

## BJP accused of allowing Covid-19 to spread as victims die on the streets



As the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc in India, infections and deaths in villages across the state of Gujarat including the Surat and Barooch districts continue to rise.

The new outbreak is so severe that people are dying in the streets across India, bodies are piling up at crematoriums and hospitals are running out of oxygen and beds as the crisis spirals out of control.

The Indian variant, known as B.1.617, appears to be wreaking havoc in the country with over 15,000 people said to be dying every day. It is not entirely clear why this surge has transpired.

However, the opposing Congress Party accused the government of “deliberately enabling” the rise of Covid-19 cases in Gujarat and “creating a huge medical crisis in the state.”

Congress insist the BJP has invariably exacerbated the Covid-19 crisis because of crowded events organised in the run-up to elections – as the BJP hosted Donald Trump whilst hitting the campaign trail along with arranging cricket matches at Narendra Modi Stadium despite the imminent threat of the virus spreading in the state and across India.

Rajeev Satav, a Member of Gujarat Legislative Assembly, blamed the BJP

government for creating the crisis in Gujarat.

He said: “There is a crisis in the state. First, they conducted the Namaste Trump event and got thousands infected, and later they held cricket matches amid rising cases. Today there is hardly any oxygen or beds available in the state, 14 districts don’t even have a CT scan or RT-PCR test available. It’s a government-made disaster.”

The leader of opposition of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Paresh Dhanani also blamed the BJP for creating an artificial shortage of the Russian made Remdesivir medicine in the state.

# BJP accused of allowing Covid-19 to spread in Gujarat

“They stockpiled Remdesivir at the time of a medical emergency and created a shortage only to showcase themselves later as messiahs by distributing the hoarded medicine,” Dhanani said.

Dhanani has since filed a legal case in the Gujarat high court against the BJP for the “illegal and unauthorised distribution of the Remdesivir injection.”

Journalists reporting from hospitals and crematoriums across Gujarat have also accused the BJP of fiddling with the data and attempting to hide the number of deaths attributed to the virus.

“The government is definitely hiding the real figures from the public,” said an Ahmedabad-based television journalist who did not wish to be named.

The dire situation has been laid bare in Surat, where during one weekend, the state government officially recorded just 22 deaths each. The city’s crematoriums, however, claim they have been receiving nearly three to four times the number of bodies they usually receive in a day.

Beyond Surat, other Gujarat cities are also seeing an unusually high number of deaths in cremation and burial grounds.

Data shared by Ahmedabad’s Sunni Waqf Board, the city’s Musa Suhag burial ground buried 70 bodies in just the first 12 days of April. In comparison, the graveyard had buried 73 people in all of January, 59 in February and 89 in March.

“Out of the 70 burials we had at Musa Suhag kabrastan this month, only seven are officially Covid deaths,” said Rizwan Kadri, the head of the city’s Sunni Waqf Board which manages burial grounds. “But the fact is, many more people have died and been buried, so what does that mean?”

Kadri also questioned the acute shortage of hospital beds, oxygen and medicines like Remdesivir across Gujarat, and the widely-shared social media videos of long lines of ambulances waiting for entry into Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. In one video, Zee News counted 21 ambulances waiting in line on Sunday night.

“If things were under control, as the government says, why would there be such a long line of ambulances outside a hospital?” said Kadri.

He explained how Ahmedabad’s Shifa Hospital ran out of oxygen for Covid-19 patients and was unable to procure more cylinders for days, until the local media raised the issue. “People are not getting care or medicines. There is a lot of anger among them about this.”

Gujarat’s media is relentlessly demanding accountability from the BJP government. Gujarati newspaper Divya Bhasker published BJP chief CR Paatil’s phone number as its front-page headline and urged readers to call him and ask him how he managed to gain 5,000 doses of Remdesivir in Surat in the midst of a state-wide shortage of the drug.

Although a BJP spokesperson said the local media coverage of the Covid-19 crisis was “fake news, biased and exaggerated,” the High Court has firmly rejected the BJP’s allegations against the media.

“Every day there are eight to ten reports. This is not good,” the Court said. “These newspapers with their reputation would not be reporting baseless reports.”

New Zealand, Hong Kong, the UK and the US have either banned direct flights to and from India or have advised citizens against travelling altogether; and the list may well get longer.

Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, who is keen to secure a post-Brexit trade deal with the country, has been forced to cancel a planned trip to India and, instead, plans to send 495 oxygen concentrators, 120 non-invasive ventilators and 20 manual ventilators to the country.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said the Covid-19 pressures in India were becoming “unbearable” and that the UK would “do everything we can to alleviate their suffering.”

He said: “The United Kingdom is going to send to India oxygen compressors and ventilators, things that are really needed. The pressure on hospitals in India is getting unbearable and we’re going to do our part to make sure our friends India get all the support they can,”

“We obviously commissioned huge numbers of ventilators to alleviate the pressures on our hospitals and its only right that we share and help them in their time of need.”

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# India's hypocritical stance towards Muslims

Narendra Modi's right-wing Indian government allowed hundreds of thousands of people to flout social distancing rules and congregate in the river Ganges whilst labelling Muslims who took part in Tablighi Jamaat events in March 2020 as "Jihadis" and "superspreaders".

As India witnesses its highest surge in Covid-19 since the onset of the pandemic, the ruling BJP Party turned a blind eye as thousands took a dip in the waters of the Ganges as part of the Kumbh Mela festival, ignoring the most basic of Covid-19 protocols.

This is in stark contrast to when the BJP systematically targeted Muslims after launching a nationwide search in March 2020 for Tablighi Jamaat members at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic in India last year, including foreign nationals who had visas and the permission of the government of India to visit the Markaz in Delhi's Nizamuddin area.

Comments made by BJP leaders at the time include: "This is not negligence. It's a serious criminal act," and "Spreading Covid-19 is also like terrorism, and all those who are spreading the virus are traitors."

The blame triggered a wave of violence, hate filled rhetoric and the boycott of Muslim owned businesses.

Maharashtra Cabinet minister Aslam Shaikh is one of many who lambasted the Indian government for failing to enforce Covid-19 norms in Haridwar.

"You can see how there is a rise in COVID-19 cases due to permission given by the government. They are the same people who defamed Tablighi Jamaat and

accused them of spreading the disease," said Shaikh.

Mumbai's mayor Kishori Pednekar acknowledged that the Kumbh Mela issue was much more serious than the Tablighi Jamaat issue and appealed to those coming back to quarantine and stop the spread of Covid-19.

She said: "I don't know who has gone and who is coming back from the Kumbh Mela. But just like the event of our Muslim



brothers in Delhi last year and 27 people added to the cases, those who are returning will spread the disease like in every state and the situation will become worse."

While in almost all other cases, only people with symptoms are being tested, in the case of Tablighi events, even people without symptoms are being tested. This in itself a major source of bias, since significant numbers of people with the coronavirus never develop symptoms.

Saugato Datta, behavioural and developmental economist, explains that highlighting the large proportion of overall positive cases that are linked to Tablighi events is misleading, given that authorities

did not aggressively trace and test people from other gatherings like it.

"This is basically sampling bias: since people from this one cluster have been tested at very high rates, and overall testing is low, it is hardly surprising that a large proportion of overall positives is attributed to this cluster," Datta explained.

Datta argues that once more tests are done, this picture will adjust itself: "Much of the reporting around this tends to overstate the significance of this one cluster. Once more clusters are tested in the way Tablighi was, this sensational number will drop."

Joyojeet Pal, Associate Professor at the University of Michigan's School of Information, agrees. "For numbers around proportion of Jamaat-related positive cases to have any meaning, sampling information must also be provided. If the press is reporting that, say, 60% positive cases are Jamaat related, they must also tell us what proportion of people tested were Jamaat related," explained Pal. "A lot of the press has ignored this basic rule of reporting statistics, thus tending to sensationalise, and more importantly, misreport the figures."

The problem also lies in the unapologetic and unabashed differential treatment that is normalised by the media. Reporting of a Masjid brimming with people is very different from reporting of a temple spilling with people. However, one is shown as a matter of faith while the other as terrorism.

Is this the reality of India's hypocrisy – call it what you will? However, one news anchor on the India Ahead show said what all news channels should have: "We owe an apology to the Tablighi Jamaat."

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## PAIGAAM EDITORIAL

# Month of prayer and reflection

What a difference a year makes. Remember last Ramadhan when we had the lockdown and our Masjids were closed?

Well thankfully we have the Ramadhan Ronak back with Masjids fully open and worshippers able to attend for prayers in a Covid safe environment. This is thanks to the great efforts of all the volunteers and the Masjid Committees who give their time to keep us all safe and enjoy Ramadhan in a secure environment.

Ramadhan is a special month for devotion to the Creator and a time for personal reflection and prayer with the aim of recharging one's battery and benefitting from the blessings of the Holy month.

The spirit of Ramadhan truly reflects the fundamental teachings of Islam and it is a month of discipline and abstention. During this month fasting is obligatory on adults and abstaining from food and drink is a requirement from dawn till dusk. This is a duty the vast majority of Muslims undertake without hesitation and with a great deal of zeal and pleasure.

The month of Ramadhan is also very special because the Holy Quran was first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) in the month of Ramadhan and therefore ~~it is also the month of the Quran.~~ Muslims all over the world read the

Quran abundantly during this month.

This special month inspires the faithful with the electrifying spirit of Ramadhan that touches the believers' hearts and makes them receptive to prayers, devotion and contemplation of the world around.

This spirit is seen in the charity donations and in the Masjids all hours of the day. From the midnight tarawee prayers, when the Mosques are full even at midnight, to the early morning dawn prayers around 4am in the morning.

There is something so special when one is walking home from the Masjid in the dusky dawn. These are the moments of contemplation that make the month of Ramadhan so special like no other month of the year. These are the moments that truly make one realise the true essence of life.

During this month, life for Muslims is very different and the living, eating and sleeping patterns are reversed when the Sehri breakfast could be anything between 3am to 4am and the Iftari meal (breaking the fast) could be anything from 8pm or later. In the long summer periods Muslims could be fasting for around 20 hours each day.

Within the Muslim communities the Ramadhan spirit is in evidence and marked by a preponderance of giving. ~~Muslims give their Zakat, Sadqah and Lillah donations for the needy.~~

Muslims around the world donate millions of pounds demonstrating the true Islamic faith which gives rise to the spirit of giving.

Just during this one special month the donations by Muslims will provide much needed assistance to the poor in all corners of the world.

Muslims not only pay the tax that is required by the countries they live in but are also obligated to pay Zakat of 2.5% on disposable income. For vast majority of Muslims all over the world this is not a burden but a duty they fulfil very happily. This is the great testament to the strong belief of Muslims.

In many parts of the globe countless human beings are suffering and struggling to survive. Yet they are abandoned and left to fend for themselves. However, we have witnessed the devastation caused by Covid 19 which has highlighted the fragility of this world. This should be a lesson for humanity.

Islam is a religion of peace and the fundamental belief system provides a code of living that guides the individual and communities towards good. This includes how to positively contribute to society and comply with the law of the land.

After the great month of Ramadhan Muslims all over the world will be celebrating the end with the day of Eid.



# Batley Cemetery Improvements

The winter period has seen the land in and around Batley cemetery become very muddy with some families who have had to bury their loved ones expressing concerns about the state of the grounds.

IMWS has been aware of the issues and has been working very actively with the Council Officers in order to address the problems. More recently the situation has improved considerably since the improvement in the weather conditions and the ground is now much better and firmer for visitors.

The explanation from the Council is that “the section currently being used has, over the winter period experienced

issues with condition, primarily the issue with mud”.

Actions taken by the Council to address this include the re-kerbing the boundary with the roadway and also work on the land drain. Although this has helped to improve the problem to some extent, some issues remain.

There are a couple factors to this, the soil itself is clay, this has a tendency to become muddy exceptionally quickly after rain. It also dries exceptionally quickly when the weather is warm. One of the other issues with the soil of course is that it holds water once the grave has been dug; because of the clay base.

Apart from the work already carried out the Council is

undertaking further work on the fence line and installing flags over the land drain down the length of fence line , this will act as a path.

There is also a further set of flags in the centre of the section, this will reduce mourners walking across the grass area and will help prevent some of the mud we saw last winter.

When this section is full the in the new area next to it the Council will commence at the bottom of the current section this will help reduce equipment and mourners moving over the grass which should help protect the section.

The Council will also make available some top soil in the section for the community

to use. This can be used by families to cover any muddy areas in between the graves.

Some people have used fencing around the graves and families need to know that it is unlikely the Council will be able to maintain this section with these around the grave; this is equally the case with the use of stones/pebbles.

Mohammed Laher, Chair of IMWS Burial Committee, told Paigaam: “We have been working very closely with the Council Officers who have always been very helpful and have been doing their best to deal with the problems during the winter. Hopefully with the summer period and the additional measures being taken there will be a good



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# British Indian education model an example to the UK

**A** new report on the state of ethnic minorities in Britain has recommended the achievements of British Indian pupils should be replicated across other ethnicities in the UK.

The report by the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities concluded that the educational success of those from Indian backgrounds should be celebrated, replicated and used as an exemplar to inspire all pupils across the UK.

The report cited evidence that pupils from Indian backgrounds perform better than those from White British groups and those from other BAME backgrounds.

“This outstanding performance is in part due to what is termed ‘immigrant optimism’: a phenomenon where recent immigrants devote themselves more to education than the native population because they lack financial capital and see education as a way out of poverty,” said the report.

“In practice, this means there are significant factors at play that can help groups overcome their socio-economic status and succeed,” it concluded.

The 258-page report recommends the Department for Education (DfE) must invest in “meaningful and substantial research” to understand and replicate the underlying factors that drive the high performance of pupils from different ethnicities, such as British Indians and those from White Irish and Chinese backgrounds.

“In fact, as of 2019, the ethnicity pay gap – taking the median hourly earnings of all ethnic minority groups and the White group – is down to just 2.3 per cent and the White

**Paigaam takes a look at the findings of a government report commending the achievements of British Indian pupils**

Irish and Chinese backgrounds.

“In fact, as of 2019, the ethnicity pay gap – taking the median hourly earnings of all ethnic minority groups and the White group – is down to just 2.3 per cent and the White Irish, Chinese and Indian ethnic groups are on average earning notably more than the White British average,” it adds.

The report also finds Indians are among those with the highest net property wealth, living in good neighbourhoods and overall tend to see “fewer obstacles and less prejudice” in British society.



The report also insists that factors such as geography, family influence, socio-economic background, culture and religion had “more significant impact on life chances than the existence of racism”.

“That said, we take the reality of racism seriously and we do not deny that it is a real force in the UK.”

Boris Johnson, who had commissioned the review last year in the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests following the killing of African-American George Floyd in the US, said it’s an “important

piece of work” which will now define actions within government.

“The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities was launched to conduct a detailed, data-led examination of inequality across the entire population, and to set out a positive agenda for change,” Johnson said in his response to the report.

However, Dr Halima Begum, chief executive of the Runnymede Trust, a race equality think tank, said she felt “deeply, massively let down” by the report, and that the government did not have the confidence of black and minority ethnic communities.

Asked for her view on the commission’s suggestion that the UK is not institutionally racist, she said: “We are still racist, and for a government-appointed commission to look into (institutional) racism, to deny its existence is deeply, deeply worrying.”

She added: “We feel that if the best this government can do is come up with a style guide on BAME terminology, or what we should do about unconscious bias training, or extend a few school hours, then I’m afraid this government doesn’t carry the confidence of black and ethnic minority communities any longer, certainly not on race.”

Dr Begum also claimed the report had failed to acknowledge the “suffering” of black and ethnic minority communities, adding: “All this is a whitewash and a script that has been written to 10 Downing Street.”

# Spineless Keir Starmer pulls out of virtual Iftar

Labour Party leader Keir Starmer has caused uproar after pulling out of a virtual iftar organised by the Ramadan Tent Project after the pro Israel Board of Deputies of British Jews highlighted a Friends of Al Aqsa tweet shared by its CEO Omar Salha.

Mr Salha retweeted a tweet from the Friends of Al Aqsa account expressing support for a boycott of Israeli goods. The tweet said: “This #Ramadan, Don’t Eat into #Palestine.”

Labour officials confirmed that Tal Ofer, deputy at the Israel board of Deputies, had tipped them off about Mr Omar’s tweet.

After Mr Starmer cancelled, Ofer, tweeted: Glad to see that after I raised up this issue, Keir Starmer withdrew his participation at the event. That’s the correct decision.”

In response to the Labour leader’s cancellation, a spokesperson for the Ramadan Tent Project said any attempt to undermine the excellent relationship Ramadan Tent Project has with the British Jewish community is divisive and deeply concerning.

An offer was also extended to Mr Ofer to attend an Iftar. The spokesperson said: “Ramadan

Tent Project has always sought to welcome people from all backgrounds and our mutually respectful and positive relationship with the British Jewish community is an important constituency which falls within that.

“In the true spirit of Ramadan, we welcome Tal Ofer to attend our iftars any evening this Ramadan and demonstrate that the diversity of opinion and tolerance only enriches our environment and creates a more inclusive space of belonging.”

“Given what we have experienced over the past year, we are all desperate to reconnect with people and strengthen bonds that this global pandemic has weakened.

“With increasing loneliness and isolation, events like the Virtual Open Iftar are organised to share the community spirit and bring together people who may not share the same beliefs, views or life experiences and create a space of mutual engagement and exchange.

“In doing so, we look forward to continually convening and connecting with different viewpoints and developing a greater understanding of one another’s positions.”

The Ramadan Tent Project

was founded in 2013 with a mission of bringing communities together across Britain to better understand each other.

To date, through Ramadan Tent Project’s flagship initiative Open Iftar, over 200,000 people of all faiths and none have been hosted to break bread and share a free Iftar meal during the holy month of Ramadan.”

The Ramadan Tent Project also said they are proud to have hosted speakers from a variety of backgrounds and are committed in continuing to do so.

Previous speakers have included the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Mayor of London, and representatives from the following organisations: the Board of Deputies for British Jews, the Muslim Council of Britain, the Conservative Party, the Labour Party, the House of Lords, Westminster Abbey, The FA, the British Council, the Royal Society of Arts and many more.

Since becoming Labour Party leader last year Keir Starmer has repositioned the party firmly towards a pro-Israel stance.

During the Labour leadership campaign Starmer said: “I support Zionism without

qualification.”

Yet Starmer’s views seem to be at odds with Labour Party members. Recently a new poll showed that most party members support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement and consider Israel to be an Apartheid state,

A recent survey by British firm YouGov indicated that 61 percent of Labour members support the global BDS movement. Only 8 percent said they oppose BDS.

And last year a report found huge levels of dissatisfaction and distrust in the Labour Party by its own Muslim members and supporters.

The report, commissioned by the Labour Muslim Network, found that 46 percent of Muslim members and supporters believe the Labour Party does not represent the Muslim community effectively, whereas only 29 percent feel that it does.

The survey also found that 59 percent of Muslim members and supporters do not feel “well represented by the leadership of the Labour Party.”

And 55 percent said they do not “trust the leadership of the Labour Party to tackle Islamophobia effectively.”

# Are you eligible for Zakat?

The past year has shown the need for Zakat is greater than ever within the UK, with Muslims being six times more likely to face hardship as a result of job losses when compared to the rest of the population.

According to the Muslim Census, 7 percent of people from the British Muslim community believe they are eligible to claim Zakat as a result of the pandemic. During 2020 alone it was estimated that 231,000 Muslims were in need of financial support, but this figure is likely to have grown due to the most recent lockdown.

Mahboob Hussain, of the National Zakat Foundation, said the pandemic has resulted in serious financial difficulty for many Muslims across the UK, and we have seen a notable increase in the need for monetary support and access to the hardship fund over the last 12 months.

He said the foundation has been inundated with record numbers of applications for Zakat from Muslims in need since the Covid-19 pandemic began.

“Zakat donations have been pivotal for supporting the UK Muslim community and will continue to be as the effects of

the pandemic remain,” said Mr Hussain.

“Zakat is more than just a charitable donation; it is a lifeline for people in our community and with it, brings so much potential for positive change.”

This begs the question; how does one ascertain whether they are eligible for receiving zakat?

The Ihsan Compassion Fund provides assistance to local people who are eligible to receive Zakat by providing food, clothing vouchers and direct payments to debtors and landlords.

As part of the application process for receiving Zakat, it is stated that a Muslim whose net assets are under the value of the current silver nisab and is struggling to meet their expenses, would be eligible to apply for Zakat from the Ihsan Compassion Fund.

One such example showcased on their web site, [www.ihsanfunduk.org](http://www.ihsanfunduk.org) reads: “Fatima lives in private rented

accommodation in Batley. She has two children she cares for from a previous marriage. She does not have permanent residency so is unable to claim any benefits. She receives £400 per month from her ex-husband via the Child Payments Agency.

‘Her weekly rent is £150 per week. She has a total £180 in her bank and no other assets such as shares, jewellery, etc. She is always in rent arrears and struggles to take care of herself and her children. She has to rely on friends and family to help with food and clothing. Let us say the silver nisab is currently £350.

‘As Fatima’s net assets i.e. her assets minus her debt/arrears, are under the nisab amount she would be entitled to Zakat.’

Tellingly, a person whose monthly income is above the value of the current silver nisab but is still struggling to meet their expenses- would be eligible to apply for Sadaqah/Lillah from Ihsan Compassion Fund.

One such example is that

of Adam, 35, who is from Dewsbury, works in a full-time job and earns just about enough to meet his basic needs i.e. rent, food, utility bills and other basic household expenses.

‘He has £500 in total in the bank and no other assets. He needs to replace 2 large kitchen appliances in his flat as both regularly breakdown. Replacing both would cost £250. However, using most of his £500 savings would leave him very little savings to fall back on to meet any unplanned emergency expenditure.

‘As Adam’s net assets i.e. his assets minus any debt, are over the rate of nisab he cannot apply for Zakat but would be entitled to Sadaqah/Lillah. If he did spend £250 he would also be eligible for Zakat.’

All applications go through a 3-step verification process ensuring the Fund makes its decisions based on accurate information.

Please consult with local scholars to find out more or visit the Ihsan fund web site.

# Give your donations to charity wisely



**M**uslims all over the world give millions of pounds in the form of Zakat, Sadqah, Lillah, Fidah and Sadqatul Fitr to charities throughout the world with the intention of helping the poor and needy, particularly during the holy month of Ramadhan.

It is important to ensure any money, especially Zakat, is distributed for its intended purpose which is to help those who are less fortunate.

Some charities have been accused of abusing Zakat money by using it to cover administration costs.

Some charities have also been exposed for allegedly squandering money or using it for personal gains by unscrupulous individuals.

With so many charities and so many different avenues for donating, many can feel lost or in the maze of charities and options.

However, ultimately, it is the responsibility of the individual to ensure Zakat money reaches those who are eligible; otherwise, the Zakat paid out could be rendered null and void.

To assist our readers in ensuring your Zakat and other

donations are given to genuine charities, we have compiled the following information below:

## **Make sure the charity you wish to support is registered with the Charity Commission**

By simply checking on the registration of a charity, you can help make sure your money is in safe hands.

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.

## **Be mindful of the charity**

Questions may need to be asked about what impact any potential donations will have in relation to supporting the needy and how legitimate their funding processes really are.

Always ask for a receipt. If you have any doubts at all, then do not part with any cash, regardless of how persuasive the representative may seem.

## **Ask for some form of official identification**

It is a requirement for any legitimate charity to obtain the relevant permit from the local council before they are allowed to make door to door collections.

Therefore, if someone turns up on your doorstep ask to see this permit.

You should also ask to see their identification and details of the charity. If you are suspicious, report them to the police at the earliest opportunity.

## **Donate safely online**

Online donations are quickly becoming the easiest and most popular way to donate during Ramadhan.

Ensuring the website is safe and secure and being cautious about the process is one way in making sure your money is going to a legitimate cause.

**If you wish to donate through IMWS check out our website at [www.imws.org.uk](http://www.imws.org.uk) and click on Donate.**



# Tracy Brabin Column

I'd like wish Ramadan Mubarak to all who are marking and celebrating the Holy Month. I understand how hard it has been this year, with many families unable to meet up and celebrate iftars together, and as summer approaches fasting takes a greater toll. My thoughts and prayers go to everyone who has lost a loved one during this pandemic, as well as those who have been -unable to see family members.

This month, we will be going to the polls again, this time to vote for your local councillors and for the first time ever, a Mayor for all of West Yorkshire. The new mayor will be in charge of transport, policing and housing, as well as being responsible for bringing in new investment to our region.

I myself am standing as Labour's candidate to be Mayor, as I know I can do more for the people of Batley & Spen in a role with real power, rather than as an opposition MP at the mercy of a Tory Government.

It's so important we have a mayor who will tackle the deep inequalities that COVID has exposed in our society.

I've been proud to see our communities standing up together to help those in need during the pandemic, but as so many have been abandoned by the government, we need to ensure that we have a mayor who will stand by your side and work to address these issues.

The pandemic has exposed deep inequalities in West Yorkshire. South Asian and minority communities have been hit hard. If elected, I won't have powers over health but I will work closely with the local NHS to help tackle health inequalities.

I will address divides in housing; and get employers to sign up to my Fair Work and Employment Charter. We need to change the culture of employers exploiting their workers.

The Charter would mean paying above the minimum wage, and commit to not using zero hours contracts as well as to equality in the workplace, fair pay and giving employees a say on how their workplaces are run.

1 in 5 jobs in West Yorkshire pay less than the national living wage. I will spearhead a campaign with Living Wage

UK to make West Yorkshire a real living wage region. If I'm elected mayor on May 6th, I have pledged to address the crisis we have in housing, by building 5000 more homes across the region, ensuring we have homes fit for families of all shapes and sizes, that are affordable and available to those in need. I'll also be working with our housing providers to ensure that housing is allocated fairly and that the housing stock they have is fit for purpose.

West Yorkshire needs a strong voice at the table with government. A strong Yorkshire Lass who can go and knock heads together to ensure that we get a fair slice of the pie from the government. I've got experience working across party lines for the betterment of constituents, such as my recent campaigning for those excluded from government support during the pandemic.

I've got a plan and vision for West Yorkshire to become the heart of the recovery from Covid.

We can only do that if we have a Mayor who will stand up for the region and work with the government, whilst keeping our interests at heart.

# Local elections: Who are you going to be voting for?



It is election time once again; citizens are being asked to vote for local councillors as well as a new Mayor for West Yorkshire.

Tracy Brabin has been MP for Batley and Spen since Jo Cox was tragically murdered. However, has she done enough to get your vote and become the first ever Mayor of West Yorkshire?

How do you vote for the best person to represent your ward?

Councillors in Kirklees and throughout the UK are elected by the community to decide how the council should carry out its work and spend money on local services.

They have a responsibility for the whole community but they have a special responsibility to represent their ward.

Batley, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike and Cleckheaton have a total of 18 councillors, with three councillors serving each ward, usually for a period of four years.

The Council is led by Batley West Councillor, Shabbir Pandor of the Labour Party. The Mayor of Kirklees is Councillor Mumtaz Hussain.

Councillors have to balance the needs and interests of residents, voters, political parties and the council. Councillors decide on the overall direction of policy.

Council officers then implement these policy initiatives and are responsible for delivering services on a daily basis.

Councillors have regular contact with the general public through ward meetings, council meetings, telephone

calls or surgeries. They can also be subjected to complaints should they deal with the public in a dissatisfactory manner.

Councillors not paid an allowance of £13,000 per annum for what they do. Their work includes undertaking strategic planning, determining the council's finances and allocating the budget, managing community assets, working with government departments, non-government agencies, community groups and businesses, representing residents and much more.

This includes infrastructure, fees and charges such as a car parking from investments, business rates and Council Tax which has gone up in Kirklees as the authority continues to struggle with the "massive onslaught" of austerity.

Although the council expects to spend £317 million, money raised by the 2.99 percent hike

- just below the threshold set by central government - will be pumped into local services.

The last 10 years have seen the Kirklees Council budget cut by £200 million as a direct result of central government cuts.

In addition, it will cost £150 million alone just to complete the backlog of immediate repair works for unclassified roads in Kirklees.

However, the local authority intends to allocate £1.5 million to Batley and neighbouring towns such as Heckmondwike, Cleckheaton and Holmfirth.

The three-year programme is expected to commence this year and will draw to a conclusion in 2024.

**In upcoming issues we will be featuring interviews with local councillors who have been sent a questionnaire to answer.**

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Anjuman Zinatul Islam

Sort code: 20-26-08

Account number: 10113239

**For local collections contact:**

Asif - 07725 504434 Ahmed - 07590 847148

For sisters only - 07786 248873

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# Muslims did not contribute to higher Covid-19 mortality rates



**A** new study has found that there is no evidence to suggest that British Muslims who observed Ramadan in 2020 inadvertently contributed to higher Covid-19 mortality rates among Muslims and the general population.

The report by the Journal of Global Health said there was no evidence to suggest that British Muslims were more likely to die from a coronavirus infection during the holy month despite the fact that many Muslim communities have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, along with other minority groups.

The report was based on a comparative analysis of Covid 19 mortality rates during last year's Ramadan, which began on April 23, shortly after the first wave of the pandemic peaked in the UK.

Usual festivities and communal prayers at mosques were cancelled during the month, in line with a nationwide lockdown. Researchers analysed death rates in more than a dozen local authority areas in

England where the Muslim population was at least 20 percent.

They found that deaths fell steadily in these areas during the Ramadan period. Furthermore, this trend continued post-Ramadan, the report said, "suggesting that there was no lagged detrimental effect of fasting in the Muslim areas".

"Our findings suggest that the practices associated with Ramadan did not have detrimental effects on COVID-19 deaths," the report said.

"There has been much commentary suggesting that the behaviours and cultural practices of minority communities explain their increased exposure to the pandemic," it added, alluding to suggestions by some UK commentators last year that there could be a "spike" in infections during Ramadan.

"These claims are not evidence based. Rather, they are unhelpful distractions from inequalities in the social determinants of health, particularly inequalities in living and working conditions, that have been key drivers of health inequalities for all

socially disadvantaged groups prior to as well as during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Salman Waqar, who co-authored the study, said the findings showcased the fact that Ramadan does not have "detrimental effects" on COVID-19 outcomes.

He indicated the data also contradicted comments from some politicians and other commentators that "certain communities, in particular, Muslims" were responsible for rises in cases last year. He called on British Muslims to "take every precaution" during this year's holy month, despite an easing of England's lockdown and a drop-off in infection rates, bolstered by a rapid mass vaccination campaign.

He said: "This is especially important considering the disproportionate impact that Muslim communities have endured in terms of COVID cases and deaths."

The Muslim Council of Britain said the report disproved negative assumptions – largely perpetuated by the far right – that Muslims would break lockdown rules in Ramadan and cause a spike in infections.

# Government faces opposition to Covid status passports



**T**he government is being urged to make big changes to its vaccine passport plans or face defeat in the Commons by opposition parties.

Both Labour and the Scottish National Party have confirmed they could not support the introduction of the “Covid status certification” in its current guise, as outlined by prime minister Boris Johnson.

With at least 40 of their own Conservative MPs vowing to block legislation bringing in such a system, the government could struggle to get approval by parliament.

The government has confirmed that a trial of the certification system at nine events around the country will begin later this month after a Whitehall review into their use concluded they could “allow some freedoms to be restored more safely”.

The prime minister said people will have to either show they have been vaccinated,

have had a recent negative test, or have “natural immunity” to attend sports matches and other mass events. People be able to demonstrate their certification status via the existing NHS Covid-19 app, with a paper alternative set to be offered to those that do not use the technology.

Labour Leader, Keir Starmer has also poured scorn on the government’s proposed system. “We do not support the government’s plans in their current form – it is as simple as that,” he told reporters last week.

“In fact, the government’s plan seems to be changing on an almost daily basis. One day he is talking about tests, then certificates, it is a complete mess.

He added: “There isn’t a real plan around this, and what I fear is that it will be another example of the government with a plan that doesn’t work, costing lots of taxpayer money, when I think the focus should be on getting as many people vaccinated as

possible – that is the light at the tunnel.” Shadow defence secretary John Healey said using vaccine passports domestically was “likely to be discriminatory”.

He said: “From what we’ve seen so far, it’s very hard to see Labour being able to support domestic vaccine passports for general use.

The Liberal Democrats have already indicated they would not support the plans in any form, its leader Sir Ed Davey said they would be “illiberal, unworkable and utterly ineffective in keeping people safe from Covid.”

The government is expected to put its final proposals to a vote in the Commons ahead of a certification system being introduced in the summer.

Without the support of opposition parties, the focus will be on a likely rebellion of Tory backbenchers, led by the Covid Recovery Group of lockdown sceptics.

It’s deputy chairman Steve Baker said: “Covid Status Certification – the requirement to have a domestic vaccine passport or instead to take two tests a week in order to take part in society – would be discriminatory, lead to a two-tier Britain and be entirely incompatible with freedom.”

With a working majority of 85, if all 41 Conservative MPs who joined a campaign opposing the plans vote against them, it could be enough to see them blocked.

Downing Street sources have not ruled out suggestions the legislation for any domestic certification could be bundled up with international vaccine passports to re-enable foreign travel though, which are far less controversial, and could quell the potential rebellion.

# Why are some victims of child abuse punished for their actions?

Recently, The High Court issued a ruling which upheld a Home Office decision taken under then Secretary, Sajid Javed to revoke the British Citizenship of Shamima Begum who was 15 years old when she and two other schoolgirls boarded a plane, which was ultimately bound for Syria.

It would later emerge that Shamima and her friends were in fact 'groomed' by a number of people, including a woman from Scotland and some men from within the designated terrorist group Isis.

However, it seems current Home Secretary Priti Patel along with a section of the country's collective conscience isn't troubled by the exploitation and grooming that made Shamima and her friends run away to Syria.

Sammy Woodhouse, a victim of Arshid "Mad Ash" Hussain of the infamous Rotherham grooming gang, who is herself a survivor of abuse, recently wrote a book entitled "Just A Child" detailing her ordeal and suffering at the hands of Hussain.

Her misplaced feelings of love and affection towards Hussain, which she now correctly

describes as delusions, led the vulnerable and impressionable young girl into becoming his accomplice in a life of violent crime, drugs and degeneracy.

Alongside Hussain, Sammy was involved in Burglary and at least 20 counts of criminal damage. She has further revealed how she would even monitor a Police scanner while he committed dangerous robberies of rival drug dealers.

Today, Sammy appears on television programmes such as Loose Women and Good Morning Britain to talk about her ordeal. The media applaud her for bravery, having survived a turbulent life of depravity and abuse.

Her current status as a respected public figure is due to the British public's anger towards child grooming gangs.

Most people recognise that the relationship she was involved in with the violent "Mad Ash" and his cohorts, and the appalling crimes she took part in as his mostly willing accomplice, were not her fault as she was a mere child under the influence of a predator.

The similarities between Sammy Woodhouse and Shamima Begum are undeniable. They were both teenage girls that fell prey to

grooming by predators.

Whilst the crimes of Isis and those of the criminals of Rotherham are clearly worlds apart, in dealing with the trail of victims they left behind, there has to be consistency and coherence.

In this case it is the definition of what a victim of grooming and abuse is and is not.

As a society, if the days of victim-blaming and shaming are now truly behind us, we have to set the criminals and their victims apart. The crimes or nature of the groomer should not be a determinant of the victimhood of the children they groomed.

Yet, the treatment meted out to Shamima Begum has been a world apart from that now afforded to Sammy Woodhouse.

It cannot be grooming in one case and not in the other, when the background and underlying factors of how the victims were groomed should be noted.

We understand that the manipulation, confusion and deception involved in the abuse and grooming processes causes many vulnerable children and young people, to make serious, life-changing decisions whilst not possessing the maturity

that is indeed a prerequisite to fully understanding what is harmful and detrimental to them.

Children and young people often cannot perceive how they have been coerced or manipulated into thoughts, feelings and actions which are wrong or solely for the benefit of their abuser.

As a result, many at-risk young people are exploited and involved in serious criminal activity such as drug dealing, joining gangs and criminal groups, engaging in acts of serious violence and disorder.

As far as the UK is concerned, the case of Shamima Begum is closed. As a child, she ran away from home to a warzone at the behest of Isis, a decision that she regrets. However, it is something that she and her family will have to live with for the rest of her lives.

The country's High Court has held her to that bad choice and has held her solely accountable for her actions when she was 15 years old and thus the door seems to be closed on her getting back into the country.

However, the question should be whether it is fair and right to distinguish between victims of grooming based on who their groomers and abusers are?

# Batley Grammar School Update

**T**he Multi Trust Academy (MTA) which Batley Grammar School is a part of, have set up an independent investigation to look into how various aspects of the lesson in which cartoons depicting the Prophet (Peace be Upon Him) in a Religious Studies Lesson came about.

An independent investigator has been appointed by the MAT and it is envisaged that recommendations will be made to the school by the end of May.

Community leaders have asked the community to be prepared for whatever the recommendations of the investigation may be and obey the law.

In the meantime, the Batley Parent's and Community Partnership (BPCP) group, which consists of parents, major community organisations and Masjids are

working to address some of the concerns of the Muslim community.

In the meantime there have been death threats made against key member of the BPCP. In addition, grossly offensive letters and emails that have been received by local mosques have been reported to the Police.

BPCP have made it clear that threats against any teachers or the schools is totally unacceptable in any shape or form.

Students and parents who require specialist support can contact BPCP (Email [batleypcp@gmail.com](mailto:batleypcp@gmail.com)) for confidential advice and if required, referrals to specialist Psychologists. BPCP will be holding parents and students sessions at accessible locations in Batley to support and reassure parents and students.



## Obituary: Ahmad Bhai Dadipatel

**H**aji Ahmed Bhai Dadipatel was born in Lajpur in 1943. He arrived in the UK in 1962 and settled in Batley. He worked as an electrician for a few years, and then started his own business in the form of a grocery shop in Mount Pleasant in 1985.

Ahmed Bhai became extremely active in the construction of the Lajpur Rahimiyah Hospital project during the 1990's.

He played a pivotal role in the planning, construction and recruitment of staff, thus ensuring medical care was available to thousands of people, regardless of their religion and background.

Despite facing countless hurdles, he remained steadfast and devoted thousands of days, along with thousands of pounds of his personal funds to ensure his vision of

a fully operational hospital to serve those in need.

However, his work did not end there. Another great achievement was when he brought to life his vision for a high school in Lajpur, which would enable children in the vicinity and beyond to receive a sound education along with the relevant training.

Along with a few friends, he helped to found the English medium school, with an initial number of 24 children enrolling in the first year.

However, over the space of three decades, the rented property, which was first used as a school, has been transformed into an organization, which serves the locality as a state of the art Primary and Secondary School along with a College.

Although the other friends' who helped him start the project, could not help

contribute after a few years, Ahmed Bhai saw the potential benefits of continuing the project and it is a testament to his sacrifice and efforts.

He took one final journey to Lajpur on the 7th of December 2020, and as the Almighty had decreed, he became ill in Lajpur. He returned to the UK in a very serious condition, and on the next day, his soul departed this temporary abode to his final destination, on the 10th April 2021.

His legacy, the two great projects for public benefit, the Lajpur Rahimiyah Hospital, and Munshi & Dadipatel High School stands out to remind one and all his source of sawabe jaariyah, the billions worth of comfort in his grave and the next life. May the Almighty elevate Ahmed bhai's status in the aakhirah, grant him Jannatul Firdos and guide us to follow such examples for public benefit.

## Winners

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



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## Can you find the names of 15 prophets?

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H	U	B	N	A	A	S	H	D	H
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I	F	U	S	U	Y	W	R	S	M
S	D	Y	S	M	U	R	B	Y	M
M	F	A	U	D	N	S	I	U	A
A	T	H	A	R	U	N	U	N	D
I	U	Y	M	D	D	U	I	U	L
L	L	A	S	I	N	H	A	S	M

ADAM      YUSUF      YAHYA      ISA      HARUN  
LUT      YUNUS      NUH      IBRAHIM      HUD  
DAWUD      ISMAIL      MUSA      SALIH      ISHAQ

What were the names of the Khulafaa Rashidun	
Who built the first Islamic navy?	
Who first gave the idea for the call for prayer, known as Adhan, in the first year of Hijrah?	
Who is the third Khalifa of Islam who prepared one unified version of the Qur'an?	
Who was the Christian ruler of Abyssinia who showed kindness to the Muslim immigrants from Makkah at the time of the Prophet?	
Who was the first child who embraced Islam?	

### Terms and conditions apply

Name and town of winning entries will be published.  
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# Brain Teasers

Riddle 1: I'm found in socks, scarves and mittens; and often in the paws of playful kittens. What am I?

Riddle 2: Where does today come before yesterday?

Riddle 3: What invention lets you look right through a wall?

Riddle 4: If you've got me, you want to share me; if you share me, you haven't kept me. What am I?

Riddle 5: What can't be put in a saucepan?

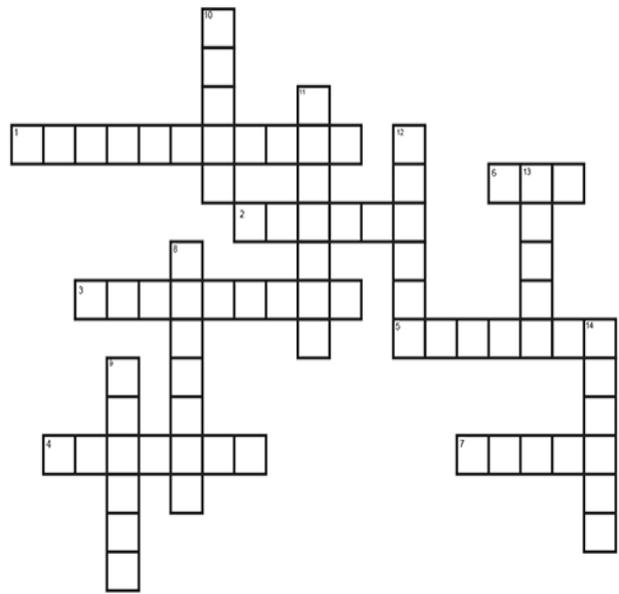
Riddle 6: What goes up and down but doesn't move?

Riddle 7: If you're running in a race and you pass the person in second place, what place are you in?

Riddle 8: It belongs to you, but other people use it more than you do. What is it?

Riddle 9: What has lots of eyes, but can't see?

## RAMADAN CROSSWORD



CLUES:

ACROSS:

1. The messenger of
2. Worship
3. The first surah of Quran
4. We do this from Dawn until sunrise during Ramadan
5. Those who do good deeds will get this from
6. This celebration comes at the end of Ramadan
7. Our holy book

DOWN:

8. Sunset time
9. Where is best to pray?
10. We do this 5 times a day
11. The 9th month of the Islamic calendar
12. Eat this before you start fasting
13. This happens at maghrib time
14. the way of the Prophet SAW

## Answers

1. Answer: Yarn
2. Answer: The dictionary
3. Answer: A window
4. Answer: A secret
5. Answer: It's lid
6. Answer: A stair-case
7. Answer: Second place
8. Answer: Your name
9. Answer: A potato
10. Answer: A prayer mat
11. Answer: Ramadan
12. Answer: Iftar
13. Answer: Tarbiyah
14. Answer: The Sunnah

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ROHINGYA CAMPS BANGLADESH	£1,200
ZAMBIA	£2,000
TANZANIA	£2,500
MALAWI	£3,000
YEMEN (SOLAR)	£3,500

### MASJID\*

BANGLADESH ROHINGYA CAMPS	£3,200
C.A.R (CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC)	£5,000
UGANDA	£5,000
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WUDHU AREA - INDIA £500

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- ★ Supported by fully qualified Nursery Nurse
- ★ High quality educational experiences
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- ★ Continuity through to Reception



**FULL RANGE** of session times. Choose from\*:

- ★ Mornings only
- ★ Afternoons only
- ★ All day Monday & Tuesday, + Wednesday morning
- ★ Wednesday afternoon + all day Thursday & Friday

\* When you make an application, please list your choice of session times in order of preference. We will do everything possible to ensure parents' first choices are met.

### WHAT OUR PARENTS SAY

'an excellent start to my children's education'  
 'the perfect stepping stone to Reception'  
 'the transition from Nursery to Reception is very smooth'  
 'It was amazing to see my child's confidence grow in play and learning'

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### CONTACT US

Warwick Road Primary School  
 Warwick Road, Batley WF17 6BS  
 Tel. 01924 455593  
[office.warwickroad@kirkleeseducation.uk](mailto:office.warwickroad@kirkleeseducation.uk)

## રમઝાનુલ મુબારક

-મહંમદ યુસુફ સુફી લાજપુરી, બાટલી.

### રમઝાન શું છે ?

ગુનાહોની ગરમીને ઠંડી કરવા માટે રમઝાન આવે છે. રમઝાન શબ્દ પોતેજ પોતનો મતલબ બતાવે છે કે, લોકોએ પોતાની જાન ઉપર જુલ્મ કર્યો છે તે ગુનાહોની ગરમીથી જે આગ સળગી રહી છે, રમઝાનનો મહિનો તે આગની ગરમીને ખતમ કરવા માટે મોકલવામાં આવે છે.

### બરકતનો મહિનો :

રમઝાનુલ મુબારકના મહિનામાં એટલી બરકતો ઉતરે છે કે, બાકી ૧૧ મહિનાની બરકતોની રમઝાનની બરકતના સાથે તે નિસ્ખત પણ નથી જે એક ટીપા કે કતરાની દરિયાની સાથે હોય છે.

### નેકીની સીઝન :

દુનિયામાં જોવામાં આવે છે કે, જુદા જુદા કારોબાર અને વેપાર માટે સીઝનો હોય છે. જેમાં વેપારીઓને ફૂરસદ પણ મળતી નથી અને તેમની કમાણી પણ વધી જાય છે. એજ પ્રમાણે રમઝાનનો મહિનો પણ ઈબાદતની સીઝન છે. રમઝાનમાં નેકીનો ગ્રેડ પણ વધી જાય છે. નફીલનો સવાબ ફર્જના બરાબર અને ફર્જનો સવાબ ૭૦ ફર્જના બરાબર મળે છે.

### મગફિરતની મોસમ :

એક મોસમે બહાર એવી આવે છે કે, જેમાં ઝાડ ઉપર ફૂલ નજર આવે છે. જેને વસંત ઋતુ કહે છે. અને એમાં વાતાવરણ પણ સુંદર અને ખુશનુમાં હોય છે. એજ પ્રમાણે રમઝાન પણ મગફિરતની એક મોસમે બહાર છે. આ મહિનામાં રોઝા રાખતા રોઝદારો માટે દરિયાની માછલીઓ અને જંગલના જાનવરો પણ મગફિરતની દુઆ કરે છે.

### દુઆની કબુલીયતનો મહિનો :

રમઝાનુલ મુબારકની દરેક રાત અને દિવસમાં એક દુઆ જરૂર કબુલ થાય છે. દુઆની કબુલીયત માટે સુનેહરો સમય સેહરીનો ટાઈમ છે અને ઈફતારી કરવા પહેલાનો ટાઈમ અતિ કિંમતી સમય છે. આ સમયે દુઆ રદ થતી નથી. જરૂર કબુલ થાય છે.

### નેકીઓની ચેક બૂક :

કોઈ માલદાર માણસ બેંકની ચેક બૂક આપી દઈને કહે ચેકમાં જેટલી રકમ લખવી હોય લખી લીયો. એજ પ્રમાણે રમઝાન માસમાં નેકીઓની ખાલી ચેક બૂક આપી દેવામાં આવે છે. કે આ રમઝાન મહિનામાં નેકીઓ અને સારા આમાલ કરી આખેરતની બેંકમાં નેકીઓનો ચેક જમા કરાવી લીયો.

### રોઝો અને કુરઆન કરીમ :

રોઝો અને કુરઆન કરીમ કયામતના દિવસે શિક્ષાત્મક કરશે. શરીરની સલામતી માટે ઓછું ખાવું અને કુરઆન કરીમની વધારે તીલાવત કરવું જરૂરી છે. રૂહની સલામતી માટે ગુનાહોથી બચતા રહેવું જોઈએ. અને ઈમાનની સલામતી માટે દુરૂદ શરીફ, કલેમા તૈયબાહનો ઝીકર વધુ કરવું જોઈએ. હકીમ અને ડોક્ટરોની પણ તહકીક છે કે, એક મહિનાના રોઝા રાખવાથી શરીરમાંથી ઘણી

બીમારીઓ દૂર થઈ જાય છે. રોઝા અને તીલાવતનો ફાયદો રૂહાની અને જીસ્માની (શરીર)નો પણ છે.

### તરાવિહ પુશદીલથી પઠો :

રમઝાનુલ મુબારકમાં દરરોજ રાત્રે તરાવિહમાં ૪૦ સિજદાઓ ઈનામના રૂપે મળ્યા છે. આખા મહિનામાં તરાવિહમાં પૂરું કુરઆન મજીદ સાંભળવાની તક મળે છે. ખરેખર તરાવિહ રમઝાનુલ મુબારકની અણમોલ ગીફ્ટ છે.

### અસરથી મગરિબનો કિંમતી સમય :

રમઝાનુલ મુબારકમાં અસર પછીથી મગરિબ સુધીનો સમય તો અતિ મુલ્યવાન સમય છે. આ કિંમતી સમયને કુરઆન શરીફની તીલાવત તથા દુઆઓમાં ગુજારવું જોઈએ. ઘરમાં આપણી ઓરતો આ સમયનો જેવો અને જેટલો લાભ ઉઠાવવો જોઈએ તેટલો ઉઠાવતા નથી. રોઝા છોડવાની વાનગીઓ બનાવવાના કામમાંથી તેમને ફૂરસદ મળતી નથી. જેથી આ વાત તરફ પૂરું ધ્યાન આપી આ સમય બરબાદ ન થાય તેની કાળજી રાખો. ઈફતારીના ૧૦ મિનિટ પહેલાં મુસલ્લા ઉપર બેસી જાય અને દુઆઓમાં મશગુલ થઈ જાય તો આપણાં ઘરોની ઓરતોની અનેક દીની અને દુન્યવી જરૂરિયાતો પૂરી થઈ શકે છે. અને સાથે જ રમઝાનની કદરદાની પણ થઈ શકે છે. મા બહેનો આ કિંમતી સમયનો લાભ ઉઠાવશે તો દુઆની કબુલીયતની અસર પોતાની આંખોથી જોઈ શકશે.

### કઝાએ ઉમરી :

આપણી જિંદગીમાં જેટલી નમાઝો કઝા થઈ ચૂકી છે એને પઢવાની તક પણ રમઝાનમાં મળે છે. દરરોજ થોડી થોડી કરી કઝા નમાઝો પણ પઢવાનું શરૂ કરવું જોઈએ.

હવે જ્યારે રમઝાનુલ મુબારકના છેલ્લા દિવસો બાકી રહી ગયા છે તો આપણે રમઝાનના આખરી અસરો જેમાં તાક રાત જેવી કે ૨૧,૨૩,૨૫,૨૭,૨૯ રમઝાનની રાતોમાં એક રાત ખૂબજ કિંમતી છે તે લયલતુલ કદરની રાત છે. આ એક રાતની ઈબાદતનો સવાબ હજારો રાતોના બરાબર છે. જેથી એ રાતોમાં ઈબાદતનો વધારો કરી એના ઉપર સંપૂર્ણ તકેદારી જરૂરી છે.

### ગઝલ

સફર મેં ધૂપ તો હોગી જો યલ શકો તો યલો  
સભી હૈ ભીડ મેં તુમ ભી નિકલ શકો તો યલો  
કિસી કે વાસ્તે રાહેં કહાં બદલતી હેં  
તુમ અપને આપ કો ખુદ હી બદલ શકો તો યલો  
યહાં કીસી કો કોઈ રાસ્તા નહીં દેતા  
મુજે ગીરા કે અગર તુમ સંભલ શકો તો યલો  
કહીં નહીં કોઈ સૂરજ ધુંઆ ધુંઆ હૈ ફઝાં  
ખુદ અપને આપસે બાહર નિકલ શકો તો યલો  
યહી હૈ જિંદગી કુછ ખવાબ ચંદ ઉમ્મીદેં  
ઈન્હી ખિલોનોં સે તુમ ભી બહલ શકો તો યલો

નિદા ફઝલી.

## ચાલો આજે કંઈક સાડું જાણીએ

-રફીક અહમદ DNAS

**પાલનદારની રહેમતને પામવા લાચાર-બેબસ, જરૂરિયાતમંદોની મદદ કરો, ઈન્સાનિયત અપનાવો.**

એક શહેરમાં એક અમિર વ્યક્તિ(શેઠ) રહેતો હતો. એક સાજે અચાનક તેને ખૂબજ બેચેની લાગવા માંડી. ડોક્ટરને બોલાવી દવા લીધી પરંતુ તબીયતમાં કંઈ ફરક ન પડ્યો. તેની બેચેની વધતી રહી અને તેને કંઈ સમજ પડતી ન હતી. રાત થઈ ગઈ તેણે ઉંઘવાની ગોળીઓ લીધી પરંતુ તેને ઊંઘ આવી રહી ન હતી અને તેની બેચેની ઓછી થવાનું નામ લેતી ન હતી. રાતના ત્રણ વાગ્યાનો સમય થઈ રહ્યો હતો. તે પોતાના ઘરના બગીચામાં ફરવા લાગ્યો. ફરતા ફરતા તેને લાગ્યું કે, બહાર કંઈક સુકુન આરામ મળશે અને તે બહાર સડક ઉપર ચાલી ગયો. ચાલતા ચાલતા તેના મગજમાં હજારો વિચાર આવી રહ્યા હતા અને તે ઘરથી ઘણોજ દૂર નીકળી ગયો હતો. થાકવાના કારણે તે એક ચબુતરા પાસે બેસી ગયો. થોડો સમય થયો ત્યાં એક કૂતરો આવ્યો અને તેની એક ચપ્પલ ઉઠાવી નાસવા લાગ્યો. શેઠે તે જોયું અને બીજી ચપ્પલ હાથમાં લઈ કૂતરાની પાછળ દોડ્યો. કૂતરો એક ઝૂંપડી પાસે પહોંચી ગયો અને ત્યાં ચપ્પલ નાંખી ચાલી ગયો.

શેઠે રાહતની સાંસ લીધી અને પોતાની ચપ્પલ પહેરવા લાગ્યો. એટલામાં તેને કોઈકના રડવાનો અવાજ સંભળાયો. તે નજીક ગયો તો સંભળાયું કે અવાજ ઝૂંપડીમાંથી આવી રહ્યો હતો. તેણે ઝૂંપડીની ફાટમાંથી જોયું તો એક સ્ત્રી ફાટેલી ચાદર ઉપર બેસી દિવાર સાથે માથું ટેકવી રડી રહી હતી અને કહી રહી હતી હે ખુદા, ઈશ્વર મારી મદદ કરો. શેઠના મનમાં થયું અહીંથી ચાલી જાઉં કહી કોઈ ગલત ન વિચારે. તે ચાલવા લાગ્યો તો તેના મનમાં ફરી વિચાર આવ્યો કે, આખરે આ ઓરત કેમ રડી રહી છે? તેને શું તકલીફ છે? શેઠે પોતાના દિલની વાત સાંભળી અને ઝૂંપડીનો દરવાજો ખખડાવ્યો.

શેઠને જોઈ પેલી ઓરત ગભરાઈ ગઈ. શેઠે હાથ જોડી કહ્યું બહેન ગભરાવો નહીં મારે તો ફક્ત એટલુંજ જાણવું છે કે તું કેમ રડી રહી છે? તે સ્ત્રીની આંખમાંથી આંસુ ટપકવા લાગ્યા. તેણીએ તેની નજીક એક કપડામાં લપેટેલ તેની ૭-૮ વર્ષની છોકરી તરફ ઈશારો કર્યો અને રડતાં રડતાં કહેવા લાગી આ મારી દીકરી ખૂબજ બિમાર છે અને તેના ઈલાજ માટે મોટી રકમની જરૂરત છે. હું લોકોના ઘરનું કામકાજ કરી મુશ્કેલથી અમારું ગુજરાન ચલાવું છું, એવામાં એનો ઈલાજ કેવી રીતે કરી શકું? શેઠે કહ્યું કોઈથી મદદ માંગી લો. ઓરતે કહ્યું મેં દરેકથી મદદ માંગી ઈલાજનો ખર્ચ વધુ છે જેથી કોઈ મદદ કરવા તૈયાર નથી. શેઠે કહ્યું આમ રાત્રે રડવાથી પૈસા થોડા મળી જશે. ઓરતે કહ્યું કાલે અહીંથી એક ફકીર પસાર થઈ રહ્યા હતા તેમને મારી સમસ્યા બતાવી તો તેમણે કહ્યું ઘેલી સવારે ઊઠી ખુદાથી સાચા હૃદય અને નિષ્ઠાથી દુઆ માંગી તેનાથી મદદ માંગો, તે દરેકની વાત સાંભળે છે તો તમારી મજબૂરી પણ સાંભળશે. મારા પાસે આના સિવાય કોઈ ચારો ન હતો એમ કહી ઓરત ફરીથી રડવા લાગી.

આ સાંભળી શેઠનું દિલ પીગળી ગયું. તેણે તરતજ ફોન કરી એમ્બ્યુલન્સ બોલાવી દીકરીને હોસ્પિટલમાં દાખલ કરાવી દીધી. ડોક્ટરે બે લાખનો ખર્ચ બતાવ્યો તો શેઠે તેની જવાબદારી લઈ દીકરીનો ઈલાજ કરાવ્યો. શેઠે પેલી સ્ત્રીને પોતાના ઘરમાં નોકરી આપી નોકરોના રહેવા માટેનો રૂમ આપ્યો અને તેની દીકરીના ભણતરની તમામ જીમ્મેદારી ઉઠાવી લીધી. શેઠ કર્મવીર તો હતા પરંતુ નાસ્તિક હતા. ખુદા, ઈશ્વરમાં માનતા ન હતા.

તેના મનમાં સેંકડો વિચારો આવી રહ્યા હતા. તેની બેચેની તો તે જ વખતે પૂરી થઈ હતી જ્યારે તેણે એમ્બ્યુલન્સ બોલાવી હતી. તે વિચારી રહ્યો હતો કે, આખરે એવી કચી તાકાત છે જે મને તે ઓરતની ઝૂંપડી પાસે ખેંચી લાવી. શું એ ઈશ્વર છે! અગર એજ ખુદા, ઈશ્વર છે તો આખું સંસાર ધર્મ અને જાત માટે કેમ લડી રહ્યું છે? મેં તો આ ઓરતની જાત ન પૂછી. અને ન તો ખુદાએ તેની કોઈ જાત જોઈ. બસ તેણે તો એનું દર્દ જોયું અને મને એક જરિયો બનાવી તેના સુધી પહોંચાડી દીધો.

હવે શેઠ સમજી ગયો હતો કે, કર્મોના સાથે સેવા પણ કેટલી જરૂરી છે. કારણ કે, આટલી શાંતિ તેને પહેલાં ક્યારેય મળી ન હતી. યદી આપણે જો ઈશ્વર, પરવરદિગારની રહેમત મેળવવા માંગીએ છીએ તો ઈન્સાનિયતને અપનાવી લો. જ્યાં સુધી સંભવ હોય એવા લોકોની મદદ કરો જેઓ લાચાર અને બેબસ છે.

## સદકતુલ ફીતરની અદાયગી

આપ સૌ જાણો છો કો, ઈદુલ ફીતરની નમાઝ પહેલાં દરેક મુસલમાન ભાઈ બહેનો અને બાળકોએ સદકતુલ ફીતરની રકમ અદા કરવાની હોય છે. આ વર્ષે મુફતી સાહેબોએ આ રકમ **₹૩.૧૨** નક્કી કરી છે. હાજતમંદ ગરીબોને એ રકમ ઈદના દિવસે મળે તે હેતુથી આપણે આ રકમ રમઝાન માસમાંજ કાઢીએ છીએ. દર વર્ષે ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી, બાટલી આ ફીતરાની રકમની વ્યવસ્થા કરે છે. ચાલુ સાલે આ રકમ યમન અને સોમાલિયાના હાજતમંદ ગરીબ મુસ્લિમોને પહોંચાડવાનું નક્કી થયું છે. સોસાયટીએ કરેલ વ્યવસ્થા મુજબ જે ભાઈઓ ૮ મી મે સુધી આ રકમ આપશે તે ઈ.અ. ઈદના દિવસે વહેંચવામાં આવશે.

જેથી આપ સાહેબોને વિનંતી કરવામાં આવે છે કે આપ આપની સદકતુલ ફીતરની રકમ વ્યક્તિ દીઠ (**₹૩.૧૨**) આપના એરિયાની મસ્જિદોમાં અથવા અલ હિકમાહ સેન્ટર, બાટલી ખાતે પહોંચાડવાની કોશિશ કરશો.

વધુ વિગત તમો સોસાયટીની ઓફિસ અલ હિકમાહ સેન્ટરના ટેલીફોન નંબર **૦૧૯૨૪ ૫૦૦૫૫૫** ઉપર અથવા એરિયા મસ્જિદો મારફત મેળવી શકો છો.

### હળવી પળોમાં:

- ❖ સારે સબક કિતાબોમેં નહીં મિલતે કુછ સબક જિંદગીભી સિખાતી હૈં
- ❖ આપ ખુશ હો અચ્છી બાત હૈ આપકી વઝહસે કોઈ ખુશ હો યે સબસે અચ્છી બાત હૈ.

## કવિ અને ગઝલકાર ખલીલ ધનતેજવીની વસમી વિદાય

અબ મેં રાશનકી કતારોમેં નઝર આતા હું  
અપને ખેતોંસે બિઘડને કી સજા પાતા હું  
જો હુવા થા વહ તો અખબારોમેં છપા હી નહીં  
ઔર જો છપ ગયા ઝૈસા તો કૂછ હુઆ હી નહીં.

જાણીતા ગુજરાતી-ઉર્દુ શાયર, પત્રકાર અને લેખક ખલીલ ધનતેજવીનું તારીખ ૪થી એપ્રિલ ૨૦૨૧ના રોજ ૮૬ વર્ષની ઉંમરે મૃત્યુ થયું છે. તેઓ છેલ્લા કેટલાક સમયથી શ્વાસ સંબંધિત બીમારીથી પીડાતા હતા. તેમના મૃત્યુના સમાચારથી મિત્રો, કવિઓ, લેખકો અને રાજકીય તથા સામાજિક અગ્રણીઓમાં શોકની લાગણી ફેલાય ગઈ હતી. ખલીલ ધનતેજવીનું મૂળ નામ ખલીલ ઈસ્માઈલ મકરાણી હતું. તેમનો જન્મ વડોદરા જિલ્લાના ધનતેજ ગામે ૧૨ડીસેમ્બર ૧૯૩૫ના રોજ થયો હતો. તેમણે ફક્ત ૪ ધોરણ સુધીનું જ શિક્ષણ મેળવ્યું હતું અને ૧૨વર્ષની ઉંમરે ફેમિલીના ખેતીના વ્યવસાયમાં જોડાઈ ગયા હતા.

ઉર્દુના પીઠ શાયર ખલીલ બરોડવી ધ્વારા તેમને માર્ગદર્શન અને પ્રોત્સાહન મળ્યું હતું. ગઝલ ઉપરાંત વાર્તાઓ, નાટક, નવલકથા, પત્રકારત્વ, ફિલ્મ નિર્માણ દિગ્દર્શનમાં તેમણે મૂખ્ય ફાળો આપ્યો હતો. તેઓ પ્રતિષ્ઠિત સમાચારપત્રો મુંબઈ સમાચાર, દિવ્ય ભાષ્કર, સંદેશ, ગુજરાત ટુડે, ગુજરાત સમાચાર, જન્મભૂમિ જેવા અનેક પેપરોમાં લેખો લખતા હતા. તેમણે મુંબઈ સહિત ભારતના અનેક શહેરો અને વિદેશોના મુશાયરાઓમાં ભાગ લીધો હતો. બાટલી ખાતે અલ હિકમાહ સેન્ટર ખાતે યોજાયેલ એક સમારંભ અને મુશાયરામાં પણ તેમણે હાજરી આપી હતી. તેમની ગઝલો મશહુર ગાયક જગજિતસિંહ અને મનહર ઉઘાસ જેવા ગાયકોએ ગાઈને ચાહના મેળવી હતી. તેમનો પ્રથમ ગઝલ સંગ્રહ સાદગી ઈસ ૨૦૦૦માં પ્રગટ થયો હતો. ત્યારબાદ સારાંશ, સોગાત, સૂર્યમુખી, સોપાન, સાંવરિયો, સાયબા, સગપણ, સરોવર જેવા ગઝલ સંગ્રહનો સમાવેશ છે. શાયર અને ધીરે બોલમાં ઉર્દુની ગઝલો સામેલ છે. તેમને કલાપી એવોર્ડ, ઝવેરચંદ મેઘાણી એવોર્ડ, અમૃતા એવોર્ડ, નરસિંહ મહેતા એવોર્ડ અને હરિન્દ્ર દવે લાઈફ ટાઈમ એચીવમેન્ટ એવોર્ડ એનાયત થયા હતા.

વડોદરાની યાકુતપુરા મિનારા મસ્જિદમાં તેમની નમાઝે જનાઝા પછી યાકુતપુરાના કબ્રસ્તાનમાં તેમને દફન કરવામાં આવ્યા હતા.

### શાકભાજી વેચનાર નગરપાલિકાના અધ્યક્ષ

આંધ્રપ્રદેશ ખાતે એક શાકભાજી વેચનારનું નસીબ બદલાય ગયું છે. આ રાજ્યની વાયએસઆર કોંગ્રેસે ગયા માસમાં શેખ બાશા નામના શાકભાજી વેચનારને રાયચોટી નગરપાલિકાના અધ્યક્ષ બનાવી દીધા છે. શેખ બાશા એક શિક્ષિત નાગરિક છે અને ડીગ્રી પણ ધરાવે છે. બેરોજગારીના કારણે નોકરી મળવી મુશ્કેલ હતી જેથી જીવનનિર્વાહ માટે ગામમાં શાકભાજી વેચી પોતાનું અને ફેમિલીનું ગુજરાન ચલાવતા હતા. જીવન જીવવું કઠિન હતું, એવામાં બદલાવ ત્યારે આવ્યો જ્યારે વાયએસઆર કોંગ્રેસ કે જે આંધ્રપ્રદેશમાં જાણીતી મોટી સત્તાપાર્ટી છે તેણે શેખ બાશાને નગરપાલિકાની ચૂંટણીમાં કાઉન્સિલરની ટિકીટ આપી ચૂંટણી

લડાવી હતી. જેમાં તેઓ વિજયી થયા હતા અને પછી તેમને નગરપાલિકાના અધ્યક્ષ બનાવવામાં આવ્યા છે. વાયએસઆરના મુખ્યમંત્રી જગન રેડ્ડીએ રાજ્યમાં પછાત સમુદાયને મહત્તમ બેઠકો આપી છે. આ પાર્ટીએ ૮૬ નગરપાલિકાઓમાંથી ૮૪ ઉપર કબજો મેળવ્યો છે. ઉપરાંત મહિલાઓને ૬૦થી વધુ ટકા અને પછાત સમુદાયને ૭૮ ટકા પદ આપ્યા છે.

### ક્રિકેટરો ધ્વારા ઈસ્લામના સંદેશનો ફેલાવો

ક્રિકેટની દુનિયા અનેક આકર્ષણોથી ભરેલ છે. તેમાં ચકાચોંધની સાથે કરોડો રૂપિયાની કમાણી સામેલ છે. છતાં ક્રિકેટ જગતમાં એવા કેટલાક મુસ્લિમ ક્રિકેટરો છે જેઓ ક્રિકેટની આ કમાણી અને શાનોસૌકત ભરેલા આ જીવનમાં પોતાના સિંધ્વાતો સાથે સમાધાન કરવા તૈયાર નથી. પછી ચાહે તેમાં કરોડોનું નુકસાન કેમ ન થાય. આમાં સાઉથ આફ્રિકાના હાશિમ આમલા અને યુ.કે.ના મોઈન અલી તથા આદિલ રશીદ સામેલ છે. જેઓ ઈસ્લામના સિંધ્વાતો અને નિયમો ઉપર અમલ કરી વિશ્વને હકારાત્મક સંદેશો પાઠવે છે.

આઈપીએલ-૧૪ની સીઝન હવે શરૂ થઈ છે, ત્યારે બ્રિટનના ઓલ રાઉન્ડર ખેલાડી મોઈન અલી જેમને ચૈન્નઈ સુપર કીંગે ૭ કરોડ રૂપિયામાં ખરીદ્યો છે તેમણે આ કલબને વિનંતી કરી પોતાના ટી સર્ટ (જર્સી) ઉપરથી દાઝની જાહેરાતનો લોગો હટાવવા કહ્યું હતું. ચૈન્નઈ સુપર કીંગે તેમની વિનંતીને માન આપી તેનો સ્વીકાર કરી લીધો છે. મોઈન અલી ટીમ તરફથી મેચ દરમ્યાન રમતા દાઝની જાહેરાત કરતા નથી. બ્રિટનના સ્પિન બોલર આદિલ રશીદ પણ આવી જાહેરાતથી દૂર રહે છે અને ટી સર્ટ ઉપર આવો લોગો લગાવતા નથી. ક્રિકેટમાં જ્યારે જીત સમયે ટીમ શેમ્પેઈનથી ઉજવણી કરે છે ત્યારે પણ આ ખેલાડીઓ દૂર રહે છે અને તેમની ટીમ તેમની આ માન્યતાનું સન્માન કરે છે. આવા વિરલ વ્યક્તિઓ આજે આપણને ઓછા જોવા મળે છે.

### પ્રેસીડન્ટની નિખાલસતા અને રહમદિલી

હાલમાં ખૂબજ પ્રખ્યાત સમાચાર સોશ્યલ મીડિયા ઉપર વાંચવા મળ્યા. જેને મોટી સંખ્યામાં લોકોએ લાઈક કરી શેર કર્યા છે. ટર્કી દેશ ખાતે શહેરની એક સ્કૂલમાં ભણતાં દશેક વર્ષના એક યતિમ બાળકે સ્કૂલમાં આવી રહેલ પેરન્ટ મીટિંગમાં ટર્કીના પ્રેસીડન્ટ રીસપ અર્દગનને પોતાના વાલી બની હાજર રહેવા એક કાગળ લખવા ટીચરને વિનંતી કરી. શિક્ષકને થોડી નવાઈ લાગી છતાં બાળકના કહ્યા મુજબ પ્રેસીડન્ટને આ વિનંતીનો કાગળ લખ્યો. સાથેજ શિક્ષકે બાળકને સમજાવ્યું કે, પ્રેસીડન્ટના શીરે આખા દેશની જવાબદારી હોય છે અને તેઓ પોતાના કામમાં ખૂબજ મશગુલ રહે છે જેથી તેઓ જો આવી ન શકે તો તારે જરાપણ ખોટું લગાવવું નહીં.

પેરન્ટ ઈવનીંગના દિવસે હાજર રહેલા વાલિઓએ જ્યારે પ્રેસીડન્ટ રીસપ અર્દગનને આવતા જોયા તો દરેક અચંબામાં પડી ગયા. પ્રેસીડન્ટે કહ્યું હું આજની પેરન્ટ મીટિંગમાં એક બાળકના વાલિ (ગાર્ડિયન) તરીકે હાજરી આપી રહ્યો છું. તેમણે નમ્રતાથી જણાવ્યું “એક બાળકને બચાવવાથી વિશ્વને બદલી શકાતું નથી પણ એક બાળકના ખાતર વિશ્વ સદાના માટે બદલાય શકે છે.”

## કુરઆનની રદ આયતો હટાવવાની અરજીને ભારતની સુપ્રિમ કોર્ટે ફગાવી

ઉ.પ્રદેશના શિયા વક્ફ બોર્ડના ચેરમેન વસીમ રિઝવીએ ૧૧માર્ચના સુપ્રિમ કોર્ટમાં એક અરજી દાખલ કરી કુરઆન પાકની રદ આયતો આતંકવાદને પ્રોત્સાહન આપે છે એવું કારણ બતાવી તેને કુરઆનમાંથી હટાવવાની માંગ કરી હતી. ૧૨મી એપ્રિલના સુપ્રિમ કોર્ટ આ અરજીની સુનાવણીમાં કોર્ટે શરૂઆતથીજ તેને નકામી ગણાવી ફગાવી દીધી હતી. અને આવી ખોટી અરજી દાખલ કરવા બાબતે રિઝવીને ૫૦ હજાર રૂપિયાનો દંડ પણ ફટકાર્યો હતો.

અયોધ્યા ખાતે રામ મંદિર બનાવવા અને બાબરી મસ્જિદની વિવાદસ્પદ જમીનને રામ મંદિર બનાવવા આપી દેવી જોઈએ એવા અનેક બયાનો રિઝવી આપતા રહ્યા હતા અને એ બાબતની અરજીઓ પણ કરતા હતા. શિયા વક્ફ બોર્ડમાંથી નાણાં ફોંડનો કેસ પણ તેમના ઉપર દાખલ છે અને સત્તાધારી સરકારને ખુશ કરવા તેઓ મુસલમાનો વિરૂધ્ધ ઝેર ઓકી રહ્યા છે. ભારતના બંધારણમાં દરેક ધર્મના લોકોને પોતાની મરજી મુજબ ધર્મ અંગીકાર, તેનું પાલન અને તેના રક્ષણ માટે કાયદામાં દરેક જોગવાઈ પ્રાપ્ત છે. કેટલાક નિરિક્ષકોના માનવા મુજબ સુપ્રિમ કોર્ટમાં આવી બોગસ અરજીથી રામ મંદિરના હુકમ પછી મુસ્લિમ સમાજને કોર્ટ પ્રત્યે ભરોસો વધે એ માટેનો એક પ્રયોગ હતો કે કેમ અને એના પાછળ ખાસ પરિબળો કામ કરી રહ્યા છે તે જાણવું અગત્યનું મનાશે

## ભારતમાં કોરોનાના સેકન્ડ વેવનો હાહાકાર

ગયા માસના મધ્યમાં ભારતના કેટલાક રાજ્યોમાં કોરોનાના સેકન્ડવેવના કારણે હાહાકાર મચ્યો હતો. જેની વધુ અસર મહારાષ્ટ્ર અને ગુજરાત રાજ્યમાં જોવા મળી હતી. ૨૦ એપ્રિલ બાદ પ્રતિદિન કોરોના સંક્રમિત કેસોની સંખ્યા રેકોર્ડ સ્થાપિત કરી રહી હતી. અને ભારત બ્રાઝિલ શહેરને પણ પછાડી વિશ્વનો પ્રથમ નંબરનો કોરોના સંક્રમિત દેશ બન્યો હતો. આ માસમાં યોજાયેલ વિવિધ ચૂંટણીઓની રેલીઓ, શાદીઓમાં મોટી સંખ્યામાં લોકોની હાજરી કોરોનાના સલામતીના પગલા તરફ લોકોની બેદરકારી વગેરેથી આ પરિસ્થિતિ સર્જાય હતી.

લોકડાઉન અને કર્ફ્યુના હાલાત ઊભા થયા ત્યારે દોષનો ટોપલો લોકોએ સરકાર ઉપર ઠેલવ્યો હતો. જે કંઈક અંશે સાચું પણ છે. જ્યાં પણ ચૂંટણી હોય વડા પ્રધાન સહિત બીજેપી સરકારના મંત્રીઓ ચૂંટણીની રેલીઓમાં અને રોડ શો કરવામાં વ્યસ્ત થઈ જાય છે અને માસ્ક પહેરવું કે સોશયલ ડીસ્ટન્સીંગ અને અન્ય સાવચેતીના પગલાંનું જાહેરમાં ઉલંઘન કરતાં જોવા મળે છે.

ગુજરાતની વાત કરીએ તો મોટા શહેરો જેમાં અમદાવાદ, ભાવનગર, સુરત, બરોડા વગેરેમાં હોસ્પિટલોમાં દવા, ઈન્જેક્શન અને ઓક્સીજનનો સ્ટોક ખતમ થયો હતો. બેડો પણ ખાલી ન હતા. દર્દીઓનો રાફડો ફાટ્યો હતો અને એમ્બ્યુલન્સ સેવા પણ કાબુ મેળવવામાં નિષ્ફળ રહી હતી. ફાર્માસીની દુકાનોમાં દવા માટે અને હોસ્પિટલોમાં દાખલા માટે લાંબી

લાઈનો લાગી હતી. લોકો ટપોટપ મરી રહ્યા હતા. સ્મશાનગૃહ કે કબ્રસ્તાનોમાં લાશોના ઢગલા પડ્યા હતા. હોસ્પિટલના ડોક્ટરો, નર્સો પણ પોતાની સેવામાં મેહનતો કરી રહ્યા હતા પરંતુ ઓક્સિજન, બેડ વગેરેની કમીથી તેઓ પણ કપકપી રહ્યા હતા. લોકો પણ લાચારીથી બેબસ હતા.

મુંબઈ, પુણે, નાગપુરમાં પણ હાલત કફોડી હતી. ત્યાં બીજા રાજ્યોમાંથી કામ કરવા આવેલા લોકોએ ગયા વખતના લોકડાઉનની પરિસ્થિતિનું પુનરાવર્તન ન થાય તે માટે અગાઉથીજ ટિકીટો બુક કરાવી પોતાન વતન પાછા ફરી રહ્યા હતા. કોરોના ટેસ્ટીંગ અને મૃત્યુના આંકડાઓ સરકાર તરફથી જાહેર થતા હતા તેમાં અને ખરી પરિસ્થિતિમાં મોટો તફાવત જોવા મળતો હતો.

સરકાર પોતાની જાહેદારીથી દૂર ભાગી રહી હતી. મુસ્લિમ સમાજ જેમના વિરૂધ્ધ નફરત ફેલાવવામાં આવી રહી હતી તેજ સમાજના લોકો આજે સેવા માટે અડીખમ કામ કરી રહ્યા છે. અહીં સુધી કે હિન્દુઓના મૃતકોની તેમના ધર્મ અનુસાર અંતિમ વ્યવસ્થા પાર પાડી રહ્યા હતા. અને તેઓ કોઈના માટે જીવતદાન તો કોઈના માટે પરિવાર બનીને ઊભા રહ્યા હતા.

ગયા વર્ષે માર્ચ મહિનામાં તબ્લીગી જમાતના નિજામુદ્દીન મરકઝના ઈસ્તેમામાં હાજર રહેલા લોકોને કોરોના ફેલાવવાના જીમ્મેદાર બનાવી હંગામો મચાવ્યો હતો, જ્યારે ગયા માસમાં કુંભ મેળામાં ૪પલાખથી વધુ લોકો ભેગા મળી શાહી સ્નાન કર્યું અને કોરોનાના નિયમોનું છડેચોક ઉલંઘન અને સરકારનો એમાં સંપૂર્ણ સહકારની ટીકા થઈ રહી છે છતાં તેમના દોહરો માપદંડ માટે કોઈ જવાબદેહી જોવા મળતી ન હતી.

## રોયલ ફેમિલીના પ્રિન્સ ફીલીપ્સનું અવસાન

બ્રિટનના મહારાણી ઈલીઝાબેથ-૨ના પતિ પ્રિન્સ ફીલીપ્સનું તારીખ ૯મી એપ્રિલના મૃત્યું થયું હતું. એમના મૃત્યુનો સમયે ૯ ના આંકે અજાયબ સર્જી હતી. તેમણે તારીખ ૯ એપ્રિલ સવારે ૯ વાગ્યે આ વર્ષના ૯૯માં દિવસે ૯૯ વર્ષની ઉંમરે આ દુનિયાથી વિદાય લીધી હતી. ૨૦૧૭માં તેમણે જાહેરજીવનમાંથી નિવૃત્તિ લીધી હતી જેથી પબ્લિકમાં ઓછા નજરે પડતા હતા. માર્ચ મહિનામાં તેમની હાર્ટ સર્જરી થઈ હતી અને ત્યારબાદથી તેઓ પથારીવશ હતા.

તેઓ ડ્યુક ઓફ એડિનબરોથી ઓળખાતા હતા. તેમનો જન્મ ૧૦ જુન ૧૯૨૧માં ગ્રીક આઈલેન્ડ ઓફ કોર્ફ્યુમાં થયો હતો. રાણી ઈલીઝાબેથ-૨ સાથે તેમના ૧૯૪૭માં લગ્ન થયા હતા. તેઓ ગ્રીક રોયલ ફેમિલીના સભ્ય હતા. તેમના ૪ બાળકો અને ૮ પૌત્રો તથા ૯ પ્રપૌત્રો છે. તેમણે ૭૩વર્ષ સુધી રાણી સાથે જીવન વિતાવ્યું હતું. પબ્લિક મિટીંગમાં ઘણી વખતે તેમના વિવાદસ્પદ બયાનોથી મુશ્કેલીઓ સર્જાતી જોવા મળતી હતી.

તારીખ ૧૭મી એપ્રિલ ૨૦૨૧ના રોજ તેમની દફનવિધિ વિન્ડસર કાસલ ખાતે કરવામાં આવી હતી. કોરોના મહામારી અને સલામતીના કાયદાને માન આપી આ ફ્યુનરલમાં રોયલ ફેમિલીના નજીકના ૩૦ માણસોની જ હાજરી રહી હતી.

عامۂ ہمارے معصوم بچے ساڑھے چار سال کی عمر میں کتب میں داخل ہوتے ہیں۔ ان نونہال بچوں کو ابتدائی دینی تعلیم کے لئے ایک آسان اور بالکل سہل قاعدے کی اشد ضرورت پیش نظر تھی۔ ایسا آسان قاعدہ جس میں اول تا آخر قرآن کریم کے کلموں اور جملوں کی نہایت اہتمام اور التزام ملحوظ خاطر ہو۔ نیز بچوں کو حروف تہجی کی مختلف شکلیں ذہن نشین کرانے اور ہر حرف کا صحیح تلفظ اور ہر حرف کی شناخت، پہچان واضح کرانے میں معین اور مددگار ثابت ہو۔ ہمارے بچوں کی کم سنی میں یعنی اسی کم عمر میں زبان بالکل صاف ہوتی ہے۔ اسی وقت ہر حرف کا تلفظ صحیح کر دینا بہت ضروری ہوتا ہے۔ حضرت مولانا مفتی سید شمس الدین بڑودی نے اسی ضرورت کو محسوس فرما کر ایک قاعدہ احسن القواعد کے نام سے مرتب فرمایا۔ جو اپنے نام کی طرح رائج الوقت تمام قاعدوں میں اپنی خوبیوں کے اعتبار سے سب سے بہتر اور اپنی اور خصوصیات اور امتیازات میں یگانہ اور منفرد ہے۔ جب یہ احسن القواعد قاعدہ مرتب ہو گیا تو شیک الاسلام حضرت مولانا سید حسین احمد مدنی نے اس کی مقبولیت کی دعا کی۔ حضرت مولانا کے اخلاص اور حضرت مدنی کی دعا کی برکت سے اس قاعدے کو بے حد قبولیت اور افادیت نصیب ہوئی۔ ہند اور بیرون ہند اور اکثر ممالک کے مکاتب میں داخل نصاب ہے۔ امت کے لاکھوں بچے لیس سے فیض یاب ہوئے۔ اس سلسلہ میں مزید وضاحت اور احسن القواعد کی نئی ترتیب فن تجوید کے اصلاح یاندا کا تذکرہ آئندہ شمارہ میں ملاحظہ فرمائیں۔

### اسرائیل نے فلسطینی غزہ بیٹی پر فٹنگ زون بند کر دیا

اسرائیل نے جبر کو کہا ہے کہ وہ بیہودی ریاست پر بار بار راکٹ حملوں کے بعد ٹرالروں کو سمندر میں جانے سے روکنے کے لئے پہلے سے ناکہ بندی شدہ غزہ کی پٹی سے فٹنگ زون کو بند کر رہا ہے۔ اے ایف پی نیوز ایجنسی کے مطابق یہ اقدام اسرائیلی فوج کے اس بیان کے بعد کیا گیا جس میں کہا گیا تھا کہ گزشتہ رات غزہ سے اسرائیل کی طرف پانچ راکٹ فائر کئے گئے تھے جن میں سے 2 کو اسرائیلی فضائی دفاع نے روک لیا۔ مقبوضہ مغربی کنارے سمیت فلسطینی علاقوں میں سویلین امور کا انتظام کرنے والے اسرائیلی فوج کے ادارے کو گاٹنہ کہا ہے کہ غزہ کی پٹی میں فٹنگ زون کو آئندہ نوٹس تک مکمل طور پر بند رکھا جائے گا۔ کوگاٹنہ نے ایک بیان میں کہا کہ یہ اقدام غزہ کی پٹی سے اسرائیل کی جانب راکٹ باری کے تسلسل کے باعث کیا گیا۔ کوگاٹنہ نے مزید کہا کہ غزہ کی پٹی میں اور وہاں سے اسرائیل کی طرف جو بھی کارروائی کی جاتی ہے، اس کا ذمہ دار ہم حماس کو سمجھتے ہیں اور اسی کو جو ابده قرار دیتے ہیں کیونکہ حماس ہی غزہ کو کنٹرول کرتی ہے۔ اس نے کہا کہ حماس کو اسرائیل کے شہریوں کے خلاف پر تشدد کارروائیوں کے نتائج بھگتنا ہوں گے۔ اسرائیل پر جمعہ کی شب اور پھر ہفتے کی رات راکٹ برسائے گئے جس نے اسرائیل کو ساحلی محصور علاقے پر انتقامی فضائی حملے کرنے پر مجبور کیا۔ واضح رہے کہ اسرائیل نے ایک دہائی سے زیادہ عرصے سے غزہ کی ناکہ بندی کر رکھی ہے۔ اسرائیل نے 1990 کی دہائی میں اوسلوا من معاہدے کے

بعد ساحلی محاصرے کے لئے ماہی گیری کی 20 نائٹل میل علاقہ طے کیا تھا، ہم گزشتہ برسوں میں حماس کے ساتھ اسرائیل نے تناؤ کم کیا ہے۔ اسرائیل اور غزہ کے حکمرانوں کے مابین معاہدے کے بعد ستمبر میں ماہی گیری کی 15 سمندری میل طے کیا گیا تھا۔

**انڈیا کے ہسپتالوں میں شدید بحران، آکسیجن کے بعد سٹرپچر کی کمی**

انڈیا میں گزشتہ چار دنوں سے یومیہ تین لاکھ سے زیادہ کورونا کیسز سامنے آ رہے ہیں۔ صحت کے حکام کا کہنا ہے کہ 'اٹوار کو ساڑھے تین لاکھ کے لگ بھگ مثبت کیسز رپورٹ ہوئے جو ایک ریکارڈ ہے۔ ایک ارب 30 کروڑ آبادی کے ملک میں کورونا کی وبا تیزی سے پھیل رہی ہے۔ دارالحکومت دہلی میں صورت حال انتہائی اہتر ہے۔ برطانوی خبر رساں ادارے روٹرز کے مطابق نئی دہلی کے سرنگرام ہسپتال کے ایک ترجمان کا کہنا تھا کہ 'اس وقت ہسپتال میں شدید بحران کی صورت حال ہے۔ اٹوار کو وزیراعظم نریندر مودی نے تمام شہریوں پر ویکسین لگوانے اور احتیاط برتنے پر زور دیا ہے جبکہ ہسپتالوں اور ڈاکٹروں نے نوٹس دیتے ہوئے کہا ہے کہ 'وہ مریضوں کی بڑی تعداد سے نمٹ نہیں پا رہے۔ سب سے زیادہ متاثر ہونے والے شہروں میں میٹروں کی آخری رسومات ایک ساتھ عارضی طور پر قائم کی گئی جگہوں پر ادا کی جا رہی ہیں۔ انڈین ٹی وی چینل این ڈی ٹی وی نے مشرقی ریاست بہار میں تین طبی کارکنان کی تصویر دکھائی جو سٹرپچر کی قلت کے باعث ایک لاش کو جلانے کے لیے زمین پر گھسیٹتے ہوئے لے جا رہے تھے۔ وزیر اعلیٰ نے دہلی میں ایک ہفتے کے لیے لاک ڈاؤن میں توسیع کا اعلان کیا ہے جو اب تین مئی تک جاری رہے گا۔ کورونا کی وبا پھیلنے کے بعد سے انڈیا میں اب تک ایک کروڑ 69 لاکھ شہری اس وائرس سے متاثر ہو چکے ہیں۔ امریکہ کے بعد انڈیا کو دوسرا سب سے زیادہ متاثر ہونے والا دنیا کا دوسرا بڑا ملک بڑے شہروں میں ہسپتالوں کے باہر کورونا کے مریضوں کی لمبی قطاریں معمول ہیں، ہے۔ جبکہ آکسیجن کی کمی کی وجہ سے ہلاکتوں کی تعداد میں اضافہ ہو رہا ہے۔ کئی نیوز کے نامہ نگار کے مطابق انڈیا میں فٹ پاتھوں پر لاشیں اور بیمار افراد موجود ہیں، آکسیجن کے لیے بھیک مانگنے کے مناظر دیکھنے میں آئے ہیں۔ رپورٹ میں کہا گیا کہ آکسیجن کی تلاش کورونا بحران کی ایک بھیانگ شکل ہے۔ 'کورونا کی دوسری لہر کے دوران لوگ خود کو بے بس محسوس کر رہے ہیں۔ وہاں لوگ چیخ رہے ہیں، لٹائیں کر رہے ہیں، رو رہے ہیں اور یہاں موت ہے۔ انڈیا کے دارالحکومت نئی دہلی کے مشرق میں ایک گوردوارے کے باہر ایک تنگ سڑک پر درجنوں گاڑیاں پھنسی ہوئی کھڑی تھیں۔ گاڑیاں بیمار یا مرنے کے قریب لوگوں سے بھری ہوئی تھیں جو آکسیجن کے حصول کے لیے بے قرار تھے۔ یقینی طور پر ان میں سے تقریباً بیشتر افراد کو تربیت یافتہ پروفیشنل افراد سے علاج کے لیے ہسپتال میں ہونا چاہیے تھا۔ یہ لوگ ہسپتال جانے کے بجائے سڑک پر ہی ایک سکھ چیرٹی کی طرف سے فراہم کردہ آکسیجن لینے پر مجبور تھے۔ بیشتر لوگ گاڑیوں کی سیٹ پر لیٹے تھے اور کچھ رکشے میں بیٹھے تھے۔ ان میں سے کچھ پہلے سے ہی بے ہوش تھے جبکہ کچھ کوسانس لینے میں مشکل ہو رہی تھی۔ وہاں موجود گاڑیوں کی کنڈوز سے ٹیوب لگی ہوئی تھیں جنہیں آکسیجن کے بڑے ٹینک سے لگایا گیا تھا جو لوگوں کے لیے اب لائف لائن ہے۔

'The believer's shade on the day of Resurrection will be his charity'

MAKE A  WITH JANNAH  
THIS RAMADHAN

## Yemen & Somalia Iftar Appeal

We are collecting:

**Zakat - Sadaqah - Lillah**

Every year IMWS in conjunction with our local Masaajids we raise funds to provide Iftari food packs to less fortunate families around the world. This year we hope to deliver Iftari packs to desperate families in Somalia and Yemen.

You can help by donating your Zakat, Sadaqah and Lillah to this virtuous cause and help a fasting Muslim family have food this Ramadhan.



You can make your donation online at [www.imws.org.uk](http://www.imws.org.uk)

Or at the:

**Al-Hikmah Centre:**  
28 Track Road, Batley  
WF17 7AA  
cheque payable to: IMWS

At:

Your Local  
**IMWS Affiliate Masjid**  
and participating masjids

**IMWS Charity Account**  
ACCOUNT NAME: IMWS CHARITY A/C  
BANK NAME: LLOYDS BANK PLC  
BANK ACCOUNT NO: 01333783  
SORT CODE: 30-90-57

Give Locally - Think Globally 

Registered Charity No. 1067746



## Emergency Covid-19 India Appeal

IMWS & Rabetah are jointly collecting donations for the severe crisis in india:

**LILLAH, ZAKAAT, SADAQAH**

You can make your donation online at  
[www.imws.org.uk](http://www.imws.org.uk)

Or at the Al Hikmah centre, 28 Track Road, Batley, WF17 7AA  
cheque payable to IMWS

Or your local IMWS affiliated Masjid & participating masjids.

IMWS charity account

Account name: IMWS Charity A/C

Bank name: Lloyds Bank PLC

Bank Account number: 01333783

Sort code: 30-90-57

# SADQAT-UL-FITR

Sadqat-ul-fitr is obligatory on each adult male and female.

If a person has children, the same amount has to be paid also on behalf of each child. IMWS Charity Fund guarantees all monies received before 9 May 2021 will be distributed to poor Muslim families in Yemen & Somalia on Eid day.

**PLEASE PAY £3.12 PER PERSON BEFORE 9 MAY 2021  
AT THE AL-HIKMAH CENTRE OR IN ANY OF THE IMWS  
AFFILIATED MASJIDS, DON'T DELAY – PAY TODAY**

# APEX

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