

Concerns about lack of burial space at Dewsbury cemetery



Local community groups including IMWS are demanding action and answers from Kirklees Council after a conference arranged by the Dewsbury Cemetery Action Group at Dewsbury Minster showcased a plethora of concerns from community leaders in relation to the lack of burial space at Dewsbury cemetery.

Despite the treacherous weather conditions over 150 people from an array of backgrounds attended the event on the 11th of March with hundreds more tuning in online, thus taking the number

of participants to over 500. Prior to the conference, one of the social media clips had over 56,400 views within a very short period of time, such is the level of concern and interest in the matter.

Mohammed Javed, Chair of Dewsbury Cemetery Action Group said during the meeting, the message from the public was that of anger and frustration. He believes Kirklees Council missed a prime opportunity to show solidarity, appease and address the concerns.

“It was definitely a missed opportunity by

Kirklees and councillors by boycotting the event,” Mr Javed told Paigaam.

“It was disheartening that the Council leader, Kirklees Bereavement Services, Councillors as well as Will Simpson, the councillor with portfolio for the cemeteries, didn’t attend or even have the courtesy to respond to the invite to the public conference.”

Mr Javed said Councillors were sent personal invites, in order to give them a fair opportunity to address any concerns.

Dewsbury Cemetery



“Councillors received personal invites from the DCAG to attend and unfortunately Martyn Bolt of Mirfield was the only one who attended. We are very appreciative of his support to the multi-faith communities and the fact even though the constituents affected in the main are not in his area, he was there to be of assistance in any way he can.”

Mr Javed said it is not his intention to “politicise this sensitive matter that is close to the hearts of multi-faith communities.”

However, he said it has become very evident that certain individuals have and continue to make it one.

“The matter of land running out is so sensitive and close to the heart of the public one would have thought they (Kirklees) would be there for the constituents that voted them in, instead they chose to issue a one-page statement, contradicting the actual facts.

“If we were to dissect it we could write a full essay evidencing inaccuracies but let me just pick a couple of main points. Firstly, they continue to reiterate that there are 1000 burial spaces in Dewsbury with no details of where, who owns them and if they are multi-faith. The group has already challenged this number at the council meeting and this is evidenced in a recording already made public.

“As for working with the bereavement forum, that’s not factual either. We would like to remind the people that issued this statement that 95% of the attendees of the bereavement forum are part of the

DCAG group. However we as a group are now seriously considering boycotting and leaving the forum as it’s not a forum we have a two way dialogue. A recent example we were told the cost of burials and cremations were going up so we fed back to them our concerns, especially with the cost of living and the timescales. They chose to override us and within 2 weeks at the beginning of the month they implemented it.

“Yet, when it comes to a new municipal cemetery they are saying it will take them 5 years to have one in place.”

Mr Javed believes the Dewsbury Cemetery Action Group are keen to see what progress is made in June.

“We are not here to pick fights with anybody. It’s fairly evident that the council have taken their bat and ball home at the expense of the community.

“We are upbeat and positive by the support we have from the communities out there by the messages, feedback and calls the group has had. We can categorically say the public conference was a resounding success and we will carry on trying to work with everyone but that’s another matter if they choose to do so or not.

“We are seeing on social media sites statements like “No support No vote” for the councillors, a pledge being demanded by the voters which is interesting.”

The Dewsbury Cemetery Action Group has since launched a petition which is available online and on paper,

for members of the community to sign. Online signatures have totalled over 700, close to the target of 1000. Mr Javed has urged residents to sign the petition and has asked members of the community, regardless of their background, to work together: “We have been asked by many groups to come and talk to them about the current situation as we have a multicultural community who are of different faiths and of no faith. We are busy planning how we resource and take time out of our busy schedules to support the communities.

“We hope the next time we report back a lot more progress and cohesion is forthcoming from bereavement and the council. Please don’t forget to sign the petition as the voice of the residents needs to be heard. This issue is not only for Dewsbury, it will have a knock on effect on Batley and Heckmondwike once the space runs out in Dewsbury as that will quickly deplete burial space in the surrounding areas too.”

Coun Will Simpson, cabinet member for culture and greener Kirklees, said: “With over 1,000 burial plots currently available in Dewsbury, we are confident that this space will provide capacity for several years. “Council officers have continued to work on identifying suitable burial sites that would give a long term provision for future burial capacity in Dewsbury. Having narrowed down a significant number of sites, work is now progressing with further analysis of the shortlisted locations to determine suitability, prior to any ground investigatory work and study.”

Kirklees named as one of worst places in UK for potholes

Kirklees has been officially ranked as one of the poorest places in the country in relation to potholes. A survey conducted by Bill Plant Driving School, showcased the principal 10 areas throughout the UK where pothole-centric roads had blighted the area in 2022.

A plethora of areas to have been ranked in the top 10 are in Yorkshire with Kirklees coming second after Islington, in London. Kingston upon Hull is placed in fifth place with Rotherham in sixth position and Wakefield coming in at eighth.

A mind boggling 23,515 potholes were reported to the council, meaning there are almost 20 potholes per average mile of road in the area, covering 1,191 miles thus ensuring there are 19.74 potholes per mile or 0.05 miles per pothole.

Kirklees has had a significant problem with potholes like many other towns and cities throughout the country with residents constantly complaining about the states of the roads.

Paigaam has long campaigned for the number of potholes in the locality to be repaired. The September 2021 issue showcased how the vicinity was “riddled with potholes” and a plea to tend to roads, particularly in the Batley area was made.

A number of Batley based campaigners claimed roads including those adjacent to places of worship are “riddled with potholes” and demanded Kirklees Council takes action.

The Chairman of Snowdon Masjid Akooji Badat said potholes are in need of urgent repair as opposed to being “patched up.”

Mr Badat told Paigaam: “What I want to say is that the roads by our places of

worship are absolutely in need of urgent repairs and we need them repairing properly and not just patching up.”

He also claimed constituencies in North Kirklees that are represented by Conservative MP’s do not have the same problem.

He said: “Lots of money is always taken away into other conservative areas and it’s upsetting that our Batley roads and in particular the roads by the community centres or places of worship are left behind.”

A campaigner from the densely-populated Warwick Road where there are homes, shops, businesses and a primary school, urged the council to view the road and pavements for themselves.

“Warwick Road is a very highly populated area with a number of roads that need to be resurfaced,” said Aziz Daji.

“There’s no point in constantly patching the roads up badly, as some roads require a full resurface.”

However, Kirklees Council say they commenced work on the Unclassified Roads programme, to carry out improvement works on the districts unclassified roads.

They insist a £15m highways project, featuring over 120 schemes across all 23 wards, aimed to remedy roads and pavements in need of immediate repair began in September 2021.

Councillors say they engaged with the scheme from inception, identified priority roads and pavement sites in their wards and agreed to a minimum delivery of three schemes per ward.

The programme commenced in

September 2021, is said to have delivered a total of 77 schemes across the district by March 2022. The entire programme of works was completed in March 2023.

With phase one of the programme completed, phase two is due to start in April, and will continue to carry out improvement works on the district’s unclassified roads.

Kirklees say they plan to deliver a total of 20 schemes across the district by the end of 2023. The entire programme of works for phase two will be completed by April 2027.

Councillor Naheed Mather, cabinet member for environment said: “The maintenance and improvements to our highways network are vital for the development of Kirklees as a place where people want to live, work, and visit.

“Unclassified roads, deemed as minor or residential roads with lower volumes of traffic, are no less important, with benefits reaching the wider community. These benefits include upgraded road and pavement surfaces improving the user experience for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, as well as enhancements to the public realm.”



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Make sure your Ramadan donations reach those who are in need

As British Muslims enter the month of Ramadan, the Muslim Charities Forum, the Charity Commission and the Fundraising Regulator have issued advice to British Muslims in relation to giving Sadaqah and Zakat safely to registered charities during Ramadan.

Ramadan is a time of huge generosity among British Muslims, and the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, as well as the ongoing impact of the cost-of-living crisis, make it especially important that their charitable contributions support good causes through registered charities. Regulators are therefore issuing advice to remind British Muslims to make checks, ensuring their donations reach registered charities.

Most fundraising is genuine; however, fraudsters and criminals sometimes take advantage of public generosity at times of increased giving, using methods such as fake appeal websites, email appeals that falsely use the name of genuine charities, or appeals from fake charities. There have been several reports of fake appeals on social media to help those affected by the disaster in Turkey and Syria.

According to the London-based think tank, the Ayaan Institute, British Muslims donate at least £1bn a year to charity, with the figure set to reach £4bn by 2051.

The report states: “The information in this report shows just how seriously Muslim communities take their religious obligations to help the poor and needy around the world.

“It is in the divinely ordained rituals

and obligations of Islam that we find the greatest expressions of Ummah solidarity. The Islamic faith has provided us with the tools to provide for the welfare needs of the Ummah, whether states and politicians are working towards those goals or not.”

Jahangir Mohammed, Director of the Ayaan Institute, added: “The Muslim charitable sector makes a valuable contribution to UK society, economy, the Muslim community and it helps countries around the world through aid and assistance. This work is driven by the Islamic faith and deserves more recognition.”

Below is a checklist for donors supplied:

Is the charity registered?

Visit <http://www.gov.uk/checkcharity> and find out if the charity is registered with the Charity Commission.

Does the charity's values match your values?

Check out the charity's website for information about their aims and values. You should only give to organisations that you feel are in line with your values.

Is the fundraiser genuine?

It's important to check whether it is genuine. They should feature the charity's name and registered number.

Do you feel pressured to donate?

You should never feel pressured to donate to a charity, it should be a free and informed choice. If you need more information, you are within your right

to ask the charity for it directly, prior to donating any of your money.

Does admin cost reflect impact?

Charities differ in their admin costs. A higher admin could translate to higher impact, or vice versa, depending on the organisation.

Transparency

Who runs the organization and do they have experience in development?

Impact

How does the charity choose the projects it is working on?

Diligence

Are the charities accounts filed on time to the Charity Commission?

Trustees

Who are the trustees of the organisation and do they have professional experience? Size and history How old or new is the charity? How big is it? Does it have an area of expertise: a specific type of project or country?

Zakat

Charities are also collecting Zakat in Ramadan. The Muslim Charities Forum recommends that each donor asks the following questions before giving their zakat to a charity:

Does the charity have a zakat policy which tells you how they spend the zakat money? Is it freely accessible on the website?

Does the charity have a zakat policy holder whose name is available on the website and whose contact details are also available?

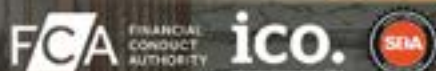


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MCB criticises Metropolitan Police after damning report



METROPOLITAN POLICE

The Muslim Council of Great Britain has backed the findings of damning report which described the Metropolitan Police as institutionally racist.

Baroness Louise Casey's report showcased a plethora of alarming case studies which showed officers being bullied because of their religious beliefs.

In one particular instance, a Muslim officer was alarmed to have found bacon left in his boots. However, he chose not to report the incident out of fear he would be "branded a person who played the race card".

Zara Mohammed, secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain, said: "Baroness Louise Casey's report is a damning indictment of the culture of impunity within the Metropolitan Police force, where officers from minority backgrounds have been subject to unchecked racism and discrimination and the concerns of minority communities have remained unaddressed.

"Islamophobia, like any other form of racism, must be tackled decisively. "

The report cites an incident in which a Muslim police officer had bacon stuffed into his boots, which were in his locked locker.

The officer did not tell anyone of the incident at the time due to fear of reprisals.

"It is simply unacceptable that Muslim officers must face such racism in the workplace."

She said it is essential Britain's largest police force seriously looks into building trust with diverse communities including the Muslim community through "meaningful action, accountability and a commitment to change".

Ms Mohammed believes that whilst the findings of the Casey report are deeply concerning, it is important to commend those officers who have been working hard to serve and protect their communities.

"The Metropolitan Police must take immediate steps to address the systemic issues identified in the report, replicate and amplify the good work and conduct of any exemplary officers on the force, and work towards creating a police force that is truly representative of, and responsive to, the needs of all communities."

Iman Atta, director of Tell Mama, which supports victims of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate, insists Baroness Casey's highlights negative experiences of some within minority communities.

"The report shows that anti-Muslim prejudice is still an issue in the Met and whilst the vast majority of officers act and work professionally and in line with high standards, there are still some 'rotten apples' in the barrel.

"We stand ready to help the Met in working through ways to tackle and root out anti-Muslim prejudice."

In a recent interview with Paigaam, the District Commander for Kirklees Police pledged to serve, protect and work closely with diverse communities when asked whether the Metropolitan Police is institutionally racist.

He said: "The McPherson report was a long time ago after the Stephen Lawrence murder but we have definitely changed since then and just like I was saying before what we are doing in terms of trying to be representative of our communities is exactly where we need to be.

"I am not saying that we are perfect in everything that we do and very shortly we are going to be implementing the race action plan which is going to target real key communities that definitely do feel like they have been targeted unfairly by the police and we are going to try and work with those communities on a national basis to try and engage them a bit more."

Healey School: The hub of the local community

The head teacher of Healey Junior, Infant and Nursery School, on Healey Lane, believes the school not only provides an opportunity for children to excel, thanks to the implementation of a clear and compelling vision for success, Luisa Lang believes the school is the hub of the local community.

The school was recently graded “good” in all areas after a recent inspection Ofsted visit. This is the first time that the school has ever been awarded this level of accreditation. Speaking to Paigaam, Mrs Lang cited the hard work and devotion of her team after it received its best-ever rating from Ofsted.

“That’s such an achievement and it makes us all very proud, the whole school team pulling together, there’s still a lot to do and we recognise that,” said Mrs Lang.

“It felt like a surreal event because we’d been waiting for it and expecting it for so long. On the other hand, I felt absolutely nervous as it was my first Ofsted inspection as a head. I was excited as well as we wanted to showcase the improvements we’d made. It gave everyone a boost, but we’ve not stopped since.

“The children here are absolutely amazing, gorgeous children. I think it’s a fantastic community that we are in. What I really love about Healey, compared to the schools that surround us is that it is a very mixed and diverse school. It’s not 99 per cent Asian, which a lot of the other schools are.”

Lang’s eloquence and empathy should not be mistaken as a weakness. Her wit, intelligence and no-nonsense attitude ensure members of staff at the school evidently know who the boss is; staff whom we walked past in the corridors are rather eager to impress as standards are impeccably high. However, Lang attests her quest for success to her immigrant background.

My parents came to this country not speaking English. I come from an immigrant family from an Italian background. I think there are so many similarities with the Asian community, to be family orientated, to come from another homeland, if you like, where not speaking the language, my parents came to this country not speaking a word of English.

“We were very much a working-class family, so I think people see me as someone who is open and honest and someone they can talk to. I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth or anything like that. I don’t feel I’m better than anybody else. Sometimes the preconception of headteachers is that I dare not approach this person of authority and I really want to dispel those myths that parents might have.

“At home we had that work ethic of being the best and that’s what I try to instil in the children here. Nothing in life is easy, so I do have a great deal of empathy for non-English speaking people because that was my home life. My older sister used to go to the parent’s evenings with me when I was very young because my parents couldn’t

articulate as they could not speak English.”

In her office, Mrs Lang showcases a Muti Menk book, that she attests a number of golden rules that children adhere to in the classrooms: “The 6 golden rules are respecting one another, respect the environment and we reinforce those messages together with the school motto which is believe, achieve, succeed.

Reading is high on the agenda we implemented a new phonics scheme called read write inc. It’s a very structured scheme. It’s for early years and key stage one to be able to decode and read. If you can’t decode; you can’t improve on your fluency and your comprehension and everything that follows.

“We are now above national average. The following step is developing that further or the fluency and the comprehension and just inspiring and motivating the children. Generally, children don’t like writing very much. Some do, but writing is a big priority.”

The School is the growing heart of the community due to a number of innovative events set up by Luisa and her team: “We host a coffee afternoon and hope to do one again soon after Easter where we will host the older generation and the children will come in and talk to them. It’s just a fantastic atmosphere, where we get families in and grandparents particularly as well.

“I can’t tell you what a beautiful afternoon it is. It carries on the legacy of Jo Cox, which is that of unity in the community.”



Rahul Ghandi lambasts BJP in Cambridge speech

Indian politician and leader of the Congress Party, Rahul Gandhi lambasted the current state of Indian democracy as a recent speech at Cambridge University, stating that Indian democracy is under attack whilst claiming he, along with a number of lawmakers in India are under surveillance.

Mr Ghandi insists a plethora of constraints have been placed on the Parliament, press and the Judiciary in the country.

“Everybody knows and it’s been in the news a lot that Indian democracy is under pressure and under attack,” said Mr Ghandi.

“I am an opposition leader in India, we are navigating that space. The institutional framework which is required for a democracy – Parliament, free press, the judiciary, just the idea of mobilisation, moving around – all are getting constrained. So, we are facing an attack on the basic structure of Indian democracy,” the Congress MP alleged.

Showcasing a picture of himself in the presentation slide in which he is seen being held by Police, Ghandi claimed that those who are perceived were “locked up” in jail for “just standing” in front of the Parliament House to talk about some issues, while also alleging that such incidents have happened “relatively violently”.

“In the Constitution, India is described as a Union of States, and that Union requires negotiation and conversation. It is that negotiation that is under attack and threat. You can see the picture which is taken in front of Parliament House.”

Mr Gandhi claimed that an attack had been unleashed on the basic structure of Indian democracy while also claiming that Israeli spyware Pegasus was being used to snoop into his phone.

He claimed that he had been warned by the intelligence officers to be “careful” while speaking on the phone as his calls were being recorded.

“I myself had Pegasus on my phone. A large number of politicians had Pegasus on their phones. I have been called by intelligence officers who told me, ‘Please be careful about what you are saying on the phone because we are sort of recording the stuff.’

“So this is the constant pressure that we feel. Cases on the Opposition. I have got a number of criminal liable cases for things that should under no circumstances be criminal liable cases. That’s what we are trying to defend,” the Congress leader added in his speech.

Mr Ghandi’s address at Cambridge University has become the latest flashpoint between the Congress and the BJP.

The BJP has since accused Ghandi of “defaming” the country abroad after repeated electoral defeats. The party is also considering asking Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to suspend his membership from the lower house.

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey demanded the constitution of a special parliamentary committee to look into Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s “contemptuous” remarks and consider if he should be expelled from the House to give a clear message so that “no one takes the pride and respect of high institutions for a ride”.

In a letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker,

Dubey said he is giving notice under Rule 223 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha on the “contemptuous and unbecoming behaviour” of the member of Parliament over his remarks at Cambridge University.

“This conduct of the Member is required to be investigated thoroughly either by the Privileges Committee or by a special committee.

“Thereafter, House should consider whether such a member should be expelled from the House to protect the esteem of parliament and other democratic institutions and give a clear message that no one takes the pride and respect of high institutions for a ride in future,” Dubey said in the letter.

Indian democracy is under pressure and under attack

Rahul Ghandi

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MCB academic study reveals Muslims face healthcare discrimination

A new joint academic study between the Muslim Council of Britain, charity Marie Curie, the University of Leeds and University College London has revealed the difficulties British Muslims face whilst accessing palliative and end-of-life care.

The study has showcased a “postcode lottery” of care along with the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on increasing existing health inequalities worse; disproportionately impacting the health of people from most minority backgrounds.

The study revealed families and patients described difficulties and delays in accessing healthcare, isolation and restrictions around rituals which negatively impacted their lives and may have sped up the decline of people with palliative care needs.

The report also called for healthcare providers to raise awareness of any palliative and end of life care services that are available to British Muslims amongst others.

The report suggests that greater involvement of a diverse range of people in the development of health and social care services is needed to tackle inequity in access to care.

Zara Mohammed, Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain, said: “This report highlights the deep-seated nature of health inequalities and their particular prevalence within British Muslim communities.

“Evidence from Public Health England and the Office for National Statistics

revealed that during the peak of the pandemic, minoritised groups had the highest rate of COVID-19 deaths.

“The Muslim Council of Britain also listened and paid heed to healthcare workers on the front line who warned of the disproportional impact COVID-19 was having on minoritised communities, long before it was acknowledged in mainstream discourse. This period of intensive learning has reaffirmed the systemic nature of inequality.”

Key to the report was a series of interviews carried out by members of the British Muslim community with other individuals with lived experience of the health system during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The shift to online and virtual delivery of care during COVID-19 compounded challenges, with healthcare providers relying too much on digital solutions which many people struggled to access.

This affected both the physical and mental health of people who felt forgotten in the system.

With the main focus on COVID-19 during the peaks of the pandemic, many people with other conditions felt their palliative care needs were neglected.

Patients also felt unsure about how to access information or support for their care needs, and sometimes struggled to be understood.

Dr Gemma Clarke, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, said: “British Muslims told us they felt left behind and didn’t know where to turn for help during the most difficult times of their lives. Our research highlighted the

experiences of an already marginalised group within our society. We want our work to be used to design better services, that properly support the people that need them.”

Briony Hudson, Associate Director Internal Research Development at Marie Curie, said: “Services must explore and understand the needs of diverse local communities, including British Muslims, to adapt services and make them more accessible. Organisations providing health and social care services must ensure that individuals, and those who are important to them, are placed at the centre of decision-making.

“What is also clear from this research is that more support is needed for those who do not have the support of family networks. It is crucial that those who are isolated or otherwise vulnerable have routes into the support that they need.”

The report makes a number of recommendations for improving care for minority groups. These include providing culturally appropriate services; better support for family and carers of people with palliative care needs; tackling health exclusion through early involvement; and making information more accessible.



Ramadan 2023: Fasting hours and iftar times around the world

During Ramadan, fasts can last anywhere from 12 to 18 hours, depending on which country you reside in.

Due to the fact that the Islamic calendar is based on the lunar Hijri calendar with months that are 29 or 30 days long, Ramadan tends to begin 10 to 12 days earlier each year.

Interestingly, because the lunar year is shorter than the solar year by around 11 days, Ramadan will be observed twice in the year 2030 – first beginning on January 5 and then starting on December 25.

This year, the first day of fasting took place in mid-March. However, the next time Ramadan will start after March 23 will be in 33 years' time – in the year 2056. For Muslims living further afield, the number of daylight hours can vary across the world.

Muslims living in the world's southernmost countries, such as Chile or New Zealand, will fast for an average of 12 hours while those living in northernmost countries, such as Iceland or Greenland, will have to partake in fasts that total 17 hours or more.

For Muslims living in the Northern Hemisphere, the number of hours they have to fast will decrease this year and will continue to do so until 2031, which is the year Ramadan will encompass the winter solstice – the shortest day of the year.

After that, fasting hours will increase until the summer solstice – the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

For Muslims living south of the equator, the opposite will happen. Within the northernmost cities, such as

Longyearbyen in Norway, where the sun does not set from April 20 to August 22, rulings have been passed by scholars in order to allow Muslims to fast.

The average number of hours people fast in cities around the world are outlined below, although actual fasting hours and times will vary by day, along with calculation methods:

Iftari times around the world

Which cities have the longest fasting hours?

- Reykjavik, Iceland: 17 hours
- Stockholm, Sweden: 17 hours
- Glasgow, Scotland: 17 hours
- Nuuk, Greenland: 17 hours
- Helsinki, Finland: 17 hours
- London, UK: 16 hours
- Amsterdam, the Netherlands: 16 hours
- Warsaw, Poland: 16 hours
- Astana, Kazakhstan: 16 hours
- Brussels, Belgium: 16 hours
- Basel, Switzerland: 15 hours
- Paris, France: 15 hours
- Bucharest, Romania: 15 hours
- Ottawa, Canada: 15 hours
- Sofia, Bulgaria: 15 hours
- Rome, Italy: 15 hours
- Madrid, Spain: 15 hours
- Lisbon, Portugal: 14 hours
- Athens, Greece: 14 hours
- Beijing, China: 14 hours
- Washington, DC, US: 14 hours
- Pyongyang, North Korea: 14 hours
- Ankara, Turkey: 14 hours
- Rabat, Morocco: 14 hours
- Tokyo, Japan: 14 hours
- Islamabad, Pakistan: 14 hours
- Kabul, Afghanistan: 14 hours
- Baghdad, Iraq: 14 hours
- Beirut, Lebanon: 14 hours
- Damascus, Syria: 14 hours
- Cairo, Egypt: 14 hours

- Jerusalem/Palestine: 14 hours
- Kuwait City, Kuwait: 14 hours
- Gaza City, Palestine: 14 hours
- New Delhi, India: 14 hours
- Hong Kong: 14 hours
- Dhaka, Bangladesh: 14 hours
- Muscat, Oman: 14 hours
- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: 14 hours
- Doha, Qatar: 14 hours
- Dubai, UAE: 14 hours
- Aden, Yemen: 14 hours
- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: 13 hours
- Dakar, Senegal: 13 hours
- Abuja, Nigeria: 13 hours
- Colombo, Sri Lanka: 13 hours
- Bangkok, Thailand: 13 hours
- Khartoum, Sudan: 13 hours
- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: 13 hours

Which cities have the shortest fasting hours?

- Singapore: 13 hours
- Nairobi, Kenya: 13 hours
- Luanda, Angola: 13 hours
- Jakarta, Indonesia: 13 hours
- Panama City, Panama: 13 hours
- Harare, Zimbabwe: 13 hours
- Johannesburg, South Africa: 13 hours
- Buenos Aires, Argentina: 12 hours
- Ciudad del Este, Paraguay: 12 hours
- Cape Town, South Africa: 12 hours
- Montevideo, Uruguay: 12 hours
- Canberra, Australia: 12 hours
- Puerto Montt, Chile: 12 hours
- Christchurch, New Zealand: 12 hours



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			or 4 for £23.00
	5kg	£52.00	
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			or 4 for £25.00
	5kg	£55.00	
Super Jumbo	300g	£13.00	2 for £25.00
	5kg	£62.00	

Yaffa Saudi Medina Dates

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Did You know...

Al-Khwarizmi

developed the concept of the algorithm in maths

Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi was a Persian mathematician, astronomer, astrologer geographer and a scholar in Baghdad.

He was born in 780. Al-Khwarizmi was one of the learned men who worked in the House of Wisdom under the leadership of Al-Mamun, the son of King Harun al-Rashid.

The word algorithm is derived from his name, al-Khwarizmi. The best mathematician of his age, thanks to his book, al-Kitab al-mukhtasar fi Hisab al-jabr w'al-muqabala, "The Compendious Book on Calculation by Completion and Balancing", which later evolved into algebra, was the first written text on the subject.

Al-Khwarizmi introduced Algebra in order to solve real life problems that were part of everyday life in the Islamic empire at that time.

He examined how the laws of arithmetic extend to arithmetic for his algebraic objects. For example he shows how to multiply out expressions such as $(a + b x)(c + d x)$.

However, Algebra was a practical system for solving all kinds of problems "in cases of inheritance, contracts, surveying, tax collection, legacies, partition, lawsuits, and trade, and in all their dealings with

one another, or where the measuring of lands, the digging of canals, geometrical computations, and other objects of various sorts and kinds are concerned." Al-jabr was about removing the negative terms from an equation, while al-muqabala meant "balancing" the values of an equation across an equals sign.

He also wrote an important work on astronomy, covering calendars, calculating true positions of the sun, moon and planets, tables of sines and tangents, spherical astronomy, astrological tables, parallax and eclipse calculations, and visibility of the moon. He also performed detailed calculations of the positions of the Sun, Moon, and planets, and did a number of eclipse calculations. In addition to an important treatise on Astronomy, Al-Khwarizmi wrote a book on astronomical tables, which were also translated into European languages and, later, into Chinese.

In geography, he wrote the book called Kitab Surat al-ard (book of the form of the earth). His works differed from Ptolemy's and he corrected Ptolemy's views in detail.

It is a description of a world (known world at that time) map and contains a list of the coordinates of the important places on it. He corrected the distortion that Ptolemy's map had with regard to the length of the Mediterranean. It was much more accurate.

In 1140 Robert of Chester (who read

mathematics in Spain) translated the Arabic title into Latin as Liber algebrae et almucabala, then ultimately gave its name to the discipline of algebra.

When his work became known in Europe through Latin translations, his influence made an indelible mark on the development of science in the West: his algebra book introduced that discipline to Europe "unknown till then" and became the standard mathematical text at European universities until the 16th century.

He is one of the Muslim scholars who laid the foundations for Europe's Renaissance and the Scientific Revolution. He also wrote on mechanical devices like the clock, astrolabe, and sundial. His other contributions include tables of trigonometric functions, refinements in the geometric representation of conic sections, and aspects of the calculus of two errors.

Unquestionably, Al-Khwarizmi was very influential with his methods on arithmetic and algebra which were translated into much of southern Europe. However, the Arabic numerals introduced by Al-Khwarizmi, like much of new mathematics, were not welcomed wholeheartedly. In fact, in 1299 there was a law in the commercial center of Florence (Italy) forbidding the use of such numerals. Initially, only universities dared use them, but later they became popular with merchants, and eventually became commonly used.



A Guide To Healthy Fasting

The month of Ramadhan is a great opportunity to focus on bringing back a balanced and healthy lifestyle in your life.

The Blessed Prophet (SAW) said: "Take advantage of the good health before illness afflicts you". Through fasting you begin to learn how to manage your eating habits, how to improve self-control and discipline.

The fasts of Ramadhan can improve a person's health, but if the correct diet is not followed, it can possibly worsen it!

Potential Health problems and possible remedies.

Heartburn

- **Eating in moderation**
- **Chewing food properly**
- **Avoid oily, deep-fried or very spicy food**
- **Reducing your caffeine intake & stop smoking**
- **Peppermint oil can help reduce belching and colic**
- **Sleeping with your head raised on a few pillows**
- **If prescribed antacid medication continue taking them at Sehri**
- **Long-term weight loss**

Foods to avoid X

- Deep-fried foods
- High sugar/fat foods, eg Ghulab Jaman,
- High Fat cooked foods, eg parathas, greasy pastries

Cooking methods to avoid X

- Eating in moderation

Healthy/alternative foods ✓

• Whole grains, eg chickpeas (plain or potato in yoghurt with different spices), baked samosas and boiled dumplings

• Milk-based sweets and puddings, eg Rasmalai

- Try chapattis made without oil. Bake or grill meat or chicken.

Try single layer pastries

Alternative cooking methods ✓

- Shallow frying
- Grilling or baking

Headache

Headaches during a fast could commonly be due to dehydration or hunger, inadequate rest, or the absence of addictive substances such as caffeine or nicotine.

- **Avoid missing Sehri**
- **Consume adequate fluids. Adults should aim for 2 Litres of water per day**
- **Short term dose of paracetamol if headache does not settle at Sehri/Iftari**

Dehydration

Main risk of this is during long summer fasts, the elderly, and people on medication such as water tablets (diuretics).

- **Drink enough fluids before a fast.**

What are the symptoms?

Feeling unwell, lethargy, muscle cramps, dizziness, collapse, or fainting.

If unable to stand up due to dizziness, then urgently have water, ideally with sugar and salt, or Lucozade

Constipation

- Drink plenty of fluids
- Have lots of fruit and vegetables in your diet (Eg prunes or figs)
- High fibre diet such as bran
- Stay active E.g., Brisk walking after Iftari
- If problems persist speak to your pharmacist and try a short course of laxative such as Fybogel

Frequently Asked Questions

Should a person with diabetes fast?

- Diabetics with good control either by diet or using tablets, may fast
- Do speak to your GP or practice

nurse to see if a change is required to any Diabetes medication you may be taking.

- Advice is not to fast if on insulin or have uncontrolled blood sugars

• An ill person may fast later when they are healthy; if this is not possible, they must feed the poor (known as fidyah).

However, for precise rulings, it is advised to speak to your local Imam/scholar.

Is fasting harmful when a woman is expecting a baby? Is it compulsory to fast while pregnant?

- It is not compulsory to fast while pregnant, however, women will either need to make up those fasts later or perform fidyah.

• If a pregnant woman feels healthy enough to fast, especially during the early part of the pregnancy, she may do so.

However, for precise rulings, it is advised to speak to your local Imam/scholar.

From what age can children fast safely?

It is a good idea to make young children aware of the practice of fasting in the community around them, and to give them a 'taste' of fasting, eg for a few hours at a time.

However, many children have seen their parents join fast. Therefore, they feel the warmth and resplendence of Ramadan, and many fast for anything between a few hours to actually completing a number of fasts during the holy month.



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Paigaam Travel: Alhambra Palace in Spain



No trip to Granada is complete without a visit to the Alhambra Palace. It is the most visited monument in Spain, with over 8,500 daily visitors. Built in the 8th century, it was the last remaining royal structure of Islamic civilisation in Western Europe, with the Nasrid Muslims

as its final occupants. Its name, derived from the redness of the walls, is written along the museum entrance in Arabic. It was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.

For almost 250 years, between 1238 and 1492, Granada, then part of the Nasrid Kingdom, stood as the last remaining Muslim stronghold in the peninsula. Under the Nasrids, it became a hub for economic prosperity, cultural influence and intellectual development.

The complex is massive, and one can easily get lost. A city in itself, the famous gardens of the compound, consisting of flowers, a beautiful maze of carved shrubs, and fountains. Tickets sell out, so book ahead; you'll have to choose a time to enter

The palaces are breathtaking, unlike anything you will ever see before. The extreme attention to detail, the symmetry, the beautiful Quranic verses and perfect segue of outdoor courtyards and indoor chambers.

Over the centuries, the Nasrid Palaces have maintained their distinct 'Islamic' identity. Despite the Catholic destruction of many parts of the Alhambra, French

shelling in the 1800s, and total abandonment in the 18th and 19th centuries, the Nasrid Palaces remain very much intact. They are comprised of three separate buildings, called Mexuar, the Palaces of Comares, and the Palace of the Lions.

Making your way to the oldest part of the Alhambra, the Alcázar, which is the original fortress that was built before the addition of palaces and gardens, is surreal. The Nasrids used the fortress as a military base of the Royal Guard. There are several towers to climb, with each subsequent tower taller than the previous. From here, you get to see what the sultans themselves would have seen, the city of Granada in all its glory watched over by the majestic snow capped Sierra Nevada.

The city's old Arab quarter, the Albayzín district, is the place to be for some Halal dining, shopping, and Moroccan tea experiences.

One will also come across a number of Masjid's in Granada, the Mezquita Sheikh Zayed (At-Taqwa), located on a side street in Albayzín. Then there is the Mezquita Mayor De Granada and the Granada Comunidad Musulmana amongst others.



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.

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Kim Leadbeater MP column

It's been another busy month working on a wide range of issues like the cost of living crisis, dangerous driving and the state of the NHS. I was also very happy to launch the 'Great Batley and Spennings Clean' with a litter-pick in Heckmondwike.

Many people write to me about congested roads, which is one reason I opposed plans for a massive Amazon warehouse near the Chain Bar roundabout in Cleckheaton. I'm pleased the proposal was rejected by the Council's planning committee.

I was dismayed by the government's Budget with huge tax breaks to the richest 1% but nothing to fix the crisis in our public services.

Once again the Conservatives showed how out of touch they are and how their priorities are so wrong for places like Batley and Spennings.

I did welcome the extra money for public swimming pools but, like much of the Budget, it lacked detail and it remains to be seen if this will be enough to save Batley Baths.

I opposed the Tories' latest unworkable and unjust Migration Bill which would detain and deport anybody who crosses the channel illegally.

It is the people smugglers we must be going after, not criminalising the victims of modern-day slavery and those genuine refugees who are left with no other option than to risk their lives in this way.

I was deeply moved by my recent visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Since then I've had a number of meetings on the subject.

The Palestinian Ambassador, Dr Husam Zomlot, stressed the importance of an incoming Labour government recognising the State of Palestine and I agree that this must be a priority for my party.

I also had a fascinating meeting with

a group of Israeli diplomats who have resigned their posts and taken a principled position against the occupation and in support of human rights and equality.

Former Ambassador Ilan Baruch argued powerfully that the UK must stop giving Israel impunity for its illegal actions under international law and must once again become a player for peace.

In the House of Commons the following day I put that point directly to the Foreign Secretary.

I met a visiting delegation of Muslim and Christian Palestinian faith leaders from Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. Religious freedom is a fundamental right and I have written to the government to express my dismay that this right is being flagrantly undermined in Jerusalem.

It was a privilege for me to meet Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi while he was in London and to hear his hopes and fears for his country.

He described his recent Yatra in which he covered over two thousand miles on foot across India while pledging to bring people together and to defend democracy, an approach to politics I fully support.

I continue to press the government to support the campaign of the Dawood family for justice.

I joined Conservative MP Jonathan Djanogly in writing to the Prime Minister asking him to meet with the family and support their efforts to have the remains of their relatives repatriated as soon as possible.

I strongly support female empowerment. Women and girls bear the brunt of every global crisis and I was proud to support the 'Women Won't Wait' campaign in Parliament.

And back in Batley I enjoyed joining women breaking down barriers at a ladies-

only amateur powerlifting competition.

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

Best wishes,

Kim



MP implores Government to recognise Palestine

A British/Palestinian MP has urged the British government to officially recognise Palestine as a country.

Oxford West and Abingdon MP, Layla Moran believes that by recognising Palestine as a sovereign nation, it would give Palestinians “the ability to help themselves”, as other countries may follow the UK’s example, and suggested it may

eventually allow Palestine to become a full UN member state.

The Liberal Democrats’ foreign affairs spokesperson Layla Moran has called for the UK government to immediately recognise a Palestinian state, insisting Israeli settlement growth “acts like a woodworm” destroying “the foundations of any peace process”.

Wearing a Palestinian keffiyeh in the House of Commons the MP spoke out as she brought her Palestine statehood private members bill to the House of Commons, in order to “ask the British government to recognise the state without any preconditions. It asks the British Government to recognise the state of Palestine, but it does so without any preconditions.”

IHRC advises caution when buying dates

The Islamic Human Rights Commission has advised Muslims who are fasting to exercise caution when purchasing dates with misleading labelling.

The IHRC says that faced with a growing boycott Israeli manufacturers are using ever more devious methods to sell their produce.

These may include using Arabic brand names, writing “Product of Palestine” on the label, or even using the Palestinian flag. Sometimes there is no labelling at all – which is unlawful.

The UK is Israel’s second largest market for dates with many boxes having little or no label at all.

The IHRC says consumers need to check the label for the origin of goods as the manufacturer/importer’s contact details must be on the label. If in doubt, consumers should contact the importer for clarification regarding the origin of the dates.

If the packaging does not clearly show the origin of the goods or the manufacturer/importer details are not shown on the packaging, then this should be reported to local trading standards who have an obligation to investigate and if need be, remove the goods off the shelf.



UK’s first ever Ramadan lights

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan has switched on the city’s first ever celebratory Ramadan lights. The installation of 30,000 sustainable lights, the first on this in Europe, will illuminate Piccadilly Circus during Ramadan.

The initiative was driven by non-profit organisation Ramadan Lights UK. Its

founder, Aisha Desai, said: “As a child, a trip into central London to see the festive lights was an annual treat. My sister and I would lie in the back of the car looking at the lights through the sunroof.

“It was magical. As a proud Muslim, I wanted to bring some of that magic to my community.”



Voter ID - what you need to do for the May 2023 elections

In May 2023 individuals who wish to vote in person, including those acting as a proxy on behalf of another individual, will be required to produce an accepted form of photographic ID to prove their identity before they will be issued with a ballot paper.

This is a national change implemented by the Government as part of the Elections Act 2022 which councils are required to follow when running elections.

This change will apply for the local elections taking place in the district on 4 May 2023.

To vote in person, voters must be on the electoral register and bring a suitable form of photographic ID to their polling station. The most commonly used IDs include:

- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state

or a Commonwealth country

- Photographic driver's licence issued by the UK, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (including provisional)

- European Economic Area (EEA) photographic ID Card

- UK Biometric Residence Permit

- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (PASS card)

- A Blue Badge

- A concessionary travel pass funded by HM Government or local authority

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

Voters who do not produce valid identification or a Voter Authority Certificate (more information below), will not be allowed to vote. Only original documents will be accepted; scanned

images or copies will not be accepted.

Out of date photo ID

You can still use your photo ID if it's out of date, as long as it looks like you.

The name on your ID should be the same name you used to register to vote.

How to apply for ID if you do not have one of the accepted forms of ID

If you do not have one of the accepted forms of photo ID, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, which can be obtained free of charge from the Council. Anyone applying must already be on the electoral register.

The Voter Authority Certificate is a document containing an elector's name and photograph that can be used as ID to vote in an election. Voter Authority Certificates do not have an expiration date and can be used in future elections so worth keeping hold of if you apply for one.

Man who planned to burn Quran is banned from UK

A right wing radical who planned to burn a copy of the Holy Quran in Wakefield will "not be allowed access" into the UK, the security minister has confirmed.

Danish-Swede Rasmus Paludan, the leader of the Stram Kurs party founded in 2017, has been added to the "warnings index" and will be barred from entering the country.

Mr Paludan has held several protests in which the Quran was burned, some of which have led to violent counter-protests. In a Twitter video on, he said that

he planned to burn a copy in a public square in the Wakefield, to coincide with Ramadan.

Speaking in the Commons during Home Office questions, Labour MP Simon Lightwood (Wakefield) raised concerns over the potential visit and protest.

He said: "Far-right Islamophobic Danish politician Rasmus Paludan said he is going to travel from Denmark to Wakefield for the sole purpose of burning a Quran in a public place. Mr Paludan was previously jailed in Denmark for his hateful and racist

statements. He is a dangerous man that should not be allowed into this country.

"Can the Home Secretary assure me and my community that the Government is taking action to prevent this?"

Mr Tugendhat replied stating that Paludan had indeed been banned and will not be allowed to enter the UK: "May I inform the House that Mr Paludan has been added to the warnings index and therefore his travel to the United Kingdom would not be conducive with the public good and he will not be allowed access."

IMWS ની રમજાન ચેરિટી અપીલ

આપ સૌ ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટીની રમજાનની ચેરિટી અપીલ અંગે વાકેફ હશો. મસ્જિદમાં પોષ્ટરો અને સોશયલ મીડિયા મારફત ઘણી માહિતી કોમ્યુનિટીને પહોંચાડવામાં આવી છે. જે મુજબ રમજાન માસમાં ઈફતાર ફૂડ પેકેટ માટે સિરીયામાં વ્યવસ્થા કરવામાં આવી છે. અને ત્યાં ફૂડ પારસલો વહેંચવાનું કામ ચાલુ છે. ઉપરાંત સદકતુલ ફીતર માટે આ વર્ષે કમિટીએ એ રકમ સોમાલીયા અને યમન ખાતે મોકલવાનું નક્કી કર્યું છે. જે પ્રમાણે તારીખ ૧૭મી એપ્રિલ ૨૦૨૩ સુધીમાં ફીતરાની જે રકમ એકઠી થશે તે ઈ.અ. ઈદના દિવસે હાજતમંદોને મળે એવી વ્યવસ્થા કરવામાં આવી છે.

દર રમજાનમાં ગાઝાના મઝલૂમો અને હાજતમંદો અને જનરલ ચેરિટી ફંડ જે વર્ષ દરમ્યાન વહેંચવામાં આવે છે તેમાં પણ આપ લોકોનો સારો સહકાર મળે છે. અને આ રીતે જુદા જુદા પ્રોજેક્ટોમાં સારી રકમ ભેગી થાય છે. જેનો લાભ ગરીબો, હાજતમંદોને થાય છે. અમારી વિનંતી છે કે, રમજાનનો પહેલો અશરો ખત્મ થયો છે અને હવે જે દિવસો બાકી છે તેમાં જેમણે હજુ આ અપીલમાં ભાગ લીધો નથી તેઓ પોતાની ઝકાત, લીલ્લાહ, સદકાહની રકમ એરિયાની મસ્જિદોમાં, અલ હિકમાહ સેન્ટરની ઓફિસે અથવા બેન્ક ટ્રાન્સફરથી પહોંચાડવાની કોશિશ કરે. ઉપરાંત રમજાન માસ દરમ્યાન દર શનિ-રવિવારે બપોરે ૨.૩૦ થી ૪.૦૦ વાગ્યા સુધી સોસાયટીના માણસો અલ-હિકમાહ સેન્ટર, બાટલી ખાતે બેસે છે ત્યાં પણ જઈ તમારી રકમ પહોંચાડી શકો છો.

બેન્ક ટ્રાન્સફરની વિગત:

Bank Name: Lloyds plc. Acc. Name: IMWS
Acc. No: 01333783 Sort code 30-90-57

અરબ દેશો હવે સંગઠિત થઈ રહ્યા છે

અરબ દેશો વિશે આપણે જાણીએ છીએ કે, જેમ જેમ તેમના શાસનકર્તાઓ (ફૂલરો) બદલાય રહ્યા છે તેમ તેમ તેમની નીતિઓ પણ બદલાય રહી છે. કેટલાક વર્ષો ઉપર સઉદી અરેબીયા સહિત અનેક અરબ દેશો અમેરિકા યુરોપ કે રશિયાના હાથની કઠપુતલીઓ બની રાજ કરતા હતા. પરંતુ હવે છેલ્લા ૩-૪ વર્ષથી જોઈએ તો સઉદી, યુએઈ, ઈરાક, કતર, બેહરીન વગેરે દેશોનો ઝુકાવ તુર્કી, ઈરાન, યમન તરફ વધતો જઈ રહ્યો છે. પોતાના વેપાર, બોર્ડર વગેરેના પ્રશ્નોનું નિરાકરણ આપસી વિચારથી ઉકેલી રહ્યા છે. અને તેમના સાથે દરેક મતભેદો આપસમાં ચર્ચાઓથી દૂર કરી રહ્યા છે. જે એક સહી કદમ કહી શકાય.

સઉદીના તુર્કી અને ઈરાન સાથેના સંબંધોથી આપણે વાકેફ છીએ. અને જોઈએ તો છેલ્લા ૨-૩ વર્ષમાં એમાં ઘણોજ બદલાવ જોવા મળી રહ્યો છે. તુર્કીના વડાપ્રધાન તૈય્યબ ઉર્દુગાને જ્યારથી તુર્કીમાં પદ સંભાળ્યું છે ત્યારથી યુરોપ અમેરિકા અને બીજા દેશો તેમના વિરૂધ્ધ થયા છે. આ દેશોને ખબર છે કે એમની સામે તેમની ગંદી રાજરમતો ચાલવાની નથી. ઉપરાંત સઉદી સાથેના

તેમના રાજકીય સંબંધો પણ સારા ન હતા. છતાં અર્દગાનના પ્રયત્નોથી હવે બદલાવ નજર આવે છે અને અરબના બીજા દેશોને પણ એનું ભાન થયું છે. જે યુનિટીની દિશામાં એક સાડ પગલું કહી શકાય.

હાલમાં સઉદી અરેબિયાએ તુર્કીની બેન્કમાં પાંચ અરબ ડોલર જમા કરાવવાનું વચન આપ્યું છે અને કતર તથા સઉદી અરેબિયા તુર્કીના ધરતીકંપમાં પૂરજોર મદદ કરી રહ્યા છે. વળી ૧૦મી માર્ચના ચીનમાં થયેલ સઉદી અને ઈરાનની એક બેઠકમાં પણ બન્ને દેશોએ પોતાના ઈખ્તેલાફો અને કડવા અનુભવોને સાઈંડ મૂકી પોતાના દેશોમાં જલ્દીથી એમ્બસી ખોલવાના ડોક્યુમેન્ટ ઉપર સહી કરી અનેક વેપારી કરાર કર્યા છે. આ બધું હવે અમેરિકા અને યુરોપના દેશોને ખુંચી રહ્યું છે. કારણ કે ભાગલા પડાવો અને રાજ કરોની તેમની નીતિ હવે કામ કરી રહી નથી.

અરબ દેશો પાસે એટલી સંપત્તિ અને ખનીજ ઉપરાંત તેલ છે કે તેઓ દુનિયામાં રાજ કરી શકે. જો આ દેશો સહી રસ્તા ઉપર આગળ વધે તો સમગ્ર અરબ દેશોને ફાયદો થશે.

શું ભારતની લોકશાહી ખતરામાં છે ?

ગયા મહિનામાં ભારત ખાતે બીજેપી સરકાર મારફત જે બનાવો બન્યા અને આ સરકારે જે પગલાં ભર્યા તે જોતાં હવે સ્પષ્ટ દેખાઈ રહ્યું છે કે, ભારતની લોકશાહી હવે ખતરામાં છે. આજ સુધી હિન્દુ મુસ્લિમ, જાતિવાદ, રાષ્ટ્રવાદ વગેરેના એજન્ડાથી ચૂંટણી લડાતી રહી હતી, તેને હવે ઓછું કરી વિપક્ષને નિશાના ઉપર લેવાના પ્રયત્નો તેઓ કરી રહ્યા છે.

આમ જોઈએ તો આ સરકારે કોંગ્રેસ સહિત અનેક બીજા રાજ્યોની પાર્ટીઓને ખતમ કરવાની કે તેમનું જોર ઓછું કરવાની યોજનાઓને આગળ વધારી રહી છે. લોકશાહીને સાઈંડ કરી ઈલેક્શન કમિશન, એન્ફોર્સમેન્ટ ડાયરેક્ટર (ઈડી), સીબીઆઈ વગેરે તટસ્થ સંસ્થાઓને પોતાના ઈશારે ચલાવી વિપક્ષ નેતાઓ અને વિપક્ષ પાર્ટીને ફંન્ડીંગ કરતા વેપારીઓને નિશાના ઉપર લઈ તેમની ફાઈલો બનાવવી. ઈન્કમેટેક્સ, એનફોર્સમેન્ટની રેડ અને સીબીઆઈના સર્કજાઓમાં ફસાવી ક્યાં તો તેમને ભાજપમાં જોડાઈ બધી તપાસોથી છૂટકારો અથવા તેમને જુદા જુદા કેસોમાં સંડોવી જેલમાં પૂરવાના અનેક બનાવો જોવા મળી રહ્યા છે.

આમાં હાલમાંજ દિલ્હીના ડેપ્યુટી મુખ્ય પ્રધાન અને આમ આદમી પાર્ટીના વડા મનીષ સિસોદીયાનો દાખલો આપણી સમક્ષ છે. એજ રીતે ઝારખંડ, બિહાર અને બીજા રાજ્યોમાં વિપક્ષના અનેક નેતાઓ, વિધાનસભ્યો અને આ પક્ષોને ડોનેશન આપનારાઓ અનેક વેપારીઓ ઉપર પણ આવીજ કામગીરી બીજેપી સરકાર તરફથી થઈ રહી છે. દક્ષિણ ભારતમાં જેમાં કેરલ તામિલનાડુ વગેરેનો સમાવેશ છે ત્યાં બીજેપીનું વધુ જોર નથી. પરંતુ ત્યાં પણ વાતાવરણ બગાડવાનું કામ તેમણે શરૂ કર્યું છે. જેમાં બિહાર અને તામિલનાડુના લોકોને ભડકાવવાનું અને રમખાણ ઊભા કરાવવાના બનાવો સામે આવ્યા છે. ઉપરાંત સંસદમાં કોંગ્રેસના વડા રાહુલ ગાંધીને પણ પોતાની વાતો રજૂ કરવામાં અનેક મુશ્કેલીઓનો સામનો કરવો પડી રહ્યો છે.

વિચાર વિનિમય

-અહમદ ગુલ

શરમજનક ઘટના

સોસાયટીની દુપમી વાર્ષિક સભા તારીખ ૨૫-૨-૨૩ના રોજ અત્યંત આનંદમય વાતાવરણમાં સંપન્ન થઈ. એના અહેવાલ રૂપે આપણે અહીં થોડીક ચર્ચા કરીશું.

સર્વ પ્રથમ તો મીટિંગમાં હાજર રહેલા તમામ સભ્યો અભિનંદનના હકદાર છે. તે એટલા માટે કે, એમણે ખૂબજ શિસ્તાચારપૂર્વક મીટિંગમાં ભાગ લીધો. સમાજદારીપૂર્વક સવાલો કર્યા અને કેટલાક સકારાત્મક સજેશનો પણ કર્યા. એ સભાજનોના કારણે જ મીટિંગ સમયસર શરૂ થઈ અને નક્કી કરેલા સમયે પૂરી થઈ. આ રહ્યું કોમ્યુનિટીનું એક ઉજ્જવળ અને સરાહનીય ચિત્ર. પણ હવે પછી જે બીજું ભયાવહ ચિત્ર રજૂ કરવાનો પ્રયત્ન કરું છું, તે દિલને આઘાત આપનારું છે. ખૂબ દુઃખી હૃદયે એ હકીકત રજૂ કરવાનો પ્રયાસ કરું છું.

હમણાં કેટલાક વર્ષોથી મીટિંગની શરૂઆત પહંલાં જમવાનું રાખવામાં આવે છે. આ વર્ષે પણ એજ પ્રમાણે બંદોબસ્ત કરવામાં આવ્યો હતો. અને જમવાના સમયે લગભગ ૧૩૫ થી ૧૩૮ જેટલા લોકો હાજર હતા. એમની સહીઓના આધારે કહી શકાય કે, મીટિંગ માટે જોઈતી કોરમ પૂરતી હતી. પરંતુ જ્યારે મીટિંગની શરૂઆત થઈ ત્યારે માત્ર ૮૦/૮૫ સભ્યો જ હાજર હતા. એનો અર્થ એ થયો કે, લગભગ ૫૦થી વધુ લોકો દાલચાવલ જમીને છટકી ગયા. મીટિંગમાં પાંચ મીનીટ બેસવાની પણ તસ્દી ન લીધી. કમાલના છે લોકો!

હવે સવાલ એ થાય કે, જે લોકો જમીને ભાગી ગયા, તેઓ આટલી કકડતી ઠંડીમાં માત્ર ખાવા માટે જ આવ્યા હતા? અને તે પણ દાલચાવલ માટે? આ દેશમાં આટલી બધી નેઅમતો હોવા છતાં કોઈ માણસ માત્ર દાલચાવલ ખાવા માટે પેટ્રોલ બાળીને આવી શકે? ગજબની માનસિકતા! અરે! ઈન્ડિયા જેવા ગરીબ દેશના ગરીબ લોકો પણ આટલી હદે નીચા ન ઉતરે.

સોસાયટીના સભ્યોની સંખ્યા ૨૬૫૦ જેટલી છે. અને તેમાંથી જો માત્ર ૮૦ સભ્યો હાજર રહે તો દર ૧૦૦ સભ્યે લગભગ ત્રણ સભ્ય હાજર રહ્યા એમ કહી શકાય અને ૮૭ માણસો ગેરહાજર! આપણે માનીયે કે, ૧૦૦૮૬ હાજરી કદી સંભવિત નથી પણ ૨૬૫૦માંથી ૨૦૦ની તો આશા રાખી શકાયને? એનાથી ઉલ્ટુ ૧૩૮ની હાજરીમાંથી પણ ૫૦થી વધુ ઘરે ભાગી જાય તો એથી વિશેષ બીજી કંઈ કમનસીબી હોય શકે? ખરેખર આ લખતાં દિલ દુઃખે છે.

આજે ચોતરફથી આપણા ઉપર, ઈસ્લામ ઉપર હુમલાઓ થઈ રહ્યા છે. એવા સંજોગોમાં આપણે એકત્ર અને સંગઠિત રહી એક સેન્ટ્રલ બોડીને મજબૂત કરવું અત્યંત જરૂરી થઈ ગયું છે. આ દેશ સર્વ રીતે એક સારો દેશ છે. અહીં બધાને સરખી તકો મળે છે.

અહીં ન્યાય છે. એટલે આપણે કોઈ પણ તકલીફ વિના જીવન પસાર કરી રહ્યા છે. પણ આવી વર્તણૂક આપણી ભાવિ પેઢી-ભાવિ નસલ માટે અત્યંત ખતરનાક સાબિત થઈ શકે.

પ્લીઝ ભાઈઓ! માત્ર દાલચાવલ માટે આવો અને મીટિંગમાં ભાગ ન લો એટલી હદે નીચા ન થાઓ અને આવતી ભાવિ પેઢી માટે એક અંધકારભર્યું ચિત્ર ઊભું ન કરો એજ નમ્ર વિનંતી!!

સદકએ ફીત્ર

-મહંમદ યુસુફ સુફી લાજપુરી, બાટલી.

સદકએ ફીત્ર વાજીબ થવાના હેતુ:

સદકએ ફીત્ર વાજીબ થવાના કારણો અને હેતુ અને મકસદ બે છે. તે પૈકી એક રોઝાની હાલતમાં જે કંઈ કમી કોતાહી, ગફલત અને બેદરકારી થઈ હોય તેની માફી થઈ જાય છે. અને નંબર બે ઉમ્મતના ગરીબો, મોહતાજો અને જરૂરતમંદોની મદદ થઈ જાય છે. કે જેથી એઓ પણ ઈદની ખુશીમાં ભાગીદાર થઈ જાય. ઈદ ખુશીના સાથે અદા કરી શકે.

સદકએ ફીત્રનો સમય:

સદકએ ફીત્ર રમઝાનુલ મુબારકમાં ઈદ પહેલા અદા કરી દેવું જોઈએ. અગર કોઈએ રમઝાનુલ મુબારકમાં સદકએ ફીત્ર અદા ન કર્યો હોય તો રમઝાન પછી પણ અદા કરી દીયે. ઈદ થઈ જવા પછી સદકએ ફીત્ર માફ થતો નથી. અદા કરવું જરૂરી છે. સદકએ ફીત્ર અદા કરવામાં વિલંબ (લેટ, તાખીર) કરવું મુનાસીબ નથી.

સદકએ ફીત્ર કોના ઉપર વાજીબ છે ?

જેના ઉપર ઝકાત ફરજ છે તેના ઉપર સદકએ ફીત્ર આપવું વાજીબ છે. અને એ ખાસ યાદ રાખવું જોઈએ કે, સદકએ ફીત્ર પોતાના નાબાલીગ બાળકો તરફથી પણ આપવું જરૂરી છે.

સદકએ ફીત્ર કોને આપવું જોઈએ ?

જે ઝકાતના હકદાર છે તેઓને સદકએ ફીત્ર આપવું જોઈએ. સદકએ ફીત્ર મસ્જિદ કે કબ્રસ્તાનના કામમાં આપી શકાય નહી. અને એહલે બેત, સાદાતને પણ સદકએ ફીત્ર આપી શકાતો નથી.

સદકએ ફીત્ર વિષે

સદકએ ફીત્ર વિષે એક અગત્યની વાત છે કે, જે દેશમાં તમે રહો છો ત્યાંના હિસાબે સદકએ ફીત્રની રકમ અદા કરવું જરૂરી છે.

આપ સૌ જાણો છો કે, આપણાં દેશમાં સદકએ ફીત્રની રકમ જે કાઢીએ છીએ તે ખાસ કરીને હકદારને પહોંચાડવા ગરીબ દેશોમાં વ્યવસ્થા કરવામાં આવે છે અને તે માટે દરેક ચેરિટી તે મુજબનું કામ કરે છે. આપણી ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી પણ દર વર્ષે કયા દેશમાં આ રકમ મોકલવી તે માટે હંમેશાં મથેરો કરે છે. જે મુજબ ચાલુ સાલે આ સદકતુલ ફીત્રની રકમ સોમાલીયા અને યમન (વધુ આગળના પાના ઉપર)

.કન્ટ્રીમાં ગરીબોને મોકલવામાં આવશે. ઉપરાંત સોસાયટી તરફથી એ પણ વ્યવસ્થા કરવામાં આવે છે કે તે રકમ ઈદના દિવસે ઉપરોક્ત દેશોમાં પહોંચાડવામાં આવે. તો આ બાબતે ધ્યાન આપી તમારી ફીટાની રકમ અલ હિકમાહ સેન્ટરની ઓફિસે, અથવા એરિયાની મસ્જિદોમાં પહોંચાડવાની કોશિશ કરશો.

ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી, બાટલીની દુપમી જનરલ મિટીંગ

શનિવાર તારીખ ૨૫મી ફેબ્રુઆરી ૨૦૨૩ના ઈન્ડિયન મુસ્લિમ વેલ્ફેર સોસાયટી, બાટલીની દુપમી જનરલ મિટીંગ અલ-હિકમાહ સેન્ટર, બાટલી ખાતે મળી હતી. ખાણીપીણી અને ઈશાની નમાઝ બાદ મિટીંગની શરૂઆત થઈ હતી. સંસ્થાના ચેરમેન રફીક ડભાડે મિટીંગમા હાજર રહેવા બદલ સભ્યોનો આભાર માની પોતાના વ્યક્તવ્યમાં વર્ષ દરમિયાન થયેલ કામકાજની વિગત જણાવી હતી. તેમણે કહ્યું હતું કે મોડર્ન ટેકનોલોજી, બદલતા કાનૂનો અને દેશની સામાજિક અને આર્થિક હાલત સાથે કામ કરવા ઉપરાંત પબ્લીક અને પ્રાઈવેટ ઓર્ગેનાઈઝેશનોની રોજબરોજની બદલતી કામગીરી, અને પશ્ચિતઓ સાથે મળી સોસાયટીએ પણ તેના અનુરૂપ થવું પડે છે. પરિણામે ઘણી મુશ્કેલીઓનો સામનો કરવો પડે છે.

ઉપરાંત સોસાયટીની સ્થાપનાથી જે વડીલો હતા તેમાના ઘણાંનો ઈન્તેકાલ થયો છે અને બાકીનાઓ તેમની ઉંમરના કારણે લાચારી અનુભવે છે. એટલે આપણાં નવયુવાનોએ આગળ આવી સોસાયટી અને બીજી આપણી સંસ્થાઓના કામોમાં રસ દાખવવો પડશે. પરંતુ યુવાનો રસ દાખવતા નથી તેની સીધી અસર ઘણી પ્રવૃત્તિઓ ઉપર પડે છે. પયગામ પબ્લીકેશન ૩૦ વર્ષ પૂરા કરી રહ્યું છે અને આજે પણ તેનું નિયમિત પ્રકાશન થઈ રહ્યું છે. તેની વિગત જણાવી પેપર મોટી ખોટ કરી રહ્યું છે તે માટે આગળ કંઈક પ્લાન બનાવવા ઉપર ભાર મૂક્યો હતો.

આ વર્ષ દરમિયાન આપણાં આગળ પડતા કાર્યકર ડો. ઈમ્તિયાઝ પટેલ અને ઈસ્માઈલભાઈ એમ. દાજીના ઈન્તેકાલથી સંસ્થાને મોટી ખોટ પડી છે. તેમના માટે દુઆ કરવામાં આવી હતી. ગયા વર્ષની જનરલ મીટિંગની મિનિટ્સ અને તેની બહાલી, વર્ષના ઓડિટેડ હિસાબની રજુઆત પછી ડો. ઈમ્તિયાઝને તેમની કોમ્યુનિટી ખીદમત માટે મરણાંત એવોર્ડ અને સોસાયટીમાં ૨૦વર્ષ સુધી કમિટીમાં રહી ખીદમત માટે મહંમદ મુલ્લાને એવોર્ડ આપવામાં આવ્યા. ડો. ઈમ્તિયાઝ પટેલ અંગે અઝીઝ દાજી અને મહંમદ મુલ્લાની કામગીરી અંગે અહમદ ગુલે તેમની કામ કરવાની પશ્ચિત અને સોસાયટીમાં તેમનું યોગદાન વગેરે ઉપર વાતો કરી હતી. એવોર્ડનો સ્વીકાર કરતા ડો. ઈમ્તિયાઝના દીકરા ઈસ્માઈલ પટેલે તેમના વાલિદની ફેમિલી સાથેના સંબંધો અને તેમની જીવન પશ્ચિત અંગે કેટલીક વાતો કરી હતી તો મહંમદ મુલ્લાએ એવોર્ડ સ્વીકારતા તેમના સોસાયટી સાથેના સંબંધો અને પોતાની ધંધાકીય જવાબદારી સાથે સંસ્થાની ખીદમત કેવી રીતે કરી રહ્યા છે તે અંગે વાતો કરી હતી.

અન્ય મુદ્દા ઉપર ચર્ચા કરી સભ્યો તરફથી કરવામાં આવેલ સજેશનો તરફ ધ્યાન આપવાની બાંહેધરીની સાથે તેમના તરફથી પૂછવામાં આવેલ સવાલોના સંતોષકારક જવાબો ચેરમેન સાહેબે આપ્યા હતા. ત્યારપછી ખાલી પડેલ ઈલેક્ટેક મેમ્બર(ટ્રસ્ટીઓ)ની નીમણૂક કરવામાં આવી હતી જેમાં નીચે મુજબના ટ્રસ્ટીઓની પસંદગી કરવામાં આવી હતી.

૧. મહંમદ મુલ્લા ૨. અહમદ લુણત (ગુલ) ૩. ઈસ્માઈલ ઈબ્રાહીમ પટેલ ૪. માસુમભાઈ કરોલીયા ૫. હનિફ મમણીયાત ૬. ઈસ્માઈલ ઈમ્તિયાઝ પટેલ

ચેરમેન તરીકે ફરીથી રફીક ડભાડની પસંદગી કરવામાં આવી હતી. ચેરમેન સાહેબે વર્ષ દરમિયાન મદદ કરનાર સ્ટાફ સભ્યો, ઈલેક્ટેડ મેમ્બર્સ (ટ્રસ્ટીઓ), પ્રોપર્ટી ટ્રસ્ટીઓ, એરિયા કમિટીઓ, ચેરમેનો, ઉલ્માઓ અને દરેક સભ્યોનો આભાર માન્યો હતો. સભ્યોમાંથી સોસાયટીની કામગીરીને બિરદાવી કમિટી સભ્યોનો વર્ષ દરમિયાન ખીદમત માટે આભાર માનવામાં આવ્યો હતો. મીટિંગનું સંચાલન ખૂબજ સારી રીતે કરવા અને સમયસર મીટિંગ પૂરી કરવા માટે ચેરમેન સાહેબને મુબારકબાદી આપવામાં આવી હતી. દુવા બાદ મીટિંગ પૂરી થઈ હતી.

ઈલેક્ટેડ ટ્રસ્ટીની મળેલ મીટિંગમાં નીચે મુજબના બાકી હોધેદારોની પસંદગી કરવામાં આવી હતી. તથા સબ કમિટીઓના ચેરમેનોની પણ પસંદગી કરવામાં આવી હતી.

ચેરમેન: રફીક ડભાડ

વાઈસ ચેરમેન: મહંમદ મુલ્લા

સેક્રેટરી: હાફેઝ ઈસ્માઈલ સુલેમાન

આસિ. સેક્રેટરી: હુસેન ધર્મા

ટ્રેઝરર: ઈસ્માઈલ ઈ. પટેલ

આસિ ટ્રેઝરર: ઈન્તેખાબ પટેલ

સબ કમિટીઓના ચેરમેન:

અલ હિકમાહ: મહંમદ મુલ્લા ચેરિટી: માસૂમ કરોલીયા


યુથ કમિટી: હુસૈન ધર્મા પયગામ: અઝીઝ દાજી

કોમ્યુનિટી એફેર્સ: અહમદ લુણત (ગુલ)

બરિયલ: અઝીઝ દાજી

હળવી પળોમાં....


- ♦ સારા સમયની સાથે રહેવા કરતા, સારી વ્યક્તિ સાથે રહેવું પસંદ કરવું. કારણ કે, સારો સમય સારી વ્યક્તિ નહીં આપે પરંતુ સારો વ્યક્તિ સારો સમય જરૂર આપશે.
- ♦ સુખી જીવન જીવવા માટે સાફ ઘર નહીં પણ ઘરનો માહોલ સારો હોવો જોઈએ.
- ♦ શ્વાસ જો શરીરને ટકાવે છે, તો વિશ્વાસ સંબંધને ટકાવે છે.



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