denied the accusations.

Shortly after the diplomatic crisis erupted, Turkey's parliament fast-tracked a troop deployment to its military base in Qatar.

The writer and creator of Ertugul, Mehmet Bozdog is an acclaimed filmmaker with links to Turkey's conservative ruling AKP party, and it is his ability to combine a deeper message of traditional Islamic beliefs with the swashbuckling story of a hero fighting against all odds that is the heart of its success.

The fights are a special feature and the producers spared no expense, using a famous Hollywood stunt team called NOMAD to train the actors and coordinate each clash against the bad guys. The show focuses on the

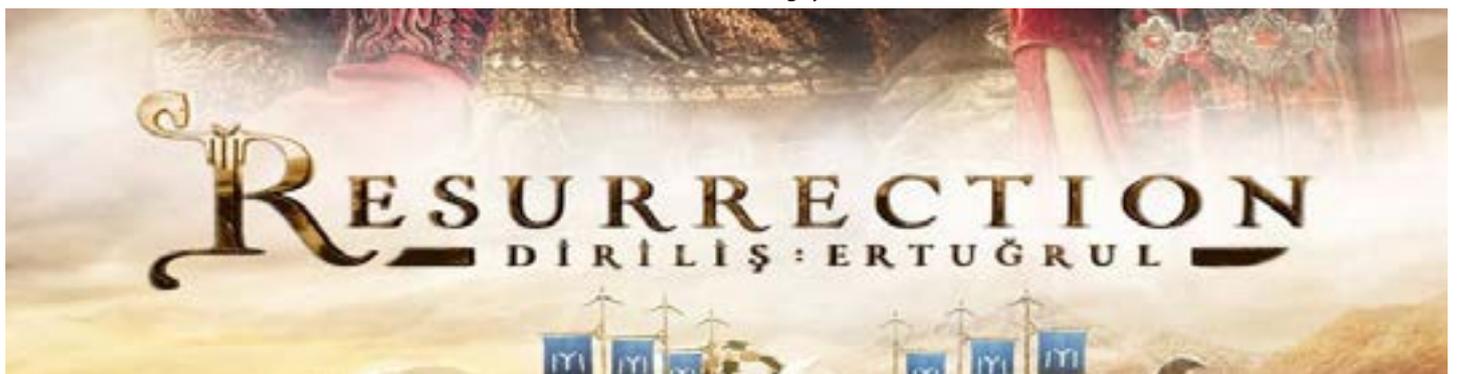
life of Ertugrul Ghazi, the father of Usman Ghazi, the founder of the Ottoman Empire, which ruled the world for 600 years.

Talking about his character, actor Engin Altan Duzyatan said: "He was the father of Osman Gazi, founder of Ottoman Empire, which ruled the world for 600 years. And, actually, we do not have too much sources about that era. Our sources are just about 7 pages. We know that he was a real hero. For him, the limits were not an obstacle."

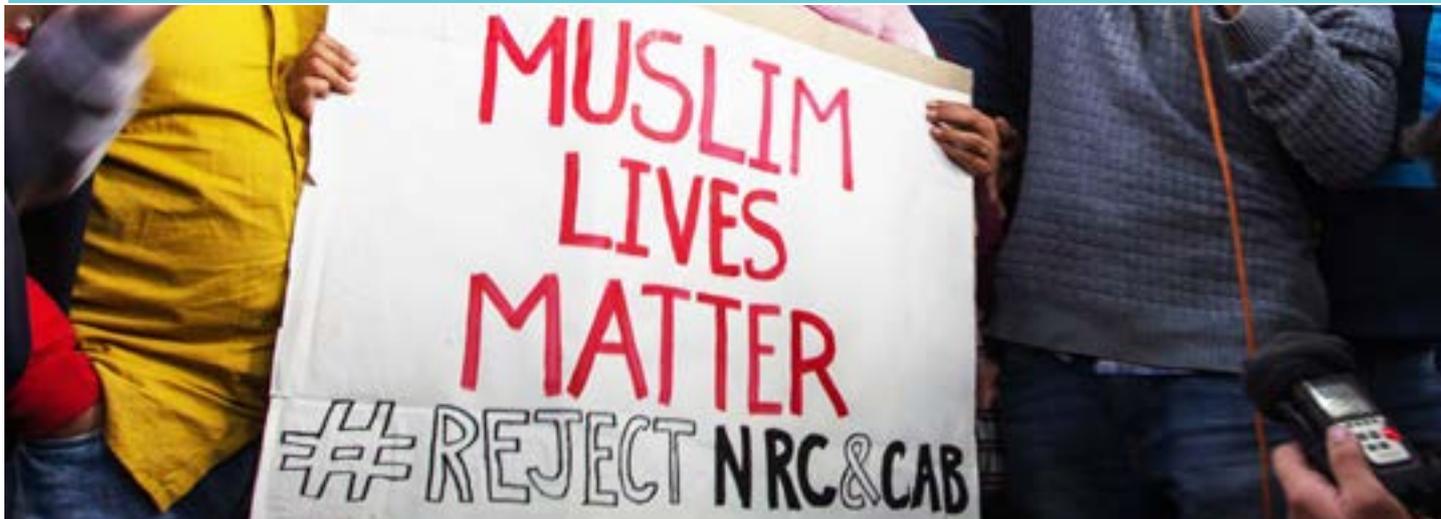
Duzyatan himself is another key to the success of this serial, with only a few pages to go by the actor has created a memorable character, whom audiences root for no matter what background. Surprisingly non-Muslims are also great fans of Ertugul, setting aside any cultural bias to enjoy the show for pure entertainment.

Muslims are usually portrayed as barbarians or tyrants in historical portrayals. Muslim countries either cannot afford to make such epics or filmmakers are not focused on history, hence the colonial, western perspective is dominant and to a certain extent internalised by viewers through constant repetition.

The show also gained a great deal of popularity in Kashmir before the internet shutdown. However, according to Kashmiris, the lack of internet availability in addition to restrictions on civil movement and the shutdown between August and October, contributed to its popularity, to the extent that the series is popular amongst youngsters and elders alike.



# Why it seems Muslim lives no longer matter in modern India



In India it seems as if Muslims have been subjected some of the worst communal violence that the country has seen in more than 30 years.

Muslim communities have been targeted in most brutal ways imaginable by Hindu fundamentalists with the suffering receiving little or no coverage in the mainstream media and the political elite also seemingly turning a blind eye to events.

There are horrific cases emerging every day of people who have no choice but to walk barefoot towards their villages which are hundreds of miles away.

Local reports also detail people getting killed due to road and rail accidents and also due to hunger and thirst.

Despite the Nizamuddin Markaz in Delhi working round the clock with the authorities to track and trace anyone who may have inadvertently passed the virus onto the attendees, they were put through a vicious and hateful campaign of misinformation and trial by the right wing media.

As the nature of their religious work requires meeting people face to face, hundreds of jamaats were left stranded all over the country and therefore unable reach their homes with Sohail Hughes and his fellow jamaat members a prime example of youngsters who have been targeted simply because they are

Muslim.

Many have become the subject of police brutality after having been refused the necessary permits to return home safely and thus remanded in jail. However, thousands of Buddhist religious pilgrims were flown back from Bodhgaya in Bihar to various countries without any fuss or publicity.

This was definitely a targeted campaign to malign Muslims despite the fact that there were far bigger gatherings of Hindus even after the outbreak of the virus.

Modi's government abruptly imposed one of the strictest lockdowns on earth without any consultation or consideration of poor masses. There are millions of low paid workers mainly from poor north who works all over the country's cities mostly in low pay unorganised economy.

These people have little or no protection in relation to worker's rights which are generally made available in most civilised countries. There unfortunate souls are left without food, accommodation or money overnight due to this chaotic lockdown.

Unfortunately, the response from Modi and his Hindu fundamentalist government is of cruelty and chaos.

Even Modi's supporters and cheerleaders are suffering from his sheer incompetence.

Thousands of workers in the Middle East and other parts of the world are unable to reach India due to lack of flights.

Seriously ill and pregnant women have made to wait for weeks in foreign countries without money or support by Indian diplomatic missions. They have been asked to go through strict virus checks and made to pay for their quarantine facilities upon return.

As per usual after incidents of violence against minorities in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded with days of silence. Finally commenting on Twitter: "Peace and harmony are central to our ethos" and appealed for "peace and brotherhood at all times."

But under Modi, India's ethos is Hindu, and peace and brotherhood requires religious minorities to know their place. It is this sort of Hindu nationalism that led to the attacks on Muslims, their homes, schools and their places of worship.

Little wonder that Modi himself has also been compared to the coronavirus. In a speech by former Pakistan national cricket team captain Shahid Afridi, he compared the Indian Prime Minister to the deadly coronavirus whilst also raising the Kashmir issue.

In a widely circulated video, Afridi is heard saying "The world is infected by a deadly disease,

but what's more dangerous is in Modi's heart and mind."

"Humbled by the response in Bagh and amazed at the resilience of Kashmiris. It's an honour for @SAFoundationN to serve these people."

This is not the first time that the former Pakistan all-rounder has raised the issue of Kashmir.

He has been involved in a number of Twitter war of words over the Kashmir issue with former Indian cricketer Gautam Gambhir.

Last year, he visited the Line of Control (LoC) to "express solidarity with our Kashmiri brethren" following the Indian government's decision to abrogate Article 370 of the Indian constitution.

We can only hope and pray that long suffering poor people of India who are brain washed to believe in Modi and his divide and rule policies see through his true colours.

The BJP is present in almost every village to incite hatred is nowhere to be seen in these dire times for Indians.

The hate coming out from these extremists against Muslims is extreme. They are a violent fascist organisation that promote Hindu supremacy which should be compared to Hitler's Nazi fascism.

In contrast Muslim and Sikh minority communities have come to the forefront in order to lead most relief efforts.

# Paigaam Legal Column

## **Validity of Marriage - Court of Appeal Takes Rigorous Approach**

The full rigour of formalities that must be gone through in order to solemnise a marriage have been upheld in a landmark case. The Court of Appeal found that a ceremony performed in a restaurant which was not registered as an authorised wedding venue was a 'non-marriage' with no legal effect whatsoever.

Early on in their long relationship, which yielded four children, a former couple went through a nikah – a form of Islamic marriage ceremony – in the restaurant. Due to the venue's lack of registration, they were aware that the ceremony did not create a valid marriage. They intended to remedy this by going through a second, civil, marriage ceremony, but that was never done.

After the relationship ended, an issue arose as to whether the ceremony had created a marriage that was void, due to its failure to comply with the formal requirements of the Marriage Act 1949, or no marriage at all. The distinction was a critical one in that, if it were a non-marriage – as the man asserted – the woman would have no right to seek financial orders against him under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973.

In finding in the woman's favour that it was a void marriage, a family judge ruled that the 1949 Act should be read in the light of human rights legislation, which enshrines the right to respect for family life and the right to marry and found a family. He was particularly influenced by the position of the children of the family. The woman was granted a decree nisi of nullity, which opened the way for her to seek financial remedies against the man.

The former couple had settled their differences since the judge's decision but, given the general public importance of the issues raised and their relevance to other similar cases, the Court entertained an appeal against the ruling, brought by the Attorney General, and took the opportunity

to clarify the law.

In allowing the appeal, the Court found that the restaurant event was a non-marriage in that the former couple had not thereby intended to marry under the provisions of the 1949 Act. The effect of the ceremony had to be determined as at the date it was performed and it thus made no difference that they had intended to proceed to a civil ceremony in due course. Their intention to marry at some future date provided no justification for changing the effect of the ceremony that in fact took place.

The court emphasised the importance of couples knowing with certainty whether or not they are validly married. A ruling in the wife's favour would fundamentally undermine the manner in which the marriage status is created and the necessary degree of certainty that underpins the required formalities.

## **In Dispute With a Neighbour? Legal Advice Can Help Draw the Sting**

Disputes with neighbours have a way of getting horribly out of hand, but legal advice taken at an early stage can help to draw the venom and save incalculable heartache and money in the long run. A case on point concerned flat dwellers who for years engaged in a titanic struggle over a few feet of garden.

The dispute centred on the small front garden of a semi-detached house which had been split into two flats. It included a lightwell area, which enabled the sun's rays to penetrate the lower flat. That area had long been the focus of acrimony between the owner of the lower flat, who also owned the building's freehold, and the long leaseholder of the upper flat.

After the freeholder carried out extensive works – which involved lowering the level of the lightwell and installing French windows – the tenant of the upper flat launched proceedings. In ruling on the matter, a judge noted that, given the long-standing differences between the two men and the strength of feeling involved, their oral evidence had proved of little or no assistance in

resolving the issues.

The judge found that, on a true interpretation of the tenant's lease, the lightwell fell within his property. The freeholder argued without success that he had agreed with a previous tenant of the upper flat that the boundary would be changed, leaving him in lawful possession of the lightwell.

The works carried out by the freeholder thus amounted to an act of trespass which had dispossessed the tenant of the lightwell. The tenant was thus in principle entitled to an order requiring, amongst other things, reinstatement of the lightwell to its pre-works condition and its return to his possession. The judge, however, found that a financial remedy represented a fairer outcome on the particular facts of the case and ordered the freeholder to pay the tenant £24,900 in damages.

## **Disability Discrimination Victim Secures Over £4.7 Million in Compensation**

The consequences of discrimination in the workplace can be truly devastating and compensation awards to victims can be very substantial. In one case, a disabled bank worker who was stricken by a severe depressive disorder after suffering disability discrimination was awarded more than £4.7 million in damages.

The woman was run down by a car on the very day that she was due to start work for a bank as a customer services officer. She was unable to start her new job until two months later and endured significant physical disabilities throughout the four and a half years of her employment by the bank. Following her resignation, she launched Employment Tribunal (ET) proceedings.

The ET found that she had been constructively unfairly dismissed in that the bank had failed in its obligation to maintain the relationship of trust and confidence that should exist between employer and employee. It had also breached its implied duty to provide her with a safe working environment.

In also upholding her disability

discrimination claim, the ET found that the bank had failed to make reasonable adjustments relating to her workstation and in requiring her to work on the till in the branch where she was employed. Discriminatory comments either to or about her had also been made on five occasions and the bank had not permitted her to transfer to a different branch.

In awarding her a total of £4,670,535, the ET accepted expert psychiatric evidence that the acts of discrimination had triggered a severe depressive disorder, with psychosis, and that it was likely she would never be able to work again. The majority of that award was in respect of lost earnings and the cost of care and assistance that she would require in the future.

In ruling on the bank's challenge to that outcome, the Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) rejected arguments that the ET should have reduced the amount of the award to take account of the possibility that her psychiatric condition would have occurred in any event by reason of her pre-existing vulnerability and psycho-social stressors that were unconnected with her employment.

The EAT accepted that the ET had erred in law in refusing to review its earlier finding that it was unnecessary to carry out an assessment of whether the woman had the mental capacity required to litigate her case. The EAT concluded, however, that that error neither rendered the proceedings before the ET void nor meant that the hearing had been conducted unfairly. Although the bank's appeal was, in the one respect, allowed, the EAT ruled that the ET's order should stand. Interest was added to the woman's award, bringing it to £4,724,801.

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# 100-year-old Muslim man raises over £150,000 by walking in his garden throughout Ramadan

A 100-year-old did the unthinkable and taken to his communal garden in Bow, London to raise money for Covid-19 victims amid lockdown restrictions and while fasting during Ramadan.

In true Captain Tom Moore manner, Dabirul Choudhury, who has been isolating for nearly three months has thus far raised over £150,000 for a number of charities.

He is hoping to raise money for 26 charities, including those distributing aid to Gaza, Syria and Yemen via British-Bangladeshi television broadcaster Channel 5 Television's Ramadan Family Commitment Covid19 Crisis Initiative.

Inspired by Tom Moore, a fellow British centenarian who attracted worldwide attention by walking garden laps and raising almost 33 million pounds (\$41m) for the National Health Service (NHS), he had initially made a pledged to raise £1,000 (\$1,250) last Sunday for the victims of COVID-19 and began walking 100 laps of the 80-metre garden on April 26.

However, within the first nine hours, the JustGiving page setup to accept donations had reached its target and in the next 48 hours donations began to pour in from across the country.

Mr Choudhury is "one of the highest

respected individuals" in his community and fundraisers said his involvement in the RFC has been inspiring," said Farhan Musad Khan, project lead for RFC.

"As an individual he is very bright and very bubbly, full of life. He has a huge following within his family, friends and religious community."

His son, Atique Choudhury, told BBC London: "When we started, we started at a small pace but he's been increasing his number of laps he's doing.

"The problem we have is that we have to try and stop him because he wants to carry on."

He added that his father's fundraising is crucial to help vulnerable people in other countries.

"In places like Bangladesh, which is where this charity is going to as well, if people aren't working for a week or two weeks ... they're starving," he said.

Dabirul was born on 1st January 1920 in British Assam, which then changed to Indian Assam, then Sylhet (a part of the then East Pakistan) which 1971 became an independent Bangladesh.

In 1957, he moved to England to study English Literature in London. Due to his education and command in the English

language, he ended up as a community leader and settled in St Albans. He was responsible for many community projects and raised money for the independence struggle of Bangladesh.

He is an accomplished poet and has published over a thousand of his own poems whilst also spending his time going to local book clubs and poetry associations.

In a statement acknowledging his supporters, Dabir said: "Thank you for your donations. I'm not fighting alone to put a smile on the faces of hungry children, we are fighting together. This money will help families who are in desperate need in the UK, Bangladesh and many other countries."

The UK is one of Europe's worst-hit countries, in terms of the coronavirus pandemic, overtaking Italy.

According to figures from the Office for National Statistics, more than 32,000 people have died with COVID-19.

Bangladesh has only reported 183 deaths since the start of its epidemic, but as one of the world's most populous countries, fears of a worse outbreak and economic troubles are beginning to bubble.

## Muslim politician responds to man's hateful tweets by paying his medical bills

A Muslim political candidate responded to a constituent's hateful tweets by helping to pay the man's medical bills.

Qasim Rashid, who is of Pakistani origin is running for Congress in Virginia as a Democrat not only paid for Oscar Dillon's medical campaign, he also encouraged his 290,400 followers to donate to do so too.

Rashid shared a photo of him and Dillon in a Facebook post and on March 9, writing, 'Today I met my new friend Oz.'

Dillon sent Rashid anti-Muslim tweets earlier in the month, which included a memo that falsely claimed that Islam promoted violent acts, such as rapes and beheadings.

The 66-year-old of Fredericksburg said in a GoFundMe campaign he launched on February 12, that his retirement savings were depleted.

He said that because of the rising costs of his and his wife's medical care and because his annual income is about \$38,000 a year, the couple are 'broke' by the 23rd of each month.

The couple have debt from his wife's treatment for a life-threatening pulmonary

embolism, and their home needs updates to make it handicapped-accessible for her.

Rashid said on social media that he later received a 'thoughtful' and 'compassionate' apology from Dillon, who also asked that the aspiring lawmaker visit him, which he did.

Rashid said in his social media posts that when he learned of Dillon's difficulties, he donated to help cover the couple's 'crushing medical debt..

"My faith instead teaches me to serve all humanity," Rashid wrote in a tweet, adding that he donated \$55 to Dillon's campaign.

When asked about the incident Qasim said he is a strong believer in compassion and felt compelled to help.

"My faith instructs me to serve all humanity and to help those around me.

"When I took a look at Oz's page and saw that he and his family were struggling with insurmountable medical debt, I realized that I had to do something to help him.

"I'm a strong believer in compassion through action, and helping Oz, regardless of the messages that he'd sent to me, aligns with

my values. I also have a modest following on social media, so I shared Oz's GoFundMe with my followers as well, and they responded in kind."

Dillon said he'd been humbled by Rashid's response. He told NBC News: "What this has done is reopen my eyes. '9/11 was a tragic time for me and my family.'

"This has reopened my eyes to pre-9/11, where I would look at each individual as a person. 'He has showed me that there is good in all walks of life.'

The GoFundMe page raised the full \$26,237 goal with many of the donations are labelled 'Inspired by Qasim Rashid.'



## અચાજનો પયગામ ઉમ્મતના નામ

-મહંમદ યુસુફ સુફી લાજપુરી, બાટલી.

મહમુદ નામના એક બાદશાહ હતા. તેમના એક ખાસ ગુલામ હતા. જેનું નામ અચાજ હતું. તેના અકલમંદ હોવાના લઈને બાદશાહને પોતાના ગુલામ અચાજથી બેહદ મોહબ્બત હતી. કિતાબોમાં તેની ઘણી હિકાયતો જોવા મળે છે.

એક વેળા બાદશાહનો દરબાર ભરેલો હતો. બાદશાહે એક કિંમતી હિરો પોતાના ખજાનામાંથી કાઢી દરબારીઓના સામે મૂક્યો. સાથે એક હથોડી પણ ત્યાં મૂકી. બાદશાહે પોતાના દરબારીઓને સંબોધીને કહ્યું કે, આ હથોડીથી આ હિરાને તોડી નાંખો. એક પછી એક દરેક દરબારીઓએ કહ્યું કે, બાદશાહ સલામત! આ હિરો ઘણોજ કિંમતી છે અને એને તોડવો જોઈએ નહીં જેથી કરીને અમે એને તોડી શકતા નથી. બાદશાહે ત્યાં હાજર દરેક દરબારીઓના જવાબ સાંભળ્યા પછી પોતાના ગુલામ અચાજને કહ્યું કે, અચાજ! તું આ હિરાને તોડી નાંખ. અચાજે હથોડી હાથમાં લઈ તરત જ હિરાને તોડી નાંખ્યો. દરબારીઓ આશ્ચર્ય કરવા લાગ્યા કે આટલો બધો કિંમતી હિરો અચાજે કેમ તોડી નાંખ્યો? બાદશાહે અચાજને પૂછ્યું કે અચાજ! તુંએ આ કિંમતી હિરો શા માટે તોડી નાંખ્યો? અચાજે જે જવાબ આપ્યો તે સોનેરી અક્ષરે લખવા જેવો હતો. કહ્યું બાદશાહ સલામત! તમારો હુકમ, ફરમાન આ હિરાથી પણ વધારે કિંમતી છે. હું આપના ફેસલાને વધારે અગત્યતા આપું છું. આપના હુકમ, ફેસલાની કિંમત મારા નજીક આ કિંમતી હિરાથી અનેક ઘણી વધારે છે.

મુસલમાનો! અલ્લાહતઆલા જે દરેક બાદશાહોનો પણ રબ છે આપણે અલ્લાહતઆલાના ફરમાન, ફેસલાને મહત્વ આપવું જોઈએ અને તેના દરેક ફેસલાથી દિલો જાનથી રાજી રહેવું જોઈએ. અલ્લાહપાકના ફેસલા અને ફરમાન હિકમતથી ભરેલા હોય છે. ઘણી વાર આપણા નાના અને કમજોર દિમાગમાં આવી વાત આવી શકતી નથી. મુસલમાનો પોતાની ખ્વાહિશ, તમન્ના, ઈચ્છાને તોડી શકે છે પરંતુ કોઈ પણ હાલતમાં અલ્લાહના ફરમાન, ફેસલાને તોડી શકતા નથી. અલ્લાહતઆલાનો ફેસલો બેશુમાર હિકમતોથી આબાદ હોય છે.

એક વેળા મહમુદ બાદશાહે એક સકરટેટી (મેલન) મંગાવી. એને પોતાના હાથથી કાપીને નાના ટુકડા કર્યા. અચાજને બોલાવી એક એક ટુકડો પોતાના હાથથી ગુલામ અચાજના મોઢામાં મૂકવા લાગ્યા. અચાજ મજાથી એને ખાવા લાગ્યો. બાદશાહને થયું કે, ચાલો એક ટુકડો હું પણ ખાઉં કે અચાજ કેટલો મજાથી તે ખાઈ રહ્યો છે. એ સકરટેટી મીઠી અને મજેદાર હશે. હું પણ તેની મજા માણી લઉં.

બાદશાહે જ્યારે એક ટુકડો ખાવા માટે પોતાના મોઢામાં મૂક્યો કે તરત જ થૂંકી નાખ્યો. તે બેહદ કડવો હતો. બાદશાહ સલામત તે એક ટુકડો પણ ખાઈ ન શક્યા. બાદશાહે અચાજને કહ્યું કે, તુંએ પહેલા ટુકડાથીજ કેમ ન કહ્યું કે આ સકરટેટી કડવી છે અને તું તે ખાતો ગયો. અચાજે જે જવાબ આપ્યો તે આપણાં માટે એક સબક રૂપ છે. બાદશાહ સલામત! તમારા પ્યારા હાથથી હંમેશાં

મજેદાર અને મીઠી વસ્તુઓ નેઅમતના રૂપમાં મળતી રહી હતી. આજે એક વાર કડવી વસ્તુ મળી તો શું હું ફરિયાદ કરું? શું હું નાશુક બનું? મારી ઝબાન ઉપર હું શિકાયત લાવું? એ કેવી રીતે બની શકે?

પ્રિય વાંચકો! આપણને આપણા જીવનમાં કેટલાક મજેદાર અવસર, આરામના દિવસો, રાહતના અઠવાડિયાઓ અને ખુશીના મહિનાઓ મળ્યા. ફક્ત આ એક વખત આપણા બેહદ ગુનાહોને લઈને થોડી કડવી વસ્તુ મળી, આપણે સંપૂર્ણ લોકડાઉનથી પસાર થવું પડી રહ્યું છે. જે આપણા હાથની કમાઈના સ્વરૂપમાં છે. કુરઆન મજીદના રૂએ એમાં ઘણી ખરી વસ્તુઓ તો અલ્લાહતઆલા માફ કરી આપે છે. અલ્લાહની અનેક નેઅમતો આપણને મળી. સુખચેનની જિંદગી તેણે આપી. પરંતુ તેના હુકમ, તેની નેઅમતોની આપણે કદર ન કરી અને પરવરદિગારની નાફરમાની, ગુનાહો અને તેના અહકામોને તોડતા રહ્યા. જેથી અગાઉ જેમ બીજી ઉમ્મતને અલ્લાહના અઝાબ અને કહેરથી પસાર થવું પડ્યું હતું કંઈક તેવુંજ આપણને પણ જોવા મળી રહ્યું છે. જેથી આ આપણા માટે એક સબક શીખવાનો અવસર છે. આપણી રોજબરોજની જિંદગીને બદલવાનો મોકો છે. આપણે એના ઉપર પૂરું ધ્યાન આપી હવે ઈસ્લામના અહકામને અનુરૂપ આપણી જિંદગી પસાર કરવાનો સંકલ્પ કરવું જરૂરી છે.

આજની આ લોકડાઉનની પરિસ્થિતિમાં આપણે આપણા ઈમાન, અકીદા અને એતેકાદની હિફાઝત કરવાની છે. આપણા આઝમાઈશ, કસોટીના દિવસોમાં એક તક સમજી ખૂબ તૌબા, ઈસ્તીગફાર કરી આપણે આપણા પ્યારા પરવરદિગારને રાજી કરી લેવાની અત્યંત જરૂરત છે. શયતાની ખ્યાલો, શરીયતની વિરૂધ્ધ ખોટા વિચારોથી પોતાના દિલો દિમાગને સુરક્ષિત રાખવાનું છે. ઝબાનને ઈસ્લામના ખિલાફ બોલવાથી બચવાનું છે. ઈ.અ. આ લોકડાઉન તો ધીરે ધીરે હટી જશે. ફરીથી આપણી લાઈફ સામાન્ય બને ત્યારે આ વાતથી સબક શીખી હંમેશાં અલ્લાહના ફરમાન, ફેસલા અને અહકામને મહત્વ આપવાનું છે. પોતાની ઝબાનથી અલ્લાહના શુક્રગુજાર બનવાનું છે. આપણી જીવન પ્રણાલી ફરીથી પહેલાની જેમ થઈ જાય તેની દુઆ પછી આજ સમયની ચર્ચા કરી તેના ઉપર મનોમંથન કરી અલ્લાહને નારાજ કરવાથી બચવાનો પયગામ ઉમ્મતને પહોંચાડવાનો છે. જે આ બાદશાહના ગુલામ અચાજે પણ એક પયગામ સ્વરૂપે આપ્યો હતો.

આપણે જે રીતે આપણી જિંદગી જીવતા હતા, મોજશોખમાં રહેતા હતા અને અલ્લાહની દરેક નેઅમતોનો વપરાશ કરતા હતા. પરંતુ આ એક કોરોનાએ આપણને કેવા મજબુર કર્યા અને આપણી જીવન જીવવાની પ્રણાલિકા બદલાઈ ગઈ અને છતાં પણ આપણે આપણું જીવન પસાર કરી રહ્યા છીએ. તો શું જ્યારે આપણે આ પ્રકોપથી બહાર આવીએ અને ફરીથી સામાન્ય સમય સ્થપાય ત્યારે શું આપણું જીવન એજ રીતે પસાર ન કરી શકીએ? જે આપણે આવા કપરા સમયમાં પસાર કર્યા તો તે તરફ ધ્યાન આપી તેના ઉપર અમલ કરવું જરૂરી છે. અલ્લાહપાક દરેકને આ વાતો સમજવાની અને તેના ઉપર અમલ કરવાની તૌફીક અતા ફરમાવે આમીન.

## વિચાર વિનિમય

-અહમદ ગુલ

### લોકડાઉનમાં રમઝાન

હું આ લેખ લખી રહ્યો છું ત્યારે રમઝાન માસ એના આખરી અશરાથી પસાર થઈ રહ્યો છે. માત્ર થોડાક દિવસોમાં આપણે એને ભારે હૈયે વિદાય આપવાના છે કે, જેણે આપણા માનસ પર કદી ન ભુલાઈ એવી છાપ છોડી છે. રમઝાનનો ઉલ્લેખ થાય એટલે સહેજે એના આગમન પહેલાં બે ત્રણ મહિનાથી થતી તૈયારીઓના દ્રશ્યો આંખો સમક્ષ આવીને ઊભાં રહે છે. આ વર્ષે પણ એના આગમન કાજે કરેલી ચર્યાઓ, કલ્પનાઓ, ઉત્સાહ અને અને ઉમંગને આ કૂર કોરોના વાઈરસ (કોવિડ-૧૯)ના આક્રમણે અને એના થકી લદાયેલા લોકડાઉનના પ્રતિબંધે એ માહોલને કચડી નાંખ્યો.

રમઝાનનો મુબારક મહિનો આલમે ઈસ્લામમાં એક ખાસ મહત્વ ધરાવે છે. અને એના મહિમાને આલેખતી હજારો બલ્દે લાખો કિતાબો મવજુદ છે. એ વિષય પર વધુ ઊંડાણમાં ઉતરવાને બદલે આ વર્ષનો રમઝાન માસ લોકડાઉનની ભયંકર ભીંસમાં કેવો વીત્યો અને આજપર્યંત વીતેલા તમામ રમઝાન મહિનાઓથી કઈ રીતે જુદો પડ્યો તેની થોડીક ચર્યા કરવાનો ઉપક્રમ છે.

૨૦૨૦નો રમઝાન જેવો મહિનો, આ ધરતી પર જીવિત હર એક મુસ્લિમે એના જીવનકાળમાં કદી ન જોયો, ન કદી અનુભવ્યો હશે. પ્રતિવર્ષ આપણી પરંપરાગત માહોલમાં પૂરો થતો રમઝાન માસનું આ વર્ષ કંઈક જુદું જ સ્વરૂપ રહ્યું. લોકડાઉનના આદેશનું પાલન કરતાં સૌને પોતાના ઘરોમાં પૂરાઈ રહેવું પડ્યું. સંતાનો તેમના ઘરોમાં અને માતાપિતા પોતાના ઘરોમાં રહ્યાં. આ પહેલા પુરૂષ વર્ગ પોતાના ઘંધા અનુસાર રમઝાન માટે સાનુકૂળ સમય કાઢી લેતો હતો. બહેનો પણ આખા મહિનામાં બે ત્રણ વાર સહકુટુંબની સામુહિક ઈફતારીનું આયોજન કરવામાં આનંદ અનુભવતી હતી. આ વર્ષે એવું કરવાનું શક્ય ન બન્યું. એના બદલે એક નિરવ, ભયાવહ અને ડીપ્રેશનમાં ઘેરાઈ જવાય એવું વાતાવરણ રહ્યું. મસ્જિદનો માહોલ પણ નસીબ ન થયો. અલબત્ત ઘરનો માહોલ વધુ ઈબાદત સભર રહ્યો. ઘરમાં નિયમિત નમાઝો, તિલાવતો અને તરાવીહો વિગેરેની ખૂબ ઈબાદતો થઈ. ઘણાં ઘરોમાં તો બાજમાત નમાઝો અને તરાવીહો થઈ. જેમાં ઘરની બહેનોને કદાચ પ્રથમવાર બાજમાત ખાસ કરીને તરાવીહ પઢવાનો અવસર પ્રાપ્ત થયો.

રમઝાનમાં મસ્જિદોની તે રૌનક, તે દબદબો આપણી આંખોથી ઓઝલ રહ્યો. નમાઝીઓથી ભરચક, સંપૂર્ણ કુરઆનની તરાવીહ, આલિમોની તકરીરો, તાલિમી હલકાઓ, એતેકાફના હુજરાઓ અને આખો દિવસ તિલાવતે કુરઆનથી ગૂંજતો રૂહપરવર માહોલને કોરોનાના અત્યાચારે તદ્દન બદલી જ નાંખ્યો. ન તે રૌનક ન તે ચહલપહલ વધુ જ ગાયબ થયું. જો કે કેટલાક અલ્લાહના નેક બંદાઓએ નમાઝો પઢવાની ફરજ નિભાવી અને મસ્જિદોને સમૂળગી બંધ ન થવા દીધી. અલ્લાહપાક એમની આ અમૂલ્ય ખીદમતોને કબુલ ફરમાવે આમીન.

મસ્જિદોની આસપાસ ધુમતી આપણી જિંદગી માટે આ એક નાકાબિલે બરદાશતનો સમય હતો. એવું લાગવા માંડ્યું હતું કે, મસ્જિદોથી નજીક હોવા છતાં આપણે કેટલા દૂર ફેંકાઈ ગયા. અરે! અલ્લાહપાકે તો આપણને એટલી નેઅમતોથી નવાઝ્યા હતા કે, ઘણી મસ્જિદોમાં તો ઈફતારીની શરૂઆત જ આબે ઝમઝમથી થતી, ખરેખર મસ્જિદ વિનાનું જીવન નિરસ અને હતાશામય જીવન! જેનો કંઈક છૂટી ગયાનો કંઈક રીતે વિખૂટા પડ્યાનો એહસાસ મહિનોભર થતો રહ્યો. ખૂબ દુઃખદાયક મહિનો વીત્યો. એમાં પણ અલ્લાહની કંઈક મસ્લેહત હશે. અને અલ્લાહ હર મસ્લેહત પર રાજી રહેવાનું દિને ઈસ્લામે આપણને શિક્ષણ આપ્યું છે. અલ્લાહ જ એનો ભેદ જાણનાર છે.

૨૦૨૦નો રમઝાન મહિનો આજના બાળકો, યુવાનોને સદા યાદ રહેશે. વૃદ્ધોને થશે કે, જિંદગીના આખરી પડાવે આવો રમઝાન માસ જોવા મળ્યો. સાથે સાથે આપણને આત્મ નિરક્ષણ, આત્મ મંથન કરવાની એક તક મળી કે, આપણા મામલાત અને અખ્લાકને ઠીક કરવા પ્રત્યે ધ્યાન આપીએ. સચ્ચાઈ, ઈમાનદારી અને સદ્ભાવના જેવા સદગુણો અપનાવીએ અને બેઈમાની, દગાખોરી, લુચ્ચાઈ જેવા દુર્ગુણોથી દૂર રહી એક સાચા મુસ્લિમ અને નબીએ પાક (સલ.)ના ખરા અર્થમાં ઉમ્મતી બનીને પૂરસુકુન જિંદગી જીવવાની કોશીશ કરીએ. આવા સંકટોથી શીખ લઈએ અને અલ્લાહથી પનાહ માંગીએ કે, હવે પાછી આવી ધાતક અને ગંભીર મહામારી (રોગચાળા)થી બચાવે.

અંતમાં આ નિર્મમ વાઈરસના ભોગ બની જે ભાઈઓ બહેનોનો અકાળે ઈન્તેકાલ થયો છે તેમની મગફેરત ફરમાવી જન્મતુલ ફિરદોશમાં આલા મુકામ અતા કરે, એવી અલ્લાહપાકથી દુઆ કરીએ, આમીન.

### કરોના

ખુદાના સિવાય કશાથી ડરો ના  
રહી સાફ સૂથરા ભગાડો કરોના  
લાખ્યું ભાગ્યમાં મોત, એ આવવાનું  
ડરીને કરોનાથી હરપળ મરો ના  
નકામા ડરીને વધુ પૈસા ખરચી  
બધી ચીજ વસ્તુ ઘરોમાં ભરો ના  
ગયું સુખ તેવું જતું રહેશે દુઃખ પણ  
ધીરજ ધરતે રેહના ન ગભરાના રોના  
થવાનું હશે તે તો થઈને જ રહેશે  
તમે ઝાઝી ઝંઝટ જરાયે કરોના  
જરા સાવચેતી તમે રાખી મિત્રો  
બધા બંધ દરવાજા રાખો ઘરોના  
પઢો તસ્બીહ કુરઆન બેસીને ઘરમાં  
બઝારે બગીચે રખડતા ફરો ના  
અમલ જાતે બેદાર કરવું નથી તો  
બધાને તમે શીખ દેતા ફરો ના

-બેદાર લાખપુરી, લેસ્ટર.

## ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી, બાટલી ચેરિટી પ્રોજેક્ટ અપડેટ માહિતી

આપ સૌ જાણો છો કે, આપણી સોસાયટી છેલ્લા પાંચેક વર્ષથી આપણા માદરે વતન દક્ષિણ ગુજરાત જેમાં વાપીથી તાપી સુધીના ગામોનો સમાવેશ છે ત્યાં ચેરિટીનું કામ કરી રહી છે. જેમાં મુખ્યત્વે ત્રણ પ્રોજેક્ટનો સમાવેશ છે. **૧. સ્કોલરશીપ:** ઉચ્ચ શિક્ષણ (હાયર એજ્યુકેશન) મેળવતા વિદ્યાર્થીઓને સ્કોલરશીપ આપવી. જરૂરતમંદ હોશિયાર વિદ્યાર્થીઓને હાલના સમયમાં સ્કૂલ ફી, પુસ્તકો, રહેવા વગેરેના ખર્ચ માટે મોટી રકમની જરૂરિયાત રહે છે. જેથી તેઓને વિવિધ સંસ્થાઓ પાસે સ્કોલરશીપ માટે હાથ લંબાવવો પડે છે. આવી સ્કોલરશીપથી તેઓને ઉચ્ચ શિક્ષણ મેળવવામાં સહાય મળે છે અને તેઓ આગળ વધી ડીગ્રી મેળવી પોતાનું ભાવિ ઉજ્જવળ બનાવી શકે છે. જેમાં આ સ્કોલરશીપ થકી આપણું પણ યોગદાન રહે છે.

**૨. ધંધાદારી મદદ:** જેમના પાસે હુન્નર, કળા છે તથા જેઓ પોતાના ગુજરાન માટે રોજબરોજની કમાણી કરવા મજદુરીનું કામ કરે છે. તેમને વેચાણનો સ્ટોક ભરી અપાવવો, કામદારો જેમ કે, સુથારી કામ, ઈલેક્ટ્રીકલ કામ, વેલ્ડીંગ વગેરે માટે સાધનો ખરીદ કરી આપવા ઉપરાંત જેઓ ગામ કે બહાર ફરી અનાજ, કાપડ અને અન્ય સામગ્રી વેચે છે તેમને હાથ લારી, બંધ લારી કે અન્ય સાધનો અને માલનો સ્ટોક વગેરેમાં મદદ કરી તેમને તેમના ધંધામાં પગભર કરવા મદદ કરવામાં આવે છે. આ પ્રોજેક્ટમાં પ્રતિ વર્ષ ૪૦/૪૫ લોકોને મદદ પૂરી પાડવામાં આવે છે.

**૩. હાઉસિંગ પ્રોજેક્ટ:** જેમની પોતાની જમીન ઉપર પોતાનું ઘર છે પરંતુ તે તદ્દન બિસ્માર હાલતમાં છે, જેની છત કે દિવાલો પણ ગમે ત્યારે તૂટી પડે એવી હાલતમાં છે અને ઘરનો ફ્લોર પણ કાચો છે અને એવી ફેમિલીમાં ત્રણ કે તેથી વધુ સભ્યો રહેતા હોય તેમને ખરેખર ઘરની સુવિધાની જરૂરિયાત રહે છે. આવા ઘર માટે અમને અનેક અરજીઓ મળે છે. આપણી સોસાયટીના સભ્યોમાંથી જેઓ ભારત ખાતે હાજર હોય છે તેઓ અને આપણો આ સંપૂર્ણ પ્રોજેક્ટ આલીપોર સોશીયલ એન્ડ વેલ્ફેર ટ્રસ્ટ, આલીપોર હોસ્પિટલના જોઈન્ટ સહકારથી ચાલે છે તેમના સભ્યો આવા વિસ્તારની મુલાકાત લે છે, ચકાસણી કરે છે. ખરેખર આવા બિસ્માર ઘરની હાલત જોઈ આપણું હૃદય દ્રવી જાય છે. આપણે એ વિચારવા મજબુર થઈ જઈએ છીએ કે શું આવી હાલતમાં પણ લોકો રહે છે.

આવા જરૂરિયાતમંદોની અરજી ઉપર ધ્યાન આપી ચકાસણી કરી તેમને ઘર બનાવી આપવામાં આવે છે. આ માટે એક ચોક્કસ નીતિ અપનાવેલ છે. જેમાં ફક્ત એકજ ફ્લોર હોય છે. આગળ ઓટલો, બેસવાનો લીવિંગ રૂમ, બેડરૂમ, કીચન તથા બાથ ટોયલેટ રૂમનો સમાવેશ હોય છે. આ ઘર પાકુ બનાવી કમ્પ્લીટ કરવામાં આવે છે. જેમાં બારી, બારણાં, ઈલેક્ટ્રીક, કીચન, ટાઈલ્સ, પાણીની સુવિધાવાળું સંપૂર્ણ ઘર હોય છે. આવા એક ઘરનો અંદાજો ખર્ચ સાડા ચાર હજાર પાઉન્ડ થાય છે. જ્યારે

આવી વ્યક્તિઓને ઘર સુપ્રત કરવામાં આવે છે ત્યારે તેમના ચહેરા ઉપર જે ખુશી જોવા મળે છે. તે કંઈક અનેરા જ પ્રકારની હોય છે અને તેમના મોઢેથી દાતાઓ માટે દુઆઓનો વરસાદ વરસે છે ત્યારે આપણી ખુશી પણ કંઈક અજબ પ્રકારની હોય છે. છેલ્લા પાંચ વર્ષમાં વલસાડ, નવસારી, સુરત જિલ્લાના વિવિધ ગામોમાં ૨૩ જેટલા મકાનો બનાવ્યા છે. હાલમાં જ અંભેટા ગામે બે ઘરો બનાવવામાં આવ્યા જે ઘરનું કામ સંપૂર્ણ કરી રમજાન માસના ૧૫માં રોજે તેમને ઘરની ચાવી સુપ્રત કરવામાં આવી હતી. જેના ફોટાઓ અમે સોશ્યલ મિડીયા ઉપર મૂક્યા હતા અને બીજા ત્રણેક જેટલા ઘરોની મંજૂરી આપવામાં આવી છે જેનું કામ ટૂંક સમયમાં ચાલુ કરવામાં આવશે.

આ બધું કામ આપણી બાટલી અને ડ્યુઝબરીના દાતાઓની સખાવતના કારણે શક્ય બને છે. અમારી કોશિશ હોય છે કે વધુને વધુ લોકો આ સ્કીમનો લાભ મેળવે પરંતુ દરેક કામ પાછળ મહેનત અને પૈસાની જરૂરિયાત રહે છે. અમે આ વર્ષે અપીલ કરી હતી કે એક ફેમિલી સાથે મળી પોતાની ઝકાત, સદકા વગેરેની રકમ ભેગી કરી એક ઘર બનાવે અને જો અમને દર વર્ષે ત્રણ થી ચાર ઘરોની રકમ મળે તો ઘણાં લોકોને ઘરની મદદ મળી શકે. અલ્લાહુલ્લીલાહ આ વર્ષે એક ફેમિલીએ એ માટે હાથ લંબાવી અમને બે ઘરો બનાવવા માટેની રકમ આપી છે. અમે તેમનો ખૂબજ આભાર માનીએ છીએ. ગુજરાત પ્રોજેક્ટ આપણી સોસાયટી ભારત ખાતે આલીપોર સોશ્યલ એન્ડ વેલ્ફેર ટ્રસ્ટ, આલીપોર હોસ્પિટલ સાથે મળી પાર્ટનરશીપમાં ચલાવવામાં આવે છે. જેમાં તેમની પૂરી ટીમ ખૂબજ મહેનત અને ઘગશથી કામ કરે છે. અમે તેમનો પણ આભાર માનીએ છીએ.

આ ઉપરાંત સોસાયટી દર વર્ષે રમજાનમાં ઈફતાર પ્રોજેક્ટ, સિરીયા અને ગાઝાના પ્રોજેક્ટ તથા સદકતુલ ફીતરની રકમ એકત્ર કરે છે, જેમાં યમન, ગાઝા, સિરીયા, મ્યાનમારના હાજતમંદોને મદદ કરવામાં આવે છે. હાલમાંજ ગાઝા ખાતે આપણાં તરફથી ફૂડ પેકેટોની ઘેંચણી કરવામાં આવી તેનો રિપોર્ટ, વિડીયો, ફોટાઓ આપના જાણ માટે સોશ્યલ મિડીયા ઉપર મુકવામાં આવ્યા હતા. યમન ખાતે પણ ઈફતાર ફૂડ પેકેજની ઘેંચણી કરવામાં આવી હતી. તમારી આપેલ દરેક રકમ યોગ્ય રીતે પુરેપૂરી ઘેંચાય તેની અમે ખૂબજ કાળજી રાખીએ છીએ. અલ્લાહપાક કબુલ ફરમાવે આમીન.

ચાલુ સાલે કોરોના વાયરસના કારણે લોકડાઉન થયું. મસ્જિદોના દરવાજા આપણાં માટે બંધ થયા. રમજાન માસની આમદ થઈ અને આપણે સો આપણી ખેરાત, ઝકાત જે આ મુબારક માસમાં અદા કરતા હોઈએ છીએ તે માટે ચિંતા વ્યક્ત કરવા લાગ્યા. પરંતુ સોસાયટીએ તેની ઓફિસ ચાલુ રાખી અને આપ સૌ ભાઈ બહેનો જાતે આવી કે બેન્ક મારફત અમને રકમ આપી જે માટે અમે દરેકનો આભાર માનીએ છીએ. અલ્લાહપાક આપની તમામ ખેરાત કબુલ ફરમાવે અને તેનો બહેતરીન બદલો બન્ને જહાંનમાં અતા ફરમાવે આમીન. આપ આજરીતે સોસાયટીને મદદ કરતા રહેશો એવી આશા.

## ભારતને હૈદરાબાદના નિઝામનું એક અનેરું દાન

ચાલો આજે આપણે એક એવા દેશ ભક્ત નવાબની વાત જાણીએ જેમણે મુસીબતના સમયે ભારતીય સેના માટે પોતાની તિજોરી ખુલ્લી મૂકી દીધી હતી. આપણાં દેશમાં એવા ઘણાં મહાનુભાવો જન્મ્યા છે જેમણે પોતાની જાતને આ દેશ માટે ખપાવી છે. અને એવા પણ લોકો છે જેમણે મુસીબતના સમયે પોતાનું સર્વસ્વ ન્યોછાવર કરી દેશને મહાન બલિદાનો આપ્યાં છે.

૧૮૬૫ની વાત છે. એ સમયે હૈદરાબાદના નિઝામ મીર ઉસ્માનઅલી એટલા અમીર હતા કે તેમની સંપત્તિ હાલની અમેરિકાની અર્થવ્યવસ્થાના લગભગ ૨ ટકા જેટલી હતી. જેના કારણે વૈશ્વિક અખબાર ટાઈમ પત્રિકાએ ૧૮૩૭માં તેના કવર પેજ પર નવાબનો ફોટો પણ છાપ્યો હતો.

ભારતને ૧૮૬૨માં ચીન અને ૧૮૬૫માં પાકિસ્તાન સાથે ત્રણ વર્ષના ટૂંકા ગાળામાં બે યુદ્ધ લડવા પડેલાં, જેના કારણે સંરક્ષણ માટે લડાયક શસ્ત્રસંરંજામ અને અન્ય હથિયારોનો પૂરવઠો તળિયે પહોંચી ગયેલો અને તે માટે નાણાંકીય સમસ્યા ઊભી થયેલી. ભારતના તે વખતના વડા પ્રધાન લાલબહાદુર શાસ્ત્રીએ ભારતીય રક્ષા કોષની રચના કરી લોકો અને રાજ રજવાડાઓને દાન આપવા અપીલ કરી હતી. નિઝામ ત્યારે આ વાત સાંભળી તરતજ પ્રધાનમંત્રીને હૈદરાબાદ આવવા માટે આમંત્રણ આપ્યું. શાસ્ત્રીએ એ આમંત્રણનો સ્વીકાર કરી હૈદરાબાદ પહોંચ્યા. એરપોર્ટ ઉપર નિઝામે તેમનું સ્વાગત કર્યું અને તેમને લઈ મહેલ પહોંચ્યા. બન્ને વચ્ચે વાતચીત થઈ અને નિઝામે તરતજ કહ્યું હું ભારતીય સેના માટે મારી સંપત્તિમાંથી ૫ ટન સોનું દાન આપું છું તેનો સ્વીકાર કરો અને શસ્ત્રોથી સેનાને મજબુત કરો.

ચેરા ઉપર મુસ્કાન સાથે આટલી મોટી રકમ દાન આપતાં જોઈ પ્રધાનમંત્રી શાસ્ત્રી ખૂબજ ભાવુક થઈ ગયા. આ ઘટના બાદ નિઝામ મીર ઉસ્માનઅલીની ચર્ચા આખા દેશમાં થવા લાગી અને તેમના દાનની પ્રસંશા અને વાહવાહી થવા લાગી. ભારત દેશે તેમના આ મહાન બલિદાન માટે ખૂબજ આભાર માન્યો. આ જોતા વિદેશી મિડીયાઓએ પણ તેમના ખૂબજ વખાણ કર્યા અને નવાબ આખા વિશ્વમાં પ્રસિદ્ધ થઈ ગયા. આ દાન વિશ્વનું સૌથી મોટું દાન છે. જેની કિંમત ૧૬૦૦ કરોડ રૂપિયા થાય છે. કોઈ પણ એકલી વ્યક્તિ ધ્વારા અપાયેલ આ સૌથી મોટું દાન હતું. જે એક રેકોર્ડ છે. હાલની બીજેપીની સરકાર મુસલમાનો ઉપર અત્યાચાર કરી રહી છે અને ભારતના ઈતિહાસને બદલવાની પેરવીમાં છે ત્યારે આ ઘટનાથી તેણે સબક લેવું જરૂરી છે કે દેશ માટે મુસલમાનોનું બલિદાન આઝાદી પહેલાં અને આઝાદી પછી પણ કંઈ નાનું સરખું નથી.

## ભારતના પાંચ સૌથી અમીર મુસલમાન

ચાલો આજે આપણે ભારતના ૫ સૌથી ધનાઢ્ય, મુસલમાનો વિષે જાણીએ. આ પાંચ અમીર મુસલમાનોનો ભારતના અર્થતંત્ર ઉપર ખાસ્સો પ્રભાવ છે અને તેમની સંપત્તિ અને ઉદ્યોગના કારણે વિશ્વના અનેક દેશો તેમને તેમના દેશની નાગરિકતા આપવાના પ્રસ્તાવ પણ કરી ચૂકી છે. પાંચ સૌથી અમીરમાં પ્રથમ નામ આવે છે તે અઝીમ પ્રેમજી છે. તેઓ ગુજરાતના કચ્છ જિલ્લાના વતની છે. ભારતના બીજા નંબરના સૌથી અમીર વ્યક્તિ પણ છે. વેપારના

કારણે મુંબઈમાં સ્થાયી થયા છે. તેઓ પોતાની સંપત્તિને દાન કરવામાં વિશ્વમાં સૌથી આગળ છે. તેઓ એજ્યુકેશન ક્ષેત્રમાં વધુ દાન કરે છે અને તેમની પોતાની યુનિવર્સિટી પણ છે. વિશ્વની સૌથી પ્રખ્યાત આઈટી કંપની વિપ્રોના માલિક છે. તેઓ ૧૯ બિલિયન ડોલરથી વધુની સંપત્તિ ધરાવે છે. તેઓ જો પોતાના તમામ પૈસા ખર્ચ કરવા માંગે તો ૫૦૦વર્ષ સુધી દરરોજ એક કરોડ રૂપિયા ખર્ચ કરવા પડે. વિશ્વના પ્રભાવશાળી વ્યક્તિમાં ૨૦મું સ્થાન ધરાવે છે. અમેરિકા, કેલીફોર્નિયાની પ્રખ્યાત યુનિવર્સિટીમાંથી એજ્યુકેશન મેજલ્યું છે. ભારત સરકારે તેમને પદ્મભૂષણ અને પદ્મ વિભૂષણ એવોર્ડથી નવાજ્યા છે. તેઓ બાહ્યદેખાવમાં માનનારા નથી. તેમની કંપની માઈક્રોસોફ્ટ, ગુગલ, આઈબીએમ જેવી કંપનીઓને પોતાની સેવા પૂરી પાડે છે.

ભારતના સૌથી અમીર મુસલમાનોની લીસ્ટમાં બીજા નંબરે યુસુફ અલીનું નામ આવે છે. યુસુફ અલી પ્રખ્યાત લુલુ ઈન્ટરનેશનલ ગૃપના માલિક છે. મિડલ ઈસ્ટની આ સૌથી મોટી રીટેઈલ કંપની છે. ગલ્ફ દેશોમાં ૧૫૦થી વધુ તેમના આઉટલેટ છે. તેમના દુનિયાભરમાં હોટલો અને અનેક શોપિંગ મોલો ચાલે છે. ભારત અને મલેશિયાના સૌથી મોટા મોલ યુસુફ અલીના જ છે. તેઓ ૬ બિલિયન ડોલરથી વધુ સંપત્તિના માલિક છે. અરબ દેશોમાં વેપાર કરવાવાળા ભારતના સૌથી અમીર વ્યક્તિ છે. એમની પોતાની બેન્ક પણ છે. ભારત સરકાર એમને પદ્મભૂષણ એવોર્ડથી નવાજી ચૂકી છે.

પ્રસિદ્ધ દવા નિર્માતા કંપની શીપલાના માલિક ખ્વાજા યુસુફ હમીદ ભારતના ત્રીજા અમીર મુસલમાન છે. તેઓ અસ્થમા, એઈડ અને એચઆઈવી રોગનો ઈલાજ ખોજવાવાળા પહેલા વૈજ્ઞાનિક છે. તેઓ લગભગ ૩ બિલિયન ડોલરની સંપત્તિ ધરાવે છે. તેમને પણ ભારત સરકારે પદ્મભૂષણથી નવાજ્યા છે. તેમની કંપની ભારતની ૪૨મી ટ્રેડિંગ કંપની છે.

ભારતના સૌથી અમીર મુસલમાનોમાં ૪થા નંબરે કેરળમાં જન્મેલ આઝાદ મોપેનનું નામ આવે છે. આઝાદ પ્રસિદ્ધ એસ્ટ્રાડીએમ હેલ્થ કેરના સંસ્થાપક છે. દુનિયાભરમાં ૨૦૦થી વધુ હોસ્પિટલ અને હેલ્થ કેર ચલાવે છે. ૧.૫ બિલિયન ડોલર સંપત્તિના માલિક છે. વિભીન્ન દેશોના ૧૫હજારથી વધુ ડોક્ટરો એમના નીચે વિશ્વભરમાં કામ કરે છે. તેઓ દુનિયાની સૌથી મોટી લેબોરેટરી ચલાવે છે. તેમને ભારતના સૌથી બહેતરીન ડોક્ટરનો એવોર્ડ ભારત સરકારે આપ્યો છે ઉપરાંત પદમશ્રી એવોર્ડથી પણ નવાજ્યા છે.

પાંચમાં અમીર મુસલમાનમાં હાબિલ ખોરકીવાલા આવે છે. એઓ ભારતની પ્રસિદ્ધ દવાનિર્માતા કંપની વોર્ક હાર્ડ (WOCKHARD)ના સંસ્થાપક છે. ૧૯૬૭માં સ્થાપેલ આ કંપની ભારતની સૌથી મોટી જીનેરીક દવા બનાવનારી કંપની છે. તેઓ ૧.૩ બિલિયન ડોલરની સંપત્તિ ધરાવે છે. હાબિલ પોતાનું તમામ ધન વાપરવા ચાહે તો પ્રતિદિન તેમણે ૫૦૦ વર્ષ સુધી રોજ પાંચ લાખ રૂપિયા ખર્ચ કરવા પડે. હાબિલની કંપનીથી બનાવેલ દવાઓથી આજ સુધી ૧૦ કરોડ લોકોની જાન બચી છે. આ ઉપરાંત ભારતના બીજા કેટલાય મુસલમાનો છે જેઓ પોતાના ખૂન પસીનાની કમાઈથી ભારત દેશની અર્થવ્યવસ્થાને સંભાળીને બેઠા છે.

(સંપાદક : રફીક અહમદ SMAS)

## سوانح حضرت مولانا مفتی سعید احمد صاحب

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تکمیل: دارالعلوم دیوبند، (دورہ حدیث، ۱۳۸۲ھ موافق ۱۹۶۲ء)

موجودہ اہم ذمہ داریاں: شیخ الحدیث و صدر المدرسین دارالعلوم دیوبند

حالیہ پتہ: محلہ اندرون کوٹلہ دیوبند ضلع سہارنپور، یوپی، انڈیا

ولادت باسعادت اور نام:

آپ کی تاریخ ولادت محفوظ نہیں، البتہ والد محترم نے اندازے سے، آپ کا سن

پیدائش ۱۹۳۰ء کا آخر مطابق ۱۹۶۷ء سمیت بکرمی مطابق ۱۳۶۰ھ بتایا ہے، آپ موضع

”کالیڑہ“، ضلع بناس کا ٹھکانا (شمالی گجرات) میں پیدا ہوئے، یہ پالن پور سے تقریباً تیس میل

کے فاصلہ پر، جنوب مشرق میں واقع ہے، اور علاقہ پالن پور کی مشہور بستی ہے۔

آپ کا نام والدین نے ”احمد“ رکھا تھا، سعید احمد آپ نے اپنا نام خود رکھا ہے، آپ

کے والد ماجد کا اسم گرامی ”یوسف“ اور دادا کا نام ”علی“ ہے، جو احتراماً ”علی جی“ کہلاتے

تھے، آپ کا خاندان ”ڈھکا“ اور برادری ”مومن“ ہے، جس کے تفصیلی احوال ”مومن

قوم اپنی تاریخ کے آئینہ میں“ مذکور ہیں۔

تعلیم و تربیت:

جب آپ کی عمر پانچ، چھ سال کی ہوئی، تو والد صاحب نے آپ کی تعلیم کا آغاز

فرمایا، لیکن والد مرحوم کھیتی باڑی کے کاموں کی وجہ سے، موصوف کی طرف خاطر خواہ توجہ

نہیں دے سکتے تھے، اس لئے آپ کو اپنے وطن ”کالیڑہ“ کے مکتب میں بٹھا دیا، آپ کے

مکتب کے اساتذہ یہ ہیں: ① مولانا داؤد صاحب چودھری رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ ② مولانا حبیب

اللہ صاحب چودھری رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ ③ اور حضرت مولانا ابراہیم صاحب جو نکیہ تعالیٰ، جو

مکتب کی تعلیم مکمل کر ایک عرصہ تک دارالعلوم آئند (گجرات) میں شیخ الحدیث رہے۔

کے، موصوف اپنے ماموں مولانا عبدالرحمن صاحب شیر اقدس سرہ کے ہمراہ ”چھاپی“

تشریف لے گئے، اور دارالعلوم چھاپی میں اپنے ماموں، اور دیگر اساتذہ سے فارسی کی ابتدائی

کتابیں، چھ ماہ تک پڑھیں، چھ ماہ کے بعد، آپ کے ماموں دارالعلوم چھاپی کی تدریس چھوڑ کر

گھر آ گئے، تو آپ بھی اپنے ماموں کے ہمراہ آ گئے، اور چھ ماہ تک اپنے ماموں سے ان کے

وطن ”جونئی سینڈھی“ میں فارسی کی کتابیں پڑھتے رہے۔

اس کے بعد سنی امت حضرت مولانا نذیر میاں صاحب پالن پوری قدس سرہ کے مدرسہ میں— جو پالن پور شہر میں واقع ہے— داخلہ لیا، اور چار سال تک حضرت مولانا مفتی

محمد اکبر میاں صاحب پالن پوری، اور حضرت مولانا ہاشم صاحب بخاری رحمہما اللہ سے، عربی

کی ابتدائی اور متوسط کتابیں پڑھیں، مصلحتاً حضرت مولانا محمد نذیر میاں صاحب قدس

سرہ وہ عظیم ہستی ہیں، جنہوں نے اس آخری زمانہ میں ”مومن برادری“ کو بدعات و

خرافات، اور تمام غیر اسلامی رسوم سے نکال کر، ہدایت و سنت کی شاہراہ پر ڈالا، اور

”مومن برادری“ کی مکمل اصلاح فرمائی، آج علاقہ پالن پور میں جو دینی فضا نظر آرہی ہے،

وہ حضرت مولانا ہی کی خدمات کا ثمرہ ہے، اور حضرت مولانا محمد ہاشم صاحب بخاری رحمہ

اللہ تعالیٰ، بخاری سے دارالعلوم دیوبند میں تعلیم کے لئے تشریف لائے تھے، فراغت کے

بعد پہلے پالن پور، پھر امداد العلوم و ڈالی گجرات، پھر جامعہ حسینہ راندیر (سورت) پھر

دارالعلوم دیوبند میں تدریس کی خدمات انجام دیں، اور آخر میں ہجرت کر کے مدینہ منورہ

چلے گئے، وہیں آپ کا انتقال ہوا، اور جنت البقیع میں مدفون ہیں۔

مظاہر علوم میں داخلہ:

شرح جامی تک پالن پور میں تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے بعد، مزید تعلیم حاصل کرنے

کے لئے آپ نے ۱۳۷۰ھ میں سہارنپور (یوپی) کا سفر کیا، اور مظاہر علوم میں داخلہ لے

کر، تین سال تک امام النحو والمنطق حضرت مولانا صدیق احمد صاحب جموی قدس سرہ سے،

نحو اور منطق و فلسفہ کی اکثر کتابیں پڑھیں، نیز حضرت مولانا مفتی یحییٰ صاحب سہارنپوری،

حضرت مولانا عبدالعزیز صاحب رانپوری اور حضرت مولانا وقار صاحب بجنوری رحمہم اللہ

سے بھی کتابیں پڑھیں۔

دارالعلوم دیوبند میں داخلہ:

پھر فقہ، حدیث، تفسیر اور فنون کی اعلیٰ تعلیم حاصل کرنے کے لئے ۱۳۸۰ھ میں

دارالعلوم دیوبند کا رخ کیا، دارالعلوم دیوبند میں داخل ہو کر، پہلے سال حضرت مولانا نصیر

احمد خاں صاحب بلند شہری رح سے، تفسیر جلالین مع الفوز الکبیر، حضرت مولانا سید اختر

حسین صاحب دیوبندی قدس سرہ سے ہدایہ اولین وغیرہ پڑھیں، اور ۱۳۸۲ھ موافق

۱۹۶۲ء میں، جو کہ دارالعلوم دیوبند کا سوواں سال ہے، دورہ حدیث کی تکمیل فرمائی، آپ

نے دارالعلوم دیوبند میں جن حضرات اکابر سے پڑھا وہ مندرجہ ذیل ہیں

حضرت مولانا سید اختر حسین صاحب دیوبندی رح (۲) حضرت مولانا بشیر احمد خاں (۱)

صاحب بلند شہری رح (۳) حضرت مولانا سید حسن صاحب دیوبندی رح (۴) حضرت مولانا

عبدالجلیل صاحب کیرانوی رح (۵) حضرت مولانا اسلام الحق صاحب اعظمی رح (۶) حکیم

الاسلام حضرت مولانا قاری محمد طیب صاحب دیوبندی رح (۷) حضرت مولانا فخر الحسن

صاحب مراد آبادی رح (۸) حضرت مولانا محمد ظہور صاحب دیوبندی رح (۹) فخر الحدیث

حضرت مولانا فخر الدین صاحب مراد آبادی رح (۱۰) امام المعقول والمنقول حضرت علامہ

محمد ابراہیم صاحب بلیاوی رح (۱۱) مفتی اعظم حضرت مولانا مفتی سید مہدی حسن صاحب

: موصوف اپنے بعض شاہ جہاں پوری رح (۱۲) شیخ محمود عبدالوہاب صاحب مصری رح

## سعودی عرب نے کوڑوں کی سزا ختم کر دی

سعودی عرب نے بدھ کو اعلان کیا ہے کہ وہ ملک میں تعزیر کے طور پر کوڑوں کی سزا کو ختم کر دیا گیا ہے۔ سعودی عرب کی وزارت انصاف نے چند ٹوئٹس میں بتایا ہے کہ اس سزا کو ختم کر دیا گیا ہے اور اس کی جگہ متبادل سزائیں تجویز کی جائیں گی۔ متبادل سزاؤں میں قید اور جرمانے یا دونوں کا ذکر کیا گیا ہے۔ یاد رہے کہ گذشتہ ماہ سعودی سلطنت کی عدالت عظمیٰ کی جانب سے حکم دیا گیا ہے کہ ملک میں کوڑوں کی سزا کو قید اور جرمانوں میں تبدیل کر دیا جائے۔ اُس وقت میڈیا کو ملنے والے ایک دستاویز کے مطابق یہ کہا گیا ہے کہ یہ اقدام شاہ سلمان اور ان کے بیٹے ولی عہد شہزادہ محمد بن سلمان کی جانب سے ملک میں کی جانے والی انسانی حقوق میں کی جانے والی اصلاحات کی ایک کڑی ہے۔ وزارت انصاف کی تازہ ٹوئٹس میں کہا گیا ہے کہ عدالتیں مقدمات کی سماعت کریں گی اور ہر مقدمے کی بنیاد پر جانچ پڑتال کر کے سزا تفویض کی جائے گی۔ سعودی خبر رساں ویب سائٹ العربیہ کے مطابق وزیر انصاف ولید الشمرانی نے ایک دستاویز جاری کرتے ہوئے سپریم کورٹ کے فیصلے سے تمام عدالتوں کو مطلع کیا ہے۔ خیال رہے کہ 'تعزیر' وہ سزائیں ہیں جن کا ذکر اسلامی شریعہ میں نہیں ہے اور یہ کہ قاضی یا جج انھیں کسی جرم کے ارتکاب کے سلسلے میں تفویض کرتے ہیں۔ سعودی عرب کے انسانی حقوق کمیشن نے حکومت کے اس فیصلے کا خیر مقدم کیا ہے اور کہا ہے اس کے تحت اب تک جس کسی کو بھی کوڑے مارے جانے کی سزا ہوتی تھی اب انھیں اس کی جگہ قید یا جرمانے ہوں گے۔

## کورونا وائرس اور نزلہ زکام میں فرق کیا ہے اور: Coronavirus

### کیسے پتا چلے گا کہ یہ بیماری کورونا ہے یا عام فلو

آج کل فلو یا نزلہ زکام کا موسم ہے، جسے دیکھیں چھینکیں مارتا یا ناک صاف کرتا دکھائی دیتا ہے۔ جسے زکام ہوتا ہے وہ خود ہی کہہ دیتا ہے کہ مجھ سے دور رہیں کہیں آپ کو بھی جراثیم نہ لگ جائیں۔ یا پھر آپ خود ہی اس متاثرہ شخص کے پاس جانے سے پرہیز کرتے ہیں۔ یہ کوئی نئی بات نہیں ہے، ایسا ہر سال ہوتا ہے، تاہم اس مرتبہ ایک بات نئی ضرور ہے۔ آپ لندن میں ٹرین میں بیٹھیں ہیں اور ایک دم کسی کو چھینک یا چھینکیں آنے لگتی ہیں تو پہلے تو لوگ آپ کو غور سے دیکھنے لگتے ہیں اور اس کے بعد آہستہ آہستہ سرکتے ہوئے دور جانے لگتے ہیں۔

کورونا وائرس: بخار، کھانسی اور سانس میں دشواری، اس بیماری کی علامات کیا ہیں اور اس سے کیسے محفوظ رہا جائے؟

دنیا بھر میں کورونا وائرس کا پھیلاؤ جاری ہے اور اب تک مصدقہ متاثرین کی تعداد 50 لاکھ کے قریب اور ہلاکتوں کی تعداد تین لاکھ 23 ہزار سے زیادہ ہے۔ پاکستان پر نظر ڈالیں تو وہاں کورونا سے متاثر ہونے والے افراد کی تعداد 47 ہزار سے زیادہ ہے جبکہ 1000 سے زیادہ افراد اس وبا کے نتیجے میں ہلاک ہوئے ہیں۔ محققین کے مطابق دنیا میں کورونا سے متاثر ہونے والے 80 فیصد افراد میں اس کی معمولی علامات ہی دکھائی دی ہیں اور ایسے لوگ جن میں یہ علامات شدت سے پائی گئیں اقلیت میں ہیں۔ سو سوال یہ ہے آپ اسے کیسے شناخت کر سکتے ہیں۔

## کووڈ-19 کی علامات کیا ہیں؟

یہ وائرس پھیچھڑوں کو متاثر کرتا ہے اور دو بنیادی علامات بخار اور مسلسل خشک کھانسی ہیں۔ صحت کے برطانوی قومی ادارے کے مطابق خشک کھانسی کا مطلب گلے میں خراش پیدا کرنے والی ایسی کھانسی جس میں بلغم نہیں نکلتا۔ مسلسل کھانسی کا مطلب ہے کہ آپ قریباً ایک گھنٹے تک کھانتے رہیں ہوں یا چوبیس گھنٹے کے عرصے میں آپ کو کھانسی کے کم از کم تین دنوں کا سامنا کرنا پڑا ہو یعنی کہ آپ کی کھانسی عام حالات کے مقابلے میں زیادہ ہو۔ اس کا نتیجہ سانس پھولنے کی شکل میں بھی نکل سکتا ہے جسے اکثر سینے کی جکڑن، سانس لینے میں مشکل یا دم گھٹنے جیسی کیفیت بھی کہا جاتا ہے۔ اگر آپ کے جسم کا درجہ حرارت 37.8 سنٹی گریڈ یا 98.6 فارن ہائٹ سے زیادہ ہو تو آپ کو بخار ہے۔ بخار کی صورت میں آپ کا جسم گرم ہو سکتا ہے، آپ کو سردی لگ سکتی ہے یا کپکپی طاری ہو سکتی ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ متاثرین میں گلے کی خرابی، سردرد اور اسہال کی علامات بھی پائی گئی ہیں جبکہ کچھ مریضوں نے ذائقے اور سونگھنے کی حس متاثر ہونے کی شکایت بھی کی ہے۔ عموماً کسی مریض میں علامات ظاہر ہونے میں پانچ دن کا عرصہ لگتا ہے لیکن کچھ افراد میں یہ دیر سے ظاہر ہوتی ہیں۔ عالمی ادارہ صحت کے مطابق انفیکشن کے لاحق ہونے سے لے کر علامات ظاہر ہونے تک کا عرصہ 14 دنوں پر محیط ہے لیکن کچھ محققین کا کہنا ہے کہ یہ 24 دن تک بھی ہو سکتا ہے۔

## کورونا وائرس: پانچ لاکھ افراد نے خود کشی سے بچنے کے لیے مدد حاصل کی

ایک غیر سرکاری تنظیم نے بتایا ہے کہ خود کشی کے رجحانات سے محفوظ رہنے کے لیے صرف گزشتہ تین ہفتوں میں پانچ لاکھ سے زیادہ افراد نے آن لائن ٹریننگ حاصل کی ہے۔

زیرو سوئی سائیڈ الائنس، نامی غیر سرکاری خیراتی ادارے نے کہا ہے کہ پانچ لاکھ

تین ہزار صارفین نے خود کشی کے رجحانات پر قابو پانے کے لیے آن لائن کورس

مکمل کیے ہیں۔ ان کورسز کا مقصد خود کشی کی ایسی علامتوں کی شناخت کرنا ہے جن سے

کسی دوسرے کی مدد کی جاسکے۔ یہ بیان ایک ایسے وقت میں سامنے آیا ہے جب محکمہ

صحت کے حکام نے براہ راست کورونا وائرس کے مریضوں کا علاج کرنے والے

ڈاکٹروں، نرسوں اور پییر امیڈیکل میں خود کشی کے رجحانات پیدا ہونے کے بارے

میں خبردار کیا ہے۔ برطانیہ کی نیشنل ہیلتھ سروس (این ایچ ایس) نے گزشتہ ماہ اپنے

سٹاف کی ذہنی صحت کے لیے ایک ہاٹ لائن قائم کی ہے۔ کا مطلب یہ ہوا کہ ذیرو

سوئی سائیڈ الائنس، سنہ 2017 میں اپنے آغاز سے لے کر اب تک اپنے دس لاکھ

کے ہدف تک پہنچ گئی ہے۔ اس ادارے کے لیے برطانوی حکومت کی امداد بھی شامل

ہے۔ اس ادارے کا آن لائن کورس 20 منٹ کا ہے اور صارفین کو ایسی مہارت سکھاتا

اور علم دیتا ہے جس سے وہ کسی بھی ایسے شخص کو پہچان سکتے ہیں جس میں خود کشی کے

رجحانات پیدا ہو رہے ہوں یا وہ کھل کر اس پر بات کرنے سے گریز کر رہے ہوں۔

اس طرح کا ایک مختصر کورس بھی آن لائن موجود ہے جس کے لیے صرف دس منٹ درکار

ہیں۔

# Paigaam Sport: Meet Prince Ameen of Gujarat!



Imagine the scene - Nasir Ali wearing his Bret 'The Hitman' Hart sunglasses whilst it was raining (yes this did really happen) to Jaz Qadri doing his best impression of Brian Christopher, (King Jerry Bryan's son) who would team up with Scotty 'Too Hotty' to form the tag team - Too Cool.

This set the ball rolling for the 'Fresh Prince Of Gujarat' to set off on an intriguing journey, wrestling across the country and crossing paths with renowned WWE and AEW wrestlers such as Daniel Bryan, Neville, Matt Hardy Cody Rhodes and current WWE champion, Drew McIntyre.

No one actually believed that Mohammed Ameen Mayet would become a grappler, churning out promos and clotheslines. In the ring he plays a character from Gujarat called Prince Ameen.

Some years ago, Mohammed Ameen went to to watch WWE live in Sheffield arena with his family.

He was sat adjacent to ringside where he was dressed up, just like his hero - John Cena. Naturally, the prince was acknowledged by Cena, and the rest as they say, is history.

"Daniel Bryan was in Liverpool one summer and wrestled on the same show, so we chilled out and I drove him around and looked after him," says Ameen.

"We chilled out, but I didn't know I'd be hanging out with a future WWE champion at the time. He was a cool guy and we still keep in touch."

Ameen is close to current AEW and former WWE superstar, Neville as the pair have holidayed together on numerous occasions: "It's great to see someone you know do so well and really make a name for themselves; I'm very pleased for him," says Ameen.

"Obviously I know him well, and you may see us square off in a ring at some point, you never know."

"Matt Hardy says hi every time I see him, and I also spent some time with DLo Brown, and he was great to hang around with."

In relation to his character, Ameen insists he is a bit like Marmite, you either love him or hate him, but everyone knows of him. One memorable moment is when Ameen riled the crowd at a Huddersfield Giants game by saying: "If you want to support a real team, support the Leeds Rhynos," as one can imagine, his comments were greeted by reception of boo's all around the stadium.

"My character is essentially royalty from India, back in Gujarat," says Ameen. "He is arrogant and wants to be a champion, and he knows how to get the best out of a crowd. I love it when people boo me because essentially, I am a character that they are responding to, and as long as the crowd sees you as a face or a heel, you are doing something right."

Ameen's work has been lauded by observers and wrestlers alike, with his silky style which is deemed by some to be a cross between Triple H and Kevin Owens - thanks to some spine busters, pedigrees' and his trash talking promo's that have resonated with crowds across the independent circuit.

From his own admission, he is willing to learn and try new things, he recounts his journeys all the way from Batley to Portsmouth, as a University student, all for the love of wrestling. "In those days, if you wanted to learn how to wrestle, you had to literally travel the length of the country. I looked around and the only place where

they taught you how to do it was Portsmouth," says Ameen.

He made the journey towards the south coast and spent a week learning the craft, much to his parents' annoyance: "I got a number of A's at A level and was at University in Manchester, so you can imagine the look on my mum and dad's faces when I told them that I had dropped out of Uni, all to pursue My character is essentially royalty from India, back in Gujarat.

He is arrogant and wants to be a champion, and he knows how to get the best out of a crowd. I love it when people boo me because essentially, I am a character that they are responding to, and as long as the crowd sees you as a face or a heel, you are doing something right my passion for wrestling. "I can remember going to a show in Newcastle, I was by myself and had to catch a train first and then a number of buses, just to get there.

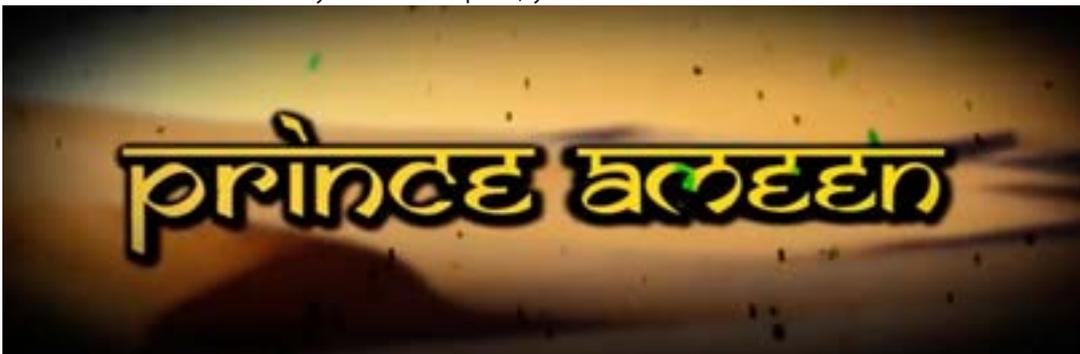
"Nowadays it is very easy because there are wrestling schools all over the country." When asked why the WWE have not snapped up the Prince of Gujarat,

Ameen recalls how they came calling when he was younger: "I was called to a try out when I was about 24, but then I got injured and although we kept in touch, it took me some time to recover, but you can never say never."

The prince of Gujarat is a regular for a host of independent wrestling organisations throughout the UK.

Entertaining through and through, don't be surprised to see the man himself in a ring taking on the best of what the WWE, NXT or AEW can offer very soon - just make sure you stand up, and give the Prince of Gujarat some respect!

As you can imagine, the streets of Batley, namely Woodsome, Park Croft and Snowdon were awash with Stone Cold stunners and talk of the Monday night war between WCW and WWE and his friends in the area will be rooting for him to make the big time.



# Dental care during coronavirus

As we see light at the end of the tunnel in relation to the coronavirus, Dentists in the UK were given the go ahead to reopen on June 8, following Boris Johnson's speech.

As soon as you are welcomed back to the dental practice, be reassured that it is safe for you to do so.

For a dental practice to treat you, they will need fully compliant PPE, to exercise social distancing measures and apply appropriate cross-infection control.

The preferred patient flow and practice layout will encourage social distancing and minimise the amount of people in the practice at one time.

In addition, hand-washing signage and hand sanitising stations to promote excellent hygiene and keep staff and clients safe will be made available.

## **Current situation**

Given the current situation that many of us across the world find ourselves in, keeping great personal hygiene has arguably never been more important.

Regular handwashing with soap for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitiser gel when this is not possible is very important.

One of the most important things to remember is that doing these things and being as hygienic as possible doesn't just help protect you, but it also protects those around you.

To help prevent dental problems please read on.

## **Never share a toothbrush**

No matter whether you are related or how close you are to the people you live with, you should never share your toothbrush with anybody else.

This is one way that viruses and blood-borne diseases can be caught from other people.

For the same reason, you should make sure that toothbrush heads are also kept apart from each other wherever you and the rest of your household store your toothbrushes.

## **Close the toilet lid before you flush-**

Where you keep your toothbrush is very important. If you store your brush anywhere near your toilet, every time someone flushes, some of the spray will fly out of the toilet and land on your toothbrush.

There has already been research conducted that suggests that the virus can be spread via faecal matter.

So, make sure your brush is a safe distance away from your toilet, or better yet, make sure you close the lid before you flush.

## **Change your toothbrush regularly**

It's important to change your toothbrush, or brush head, at least every three months. Perhaps even earlier if the bristles become frayed.

This helps to ensure you are brushing your teeth effectively. A worn brush can't do the job it needs to.

Changing your brush regularly also helps prevent the spread of bacteria. If you have had the coronavirus (or suspect that you may have), get a new toothbrush or brush head.

## **Visiting the dentist**

Maintaining regular visits to your dental team will always be important. During this period of uncertainty, it's best to always check before any appointments that you have by phoning ahead.

Be prepared for your appointment to either be delayed or cancelled. This is for the safety of both staff and patients. Emergency treatment may still be available but other, more routine procedures, may be postponed for the foreseeable future.

## **Clean your bathroom regularly**

Our bathrooms are the place where many of us store our toothbrushes, towels, flannels and other intimate items.

It's also the place we go in order to get clean. So, for obvious reasons, it's important that the surfaces in your bathroom generally are cleaned regularly using a bleach-based cleaning product.

## **Don't forget to do the basics**

Our oral health should always be a priority. In addition to visiting your local dental team when possible, don't forget the simple day-to-day habits that will help you keep a healthy mouth.

Brush daily with a fluoride toothpaste last thing at night and at least one other time during the day.

Drink plenty of water and cut down on how much and how often you have sugary foods and drinks.

Clean between your teeth every day

with interdental brushes or floss and consider using mouthwash.

## **Top Tips**

Brush your teeth for two minutes, twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste.

The best time to brush is last thing at night, before you go to bed.

Cut down on how much sugar you have and how often you have it.

Keep sugar consumption to mealtimes. This will reduce the time your teeth are under attack.

Use interdental brushes or floss to clean in between the teeth.

Use mouthwash daily to remove bad bacteria and keep fresh breath.

Sugar-free chewing gum can help produce saliva and neutralise the plaque acids in your mouth.

## **What Counts as a Dental Emergency? Non-Urgent**

Treat at home, or call usual dental practice for further advice

Loose or lost crowns, bridges or veneers.

Broken, rubbing or loose dentures

Bleeding gums.

Broken, loose or lost fillings

Chipped teeth with no pain

Loose orthodontic wires

## **Urgent**

Call your usual dental practice for advice first

Facial swelling extending to eye or neck. Bleeding following an extraction that does not stop after 20 mins solid pressure with gauze/clean hankie. A small amount of oozing is normal, just like if you had a grazed knee.

Bleeding due to trauma.

Trauma resulting in a tooth being knocked out of the socket, or a large fracture resulting from trauma and causing severe pain.

Significant toothache preventing sleep or eating, associated with significant swelling, or fever that cannot be managed with painkillers.

## **Straight to A&E**

Facial swelling affecting vision or breathing preventing mouth opening more than 2 fingers width.

Trauma causing loss of consciousness, double vision or vomiting.

# Paigaam Motors

Why does the value of personalised number plates keep on rising



Could your number plate be worth more than the car itself?

Afzal Kahn famously purchased the F1 number plate in 2007 for £460,000 and now it is said to be worth in excess of £20 million.

The F1 plate was stuck on a mundane Volvo S80 before Mr. Kahn purchased the number plate from Essex County Council for a cool £460,000.

Tellingly, the registration has proven to be a fantastic investment with the plate's value increasing significantly.

Afzal Kahn's rebuttal to many a potential buyer ensures that only an offer upwards of £20 million may entice the designer and businessman into parting with his prized possession.

Then there is the 'small' matter of his number plate collection which is said to be the most valuable in the UK. With number plates such as OK11 ANS, BK11 ANS, SK11 ANS, WED 11N, AFO2 ALS and JOO7 NAZ which are available to for paltry sums on the Project

Kahn web site – the world is his oyster, so to speak.

Such financial clout could hardly have been conceived when the first ever number plate to have been issued in the UK was released. A1 was purchased by Earl Russell who is said to have camped outside the vehicle registration office in order to buy the plate.

However, it's not only a lucrative business for the DVLA and off course, the Treasury. Hundreds of companies buy and sell the plates for big profits. "They are unique, there will only ever be one," a spokesman for the DVLA told Paigaam. "This means they retain their value and are a great investment. A much better investment than other things people don't turn their noses up at."

Batley based Sajid Sheikh says a personalised plate can be a shrewd investment.

"If they buy a number plate for

genuine business reasons then that is fair enough, because it is not a vanity project, they are making some money, so fair play to them.

For thousands of car drivers however, personalised number plates are a prize possession; a proclamation of individuality not to mention a great investment.

The boom in personalised plates goes back to the late 80s. Such was the lively second-hand trade of cherished registrations, the DVLA decided to take charge of issuing and marketing the number plates instead. Today they stock an estimated 25 million number plates.

People can also ask for specific number and letter combinations, which are issued provided they have never been sold or allocated before. However, not every combination is allowed. Those with religious connotations are banned as are rude words. It's also illegal to play around with the spacing of the numbers and letters.

Some companies sell over 300 private registrations a month, with prices beginning from less than £200 with richer customers spending around £800, with some willing to pay over £250,000 because short plates are the most valuable.

Boy racers are the least likely customer, with a surprise number of businessmen and women along with doctors and lawyers who part with their cash for these number plates.

Private number plates are seemingly an obscure type of investment, but the facts and figures show that they are a valid alternative to the traditional ways.

According to recently released figures, the Treasury earned a record £102 million from selling them last year, with almost 335,000 snapped up. That's more than four times as many as the ostentatious years of the mid-90s. Could it be that attitudes towards personalised number plates are transforming?

"In the Eighties and Nineties, there was snobbery about personalised number plates," says Angela Bahn of Regtransfers, which is the UK's biggest seller. "But now that's changed."

Bahn says Regtransfers have sold plates for hundreds of thousands of pounds, including one for more than half a million. There are many reasons for buying them, she says, from hiding a car's age to having a quirky piece of advertising on a company vehicle.

Others are simply for personal enjoyment.

Less obviously attractive registrations could also be worth more than the cars to which they are attached as the trade in cherished numbers - or, as they are less flatteringly called, personalised or vanity plates - attracts growing interest.

There are two main ways to buy: through a dealer or at auction. If you use a dealer, make sure it is a member of the Cherished Numbers Dealers Association (CNDA). All the big dealers, including National Numbers, Elite Registrations, New Reg and Reg Transfers, are members.





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