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WOW

Women of the World marks International Day of the Girl 2024



See pages 8 & 9

JIGRA TITLE TRACK RELEASED



See page 33

Laying it bare

Baroness Warsi condemns Conservative party's embrace of anti-Muslim racism and fringe voices

In a powerful podcast, Baroness Sayeeda Warsi has condemned the Conservative party's transformation in its stance towards Muslims.

Reflecting on her time in the party, on Prospect podcast, Warsi lays bare how voices once dismissed as fringe have become the party's mainstream.

"What [were] considered to be fringe voices during the time of David Cameron have now become mainstream," said Warsi.

Continued on page 8




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Bringing it home...

Proud moment for Bradford as Nazim Ali wins coveted national award contested by thousands of nominations across the country

Nazim Ali, from Bradford, has won the Positive Role Model: Race, Religion & Faith Award at this year's National Diversity Awards in association with HSBC UK.

Acclaimed the 'Golden Globes' of the diversity world, the National Diversity Awards unites UK citizens irrespective of race, faith, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability and culture.

It's a huge achievement to win as over 90,000 nominees and 125 finalists in 15 categories were

named in recognition of their dedication to advancing equality, diversity and inclusion.

Nazim Ali, Bradford's Award-Winning Community Champion, has dedicated 27 years to community, charity and public life.

He's raised over £980,000 for local and international causes, including providing food for the homeless and building nearly 300 houses in Malawi, Pakistan, Uganda and Afghanistan.

Known as the 'Ramadan Runner' for his 10K runs while fasting, he's raised £425,000 from these 11 annual Ramadan runs alone.

Having undertaken over a dozen self-funded aid trips worldwide, distributing essential supplies, his dedication to humanitarian causes hasn't gone unnoticed, and has seen him pick up numerous awards over the years.

Through his initiative, the Nazim Ali Foundation Khidma Community Kitchen, he's involved young volunteers in supporting the vulnerable. For over 11 years, his 'Creating Smiles Gifts Initiative' has brought joy to children in hospitals during his 43 visits.

He has also served as a Principal Careers Adviser for 17 years and received an honorary fellowship from the University of Bradford in 2023.

Winners were announced on 4th October at the prestigious 13th National Diversity Awards in the stunning Liverpool Anglican Cathedral. 600 guests were in attendance.

A highlight in the diversity calendar, this year's event was hosted for the second year running by world-renowned broadcaster, author, presenter and journalist Clare Balding, CBE who, in her life and through her work, champions diversity, inclusion and equity.

"I'm honoured and delighted to return as host for these uplifting and inspiring awards. It's so important to recognise individuals, organisations and charities going above and beyond to unite their communities, making them stronger, safer and happier," said Clare Balding, CBE.

"The National Diversity Awards celebrate all that's good and powerful in an inclusive society and bring much deserved attention

to community heroes whose hard work and achievements might otherwise go unnoticed."

Nazim Ali said, "I am profoundly humbled and elated to win such a prestigious national accolade despite the fierce competition, and many other worthy and amazing individuals from all corners of the UK.

"The trophy has finally come home to Bradford!

"The last three-months has been extremely difficult for my family and myself with firstly the terminal cancer of my father, seeing his health deteriorate, and then his passing away two-months ago.

"Dad was proud of my community and charity work having framed some of my pictures!

"During this difficult period I took no time off, and continued my community and charity work despite the inside of me being distraught.

"My position is people are suffering in our midst and we cannot stop Allah (God's) work of helping the vulnerable and needy in society. As I often state, 'no award comes remotely close to making a human heart happy!' That's what it's all about, and the buzz you get from this is indescribable.

"I am grateful to everyone who has supported me during my journey, you all know who you are."

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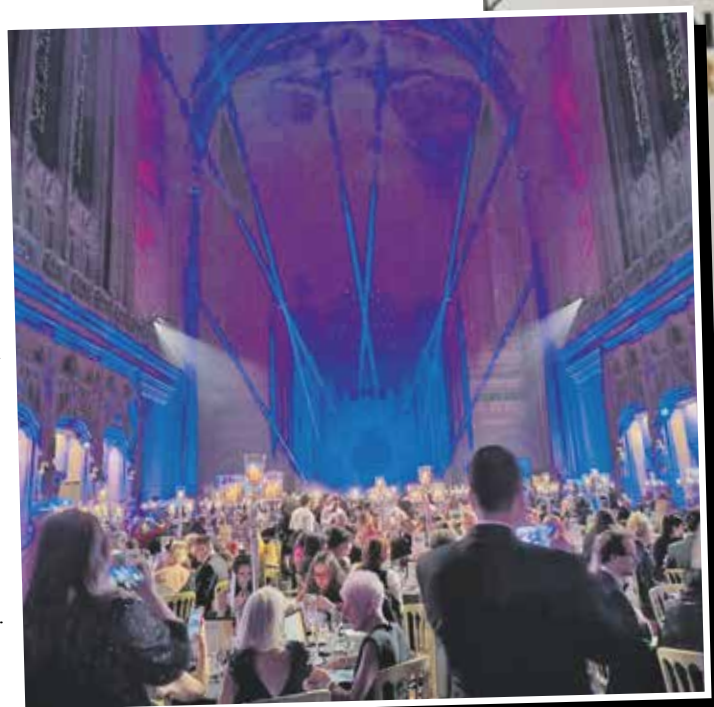
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GAMBLING:
**‘It destroyed
our marriage
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£1 million’**

Discovering the family home had been remortgaged and credit cards maxed out in her name was the first time Saiqa [not her real name] became aware of her husband's relentless gambling addiction.

She joined a host of leading experts and shared her harrowing experience at the second annual International Interdisciplinary Colloquium of the Bristol Hub for Gambling Harms Research at the University of Bristol on Thursday on 10 October.

The Hub works closely with those with lived experience of gambling harms to raise awareness of the potential devastating consequences of gambling and to ensure that research, prevention and treatment is as relevant and effective as possible.

Saiqa's late husband's habit, which destroyed their marriage and swallowed up to £1million, resulted in him committing suicide three years ago leaving her behind with their two children.

Determined for something positive to emerge from the wreckage, she now provides peer support as an aftercare coordinator with Betknowmore UK to people experiencing gambling harms.

Saiqa, aged 53, said: "Having someone beyond family and friends to talk to during my ordeal was a lifeline. It's good to be able to offer that to others, but the fact our client list keeps growing is worrying.

"The explosion of online platforms and advertising has exacerbated the terrible situation, which means

more and more lives are being lost to gambling. We were a typical hard-working family but his addiction proved too strong and the ultimate price was paid. Gambling stole from us a man who just wanted to be a hero and get everyone financially sorted. The industry had got to change now so others can be spared."

he did them all," she said.

"I only found out because he was in such a mess with five credit cards maxed out to £60k, some taken out in my name. He had remortgaged the house and taken loans, so we were more than £250k in debt. Over the years it probably took a million. I went into shock and just wanted

is meaningless because he would simply switch to a different operator then return to the previous one. There are so many loopholes," she said.

"We had no money for food and at one point I was holding down five different jobs doing care work and cleaning to pay the mortgage. I opened my own bank account so the

many friends along the way. There are no real winners – it took away absolutely everything from us."

Said and her children, now aged 20 and 24, are gradually rebuilding their lives. A move to the coast is on the horizon to escape the home which still harbours traumatic memories.

"It's time for a fresh start but the scars will be there forever. He was a clever man who only wanted the best for his family, but betting turned him into someone else. I speak to so many men in their 40s who have slipped down the same path. With better self-understanding and mental health support, there's more chance to change and beat the temptation," she said.

"But what really needs to happen is industry reform so advertising is more robustly regulated and there are effective restrictive measures on people's gambling in place. Events like this colloquium are great to better understand the many related problems and consider possible ways to limit the risk and damage."

In 2022 the Bristol Hub for Gambling Harms Research was launched at the University of Bristol to lead pioneering multidisciplinary research into the wide-reaching effects of gambling harms.

The independent hub, funded by a grant of £4million from national charity GambleAware, facilitates world-leading research to improve understanding of gambling harm as a growing public health issue which needs greater scrutiny and regulation.

"I only found out because he was in such a mess with five credit cards maxed out to £60k, some taken out in my name. He had remortgaged the house and taken loans, so we were more than £250k in debt."

Her husband's refusal to acknowledge his problem and seek help meant he became increasingly locked in a vicious betting cycle, mounting up huge debts and eventually turning violent.

"It was a dark secret he kept for many years. He worked nights as a driver and it started with him going to casinos. When things shifted online, there were more options – football, other sports, roulette, slots...

to hold everything together for the family, even though his personality changed, and he became abusive. I always tried to help but he just shunned it."

The addiction became worse during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, when he would gamble online for 12-hour binges.

"He wouldn't get washed or dressed. The four-hour cut off period to take 'responsible rest'

bills were paid and we didn't lose the roof over our heads."

The final straw came when, on top of the coercive control, he became violent.

"Survival instinct kicked in and I had to focus on the children. He never admitted the problem and eventually succumbed to it completely, taking his own life. We lost so much – not just the money, but a husband, father, and

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A gigantic mammoth tusk unearthed from a Yorkshire coal mine has been carefully conserved during one of the city's most unusual clean-up jobs.

The prehistoric appendage was discovered in the former open cast site near Temple Newsam in the late 1960s, more than 38,000 years after the extinct, ice age behemoth it once belonged to died.

Today, the remarkable find is among countless objects spanning millions of years of history being cared for during an annual deep clean carried out by experts at the Leeds Discovery Centre.

Museum records reveal that the massive tusk, which is in two heavy pieces, was found beneath the gravelled floodplain of the River Aire at the former Oxbow open cast mine.

Dating from the pre-maximal Weichselian glaciation, when a huge sheet of ice covered large parts of northern Europe, including the UK, the

'Mammoth' clean-up gets underway

tusk represents astonishing physical evidence that mammoths once roamed the frozen Yorkshire tundra.

Clare Brown, Leeds Museums and Galleries' curator of natural sciences, said: "It's hard to imagine today that mammoths once lived here in Yorkshire, so we're very fortunate to have such a remarkable, tangible piece of evidence that thousands of years ago, these astonishing animals once walked in the places we know today.

"Objects like our tusk can also tell us a great deal about prehistoric Britain

and the impact extreme changes in climates and environments can have on plant and animal life.

"Conserving objects like this at the Leeds Discovery Centre really brings home the huge scale and depth of our collection and the importance of preserving and protecting such an important record of so many different facets of history."

Different species of mammoth lived in Africa, Europe, Asia, and North America for more than six million years before they eventually became extinct

around 4,000 years ago.

Sharing a common ancestor with modern elephants, they were distinguished by their enormous size, huge, spiral, twisted tusks and adaptations to the colder climate, which sometimes included a thick layer of woolly fur.

The largest known species could weigh almost 13 tonnes, but despite their huge bulk, they were hunted by early humans and are depicted in numerous prehistoric paintings.

Home to more than a million objects,

The Leeds Discovery Centre is used to store parts of the Leeds collection not currently on display.

The centre is free to visit by appointment and hosts a programme of behind-the-scenes tours and talks.

Councillor Salma Arif, Leeds City Council's executive member for adult social care, active lifestyles and culture, said: "Leeds has an incredible history, some of which can literally be found beneath our feet, and it's astonishing that we have so many objects to remind us of what was here before the city we know today.

"The work of our museums team enables those objects to be preserved for future generations and for the unique story of our city to be told for many years to come."

Visits to the Leeds Discovery must be booked in advance. For more details, visit: <https://museumsandgalleries.leeds.gov.uk/leeds-discovery-centre>



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WOW International Day of the Girl Speed Mentoring at the lastminute.com London Eye, image credit RUBY LDN

WOW



Women of the World marks International Day of the Girl 2024

Women of the World (WOW) celebrated the 12th International Day of the Girl by bringing together 150 inspiring women and non-binary people and 150 secondary school students at the London Eye for a morning of speed mentoring sharing dreams, ambitions and challenges.

Now a much-anticipated event, WOW Day of the Girl 2024 offered secondary school girls (aged 13 to 18 years old) from schools and community groups the opportunity to meet highly influential and inspiring women and non-binary people including: WOW Founder and CEO Jude Kelly; actor Shobna Gulati (Coronation Street) and Rhea Norwood (Heartstopper); paralympic archer Jodie Grinham; former GB athletics champion Perri Shakes-Drayton; former Liverpool FC Women's footballer and current club ambassador Natasha Dowie; TV presenter and Doctor Ronx Ikharia; Director of the Mayor of

London's Violence Reduction Unit Lib Peck; activist and founder of Free Periods Amika George MBE; campaigner Doreen Lawrence; artist Lubaina Himid and activist Helen Pankhurst CBE.

Each student was matched with three different mentors for 15-minute mentoring sessions during two complete rotations of The London Eye. The mentors joined from a wide range of professional backgrounds and industries which spanned the world of business, sport, politics, public life, the arts and more, enabling students to have a snapshot into the ways in which women and non-binary people are paving the way for the future.

Jude Kelly, WOW Founder & CEO said: "As WOW looks ahead to our 15th anniversary in 2025, celebrating girls and giving them the space to explore their hopes and dreams is of utmost importance to us. We are at a time where injustice faced by women is at an unprecedented level, but

we are continually inspired by the creativity and bravery of girls around the world. They energise us to continue to stand up and strive for gender equity.

“By bringing together these 150 students today with 150 incredible people to share their stories and dreams, we hope to demonstrate to them that their voices are

important and their potential limitless.”

WOW Day of The Girl follows recent WOW Festivals in Rotherham and Manchester in the UK, and in Pakistan, Turkey, Greece and Australia, all of which have taken place in the build-up to WOW’s 15th anniversary in 2025.

“We are at a time where injustice faced by women is at an unprecedented level, but we are continually inspired by the creativity and bravery of girls around the world. They energise us to continue to stand up and strive for gender equity.”



Shobna Gulati, image credit RUBY LDN

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Event empowers West Yorkshire's women and girls

'Reclaim the Night'

Empowering women and girls to stand up for safer public spaces after dark will be the focus of a free event hosted by Mayor of West Yorkshire Tracy Brabin later this month.

Everyone is invited along to Greenhead Park in Huddersfield to hear from guest speakers, come together to call for an end to violence against women and girls and find out more about the many community services available at a range of stalls.

The 'Reclaim the Night' event on Sunday October 27, from 2pm-5pm, has been organised to coincide with the clocks going back as women feel particularly vulnerable at this time of the year.

Mayor Tracy Brabin said: "I want West Yorkshire to be a safer, fairer place for all our women and girls.

"It is unacceptable that so many of them are forced into changing their normal routines as the nights become longer.

"With this in mind I would welcome everyone to join us for what promises to be an empowering, uplifting and inclusive event where

we can all renew our commitments to building a future free from violence against women and girls."

The event has been organised in collaboration with Al Garthwaite, last year's Lord Mayor of Leeds, who played a pivotal role in the first Reclaim the Night marches in the city back in 1977.

Al Garthwaite said: "It's nearly 50 years since we first took to the streets to Reclaim The Night for women and girls, asserting our right to go out without fear.

"The need sadly remains today, so I really welcome Mayor Brabin's event at Greenhead Park, where once more I shall be striding out to Reclaim The Night."

Ever since she was elected as Mayor in 2021, Ms Brabin has made the safety of women and girls one of her top priorities.

Actions include improving support for victims of stalking, launching the viral Just Don't male behaviour change campaign, creating a dedicated team of PSCOs for the region's bus network and funding research into how parks can be made safer for women and girls.

The Mayor also launched what is believed to be the country's first dedicated Women's Safety Unit earlier this year.

Alison Lowe, West Yorkshire's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, said: "We continue our vital work with West Yorkshire Police to ensure robust measures are in place for the safety of all women and girls.

"At the same time we are looking closely at the barriers stopping them from feeling safe when out in public, especially at night, and what we can do to overcome them.

"These are not issues we can address on our own, which is why this event is the perfect opportunity to bring partners and members of the public together as we strive for long-term change across West Yorkshire."

The event will take place in Kirklees, which like the region's other four districts, has been working closely with the Mayor on a range of different safety initiatives.

One of the area's most successful has been the introduction and expansion of 'Safe Zones' a scheme providing places where women, girls and those at risk can seek help.



(L-R) Mayor of West Yorkshire Tracy Brabin, former Lord Mayor of Leeds Al Garthwaite and West Yorkshire's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime Alison Lowe

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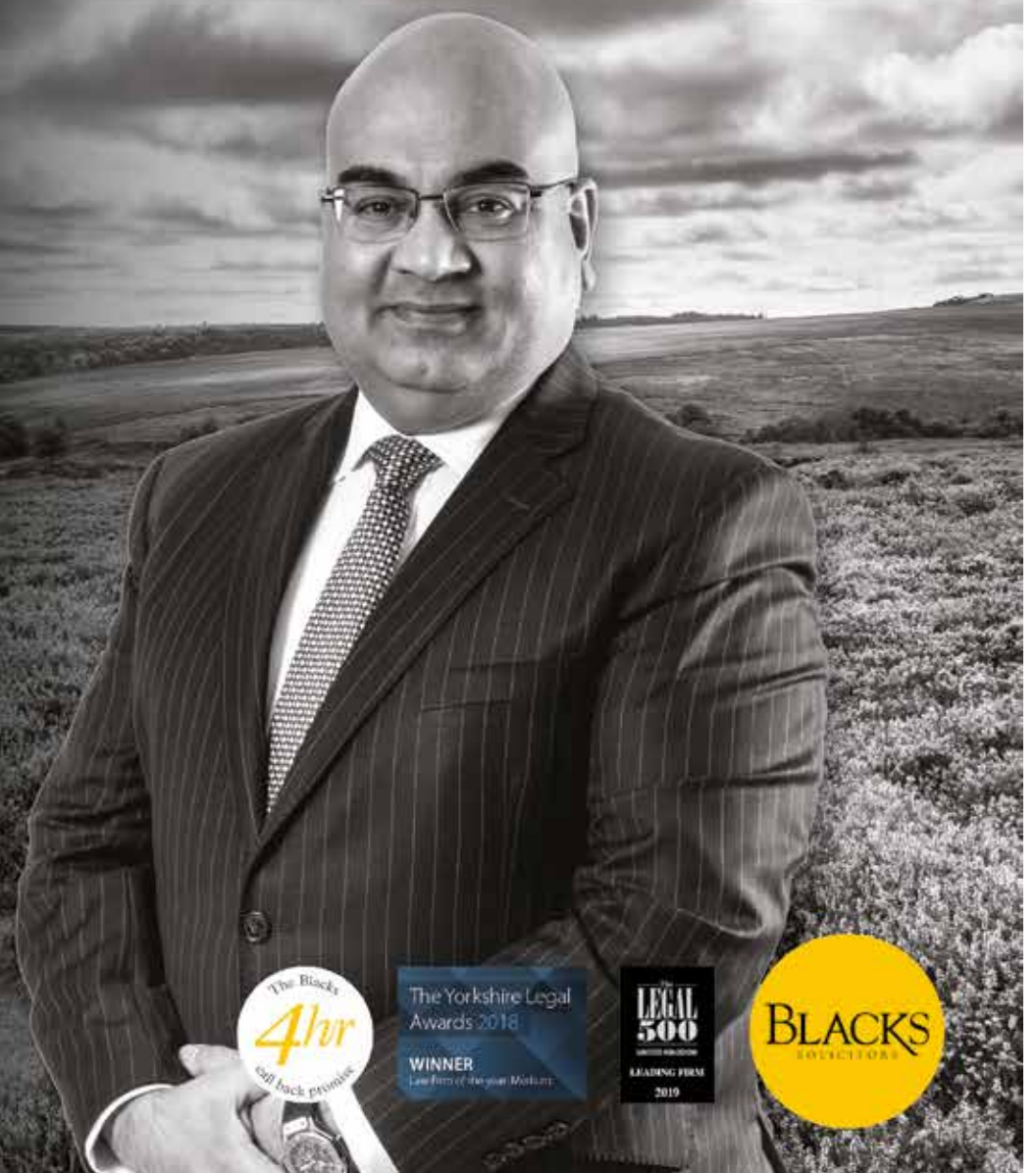
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Laying it bare

Baroness Warsi condemns Conservative party's embrace of anti-Muslim racism and fringe voices

Cover story continued

"If you think about the kind of people that he didn't want engaging with government - organisations like the Centre for Social Cohesion, the Henry Jackson Society, individuals like Douglas Murray, who were nowhere near government back in 2010 - these are the very people who the former home secretary, Suella Braverman, stood at the dispatch box and said, 'these are mainstream voices.'"

Baroness Warsi warns that this shift is driven by "ideological crusaders" within government, with think tanks that have deep influence in politics, fuelling what she calls an "axis of influence" that has "poisoned this

debate".

She argues that this has damaged not just the Conservative party but continues to challenge efforts at positive change under a Labour government.

"This has been a very, very long time coming, and unfortunately, some of my colleagues have played their part in taking this to that point really quickly," she added, pointing out that this toxic shift affects not just policy, but how Muslims are portrayed in media and perceived by the public.

The full interview, where Baroness Warsi further unpacks her views, is available now on the Prospect podcast.



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University receives award for commitment to mental health and wellbeing

The University of Huddersfield has been recognised for its commitment to mental health and wellbeing with a University Mental Health Charter (UMHC) Award.

The award recognises the University's dedication to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment

for both students and staff.

The accolade, from student mental health charity Student Minds, follows a thorough assessment process, with Huddersfield one of five universities to achieve the award this time.

It comes as the University was able to demonstrate significant progress in

several key areas, with the final report from assessors showcasing a number of excellent practices that contribute to a positive mental health culture.

One standout initiative was the Ready Steady Study programme, which provides pre-entry transition support to students. Developed in collaboration with the student community, it helps new students acclimatise to university life.

The University's approach to assessment, which focuses on inclusivity and challenge, was also highlighted as an example of excellent practice, ensuring all students have the best chance to succeed. The Huddersfield Differential Attainment Project, which uses data to address inequalities in student progression and attainment, was also singled out as excellent.

Further praise was received for the University's commitment to external partnerships which further enhance the support available. This includes the Wellbeing Team working closely with the Kirklees Suicide Prevention Team and the University Health Centre to ensure that students have access to comprehensive mental health resources.

The University's commitment to creating an inclusive and accessible campus through initiatives such as accessibility walks and the design of the Jo Cox More in Common Centre, were recognised as excellent practice.

The report also recognised that the University provides a range of services to support student mental health and wellbeing with a multidisciplinary team of Mental Health Advisors, Wellbeing Advisors, and Counsellors available to assist students. The Health and Wellbeing Academy programme of support, created by Mental Health Nursing students, has the "potential to be sector-leading excellent practice", it said.

Professor Jane Owen-Lynch, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Teaching and Learning, commented: "We are incredibly proud to receive the University Mental Health Charter Award. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire university community in prioritising mental health and wellbeing. We remain committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all our students and staff."

Matt Mills, Director of Student Services commented: "This award highlights the significant progress we have made in enhancing our mental health support services. Initiatives like the Ready Steady Study programme and the Huddersfield Differential Attainment Project demonstrate our commitment to inclusivity and student success.

"To be one of only 15 universities in the UK who have achieved this award is a testament to the hard work of our whole team and recognises our whole institution approach to supporting both student and staff mental health."

Student Minds encourages all universities to adopt a whole-university approach to mental health and become places that promote the mental health and wellbeing of all members of the university community.

The charity's UMHC Award is an accreditation scheme to recognise good practice and support ongoing development. The University of Huddersfield first joined the UMHC Programme when it launched in 2021 and is now among 15 universities that have successfully achieved the Award.

"This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire university community in prioritising mental health and wellbeing."



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76% of the public agree “Fathers these days want to be a bigger part of their children’s lives”

Statues across UK covered in baby slings in call for better paternity leave

A major new campaign has been launched by British dads calling on Keir Starmer to increase paternity leave for new fathers and co-parents.

The campaign is seeking to improve the UK’s paternity leave offer, which at just two weeks each paid £184.03 is the worst in Europe.

Campaigners put baby slings on statues across London and Edinburgh, highlighting the role many sportsmen, artists, historical figures and members of the public play as fathers and how this is often forgotten.

This comes as a poll of 4,043 adults found 76% agree that “Fathers these days want to be a bigger part of their children’s lives”, rising to 90% among dads and 83% among Labour voters.

With Labour committed to a review

of parental leave policies in their first year in office, The Dad Shift is inviting members of the public and major national figures to sign their letter to Keir Starmer, calling on him as a fellow father to get behind the campaign.

George Gabriel, co-founder of The Dad Shift said, “We’re celebrating the role these figures played as fathers as we launch this new campaign for better paternity leave. 90% of dads agree that fathers these days want to be a bigger part of their kids’ lives.

“Having seen Keir Starmer stand up for his right to spend time with his children we know he gets it and are sure that a better deal for British dads and co-parents is possible.”

Alex Lloyd Hunter, co-founder of The Dad Shift said, “Decent paternity leave is good for fathers, good for



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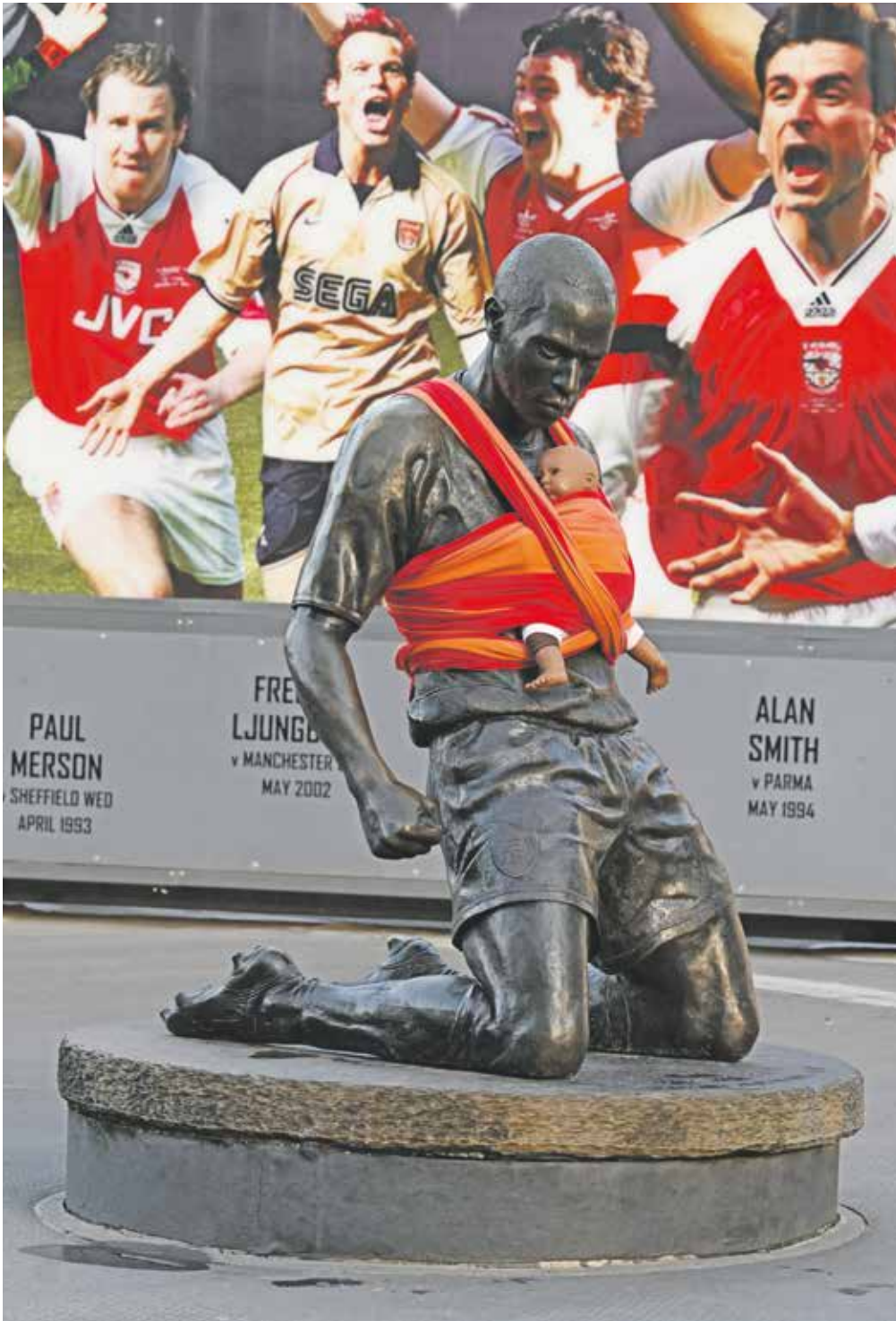


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mothers and good for babies too. We are calling for paternity leave that is affordable for people to take, gives a substantial allowance of time, and supports equality among parents. It's past time we caught up with the rest of Europe and backed British families."

The UK's current statutory paternity offer ranks 40/43 across the entire OECD in financial terms, but a growing number of employers offer substantially more generous and appropriate leave. These include Aviva, who offer 6 months parental leave to both mums and dads.

Influential Labour MP Josh Simons said, "As the dad of two young kids, I know that parenting in Britain is exhausting and expensive. Hardworking parents have less time and money to give to their local communities and economies than they should and I want that to change. I look forward to the government's review of parental leave and hope it begins to build a fairer approach to paternity leave that strengthens families and unlocks growth."

Marvyn Harrison, co-founder of The Dad Shift

and founder of Dope Black Dads said, "One in three British dads take no paternity leave at all and one in two of those who do face financial hardship as a result. We need to set dads and co-parents up for success and there's more and more evidence that doing so will help grow businesses and the economy too."

Thomas Lynch, CEO of Dads Rock Scotland said, "Scottish dads and co-parents want to play a full role in the lives of their kids from day one. We need Westminster to play its part and deliver better paternity leave. With the UK's offer the worst in Europe it's well past time."

Jeremy Davies, Deputy CEO of the Fatherhood Institute said, "There's been a quiet revolution going on for many years in UK families, with fathers doing more hands-on caregiving than ever. But the UK's paternity offer is now the worst

in Europe, and dads from all walks of life have had enough. Fathers want more time with their children, and the evidence is clear that children, mothers and the UK economy – not to mention dads themselves – would benefit as a result."



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LEBANON: £10M Emergency Appeal

Following Lebanon's deadliest day in decades, Islamic Relief has launched a £10 million emergency appeal to support people affected by the escalating Israeli attacks.

More than 558 people, including over 50 children, have now been reported killed since yesterday, and more than 1,800 people wounded. Thousands of families are fleeing their homes in panic and are now seeking shelter in crowded schools, as more Israeli airstrikes tear through neighbourhoods today.

After almost a year of gradual escalation, more than 116,000 people in Lebanon have been displaced and are in desperate need of aid.

Islamic Relief's appeal is looking to raise an initial £10 million to expand their efforts to provide vital aid to displaced families.

"The past few days have seen the heaviest attacks on Lebanon in many years. The country has turned upside down and is in complete chaos, with more people fleeing their homes every hour and taking refuge in crowded schools."

With Israeli attacks on Gaza also continuing unabated, Islamic Relief continues to call for an immediate ceasefire across the region, and for all parties to respect international law and protect civilians.

Akram Sadeq Ali, Islamic Relief's Country Director in Lebanon, says: "The past few days have seen the heaviest attacks on Lebanon in many years. The country has turned upside down and is in complete chaos, with more people fleeing their homes every hour and taking refuge in crowded schools."

"Our team is delivering mattresses and blankets to new arrivals at some of the schools, and we will be providing displaced families with food and medical supplies for clinics. We're exhausting all efforts to deliver aid to those affected by this crisis."

People can make donations to the 'Lebanon Emergency Appeal' by visiting:

www.islamic-relief.org.uk

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Fragrances created by Scent Salim are a delight for the olfactory senses. For those familiar with Oud fragrances this is a treasure trove of delights – bringing the best ingredients and superb customer service together. If you are not so familiar this is a chance to purchase a scent you may never have smelled before – or to have your own bespoke fragrance made.

STORY OF SUCCESS

“We were one of the pioneers for bringing in these niche products into the Western market,” he said. Ilyas explained that when he started the company there were very few people sourcing their own products and creating and blending their own fragrances here in the UK from these products.

ABOUT THE PERFUMES

Scent Salim is one of very few shops in the UK to offer an array of niche fragrances, Arabian perfumes and Oud.

This is the home of over 1,000 scents – Ilyas says they can recreate any perfume for a client. The products are made from natural oils and sourced from all over Asia and the Middle East.

It is this concentration on genuine, quality products, from the original source that make the scents so special.

“We concentrate on the quality and that’s why we don’t want to grow too fast,” he explained.

Oud is the generic Arabic term for incense, or resinous wood taken from the agarwood tree. The agarwood trees in question are located in specific areas in the world – Malaysia, India, Cambodia, Indonesia and Brunei. The wood in these trees is of tremendous value, as the resin within them is distilled to create pure Oud scents.

Oud itself has gained popularity among celebrities, Royals and artisans worldwide. It offers a depth of fragrance, which is multi-layered and, Ilyas explains, lasts longer than a regular “French” style perfume.

But modern methods and a bit of a French/Asian fusion makes these fragrances so accessible and flexible. They are produced in a range of options from room fragrances to fragrant woods for burning.



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H.E. Ambassador to USA Rizwan Saeed Sheikh pledged support for KORT's USA chapter



Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust officially registered as an NGO in the USA

“This new chapter marks a major step forward in our efforts to support orphaned and vulnerable children.”

The Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust (KORT) has registered itself as a not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) for the Pakistani and Azad Kashmiri diaspora in America.

Kick-starting KORT's work in New York with an impactful orientation session for the local community early September, the event highlighted the charity's dedication to supporting vulnerable and orphaned children through education, healthcare, and empowerment initiatives.

Chaudhry Mohammed Akhtar said: "The audience [in New York], responded with immense appreciation for KORT's work in providing hope and opportunity to those in need.

"Following this event, we're so excited to announce the establishment of the 'KORT New Jersey Team', during a special event in New Jersey.

"This new chapter marks a major step forward in our efforts to support orphaned and vulnerable children. The team is eager to bring positive change and strengthen the local community's involvement in KORT's mission.

"A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and joined us in this important initiative. Together, we can make a lasting difference!"

In Washington DC, KORT Ch Mohammed Akhtar, met with His Excellency Ambassador to USA, Rizwan Saeed Sheikh, who assured full support for the organisation's USA chapter.

KORT's reputation precedes itself, since the inception of its journey 18-years ago following the aftermath of a devastating earthquake that rocked the northern areas of Kashmir and Pakistan.



Ch Mohammed Akhtar says: "Back then, witnessing the plight of thousands – especially the orphan children compelled me to respond. In 2005, I took the first steps in opening my heart and home to those in need. I rented a building and established sanctuary for orphan children, but that was just the beginning.

"In 2008 fuelled by desire to provide even greater support, I took on what would become the most ambitious project of my life. With a vision in mind I set out to create a new purpose-built facility, that would redefine the very concept of an orphanage. And am proud to say that we've delivered educational and residential projects for over 1,500 children.

"But now our mission extends far beyond the wall of the orphanage. We have numerous on-going projects across Azad Kashmir to help better the lives of vulnerable individuals."

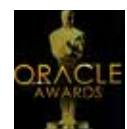
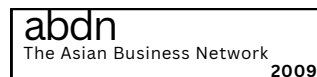
KORT's most latest endeavour includes the £32M three-year 'Jorian Hospital' project in Mirpur District. The new state-of-the-art 576 bed hospital complex will feature an A&E department, along with full hospital services such as outpatient care, radiology, paediatrics, pathology, pulmonary, dental and eye clinics. Also being developed are on-site educational and training facilities for nurses, doctors and dentists.

Other remarkable projects include the 'Education for ALL' project, which has so far built and delivered numerous schools in remote areas of Azad Kashmir; and the 'Houses for Widows' project, which has seen KORT build 30 homes and hand over keys to vulnerable widows and their children. This work is ongoing.

To find out more about KORT's mission, and how you can get involved, please visit: www.kort.org.uk

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Five convicted for smuggling £184 million of cocaine hidden in banana boxes

Five members of an organised crime group that smuggled 2.3 tonnes of cocaine in a shipment of bananas from south America have been convicted.

Petko Zhutev, 39, from Bulgaria, Gjergji Diko, 33, from Italy, and Albanian nationals Bruno Kuci, 33, Olsi Ebeja, 40, and Erik Muci, 44, were investigated by the Organised Crime Partnership (OCP) – a joint National Crime Agency and Metropolitan Police Service unit – who identified they were planning the importation.

They were arrested by OCP officers, supported by an armed MPS unit, at an industrial estate in Tottenham, north London, in February 2021, after receiving 41 pallets of bananas into which the cocaine had been loaded.

The drugs had different branded stamps on them, which corresponded to particular organised crime groups that were going to sell them on the streets of London and the wider UK.

Border Force officers at Portsmouth International Port had found the cocaine after the OCP provided intelligence they

would be arriving on a cargo ship from Turbo, Colombia, concealed within a legitimate consignment of bananas.

The seizure is believed to be one of the largest ever of its type in the UK.

Investigators identified that Zhutev had taken over as the director of the food company in December 2020. Although it was previously a legitimate business, he had acquired it solely to use as a front for criminality.

Muci was one of the principal organisers for the drugs importation. He was observed meeting with Zhutev, Kuci and Diko at Agro Foods and

arranged the delivery and installation of equipment to support the pretence that it was a legitimate enterprise.

Investigation into the mobile devices used by the crime group showed Muci controlled the importation and ongoing supply of significant quantities of cocaine across the UK.

John Coles, Head of Specialist Operations at the NCA, said: "These men attempted to bring a huge amount of cocaine into the country - one of the largest hauls of its kind on UK soil - which was destined for crime groups across London and the wider UK, and the seizure stemmed from a thorough investigation by NCA and Met Police officers."

Detective Superintendent Simon Moring, from the Metropolitan Police Service's Central Specialist Crime Command, said: "This seizure would have been broken down into many millions of individual deals of cocaine. This level of violence, mental and physical health problems and anti-social behaviour that would have ensued across London and the UK would have been significant.

"This seizure highlights the relentless drive by the Met Police, the NCA and wider UK law enforcement to tackle the illegal supply of drugs."

A sentencing date for all five men is yet to be confirmed



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A celebration of legacy

Nirmal Singh MBE FRSA honoured with Honorary Doctorate from the University of Bradford

The 'A Team', alongside distinguished guests, celebrated the conferment of an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Bradford to Nirmal Singh MBE FRSA.

The prestigious accolade was conferred during a distinguished gathering on Saturday, September 7, 2024, held at the De Baga Restaurant in Leeds, where members of "The A Team" and esteemed guests came together to mark the occasion and celebrate his outstanding contributions to both the city and its wider community.

Dr. Nirmal Singh's journey from the verdant fields of Punjab to the industrial heart of Bradford is nothing short of extraordinary.

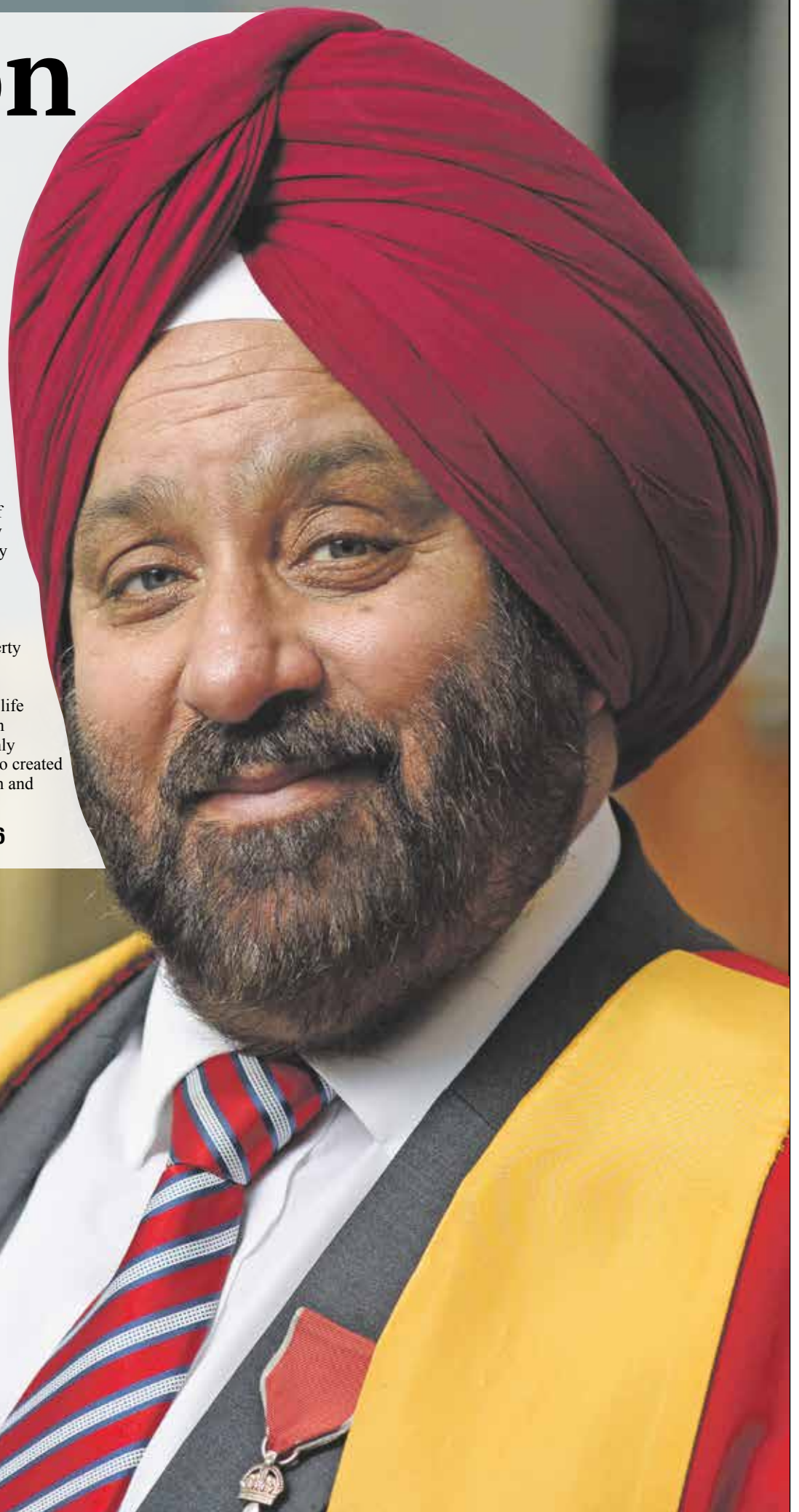
Born into humble beginnings on his family's farm, he embarked on an ambitious journey to the United Kingdom at just 15 years old in 1967.

What was initially intended as a brief sojourn evolved into a life defined by determination, vision, and community leadership.

Over the course of five decades, Dr. Singh's entrepreneurial acumen transformed the textiles industry and led to the creation of a thriving property empire, playing a key role in the regeneration of Bradford.

His commitment to breathing new life into the city through the revitalisation of iconic but derelict mills has not only preserved Bradford's heritage but also created jobs, fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

Continued on page 26



BUSINESS



YOUR LOCAL & BUSINESS ROUND-UP

Vardy -v- Rooney – Second Half!

In a highly publicised case in 2022, Rebekah Vardy (the wife of the Leicester City footballer, Jamie Vardy) lost her High Court libel battle with Coleen Rooney (the wife of former England footballer, Wayne Rooney). Mrs Rooney had conducted a “sting operation” in 2019, accusing Mrs Vardy of leaking private stories about her to The Sun newspaper. Mrs Vardy denied the allegations and sued Mrs Rooney for defamation.

Mrs Vardy lost her claim. The Judge ruled that Mrs Rooney’s accusation was “substantially true” and ordered Mrs Vardy to pay 90% of Mrs Rooney’s legal costs, the amount of which would be determined by the Court a later date. At that time, the amount claimed by Mrs Rooney for her costs were £1,667,880, 90% of which would have been in the region of £1,500,000. Mrs Vardy was ordered to pay Mrs Rooney an immediate interim payment of £800,000 towards her costs.

Owing to her conduct during the litigation, Mrs Vardy was ordered to pay Mrs Rooney’s costs on the indemnity basis. The usual position when deciding costs is that costs should be determined on the standard

on the standard basis or the indemnity basis can be significant and may amount to hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The matter was back before the courts at beginning of October of this year where Mrs Vardy sought to challenge the amount of Mrs Rooney’s costs. Mrs Vardy claimed that Mrs Rooney’s lawyers had committed misconduct by deliberately understating her legal bill during the case. She also disputed some of the costs claimed arguing that Mrs Rooney’s lawyers had stayed in a luxury hotel and had run up a large mini-bar bill. Mrs Vardy’s other arguments related to the extensive use of specialist barristers by Mrs Rooney, whether she should have instructed solicitors who were based nearer to her home in the North West and the hourly rates of the lawyers who had worked on her case.

Following a 3-day hearing, the Senior Costs Judge, Andrew Gordon-Saker, dismissed a number of Mrs Vardy’s claims and ruled that Mrs Rooney’s legal team had not committed any misconduct and that it would not be appropriate to reduce the amount that Mrs Vardy had to pay. The final amount will be determined by a further court hearing where the costs will be reviewed on a line-by-line basis.

Mrs Rooney’s legal team requested a further interim payment of between £150,000 to £200,000 be paid by Mrs Vardy, however the Judge ordered that Mrs Vardy should pay a further £100,000 within 21 days bringing the total amount paid by Mrs Vardy to £900,000, with the remaining balance to be determined in the new year.

This case clearly outlines the substantial risks that are involved in commencing litigation and the significant costs that can be incurred as a result of being unsuccessful. It is also a stark reminder to litigants that the Court will not hesitate to penalise bad behaviour and conduct by exercising its wide discretion and awarding indemnity costs. Litigants should not be too quick to engage the court process and should seriously consider and engage in alternative dispute resolution processes, such as mediation and without prejudice discussions, prior to and throughout the course of the litigation. Such conduct will be recognised by the Court and will go a long way to mitigate costs risks.

If you require advice regarding defamation claims or any commercial dispute then Blacks Solicitor can assist, please contact Luke Patel on 0113 227 9316 or email him at “L.Patel@LawBlacks.com”.

A celebration of legacy

Nirmal Singh MBE FRSA honoured with Honorary Doctorate from the University of Bradford

Continued from page 25

Dr. Singh’s achievements, however, transcend his business success. Appointed a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in 1999, he has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to philanthropy and community service.

As Chairman of the Yorkshire Sikh Forum, Dr. Singh has been a tireless advocate for cross-cultural dialogue, working to bridge divides between different faiths and communities.

His generous support of charitable initiatives, including the MRI scanner appeal at Bradford Royal Infirmary, underscores his unwavering dedication to improving the lives of those around him.

From his modest beginnings in Punjab to becoming an iconic figure in Bradford, his life serves as an inspiration for future generations.

A cornerstone of Dr. Singh’s legacy is his long-standing relationship with the University of Bradford. For years, he has championed the university’s mission of inclusivity and diversity. He has been instrumental in celebrating cultural events such as Indian Independence Day and Holi festivals, fostering unity within the student body.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Singh’s compassion shone through as he provided meal parcels, emergency accommodation, and critical resources for international students in need. His efforts not only supported students in a time of crisis but also enriched the broader university community through his enduring relationships with local temples and Gurudwaras.

In recognition of his lifetime of achievements, ‘The A Team’, led by Senior Grandee Mr. Ashwani Kumar Gautam, Dr.

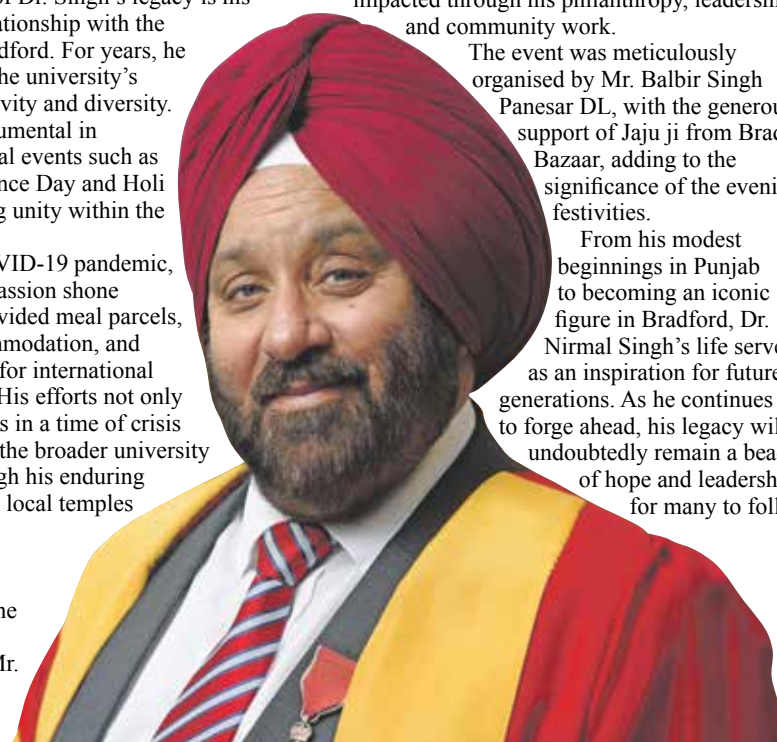


Harjap Singh Pooni, and Dr. Manoj Joshi MBE DL, extended heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Singh on receiving the Honorary Doctorate.

They emphasised that this honour is not just a reflection of his personal accomplishments, but a celebration of the many lives he has positively impacted through his philanthropy, leadership, and community work.

The event was meticulously organised by Mr. Balbir Singh Panesar DL, with the generous support of Jaju ji from Bradford Bazaar, adding to the significance of the evening’s festivities.

From his modest beginnings in Punjab to becoming an iconic figure in Bradford, Dr. Nirmal Singh’s life serves as an inspiration for future generations. As he continues to forge ahead, his legacy will undoubtedly remain a beacon of hope and leadership for many to follow.



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BUSINESS ROUND-UP



BUSINESS

“One of the objectives of the Indian Tourism & Hospitality Congress is to build international relationships outside of India.”



Indian delegation sign partnership deal

The University of Wolverhampton has signed a partnership deal with an Indian hospitality and tourism congress to collaborate on joint-research projects around sustainability.

Over 40 academics from the Indian Tourism and Hospitality Congress were welcomed to the University's Lord Swarj Paul Business School on 3/4 October for a conference: Transforming Tourism and Hospitality Business: Embracing Technology and Sustainability.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed at the Lord Swarj Paul Business School to outline opportunities for collaboration in joint-research projects and courses as well as student exchange programmes.

The delegation, including Vice-Chancellors, Deans and Professors from Universities in India, were able to learn about different practices in Business Management, Tourism and Hospitality, Education and Research at the conference.

The signing of the MOU also outlined knowledge exchange opportunities and a focus on staff and student mobility.

Professor Vijay Maharaj Reddy, Associate Dean for Research and Knowledge at the University of Wolverhampton, said: “We were delighted to sign the MOU with the congress and the opportunities are significant. Both sides are strongly committed to realising the full potential of this collaborative relationship.

“This MoU signifies a firm commitment from both institutions to work hand-in-hand in pursuit of academic excellence, research advancements, knowledge exchange and cultural enrichment.

“This partnership is a bespoke one which we've been discussing with our contacts in India for quite some time. We're very glad this has materialised and hope it makes an impact both in the UK and in India.”

Professor Sat Prakash Bansal, Vice-Chancellor at Central University

of Himachal Pradesh, said: “One of the objectives of the Indian Tourism & Hospitality Congress is to build international relationships outside of India. The UK is taking a lead in providing high-quality education and as a result of this we are looking forward to building relationships with the University of Wolverhampton.

“The main purpose of the signing of the MOU is to collaborate in working on joint-research projects/journals and create a student exchange programme.”

Professor Claire Schofield, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Business and Social Sciences, said: “We were delighted to welcome such prestigious delegates from India to the University. Part of the University's 2035 strategy is about reaching out and building new partnerships and India is extremely important in that endeavour.

“As we begin this exciting journey, we would like to say thank you to everyone who has made this collaboration a reality.”



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Top aging concerns for women

How are women today approaching aging? According to a new survey, almost half of women express that aging causes them stress.

A survey of 2,000 women split evenly by generation revealed that Gen Z and millennials are more stressed about getting older than Gen X and baby boomers. In fact, both millennials and Gen Z lead the charge with feeling older than their age.

18% of Gen Z believe that they appear older, more than any other generation.

Still, more than three-quarters say they are trying to embrace aging with grace, and results reveal that over half of women are concerned others will notice signs of them aging.

Almost half of women noticed the first signs of aging skin by the age of 40.

Fine lines on their face (44%) and forehead wrinkles (32%) were two signs that women noticed most often, along with age spots (32%) and creases or lines in their neck (15%).

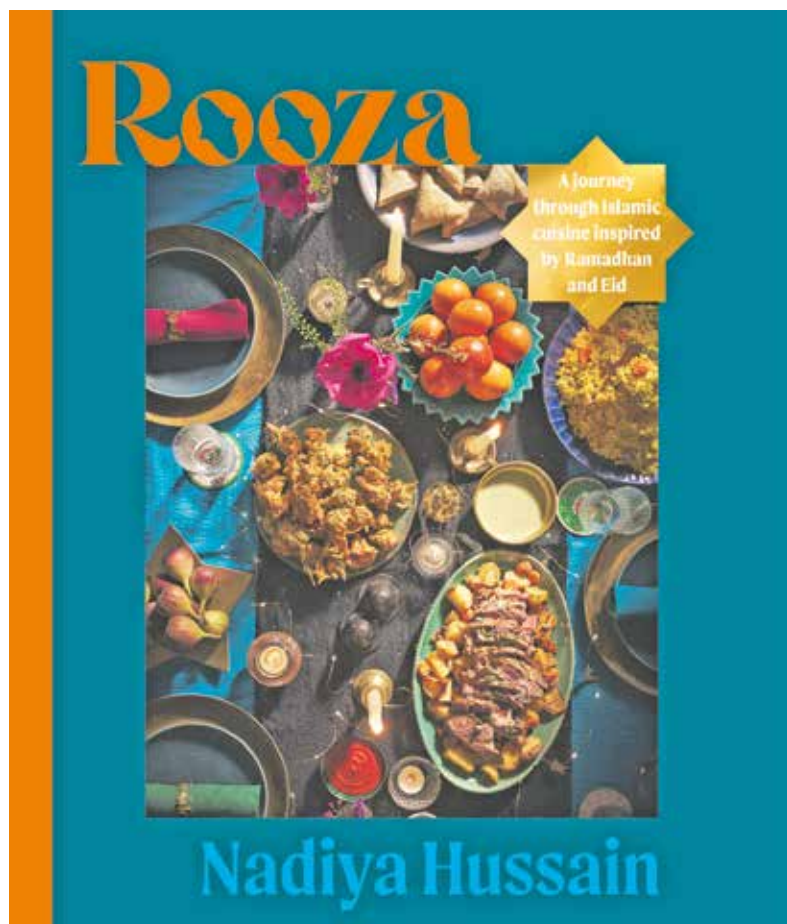
To help combat aging skin and avoid these signs from appearing, 70% of women surveyed take their skincare routines seriously, with most using between one and four different products on any given day.

Those products target the whole face, but when asked if they use products that target areas beyond the face or products that address specific concerns, such as the neck, eyes or arms, less than 40% of women confirmed they were using these types of skincare products.

Continued on page 32

‘Rooza’

Nadiya Hussain's new book
 inspired by variety of dishes
 from across the Islamic world



During the month of Ramadhan, the long hours of daylight fasting mean that when mealtimes do arrive, food takes on new significance, as families come together to break their fast while observing the customs of the period and reflecting on their faith. Meals become an event, planned and anticipated, a chance to revisit favourites, embrace the traditional, or try new things.

Nadiya Hussain's new book 'Rooza' is a culinary tribute to the holy month, taking the reader on an exploratory journey of Muslim cuisine, and shining a light on the rituals, traditions and incredible variety of dishes from across the Islamic world.

The recipes are inspired by countries that have worshippers who observe Ramadhan, and foods that are enjoyed by them all year round and during this holy month.

With main meal and dessert inspiration for each of the 30 days, plus a selection of glorious feasting recipes ideal for the Eid festivities, this is a beautiful and timeless book to treasure, gift and return to year after year.

Nadiya Hussain said: "For me as a mum and as the head of the kitchen, what we eat during the holy month of Ramadhan is so important. It is this month that binds us as a family, intertwines us and holds us together through faith, worship, dedication and the meal we share at the end of another day.

After not having not eaten from

sunrise, what I lay on the table at sunset really matters to me. It has to be nutritious, filling and, most of all, it has to be delicious. From my table and my family, to you and yours: I hope that these recipes will bring you joy and keep you feeling excited about each meal you lay on the table."

Ione Walder, Non Fiction Publisher at Penguin Michael Joseph, said: "This is such a special, personal book from Nadiya and one we are incredibly proud to be publishing.

"It has been a joy to work together to spin her recipes into a beautiful, inspirational resource that can be used year after year by those who observe Ramadhan, while offering a journey of discovery to those who don't."



‘Being Muslim Today’

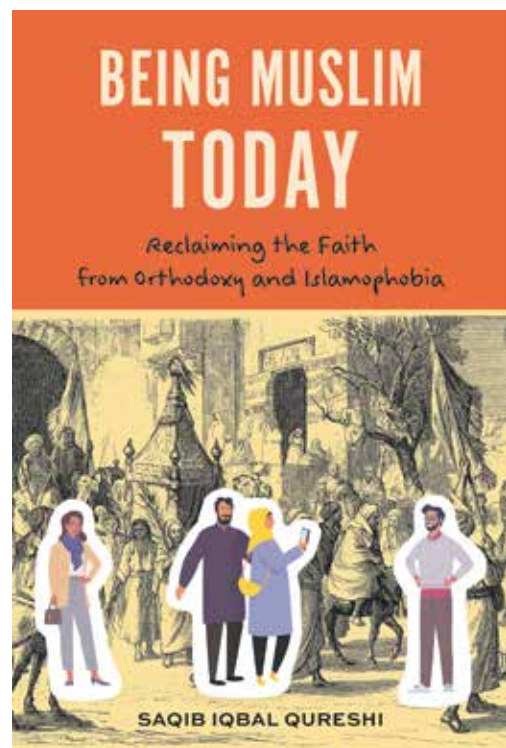
Islamophobes cultivate damaging stereotypes that present a religion that most Muslims cannot relate to.

Now, in a new book ‘Being Muslim Today: Reclaiming the Faith from Orthodoxy and Islamophobia’, author Dr. Saqib Iqbal Qureshi provides an honest, accurate understanding of the faith’s journey throughout the last fourteen hundred years.

He simplifies complicated language and reveals the heart and soul of a growing faith tradition that claims more than two billion adherents.

Chapters include a fascinating assessment of the origins of Islam, the Prophet, and the changing sources of Islam through the ages. Qureshi also describes the twin perils of Orthodoxy and Islamophobia, both of which, he contends, ignore the few historical records to misinterpret the faith and its origins.

Qureshi confronts the stereotype of Islam as an inherently violent religion and asks the West to consider its own appetite for conflict and colonisation. Throughout, he encourages Muslims to reject pious certitude and adopt an attitude of theological humility that acknowledges the diversity of approaches and principles in the Islamic tradition.



About the author

Saqib Qureshi is a Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he received his PhD in International Relations and Epistemology. His work has been featured in the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal and Entrepreneur. Qureshi has produced two films and, in 1996, the BBC One documentary, *Al Dawaah*, the first television documentary about the Muslim community in any Western country. His previous books include *The Broken Contract* and *Reconstructing Strategy*.



“I defy anybody to read this book and not come away enlightened.” - Peter Osborne, Middle East Eye, Byline Times

Top aging concerns for women

Continued from page 29

In fact, only 17% of women say they pay significant attention to caring for their neck, with less than one-third of women using a skincare product on their neck on a daily basis.

Further, only a third of women are

confident they know how to properly care for their neck to prevent signs of aging. Almost three in five say they take steps to avoid behaviours or habits that are bad for their skin.

But still, women more so attribute aging to factors such as stress levels, bad habits - such as smoking or lack

of sleep, or lack of using sunscreen.

Surprisingly, less than one in 10 blame technology and only 25% are aware of the concept of "tech neck."

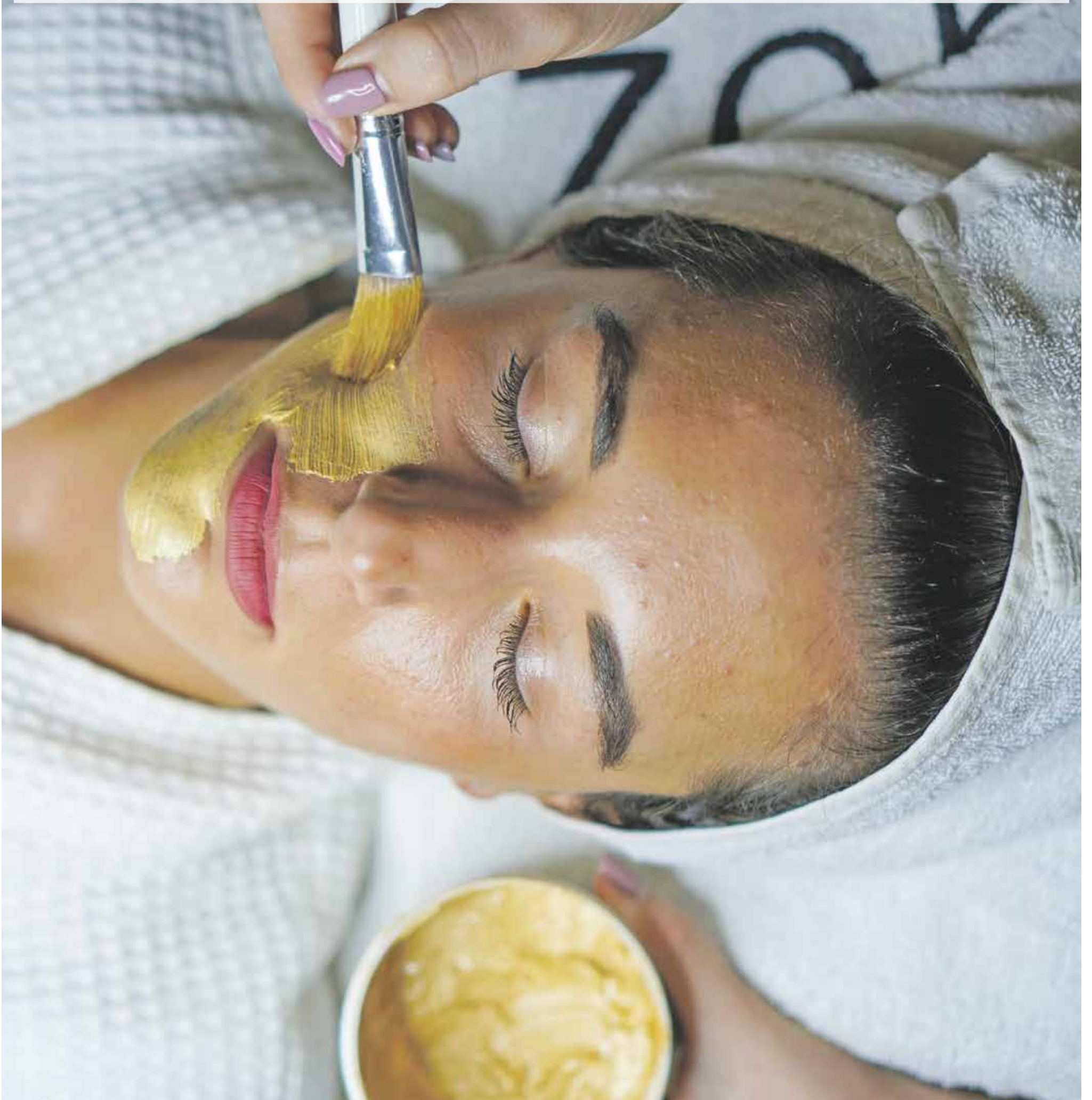
"Tech neck" refers to wrinkles that can appear across the neck due to the position of the head and face when looking down at a laptop or phone for

long periods of time.

Skin experts say that with technology playing an integral part in our everyday lives, it's important to modernise skincare routines and introduce products, such as a neck cream, to target the fine lines and wrinkles that can be caused by 'tech

neck.'

The skin on our neck and décolletage area is very sensitive and will inevitably be the first to give away our age. Time spent on preventing these key signs of aging will help women to feel and look their age in the long-term.



GILIT

Entertainment

THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENT AND CELEBRITY NEWS FROM BOLLYWOOD & HOLLYWOOD

Jigra title track released

The stirring title track of *Jigra*, starring Alia Bhatt and Vedang Raina, has just been released, offering fans a glimpse into the emotional heart of the film.

Sung by the gifted Vedang Raina, with music composed by Achint and heartfelt lyrics by renowned lyricist Varun Grover, the track is now live across major streaming platforms.

The *Jigra* title track is a soulful blend of emotion and strength, perfectly encapsulating the spirit of the film.

Vedang's powerful voice breathes life into the track, which speaks to the inner courage that defines the central character of the movie. With Achint's rich, melodic composition and Varun Grover's poignant lyrics, the song promises to strike a chord with listeners, leaving a lasting impact with its message of resilience and hope.

Fans can now watch the official video on YouTube, which features stunning visuals that complement the emotional intensity of the track, offering a glimpse into the film's narrative.

The film, *Jigra*, is a story of bravery, love, and determination, following a woman's fight against insurmountable odds. The title track serves as a powerful anthem that encapsulates this journey, with a musical arrangement that blends depth and sensitivity.

The film is directed by Vasan Bala and produced by industry giants Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Alia Bhatt, Shaheen Bhatt, and Somen Mishra; and presented by Viacom18 Studios, Dharma Productions, and Eternal Sunshine Productions.

Jigra is slated for a global theatrical release on 11th October 2024. Join the conversation: #Jigra





Akshay Kumar reveals star-studded cast of 'Housefull 5'



Indian film sensation Akshay Kumar has given fans a first look at the star-studded cast of his highly anticipated comedy, **Housefull 5**.

In an Instagram post that quickly went viral, the actor shared a photo from the film's set, showcasing himself with the other cast members Jacqueline Fernandez, Riteish Deshmukh, Abhishek Bachchan, and Dino Morea.

Akshay captioned the image with, "Just another day with this incredible cast. Housefull of actors, one cruise, and endless stories to tell!"

The fun-filled snapshot captured the playful energy fans have come to expect from the Housefull franchise. While Akshay, Riteish, Dino, and Abhishek opted for casual looks, Jacqueline stunned in an all-black ensemble.

Housefull 5 has been generating buzz for months, especially with the announcement of its stellar lineup. Producer Sajid Nadiadwala has confirmed the inclusion of leading actresses Jacqueline Fernandez, Nargis Fakhri, Sonam Bajwa, Chitrangda Singh, and Soundarya Sharma, amplifying the film's star power.

On the work front, Akshay Kumar has a stellar line-up of diverse and promising films including "Singham Again", "Sky Force," "Welcome 3," "Shankara," the threequel to Hera Pheri, "Bhooth Bangla" and more.

The fifth instalment of the beloved franchise is set to release in theatres on June 6, 2025, and fans are already eagerly counting down the days.

JIGRA

COUNTDOWN BEGINS TO KARAN JOHAR'S NEXT 'MOST-ANTICIPATED' CINEMATIC JOURNEY

The countdown to one of the most anticipated Bollywood films of the year, **Jigra**, starring powerhouse actor Alia Bhatt (**Gangubai Kathiawadi**) alongside Vedang Raina (**The Archies**), has officially begun.

Slated to hit cinemas on 11th October, **Jigra** promises to take audiences on an unforgettable emotional and cinematic journey, packed with action, romance and heartfelt melodies.

Jigra is an emotional action thriller. It is a tale about a sister and brother forged in fire. A series of unfortunate events leads the sister to set out on a journey of excruciating pain, vigour and a will that cannot be bent until her brother is free.

With the recent launch of eye-catching posters, a nostalgic teaser trailer, and the release of its homage to women, "Chal Kudiye" featuring Diljit Dosanjh, the film is already generating huge buzz across the globe.

The official posters for **Jigra** offer fans a first glimpse of the epic tale of a sister who will go to extreme lengths to protect her brother. The visuals capture the film's larger-than-life essence, showcasing the film's emotional intensity and thrilling action, setting the tone for a story that blends tradition, modernity and sheer cinematic grandeur.

The teaser trailer of **Jigra** features a soulful rendition of the classic Bollywood melody "Phoolon Ka Taaron Ka," sung by Vedang Raina and penned by Varun Grover. It taps into a deep sense of nostalgia while giving a glimpse of the

film's poignant narrative. The recreation of this beloved song is sure to stir emotions, setting the stage for what will be an unforgettable journey of love, loyalty and resilience.

The new song from the film, "Chal Kudiye," is out now and already climbing the charts. Sung by the incredibly talented Diljit Dosanjh and Alia Bhatt, the track is a vibrant ballad of women's power and perseverance.

Penned by Harmanjeet Singh and composed by Manpreet Singh, it honours the determination and bravery of women across various fields. The video also highlights the struggles women face and the growing global call for justice and reform.

Helmed by visionary director, Vasan Bala, **Jigra** boasts an all-star cast featuring some of Bollywood's brightest talents, who are set to deliver power-packed performances. The ensemble cast includes Aditya Nanda, Yuvraj Vijan, Ishan Jack, Jason Shah and Harsh Singh, each bringing their unique flair and energy to this blockbuster production.

The film is produced by Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Alia Bhatt, Shaheen Bhatt, Somen Mishra and presented by Viacom18 Studios, Dharma Productions and Eternal Sunshine Productions.

Jigra brings together a dynamic team of creators, combining state-of-the-art filmmaking techniques with rich, heartwarming storytelling. Distributed overseas by Moviegoers Entertainment, **Jigra** will be released in cinemas worldwide on 11th October 2024.



The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

Celebrating the 75th anniversary of C.S. Lewis's best- selling novel

Producers of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the publication of C.S. Lewis novel which opens at Leeds Playhouse on 14 December 2024, today announced its full cast as well as additional tour venues, including a return to London this summer.

C.S. Lewis' book was first published in October 1950. Since then, over 85 million copies in 60 languages have been sold. It is one of the top ten best-selling books of all time. The stage adaptation of Lewis' iconic book enjoyed a hugely successful, critically-acclaimed London run in 2022/3.

Producer Chris Harper said: 'We can't wait for children and adults alike to join us on this spectacular new journey through the wardrobe, and are proud to be marking the 75th anniversary of the publication of CS Lewis' novel with this tour.'

Director Michael Fentiman added: 'I'm delighted to be taking our beautiful production of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* on a major tour of the UK and Ireland in 2025. The production celebrates the magic of live theatre and is led by a multi-talented cast of actors, singers, musicians, dancers and puppeteers; it is a celebration of the possibilities of the collective imagination and the boundless wonders of individual skill.'

Step through the wardrobe into the enchanted kingdom of Narnia. Join Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter as they wave goodbye to wartime Britain and embark on the most magical of adventures in a frozen, faraway land where they meet Mr Tumnus the faun, talking beavers, Aslan (the noble king of Narnia) and the coldest, most evil White Witch.

TOUR DATES

Leeds Playhouse

18 December 2024 – 25 January 2025
www.leedsplayhouse.org.uk/

Curve Theatre, Leicester

30 January 2025 – 8 February 2025
www.curveonline.co.uk

Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff

11-15 February 2025
www.wmc.org.uk/en

Liverpool Empire

18- 22 February 2025
www.atgtickets.com/venues/
liverpool-empire/

Theatre Royal, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

25 February – 1 March 2025
www.theatreroyal.co.uk

Theatre Royal Brighton

11-15 March 2025
www.atgtickets.com/venues/
theatre-royal-brighton/

New Victoria Theatre, Woking

25- 29 March 2025
www.atgtickets.com/venues/
new-victoria-theatre/

Princess Theatre, Torquay

1- 5 April 2025
www.atgtickets.com/venues/
princess-theatre-torquay/

Swan Theatre, High Wycombe

8-12 April 2025
www.trafalgartickets.com/
wycombe-swan-theatre/en-GB

Cliffs Pavilion Theatre, Southend

15-19 April 2025
www.thecliffspavilion.co.uk/

Grand Opera House, York

22-26 April 2025
www.atgtickets.com/venues/
grand-opera-house-york/

Grand Opera House, Belfast

29 April – 3 May 2025
www.goh.co.uk

Bord Gais Energy Theatre, Dublin

6-11 May 2025
www.bordgaisenergytheatre.ie

Festival Theatre, Edinburgh

13-17 May 2025
www.capitaltheatres.com

Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

27-31 May 2025
www.atgtickets.com/venues/
the-alexandra-theatre-birmingham/

Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent

3- 7 June 2025
www.atgtickets.com/venues/
regent-theatre/

Theatre Royal, Glasgow

10-14 June 2025
www.atgtickets.com/venues/
theatre-royal-glasgow/

His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen

17- 21 June 2025
www.aberdeenperformingarts.com

Eden Court Highlands, Inverness

24-28 June 2025
https://eden-court.co.uk

Theatre Royal Norwich

8-12 July 2025
https://norwichtheatre.org

Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

15-19 July 2025
https://marlowetheatre.com

Milton Keynes Theatre

22-26 July 2025
https://www.atgtickets.com/venues/
milton-keynes-theatre/

Winter Gardens, Blackpool

29 July – 2 August 2025
https://www.wintergardensblackpool.
co.uk

Venue Cymru, Llandudno

5-9 August 2025
https://www.venuecymru.co.uk

Congress Theatre, Eastbourne

12-16 August 2025
https://www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk/
whats-on

Sadlers Wells Theatre

20 August – 7 September 2025
https://www.sadlerswells.com Tickets
on Sale from 28 October 2024

Bristol Hippodrome

16-20 September 2025
https://www.atgtickets.com/venues/
bristol-hippodrome/

Alhambra Theatre, Bradford

22-27 September 2025
https://www.bradford-theatres.co.uk/al-
hambra-theatre Tickets on Sales Soon

Hull New Theatre

30 September – 4 October 2025
https://www.hulltheatres.co.uk/
hull-new-theatres

Waterside Theatre Aylesbury

7-11 October 2025
https://www.atgtickets.com/venues/
aylesbury-waterside-theatre/

Wolverhampton Grand Theatre

28 October – 1 November 2025
https://www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Nottingham Theatre Royal

Continued on page 35

4- 8 November 2025

https://trch.co.uk

Sunderland Empire

11-15 November 2025
https://www.atgtickets.com/venues/
sunderland-empire/

Mayflower Theatre, Southampton

18-22 November 2025
https://www.mayflower.org.uk

Plymouth Theatre Royal

25-29 November 2025
https://theatreroyal.com

The Lowry, Salford

3 December 2025 –
Sunday 11 January 2026
https://thelowry.com

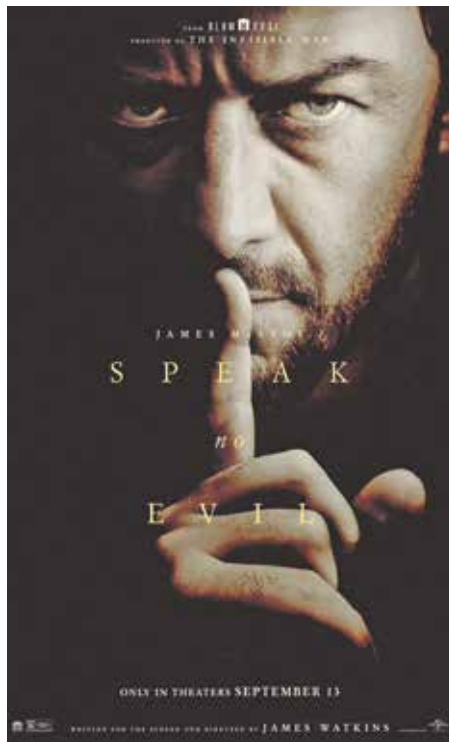
WHAT'S ON

in cinemas this month

Speak No Evil

Starring: James McAvoy, Mackenzie Davis, Scoot McNairy, Aisling Franciosi, Alix West Lefler, Daniel Hough
Director: James Watkins
Cert: 15
Genre: Thriller
Release Date: 12/9/2024

When an American family is invited to spend the weekend at the idyllic country estate of a charming British family they befriended on vacation, what begins as a dream holiday soon warps into a snarled psychological nightmare.



200% Wolf

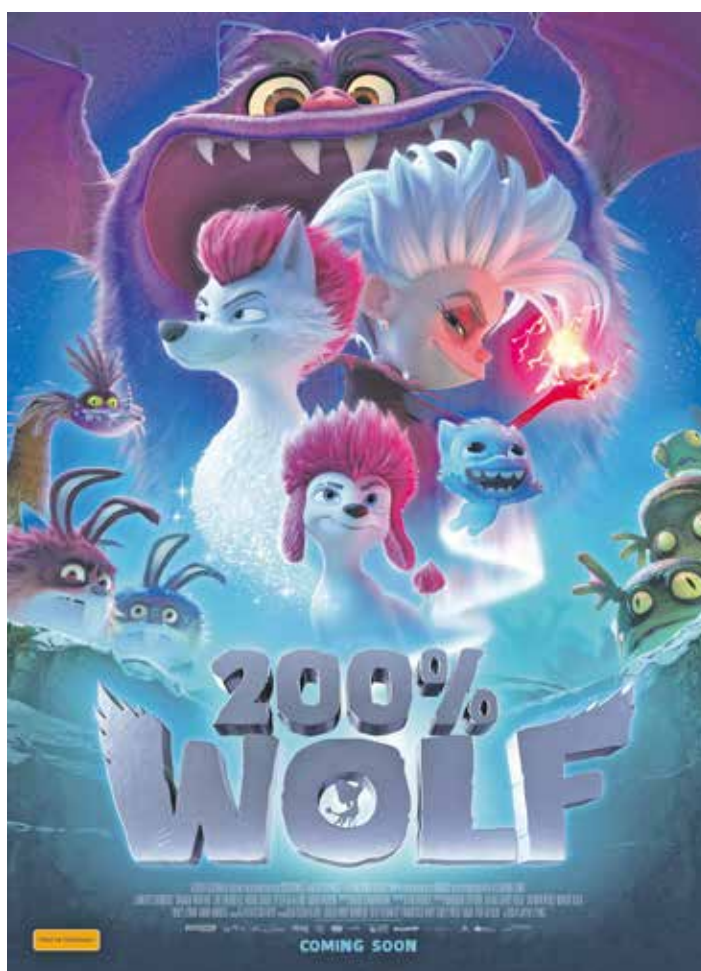
Starring: Alex Stadermann, Akmal Saleh, Peter McAllum, Ilai Swindells, Samara Weaving
Director: Alex Stadermann
Cert: U **Genre:** Animation/Family
Release Date: 20/9/2024

Prepare for a howling good time in this fun-filled cosmic adventure, 200% Wolf.

Heroic poodle Freddy Lupin thinks he has everything it takes to lead his werewolf pack, but earning the respect of his packmates proves to be a challenge. If only he were more... wolfish.

But when a wayward wish transforms him into a werewolf and deposits a mischievous moon spirit on earth, Freddy must restore the cosmic order before it's too late.

With Batty and his dog pals along for the ride, Freddy must seek out a dangerous sorceress with a grudge against the wolf pack, before his new moon spirit friend runs out of life energy and fades away. One thing's for sure – Freddy will never question being a poodle again.



IF YOU FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS,
WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

MARGARET
QUALLEY
DEMI
MOORE
DENNIS
QUAID
**THE
SUBSTANCE**

THE NEW FILM BY CORALIE FARGEAT



The Substance

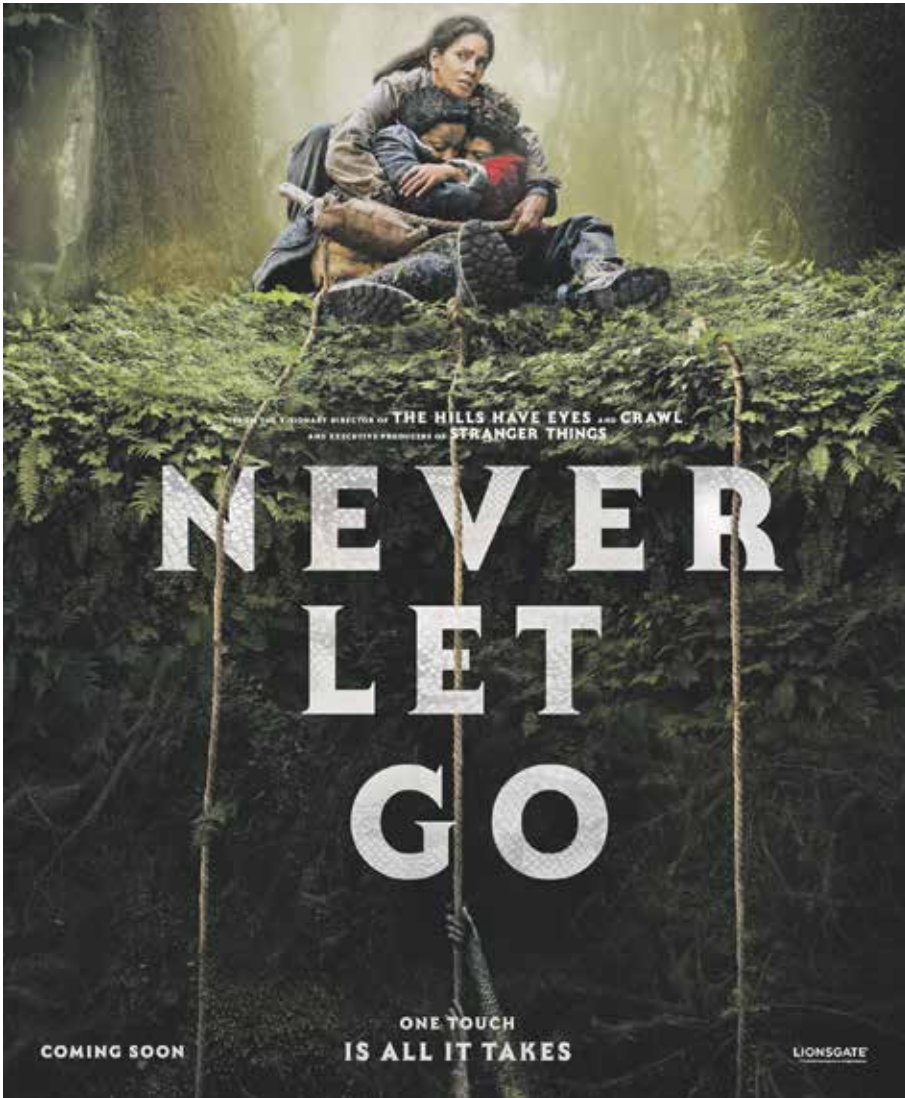
Starring: Demi Moore, Margaret Qualley, Dennis Quaid, Hugo Diego Garcia, Alexandra Papoulias Barton, Oscar Lesage, Joseph Balderrama
Director: Coralie Fargeat
Cert: 18 **Genre:** Drama/Horror
Release Date: 20/09/2024

Demi Moore gives a career-best performance as Elisabeth Sparkle, a former A-lister past her prime and suddenly fired from her fitness TV show by repellent studio head Harvey (Dennis Quaid).

She is then drawn to the opportunity presented by a mysterious new drug: THE SUBSTANCE. All it takes is one injection and she is reborn – temporarily – as the gorgeous, twenty-something Sue (Margaret Qualley).

The only rule? Time needs to be split: exactly one week in one body, then one week in the other. No exceptions. A perfect balance. What could go wrong?

Deliriously entertaining and ruthlessly satirical, Coralie Fargeat's Cannes sensation turns toxic beauty culture inside out with a be-careful-what-you-wish-for fable for the ages. Explosive, provocative and twisted, The Substance marks the arrival of a thrillingly visionary filmmaker.



Never Let Go

Starring: Halle Berry, Matthew Kevin Anderson, Christin Park, Percy Daggs, Anthony B. Jenkins

Director: Alexandre Aja

Cert: 15 **Genre:** Horror/Thriller

Release Date: 27/09/2024

From visionary director Alexandre Aja (The Hills Have Eyes, Crawl) and executive producers of Stranger Things and Arrival comes Never Let Go. In this new psychological thriller/horror, as an Evil takes over the world beyond their front doorstep, the only protection for a mother, played by Academy Award® winner Halle Berry (Actress in a Leading Role, 2001 – Monster’s Ball), and her twin sons is their house and their family’s protective bond. Needing to stay connected at all times – even tethering themselves with ropes – they cling to one another, urging each other to never let go. But when one of the boys questions if the evil is real, the ties that bind them together are severed, triggering a terrifying fight for survival.



Megalopolis

Starring: Adam Driver, Giancarlo Esposito, Nathalie Emmanuel, Aubrey Plaza, Shia LaBeouf, Jon Voight, Laurence Fishburne, Talia Shire, Jason Schwartzman, Kathryn Hunter, Grace VanderWaal, Chloe Fineman, James Remar, D.B. Sweeney, Isabelle Kusman, Bailey Ives, Madeleine Gardella, Balthazar Getty

Director: Francis Ford Coppola

Cert: 15 **Genre:** Sci-fi/Drama

Megalopolis is a Roman Epic fable set in an imagined Modern America. The City of New Rome must change, causing conflict between Cesar Catilina (Adam Driver), a genius artist who seeks to leap into a utopian, idealistic future, and his opposition, Mayor Franklyn Cicero (Giancarlo Esposito), who remains committed to a regressive status quo, perpetuating greed, special interests, and partisan warfare. Torn between them is socialite Julia Cicero (Nathalie Emmanuel), the mayor’s daughter, whose love for Cesar has divided her loyalties, forcing her to discover what she truly believes humanity deserves.



Joker: Folie à Deux

Starring: Joaquin Phoenix, Lady Gaga, Zazie Beetz, Brendan Gleeson, Catherine Keener

Director: Todd Phillips

Cert: 15

Genre: Action/Crime/Drama

Release Date: 04/10/2024

Director Todd Phillips returns for the sequel to 2019’s Joker, starring Lady Gaga as Harley Quinn and Joaquin Phoenix, who reprises his role as failed stand-up comic Arthur Fleck.

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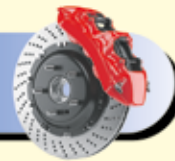


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MUDDY ADVENTURES



Isuzu's offers expert tip to guide you through the thrilling yet challenging world of mud-driving

Isuzu UK offers expert tips for mud driving with the Isuzu D-Max, highlighting its 4WD modes, rear differential lock, and lightweight design to navigate through tough terrains.

A 10-step guide covers preparation, driving techniques, recovery tips, and post-drive vehicle maintenance to ensure a smooth and safe mud adventure.

The guide emphasises key practices such as maintaining steady momentum, using the rear differential lock for extra traction, and thorough cleaning to

prevent damage after mud driving and ensure safety on the next trip.

Isuzu UK is here to guide you through the thrilling yet challenging world of mud driving with the unstoppable Isuzu D-Max pick-up. With its rugged build and high-performance features, the D-Max is designed to power through the stickiest of terrains.

Equipped with a versatile 4-wheel-drive system, the Isuzu D-Max's 2H, 4H, and 4L modes ensure you're ready for any off-road adventure.

Continued on page 40

“ LIVING
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Isuzu's offers expert tip to guide you through the thrilling yet challenging world of mud-driving

Continued from page 39

The rear differential lock proves invaluable when traversing deep, slick mud, providing extra traction where it's needed most. Its lightweight design (around two tonnes), electronically assisted steering, and excellent ground clearance make the D-Max a master of navigating rough, muddy paths.

To showcase D-Max's exceptional off-road capabilities, Isuzu has recently built a one-off special project, the Mudmaster. Building on the V-Cross trim, it comes fully accessorised to enhance your muddy adventures. It features a snorkel for water wading, a winch for self-recovery, lifted

suspension for increased ground clearance, and powerful lamps for superior visibility.

These enhancements ensure you're well-equipped to tackle the toughest muddy terrains. To explore the Mudmaster's remarkable features, visit www.isuzu.co.uk/mudmaster.

George Wallis, Isuzu UK Head of Marketing, shared, "When it comes to mud driving, the 4x4 Isuzu D-Max pick-up is built to tackle the toughest terrain, so you can get down and dirty with confidence. Also, being responsible off-road doesn't mean being a stick in the mud, the 4x4 D-Max will help you really enjoy the mudness."

Isuzu's 10-step guide to mud driving with your Isuzu D-Max:

- 1** Pack for the Mud: Before heading out, pack a recovery kit with essentials like a tow strap, shovel, traction aids (recovery boards), gloves, and an air compressor in case of tyre pressure adjustments.
- 2** Check Your Tyres: Opt for all-terrain or mud-terrain tyres to improve grip. Mud tyres with larger, self-cleaning treads are ideal for dispersing the mud and maintaining traction.
- 3** Engage 4WD Mode: Switch to 4H or 4L depending on the depth of the mud. 4H is suited for general muddy conditions, while 4L offers more torque for deeper or thicker mud.
- 4** Maintain Steady Momentum: Keep a consistent speed without sudden acceleration or braking. A smooth, steady pace helps avoid wheel spin and sinking.
- 5** Keep Your Wheels Straight: Keep your wheels pointed straight ahead as much as possible. Turning in thick mud increases resistance and the risk of getting stuck.
- 6** Use the Rear Differential Lock: Activate the rear differential lock when facing
- 7** Avoid Over-Revving: Spinning the wheels too fast in mud will dig them deeper. If you feel a loss of traction, ease off the accelerator to let the tyres regain grip.
- 8** Recovery from Stuck: If you get bogged down, don't panic. Gently rock the vehicle back and forth by alternating between forward and reverse gears. Using traction boards or shovelling mud away from the tyres can also help.
- 9** Post-Mud Cleanup: After the adventure, clean your D-Max thoroughly, focusing on the undercarriage, wheel wells, and brakes to remove all traces of mud and prevent potential long-term damage.
- 10** Inspect for Damage: Check for any damage to your tyres, suspension, and undercarriage to ensure everything remains in top condition. Pay particular attention to steering and braking systems to ensure there's no issues.

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Has the *classic car market* reached the bottom?

In an ever-changing year for classic cars, Hagerty Price Guide UK Editor, John Mayhead, analyses the trends that suggest the market may have finally reached a plateau.

The last few years have been interesting times for the classic car market. After Covid came a surge in buyers looking for the car they've always promised themselves, and Hagerty's six UK indices, each of which tracks a different sector of the market, all showed a spike in values as demand outstripped supply and sellers pushed up asking prices. For a while, buyers were willing to pay them.

But just as memories of the

lockdown started to fade and the working-from-home revolution turned out, in many cases, to be a blip rather than a permanent change, so many potential classic car buyers came back down to earth with a bump.

Rising interest rates, a higher cost of living, and the uncertainty caused by pending governmental elections both in the UK and US encouraged people to be careful with their money. That, and some of those who had bought classic cars on impulse after the pandemic decided that they had scratched that itch and put their cars on the market.

So, in the summer of 2023, Hagerty watched as sale rates fell,

both through dealers and at auction. Values followed, and in the year to 1st September 2024, 40 percent of models covered in the UK Hagerty Price Guide dropped in value, around 35 percent in the US Guide, both unprecedented falls. Combined sales results at the Monterey auctions in August 2024, the bellwether of the US market, were nine percent under Hagerty's most pessimistic pre-event forecast.

There's also data to suggest that sellers at UK auctions may be more willing to take less for their cars now compared with last year.

Analysis of the two Bonhams Goodwood Revival auctions, comparing 2023 results with 2024,

shows that, compared with the mean low estimate figure, both the sale price and high bid (if the car failed to sell) dropped. That, combined with a 15 percent drop in the number of cars consigned and an 11 percent drop in the sell-through rate, year-on-year, could back up anecdotal evidence that people know it's the bottom of the market and both buyers and sellers are minded towards care.

But there are some signs that the market may have stabilised over the summer. In the last quarter to 1st September, nearly 90 percent of UK Hagerty Price Guide values remained static, with five of the six indices remaining within one

percentage point of neutral, well within the bounds of data error. The auction results we've seen at the end of the summer – Goodwood Revival included – may not fully reflect this yet due to the longer consignment process for live auctions.

There is a flurry of fall auctions in America, but now only a few notable sales in the UK and Europe until next year, specifically the Paris auctions in February. By then, a new president will be in the White House, Labour's fiscal plan for the next five years will be clear in the UK, and France's new government will have laid its cards on the table, all of which could enhance confidence in purchasing.



Table of car listings with columns for registration number, price, and contact info. Includes registrations like SH04 BEK, SHA2D, TAIHAS, etc.

Table of car listings with columns for registration number, price, and contact info. Includes registrations like 5 NAS, CHIEFS, PIINEM, ATT4H, K7 PPA, UK I IORD, etc.

Table of car listings with columns for registration number, price, and contact info. Includes registrations like A84DLA, AWA1SS, F9TMA, etc.

Advertisement for L20RD car, featuring a yellow background with a red circle around the registration number. Price: £25,000. Contact: TEL. 07969 914 041.

Advertisement for SHIYLA car, featuring a yellow background with a blue and white flag. Price: £1,000,000. Contact: TEL. 07969 914 041.

Advertisement for 786 BG car, featuring a yellow background with a blue and white flag. Price: £37,995. Contact: HR4SH1D@GMAIL.COM.

Advertisement for BRI7HMA car, featuring a yellow background with a blue and white flag. Price: £30,000. Contact: TEL. 07999 754 999.

Advertisement for SIKHE car, featuring a yellow background with a blue and white flag. Price: £28,995. Contact: TEL. 07971 397 677.

Advertisement for SIEKO car, featuring a yellow background with a blue and white flag. Price: £6,995. Contact: TEL. 07971 397 677.

Advertisement titled 'NUMBERS 4 NAMES' listing various car registrations and prices. Includes KII ANN £40,000, CI4 SSE £5,000, etc. Contact: - ASK 4 JOE - joelewis101@live.co.uk. Tel: 07944 316 565 - 07815 114 201.

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FROM PHARMACY TO THE RING...

DYNAMIC DUO: Pharmacist-turned-entrepreneur Anas Rehman with his brother-in-law and business partner Muhammed Tayyub

How an entrepreneur dove head first into the world of high quality boxing accessories and equipment

In the world of sport, where innovation often meets tradition, two entrepreneurs have punched their way into the spotlight by revolutionising boxing equipment.

Meet trailblazers Anas Rehman and Muhammad Tayyab, the men behind Bravose, a brand that's redefining the game with cutting-edge gear designed to keep fighters at their best.

Bravose has fast become a fearless and ambitious brand born out of a true, long-lasting passion for boxing and combat sport.

The story begins with a unique twist. From a background steeped in pharmacy and medicine, Anas Rehman turned his attention to a sport he'd long admired: Boxing.

A keen footballer in his youth and an avid boxing fan - he even met his idol, Prince Naseem Hamed - this entrepreneur saw a gap in the market for safer, more effective boxing gloves.

In 2018, amidst the hustle of daily life and a global pandemic on the horizon, Anas and his brother-in-law Muhammed Tayyab set out to create something extraordinary.

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How an entrepreneur dove head first into the world of high quality boxing accessories and equipment

FROM PHARMACY TO THE RING...



(Picture credit: David Cavan)



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Armed with a modest budget, they invested in developing a revolutionary boxing glove. “We saw a lot of gloves on the market with poor wrist protection, leading to injuries,” says Anas.

“We took it upon ourselves to design a glove that offered enhanced protection.

“Working closely with boxers, fighters and gyms across the UK, we developed a truly outstanding boxing glove through refinement and consultation, approved by the British Boxing Board of Control.”

Fast forward to 2020, and just as the world was thrown into chaos, Bravose faced its own hurdles. Balancing his job as a pharmacist with the fledgling brand, Anas poured countless hours into both.

Then came a pivotal moment: he made the daring decision to leave his secure job and dive headfirst into the boxing world.

“Leaving my stable job was terrifying, but it turned out to be the best decision ever. Sales soared, and the whole operation started to come together,” recalls Anas.

And soar they did. Bravose not only weathered the storm but emerged stronger, gaining traction in the highly competitive arena of boxing gear.

The real knockout came when Bravose equipment hit the big stage. The brand secured a place in high-profile boxing events and drew attention from major figures in the sport. Tommy Fury donned Bravose gloves during a spectacular Pay-Per-View showdown, a moment Anas describes as ‘completely surreal.

“I was at my friend’s house, watching the fight on a massive projector, and seeing Tommy Fury wearing our gloves was a dream come true,” he said, still in awe.

“Within moments I was getting messages and calls from friends and family saying ‘woah, Fury’s wearing your gloves!’ It was a really surreal moment for us, and the biggest testimonial that you could have as a brand.”

crucial that you’re all on the same wavelength- that’s invaluable. We’re incredibly fortunate to have an exceptional team, with the same passion as Tayyab and myself, working with us.

The journey hasn’t been without its challenges, but it’s also been filled with triumphs. With his brother-in-law managing the technical side and the Anas focusing on professional relationships and marketing, Bravose is set to continue its ascent in the boxing

“I was at my friend’s house, watching the fight on a massive projector, and seeing Tommy Fury wearing our gloves was a dream come true.”

Today, Bravose isn’t just surviving; it’s thriving. The company is expanding its reach, with upcoming exhibitions in Germany, and a growing presence on Amazon. The co-founder’s dedication to improving boxing gear is evident in every product they offer, from gloves to head guards.

“My brother-in-law Tayyab is the backbone of the brand, and us working together has proven great success. We both have completely different skill sets which, we’re able to pull together.

“And then, there’s teamwork - it’s

world.

As the co-founder reflects on his journey from pharmacist to boxing innovator, he remains driven by a single goal: to build a global community around Bravose, where every punch thrown is backed by the best gear on the market.

“In sports, it’s all about trust and credibility,” he says. “When a fighter chooses our gear over established brands, it’s the ultimate endorsement. We’re just getting started, and there’s so much more to come.”




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Yorkshire sign Jawad Akhtar on rookie contract

Continued from page 48

James Martin, YCCC's Head of Performance Pathway, said: "It's always a special moment to see a player receive their first professional contract especially to someone who has come through our own Pathway system."

"He can bat in a variety of positions within the order, similar to this he can bowl his off-spin in different phases of the game and captained our Under-18s in the County Cup. The way he's led from the front is a real credit to him."

"Jawad is making good progress and can play all three formats. Whether it's a multi-day, one-day or T20 cricket, he's so well rounded. He'd fit into any of those three and be able to contribute with bat, ball and in the field."

In the last two seasons, right-handed Akhtar has scored centuries for the Yorkshire Academy/Under-18s and for the county's second-team.

The latter two came in the final two second-team matches of 2024, last month.

Batting at number five, he scored 111 and 106 in the first innings of four-day Championship matches against Lancashire at Southport and Middlesex at Merchant Taylors' School.

He debuted for Yorkshire's second team in 2023.

Martin added: "Jawad is a cricketer

who has come through our Pathway since the age of under-10 and has earned his reward for all his hard work with this contract.

"But it's also a huge credit to his family, his wider support network, the Yorkshire Cricket College, Wakefield Thornes and all of our coaches who have played their part in his development."

Akhtar is the third player to progress from the famed Yorkshire Academy onto the professional staff since the start of July, following team-mates Noah Kelly and Alex Wade.





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Yorkshire sign Jawad Akhtar on rookie contract

The Yorkshire County Cricket Club has announced that exciting batting all-rounder Jawad Akhtar has signed a two-year maiden professional rookie contract with the county through until the end of 2026.

Akhtar, 18, has come through the county's age-groups at Headingley from the age of 10 and has graduated from Yorkshire's Academy.

He captained the Academy team which won the Under-18s County One-Day Cup at the start of last month, beating Middlesex in the final at Kibworth. He scored a fine 69 from the middle order in a 36-run triumph.

Akhtar is also a developing off-spin bowler from Wakefield who is a product of the Wakefield Thornes club. He is a graduate of the Yorkshire Cricket College.

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