

IMWS and Rabetah raise over £100,000 for Turkey appeal

As the number of people who perished during the recent earthquake in Türkiye (Turkey) and Syria keeps rising, people from a diverse range of backgrounds have donated vast sums of money in order to assist survivors.

Two large earthquakes struck the southeastern region of Türkiye near the border with Syria. Thousands of people were killed as residential buildings across the Pazarcik district of Turkey's Kahramanmaraş province region, near the Turkish city of Gaziantep succumbed to the first earthquake measuring 7.8 on

the Richter scale. A second magnitude 7.6 tremor struck the same region before a third 6.3-magnitude earthquake hit the Syria-Turkey border on the 20th of February, killing three with 213 were injured, according to the country's interior minister, Suleyman Soylu.

The number of people killed stands at over 42,000 – over 36,000 in Türkiye and more than 5,800 in Syria.

Such was the impact, the earthquakes are estimated to have directly impacted 23 million people with the tremors being felt

by millions of people across the region up to 1,000km (621 miles) away. Should the earthquake have taken place in the UK, it would have been felt by most of England and Wales and parts of southern Scotland, while extreme shaking and damage would have stretched from Middlesbrough to London and as far west as Anglesey.

The worst affected cities would include Leeds, Liverpool, Nottingham and Birmingham. Following the tragedy, many countries around the world have been working diligently to provide support to those affected.



Local response to crisis

According to the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief), Saudi Arabia's aid relief agency, the Saudi government has provided food, medicine and shelter supplies, and has deployed search and rescue teams.

In addition, \$100 million from over 1.6 million individuals and companies in just over a week has been raised.

The United Arab Emirates announced a \$100 million humanitarian assistance package for millions of people displaced. Qatar has announced it will deliver 10,000 portable cabins and trailers that the oil-rich kingdom used during the 2022 World Cup in Doha, on top of food and medical aid.

However, the goodwill and generosity showcased by the people of Great Britain, has showcased the compassion and kindness of the British people.

Across England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, people are raising urgently needed funds so that the UK's Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) and their local partners can support the many people in Türkiye and Syria whose lives have been devastated by the deadly earthquakes.

King Charles and the Queen Consort have been thanked for a "generous donation" whilst the Prince and Princess of Wales said they were "horrified to see the harrowing images" in the aftermath of the earthquakes.

People at football stadiums across the nation, schools, universities, different faith and community groups, high street businesses and people at work throughout the nation have donated a mammoth £100 million to the DEC Türkiye -Syria Earthquake Appeal.

The total includes £5 million in UK Aid Match from the UK government. DEC chief executive Saleh Saeed described the scenes in Türkiye and Syria as

"heartbreaking", with thousands "losing loved ones suddenly in the most shocking of ways".

He said: "We know that money is tight for many people here in the UK as the cost-of-living crisis continues but, if you can, please do donate to support people caught up in this deadly disaster. Despite the challenges, they are all experiencing aid is getting through and they are scaling up."

The Ministry of Defence has also supported Turkey bilaterally with specialist medical assistance, a critical care air support team and C130 transport aircraft has deployed to Turkey to transport patients from areas most impacted by the earthquake, and a UK Medical Treatment Facility has been set up in Turkoglu to treat hundreds of people.

The UK has also sent a team of 77 search and rescue experts with specialist equipment, as well as four rescue dogs, who worked day and night to help people affected by the earthquake. Defence Secretary, Ben Wallace said the UK is committed to provide as much assistance to Turkey as possible.

He said: "We are committed to helping our close partner Turkey following the devastating earthquakes and have deployed flights, medics and aid to support the recovery efforts. We will continue to explore options for further support and I am in regular contact with my counterpart and friend Defence Minister Akar."

Locally, IMWS, Rabetah and local area Masjids have been working around the clock to raise much-needed funds for those affected, with over £111,000 raised so far.

IMWS Chairman, Rafiq Dabhad thanked the local community for their continued support and generosity. He said: "The scale of destruction is vast and needs on the ground are extraordinary so even though our campaign has exceeded £111,000, we

would appreciate your continued support and contribution. For this campaign, we will continue to work closely with Rabetah and Islamic Relief to ensure that funds are directed to carefully selected organisations on the ground for maximum impact to address medium- and long-term needs.

"We have contacted various UK based charities in order to work with them and provide maximum benefit to those who have been affected."

Islamic Relief's Salah Aboulgasem, based in Gaziantep, added: "The priority right now is saving lives by clearing the rubble. The next priority is supporting people who have lost their homes and gone through huge trauma.

"People need medicines and warmth. People are trying to find relatives. A lot of people are sleeping in cars because they are scared to go back into the buildings due to aftershocks, but there was still hope and "miracles are happening."

Speaking from Türkiye, Rabetah's Moulana Mota who travelled to Turkey, along with Hafez Yusuf Paliya viewed the destruction first-hand and appealed to the people of Batley, and Dewsbury to continue donating.

Moulana Mota said: "We've seen houses completely broken to pieces and people living in tents. You can imagine how these people felt when this earthquake took place and the shock they went through by seeing the destruction. You really feel how our Muslim brothers and sisters felt at the time.

"We pray that the Almighty makes it easy for them and we humbly request all our brothers and sisters to please continue praying for them and keep helping them through your generous donations.

"You can drop off your donations to IMWS in Batley, the local Masjids or you can contact Moulana Yakub Bham who will be happy to collect any donations."

Rafik Dabhad Re-elected as Chair of IMWS

The Indian Muslim Welfare Society has re-elected Rafik Dabhad as Chair following its recent annual general meeting which took place on Saturday the 25th of February 2023.

Speaking to Paigaam following the AGM, Mr Dabhad, who has served as Chair since July 2021 spoke of his pride at being re-elected.

He said: "I am honoured to be re-elected as Chair of IMWS. I am proud to be the chair of an organisation that has such a dedicated executive committee and hardworking staff who collectively work tirelessly for our members."

"This is a particularly challenging time for the charity sector is as a whole – but also a time of opportunity. I look forward to working closely with the rest of the elected members to support the organisation."

During the AGM, IMWS honoured former Chair, the late Dr Imtiyaz Patel with a posthumous award which was received by his son's.

IMWS executive, Aziz Daji told the assembled audience about Dr Imtiyaz's outstanding contribution to the charity: "The best way for me to describe him would be to say he had the best character. He was respectful towards others, young or old. The way he spoke to people and the way he did business," said Mr Daji.

"Dr Imtiyaz served for over 18 years, in many different capacities including Chair, Vice Chair amongst many positions. Dr Imtiyaz was dedicated in relation to

guiding IMWS through one of the most challenging periods of its existence."

Receiving the award on behalf of his father, Ismail Imtiyaz Patel said: "A few months ago, he gave me a piece of advice. He said, Ismail, whatever you do in life, don't do it to make money, don't do it for your own ego, the only reason is to help others. That is what he instilled in us and did himself. You should help others and for that will help you in this life and the hereafter."



In addition, an award was also given to Mohammed Mulla for his commitment and dedication to IMWS for over 20 years.

Presenting the award to Mr Mulla, Ahmad Lunat OBE said: "I would also like to thank Mohammed Mulla, for his many years of service and commitment to the organisation, we thank him for his foresight and guidance. His dedication to IMWS has been invaluable. He served various positions within IMWS and has helped the organisation to move forward."

Members who attended the AGM were afforded an opportunity to ask questions and submit any suggestions.

The IMWS committee were congratulated for managing the AGM in such an efficient manner as the event concluded in just under 2 hours. IMWS General Manager, Nadeem Raja thanked members who attended and offered his help and support to members by asking them to contact him directly. Members also thanked committee members and staff

for their hard work during the year.

A number of members were selected on the night to join the Elected Trustees, including Ismail Imtiyaz Patel, who follows in his father's footsteps.

Furthermore, plans to call a special general meeting in the upcoming months were announced.

Members who wish to make any suggestions or ask any questions can now e-mail: info@imws.org.uk.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the events and join the sub-committees, you can do so by emailing: info@imws.org.uk with 'volunteering' in the subject field.

Chair: Rafik Dabhad

New Elected Trustees

- 1 Mohammed Mulla**
- 2 Ahmad Lunat OBE**
- 3 MasumBhai Karolia**
- 4 Ismail E Patel**
- 5 Ismail Imtiyaz Patel**
- 6 Hanif Mamaniat**

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As the region's only monthly trilingual publication, Paigaam was established in 1993 by IMWS to provide the community with a voice.

Coupled with a readership of over 30,000 across areas of North Kirklees including Batley, Dewsbury, Heckmondwike and the wider areas, the publication provides the community with local, regional, national and international news stories and features.

Paigaam

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Batley Cemetery Update

IMWS has been working with Kirklees Council for a number of years in relation to the extension of the new Muslim burial area at Batley Cemetery.

An update on the progress of the new area has been provided by the Peter Margrave, Bereavement Services Manager at Kirklees Council.

Mr Margrave has confirmed that the work on the new burial area has progressed in an efficient manner with around 300 tonnes of soil moved, flattened and prepared in readiness for the installation of two hundred and fifty burial chambers.

He said: "The new section was seeded towards the end of September and will be reseeded in spring if required.

"The section is now almost complete due to all the remedial work undertaken, and will be ready for burials once the existing section becomes full.

"Kirklees Council are also taking the opportunity to install gabions to protect the new levels. In addition, a new fence and a tree planting area has been installed

along the boundary with scope for additional tree planting to take place over the coming years.

"The Council also took the opportunity to repair sections of the damaged driveway whilst also replacing a number of existing drains."

Aziz Daji, Chair of the IMWS Burial Committee told Paigaam: "We are very pleased that the first phase of the new development is ready for use. We are very grateful to Kirklees Council for their continuous support to the Muslim community."

IMWS first raised the issue of the potential lack of Muslim burial spaces at a public meeting in October 2019 at the Al Hikmah Centre where members of the IMWS executive committee revealed that unless urgent action was taken, in less than two years, plots to bury loved ones within the confines of the Muslim cemetery in Batley, would be filled.

A report to Kirklees Council's Strategic Planning Committee came to the same conclusion as IMWS. The report

specifically stated the need for Muslim burial space in the district is "urgent" as some cemeteries are running out of space.

The report continued: "Whilst the need for Christian burial has decreased over recent decades, the need for Muslim burial is urgent. The need for burial space within the Batley district and community is identifies as being particularly pressing."

Due to the unsuitable nature of the current area, the council proposed the use of concrete boxes for burial. This will require concrete slabs on all four sides and on the top, however, the body will be laid on the ground, within open bottom rectangular boxes.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the council proposed the use of concrete chambers for burial, consisting of concrete slabs on all four sides and on the top. These chambers have now been installed alongside drainage in preparation for the first burial.

In the new land, with the burial Chamber, an additional cost of £827 will be charged.



Celebrating 30 Years of Paigaam

It's official: Paigaam has entered its 30th year of publication, marking over a quarter of a century since the publication began.

It has been a journey wrapped in dedication and commitment to make Paigaam a relevant voice not just for IMWS but also its affiliates, members and the local Muslim community. The IMWS committee felt a need to better communicate with its membership and share its activities with the wider community.

In February 1993 the first issue of Paigaam was published and this was celebrated by organising an inaugural event attended by dignitaries including the leader and the Chief Executive of Kirklees Council, chief of police, local school teachers, and IMWS members.

Three issues later the committee decided to continue with the publication and has continued ever since, reaching its 360th issue this month. Things have changed since those early days. Technology has moved drastically in the past quarter of a century.

Nowadays Apple Mac's, Photoshop and in design has developed the scope of the

publication's appearance, whilst mobile phones and social media has ensured the publication is read worldwide.

Looking back at the first issue, the strapline sitting above the masthead reads 'for the community – by the community' a statement that rings true to this day.

The front-page story was about the aid sent by the local community to Bosnia at a time when Bosnian Muslims faced ethnic cleansing.

The charity and concern of our local community is as apparent today as it was then, with members raising over £100,000 for victims of the Turkey and Syria earthquake appeal.

Aziz Daji, editor of Paigaam, said: "The 30th anniversary is not only an opportunity to reflect on the fascinating history of Paigaam but it also allows us to look to the future. We publish stories and features that matter to the community and it rightly has a special place in the heart of the community today.

"The Magazine remains a key priority for IMWS both in print and online and we're excited for its future. From international issues to local challenges, Paigaam continues to bring the stories that matter. People still want to read about what is

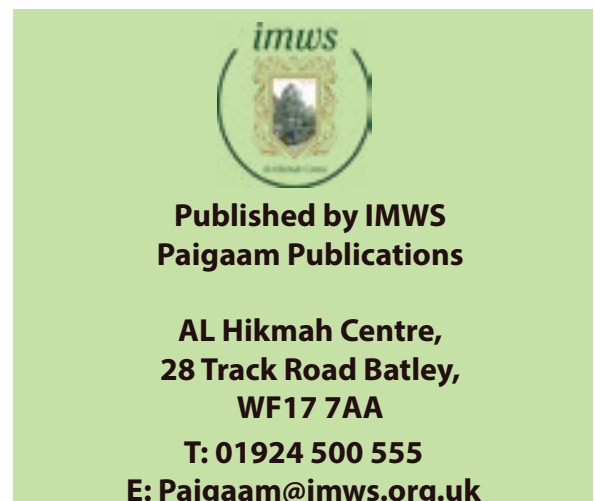
happening in the community and about local and international issues that affect them."

From stories showcasing the achievements of local people, organisations and our affiliates along with stories that matter to the local community, Paigaam is still as relevant as it was in 1992, maybe even more so, according to one senior, local journalist, who has worked for Paigaam.

Ismail Mulla, Comment Editor at the Yorkshire Post, believes Paigaam is a key source to share the stories and provide the community with an insight into issues that affect them.

He said: "A huge congratulations to Paigaam on reaching 30 years. The importance of the magazine in bringing the community together in an ever-evolving world has never been greater. I'm deeply grateful for the two years that I spent working on Paigaam between 2012 and 2014. Thanks to everyone who gave me the opportunity to hone my skills as a journalist there."

Rafik Dabhad, Chair of IMWS said: "We are very proud of what Paigaam has achieved and the service it has provided to the community."



Ex-Slave Villagers in Sahara Desert need your help

Mauritania officially abolished slavery in 1981, making it the last country in the world to do so. However, numerous ex-slaves that had been freed in and around 2007, some as recently as 2013 still face serious challenges, according to the former Mayor of Blackburn.

Salim Mulla, elaborated about how a strong sense of intrigue and excitement overtook him as he touched down in Nouakchott, the capital city of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, a country which he had never heard of prior to his visit in January.

“In January 2023, I had the pleasure of visiting the Islamic Republic of Mauritania – one of only three Islamic Republics in the world today. Despite being four times the size of England few people are aware of Mauritania’s existence, which was an epicentre of Islamic religious and scientific scholarship,” said Mr Mulla.

After was an epic journey – spanning over 30 hours, 1200km from the Atlantic Ocean, across the Sahara Desert to visit the poverty-stricken ex-slave villages located in an incredibly remote location on the border between Mauritania and

Mali: “As I drove on a dusty, bumpy road for over 30 hours, I couldn’t help but take in the sheer beauty of the mighty Sahara Desert.

“It was awe-inspiring to watch the soft, pure sand dunes change colour from white to yellow to orange along the way. I passed several sandy villages, each with its own towering minarets, free roaming livestock and colourfully clothed Mauritians.”

Mr Mulla would proceed to one of the most remote regions of Mauritania, a village called Ouladha Gedi in order to observe and live alongside the inhabitants of 17 villages, for three weeks: “Unfortunately, as ex-slaves, this community is at the very bottom of the social hierarchy in Mauritanian society.

“They are Arabic speaking black Mauritians Muslims, who were until recently slaves, known locally as Haratine. I lived with the village chief and his humble family. A semi-permanent tent was my home for the next 3 weeks – they had no kitchen so meals were prepared on an open fire in the sand.

“They have no access to electricity and have inadequate access to Masjids, Madrassas, water, food, shelter, sanitation,

healthcare, employment and education. I have never experienced a community living in such high levels of poverty, hardship and ignorance in our religion anywhere in the World.”

He also highlighted the many cases of malnutrition reported across the 17 villages every year, some of which result in death.

“The population of Mauritania is 99.9 percent Muslim. Unfortunately, in recent times, Mauritania has been battling chronic malnutrition for the past few decades, with over 50% of the population living in poverty.

“Widespread desertification cause by severedrought has only further exacerbated crippling economic deprivation, with the vast majority of Mauritanian land covered by the Sahara Desert and only less than 1 percent usable for agricultural purposes.”

“In Ouladha Gedi, during the summer months, in April and July, life in this area becomes extremely challenging.

“During this period, nursing mothers are unable to produce breast milk to feed their babies because they themselves haven’t eaten properly for over 24 hours.”



This was Mr Mulla's home for 3 weeks



Water resources are scarce for ex-slaves

Over the course of the days, Mr Mulla had the opportunity to travel to most of the 17 ex-slave villages. Each time, he was warmly greeted by excited kids, turban-clad men and colourfully dressed women.

“I was pleased to be able to make a small difference during my short stay with the ex-slaves. This included distributing clothes and cash to the poor children, help provide milk to of widows, orphans and disabled families, food parcels to those most in need as well as bananas to children who had never seen a banana before in their entire lives and were unable to even open it let alone know which part to eat – the fruit or the skin. Such is the condition of these ex-slaves.

“I couldn’t help but feel obliged to spread news of the plight of these ex-slaves and the dire conditions that they are currently living in. Please we can remember our ex-slave brothers and sisters in our prayers and strive to support them in finding solutions to the main challenges facing them today.”

- **Masjid and Madrasa Construction** – only 1 out of the 17 villages currently has a small mosque made out of tent. Most of the ex-slave children are unable to read the Qur’an, despite being first language Arabic speakers. This is truly tragic.

- **Water Wells – deep borehole wells are urgently needed to help save lives.** Many ex-slaves are forced collect water in jerry cans on donkeys whilst walking their livestock across the dangerous border into Mali during a poor rainy season. Mr Mulla’s intention is to purchase and import a borehole drilling machine, enabling him to provide fresh running water to

hundreds of villages and solving the main challenge that each village faces. The people are in urgently in need of water, this is the main thing they want from their brothers and sisters.

- **Food Parcels** – Urgently required, particularly during the scorching summer months (April-July) when there is no food around in the area. Cases of malnutrition are rife.

- **25kg Rice bag & oil** is needed at a cost of £20.00

- **Zakat** – the entire population is eligible to receive zakat, as they are all living in abject poverty. However, we are compiling a list of those who are most needy which can form the basis of any future zakat distributions in the area.

- **Medical Centre** – there is no hospital or clinic in this area and countless ex-slaves die whilst travelling to access medical care, as the nearest hospital is 7 hours north or they travel south, risking danger by crossing the border with Mali to access a Malian hospital. A donkey and cart are often used to transport patients.

- **Education** – almost all of the 17 ex-slave villages do not currently have schools or adequate educational provision for children. Children are growing up completely illiterate and uneducated. Those few which do attend school have no school equipment and learn in makeshift tents.

- **Empowerment Projects** – hundreds of ex-slaves travel across the border to Mali to work as labourers on farms in order to take an income back to their families. Providing poor families with goats and

other livestock enables them to earn a living through animal rearing without having to abandon their families and crossing the dangerous border with Mali.

Each village with approximate population per village he visited:

Ketwell , 480 families / 3,300 people,
Sott , 450 families / 3,100 people,
Tehshit, 360 families / 2,500 people,
Ahl El Mush and two neighbouring small villages combined, 350 families, 2500 people

Ouladha Gedi 280 families, 2000 people. **Wul Agailah** 270 families, 1,900 people. **La Beydha and two neighbouring small villages combined**, 200 families, 1,400 people.

Zaidan and three neighbouring small villages combined, 180 families, 1,300 people. **Ahl Shrayiv & Ara**, 160 families, 1,100 people

Total Number of Families - 2,730
Total Number of People - 19,100

Please contact Salim bhai directly if you would like any further information.

Salim Mulla Ex-Mayor of Blackburn and Ex Chairman of Lancashire Council of Masjids: **07798742027**

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Is this the beginning of the end for Modi?

US billionaire investor George Soros believes Indian prime minister Narendra Modi's democratic credentials will "significantly weaken" due to his links with the troubled Adani group.

Spearheaded by Gautam Adani, a close associate of Modi, the Adani group has lost around \$120 billion in market value since January.

The crisis has sparked uproar in India and has ensured many foreign observers and investors are sceptical about the group's financial stability.

Responding to allegations made by the US-based financial forensic analysis firm Hindenburg Research – accusing Adani of a massive and "brazen stock manipulation" and "accounting fraud scheme," Soros believes Modi has some serious questions to answer in relation to the Adani group since their fates are "intertwined."

The American philanthropist 92, said: "Adani is accused of stock manipulation and his stock collapsed like a house of cards. Modi is silent on the subject, but he will have to answer questions from foreign investors and in parliament," Soros said.

"This will significantly weaken Modi's stranglehold on India's federal

government and open the door to push for much-needed institutional reforms.

Soros also criticised Modi for his government's human rights abuses.

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".

A 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."

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.

Soros believes Modi's castigatory actions towards India's Muslim community will only serve to be his downfall.

"I may be naive, but I expect a democratic revival in India. India is an interesting case. It's a democracy.

"But its leader, Narendra Modi, is no democrat. Inciting violence against Muslims was an important factor in his meteoric rise," he said, citing Modi's tenure in Gujarat.

"Democratically elected Narendra Modi is creating a Hindu nationalist state, imposing punitive measures on Kashmir, a semi-autonomous Muslim region, and threatening to deprive millions of Muslims of their citizenship."

"Modi maintains close relations with both open and closed societies.

India is a member of the Quad (which also includes Australia, the US, and Japan), but it buys a lot of Russian oil at a steep discount and makes a lot of money on it," Soros said.



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Competition

Paigaam has teamed up with Huddersfield Town to offer a family ticket for 4 people to watch Town's match against (to complete here).

Answer the following question: Who is the new Manager of Huddersfield Town?

Please send the answer by e-mail to info@imws.org.uk with the subject title: Huddersfield Town competition by the 15th of March. 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.



East Riding Community Foundation thanks IMWS

The Chair of Trustees of the East Riding Community Foundation Trust has thanked IMWS and ICWA for assisting the trust to complete a significant amount of work to in relation to fundraising and then renovating a premises which is set to be transformed into the first Masjid in the East Riding area of Yorkshire.

In a letter addressed to Paigaam and ICWA, Waqar Khan, explained that since 2016, a number of Muslims in the Brough area of the East Riding area, to set-up a much-needed Masjid in the area, and after years of profound obstacles and hardships, they were able to secure a building for £521,000 in November 2021.

Within close proximity to North Yorkshire to the north and west and north Lincolnshire towards the south, Brough is in close proximity to 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.

Mr Khan said: "It has been remarkable year for us as we continue to work on our Masjid project. No one would have imagined that in such a short span of time, we would have been able to complete so much work in the first Masjid in the East Riding area of Yorkshire.

"This was only possible with the support from the help of the Almighty and the people he had chosen to help us complete this project.

"2022 saw us getting the Council approval, turning a 2-Bedroom bungalow into spacious halls to accommodate separate male & female prayer areas and madrassa classes for children."

Upon hearing about the amount of

Masjid's in 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 carpets donated by ICWA Masjid for the new Masjid.

Although, a vast amount of work has been completed, a great deal of work has yet to commence, whilst loan and Qard-e-hasana repayments currently stand at £120,000.

"During the year, we were able to Install the boiler & radiators, Wudu areas & bathroom facilities for males & females, grounds clearance of 1.24 Acre of Land to allow for parking facilities on site, Internal refurbishment and carpets (donated by ICWA), offering funeral payer & support to the Muslim families, converting the shed building into a community room to offer services to the people," said Mr Khan.

In order for us to continue with the project, Mr Kahn has appealed to the community to continue to guide and support the foundation in relation to helping raise much needed funds during Ramadan and the rest of year.

"ERCFT is a registered charity, we do not employ any personnel. All work has been completed by the 5 Trustees & Founders with your financial support and guidance over the year.

"We would appreciate if Paigaam readers, IMWS, ICWA and the community continue to guide and support us through the fundraising events during Ramadan & the rest of year. We still need to Payback £81,000 out of the £335,000 Qard-e-Hasana we borrowed to buy the place.

"As our project continues to evolve, over the next 12 months – we plan to keep up with the Qard-e-hasana repayments of £120,000. We also need to construct the main hall extension or £100,000 and

landscape the grounds to allow tarmac, parking and road access, which will cost us around £50,000.

"May the Almighty accept our efforts in this world & grant us the highest reward in the hereafter."

Mr Khan along with a number of trustees, hope to visit the area during Ramadan. In the meantime, anyone interested in making a direct donation, can contact Waqar Khan, the Chair of Trustees on: **07473613614**

Account Name: East Riding Community Foundation Trust

Bank : HSBC

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

Registered Charity Number: 1187156 Local Project Members: Muhammad Jawaid Akbar

Prayer room



Exterior



Community room



2023 Hajj applications for British pilgrims made simpler

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has confirmed that British pilgrims can apply for Hajj by using a centralised government platform entitled “Nusuk Hajj” via an official portal: hajj.nusuk.sa.

The decision is part of the early efforts by Saudi Arabia to facilitate Hajj in an efficient manner for pilgrims from Britain and those from mainland Europe, the United States of America, Australia and New Zealand in 2023.

The Kingdom had previously given contracts to third parties, including Motawif, in order to facilitate the registration and management of Hajj in an effective manner.

However, pilgrims from Britain and around the world lambasted Motawif for their poor organisation and management of the Hajj.

The Kingdom believes early registration through the centralised and government-controlled system, will raise the standard of services provided in order to enhance the religious and cultural experience that will further achieve the objectives of the Kingdom’s Vision 2030 programs.

The new service allows pilgrims around the world to register, book, and pay online with an easy and convenient electronic procedure.

Using the centralised Hajj portal, pilgrims will also be able to choose the service packages such as accommodation, catering, flight, guidance, and

transportation. It also identifies the countries included in the first stage of the launch, as well as a wide range of services and information for those wishing to perform Hajj with ease and comfort with details of packages to be released in due course.

“The time for looking through the packages, payment options and making reservations will be posted later,” the ministry said. Services include Hajj flights from to pilgrims



countries, accommodation (housing in Makkah and Madinah), transportations (Transportation services inside cities and Mashaer), Catering services and support for Hajj’s.

The ministry said mere registration on the Hajj application website does not mean the confirmation.

“Registering on the platform does not mean that you will be accepted for Hajj”, it said.

The ministry however said that there will not be lottery or draw system for Hajj

2023: “There is no lottery this year, and reservations for Hajj will be on a first-come, first-served basis”, a statement read.

Hajj Application 2023:

1. Visit the official website:

hajj.nusuk.sa.

2. Click on Create Account and register yourself using the Online Registration Form given on the website.

3. Please note that all fields in the form are mandatory.

4. Properly select your country of residence and click on Submit button.

Hajj Visa

The ministry further said that temporary different visa types - such as the student visa along with the Schengen visa, amongst others are not

accepted.

“You must be a citizen or resident of one of the included countries to apply through Nusuk Hajj”, added the ministry.

Saudi citizens must apply through a domestic portal.

Pilgrims are advised that hajj.nusuk.sa is the only platform formally approved by the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah to provide Hajj services for 2023 and will facilitate Hajj applications and online registrations for worshippers from 58 countries from across the world.

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Did You know...

Ibn Sina had a huge impact on the study of disease astronomy and logic

Ibn Sina was a Persian polymath, who wrote almost 450 treatises on a wide range of subjects, of which around 240 have survived.

Born in 980 CE to a Persian family near the city of Bukhara in modern day Uzbekistan, Abu Ali al-Hussain ibn Abdullah al-Balkhi would go on to become one of the greatest minds of his era, profoundly influencing future scholarship in fields as diverse as medicine, philosophy and astronomy.

Typical of other Islamic intellectuals of the period, Ibn Sina's education was a mix of religious and secular subjects, such as mathematics, medicine and philosophy. By the age of 10 he had memorised the Quran, and by his mid-teens he had earned a reputation as a fantastic physician.

A devout Muslim, the young Ibn Sina dedicated a significant amount of time to the study of Islamic texts.

By the age of 32, the scholar was appointed vizier of the Buyid state after treating its emir, Shams al-Dawla. Once the monarch died, Ibn Sina declined an offer made by his son and successor to continue in the role.

Known as Ibn Sina in the Islamic world and Avicenna among western scholars, the polymath is synonymous with the period in Islamic history that is widely and

referred to as the "Islamic Golden Age" of the Islamic contribution to science, learning and more.

The Persian scholar's work had a far-reaching impact both in the Islamic world and later in Europe, with critiques and defences of his theories continuing into the modern era.

His most famous works are The Book of Healing, a vast philosophical and scientific encyclopaedia, and The Canon of Medicine (al-Qānūn fī al-tibb).

The Canon of Medicine was translated into Latin in the 12th century, and in its Latin version, it functioned as the standard medical work in medieval Western universities for four centuries, becoming one of the most successful textbooks ever written.

It was used as a reference text throughout European universities until the mid-17th century.

The Book of Healing, was split into four sections and covered an array of subjects, such as mathematics, metaphysics, natural sciences and logic.

As well as describing 600 potential cures for common illnesses, Ibn Sina also described the anatomy of body parts, such as the eye and the heart. A skilled botanist, he also mentions the effect plants and roots had on the human body.

A key medical contribution was his work on the effect of quarantines on limiting the spread of illness, arguing that a 40-day period of self-isolation was essential in order to stop infections from affecting others.

In a form of pre-modern psychiatry, he also described how mental ailments, such as depression and anxiety, had an impact on the body. Others fields of interest included natural phenomena, such as earthquakes and cloud formation. With regard to the former, the polymath said tremors were a result of the movement of land and activity underneath the Earth.

As an astronomer, Ibn Sina observed the planet Venus against the disc of the sun and was able to conclude that the planet was closer to the Earth than to the sun. He also found that the SN 1006 supernova, which was observable for three months at the turn of the first millennium CE, was temporarily the brightest object in the sky, outshining Venus and observable even during daylight.

He is also credited with inventing a device to monitor the coordinates of stars and for determining that stars were self-luminous. His scientific works included arguments that light had a specific speed, descriptions of how sound travelled through air, a theory on motion and psychological works on the relationship between mind, body and the ability to perceive.



The Medical Benefits of Taraweeh Prayers

Muslims derive therapeutic and spiritual benefits starting from the Wudu to the physical movements in the Salat - Takbir, Qiyam, Ruku, Sajda, Jalsa, and Tasleems. Muslims perform five daily contact prayers (Salat) and voluntary prayers (Sunnah, Nafl) throughout the year and Taraweeh prayers during the month of Ramadan.

The energy needed for the muscle during exercise is met by a process known as glycogenolysis. The rate of muscle metabolism increases during the performance of Salat, resulting in a relative deficiency of oxygen and muscle nutrients. In turn this deficiency causes vasodilation - an increase in the calibre of blood vessels - thereby allowing blood to flow easily back to the heart. The temporarily increased load on the heart acts to strengthen the heart muscle and to improve the circulation within the heart muscle.

Just before the Iftar meals, the blood glucose and insulin levels are at their lowest level. After an hour or so after the Iftar meal, the blood glucose begins to rise and also plasma insulin. Liver and the muscles take up the circulating glucose.

The blood sugar reaches high levels in an hour or two and the benefits of Taraweeh prayers come into effect. The circulating glucose is metabolised into carbon dioxide and water during the Taraweeh prayers.

Hence the Taraweeh prayers help in expending the extra calories and improve flexibility, coordination, reduce stress-related autonomic responses in healthy persons, and relieve anxiety and depression.

Physical and Emotional Well-Being

It was noted that the five daily prayers (Salat) produce the same physiological changes without any undesirable side effects as those produced by jogging or walking at about three miles per hour. Recent research studies performed on 17,000 Harvard alumni who entered college between 1916-1950 give strong evi-

dence that only moderate aerobic exercise, equivalent to jogging about 3 miles a day, promotes good health and may actually add years to life.

Men who expended about 2000 kcal of energy on a weekly basis (equal to a daily 30-minute walk, run, cycle, swim, etc.) had one-quarter to one-third lower death rates than classmates who did little or no exercise.

Effects on Skeletal Muscle

During the Salat and Taraweeh, every muscle in the body contracts isotonic and others isometrically. This gentle exercise also enhances endurance and diminishes tiredness. It helps the incapacitated to make the most of their remnant capabilities. The blood flow in strung muscle is low.

During the prayers the blood flow is greatly increased to the muscles. Blood flow sometimes increases even before the start of Taraweeh prayers, with just the thought of performing the Taraweeh prayers. In addition to needing fats, proteins, and carbohydrates, the human body requires minerals such as Potassium for nerve and muscle activity.

It is found in fruits, meats, seafood and milk. Potassium deficiency leads to muscular and neurologic disorders. Potassium is also important in the transmission of nerve impulses and is a major positive ion in intracellular fluids. Potassium is involved in cellular enzyme activities, and it helps regulate the chemical reactions by which carbohydrates are converted to energy and amino acids are converted to protein. Also Potassium ions cause vasodilation of arterioles.

During the Taraweeh prayers, systolic Blood pressure may rise (the larger number in B.P.) a little and the diastolic Blood Pressure (the lower number in B.P.) may remain unchanged or even fall. However after the Taraweeh prayers are over, the B.P. may drop to just below normal levels which is a welcome sign.

Taraweeh prayers improve respiratory efficiency; circulation in the capillaries

surrounding the alveoli, or air sacs, is increased, and this brings about enhanced gas exchange and deeper breathing. The increase in the maximal consumption of oxygen is what makes the Namazi feel better.

Taraweeh prayers improve physical strength and joint stability and reduce the risk of injury to the tendons and connective tissues. After age 40, the bone mineral density falls with age. Taraweeh prayers increase bone mineral density in both menopausal and in elderly women and prevents osteoporosis and maintains normalcy in bone structures.

Osteoporosis results in hip fractures in women after menopause and in elderly men. The risk of osteoporosis is substantially reduced by regular Salat and Taraweeh prayers. The prayers improve lubrication of joints, movement, and maintain flexibility. Deep vein thrombosis (the most common cause of ulceration of the legs in the elderly) is prevented by performing Salat and Taraweeh prayers.

Metabolic Effects

Salat improves body weight control and expend calories without proportionate increase in appetite. A combination of moderate dietary restriction, both at the Iftar and Sahur, accompanied by the Taraweeh prayers, should achieve weight reduction. This will also reduce both fat and body weight, but fat-free weight will remain constant or may even increase slightly. Hence during Ramadan one should not overeat at the Sahur and Iftar meals and continue to perform Salat and Taraweeh prayers in order to lose some of the excess weight.

Growth Hormone secretion is elevated by fasting and it is further elevated by Taraweeh prayers.

As Growth Hormone is necessary for collagen formation, this may be an important factor as to why the skin of those who fast regularly during Ramadan and perform the Taraweeh prayers do not get particularly wrinkled, even when they grow old.

Paigaam Kids page

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The Outreach Hub project, run from a small retail premises, in Dewsbury town centre is in high demand.

Operated by the Al Mubarak Foundation, the Outreach Hub is a food charity that assists with the daily needs of the community and is operated by the Al Mubarak Foundation, an organisation founded to work alongside communities and provide humanitarian assistance around the globe.

The charity's Thursday session sees a constant stream of people from a plethora of backgrounds, coming to claim a hot meal.

However, Sarfraz Laher, Director of The Outreach Hub and Founder of the Al Mubarak Foundation, told Paigaam about the increasing number of Muslim families that are having to access the food bank and visit the Outreach Hub almost every Thursday evenings, in order to have a hot meal.

"We provide hot food, all of which is Halal, every Thursday from 6 in the evening for anyone of any background to come in and enjoy a meal.

"We have noticed an increase in Muslim families accessing the service. I'd say, out of the eighty to ninety individuals who turn up every week or a hot meal, about 35 to 85 families are actually Muslim families who

are in need. Everyone who turns up, gets some hot soup to have in the queue, along with a cup of tea, coffee and hot pizza before we provide them with a hot meal and some weekly essentials."

Sarfraz insists that although service is open to everyone, he issued a plea to members of the Muslim community to simply come in and ask for any help they may need.

He said: "A lot of Muslim families pretend that everything is alright. However, please don't be shy or worry about what other people will say, we are here to help. Although we cannot help financially, we can help in other ways as we work with the likes of IMWS, Kirklees Council, NHS, schools and local masjids."

Mr Laher praised the contribution made by IMWS to the charity along with that of local businesses and Kirklees Council.

"We can get food parcels to the most vulnerable people because of the relationship we have with IMWS, who along with Kirklees, refer people to us, so we can help them in terms of providing food parcels, helping out with filling out forms and much more.

"IMWS are also one of our benefactors, along with Kirklees Council and a number of local businesses, so we are proud of our association with IMWS and everyone else, whom we work with in the locality.

We help around 110 people every week and we have been going for a year and a half."

Munir Daji, IMWS Charity worker, believes the Outreach Hub project has made a significant difference to the lives of many local people.

He said: "We are proud supporters of the great work being done in our local community by the Outreach Hub.

"It is a fantastic community project and our team were only too willing to get behind it."

The Al Mubarak Foundation, was a vision set out by our late brother Umar Faruk Dhorat who over a decade ago began this project from his home conservatory all by himself.

He began by starting a community radio station which grew in popularity over the years. With the support of his kind community he was then able to relocate to a dedicated office and studio where the operation expanded.

Sadly, Umar Faruk Dhorat passed away on 4th March 2018, but his legacy continues with his dear friend Sarfaraz Laher who inherited the responsibility to oversee the foundation.

We ask the Almighty to accept this noble cause on behalf of Umar Faruk and his team.

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

Aziz Daji
07735626256

Yusuf Patel (Paliya)
07590019315

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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Donations towards the running costs of the funeral van would be most appreciated.



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Kim Leadbeater MP column

While there has been a lot going on locally, including my determined efforts to help save Batley Baths from permanent closure, I wanted to use this opportunity to talk mainly about my recent visit to Palestine.

I have always opposed the injustices and suffering in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, but seeing it with my own eyes was a very powerful and emotional experience.

I was guided by the brilliant people at Medical Aid for Palestine and CAABU and was fortunate to meet other groups including B'Tselem, al-Haq, which was unjustifiably proscribed as a terrorist organisation in 2021, Physicians for Human Rights, and Breaking the Silence which includes former Israeli soldiers opposed to the occupation.

The failure to bring a lasting peace to the region has cost far too many lives.

As far as I'm concerned, violence is never the solution and I was inspired to meet so many people committed to humanitarian work to improve the lives of people on the ground.

I went to a refugee camp in East Jerusalem and saw the illegal settlements and outposts in the West Bank.

And I visited both Ramallah and Hebron as well as Masafer Yatta where around 1,000 Palestinians are threatened with eviction to make way for a 'military zone'.

However, it was the people I met who had the biggest effect on me personally. Speaking to the families directly impacted by the occupation filled me with mixed emotions.

Both horror at the daily suffering that many endure and also admiration for their courage and their determination never to submit or give up hope.

At the Makassed Hospital in East

Jerusalem I saw tiny new-born babies and was told that too often mothers can't be with them because they don't have permission to leave Gaza.

The nursing staff are sometimes not paid because of a shortage of funds and regularly struggle to get to work through the checkpoints that surround the city.

In the Shu'afat refugee camp I met brilliant young school children who told me of their ambitions to be engineers, lawyers, teachers, journalists and even a poet and a boxing champion.

One girl told me simply, "we should be able to live like other children all over the world, but we fight the occupation by studying".

I spoke to Jihad, who described being arrested aged 15 for throwing stones and spending 16 days in solitary confinement before being sentenced to eight months in prison by a military court.

The same day I met the family of a father of three shot dead outside his village during a settler incursion. Witnesses said the security forces arrived but made no effort to identify or track down his killer.

And I sat with the brother of the Al-Jazeera journalist, Shireen Abu Akleh, still fighting for justice and a proper investigation nine months after she was killed while reporting on a raid on the Jenin refugee camp.

Every person killed in the conflict is one too many and last year was the deadliest in the region for almost two decades. 178 Palestinians lost their lives.

In the same period 17 Israeli civilians, five members of the army and police and three foreign nationals were killed.

I strongly support a two-state solution with a safe and secure Israel alongside an independent and viable Palestinian state.

Sadly, many of those I spoke to fear that with the most right-wing government in Israel's history now in power the prospects for peace are further away than ever.

If you would like more details of my visit please contact me on kim@kim4batleyandspen.com

Best wishes,

Kim



Humza Yousaf to run for SNP leader

Scottish Health Secretary Humza Yousaf is expected to enter the race to become the next SNP leader.

Mr Yousaf, who has been Health Secretary since May 2021, is said to be a leading candidate after Nicola Sturgeon shocked Holyrood announced her resignation.

Mr Yousaf, who entered the Scottish Parliament in 2011, is said to have “a lot of support from MPs and MSPs” who have labelled him a “unifying force” who had experience having been in government for a decade.

Mr Yousaf, 37 has held a number of ministerial positions in the Scottish Government since 2012, and first joined

the cabinet in June 2018 as justice secretary.

The SNP’s ruling body are to discuss a timetable for the leadership race, with an announcement expected afterwards. Other potential candidates include Constitution Secretary Angus Robertson, Finance Secretary Kate Forbes, and Deputy First Minister John Swinney.

Volunteers wanted to spread the Joy of reading to Primary school children

Children’s literacy charity Schoolreaders is urgently looking for enthusiastic volunteers who can help spread the joy of reading to children in West Yorkshire primary schools particularly around Batley, Bradford and Dewsbury.

The much-needed charity recruits volunteers to listen to children read weekly in primary schools, focusing on schools with the greatest need.

Every year 1 in 4 children leave primary school unable to read well which can have life-long consequences.

Furthermore, government statistics show it is the youngest and most disadvantaged children who have been set back the most in reading following the disruption to education caused by the Covid pandemic.

Schoolreaders volunteers act as positive role models, not only helping children improve their reading age but also

their reading fluency, enjoyment and comprehension.

Antonia, retired, and a Schoolreaders volunteer, explains her experience, “Being a Schoolreaders volunteer has exceeded my expectations and is one of the best parts of my week.

“I can see the difference the reading makes to the children particularly in their punctuation. Being able to read is the greatest gift you can give a child. They can go on to cook, build a rocket or run the country.”

Jane Whitbread, who founded Schoolreaders ten years ago and which now provides over 12,000 children with a weekly one-to-one reading session, concludes: “Schoolreaders are needed more than ever, especially for the youngest and most disadvantaged pupils to help them catch up on their reading.

“Children who leave primary school unable to read well will have trouble accessing their secondary education fully which can have life-long consequences.

“The beauty of our reading scheme is that not only does it benefit children and schools, but it also gives our volunteers a huge sense of satisfaction in sharing their love of reading.”

Find out more about becoming a Schoolreaders volunteer at www.schoolreaders.org



Is Prime Hydration worth the hype?



Over the past six months, it's been impossible to not hear about the prominence of the new Prime drink, which was launched by popular You Tubers, Logan Paul and KSI.

From the early hours of the day to late evening, every time you go to an Asda store, you see people walk or run straight towards the soft drinks section, in the hope of securing a bottle.

On social media, videos of people wrestling over bottles in Asda and Aldi have gone viral. It is safe to say that the self-professed sports hydration drink has caused quite a stir.

The demand became so great that customers are restricted to just two or three bottles – depending on which shop has stock. Whilst some of those who managed to get their hands on one took advantage of the huge demand and listed them online for thousands of pounds.

Then there's the likes of Wakey Wines, who have gained quite a following online, much to the ire of KSI himself, who has denounced shop owner, Mohammed Azar Nazir for 'exploiting customers' by simply reselling bottles for hundreds of pounds.

Nazir has since lambasted KSI for being a hypocrite and launched his own drink, entitled, Operate, which Wakey Wines claims is sugar-free and "powered by

plants". The drink comes in two flavours, Peach and Green Tea, which it claims gives energy as well as lemon and yuzu which it says gives a 'boost.'

Paigaam spoke to Mr Nazir and his brother, Nazam, who confirmed Wakey Wines were selling cans for £25 and bottles for £50 and above.

However, by some minor miracle, we managed to grab bottles of Prime in a whole variety of flavours, including Ice Pop, Blue Raspberry, Tropical Punch, Orange, Grape, and Lemon Lime from Asda.

With the amount of hysteria surrounding the drink - and the fact that people have literally fought over it – allow us to share our review of Prime Hydration.

The Meta Moon bottle is simply black and white, with a space-style Prime logo - a lot more plain and less eye-catching than its other flavours.

The drink itself is a purple or dark magenta colour. However, after opening the bottle, we got a sweet, fruity smell - nothing too specific to be able to tell what fruit flavours were used, but it was certainly contrived.

Tasting it, the flavouring was akin to cheap sweets you would get from the corner shop and were tremendously sweet.

General thoughts

Realistically, you probably wouldn't notice much difference compared to other hydration/sports drinks.

It's fine, if you like that kind of thing, but it's nothing new or particularly ground-breaking. The flavour is good if you enjoy sweet, fruit-based drinks, but is it something we are going to choose over Lucozade, Powerade, or Gatorade? Probably not.

The other flavours are better, the Ice Pop flavour is decent. However, the Blue Raspberry version, but with all of the hype, just seems underwhelming as it tastes like medicine.

The red tropical flavour probably is the best one. It's measured and actually tastes quite nice. However, I wouldn't go out of my way to purchase one. I'd go Prime Hunting with the kids, but if we don't get any, we just come back and purchase something else, it's not a big deal really.

Drinking the rest of the bottles, to see if they particularly improved our awareness and energy, or even just hydrated us more than a glass of water, we didn't notice any significant difference.

For £2 it's not terrible, but we definitely wouldn't go out of our way to buy it for more than £2 just so we can get our hands on it, either. If we had to pay around £20 for one, they would pay it just the once and would forget about it after.

Our recommendation is that you should give it a go if you desperately want to try it, but if you're just kind of curious to see what it would taste like, just wait until the craziness dies down and the flavours restock or purchase the Operate drink online. As for the performance claims and benefits. We didn't see them. At least not in a massive way. However, If you are looking for a regular soft drink, you are better off just buying a Pepsi.

તુર્કીયે (ટર્કી)માં સદીનો ભયંકર ધરતીકંપ

ગયા માસમાં તારીખ ૬ ફેબ્રુઆરીના રોજ તુર્કીયે (ટર્કી) અને તેની સાથેની બોર્ડર સીરિયામાં ૭.૮ રીક્ટર સ્કેલની તીવ્રતાનો ધરતીકંપ આવ્યો હતો. ટૂંક સમયમાંજ ભૂકંપના ત્રણ કરતા વધારે આંચકાઓએ મિનીટોની અંદર તાશના પત્તાની જેમ બિલ્ડીંગોને ધરાશયી કરી દીધી. ભૂકંપ એટલો તીવ્ર હતો કે મોટી મોટી ઈમારતો ગણતરીની સેકન્ડોમાંજ ધરાશયી થઈ ગઈ હતી. રોડો ઉપર મોટી ફાટો પડી હતી અને અનેક ઈમારતો તિરાડોન કારણે અસલામત થઈ હતી. ખૂબજ તીવ્ર ઠંડીના કારણે લોકોની મુશ્કેલીઓ વધી હતી અને હજારોની સંખ્યામાં લોકો મૃત્યુ પામ્યા હતા અને મોટી સંખ્યામાં લોકો ઈમારતોમાં દબાયા હતા.

તુર્કી અને સીરિયાના સરહદી વિસ્તારમાં આ શક્તિશાળી ભૂકંપમાં ગાઝીયાટેપ નજીક નુરદાગી જે સીરિયાની બોર્ડર ઉપર છે અને બીજો ભૂકંપ કિનોઝાહુ અને કહારનમારસ પાસે ગોકસનમાં ભૂકંપના સખત આંચકા લાગ્યા હતા. ભૂકંપના આંચકા લેબેનોન, બેરૂત અને દમાસ્કસ સુધી અનુભવાયા હતા. એક પછી એક એમ ત્રણ આંચકાના પરિણામે મોટું નકસાન થયું હતું. પ્રથમ દિવસેજ મૃત્યુનો આંક ટર્કીમાં ૨૭૦૦ અને સીરિયામાં લગભગ ૧૮૦૦નો હતો અને એક અંદાજમાં એમ માનવમમાં આવે છે કે લગભગ કુલ ૪૮ હજારથી વધુ લોકોના મૃત્યુ થયા છે. ૧૮૮૮માં આવોજ ધરતીકંપ તુર્કીમાં થયો હતો જેમાં ૧૮૬૪થી વધુ લોકોના મરણ થયા હતા.

કાટમાળમાં દબાયેલા લોકોની શોધખોળ, બચાવ અને રાહતની કામગીરી પૂરજોશમાં ચાલી રહી હતી અને વિશ્વના દેશોએ અનેક રાહત સામગ્રી અને સ્પેશીયલ બચાવ ટીમ રવાના કરી હતી. સપડાયેલા લોકોને મેડીકલ ટ્રીટમેન્ટ, રાહત સામગ્રી, ફૂડ અને કામચલાઉ સેલ્ટરની સુવિધા પૂરી પાડવામાં આવી રહી છે. ટર્કીની સરકાર તથા અરબ દેશો પણ ભરપૂર મદદ પૂરી પાડી રહ્યા છે. સીરિયા માટે તો ઘણીજ આપત્તિ છે છતાં ત્યાં પણ પૂરજોશમાં રિલીફ કામ શરૂ છે. દુનિયાના અનેક દેશોની ચેરિટી સંસ્થાઓએ પણ બન્ને જગ્યાએ મદદ પૂરી પાડી રાહત કામગીરી કરી રહ્યા છે. અહીં ટેમ્પેચર માઈનસમાં હોવાના લીધે ઠંડીનું પ્રમાણ વધુ છે જેથી રાહતકામ માટે પણ એક મોટો પડકાર છે.

આપણી ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી, બાટલી અને રાબેતા અલ ઉલ્મા, બાટલીએ પણ આ હોનારતમાં સહાયરૂપ થવા સાથે મળી એક જોઈન્ટ અપીલ તાત્કાલિક બહાર પાડી હતી અને ચેરિટી રકમ એકત્ર કરવા વિવિધ પ્રયત્નો આદર્યા હતા. હેનરી સ્ટ્રીટ, જામે મસ્જિદ બાટલીમાં ચેરિટી માટે લાઈવ અપીલ કરવામાં આવી હતી. અને મદીના મસ્જિદ, માઉન્ટ પ્લેઝન્ટ બાટલીમાં પણ લાઈવ અપીલ કરવામાં આવી હતી. જેમાં આપણાં વિભાગના ભાઈ બહેનોએ સુંદર સહકાર આપ્યો હતો. ઉપરાંત અલ હિકમાહ સેન્ટર ખાતે અને આપણાં વિભાગની તમામ મસ્જિદોમાં પણ લોકોએ રકમ જમા કરાવી હતી. આ રીતે આ લખાય છે ત્યાં સુધી એક લાખ ૧૧૬૪૨ પાઉન્ડ એકત્ર થયા છે. દરેક મસ્જિદો અને ભાગ લેનાર તમામ ઉલ્માઓ અને

કમિટીઓનો તથા રકમ આપનાર દરેક ભાઈ બહેનોનો અમે આભાર માનીએ છીએ.

તુર્કીના આ ભયંકર ભૂકંપનો આંખે દેખ્યો હેવાલ અને ચેરિટી વિતરણ માટે રાબેતા અલ ઉલ્મા અને ઈ.મુ.વે. સોસાયટી બાટલી તરફથી મૌલાના મહંમદ મોટા સાહેબ અને હાફેઝ યુસુફભાઈ પાલિયા સાહેબ ટર્કીના અસરગ્રસ્ત વિસ્તારની મુલાકાતે પહોંચ્યા હતા. કેટલાક દિવસો ત્યાં રોકાઈને હાલાતની સંપૂર્ણ જાણકારી મેળવી હતી. આ જાણકારી તેમણે બાટલીવાસીઓ સમક્ષ રજૂ કરી હતી.

ભારતીય હજયાત્રીઓના કોટામાં વધારો

સઉદી અરેબીયાએ ૨૦૨૩ના વર્ષની હજયાત્રા માટે ભારતીયોના હજ કોટામાં વધારો કર્યો છે. જે મુજબ આ વર્ષે ભારતથી એકલાખ ૭૫૬૪૨૨૫ (૧,૭૫૦૨૨૫) હાજીઓ હજ યાત્રા માટે જઈ શકશે. આ સંખ્યા પ્રાઈવેટ ટૂર ઓપરેટર અને હજ કમિટી એમ બન્નેનો કુલ કોટા છે. આ કોટા આજ સુધીના સૌથી વધુ કોટા છે. જિદ્દાહમાં આ અંગે બન્ને દેશો વચ્ચે કરાર થયા હતા. ભારતનો સૌથી વધુ કોટા ૨૦૧૮માં એક લાખ ૪૦૬૪૨ હાજીઓનો હતો. જેનાથી પણ વધુ કોટા ૨૦૨૩માં નક્કી કરાયો છે. જેથી વધુ હાજીઓને હજમાં જવાની સુવિધા મળશે.

કોવિડના કારણે ૨૦૨૦-૨૧માં હજ ઉપર પાબંદી હતી અને ત્યારપછી ૨૦૨૨માં સઉદી અરેબિયાએ લીમીટેડ હાજીઓને હજ માટે પરવાનગી આપી હતી, જેમાં ભારતથી ૭૮૨૩૭ હાજીઓએ હજ કરી હતી. ૨૦૨૩ની હજ, કોવિડ પહેલા કોઈ પણ જાતની પાબંદી વગરની હજ હતી તેવીજ હજ સુવિધા હશે અને કોઈ પણ નિયંત્રણ લાગુ ન હશે. બીજા દેશોના હાજીઓની સંખ્યામાં પણ વધારો કરવામાં આવ્યો છે. આમ આ વર્ષે હજ સફર સામાન્ય રહેવાની અને કોવિડ પહેલા જે પરિસ્થિતિ રહેતી હતી તેવીજ સુવિધા રહેશે.

ભારત ખાતે બીબીસીની ઓફિસમાં દરોડા

ગયા માસમાં બીબીસીની દિલ્હી અને મુંબઈની ઓફિસમાં ભારતના ઈન્ડમટેક્સ વિભાગે રેડ પાડી તપાસ હાથ ધરી હતી. આ કાર્યવાહી ત્રણ દિવસ સુધી ચાલી હતી. સંબંધિત વિભાગે જણાવ્યું હતું કે આ કોઈ છાપામારી કે દરોડો નહીં પણ સર્વે હતું. પરંતુ જે રીતની કાર્યવાહી કરવામાં આવી હતી તેમાં છાપામારીથી જૂદું કંઈજ ન હતું. આ છાપામરીનું સીધું કારણ એજ માનવામાં આવે છે કે આ બનાવના બે અઠવાડિયા પહેલા બીબીસીએ એક ડોક્યુમેન્ટ્રી બે એપિસોડમાં રજૂ કરી હતી, જેમાં ૨૦૦૨માં ગુજરાત ખાતે થયેલા કોમી હુલ્લડ કે ગોધરા કાંડમાં તે વખતના મુખ્ય પ્રધાન નરેન્દ્ર મોદી જે ૨૦૧૪થી ભારતના વડા પ્રધાન છે તેમની સીધી સંડોવણીના પુરાવા રજૂ કર્યા હતા. જેના પગલે મોદી સરકારે બીબીસીની આ ડોક્યુમેન્ટ્રી ઉપર પાબંદી લગાવી મિડીયામાંથી હટાવી દીધી હતી. આમ તો એવા કેટલાયે પુરાવા છે જેમાં હાલની મોદી સરકારની વિરૂદ્ધ કંઈ પણ બોલવામાં આવે તો તેમને કોઈ પણ કારણ વિના જેલમાં પૂરવા કે તેમના ઉપર કેસો દાખલ કરવાના અનેક દાખલાઓ જોવા મળે છે.

ચાલો આજે કંઈક સાડું જાણીએ

-રફીક અહમદ કભાસ

આજે આપણે એક કોન્ટ્રાક્ટર (બિલ્ડર)ની કહાણી જાણીએ. જે ઘરો બનાવવાનું કામ કરતો હતો. પોતાના માલિક માટે એ કેટલાય વર્ષોથી કામ કરી રહ્યો હતો અને વફાદાર કર્મચારી હતો જેથી તે માલિકનો સૌથી પ્રિય હતો. તેણે પોતાના જીવનમાં ઘણા અને પ્રમાણિકતાથી સૌથી સુંદર મકાનો માલિક માટે બનાવ્યા હતા. એક દિવસે તે માલિક પાસે પહોંચે છે અને કહે છે કે, શેઠ! હું જાણું છું કે, અહીંથી કામ છોડ્યા પછી મહિનાના અંતમાં મળતા મારા પગારને હું ખૂબજ મીસ કરીશ, પરંતુ મને લાગે છે કે, મારા જીવનના જે કંઈ બચ્ચા વર્ષો અને સમય છે તે હું મારા પરિવાર, મારી પત્ની અને બાળકો સાથે વીતાવવા માંગું છું અને મારો પરિવાર પણ એજ ઈચ્છે છે. તો હું મારા કામથી રીટાયરમેન્ટ (નિવૃત્તિ) લેવા માંગું છું.

માલિકને આ વાત સાંભળીને દુઃખ તો ઘણુંજ થયું કે, પોતે એક સૌથી સારા કારીગરને ખોવા જઈ રહ્યો છે. પરંતુ એ વાત ઉપર એને રોકી શકાય એમ પણ નથી કે, ઉંમર થયે નિવૃત્તિ લઈને પોતાના પરિવાર સાથે સમય વીતાવવા માંગે છે. જે પોતાના અને પોતાની જિંદગી માટે કંઈક સાડું કરવા જઈ રહ્યો હતો.

માલિકે તેને એક આગ્રહ કર્યો અને કહ્યું કે, ઠીક છે! હું સમજી શકું છું કે તમો તમારા પરિવાર સાથે સમય વીતાવવા માંગો છો પરંતુ મારા માટે એક છેલ્લું કામ કરો. મારે એક ખાસ બંગલો બનાવવો છે જે મેં વિચારી રાખ્યું હતું તે બંગલો તમે મને બનાવી આપો અને પછી તમે રિટાયરમેન્ટ લઈ શકો છો. કારીગરને બસ એવું જ લાગ્યું કે જ્યારે કોઈ ઓફિસથી કામ પતાવીને ઘરે જવાનો વખત હોય ત્યારે બોસ એક ફાઈલ પકડાવી કહે કે, બસ એક કામ કરી દો અને એ કામ પતાવી પછી ચાલી જજો. પરંતુ માલિકને ના પણ કહી શકાય એમ ન હતું. આટલા વર્ષો એમના માટે કામ કર્યું હતું. ઠેકેદારે કહ્યું ઠીક છે. પરંતુ બેમનથી કોઈ પણ જાતના ધૈર્ય વગર એણે કામ શરૂ કર્યું. કદાચ બાંધકામનું મટિરીયલ, કામ કરવાની ચોકસાઈ કે ક્વોલિટી કે અન્ય બીજી કામગીરીમાં એણે વધુ કોઈ દિલચસ્પી લગાવી નહીં અને જાણે બસ આ આખરી કામ કરવાનું છે એમ સમજી એણે કામને નીપટાવ્યું (પૂરું કર્યું) પરંતુ મન અને ઘણાથી કામ ન કર્યું.

જ્યારે બંગલાનું કામ સંપૂર્ણ થઈ ગયું ત્યારે ઠેકેદાર માલિકની પાસે ગયો અને કહ્યું, માલિક બંગલાનું કામ પૂરું થઈ ગયું છે એમ કહી બંગલાની ચાવી માલિકના હાથમાં મૂકી દીધી અને વિનંતી કરી કે, હવે મને રીટાયર્ડ કરી દો. માલિકે કહ્યું બિલ્કુલ હું તને રિટાયર્ડ કરી દઈશ. પરંતુ જતા જતા જીવનભરની મહેનતનું એક ઈનામ તો મારાથી લઈ જાવો. ઠેકેદારની આંખમાં ચમક આવી ગઈ. તે ખુશ થઈ ગયો. માલિકે કહ્યું, હાથ આગળ કરો, તેણે હાથ આગળ લંબાવ્યો તો માલિકે એજ બંગલાની ચાવી એને આપી દીધી અને કહ્યું આ બંગલો હું તારા માટે જ બનાવી રહ્યો હતો. તમે તમારા જીવનના અણમોલ વરસો જે મને આપ્યા છે, માડું તમામ કામ પ્રમાણિકતાથી કર્યું છે, જેનાથી શહેર અને આસપાસના વિસ્તારમાં મારી નામના વધારવામાં મદદ કરી છે એની આ ભેટ છે.

ઠેકેદાર ખૂબજ શરમિંદો થયો. તેને ખૂબજ દુઃખ થયું, આઘાત લાગ્યો કે કેમ મેં આ કામમાં માડું દિલ ન લગાવ્યું, ધ્યાન ન આપ્યું. કેમ એટલી મહેનત જે બીજા કામોમાં લગાવી હતી તેટલી ન લગાવી.

કેટલીક વખતે આપણે પણ કંઈક આવુંજ કરીએ છીએ. આપણને લાગે છે કે, જે કામ આપણે કરી રહ્યા છે તે બીજાના માટે કરીએ છીએ અને તે કરવામાં આપણો ઈન્ટ્રેસ (રસ), આપણું સમર્પણ, આપણો લગાવ વગેરેમાં કમી આવી જાય છે અને આપણે એ ભૂલીએ છીએ કે, જે કંઈ કરી રહ્યા છે તે પોતાના માટે છે. એ પોતાનું છે. પછી તે નાનું હોય કે મોટું અગર આપણે તેને પસંદ કર્યું છે તો પૂરા દિલથી, ઘણાથી કરો કારણ કે, એજ વાત યાદ રાખવાની છે કે તમે જે પણ કરી રહ્યા છો, કોઈ કંપની કે કોઈ માલિક માટે નથી કરી રહ્યા પરંતુ પોતાના માટે કરી રહ્યા છો.

ભારતમાં શું મુસલમાનો રાજકારણમાંથી બહાર ફેંકાઈ રહ્યા છે ?

આઠ વર્ષ પહેલા બીજેપીએ કેન્દ્રમાં સત્તા હાસિલ કરી ત્યારથી જ આપણે જોઈએ છીએ કે, આ એક કટ્ટરવાદી પાર્ટી મુસલમાનોનો બહિષ્કાર કરી રહી છે. આરએસએસના સિધ્ધાંતોને માનનારો અને હિન્દુ રાષ્ટ્ર બનાવવાના મતને અનુસરનારો આ પક્ષ એમ જોઈએ તો કોંગ્રેસ મુક્તની સાથે મુસ્લિમ મુક્ત દેશનું સ્વપ્ન જોઈ રહ્યો છે. ૨૦૧૪થી જ્યારે જ્યારે રાજ્ય કે કેન્દ્રની ચૂંટણીઓ યોજાય છે ત્યારે આ પાર્ટી મુસલમાનોને સાઈડ લાઈન કરે છે. તેમના પક્ષમાંથી એક પણ મુસ્લિમને એમણે ટિકીટ આપી નથી.

તાજેતરની ગુજરાતની ચૂંટણી કે તે અગાઉ ૨૦૧૮માં પાર્લામેન્ટની ચૂંટણીમાં પણ તેમણે મુસ્લિમોને ઉમેદવાર બનાવ્યા નથી. જે દર્શાવે છે કે, એ મુસ્લિમ સમુદાયને ચૂંટણીલક્ષ તરીકે ખતમ કરવા માંગે છે. આ વખતે ગુજરાત વિધાનસભામાં ૧૮૨માંથી ફક્ત એકજ મુસ્લિમ (કોંગ્રેસ)એમએલએ ચૂંટાયો છે. આમ આખી ચૂંટણી પ્રધાને જોઈએ તો દેશમાં ૧૪૮૬ મુસ્લિમોની વસ્તી હોવા છતાં રાજકીય સત્તામાં તેમનો હિસ્સો ખૂબજ નજીવો છે. મોદીનું સુત્ર છે કે ‘સબકા સાથ સબકા વિકાસ’ જે મુસલમાનો માટે તદ્દન વિરૂદ્ધનું છે. મુસ્લિમોને મળતા લાભો અને બીજી મુસ્લિમ સંસ્થાઓ ઉપર આ પાર્ટી સતત પ્રહાર કરી એક યા બીજી રીતે નાબુદ કરવા માંગે છે.

ગુજરાતની આ ચૂંટણીમાં, ઓવેસી અને કેજરીવાલની પાર્ટીએ ભાજપને પ્રચંડ બહુમતી મેળવવામાં સાથ આપ્યો છે. જેના કારણે મુસ્લિમ ઉમેદવારો જેઓ એમએલએ હતા તે હાર્યા છે અને કોંગ્રેસના ૭૭ માંથી ફક્ત ૧૭ ઉમેદવારો જીતી શક્યા છે. આમ મુસ્લિમ મતોનું ધૂવીકરણ અને કોંગ્રેસના મતોમાં ગાબડા પાડવાથી ભાજપને પૂરો ફાયદો થયો છે. જેનું સીધું નુકસાન મુસલમાનોને થયું છે.

લોકતંત્રના મૂલ્યોને સાચવવા, જાળવી રાખવાની જવાબદારી રાજકીય પક્ષની છે. પરંતુ યોગ્ય ચૂંટણી પ્રક્રિયા ન લાગુ કરવી, ચોક્કસ ષડયંત્ર અને ઈલેક્શન કમિશન ઉપર પાર્ટીનો પ્રભાવથી દેશ એક પક્ષીય શાસન તરફ વધી રહ્યો છે. મુસલમાન હાંસિયા ઉપર ઊભો રહી નિઃસહાય આ બધું જોઈ રહ્યો છે, પરંતુ તેમને સંગઠિત કરનાર કોઈ નથી. મુસ્લિમોએ સમજવું પડશે કે, તેના મતોનું વિભાજન થઈ રહ્યું છે અને મતદાનમાં તેમની સંખ્યા ઘટી રહી છે. તો તે અંગે પગલાં ભરવાં પડશે અને કોઈ પ્લાન ધડવો પડશે. નહીં તો આવનારા ટૂંક સમયમાં મુસ્લિમ સમાજ રાજકારણથી દૂર થઈ જશે.

પ્રોફેસર ડો. હસન લુણત ‘વિતાન’ ની વસમી વિદાય - (ડો. એસ.એસ.રાહી)

હું શહેરમાં પાનખરનો છોડ છું,
હું જ આકાશી ગલીનો મોડ છું.

ગુજરાતી સાહિત્ય જગતના ચમકતા તારલા પ્રો. ડો. હસન અહમદ લુણત ‘વિતાન’ મંગળવાર તારીખ ૬ ડિસેમ્બર ૨૦૨૨ની સમી સાંજે કણજરીમાં તેમના નિવાસ સ્થાને અચાનક જ ખુદાની રહેમતમાં પહોંચી ગયા. તેમની વિદાય કેટલાય વિદ્યાર્થીઓ અને સાહિત્યપ્રેમીઓને આઘાત આપી ગઈ.

૨૬ મે ૧૯૬૧ના રોજ આલીપોર (જી. નવસારી)માં તેમનો જન્મ થયો હતો. પ્રાથમિક માધ્યમિક કેળવણી આલીપોરમાં લીધા પછી તેમણે ચીખલી અને બીલીમોરામાં આગળનું શિક્ષણ લીધું હતું. ૧૯૮૩માં મુખ્ય વિષય ગુજરાતી સાથે બી.એ. થયા. યુનિવર્સિટીમાં પ્રથમ આવવા બદલ તે સમયના ગુજરાત રાજ્યના રાજ્યપાલ શ્રી. કે.ડી.ચાંડીના હસ્તે તેમને પારિતોષિક અર્પણ કરાયું હતું. ઈ.સ. ૧૯૮૫માં તેઓ એમ.એ. અને ૧૯૮૬માં બી.એડ. થયા પછી તેમણે હાઈસ્કૂલમાં શિક્ષક તરીકે સેવાઓ આપી હતી. ઈ.સ.૨૦૦૩ થી નડિયાદ સી.બી.પટેલ આર્ટ્સ કોલેજમાં વ્યાખ્યાતા તરીકે જોડાયા હતા. નિવૃત્ત થવા માટે હજુ ૬ મહિનાની વાર હતી ત્યાંજ તેઓ આપણાં સૌને અલવિદા કહી ચાલી નીકળ્યા.

દક્ષિણ ગુજરાત યુનિવર્સિટીએ અનુસ્નાતક શિક્ષક અને એમ.ફીલ.ની ડિગ્રી માટેના ગાઈડ તરીકે પણ તેમની નિમણૂક કરી હતી. કવિતા, વાર્તા, પ્રવાસનિબંધ, વિવેચન, સંશોધન, રસાસ્વાદ અને અનુવાદ ક્ષેત્રે પ્રદાન કરનાર આ સર્જકને તેમના પ્રદાન બદલ ‘ન્યાયરત્ન, એ.બી.દેસાઈ પારિતોષિક’(૧૯૮૩), ‘મૌલાના અહમદ રજાંખાં એવોર્ડ’(૨૦૧૭) અને ‘ઉમ્મીદ ગૌરવ સન્માન’(૨૦૧૮) એનાયત થયા હતા. મુસ્લિમ રાઈટર્સ એકેડેમી ભરૂચ દ્વારા (૨૦૦૭)પણ તેમનું સન્માન થયું હતું. તેમણે ઈ.સ. ૧૯૮૪માં ગુજરાતી રાઈટર્સ સર્કલના આમંત્રણ પર યુ.કે.ની સાહિત્ય યાત્રા કરી હતી તો ૨૦૧૭માં તેમણે પવિત્ર હજ માટે સફર કરી હતી.

પત્રકારત્વમાં ઊંડો રસ હોવાને લીધે તેમણે ‘વહોરા વેલ્ફેર’ માસિકપત્ર (સુરત) ‘ઈરશાદ’ માસિકપત્ર (આલીપોર) અને ‘હેમશ્રી’(બિલીમોરા,ત્રૈમાસિક)નું તંત્રીપદ શોભાવ્યું હતું. આ ત્રણેય સામયિકોને તેમના અનુભવનો લાભ મળ્યો હતો. તેમણે મુસ્લિમ રાઈટર્સ એકેડેમીના પ્રમુખપદે સેવાઓ આપી હતી.

ઈતિહાસ અને સંશોધન તેમના અભ્યાસના વિષયો હતા. ‘ગુજરાતમાં મુસલમાનોનું આગમન, શાસન અને વિભાજન’ (૨૦૧૦) ‘ગુજરાતની વહોરા કોમનો ઇતિહાસ’(૨૦૧૨) અને ‘સુરતી વહોરા: પ્રજાકીય જીવન અને શાદીપ્રથા’ (૨૦૧૫) વગેરે પુસ્તકો તેમના અભ્યાસના પરિપાકરૂપ છે.

‘બ્રિટિશ ગુજરાતી મુસ્લિમ ગઝલકારો’ (૨૦૧૬)સંદર્ભ પુસ્તકની ગરજ સારતું ૨૨૨ પાનાનું નોંધપાત્ર પુસ્તક છે. (બ્રિટનના પ્રેસ્ટન, બોલ્ટન, બ્લેકબર્ન, બાટલી, લેસ્ટર, બર્મિંગહામ વગેરે નગરોમાં થતી મુશાયરા પ્રવૃત્તિની ઝલક આ પુસ્તકમાંથી સાંપડે છે. તેમાં બ્રિટનમાં વસવાટ કરતા ૨૨ મુસ્લિમ શાયરોના જીવન-સર્જનનું

વિશ્લેષણ ઉદાહરણ સાથે અહીં કરાયું છે. તેમાં તેમની ઝીણી નજર ફરી વળી છે. ‘શાંતિ સંદેશ’, ‘હઝરત મુહમ્મદ (સ.અ.વ.) અને ભારતીય ધર્મગ્રંથ’, ‘કેટલા દૂર, કેટલા નજીક’ તેમના અનુવાદિત પુસ્તકો છે. તેમણે હિન્દી ભાષાના કેટલાક કવિઓ દ્વારા રચાયેલ રાષ્ટ્રપ્રેમ વિશે ની કવિતાનો રસાસ્વાદ ‘દેશાનુભુતિ’ (૨૦૧૬)માં કરાવ્યો છે. ‘સ્મૃતિનું સરનામું’ (૨૦૧૧) તેમની ૧૩ વાર્તાઓનો સંગ્રહ છે. તો ‘એક્સ્ટર્નલ લવ’ (૨૦૧૮)માં પ્રેમના વિવિધ સંવેદનો વ્યક્ત કરતી લાંબી પ્રેમ કવિતા માણવા મળે છે.

‘હું અધરણિયાત છું’(૧૯૮૫) અને ‘તું એટલે પ્રતિક્ષા’(૧૯૮૭) તેમના કાવ્ય સંગ્રહો છે. તેમાં ગઝલો ગીતો, અછાંદસ કાવ્યો, હાઈકુ વગેરે ગ્રંથસ્થ થયેલ છે. ‘તું એટલે પ્રતિક્ષા’ ને મૂર્ધન્ય કવિ શ્રી ઉશનસની પ્રસ્તાવનાનો લાભ મળ્યો છે તે બાબત ઉલ્લેખનીય છે. તેમાં કવિ ‘વિતાન’ના કાવ્યોની લાક્ષણિકતા અને સિધ્ધિ વિશે વાત કરવામાં આવી છે. આ પ્રતિભાશાળી અને અભ્યાસી કવિ હવે આપણી વચ્ચે રહ્યા નથી. પરંતુ તેઓ સાહિત્યનો સમૃદ્ધ વારસો મૂકીને ગયા છે. તેમના કેટલાક શેર અને કેટલીક કાવ્યકંડિકાઓનું રસદર્શન કરી ડો. લુણત સાહેબને ભાવાંજલિ આપીએ.

પ્રેમધાગા આજ તૂટ્યા હવે,
દર્દના આલોચનાનું ગીત ગા.

જીવવું આકાશને વસમું બને,
હોઠની કુમાશ જો તરડાય છે.

ખ્વાબમાં આકાશને જોતાં થયું,
ચાંદ તારી આંખમાં મણકો બને.

હું શહેરમાં પાનખરનો છોડ છું.
હું જ આકાશી ગલીનો મોડ છું.

પારકા તેજે પ્રકાશેલો સિતારો હું નથી,
પ્રેમની જાળે ફસાયેલો કિનારો હું નથી.

મારી આંખોમાં,
ભડભડ બળે છે પ્રતીક્ષા.

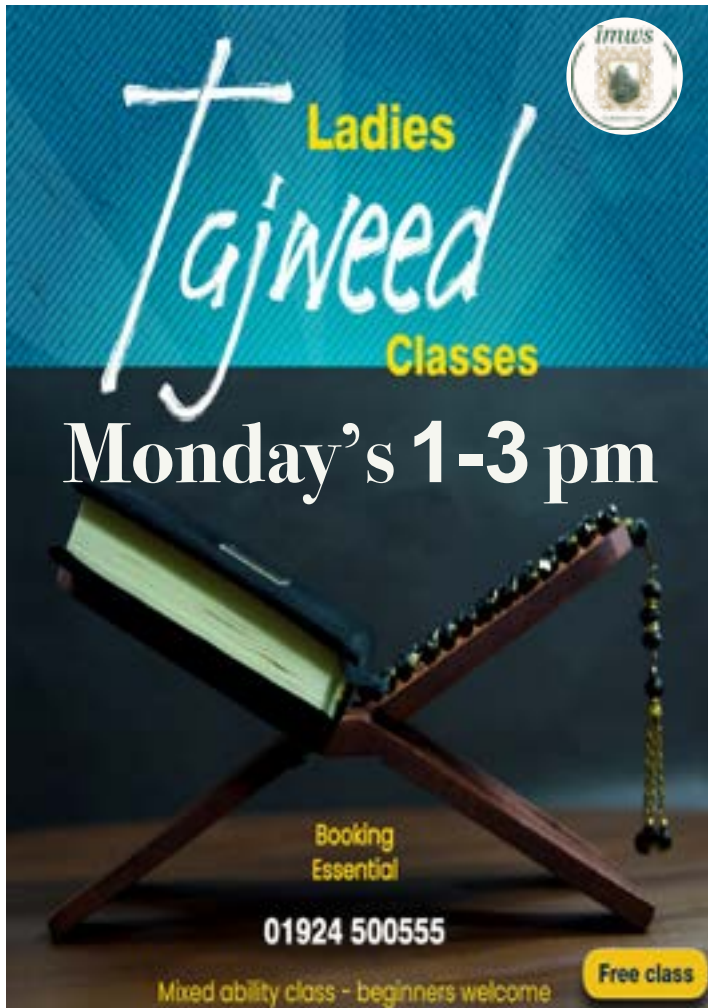
ખુદાએ મારી હથેળીમાં,
માત્ર અને માત્ર,

પ્રતીક્ષાની રેખાઓ દોરી આપી,
પોતાનું કામ પૂરું કર્યું છે.

મારી હથેળી કોરીકટ્ટ છે,
છઠ્ઠીના દિવસે વિધાતાએ
એમાં બીજું કશુંજ નથી લખ્યું,
માત્ર અને માત્ર પ્રતીક્ષા.

હાજી યુસુફઅલી ઝીણાનો ઈન્તેકાલ

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