

Sh. Rafeek Hassen stays on as multifaith group agrees to condemn Gaza genocide

When Sheikh Rafeek Hassen threatened to quit the KZN Inter-religious Council if it didn't condemn the genocide in Gaza, the leaders held a meeting and decided to stand up to the truth, writes Ismail Suder

Prominent Islamic scholar Sheikh Rafeek Hassen who last week threatened to resign from the KZN Inter-religious Council unless the committee members condemned the Israeli genocide in Gaza, told *Al-Qalam* that he was satisfied with the strong statement of condemnation released by the multi-faith group.

Last week, Dr A.V Mahomed, head of the Juma Masjid, abruptly resigned from the Inter-Religious Council because he claimed the group failed to raise the matter of the genocide in Gaza.

But Bishop Nathi Zondi, Chairman of the Inter-religious Council, said that Mahomed, who served as a senior member in the Council, did not table a motion to

discuss the matter on Gaza. So, when Mahomed suddenly resigned, all the members were taken aback by his departure from the group.

Zondi, who is also the deputy chair of the KZN Council of Churches, said if Mahomed had only raised the issue on Gaza's genocide at their council meetings, he would certainly have addressed the matter with other members, and come to a resolution.

The committee represents members of the Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Bahai, Muslim, Buddhist and other faiths. The primary purpose of the group is to foster peace among all peoples' and faiths.

Zondi said Mahomed was always welcome to rejoin the organization either as an executive member or as a patron – whichever he chooses.

In an interview with *Al-Qalam*, Zondi said the council views the mass killings of innocent Palestinian men, women and children, in-

cluding the willful starving of hundreds of thousands of people "as a genocide."

In a statement, the KZN Inter-religious Council has "re-confirmed our shared belief that all human life is sacred. We condemn the untold human suffering inflicted upon all in the current Middle East conflict, especially the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, as an indictment on the moral conscience of the world.

We call for an immediate end to the conflict and starvation, immediate supply of humanitarian aid, release of all of those held in captivity and resumption to a negotiated solution where Jews, Christians, Muslims and other faiths can live in peace and harmony again."

Meanwhile, Hassen, founder and director of iiFRi – Islamic Interfaith Research Institute - who was present at the AGM said. "I am pleased to announce that when the matter of Gaza came up on the agenda, the Chairperson of KZN IRC, Bishop Nathi Zondi gave all those present the opportuni-



ty to air their views". Hassen reiterated that the IRC should issue a statement to condemn Israel's actions in Gaza and Palestine which the house, after some deliberations unanimously, accepted and issued with no objections.

"In personal interaction with the IRC members of various faiths– all of them expressed their shock and disapproval of the geno-

cidal horrors unfolding in Gaza. The meeting also highlighted the principle that IRC must engage with Government and stakeholders and should be the moral compass for justice, human rights, peace and unity", he added.

Hassen told *Al-Qalam* that it was of paramount importance to interact with all communities, and faith organisations, to enhance

social cohesion. "One of the first things the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) did when he reached Medina after the Hijra was to establish a "Community Shura Council" (a form of Local Government) comprising the Jews, Christians, traditional leaders and Muslims. "In similar spirit, some of the aims of this Council is to work together, regardless of our religion or tribe or culture," he added.

YOUR SHARIAH COMPLIANT PATH TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Shariah Income Funds with Above-Market Returns.

Tailored for individuals, families, and businesses. Book Your Free Financial Consultation Today!

Yusuf Nanabawa: 082 665 6665 | yusuf@fwdtrading.co.za
Imraan Moolla: 081 599 1695 | imoolla@fwdtrading.co.za
Anwar Moolla: 083 657 8677 | anver@fwdtrading.co.za



LOCAL NEWS

Baragwanath gets R200 000 borehole, thanks to SA Muslim community

By Al-Qalam Reporter

The Al Tawheed Foundation this week handed over a R200 000 borehole, installed on the grounds of the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, thanks to the generosity of South Africa's Muslim business community and individual donors.

Gauteng MEC for Health Nomantu Nkomo-Ralehoko, along with healthcare officials and community stakeholders, officiated the ceremony which was attended by Dr Abdel Salaam al-Bassiouni, Qari Bashir Patel, senior directors of the Al Tawheed Foundation as well as representatives from civil society organisations.

Driven by its mission to restore dignity and support underprivileged communities, the Al Tawheed Foundation identified Baragwanath Hospital—a vital institution in the public healthcare system—as a worthy beneficiary. This followed the successful borehole instal-

lation at Sebokeng Clinic in 2024. "Water is life. And in a healthcare setting, access to clean, reliable water is non-negotiable. This borehole is a lifeline," said Dr. Bassiouni.

Valued at over R200,000, the project included the borehole drilling, water storage tanks, electrical and plumbing installation, and comprehensive security infrastructure to ensure its sustainability.

The self-sufficient system was designed to guarantee uninterrupted water access for patients, healthcare staff, and daily hospital operations – especially during times of municipal water disruptions.

This intervention forms part of Al Tawheed Foundation's wider humanitarian programme, which include vocational training, skills development, welfare distribution, and medical outreach services, carried out in partnership with organisations including Radio Islam International and the Islamic Medical Association of



South Africa.

As part of the ceremony, the Foundation quoted the

timeless teaching of Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) which states: "The most beloved of deeds to the Creator is

quenching the thirst of others." "In this small act of service, we honour that principle and pray that this

gift continues to bring benefit and relief to all who walk through the gates of this hospital," said Dr Bassiouni.

- Specialists In The Repair, Maintenance, Reconditioning And Rebuilding Of Gearboxes And Differentials For All Makes Of Domestic And Commercial Vehicles.
- Authorised Agents For All Mechanical Waranties
- Importers & Wholesalers of Gearboxes & Engines

031 579 1440 076 950 0623 031 579 2315

www.gearboxcentre.net info@gearboxcentre.net

15 TEAKFIELD RD, SPRINGFIELD PARK, DURBAN

GEARBOX CENTRE

DIRECT IMPORTERS & WHOLESALEERS OF ENGINES, GEARBOXES & MOTOR SPARES

IMPORTS

37 Ebonyfield, Springfield Park, Durban
P.O Box 687, Rochdale Park, 4034
e-mail: gbcimports@iafrica.com

Tel: 031 579 5071
031 579 5036
Fax: 031 579 5072

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

Reclaiming Safar: A time of renewal, not superstition



By Imam Dr. A. Rashied Omar

We are currently in the lunar month of Safar, 1477 AH, the second month of the Hijri calendar. For many, Safar passes with little notice. But in pre-Islamic Arabia, this month carried ominous weight, laden with superstition and irrational fear.

It was widely believed that Safar brought misfortune. Marriages were avoided, travel was postponed, and new ventures were delayed out of dread that calamity

might strike. These fears were rooted not in fact, but in what Islamic scholars call *jahlun muraqqabun*, a compounded form of ignorance. In this worldview, human beings were seen as helpless before arbitrary forces and cursed timings. But one of the central missions of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was to liberate hearts and minds from such illusions.

In a deliberate and symbolic act, the Prophet (pbuh) chose to marry Sayyidah A'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her) during the very month of Safar. This was not merely a personal decision; it was a public rejection of superstition and a declaration that every moment in the Islamic calendar is infused with divine potential and blessing (*barakah*). In doing so, the Prophet (pbuh) illuminated a path away from fatalism and toward empowered moral agency.

In a profound *ḥadīth* narrated by Abu Hurayrah and collected in the authentic books of Imam Bukhārī and

Imam Muslim, the Prophet (pbuh) dismantled these ancient myths in a few powerful words when he proclaimed:

“There is no contagion (*adwā*), no evil omen (*ti-yarah*), no haunting spirit (*hāmah*), and no bad luck in the month of Safar.”

This *ḥadīth* is more than a theological correction, it is a spiritual emancipation. It calls us to live by the central tenet of *tawḥīd* (Divine Oneness): that nothing, not a number, a star, or a calendar date, has intrinsic power. Only Allah possesses ultimate authority. Harm and benefit lie not in omens, but in our moral conduct, in our trust in God's wisdom, and in our ethical choices. The Qur'an reinforces this message unequivocally. In verse 30 of Surat ash-Shūrā (Chapter 42), Allah proclaims:

“Whatever misfortune befalls you is because of what your own hands have done, yet Allah forgives much.” (Q 42:30) This verse does

not diminish Divine Mercy, it amplifies it. While it affirms that human actions have consequences, it simultaneously reminds us of Allah's forbearance, compassion, and readiness to forgive. Thus, instead of blaming cursed times or malevolent forces, the Qur'an calls us to take responsibility, to act with integrity, and to return to the Lord of Compassion and Mercy with renewed hearts.

Safar a Month for Reflection and Renewal

Rather than fearing the month of Safar, we are invited to reclaim it as a season for quiet renewal, spiritual reflection, and positive action. Let us seize this time to:

- Reject superstitions and fatalism in all their forms.
- Strengthen our relationship with Allah through regular *ṣalāh*, supplication (*duā*), and acts of kindness, even if small.
- Show solidarity with those facing immense suffering, especially the starving people of Gaza and other



oppressed communities, through our prayers, advocacy, and ethical witness.

- Place our full trust in Allah, the Lord of Compassion, the One who governs the cosmos with mercy and justice.

As we move through Safar and beyond, may we do so not with fear, but with *tawakkul* (trust), *taqwā* (God-consciousness), and

‘amal ṣāliḥ (righteous action). Let us embody the spirit of a faith that liberates us not just from worldly despair, but from the illusions that limit our moral and spiritual horizons.

Indeed, every month, Safar included, is a sacred opportunity to realign our lives with Divine Wisdom and to walk forward in the light of Prophetic Guidance.

SADATH KHAN
Life Coach & Facilitator
Bangalore, India

DISCOVER YOURSELF WORKSHOP

In Durban, Cape Town, Pretoria and Johannesburg

From Mind to Heart - From Ego to Surrender

*Are you tired of emotional confusion, inner conflict?
Join a life-changing 3-day workshop designed to help you*

SEATS ARE LIMITED. REGISTER NOW TO BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY!

DURBAN

Date: 5, 6 & 7 Sept 2025
Venue: Suleman Lockhart Auditorium, Mariam Bee Sultan Islamic Centre

PRETORIA

Date: 19, 20 & 21 Sept 2025
Venue: Masjid Abubakr Siddique, 2nd Floor Auditorium

CAPETOWN

Date: 12, 13 & 14 Sept 2025
Venue: The Academia Auditorium, Islamia College

JOHANNESBURG

Date: 26, 27 & 28 Sept 2025
Venue: Salt 'n Pepper, Park Dr and Albertina, Fordsburg

Timing: 8:30am to 5:30pm (All 3 Days)

Register Online Now: <http://discoveryyourself.in/south-africa-sept-2025>

ADMIN FEE:
R 500/- per participant
(Includes Tea, Lunch & Course Material For All 3 Days)

CONTACT US FOR INFO :

Durban / Cape Town / Pretoria:
Suliman Anver — +27 76 785 6751

Johannesburg:
Ayesha Hurzook - +27 82 630 5880
Soraiya Moola — +27 73 592 8654

For Details Visit: Website: <https://www.discoveryyourself.in>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/discoveryyourselfnow>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/discoveryyourselfnow/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@discoveryyourselfin>

MRN welcomes Hawks investigations on SA citizens serving genocide army

The Media Review Network (MRN) has welcomed an announcement by the Hawks that it was investigating Aaron Bayhack and 15 other South Africans who allegedly served in the “Israeli Genocide Force” – with some still actively participating in the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

The investigation is the result of years of painstaking work by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, MRN and Attorney Ziyaad Patel which “handed evidence to the Hawks on a silver platter.”

Dr Ahmed Haroon Jazbhay, an Executive Member of the Media Review Network said: “In the same breath, we need to ensure that the investigation is not hampered by Zionists and

“ In the same breath, we need to ensure that the investigation is not hampered by Zionists and their political allies who would be up in arms and do their damndest to make the docket disappear. ”

their political allies who would be up in arms and do their damndest to make the docket disappear.”

Bayhack and 15 oth-

er South Africans have served in the Israel Genocide forces in contravention of the Foreign Military Assistance Act. The Act mandates that any South

African wishing to serve in a foreign army must obtain the permission of the National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC). The NCACC

has confirmed that no such permission was sought by Bayhack and others.

MRN has demanded that the law is applied without

fear or favour and that authorities must withstand the inevitable and orchestrated assault by SAZF and SAJBD. “No Zionist must be above the law, it said.



Jacks GRILL CO

SUSHI SEAFOOD GRILL

HALF PRICE SUSHI - FROM 11AM - 5:00PM - MON-FRI

**Selected Sushi *T's & C's Apply*

Ideal venue for private functions, catering for up to 100 guests
WhatsApp 071 891 7051 for more details

295 FLORIDA FIELDS, FLORIDA ROAD 031 521 0250



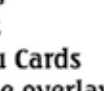
Party Themes





- Candles
- Tooth pick
- Tulle (Netting)
- Table Confetti
- Plates - Cups
- Coils
- Oasis / Styrafoam
- Tape / Wire
- Flower colour spray
- Baskets
- Polystyrene cut- outs





- Floral & Plain Serviette
- Wet wipes
- Souvenirs
- Thank You Cards
- Disposable overlays
- Bowls - Spoons
- Compotes
- Floral arrangemnts
- Horns of plenty
- Vine Baskets
- Florist

25 Peter Road, Springfield Park (off Inanda Rd.)
Tel: 031 577 0202/6


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*

If your name is Yahya, you're not alone

By Al-Qalam
Reporter and Agency

If you're in South Africa and your name is Yahya, then you are not alone as it is one of the most popular boy's names in the world after Muhammad.

But the name recently stirred quite a controversy when the Leipzig University Hospital in eastern Germany published a list of newborns that included the name Yahya Sinwar, the former leader of the Palestinian group Hamas in Gaza. It caused a backlash; forcing the hospital to issue an apology.

The maternity clinic at the hospital explained that the names are published "exclusively at the request or with the consent of the parents."

In a statement on Instagram on Monday, the clinic said: "Today we published the first names of the newborns on our obstetrics channel – as we do every day," it said. "One of the names is currently in a political context, which has caused irritation or incomprehension among

some users." The hospital stated that internal procedures would be reviewed to ensure greater sensitivity in handling similar cases in the future.

Further fuelling the reaction, one staff member had reportedly drawn a heart above the letter "i" in the name.

The hospital had shared a photograph of the board on Instagram, prompting a wave of critical comments and expressions of shock. It later issued a formal apology, stating that staff were unaware of the name's political significance.

"In this case, the person who posted the image was not aware that the name is currently associated with a well-known political figure involved in a highly sensitive geopolitical context," said hospital spokesperson Jörn Glassner in a comment to German newspaper Bild.

The hospital acknowledged that the post may have caused "feelings of discomfort or distress" and issued "a sincere apology to anyone who felt hurt or provoked by

this post. "We are taking this incident as an opportunity to review our internal procedures to ensure greater sensitivity when dealing with such matters in the future," the hospital added.

Sinwar, who served as head of Hamas's political bureau in Gaza, was killed in a confrontation with Israeli forces. The announcement came a day after Israel's military and Shin Bet said in a joint statement that they had killed three people in a Gaza operation, including Sinwar.

He was 61 years old and had been on the battlefield at the time of his death. An autopsy later revealed he had not eaten for at least three days before he was killed.

The controversy at the Leipzig hospital escalated after German Jewish rapper Ben Salomo posted an image of the board on Instagram, condemning the hospital for displaying the name. His post went viral and triggered broader debate across social media.

German outlet Die Welt reported that the reason



behind the child's naming remains unknown, and no details were released about the identity of the baby's parents.

It is also unclear whether the civil registry office will formally accept the name.

The first name "Yahya" is common across the Arab and Muslim world and is growing in popularity in Europe. When translated, it means "to live or long-lived. In Islam, Yahya refers to John the Baptist, a prophet who is regarded as the forerunner to

Jesus. Back here in Durban, 14-year-old Yahya Khan told *Al-Qalam* he was proud of his name.

"But, the only thing that irks me is that many people, including my classmates, mispronounce my name.

How well do you know your heart?

Your heart is one of a kind

Whether you've had stents, a valve replacement or a Pacemaker...
Been diagnosed with a heart murmur or a mild heart attack,
Or simply just want peace of mind because you have a family history...
Having an indication of how your heart is functioning,
will allow you to give it the attention and care it needs!
Before it's too late.

Our Service to you

Echocardiograms
Pacemaker and ICD Device Checks
24/48hr Holter ECGs

We can help

Quick appointment times
Convenient Location
Affordable Rates

Be Proactive. Be informed

Your heart works tirelessly for you - show it the same care.
You only get one heart.
Let's keep it beating strong!

0790576841
0671516946
sahmed.cardio@gmail.com
Chelmsford Medical Centre 3
St Augustines Hospital

Have medical Aid?
Ask your Dr for a referral!

Contact us

Female Echocardiographer

WHAT IS AN ECHOCARDIOGRAM?

An Echocardiogram or "Echo" is a safe, non invasive procedure that usually takes about 30min.

A probe is placed on the chest and sound waves are transmitted to generate moving images of the heart.

HOW DOES AN ECHO HELP?

An Echo helps your Doctor find out:

- How your heart and it's valves are functioning
- The size and shape of your heart
- Your heart's pumping strength
- If the heart valves are working correctly
- Presence of any scar tissue or blood clots



WHO SHOULD HAVE AN ECHO?

People with:

Known or suspected heart problems

Pre / Post Chemotherapy

Heart murmurs

Hypertension

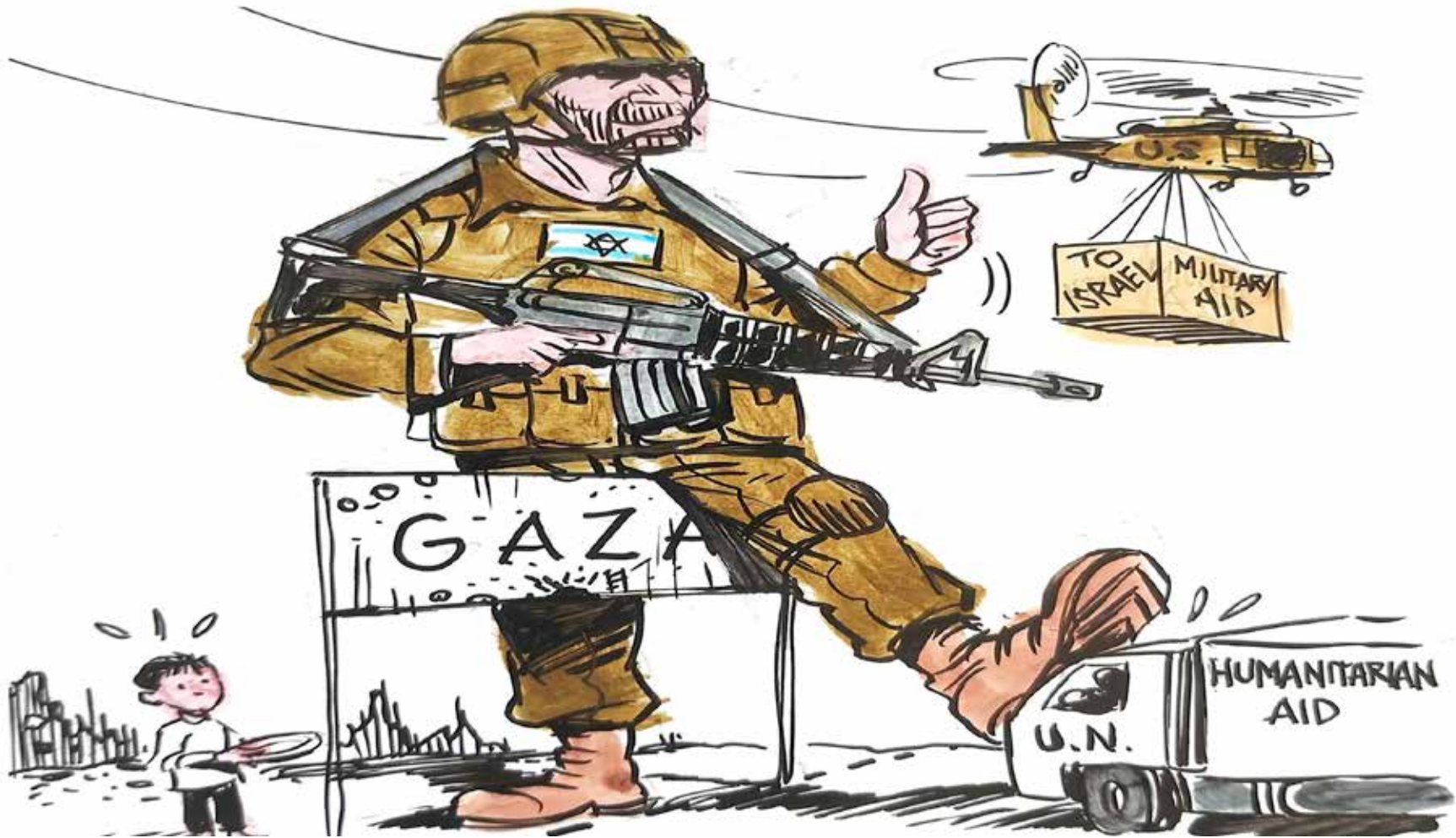
Diabetes

Medical Aids Accepted

For more Information

Safeera Ahmed
Cardiac Physiologist
0790576841

EDITORIAL



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NB. All letters MUST be accompanied by the writer's correct name and contact details, or it will not be published. A nom-de-plume will be accepted only for publication purposes.
NB. All views reflected in this column are the opinion of the writer and do NOT necessarily reflect the views of the Editor.

We would like to thank all our respected readers for sending in your comments, views and opinions to our 'Letters to the Editor' column. We value your thoughts on the various aspects affecting the Muslim community. Keep them rolling in.

Gaza: ‘What irks me is your muffled silence’

I read somewhere that when British troops liberated the concentration camps at Bergen-Belsen, Germany, some time in April 1945, it was recorded that they found a nightmare – thousands of skeletal survivors, disease, death, and devastation beyond compre-

hension.’ Fast forward 80 plus years to Gaza-Palestine in August 2025 and that dark episode that saw its rehearsal free from the conscience of the world, repeating the odium in real time as we speak.

What irks me is your muffled silence, your limp wristed blows against

your government condonation of the very evil that struts about on the world stage. Let judgment flow freely like a river and righteousness as a torrential storm if the world is to find redemption.

Saber Ahmed Jazbhay
Attorney: Constitutional Law - Durban

Phoenix Care Foundation: ‘Klipboard’s support has gone material

On 28 July 2025, Klipboard, a company based in Umhlanga brought treats and household items for the less fortunate.

On behalf of the Phoenix Care Foundation, we extend our deepest gratitude to Klipboard for their generous sponsorship of hampers to support our community ini-

tiatives. Their contribution has brought comfort and dignity to many families in need, and it reflects a powerful example of corporate compassion.

At a time when so many face daily challenges, Klipboard’s support has gone beyond material assistance – it has uplifted spirits and reminded us that kindness still holds strong in our communities. The hampers were

thoughtfully prepared and beautifully delivered, and they brought smiles to homes that truly needed them.

We sincerely thank Klipboard for standing beside the Phoenix Care Foundation in its mission to serve with heart and purpose.

Their generosity has made a meaningful impact, and we are proud to acknowledge and celebrate them publicly.

Al-Qalam
Southern Africa’s Muslim Newspaper

Your Window to the Most Trusted News Source.



Israel is ‘Kapoots’ – defeated and its PR hopelessly ruined



In America too, the political right once almost unanimous in its support for Israel, is beginning to fracture, writes Iqbal Jassat

If there is a word to capture or describe how badly Israel’s public image is damaged, what would it be?

Most certainly the word would be “disaster”! Some may argue that even metaphorically speaking, the Netanyahu regime has exhausted all efforts aimed to overcome its disastrous public relations.

Every action - whether mil-

itary, political or diplomatic – has led from disaster to disaster. A recent example of the extent of worldwide outrage against Israel’s genocide in Gaza, the Occupied West Bank and Jerusalem, saw thousands upon thousands – some estimates place the number at more than 300,000 – marching across the Sydney Harbour Bridge in Australia. Dubbed the March for Humanity, and despite torrential rain, BBC reported that protestors carried placards with messages to politicians to stop the war.

“Shame shame Israel, shame shame USA,” the crowds chanted. “What do we want? Ceasefire. When do we want it? Now.”

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was spotted among the protesters, with other notable attendees including federal MP Ed Husic and former NSW Premier Bob Carr.

The Guardian quoted New South Wales police commenting on it as the largest

protest to descend on the city in memory. Moreover, the devastating critique of Israel was best captured in its heading: The horror of Gaza called and a mass of rain-soaked Sydney Harbour Bridge marchers, young and old, came in full force As expected that Zionist pressure groups would cry foul, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies said it was “disappointed” by the Supreme Court’s decision to authorise the protest.

This is typical which we know from our own experience in South Africa where Zionist lobby groups would bemoan, lament and bewail efforts by Palestinian solidarity movements to expose Israel’s innumerable human rights violations. In fact it is well known that the SA Jewish Board of Deputies condemned South Africa for taking Israel to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) over the genocide in Gaza.

Selective amnesia indeed by defenders of Israel who prefer to engage in seman-

tics to deflect from compelling evidence of genocide.

A former deputy prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia said the amount of evidence pointing to genocide in Gaza is overwhelming and likened the situation to the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, Anadolu reported recently.

Graham Blewitt, who helped prosecute war crimes in the Balkans and Nazi crimes in Australia, said in a recent interview with Australian broadcaster SBS News that if he were working in the International Criminal Court today, he would have “no hesitation in bringing an indictment against the Israeli leaders for genocide.”

To its eternal shame the SAJBD called on the SA government to “reconsider its ill-considered, immoral and ultimately self-defeating stance on the conflict in the Middle East and instead align itself with other

members of the international community who are doing whatever they can to help bring peace to the region”. Such ill-considered statements demonstrate levels of disconnect and blindness to the mass slaughter of Palestinians, positioning lobby groups as diehard supporters of settler colonialism.

Contrary to their stance, within the regime a growing consensus has emerged that Netanyahu is avoiding a permanent ceasefire in order to preserve his fascist coalition to stay out of jail.

Times of Israel has revealed that senior Israeli officials issued a joint video message demanding “end the war in Gaza”, arguing that the regime has “racked up more losses than victories” and that the “fighting has dragged on for political reasons...”.

The scathing attack is not from the South African government whom SAJBD maligned as “immoral”, but the view of 19 former IDF

chiefs of staff, intelligence chiefs, Shin Bet and Mossad directors, and police commissioners. Backing them were former prime minister and IDF chief Ehud Barak, and ex-chief of staff Moshe Ya’alon and Dan Hakutz. Their message is clear: the game is up! In America too, the political right, once almost unanimous in its support for Israel, is beginning to fracture.

In recent weeks, a small but very significant group of MAGA-aligned conservatives has begun to voice public unease, if not outright condemnation, of Israel’s “ongoing war in Gaza”, according to media reports.

The Zionist regime is “kapoots” as its heavily funded PR campaigns are shredded by disaster following disaster, unable to censor images of starving children saturating TV screens across the world.

**Iqbal Jassat is an Executive Member of the MEDIA REVIEW NETWORK*



**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.

 **DONATE
TODAY**

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

MOTORING

Bold and brilliant Hyundai SANTA Fe Hybrid



By Imraan Buccus

The Santa Fe has landed on our drive-ways with an impressive punch. Hyundai South Africa has just launched its very first hybrid electric vehicle (HEV), and it is a sleek, stylish SUV that’s already making waves. This is a versatile vehicle ready to serve you well in cities and on family adventures, too.

I was lucky enough to be at the Durban launch and quickly realised that the SANTA Fe is a statement on wheels. There are a few that may not like the futuristic design, like my daughter, but the vehicle is grounded in practical luxury and family-first versatility. Taking her on a trip to the Tala Game Park, she acknowledged that it oozes luxury.

Like we were reminded by Zweli Mnisi, Hyundai’s General Manager for Corporate Communications, the hybrid model

helped clinch top honours at the 2025 Women’s Worldwide Car of the Year Awards, voted on by 82 female motoring journalists across 55 countries. That is significant, no doubt.

Hyundai SA’s Stanley Anderson (Sales and Operations Director) was on point with his comment that “The SANTA FE Hybrid is family-friendly, tech-savvy and sustainable. It’s for drivers who demand more – from luxury to innovation, it’s a car that turns every journey into an adventure.”

The engine

Now let’s talk performance. Many think that hybrids often bring the boring, but that’s not true for the SANTA Fe. Under its skin is a 1.6-litre turbocharged petrol engine kicking out 132 kW and 265 Nm, paired with a punchy 44 kW electric motor. It has a mighty 175 kW and 367 Nm of torque, all channelled through an all-wheel drive system that eases through gravel roads in heavy rain.

It’s a powertrain that balances fuel efficiency (a claimed 7.5 L/100km) with that lovely smooth acceleration that hybrids are known for. And thanks to Hyundai’s regenerative braking – now enhanced with paddle-shifter con-

trol – you can literally harvest energy while coasting or slowing down. Smart driving doesn’t feel like a compromise? Yes, please.

Safety & Style

This vehicle is not just aesthetically pleasing. It is a full-size, three-row SUV with space for up to seven passengers, and everyone gets a little VIP treatment. It stretches to 4,830 mm in length with a wide stance that commands attention – and stability. Add a wheelbase of 2,815 mm and Hyundai’s signature comfort, and you’ve got a plush, expansive cabin that’s made for that long trip from Durban to the Mozambican border.

Safety, as expected, ticks all the boxes. Hyundai’s SmartSense safety suite is fully loaded here: 360-degree cameras, Blind Spot Collision Avoidance, Rear Occupant Alert, Driver Attention Warning, and more. It also has ISOFIX anchor points for both second and third rows, so I have no doubt parents will absolutely love this.

It comes as no surprise that you get six airbags, automatic door locks, and 20-inch alloy wheels that balance premium with real-world practicality.

High-Tech Heaven

Inside, the SANTA Fe



Hybrid feels more space-ship than SUV in the best possible way. The cabin leather looks posh and is also animal-friendly and durable enough to handle kids, dogs, and the occasional muddy running shoe after a Sunday trail run along Durban’s wonderful hiking/trail running spots.

The front seats are heated and ventilated, the second row gets its own heating too, and everything from the seat height to lumbar support is designed with long-distance comfort in mind. Up front, you have a massive 12.3-inch dig-

ital display, and the infotainment touchscreen is both beautiful and functional with wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto as standard.

Is It Worth it?

At R1,249,900, the SANTA FE Hybrid Elite AWD isn’t playing in the budget segment, but it’s also not pretending to be. This is a flagship SUV designed to compete with the best, and it does. With a 7-year/200,000 km warranty, plus an additional 8-year/160,000 km warranty on the hybrid battery, Hyundai is putting its

money where its mouth is.

The verdict

The 2025 Hyundai SANTA FE Hybrid isn’t just Hyundai dipping its toes into the hybrid waters, it’s a commitment to a smarter, greener, and more exciting driving future. It’s stylish, spacious, safe, and genuinely fun to drive.

So if you’re ready to make the leap to hybrid but don’t want to sacrifice size, performance, or a sense of occasion, this might just be your next great love affair on four wheels.



From the
Fountains of
the Maloti
Mountains
Southern Drakensberg



AQUA
U A

By
LAKE GLENCAIRN

Pure Refreshing Spring Water

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

Can you tell us how he died?': Salah criticises Uefa over tribute to 'Palestinian Pelé'

Footballer Suleiman al-Obeid was killed in an Israeli attack in southern Gaza last week, according to the Palestine Football Association. This report from Lorenzo Tondo

Mohamed Salah has criticised Uefa for failing to state how a footballer known as the "Palestinian Pelé" died in a tribute it posted.

Suleiman al-Obeid, 41, was killed on Wednesday in southern Gaza when Israeli forces attacked civilians waiting for humanitarian aid, the Palestine Football Association (PFA) said.

"Farewell to Suleiman al-Obeid, the 'Palestinian Pelé'," Uefa posted on X on Friday. "A talent who gave hope to countless children, even in the darkest of times."

Salah replied to Uefa's post on Saturday, saying: "Can

you tell us how he died, where, and why?"

Obeid scored twice for the Palestinian national side, most memorably with a scissor-kick against Yemen during the 2010 West Asian Football Federation championship.

The Liverpool player and Egypt star has consistently voiced sympathy for those in Gaza throughout the conflict. Two years ago, he donated to the Egyptian Red Crescent to help fund its relief efforts in the region.

A fixture in the Palestinian national side after his debut in 2007, Obeid gained 24 caps and scored twice, the PFA said last week, most memorably with a scissor-kick against Yemen during the 2010 West Asian Football Federation championship.

"During his long career, al-Obeid, 41, scored more than 100 goals, making him one of the brightest stars of Pal-



estinian football," it said.

His talent on the pitch earned him the nickname of "the Palestinian Pelé" – a nod to the legendary Brazilian widely hailed as one of the greatest players of all time. Obeid's death added to a growing toll of athletes lost in Gaza since the war began, with at least 662

sportspeople and their relatives reported to have been killed.

"The number of footballers killed or who died from starvation has reached 421, including 103 children," the PFA said.

According to the PFA, 288 sports facilities have been



damaged or reduced to rubble across Gaza and the West Bank, from stadiums and training grounds to gyms and clubhouses. The majority, 268, were in Gaza, while 20 were in the West Bank, with about half serving football directly.

Among the sites hit was the PFA's headquarters in Gaza,

struck during an Israeli air raid.

More than 1,300 Palestinians are reported to have been killed in the vicinity of aid distribution points managed by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation since the US- and Israeli-backed logistic group's launch in late May.

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

OPINION

The Muslim World: A requiem

The idea of the “Muslim World” as a political community is dead. writes By Prof. Junaid S. Ahmad

How does one speak of a “Muslim World” when the supposed collective is either silent, complicit, or supine in the face of genocide?

When Muslims from Gaza to Kashmir, from Sudan to Syria, are being brutalized with impunity, and the so-called leaders of Muslim-majority states are either polishing boots in Washington or mumbling their dissent into the sand? Perhaps it's time to recite the Fatiha over the concept of a unified “Muslim World.” If nothing else, a proper funeral might finally clear the air.

The phrase “Muslim World” once conjured images of a vast, vibrant ummah stretching from Jakarta to Casablanca, a spiritual and civilizational brotherhood united by faith and a shared moral vision. Today, that term feels like a cruel joke, the geopolitical equivalent of a sticker slapped onto a broken mirror. The nations that populate this imagined collective can barely agree on the date of Eid, let alone mount a coherent response to the systematic annihilation of their brethren. If this is the “Muslim World,” then it is one in hospice care, wheezing out platitudes as realpolitik pulls the plug.

Let us be honest: most Muslim-majority governments today are client states, marionettes in a puppet theatre directed by Western powers, primarily the United States. Iran is the notable exception, though it often walks the tightrope between pragmatism and defiance. The rest? From Riyadh to Rabat, from Islamabad to Amman, their foreign policies are either written in Washington or blessed by it. One could argue that the only difference between the State Department and the foreign ministries of many Muslim states is the choice of drapes.

Take, for instance, the case of Pakistan. Its military—the true center of power—has for decades played the role of loyal valet to American interests, occasionally barking in protest, but always fetching the slippers when the master whistles. General Asim Munir, the current Chief of Army Staff, may feel compelled

to issue a tepid statement condemning Israel's rampage in Gaza, but no one is fooled. The servility runs so deep it has become muscle memory. If a US diplomat sneezes, half the GHQ catches a cold.

But the problem runs deeper than cowardice or corruption. The real crisis is conceptual. The phrase “Muslim World” implies unity—political, moral, spiritual. But what unity can there be when Muslim regimes routinely trade in their principles for arms deals and IMF loans? When the defense of al-Aqsa becomes a photo-op and the plight of Muslim refugees is met with monastic silence? When loyalty to Washington counts for more than loyalty to the ummah? The term “Muslim World” no longer describes a coherent political bloc, let alone a moral one. It is an empty husk, a sentimental relic best abandoned.

And perhaps that abandonment is not a tragedy, but a liberation.

In fact, letting go of the mirage of the “Muslim World” may allow us to reorient our political compass. We can stop pretending that shared religious identity guarantees moral solidarity, and instead adopt a sharper, more principled political framework—one that distinguishes friends from enemies not by slogans, but by their actions. Here, the German political theorist Carl Schmitt might be unexpectedly useful. Schmitt famously argued that the essence of politics lies in the distinction between friend and enemy. In a world where Muslim rulers shake hands with tyrants while quoting the Qur'an at summits, such clarity is sorely needed.

In Schmittian terms, the real question is this: Who stands with Pharaoh, and who stands with Moses and the slaves?

Nearly every ruler today bows to Pharaoh. The gold-plated palaces of the Gulf, the military barracks of Islamabad, the ceremonial thrones of North Africa—all pay homage to power, not principle. They genuflect before the American imperium, whispering prayers for stability while Gaza burns. But the prophetic tradition—the real one, not the one trotted out for PR—stands with the oppressed, even when doing so is costly, unfashionable, or dangerous. It was



Moses who stood against Pharaoh, not because it was strategic, but because it was right. The prophetic path doesn't calculate risks; it obeys moral imperatives.

This is where new politics must begin. A prophetic politics. One that refuses to be seduced by the theatrics of summitry and diplomatic fictions. One that understands that sometimes the friend is not the one who shares your name, your language, or even your religion, but the one who stands with the oppressed and speaks truth to power. Conversely, the enemy is not always the infidel; sometimes he wears a keffiyeh and speaks flawless Arabic but signs arms deals with Zion.

It is a bitter pill to swallow, but the truth often is. The idea of the “Muslim World” as a political community is dead. What survives is a scattered multitude of Muslims, some noble, many fearful, and a good number complicit. But therein lies the hope. Because when the fiction

falls away, reality can begin. The ummah, in its truest sense, has never been about flags or borders, embassies or trade deals. It is a moral and spiritual community. And perhaps, in this age of disillusionment, it can finally reclaim that identity.

Let us stop appealing to kings and generals and start building solidarities from the ground up. Let us forge alliances not with “Muslim nations,” but with the oppressed, the truthful, the just—whoever they may be. The Palestinian teenager throwing a stone, the Sudanese doctor tending to wounds, the Syrian child clutching a torn schoolbook amid rubble—these are the citizens of the real ummah. Their resistance is not just political; it is sacred.

This kind of realignment also invites a rethinking of what leadership looks like. We must resist the temptation to look upward to palaces and parliaments and instead look laterally—at the poets, scholars, youth activists, and or-

ganizers who speak with prophetic moral clarity. We must build communities of resistance that transcend national boundaries and language barriers, and that unite under a banner not of nationalism, but of justice. We must build the ummah from the ashes, with no illusions, but with fierce hope. And we must cultivate a political imagination that allows us to see past failed institutions toward radical alternatives rooted in dignity and accountability. Of course, the path forward is daunting. There are no oil revenues to fund this movement, no standing armies to defend it, no state institutions to give it legitimacy. But that is the point. The prophetic tradition has always begun on the margins—with a man in a cave, a voice in the wilderness, a staff in the hand of a fugitive. It has always been the path of those who would rather be right with God than comfortable with Pharaoh.

So let us bury the illusion of the “Muslim World” with dignity. Let us write its obituary, recite its fu-

neral prayer, and move on. Not in despair, but in defiant hope. Because when the idols fall, even the golden ones shaped in our image, the possibility of true worship begins. We may not have presidents or prime ministers on our side, but we have the legacy of prophets. And that, in the end, may be enough.

We stand today at a political and moral crossroads. We can continue to genuflect before the thrones of compromised leaders, hoping for scraps of righteousness from tables drenched in blood. Or we can rise, like Moses, like Muhammad, like Malcolm, and say no. No to Pharaoh, no to injustice, no to complicity disguised as diplomacy.

The “Muslim World” is dead. Long live the ummah of the oppressed, the just, and the free.

**Prof. Junaid S. Ahmad teaches Law, Religion, and Global Politics and is the Director of the Center for the Study of Islam and Decolonization (CSID), Islamabad, Pakistan.*

SPORT

Will Islam Makhachev’s fight in New York be the biggest showdown in history?

By Garrett Kerman

If the whispers on the Brooklyn streets are to be believed, New York’s Madison Square Garden is about to host one of the most anticipated showdowns in MMA history.

In a move that’s sent shockwaves through the fighting world, former lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov has reportedly let slip that his protégé, Islam Makhachev, will make his welterweight debut by challenging newly crowned champion Jack Della Maddalena at UFC 322. The twist? The UFC hasn’t confirmed a word of it, leaving fans tantalized and on edge as they await the official word.

It’s a scenario ripped straight from fantasy match-making, the kind that keeps fans arguing for hours on fight forums and Reddit threads. According to multiple reports, Khabib Nurmagomedov dropped the bombshell during a recent

public appearance in New York: “Islam is fighting at Madison Square Garden, Maddalena’s team gave the green light,” Khabib declared, igniting a social media frenzy. With the UFC’s November calendar still officially “TBD,” MSG already blocked for the Saturday following the New York Rangers’ road trip, and Khabib’s history of being in Islam’s corner, fans are treating this rumour with more than the usual dose of intrigue.

But let’s be clear: as of press time, the UFC has not made any formal announcement and Makhachev himself has kept uncharacteristically quiet. Even MMA insiders caution that despite “verbal agreements” or team confirmations, nothing is official until Dana White and the UFC’s digital team hit “send” on the bout contract.

The stakes are enormous. Islam Makhachev, the former UFC lightweight champion with a 27-1 record, is seeking to etch his name in the pantheon of two-division UFC champions. His domi-

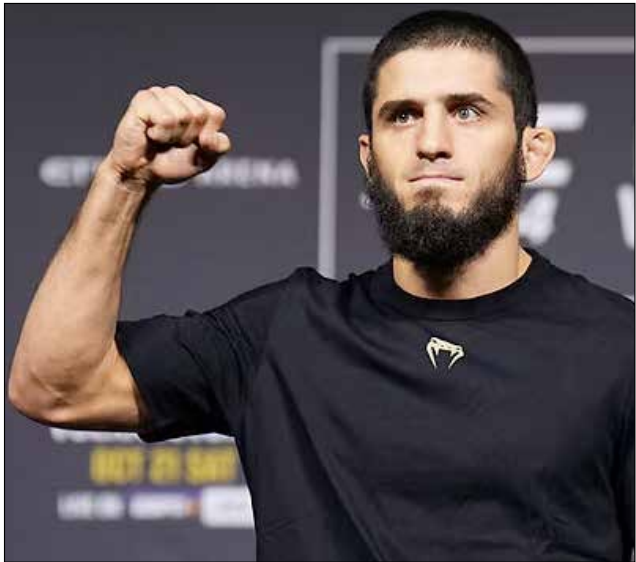
nance at 155lbs is the stuff of legend, built on a suffocating wrestling base and increasingly lethal striking. After his record-breaking run as lightweight champ, Makhachev vacated the title to hunt for welterweight gold, openly eyeing the November card at Madison Square Garden as his dream setting for a second belt. Makhachev made clear: the only reason to give up his lightweight strap was to chase unquestioned greatness.

Standing in his way is Australia’s own Jack Della Maddalena, the man who shocked the world at UFC 315 by outstriking and outlasting Belal Muhammad to capture the welterweight championship. Considered one of the rising stars in MMA, Della Maddalena has now rattled off 18 straight victories, boasting a reputation as a crisp striker who welcomes the challenge of gritty wrestling-based fighters. His win over Muhammad, a high-volume slugfest in Montreal, marked him as both a dangerous champion

and an electrifying new face for the division.

Notably, Della Maddalena hinted in post-fight interviews that he would happily welcome the challenge of a lightweight legend stepping up in weight, flashing his trademark self-belief and laid-back Australian swagger. For fans, it’s a stylistic clash loaded with narrative: can Della Maddalena’s technical boxing and movement keep him off the mat, or will Makhachev’s grinding top game impose its will in a new weight class?

A Makhachev vs. Della Maddalena main event in New York would be more than just a fight, it’s about legacies. MSG has hosted MMA icons and boxing legends, but it’s never seen either of these men headline a card. For Islam Makhachev, it’s a chance to become a two-division champion just as Khabib, his friend and mentor, ruled over lightweight. For Della Maddalena, it cements his status as champion by taking out a historically dominant force



in MMA. The magnitude is amplified by the event’s significance: headlining at MSG in November is arguably the UFC’s most prestigious slot outside of International Fight Week in Las Vegas. With the UFC’s global audience gravitating toward two-division superstars and dominant champions, a fight like this would draw eyes worldwide.

For now, the MMA com-

munity waits, refreshes social feeds, and dreams about one of the most compelling fights that could grace the world’s greatest arena. If Khabib’s “leak” proves accurate, UFC 322 at Madison Square Garden could deliver the kind of history-making moment that defines an era. If not, fans can only hope that both these champions remain healthy, and the real announcement is just around the corner.

ISMAIL BEMATH CATERERS

For Excellent Service, Quality, Superb Meals & A Sublime Experience
Events | Decor | Catering | Restaurant & Takeaway



- ✂ We cater for Weddings, Walima's, Family get-togethers or any other functions at your venue.
- ✂ Our 3-story venue can accommodate up to 1000 people, with ample, secure and safe parking available.

FOR ALL YOUR CATERING REQUIREMENTS

POP IN TO OUR
TAKE AWAY &
RESTAURANT

☎ 066 102 4651 ☎ 082 959 0532

📍 @ibc_international

📍 86 Donkin Road, Seacowlake (Near Musjid-ut-Taqwa)