

## Council policy “discriminatory” say Taxi Drivers



The Head of Kirklees Taxi and Hackney Carriage Association has labelled a Kirklees Council safety policy as ‘institutionally and blatantly racist.’

Akooji Badat, who is also Chairman of Snowdon Street Masjid said the council’s suitability and convictions policy is centered around standards produced by the Department for Transport which describes taxis and private hire vehicles as a “high-risk environment.”

The guidance states: “In terms of risks to passengers, this can be seen in abuse and

exploitation of children and vulnerable adults facilitated and, in some cases, perpetrated by the trade and the number of sexual crimes which involve taxi and private hire drivers.”

However, Mr Badat insists taxi drivers in the area, the majority of whom are Asian, have been unfairly perceived as potential perpetrators of child sexual exploitation, and compared to grooming gangs in Rotherham and Rochdale..

He told Paigaam: “The are tarnishing us with the same brush as that of the

Rotherham and Rochdale grooming gangs because we are taxi drivers. All we are trying to do is make a living.”

“If we adhere to the policy, it would mean taxi drivers can have their licences revoked for 6 months, if they accumulate more than six penalty points in a year.

“The policy is not only institutionally racist, it is blatantly racist, why should these rules apply to us?

“We provide a wholesale service; we should be exempt.”

# Akooji Badat: We do not intend to partake in consultations

However, Kirklees Council says it is not changing its fitness and suitability policy, which was adopted in 2019 and already meets the minimum standards set out by the Department for Transport (DfT).

Kirklees Council says the overriding aim of the licensing services is “the safety of the travelling public”.

It says a licence holder must be “a fit and proper person” and that a judgement is made following a detailed examination of their entire character to determine their fitness and suitability.

If an applicant cannot satisfy the authority that they are a fit and proper person, then legislation dictates a licence must not be granted.

The guidance states: “In terms of risks to passengers, this can be seen in abuse and exploitation of children and vulnerable adults facilitated and, in some cases, perpetrated by the trade and the number of sexual crimes which involve taxi and private hire drivers.”

However, Mr Badat also lambasted the Institute of Licensing (IOL) for providing ‘stereotypical’ guidance for local authorities to follow, whilst also

questioning why bus drivers or people working within the emergency services are not governed by the same policy.

The Institute of Licensing assist local authorities making decisions about the suitability of applicants and licensees in connection with taxi and private hire driver, vehicle and operator licences.

Their guidance states ‘cases such as the exploitation uncovered in Rotherham and subsequently other areas, together with other individual cases have highlighted the importance of vetting and assessing potential licence holders and the potentially catastrophic consequences of inadequate vetting. A level of consistency across the country would do much to ensure safety of passengers including children and vulnerable adults.’

“We feel we are being stereotyped especially when 93 percent of taxi drivers in the area are Muslim. This does not extend to Police officers, ambulance workers or bus drivers, so why are we being targeted? It’s perfectly obvious why. What happened in Rochdale and Rotherham has nothing to do with us,” said Mr Badat.

Although the Council’s policy is currently under review, Mr Badat insists

he is unwilling to partake in any form of consultation with the council.

“They have asked us to partake in a consultation, but we do not intend to partake in any consultation with them, when we are being unfairly targeted.”

On the decision to review the policy, Councillor Will Simpson, Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees said: “The current Fitness and Suitability Policy related to the licensing of private hire and hackney carriage drivers has been in place since August 2019.

“It is normal practice for this policy to be reviewed every three years which was highlighted at a meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee members in July 2022. A further meeting of this committee in Autumn last year agreed to consult on a revised policy, given its last review date.

“Results of the consultation will provide insight into public opinion on the proposed changes to the policy as well as giving respondents an opportunity to give their views on whether any further changes are required. We encourage people to take part in the consultation which is live until 15 February via: <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/kirklees-policy>.”

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## Turkey threatens to veto Sweden’s NATO application

Turkey’s President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan has threatened to veto Sweden’s application to join NATO.

This is due to the actions of Rasmus Paludan, leader a far-right leader, who burnt a copy of the Quran outside the Turkish embassy in Sweden under the protection of local police. Days before Paludan’s imbecilic actions, the Turkish government summoned the Swedish

ambassador to demand that the planned demonstration be banned, stating “It would be a hate crime and a provocation.”

Erdogan said Sweden’s hopes of joining Nato could be more or less over: “Those who allow such blasphemy in front of our embassy can no longer expect our support for their Nato membership,” he warned.

Pictures of Paludan were torched by

angry crowds outside Sweden’s embassy in Istanbul. Tellingly, located outside the embassy, is a digital sign showcasing the Ukrainian flag as a symbol of opposition to Russia’s war.

However, the embassy has now been temporarily closed and the Swedish government is now backing down in relation to their perceived perception of free speech.

# £12 million awarded to Batley to regenerate the town centre

**B**atley town centre is to undergo a major transformation after a successful bid for a £12 million share of the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) was signed off by Levelling Up Secretary, Michael Gove, who was won over during a visit to the area in December 2022.

The Batley Blueprint will be largely funded by the LUF, with an extra £3 million funding from the council and West Yorkshire Combined Authority's 'Streets for People initiative', totalling approximately £15 million for the project.

The news has been well received by IMWS and members of the community, who say they are 'delighted' that the town has been successful in its bid.

IMWS Chair, Rafik Dabhad congratulated everyone involved, in relation to securing the funding. However, he urged the local MP, Kirklees Council and the LUF to continue to consult with the local community in relation to any proposed design plans from gestation all the way to the implementation stage, thus ensuring any outcome is for the betterment of the area and its residents.

He said: "This is excellent news for the town and all the residents of Batley. Many people have been involved, and still are, with the town's Blueprint.

"Kirklees, the MP Kim Leadbeater, the Fire Service and Police alongside local residents and businesses all those who contributed their thoughts during the consultation process. Everyone involved worked hard and put a very strong submission forward which shows in the near full amount awarded.

"Working in unity together, ensures we have all won this funding. Batley

town centre has a vibrant town centre, showcasing a plethora of multicultural businesses.

"I am sure everyone who worked very hard in helping put the bid together and keeping the communities informed and included in the process, will be keen to gauge the views of those who live, work, and own a business in the area, thus ensuring their voices are heard and put in the design plan for an improved Batley town centre."

The leader of Kirklees Council, Cllr Shabir Pandor told Paigaam, the successful bid will bring a wealth of opportunities for the entire community. Mr Pandor pledged to work with local residents and businesses to bring the plans to fruition.

"The bidding process has shown the very best of Batley. Our bid has been a true team effort and I can't wait to start delivering the project. The council's bid means major improvements to Batley town centre, creating a more modern destination, and a safe and inviting environment for everyone who lives, works and visits the area."

It is envisaged, that the transformation could stimulate up to £60M of economic investment into Batley over the next few years.

"We'll continue to work with local businesses and residents as we deliver these major improvements. We submitted four Kirklees bids during this round of bids for Levelling Up funds. We will keep working to bring investment to all parts of Kirklees and we have a great selection of ambitious plans that will help us deliver the economic growth we all need."

The plans include making improvements to Commercial Street with improvements to public areas along with sustainable

transport routes, opening up the town centre for improved business and market opportunities.

"A socialising space would be created, with the aim of increasing footfall to local businesses and improve access to Tesco supermarket and to Commercial Street. Improved pedestrian and cycle links to the park and better lighting along local routes are proposed, connecting several of the other proposed projects around Batley."

Paigaam has consistently campaigned for additional investment to be made available in the area. In August 2021, Paigaam called for additional investment for Batley, after it was announced that the local authority intended to invest £50 million to transform Dewsbury town centre, market and surrounding area as part of a major regeneration package under the Dewsbury blueprint project.

However, at the time, people in Batley called on the council to clarify why the local authority intended to allocate just £1.5 million to Batley and neighbouring towns such as Heckmondwike, Cleckheaton and Holmfirth.



Kirklees Council is consulting with residents regarding the proposed investment of £2.5 million in Batley. This is an insult to the people of Batley as this paltry sum will do nothing to benefit residents. In comparison, Dewsbury and Huddersfield are set to receive £50 million and £250 million respectively. See page 2 for the full story.



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# BBC: 'Modi directly responsible for 2002 Gujarat massacre'

A BBC documentary titled India: The Modi Question accused Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being “directly responsible for the 2002 massacre of Muslims in the state of Gujarat”.

Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat when it was gripped by riots that left more than 1,000 people dead – including Batley men - Sakil and Saeed Dawood whilst their cousin Imran Dawood was also stabbed and left for dead. However, he miraculously survived.

The violence erupted after a train carrying Hindu pilgrims caught fire, killing 59. It resulted in the displacement of hundreds of Muslims and the destruction of hundreds of mosques, stated the documentary.

Accused of failing to stop the rioting, Modi denied the accusations and was exonerated in 2012 following an inquiry by India's top court. Another petition questioning his exoneration was dismissed last year. In addition, the BBC report read: “so much damage could not have been inflicted without the climate of impunity created by the state government.

“There was widespread and systematic rape of Muslim women with the intent to

purge Muslims from Hindu areas. The systematic campaign of violence has all the hallmarks of ethnic cleansing.”

To add insult to injury, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak defended Modi during Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) in the House of Commons. The MP for Bradford East, Imran Hussain asked the PM if he agreed with claims in the BBC documentary that some UK Foreign Office diplomats believed that “Modi was directly responsible” for the Gujarat massacre.

Sunak said that the UK government's position has been “clear and longstanding, and hasn't changed”, adding that the UK doesn't tolerate persecution where it appears anywhere.

However, defending Modi, he added: “I'm not sure I agree at all with the characterisation that the honourable gentleman has put forward,” Sunak added.

In addition, India's foreign ministry dismissed the BBC documentary on Modi which questioned his leadership during the 2002 Gujarat riots as “propaganda”.

Terming the BBC documentary, a “propaganda piece” meant to push

a “discredited narrative”, foreign ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said a “bias”, “lack of objectivity”, and “continuing colonial mindset” is “blatantly visible” in it.

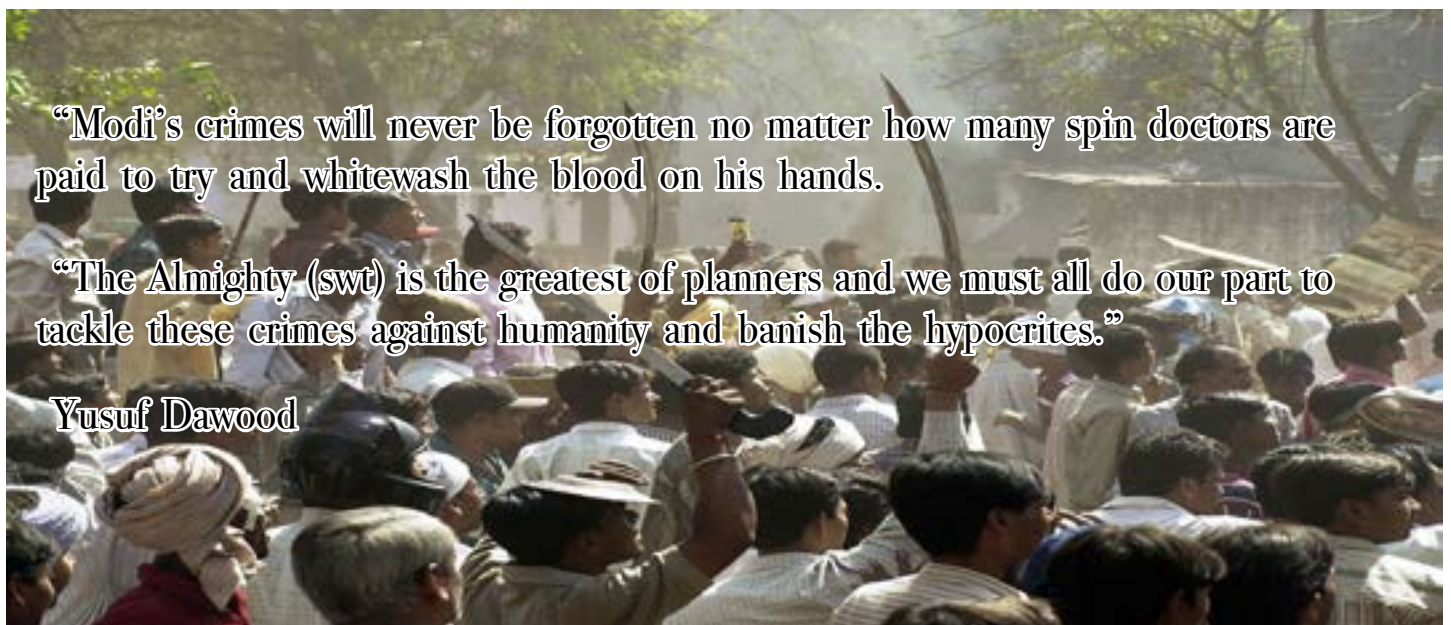
The Dawood family say they have had to not only endured the tragedy for over 20 years, their grief is compounded by the lack of any serious or thorough Indian police investigation.

The family have had to visit the crime scene themselves, find vital clues and collate forensic evidence including the charred remains of bodies and no one has been convicted for the murders.

However, the family insist their faith in the Almighty and the act that he is indeed the best of planners, gives them a great deal of solace.

Family spokesman Yusuf Dawood said: “Modi's crimes will never be forgotten no matter how many spin doctors are paid to try and whitewash the blood on his hands.

“The Almighty (swt) is the greatest of planners and we must all do our part to tackle these crimes against humanity and banish the hypocrites.”







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# IMWS hand out gift packs to A&E patients

**T**he Indian Muslim Welfare Society have been lifting the spirits of patients waiting in the accident and emergency ward at Dewsbury and district Hospital by providing hundreds of refreshment packs.

IMWS Centre Manager, Nadeem Raja and Charity Worker, Munir Daji handed out a total of 400 gift packs containing snacks, water and soft drinks to patients who were waiting in A&E during the holiday season.

Highlighting how important the small gesture was to patients, Mr Raja explained the rationale behind gifting the bags. He said: "Going to accident and emergency at Dewsbury and Pinderfields Hospitals can be a really difficult for many people, but for our young and elderly patients it can be particularly challenging.

"Many patients will have been undergoing treatment, with some possibly spending time in hospital, with many others feeling unwell and unable to enjoy time with their family.

"It can be quite a lonely and anxious time for our vulnerable people, so to be able to show people, from a plethora of backgrounds, that we are thinking of them, by giving them a gift, is really important.

"It might only be a small gesture, but it has a big impact and I am extremely grateful to the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust and their charitable arm, the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Charity and everyone who supports its work, for allowing us to help and to put a smile on many young people's faces, as they were waiting to be seen in the accident and emergency departments in Dewsbury and in Wakefield during the festive season."

IMWS Charity worker, Munir Daji paid tribute to hard working staff who displayed a great deal of fortitude and empathy.

"To help bring a little cheer during the holiday season, we were more than happy to provide a small gift to all those spending who had to go to the accident and emergency departments in Dewsbury or Wakefield.

"Whilst we know nothing would have made this time easier, we still wanted to try to make this time a little brighter and that's why giving a small gift to those in hospital was so special.

"The staff endeavoured to get as many patients as possible home, but because it was so busy, with many patients feeling unwell and unable to socialise with family and friends, IMWS extended its gift giving tradition to ensure that their stay in A&E was made that little bit easier."

The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals Charity, the Charitable arm of the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust tweeted a message of thanks to IMWS.

@MY\_NHSCharity tweeted: "Food Bag Donation! A huge thanks to the IMWS (Al Hikmah Centre) Batley who very kindly donated 400 food bags for patients waiting in Accident & Emergency at both Dewsbury & District Hospital and Pinderfields Hospital. Thank you so much for your continued support. #NHS"





# New Police suggestion drop box installed at IMWS

**M**embers of the public have been urged to make any anonymous suggestions and provide local intelligence for the Police at the Al-Hikmah Centre.

The Indian Muslim Welfare Society has teamed up with West Yorkshire Police in order to facilitate the installation of a safe and secure Police drop box, located adjacent to the front door entrance.

It is envisaged, locals will be able to anonymously report intelligence across a plethora of activities such as drug related information on dealers, criminals, traffic, vehicles and more.

The roll out of the drop box is part of a concerted effort by the District Commander for Kirklees Police, Chief Superintendent Jim Griffiths, to tackle and reduce ASB and crime in the area.

After consultations with the IMWS Executive team along with the local community and partner organisations, Mr Griffiths believes it will be easier for members of the community to report local information/intelligence.

He said: "The drop box is just one measure needed to reduce ASB, vehicle offences and crime alongside much earlier intervention including support for people in difficult circumstances, and tackling issues centred around a range of issues that blight our community.

"It is a safe way to report any local information and intelligence. These boxes prove most effective when the community wants them and the message, we got from IMWS and partner organisations is that it is needed.

"Crime can ruin the lives of individuals, families and entire communities. If you

have a concern, or know somebody who does, I strongly recommend you use the drop box."

However, the Police have advised the public not to use the drop box to report crimes themselves - these need reporting in the normal manner by contacting the police directly. The box is for local intelligence.

IMWS General Manager, Nadeem Raja welcomed the move and said the Society is keen on working with the police in order to help ensure the borough is regarded as one of the safest within the Muslim community and within the country.

He said: "IMWS has an important role to play in relation to helping the Police in prevent crime. IMWS is committed to showcase how working with the likes of Chief Superintendent Jim Griffiths and his senior leadership team to officers on the beat to ensure the area is safe, and is also seen as a model of tolerant inclusiveness nationwide.

"By working closely with the Police, we aim to showcase how the Muslim Community are law abiding citizens, who are happy to help the Police locate and deal with any criminal activity, whilst also working with the force to emphasise with the community in relation to sensitive issues, whilst also helping them root out any so called bad apples, who tarnish the good work of the force.

"IMWS along with our members and affiliated Masjids are committed to keeping the area safe whilst preventing any harm which is caused by crime to our fellow citizens, regardless of their background. We are committed to working with the police to tackle and prevent crime in our local area and across the borough."

Members of the public have also been urged to report crime via dialling 999 for

emergencies, 101 for non-emergencies, on webchat, by e-mail, in person at a Police Station or to an officer out on patrol.

Mr Raja also elaborated on plans by West Yorkshire Police to hold a recruitment day event at the Al-Hikmah Centre, on the 16th of February, during the school half-term holidays in February: "West Yorkshire Police are going to hold a recruitment event at the Al-Hikmah Centre. Please look out on all our official channels for more information and official announcements."

In a previous interview with Paigaam, Chief Superintendent Jim Griffiths explained how working with IMWS is an opportunity he perceives as one too good to pass up on.

Speaking at the time, he said: "I think what we need to do is work closer with IMWS to make sure that people know what we are doing and we can tell trusted individuals in the community what we are doing so that message can get out more.

"I can really see the opportunities that are in IMWS and how as policing we can work with them. For example, when we are trying to recruit more people from the Asian community, have we ever had a recruitment event at IMWS? We haven't but why not? I would be up for it?"



# Opening pathways to reading

In a knowledge-based, global economy, knowing how to read well is more important than ever, and yet a large majority of children – in the vicinity of leaving junior and high schools with distressingly weak reading skills.

However, a swashbuckling duo, consisting of a Head Teacher and teaching assistant at Field Lane Junior, Infant and Nursery school have researched and developed a ground-breaking system on how reading, coupled with the understanding of language skills, can set a foundation for reading proficiency within young children.

Principal, Hilary Towers-Islam along with Teaching Assistant, Amna Qureshi, conducted research by highlighting the power of dialogic questioning, phonics, reading and engaging conversation between adults and children, thus closing a ‘participation gap’ and opening pathways to reading for Pakistani children in particular.

Pointing to the benefits of parents engaging in positive interaction with their children, Amna explains the rationale behind the inception of the ‘research group’ and sheds light on the fascinating and elusive manner in which she has had such a positive effect on parents and children alike.

Amna told Paigaam: “When Hilary mentioned that the Pakistani boys in particular, were not doing well, not just in our school, but nationally, I decided that I was going to do something about it

With an emphasis on joint engagement, Amna gave particular weight to examples of reading in the hope of sparking shared moments of engagement between parents and their children. Within weeks, the ‘Research Group’ was formed and the rest, as they say, is history: “I thought, I’ve got parents here who are willing to come

in, on a weekly basis, to learn phonics for their children. They are dedicated and do not waste time scrolling through social media channels all day. I realised that if we invest in these parents, they will support their children in key stage one but also the other children that are going to come to us in the future.

“A prime example is one of the parents who had a child in year two, was also supporting her child in nursery, who has now started our reception this year and is fully aware of the phonics and sounds, so that was a huge investment and we’ve seen the outcome already. We completed level one successfully in July, where we also had a graduation, where we were giving certificates out. In September, we started level two with those parents. It’s had a very positive impact in a number of areas.”

Amna believes that by taking on the responsibility to assess how the parents were trying to help, not stymie, their children’s language and literacy development, the results have been nothing short of sensational: “The self-esteem and confidence of children has increased and a lot of teachers have seen a positive outcome in other lessons, as they saw first-hand how well the children were doing.”

Hilary explains that by simply engaging parents and children in activities that encourage the development of language and literacy skills, an impressive amount of work was being put to work in the service of children’s literacy: “Our progress measures were off the chart for our lower attainers. That’s because our parents were partners with us. Certainly, with the phonics it has had a very positive impact. We also saw many children achieve SATS results that were above expectations.”

Hilary proudly explains how parents with very basic literacy skills that would not be useful for children, have themselves excelled and gained meaningful employment: “We employed one of the

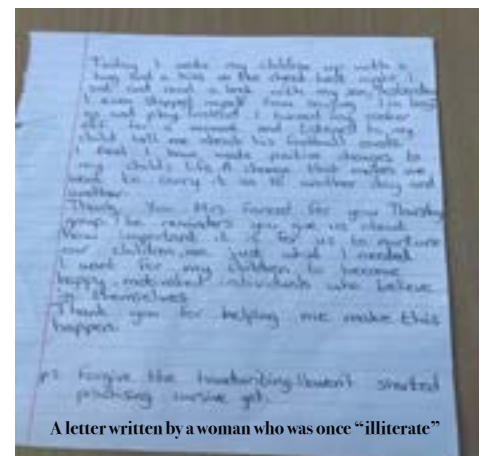
women from the original group. She’s now a teaching assistant for us. We’ve had 5 parents from the research group that have gone on and found themselves a job.”

When sustained over time, reading regularly has been found to have a significant impact on literacy skills.

Amna said: “It’s extremely important for parents to read with their children. Like we all say, the first educators of the child, are the mothers. We like to say it’s the mother’s lap. However, It’s important that both parents take the time out. We encourage them to make use of anyone that’s at home, grandparents and great grandparents, as long as they read, even if it is just for 10 minutes.

Hilary concluded: “It sets the culture of learning together, even reading a book together, being able to share a book confidently with your child, that’s the first stepping stone because if they love that experience, then they begin to love reading. Once reading is open to them, that’s the world open to you. You’ve got your non-fiction books to learn about facts and talk about trucks and trains.

“With fiction, you get all the emotional side of things because these characters are acting out this scenario and feeling all these emotions. You don’t have to feel them yourself, but you can start to understand how people act and react. So sitting on the lap, sharing a book, even if it has got no words, is so powerful.”





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## Competition

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Please send the answer by e-mail to [info@imws.org.uk](mailto:info@imws.org.uk) with the subject title: Huddersfield Town competition by the 13th of february. The winner will be informed via mobile or e-mail and will pick the tickets up on match day, at the stadium. Please include your mobile number in the e-mail, upon entering the competition.



# Household support fund

Funded by UK Government, Household Support Fund is being managed by IMWS and is for those most in need of support to help with the significantly rising living costs. The HSF will run until the end of March 2023 or until fully allocated.

Individuals can apply for support of gas/electric voucher top-ups, and other essential items such as a blanket or feminine hygiene pack and household appliances in exceptional cases of genuine emergency.

## Who can apply?

1. 16 years old or over; and
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Carers: on low income or unemployed, receiving benefits

Those with a serious health condition e.g. cancer or need to use medical equipment at home.

Families who are experiencing exceptional circumstances: e.g lost job, benefit delays, sudden illness/death/accident.

## Warm welcome space

With the rise in energy bills and cost of living crisis, the Al-Hikmah Centre is now

a registered warm space.

Every Tuesday between 9am- 4.30pm people from the community will be able to use the space for free, have some light refreshments and access free Wi-Fi.

If you require more information please contact the Centre on 01924 500555 or [info@imws.org.uk](mailto:info@imws.org.uk). If you would like to apply for the HSF scheme please type the link below into a browser: <http://bit.ly/3Z9is61>.

Otherwise, please e-mail us for the link to be sent across to you.



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\*Must be 16yrs and over, living in the Batley and surrounding areas, with limited savings

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Al Hikmah Centre, Batley, WF17 7AA

For more details contact: [info@imws.org.uk](mailto:info@imws.org.uk) 01924 500555

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### OPENING HOURS:

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# Obituary: Haji Ismail Hafiz Muhammad Daji

**H**aji Ismail Daji passed away in hospital after a brief illness surrounded by his children, grandchildren and extended family members early morning on Saturday 14th January 2023 corresponding to 21st Jumada Al-Ukhra 1444 A.H. He was 83 years old.

Through the grace of the Almighty, the janazah and burial of Haji Ismail took place on the same day later that afternoon and he was laid to rest at the Batley Cemetery. The janazah Salah of Haji Ismail was led by respected Moulana Abdur Rauf Sufi Sahib (DB) - the Imam of Jame Masjid, Henry St, Batley.

The recital of the initial and final verses of Al-Baqarah at the graveside was conducted by his grandson Hafiz Ammar Daji. Thereafter, the concluding duaa at the graveside was conducted by Moulana Abdur Rauf Sufi Sahib (DB).

Those who knew Ismail bhai know he had a gentle personality. He was softly spoken and friendly. At the same time his natural

demeanour was to be quiet. He didn't like attention or to appear important.

This gentle and quiet personality permeated in all his dealings with family, friends, neighbours and colleagues. Haji Ismail was a respected member of the community. He served the Indian Muslim Welfare Society as a Vice President and General Secretary and he was a member of executive committee for many years. Distinguished and fiercely loyal, he never missed an IMWS AGM. Hence we was given a lifetime achievement award for over 30 years of service.

He was also an active member of ICWA, and served for a number of years in the executive committee. He was a founding member of the Alipore Muslim Association UK, which he had the honour of serving as an executive member, Chairman and Secretary. He also served in the executive committee of the Kirklees Race Equality Council for many years.

IMWS Chairman, Rafik Dabhad praised Haji Ismail for his commitment to IMWS. He said: "He was one of the kindest

people you could ever meet, caring and working with integrity whilst serving the community. His legacy of hard work, dedication and making a difference will continue to live on."

Chair of the Gujarati Writer's Forum, Ahmed Lunat Gul, said Haji Ismail was a very well-mannered and courteous individual. He said: "He would approach everyone, young and old, in a very respectful, friendly and polite manner.

"Haji Ismail was a founding member of the Gujarati Writer's Circle and Gujarati Writer's Forum. He served as the general secretary up to his passing. He was also bestowed with an award for his work with the Gujarati Writer's Forum. He was a well-known poet and had two joint books published, 'Sangati' and 'Guldaan'."

We pray to the Almighty to forgive any shortcomings of Haji Ismail, elevate his status, and grant him the company of the righteous. Marhoom is survived by his wife, four sons, a daughter, brother, sister, uncle, grandchildren, a great granddaughter and other close relatives.

---

## A blessing for Mankind

**S**ubmission and sacrifice  
Go hand in hand  
No creation has portrayed that better  
Than the last messenger (S.A.W) of the  
holy land

Always leading by example  
His aim was great and high  
That all should worship only the Almighty  
And with pure imaan they must die

Personal comforts were cast aside, For he  
knew his purpose in life, Such a burden,  
for one soul to bear, Never seen before,  
never mind it being rare

To Taif he went, to teach them the way  
Ridiculed, pelted, a liar they would say  
But gaining revenge was not his desire  
Rather, to the skies, hands raised, please  
save them from the fire

He knew from his Lord  
His purpose was clear in mind  
You have only been sent Oh Prophet  
As a blessing to mankind  
So steadfast in humility

Humbleness and mercy  
Did the leader of the Prophets  
Fulfil his heavenly duty  
Impeccable manners he always taught

Were a hallmark of faith and couldn't be  
bought

His duties to all, did he admirably fulfil  
Never doing anything, but what was  
the Almighty's will

So let us be proud and follow in haste  
Before finality occurs and death do we  
taste. Make our role model and mentor,  
the Almighty's most beloved (S.A.W)

The most high and chosen, our Prophet  
(S.A.W)

By Raeesah Hafiji, Year 9B

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# Did You know...

## The First Person To Build A Flying Machine And Bring It into The Air Was Abbas ibn Firnas

**I**n 852, a daredevil named Armen Firman decided to fly off a tower in Qurtuba Al-Andalus (Cordoba, Spain).

Firman made a living doing stunts, he was not a scientist but through observing the nature around him and relying on a rudimentary understanding of the mechanics of flight, he built a silk dress with wood-reinforced rods.

With this machine, Firman climbed to the top of a minaret of the grand Qurtuba mosque and jumped. He was unable to fly, he crashed, yet his flying contraption swelled, just enough to slow his fall. Although he was slightly injured, this was probably the first parachute jump in the world.

Ibn Firnas was in the crowd and realised it was a great idea. This truly inspired him to successfully complete the first human flight, two decades later, in Cordoba.

Abbas Ibn Firnas was born in Izn-Rand Onda Al-Andalus (now Ronda Spain) but lived in Cordoba, one of the major learning centers in the Muslim world. He worked across a plethora of industries and subjects. He was an inventor, engineer, aviator, physician, and Arabic poet. He set up astronomical tables, he built a planetarium and designed a water clock. He developed a process for cutting rock crystal, allowing him to create Andalusian drinking glasses. He experimented with

lenses and their magnifying qualities and anything else that came from glass. Up to then, only the Egyptians were experts in this field. In 875, about 23 years after Armen Firman, the 70-year-old Ibn Firnas built his flying machine after studying the nature of flight among his other studies.

He built a pair of silk and wood wings and sewed real feathers. From the hills of Jabal Al-'Arus, he jumped off a cliff. He would have glided for a considerable amount of time, some witnesses claimed it felt like 10 minutes.

To achieve sufficient lift to support his weight, Abbas bin Firnas built wings with an estimated span of between four and five meters. To keep the flying machine strong and light, he made a lightweight wooden frame, probably using bamboo, hollow like a bird's wing bones.

The parts of the frame were tied together with thin strips of silk, considered the lightest and most resistant material at the time, and which was also used as a fabric covering for the wings.

Finally, he covered the wings and clothes with an eagle feather. Abbas bin Firnas manufactured a harness system that allowed him to hover under the flying machine and control the movements of the wings with the help of handles. Towards the end of his descent, he realised he had concentrated his energy on the study of take-off mechanics as opposed

the mechanics of landing. He descended at great speed, unable to control the flying machine, and once he fell to the ground, he was injured.

Ibn Firnas would live for another 12 years after this event. During his final years he would reflect on what went wrong on that fateful day and he reached the conclusion that his design did not include a mechanism to slow his descent. A bird uses its tail and wings in unison to slow its speed and stall just above the ground before touching down. Ibn Firnas realised that he forgot to design a tail!

Abbas Ibn Firnas did not make another attempt at flying in his lifetime. Centuries would pass before another attempt was made by Ahmed Celebi, an Ottoman Turk, in 1630-1632 who would glide across the Bosphorus.

In 1783 the Montgolfiers brothers launched a tethered hot air balloon with humans on board in Paris but it was only in 1853 that Sir George Cayley would build the first modern glider based on a basic understanding of aerodynamic theory and glide in Brompton Dale, in Yorkshire, almost 1000 years after the first attempt by Abbas Ibn Firnas in 875.

In 1976, In recognition of the accomplishments of Abbas ibn Firnas, the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (IAU/WGPSN) named a moon crater 'Ibn Firnas' in his honour.





## Lung health checks come to Dewsbury

**P**eople living in the Dewsbury and Mirfield areas of North Kirklees are being targeted as part of a programme which is saving lives through early lung cancer diagnosis.

Those aged 55 – 74 who smoke or have ever smoked are being invited to get their lung health checked for signs of cancer. Detecting the disease early means it can often be treated more successfully.

The initial check takes place over the phone and lasts around 20 minutes. If any issues are found, people will be offered a CT scan at a mobile unit located in the Sainsbury's superstore car park in Dewsbury town centre.

The mobile CT scanner visited Cleckheaton and Batley before arriving at its current location in Dewsbury this month.

So far around 14,000 people have been invited for a lung health check in North Kirklees and more than 3,000 have attended for CT scan. The programme has already resulted in 70 suspected lung cancers being detected.

Dr Khalid Nacem, a local GP and Chair of Kirklees Clinical and Professional Forum, said, 'Lung health checks have a vital role to play in the fight against cancer.

They can help find problems early, often before you notice anything is wrong, and at a stage when treatment could be simpler and more successful.

'Most lung cancers grow slowly enough for them to be found at an early stage by a lung scan – so this programme will ultimately save more lives.'

Programme lead for the NHS in Kirklees, Marion Redford, said, 'Even if you feel fit and well, or gave up smoking years ago, it's important that you attend a lung health check when you're invited.

Lung cancer is the most common cancer in West Yorkshire and is directly related to smoking and tobacco use. There are often no signs or symptoms of lung cancer

at an early stage. As a result, sadly around 7 in 10 cancer patients are currently being diagnosed too late to be cured.'

She added, 'We've done everything possible to make the health checks as convenient as possible. The initial appointment is by telephone and people who need a CT scan will be invited to attend the mobile scanner in Dewsbury rather than having to visit a hospital.'

North Kirklees is one of 23 Lung Health Check pilot sites which are contributing towards reaching the NHS Long Term Plan ambitions of catching thousands more cancers at an earlier stage when they are easier to treat.

The programme is supported by the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance and has been funded by NHS England as part of a national pilot designed to improve early diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

North Kirklees GP federation, CURO Health, are delivering the Targeted Lung Health Check Programme in Kirklees. In total, there are around 19,000 people in North Kirklees who are eligible for a health check.

You can find more information about the North Kirklees targeted lung health check programme on the dedicated website at [www.lunghealthcheckaware.co.uk](http://www.lunghealthcheckaware.co.uk)

### Who is eligible?

**55 – 74 years old**

**A smoker or ex-smoker**

**Registered to a GP in North Kirklees and Bradford\***

If you are at higher risk of developing lung cancer i.e. people who smoke and ex-smokers, we will be offering you the opportunity to have a free lung health check appointment to see if you need any further checks.

\*The screening programme is currently being rolled out at a select number of GP

Practices in Bradford. Patients registered at the following practices, who are aged 55 – 74 and who smoke or used to smoke, will be called for a Lung Health Check over the coming months:

- \* Savile Town Medical Centre
- \* Thornhill Lees Surgery
- \* The Paddock Surgery
- \* The Albion Mount Medical Practice
- \* The Sidings Healthcare Centre
- \* Windsor Medical Centre
- \* Healds Road Surgery
- \* Dr Mahmood & Partners
- \* Calder View Surgery
- \* Eightlands Surgery
- \* North Road Suite Surgery
- \* Mirfield Health Centre

Nadeem Raja, General Manager of the Al-Hikmah centre, is a smoker who recognises the importance of identifying any lung issues as early as possible.

He said: "This is a great opportunity for people registered with GPs in North Kirklees."

### About lung health checks

Not everyone will need a lung scan. This will depend on your results from the initial assessment. Throughout the process you will have plenty of time to chat to the health professionals and ask any questions.

We know that lung cancer is the most common cancer in West Yorkshire. Lung cancer incidence is directly related to smoking and tobacco use is the most important preventable cause of lung cancer in England.

Across North Kirklees and Bradford we are rolling out lung health checks and a mobile CT screening programme to detect lung cancer and any other lung problems as early as possible. There are often no signs or symptoms of lung cancer at an early stage. As a result, sadly around 7 in 10 cancer patients are currently being diagnosed too late to be cured.

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$$4 \times \square = 8$$



$$\square \times 3 = 9$$



$$\square \times 2 = 4$$

Write a multiplication  
equation to find a  
number of shapes

Write a multiplication  
equation to find the number of shapes.



$$\square \times \square = \square$$



$$\square \times \square = \square$$



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# Paigaam Travel: Cordoba

**Q**urtuba was the most important city of Al Andalus (756-1010), the capital of the Umayyad Caliphate.

Qurtuba was known as the most cultured, sophisticated and splendid city in Europe and, with Baghdad, the main center of knowledge of the Muslim world. Qurtuba remains alive in the streets, buildings and culture of present-day Cordoba, an essential destination for Muslims around the world.

## The Great Mosque of Cordoba

The Islamic Art is mainly developed in the cities that were once capitals of Al Andalus. In Cordoba we found the most splendid monument of all Western Islamic World, the Great Mosque.

Its construction commenced in 785, when Abd-ar-Rahman established Cordoba as capital of Al Andalus, on the site of an ancient church dedicated to San Vicente. Afterwards it was extended during successive periods by Abd-ar-Rahman II, Al-Hakam II and Almanzor.

An excellent sample of Omeya architecture, the Great Mosque is a harmonious combination of various different styles: the initial works of Abd-ar-Rahman I display hispano-visigothic influences, taking advantage of materials and columns gathered from other constructions.

The building occupies 24,000m<sup>2</sup> and is divided in two areas: the arcade sahn, where the alminar is constructed by Abd al-Rahman III, and the haram. The interior space produces a strong chromatic effect due the amount of columns and red and white arches. Since 1523 the Great Mosque has also housed a christian cathedral, constructed in the wake of the Reconquest along with other side chapels.

## Medinat Al-Zahra

Palatal city of Abd-al-Rahman III the most prosperous caliph in the West during only comparable with Baghdad and Byzantium in his times. It was built on stepped terraces to take advantage of the slope of the mountain and each terrace was separated from the others using walls that divided the city into three parts. In the heights were the palaces, in the middle part gardens and a landscape of fruit and vegetable plots, finally in the lower part was the main mosque and the houses. There are still remains of foundations, paintings and columns in Composite and Corinthian style.

## Calahorra Tower

The Tower of La Calahorra rises up at the south of the Roman bridge, the far end from the city centre. It is a fortified gate originally built by the Moors (Almohads) and extensively restored by King Enrique II of Castile in 1369

It currently houses the Museo Vivo de Al-Andaluz. This fascinating museum is particularly educational with audio visual presentations which vividly depict how life was in Cordoba around the 10th Century

AD when three cultures lived side by side Christianity, Muslim and Judaism. There is a scale model of the Masjid as it was before the cathedral was constructed.

## Flower Street

This small but well-known street is the most photographed street in Cordoba. A typical narrow, cobbled alley between whitewashed houses, its balconies and walls are decked out with flowers in terracotta pots, in characteristically vivid colours, such as brilliant pink, purple and red geraniums.

The alley is located close to the north-east corner of the Mezquita, off calle Victor Bosco, so that when you stand in the tiny square at its northern end, you get a perfectly framed view of the Mezquita's tower framed by flower-covered white walls. You will see this image on many postcards around town.

## Halal restaurants in Cordoba

There are many restaurants and businesses offering Halal gastronomical delights:

Petra  
Zahira  
Corkebab  
Laorkebab  
El Sultan  
Döner Kebab Lal Ali  
Teteria El Shael  
Kebab Hut  
Teteria Petra  
Las Piconeras  
La Casa Andalusi  
Restaurante Los Almendros



# 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.

## Burial Contact Numbers

Ebrahim Chopdat  
07980 381197

Yusuf Paliya  
07590019315

Munir Daji  
07739 142 988

During office hours burial van keys can be collected from the main office. Out of hours can be collected from Ebrahim Chopdat.

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# Kim Leadbeater MP column

It's a pleasure for me to start my first column of 2023 with some good news. My bid for government funding to help regenerate Batley town centre has been successful.

When I was elected I promised to fight for investment in our local area and that is exactly what I have done.

Last month I brought the Levelling Up Secretary, Michael Gove, to Batley to view the plans and I'm delighted he was won over by the case we made.

The announcement means an extra £12million on top of £3million already promised by Kirklees Council and the West Yorkshire Mayor.

The project includes a major redesign and part-pedestrianisation of Commercial Street and the area around Market Place. It will benefit local businesses, shoppers and residents and make Batley a more attractive place to live, work and shop.

It's wrong that we had to compete against other areas of genuine need for the funding, but this is very good news for Batley and I'd like to thank everybody who has done so much hard work in designing the bid and all those who took part in the consultation process.

Sadly there are still very serious issues facing our community. The NHS crisis continues and it is very distressing that local people are facing such long waits for appointments and unacceptable delays in ambulance response times.

Government ministers blame anybody but themselves for this appalling state of affairs and sit on their hands when they should be negotiating an end to the pay disputes and starting to put right thirteen years of underinvestment and mismanagement.

We need the NHS to be there for us when we fall sick or have an accident, but we should also be thinking about how we keep

people from getting ill in the first place. As most people know by now, I'm passionate about physical, mental and social health and wellbeing.

They are all closely connected and a very practical example of this is the Batley Baths, which have closed temporarily and some people fear may never reopen because of financial pressures.

Venues like this aren't luxuries, they are vital for people's health, both physically and mentally.

Fewer sports and leisure facilities will inevitably mean more people becoming ill. Before Christmas I met with local people to assure them of my support to get the Baths open again, as well as using my position in Parliament to demand that the government includes pools and leisure centres among the businesses that get help with their fuel bills.

It's my job, on behalf of all my constituents, to try to make a difference locally, nationally and internationally.

I've been engaged in important discussions at Westminster on the war in Ukraine, the terrible situation facing women in Iran and Afghanistan, and the tensions in the Middle East.

I am very concerned about the situation in Palestine following the election of the most right-wing Israeli government in history.

I have written to the Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, asking him to back an International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. There has never been a greater need for impartial peacebuilding initiatives of the kind the International Fund would support.

No matter how long-standing and difficult problems may seem, I always believe there are positive things that can be done.

So far as I'm concerned, while progress often takes lots of hard work and patience

that will always be better than giving up in despair.

**Best wishes,**

**Kim**

**Myself and my staff are committed to doing all they can to help those in need and the best way to contact us is via email:**

**[kim.leadbeater.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:kim.leadbeater.mp@parliament.uk)**





# Holocaust survivor lambasts the home Secretary

A Holocaust survivor has lambasted the home Secretary over her language against migrants.

Joan Salter, 83, criticised likened Suella Braverman's language on migrants attempting to cross the English Channel to that used by the Nazis.

A video of the incident was posted by

Freedom From Torture has been viewed over 5 million times. Ms Salter was three months old when the Nazis invaded Belgium.

She was forced to flee with her mother and sister, first to France, before being fostered in America. She was reunited with her parents in London in 1947.

In the video, she questioned Ms Braverman on her language used towards migrations, with the Home Secretary having spoken about "stopping the invasion on our southern coast".

Ms Salter said the remark was reminiscent of "the language used to dehumanise and justify the murder of my family and millions of others" in the 1940s.

---

## PKWA Director awarded Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award



**A** Director at the Pakistan and Kashmir Welfare Association, has been awarded with the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Haris Rashid, the director of youth services at PKWA said he wanted to demonstrate by his own example that setting positive goals and working purposefully towards them will bring rewards to anyone from any background.

Haris who had already gained the bronze and silver awards said: "Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, or

similar challenges, can be life changing experience for young people and I would highly recommend it others.

Any young person can do their DofE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first.

"It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. It's also a great way to make friends, improve self-esteem and build confidence.

Personally, I believe participating has helped to shape a really positive can-do attitude, and I now genuinely feel I

could set myself any goal and know with confidence that it is within me to achieve it.

"As added bonuses, you also get to have a fun time with friends, an opportunity to discover new interests and talents, and a demonstrable set of tools and skills for life and work."

Since the start of DofE Gold Award Journey, Haris has been elected as the President of his University Students Union, has completed a degree in Law.

He is currently completing a Master's degree whilst also working as a lawyer for a top multinational firm.

The DofE Award is a recognised mark of achievement; respected by employers. Many employers claim that having DofE awards can provide competitive advantage.

The achievement of a DofE Award still stands out on any young person's CV as a mark of commitment, dedication, planning and perseverance."

Haris is having his celebrations locally with other candidates before a date at Buckingham later.



# Why so many are being killed in Palestine?

**I**srael has continued to step up its near-daily raids across the occupied West Bank, killing scores of Palestinians over the past year.

The spike in killings comes as part of intensified nightly raids by Israeli forces, particularly in the northern occupied cities of Jenin and Nablus, under the banner of crushing limited Palestinian armed resistance.

Civilians confronting the army during raids and uninvolved bystanders have been killed, as well as Palestinian fighters in targeted assassinations and during armed clashes.

More than 170 Palestinians, including at least 30 children, were killed across the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem

last year. In January 2023 alone, at least 29 Palestinians including five children have been killed.

The UN said that 2022 was the deadliest year for Palestinians since 2006, but 2023 is already on course to surpass that, if the number of deaths stay at the same level, and there is now the potential for a full-scale uprising among Palestinians, particularly in the wake of Israel's new far-right government, which came into power at the end of December.

Tensions on the ground have kept escalating since the May 2021 Palestinian popular "outburst" that swept across the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel.

It began with protests against forced displacement of Palestinian families in the occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah and led to a war with the Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad

armed groups in the besieged Gaza Strip.

Israel's crackdown included the targeting of fighters affiliated with these groups in the West Bank.



## Takeaway drivers real-terms pay per order drops 13%

**D**elivery drivers bringing takeaways to your door last year were paid less for every order in 2022 than the year before, even as the cost of living soared.

New findings suggest that delivery drivers working with four of the biggest companies saw their pay per order drop by an average of 2.5% last year. This is before inflation was even taken into account.

The figures, collated by Rodeo, show pay dropped between 0.3% and 6.1% for drivers with Deliveroo, Uber Eats, Stuart and Just Eat. A Just Eat spokesperson said: "We provide a highly competitive base rate

to self-employed couriers, which is in line with industry standards, and we also offer regular incentives to help them maximise their earnings.

"We continue to review our pay structure regularly and welcome any feedback from couriers."

Rodeo collated the information from 10 million orders made by gig economy workers, who use the app to keep track of their earnings across several other apps.

Alfie Pearce-Higgins, Rodeo's co-founder, said: "Millions of workers across the economy are seeing their pay eroded by the cost-of-living crisis and

inflation, and delivery drivers are being hit the hardest. Gig work offers flexibility and independence, which many workers welcome. But this only works if drivers can make informed, independent decisions."

A Deliveroo spokesperson said: "These numbers are incorrect and misleading, based on unverified data. Average pay for time Deliveroo riders spend on an order has increased over the past year."

An Uber Eats spokesperson said: "We offer a flexible way for thousands of couriers to earn by using the app when and where they choose. We know that the vast majority are satisfied with their experience on the app."

## નવા વર્ષનો પયગામ

-મહંમદ યુસુફ સુફી લાજપુરી, બાટલી.

૨૦૨૨નું વર્ષ સમાપ્ત થઈ ૨૦૨૩ના નવા વર્ષમાં આપણે પ્રવેશ કરી ચૂક્યા છે. એજ પ્રમાણે સન હિજરી ૧૪૪૪નો આરંભ પણ થઈ ચૂક્યો હતો.

### વર્તમાન યુગનો માનવી:

પ્રિય વાંચકો! નબવી કાળથી જેટલા આપણે દૂર જઈ રહ્યા છે એટલાજ નાના મોટા સંઘર્ષ, કિત્તા જન્મ લેતા રહ્યા છે. વર્તમાન યુગ જેને આધુનિક ટેકનોલોજી અને સાયન્સનો દૌર કહેવામાં આવે છે. એમાં આજે તો માનવી જેટલો પરેશાન અને બેચેન છે એટલો પહેલા કદી ન હતો. માલ દોલતની ભરમાર છે, રોટી, કપડા અને મકાનની સહુલત પણ મૌજુદ છે, છતાં દિલ પરેશાન છે. દિલ ફિકર અને ચિંતાથી ભરેલું છે. દિલ સુકુનથી ખાલી છે. હૃદયમાં સંતોષ નથી. આજનો માનવી અનેક જાતના પ્રેશર, ટેન્શન અને ડીપ્રેશનમાં જીવન ગુજારી રહ્યો છે. ઈલ્મ હોવા છતાં અમલથી કોરો છે. લોકોમાં જહાલત અને દોલતનો નશો છવાયેલો છે.

### જનતાની દુર્દશા:

આજે એક વ્યક્તિ બીજા વ્યક્તિના અને એક કોમ બીજી કોમના ગળા રેંસવા તૈયાર છે. એક ઈન્સાનનું દિલ બીજા માટે, અને એક કોમનું દિલ બીજી કોમ માટે દુશ્મની, અદેખાઈ, કપટથી ભરેલું છે. અંગત સભાઓ, ખરાબ વિચારો, ખરાબ વર્તન તથા વિભાજનના પ્લાનો અને ટીકાઓથી ભરેલા પ્રવચનોએ સમાજની હાલત ખરાબ કરી નાંખી છે.

આપસના કુસંપ, વિખવાદ, ભેદભાવ, વાદવિવાદ. આપસમાં આંતરિક ગુંગળામણ, કોટુખીક ઝઘડાઓ, ઘર કંકાશો, અનીતિ, દુરાચરણ અને વાસનાઓની તાબેદારીથી જનતાની શું દુર્દશા થઈ રહી છે? રોજગારમાં, ઉંમરમાં, તંદુરસ્તીમાં અને સમયમાં બરકત રહી નથી. સુખ શાંતિ કે આફિયત શોધેલી જડતી નથી.

### જગતની પરિસ્થિતિ:

આજે આખું જગત દુઃખ અને અશાંતિથી ખદબદી રહ્યું છે. શાંતિ માટે જગત તલસી રહ્યું છે. પરંતુ કોઈ સ્થળે શાંતિ જડતી નથી. આફિયત દેખાતી નથી. ઈન્ડિયા, પાકિસ્તાન દેશો પણ આંતરિક સંકટમાં છે. મુસ્લિમ દેશોની હાલત જૂઓ તો તે પણ દયાજનક છે. શાંતિને બદલે અશાંતિ, સુખચેનને બદલે ખોઈના ધાકે, લોકોના દિલો દિમાગો ઉપર કબજો જમાવ્યો છે.

### ઉકેલ અને ઉપાય:

જગત ઉપર આવેલ સંકટમય જનતાની દુર્દશા અને માનવ જીવનની બેચેની અને આ દુર્દશાનો ચિતાર ખેંચવા પછી કુદરતનો એક નિયમ, દસ્તુર તરફ ધ્યાન કેન્દ્રીત કરવાની અત્યંત જરૂરત છે.

આ દુનિયામાં દરેક જગ્યાએ એક પૂરેપૂરું ઈલાહી તંત્ર કાયમ છે. એક ખુદાઈ બંદોબસ્ત જારી છે. માનવજીવન આ ખુદાઈ તંત્રની હદમાં રહી જીવન ગુજારે તો માનવીના સર્વે દુઃખો અને મુશ્કેલીઓનો અંત આવી શકે છે. પરંતુ યાદ રહે કે, બહારનું

જીવન એ બાતીની જીવનની છાયા છે. આપણું જેવું બાતીની જીવન હશે તે જ મુજબ આપણી જાહીરી દેખીતી હાલત હશે.

સાર એ છે કે, માણસ જેવું કરે છે તેવું જ પામે છે. જેવી કરણી તેવી પાર ઉતરણી. એટલે જેવા કામ તેવા ફળ મળે છે. આ એક સચોટ હકીકતને એક સ્થળે સ્પષ્ટ શબ્દોમાં કુરઆન કરીમે પણ દર્શાવ્યું છે. જેનું એક શાયરે નીચે પ્રમાણે વર્ણન કર્યું છે.

“ખુદાને આજતક ઉસ કોમકી હાલત નહીં બદલી ન હો જીસ્કો ખ્યાલ અપની હાલત કો બદલનેકા.”

ઈન્સાનની બાતીની જિંદગી ગુનાહોથી લથપથ હશે તો પરિણામ એજ આવશે કે એનું દેખીતું બાહ્ય જીવન દુઃખ, પરેશાની, અશાંતિ આફતથી ઓતપ્રોત હશે. એનો મતલબ એ થયો કે, આપણાં જ અમલો છે કે જે આપણાં તરફ ફેરવવામાં આવે છે. એ આપણા અમલોનો બદલો છે કે, જે આપણને મળી રહ્યો છે. એના પ્રત્યક્ષ પૂરાવા માટે દૂર જવાની જરૂર નથી. જગતની ચારો તરફ નજર નાંખી નિહાળો, આજે સર્વત્ર શું થઈ રહ્યું છે. આ બધું આપણી કરણીનું ફળ છે. આપણા ગુનાહોનો બદલો છે.

અંતમાં કુરઆન કરીમનો એક સચોટ સહેલો ઉપાય એ છે કે, જે કોઈ પુરૂષ હોય કે સ્ત્રી પોતાના ઈમાન પર હોવાની હાલતમાં નેક કામ કરશે તો પરવરદિગાર તેને દુનિયામાં જરૂર સુંદર જિંદગી આપશે. ભાવાર્થ! સુંદર જિંદગી એટલે હૃદયને સંતોષ, સુકુન અને આખિરતમાં જન્નત.

આ નવા વર્ષથી ભૂલ્યા ત્યાંથી ફરી ગણો એમ સમજી આપણી જિંદગીને બદલવાની કોશિશોમાં લાગી જઈએ, અને ઈસ્લામે બતાવેલા સાચા રસ્તા ઉપર ચાલીએ. દરેકના હક્કો પૂરા કરીએ. ગુનાહો અને નાફરમાનીથી બચીએ. પાંચ વખતની નમાઝો સમય ઉપર અદા કરીએ. કોમની ભલાઈના કામો કરીએ. ઈ.અ. અવશ્ય મદદ મળશે અને જિંદગી સુખરૂપ પસાર થશે.

### યુ.કે.ના ૨૦૨૧ના વસ્તી ગણતરીના

#### ચોંકાવનારા આંકડા

ગયા માસમાં ૨૦૨૧ના બ્રિટનની વસ્તી ગણતરી આંકડાઓનો રિપોર્ટ બહાર પડ્યો હતો. આ અગાઉ ૨૦૧૧માં આ પ્રકારનો રિપોર્ટ બહાર પડ્યો હતો. ૨૦૨૧ના વસ્તી ગણતરી મુજબ મુખ્ય ચિતાર નીચે પ્રમાણે છે.

ઈંગ્લેન્ડ અને વેલ્સની કુલ વસ્તી ૫૮.૬૦ મિલિયન છે. ઈંગ્લેન્ડ અને વેલ્સમાં મુસ્લિમોની વસ્તી ૩.૮ મિલિયન છે (૬.૪ %) જે ૨૦૧૧માં ૨.૭ મિલિયન (૪.૮ %) હતી. ખ્રિસ્તીઓની વસ્તીમાં ૫.૫ મિલિયન (૧૭ %) ઘટાડો થયો છે. જ્યારે ઈસ્લામ ધર્મને અનુસરતા લોકોમાં ૪૪ ટકાનો વધારો જોવા મળે છે.

એવું પહેલી વખત જોવા મળ્યું છે કે, ઈંગ્લેન્ડ અને વેલ્સની કુલ વસ્તીના અડધાથી ઓછા લોકો ખ્રિસ્તી ધર્મને માનનારા છે.

લેસ્ટર, લુટન અને બર્મિંગહામમાં વસ્તીના ૫૦ ટકાથી વધુ બ્લેક અને એથનિક માઈનોરિટીના લોકો વસે છે. લેસ્ટર યુ.કે.નું પહેલું શહેર છે જ્યાં વ્હાઈટ લોકો મેજોરિટીમાં નથી. ફક્ત ૪૧ ટકા જ વ્હાઈટ લોકો છે.

આમ બ્રિટન અને વેલ્સના આંકડા પ્રમાણે ૪૬.૨ % ખ્રિસ્તી ૩૭.૨ % નો રિલીજિયન ૬.૫% મુસ્લિમ, ૧.૭% હિન્દુ, ૦.૮% શીખ ૦.૫ % બુદ્ધીસ્ત ૦.૫ % જયુ નો સમાવેશ છે.



## ચાલો આજે કંઈક સાઈ જાણીએ

-રફીક અહમદ કભાસ

### તમારી દરેક જરૂરિયાત પરવરદિગારથી માંગો !

એક વખત એક રાજા એકલા જંગલ તરફ એકાંતમાં ફરવા નીકળ્યા. ચાલતા ચાલતા તે રસ્તો ભૂલી ગયા. ખૂબ ચાલ્યા પછી વિરાનમાં તેમને એક ઝૂંપડી દેખાય. રાજા ત્યાં પહોંચી ગયા. અને પોતે રસ્તો ભૂલી ગયા છે એ વાત કરી. ઝૂંપડીમાં રહેતા માણસે બાદશાહની ખૂબજ ખીદમત કરી. એ ગરીબ માણસ જાણતો પણ ન હતો કે આ મોટો બાદશાહ છે. તેણે તો રાજાને એક મુસાફર સમજી તેની ખીદમત કરી. બાદશાહ તેની ખીદમતથી ખુશ થયા. કેટલાક દિવસ પછી બાદશાહ જવા લાગ્યા તો પોતાની આંગડીમાંથી એક અંગુઠી કાઢી અને કહ્યું તમે મને ઓળખતા નથી, હું એક બાદશાહ છું અને તેમણે પોતાના રજવાડાનું સરનામું કહી અંગુઠી આપતા કહ્યું આ તમારી પાસે રાખો. જ્યારે તમને કોઈ જરૂરત પડે તો મારા મહેલમાં આવી જજો. દરવાજા ઉપર જે દરવાન હશે તેને આ અંગુઠી દેખાડી દેજો. હું કોઈ પણ હાલતમાં હોઉં એ તમારી મુલાકાત મારાથી કરાવી દેશે, એમ કહી બાદશાહ ત્યાંથી રવાના થઈ ગયા.

કેટલાક મહિનાઓ બાદ આ ગરીબને કોઈ જરૂરત આવી પડી. તે રાજાના મહેલ ઉપર પહોંચી ગયો અને કહ્યું બાદશાહથી મળવું છે. દરવાને તેને ઉપરથી નીચે સુધી જોયો અને વિચાર્યું આની શું ઓકાત છે કે એ બાદશાહને મળે. દરવાને મુફલીસી હાલતમાં તેને જોઈ કહ્યું તમે બાદશાહને મળી શકો નહીં. તે ગરીબ માણસે બાદશાહે આપેલ પેલી અંગુઠી બતાવી. તે જોઈ દરવાનની આંખો પહોળી થઈ ગઈ. એ બાદશાહની મ્હોર લગાવવાની અંગુઠી હતી. તેણે કહ્યું આ તમારી પાસે ક્યાંથી આવી ? ગરીબ માણસે દરેક વાત કહી સંભળાવી. બાદશાહનો હુકમ હતો કે, આ અંગુઠી જે કોઈ પણ લઈને આવે તેમને હું કોઈ પણ હાલતમાં હોઉં તરત જ મારા પાસે પહોંચાડવામાં આવે. દરવાન એ વ્યક્તિને બાદશાહના ખાસ રૂમ સુધી લઈ ગયો.

દરવાજો ખુલ્લો હતો અને બન્ને અંદર દાખલ થઈ ગયા. પેલા માણસની નજર પડી તો જોયું કે, બાદશાહ નમાઝમાં મશગુલ હતા. પછી બાદશાહ દુવા માટે પોતાના હાથ ઉપર કર્યા. એ વ્યક્તિએ આ બધું જોયું અને થોડી વાર વિચાર કર્યા પછી મહેલની બહાર જવા લાગ્યો. દરવાને કહ્યું રાજાને મળી તો લો. પેલી વ્યક્તિએ કહ્યું હવે મારે નથી મળવું, માફ કામ થઈ ગયું. મારે હવે પાછા ફરી જવું છે. તે થોડે દૂર ચાલી ગયો. ત્યારે બાદશાહ દુવામાંથી ફારિગ થયા તો દરવાને કહ્યું આવો એક માણસ આવ્યો હતો જેના પાસે તમે આપેલ અંગુઠી હતી. તે અહીં સુધી તમને મળવા આવ્યો અને પછી પાછો જવા લાગ્યો.

બાદશાહે કહ્યું એને તુરત મારા પાસે લઈ આવો. એ મારો પ્રિય છે અને મહેમાન છે. બાદશાહના માણસો ગયા અને તેને રસ્તામાંથી પાછો લાવવામાં આવ્યો. બાદશાહે તેને મળી કહ્યું આવ્યા હતા તો મને મળ્યા તો હોત. મળ્યા વગર કેમ પાછા ચાલ્યા ગયા. તેણે કહ્યું બાદશાહ સલામત અસલ વાત એ છે કે, તમે કહ્યું હતું કે, કોઈ જરૂરત પેશ આવે તો મારી પાસે આવી જજો. હું તમારી જરૂરિયાત

પૂરી કરી દઈશ. પેલા માણસે કહ્યું મને જરૂરત પેશ આવી હતી અને હું તમારા પાસે આવ્યો. પરંતુ મેં જોયું કે, તમે પણ કોઈનાથી માંગી રહ્યા હતા. તો મારા દિલમાં ખ્યાલ આવ્યો કે, બાદશાહ જેનાથી માંગી રહ્યા છે, કેમ ના હું પણ એનાથીજ માંગું. (બાદશાહ પણ હાથ ઉઠાવી અલ્લાહથી જ પોતાની જરૂરત માંગી રહ્યા હતા)

એ તે વસ્તુ છે કે, જ્યારે આપણને કોઈ જરૂરિયાત હોય પછી તે નાની કે મોટી હોય તો તેનો સવાલ ફક્ત અને ફક્ત અલ્લાહથીજ કરે એ એકજ એવો દર છે જ્યાં માંગેલ મુરાદ મળે છે. જે ચાહો તે તેમનાથી માંગી લો, ઈ.અ. જરૂર પૂરી કરશે. આ નાની પણ બોધદાયક વાત દરેકે અમલમાં મૂકવાની જરૂરત છે.

### કતરમાં સફળતાપૂર્વક ફીફા ફૂટબોલ વર્લ્ડ કપનું આયોજન

રરમી નવેમ્બરથી અરબ કન્ટ્રી કતરમાં ફીફા ફૂટબોલ વર્લ્ડ કપનું આયોજન થયું હતું. કતર અરબ દેશોમાં સૌથી નાનો ૩૦લાખની વસ્તી ધરાવતો અમીર દેશ છે. આ દેશમાં ફૂટબોલની કોઈ મહત્વતા નથી છતાં ફીફા વર્લ્ડ કપના આયોજનની બીડમાં કેટલાક વર્ષો પહેલાં તે સફળ થયું હતું. ત્યાં આ રમતની કોઈ સુવિધા કે ફૂટબોલના ગ્રાઉન્ડ પણ નથી. એમ છતાં આ દેશે અદ્ભુત સંપત્તિ લગાવી રેગીસ્તાનમાં આખું ફૂટબોલ શહેર ઊભું કરી દીધું હતું. જેમાં તમામ સહુલત સાથેના અધ્યતન ૮ ફૂટબોલ સ્ટેડીયમ, ફૂટબોલ ટીમો માટે ટ્રેનીંગ ગ્રાઉન્ડ, વિઝીટરો માટે અધ્યતન હોટલો, મેટ્રો સુવિધા અને વાહનવ્યવહાર સહિત બ્રાન્ડ ન્યુ રોડ વગેરે બનાવ્યા હતા. જે માટે અનેક દેશોમાંથી તેણે નિષ્ણાંતોની મદદ લીધી હતી.

અરબના મુસ્લિમ દેશો જ્યારે કોઈ પ્રગતિ કરે છે ત્યારે વેસ્ટર્ન વર્લ્ડ મુસ્લિમ દેશોને કીટીસાઈઝ કરવાનું ચૂકતા નથી. આ વર્લ્ડ કપ શરૂ થયો ત્યારથીજ યુરોપ, અમેરિકા વગેરે દેશોએ અદેખાઈ શરૂ કરી પોતાના નેગેટીવ અભિપ્રાયો આપવું શરૂ કર્યું હતું. આ વર્લ્ડ કપની ઓપનીંગ શરૂઆત કતરે ભવ્યતાથી કરી હતી અને ઈસ્લામ અને તેના સંદેશાઓ સાથે બાંધછોડ કર્યા વિના આ દેશ ઈસ્લામના સિધ્ધાંતને વળગી રહ્યો હતો. બીજા દેશોની પરવાહ કર્યા વિના તેણે સ્ટેડીયમ કે જાહેરમાં આલ્ફોહોલ ઉપર પાબંદી, જાહેર માર્ગો અને સ્ટેડીયમમાં બિભિત્સ પહેરવેશ અને અભદ્ર વર્તણૂક ઉપર પણ પાબંદી લગાવી હતી. વળી એલજીબીટીના હક્કો માટે ગેરમુસ્લિમ દેશો જે અવાજ ઉઠાવી રહ્યા છે તેનાં ઉપર પણ કતરે સખત વલણ અપનાવ્યું હતું. જો કે યુરોપના ઘણાં ફૂટબોલના પ્રવક્તાઓએ આ વર્લ્ડ કપને બદનામ કરવાના અનેક પ્રયત્નો કર્યા હતા. પરંતુ કતરે જરાપણ નમતું જોખ્યું ન હતું, જેથી વિરોધીઓને સફળતા મળી ન હતી.

ઉદઘાટન સમારંભમાં કુરઆન શરીફની તીલાવત અને ઈસ્લામનો શાંતિનો સંદેશ પાઠવવામાં આવ્યો હતો. અનેક ભાષાઓમાં તેનું પ્રસારણ થયું હતું. જેની વિશ્વમાં વાહવાહ થઈ હતી. કતરમાં વિઝીટરો, ખેલાડીઓ વગેરેઓનું એટલું ઉત્સાહપૂર્વક વેલકમ થયું હતું કે દુનિયા દંગ રહી ગઈ હતી. લોકોએ સરકારની વ્યવસ્થાના ભારેભાર વખાણ કરતા અનેક વિડીયો શોશલ મીડિયા ઉપર ફરતા કર્યા હતા. અને કોઈપણ અનિચ્છનિય બનાવો બન્યા ન હતા. આમ શાંતિપૂર્વક તમામ આયોજન સફળ રહ્યું હતું.

## સેવાભાવી ઇસ્માઇલ એમ. દાજીનો દુઃખદ ઇન્તેકાલ

□ અહમદ ગુલ

તા. ૧૪મી જાન્યુઆરી ૨૦૨૩ની સવાર એક આઘાતજનક સમાચાર લઇને આવી અને એ સમાચાર વાયુવેગે સમગ્ર બાટલીમાં પ્રસરી ગયા અને એક ગમગીન વાતાવરણ છવાઇ ગયું. જાણીતા સામાજિક કાર્યકર્તા ઇસ્માઇલ હાફેજી મહંમદ દાજીના ઇન્તેકાલના એ હતા સમાચાર. ઇન્ના... એજ દિવસે બપોરે ૩ વાગ્યે બાટલીના કબ્રસ્તાનમાં સેંકડો માણસોની હાજરીમાં એમને દફન કરવામાં આવ્યા. એમના શબ્દોમાં મૃત્યુની ઓળખ એમણે કંઈ આ રીતે કરાવી છે:

ભરાશે નહીં આ લાલચી આંખોનો દરિયો  
બધું છોડી ખાલી હાથ અહીંયાંથી જવાનું છે  
મહેકાવી જા જરા તારી યાદોનો પમરાટ ‘અનીસ’  
આ નશ્વર જગમાં ફરી કયાં પાછા આવવાનું છે

એમનાં સેવા કાર્યોનો સમયગાળો અડધી સદીથી વધુ લાંબો રહ્યો છે જેનું પૂરેપૂરું વર્ણન કરવામાં આવે તો એક આખું પુસ્તક તૈયાર થઇ જાય. છતાં અહીં એમની સેવાકીય પ્રવૃત્તિઓ વિષે આપણે ટૂંકમાં થોડું જાણીએ.

૨૨ વર્ષની યુવા વયે ૧૯૬૧માં યુકે આવ્યા ત્યારથી તેઓ સેવાનાં કામોમાં સક્રિય રહેલા. બાટલીની મધ્યસ્થ સંસ્થા ‘ઇન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી’ (IMWS) માં વિવિધ પદો પર રહી તથા ‘સોસાયટી’ના મુખપત્ર “પયગામ”ની સ્થાપક કમિટીના સભ્ય તથા અનેકવાર પ્રમુખપદે રહી ૫૦ વર્ષ સુધી એમણે એકધારી સેવાઓ બજાવતા રહી અંતિમ દિવસો સુધી કાર્યરત રહી નિષ્ઠાપૂર્વક પોતાની જવાબદારીઓ નિભાવી હતી. વૉરવીક રોડ વિભાગની દીની સંસ્થા ‘ઇસ્લામિક કલ્ચરલ એન્ડ વેલ્ફેર એસોસિયેશન’ (ICWA) ના સ્થાપના કાળથી છેવટ સુધી મસ્જિદ-મદ્રાસાના કાર્યોમાં સતત સેવા બજાવી હતી. ઉપરાંત ‘કર્કલીઝ રેશનલ ઇકવૉલિટી કાઉન્સિલ’ની એકઝિક્યુટીવના અને લેબર પાર્ટીના સક્રિય સભ્ય તરીકે, તથા વૉરવીક રોડ જુનિયર સ્કૂલની ગવર્નિંગ બોડીના અને મિલન ડે કેરના સભ્ય તરીકે પણ સતત સેવા અને કામગીરી બજાવી હતી.

બાટલીની સાહિત્યિક પ્રવૃત્તિઓમાં એમનો સિંહફાળો રહ્યો છે. ‘ગુજરાતી રાઇટર્સ સર્કલ’ અને ‘ગુજરાતી રાઇટર્સ ફોરમ’ના જનરલ સેક્રેટરી તરીકે એમની સેવાઓને કદી ભૂલી શકાય તેમ નથી. બાટલીમાં ગુજરાતી સાહિત્યની જે કંઈ પણ પ્રવૃત્તિઓ થઇ અને તળ ગુજરાતમાં જેની નોંધ લેવાઈ તે એમની સક્રિયતા અને એમના સહકાર વિના શક્ય ન બની હોત. આપબળે મહેનત કરી એક સારા ગઝલકાર તરીકે પણ એમણે નામના મેળવી હતી. સ્થાનિક કવિઓના બે સંયુક્ત ગઝલ સંગ્રહો ‘સંગતિ’ અને ‘ગુલદાન’માં એમની ગઝલોનો સમાવેશ થયો છે.


અત્યંત વિનમ્ર, નિખાલસ અને મૈત્રીભર્યા સ્વભાવને કારણે એમને મળનારા સૌ એમની એ ખુબીઓથી પ્રભાવિત થયા વિના રહેતા ન હતા. અનેક સંસ્થાઓ સાથે વર્ષો સુધી સંકળાયેલા રહેલા એટલે એમના જવાથી જે ખોટ ઊભી થશે તે એક લાંબા સમય સુધી પૂરવી મુશ્કેલ રહેશે. તેઓ પાંચ સંતાનો અને પત્નીને વિલાપ કરતા મૂકી ગયા છે અલ્લાહ પાક એમનાં એ સ્વજનોને સબ્બે જમીલ અતા કરે અને મરહુમને જન્મતુલ ફિરદૌસમાં આલા મુકામ નસીબ ફરમાવે. આમીન.

### ગઝલ

□ મરહુમ ઇસ્માઇલ દાજી ‘અનીસ’

મધમધતી કંઈ બહારો મૂકી જઇશ  
ઝાકળભીની સવારો મૂકી જઇશ  
મજલૂમોના દબાયેલા સાદ સામે  
બુલંદ એક નારો મૂકી જઇશ  
છે અમાસી અંધકારો ચોતરફ  
ઝગમગ એક સિતારો મૂકી જઇશ  
ધુધવાય છે સતત તોફાની સમંદર  
શાંત એક કિનારો મૂકી જઇશ  
મળે મિત્રોને કંઈ ચર્ચાનો વિષય  
એક એવો ઇશારો મૂકી જઇશ  
કંટકોના જયાં હશે પ્રભાવ ત્યાં  
ફૂલોનો એક ભારો મૂકી જઇશ  
‘અનીસ’ એની આંખોમાં તરતો રહે  
એવો એક નઝારો મૂકી જઇશ






# Tajweed

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