

A1 - Qalam

Southern Africa's Muslim Newspaper

Volume 51 | No. 6 | June 2025 | Muharram 1447 A.H.

INSIDE

'Stop selling goods that fund Zionist genocide'

Page 4



US-Israel war on Iran - achievement of the endgame?

Page 6



A Mosque - One thing missing in Galeshewe

Page 11



New Islamic year: Pray for end to genocide



See page 3

UPGRADE YOUR PATIO



MANY MORE DESIGNS & STYLES AVAILABLE !



Shop Online - We Deliver!

expert
Here for you.



Luckys
DISCOUNT CENTRE

EST. 1986



Scan to Shop Online | Pictures for Illustration Purposes | T's & C's Apply | E & OE | 039 317 3036 | 073 810 0701

LOCAL NEWS

'I saw how AMA's water project bring dignity in the dust bowls of Malawi'

By Omar Hamesh

They call Malawi the “warm heart of Africa” – a country of welcoming, kind people who embrace you in their warmth.

But the first time I set foot in Malawi, I was overwhelmed by a strange weight that sank deep into my chest. I was there as a videographer, tasked with capturing the need for water.

In remote areas, I watched children coated in dust chasing goats through endless fields. I saw a mother crouched beside a barely-there puddle, straining muddy water through a cloth she had removed from her shoulders, because it was all she had.

At that moment, I felt something stir in me. Not sadness or guilt, but an awakening. In Afghanistan I saw the same story play

out – in different languages, different colours, but under the same sun; villages holding onto life in harsh terrain. Women crouched beside sewage, straining contaminated water. A different cloth, the same pain. People weren't just thirsty, they were waiting desperately for some kind of change. Without water, dignity dries up and dreams evaporate.

I have been filming and documenting for years in different parts of the world, witnessing conflict and celebration, joy and grief.

But there is nothing quite like what happens when clean, cold, pure water flows for the first time in a village that never had it. The ground opens up, a pump creates a splash. Another splash. Hands shoot into the air, children scream, women sob and men raise their voices with prayer. Water glints in the sun, reflecting the thousands of dreams that are now real possibilities. An elder shook

my hand and said “we are human again”. That shook everything inside me.

These are moments that I am blessed to witness, where people chant and sing not because someone handed them a gift, but because they feel seen and heard and valued. With water, everything changes. Children can attend school, families can grow food.

As someone behind the camera, I often feel like an observer. But in these moments, I'm not just filming, I'm feeling. I'm feeling the weight of injustice, feeling the sacredness of something as simple as water. It changes you.

It's easy to forget that water is still a dream for so many. But I've seen the faces of those who lived their life without it and the transformation when they do have it. I carry these faces, these voices with me, hoping that I can rewrite their stories with you.



*Omar Hamesh is a Senior Media Specialist at Africa Muslims Agency. His work documents the challenging living conditions of refugees and impoverished communities across the world.

Africa Muslims Agency prioritises the delivery of clean water to communities in Africa and Afghanistan through wells and boreholes, recognising that all empowerment and uplift-

ment begins with access to this most fundamental resource. This Muharram, give the gift of water and help us to rewrite these stories of pain into stories of human hope.

Lake Glencairn

Book at stunning private game farm Sani Pass

- 50 Hectare Lake with great bass & trout fishing.
- Stunning chalets with modern finishes and self catering.
- Alpacas, horses, zebra and more!
- Long walks and hiking.

Lake Glencairn, Underberg
Sani Pass Road,
Southern Drakensberg

Book now directly with us

Bookings: 078 678 6156
E-mail: reception@lakeglencairn.co.za
Website: www.lakeglencairn.co.za

AQUA SPRING WATER

Fresh and Revitalising

"From the fountains of the Maloti Mountains."

Don't just drink water, drink Aqua

AQUA

By LAKE GLENCAIRN
NATURAL SPRING WATER

330ml, 500ml, 1.5L & 5L Plastic
350ml & 750ml Glass

Bottled at the source.
Underberg,
Southern Drakensberg

Contact: 072 367 1410
E-mail: aqua@luckys.co.za

BRING STYLE HOME

MANY MORE DESIGNS & STYLES AVAILABLE!

expert
Here for you.

Luckys
DISCOUNT CENTRE

EST. 1986

Scan to Shop Online Pictures for Illustration Purposes | T's & C's Apply E & OE | 039 317 3036 | 073 810 0701

MUHARRAM MUBARAK

Osman's Taj Mahal products including Golden Grain Basmati Sella Rice, Extra Special Curry Powder, and various sweets like Chilli Bites and Chocolate Dessert Mix.

email: info@osw.co.za | Phone: 031 465 1611
Instagram: [@osmans_taj_mahal](https://www.instagram.com/osmans_taj_mahal) | TikTok: [@osmanstajmahal](https://www.tiktok.com/@osmanstajmahal)
Facebook: [Osman's Taj Mahal](https://www.facebook.com/osmans_taj_mahal)
YouTube: [@osmanstajmahal9009](https://www.youtube.com/osmanstajmahal9009)
Website: osmanstajmahal.co.za
180 Sirdar Rd, Clairwood, Durban, 4052

‘We mark new Hijri year 1447 in the shadow of immense suffering’



In this sacred month of Muharram, let us recommit to being voices for life, and agents of justice and compassion in a world too accustomed to cruelty, writes Imam Rashied Omar

Yesterday at sunset, (Thursday) South African Muslims marked the beginning of the sacred lunar month of Muharram, ushering in the New Hijri year 1447, in accordance with the local lunar convention.

As we bid farewell to the Hijri year 1446, it is fitting

that we do so by renewing our commitment to the Supreme and Highest Objective of Islam, namely that of *hifz al-nafs* or *hifz al-hayat* i.e., the preservation, reverence and sacredness of human life.

As we mark this sacred transition to the New Hijri Year 1447, we do so in the shadow of immense human suffering. The past year has witnessed a colossal loss of life, from the genocide in Gaza and the civil war in Sudan, to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the recent 12-day war between Iran and Israel, alongside other war-ravaged regions across the globe.

In the face of such devastation, our hearts must not grow numb. As conscientious Muslims and responsible global citizens, we cannot afford to become desensitized to the persistent loss of innocent life. The temptation to avert our eyes or deaden our hearts must

be met with moral vigilance and spiritual resistance.

Among the most devastating of these tragedies is the unfolding genocide in Gaza. Conservative estimates now place the number of Palestinians killed at over 55,000, with thousands more still missing, presumed buried beneath the rubble. In Sudan, although accurate figures remain elusive, analysts estimate that more than 28,000 people have been killed since the outbreak of civil war in January 2023.

While the catastrophic loss of life in Gaza, Ukraine, and more recently in Iran has rightly drawn sustained global attention, the equally horrifying violence in Sudan, now raging for nearly two and a half years, has not received the public outrage or media coverage it warrants. This disparity in concern reflects a troubling moral inconsistency that we must urgently confront.

This imbalance in global attention calls for deep introspection and a renewed ethical commitment. We must do much better in the New Hijri Year 1447.

One vital way to resist the creeping desensitization to the near-daily slaughter of innocent children, women, and men is to continually remind ourselves of the profound value Islam places on the sanctity and preservation of human life. It is through this sacred remembrance that we can keep our hearts alive, our consciences alert, and our actions aligned with the highest ideals of our way of life al-Islam.

To sustain this moral and spiritual vigilance, we must return to the guiding light of the Qur'an. Allah, the Giver and Taker of Life, reminds us in numerous verses of the supreme sanctity of human life. Among the most powerful of these proclamations is the celebrated verse 32 of

surah al-Ma'idah, chapter 5, which equates the unjust taking of a single life with the killing of all of humanity, and the saving of one life with the saving of all humankind. This verse reads:

If anyone kills a single human being without just cause it shall be as though he had killed all of humankind;

Whereas if anyone saves a life, it shall be as though he had saved the lives of all humankind (Q5:32).

This verse not only underscores the profound value Islam places on human life but also serves as a moral compass in times of overwhelming violence and loss.

This Qur'anic verse, and others like it, did not merely inspire pious reflection, but also shaped the very foundations of Islamic legal and ethical thought. Classical Muslim scholars such as Imam Abu Hamid

al-Ghazali (d.1111CE), and Imam Abu Ishaq al-Shatibi (d.1388CE) were deeply moved by the moral imperative contained in verse 32 of Surah al-Ma'idah.

Drawing on this and similar Qur'anic teachings, they identified the preservation of human life (*hifz al-nafs* or *hifz al-hayat*) as one of the supreme objectives (*maqasid*) of the Shari'ah. As we welcome the new Hijri year 1447, let us recommit ourselves to this foundational value. Let us be voices for life, defenders of the innocent, and agents of justice and compassion in a world too accustomed to cruelty.

We pray that Allah, the Giver and Taker of Life, softens our hearts, awakens our conscience, and grants us the courage to stand for life, truth, and justice. May Hijri year 1447 be a year of renewed hope, heartfelt solidarity, and meaningful peace.



Your shower bestie for FRESH, soft skin

Enriched with **Vitamin C** and nourishing **Tissue Oil**, our **pH-balanced** body washes will leave your skin feeling

- FRESH,
- clean, and
- super soft & smooth!

NEW FOR GLOWING SKIN



Start fresh, Stay fresh

LOCAL NEWS

KZN businesses warned: ‘Stop selling goods that fund Zionist genocide’

By Azra Hoosen

South African civil society, Muslim organisations, and justice movements have come together to call for conscious consumerism, urging local store owners to reconsider stocking products linked to Israel. An open letter issued to businesses across KwaZulu-Natal appeals to the conscience of store owners and shoppers alike. The letter is part of a growing campaign aimed at peaceful economic resistance against Israel’s actions in Gaza. The boycott calls for the removal of products associated with companies that support or operate in Israel. Major brands such as Coca-Cola, Clover, ZZ2, and Nestlé are spotlighted.

Speaking to *Al-Qalam*, Saydoon Nisa Sayed, leader of the South Africa Palestine Movement (SAPM),

said: “We see the genocide unfolding in front of us. So, we decided to act and call for the removal of products supporting apartheid Israel from South African stores.”

Every Friday, activists gather in Overport, Durban, to picket stores that continue to stock these products. “Overport has a majority-Muslim residency and shopper base. People shop there out of convenience, but many of these stores still stock items linked to Israel, despite there being no lack of alternatives,” said Sayed.

Clover is majority-owned by an Israeli company, and Coca-Cola Israel operates within the occupied territories. The campaign is not just about brands, but a broader ethical demand: end the profit pipeline to apartheid.

Dr Lubna Nadvi, a long-time Palestine solidarity ac-

‘ You cannot claim to care about human rights and still fund genocide ,

tivist and political analyst, believes that no tank or bullet can match the impact of a united consumer boycott. “Consumers have the power of the purse, which gives them the ability to withhold funds from stores, brands and products which support Apartheid Israel. With many governments failing Palestinians, it’s up to civilians to use what power they have — and that includes where they spend their money,” she said. Some critics have dismissed the

boycott as symbolic, but Sayed disagrees. “South Africa wouldn’t have its democracy if other countries hadn’t supported our own boycott movement. We are asking people to boycott not only goods but also the stores that continue to sell them.”

This message has found powerful resonance beyond the Muslim community. One of the signatories includes South African Jews for a Free Palestine (SAJFP). As a Jewish voice opposing genocide, SAJFP believes boycott, divestment, and sanctions are “central to the strategy to force Israel to dismantle the apartheid, settler colonial state.”

Rina King, a member of SAJFP, said civil society’s consumer behaviour holds immense power: “We saw how boycotts, sanctions and divestment worked against the South African

operative regime. They could not continue functioning as an apartheid state. We believe the same pressure can change the political system in Palestine/Israel.”

For Nasiha Soomar, an executive member of the KZN Palestine Solidarity Forum, the campaign is political and spiritual: “You cannot claim to care about human rights and still fund genocide. Every time you buy Coca-Cola, every time you load a ZZ2 avocado into your basket, you are helping supply the bullets, the tanks, and the bombs that are killing women and children in Gaza.”

She noted that growing discomfort among shoppers is a good sign. “To shoppers, if you feel conflicted, good. That means your conscience is alive. But do not stop there. Let it push you into action. Every rand you spend is either sustaining

life or fuelling apartheid. There is no middle ground. Pick a side,” said Soomar. While some stores have begun quietly removing products, Soomar is critical of half-measures. “We are not here for half-measures or quiet symbolism. If you know what is happening in Gaza, and you still profit from it, you are choosing blood over principle,” she said. She pointed to contradictions within the community: “You cannot sponsor a protest in the morning and sell Clover and Coca-Cola in the afternoon. That’s not resistance, it’s profiteering.”

Soomar asserted that if stores ignore the call, the campaign will escalate: “Peacefully, strategically, and publicly. We will protest outside your stores. We will name you. And we will not stop. We are not asking. We are demanding. Silence is betrayal, and we will not be silent.”

INTRODUCING THE FUTURE OF DRIVING

Get ready to experience the ALL-NEW GAC EMZOOM and EMKOO at Motordeal Joburg.

CRAFTSMANSHIP...TECHNOLOGY...STYLE....PERFORMANCE

Discover unmatched next level quality.

LIFETIME ENGINE WARRANTY!!!!

Full maintenance plan
5 year, 100 000km
Included on Emkoo.

Visit us today and discover the Ultimate Driving Pleasure.



EMKOO
PRICE RANGES FROM **R389 900**

EMZOOM

GAC Motors Johannesburg is a subsidiary of the Motordeal Group.



ROLL PRINT LABELS

THE PEEL & STICK SPECIALIST

PRINT FROM 1-8 COLOURS | LAMINATING | UV VARNISH | COMPUTER LABELS
ON LINE COLD FOILING | BARCODES | UNSUPPORTED FILM | RUBBER STAMPS | DIGITAL LABELS

FOLLOW US ON  



CONTACT US: TEL: 036 633 0443 | FAX: 036 633 0011 | CELL: 083 786 3382
EMAIL: rollprintlabels@gmail.com WEBSITE: www.rollprintlabels.com
Hamza Moola (PMB): 084 090 7860
Muhammed Varachia (JHB): 062 016 4561 | 011 839 3647
Naeem Asmal (JHB): 068 869 7099
47 Progress Rd, Ladysmith 3370 | P.O. Box 1027, Ladysmith, 3370

Al-Qalam

IN GOOD TIMES,
PEOPLE WANT TO ADVERTISE;
IN BAD TIMES, **THEY HAVE TO**

We offer tailor made packages to suit every business. Call our Sales Executives now on **031 306 0615**

www.alqalam.co.za



GAC MOTORS JOBURG
100 CROWNWOOD ROAD, ORMONDE, JOBURG
011 835 3535
FIROZ: 081 481 0261 | **RIAZ:** 083 786 8171
E&OE. T's & C's apply.



GAC MOTOR

Zionists trying to silence me on Gaza genocide – but I won’t be intimidated’

By Azra Hoosen

A Johannesburg human rights campaigner who is vocal about the genocide in Gaza believes she is being targeted for her activism – but she remains defiant.

Margaret (not her real name) from the Johannesburg suburb of Orchards has had two windows of her first-floor apartment broken, possibly from a pellet gun, a clear attempt to intimidate her, she said.

Margaret told *Al-Qalam* that the managing agent suggested playing children might have mistakenly broken the glass when throwing stones ...or by workers tending to the garden. “I live on the first floor with a trellis and patio. The windows are 33m away from the end of the patio. It’s logistically impossible for stones to have flown up from mowing the lawn as claimed,” she

said. Jeets Natha, a member of Kensington Palestine Solidarity Group, said it appeared the windows broke after being shot with a pellet gun. But it is not just the broken windows that have left Margaret unsettled. “I was removed from our community WhatsApp group after sharing a photo of the damage and asking who was responsible. The managing agent, who also acts as the admin for the group, never responded to my emails when I asked, ‘why?’ she said.

She described the area as “predominantly conservative and Zionist,” adding that her political beliefs have recently drawn unwelcome and targeted attention. Some members in the locality believe that Margaret is being marginalised for her solidarity with Palestinians. While she does not advertise her views, her activism is no secret. “I am a member of the Kensington Palestine Solidarity Group and South African Christians for Pales-

tine, but I don’t walk around in a keffiyeh or wearing T-shirts with slogans,” she said.

Margaret was once friendly with neighbours, but they now distance themselves from her. A neighbour even told her she would be “reported” and “needs to be educated” after she shared information about South African Jews for a Free Palestine (SAJFP).

Nigel Branken, a social worker, pastor and member of KPSG, told *Al-Qalam* that the group is deeply disturbed by what appears to be the targeted intimidation of Margaret. “This is not an isolated incident; it clearly appears to be a campaign of harassment aimed at silencing her,” he said.

According to Margaret, when police from Norwood police station arrived to investigate, they initially concurred with the pellet gun assumption, but she noted their tone had shift-



ed after speaking with several residents who are said to be staunch supporters of Israel. Natha echoed this: “Initially, SAPS seemed responsive. They agreed with us. But after talking to others, they made a complete U-turn.” The KPSG group has written to the building management, demanding accountability and calling on SAPS to investigate the matter not as property dam-

age, but as a potential hate crime. “Her solidarity with Palestine should not place her at risk. No one should be targeted for their beliefs, especially not those standing up for the rights of others,” said Pastor Branken.

While Margaret has refused to be intimidated, the emotional toll is real. “This is my home. I refuse to be afraid. But it is disconcert-

ing to know that this kind of environment exists,” she said.

This is not an isolated concern. Natha described how Gaza solidarity posters were repeatedly removed from nearby public areas. “I put up four posters around 1 PM. By 5 PM, they were all gone. I found them in the trash and put them back up,” he said.

CONNECT    



AMA

AFRICA MUSLIMS AGENCY

24 HOUR NO.
+27 83 251 9376

HOUGHTON
+27 100 722 262

HEAD OFFICE
+27 11 834 8685/6/7

LENASIA
+27 11 852 2142

DURBAN
+27 31 207 5676

CAPETOWN
+27 21 699 0545

 africamuslimsagency.co.za amasa@iafrica.com

HOPE begins with you.

Villagers use the water for:



Drinking



Cooking



Bathing



Farming



Cleaning

This Muharram, provide the gift with endless blessings – provide water. Change the lives of villagers forever, and earn Sawaab-e-Jaariyah for you or a loved one.

Enquire about our Sadaqah Jaariyah gift cards at offices nationwide.



Waterwell

R16 500



Borehole

R65 000



SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE

Empowering, Educating, Inspiring.

BANKING DETAILS:

Africa Muslims Agency

Standard Bank

ACC: 242 017 223

B/CODE: 00 52 05

REF: Waterwell/Borehole + Cell

OPINION

US-ISRAEL WAR ON IRAN

achievement of the endgame?



By Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool

Is Iran the pre-final piece in the resetting of the Middle East puzzle that is now being put in place? It seems that if the Iran piece is put in place, then Israel and the USA would all but have achieved the endgame: a Middle East in the image of the West – pacified, emasculated, dominated.

This endgame – reaching for culmination with the

domination of Iran – was in play from the moment Israel, with full backing from the West, decided on the extent and the severity of its response to Hamas’ putsch on October 7th, 2023, and how the response would be harnessed towards the objective of regional hegemony, for Israel and vicariously, its Abrahamic Alliance.

October 7th was just another act of resistance stemming from the original sin of violent occupation, displacement, and ultimately an apartheid-like system by Israel against the Palestinians and the Middle East. Yet October 7th was pounced upon, if not enticed by, the Israelis as the launchpad towards the endgame.

The pacification of the Gulf Arabs was all but signed in the Abraham Accords, and normalization was a reality. The Golan Heights had been successfully transferred to Israeli ownership amidst a Syria in turmoil. Qatar had

been pulled into line after enduring the wrath of the neighbours. Türkiye could be relied on for regular belligerence amidst business as usual. Lebanon was war-weary. And the West Bank in Palestine, through the Palestinian Authority, could be relied upon to ensure compliance with Israeli diktat. So Hamas, on October 7, 2023, provided the much-needed pretext by Hamas with a combination of tactical cunning and strategic naivete giving Israel its path to pulverizing the remaining roadblocks to absolute hegemony – nay, domination – over the Middle East. The immediate target was the evisceration of Hamas, even if it took a genocide of over 50 000 Palestinian lives.

The secondary targets were the Houthis in Yemen, with the idea that Israel would weaken and the USA would attempt to finish the job; while Israel would decimate Hezbollah in Lebanon and

confine them beyond the Litani River. The 3-H ‘proxies’ of Iran needed to be significantly degraded in order to go for Iran itself.

This military operation was years in gestation, from the time Donald Trump tore up the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) signed between Iran and Obama and founded on the 2003 fatwa of Ayatollah Khamenei declaring nuclear weapons ‘haram’ (forbidden), thus achieving the objectives of Obama of significantly curtailing Iran’s nuclear capacity to verifiable peaceful levels. This agreement was a major inconvenience to those who feared Iran’s regional strength, its support for Palestinians, and its antipathy, therefore, to Israel’s expanding footprint over Palestinian lands. Once the agreement was rescinded, with Iran now unconstrained in its enrichment ability, the plan towards the endgame was again fully in play. Now, both Israel and



the USA once again could plan for the domination of Iran and the decimation of its capacities, especially its military reach through its ‘proxies’ as well.

In the early hours of June 13, 2025, Israel launched its bombing campaign against Iran, especially aimed at its uranium enrichment facilities, targetting its senior military commanders and

nuclear scientists, and simultaneously attempting to disable its military and missile capacity. While Iran did succeed in retaliating, sometimes spectacularly hitting cities like Tel Aviv, the emerging evidence suggest that Iran has been severely weakened, raising Western hopes that a regime change agenda was on the cards.

Continued on page 7

House of High Quality Meats and Meat Products

57 Le Seur Street, Parkersdam, Worcester
023 347 0490

24 Reen Avenue, Athlone Industria 1, Cape Town
Tel: 0216990554 | Email: info@spicecity.co.za
Instagram: @spicecityza | www.spicecity.co.za

LOOKING TO PRESERVE OR GROW YOUR CAPITAL?

Why not consider one of our low risk Shariah Income Funds?

Higher than market related returns.

Immediate liquidity.

No lock in periods.

CONTACT US NOW!

CALL US FOR A FREE FINANCIAL NEEDS ANALYSIS

VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.anwarmoola.co.za FOR MORE INFO

Disclaimer: please note that collective investments should be considered medium to long term investments & that the value of units may go up or down & that past performance is not necessarily guide to future performance.

ANWAR MOOLLA FINANCIAL SERVICES

Yusuf Nanabawa: 082 665 6665
yusuf@fwdtrading.co.za
Imraan Moolla: 081 599 1695
imoola@fwdtrading.co.za
Anwar Moolla: 083 657 8677
anver@fwdtrading.co.za
031 816 5301
40 Ivy Road, Greyville, 4001
FSB: 13991

ANWAR MOOLLA IS AN AUTHORISED FINANCIAL SERVICE PROVIDER

AN IMPRESSIVE COLLECTION OF THE LATEST FASHION TRENDS

In-house brands. Made-to-order, locally manufactured clothing. Exclusive imports of international clothing.

IN-HOUSE BRANDS

858 Umgeni Rd, Morningside, Durban, 4001
031 303 2970
info@twinclothing.co.za

Continued from page 6

However, having reached a point of military incapacity in Iran, the war could have ended, except that in justifying the unprovoked attack on Iran as absolutely necessary because Iran was ostensibly days away from having a nuclear weapon, the charade had to be followed through despite nuclear inspectors, while saying Iran was not fully compliant, still asserted that a nuclear weapon was way off, corroborated by Trump's own intelligence community. Yet the USA lured Iran into nuclear negotiations, lulling them into false security, and set them up for an attack by Israel to degrade Iranian military and nuclear capacities.

The USA was goaded to enter the war directly on June 22 with specialized weaponry penetrating deep underground to destroy nuclear infrastructure. But it remains dubious as to whether they destroyed the stockpiles of enriched uranium. Iran claims to have removed these, hence averting the loss of lives through nuclear radiation. Then, Iran telegraphed an attack on the US Military base in Qatar, allowing both the evacuation of personnel and the activa-

tion of defence systems to intercept Iranian missiles.

Thereafter, Donald Trump declared that now that Iran has its grievance out of its system, the Twelve Day War is now over, and a ceasefire will commence, however tenuous. Thus, a farce puts a seal on a series of tragedies – most notably in Palestine – but probably seals the US-Israeli endgame.

While 'normalisation' is not entirely formalised, it was practically visible through Arab governments intercepting missiles en-route to Israel, suppressing any pro-Palestinian protests on their streets, and defusing any pro-Iran sympathy through the Shia dog whistle. Iran is now a shadow of the threat it supposedly posed because its nuclear weaponry was "obliterated" (or truly non-existent), and because Israel may have degraded its missile and military capacity in the 12-day war, with its proxies disabled, and threatening 'regime change' over Iran. Furthermore, the other threat to Israel – Syria – is in a very precarious transitional moment. So, what is the outstanding piece of the puzzle of the Middle Eastern endgame for Israel directly, and the USA obliquely? It was, is, and always will be,



the Palestinian question. Gaza has been razed to the ground and rendered uninhabitable, especially with an orchestrated starvation looming and food increasingly used to lure Palestinians to a slaughter.

The West Bank is pockmarked with Israeli settlements, fragmented with roads and walls, and economically vulnerable through the diversion of water and the destruction of agriculture. Physically and geographically, the 'patriac-

ide' – the massacre of even the idea and possibility of even a two-state solution has largely been successful because a single Israeli state from the river to the sea is emerging violently. But there is one remaining conundrum.

What to do with the Palestinians? A cocktail of solutions is being applied: firstly, accelerate the Palestinian genocide so that the magnitude of the problem reduces; secondly, squeeze the geography by increasing Israel's

security buffer and confining Gazans to a third of what they had, and annexing as much of the West Bank as possible for settlers. In the remainder of the Palestinian pressure cooker, thirdly, apply so much pressure to elicit two complementary responses: get the Palestinians to want out of Gaza and the West Bank; and force Egypt to open the Sinai to Gazans and Jordan to the inhabitants of the West Bank. These would be precursors to the formal annexation of Palestine. The conditions

and balance of forces have never been more favourable for the achievement of Israel and the USA endgame.

As South Africans, however, we reserve, from experience, enormous trust in the resilience of ordinary people to resist, and we have seen how oppressors, flushed with victory, may falter and trip over their own hubris. This hubris may well be in how the US and Israel are alienating the world and hastening the multi-lateralism they fear.

Muharram Mubarak 1447

This Islamic New Year, your support can make a real difference in over 40 countries where communities face conflict, hunger, and hardship.

"Whoever saves a life, it is as if he has saved all of mankind."

[Qur'an 5:32]

R1,000
can provide bread to 200 people displaced by war in Syria

R1,200
can provide specialised nutrition for two malnourished children in Yemen

R2,500
can feed a family for two weeks in Sudan

R14,400
can sponsor an orphan for an entire year

DONATE NOW

ISLAMIC-RELIEF.ORG.ZA | 0800 111 898

OPINION

Coal and our Complicity in the Genocide



By Imraan Buccus

South Africa has rightly earned praise across the world for taking a principled stance against Israel’s genocidal assault on Gaza. But we cannot claim the mantle of global moral leadership while continuing to do business as usual with an apartheid regime now engaged in open genocide. Our ongoing export of coal to Israel—an arrangement that materially supports the very war effort we have condemned at The Hague—is a glaring contradiction in our otherwise principled positions.

According to two new briefings—one from the Palestinian Youth Movement and another from researchers working to align our foreign policy with our public commitments—South African coal continues to fuel Israel’s energy grid, including its military installations, surveillance infrastructure, and illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank. Worse still, our role has grown more central since Colombia, formerly Israel’s largest supplier, issued a decree in August 2024 banning coal exports to the Israeli state.

Colombia has honoured contracts signed before its decree, but it has committed to ending future shipments. South Africa, by contrast, has yet to take any meaningful action. A number of corporates continue to sell South African coal to Israel. Glencore, a company glob-

ally notorious for unethical conduct, is the dominant player but others, such as African Rainbow Minerals are also complicit. This raises an urgent question: How can a country that seeks to halt genocide at the ICJ be one of the top energy suppliers to the regime perpetrating that very genocide? The ICJ case, supported by a growing number of Global South countries, has shifted the diplomatic terrain. The South African government has also co-chaired The Hague Group, a new alliance of countries seeking to defend international law against systematic violations, especially in Gaza. These steps matter. But our ports—especially Richards Bay—have remained open to the same coal shipments that sustain Israel’s military occupation.

Since Israel launched its genocidal assault on Gaza on 7 October 2023, at least 11 coal shipments from South Africa have arrived in Israel, according to vessel tracking data. These shipments total more than 1.4 million tonnes—about 25% of Israel’s coal imports during this period.

The majority of these shipments were loaded at Richards Bay and docked at the ports of Hadera and Ashkelon—home to the Orot Rabin and Rutenberg coal-fired power stations. These plants provide about 17.5% of Israel’s electricity. Coal has a central role in sustaining both civilian infrastructure and military operations in Israel. That includes electricity powering command centres, settlement expansions in the West Bank, and Israel’s chilling artificial intelligence systems—algorithms that sort Palestinians by “suspicion level” and determine targeting for drone strikes.

Israel does not produce its own coal. It is entirely dependent on imports to run

its coal-fired plants and is, therefore, vulnerable to coordinated boycotts. The Stichting Onderzoek Multinationale Ondernemingen (SOMO) – Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations – has shown that when states supply energy that directly supports illegal occupation or genocide, they are in violation of international law. SOMO explicitly recommends that states “end the supply of coal to Israel where there is no means of ensuring it does not end up supplying electricity to settlements.” We have no such guarantees. And even if we did, they would be impossible to verify. The only ethical and lawful option is to end coal exports entirely.

If South Africa is to retain credibility in its international legal claims, its domestic trade and industrial policy must be consistent with those claims. This is not simply a question of ethics; it is a question of coherence in governance. A state that seeks provisional measures at the ICJ to halt genocide cannot continue to facilitate that same genocide through commodity flows. This contradiction not only undermines South Africa’s legal arguments—it also weakens the ability of Global South countries to use international law as a terrain of struggle.

There is no neutral trade in the context of genocide. Every shipment of coal exported to Israel either contributes to or withholds material support from a war machine. If we claim to stand with the victims, our policies must withdraw complicity from the perpetrators. Of course, any conversation about South Africa’s trade policy must begin with the recognition of the severity of our economic crisis. With nearly half the population unemployed and millions pushed into crushing poverty, the social cost



of job losses is devastating. For working-class people and their families, even small disruptions to income can be catastrophic.

The crisis of mass unemployment — a structural failure rooted in both apartheid and post-apartheid economic mismanagement — hangs over every policy decision. This is why it’s important to approach this issue with care and clarity. Before acting, we need to establish, with precision, whether a coal boycott would lead to any actual job losses.

Academic and NGO researchers should work alongside government and trade unions to produce a shared and verified understanding of the scale and scope of South Africa’s coal exports to Israel — and what risks, if any, exist for workers should those exports be

halted. If there is a real risk to jobs, then the next step must be to find alternative markets.

This is not an impossible task. South Africa’s coal sector is vast, and the volume exported to Israel remains a tiny fraction — less than 1.2% of coal exports, and just 0.02% of GDP. Redirecting those shipments is a logistical challenge, not an economic impossibility. If there is political will, viable alternatives can be found.

This is not about asking workers to carry the cost of a moral position. It’s about building the political and practical basis to ensure that our country can act on its principles without deepening the hardship of the poor.

The trade union movement has already made this clear. In a powerful statement issued in August 2024, CO-

SATU declared its support for the call on Glencore to stop sending coal to Israel, stating that “fuelling apartheid and genocide is a crime.”

But the federation also rightly called on government to ensure that a boycott must protect jobs. Trade policy in a democratic state is not the exclusive domain of multinational firms of economic ministries.

It must be subordinate to the constitutional obligations of the state and to its commitments under international law. South Africa’s constitution affirms the importance of human rights and dignity. Its diplomatic stance affirms the urgency of halting genocide. The question now is whether its trade policy will follow suit.

Dr Buccus is editor of Al-Qalam



Quality & Style

Our customers whether big or small are given the best attention and service at all times.

8 Bauhinia Road, Ind.Township, Stanger
P. O. Box 4701, Stanger 4450
•Tel: 032 551 1113 • Fax: 032 551 4531
Email: yusuf@cantonilounge.co.za

Ibn Umar (r.a.) narrates the Nabi (SAW) said: “The place of prayer (salah) in religion is like the place of the head in the body.”
Tabarani



HACCP
CERTIFIED

Manufacturers and/or Distributors of:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Plastic – Bags, Tubing, Sheeting | Bubble Wrap |
| EasiGrip bags (re-sealable bags) | Aerothene |
| Polypropylene - Bags, Sheeting | Adhesive tapes - Various |
| Shrink wrap | Corrugated Board and Cartons |
| Pizza and Cake boxes | Twines |
| Sock and Shirt Insert boards | Strapping |
| Pallet Wrap | Hand Sealers, Tape Dispensers |

8 Pleasant way,
Athlone Industria,
Cape Town, South Africa
7764

Phone: +27-21-638 5137
Fax: +27-21-638 3900
Email: sales@easipack.co.za



**Bold brand.
Big flavour.
Bigger opportunities.**



Hungry for growth?

**Join the Mochachos
franchise fam**





DELICIOUS RECIPES

Mini Carrot Cakes

Recipe credit: Sabeha Arbee (Instagram: @sabeha_arbee)



Ingredients

(Beat)
1 cup sugar
3 eggs

(Sift)
1.5 cups flour
3/4tsp salt
1 1/3 tsp cinnamon powder
1tsp bicarb
1 1/3 tsp baking powder

2 cups finely grated carrots
1 cup chopped pecans
1 cup oil

Icing:
1/2 tbs butter
1/2 tsp vanilla essence
4 tbs plain cream cheese
1 cup icing sugar
2-3tbs milk to thin out the icing (only if needed)

Method:

1. Beat eggs and sugar together and then add in sifted ingredients. Mix well in your cake mixer.
2. Fold in your carrots, pecans and lastly one cup oil.
3. Pour batter into a well greased tray.
4. Bake for 20-35 mins on 180 degrees, depending on the type of cake pan you're using. Till cake is ready.
5. For icing, beat ingredients under Icing, till creamy and smooth. Spoon on top of your cake and decorate with pecans.

WIN WITH AL-QALAM | JUNE NATIONAL COMPETITION

Name any two ingredients used in the icing recipe.

Enter our competition now to stand a chance to win a special Juicy prize!

Congratulations to our May National Competition winner

Nasreen Ebrahim (Phoenix, Durban)

Email your answer to admin@alqalam.co.za or WhatsApp us at 074 399 8576



@Al-Qalam



@alqalam_newspaper



@AlQalam20

A Mosque - One thing missing in Galeshewe

For Aslam Mxolisi Tawana, the vision of a proper mosque in the heart of Galeshewe is not just a personal dream - it's a decades-long community need finally nearing reality.

As Chairperson of the Galeshewe Muslim Association (GMA), Tawana is leading efforts to establish the Galeshewe Islamic Centre, a landmark project that will include Masjidul Bilal, the first purpose-built mosque for the township in the Northern Cape.

Galeshewe is the largest township in Kimberley, with a population of over 350,000 people. There are about 800 – 900 Muslims and roughly 100 Muslim families. Tawana, the Chairperson of the Galeshewe Muslim Association, says a mosque is the one thing that has been missing in the township community. He said there are small musallahs scattered around the community, but no mosque.

"Islam is about 50 years old in the community of Gale-

shewe. It's been growing, but we need a facility that the Muslim community will benefit from. This is something we've waited 15 years for. In Galeshewe, there's never been a proper place of worship for Muslims. We've had Jamaat Khanas, but not a mosque. This Islamic Centre will have a mosque for the whole township, and we will host other community events and activities there," said Tawana.

The GMA is in the final stages of securing land from the municipality.

The site has been identified, the architectural designs are in place, and the community is pushing forward, but Tawana says they need help. Just to pay for the land, the association must raise just over R730,000. The architectural designs for the project were quantified three years ago and will cost about R30 million.

"Negotiations are ongoing to reduce that amount, but the need for financial support is urgent. So we must start securing donors now. The centre is designed in a

modular fashion, starting with the mosque as the first building that needs to be constructed," Tawana said. He said Islam in Galeshewe has a relatively young but vibrant history.

"The first people to embrace Islam in Galeshewe were around 1974 or 1975. As the years progressed, more people became Muslim. I embraced the deen in 1991, while I was still in high school," said Tawana.

He said in the early years, various formations tried to manage Muslim affairs in the township, but many collapsed or became dysfunctional. "There were efforts to start other organisations, but nothing formidable took shape for a long time," said Tawana.

It wasn't until a group of committed individuals came together with a shared vision that the Galeshewe Muslim Association was formally established.

"We realised we couldn't go on without an organisation. Major meetings were held, and we started the as-

sociation," Tawana said.

He was elected as Chairperson and has served in the role for 13 years, consistently re-elected every five years. Under his leadership, the GMA has taken on various responsibilities, from running Madressahs and Talims to organising Janazah programmes and providing welfare support to Muslims in the township. He says the organisation made consistent efforts to uplift the community, support economic empowerment, and promote Islam within the township.

"Our efforts have been well received, and we have earned the respect of the community. We are consistently engaging in activities like assisting with Qurbani, planning Eid events, and running the Muslim burial service in the area as well," said Tawana. But the cornerstone of their efforts is the Galeshewe Islamic Centre. For Tawana, this project is about far more than bricks and mortar. It's about identity, unity, and fulfilling a long-standing spiritual and social need. "This will be



a house of worship, a community hub, and a symbol of our growth and presence in Galeshewe," said Tawana. He said the Islamic Centre aims to accommodate 360 men and 96 ladies in the mosque.

A Darul Uloom, Madressah, adult training facility, Jamaat facilities, Janazah ghusl facilities, qurbani facilities, a multi-purpose hall, retail shops, food places, a dawah centre with a library, a residential square for the imaam, students, and muazzin, as well as a public square for community gatherings.

Now, with the community's

support and wider backing from donors and well-wishers, his dream is on the cusp of becoming a reality.

If one would like to contribute to the Islamic Centre project or the GMA's activities, Zakah, Sadaqah, and Lillah will be accepted.

*Account Name: Galeshewe Muslim Association
Bank: FNB
Account Number: 62613080978
Branch Name & Code: New Park & 231002
Reference: Zakah/Lillah/Sadaqah
They are a registered Non-Profit Organisation, and their registration number is NPO246653.*



PBO Number: 93001 8636

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH TO SECURE THE FUTURE

The Muslim Youth Movement aims to inspire, equip, and nurture young leaders with strong Islamic values, fostering growth through education, social development, and leadership initiatives. By building a foundation of faith, integrity, and resilience, we prepare the youth to navigate modern challenges while upholding the principles of Islam, ensuring a dynamic and prosperous future for all.



LILLAH
Muslim Youth Movement
General Account
First National Bank - Durban
Branch Code: 220926
Account No.: 5083 1855 033

ZAKAAT
Muslim Youth Movement
No. 2 Account
First National Bank - Durban
Branch Code: 220926
Account No.: 5083 1855 695

HAPPY

Islamic New Year

From The
Directors, Management & Staff






Major hurdles' remain in Gaza truce talks despite claims of progress

Despite Trump's optimism, reports suggest concerns within Israeli cabinet and over post-truce arrangements, By Mera Aladam

Major obstacles remain in the Gaza ceasefire talks, despite recent optimism from Israeli officials and US President Donald Trump, according to media reports.

Trump said that Israel "agreed to the necessary conditions to finalise the 60 Day ceasefire".

The US president, who is set to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu next week, added that during the nearly two-month truce, parties will work on ending the war.

"The Qataris and Egyptians, who have worked very hard to help bring Peace, will deliver this final proposal." Despite reports in Israeli media suggesting

progress in truce negotiations, other accounts hint at serious challenges hampering the process.

Speaking to The Times of Israel, two Arab diplomats said that "major hurdles remain", particularly around the recently established US-Israeli aid distribution system operated by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). Hamas has demanded a return to the previous UN-run aid delivery mechanism.

The controversial GHF, which began operations in late May after a three-month complete blockade of the Gaza Strip by Israeli forces, has been sharply criticised.

More than 580 Palestinians have been killed and over 4,200 wounded by Israeli troops while attempting to access food and aid supplies.

Hamas's concerns have been echoed by international organisations. On Tuesday, over 170 NGO's jointly

called for an end to what they described as the "deadly" US- and Israeli-backed GHF system, urging a return to United Nations-led aid coordination.

While some Israeli media outlets have reported signs of Netanyahu's willingness to resume negotiations, others paint a different picture. Channel 13, for instance, quoted Netanyahu taking a hardline stance during a recent security cabinet meeting, reportedly stating: "We need to kill every person that holds a weapon. Nothing less than this."

As for mediation efforts, Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari stated on Monday that "it is too early to talk about a timeframe for a ceasefire agreement", noting that current efforts are focused on restarting talks.

A phone call on Tuesday between the foreign ministers of Egypt and Qatar affirmed both countries'



commitment to a joint effort aimed at ending the bloodshed in Gaza, securing the release of prisoners and detainees, and facilitating the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid.

Continued on page 13

LAKE GLENCAIRN

The perfect escape

50 Hectare lake with great bass and trout fishing
Stunning chalets with morden finishes
Alpacas, Horses, zebras and more wild game

EXPERIENCE THIS STUNNING PRIVATE GAME FARM IN THE HEART OF UNDERBERG



Continued from page 12

Though Hamas has yet to release an official statement, senior official Taher al-Nunu told Palestinian media that the movement is “ready and serious about reaching an agreement” and is open to “any proposal that clearly meets the requirements for ending the war or leads to its complete end.”

According to Israel’s Kan 11 news outlet, two diplomatic sources say the current ceasefire proposal includes a 60-day truce, during which eight living Israeli captives would be released.

Two additional hostages would be released on the 50th day of the ceasefire, alongside the return of 18 Israeli bodies held in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Qatar’s version of the proposal includes a withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Morag axis and an increase in humanitarian aid entering the besieged territory.

The Morag axis, primarily agricultural land, runs between Khan Younis and Rafah, stretching east to west across southern Gaza. It also includes areas previously designated by the Israeli army as a “humanitarian zone”, where displaced Pal-

estinians had been instructed to seek refuge.

An Israeli source speaking to Haaretz claimed that while Israel has shown “flexibility” on several issues, it remains firm on troop withdrawal boundaries, refusing to pull back beyond the line defined in the last ceasefire agreement.

The source also noted that the current draft does not provide detailed provisions on aid distribution but includes broad language allowing for large-scale humanitarian relief, echoing clauses from previous agreements.

On the Palestinian side, a source stated that Hamas has not officially responded to Trump’s recent comments, citing the absence of a formal, detailed proposal. The source added that the key point of disagreement lies in what happens after the 60-day truce.

Normalisation

The same source told Haaretz that while the latest proposal does not explicitly guarantee an end to the war in Gaza, it includes “very strong assurances” on the matter. One clause, for example, states that if no agreement is reached within



the 60-day ceasefire, mediators will be responsible for continuing negotiations “under certain conditions.”

“These are not just words, this is also the general atmosphere that allows Hamas to see how much the Americans want and can take Israel there,” the source added.

An Arab official believes that Hamas would only agree to the current draft of the proposal if there is a document or oral promise from Washington that the truce would lead to an end to the war. According to a number of sources speaking to Haaretz, the current truce draft could include

“diplomatic compensation” for Israel, including normalisation and establishing relations with several Arab states.

The sources in Israel, the US and Gulf countries said the achievements are likely to include a resumption in establishing relations with

Saudi Arabia and an end to hostilities with Syria, as well as normalisation with Oman.

Such moves aim to soften the approach of far-right ministers under Netanyahu’s government, many of whom are against ending the war. - MEE



From the
Fountains of
the Maloti
Mountains
Southern Drakensberg



By
LAKE GLENCAIRN

Pure Refreshing Spring Water

Want to stock AQUA?
Contact Us on 039 317 3036
Follow us on IG at @aquaspringwater

MOTORING

Volvo C40: Silent Lightning in Swedish Style

By Imraan Buccus

There are moments in life when a car doesn't just take you from A to B, but rather changes the entire way you think about driving. The Volvo C40 Recharge Twin is one of those rare gems. It's striking, it's rapid, and in true Scandinavian fashion, it's uncluttered and honest. You're not being sold a gimmick here. Volvo simply asks: do you want the future, or not?

Volvo has committed to going all-electric by 2030, no maybes, no loopholes. Whether or not South Africa – or the world – is fully ready is another discussion, but Volvo's putting its sleek, aerodynamic foot down.

The Volvo C40 that quietly positions itself as the brand's electric icon. And it's not shouting for attention either – the C40 doesn't need to. Its coupe-style silhouette is graceful and commanding all at once

– it turns heads on highways and coffee shop parkings alike. The C40 still carries a confident SUV stance. There's nothing meek about it. Especially when it rolls in on those muscular 20-inch five-spoke alloys.

The real party trick, however, is in the way the C40 moves. You get in – no start button, no unnecessary ritual. Just foot on brake, gear selector into D, and you're off in silence. It's eerie the first few times. But like Swedish design itself, it quickly becomes something you wonder how you ever lived without.

But don't let the quiet fool you. With dual electric motors – one at each axle – you're dealing with 300kW and a hefty 660Nm of torque. That 0-100km/h claim of 4.7 seconds? It feels even quicker in the real world. Because with electric power, there's no delay. No waiting for revs or turbos to spool. Just an instant, face-melting surge that pushes you back into your

seat like you've just been launched off an aircraft carrier. And all without a single drop of petrol or a fake engine roar piped through the speakers. Just clean, honest propulsion.

Now, I'll admit, the braking does take some getting used to. But once you've mastered it, you find yourself rarely needing to touch the brake pedal at all – true one-pedal driving in its most intuitive form.

Inside, it's typically Volvo – that means a serene cabin, minimalistic design, and a high level of functionality. And don't let the fact that it's leather-free fool you into thinking it's not luxurious. The upholstery feels premium, and everything is thoughtfully put together. You've got Google built right into the infotainment system, with seamless voice navigation, maps, and apps – a vast improvement over the older Volvo systems. Rear passengers are well catered for with generous legroom, and the boot, at 489



litres, is more than practical for everyday life or a week-end escape to the Midlands from my home just north of Durban.

Battery-wise, the C40 houses a 78kWh pack, with an official range of up to 450km. But real-world figures are closer to 330–380km, especially if you're doing more highway than city driving.

Charging times vary – at a fast-charger, it'll top up in under two hours. But on a regular wall plug at home? You'll need patience and a good 24 hours.

At under R1.5m, it's not exactly pocket change, but it's far from the most expensive EV in town. It is worth the money and I'd say worth paying more to get the C40

over the XC40, if the creative and bold styling is your taste. The C40 isn't just about commuting – it's about redefining what a luxury car can be in a changing world.

Volvo doesn't scream for your attention. It whispers, elegantly. And the C40? It's an electric love letter on wheels.

Al-Qalam

Southern Africa's Muslim Newspaper

Your Window to
the Most Trusted
News Source.



f @Al-Qalam

@Al-Qalam_newspaper

@Al-Qalam20

FIND US ONLINE @ www.alqalam.co.za

Clashes and arrests in Turkey over magazine cartoon allegedly depicting Prophet Muhammad

Turkey police face demonstrators after prosecutor orders arrests at LeMan magazine, whose editor-in-chief denies allegation and says image has been deliberately misinterpreted.

Clashes erupted in Istanbul with police firing rubber bullets and teargas to disperse a mob on Monday after allegations that a satirical magazine had published a cartoon of the prophet Muhammad.

The clashes occurred after Istanbul's chief prosecutor ordered the arrest of the editors at LeMan magazine on grounds it had published a cartoon that "publicly insulted religious values".

The magazine's editor-in-chief, Tuncay Akgun, said the image had been misinterpreted.

"This cartoon is not a caricature of prophet Muhammad in any way," he told Agence France-Presse. "In this work, the name of a Muslim who was killed in the bombardments of Israel is fictionalised as Muhammad. More than 200 million people in the Islamic world

are named Muhammad. "[It] has nothing to do with prophet Muhammad. We would never take such a risk."

As the news broke, several dozen angry protesters attacked a bar often frequented by LeMan staffers in downtown Istanbul, provoking angry scuffles with police, an AFP correspondent said.

The scuffles quickly became clashes involving between 250 to 300 people, the correspondent said.

Founded in 1991, LeMan is famed for its political satire and has long been the bane of conservatives, especially following its support for France's Charlie Hebdo after its Paris offices were attacked in 2015 by Islamist gunmen who killed 12 following the magazine's publication of caricatures of the prophet Muhammad.

The interior minister, Ali Yerlikaya, said on X that police had arrested the cartoonist responsible for the image as well as LeMan's graphic designer.

"The person named DP who made this vile drawing has



been caught and taken into custody," he wrote, adding: "These shameless individuals will be held accountable before the law."

Others named in the arrest warrant were LeMan's editor-in-chief and its managing editor, media reports said.

In a string of posts on X, LeMan defended the cartoon and said it had been deliberately misinterpreted

to cause a provocation. "The cartoonist wanted to portray the righteousness of the oppressed Muslim people by depicting a Muslim killed by Israel, he never intended to belittle religious values," it said. "We do not accept the stigma imposed on us because there is no depiction of our prophet. It takes a very malicious person to interpret the cartoon in this way." "We apologise to our well-intentioned readers who we think were

subjected to provocations." The justice minister, Yılmaz Tunc, said an investigation had been opened on grounds of "publicly insulting religious values".

"Disrespect towards our beliefs is never acceptable," he wrote on X. "No freedom grants the right to make the sacred values of a belief the subject of ugly humour."

The caricature or any form of visual representation of

our prophet not only harms our religious values but also damages societal peace."

Istanbul's governor, Davut Gul, also lashed out at "this mentality that seeks to provoke society by attacking our sacred values".

"We will not remain silent in the face of any vile act targeting our nation's faith," he said.

The Guardian

AMBASSADORS FOR CHANGE



Ambassadors For Change' Skills Leadership Programme hosted by the Muslim Youth Movement of South Africa at the Al-Ansaar Conference Center from 30 June - 05 July 2025.



Remembering Pops Moolla of the ‘Ping Pong Boys’ who defied Apartheid

By Eric Imonina

What does it take to defy apartheid? For “Pops” Moolla, the answer was a table tennis bat.

M.G.H. “Pops” Moolla was born in 1932 and died of cardiac arrest on 11th January 1995. However his life was abundant with fulfilment. At 17 in 1950 he represented Southern Natal Table Tennis Championships and strove to the finals, outstripping the grandee champions of his day; namely I.A. “Goofy” Timol and I.M. Randeree. But as the tournament tailed off, he was defeated by E.S. Randeree after a gruelling 5-set contest. Moolla’s defeat at the Table of Play in his youth did not deter him. He conscientiously strove for supremacy at the game.

In 1951 and 1957, he got to the finals at the Natal Men’s Table Tennis Tournament. The visit to “Pops” Moolla’s son, Anwar, testifies to

a sportsmanship that is generational in the family; his daughter is a biokineticist. She has a degree in sports science-helping the injured on the field of play.

Anwar, his son and daughter ran the London and Berlin Marathon sometime in 2024. “I did 20 comrades marathon” Anwar says. “As a youngster I played Table Tennis and qualified for Junior level and represented Southern Natal at Table Tennis Tournaments but did not follow through as such” he reflected.

Anwar demonstrates a quantum love for sport. He is currently involved in yet another sport known as “Padel”. “It is similar to Pickle Ball and some of my friends and I have commercialized the sport by building Padel Courts in various places”, he says with a measure of satisfaction. Today, Anwar is a businessman with a B.com Law degree. However, sportsmanship is not only generational in his family but trade and entre-

preneurship is, as he learnt the intricacies of the clothing industry.

Meanwhile, the history of Pops Moolla is legendary. Having been a member alongside his colleagues of the South African Table Tennis Board, with non-discriminatory rules and affiliated to the International Table Tennis Federation, they were invited to the World Table Tennis Championship in Sweden in 1957.

Approval from the apartheid government for Moolla and his team to travel to Sweden was starkly impossible. But the fervent desire to represent South Africa abroad was abiding.

The group planned to exit the country individually; it was a way to evade the roving eyes of the authorities. They consisted of six men, namely, Cassim Peer [Captain] Ashwin Valjee, M.G.H. ‘Pops’ Moolla, P.R. “Bandy” Mandan [all from Natal Durban] and D. Groenwald from Wynburg [Western

Cape]. The manager of the team was Cassim Bassa, who was also President of the South African Table Tennis Board.

The team, the Ping Pong boys as they were known, arrived in Stockholm, Sweden. They played their matches at the Kunlighallen Royal Tennis Hall on 7th March - 15th March 1957 game. They were in group two which had contestants such as Japan, Vietnam, Sweden, Poland, Iran, France, Finland and Canada.

Reportedly the team lost all their matches 5-0. In some way of a culture shock, they admitted that the plank bats they know and used contrasted to the use of rubber bats as they observed at the games, did them in. They would later learn that the table tennis ball is more flexible to the rubber bat, giving opponents an edge over them at the Table of Play. However, they would later pioneer the use of rubber bats back home in South Africa. One of the highlights



of their matches was with Japan. The Japanese clinched all aspects of the contest-Men’s Singles, Women’s Single’s and Mixed Doubles.

With the political strife back home in South Africa, the team was relieved they were in Sweden for sportsmanship. In the same year of 1957, the South African or Ping Pong boys returned through the Mailship in Cape Town. Immediately the apartheid regime, bruised

by the team’s seemingly unsanctioned exit from the country, confiscated their passports. As such they could not, Moolla and his colleagues could not compete overseas again. Pops Moolla is till this day fondly remembered in the South African sporting circles as someone who not only excelled but also for his uprightness in all he did. For Moolla, sport was not just a game - it was a quiet revolution.



WHOLESALE PRICES DIRECT TO THE PUBLIC

Chicken

Chicken Products

Fish

Fish Products

Frozen Vegetables

Meat Products



OUR MEGASTORES

Benoni
011 914 1943
Crown Mines
011 837 4449
Lenasia
011 853 6063

Polokwane
015 297 7366
Rustenburg
014 594 2492
Nelspruit
013 752 3500

Maydon Wharf
031 305 1724
Briardene
031 940 5788
Pietermaritzburg
033 940 1178

 @dawood_megastore_gtn | @dawood_megastore_kzn



www.dawood.co.za
OF EVERYTHING CHICKEN AND MORE