

# Paigaam

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Issue 380 November 2024 Rabi Al Akhir/Jumada Al Awwal 1446

## Has Kirklees Council reneged on a promise to allocate £500k for Dewsbury Cemetery?

Campaigners have raised concerns after Kirklees Council's cabinet has seemingly renegeed on a promise to approve £500,000 for the development of an additional multi faith burial area in Dewsbury.

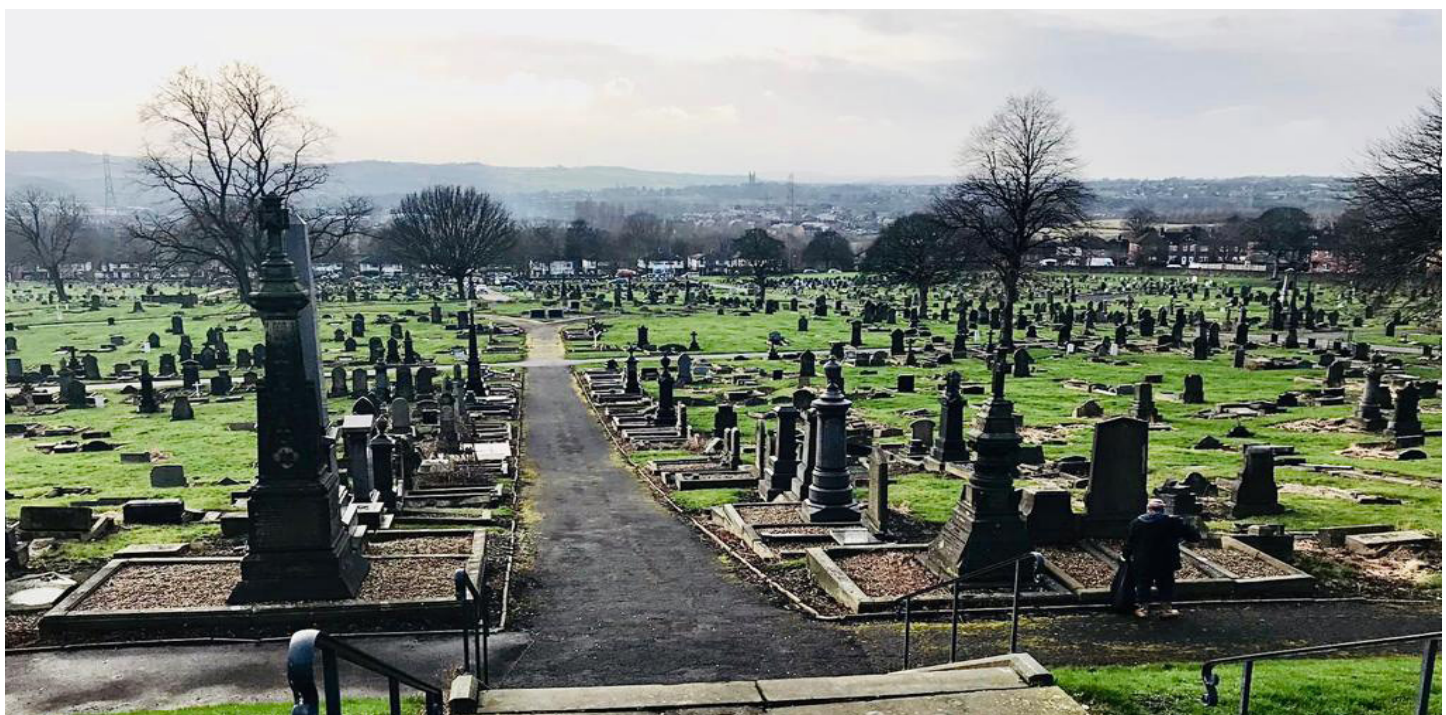
Campaigners at the Dewsbury cemetery action group, which consists of Imam's, vicars, funeral directors and a plethora of professionals had initially raised concerns that Dewsbury cemetery was running out

of space. After much lobbying, the council agreed to provide a new burial area which would "bring certainty to all communities that there is provision for loved ones", after compelling evidence showcasing space at Dewsbury Cemetery - which is used by all faiths within the community - would no longer have any burial space left.

The council identified two potentially suitable sites. Further investigation was set to take place in order to ultimately

determine suitability. The burial space was set to open in 2025, when it is envisaged, existing land will no longer be available.

The council released a statement which read: "The council's bereavement services are continually developing capacity and services to residents from all faiths and no faith, and we will continue to work with the multi-faith Bereavement Forum on our long-term planning.





# Concerns about burial space in Dewsbury Cemetery



“The construction of a new burial ground is needed to ensure the council is able to continue to provide and meet burial needs within the Dewsbury area for its residents and communities for years to come.

“The additional spaces will bring certainty to all communities that there is provision for loved ones, and a facility that respects cultural and religious values and requirements.”

However, Mohammed Javed, chair of Dewsbury Cemetery Action Group, lambasted the Council for “wavering on their £500k commitment,” whilst insisting the Council is devoid of any strategy and commitment.

He said: “We’re back where we started with multi faith burial land in Dewsbury. The new Council leader and the council as a whole are wavering on their £500k commitment to Dewsbury burial land and looking to siphon it off for Huddersfield and other areas, Dewsbury once again is on the verge of losing out.

“The multi faith communities are once

again left in the air with no clear plan for the residents of Dewsbury, but this will have a knock on effect on Batley and Heckmondwike residents to.”

Mr Javed alluded to a recent cabinet exchange, where the leader, Councillor Carole Pattison refused to commit to committing the money for the burial site.

“As can be seen by the recent cabinet exchange the leader (Councillor Pattison) is non committal to the previous £500k allocated to Dewsbury.

“The communities have had enough and currently there is a petition circulating to bring this to a full debate at the cabinet meeting the public cannot longer be fooled as the 2026 council elections are not too far away and the local residents are not likely to forget the stance on a number of issue that the residents of Dewsbury have come off the worst, it appears we are the poor relations of Kirklees.

“The portfolio for the cemeteries sits with the leader herself but she was not able to attend a meeting on the 12th of September but conveyed the message

through the officers she will come to the next one in February 2025 whereby we can ask some question’s.

“This just shows us as to how serious she take it another 6 months before a question can be asked by the forum whilst the multi faith land is being depleted one can assume by their actions that they have no intentions of locating land in Dewsbury.”

Mr Javed said the Council had advised DCAG Dewsbury cemetery action group to find out if the community can donate land or advise in relation to where suitable land is located.

“They should know where their own land is and what they can and can’t do. We feel they are not putting themselves out to find some land.

“It’s a none starter, they’ve thrown the towel in when you start asking people to see if they can locate any land or donate land for burial that’s when you know it’s over maybe the council should get a go fund me page going or get their staff to busk in the streets.



“If this is the answer to finding land in Dewsbury where there is a will, there is a way, but when you know that you start on a negative and back foot you already know their minds are made up. You don’t need to be a rocket scientist.

“Because they can’t find land in Dewsbury – they are going to find land elsewhere. The land in Dewsbury will run out in 12 months, whilst the new leader says the £500k will be utilised in Huddersfield and other area’s instead.

“Why is it being siphoned elsewhere? This will have a disastrous knock on effect for people in Heckmondwike, Batley and Dewsbury. It is unfair to the residents in those particular areas.

The death rate in Batley has increased and there is already pressure there. Why would you add Dewsbury to Batley?

“If we don’t resolve it – we will have 3 problems. First they said they had the money, now it’s all about finding space for North Kirklees. Huddersfield is 7 years from running out of burial land.

“Heckmondwike is out of the vicinity, so

they have also suggested Cleckheaton even though they are not going to get a budget till 2026. Then there is no guarantee that the money will be provided?”

Mr Javed said a number of independent councillors are on board with the cause which wasn’t the case previously.

“The local independent councillors have given us their support from the very beginning and we look forward to working with them and others in order to bring this matter to a conclusion.

“One would hope all parties and councillors will come onboard and provide the support needed for the multi faith communities.”

Mr Javed insists the new rules surrounding burial makes the entire situation even more grave. He said: “We will need to bury people out of hours and that land needs to be addressed as it is now critical due to the new medical examiner rules which will make things even more difficult for a number of reasons.”

A petition has been circulated within the local Masjids. 3,000 votes are required to

force a debate and put it to a vote in the cabinet.

When contacted by Paigaam, a spokesperson for Kirklees Council said: “Kirklees Council works alongside the multi-faith Bereavement Forum to engage all communities in planning future provision of this important service.

“In last year’s budget, the council allocated £500,000 to help us increase our burial capacity in North Kirklees. This funding continues to be available.

“Identifying new space for burials is a complex and sensitive task. Council officers are assessing options for the future to make sure new capacity meets strict environmental standards and is appropriate for communities in Kirklees.

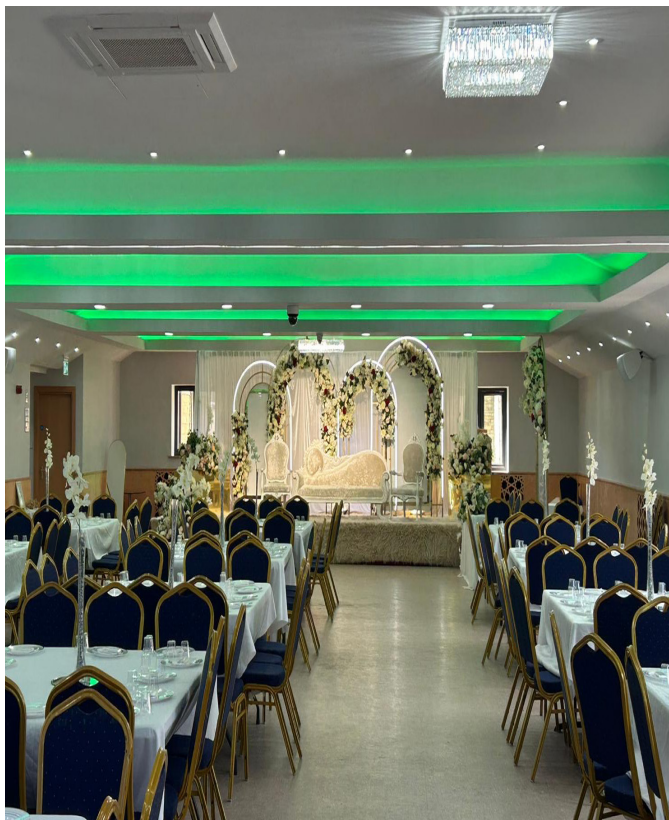
“We are confident that we have burial capacity to meet the needs of all Kirklees communities while work continues to identify extra space that will be needed in the long term.

“We will engage with the Bereavement Forum and the wider community as we bring forward proposals.”





# IMWS Banqueting Suite: Celebrate with glamour and panache



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# IMWS Banqueting Suite: Create a unique space with a contemporary feel

One of the area's most popular wedding venues has undergone a stylish refurbishment.

The IMWS wedding hall was officially unveiled to the public on the 26th of May as the centre hosted a Mega Wedding Fair – allowing people from the vicinity and as far as London to take a look at the elegant new banqueting suite.

IMWS Centre Manager, Nadeem Raja outlined her vision for the space.

He said: "As guests walk into the venue, they will be met with a new banqueting suite. We set out to create something unique as opposed to a stereotypical caricature.

"It is possible to capture subtle influences and recreate a resonant design with a contemporary feel.

"We enlisted the designers to create a space that celebrates the exuberance

of passion, a place of opulent beauty tempered by an aura of contemplation and reflection that personifies what a wedding should be about.

"The strong use of rich and multi-layered geometric patterns exemplify this look. The room exudes the hallmarks of calm elegance and a visual historic journey.

"The decorative potential of light and shadow is vital - distilling the boldness of vibrant colours in an expression of nuance, hue and pigment variation, meaning wedding guests will be comfortable and relaxed."

Mr Raja said, In a post-Covid world, the centre has seen a demand for weddings, conferences and corporate events increase.

The spaces offer flexibility for intimate meetings, or larger events that require flexibility, exclusivity, and a change from the norm.

"The wedding hall has been completely transformed into a much more contemporary and glamorous look and feel - creating a beautiful backdrop, the whole area has a cosy, warm feeling."

The entire hall has been refurbished with a beautiful light textured style which will feel brighter and will have a more neutral backdrop, allowing couples to bring their own style to the room even more.

It's a neutral and muted palate that lends itself well to all sorts of themes and styles.

"The beautiful new soft lights add a touch of glamour in a way that's perfectly balanced against the natural feel and neutral tones.

"We're so excited by this investment and redevelopment as it will give a cohesive connection to the rest of our centre. It's a very exciting time for IMWS."





# 'I was dragged to court over a satirical placard'

Maricha Husain, a teacher who was cleared of a racially aggravated public order offence after she carried a placard depicting Rishi Sunak and Suella Braverman as coconuts has lambasted the police for taking the case to court, despite the advice of experts, who outlined why the case should not have gone to court.

"Professor Kehinde Andrews wrote a lengthy e-mail to the police, detailing why the term coconut is not a racial slur and they should drop it immediately," Mrs Hussain told Paigaam in an exclusive interview.

"However, they did not take heed of his advice along with that of many experts and they kept on pursuing the case. Why were the police working with Harry's place, a secretive Zionist twitter page and political blog based in Washington?"

"How was the CPS lobbied into taking the case to trial despite being advise otherwise by experts?"

Maricha insists the case has highlighted how the police have demonised pro Palestinian protestors with "two tier policing" methods. She said: "I think the case was about demonising pro Palestinian protestors. They wanted to demonise the movement and Intimidate people as they don't have control of the narrative. I was dragged to court within ten months over a satirical placard. However, a Reform candidate called Sunak a f\*\*\*\*\*g paki. Suella Braverman said Pakistani men are guilty of being part child grooming gangs own party, when her own said it's untrue. Danny Baker posted a picture of a monkey when Prince Archie was born.

"Benjamin Zepaniyah's poem, Coconut is taught in schools. Romesh Raganathan constantly uses the term coconut on TV. They didn't care about the placard. They

were cherry picking every slightest thing they could. The word Coconut is fine, as long as they are making money from it. The CPS dragged the case to court and presented no evidence. They were unable to secure an expert in racial matters to back up their so called evidence and were rebuffed by every expert they spoke to."

Maricha is of the opinion that the Police did not take any lessons from the entire episode and that they were happy for her and her family to fall prey to threats of violence and intimidation. "She said:

"They had nothing. Nobody was in danger, the only person who was in danger of being harmed was me and my family, along with others. After the Sarah Everard case, it is evident the police have learnt nothing.

"They were looking for me and found me. They subjected me to a horrendous interview where a silly detective, who was being irate and hostile, mocked me, belittled me and asked me silly questions. The media were harassing me; they even printed my dad's picture. He is a doctor and he got abusive and nasty e-mails."

Maricha also lambasted the Police for 'harrassing her at 2:30 in the morning. She said: "After we got back from the police interview, we left kids with my mother in law and went to bed exhausted. We have got the entire episode it on ring camera. My Lawyers have asked for an explanation, but the police never responded. We cannot get away from the recent analysis which showcases that people don't trust mainstream news.

"This trust has declined further when it comes to Palestine. They are losing control and using desperate tactics. However, the younger generation don't care about losing their jobs, name, image, promotion

or job. They just don't care because they've had enough."

The mother of three described how her trial has had an immense impact on her life. She said that although she lost her job, had to move home and was advised to remove her son from school, she will still continue to call out genocide enablers.

"I would say that although it seems like I've lost my job, image, reputation and been acquitted, actually I've been liberated. I can call out genocide enablers within the government whenever, I like, wherever there is an oppressed group of people, this is a small price to pay. We must continue to call out genocide enablers. I knew I was being tried and I was not affected mentally. I've been given the support Both financially and mentally. There was no way I could hide in the shadows, we must keep protesting, lobbying for divestment and boycotting."

Maricha who has since filed a serious complaint with the IOPC solicitors would like to move on from the entire episode. Articulate and intelligent, she is asked if a career in Journalism beckons. Such is her passion for social justice: "It would take a very brave organisation to work with me. Journalism could be an option, but for now, I am looking at spending time with my family."





EDITORIAL

# Israel's war on children is barbaric

Hafez Sha'ban al-Dalou, a 19-year-old student from Gaza began studying at the Al-Azhar University two months before it was destroyed by a US-made bomb dropped by the Israeli army.

Sha'ban, the eldest of five siblings posted videos to social media, describing how his family – which he took care of – was displaced five times, whilst asking for financial support so he and his family could all flee to Egypt.

On 6 October, another US-supplied bomb blew up a Masjid, killing 20 people and burying Sha'ban beneath the rubble. However, he survived after being dug out and was taken to the al-Aqsa hospital for his injuries. There he built a tent for his family.

However, the Israeli army dropped another US-made bomb on a number of tents, including Sha'ban's. Onlookers held back his 16-year-old brother as he watched Sha'ban, still attached to an IV, and his mother, aged 38, being burnt alive.

Hours later, 500 Jews and friends shut down the New York Stock Exchange, the epicenter of global capital, demanding the US stop arming Israel and stop profiting from genocide.

In horror and agony over the US-funded slaughter of Palestinians, and this most recent news of Sha'ban's murder, they shouted "stop arming Israel, let Gaza

live," as police arrested over 200 people, dragging elders and descendants of Holocaust survivors out by their arms and legs.

Day after day over the past year we have witnessed the Israeli military commit heinous crimes, bombing hospitals and Masjids, slaughtering more children than any other war in recent years. The commissioner for the UN Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa) has called it "a war on children".

Although the world is crying out for the horrors to stop, Joe Biden and the US Congress continue to send weapons and money, totaling in excess of \$18bn since last October. Everyone has the same question: why is the US – and a Democratic administration at that, which is trying to win an election – still arming Israel when it's carrying out what the international court of justice (ICJ) has deemed plausible genocide, while violating the US's own laws?

The Biden administration wants you to believe that the reason they are funding the Israeli military is out of a commitment to Jewish safety. This is the moral cover they use, a cloak for their collaboration in heinous war crimes.

Over the past year of Israel's relentless bombing that has killed at least 46,000 Palestinians, including at least 16,500 children, with the true death toll probably

much higher, the stock prices of leading US weapons manufacturers have been soaring.

Their bottom line is boosted by the fact that the only condition placed by the US government on its \$18bn slush fund for the Israeli military, is not on how those bombs may be used, but instead on how they must be bought.

Meanwhile, at least 50 members of Congress or their spouses are owners of their stock. While they should be voting based on the will of their constituents, they have profits to gain from voting to send billions of dollars in military funding to Israel while it carries out a genocide.

Hafez Sha'ban would have turned 20 last month. In one of the most urgent tasks of our lifetimes – stopping our governments from continuing to arm Israel – we all have a role to play. May the Almighty mace mercy on Hafez Sha'ban and all the victims of the war.

**“Sha'ban, still attached to an IV Drip, and his mother, aged 38, were burnt alive.”**



# 46,000 Businesses Have Closed in Israel since the war began

Experts have warned that a two-pronged downgrade of Israel credit rating may not be the last, as the war in Gaza and Lebanon reflects uncertainty over Israel's economic status, which is said to be prone to yet more harm.

From April to June alone, Israel's economy was been subjected to its biggest ever slowdown. It was anticipated, Israeli GDP would grow 3% in 2024. However, The Bank of Israel has amended this to 1.5% – assuming the war ends this year.

This led to a surprise move by the Moody's credit agency to lower Israel's credit rating to "Baar" from "A2", showcasing why trust in an economy once thought of as an entrepreneurial juggernaut has been compromised on an international level. Fitch has also downgraded Israel's rating from A-plus to, following a similar downgrade by S&P. Bearing this in mind, the cost of borrowing could rise significantly.

"The conflict in Gaza could last well into 2025," Fitch cautioned in its rating note, showcasing the possibility of "significant additional military spending, destruction of infrastructure and sustained damage to economic activity and investment."

The vicious nature of the war coupled with the threat of further escalation with Iran has decimated the tourism industry. Israeli business information company

Coface BDI reports that some 46,000 businesses have closed since the start of the war – 75% of them small businesses.

Israeli tour guide Daniel Jacob returned to run his business of twenty years in April after serving six months as a reserve soldier.

However, he came back to a beleaguered business and is surviving on savings. He said: "We need to finish the war before this year's end. If it's another half a year, I don't know how long we're going to make it. The hardest thing is that we don't know when the war will end."

Economist Yacov Sheinin, who has advising Israeli Prime Ministers and government departments believes the total cost of the war could amount to \$120 billion, or 20% of the country's gross domestic output whilst the Finance Ministry said Israel's deficit over the last 12 months has risen to over 8% of GDP, far exceeding the 6.6% deficit-to-GDP ratio the ministry projected for 2024. In 2023, Israel's budget deficit was roughly 4% of its GDP.

The downgrades and deficits has ramped up pressure on the Israeli government to end the war and reduce the deficit – thus ensuring unpopular decisions such as raising taxes or cutting spending would need to be made. However, Benjamin Netanyahu is intent on keeping his

coalition afloat, and his extreme finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, insisting the war will continue until Hamas is defeated. Smotrich insists Israel's economy "is strong" and vowed to pass a "responsible budget that will continue to support all the needs of the war, while maintaining fiscal frameworks and promoting growth engines."

Karnit Flug, Israel's former central bank chief believes the current state of affairs is untenable. He advised the government to cut back on spending.

He said: "The economy right now is under huge uncertainty, and it's related to the security situation – how long the war will go on, what the intensity will be and the question of whether there will be further escalation," he said

"The public will have hard time accepting it if the government does not show that the severity of the situation forces them to give up some of the things that are dear to them," Flug added.

The Bank of Israel has estimated that the cost of the war would total 250 billion shekels (\$66 billion) through to the end of next year, including military outlays and civilian expenses, such as on housing for thousands of Israelis forced to flee their homes in the north and south. That is equivalent to roughly 12% of Israel's GDP.

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Published by IMWS  
**Paigaam Publications**

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# Why has Batley been neglected?

Following the staggering £40m overspend by the Council last year, Kirklees Council has initiated the process of making massive cuts that invariably affect residents across a plethora of aspects of life.

The council has already shut down Batley baths whilst there are plans to move the Batley library from its historical building to a number of underwhelming rooms in Batley Town Hall.

Local residents are furious about this – hence the Friends of Batley Library has been actively campaigning against this move.

Dewsbury Sports Centre has been closed for some time. Although the Council is planning to close the Centre permanently, a strong group is campaigning to keep the Sports Hall open.

The Council is also planning to transfer two residential homes for people with dementia to private ownership. This is also being contested by hard working campaigners.

Kirklees has also decided to impose charges for car parks in Batley and Dewsbury. Residents and businesses are very unhappy about this. Therefore, car parks including Batley's Field Lane, Henrietta Street, Market Place, New Way, Station Road, and Wards Hill will be subject to the new charges.

Batley has undergone a regeneration thanks to Asian businesses who have brought a great deal of prestige to the town. The Council tip in Birstall is also due for closure. Therefore, residents will have to go all the way to Dewsbury. This will not help with recycling and preventing more fly tipping.

On top of this there has been a reduction in services with residents in Batley complaining that Batley has been neglected to the extent that grass, bushes and general maintenance and cleanliness of streets has

become a big problem for residents.

As an Independent Councillor for Batley East, I am appalled at the sheer neglect and deprivation in Batley.

Residents have been contacting me with issues such as grass and overgrown bushes not being maintained and streets not being swept in months. Residents are absolutely fed up by the lack of services. This has led to residents living in the Frederick Walker Gardens/Taylor Steer areas to launch a petition.

I am very concerned when I walk round my patch and see all the neglect and deprivation. I don't see any real plans from the Council to bring about improvements in the area.

Only some decades ago, Batley Town Centre boasted a Police Station, Library, fully operational Town Hall, Post Office, bustling outdoor market, Memorial gardens, a college for further education and so much more.

One would have expected the town to have improved significantly, especially with the increased footfall, due to the number of gastronomic delights that Batley now boasts. Perhaps highlighting and improving transport services to and from Batley would have a tremendous impact on the lives of people living, working or visiting the town.

Looking beyond the inner circle, we needed revolutionary/visionary improvements including housing stock and quality; parking issues and playgrounds; and even basic signage pointing to landmarks.

The almost complete lack of capital investment in the area is depressing and embarrassing (City Challenge exception).

The disparity between the support provided to Batley and other hubs both in and outside of Kirklees is remarkable and continued. The Dewsbury Town

Centre and the £250M regeneration of Huddersfield Market highlights the fact that Batley has not been taken seriously.

Batley has immense potential and the Council needs to take heed of this. On a positive note, I recently facilitated a consultation with parents and residents on site at Beaumont St Play area with the Council officer. I am very pleased to say around 30 people turned up and gave the officer very good feedback to feed into the consultation currently being carried out by the Council.

The Council proposal for this park is to do a quick refurbishment. However, the parents very strongly pointed out that the park is not fit for purpose and needs an extensive improvement and better play equipment for children.

The parents also pointed out the anti social behaviour in this play area which prevents children from using this park.

I will be working with the officers and parents and residents to progress the improvements.

I am very grateful to all the parents and residents who attended this consultation and would also like to thank the officer for positively listening to the views expressed.

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# West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership Faith & Belief Toolkit

The West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership is dedicated to reducing serious violence by bringing together key partners, including police, local government, education, health and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations, across West Yorkshire.

Taking a public health approach means we seek to understand the common risk factors driving violence and the protective factors preventing violence.

Through our work we actively engage with communities across West Yorkshire to respond to their needs and concerns.

Inspired by the faith trail in Bradford City Centre, in February over 100 representatives from faith communities joined our multi-faith event, collaborating to develop a co-ordinated response to serious violence. Faith communities can and do play a key role in preventing serious violence as they are uniquely placed to reach and connect with individuals across our region.

Following the success of this event, we want to move forward and work with faith and belief communities to create a Faith & Belief Toolkit for reducing serious violence.

This toolkit will be built upon a

sustainable, multi-agency, community-led group of faith and belief members to harness and maximise the powerful position faith communities occupy to prevent and reduce violence.

We have convened a working group of influential and dedicated individuals from a range of faith and belief backgrounds who are leading consultations with different groups to understand what communities want from this toolkit.

The toolkit will examine a number of different topics relating to faith and belief including education, youth spaces, and tackling exploitation.

Faith communities across the region are already doing amazing work which all contributes to the goal of reducing serious violence, even if this is not their explicit intention.

Running a foodbank, hosting a youth club, or providing a warm space all contributes to making people feel safe and included in their community, offering them somewhere to belong.

The toolkit will bring together examples from across West Yorkshire to showcase best practice.

We know that individuals working within their communities are best placed

to educate us on the issues faced as well as share the initiatives and best practice already taking place so we can actively celebrate this work.

If you are interested in being involved or hearing more about this work, please get in touch with:

[Lydia.isherwood@westyorks-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Lydia.isherwood@westyorks-ca.gov.uk)





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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Terminally ill Adults (End of Life)

In recent days the media has been providing coverage of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life Bill) proposed by the former MP for Batley and Spen Ms Kim Leadbeater.

The main idea behind introducing this bill is to allow terminally ill individuals to end their lives who are sound of mind.

This is all and well but one must ask the question that since why is parliament solely being asked to debate a highly important yet contentious matter?

One must also ask why have faith representatives and medical professionals been excluded from this debate?

Why has no wider nationwide consultation been put in place by the current and indeed by the previous government to discuss such an important matter that will affect many people around the country in the coming years.

The proposed bill is highly contentious, and one might add dangerous in that it

potentially puts vulnerable people under huge pressure to end their lives.

We also have to understand that most people whether they are sound of mind or not struggle to comprehend basic information such as terms and conditions in a contract and this raises the question that as people struggle with the above then are they really capable making such a massive decision on ending their own lives?.

One must concur with the arguments made by the Archbishop of Canterbury Rev Justin Welby that the bill indeed in its current form sets up a dangerous precedent for all of us that we may all live to regret going forward.

We should remember that many of the laws that have stood the test of time have been inspired by divinely ordained religious texts have outlined key principles surrounding the sanctity of life and provided comprehensive answers to questions such as how to deal with a patient who is nearing the end of life.

The danger with this bill which could become law in the next year is that the law around assisted dying may mean people fall through the net going forward.

Some groups may make more demands that the law should be amended going forward to allow anyone to end their lives irrespective of whether they are terminally ill or not.

It should be said that this bill creates a slippery slope, and we could end up having laws with unintended consequences something which led to the creation of Frankenstein's monster one might add.

There is also the old saying that the road to hell was paved with good intentions. Ms Leadbeater may have perfectly good intentions, but can she predict the future in terms of where her proposal may end up potentially harming more people than assisting them in the grand scheme of things.

**Name and address supplied.**

# Journalists are speaking out against media bias on Palestine

More than 50 journalists have sent an open letter calling on Israel and Egypt to provide "free and unfettered access to Gaza for all foreign media".

The letter is signed by correspondents and presenters for broadcasters with UK bases, including the BBC's Jeremy Bowen, Lyse Doucet and Mishal Husain. It says the need for comprehensive on-the-ground reporting is "imperative".

Palestinian journalists and media workers have reported from inside Gaza since the

start of the war between Israel and Hamas in October, but dozens have been killed, injured or gone missing.

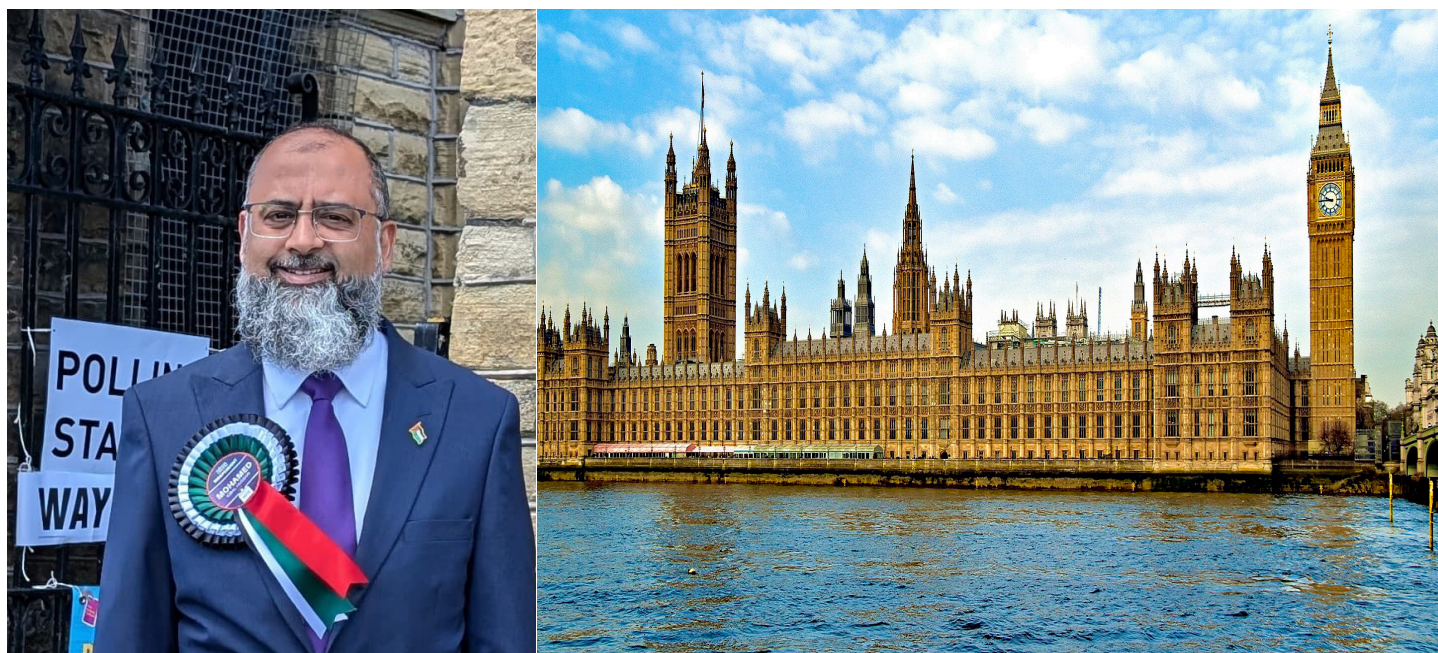
In the letter, the 55 journalists write that "foreign reporters are still being denied access to the territory, outside of the rare and escorted trips with the Israeli military". Only one foreign journalist has been granted entry into Gaza through Egypt on an escorted visit. CNN's Clarissa Ward - who is among the signatories of the letter - was able to spend only a few hours on the ground in the southern border

city of Rafah with an Emirati medical team in December. The letter calls on Israel's government to "openly state its permission for international journalists to operate in Gaza".

It also asks Egyptian authorities to allow foreign press access to the Rafah crossing between Egypt and Gaza. If they have nothing to hide, why are Journalists not allowed in?

**Name and address supplied.**

# Iqbal Mohamed MP Column



Welcome to my monthly column. I'd like to extend my thanks to Paigaam for giving me this platform to reach out to you directly.

I hope to use it to describe my life as an MP and to keep you up to date with the work I am doing for constituents and communities.

It goes without saying I am honoured to represent you as your Independent Member of Parliament for Dewsbury and Batley.

This is all the more remarkable as I am the first independent MP in Yorkshire in 107 years and only the second MP born in the constituency itself.

This historic win is a testament to the people's desire to reclaim their democracy. This victory belongs not just to me, but to every resident who believed in the power of an independent voice.

Since my election, it has been a whirlwind and it seems only moments ago that I was delivering my victory speech.

I have just this week delivered my Maiden Speech in Parliament and I would urge you to find it on my social media channels (@iqbalmohamedmp). I have now settled into my new life with a Westminster office and the constituency office all set up and

**12 Paigaam November 2024**

welcomed many residents who have asked for support.

I'm here to serve all residents, is not just a statement, but a promise to listen and act on your behalf.

I am also now part of the Independent Alliance, a grouping of five independent MPs who all share a vision for social and global justice, offer empathy and compassion in politics and offer a united voice in speaking up for the most vulnerable across the UK.

By working together, we combine our individual talents and speak with a stronger voice. You will have heard of Jeremy Corbyn MP who is a member of the group together with Adnan Hussain MP (Blackburn), Ayoub Khan MP (Birmingham Perry Bar) and Shokat Adam MP (Leicester South).

Locally I have been engaging with the local council, Dewsbury Town Board and other organisations to look into the many issues constituents have highlighted as individuals and as concerns for the community.

## Surgeries

I aim to be an MP that is visible and approachable. To this end I am holding regular surgeries across various locations

in Dewsbury and Batley, allowing more people the chance to speak with me directly. Details of all upcoming surgeries are announced through my social media channels (@iqbalmohamedmp).

Finally, I have organised a public conversation that is to take place on the 21st of November at PKWA where you can find out what I've been up to, provide feedback and ask questions.

Further details once confirmed will also be delivered through posters, my social channels and community networks and I would love to see you there. In the meantime, if there is anything I can help with, you can reach my office at the following address:

Annexe 3, Units 47 + 51  
Batley Business Park  
Technology Drive  
Batley  
WF17 6ER

Tel: **01924 668118**

WhatsApp: **07899617148**  
Email: **iqbal.mohamed.mp@parliament.uk**

**Office of Iqbal Mohamed Member of Parliament**





**IQBAL MOHAMED**

MP for Dewsbury & Batley



**WHAT HAS  
YOUR MP  
BEEN UP TO?**

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- Listening to your feedback



**THURSDAY  
21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER**



**6.00pm – 8.00pm**



**PKWA Centre,  
off Manor Way,  
Batley WF17 7BX**

01924 668 118 | 07899 617148 | [iqbal.mohamed.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:iqbal.mohamed.mp@parliament.uk)

MP's Office: Unit 47 & 50, Annexe 3, Batley Business Park, Technology Drive, Batley, WF17 6ER



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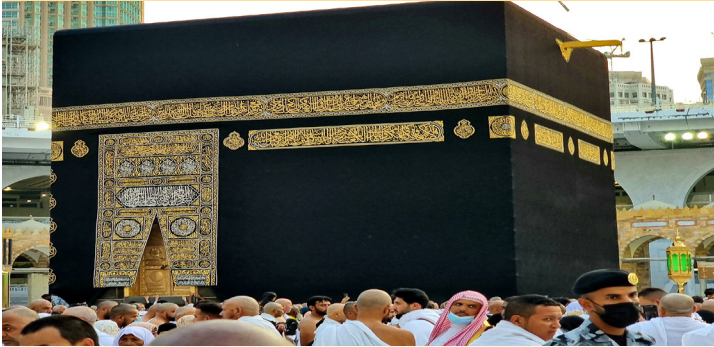
We may also be able to provide assistance with other legal problems

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Hasimbham@yahoo.co.uk Whatsaap 0091 846 900 7720**

## IMWS Muslim Burial Services

The IMWS Muslim Burial Service is continuing  
as normal. Our services are open to everyone.

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

Kirklees Council Burial fee (including chamber) is  
£3,315. Donations towards the running costs of the funeral  
van would be most appreciated.

### Burial Contact Numbers

Ebrahim Chopdat  
07980381197  
Yusuf Patel (Paliya)  
07590019315  
Munir Daji  
07739142988



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# What's on at the Al-hikmah Centre

Autumn 2024	Morning	Afternoon/Evening		
<b>Mon</b>	<b>Groovy Grannies</b> Chair based exercises -open to all females. 10.30am-11.30am Ring to check dates 07747145358 £2 per session	<b>Ladies Quran Tajweed Class (free)</b> 1pm-3pm Provided by IMWS FREE	<b>Ladies Relaxation with Exercise</b> Stretch and tone exercise class with relaxation 5.45pm-6.45pm £2 per session	
<b>Tues</b>	<b>Harmony Ladies' Social Group (Free)</b> Tea and wellbeing activities runs every 2 weeks- open to all females 9.30am-11.30am 24/9/24, 8/10/24, 22/10/24	<b>ESOL Entry Level 3 Speaking and Listening (Free)</b> 10am-12pm Full	<b>Free Ladies Aerobics (Free)</b> 5pm-6pm Provided by IMWS Starts 17/9/24	<b>Free Men's Circuit Training (free)</b> 7pm-8pm Provided by IMWS
<b>Wed</b>	<b>ESOL Entry 1 Speaking and Listening (Free)</b> 9.30am-12.30pm Full			
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>ESOL Entry Level 2 Speaking and Listening (Free)</b> 10am-12pm Full  <b>ESOL E3 Writing (Free)</b> 9.30am-12.30pm Full	<b>Sahara Social Group (free)</b> First Thursday of every month open to all females 11am-1pm Contact <b>Zohfina 07823668714</b>	<b>Ladies Lunchtime Exercise Class</b> 12pm-1pm Term time only Ready Steady Active 07974647062 £2/session	

IMWS Community Champions: Awareness or signposting available for Diabetes, Cervical Cancer, Breast/Bowel cancer, Asthma, Falls, Vaccines etc

Limelight- empowering women project: Support in finding courses, volunteering and governance and trustee roles.

Teaching Assistant/Hair styling courses at the Al Hikmah Centre (external) - 07735874071

Ladies Sewing class at the Al Hikmah Centre (external) – Wed 9am-11am 07894708917.

Girl Guides at the Al Hikmah (external) every Sunday 10:30am- 12:00pm – visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) to register interest.

NHS Blood donation at the Al Hikmah Centre (external) – Register to donate blood at the Centre visit [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk)

**Macmillan Coffee Morning – open to all Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 10am-12.30pm Al Hikmah Centre**

Please ring the Centre before attending classes or for more information please call:

01924 500555

[info@imws.org.uk](mailto:info@imws.org.uk)

[www.imws.org.uk](http://www.imws.org.uk)



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# Paigaam Kids page

## Winners



1<sup>st</sup> Prize sponsored  
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1) Raheem Dadhiwala  
Batley



2) Ismaeel Bhana  
Batley

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize sponsored  
by Chickanos  
Pick up ONLY



3) Samiullah  
Hussain  
Batley

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize sponsored  
by Islamic Bakery  
Pick up ONLY

Please collect your prizes from the  
Al-Hikmah Centre.

### Terms and conditions apply

Name and town of winning entries will be published.  
Age limit 13.

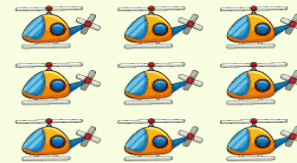
Please screen shot this page & highlight the  
answers. Please send a screen shot via email to  
info@imws.org.uk with your  
name, address, postcode, age and telephone  
number before 20th November 2024 .

Kiddies Competition, Al-Hikmah Centre,  
28 Track Road, Batley, West Yorkshire,  
WF17 7AA

## Complete the equations



$$4 \times \square = 8$$

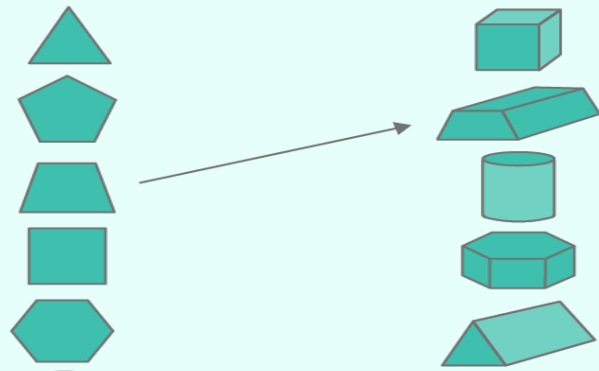


$$\square \times 3 = 9$$



$$\square \times 2 = 4$$

Match the 2d shape with the  
correct 3D shapes



Full Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Age/Date

Tel. No:

## ભૂખમરામાં વિશ્વના ૧૨૭ દેશોમાં ભારતનો નંબર ૧૦૫મો

ગયા માસમાં જાહેર થયેલ ગ્લોબલ હંગર ઈન્ડેક્સ-૨૦૨૪ (GHI) જેમાં ૧૨૭ દેશોના તારણોને આવરી લેવામાં આવ્યા છે, તેમાં ભારતનો નંબર ૧૦૫મો આવ્યો છે. જે બતાવે છે કે, ભારત દેશ આજે ભૂખમરાની ગંભીર પરિસ્થિતિનો સામનો કરી રહ્યો છે. ગયા વર્ષે ૧૨૫ દેશોની લીસ્ટમાં ભારતનો નંબર ૧૧૧મો હતો. રિપોર્ટના આધારે ભારતની ૧૩.૭૮૬ વસ્તી કુપોષિત છે. ૫ વર્ષથી ઓછી વયના ૩૫.૫ ટકા બાળકો અવિકસિત છે. ૨.૯ ટકા બાળકો તેમની પાંચમી બર્થ ડે સુધી પહોંચતા નથી. GHI ભૂખના સ્તરને માપવા આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય માનવતાવાદી એજન્સી મારફત ઉપયોગમાં લેવાતું એક સાધન છે. આઈરીશ માનવતાવાદી સંસ્થા કન્સર્ન વર્ડવાઈડ અને જર્મનીની વેલ્થગરથીફ ધ્વારા દર વર્ષે રિપોર્ટ પ્રકાશિત કરવામાં આવે છે. આ વર્ષની યાદીમાં ભારતના પાડોશી દેશોનું પ્રદર્શન વધુ બહેતર છે. અને તેઓ ભારત કરતા સારી સ્થિતિમાં છે. પાકિસ્તાન આમાં ૧૦૨ નંબરે, બાંગ્લાદેશ ૮૧માં નંબરે અને નેપાલ ૬૮માં નંબરે છે.

ભારતમાં બાળકોની કમજોરીનો દર પણ સૌથી વધુ છે. તથા નાના બાળકોમાં કુપોષણનો રેટ પણ સૌથી વધુ છે. અગાઉ બાંગ્લાદેશમાં ખાસ કરીને ભૂખમરાનું પ્રમાણ વધુ જોવા મળતું હતું પરંતુ એ દેશે આમાં સારી પ્રગતિ કરી છે. ભારતના ૮૦ ટકા લોકો સરકારની પાંચ કીલો મફત અનાજની યોજના ઉપર નિર્ભર છે. જે પણ ગરીબોનો એક માપદંડ બતાવે છે. ભારતની ભૂખમરાની સ્થિતિ કથળી રહી છે તે માટે જવાબદાર વિભાગ શું પગલા ભરી રહ્યો છે તે દર્શાવવામાં તેઓ નિષ્ફળ રહ્યા છે.

## સુપ્રિમ કોર્ટની નાગરિકતા કલમ ૬એ ની સમજૂતીને માન્યતા

તારીખ ૧૭મી ઓક્ટોબરના રોજ ભારતની સુપ્રિમ કોર્ટે આસામમાં આવી વસેલ બાંગ્લાદેશી શરણાર્થીઓને ભારતની નાગરિકતા આપવાના કાયદામાં ઐતિહાસિક જજમેન્ટ આપ્યો હતો. ૧૯૭૧ દરમ્યાન બાંગ્લાદેશ-પાકિસ્તાન યુદ્ધના કારણે મોટી સંખ્યામાં બાંગ્લાદેશીઓએ આસામમાં સ્થળાંતર કર્યું હતું. પરિણામે આસામમાં દર વર્ષે સુધી ઓલ આસામ સ્ટુડન્ટ યુનિયન (AASU) નું આંદોલન ચાલ્યું હતું. ૧૯૮૫માં તે વખતના વડાપ્રધાન રાજીવ ગાંધીએ આ સંગઠનો સાથે મળી સમજૂતી કરી હતી અને સિટિઝનશીપ એક્ટ ૧૯૫૫માં ૬એ (6A)ની કલમ ઉમેરી હતી. આસામ એકોર્ડને અસર કરવા આ વિભાગ દાખલ કરી તેને આસામ NRC નો આધાર બનાવવામાં આવ્યો હતો. જે મુજબ ૧લી જાન્યુઆરી ૧૯૬૬ થી ૨૫ માર્ચ ૧૯૭૧ વચ્ચે આસામમાં પ્રવેશેલા બાંગ્લાદેશી શરણાર્થીઓ ભારતની નાગરિકતા મેળવી શકે છે.

કેટલાક સંગઠનોએ આ જોગવાઈને ગેરબંધારણીય ગણવામાં આવે એવી માંગણી સાથે સુપ્રિમ કોર્ટમાં પેટીશન દાખલ કરી હતી. ૧૭મી ઓક્ટોબર ૨૦૨૪ના રોજ સુપ્રિમ કોર્ટની પાંચ જજોની પીઠ સમક્ષ વરિષ્ઠ વકીલ કપીલ સિબલ સહિત અન્ય વકીલોએ જોરદાર દલીલો રજૂ કરી હતી. જેના પરિણામે પાંચ જજોમાંથી ૪ જજોએ આ કાયદાની ૬એ કલમને યથાવત રાખી હતી. જે મુજબ આસામમાં આવી વસેલ બાંગ્લાદેશીઓ ૧લી જાન્યુઆરી ૧૯૬૬ થી

૨૫ મી માર્ચ ૧૯૭૧માં સ્થાયી થયા હશે તેઓને ભારતની નાગરિકતા મેળવવાનો હક રહેશે.

## લેબર પાર્ટીને ચૂંટી શું બ્રિટીશરો પસ્તાય રહ્યા છે ?

યુ.કે.માં હાલમાં થયેલ એક સર્વેમાં જાણવા મળ્યું છે કે, પાંચ મહીનામાં જ જનરલ ઈલેક્શનમાં લેબર પાર્ટીને ચૂંટીને બ્રિટીશ નાગરિકો પસ્તાઈ રહ્યા છે. લોકો લેબર પાર્ટીના વડા પ્રધાન કીઅર સ્ટામર કરતા કન્ઝર્વેટીવ પાર્ટીના રૂશી સુનાકની સરકારને વધુ પસંદ કરી રહ્યા છે. એક થીક ટાન્કના સર્વેમાં માલમ પડ્યું છે કે, સર્વેમાં ભાગ લેનારા બ્રિટનના ૩૧ ટકા લોકોએ રૂશી સુનાકની સરકારને પસંદ કરી છે. જ્યારે કે, સ્ટામરની લેબર સરકારની પસંદગી ફક્ત ૨૯ ટકા લોકોએ કરી હતી. હાલની લેબર સરકાર ઉપર મફતમાં ગીફ્ટ લેવા ઉપરાંત પેન્સનરોના વીન્ટર ફ્યુઅલ પેમેન્ટને નાબુદ કરવા માટે લોકોમાં અસંતોષ છે. જેથી તેમની લોકપ્રિયતા ઘટી રહી છે. ઉપરાંત ગાઝાના યુદ્ધ માટે લેબર સરકારનું ઈઝરાઈલી તરફના વલણ માટે પણ લેબર સરકારની વિશ્વાસનિયતા ઘટી છે. સર્વેમાં લોકોનું એવું પણ માનવું છે કે, આગામી સંસદીય ચૂંટણીમાં કન્ઝર્વેટીવ પાર્ટી ફરીથી સત્તામાં આવી શકે છે. લોકોએ લેબરને મત આપવા માટે પસ્તાવો થઈ રહ્યાની વાતને પણ સ્વીકારી છે. હાલમાં લોકલ કાઉન્સિલની પેટા ચૂંટણીમાં પણ લેબર પાર્ટીએ ઘણી સીટો ગુમાવી છે.

## કાશ્મીરનાં મુખ્યપ્રધાન બનતા ઉમર અબ્દુલ્લા

ગયા માસમાં જમ્મુ કાશ્મીરની વિધાનસભાની ચૂંટણીના પરિણામો જાહેર થયા હતા. ૨૦૧૯માં કેન્દ્રની ભાજપ સરકારે જમ્મુ કાશ્મીરને સ્પેશીયલ દરજ્જો આપતી ૩૭૦ કલમને નાબુદ કરી તેના મુખ્ય રાજ્યનું સ્ટેટસ નાબુદ કર્યું હતું અને ભાગલા કરી લડાખ અને જમ્મુ કાશ્મીરમાં વેંચી કેન્દ્રશાસિત પ્રદેશ તરીકે જાહેર કર્યા હતા. અને ત્યાં રાષ્ટ્રપતિ શાસન લાદવામાં આવ્યું હતું. ૧૦વર્ષ પછી કાશ્મીરમાં ચૂંટણી યોજાય હતી જેમાં ફારૂક અબ્દુલ્લાની નેશનલ કોન્ફરન્સ (એનસી) અને રાષ્ટ્રીય કોંગ્રેસ પાર્ટીએ સંગઠન બનાવી ચૂંટણી લડી હતી. જેમાં કુલ ૯૦ સીટોમાંથી નેશનલ કોન્ફરન્સને ૪૨, ભાજપને ૨૯, કોંગ્રેસને ૬, સીપીઆઈ-એમને ૧ અને આમ આદમી પાર્ટીને ૧ અને મહેબુબા મુફતીની પાર્ટી પીડીપીને ૩ સીટો મળી હતી.

આમ નેશનલ કોન્ફરન્સને બહુમતી મળતા ઉમર અબ્દુલ્લાએ મુખ્ય પ્રધાન પદનો હોદ્દો સંભાળી શપથવિધિ ગ્રહણ કરી હતી. કોંગ્રેસે કોઈ મંત્રીપદ લીધું નથી અને કાશ્મીરને મુખ્ય રાજ્યનો દરજ્જો પાછો અપાવવાની તેની લડત સક્રીય રીતે ચાલુ રાખશે એમ જણાવ્યું હતું. ઉમર અબ્દુલ્લા પહેલા પણ કાશ્મીરના મુખ્ય પ્રધાન રહી ચુક્યા છે. જો કે કાશ્મીરને પૂર્ણ રાજ્યનો દરજ્જો ન હોવાને લીધે દિલ્હીની જેમ કાશ્મીરને પણ ઉપ રાજ્યપાલના હાથ નીચે કામ કરવાનું રહેશે. જેમાં મુખ્ય પાવર ઉપ રાજ્યપાલ (એલજી)ના હાથમાં હશે. પરિણામે આ સરકારની હાલત કઠપુતલી જેવી રહેશે. કારણ કે, બીજેપીની કેન્દ્ર સરકાર બીજા રાજ્યોમાં બીજેપી સિવાયની સરકાર સાથે સહમતિથી કામ કરવાના દાખલા ઓછા જોવા મળે છે.





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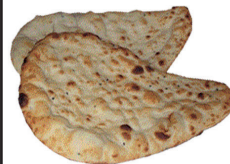
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