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Muslim Bradford charity organises it's eighth Christmas dinner



Acts of faith

Compassion and helping the needy is the common thread running through all faiths.

And this couldn't ring more true for volunteers who lovingly put on a delicious Christmas dinner for the elderly, and donated hampers to Christian refugees in the city.

For the Khidmat Centre on

Spencer Road, reaching out to the wider community at Christmas time became a crucial part of their activities calendar when they realised many elderly people were facing isolation during this festive period.

Continued on page 8

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THE INDIAN

McDonald's Bradford helps local families with sick children stay close at hospital



McDonald's Bradford celebrated 30 years of fundraising for Ronald McDonald House Charities UK this year.

McDonald's is the biggest supporter of the charity, raising money through collection boxes and fundraising events in the restaurants across Bradford.

The charity was founded 30 years ago and provides free 'home away from home' accommodation for families so they can be moments away from their child in hospital, for as long as they need it.

Money raised in Bradford goes directly to the charity to fund the house at Manchester Children's Hospital and St Mary's Neo Natal unit, where families from Bradford and across West Yorkshire travel to receive specialist treatment.

The charity relies on the generosity of supporters and fundraisers, including McDonald's customers, without whom it would be unable to continue its work.

Local McDonald's franchisee Saj Shah, who owns two restaurants in Bradford on Rooley Lane and in Gillingham, where he's from, said: "I'm incredibly proud to support this important charity and be able to



help families in Bradford whilst they're going through a difficult time.

"In 2019, we have helped 10 families from Bradford stay close whilst their child has been in hospital and a further 27 families across West Yorkshire.

"My staff work tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for the nearest house in Manchester, encouraging customers to donate and holding fundraising events throughout the year."

The McDonald's restaurants in Bradford have raised over £24,000 for Ronald McDonald House Charities UK (RMHC) this year.

In October, they made it even easier for customers to donate with the introduction of the brand new 'donate at kiosk' option to its restaurant screens. Customers are given the option to round their bill up to the nearest pound or alternatively add 1p, 10p or 20p via the self-order kiosks.

Promising teen boxer took own life after mental health battle

A talented teenage boxer who was battling depression took his own life - just three weeks after police talked him down from the top of a multi-storey car park.

17-year-old Mohammad Reza Ebadi-Farkoosh, known to friends as Ash, was studying sports science at Bolton College.

Ash was found dead in the children's play area of Thomasson Park in Halliwell in June this year after an evening out with friends.

His family say they want answers after an inquest heard he was not given any medication by medics following the multi-storey car park incident where he was found sitting at the top with his legs dangling over the edge.

The police convinced him to seek medical help, but after going to A&E that evening he did not take up the offer of a follow up GP appointment, the inquest heard. Three weeks later, he

took his own life.

Ash had been struggling with his mental health, burdened with suicidal thoughts in the weeks leading up to his death, the inquest heard.

His brother Chan Farkoosh told the coroner that two police incidents changed him. After being arrested in 2015 as part of a police investigation, his mental health began to spiral.

In a statement read out at the hearing Chan said: "He was never really the same. He became withdrawn, he stopped going to the gym, he stopped boxing. He became very distracted.

"If there's something that triggered him, it was that incident."

Chan added: "If he was found on top of a building by police, he should not be made to wait with other sick people who have been prioritised for something else.

"He should have been put on medication straight away."



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Sikh soldier statue a beacon of diversity

A statue of a Sikh soldier unveiled in a West Yorkshire park commemorates the thousands of Sikhs who fought and died in WWI and WWIL.

The stunning six-foot-high bronze soldier was revealed at Greenhead Park in Huddersfield.

The Sikh Soldier Organisation (SSO) with the support of the Army, the Royal British Legion and Kirklees Council commissioned the sculpture.

Costing £65,000 and taking almost ten years and over 500 meetings to eventuate, it was one man's vision to install some background of the sacrifices Indian soldiers made during World War I and World War II.

The journey began over a decade ago when Kalvinder Bhullar would regularly attend Remembrance Day ceremonies to honour his grandfather's contribution to the World War.

Mr Bhullar explains: "When attending the ceremonies, people would often give me sideways glances. Many times I was asked what I was doing there."

"I felt a monument in Yorkshire for our fallen brothers would assist people to understand that Indian troops gave their lives by fighting alongside British soldiers during the world wars."



Then began his journey to install a public monument to honour fallen Sikh soldiers.

"We've accomplished our mission to get the statue put in place. The support has been overwhelming."

"It is a stunning sculpture and an emotional piece."

"This statue not only signifies the sacrifices that Sikh soldiers made, but also those made by Muslim and Hindu soldiers too."

More than 89,000 Muslim and 83,000 Sikhs were killed and many more wounded during World War One and World War Two. In total, almost 1.5 million Muslim, Sikh and Hindu men from India volunteered to assist the Allied forces.

"Now on your leisurely walk through Greenhead Park, you may come across a six-foot statue of a Sikh soldier, and you may wonder what this is doing in the centre of Huddersfield," he adds.

The £65,000 statue has been made possible only because of donations from public, and Mr Bhullar says that Huddersfield was chosen to display the monumental statue due to its "vibrant" Sikh community.

In the two World Wars Sikhs played prominent roles in the conflicts. The closest estimates report that 83,005 Sikhs gave their lives in the battlefields of the two World Wars, with 109,045 wounded in battle across the world.



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Police officer amongst 16 men charged with sex offences

Sixteen men, including police constable Amjad Ditta have been charged with a variety of offences following an investigation into non-recent child sexual exploitation in Halifax.

The allegations against the defendants are from 2006 to 2009 against three female victims, who were aged between 13 and 16 years old at the time of the alleged offences.

Suspended West Yorkshire PC Amjad Ditta, also known as Amjad Hussain, 35, has been charged with sexual touching.

He and 15 other men from Halifax are charged with offences against three girls in the Halifax area, dating from 2006 to 2009.

The allegations include several counts of rape, sexual assault, supplying drugs and trafficking. The men will appear at Bradford Magistrates Court on 6th January 2020.

Those charged are:

Vaqaas Abbas, 30 of Halifax, charged with rape (x3) and supply of a class C drug (x3).

Nadeem Adalat, 34 of Halifax, charged with rape (x4) and supply of a class C drug (x4).

Sajid Adalat, 43 of Halifax, charged with rape.

Vaseem Adalat, 33 of Halifax, charged with rape (x2), trafficking, and supply of a class C drug.

Amjad Ditta aka Amjad Hussain, 35, a police constable based within West Yorkshire Police's Protective

Services Operations, charged with sexual touching.

Christopher Eastwood, 45 of Halifax, charged with rape (x2) and supply of a class C drug (x2).

Metab Islam, 46 of Halifax, charged with rape (x6), supply of a class C drug (x6), sexual assault (x2) and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Mohammed Rizwan Iqbal, 34 of Halifax, charged with rape.

Ishtiaq Latif, 32 of Halifax, charged with sexual activity with a child.

Asad Mahmood, 33 of Halifax, charged with rape (x2) and trafficking.

Arfan Mir, also known as Khalifa Mughal, 36 of Halifax, charged with rape (x6), supply of a class C drug (x3), supply of a class A drug and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Younis Mohammed aka Younis Khan, 34 of Halifax, charged with rape and causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent.

Nadeem Nassir, 39 of Halifax, charged with rape, supply of a class C drug and making threats to kill.

Shahzad Nawaz, 40 of Halifax, charged with rape, supply of a class C drug and making threats to kill.

Shazad Nazir, 44 of Halifax, charged with rape (x2) and supply of a class C drug (x2).

Sohail Zafar, 36 of Halifax, charged with rape and supplying a class C drug.



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Breast cancer survivor marks her recovery

■ Cancer survivor Shamilla Mirza with commemorative bench



“Research into cancer is the key to changing lives now and in the future. Without it I simply wouldn’t be standing – or sitting – here today.”

When 45-year-old Shamilla Mirza found a pea-shaped lump in her breast, she was shocked to be diagnosed with breast cancer.

It was a particularly difficult time for her family as Shamilla’s dad had only died three months earlier from a brain haemorrhage.

Shamilla from Manchester, had a mastectomy and breast reconstruction, followed by chemotherapy treatment. She was treated at North Manchester General Hospital and The Christie.

Now, the brave breast cancer survivor has unveiled an engraved park bench – but one unlike any other.

In a twist to the ‘in memoriam’ benches that are a familiar site in beauty spots across the country, Shamilla’s bench attests to her recovery from cancer and salutes the scientists, doctors and nurses who are making game-changing progress in tackling the disease.

The inscription reads: “Shamilla Mirza loved sitting here....and still does thanks to advances in cancer research.”

The bench was revealed to launch the ‘Re-Write Cancer’ campaign – a £20m joint fundraising appeal from Cancer Research UK, The Christie Charitable Fund and The University of Manchester.

The campaign aims to help meet the cost of a new £150m cancer research facility. The new building will bring together the largest concentration of scientists, doctors and nurses in Europe to collaborate and accelerate progress for cancer patients.

The world-class facility is due to open in 2022. Adjoining The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, it has been purposefully designed to foster collaboration and speed up progress on behalf of cancer patients in the North West and across the world.

Shamilla’s bench will be installed in Heaton Park where she enjoyed spending time during her recovery from cancer.

Shamilla, who works at a Tesco store, credits her family for their unparalleled support which gave her the strength to face the disease. Her mother Arshad Mirza and sister Nabila Mirza still attend every follow-up medical appointment with her.

Her two sons Zakir Baig Mirza, 16, and Zain Baig Mirza, 18, have also proved to be a great source of comfort.

She said: “I can not thank my family enough for giving me the courage to face the disease and get on with the treatment.

“Plans for the new research building sound exciting and it’s amazing that such a world-leading facility will be built on my doorstep in the North West. Research into cancer is the key to changing lives now and in the future. Without it I simply wouldn’t be standing – or sitting – here today.”

The new purpose-built biomedical facility will house several hundred members of staff and attract collaborators from far and wide. Its adjoining of The Christie will enable cells

and samples from cancer patients to be taken to the research lab in a matter of minutes – facilitating world leading research which will lead to new cancer treatments.

Manchester is a place of world-firsts in cancer research, including the first clinical use of Tamoxifen for breast cancer and the first single harvest blood stem-cell transplant.

Cancer cases in Greater Manchester are significantly higher than anywhere else in the UK – every day 18 people die from the disease in Greater Manchester. This amounts to 6500 people a year – making the death toll around 10 per cent higher than the UK average.

Cancer Research UK chief executive, Michelle Mitchell said: “I’m thrilled at plans for the new research facility.

“We’re in a ‘golden age’ of cancer research, with survival rates having doubled over the past 40 years. This has largely been driven by improvements in treatments and early diagnosis, but we still have a long way to go in the fight against the disease.

“By 2030, the building will be at the heart of our ambition to lead the world in clinical trial recruitment – supporting the development of new and kinder cancer therapies.”

Roger Spencer, chief executive at The Christie, said: “This is a hugely exciting time for The Christie and its partners.



■ Shamilla with extended family (L-R: sister Nabila Mirza, son Zakir Baig Mirza, mother Arshad Mirza, son Zain Baig Mirza, Shamilla Mirza)

“We have an opportunity to create a truly unique research facility integrated within the hospital with scientists, researchers and consultants all working together in one place, developing and shaping treatment and research from basic scientific discoveries through to patient care. It will ensure our patients receive access to the very latest personalised and innovative cancer treatments alongside world-class clinical and scientific expertise.”

President and Vice-Chancellor of The University of Manchester, Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell said: “As an institution and research community we were all deeply saddened by the fire of 2017, but the scope and vision outlined for the new project is very exciting. It is matched only by our ambition to enhance Manchester’s reputation as a world-leading centre for cancer research.

“With our partners, Cancer Research UK and The Christie, we genuinely believe this facility will be at the epicentre of some of the world’s most important cancer-related innovations in diagnosis, treatments and clinical trials.”

Cancer Research UK, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust and The University of Manchester have worked together for more than a decade under the umbrella partnership of Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC).

“ **We have an opportunity to create a truly unique research facility integrated within the hospital with scientists, researchers and consultants all working together in one place, developing and shaping treatment and research from basic scientific discoveries through to patient care.** ”

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Muslim Bradford charity organises it's eighth Christmas dinner



Acts of faith

Cover story continued

"As Muslims, it's imperative to take responsibility for our neighbours, no matter what their background or faith," says Sofia Buncy - a Community Development Officer and a key organiser of the Christmas events.

"We run a well-attended elderly club, and hear stories of loneliness. One lady told me that last Christmas she made a hot water bottle and stayed in bed all day," she explains.

"Khidmat' literally means 'to serve'.

"Christmas is woven into the fabric of Britain and is a special time for everyone. It's awful to think people might be alone," she added.

"So it just made sense that we should reach out to our Christian friends in the community and share some warmth and love in the spirit of the season."

Kickstarting the Christmas initiatives in 2011, local businesses such as MyLahore and J.W. Young Butchers and a dedicated army of local volunteers have become the backbone for this lovingly warm campaign.

With ingredients bought by the Khidmat Centre, MyLahore cooks up sumptuous food (keeping hot spices out of the equation), keeping in mind the palates of the elderly guests.

The Khidmat Centre van happily picks up the guests to attend the Christmas Dinner.

Meanwhile, the Khidmat Centre kitchen - a bustling hub of food warming and plating-up is managed and run by reformed female Muslim



prisoners, many of whom credit their newly-gained confidence to the Khidmat Centre.

"The Bishop of Bradford Toby Howarth and the President of the Bradford Council for Mosques Zulfiqaar Karim were kind enough to drop in on us and say thank you to our volunteer group," adds Sofia.

"The smiles and joy on the faces of our guests were priceless!"

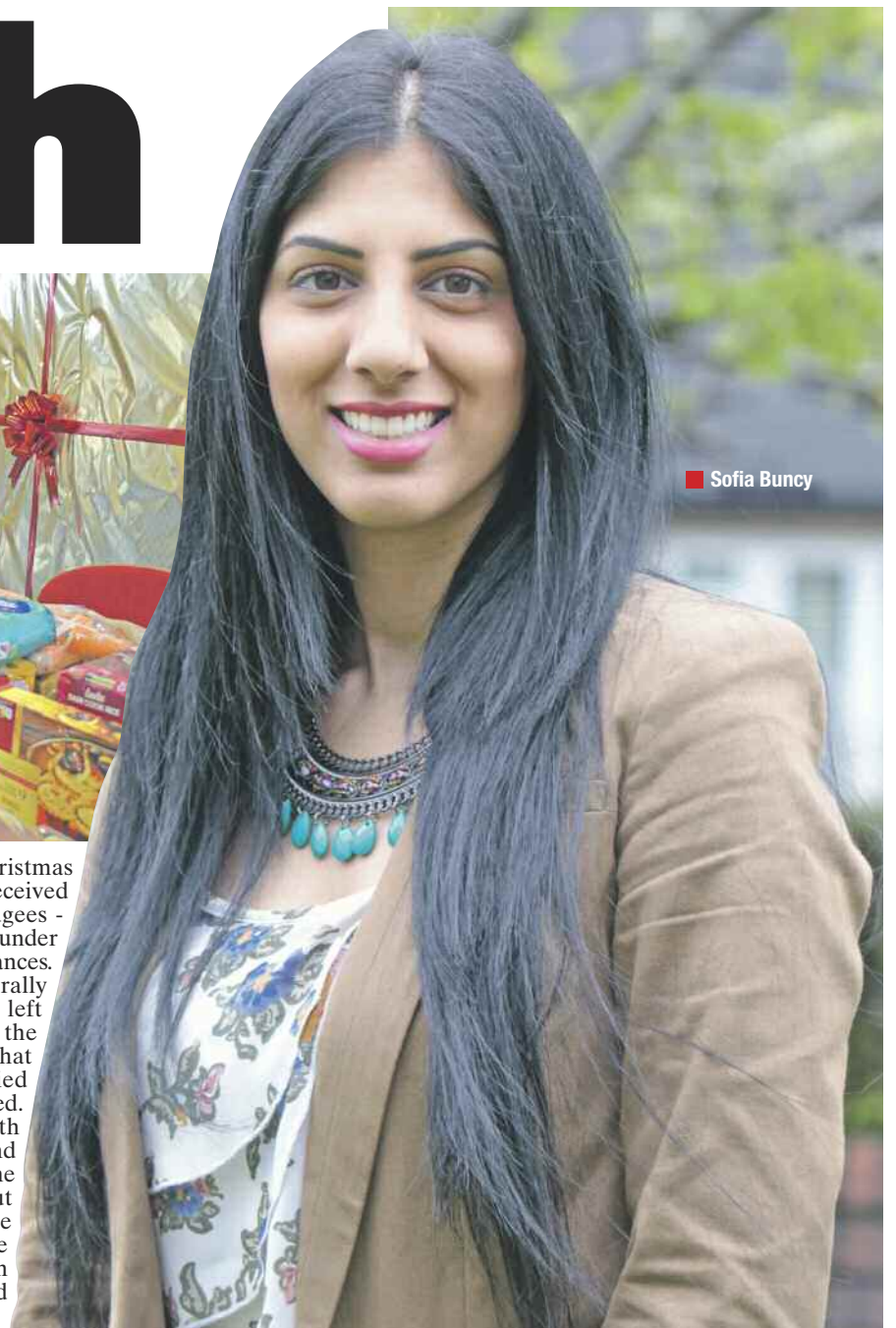
Bradford has a proud tradition of accepting people from all around the world, many of whom have fled persecution in their home country.

The city was officially recognised as a 'City of Sanctuary' in 2008, it's one of the first cities that officially welcomed asylum-seekers and refugees.

Sofia adds: "Our Christmas hampers are very warmly received by the city's Christian refugees - many have fled to Bradford under very, very difficult circumstances.

"As Muslims, we generally follow the rule that 'the left hand shouldn't know what the right is doing, and that discretion should be applied when performing a good deed.

"But actually, I feel, with the rise of Islamophobia and negative connotations in the mainstream press about Muslims, it's become quite important to talk about the extended work we do with people of other faiths and backgrounds."



■ Sofia Buncy



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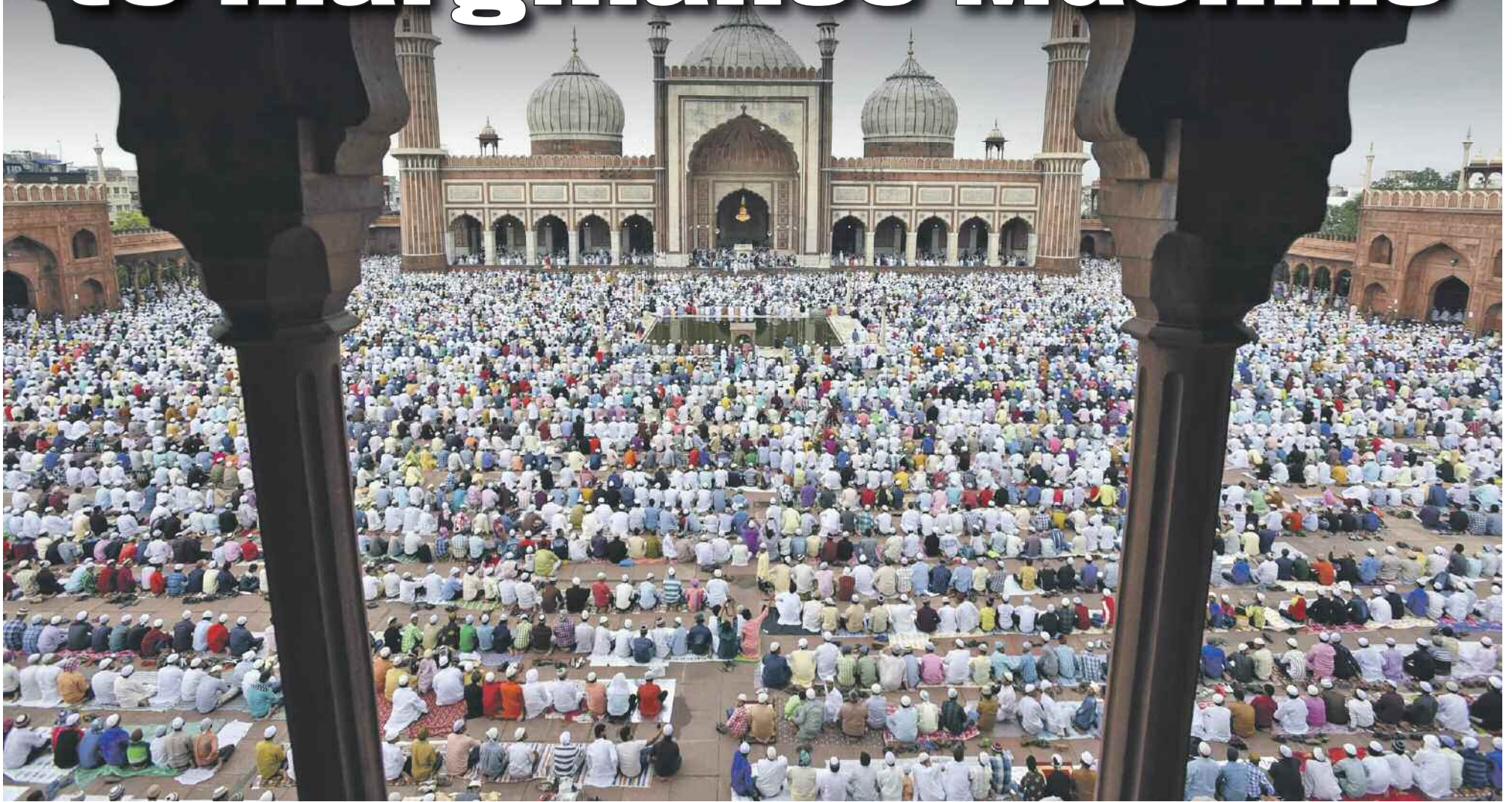
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India takes step forward to marginalise Muslims



Protests have broken out across India over Narendra Modi's controversial new citizenship law, which makes naturalisation for Muslims harder.

India's major step toward the official marginalisation of Muslims approved by one house of Parliament saw the passing of a bill that would establish a religious test for migrants who want to become citizens.

Solidifying Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist agenda, the bill makes religion a criterion for nationality for the first time.

The measure would give migrants of all of South Asia's major religions a clear path to Indian citizenship - except Islam.

It is the most significant move yet to profoundly alter India's secular nature enshrined by its founding leaders when the country gained independence in 1947.

The bill passed in the lower house, the Lok Sabha, on Wednesday 11th December, with a vote of 311 to 80.

The measure now moves to the upper house, the Rajya Sabha, where Mr Modi seems to have enough allies that most analysts predict it will soon become law.

But opponents say the law is discriminatory and violates India's constitution and the country's Muslims are deeply unsettled.

They see the new measure, called the Citizenship Amendment Bill, as the first step by the governing party to make second-class citizens of India's 200 million Muslims, one of the largest Muslim populations in the world, and render many of them

stateless.

The legislation goes hand in hand with a contentious program that began in the northeastern state of Assam this year, in which all 33 million residents of the state had to prove, with documentary evidence, that they or their ancestors were Indian citizens.

Approximately two million people - many of them Muslims, and many of them lifelong residents of India - were left off the state's citizenship rolls after that exercise.

Now, Mr Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is hoping to expand that kind of citizenship test to other states. And the new legislation would become a guiding principle for who could hope to call themselves Indians.

Mr Modi and his party are deeply rooted in an ideology that sees India as a Hindu nation. And since the B.J.P.'s landslide re-election win in May, Mr Modi's administration has celebrated one Hindu nationalist victory after another.

First came the Assam citizenship tests. Then Mr Modi stripped away autonomy and statehood for Kashmir, which used to be India's only Muslim-majority state. And last month, Hindu fundamentalists scored a big court victory allowing them to build a new temple over the ruins of a demolished mosque in the flashpoint city of Ayodhya.

With the new

citizenship bill, Mr Modi's party says it is simply trying to protect persecuted Hindus, Buddhists and Christians (and members of a few smaller religions) who migrate from predominantly Muslim countries such as Pakistan or Afghanistan.

But the legislation would also make it easier to incarcerate and deport Muslim residents, even those whose families have been in India for generations if they cannot produce proof of citizenship.

Under Mr Modi's leadership, anti-Muslim sentiment has become

blatantly more mainstream and public. Intimidation and attacks against Muslim communities have increased in recent years.

Mr Modi's fellow lawmakers in the BJP are unapologetic about their pro-Hindu position.

The leaders of the opposition - the Indian National Congress party, paint the bill as a danger to India's democracy.

After India won its independence, its founding leaders, Mohandas K. Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru among them, made a clear decision: Even though the country was 80 per cent Hindu, it would not be an officially Hindu nation. Minorities, especially Muslims, would be treated equally.

Rahul Gandhi, a party leader and great-grandson of Mr Nehru, said, "India belongs to everybody - all communities, all religions, all cultures." Shashi Tharoor, the party's intellectual heavyweight, called the bill an "all-out assault on the very idea of India."

But the Congress party is at a low point in its 100-year-plus history. And Mr Modi's party has the numbers: With allies, it controls nearly two-thirds of the seats in the lower house.

Some of Mr Modi's critics believe the bill is serving to distract the public from another pressing issue: the economy. For the first time in decades, India's economy is

slowing significantly. It is still huge, but several big industries, like car and motorcycle manufacturing, have seen sales plummet like never before.

But forging India into an overtly Hindu nation has been a core goal of Mr Modi's party and of the R.S.S., a right-wing volunteer group whose ranks Mr Modi rose through and which provides him with a backbone of support. His recent moves in Kashmir, along with the Ayodhya temple ruling and the Assam citizenship tests, have been hugely popular with the prime minister's base.

Mr Shah, the home minister and architect of the B.J.P.'s recent political victories, promised to protect the Hindus and other non-Muslims. He has called illegal migrants from Bangladesh "termites," and along with his other statements made clear that Muslims were his target. Mr Shah has also promised to impose the citizenship test from Assam on the entire country.

The citizenship bill is a piece of the campaign to identify and deport Muslims who have been living in India for years, critics of the bill say.

Mr Modi's supporters employ a certain logic when defending the bill's exclusion of Muslims.

They say that when India and Pakistan were granted independence in 1947, the British carved out Pakistan as a haven for Muslims, while India remained predominantly Hindu. To them, the extension of that process is to ask illegal Muslims migrants to leave India and seek refuge in neighbouring, mainly Muslim nations.



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£6.4million investment in Bradford's playgrounds

Proposals for a new £6.4m capital investment programme into improving the district's playgrounds and outdoor fitness facilities will go to Bradford Council's Executive on 7th January.

It is part of a £20m strategy to develop sports pitches and playable spaces to improve the health of the district with this programme focusing on the well-being and development of our children.

Lister Park will be the first site to benefit with a £650,000 refit of its playground facilities. Although the park remains one of the most popular play destinations, its current equipment is reaching the end of its lifespan.

The work follows consultation with children, park users and local community groups last summer and will look to improve the mix of play activities available to a broad range of ages and abilities.

like those being created in Lister Park.

It also aims to make sure play facilities address any inequalities of provision, are sustainable and achieve positive health outcomes for children.

Councillor Sarah Ferriby, portfolio holder for healthy people and places, said: "We really need to invest in our children to ensure they have the play spaces they deserve in order to grow and develop."

"We need to make sure we have the play spaces families need for the twenty-first century, including great destination parks for all and exciting local facilities for communities throughout the district. This means looking how communities can use smaller patches of land in innovative ways to encourage play."

"Play is not only important in tackling issues around obesity and ensuring children have a happy and healthy childhood. It is also an



"We really need to invest in our children to ensure they have the play spaces they deserve in order to grow and develop."

The new play area will not only include traditional play equipment but will offer opportunities to encourage more innovative, dynamic and active play with natural play elements.

Investment in other areas will follow the creation of a Playable Spaces Strategy, due to be completed by the end of 2020, which will include consultation with elected members, families who use the spaces and local community groups.

The strategy aims to ensure there is a better mix of play spaces across the district so that there is provision close to the homes where younger children live, neighbourhood play facilities for older children as well as destination play facilities for everyone to enjoy

important part of their development in terms of dexterity, balance and muscle control as well as building relationships with other people."

The £6.4m is made up of the remaining £5m from the develop sports pitches and playable spaces programme together with the available £1.329m Capital Section 106 monies already received and £67,000 of Community Investment Levy monies allocated by the Executive on 9th July 2019.

The Local Authority currently manages and maintains 299 play facilities across 165 sites through its Parks and Green spaces Service. This is made up of 150 traditional fixed play spaces as well as multi-use games areas, wheeled sports, ball sports and outdoor fitness facilities.

“ *Play is not only important in tackling issues around obesity and ensuring children have a happy and healthy childhood. It is also an important part of their development in terms of dexterity, balance and muscle control as well as building relationships with other people.* ”



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Schoolgirl who was viciously attacked and 'strangled' with her own hijab says she's too scared to leave her house



■ SCARED: 14-year-old Redana Al-Hadi was punched during an horrific racial attack as she was travelling on a bus

Terrified

A Muslim schoolgirl says she has been left traumatised after she was punched and 'strangled' with her own hijab on her way home from school.

Redana Al-Hadi, 14, was travelling with her 13-year-old sister, Wadaad on a single decker bus, when she was punched repeatedly by a woman who shouted racial slurs at her.

Redana from Upperthorpe in Sheffield was taken to hospital with a suspected fractured eye socket after the attack.

The horrific ordeal has not only left her physically bruised but also "too scared to get the bus to school".

The teenagers were travelling home with a group of friends from Silverdale School on public transport when the woman and a man, began to "mock" their accent and abuse them about their headwear.

The argument then spilled out of the bus and onto the road, where the woman knocked Redana to the ground and beat her.

Mobile phone footage of the horrifying incident shared online, shows the woman on top of Redana repeatedly slamming down punches.

Brave Redana has now spoken out about the ordeal, which took place shortly after 4.30pm on Wednesday, 4th December.

"As we were getting off the bus he stood up and screamed the 'N' word towards my friend. A little boy at the back of the bus stood up and said don't call her that - we're black," said

Redana.

Redana says a short argument broke out between the man and the woman - who are thought to have known each other - before the man grabbed one of the children.

She said the woman then turned on her and began shouting racial slurs and telling them their hijabs made her "feel sick".

Redana added: "She then threw herself at me and dragged me out of the bus. As she dragged me to the floor she strangled me with my hijab. My little sister tried to stop it but the man grabbed my sister by her waist and threw her into oncoming traffic."

A 40-year-old woman and a 44-year-old man were arrested by South Yorkshire Police, who said the incident "remains under investigation".

It's understood the woman was released after being given a caution for assault, while a 44-year-old man remains on police bail.

"She kicked me in my neck and knocked me out with her fist and started smashing my head and stamping on me while my arm was over my face. I thought my arm had been broken."

"My face is all swollen and it's a mess."

She added: "I feel targeted because I'm a Muslim girl. I've not gone back to school because I'm too scared to go back on the bus or to leave my house."

"I'm scared of adults harassing me and I already had

bad eyesight, I wear glasses, and the eye she damaged is my good eye."

The girls' mother Racheda Ali, 51, said: "When I got the phone call from Wadaad (my youngest) saying 'mum she's killing my sister, she's attacking Redana and attacking us', I just didn't know what to do."

"When we got there all the children were crying because they were all scared and shaking."

"My daughter was having a panic attack, it's just outrageous what they did to her."

The solicitor representing the family, Arshaid Bashir of Adam Law Solicitors, said: "This is an assault on a child where derogatory language has been used."

"It is a racially aggravated assault."

"There was serious harm to a child who was attacked due to her appearance."

"The CPS ought to have been consulted prior to any decision being made. Public duty requires the perpetrator to be prosecuted."

"At the very least the perpetrator should have been charged with affray as part of joint enterprise with the co-accused as unlawful violence was used towards another which caused other persons to fear for their safety."

"There are aggravating features in this case as it was a busy public area, children were present and it was a sustained attack."

Silverdale School statement

The girl's school also made a statement on the incident. "We are aware of an incident that has happened outside of school where it appears that some of our students have suffered abuse from members of the public,"

said Silverdale School.

"We are supporting the students and their families in any way needed," it said, adding, "Given that this is an ongoing police investigation, we won't be commenting further."

Anti-Muslim hatred

Anti-Muslim hatred has significantly risen in Europe in recent years. Far-right extremism and xenophobia have fueled anti-Muslim hatred in Western countries, where terror attacks by Daesh and al-Qaida are used as an excuse to legitimize those views.

Although enmity toward Muslims is not a new phenomenon, it intensified after 9/11. Since then, for almost two decades, Islam has been unjustly tarnished with labels that have negative connotations and

portrayed as a religion of hate and violence with anti-Western sentiment and women's oppression. This trend of intolerance has triggered deadly attacks against Muslims and immigrants since then.

With growing racism emerging as a serious problem in almost all EU states, citizens of foreign origin are more vulnerable in some countries. Anti-Muslim hatred in the U.K. has shown a sharp rise since the 2017 terror attacks in London and Manchester.



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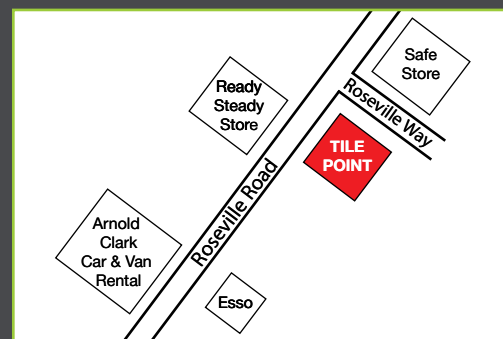


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“Their crimes included targeting a school and a theft of £100,000 from a victim’s personal account”



Three fraudsters who used malware to steal tens of thousands of pounds from victims across the country have been sentenced.

The following were sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court on Friday, 29th November.

Usman Khan, 32, from Birmingham was charged with conspiracy to defraud and two counts of conspiracy to conceal / disguise / convert / transfer / remove criminal property. He admitted the offence and was jailed for four years and six months.

Abhay Singh, 33, from Abingdon was jailed for three years and four months and Naveed Pasha, 56, also from Birmingham was jailed for two years, suspended for one year and nine months.

The case focuses on a long-term cyber fraud and money laundering operation committed by a sophisticated criminal group between January 2016 and January 2019.

“Mule” accounts

The group used malicious software to infiltrate computers, enabling them to access the bank accounts of individuals and businesses.

The conspirators removed substantial funds from each account before transferring the money to other “mule” accounts under their control. They would then make a final movement of the funds before withdrawing it at banks across the country.

Khan controlled the criminal enterprise through the use of aliases and the support of a trusted group of criminal associates. He had a leading role in all elements of the conspiracy.

How Khan came on the radar

Khan first came to the attention of officers following the arrest and conviction of 39-year-old Vugar Mollachiev in March 2017. He was charged with and pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud and money laundering, and was jailed for nine years.

During the search of Mollachiev’s house, a number of significant electronic devices were seized. It is from detailed analysis of these devices and the 46,700 lines of

Cyber fraud trio jailed

interaction located on an encrypted message platform that Khan was first identified.

Within the messages officers discovered evidence dating back to April 2016 of Khan searching for software which he could use to access the bank accounts of members of the public.

His role at that time was to provide and control UK bank accounts to allow fraudulently obtained money to be transferred through – known as mule accounts. The money in these accounts would eventually be withdrawn and supplied to a criminal network. Within the messages discovered on Mollachiev’s device, officers found additional conversations demonstrating Khan’s desire to become further involved in the deployment of malicious software.

Up to £40,000 per day

Khan was involved in thousands of conversations discussing the fraudulent movement of up to £40,000 a day into mule bank accounts from both personal and business victim bank accounts.

His offending was first discovered when on 2 March 2016 the owner of a private company noticed two fraudulent debits which had been

completed on the company’s online banking platform – both for approximately £24,000.

Further investigation of banking activity identified thirteen accounts which were being used by Khan to launder fraudulent funds. Throughout the course of his offending Khan assumed multiple identities, setting up gas and tax accounts to legitimise his activity under each alias.

School target

Khan and his co-conspirators defrauded a school out of more than £15,000, in November 2017 they defrauded a victim out of her life savings – approximately £45,000, in March 2017 and May 2017 they stole £10,000 and £16,600 respectively from other personal accounts.

The group used a range of methods to gain access to the victim bank accounts and transfer money out.

When officers carried out surveillance on Khan, they witnessed him, alongside Singh and Pasha, travelling to a range of banks and make numerous withdrawals and deposits of cash.

CCTV from inside many of the premises corroborated the fact the group were withdrawing large sums of cash, travelling to a different bank and re-depositing it different mule

accounts.

In May 2018 the group were also involved in the theft of £100,000 from a victim’s personal account.

Khan’s arrest

Khan was arrested on 30 January 2019 when officers carried out a search warrant at his home address. Officers seized a number of mobile phones, a laptop and a range of banking material.

Pasha was also arrested at his home address on the same day. On arrest he told police he committed the offence because he needed the money to support his family. Officers seized a number of mobile phones from the address.

Singh was also arrested at his home address. Officers seized a wide range of objects including driving licences and bank cards belonging to other individuals, quantities of cash, paying in books belonging to businesses.

Complex investigation

DS Gavin McKay from Central Specialist Crime said: “This group of criminals stole tens of thousands from individuals, businesses, schools and other organisations.

“They showed no regard for the livelihoods of members of the public, or the future of some businesses during the course of their actions.

“I am pleased with the sentence these individuals have received. It should send a clear message to anyone considering carrying out such crimes that we have the ability and expertise to track you down and bring you to justice. This has been a lengthy and highly complex investigation, and I am incredibly proud of my colleagues’ endeavours in bringing these three men before the courts.

“Fraud is often highly difficult to investigate and prosecute, but I want to reassure the public that we will do all we can to identify and arrest those responsible for such crimes. I would also like to thank the National Crime Agency for their assistance in this investigation.”

Phil Larratt from the NCA’s National Cyber Crime Unit said: “Cyber criminals rely heavily on money launderers like Khan and his associates who, in this case, ensured a criminal network were able to access thousands of pounds they stole from victims.

“We are committed to supporting and working with our partners, both nationally and internationally, to target those involved in cyber crime and prevent further people in the UK being defrauded.”

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Apple iCloud 'hacker' from London spared jail



A London man has admitted trying to blackmail Apple by claiming he had access to millions of iCloud accounts.

22-year-old Kerem Albayrak from north London threatened to wipe 319 million accounts unless Apple gave him iTunes gift cards worth \$100,000 (£76,000).

However, an investigation found that Albayrak had not compromised Apple's systems.

Albayrak has been given a two year suspended jail sentence and ordered to do 300 hours of unpaid work.

In March 2017, Albayrak emailed Apple's security team, claiming to have breached millions of iCloud accounts.

He posted a video on YouTube that appeared to show him breaking in to two accounts.

He threatened to sell the account information, dump his database online and reset the accounts, unless Apple paid his iTunes gift card demand.

Albayrak also said he would accept \$75,000 worth of crypto-currency, but later increased this to \$100,000.

He was arrested at his home

in north London about two weeks after sending his threat.

Apple investigated his claims but could not find evidence that its systems had been compromised.

The UK's National Crime Agency found that Albayrak had gathered email addresses and passwords from other services, which had previously been exposed in data breaches.

He then tried his luck, seeing if anybody had used the same username and password for their iCloud account.

This type of attack, known as credential stuffing, can be

automated to speed up the process.

Albayrak told investigators: "When you have power on the internet it's like fame and everyone respects you."

In addition to the 300 hours of unpaid work, he has been given a six month electronic curfew.

"Albayrak wrongly believed he could escape justice after hacking in to two accounts and attempting to blackmail a large multi-national corporation," said Anna Smith, a senior investigative officer for the NCA.



Dr Mohammed Ali OBE, Chief Executive and founder of the Bradford-based QED Foundation

"We must work together"

Call for UK's Pakistani organisations to unite and tackle barriers faced by communities



SPEAKERS: (L to R) Adeebe Malik, deputy CEO of QED, hosting one of the Q&A sessions with key speakers Sir Stephen Bubb, Javed Khan and Faraz Khan

UK-based Pakistani charities and voluntary organisations must work together to tackle the challenges facing some of our most disadvantaged communities.

That was the core message to representatives of more than 130 organisations who attended the inaugural annual conference of the Network of Pakistani Organisations (NPO-UK) at the Aga Khan University in London.

Delegates were told they needed to focus on the wider challenges facing Britain's 1.5 million Pakistanis who are regularly singled-out by government reports and think tanks.

British Pakistanis running, or involved in, voluntary sector organisations of all sizes are an untapped resource, the conference identified.

Dr Mohammed Ali OBE, Chief Executive and founder of the Bradford-based QED Foundation, said: "There are thought to be at least 4,000 British Pakistanis running voluntary organisations.

"They are very influential players in local community development.

"These organisations face the same challenges as the voluntary sector as a whole, such as increasing demand for their services and diminishing resources.

"But, they also face the additional challenges of being based in deprived areas and not having the resources or knowledge to invest in capacity-building.

"We need to meet the challenge head on and to harness the energy and knowledge of the British Pakistani voluntary sector to make a difference."

His comments were echoed by the key speakers, including Sir Stephen Bubb, the Director of Charity Futures and the Acting Director of the Oxford Institute of Charity.

Too many Pakistani organisations stuck in a rut due to the failed 'community leadership' model

approach to equalities – saris, steel band and samosas," said Mr Khan.

"It didn't work in the 1980s, when it was first implemented, it's not going to work now.

"Yet for too many organisations that is the limit of their imagination when they think about equality."

He urged delegates to bear in mind the changing face of the communities they serve, especially when it came to young people - the adults of the future.

"The demographics are changing and organisations have to change alongside," he said.

"The point is: if we don't understand about our people how are we going to organise our services directed towards them in the way they are needed? Our data-capture has to be much more nuanced."

Faraz Khan, a UK-based Pakistani social entrepreneur, spoke of change as something that operated at three levels: individual, institutional and systemic.

He stressed the importance of transformation of communities.

He told the delegates about Careem - the taxi service of Pakistan and many other Middle Eastern countries. The company had now been bought by Uber. The company had transformed travel in Pakistan and many other Muslim countries. It was a completely safe way to travel, especially for women. Its employment of women drivers was also radical in many countries.

The conference also heard from several speakers, with country-specific examples of Pakistani contribution, including Salim Kidwai, from Wales, Raza Sadiq, from Scotland, Qaisra Shahraz, from Manchester, where she is Director of the Muslim Arts and Cultural Festival and Dr Karamat Iqbal, an academic and community activist.

Dr Karamat Iqbal stressed the importance of Pakistani women's participation in organisations.



Javed Khan, Chief Executive of Barnardo's

Javed Khan, Chief Executive of Barnardo's, advised against leaders playing politics. Instead the focus should be on serving the community and responding to their needs.

Mr Khan's view is that too many Pakistani organisations were stuck in a rut, of the "community leadership" model, "which, we know, is tried, tested and failed."

He added that organisations had to do much more to recruit a diverse workforce. They should commit in every which they can; strategically, tactically and through resource allocation to drive the equality agenda.

"Many of us remember the 'three S'

Doctor convicted of sexual assault offences against patients

■ CONVICTED:
Manish Shah



A former doctor has been found guilty of sexually assaulting dozens of female patients by conducting unnecessary, intrusive medical examinations over a five-year period.

Manish Shah, 50, from Romford, was found guilty of nine counts of sexual assault and 16 counts of sexual assault by penetration, relating to eight women, after a six-week trial at the Old Bailey.

It can now be reported that Shah was found guilty of offences of sexual assault by penetration and sexual assault by touching in relation to 17 other women at an earlier trial which concluded in December 2018.

He will be sentenced for the offences from both trials at the same court on 7th February 2020.

Shah committed the offences

between 2009 and 2013 while he was a GP at the Mawney Medical Centre in Romford, east London.

The charges across the two trials relate to a total of more than 20 female victims, aged in their 20s and 30s. They all gave evidence during both trials.

Jurors heard that Shah recommended and suggested that the patients have regular breast and vaginal examinations, when there was no clinical need.

On some occasions, he highlighted the urgency of check-ups for cervical cancer, breast cancer and other serious illnesses by talking about celebrities who had suffered with similar conditions.

The court also heard that Shah was "overfamiliar" with some of his

female patients, and made inappropriate comments as well as making physical contact and hugging and kissing them.

Shah's offending first came to light in July 2013, when four women made separate allegations to the medical practice that Dr Shah had sexually assaulted them; these were passed to police.

The thorough and lengthy investigation was led by officers from Central Specialist Crime.

NHS England carried out a scoping exercise of all Dr Shah's female patients. His medical notes were reviewed, and these gave rise to concerns about the medical justification of the examinations he had conducted.

As a result of the scoping exercise,

139 women were spoken to by police and a number of these supported the prosecution.

Dr Shah was first arrested in September 2013 in relation to the initial four allegations, and further allegations were subsequently investigated.

Acting Detective Superintendent Richard McDonagh, from Central Specialist Crime, said: "Shah was a long-serving doctor who was well-known in the community, and trusted and liked by his patients, many who had him as their GP for many years.

"They were unaware that Shah was carrying out unnecessary, invasive examinations on female patients for his own sexual gratification, after giving his victims misleading clinical advice.

"These offences are particularly grave due to Shah's abuse of his position, and of the trust placed in him as a family doctor.

"This conviction is the culmination of a huge amount of work on what was a complex, sensitive investigation which was supported by NHS England.

"I would like to acknowledge the women who were victims of Shah, and who supported the prosecution and gave evidence at Shah's trials. Without their evidence, Shah may not have been brought to justice, but the weight of evidence against him at both trials was overwhelming."

The NHS has a dedicated number for any individuals who may have concerns or questions. They can be contacted on 0800 011 4253.

Winter donations doubled for eye health charity



■ Mahmoud, Naheed and their granddaughter Iman at their home in Rawalpindi after Naheed's successful cataract operation

The UK government is matching all donations made to health charity Sightsavers this winter as part of an ambitious fundraising appeal. Donations made before 9 January 2020 will be matched by the UK government up to £2 million, making gifts go twice as far.

Donors can also use a handy online calculator to work out how to donate the last hour of their pay for the year and do something extraordinary with their final hour of work in 2019.

Sightsavers works in more than 30 developing countries across Asia, Africa and the Middle East to prevent blindness, restore sight and advocate for social inclusion and equal rights for people with disabilities.

Aid Match means that with

supporters help, Sightsavers can prevent avoidable blindness and save the sight of even more of the world's most vulnerable people.

Public donations will be used to support Sightsavers work wherever the need is greatest. The matched funds raised through UK Aid Match will support eye health projects in Uganda and Malawi.

UK aid funding has previously helped beneficiaries like Naheed Akhtar in Pakistan to receive life-changing cataract surgery. As well as having cataracts, Naheed, 55, has diabetes, and is paralysed in the lower half of her body following a stroke. She was reached through the disability-inclusive Right to Health programme, funded by UK aid, that aims to make sure the

most marginalised groups are able to access health care services.

Before her cataract operation Naheed spoke very little and seemed detached and unhappy. Her loss of vision meant she was unable to see her family or earn a living.

Thanks to the surgery funded by UK aid Naheed has not only regained her sight, but also her self-esteem and independence. She said, "I can see my grandchildren again. I'm feeling very happy!"

Donations made before 9 January 2020 will go twice as far towards helping save the sight of some of the world's most vulnerable people.

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Pakistan sentences former military leader Pervez Musharraf to death

Pakistan's former military leader General Pervez Musharraf has been sentenced to death at a special court hearing in Islamabad.

Musharraf was found guilty of high treason and subverting the constitution by a special court, Pakistani officials said.

The special three-member court sentenced him over a high treason charge that has been pending since 2013.

The charges against the 76-year-old surround his controversial decision to declare a state of emergency in 2007. At the time, he had imposed emergency rule and placed several senior judges under house arrest in a move intended to extend his tenure.

Musharraf, who seized power in a 1999 coup and ruled until 2008, is currently in Dubai after leaving Pakistan for medical treatment three years ago.

Musharraf will be able to appeal the verdict in the Supreme Court. If that fails, he could plead for a pardon from current Pakistani President Arif Alvi.

In addition, he may be able to avoid the sentence by staying in the UAE, which has no extradition treaty with Pakistan.

His lawyer Akhtar Shah said Musharraf was 'still in Dubai and sick' and would not return to Pakistan unless he was given 'foolproof security'.

Musharraf issued a video statement from a hospital bed earlier this month, describing the case against him as "baseless".

Musharraf portrayed his decisions at the time as a 'necessary' step to fight the growing Taliban insurgency in Pakistan.

However, his opponents said he had apprehended the judges to stop them challenging his re-election as President earlier that year.

Prosecutors accused Musharraf of failing to consult Pakistan's prime minister and said the state of emergency was illegal.

The treason charge is one of a raft of court cases which Musharraf has faced since leaving office, including a murder charge of which he was acquitted in 2016.

Musharraf was also accused of involvement in the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, who was gunned down in Rawalpindi in 2007.

At the time, his government blamed the assassination on then-Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud, who denied any involvement.

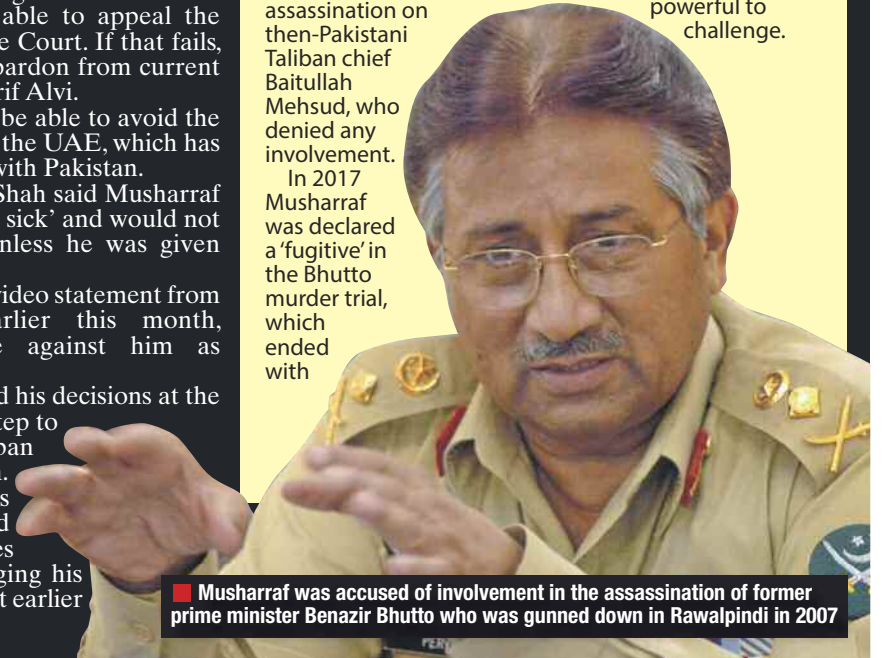
In 2017 Musharraf was declared a 'fugitive' in the Bhutto murder trial, which ended with



■ Benazir Bhutto

charges against five alleged Taliban militants being dismissed.

Musharraf is the first senior military figure to face trial in a country where the armed forces are often considered too powerful to challenge.



■ Musharraf was accused of involvement in the assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto who was gunned down in Rawalpindi in 2007

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Business news

Business Incubator Live



Intuition Academy to hold small business consultation event in Wakefield

A team of professional consultants with an ambition to help shape the future, say they can train anyone with a drive and ambition to launch a business – be it product or a service.

Author and business consultant Rashid Ullah, has spend 15-years working predominantly with corporate clients as well as running his own ventures in that timeline.

Now, along with his partners, he's launched the Intuition Academy to bring their combined experiences to help people develop enhance skills, find life changing opportunities and build a business be it a start-up or a going concern.

Now, along with his partners, he's launched the Intuition Academy to bring their combined experiences to assist start-ups and those struggling to make their business profitable.

Rashid says: "Our story after years of training and development from working in corporate to running our own businesses, developed as we got together as a team. Between us we have over 100-years of combined experience.

"We can help 6-figure businesses wanting to get to a 7-figure value.

"We've been around some of the greatest minds of our time, and have compiled masses of valuable content for our audience.

"We have refined this using all modern concepts, tools and techniques for our Product Launch Formula. We are the only company to come up with this great methodology – it works, it brings results its easy and simple to understand."

The Intuition Academy team are holding a Business Incubator Live consultation, where attendees can develop idea's and build strategies and ultimately tap into their 'Intuition'.

"Our cutting edge live workshop has been delivered to over 10,000 people over the last three-years," says Rashid, who has authored a book titled 'Exponential Potential'.

"Our mission is to help people globally to achieve their highest potential through our consulting experience."

Business Incubator Live will be held in Wakefield on Saturday 18th January 2020. Asian Express readers can use Discount Code 'AEXP'.

You can book your ticket by visiting:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/business-incubator-live-tickets-79636897103

Robert Respinger - Consultant

Robert Respinger is a specialist consultant has taken a company from being ranked number 129 in industry to number three in as many years, and has international links to investors and in China and Middle East.

Kathryn Rhodes - Consultant

Kathryn Rhodes is a solutions expert, warm and friendly and has over 30-years experience in working in many disciplines in the project management space.

Jill Westwood - Consultant

Mindset coach Jill Westwood specialises in uplifting peoples mindset and bringing them to the level they need to be to move things forward. Her goal is to help people stop procrastinating and support them to become an enhanced performer.

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Unjust enrichment is a legal concept whereby one party unfairly benefits at the expense of another party.

Unjust enrichment usually occurs when one party provides goods or services to another and the receiving party receives an unexpected benefit. An example of unjust enrichment is where someone pays for goods in a store and is accidentally given more change than they are entitled to. In that scenario, the customer has been unjustly enriched by the store.

Another instance of unjust enrichment is where one party provides a service or supplies goods at the request of the other party in expectation of there being a contract but the contract never materialises (for example because the terms were never agreed beforehand). In that instance, the person who has received those goods or services has been unjustly enriched.

If there has been unjust enrichment then the innocent party can bring a claim for restitution to

redress the unjust enrichment. The law of restitution seeks to reverse the unjust enrichment by making the party that has received the benefit pay for the value of the benefit which he has received at the innocent party's expense.

In order to bring a claim for restitution the innocent party needs to establish that:

- The Defendant has been enriched;
- The enrichment was at the Claimant's expense; and
- The retention of the enrichment is unjust.

Unjust enrichment and restitution are complex areas of law and each case will depend on its own facts.

Anyone considering pursuing such a claim would be well advised to seek legal assistance.

Blacks Solicitors can advise and assist in all areas of contractual disputes as well as preparing contractual documents to avoid parties becoming involved in disputes. Please contact Luke Patel on 0113 227 9316 or by email at "LPatel@LawBlacks.com".



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Pakistani property tycoon to hand over £190million to UK authorities

A Pakistani business tycoon has agreed to hand over a lavish London property, cash and other assets worth almost £200million to UK investigators. The property was also previously owned by ex prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Property developer Malik Riaz Hussain had given up his Grade II listed building in Hyde Park Place, valued at £50million and £140million in funds frozen by the National Crime Agency (NCA), often called 'Britain's FBI'.

Hussain is one of Pakistan's richest and most powerful businessmen, a billionaire who is well known for working on upmarket gated housing communities.

As chairman and founder of the famous Bahria Town Group, his company has steered hugely successful housing projects in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi. His portfolio is the largest privately-held real estate development company in Asia.

Hussain is also notoriously famous for his buying power, and is known for giving gifts of luxurious cars and mansions to journalists, generals, and politicians.

But over the last year he has been fighting court action over business deals in Pakistan. He's denied any wrongdoing.

Now the property developer has agreed to hand over assets and funds worth £190million to UK authorities.

The agreement includes plans for his luxury property overlooking Hyde Park to be handed over to British authorities. It is expected to be sold and the proceeds given to the Pakistani government.

Sources insist the agreement is a civil matter and does not suggest any criminal guilt.

With the assets seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Riaz Hussain's lawyers would have been mindful of recent so-called McMafia orders, officially known as Unexplained Wealth Orders (UWOs).

Investigators from the National Crime Agency (NCA) secured nine freezing orders covering £140 million in funds in UK bank

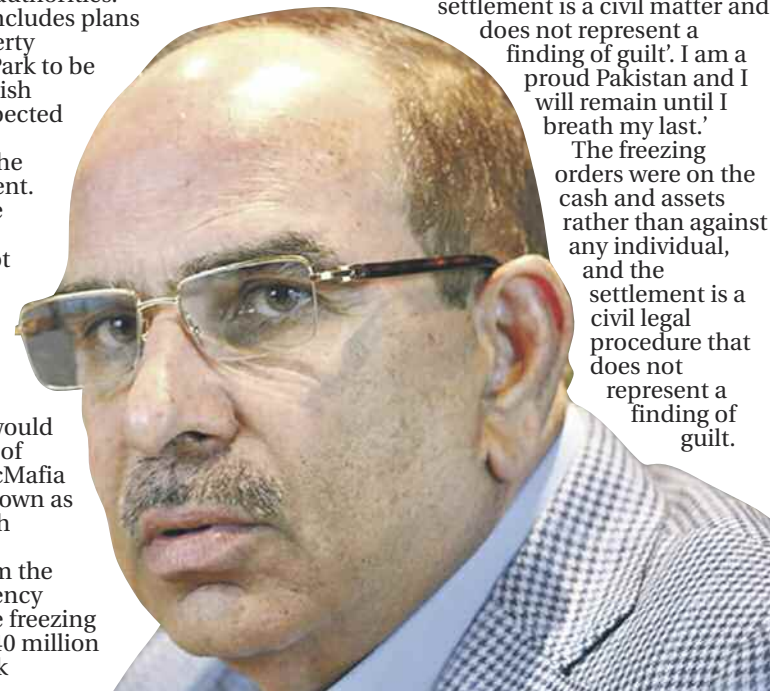


accounts, on the grounds that the cash may be the proceeds of crime.

It announced that an agreement had been reached with Riaz Hussain to hand over the cash and ownership of the exclusive address, which overlooks Hyde Park. The assets will be given to the government of Pakistan.

Riaz Hussain denied wrongdoing, tweeting: 'Some habituals are twisting the NCA report 180 degrees to throw mud at me. I sold our legal & declared property in UK to pay £190M to Supreme Court Pakistan against Bahria Town Karachi.'

'NCA press release says the settlement is a civil matter and does not represent a finding of guilt'. I am a proud Pakistan and I will remain until I breathe my last.' The freezing orders were on the cash and assets rather than against any individual, and the settlement is a civil legal procedure that does not represent a finding of guilt.





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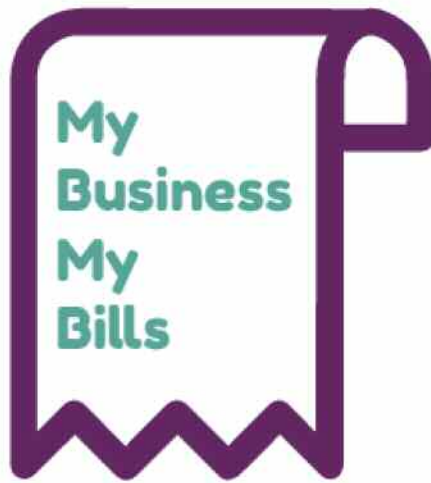
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...life & style



Culture vultures

Top 20 signs you're a culture vulture

1. Always trying the local cuisine
2. Avoiding tourist traps and going to hidden gems
3. Using local transport to get around
4. Always going to the museums of the places you visit
5. Choosing restaurants and cafes bustling with locals (not because of reviews)
6. Trying to visit more than one destination during your visit
7. Trying to learn local languages
8. Checking for local festivals/celebrations during your visit
9. Learning local etiquette
10. Asking locals for tips
11. Trying to socialise with the locals if they allow
12. Always carrying the right currency wherever you are
13. Doing a walking tour of the city with a local guide
14. Watching documentaries on the country you are visiting before travelling
15. Knowing about the art of a country
16. Buying local art to return home with
17. Going somewhere nobody else has been
18. Getting irritated when you come across too many British people
19. Knowing which plugs/adapters you need no matter where you go
20. Trying strange foods like insect

Learning the etiquette of the region you're visiting, doing a walking tour of the city with a resident guide and avoiding tourist traps to scout out hidden gems also featured as signs you're an avid globetrotter.

Other signs include trying the local cuisine, checking for festivals taking place during your visit, being able to travel alone, owning multiple guidebooks and wearing clothing of the region you're visiting.

84 per cent of us would describe ourselves as a 'culture vulture', and eight in 10 enjoy visiting locations which are off the beaten track.

Florian Sengstschmid, CEO for the Azerbaijan Tourism Board, which commissioned the research, said: "It's good to get out of your comfort zone and explore new and lesser known destinations."

"Going off the beaten track, asking locals for tips and just exploring things you wouldn't normally do are great ways to really enjoy a location and make the most of it."

"It's great to see how many Brits are keen to explore new sights and leave no stone unturned when travelling to new and exciting locations."

It also emerged seven in 10 adults reckon they are

the adventurous type and 87 per cent will try something new when they travel abroad.

Nearly half of those polled will always visit the most famous sights or landmarks when travelling somewhere unfamiliar.

But a fifth prefer to take a trip to the lesser known places on the map when visiting somewhere new, as nearly a third are more likely to enjoy a holiday if they feel no one else has been there.

In fact, three in 10 even said they will visit strange or unheard-of places just to post about them on their social feeds.

Being a culture vulture isn't all that beneficial for these social media nomads though, as a quarter reckon you'll get more likes on a post of familiar locations over the more obscure.

Two fifths of those polled, via OnePoll, prefer natural wonders over man-made marvels when travelling.

And in a bid to see and experience more, eight in 10 will usually try and book a new destination they've never visited when scoping out a holiday.

Around three in 10 also intend to visit a brand-new location during the next vacation they have planned.



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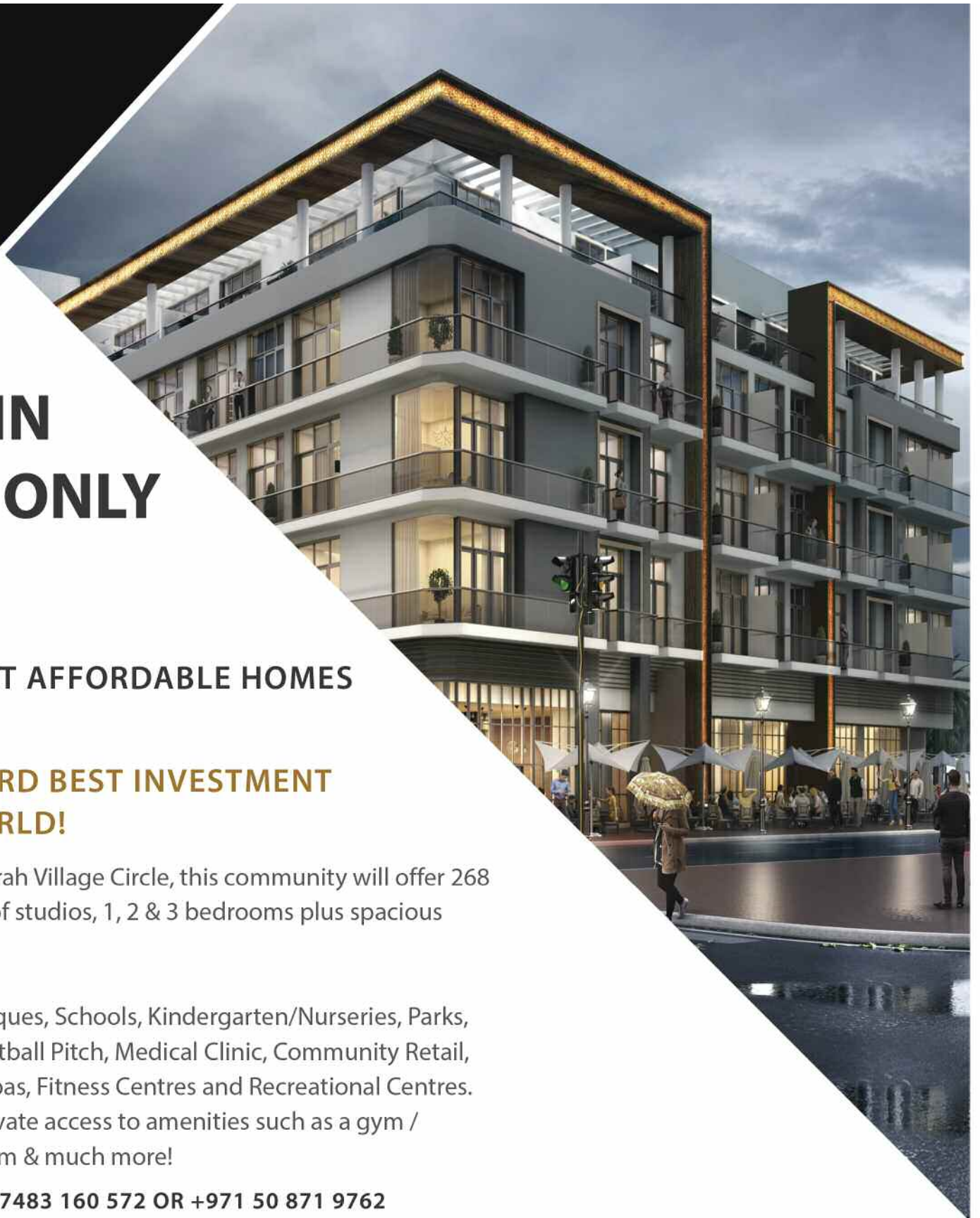
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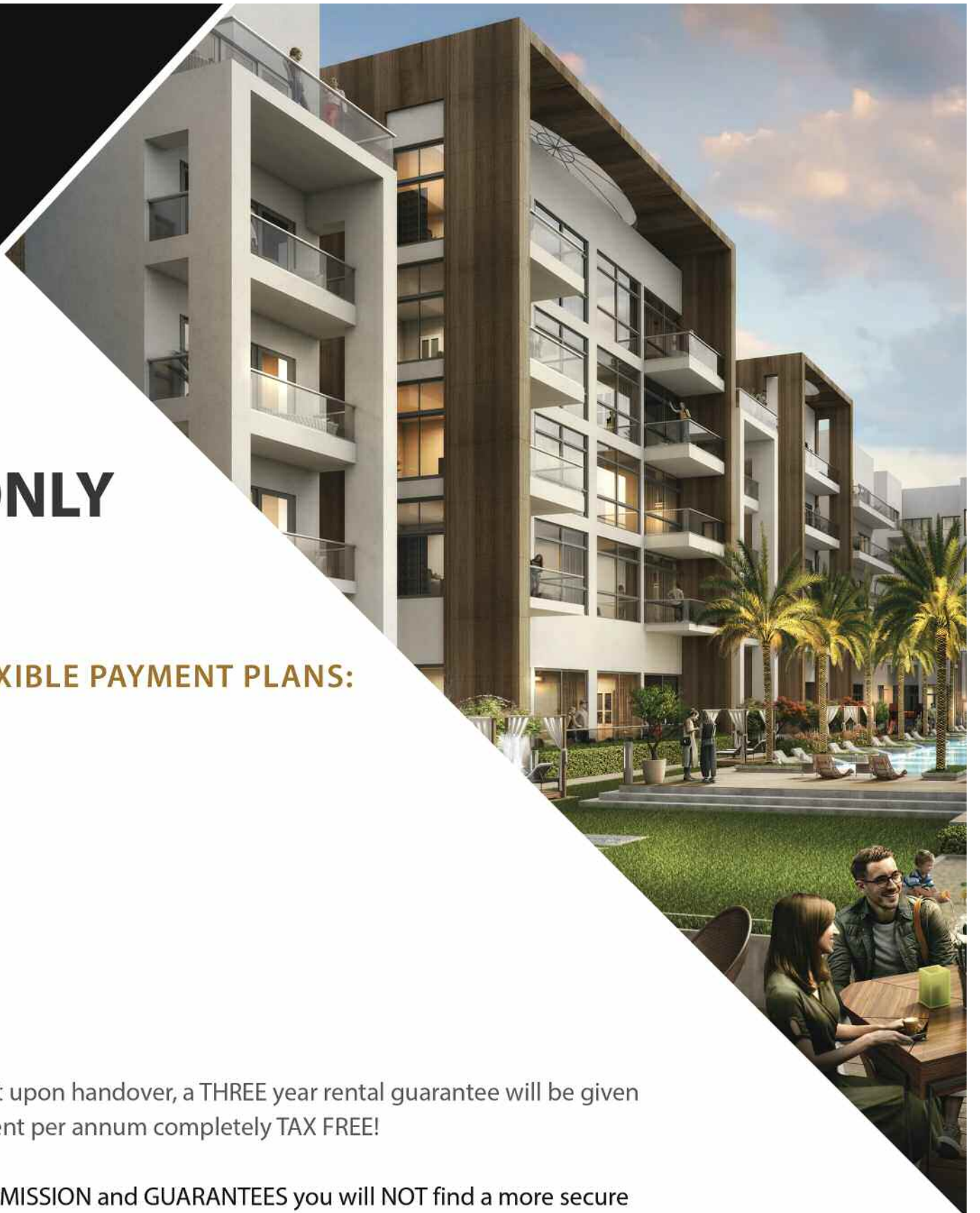
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Harry Potter Lex-GO!

A mind-boggling word game from
Waddingtons No.1 of London



Thinking of something other than a gadget to buy your child? Well, here's a super-fast word game from Waddingtons No.1 of London which should keep the kids busy over the Christmas holidays.

It's a race against other players to get rid of all your playing card tiles by creating words, swapping letters and even attacking other players' words.

Every one loves Harry Potter, and so Lex-GO! is a great option for aspiring wizards and witches. Word options are seemingly endless and, best of all, adults can join in too!

All tiles pack into a neat canvas pouch...great for on-the-go, and in this special Harry Potter Edition of Lex-Go!, there are special spell tiles to increase your chances of winning.

Special Tiles

EXPELLIARMUS tile allows a player to mess up another player's tiles

DEPULSO tile allows a player to banish one of their tiles from the round if they need to

REVELIO tile allows a player to look at any number of tiles in the draw pile before choosing which to swap

STUPEFY tile allows a player to freeze another player out the game for 10 seconds

'POLYJUICE POTION' tile can be any letter and you can spell 'SNITCH' to instantly win the round.



Netflix has tons of hidden categories — here's how to see them

The vast amount of content on Netflix can get pretty unwieldy. But these Netflix codes will help you watch loads of Christmas films and ohhh... so much more besides.

From classics 'It's A Wonderful Life', 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Miracle on 34th Street' to family hits 'Elf', 'Home Alone' and 'The Grinch' - we all have those go to movie's that December wouldn't be complete without watching.

On the other hand, you may not be a fan of being bombarded by festive cheer everywhere you look, especially when it comes to what you're viewing on Netflix.

Luckily, there's a secret, better way to browse the swaths of mediocre titles on the service to get to what you're really looking for.

Netflix has a master list of categories that go far beyond the usual Action, Drama, Sci-Fi and the

like. First discovered by the blog What's On Netflix, anyone can access them by simply typing specific URLs into a browser. Each URL has the format:

<http://www.netflix.com/browse/genre/###>

...where the "###" is where you put the code that relates to the particular category you're looking for. For example, 35800 is steamy romantic movies, 11140 is supernatural thrillers and 67879 is Korean TV shows. You can check out the complete list below.

Some of these categories don't even come up in a Netflix search. While searching "Korean TV Shows" brings up the same list that appears at the category URL, searching "Classic War Movies" doesn't bring up any results. Some categories appear to be only used for suggestion purposes.

Here are the ones for festive Christmas movies:

British Christmas Children & Family Films – 1527064
Canadian Christmas Children & Family Films – 1721544
Christmas Children & Family Films – 1474017
Christmas Children & Family Films for ages 5 to 7 – 1477201
Christmas Children & Family Films for ages 8 to 10 – 1477204
Christmas Children & Family Films for ages 11 to 12 – 1477206
Christmas Children & Family Films from the 1990s – 1476024
European Christmas Children & Family Films – 1527063
Family-friendly Christmas Films – 1394522
Feel-good Christmas Children & Family Films – 1475066
Goofy Christmas Children & Family Films – 1475071
Romantic Christmas Films – 1394527

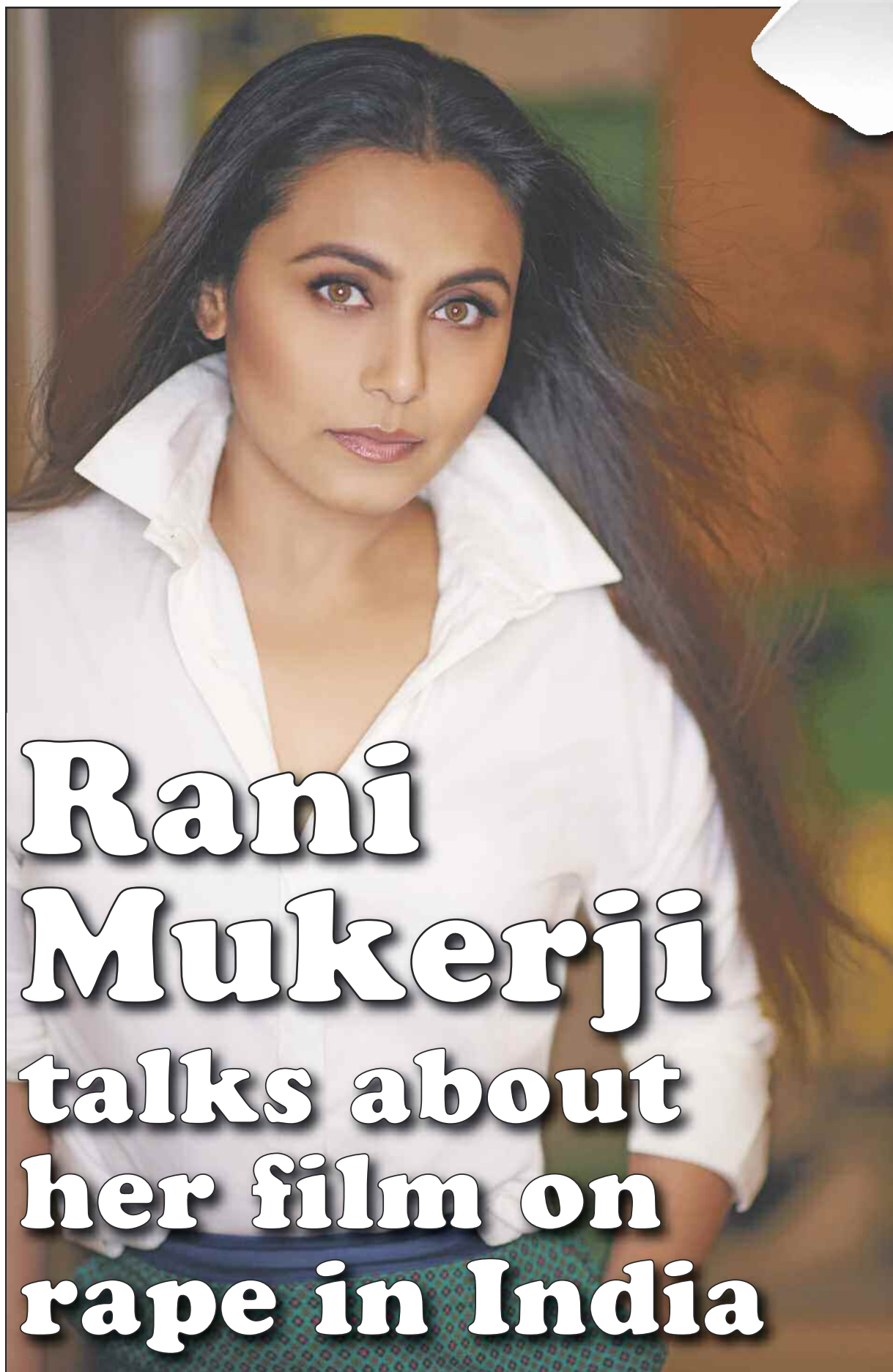
Other Netflix category codes:

Action & Adventure: 1365, Action Comedies: 43040, Action Sci-Fi & Fantasy: 1568, Action Thrillers: 43048, Adult Animation: 11881, Adventures: 7442, African Movies: 3761, Alien Sci-Fi: 3327, Animal Tales: 5507, Anime: 7424, Anime Action: 2653, Anime Comedies: 9302, Anime Dramas: 452, Anime Fantasy: 11146, Anime Features: 3063, Anime Horror: 10695, Anime Sci-Fi: 2729, Anime Series: 6721, Art House Movies: 29764, Asian Action Movies: 77232, Australian Movies: 5230, B-Horror Movies: 8195, Baseball Movies: 12339, Basketball Movies: 12762, Belgian Movies: 262, Biographical Documentaries: 3652, Biographical Dramas: 3179, Boxing Movies: 12443, British Movies: 10757, British TV Shows: 52117, Campy Movies: 1252, Children & Family Movies: 783, Chinese Movies: 3960, Classic Action & Adventure: 46576, Classic Comedies: 31694, Classic Dramas: 29809, Classic Foreign Movies: 32473, Classic Movies: 31574, Classic Musicals: 32392, Classic Romantic Movies: 31273, Classic Sci-Fi & Fantasy: 47147, Classic Thrillers: 46588, Classic TV Shows: 46553, Classic War Movies: 48744, Classic Westerns: 47465, Comedies: 6548, Comic Book and Superhero Movies: 10118, Country & Western/Folk: 1105, Courtroom Dramas: 2748, Creature Features: 6895, Crime Action & Adventure: 9584, Crime Documentaries: 9875, Crime Dramas: 6889, Crime Thrillers: 10499, Crime TV Shows: 26146, Cult Comedies: 9434, Cult Horror Movies: 10944, Cult Movies: 7627, Cult Sci-Fi & Fantasy: 4734, Cult TV Shows: 74652, Dark Comedies: 869, Deep Sea Horror Movies: 45028, Disney: 67673, Disney Musicals: 59433, Documentaries: 6839, Dramas: 5763, Dramas based on Books: 4961, Dramas based on real life: 3653, Dutch Movies: 10606, Eastern European Movies: 5254, Education for Kids: 10659, Epics: 52858, Experimental Movies: 11079, Faith & Spirituality: 26835, Faith & Spirituality Movies: 52804, Family Features: 51056, Fantasy Movies: 9744, Film Noir: 7687, Food & Travel TV: 72436, Football Movies: 12803, Foreign Action & Adventure: 11828, Foreign Comedies: 4426, Foreign Documentaries: 5161, Foreign Dramas: 2150, Foreign Gay & Lesbian Movies: 8243, Foreign Horror Movies: 8654, Foreign Movies: 7462, Foreign Sci-Fi & Fantasy: 6485, Foreign Thrillers: 10306, French Movies: 58807, Gangster Movies: 31851, Gay & Lesbian Dramas: 500, German Movies: 58886, Greek Movies: 61115, Historical Documentaries: 5349, Horror Comedy: 89585, Horror Movies: 8711, Independent Action & Adventure: 11804, Independent Comedies: 4195, Independent Dramas: 384, Independent Movies: 7077, Independent Thrillers: 3269, Indian Movies: 10463, Irish Movies: 58750, Italian Movies: 8221, Japanese Movies: 10398, Jazz & Easy Listening: 10271, Kids Faith & Spirituality: 751423, Kids Music: 52843, Kids' TV: 27346, Korean Movies: 5685, Korean TV Shows: 67879, Late Night Comedies: 1402, Latin American Movies: 1613, Latin Music: 10741, Martial Arts Movies: 9985, Martial Arts, Boxing & Wrestling: 6695, Middle Eastern Movies: 5875, Military Action & Adventure: 2125, Military Documentaries: 4006, Military Dramas: 11, Military TV Shows: 25804, Miniseries: 4814, Mockumentaries: 26, Monster Movies: 947, Movies based on children's books: 10056, Movies for ages 0 to 2: 6796, Movies for ages 2 to 4: 6218, Movies for ages 5 to 7: 5455, Movies for ages 8 to 10: 561, Movies for ages 11 to 12: 6962, Music & Concert Documentaries: 90361, Music: 1701, Musicals: 13335, Mysteries: 9994, New Zealand Movies: 63782, Period Pieces: 12123, Political Comedies: 2700, Political Documentaries: 7018, Political Dramas: 6616, Political Thrillers: 10504, Psychological Thrillers: 5505, Quirky Romance: 36103, Reality TV: 9833, Religious Documentaries: 10005, Rock & Pop Concerts: 3278, Romantic Comedies: 5475, Romantic Dramas: 1255, Romantic Favorites: 502675, Romantic Foreign Movies: 7153, Romantic Independent Movies: 9916, Romantic Movies: 8883, Russian: 11567, Satanic Stories: 6998, Satires: 4922, Scandinavian Movies: 9292, Sci-Fi & Fantasy: 1492, Sci-Fi Adventure: 6926, Sci-Fi Dramas: 3916, Sci-Fi Horror Movies: 1694, Sci-Fi Thrillers: 11014, Science & Nature Documentaries: 2595, Science & Nature TV: 52780, Screwball Comedies: 9702, Showbiz Dramas: 5012, Showbiz Musicals: 13573, Silent Movies: 53310, Slapstick Comedies: 10256, Slasher and Serial Killer Movies: 8646, Soccer Movies: 12549, Social & Cultural Documentaries: 3675, Social Issue Dramas: 3947, Southeast Asian Movies: 9196, Spanish Movies: 58741, Spiritual Documentaries: 2760, Sports & Fitness: 9327, Sports Comedies: 5286, Sports Documentaries: 180, Sports Dramas: 7243, Sports Movies: 4370, Spy Action & Adventure: 10702, Spy Thrillers: 9147, Stage Musicals: 55774, Stand-up Comedy: 11559, Steamy Romantic Movies: 35800, Steamy Thrillers: 972, Supernatural Horror Movies: 42023, Supernatural Thrillers: 11140, Teenjerkers: 6384, Teen Comedies: 3519, Teen Dramas: 9299, Teen Screams: 52147, Teen TV Shows: 60951, Thrillers: 8933, Travel & Adventure Documentaries: 1159, TV Action & Adventure: 10673, TV Cartoons: 11177, TV Comedies: 10375, TV Documentaries: 10105, TV Dramas: 11714, TV Horror: 83059, TV Mysteries: 4366, TV Sci-Fi & Fantasy: 1372, TV Shows: 83, Urban & Dance Concerts: 9472, Vampire Horror Movies: 75804, Werewolf Horror Movies: 75930, Westerns: 7700, World Music Concerts: 2856, Zombie Horror Movies: 75405

G L I T

Entertainment

THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENT AND CELEBRITY NEWS FROM BOLLYWOOD & HOLLYWOOD



Rani Mukerji talks about her film on rape in India

In perhaps one of the most inspiring roles she has played, Rani Mukerji reprises the role of a fearless and committed law enforcement officer.

Inspired by true events, the film 'Mardaani 2' braves the harsh reality of rape in India. Over 2000 of rapes are committed by men under the age of 18 every year – that's the figure for the cases that are actually reported by victims.

Award-winning Rani, 41, has appeared in over forty feature films, many of which broke records at the UK Box Office.

But now Rani returns to the big screen as a fierce police officer.

The film is set against the story of a female police officer going up against a young, and ferocious man who's a serial rapist and murderer – something that is an unfortunate everyday occurrence in India.

Sarkar, the sequel is being helmed by Gopi Puthran. Rani however, didn't feel it to be a vastly different experience, even though her character has gone through a major shift.

She explained saying: "In Mardaani, I was playing a crime branch officer.

"The way I played the character was different as my research showed me that they always work undercover. You would hardly notice a crime branch officer next to you. That's how they nab criminals.

"In 'Mardaani 2', I'm playing the role of a superintendent in the police force.

"My demeanour has changed and I'm wearing a uniform. There is a slight change in my character, but her emotions are the same. She doesn't take nonsense and stands up for what is right and at the same time she is slightly different from the first one."

Even though the film is being

"I don't think the audience is alien from the truth..."

Speaking exclusively to Asian Express, Rani opened up about matching expectations from the critically acclaimed and box office success of her prequel 'Mardaani'.

She said: "Mardaani was really about woman empowerment.

"My character Shivani Shivaji Roy truly stands for the embodiment of woman empowerment. She really represents that."

Discussing how the 'Mardaani' series initially came about, Mukerji disclosed that it was inspired by the brutal 2012 Delhi gang rape.

"There was a lot of anger we felt as a society during the Nirbhaya gang-rape in 2012 and that's how the first film came about," she explains.

"We needed to channel that energy and anger in a way that would help us.

"We contributed in creating awareness for women to be careful in their everyday life. There is a threat lurking around anywhere and everywhere. Mardaani 2' subject is very relevant as well, and the messaging is very clear."

While Mardaani was directed by renowned filmmaker Pradeep

produced by her husband Aditya Chopra, Rani believes in following the director's vision and in collaborating creatively as a team rather than dictating on how things should be.

"Eventually, it becomes what the director envisions. It's his vision at the end of the day.

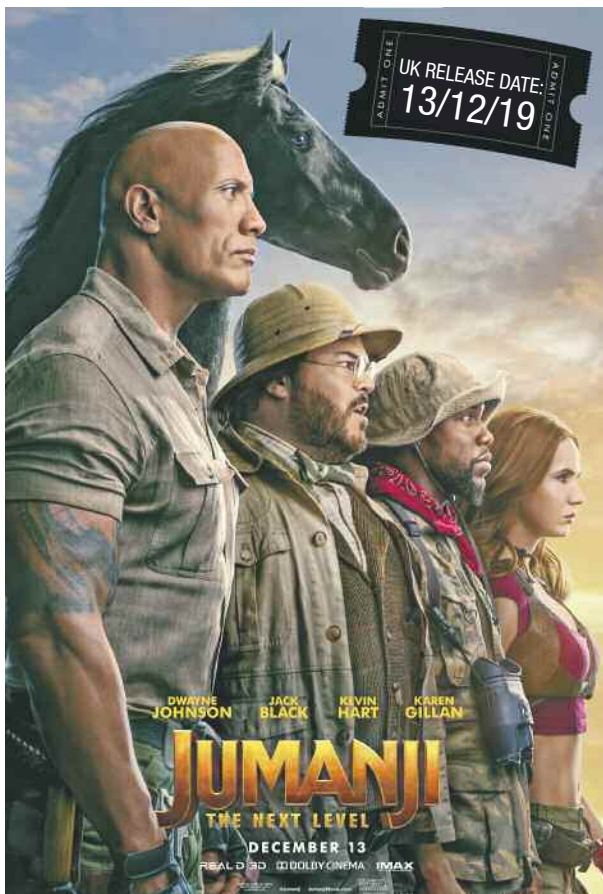
"In this case, Gopi wrote and directed the film. He was very clear what he wanted the film to be. At the same time, he has a lot of respect for me as actor as I've been working in the industry for so many years.

"So, he has let me play the character in the way I have perceived the character to be through my various research work of meeting."

She also doesn't fear that the theme of the film focusing on a man that rapes and murders women will be perceived negatively by the audience. "I don't think there is a fear. We see these stories on the news every day. I don't think the audience is alien from the truth," she revealed.

Produced by Aditya Chopra's Yash Raj Films, 'Mardaani 2' released in UK cinemas on 13th December.

HOLLYWOOD PREVIEWES

UK RELEASE DATE: 13/12/19

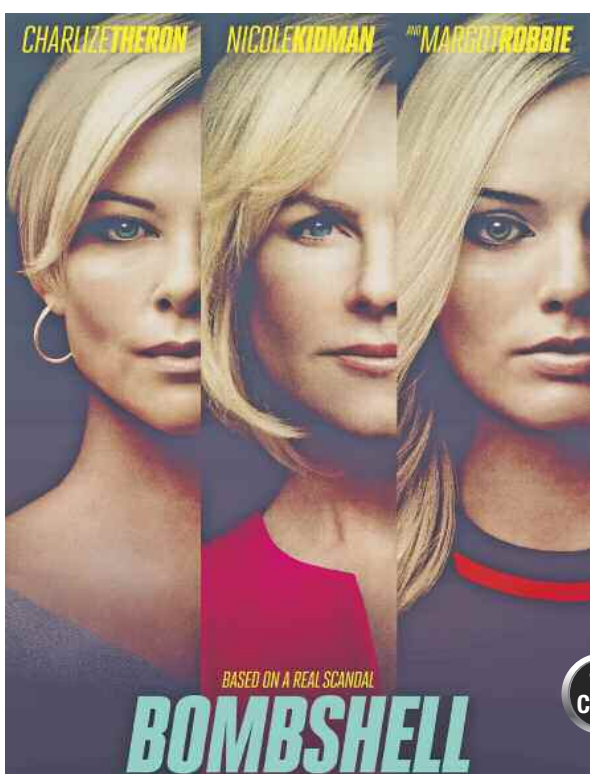
JUMANJI: THE NEXT LEVEL

STARRING: DWAYNE JOHNSON, JACK BLACK, KEVIN HART, KAREN GILLAN, AWKWAFINA
DIRECTOR: JAKE KASDAN

12A CERT

In Jumanji: The Next Level, the gang is back but the game has changed. As they return to Jumanji to rescue one of their own, they discover that nothing is as they expect.

The players will have to brave parts unknown and unexplored, from the arid deserts to the snowy mountains, in order to escape the world's most dangerous game.



BASED ON A REAL SCANDAL
BOMBSHELL

15 CERT

BOMBSHELL

STARRING: NICOLE KIDMAN, CHARLIZE THERON, MARGOT ROBBIE, JOHN LITHGOW, ROB DELANEY, MARK DUPLASS, ALLISON JANNEY, CONNIE BRITTON
DIRECTOR: JAY ROACH

Starring Academy Award winner Charlize Theron, Academy Award winner Nicole Kidman, Academy Award nominee John Lithgow and Academy

Award nominee Margot Robbie, based on the real scandal, BOMBSHELL is a revealing look inside the most powerful and controversial media empire of all time and the explosive story of the women who

brought down the infamous man who created it. Directed by Emmy Award winner Jay Roach and written by Academy Award winner Charles Randolph.

UK RELEASE DATE: 7/1/20

STAR WARS:

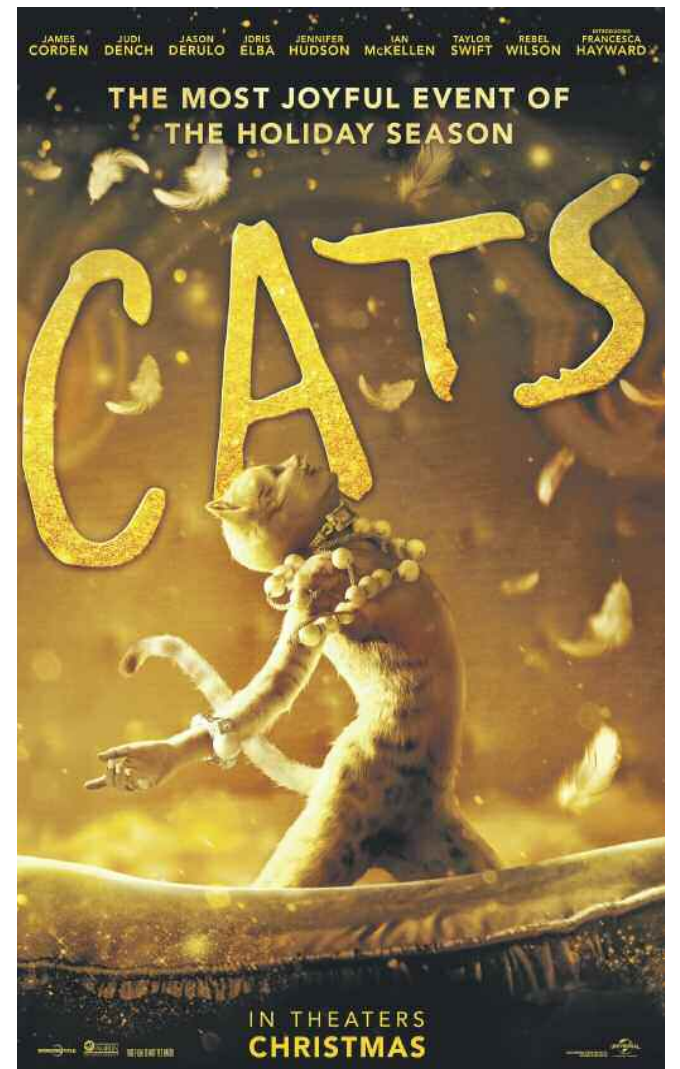
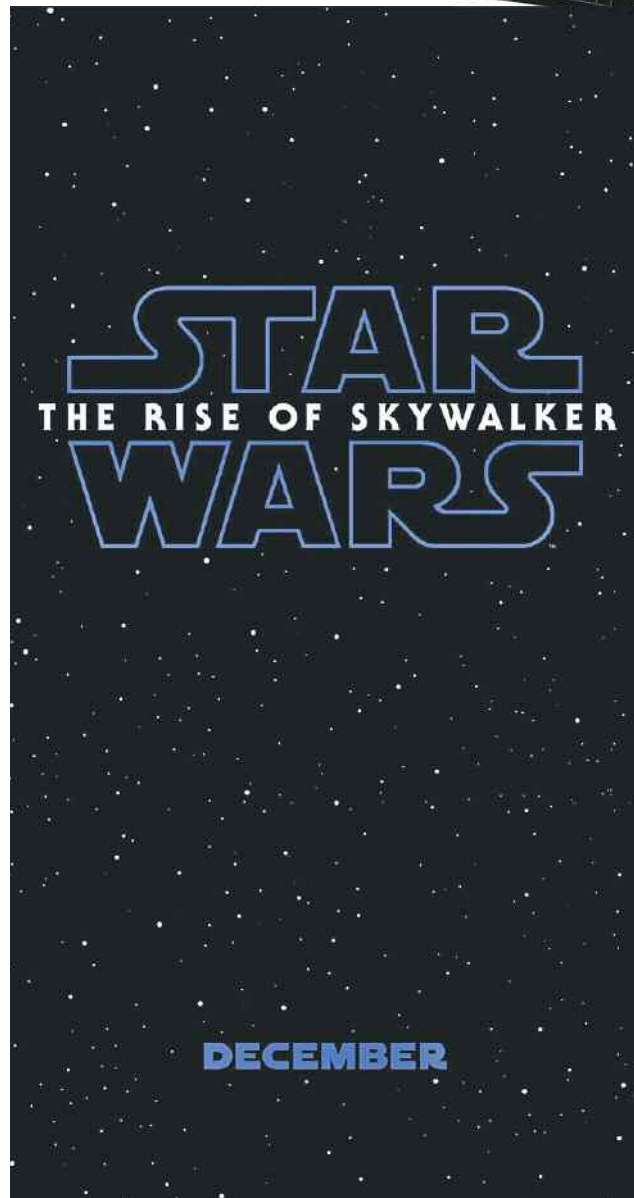
THE RISE OF SKYWALKER

STARRING: MARK HAMILL, DAISY RIDLEY, ADAM DRIVER, JOHN BOYEGA, OSCAR ISAAC, KELLY MARIE TRAN & OTHERS
DIRECTOR: J.J. ABRAMS

12A CERT

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, the greatest saga in movie history introduced the world to Luke Skywalker and the heroes of the Star Wars universe. Now, the story of a generation comes to an end as the Resistance, broken but not defeated after the events of The Last Jedi, faces the First Order once more in the final chapter of the Skywalker saga. As the final battle begins, the surviving heroes of the original trilogy will once again fight alongside Rey, Finn, Rose Tico, and Poe Dameron, in the most eagerly anticipated film of the year.

UK RELEASE DATE: 19/12/19



CATS

STARRING: JAMES CORDEN, JUDI DENCH, JASON DERULO, IDRIS ELBA, JENNIFER HUDSON, IAN MCKELLAN, TAYLOR SWIFT, REBEL WILSON, FRANCESCA HAYWARD
DIRECTOR: TOM HOOPER

U CERT

Oscar-winning director Tom Hooper (The King's Speech, Les Miserables, The Danish Girl) transforms Andrew Lloyd Webber's record-shattering stage musical into a breakthrough cinematic event. Cats stars James Corden, Judi Dench, Jason Derulo, Idris Elba, Jennifer Hudson, Ian McKellen, Taylor Swift, Rebel Wilson and introduces Royal Ballet principal dancer Francesca Hayward in her feature film debut. Featuring Lloyd Webber's iconic music and a world-class cast of dancers under the guidance of Tony-winning choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler (Hamilton, In the Heights), the film reimagines the musical for a new generation with spectacular production design, state-of-the-art technology, and dance styles ranging from classical ballet to contemporary, hip-hop to jazz, street dance to tap.

UK RELEASE DATE: 20/12/19



Leeds Road Plaza

The forefront of Asian fashion bringing casual and luxury prêt collections to the city



Leeds Road Plaza, Leeds Road, Bradford

HOLLYWOOD PREVIEW



BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

STARRING: WILL SMITH, MARTIN LAWRENCE, VANESSA HUDGENS, LEXANDER LUDWIG, CHARLES MELTON

DIRECTORS: ADIL & BILAL

15 CERT What you gonna do when they come for you? The highly anticipated bad boy cop duo are back! With die-hard fans frustrated with the endless years of on and off vibes for another sequel - it's taken 15 years for Will Smith and Martin Lawrence to bring the ruckus back.

The third movie in the franchise sees the pair clash with a modern and highly specialised police unit, as a new threat emerges in Miami.

Now the wisecracking cops are finally back together after endless delays with 'Bad boys for Life'.

So buckle up and get ready for the bumpy ride as Mike Lowrey (Smith) and Marcus Burnett (Lawrence) work with the Miami PD's elite AMMO team to take down a drug cartel.

Their mission draws the attention of one of the most

powerful drug lords in the world, who sends her assassin son Armando Armas (Some Girls' Jacob Scipio) to Miami to kill Mike.

The sequel brings back Joe Pantoliano as the boys' old boss Captain Conrad Howard, along with adding newcomers like The Princess Switch's Vanessa Hudgens, The Son's Paola Núñez and Vikings' Alexander Ludwig.

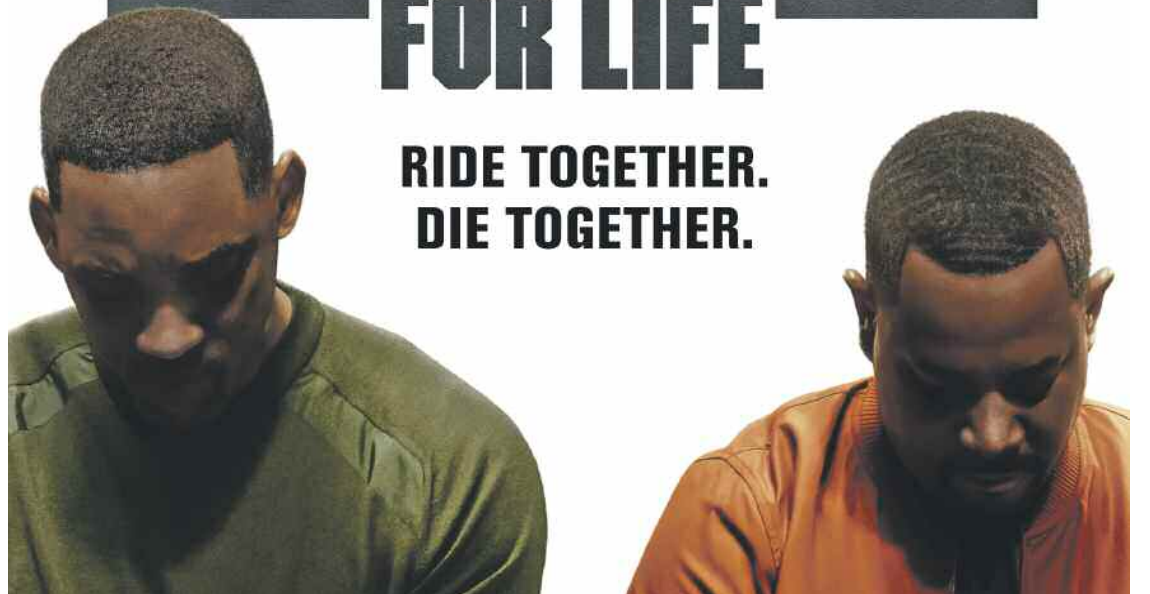
DJ Khaled also recently revealed he'd been filming on the buddy cop action blockbuster, although it remains to be seen if he'll be playing himself or another character.



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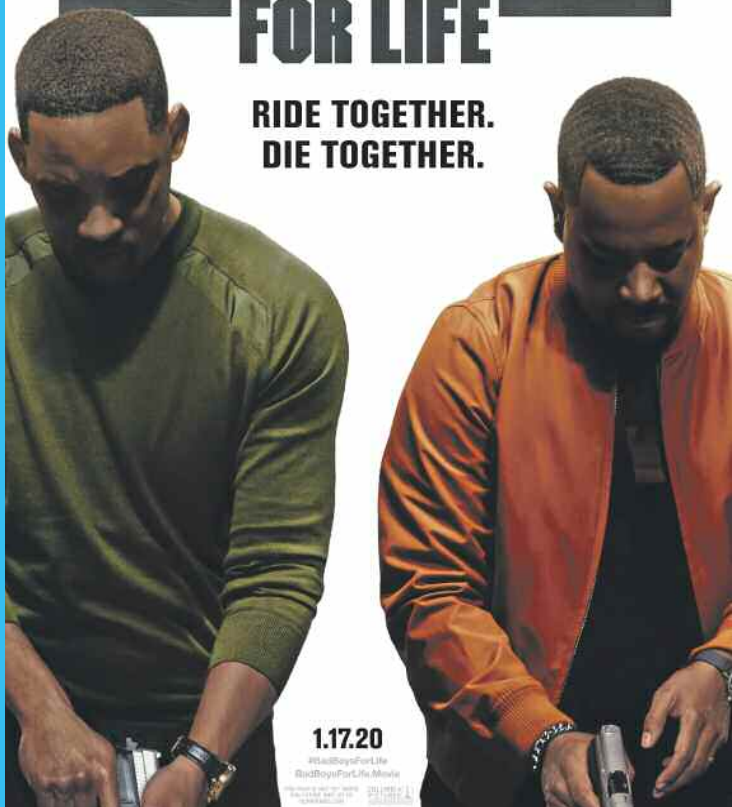
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Cutting to the quick



Updated Audi RS 5 and RS 5 Sportback

Hot on the heels of the updated Audi RS 4 Avant, its sister cars have also now moved with the times aesthetically and technologically.

The RS 5 and RS 5 Sportback now combine the latest Audi exterior design hallmarks with the upgraded cabin configuration already adopted by the RS 4, bringing MMI touch technology based around a large central screen.

The twin-turbo V6 with its 450PS output and 600 Nm of torque continues to provide spine-tingling performance that is reflected in sub-four-second 0-62mph sprint capability.

Streamlined

The enhancements to the exterior of the two RS 5 models are evident at first glance.

At the front, the Singleframe is now wider and flatter in line with its big brothers, the RS 6 and RS 7, and new implied air vents above the grille provide a visual link with the classic Audi Sport quattro from 1984.

Flanking the grille are large, strongly contoured air inlets in a new pentagonal design. Matrix LED headlights are standard across the board, and in the Vorsprung version which heads the range in the UK these feature laser light and are identifiable by way of their darkened bezels.

Continued on page 40

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Continued from page 39

Cutting to the quick

Between the 40-millimetre wider wheel arches the side sills have been redesigned, as has the diffuser insert at the rear, which encloses the two large tailpipes of the exhaust system.

Depending on version, the gloss black, matt aluminium and carbon styling packages give an even more individual look. In addition, the Coupé can also be fitted with a carbon roof with a CFRP structure for even more visual drama and a weight saving of around four kilograms. Both variants can also now be finished in the colours Turbo blue and Tango red, which are new to the RS 5 palette.

Low profile

Horizontal lines and dark colours characterise the interior of the revised RS 5 models.

RS sport seats finished in fine Nappa leather are fitted as standard to all UK versions, as is the virtual cockpit plus with 12.3-inch display. It enables the driver to toggle between multiple screens, one of which is RS-specific and displays the rotational speed scale as a kind of angle that includes a shift light display.

When the driver uses the RS mode steering wheel button to select one of the two new individual RS modes, the RS-specific performance design opens up and displays the maximum g-acceleration values, for example. The head-up display which is a standard feature of Vorsprung versions also offers exclusive RS graphics.

The virtual cockpit plus works with a new operating concept based around a 10.1-inch MMI touch

display with acoustic feedback which is inclined towards the driver and incorporates the top tier MMI navigation plus module. In addition to its primary infotainment functions the large, free-standing display provides the driver with information on engine temperature,

longitudinal and lateral acceleration, the quattro sport differential operating status, tyre pressures and tyre temperatures.

The drive

The 2.9 TFSI twin-turbo V6, the heart of the RS 5 models, continues to deliver 450PS and a formidable

600 Nm (442.5 lb-ft) of torque from a speed of 1,900 rpm. Both RS 5 models accelerate from zero to 62mph in 3.9 seconds and can reach an electronically limited top speed of 155mph – in Vorsprung versions this is increased to 174mph.

A quick-shifting eight-speed

tiptronic controllable via new, larger aluminium shift paddles directs the power of the engine to the quattro permanent all-wheel drive.

The quattro drivetrain provides the two RS models with remarkable traction and stability, regardless of the weather, and a standard sport differential on the rear axle maximises its potential by distributing torque actively between the rear wheels.

High precision

RS 5 and RS 5 Carbon Black models are fitted as standard with a taut RS sport suspension.

The RS sport suspension plus with Dynamic Ride Control (DRC) hydraulic roll and pitch stabilisation is standard for the Vorsprung versions and optionally available for all others.

When cornering at speed, valves regulate oil flow in the damper of the spring-deflected front wheel at the outside of the bend. They reinforce the support and reduce pitching and rolling, thereby improving the vehicle's handling characteristics.

In addition to the familiar comfort, auto, and dynamic modes, the Audi drive select dynamic handling system (standard) also offers the two new modes, RS1 and RS2.

Once the driver has set the two modes to suit their personal preferences and stored them, they can be enabled directly via the "RS MODE" button on the steering wheel without having to operate the MMI touch response again. The system accesses important technical elements like the engine, transmission, damping, steering, dynamic steering, sport differential, and engine sound.



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A AUTOPRESTIGE

Range Rover Velar R-Dynamic Black limited edition

Land Rover UK has just announced the Range Rover Velar R-Dynamic Black, an exclusive run of just 500 examples representing a unique, discerning specification featuring an enhanced range of standard features for the UK market.

Based on Land Rover's top-selling D180 R-Dynamic SE, the

Black limited edition features Black Exterior Pack, Privacy Glass, Fixed Panoramic Glass Roof, 21" Gloss Black Alloy Wheels, Heated Steering Wheel, Metallic Paint and Adaptive Dynamics as standard.

Two metallic exterior colour finishes are available to choose from; Santorini Black and Eiger Grey, while for the interior the

Ebony Perforated Grained Leather is complemented by an Ebony Morzine Headlining completing the specification.

Jaguar Land Rover UK Managing Director, Rawdon Glover said: "The Range Rover Velar R-Dynamic Black builds on Velar's sophisticated design package enhancing it for a

customer who is looking for an element of differentiation.

"We look forward to delivering the first limited editions in early 2020."

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Awards. Bringing glamour, modernity and elegance to the Range Rover family, Velar offers a unique combination of design excellence and engineering integrity.

Pricing for the Velar R-Dynamic Black starts at £56,995 or £499 per month* on the road and is available to order immediately.



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Advertisement titled 'NUMBERS 4 NAMES' listing various mobile numbers and their prices. Includes names like KII ANN, KHAN, OELI BOY, etc.

Advertisement for 'Asian Express Newspaper' featuring the headline 'DO YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE ASIAN EXPRESS'. Includes contact details for Nadim.

Advertisement for 'Fastrack Solutions Ltd TAXI HIRE CLAIMS'. Includes the slogan 'HOW MUCH IS YOUR REFERRAL WORTH?' and contact information.

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Lewis Hamilton and Valentino Rossi complete an unprecedented track day

In a historic moment for both Lewis Hamilton and Valentino Rossi, and their respective sports, the pair completed an unprecedented track day as each swapped machinery at the Circuit Ricardo Tormo.

Mercedes-AMG F1 W08 EQ Power+, a car that won the 2017 FIA Formula One™ World Championship with Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport at the hands of Lewis Hamilton.

Valentino Rossi drove The

Continued on page 46

■ VALENCIA, SPAIN: Lewis Hamilton of Great Britain and AMG Petronas F1 Team Mercedes and Valentino Rossi of Italy and Yamaha Factory Racing swapped their respective helmets at the end of the #LH44VR46 test at Ricardo Tormo circuit of Valencia (Photo by Guido De Bortoli/Getty Images for Monster Energy)





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Lewis Hamilton and Valentino Rossi complete an unprecedented track day

Continued from page 45

Meanwhile Lewis rode the 2019 Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP YZR-M1 bike that only weeks earlier had been piloted by Valentino at the very same circuit. The event took place on 9th December, and the significance of the occasion was not lost on either

Lewis or Valentino who have made no secret of their admiration and respect for each other in recent years. Acting as mentors for one another, the pair were able to complete multiple runs on each other's machinery and share insights and learnings about each other's craft. The six-time Formula One World Champion, Lewis Hamilton: "It's so

awesome to see a legend like Valentino in the car. "I'm excited for him, for rediscovering the car for the first time. Reminds me of my first time in a F1 car. When you see all the team around you, it's just a different animal." Of his time out on track riding the Yamaha YZR-M1 with Rossi he added, "It was so cool to be out on

track and see Valentino ahead of me on the same bike." For the nine-time MotoGP World Champion, Valentino Rossi: "I was a big fan of Lewis' before but now I am even more. "We had a fantastic day where the two top classes of motorsports not only met but worked together. I felt like a real F1 driver for a day. I didn't want the day to end.

"I also rode the YZR-M1 on track with Lewis. It was a proud moment for the team to share our passion with him. Technically, Valencia is a hard track and today was windy so at one point I thought it would be difficult for Lewis to continue, but he was brilliant on the bike and his position on the M1 was great. I think he had loads of fun which is the main thing."

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Bradford grassroots junior football club receives Queen's Award

Back page story continued

"For a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) club from inner city Bradford to attain such an award is recognition for all the juniors, volunteers and sponsors of what we are trying to achieve here in the community."

Alpha United Juniors Football Club, is led by a group of volunteers and holds classes for hundreds of children. Sessions start from four-year-olds, with the club having several coaches covering all the way to 18 year olds.

We saw an issue in the local community of kids not having an outlet and being attracted to be drugs mules and joining gangs

The club's philosophy is simple and well received by the local community and this, says Mr Waheed, makes a lasting difference to the juniors at the club.

Talking about the inspiration of setting up the football club, Mr Waheed says: "We saw an issue in the local community of kids not having an outlet and being attracted to be drugs mules and joining gangs."

"That is when we decided to try and help in the community by giving an outlet and being the first football club in the community."

"The club is mainly self funded along with sponsors, for which we are very grateful."

As Alpha United continues to grow they are always on the lookout for new players and also coaches. If you would be interested in joining the club, visit www.alphaunitedjuniors.com

Boxing Athlete of the Decade



Hate it or love it — Floyd Mayweather Jr. is on top as Boxing Athlete of the Decade, and it wasn't a close race according to Sporting News.

The boxing legend went 10-0 in the decade, putting his sweet science masters class and "hit and don't get hit" mantra on full display with each bout.

Mayweather's decade of boxing brilliance began with a sound unanimous decision over "Sugar" Shane Mosley in May 2010 and ended with a 10th-round TKO of Conor McGregor, with fighters such as Miguel Cotto, Saul "Canelo" Alvarez, Marcos Maidana (in back-to-back bouts) and Manny Pacquiao all counted as "Money's" victims in between.

Oh yeah, there were also two comebacks and retirements with a king's ransom of cash within that stretch.

Mayweather's 10 victories this decade put him at a perfect 50-0, as the self-proclaimed TBE (The Best Ever) surpassed Rocky Marciano's 49-0 record.

His 10-0 record this decade began when Mayweather was 33 years old and ended when he was a ripe 40, standing over McGregor.

Before defeating McGregor, Mayweather had landed roughly 46 percent of his punches, while limiting his opponents to connecting on just 22 percent. That's a plus 24 percent ranking, which no other boxer is close to, according to the Wall Street Journal and CompuBox.

Mayweather winning over \$1 billion in career earnings is astounding. The \$200 million he reportedly made against McGregor certainly helped tip him over the big B mark.

Even as the longtime trainer of Manny Pacquiao, Freddie Roach had to admit that Mayweather is the greatest fighter of this era.



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GOAL!

Bradford grassroots junior football club receives Queen's Award

A junior football team has been awarded a Queen's Award for its work with youngsters in Bradford.

Alpha United Juniors Football Club was honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in Britain.

Founded by marketing graduate Mohammed Waheed, 32, the award-winning grassroots football club has grown from strength-to-strength since its inception in 2013, having won numerous awards and television appearances over the years.

But the latest award sees the club breaking new ground as one of the first football clubs to receive the distinction.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by volunteer groups to benefit their local communities.

Mr Waheed said: "It's a fantastic award to achieve following on from a few other national awards the club has received including being named nationally as the best junior club.

"The award is a prestigious honour for the club and the biggest award for a club like ourselves to achieve given that it is the highest honour in the country.

"It is one that fills us with a great sense of achievement and barometer for the success that has been achieved to date given the premise of the club.

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