

Why the Halal food industry needs Immediate reform



Following a plethora of allegations of bad practice and fraud across the halal food sector, industry experts have called for more regulation in order to combat any suspected fraud.

According to the Halal Monitoring Committee (HMC), the common denominator in relation to best practice and ensuring the meat we consume is indeed Halal is the fact that any alleged fraud occurs at the point of slaughter.

HMC insist they do not endorse any form

of stunning by means of electric shock or other methods.

However, the certification organisation which was established in 2003 to uphold standards for halal food produced and sold in the UK, believe that meat produced using various stunning practices are being labelled and sold as halal in the UK.

In addition, they have called for the removal of non-halal practices from increasingly large and complicated food supply chains and cautioned consumers

about the recurrence of practices such as mislabelling and contamination that have increased due to the size of the Halal meat market which is said to be worth over £3.5 billion.

Nadeem Adam, HMC operations director said: “There are a lot of imported products in the UK that come in from the global supply chain. The majority of which are from non-majority Muslim countries. Nobody has visibility on those products and whether they conform to the UK Muslim community’s expectations.”

Why the Halal food industry needs immediate reform



Examples of non-halal practices include accounts of traces of pork DNA seemingly being found in meat labelled as halal. Furthermore, an independent examination of halal-marked poultry products has confirmed that water used for the purpose of “enlarging” chickens contains proteins derived from porcine.

However, HMC say they have attempted to combat fraud by only certifying products that meet stringent halal standards by means of issuing a distinctive and copyrighted certification mark, which is distinct from the generic halal ‘logo’ that their member shops, butchers and takeaways display as a sign to consumers that their products correspond to HMC’s ‘farm to fork’ halal benchmarks.

But while such measures may help consumers make informed decisions about what to buy, they do little to tackle malpractice. The foremost barrier in relation to eradicating fraud is the inconveniency of being unable to enforce halal standards.

The difficulty arises when countries like the US, where the Halal sector is not legally regulated. Therefore, non-halal supply

chains have on many occasions, said to have deviated into and contaminated Halal products according to Kelsey Hopkins, who is leading the AFRE research project into halal meat production.

HMC also admit they are powerless to check if meat has been contaminated, admitting that in the UK, where halal meat has a bigger industry than the whole of China, they have no authority to take action when any suspected non-halal meat has crossed over into halal meat.

“The UK does not have a halal standard, so if somebody suspected that a store was selling something that was not halal-compliant, there is very little we can do,” Adam said.

However, HMC insist education and awareness is paramount as opposed to the willingness of consumers to pay for genuine halal products.

Nadeem Adam cited independent analysis by the UK’s Bristol University that surveyed the buying behaviours of a number of Muslims, with the finding suggesting that 70 percent of those questioned preferred to buy non-stunned meat.

He said: “From a consumer perspective, it’s about a journey. When people start to think about this issue, they do some research and want to learn more about how to choose genuine halal products.

“We get calls from people who want to understand what the risks are, what to look out for and how to make choices that meet their expectations.”

In Muslim majority countries, where the halal food sector is regulated and governments have powers to take enforcement measures against fraudulent producers and retailers, deception is still of the most foremost concern.

In Malaysia, a department set up by the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia, entitled the Halal Hub Division, have overall responsibility for ensuring the appropriate halal certification is prearranged.

It is an offence in Malaysia to label products as halal without permission with officially recognised administration agencies given the relevant authority to revoke business licences and prosecute those who misuse or falsify halal certifications.

However, despite such stringent measures, Malaysian media, tipped off by anonymous whistle-blowers, uncovered several corrupt scandals and practices.

This included importing frozen kangaroo and horse meat from China, Ukraine, Brazil and Argentina which was repackaged as halal beef, despite the fact that the meat but was not slaughtered according to Sharia law, in effect undermining the successful policing of halal food standards.

In recognition of the difficulty of policing halal food standards in a globalised world, efforts have been made to internationalise standards.

In May 2011, the international halal

standard, which involved 57 Muslim countries, defined the basic requirements at any stage of the food chain, such as receiving, preparation, labelling, processing, packaging control, transport, distribution, storage and service of halal food based on Sharia rules.

Other attempts to centralise the halal market include the efforts of the World Halal Food Council (WHFC) and the International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF).

To support these standards, technology is increasingly seen as the key to detecting and stamping out halal food fraud.

Following the Malaysian Halal food

scandal, the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia, announced plans to improve the recognition of foreign halal certification bodies by adding on-pack QR codes and digitising halal certificates to reduce the risk of duplication.

In the Netherlands, researchers at Wageningen University & Research are investigating the possibility of using infra-red technology, which can be deployed using hand-held devices, to check meat.

Also, food supply chain technology specialists, such as Singapore-based digital B2B platform OneAgrix, are introducing blockchain solutions to track meat from slaughter to the point-of-sale to the consumer.

Share your views with us: paigaam@imws.org.uk

A READERS LETTER TO BORIS JOHNSON

May 2022

The Prime Minister
Rt Honourable Boris Johnson
House of Common
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Right Honourable Mr Johnson

I am very disappointed and disheartened at the policies your government has advocated against the poor, disadvantaged and displaced people who have in recent years fled persecution and conflict.

Your policy to repatriate asylum seekers to Rwanda is extreme, inhumane and not the British way. The people fleeing destruction from their homes their livelihood and their lives is due to our country being involved in armed conflict in those countries and it is because of

this we have refugee crises and its not because of people smugglers. The hurried policies that you wish to enact is ill thought and against the international law and is illegal. We in UK advocate human rights and human dignity.

It has been very noticeable that you and your government have been very quiet on the issue of attack and discretion of the Muslim holy site in Jerusalem by the Israeli soldiers.

The treatment of worshippers as witnessed by video recordings showing a journalist being beaten up, old men abused pushed and beaten, women and children being hit with batons and guns and chased.

This is happening to worshippers at a place of worship, but your government had not raised a voice of condemnation or concern.

If this proof and evidence of discretion was made available at any

other religious site be it Christian or Jewish there would have been national and international condemnation.

It is unfortunate that I draw a comparison with the recent conflict in Ukraine where we see media reports and ministers raising concerns of human right abuses at every opportunity. I do hope that you will reflect on the actions of the government that you represent. Human rights need to be defended everywhere and for all people.

Yours Faithfully,

Name and address supplied.

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Platinum Jubilee celebrations to take place at IMWS



An event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is set to take place at the Al-Hikmah Centre.

In recognition of the last 70 years of our monarch, the Indian Muslim Welfare Society will host a Platinum Jubilee party recognising Queen Elizabeth II's accomplishment on Sunday the 5th of June.

Although the event officially starts at 3pm with visitors free to explore a plethora of stalls and a bouncy castle for children, speeches by dignitaries along with the recitation of poems will take place at 6 pm.

IMWS Chair, Rafik Dabhad said the idea to host an event to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is an honour.

He said: "To commemorate the queen, this is set to be a fantastic party at the Al-Hikmah Centre to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

"We are excited to honour the Queen and we can't wait to welcome our guests and dignitaries."

It's increasingly impossible to miss the hype, but many may quietly be wondering exactly what a jubilee is or just why this

one is so significant. Therefore, please read our guide to this once in a lifetime moment.

Why is Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee so significant?

When the Queen reached 70 years on the throne on February 6, 2022, she became the first British monarch ever to make it to a Platinum Jubilee. She had already broken the record of the longest-reigning British monarch back in September 2015 when she overtook Queen Victoria who reigned for 63 years 216 days.

What makes the moment particularly noteworthy is that, in addition to being the first to reach 70 years, she became Queen aged just 25 when her father died at age 56.

What exactly is a jubilee and who else has marked one?

The term jubilee applies to a milestone moment, celebration or anniversary and a royal jubilee is simply a significant milestone in the reign of the sovereign. Several British monarchs have marked Silver Jubilees by reaching 25 years on the throne, including the Queen's grandfather King George V who reigned for 25 years and 259 days.

The Queen is one of only six British monarchs to reach a Golden Jubilee of 50 years on the throne. When she passed the

milestone in 2002 at age 76, Buckingham Palace highlighted that she was the oldest sovereign to do so and that the youngest was James VI of Scotland who was 51 years old when he marked 50 years on the throne as he was just one when he became king.

The other four to reach Golden Jubilees were Queen Victoria, King George III who reigned for more than 59 years, Henry III of England who reached 56 years, and Edward III of England who made it to 50 years.

Is the Queen the longest reigning monarch in the world?

The Queen is the longest reigning monarch alive in the world today, a title she earned when King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand died in 2016.

What about future milestones?

If the Queen were to reign for 80 years, a milestone she would reach at age 105, then she would have reached her Oak Jubilee. Before that, there would be her 100th birthday which would come in 2026 and make the Queen the second member of the royal family to reach the milestone, after her mother turned 100 in 2000. Next year, however, there will be another 70 year milestone to mark with the anniversary of the Queen's coronation, which was held on 2 June 1953, almost 18 months after she came to the throne.

IMWS Conference: India, is it close to Genocide?

The rapid escalation of human rights abuses against India's religious minorities and marginalised communities has reached a breaking point.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's anti-Muslim policies, the daily incidents of violence and hate speech against Muslims and minorities, and government apathy over open calls for genocide of Muslims have created a deeply repressive and dangerous situation for India's 200 million Muslims.

Experts from leading global human rights watchdogs such as Amnesty International USA, Genocide Watch and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum have said the government's Hindutva driven agenda is pushing India further down the abyss of hate and violence and creating conditions where a genocide of

Muslims and Christians has become a real possibility. Bearing this in mind, IMWS partnered with 'Friends of India' and hosted a conference entitled "India, is it close to Genocide?"

The summit saw Abdullah Azam, former student union president, journalist and reporter, Jaseem PP and Rasheed Ahmed, President of the International Council of Indian Muslims (via zoom), joining Mufti Mohammed Amin Pandor to bring awareness to the situation in India, to advance the discourse on the international community's role in safeguarding lives, and to facilitate deeper conversations about a vision for India that builds on its longstanding tradition of pluralism and respect for diversity.

"The international community has a moral obligation to act now to prevent a cataclysmic turn of events in India, where millions of Muslims and other marginalized communities are already living in fear and

experiencing the rapidly shrinking space for civil rights and religious freedom," said Mufti Pandor, who chaired the conference.

"The far-right political leadership in India has fuelled the ongoing crisis with vitriol and the dehumanised representation of Indian Muslims."

The conference saw credible voices from around the world explain India's rapid descent into fascism.

"This Summit is an urgent call to action to safeguard peace, pluralism and justice for all Indians," said Mr. Rasheed Ahmed, Executive Director of the Indian American Muslim Council.

"We yearn for a better world where religion and spirituality are wellsprings of love, compassion and a shared ethic of the sanctity of life, and not of hate and mass violence," added Mr. Ahmed.

British Muslim climbs Mount Everest

A British Muslim, the first ever to have scaled Mount Everest said his achievement was all down to the Almighty who allowed him to achieve his dream.

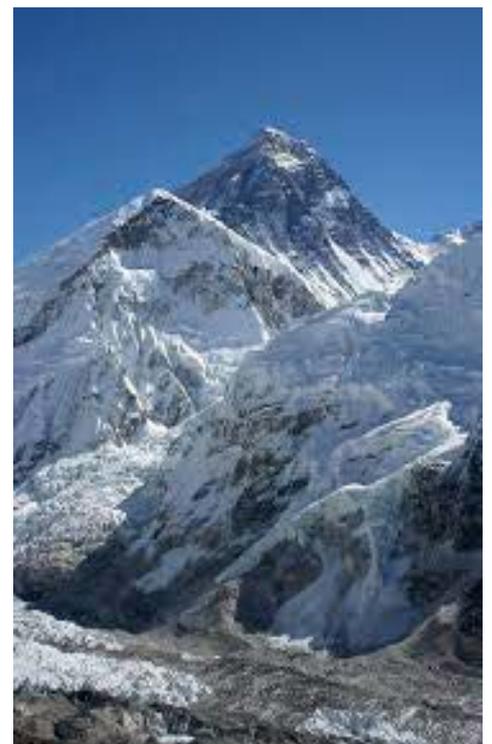
Akke Rahman, from Oldham, who began his trek during Ramadan fasting, said: "When I got to the summit, I sort of broke down because I had realised my dreams and ambition, and the Almighty had made my dreams come true."

When asked about how he felt when he reached the summit of Mount Everest, he said: "The beauty is just beyond. You can see Cho Oyu, which is another 8,000m or so, in one of my pictures. Makalu is right next to me. You can see Lhotse. There's

so much to see. You can see into Tibet. Oh man, it's just... I can't believe it. I was there. I can't believe I was there."

Mr Rahman began his ascent during Ramadan, meaning he had been fasting for nearly two weeks before setting off: "My mouth was so dry you could light a match on it," he said.

Akke, who has raised more than £80,000 for Orphans Shelter Foundation, said "Leading up to Eid, that was really depressing. For two days I was in my tent and I was like breaking down. "But I just thought about the reason why I'm here, all the training and everything that I've done, all these years they've been leading up to this and this is my chance. I kept on going and then I found myself on the top taking pictures."



IMWS General Manager appointed to prestigious new role

IMWS General Manager, Nadeem Raja has been appointed to a prestigious new role to make decisions about the use of NHS resources in Kirklees.

After an open and transparent recruitment process, Nadeem, who has extensive international experience working in the private, public and voluntary sectors, has been appointed to the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB), a new statutory organisation that will be established on 1 July 2022.

The organisation will be part of the West Yorkshire Integrated Care System (ICS) – known as the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership.

As one of two independent members, Mr Raja, along with an independent chair and a fellow impartial member will join a number of health professionals and bring with him a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will be invaluable in leading the way to improved health for local people.

Nadeem will help make decisions at Place level, in support of local Health and Wellbeing Board priorities and multi-agency partnerships working in communities, including NHS, local

authority and voluntary & community sector partners. The Kirklees place-based partnership will be known as the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

He will also help the organisation share responsibility for ensuring that it exercises its functions effectively, efficiently, economically, with good governance and in accordance with the terms of the West Yorkshire ICB Constitution.

Mr Raja, who started his UK career at Kirklees Council has also worked as Projects Manager for Age Concern as well as serving as chair for their BME National Network before joining the Indian Muslim Welfare Society, one of the largest charities in West Yorkshire.

When asked for comment in relation to his appointment, Mr Raja said: “It’s a great honour to join the ICB Kirklees Committee. I believe in encouraging, supporting and helping individuals and community groups to become part of a solution and I believe this can be achieved by strong partnership working.

“I’m delighted to be taking up the Independent member role as I am a firm believer in the fact that teamwork is so important in order to achieve improved outcomes of health and care service users

and staff. I look forward to working with colleagues to make a progressive differentiation to the lives of residents who live in the vicinity of Kirklees.”

An independent chair, Dr Liz Mear and another independent member, Hilary Thompson, have also been appointed to the ICB Committee.

Cathy Elliott, Chair-Designate for the NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board said: “I’d like to congratulate Liz, Hilary and Nadeem on their appointments to the Kirklees ICB Place-based Committee. They bring with them a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will be invaluable in leading the way to improved health for local people. We have a strong history of collaboration across West Yorkshire, and I am looking forward to continuing this tradition and working alongside them all as we move forward into our new statutory organisation.”

Carol McKenna, Chief Officer of Kirklees CCG and Designate Place Lead for Kirklees said: “I’m really proud to have worked in Kirklees for over 20 years. We’ve always worked closely with partners, both in Kirklees and across West Yorkshire, and I believe this new partnership will allow us to build on that work and really drive change in the region.”

Dewsbury Councillor is Mayor of Kirklees

Dewsbury councillor, Masood Ahmed has been sworn in as the next Mayor of Kirklees during an annual Kirklees Council meeting.

The Dewsbury South councillor, who has represented the Labour Party for around 16 years, has described the mayoralty as “an honour and a privilege”, and insists

his entire family - including his 92-year-old father, Abdul - was “delighted”.

Councillor Ahmed, who was nominated as Mayor when Councillor Mahmood Akhtar stood down in Batley East, was Deputy Mayor during 2021/2022.

However, Ahmed said he was looking forward to the role and, after the Covid-19 pandemic, to “showcasing what Kirklees

is as an authority. I really want to do that in my mayoral year, and I’m really excited.”

He added: “Being the mayor is something I have always wanted to do. Family issues prevented me from doing it before.

Now the time has come and it’s the right time for me. I consider it an honour for me - and for my whole family.”

Is Britain protecting apartheid by approving anti-BDS legislation



The Tory government has revealed its long-anticipated plan to ban the global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign, as outlined in the Queen's Speech, by introducing a bill to prohibit public institutions from participating in BDS campaigns.

During the Queen's Speech. Delivered by Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales said that the government will introduce "legislation [that] will prevent public bodies engaging in boycotts that undermine community cohesion".

The anti-BDS legislation will curtail the freedom of public bodies from adopting ethical positions against human rights abusers by proscribing

boycotts and divestment campaigns against foreign countries.

Though Israel is not mentioned in the Queen's Speech, it is widely understood that the aim of the Tory government is to shield Israel from the growing BDS movement, which seeks to end Israel's apartheid regime in Palestine.

Critics have slammed the anti-BDS legislation claiming it is part of a much broader assault on democracy and a crackdown on people's right to protest.

"If passed, this law will stifle a wide range of campaigns concerned with the arms trade, climate justice, human rights, international law, and international solidarity with oppressed peoples struggling

for justice," said a statement backed by 46 UK-based civil society groups.

In 2015, Boris Johnson, then the mayor of London, labelled British supporters of BDS by lambasting them as "corduroy-jacketed, snaggle-toothed, lefty academics".

Michael Gove, another high-profile conservative politician, said in 2016 that the campaign to boycott Israel was a "crime worse than apartheid."

Gove will oversee Britain's fight against BDS. He will be shadowed in the Labour opposition by Lisa Nandy, who has previously spoken out against the boycott movement.

"The proposed law presents a threat to freedom of expression, and the ability of

public bodies and democratic institutions to spend, invest and trade ethically in line with international law and human rights," the statement added, calling on the UK government to "immediately halt this bill."

The group pointed out that boycotts have been a powerful tool against racial segregation and that sanction campaigns have been applied throughout history to put economic, cultural, or political pressure on a regime, institution, or company to force it to change abusive, discriminatory, or illegal policies.

In 2019 the British government suffered a major defeat in its attempt to proscribe BDS when the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC).

The PSC had raised concerns about threats to freedom of expression, government overreach in local democracy and the right of pension holders to have a say in the investment and divestment of their funds.



Stop-and-search powers leave Muslims fearful

The Home Secretary has decided to lift restrictions placed on the police in relation to the use of stop-and-search powers as part of the Government's strategy to tackle violent crime.

In a letter to police forces, Priti Patel announced the easing of conditions on the use of the tactics under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act.

Section 60 powers give officers the right to search people without reasonable grounds in an area when they expect serious violence, and to look for weapons before they can be used, or those used in a recent attack.

However, British Muslims are fearful of being victimised by the police who, they say, could potentially use their powers of stop and search in order to harass them in the climate of fear over terrorist attacks.

Groups working with the Muslim community say they have received complaints from people who have never been in trouble with the police but who have reported being stopped in the street or in their cars, or having their homes searched.

People who have been taken in for questioning at airports or ferry terminals, allege they have been picked on for no apparent reason other than that they are Muslim.

The British Journal of Criminology recently published a new study of police stop and search within British Muslim communities and the analysis of statistical data collected by the Crime Survey of England and Wales. The primary aim of the study was to determine the extent to which

Crime Survey data support allegations of police discrimination against British Muslim communities.

The study represents the first of its kind to model large-scale police stop and search data from British Muslim communities. Previous research has tended to use data pertaining to ethnicity or anecdotal evidence.

Analysis revealed that being Muslim increased the likelihood of being subjected to a foot stop by only a very small amount (around one per cent) and actually decreased the likelihood of being subjected to a vehicle stop.

However, once stopped, being Muslim increased the likelihood of being searched on foot by a factor of eight - more than for any other ethnic or religious group analysed in the study.

Overall, the study revealed a more complex picture of police stop and search practices within British Muslim communities than has been asserted by academics, politicians and campaign groups.

Author of the study, Julian Hargreaves, a research fellow, at the Woolf Institute, Cambridge, believes Priti Patel's decision to lift restrictions placed on the police in relation to the use of stop-and-search powers, may risk stereotyping British Muslim communities.

He said: "I argue that while the experiences of British African Caribbean communities might provide the basis for comparison, merely swapping the labels 'Black' and 'Muslim' may be of limited use and, furthermore, may risk stereotyping British Muslim communities.

"However, I do point out that the data

analysis also revealed discrepancies in police searches against British Muslim communities.

"It would appear from the data that concerns within British Muslim communities around the misuse of police stop and search powers are neither irrational nor unfounded.

Mr Hargreaves believes police forces would be well advised to further review their stop and search procedures with attention given to factors which trigger the use their powers.

He said: "Police guidelines establish that reasonable suspicion cannot be determined by personal factors nor on assumptions about the differential involvement of certain social groups in criminal activity.

"The analysis reported in my study reveals the need for more training and monitoring work with police officers to ensure that 'being Muslim' remains insufficient grounds for stop and search."

Massoud Shadjareh, Chairman of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, concurred with Mr Hargreaves. He insists British Muslims have been singled out for decades.

Mr Shadjareh said: "Police activity has disproportionately affected Muslims. Often, they are people who have lived in the UK for decades and have never broken the law in any way."

A Met spokesperson told Paigaam that police were aware of the negative impact some people felt police actions were having, but said senior officers met regularly with Muslim representatives and encouraged feedback.

Leaked Prevent Review: double standards as Muslims targeted

When condemnation of the government led Prevent strategy intensified, Boris Johnson's team attempted to gain the trust of the public by claiming far-right extremists were also being hunted. However, the recent leaked review shows that the focus remains the targeting of Muslims.

Draft extracts of the long-delayed review into the Government's anti-terror scheme have reportedly revealed the programme has come under fire for having "double standards" when it comes to right-wing and Islamic extremism.

According to extracts leaked to The Guardian, an initial review of the Prevent programme has seen the policy criticised for focusing too much on far-right extremism.

The independent review by Sir William Shawcross, a former chairman of the Charity Commission, was delivered to the Home Office in late April but is still undergoing review.

His draft report also claimed that some Prevent-funded groups have promoted extremist narratives including support for the Taliban.

Reacting to the leaked review, the Guardian reported that it would likely be "deeply controversial" as it came just days after a mass shooting in the US which authorities described as a "racially motivated hate crime" after a self-confessed white supremacist killed 10 people.

The former police lead for Prevent, Sir Peter Fahy, said the review extracts

suggested Sir William's findings were an unwarranted attempt to "politicise counter-terrorism policing" and it was "quite dangerous to play off one ideology against another".

He added: "There is a danger of policing thought as opposed to the risk of violence. It is not about ideology but about the risk someone will cross into violence."

According to the newspaper, Sir William argues in the draft review that the purpose of Prevent must be refocused. Its first objective needed to be tackling the causes of radicalisation and responding to the ideological challenge of terrorism. Right now that "is not being sufficiently met", he claims.

His draft goes on to say that the programme views the concept of right-wing terror too broadly, and scrutinises "mildly controversial or provocative forms of mainstream, right-wing-leaning commentary" while "ignoring Islamist narratives".

Earlier this year Sir William's appointment to the chair of the government's review into its anti-radicalisation programme drew the ire of Amnesty International and other human rights groups.

In a joint letter published in February, Amnesty was joined by a coalition of 17 human rights and community groups in saying they would boycott the review "given (Sir William's) well-known record and previous statements on Islam".

In 2012, while director of the neoconservative thinktank the Henry Jackson Society, Sir William said: "Europe and Islam is one of the greatest, most

terrifying problems of our future. I think all European countries have vastly, very quickly growing Islamic populations."

Amnesty's letter further stated the appointment showed "the UK government has no interest in conducting an objective and impartial review of the strategy, nor in engaging meaningfully with communities affected by it."

The Prevent policy came under renewed scrutiny after it was revealed the homegrown terrorist who murdered Sir David Amess had been referred to the programme but continued to plot his attack in secret.

Prevent also featured in other recent cases, including that of Reading terror attacker Khairi Saadallah who murdered three men in a park and Sudesh Amman, responsible for stabbings in Streatham, both in 2020, as well as the 2017 Parsons Green Tube train attacker Iraqi asylum seeker Ahmed Hassan, among others.

A Home Office spokesperson told the Guardian: "Prevent remains a vital tool for early intervention and safeguarding. We will not allow extremists or terrorists to spread hate or sow division and Prevent remains an important driver to help divert people away from harm.

"The independent review of Prevent, led by William Shawcross, will ensure we continue to improve our response and better protect people from being drawn into poisonous and dangerous ideologies.

"The report is currently being finalised and once formally received and after full consideration, the report and the government's response to it will be published."

Lutfur Rahman wins Tower Hamlets Mayor vote

The Aspire party, which was set up by previously-banned mayor Lutfur Rahman, has taken control of Tower Hamlets in London from Labour.

After the five-year ban placed on him for standing for public office lapsed, Rahman managed to unseat the incumbent mayor, Labour's John Biggs.

Rahman won 40,804 votes on the second round, with Biggs on 33,487. Mr Rahman's party, Aspire, also took overall control of the east London council, reducing the Labour Party's 42 seats down to just 19 and leaving just one Conservative seat.

Following his re-election, Mr Rahman said he was very pleased voters had given him "another chance to serve them" and "deliver my progressive agenda which I started in 2010".

Mr Rahman also hailed the "huge vote" that ensured he won, insisting he had a bigger mandate than he had in 2014 or in 2010, as he promised to "rebuild" the area.

He said: "I want to rebuild Tower Hamlets, I want to invest in our future, and give our people a better future than we had in the last seven years."

Voters were impressed by some of Mr Rahman's eye-catching policies - such as building 4,000 new social homes,

freezing Council Tax, and scrapping Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs).

Rahman announced in February that he was planning a political comeback with a challenge to Labour over "service cuts, tax hikes and road closures".

In an election leaflet, he wrote: "I have never, ever acted dishonestly, but to those who think I didn't exercise enough oversight over campaigners in the last election, I apologise."

Rahman was originally a Labour leader of Tower Hamlets council from 2008 to 2010 before running independently for the mayoralty in 2010. He won re-election in 2014 under a new party called Tower Hamlets First, but was removed from office in April 2015, when he was found guilty in the civil election court, rather than in criminal law.

Rahman was kicked out of office in 2015 after a specialist court concluded that he was guilty of vote-rigging, buying votes and religious intimidation. But the police and Crown Prosecution Service decided there was insufficient evidence to launch a criminal prosecution.

Scotland Yard also concluded in 2018 that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute any individual.

After a £1.7m, yearlong investigation into the allegations, the Met said it "had not identified sufficient additional evidence or investigative opportunities to



enable the Met to request the Crown Prosecution Service to consider the charging of any individual in relation to offences of electoral fraud and malpractice arising from the 2014 mayoral election."

However, Rahman urged people to judge him on what he has promised to deliver. He said: "I want to rebuild Tower Hamlets, I want to invest in our future, and give our people a better future than we had in the last seven years."

He added: "Judge me and my administration on our record, what we've delivered in the first term. The only borough in the country to have free home care.

"We delivered the London living wage - the first in London. We delivered the university bursary, educational maintenance allowance. Our promises going forward are even more progressive. Judge me on what we will do for you."



Muslims support Ukrainian refugees by giving zakat

The war in Ukraine has prompted the largest refugee crisis Europe has experienced this century. According to the most recent figures from the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), more than 4 million refugees have fled to bordering countries and over 2 million Ukrainians have been displaced internally since Russian military forces invaded on February 24.

With Ramadan taking place whilst heavy fighting has been taking place between the Russians and the Ukrainian army some Muslims have supported refugees by giving Zakat during the holy month.

Those who have benefitted include remnants of the country's minority Muslim population and the indigenous Crimean Tatars, who fled the peninsula after it was annexed by Russia in 2014.

Ukraine has a relatively small, yet diverse Muslim population. A survey conducted by the Razumkov Centre, an independent Ukrainian non-governmental organisation, found that around 2.5 percent of Ukraine's 44 million people are Muslim.

Tellingly, capital city Kyiv is home to an estimated 100,000 practising Muslims from Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan as well as the Crimean Tatars, who have lived in the region for centuries.

Research suggests many are staunch

opponents of Russia; about 10 percent of the then 250,000 Crimean Tatars having voluntarily moved to Kherson, a city in southern Ukraine, or Kyiv following Russia's annexation in 2014.

In addition, Ukraine has also become home to many Muslims of Russian descent, from the North Caucasus region, due to issues with the central government. Charities such as Nottingham based Muslim Hands prepared approximately 600 emergency food packs consisting of a month's worth of food for a family along with blankets and hygiene kits, for refugees in order to ensure they were afforded an opportunity to break their daily Ramadan fast.

In addition, the Al-Khair Foundation deployed a team of UK-based Muslim volunteers to Poland and Romania. The brief was to conduct an assessment of refugees arriving in the aforementioned countries, whilst also distributing aid in the cities of Warsaw, Kraków and Katowice in Poland.

Charities helping those in need have not, however been confined to the UK. The Turkish Human Relief Foundation has also been at the forefront of providing international aid. Initiatives have included supplying food and blankets to medical supplies including distributing some 2,000 loaves of bread daily and Iftar food packages during Ramadan.

"Because the Turkish people have always demonstrated their sensitivity in standing

up for the oppressed, they have shown the required care in the Ukrainian crisis and have not shied away from offering any assistance they can. Since this sensitivity increases during Ramadan, we can predict they will help the people of Ukraine more," said an IHH spokesperson.

"We are obliged to spend Zakat in places where people send it and to fulfil this trust in the most reliable way. For this reason, we can say the aid given to the oppressed in Ukraine will generally consist of charity and aid," the spokesperson told Salaam Gateway.

"Unfortunately, many Muslim countries have long struggled with poverty, civil war, famine and occupation. Despite these difficult conditions, Muslims who have a good economic situation try to help people in need in the world without discrimination," the spokesperson noted.

While most fleeing the war-torn country were women and children, foreign workers and students also sought refuge in Poland and other bordering countries. These include Muslims from central Asian countries like Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan who face passing Ramadan 2022 displaced in another country.

Under the Zakat obligation, Muslims must make an annual payment comprising 2.5% (one-fortieth) of their wealth (income and possessions) to assist the poor. In addition, an estimated 5-10 percent of those fleeing the conflict are Muslims.



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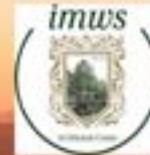
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Forest Green Rovers fly Palestinian flag during League Two game

Forest Green Rovers became the first ever football league club to have flown the Palestinian flag during a league game.

The League Two club said they wanted to show solidarity with Palestine during Monday's game against Oldham Athletic in EFL League Two at the Gloucestershire club's New Lawn Stadium.

Chairman Dale Vince said the rationale behind flying the Palestinian flag was to stand in solidarity with the besieged people of Palestine.

He explained on Twitter: "Palestine has been under siege by Israel – by air, land and sea, for decades. The US allows this, pumps billions into Israel to support its economy and military and uses its veto to block any meaningful action by the UN."

Describe being criticised for his pro-Palestinian stance, Mr Dale is of the opinion that the "conflict there has all the same ingredients as the one in Ukraine."

He explained: "We flew this flag at FGR's game today. In solidarity with Palestine. The conflict there has all the same ingredients as the one in Ukraine – invasion, occupation, murder of civilians, destruction of homes and hospitals – and sieges."

"What's happening there is a disgrace to nations that collectively self identify as the 'West'. It stands in stark contradiction to 'our' claims to moral superiority, civilisation and democratic values. Has to be said."

The 60-year-old multimillionaire has

spoken out in relation to the Palestinian issue before. In May 2020 Vince had called Israel's actions against the Palestinian the greatest global injustice of his lifetime and that the club were moving on from the manufacturer Puma.

Last month however, he announced he was selling his renewable energy firm Ecotricity to move into politics.

The Premier League, the Football Association, FIFA and UEFA have traditionally insisted that sport should not be mixed with politics and have fined clubs for displaying political symbols. But this has been set aside in recent weeks with football clubs openly displaying political support for Ukraine in its conflict against Russia.

However, not everyone was enamoured with Vince's decision as he was lambasted on Twitter by some users.

Andrei Grayson wrote: "What an embarrassing way to use a football club. You should be completely ashamed. Not only is this gross misinformation, it's a stain on your very well run club."

Another tweet posted by someone naming themselves DSMGP added: "I was becoming a fan of @FGRFC_Official due to its climate ethos, going to games since moving to the area but this geopolitical statement will make me backtrack. Israel is the only democracy on the region. This is a poor choice politicising the club."

However, others expressed support for the chairman's stance.

Hussain Vorajee wrote: "Great stuff pal, you have supported and backed our campaigns for a number of years now and

now to see you flying the Palestine flag @FGR is just amazing to see. You are not just a great businessman but a great human being and we need many like you in this world."

Head of Palestinian Mission to the UK, former Head of PLO Mission to the US, Husam Zomlot tweeted his support for Forest Green Rovers.

He wrote: "UK football club @FGRFC_Official replaced their screens today with the message "End the Invasion and Occupation of #Palestine."

"They also hoisted the flag of Palestine on their turf during their last home game in the UK League Two competition.

I conveyed to the Chairman of the club @DaleVince OBE the gratefulness of the Palestinian leadership and people and reiterated our invitation to the club to visit #Palestine.

"They added a new dimension to English football and restored to sport in general its ethical and global dimensions after decades of curbs under the guise of "neutrality" and "two-side-ism."

Forest Green Rovers, who sell vegan food only in their ground, ended the season as champions of League Two and have been promoted to League One.

Mr Zomlot then proceeded to a Forest Green Match and congratulated the club on their promotion.

"Congratulations to @FGRFC_Official on their qualification to League One and their win of the top spot in the hearts of millions of fans in #Palestine for their historic and ethical stance."

Appeal for first Masjid in the East Riding area of Yorkshire



An ambitious project to build the first Masjid in the East Riding area of Yorkshire is underway.

Within close proximity to North Yorkshire to the north and west and north Lincolnshire towards the south, notable towns include likes of Bridlington and Hornsea, that are popular with tourists, along with Beverley and Goole, where a number of people from Batley and Dewsbury have set up businesses.

However, the area is one of many rural areas which did not have Masjids. However, in 2016, a number of local people started on a journey to set-up a much-needed Masjid in the area, and after years of profound obstacles and hardships, they were able to secure a premises for £521,000 in November 2021.

Tellingly, they were able to generate 50 percent of the cost by receiving donations, with the rest of the amount raised as Qard-e-Hasna.

Upon hearing about the Batley and Dewsbury areas, locals reached out to the Al-Hikmah Centre and ICWA Masjid (Henry Street) for guidance and help in relation to fundraising. Fortunately, they were able to make use of the carpets donated by ICWA Masjid for the new Islamic Centre.

The Indian Muslim Welfare Society and the ICWA Masjid and hope to help establish the Masjid. In addition, representatives from the ICWA Masjid recently visited the centre and have been blown away by the sheer scale of project. The project has also

been granted the appropriate permissions by the local council and are in desperate need of funds to build wudu facilities and extension of the prayer hall.

A spokesman for the Masjid told Paigaam: "It is said that whoever builds a Mosque for the Almighty, he will be built a house like it in Paradise. For more information please visit: www.eastridingcommunityfoundationtrust.com.

"Debt repayment stands at £200k, new hall, 100k, property refurbishment, 20k, funeral and ghusal facility £10k, boiler and central heating 10k, wudu and toilets, 5k."

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Sort Code: 40-25-59
Account Number: 10222860
IBAN: GB19HBUK40255910222860
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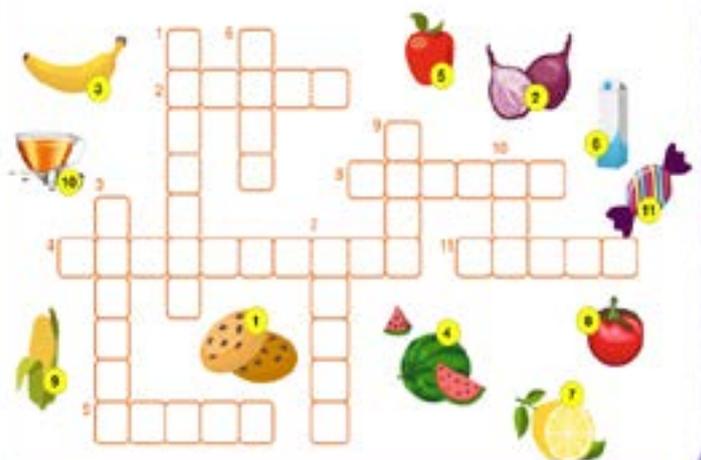
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Paigaam Kids page

FOOD & DRINK

Look at the pictures and write their names in the puzzle



Benefits of drinking Green Tea



Many people start their day with a steaming cup of coffee. But did you know that a cup of green tea comes with a plethora of benefits?

Making the switch to green tea, or at least changing up the routine to include green tea in your daily regimen of liquids, would be seen as a prudent lifestyle choice.

There's a whole lotta good in that cup of tea, including its fat-burning properties and ability to improve brain function.

WHAT IS GREEN TEA?

To best understand green tea, we have to look at tea in general. Most people drink black tea or variations of it. Others like to sip on oolong tea, and some people prefer the white variety of tea. What are the differences, and what makes green tea so healthy?

Tea comes from the leaves of the *Camellia Sinensis* bush. The plant comes in two varieties. One grows in China and is used for green and white teas. The second type of bush is found in India and is used for both oolong and black tea.

Of the four types of tea, green tea has the

most flavonoids, which are plant-based antioxidant chemicals. Green tea is the least oxidized when processed, and that is why it is touted as the most beneficial.

HOW MUCH GREEN TEA SHOULD YOU DRINK A DAY?

Studies have not been conclusive on how much green tea to drink a day to reap the maximum benefit. It really depends on the person and their own personal health. Different amounts of green tea every day will benefit you in various ways.

For example, in controlled studies, those who drank one to three cups each day had a lower risk of stroke and heart disease than subjects who drank less than one cup. And stomach cancer was less likely to develop in women who consumed over 5 cups daily.

But, we have to look at it this way – how much you consume depends on how much you can tolerate. Not everyone wants to drink 5 cups in 24 hours. Adding green tea to your diet is beneficial, but as long as you are drinking a cup or more a day, that's great!

The amount of caffeine in a cup of green tea will depend on how it was grown and processed and how you brew it. But according to the Mayo Clinic, an 8 oz cup

of green tea has about 28 mg of caffeine. This is about half of what you'd find in a cup of black tea.

CAN I DRINK GREEN TEA ON AN EMPTY STOMACH?

Despite the benefits of green tea, it's best to not drink it on an empty stomach. Doing so can cause you to experience nausea.

It's the tannins in the tea that cause the problems. Tannins can increase stomach acids, leading you to feel sick and even have a stomach ache.

It's best to drink green tea in between meals. Don't drink green tea with your meal, as it could interfere with iron intake.

ARE THERE SIDE EFFECTS TO DRINKING GREEN TEA?

People who drink a lot of green tea may experience side effects. If this happens, it's a good idea to cut back. Remember, increase how much you drink in a day gradually. Don't go all out the first day. Moderation is always ideal.

Excessive caffeine can affect sleep. Dehydration can occur if you drink in excess because tea is a diuretic. Too much green tea can cause headaches. Some people may experience stomach upset.

Iron deficient people should drink green tea one hour after meals or in between meals because it may affect iron absorption.

HOW TO DRINK GREEN TEA

Did you know that green tea is the second most consumed beverage after water? Who knew? Enjoy green tea warm or cold, but when you brew it, don't pour boiling water over the leaves immediately after it has boiled.

Doing so will affect the potent catechins that do all the work. Let the boiling water rest about 10 minutes and then pour. Steep 1 to 5 minutes, depending on your taste.

IMWS Ramadan and Sadqatul Fitr appeal

The Indian Muslim Welfare Society along with its participating and affiliated Masjids recently launched the annual Iftar appeals for Afghanistan and Gaza and the Sadqatul Fitr campaign for Yemen, in order to provide much needed respite and aid to those in need.

The generosity of the local community ensured many needy and deserving people were afforded an opportunity to break their fasts during the Holy month by means of a number of food packs which were distributed to those in need in Afghanistan and Gaza.

The IMWS Charity sub-committee made a conscious decision to support over 800 vulnerable families by providing Iftar packs consisting of a number of essential staples such as wheat flour, cooking oil, rice, beans and salt in the Herat, Kabul, Bamyan, Nangarhar and Balkh areas during Ramadan.

Iftar packs were also distributed in the Jabaliya City, Beit Lahia, Jabaliya Camp,

Dair Albalah, Khanyounis and Rafah areas of Gaza, during Ramadan. In relation to Sadqatul fitr, food packs were distributed in the Aden region of Yemen, with over 500 families receiving food packs for Eid.

The Sadaqatul fitr was also used to distribute food packs with approximately 500 families in the Aden region of Yemen benefitting.

In addition, over 6,000 households benefitted from the IMWS Syria bread project, thus ensuring over 36,000 people were given fresh baked bread with each family receiving over 1.5kg of fresh bread each day.

Chair of the Charity Sub Committee, Masoom bhai Karolia thanked the local Masjids and the community for their support in providing much needed help and support for the long-suffering people of Afghanistan, Gaza, Yemen and Syria.

“It was a fantastic effort by the people of Batley and Dewsbury and again emphasised the generosity of the local community who once more helped the

people of Afghanistan and Gaza break their fasts along with providing Sadqatul Fitr for the people of Yemen during Eid and fresh bread for thousands of families in Syria,” said Mr Karolia.

Munir Daji, IMWS Projects Officer said all the money raised has been given to those in desperate need.

“All of the money which was raised went to those who are really in need and we would like to thank all those involved in ensuring we provided urgent relief to those in the most hard-hit areas,” said Mr Daji.

“None of this would have been possible without the kind and generous nature of our members and the local community. With your help over many families received Iftari meals throughout Ramadhan, fresh bread and an Eid that many families will remember. This is something our community has been doing for many, many years and we hope and pray the Almighty keeps us in good health and wealth to continue helping those less fortunate.”



IMWS Muslim Burial Services



The IMWS Muslim Burial Services are continuing as normal. Our services are open to everyone, free of charge, regardless of whether they are members or not.

We are fully supported by our local area Masjids and our senior Ulema. We appreciate the support of our community and will strive to improve our services to meet the needs of our community.

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Aziz Daji
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Time to volunteer?

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Where: Al Hikmah Centre, 28 Track Road, Batley, WF17 7AA

When: 10am-2pm, 14th June

Kim Leadbeater MP column

As an MP you are expected to be able to switch your focus from one issue to another, sometimes very quickly indeed. So I may be having a serious foreign policy meeting one minute, discussing Palestine or Ukraine or Kashmir, and then go straight into a debate about school places, knife crime or road safety.

It's not always easy, but what makes it possible is having a clear idea of the kind of community, the kind of country and the kind of world I want to see. In almost every case, the same values and principles apply when looking for the way forward on a wide range of issues.

Justice, equality, fairness and togetherness are at the core of my beliefs. And I try to combine those values with a very down-to-earth approach of finding practical ways to make a real difference to people's lives. That, for me, is what politics should be about.

At the moment, the cost of living crisis is putting people across Batley and Spenningsdale in financial peril but also having a terrible impact on their physical and mental health. The government's response is neither fair nor just. B

My refusing to do more to help people with their bills, and suggesting that they should work longer hours or get a better job instead, just shows how massively out of touch they are.

While the Tories talk down to us, people across Batley and Spenningsdale are coming together to help each other and offer practical support to those most in need.

I was pleased to go and see Batley Care and Drop In, at Batley Methodist Church and to visit the Grassroots community group for a healthy cooking and eating session.

Looking after our health and well-being is so important which is why I make a special effort to back sport and fitness initiatives across the constituency, whether it's the

Oakwell Park Run, Heckmondwike Cycle Speedway and our very own Jo Cox Way bike ride. There's a lot going on around team sports in the area, too. In rugby, the British Asian Rugby Association are taking on Team Colostomy UK in a charity match. In cricket,

I was at Headingley to hear how my friend Lord Kamlesh Patel is taking measures to get Yorkshire County Cricket Club to face up to the seriousness of the racism issues there. And in football, I'll be at Wembley to watch Huddersfield Town bid for a place in the Premier League once again.

My sister's children had to keep me up to speed during HTFC's win over Luton Town as I was in Cambridge for the annual Jo Cox Memorial Lecture. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi was this year's speaker. She may be a Conservative, of the One Nation variety, but we share the same values and belief in strong communities, equality and justice.

She had a powerful and challenging message about the need to focus on policies to tackle the problems of today rather than get sidelined by culture wars.

But the biggest applause was when she lambasted the government for passing laws that could strip British Asians of their citizenship even though they were born and brought up here and have as much right as anybody to call this country home.

Sayeeda has always been a powerful supporter of the people of Palestine and we were both outraged at the horrific scenes at the funeral of the respected journalist Shireen Abu Akleh.

Labour raised an urgent question on it in Parliament and I have signed the Book of Condolence opened by Palestinian Ambassador Dr. Husam Zomlot. It was a pleasure as always to be invited by Akooji Badat to be interviewed in his Mosque Radio studio in Snowdon Street.

We covered lots of issues of concern

not just to his listeners but to everybody across the constituency.

Batley and Spenningsdale is really big, with so many different towns, villages and communities but, as I said to Akooji, I'm always struck as I go around how many concerns we all have in common and the faith we share in working together to find solutions.

In the coming weeks the country will be coming together in different ways to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She is an extraordinary example of a life given over to public service and dedication to the people of both this country and the wider Commonwealth.

It's a great opportunity for people to come together and I hope to see some of you at the many events that are taking place over the Jubilee weekend.

Kim

P.S. I want to be accessible to all my constituents as I can.

My web site address is: www.kim4batleyandspenningsdale.com and that's where you can find more details on everything I've been doing locally, nationally and internationally.

Sign up to my newsletter and meet the team that are working with me.



Legal Column

Tax Evasion May Put Employment Rights in Jeopardy

Two drivers launched Employment Tribunal (ET) proceedings against a private hire company, complaining that they had not received holiday pay or work breaks. The company stated, amongst other things, that their claims should be dismissed because they were founded on the illegal performance of their contracts. That argument was considered at a preliminary hearing.

There was no dispute that the drivers had underdeclared their earnings from the company. The company stated that it was an express term of their contracts that they would comply with their tax obligations. It was crucial to the company's business model that drivers

were honest in conducting their tax affairs. Permitting them to proceed with their claims undermine the integrity of the legal system.

For their part, the drivers failure to accurately declare their earnings had nothing to do with the overall purpose of their contracts. They had been fined by HM Revenue and Customs and it would be disproportionate to hinder their employment rights.

Ruling on the matter, the ET expressed no sympathy for the drivers, who had underdeclared their income in a deplorable manner. Given the purpose of their relationship with the company, however, their claims were not founded

on illegal acts. The rights to holiday pay and rest breaks were health and safety matters that pertained to the wellbeing of workers generally. Rejecting the company's illegality defence, the ET found that ensuring the health and safety of workers is an overriding consideration, even if they may be involved in tax evasion. The ET stated that permitting the drivers to proceed with their claims was not an endorsement of their conduct.

The ruling opened the way for a full hearing of their cases, in which the central issue would be whether they enjoyed the protected status of 'workers' under the Working Time Directions 1998 and Section 233(b) of the Employment Rights Act 1996.

Girl's cricket sessions at the Al Hikmah Centre

The establishment of a softball team local in Batley aimed at women and girls was very successful and gained great interest.

In addition to this, it allowed the development of 3 new level 2 female cricket coaches as well as a number of female coach support workers.

Building up to summer 2022 will be the 4th year Batley softball girls team has been running. The engagement has been amazing with a large team of local girls, alongside some travelling in from Heckmondwike and Dewsbury, attending our weekly sessions running on a Saturday morning from 10 am-12 pm in the Al-Hikmah sports centre.

Before covid hit us in March 2020, the girls' team had managed to attend many

competitions and fun days. From festivals all the way in Coventry and Bradford to a weekly league in Leeds running from 19th January - 15th March in Leeds. Alongside this the team have also established a friendly rivalry with a girls team in Blackburn, first playing against them in December 2019 and thereafter having a rematch in December 2021. We have seen a great improvement in the skills and confidence of our young players along with a strong sense of friendship in the team.

In addition to this, November 2019 was when the first Women's indoor softball cricket sessions at Al Hikmah started. Around 15 ladies attended over the winter before we closed due to covid. This was open to beginners who were new to the sport and many that attended enjoyed the idea of a different take on fitness in a suitable environment, which was what we provided.

The ladies' team was also a big player in tournaments and had attended a few competitions with the Bradford Park Avenue team. In May 2021 the ladies team joined with Batley CC to launch the first ladies softball team. The training consisted of skills and drills as well as games and continued over the summer.

We have just started this season off with an exclusive trip for the girls to tour Headingley Stadium. Thanks to Yorkshire Cricket Board for arranging this opportunity. For many it was the first time they were visiting the cricket ground. The women and girls were treated to view the Stadium inside including the Museum,

Anyone wanting to get involved in developing cricket in our community for women and girls be it from playing the sport right through to creating opportunities for the future, then we want to hear from you. **(Advert on page 21)**

રાણીના દેશમાં

-મહંમદ યુસુફ સુફી લાજપુરી, બાટલી.

બ્રિટનની મહારાણી ઈલીઝાબેથ-૨ના ૭૦વર્ષના રાજની ૧લેટીનમ જ્યુબીલી તારીખ રજી જુન ૨૦૨૨ના ગુરુવારના રોજ ઉજવાશે. અને એમાં ૩,૪,૫ જુનના વીક એન્ડનો પણ સમાવેશ કરવામાં આવ્યો છે. આ માનપૂર્વક અવસર ઉપર પચગામ પબ્લીકેશન અને ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી, બાટલી રાણીને અભિનંદન પાઠવે છે અને આ દિવસોના ઉજવણી પ્રસંગે મુસ્લિમ કોમ્યુનિટી પણ તેમની રીતે ઉજવણી કરી રહ્યા છે. આ અવસર ઉપર ઈસ્લામની નિખાલસતાભરી દાવત પણ પેશ કરે છે. અને એક એવા કલેમાં તરફ જે આપણાં બધાના વચ્ચે બરાબર છે કે, આ સૃષ્ટીના સર્જનહાર અને પાલનહાર સિવાય કોઈની બંદગી ન કરે.

પ્રિય વાંચકો! હુદહુદ નામનું માથે કલગીવાળુ એક નાનું સુંદર રૂપાળુ પંખી જેને ગુજરાતીમાં ટિટોડી, લક્કડાખોર એને અંગ્રેજીમાં વુડપેકર કહેવામાં આવે છે. હઝરત સુલયમાન અલૈ.ના પાણીનો એન્જીનિયર હતો. જે લશ્કરના આગળ રહેતો હતો. અને પાણી ક્યાં છે તે બતાવતો હતો. આ હુદહુદ પંખીનું નામ યઅકુર હતું.

એક વેળા પાણીની શોધમાં ઉડતાં ઉડતાં ઘણાં દૂર નીકળી ગયો. સભા એ યમન દેશનું પ્રખ્યાત શહેર છે. આ શહેરની રાણી જેનું નામ બિલ્કીસ હતું. રાણીના દેશની પ્રજા સૂર્યને પૂજતી હતી અને પાલનહારને છોડી સૂરજને સિજદો કરતી હતી. આ રૂપાળુ અને દયાળુ પંખીએ આ બધું જોયું તો એના આશ્ચર્યનો પાર ન રહ્યો. જ્યારે એ ફરી હઝરત સુલયમાન અલૈ.ના રાજમાં આવ્યો. ગઈ રાત્રીની હાજરીપત્રકમાં એની ગેરહાજરી પણ લાગી ગઈ હતી. જેથી હઝરત સુલયમાન અલૈ. ગુસ્સામાં પણ હતા. હુદહુદ પંખીએ આંખે દેખ્યો હાલ જે સભા શહેરમાં જોયો હતો તે પૂરી કારગુઝારી સાથે બયાન કર્યો. જેનો ઉલ્લેખ કુરઆન મજ્હદના પારા નંબર-૧૯ સુરે નમલમાં છે.

કિસ્સો મુખ્તસર:

ટૂંકમાં એ કે, હઝરત સુલયમાન અલૈ.ની દાવત પર મહારાણી બિલ્કીસ પૂરા દેશ સહિત મુસલમાન થઈ ગઈ હતી. રાણીના દેશનું મુસલમાન થવાનું કારણ ફક્ત હુદહુદ પંખી બન્યું હતું. વાહ રે હુદહુદ વાહ મુબારકબાદ!

રાણીના દેશમાં રહેતા મુસલમાન ભાઈઓ અને બહેનો એક હુદહુદ પંખી રાણી બિલ્કીસના પૂરા દેશની હિદાયતનું કારણ બને, જ્યારે કે આપણે અહીં રાણીના દેશમાં કેટલાની હિદાયત અને માર્ગદર્શકના કારણ બન્યા? એ દરેક વ્યક્તિ પોતાના ગરેબાનમાં નજર નાંખી ચિંતન, મનન કરી શકે છે.

રાણીના દેશમાં રહેતા મુસલમાનો માટે મુફકિર ઈસ્લામ હઝરત મૌલાના સૈયદ અબુલ હસન અલી. નદવી રહ. એક અગત્યનો સંદેશ આપ્યો હતો. અહીં રજૂ કરીએ છીએ.

મુસલમાનોએ આ રાણીના દેશમાં પોતાનું સ્થાન બનાવવું જોઈએ. તમારે અહીંના લોકોના માનસ ઉપર તમારી ઉપયોગીતાની સુંદર છાપ પાડવી જોઈએ. તમારે અહીંના લોકોને એવું બતાવવું જોઈએ

કે, તમારું અહીં રહેવું તેમના પર ઘણાંજ ફાયદા માટે છે. તમારે તેમને માનવતાના પાઠો ભણાવવા જોઈએ. તમારે એ પણ તેમને બતાવવું જોઈએ કે તમે કેટલા ઉમદા અને સિધ્ધાંતવાળા લોકો છે. અને તમારાથી વધારે સીધા અને પ્રમાણિક લોકો આ દુનિયામાં મળવા મુશ્કેલ છે. તમારે તમારું પોતાનું મૂલ્ય સ્થાપવાનું છે. અને તમે આ દેશ માટે એક આશિર્વાદ અને રહમત સમાન છો એવું સાબિત કરવાનું છે. પરંતુ એમ કરવાને બદલે જો તમે બંધ વાતાવરણમાં નમાઝ, રોઝા કરી પોતે સંતુષ્ટ થઈને કેદ થઈ જવાનું પસંદ કરશો અને જે દેશમાં રહો છો ત્યાંના લોકો અને સમાજ પ્રત્યે ઉદાસીનતા સેવશો, તેમને ઈસ્લામના ઉમદા મૂલ્યો, તમારી અંગત ખુબીઓ વિશે જ્ઞાન કે સમજ ન આપશો તો ચેતજો કે ભવિષ્યમાં સર્જનહાર કોઈ ધાર્મિક કે સાંપ્રદાયિક સંઘર્ષ કે હુલ્લોમાં ફસાઈને ન પડો. આવી પરિસ્થિતિ ખુદા પેદા ન કરે. નહીં તો તમારા માટે બચવાનો કોઈ ચારો ન રહેશે.

યાદ રાખો! તમે અહીં એક મહેમાનની હેસીયતથી છો. તમારી તબ્લીગ, મસ્જિદો, મદ્રેસાઓ, ઈબાદતો અને તમારા બલિદાનો તારીફને લાયક છે. તમને એમાં બરકતો આપે. પરંતુ આ દેશમાં તમારું સ્થાન બનાવવાનું ભૂલશો નહીં. તમે અહીંના લોકો સાથે એવી રીતે વર્તણૂક કરો કે તે તમારા ઉપર પૂરો ભરોસો રાખે. ઈસ્લામની દરેક હકીકતો અને તેમાં છૂપાયેલ દરેક સારી બાબતો તેમને સમજાવો. તમારા સારા અપ્લાકની નોંધ લીધે તેની પૂરી કાળજી રાખો. અહીં રહેતી કોમને કોઈ પણ જાતનું નુકસાન ન પહોંચાડો અને તેમની સાથે સારા સંબંધો રાખો કે જેથી તેઓ પણ વિચારવા મજબુર થાય કે, આખરે ઈસ્લામમાં એવી તો શું વાત છે કે, મુસલમાનો આ રીતે વર્તણૂક કરી રહ્યા છે.

રાણીના દેશમાં રહેતા મુસલમાનો સામે અનેક પ્રકારના પડકારો છે. અહીં આપણી અને આપણી નસલને બગાડવાના અનેક સામાન અને માહોલ મળી રહ્યા છે. આપણે એવા મોડ ઉપર ઊભા છીએ કે ઈર્તિદાદ ચારો તરફ મોં ફાડી ઊભો છે.

રાણીના દેશમાં રહેતા ભઈઓ અને બહેનો! મતભેદો અને વાદવિવાદનો અંત લાવો અને સંગઠિત થાવો. ખુશીના ખાતર પરસ્પર હાથ મેળવી લો અને આગળ વધો. આ દેશના કાયદા કાનુનને પણ સન્માનની નજરે જૂઓ અને તેને મહત્વ આપો. રાણીના દેશમાં રહેતા મુસલમાનો માટે એક સુંદર માર્ગદર્શન છે.

હળવી પળોમાં.....

- ♦ સરસને બદલે સરળ બનવાનો પ્રયત્ન કરીએ કારણ કે, સરસ માત્ર આંખો સુધી પહોંચે છે જ્યારે સરળ હૃદય સુધી.
- ♦ માં-બાપ પર પણ એટલો જ વિશ્વાસ રાખો જેટલો દવા પર રાખો છો.
બેશક થોડા કડવા હશે પણ તમારા ફાયદા માટે જ હશે.
- ♦ પિતાની હાજરી સૂરજ જેવી હોય છે.
સૂરજ ગરમ જરૂર થાય છે પણ ન હોય તો
અંધારૂ છવાય જાય છે.

ચાલો આજે કંઈક સારું જાણીએ

-રફીક અહમદ સભાસ

જે આપણે જોઈએ છે તે સાચું તો હોય છે, પરંતુ શું ફક્ત તે જ સાચું છે એવું હોતું નથી !

એક રજવાડાના રાજાની આ વાત છે. જેને હવે લાગી રહ્યું હતું કે, હવે મારે મારા દીકરાઓને (રાજકુંવરો) રાજકાજ, દુનિયાદારી શીખવવાનો સમય આવી ગયો છે અને તેમને એના લાયક બનાવી શકું કે તેઓ પણ એક સારા રાજા બની શકે. તેના ત્રણ રાજકુંવરો હતા. રાજાએ ત્રણેને પોતાના દરબારમાં બોલાવ્યા અને કહ્યું, આપણાં રાજ્યમાં કોઈ પણ નાશપતીનું ઝાડ નથી. હું ચાહું છું કે, તમે ત્રણે રાજકુમારો જાવો અને જોઈ આવો કે નાશપતીનું ઝાડ કેવું હોય છે.

ત્રણેએ હાં માં માથું હલાવ્યું. પરંતુ રાજાએ કહ્યું તમારે ત્રણે જણાંએ એક સાથે જવાનું નથી. વર્ષમાં ૧૨ મહીના હોય છે. પહેલા ૪ મહીનામાં પહેલો રાજકુંવર બીજા ચાર મહીનામાં બીજો રાજકુંવર અને છેલ્લા ૪ મહીનામાં ત્રીજા રાજકુમારે જવાનું છે. દીકરાઓએ કહ્યું ઠીક છે, જેવી તમારી ઈચ્છા. રાજાએ કહ્યું એક વર્ષ પછી આપણે અહીંજ પાછા મળીશું અને નાશપતીનું ઝાડ કેવું હોય છે એના ઉપર ચર્ચા કરીશું.

ત્રણે રાજકુંવરો અલગ અલગ સમય ઉપર તેમના વારા પ્રમાણે ગયા અને નાશપતીના ઝાડને જોઈને આવી ગયા. એક વર્ષ પછી તે દિવસ આવી ગયો જ્યારે દરબારમાં બધાએ મળવાનું હતું અને નાશપતીના ઝાડ વિશે વાત કરવાની હતી.

રાજાએ પહેલા છોકરાને કહ્યું બતાવો નાશપતીનું ઝાડ કેવું હોય છે. તેણે કહ્યું ખૂબજ અજબ પ્રકારનું તેડુમેડું ઝાડ છે. તેના ઉપર ન તો પાંદડા, ન ફળો, સુકાયેલું બેકાર ઝાડ છે. બીજો રાજકુમાર બોલ્યો તમે શું કહી રહ્યા છો. એવું તો બિલ્કુલ નથી. ઝાડ તો હરૂંભર્યું હતું પરંતુ તેના ઉપર ફળો લાગેલા ન હતા. ત્રીજા રાજકુમારે કહ્યું તમે બન્ને ગલત છો. ઝાડ લીલુંછમ હતું અને તેના ઉપર અસંખ્ય ફળો પણ લાગેલા હતા. આ રીતે પોતપોતાની વાત કહ્યા પછી પોતાની વાતને સાચી સાબિત કરવા એકબીજા સાથે લડવા પણ લાગ્યા કે, હું કહી રહ્યો તે સાચું છે. બીજો કહે હું કહું તે સાચું છે અને ત્રીજો કહે હું કહી રહ્યો છું તે સાચું છે.

રાજા એ ત્રણે રાજકુમારોને રોકીને કહે છે, મારી વાત સાંભળો ! મેં જાણી જોઈને તમને ત્રણેને અલગ અલગ સમય ઉપર મોકલ્યા હતા. કારણ કે, અલગ અલગ સમયમાં નાશપતીનું ઝાડ તેના જુદા જુદા સ્વરૂપમાં હોય છે. રાજકુંવરો ચોંકીને જોયું અને હા માં માથું હલાવ્યું. રાજાએ કહ્યું મેં એટલા માટે આવું કર્યું કે, હું તમને ત્રણ વસ્તુ શીખવવા માંગતો હતો. તો તે ધ્યાનથી સાંભળો જે આપણે બધાએ શીખવાની જરૂરત છે.

પેહલી વાત એ કે, કોઈ પણ વ્યક્તિ, વસ્તુ કે હાલતને સમજવા માટે લાંબા સમય સુધી તેને જોવું, જાણવું જરૂરી હોય છે. થોડા સમય માટે તેને જોઈને આપણે તેના માટે નિર્ણય લઈએ છીએ ત્યારે આપણે ગલત હોઈ શકીએ છીએ.

બીજી વાત એ કે, દરેક વસ્તુ સમયની સાથે બદલાય છે. કંઈ પણ સ્થિર રહેતું નથી. પોતાના સમય આવવા ઉપર તેનો સર્વોત્તમ હિસ્સો (બેસ્ટ પાર્ટ) આપણને જોવા મળે છે. અને ત્રીજી વાત એ કે, તમે સહી એટલે કે ખરા છો પરંતુ તમે જ ખરા છો એવું વિચારવું ન જોઈએ. પોતાના તથ્યો મૂકવાની સાથે બીજાઓની વાતોને પણ ખૂબજ ધ્યાનથી સાંભળવું જોઈએ, જેનાથી તમારું જ્ઞાન વધશે અને તમારો નિર્ણય સહી, સાચો હોવાની ઉમ્મીદ વધારે મજબુત થશે. તો ચાલો આપણે પણ હવેથી આવી પરિસ્થિતિમાં આ ત્રણે વસ્તુને ધ્યાનમાં રાખીએ અને જોઈએ કેટલા સકારાત્મક બદલાવ આપણી જીવનમાં લાવી શકીએ.

રમજાન ચેરિટી અપકેટ

રમજાનનો મહિનો ઝડપથી અને ખૂબજ આસાનીથી પસાર થયો. કોરોનાના કારણે બે વર્ષ આપણે રમજાન અન ઈદની રોનકથી મેહરૂમ રહ્યા, પરંતુ આ વર્ષે જ્યારે કે, જીવન સામાન્ય થતાં આપણે તેનો પૂરો લાભ ઉઠાવ્યો. આપણી ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટીએ રમજાન પહેલાંજ ચેરિટી કલેક્શન માટે તમામ વિગત આપના સમક્ષ પોસ્ટરો, વેબસાઈટ અને સોશયલ મીડિયા મારફત મૂકી હતી અને તેમાં ભરપુર મદદ કરવા વિનંતી કરવામાં આવી હતી. જે ધ્યાનમાં લઈ આપ તમામ ભાઈ-બહેનોએ તરફથી દરેક પ્રોજેક્ટમાં સુંદર સહકાર મળ્યો છે. જે બદલ સોસાયટી આપનો ખૂબજ આભાર માને છે. અને દુવા કરે છે કે, રબ્બુલ આલમિન તમારી તમામ સખાવતને કબુલ ફરમાવે અને તેનો બદલો બન્ને જહાંનમાં અતા ફરમાવે આમીન.

સોસાયટી તરફથી ગાઝા, સિરીયા, યમન (સદકતુલ ફીત્ર અને અન્ય) અફઘાનિસ્તાન (ઈફતાર પેકેટ અને અન્ય સામગ્રી) ગુજરાત પ્રોજેક્ટ તથા જનરલ ફંડમાં ઈમદાદની વિનંતી કરી હતી. રમજાન માસ દરમ્યાન જ ગાઝા અને અફઘાનિસ્તાનમાં ફૂડ પેકેટ વગેરેની વહેંચણી કરવામાં આવી હતી. અને ઈદના દિવસે યમન ખાતે ફીત્રા માટે જરૂરી સાધન સામગ્રી તથા ફૂડ પારસલ વગેરે વહેંચવામાં આવ્યા હતા. આમ આ રીતે તાલ્કાલિક ધોરણે સોસાયટીએ હાજતમંદો, મઝલુમો માટે ખાસ વ્યવસ્થા કરી હતી. જે માટે અમે અમારા સહયોગી ઈસ્લામિક રિલીફ યુ.કે. અને પેલેસ્ટાઈન વેલ્ફેર હાઉસ ગાઝાનો આભાર માનીએ છીએ.

આપની ઉદારદીલી સખાવતથી સોસાયટીએ તમામ પ્રોજેક્ટ માટે કુલ ૧૦૮,૩૦૦ પાઉન્ડ એકત્ર કર્યા હતા. જે માટે અમે એરિયા મસ્જિદો, ભાગ લેનાર બીજી મસ્જિદો તથા ડોનેશન આપનારા તમામ સખી ભાઈ-બહેનોનો આભાર માનીએ છીએ અને આશા રાખીએ છીએ કે આજ રીતે આપ સૌ અમારા ચેરિટી પ્રોજેક્ટમાં મદદ કરતા રહેશો. વધુ માહિતી અલ હિકમાહ સેન્ટર ઉપર ફોન કરી મેળવી શકાય છે. ટેલીફોન નંબર : ૦૧૯૨૪ ૫૦૦૫૫૫

ભારતમાં મુસલમાનો વિરૂધ્ધ પ્રવૃત્તિઓ

હાલના સમાચારો મારફત આપણે જાણીએ છીએ કે, ભારતમાં મુસલમાનો માટે દિન પ્રતિદિન નફરત અને ઘૃણાની સાથે તેમના ધંધાઓ, માલમિલ્કતોને નુકસાન પહોંચાડવાના જુદા જુદા પેંતરા અને સાજિસો થઈ રહી છે. જે કલ્પનાથી પર છે. રોજબરોજ નવી નવી યુક્તિઓ, તરકીબો અને યોજનાઓ થઈ રહી છે જેમાં ફક્ત મુસલમાનોનેજ સહન કરવું પડી રહ્યું છે. અને તેમાં એમને સરકાર કે પોલિસ તરફથી કોઈ પણ જાતનો સાથ સહકાર મળતો નથી.

હિન્દુત્વ અને હિન્દુરાજ બનાવવાના કટ્ટરપંથી અને બીજેપી, આરએસએસના જે સપનાઓ અને એજન્ડાઓ છે તે અભિયાન હવે ઝડપથી ચાલી રહ્યું છે. હાલમાં જ જોઈએ તો લાઉડસ્પીકરો ઉપર અઝાનનો વિરોધ અને પ્રતિબંધ તથા અઝાનના સમયે તેમાં જુદા જુદા પ્રકારે અવરોધ ઊભો કરવો, કોમી તણાવ ઊભા કરવા, મુસ્લિમોના એરિયાઓમાં એક યા બીજા પ્રકારે તેમને ઉશ્કેરી હંગામો કરાવવો વગેરે. અને એ હવા અનેક રાજ્યોમાં ફેલાઈ છે. હવે તો રાજ્ય કે કેન્દ્ર સરકાર અને પોલિસતંત્ર પણ એક તરફી થઈ કોઈ પણ કારણ કે નોટિસ વિના મુસલમાનોના ઘરો, મસ્જિદો કે દરગાહોને ભુલડોઝરથી તોડી પાડવાના અનેક બનાવો આપણાં સમક્ષ છે. સાથેજ મુસલમાનોના વેપારનો બહિષ્કાર તથા તેમને કોઈપણ રીતે સહકાર ન આપવાની સુંબેશે પણ ઉગ્ર સ્વરૂપ ધારણ કર્યું છે.

તાજેતરમાં જે થઈ રહ્યું છે તેમાં તાજમહાલ જે ભારત દેશની પ્રતિષ્ઠા, મહાનતા અને વિશ્વ અજાયબીનું પ્રતિક છે તેની સામે પણ જુદા જુદા પ્રકારના કેસો કોર્ટમાં દાખલ થયા અને ત્યાં મંદિર હોવાનું સાબિત કરવાના પ્રયત્નો અને તાજમહાલનું નામ બદલવાની કોશિશ કરવામાં આવી. તાજમહાલની નીચે રર રૂમો બંધ છે તેને ખોલવા માટે અરજી થઈ. જેને સુપ્રિમ કોર્ટે ફગાવી દઈ ફટકાર લગાવી છે. આ માટે જુનો ઈતિહાસ અને તે બંધ હોવાનું કારણ તથા પુરાતત્વકારોના અનેક દસ્તાવેજો મોજુદ છે. જેમાં ભૌતિકરીતે અને આ ઈમારતને નુકસાન ન થાય તે કારણ પણ પેપરોમાં દર્જ છે અને તેની તપાસ પણ કેટલીય વખતે થઈ ચૂકી છે, છતાં આવા છમકલાઓ ફરીથી થઈ રહ્યા છે.

વધુમાં દિલ્હી અને ઉત્તર પ્રદેશમાં કેટલાક પ્રખ્યાત માર્ગો જેના નામો મોગલ સલ્તનત વખતના છે અને તે મહત્વતાના આધારે તે વખતે આપવામાં આવ્યા હતા. જેવા કે, અકબર રોડ, હુમાયુ રોડ વગેરે નામોને બદલવાની અનેક પ્રવૃત્તિઓ અને ગતિવિધિઓએ હાલમાં જોર પકડ્યું છે. બીજેપી સરકાર પ્રજાનું ધ્યાન દેશમાં મોંઘવારી બેકારી અને કથડતા અર્થતંત્રથી બીજી તરફ વાળવાનું કામ કરી રહી છે.

બીજી તરફ ગોદી મીડિયા જેને હાલની સરકાર લખલૂટ પૈસો આપી રહી છે તે પણ સરકાર તરફીજ અને તેમના કહ્યા મુજબનીજ વાતો કરી કોમમાં નફરતનું વતાવરણ અને ઝેર ફેલાવવાનું કામ કરે છે. તે સંબંધે પણ વર્લ્ડ પ્રેસ ફ્રીડમ ઈન્ડેક્સમાં

ભારત ગયા વર્ષે ૧૪૨માં સ્થાને હતું તે આ વર્ષે કુલ ૧૮૦ દેશોમાંથી ૧૫૦માં સ્થાને આવી ગયું છે. ગ્લોબલ મીડિયા વોચડોગ ધ્વારા જારી કરવામાં આવેલ રિપોર્ટમાં આ માહિતી પ્રસિધ્ધ થઈ છે. આ રિપોર્ટ દર્શાવે છે કે, પત્રકારો અને ઓનલાઈન ટીકાકારોને નિશાન બનાવવાનું બંધ થવું જોઈએ. સત્તા ધ્વારા ટીકાકારોને ધમકી આપવું, હેરાન કરવું, વિના કારણે જેલમાં ધકેલવું બંધ થવું જોઈએ. વધુમાં એ પણ કહેવામાં આવ્યું છે કે, પત્રકારો અને સોશ્યલ એક્ટીવીસ્ટોને ભારતમાં જીવન જોખમનો સામનો કરવો પડે છે.

૨૦૨૨ની હજ માટે ભારતીય હાજીઓનો કોટા જાહેર

કોવિડ-૧૯ મહામારી વખતના પ્રતિબંધ પછી બે વર્ષ બાદ હજયાત્રીઆને હજ માટે સઉદી અરેબિયા મુસાફરી કરવાની પરવાનગી મળી રહી છે. જે મુજબ વિશ્વના અનેક દેશોમાંથી કુલ એક લાખ જેટલા હાજીઓ હજની અદાયગી માટે સઉદી અરેબિયાના પવિત્ર શહેર મક્કા એ મદીના જશે. સઉદી સરકારે આ માટે હાજીઓનો કોટા નક્કી કર્યો છે. જે મુજબ ભારતથી ૭૯૨૩૭ જેટલા હાજીઓ હજ માટે સઉદી જશે. જેમાં ૨૨૬૩૬ જેટલા હાજીઓ ગૃપ આયોજકો મારફત અને બાકીના ૫૬૬૦૧ હાજીઓ હજ કમિટી ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા મારફત જશે.

આ માટે ઓન લાઈન અરજી વગેરેની કામગીરી ભારત ખાતે શરૂ થઈ ગઈ હતી અને સરકારે એ માટે હજ તાલિમ શિબિર, પ્રવાસ, એરલાઈન સુવિધા વગેરેની કામગીરી પણ શરૂ કરી છે. સઉદી ખાતે હાજીઓના રહેઠાણ, આરોગ્ય, સલામતિ, પરિવહન વગેરેની તૈયારીનું આયોજન પણ થઈ રહ્યું છે. ઉપરાંત ભારતના વિવિધ શહેરોમાંથી કેટલા હાજીઓ જશે તેની સંખ્યા અને તે માટેની જરૂરી કામગીરી પણ શરૂ થઈ ગઈ છે.

ગઝલ .

આપનું મુખ જોઈ મનમાં થાય છે,
યાંદ પર લોકો અમસ્તા જાય છે.
જાગવાનું મન ઘણુંયે થાય છે,
આંખ ખોલું છું તો સપના જાય છે.
આંસુઓમાં થઈ ગયો તરબોળ હું,
આપનું દિલ તોય ક્યાં ભીંજાય છે.
આપ શું સમજો લદયની વાતમાં,
આપને ક્યાં દર્દ જેવું થાય છે.
લાખ કાંટાઓ મથે સંતાડવા,
તે છતાંયે ફૂલ ક્યાં સંતાય છે?
દુઃખ પડે છે તેનો આદિલ ગમ ન કર,
ભાગ્યમાં જે હોય છે તે થાય છે.

-આદિલ મન્સૂરી.

متحدہ عرب امارات کے صدر شیخ خلیفہ بن زید النہیان انتقال کر گئے

یو اے ای حکومت کی جانب سے جاری بیان کے مطابق شیخ خلیفہ بن زید النہیان کی عمر 73 برس تھی۔ وہ یو اے ای کے دوسرے صدر تھے۔ خلیفہ بن زید النہیان سال 2004 سے صدارت کے منصب پر فائز تھے۔ حکومت کی جانب سے شیخ خلیفہ بن زید النہیان کے انتقال پر 40 روز سوگ کا اعلان کیا گیا ہے، اس موقع پر متحدہ عرب امارات کا پرچم سرنگوں رہے گا۔ شیخ خلیفہ بن زید النہیان کے انتقال پر 40 روز کے سوگ کے ساتھ 3 روز کی عام تعطیل بھی ہوگی۔ صدارتی اعلان میں کہا گیا ہے کہ وفاقی سرکاری اور نجی شعبے میں تین دن تک تعطیل رہے گی۔ یو اے ای کے صدر کی تدفین اور نماز جنازہ سے متعلق مزید تفصیلات جاری نہیں کی گئی ہیں۔ شیخ خلیفہ بن زید النہیان 3 نومبر 2004 سے متحدہ عرب امارات کے حکمران تھے اور انہوں نے اپنے والد شیخ زاید بن سلطان آل نہیان کی وفات کے بعد یو اے ای کی قیادت سنبھالی تھی۔

امریکا کا 5 تنظیموں کے نام دہشتگردوں کی فہرست سے نکالنے کا فیصلہ

ان انتہاء پسند گروہوں میں کئی ایسی تنظیمیں بھی شامل ہیں جو کبھی بڑے خطرات کا سبب بنیں اور ان کی کارروائیوں میں ایشیا، یورپ اور مشرق وسطیٰ میں لوگوں کی اموات بھی کے مطابق جن گروہوں کے نام غیر ملکی دہشت گرد تنظیموں ہوئی تھیں۔ غیر ملکی میڈیا کی فہرست سے نکالے گئے ہیں ان میں اسپین اور فرانس میں فعال رہنے والا علیحدگی پسند باسک گروپ (ای ٹی اے)، جاپان کا ایک فرقہ اوم شینریکیو، بنیاد پرست یہودی گروپ کہانے کیچ اور مجاہدین شوریٰ کونسل سمیت دو اسلامی گروپ شامل ہیں جو اسرائیل، مصر اور فلسطینی علاقوں میں متحرک تھے۔ امریکی محکمہ خارجہ نے دہشت گرد گروپوں کی فہرست میں ترمیم سے متعلق جمعہ کو کانگریس کو آگاہ کیا۔ واضح رہے کہ کانگریس میں تہران اور عالمی طاقتوں کے درمیان ہونے والے جوہری معاہدے کو بچانے کی خاطر ایران کے پاسداران انقلاب کو امریکا کی دہشت گرد تنظیموں کی فہرست سے خارج کرنے سے متعلق بحث جاری ہے۔ ایران کے پاسداران انقلاب کو امریکا کے سابق صدر ڈونلڈ ٹرمپ کی انتظامیہ نے دہشت گرد قرار دیا تھا، تاہم اس سے متعلق جمعہ کو جاری ہونے والے سرکاری اعلیٰ میں ذکر نہیں ہے۔ محکمہ خارجہ کے مطابق ان 5 گروہوں کے نام دہشت گرد تنظیموں کی فہرست سے باضابطہ طور پر آئندہ ہفتوں میں ہٹا دیے جائیں گے، ان تنظیموں کے نام فہرست سے خارج کرنے کے اعلیٰ پر امریکی وزیر خارجہ انٹونی بلنکن کے دستخط موجود ہیں۔

شیریں ابو عاقلہ: اسرائیلی فوجیوں کے ہاتھوں خاتون صحافی کی ہلاکت، الجزیرہ کا عالمی مذمت کا مطالبہ

قطر میں واقع نیوز چینل الجزیرہ کی رپورٹر شیریں ابو عاقلہ کو غرب اردن میں اسرائیلی کارروائی کے دوران گولی مار کر ہلاک کر دیا گیا ہے۔ الجزیرہ نے کہا کہ 51 سالہ شیریں ابو

عاقلہ کو اسرائیلی فوجیوں نے 'جان بوجھ کر' گولی ماری ہے۔ الجزیرہ کے پروڈیوسر کو بھی گولی مار کر زخمی کر دیا گیا۔ الجزیرہ کی مشہور صحافی شیریں ابو عاقلہ غرب اردن کے شہر جنین میں اسرائیلی کارروائی کو کور کرنے کے لیے بدھ کو وہاں پہنچی تھیں۔ الجزیرہ کے مطابق گولی لگنے کے کچھ دیر بعد ہی شیریں کی موت ہو گئی۔ اس کے علاوہ ایک فلسطینی صحافی کے زخمی ہونے کی بھی خبر ہے۔ الجزیرہ نے اسرائیلی فوج پر شیریں کے قتل کا الزام عائد کیا ہے۔ نیوز چینل نے عالمی برادری سے اپیل کی ہے کہ وہ ان کی رپورٹیں کو 'جان بوجھ کر مارنے' کے لیے اسرائیلی فوج کی مذمت کریں۔ 51 سالہ ابو عاقلہ بیت المقدس میں پیدا ہوئیں اور 1997 میں الجزیرہ کے لیے کام کرنا شروع کیا تھا۔ انھوں نے اردن کی یرموک یونیورسٹی سے صحافت کی تعلیم حاصل کی تھی۔ وہ تمام فلسطینی علاقوں سے رپورٹنگ کرتی تھیں۔ انھوں نے سنہ 2008، 2009، 2012، 2014 اور 2021 میں غزہ پر اسرائیلی حملوں کی رپورٹنگ کی تھی۔ اسرائیل نے حالیہ ہفتوں میں غرب اردن میں مسلسل چھاپے مارے ہیں۔ یہ چھاپے اسرائیل کے اندر ہونے والے کئی حملوں کے جواب میں کیے جا رہے ہیں، جن میں سے زیادہ تر حملے فلسطین کی جانب سے کیے جا رہے ہیں۔ جنین میں پناہ گزین کیمپ ہیں اور اسے طویل عرصے سے انتہا پسندوں کا گڑھ سمجھا جاتا ہے۔

روس، یوکرین: بچوں کا کیمپ یوکرینی شہریوں کی قتل گاہ بنا دیا گیا

مارچ کے آخر میں یوکرین کے دار الحکومت کیئو سے روسی فوجیوں کو پیچھے دھکیلے جانے کے بعد سے بوچا کے خطے میں ایک ہزار سے زیادہ عام شہریوں کی لاشیں ملی ہیں، جن میں سے بہت سوں کو جلد بازی میں کم گہری قبروں میں دفنایا گیا تھا۔ بی بی سی کو معلوم ہوا ہے کہ تقریباً 650 افراد کو گولی مار کر ہلاک کیا گیا ہے۔ نمائندہ بی بی سی سارہ رینسفورڈ نے بچوں کے ایک سمر کیمپ کے بارے میں تحقیقات کی ہیں جسے اب جرم کے ارتکاب کی جگہ قرار دے دیا گیا ہے۔

☆ اس رپورٹ کا کچھ مواد بعض قارئین کے لیے تکلیف کا باعث ہو سکتا ہے ☆

مارچ کے آخر میں یوکرین کے دار الحکومت کیئو سے روسی فوجیوں کو پیچھے دھکیلے جانے کے بعد سے بوچا کے خطے میں ایک ہزار سے زیادہ عام شہریوں کی لاشیں ملی ہیں، جن میں سے بہت سوں کو جلد بازی میں کم گہری قبروں میں دفنایا گیا تھا۔ بی بی سی کو معلوم ہوا ہے کہ تقریباً 650 افراد کو گولی مار کر ہلاک کیا گیا ہے۔ نمائندہ بی بی سی سارہ رینسفورڈ نے بچوں کے ایک سمر کیمپ کے بارے میں تحقیقات کی ہیں جسے اب جرم کے ارتکاب کی جگہ قرار دے دیا گیا ہے۔ چند قدم دور روسی فوج کے راشن کے پیکٹ پڑے ہوئے ہیں۔ دیوار پر تصاویر بتاتی ہیں کہ یہ بچوں کا کیمپ تھا۔ مگر جب مارچ کے اوائل میں روسی فوجی دار الحکومت کے باہر واقع بوچا کے علاقے میں داخل ہوئے تو یہ کیمپ قتل گاہ بن گیا۔

اس کیمپ میں ہلاکتوں کی کہانی لڑنے خیر ہے۔ روسی قبضے کے تقریباً ایک ماہ کے اندر ایک ہزار سے زیادہ عام شہریوں کو یہاں ہلاک کیا گیا، مگر ان کی اکثریت بمباری سے نہیں مری بلکہ ایک سینئر پولیس افسر کے مطابق 650 سے زیادہ افراد کو روسی فوجیوں نے براہ راست گولی مار کر ہلاک کیا۔

اب یوکرین ان کے قاتلوں کو ڈھونڈ رہا ہے۔



▶ **3.6 BILLION** ◀

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