



MP Naz Shah hits back after Israel bans her from entering the country amid an escalating diplomatic row with Britain

MP Naz Shah has vowed she will not be silenced after Israel banned her from entering the country amid an escalating diplomatic row with Britain.

The Labour MP, who has represented Bradford West for over a decade, is one of 11 British parliamentarians barred from entering Israel following UK Government action against trade with Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Now, speaking to Asian Express, Naz Shah has made clear that the decision will not stop her speaking out over the treatment of Palestinians.

Continued on page 8

“I will continue to speak up for the rights of the Palestinian people and to work for a lasting peace in the Middle East”

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KORT Hospital project brings communities together across continents

A major new hospital taking shape in Mirpur, Azad Kashmir, is bringing together communities thousands of miles away, as supporters across the UK, United States and Europe rally behind efforts to improve access to healthcare in the region.

Construction of the KORT hospital has reached a significant milestone, with all ground-floor works now complete and the roof slab of the main hospital building finished.

The roof slab of the hospital's car park has also been completed, marking another visible step towards turning the ambitious healthcare project into a working facility.

But while the physical building is rising in Mirpur, much of the effort to make it possible is taking place far beyond Azad Kashmir.

Across Britain, the United States and Europe, donors, volunteers and community groups have been gathering to raise funds and awareness - united by a shared ambition to create a lasting healthcare facility for families in Mirpur and surrounding areas.

A hospital closer to home

For people living across Azad Kashmir, accessing specialist or



more comprehensive medical treatment can mean travelling considerable distances.

For patients already dealing with illness, those journeys can bring additional financial and practical pressures - not only for them, but for the families supporting them.

The proposed KORT hospital aims to bring essential healthcare services closer to the people who need them.

Although based in Mirpur, the facility is expected to serve patients from surrounding communities, potentially reducing the need for

some families to make lengthy journeys in search of medical care.

For those behind the project, it means the development is about considerably more than bricks, concrete and construction.

It represents a long-term investment in healthcare and the wellbeing of communities across the region.

Support stretching across continents

Over the past two months, the campaign has gathered momentum



through a series of fundraising and awareness events.

In the United States, gatherings have been held in Long Island, Baltimore, Springfield and other communities, allowing the project team to meet supporters and donors face-to-face, explain the plans for the hospital and raise funds towards its development.

The campaign has also been building support in Britain.

At the recent Newcastle Mela, the hospital project received a strong response from donors, supporters and members of the wider community.

The event allowed the team to speak directly to members of the public about what is being built in Mirpur, why the hospital is needed and how people thousands of miles away can play a part in making it happen.

That effort has spread further across Europe, with community engagement taking place in Italy, Norway, Germany and France.

Each event has carried the same message - that the hospital's future will depend not only on construction taking place on the ground, but on communities continuing to get behind it.



UK campaign continues

The next stage will see the campaign travel to more towns and cities across the UK, with events planned in Coventry, Woking, Bristol and Rochdale.

The gatherings will give residents, donors and supporters an opportunity to hear more about the project, meet members of the campaign and find out how they can contribute.

The team hopes the events will build on the support already seen in the United States, Britain and elsewhere, while giving more people an opportunity to become directly involved.

More than a building

With construction advancing, fundraising remains critical to completing the project.

Supporters are being encouraged to contribute in whatever way they can - whether through donations, organising fundraising activities, attending awareness events or simply helping more people learn about the hospital.

The response so far has shown how a project being built in one part of the world can mobilise people living thousands of miles away.

As concrete is laid and the hospital begins to take physical shape in Mirpur, communities across several countries are helping to build something less visible but equally important - the network of support needed to make it a reality.

From the United States to the UK and across Europe, people are coming together around one shared aim: to create a lasting healthcare facility for the people of Mirpur and future generations across Azad Kashmir.

For further information about forthcoming KORT events, contact 0300 123 7774.

I've deliberately made the "hospital closer to home" section more human - focusing on what travelling for treatment actually means for patients and families - because that gives the story a stronger emotional reason for readers to care, without making it sound like promotional copy.

You can support KORT by making a donation:

Lillah Account

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43084736
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IBAN:GB86 BUKB 20491143084736

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IBAN:GB79 BUKB 2049 1193 3092 31

Zakat Account

20-49-17
13444112
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IBAN:GB56 BUKB 20491713444112

Hospital Account

20-49-17
50148857
SWIFT:BUKBGB22
IBAN:GB86 BUKB 20491750148857

KORT's Pakistan Bank details:
Bank Address: Faysal Bank Limited,
Opposite Quad E Azam Stadium,
Mirpur, AJK-Pakistan

Pak Rupees – Zakat Account

Bank Name: FAYSAL BANK LIMITED
Account Name: Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust
Account No: 0116007900234455
IBAN:PK70FAYS0116007900234455
Swift Code: FAYSPKK0116
Branch Code: 0116

Pak Rupees- Sadaqah Account

Bank Name: FAYSAL BANK LIMITED
Account Name: Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust
Account No: 01160060003342
IBAN:PK65FAYS0001160060003342
Swift Code: FAYSPKK0116
Branch Code: 0116

Pak Rupees – Hospital Account

Bank Name: FAYSAL BANK LIMITED
Account Name: Kashmir Orphan Relief Trust
Account No: 3467390000002217
IBAN:PK87FAYS3467390000002217
Swift Code: FAYSPKKA0116
Branch Code: 3467

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UK AWARENESS & FUNDRAISING EVENTS

The gatherings will give residents, donors and supporters an opportunity to hear more about the project, meet members of the campaign and find out how they can contribute.

COVENTRY	WOKING
Sunday, 18 October 2026 4pm Coventry Community Resource Centre Red Lane Coventry CV6 5EE	Sunday, 25 October 2026 Venue and start time: TBC
BRISTOL	ROCHDALE
Sunday, 8 November 2026 Venue and start time: TBC	Sunday, 22 November 2026 6pm Mayfair Grand Haynes Street Rochdale OL12 0UW

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Muslim doctor tells how patient pointed at her hijab and branded her a 'terrorist' in front of a packed NHS waiting room

Anti-Muslim hate in NHS settings nearly **DOUBLES** in a year

- **Reported cases in healthcare settings rise by 92% from 2024 to 2025**
- **Muslim NHS doctor says patient pointed at her hijab and called her a 'terrorist' in crowded waiting room**
- **Charity calls for urgent action to protect Muslim patients and NHS Staff**

TELL MAMA'S CALLS FOR ACTION

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <div>1</div> <div>Strengthen safeguarding pathways</div> <div>NHS trusts and ICBs must audit and reinforce incident-reporting frameworks to better support affected staff and patients.</div> | <div>2</div> <div>Increase reporting visibility</div> <div>Integrate direct reporting routes to Tell MAMA within NHS complaints, PALS and safeguarding procedures.</div> | <div>3</div> <div>Mandate targeted training</div> <div>Introduce mandatory cultural competency and hate-crime awareness modules for all frontline and public-facing NHS staff.</div> | <div>4</div> <div>Institutional data-sharing</div> <div>Establish formal data-sharing protocols between NHS bodies and independent monitoring networks to uncover the true scale of underreporting.</div> |
|--|---|---|--|

Tell MAMA continues to work with police, NHS leaders and community partners to support victims and press for long-term change across the public sector.

Anti-Muslim hate in NHS hospitals and GP surgeries has surged by a staggering 92 per cent in just one year, with Muslim doctors, patients and families subjected to abuse and harassment in places meant to keep them safe.

Shocking new figures from Tell MAMA reveal 71 verified incidents were recorded in healthcare settings during 2025 - almost double the 37 cases reported in 2024.

And the hostility appears to be continuing.

Another 29 verified incidents were recorded between January and June this year, prompting warnings that elevated levels of anti-Muslim hate are persisting across healthcare settings.

Among those targeted was a Muslim NHS doctor who says she was branded a "terrorist" by a patient in front of a crowded waiting room.

The doctor said she had simply called the patient's name when the abuse began.

"I chose medicine to protect and care for people when they need it most," she said.

"When I called his name, my only thought was how to help him.

"Having my faith weaponised against me in front of a crowded room was deeply degrading.

"At that moment he pointed at my headscarf and called me a 'terrorist' and the entire waiting area fell silent. Everyone stared.

"Suddenly, the years of studying and exhausting shifts meant nothing; I wasn't

seen as a doctor, but as a threat."

She said the incident destroyed her sense of safety within seconds.

"The raw hatred in his voice, suggesting that my headscarf somehow made me dangerous to the very patients I am dedicated to serving, stripped away my sense of safety and professional identity in seconds."

HATE IN PLACES OF CARE

Tell MAMA says incidents have taken place across the NHS - from local GP surgeries and outpatient clinics to hospital wards and emergency departments.

And it is not only healthcare workers being targeted.

Muslim patients and visiting family members have also been caught up in incidents involving verbal abuse, discrimination and targeted harassment.

The monitoring organisation says its figures reveal a troubling year-on-year rise. There were 37 verified incidents in 2024.

That jumped to 71 in 2025 - a 92 per cent increase.

A further 29 were recorded in the first six months of 2026.

Tell MAMA says the mid-year figures suggest the heightened level of incidents seen during 2025 has not disappeared.

'THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE'

Iman Atta OBE, Director of Tell MAMA, said anti-Muslim prejudice was reaching people during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives.

She said: "Hospitals and GP surgeries



Iman Atta OBE

should be places of safety and care for everyone, regardless of faith.

"These figures show that anti-Muslim prejudice is following people into some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives, and that is unacceptable.

"We are calling on NHS trusts to take this data seriously and to strengthen reporting pathways and staff training so that both patients and healthcare workers are properly protected."





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Our crumbling roads exposed - the worst places to drive revealed

Britain's battered roads have been laid bare in new figures revealing huge stretches of the network are deteriorating - with more than nine in 10 smaller roads needing improvement in the worst-hit area.

A new study has exposed a stark divide in the state of the nation's roads, with some areas struggling with widespread deterioration while others have overwhelmingly good surfaces.

Under the road condition system, green means a road is in good condition and does not currently require maintenance. Amber indicates signs of deterioration where maintenance may soon be needed, while red identifies roads in poor condition that should be considered for maintenance.

West Northamptonshire has been named the worst area in Britain for road conditions, followed by Derbyshire and North Northamptonshire.

And the scale of the problem is striking.

In West Northamptonshire, just 9.5% of B and C roads are rated green, leaving more than nine in 10 in either the amber or red categories.

Its major roads aren't much better, with more than three-quarters of A roads falling outside the green category.

The findings come from analysis by Re-flow Field Management of Department for Transport road-condition data.

Derbyshire takes second place - and has the highest proportion of red-rated A roads in the study.

More than one in five - 20.4% - are rated red, while more than a quarter of its B and C roads fall into the same category.

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where only 9% of B and C roads are rated green, with the vast majority requiring improvement.

Bristol and Southend-on-Sea complete the worst five, followed by Bath and North East Somerset, Bradford, Liverpool, Cheshire West and Chester and Westminster.

Bradford and Leeds - neighbours, but worlds apart

Perhaps one of the most striking contrasts can be found in West Yorkshire.

Bradford is ranked seventh among the areas with Britain's worst road surfaces - while neighbouring Leeds has the third-best.

In Bradford, almost seven in 10 A roads are rated amber or red.

The picture is even worse on its smaller roads, where 72.33% of B and C roads fall outside the green category - meaning fewer than three in 10 are considered to be in good condition.

Of those, 9.33% are rated red, placing Bradford firmly inside Britain's bottom 10.

Cross into neighbouring Leeds and the picture changes dramatically.

Leeds is ranked third-best in the country, behind only Sunderland and Middlesbrough.

Around 75% of Leeds A roads are rated green, while almost eight in 10 of its B and C roads are considered to be in good condition.

Just 4% of A roads and 2% of B and C roads are rated red.

It means two neighbouring West Yorkshire districts sit at almost opposite ends of Britain's road-condition rankings.

And Britain's best roads?

Sunderland takes the crown for the best road surfaces in the study.

A striking 87.6% of its A roads are rated green, with just 1% falling into the poorest red category. Its B and C roads tell a similar story, with more than eight in 10 considered to be in good condition.

Middlesbrough takes second place, followed by Leeds in third.

Ashley Wing, CMO of Re-flow Field Management, said: "These results show a concerning picture of the UK's road infrastructure, with significant regional disparities in road quality.

"What's particularly worrying is seeing areas like Westminster in the

top 10, showing that even wealthy boroughs aren't immune to road maintenance issues.

"What jumped out was that West Northamptonshire has less than 10% of its B and C roads in good condition. For residents driving on those routes every day, that is a shocking statistic.

"These findings come at a crucial

time when local authorities are making difficult budget decisions.

"Our 2024 Construction Report highlights how digital systems can help road maintenance teams work more efficiently, prioritising repairs and managing resources better through improved visibility between site and office operations."

TOP 10 UK AREAS WITH THE WORST ROADS					
Rank	Local authority	Percentage of A roads in red status	Percentage of A roads in amber status	Percentage of B & C roads in red status	Percentage of B & C roads in amber status
1.	West Northamptonshire	5%	71%	17.5%	72.5%
2.	Derbyshire	20.4%	44%	27%	47.6%
3.	North Northamptonshire	3%	71%	10%	82%
4.	Bristol, City of	8.8%	63.2%	10%	74.6%
5.	Southend-on-Sea	12.6%	47%	19.8%	51.8%
6.	Bath and Northeast Somerset	5%	56%	17%	60.5%
7.	Bradford	6.67%	62.67%	9.33%	63%
8.	Liverpool	9.8%	45.2%	15%	54.75%
9.	Cheshire West and Chester	1%	64.8%	4.4%	72.4%
10.	Westminster	4%	32%	16.5%	71.5%



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YOU WILL NOT SILENCE ME

MP Naz Shah hits back after Israel bans her from entering the country amid an escalating diplomatic row with Britain

“The decision to prevent British parliamentarians from entering Israel will not silence me,” she says.

“Nor should attempts to restrict humanitarian organisations be allowed to undermine vital assistance to Palestinians who desperately need it.”

Her response puts the Bradford MP personally at the centre of a growing international dispute - and raises wider concerns over what she describes as attempts to silence those challenging the Israeli government’s conduct.

She adds: “In response to the UK Government taking action against trade with illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Israeli Government has chosen to retaliate against British parliamentarians, including myself, while British aid organisations working to support Palestinians have also faced threats of further restrictions.

“I have been consistent in speaking out against the oppression and injustice faced by the Palestinian people. I have consistently called for an end to the occupation and for a viable two-state solution, in which Palestinians and Israelis can live side by side in peace, security and prosperity.

“It is deeply concerning that, rather than engaging with legitimate criticism of its actions in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, the current Israeli Government is seeking to restrict and silence those who challenge its conduct.

“The decision to prevent British parliamentarians from entering Israel will not silence me. Nor should attempts to restrict humanitarian organisations be allowed to undermine vital assistance to Palestinians who

MP Naz Shah



“It is deeply concerning that, rather than engaging with legitimate criticism of its actions in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, the current Israeli Government is seeking to restrict and silence those who challenge its conduct.”

need it.”

“I will continue to speak up for the rights of the Palestinian people and to work for a lasting peace in the Middle East; one founded on international law, justice and security for Palestinians

and Israelis alike, and ultimately on a viable two-state solution.”

Why has she been banned?

The decision followed the UK Government’s announcement of

measures targeting trade with Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.

Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband announced an import ban on goods from settlements alongside a sanctions regime targeting individuals and

companies involved in financing, constructing, or facilitating settlement expansion.

The Government stressed the measures target settlements and settlement expansion, not Israel itself, and that Britain will continue supporting trade with Israel within the pre-1967 Green Line.

Israel responded with a series of countermeasures.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar said those subjected to entry restrictions had been involved in what his government described as “antisemitic and anti-Israel activity”, or had denied Israel’s existence.

These are allegations by the Israeli government and do not amount to independent findings against Shah.

Naz’s stated position explicitly supports a two-state solution in which Palestinians and Israelis live alongside one another in peace and security.

Just hours before Israel’s retaliation was announced, Naz Shah spoke in the House of Commons supporting the British Government’s action.

“The situation needed Britain to lead, and today Britain has led,” she told MPs.

She asked whether Britain would continue showing international leadership to pursue a two-state solution and ensure Palestinians could live “free of occupation”.

Diplomatic row deepens

MP Naz Shah is not the only British politician affected.

Jeremy Corbyn, Zarah Sultana, Diane Abbott, John McDonnell, Richard Burgon and Green MPs Hannah Spencer, Carla Denyer, Siân Berry, Ellie Chownes and Adrian Ramsay have also been barred.

Fahad Ansari, director of Riverway to the Sea, was also named - taking the total to 11 MPs and one other British national.

Israel’s response goes beyond the entry restrictions.

It has announced the closure of the British Consulate in Jerusalem, the removal of British representatives from the International Gaza Support Centre and an end to British involvement in training Palestinian Authority security forces in the West Bank.

For Bradford, a major international diplomatic dispute now has a distinctly local face - its MP has been barred from entering Israel after years of speaking publicly about Palestine, the occupation and the need for a two-state solution.

But Naz’s message following the ban is unequivocal: “The decision to prevent British parliamentarians from entering Israel will not silence me.”

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Janan secures planning approval for Bradford flagship expansion

Bradford-based fashion retailer Janan has secured planning permission for a major two-storey extension to its flagship store and headquarters on Shearbridge Road.

The approval follows a revised planning application after Janan's previous proposal was refused in 2025. Since then, the company has worked with its professional team to address the matters raised and provide the additional information and technical detail required by Bradford Council.

Asif Khan, CEO of Janan Group, said: "We are delighted to have secured planning approval. Following the previous decision, we worked closely with our professional team to address all the queries raised and provide the information and technical detail that were key to the Council being able to

make this decision.

"This extension is an important investment not only for Janan, but for Bradford. It will allow us to grow our flagship operation, create more jobs and generate further economic activity locally.

"We also want to attract more visitors from across the UK and overseas to Bradford and help strengthen the city as a shopping destination.

"Bradford is our home and has been at the heart of Janan since we started.

"As we continue to grow nationally and internationally, we want that growth to translate into further investment and opportunity here in the city."

The scheme has been led by Bradford-based Morf Architecture,

working alongside Empace Civil & Structural Engineers and Consult North on quantity surveying and project management. The team worked collaboratively with Janan throughout the revised planning process and will continue to support the project as it moves towards delivery.

Ayaz Khan, Principal Architect at Morf Architecture, said: "From the outset, our aim has been to reflect Janan's brand identity through the architecture, with a strong emphasis on elegance, carefully considered façade hierarchy and a distinctive sense of arrival.

"The façade has been conceived as a layered composition, drawing inspiration from fashion, fabric and couture to create depth and a refined visual identity. It is particularly

rewarding to be delivering a major investment for an established Bradford business, and we now look forward to progressing the scheme through detailed design and into delivery."

Professor Ummer Daraz, Managing Director of Empace Civil & Structural Engineers and Visiting Professor at the University of Bradford, added: "This is a technically complex project, particularly because the existing store needs to remain operational throughout the development.

"The structural and construction approach has been carefully planned around that requirement, allowing the extension to progress while minimising disruption to the existing business.

"It will also make an interesting engineering case study, and I look forward to sharing aspects of the

project with students at the University of Bradford."

Janan will now work with its professional team to progress the development through detailed design and towards construction.

JANAN
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About Janan

Founded in Bradford in 2011, Janan is a British fashion retailer with a growing retail, online and international presence. The company remains headquartered in Bradford, with its Shearbridge Road site serving as its flagship store and operational base.

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More room, more families

Foster carers and families could receive financial help to extend, adapt or even move to a larger home under a new Bradford scheme

Bradford Children and Families Trust and Bradford Council have launched the new support fund to help families build extensions that provide additional bedrooms and make accessibility improvements.

In some cases, financial support could also be provided towards the purchase of a larger home.

The initiative builds on the Room Maker scheme, launched in 2024, which provides funding for smaller-scale adaptations to help foster families create additional bedroom space.

The new fund will be available not only to foster families willing to care for more children, but also to a wider range of families who could provide permanent or long-term homes.

This includes special guardians with a special guardianship order and family carers with a child arrangements order, where additional space could allow brothers and sisters to remain together within their family network.

Support could also help a child leave care and live permanently with a family member or family friend.

Adopters who could provide a home for a brother or sister of their adopted child may also be eligible, alongside part- and full-time carers who need adaptations to support children with disabilities.

These could include wheelchair

access, stairlifts or accessible bedrooms.

Charlotte Ramsden, Chief Executive of Bradford Children and Families Trust, said: "We're excited to launch this new scheme, which demonstrates

our commitment to supporting foster carers, kinship carers and adoptive families across Bradford.

"A lack of space can often be the barrier that prevents a child from staying with family or stops someone

from becoming a foster carer.

"By helping families create the space they need, we can increase local care capacity, keep more children close to home and support more children to remain safely within their

family networks."

Councillor Sally Birch, Bradford Council's Executive Member for Children and Families, said: "This is an important investment in Bradford district's families and our children.

"We want more children to stay close to home and, wherever possible, remain connected to their family networks.

"If we're asking people to step forward and care for children, we must also look at how we can support them to do that.

"This scheme is part of the wide range of support we provide and will help more families give children the stable, loving homes they deserve."

The initiative aims to keep children close to their communities, help brothers and sisters remain together and enable more children to grow up in stable family homes rather than entering or remaining in care.

It forms part of wider work by Bradford Children and Families Trust and Bradford Council to increase fostering capacity locally and strengthen permanent family options for children across the district.

Families interested in the scheme should contact the relevant fostering, kinship or adoption service for further advice and guidance.

To find out more about fostering for Bradford, visit the website www.bradfordcft.org.uk/fostering.



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INSPIRING FUTURES

Pupils swap the classroom for Westminster - stepping inside Parliament to see democracy in action

For a group of Bradford primary school children, lessons looked very different last week.

Of sitting behind their desks in Manningham, pupils found themselves walking through the corridors of the Palace of Westminster, standing inside the House of Commons and discovering how decisions made hundreds of miles from home can shape their everyday lives.

Children from all six schools in the Priestley Academy Trust travelled to London for a day designed to bring British democracy out of the textbook and into real life.

And there was one message their teachers wanted them to take home: these places belong to them too.

The pupils began their journey at the crack of dawn, travelling by train from West Yorkshire to King's Cross before taking in some of the capital's best-known sights.

They walked through Trafalgar Square and along The Mall to Buckingham Palace, visited St James's Park and made their way along the Thames before arriving at the Houses of Parliament.

Inside Westminster, the children took part in the UK Parliament Education Centre's Parts of Parliament: Building a Law workshop, designed for pupils aged seven to 11.

They learned how an idea can become a bill, how it is debated and scrutinised, and how it can eventually become law.





But perhaps the biggest lesson came when they stepped inside the chambers where those debates actually happen.

Pupils were given a guided tour of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, bringing to life places many had previously seen only on television.

Mathew Atkinson, Chief Executive of the Priestley Academy Trust, said the experience was about much more than a day away from school.

"We are incredibly proud to offer our pupils this fantastic opportunity," he said.

"Walking the halls of Westminster

and seeing where our laws are made is something they will remember for the rest of their lives.

"We want our children to know that these spaces belong to them too, and by raising their aspirations today, we hope to inspire the leaders of tomorrow."

Before beginning the journey home, the group also walked past Downing Street, the official residence of the Prime Minister.

The children will now become ambassadors for the visit, taking what they learned back into their classrooms and sharing the experience with other

pupils.

The Priestley Academy Trust brings together Atlas Community Primary School, Green Lane Primary School, Lilycroft Primary School, Margaret McMillan Primary School, Miriam Lord Primary School and Westbourne Primary School in Bradford.

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From no coding experience to global banking - Aliya lands dream role



Aliya Iqbal graduated from the University of Bradford's BEng (Hons) Software Engineering programme this year, and has since started a graduate role with HSBC. (Image credit: Aliya Iqbal/University of Bradford)

She once thought her future was in medicine. Now, just a few years after writing her first lines of code, 23-year-old Aliya Iqbal has graduated with first-class honours and secured a role with one of the world's biggest banks.

Aliya Iqbal had no background in computer science when she made the daunting decision to swap medicine for software engineering.

Today, the University of Bradford graduate is beginning a career with HSBC Group, working on technology that helps businesses move money around the world.

It is a remarkable turnaround for the 23-year-old, who initially enrolled on a Clinical Sciences degree with plans to pursue medicine.

But during her A-level years and the pandemic, a growing fascination with technology and memories of taking computers apart with her dad as a child made her question if she was on the right path.

"As a kid, I used to take apart computers with my dad and put them back together," Aliya said.

"Eventually, I had to admit to myself that engineering was what I truly enjoyed. As much as I respected medicine, technology was where my future was."

She switched to Software Engineering at the University of Bradford despite having none of the coding experience some of her classmates already possessed.

"At first, I worried I'd struggle against students who had been coding for years, but the lecturers at Bradford were incredible," she said.

"They made sure I had everything I needed to succeed."

Those fears proved unfounded. Aliya graduated in July with

first-class honours in BEng (Hons) Software Engineering and has started a graduate position with HSBC, earning a base salary of more than £34,000 plus performance-related bonuses and benefits.

From catching fraudsters to global payments

Her relationship with HSBC began a year earlier when she secured an internship working in financial crime prevention.

There, Aliya helped build and maintain database tools used to identify fraudulent activity - giving her first-hand experience of how technology is being deployed to tackle financial crime.

"During my internship, a large part of the process was mapping out how HSBC Group is structured globally because it's such a massive organisation," she said.

Now splitting her time between HSBC's Canary Wharf and Sheffield sites, Aliya works within Corporate and Investment Banking Technology.

Her focus is on global payment solutions - the technology and banking platforms that allow businesses to send, receive and manage money across international borders.

"Moving into global payment solutions in CIB Tech, I look forward to building on that experience and taking on new challenges," she said.

For Aliya, the achievement is also proof that choosing a completely different direction does not mean starting too late.

"Bradford gave me the skills and confidence to build a career in something I love."

"I grew so much during my time at Bradford. The University backed me in every aspect of my life, and looking at where I am now, this was definitely the path I was meant to take."



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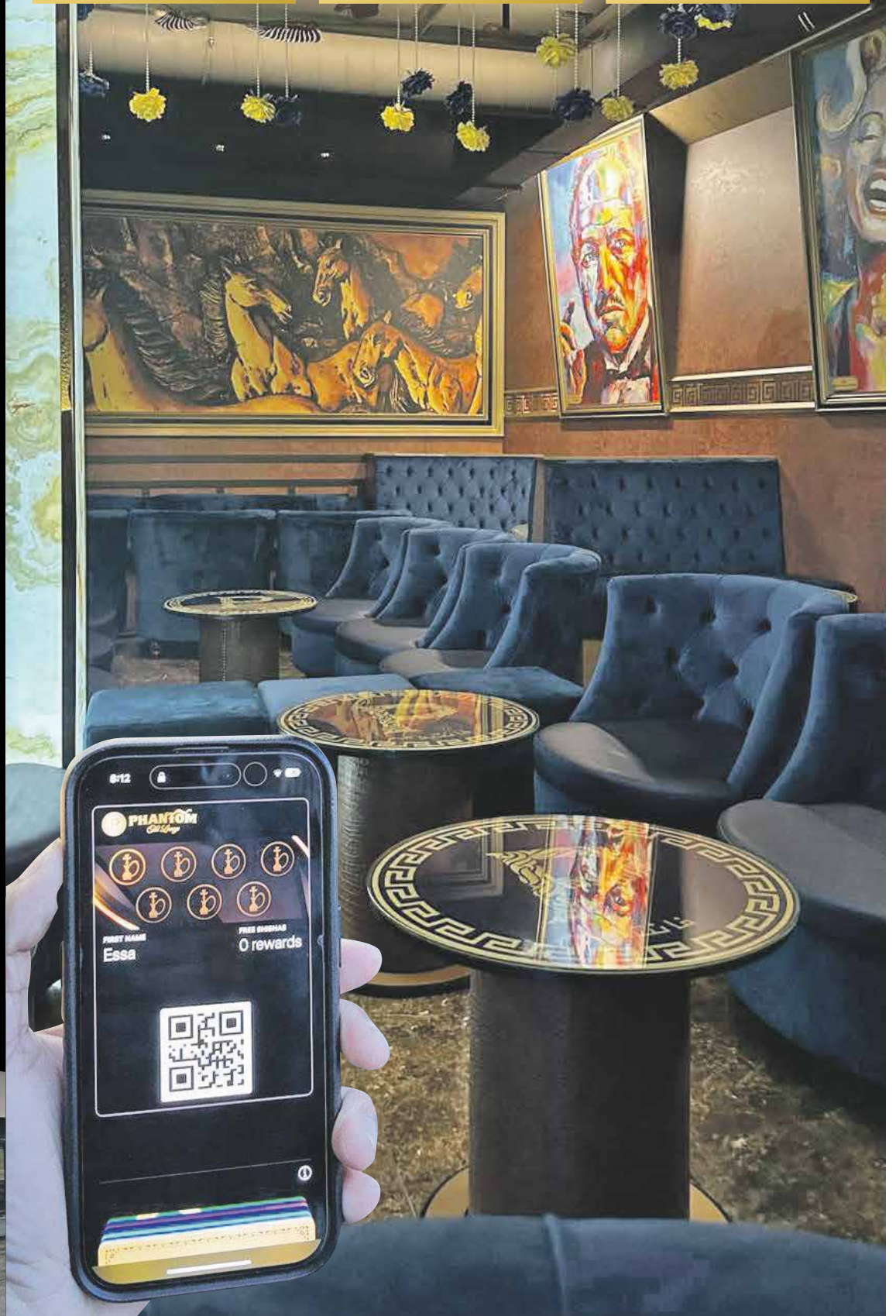
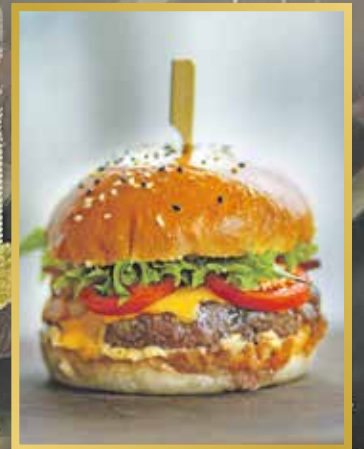
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£2,310 could be sitting in your name - and 827,000 young people haven't claimed it

To find your Child Trust Fund on GOV.UK, you'll need your National Insurance number and date of birth. HMRC says completing the online request takes around five minutes, and most people should hear back within three weeks.

Hundreds of thousands of young adults could be sitting on a forgotten pot of cash worth more than £2,000 - without even knowing it exists.

Around 827,000 matured Child Trust Funds remain unclaimed, with an average value of £2,310, according to the latest HM Revenue and Customs figures.

And finding out whether you have one could take just five minutes.

Almost three million accounts belonging to 18 to 24-year-olds have already been claimed or automatically transferred into an Individual Savings Account (ISA) since the first Child Trust Funds began maturing in September 2020.

But with hundreds of thousands still untouched, HMRC is urging young people to check whether some forgotten savings are waiting for them.

Child Trust Funds were long-term, tax-free savings accounts set up for children born between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011.

They came with an initial government payment of at least £250, while parents and family members could also add money over the years.

The young person can take control of the account at 16, but the cash cannot be withdrawn until they turn 18. At that point, they can take the money, leave it invested or move it into another savings account.

For some, that money is arriving just when the costs of adult life begin to bite.

How do I find my missing Child Trust Fund?

If you know which bank, building society or savings provider holds the

account, you can contact them directly.

If you have no idea where it is - or didn't even know you had one - the Government has a free online service that can track down the provider.

Almost 500,000 young people used the locator in the nine months to August 2026.

To find your Child Trust Fund on GOV.UK, you'll need your National Insurance number and date of birth. HMRC says completing the online

request takes around five minutes, and most people should hear back within three weeks.

A government-industry Child Trust Fund Taskforce has now been established to try to reunite more young people with their money.

Economic Secretary to the Treasury Lucy Rigby, who leads the taskforce, said: "The oldest matured accounts are now more than six years old and some young people may not know they have

savings waiting for them."

She urged anyone unsure where their money is held to use the free GOV.UK service.

The money isn't sitting with the Government. The accounts are held by banks, building societies and other savings providers.

So if you're aged 18 to 24 and haven't checked - five minutes online could uncover an average £2,310 with your name on it.

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NHS worker jailed over fake Covid vaccine records sold for up to £150



Waqas Hanif was sentenced to three years in prison



Touqir Nasir was handed a 10-month sentence, suspended for a year, and will be subject to a six-month curfew

More than 2,600 suspicious vaccination entries were linked to a Luton health centre during the pandemic

An NHS worker who created thousands of suspicious Covid vaccination records for unvaccinated people has been jailed.

Waqas Hanif, 28, and Touqir Nasir, 31, were caught after a joint investigation by the National Crime Agency (NCA) and NHS England into fake vaccine records sold during the pandemic.

Waqas, who worked as a vaccination programme care co-ordinator at Kingsway Health Centre in Luton, was sentenced to three years in prison at Luton Crown Court.

Touqir was handed a 10-month sentence, suspended for a year, and will be subject

to a six-month curfew.

The investigation uncovered more than 2,000 fraudulent vaccination records created between June and October 2021.

People who had not received a Covid vaccine paid for official records showing they had been vaccinated, allowing them to bypass restrictions on activities like foreign travel and large gatherings.

The records were sold through social media platforms including Telegram, with Waqas charging between £80 and £150 for two supposed vaccine 'doses'.

Investigators identified 2,663 suspicious entries linked to

Kingsway Health Centre.

Of these, 1,875 were connected to five IP addresses at Waqas's home. Waqas had administrator access to Pinnacle, the NHS system used at the time to generate and record vaccinations.

When NCA officers arrested him at his home in January 2022, they found his NHS ID card, NHS documents, and £7,000 in cash.

The investigation also led officers to a safe deposit box Waqas had rented in Luton, where they seized £136,405 in cash.

CCTV footage showed him visiting the box several times, and officers later found his

fingerprints on some banknotes.

Investigators also found around 250 images on Waqas's mobile phone containing personal information about approximately 340 patients.

Waqas admitted creating false vaccination records but claimed he acted under duress from local criminals who paid for the certificates.

Investigators also discovered more than £56,000 had been deposited into a bank account opened by Touqir under the name Adam Parker, which he had legally adopted by deed poll.

Many payments were small deposits between £100 and £400, suspected to be for fraudulent records. Investigators found some depositors later had false vaccination records created.

Bank statements also revealed a £1,000 transfer to Waqas, which investigators linked to the fraudulent records.

Waqas pleaded guilty to offences under the Computer Misuse Act, Fraud Act and Proceeds of Crime Act in March 2025.

Touqir pleaded guilty to a Fraud Act offence in December 2025 and later admitted a Proceeds of Crime Act offence.

Paul Foster, deputy director and head of the NCA's National Cyber Crime Unit, said: "These men cynically abused our healthcare system for financial gain, at a time when the country was going through the turmoil and pain of the Covid 19 pandemic.

"Although receiving the vaccine is a matter of personal choice, such exploitation of our healthcare system to allow unvaccinated individuals to bypass restrictions that are in place to protect the British public is illegal."

He said the joint investigation with NHS England had prevented organised criminals from continuing to undermine the national pandemic response and profit from the scheme.



The investigation also led officers to a safe deposit box Waqas had rented in Luton, where they seized £136,405 in cash.



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“Stop treating repatriation of Rohingya as a solution when conditions are clearly unsafe”

The United Nations hosted a high-level conference in New York on the situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.

The goal of those in attendance was to propose “a comprehensive, innovative and concrete plan for a sustainable resolution of the crisis, including efforts to create a conducive environment for the voluntary, safe, sustainable and dignified return of Rohingya to Rakhine state in Myanmar.”

One year on, the situation for over one million Rohingya refugees living in limbo across the camps in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, and those remaining in conflict ravaged Rakhine state, remains dire and continues to deteriorate under global neglect.

Civilians in Rakhine State, and across several other areas of Myanmar, face extreme violence. Myanmar’s health system continues to be torn apart by the ongoing violence: medicines and medical supplies are often depleted, unable to reach facilities because of the conflict, or blocked altogether resulting in severely disrupted access to healthcare.

Despite these perilous conditions, regional pressure and dangerous moves toward returning refugees to Myanmar

persist, while conditions are not yet safe enough to do so. Notably, Malaysia is planning to return nearly 1,500 refugees back to Myanmar, including Rohingya people, as of 29th September 2026.

In a statement by Dr Javid Abdelmoneim, International President of Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF), he said: “One year on since the conference, Rohingya communities have seen too little action, and too little accountability. There were strong words at that conference, but for people affected, words have not resulted in change.

“My message to world leaders is this: stop treating repatriation as a solution when conditions are clearly unsafe. Myanmar remains a place of extreme violence. Civilians are facing aerial bombardment, mass killings, forced recruitment, and severe deprivation. Healthcare, food supplies, education, and livelihoods are all being disrupted by conflict and insecurity.

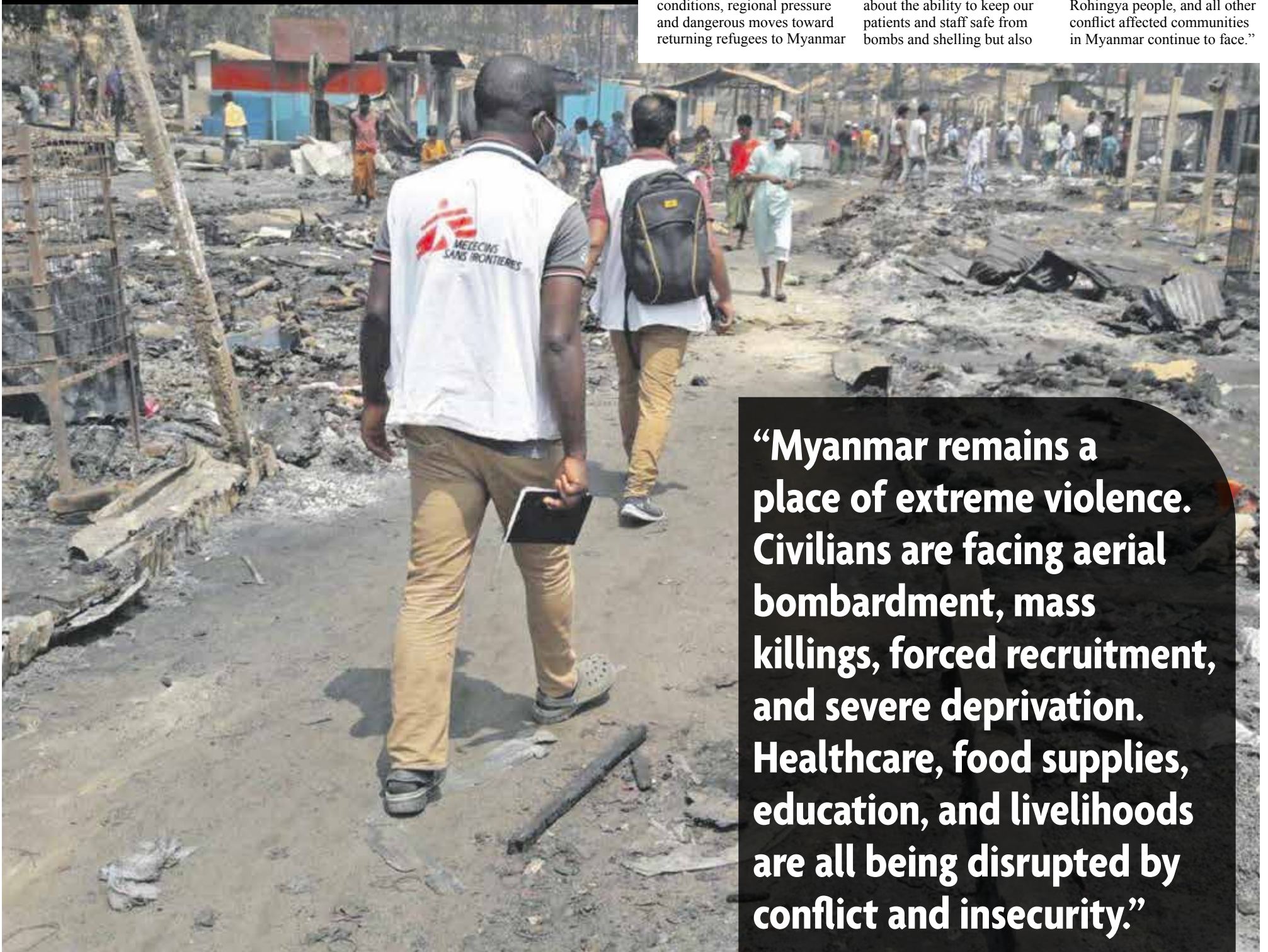
“MSF activities, like those of others, have contracted drastically because of insecurity. This is not only about the ability to keep our patients and staff safe from bombs and shelling but also

the relentless bureaucracy we’re faced with to secure the authorisations to respond, even as needs continue to escalate.

“And yet, we’re still seeing dangerous moves towards return. In Malaysia, nearly 1,500 Myanmar refugees are at risk of being returned under a repatriation programme announced for the end of September. That’s deeply alarming. Let’s be clear. Return is not safe and it is not viable now. Rohingya people themselves are saying this. In our survey last year, 84% of Rohingya patients in Bangladesh said they would not feel safe returning to Myanmar. What is needed now is concrete action.

“Forced or premature returns must stop. Any returns must be truly voluntary, safe, and dignified. Host countries must protect refugees and assess protection needs properly. This means identifying if people are at risk of persecution if they are returned to their home countries and upholding the principle of non-refoulement.

“Humanitarian access [in Myanmar] must be expanded, assistance must be sustained, and there must be real accountability for the violence Rohingya people, and all other conflict affected communities in Myanmar continue to face.”



“Myanmar remains a place of extreme violence. Civilians are facing aerial bombardment, mass killings, forced recruitment, and severe deprivation. Healthcare, food supplies, education, and livelihoods are all being disrupted by conflict and insecurity.”

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See page 27



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Fraud Infects And Unravels All

In legal proceedings any finding of fraud by the Court will usually lead to a claim being dismissed or a Defence being struck out or, in the case of a judgment, the judgment being set aside. The recent case of **The Estate of Euan McIntyre Lindsay and Another v Outlook Finance Limited and Butcher** illustrates the last point.

In that case, the Claimants were Scottish dairy farmers who owned farms in Lanarkshire and Cumbria. In 2008 the Claimants obtained loans from Outlook with the loans being secured on the Claimants' farms and some of their livestock. In 2012, Outlook alleged that the Claimant had defaulted on the loan and appointed Mr Butcher as a Receiver to take possession of the farm in Cumbria and the livestock on the farm. The farm and livestock were duly sold.

The Claimants brought a claim in 2014 challenging the validity of Mr Butcher's appointment alleging, amongst other things that the director of Outlook, Mr Fradgley, had breached an oral agreement and oral assurances that he had given to them that Outlook would not enforce the loans if interest continued to be paid. The claim was dismissed with the Judge preferring the evidence of Mr Fradgley, notwithstanding he had admitted during the trial that he had lied to the Claimants by telling them that Outlook was backed by funding from a bank when that was not the case.

The Claimants then brought further litigation in Scotland in 2020 seeking to set aside the loan and security documents (which had not been challenged in the English case)



on the grounds that they had been obtained by fraudulent misrepresentation and undue influence. The Scottish Court found that Mr Fradgley had fabricated documents and falsified records and therefore found in favour of the Claimants. Mr Butcher was not a party to the Scottish proceedings.

In 2023 the Claimants brought a further claim against Outlook and Mr Butcher claiming that the 2014 judgment should be set aside because it had been procured by the fraudulent evidence of Mr Fradgley (who had since died). The Claimants asked for a re-trial where they intended to demonstrate that Mr Butcher's appointment as a Receiver had been invalid and therefore his repossession and sale of the farm and livestock had been unlawful as it amounted to trespass and conversion.

In determining the claim, the High Court had to decide whether it could set aside the 2014 judgment against Mr Butcher given that he had not been party to the Scottish proceedings and was therefore not bound by its judgment and, further, there was no allegation that Mr Butcher himself had acted dishonestly. The Claimants argued that any judgment obtained by fraud must be set aside. The Judge agreed and set aside the judgment and ordered a re-trial.

The Judge found that Outlook had acted with conscious and deliberate dishonesty at the original trial and that Mr Butcher had only succeeded because Outlook had succeeded. The Judge stated that it was not necessary to establish dishonesty on the part of Mr Butcher but instead any judgment obtained by fraud infected the whole judgment and should be set aside in the full unless the new claim was an abuse of process (which was not the case here). The delay in bringing the proceedings (the defence of laches) was also not a factor the Judge was prepared to take into consideration.

This case demonstrates that once fraud is established it "infects" the whole proceedings and any judgment secured cannot be considered to be "safe" and will be unravelled as the Court will wish to see that justice is done for the affected party.

If you are involved in any civil or commercial dispute, then Blacks Solicitors can assist. Please contact Luke Patel on 0113 227 9316 or by email at "LPatel@LawBlacks.com"

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Britain is building new homes in the WRONG places

BUILD, BUILD, BUILD? Researchers say the real issue is where new homes are being constructed



Housing construction rises where properties are already plentiful while overcrowded areas miss out

Britain is building new homes in the places that need them least while some of the country's most overcrowded communities are missing out, according to new research.

A major study tracking housing across England and Wales over three decades has found a growing mismatch between where homes are being constructed and where people actually need them.

Researchers at the University of St Andrews analysed every local authority district through four censuses between 1991 and 2021.

They found that by 2021, most local authorities had their largest surplus of homes over households for 30 years.

In London, the number of homes exceeded the number of households by 8.7 per cent at the latest census - despite property prices in the capital reaching record levels.

But the researchers say the problem is not simply how many homes Britain has. It is where those homes are located and how they are being used.

Until 2001, areas experiencing population growth and housing shortages generally saw more homes being built.

Since then, researchers found that pattern has reversed.

New housing has increasingly been constructed in places where a surplus of properties already exists, while areas facing the greatest housing pressure have attracted comparatively less development.

The study describes the phenomenon as a 'Concentric Mismatch', with housing pressures spreading outwards from major cities.

Researchers identified a core of second and empty homes in some of London's wealthiest boroughs, including Kensington and Chelsea,

Westminster and Camden.

Around major cities, meanwhile, areas including Barking and Dagenham, Birmingham and Oldham have experienced increasing overcrowding.

Further out, commuter areas are increasingly using up spare capacity in their existing homes.

The findings raise questions over the Government's drive to dramatically increase housebuilding across the country.

Ministers have pledged to deliver 1.5 million new homes by the end of the current Parliament, alongside what the Government has described as the biggest council housebuilding programme since the post-war era.

But researchers warn that simply setting a national construction target risks failing to address the underlying problem if new properties continue to be built in the wrong places.

Gauthier Dulout, from the School of Geography and Sustainable Development at the University of St Andrews, who led the research, said: "The answer should be about addressing mal-distribution, not more housebuilding targets."

"1.5 million homes is 300,000 a year - similar to Harold Macmillan's ambitious 1953 figure - but with little control over where they are actually built."

"We should be asking where and for whom should this housing go. How is this problem solved?"

"We should be more ambitious and bring forward new systems-thinking to tax, to tenure, to new housing delivery, in order to address this increasing inequality and better use the existing housing stock."



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Business Power Awards

Nominations for the 2026 awards are under way, with organisers looking beyond the biggest companies to recognise family firms, start-ups, professionals and businesses rooted in their communities

For every business success story that attracts attention, there are many more that develop largely out of sight.

They are the family firms that have traded through changing high streets and difficult economic cycles, entrepreneurs who began with little more than an idea, and small businesses whose contribution is measured not only in turnover, but in the jobs and opportunities they create.

It is this broader picture of enterprise that the Business Power Awards 2026 is seeking to capture as nominations continue ahead of the 11th October deadline.

The awards return to Bradford in November, bringing together businesses and professionals from across the region at a time when smaller firms continue to navigate rising costs, changing consumer habits and an increasingly competitive trading environment.

While large companies tend to dominate business headlines, much of regional economies are built around smaller enterprises, independent operators and family-owned firms.

Their stories can be less visible.

For some, progress means moving from a home-based operation into their first premises. For others, it is taking on staff, building a recognisable brand, surviving difficult trading periods or successfully handing a business from one generation to the next.

The Business Power Awards were established to give greater visibility to those different forms of achievement.

Business Power Awards CEO Nadim Hanif said: "Across our region there are incredible businesses and individuals achieving remarkable things, but many simply don't shout about what they do."

"The Business Power Awards are about finding those stories, putting them in the spotlight and recognising the hard work and determination it takes to build something successful."

"You don't have to run a huge company or have a household name. If somebody is doing something exceptional, we want to



NOMINATE NOW:

Visit businesspowerawards.co.uk/nominate (Closing Date 11th October 2026.)

hear about them."

The inclusion of both Start Up of the Year and Lifetime Achievement illustrates the breadth of experience the awards are attempting to recognise - from businesses less than two years old to people whose careers span decades.

Family businesses also remain a significant part of that picture.

Often built over many years, they can carry histories closely connected to the towns and communities in which they operate. Their longevity can depend on an ability to change without losing the identity that made them successful in the first place.

At the other end of the spectrum are start-ups operating in a markedly different environment, where businesses can build audiences online, develop brands through social media and reach customers far beyond their immediate location.

Between the two sits the broad

SME sector - companies that may rarely become household names but provide employment, services and investment across the region.

Recognition beyond the balance sheet

The presence of Social Enterprise of the Year also reflects a wider understanding of what business success can look like.

Commercial performance remains important, but businesses are increasingly judged by their impact beyond their balance sheets - whether through employment, training, community investment or the way they respond to social needs.

The Professional of the Year and CEO of the Year categories similarly shift some of the attention from organisations to the individuals behind them.

That distinction matters in smaller businesses, where the decisions of a founder or senior leader can shape not only commercial performance but workplace culture and

the opportunities available to employees.

Not every potential nominee will necessarily regard themselves as an obvious awards candidate.

That is partly why nominations are open beyond businesses themselves. Entrepreneurs and organisations can put themselves forward, while employees, customers, colleagues, friends and members of the public can nominate businesses or individuals whose work they believe merits recognition.

It creates the possibility of uncovering achievements that might otherwise remain within a company, profession or local community.

Those selected will form part of the Business Power Awards Night & Gala Dinner at Cedar Court Hotel, Bradford, on Wednesday 25th November 2026.

Nominations can be submitted at businesspowerawards.co.uk/nominate. Deadline 11th October 2026.



About the Business Power Awards

The Business Power Awards are an extension of the community and business storytelling that has been at the heart of Asian Express for more than 26 years.

'Business Power' has long existed as a dedicated supplement within the newspaper, documenting the entrepreneurs, family businesses, professionals and emerging enterprises contributing to UK'S economic and community life.

For founders Nadim and Andleeb Hanif, taking 'Business Power' from the pages of Asian Express to a live awards platform was a natural progression.

The concept was brought to life as Asian Express marked its 25th anniversary last year - transforming more than two decades of business storytelling and recognition into an awards platform that could celebrate those achievements on a larger stage.

Today, the Business Power Awards, and the BPA Empowering Women Awards continue that editorial legacy, recognising enterprise, leadership, innovation and impact while giving greater visibility to the people and businesses helping shape the region's economic landscape.

A changing business landscape

The range of categories for 2026 offers its own snapshot of the modern business landscape. Traditional sectors including restaurants, retail, fashion, accountancy and law sit alongside awards recognising entrepreneurs, start-ups, social enterprises, brands and individual business leaders.

16 Categories of Excellence

- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Start Up of the Year - for businesses under two years old
- SME of the Year
- Restaurant of the Year
- Fashion Retailer of the Year
- Family Business of the Year
- Brand of the Year
- Retail Business of the Year
- Social Enterprise of the Year
- Accountancy Firm of the Year
- Law Firm of the Year
- Lawyer of the Year
- Professional of the Year
- CEO of the Year
- Special Recognition
- Lifetime Achievement



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NEW FIGURES REVEAL CARD FRAUD IS BRITAIN'S BIGGEST IDENTITY THEFT THREAT

BRITAIN'S IDENTITY FRAUD CRISIS

Card fraud accounts for more than one in three cases



ALMOST 88,000
CARD FRAUD CASES
RECORDED IN 2025

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ACCOUNT FRAUD**
MAKE UP MORE
THAN 62% OF CASES

EXPERTS WARN
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BANK STATEMENTS
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A small card payment you do not recognise, correspondence about a bank account you never opened, an unexpected mobile phone contract or changes to an insurance policy could all signal that somebody is using your identity.

Card fraud has emerged as Britain's biggest identity theft threat, with almost 88,000 cases recorded in a single year - accounting for more than one in three incidents across the UK.

New figures reveal criminals are overwhelmingly targeting the financial accounts Britons rely on every day, with card and bank account fraud together responsible for almost two-thirds of recorded identity fraud.

There were 87,818 cases involving plastic cards in 2025, representing 36.29% of the 242,003 identity fraud cases analysed.

Bank account fraud was the second biggest threat, with 63,678 cases, or 26.31% of the total.

Together, the two categories accounted for more than 62% of all cases, highlighting the scale of the threat facing consumers.

Cyber security experts are now warning people not to dismiss small or unfamiliar payments, as these could be the first indication that personal information has fallen into the hands of criminals.

The research, carried out by cyber security specialists Inflection Point using the latest Cifas data, examined

how stolen identities are being exploited across Britain.

Fraudsters target phones and shopping accounts

Communications fraud was the third biggest category, with 27,659 cases, accounting for 11.43% of the total.

The category can include identity fraud involving mobile phone accounts - particularly concerning as phone numbers are increasingly used to access banking apps, email accounts and security verification systems.

Continued on page 31



7 eye changes as you get older - and the warning signs you shouldn't ignore

From troublesome floaters and blurry reading to changes that could threaten your sight, our eyes can tell us a great deal as we age. Here's what may be normal - and what deserves attention.

Getting older changes almost every part of our bodies - and our eyes are no exception.

Perhaps you're holding your phone a little further away to read a message. Driving at night suddenly feels harder. Your eyes seem drier, lights appear brighter, or those annoying little specks floating across your vision have become more noticeable.

Many changes in eyesight are a perfectly ordinary part of ageing. But some symptoms that are easily dismissed as "just getting older" can also be early warning signs of conditions that need treatment.

Here are seven changes worth knowing about.

It's not only the eyeball that ages.

Skin and supporting tissues around the eyes gradually lose elasticity. Upper eyelids can begin to droop and folds of skin may become more prominent.

For most people these changes are largely cosmetic, but significant drooping can sometimes interfere with the field of vision.

Changes affecting one eye more than the other, sudden eyelid drooping or symptoms accompanied by other neurological changes should not simply be assumed to be age-related.



1. Floaters - those annoying dots and cobwebs

Ever spotted a tiny black speck, thread or cobweb drifting across your vision, only for it to dart away when you try to look directly at it?

These are known as floaters.

They become increasingly common as we age because the clear, jelly-like substance inside the eye - the vitreous - gradually changes. Tiny clumps can form within it, casting shadows onto the retina.

A few longstanding floaters are usually harmless.

But a sudden appearance of lots of new floaters, particularly alongside flashes of light, needs urgent attention.

If you also notice a dark curtain, veil or shadow moving across your vision, seek urgent eye care. These can be symptoms of a retinal tear or retinal detachment, which can threaten sight if not treated quickly.

2. Your arms suddenly aren't long enough

There comes a point when restaurant menus, medicine labels and mobile phones inexplicably seem to require longer arms.

The real culprit is usually presbyopia.

As we age, the natural lens inside the eye becomes less flexible, making it harder to focus on objects

close to us.

It commonly becomes noticeable from our 40s onwards and may mean reaching for reading glasses or changing an existing prescription.

It's an extremely common part of ageing - but any sudden or significant deterioration in vision should still be checked.

Know the red flags

The reassuring message is that many changes to our eyes are a normal consequence of getting older.

The important thing is knowing when something isn't normal.

A sudden change in vision, a sudden increase in floaters, flashing lights, a curtain or shadow across your sight,

They usually develop slowly, so people don't always realise how much their sight has changed.

4. Eyes that sting, burn - or won't stop watering

Dry eye becomes increasingly common with age.

Symptoms can include burning,

grittiness, redness, tired eyes and intermittent blurred vision.

Strangely, watery eyes can also be a symptom of dry eye. When the surface of the eye becomes irritated, the body may respond by producing excessive watery tears.

Long periods looking at screens, some medications and environmental factors can also contribute.

Persistent symptoms are worth discussing with an optometrist rather than repeatedly reaching for whichever eye drops happen to be in the bathroom cabinet.

5. Straight lines start looking wavy

This is one change that shouldn't simply be put down to ageing.

If straight lines begin appearing bent or distorted, faces become harder to recognise, or you notice a blurred, blank or dark area in the centre of your vision, it could

indicate a problem affecting the macula.

The macula is the small central part of the retina responsible for the detailed vision we use for reading, recognising faces and seeing fine detail.

One condition affecting it is age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

AMD can affect central vision and becomes more common with increasing age. Significant new distortion or changes in central vision should therefore be assessed

promptly.

6. Glaucoma can creep up without you noticing

Not every serious eye condition announces itself with obvious symptoms.

Glaucoma can gradually damage the optic nerve and, particularly in its common forms, may initially cause few noticeable changes.

Peripheral vision can slowly deteriorate without someone realising what is happening.

That's one reason regular eye examinations become increasingly important as we get older - an eye test isn't simply about deciding whether you need stronger glasses.

7. Your eyelids change too

It's not only the eyeball that ages.

Skin and supporting tissues around the eyes gradually lose elasticity. Upper eyelids can begin to droop and folds of skin may become more prominent.

For most people these changes are largely cosmetic, but significant drooping can sometimes interfere with the field of vision.

Changes affecting one eye more than the other, sudden eyelid drooping or symptoms accompanied by other neurological changes should not simply be assumed to be age-related.

NEW FIGURES REVEAL CARD FRAUD IS BRITAIN'S BIGGEST IDENTITY THEFT THREAT

BRITAIN'S IDENTITY FRAUD CRISIS

Card fraud accounts for more than one in three cases

**ALMOST 88,000**
CARD FRAUD CASES
RECORDED IN 2025



Online retail fraud accounted for another 17,794 cases, while insurance-related identity fraud was responsible for 16,461.

A further 14,220 cases involved loans.

Asset finance accounted for 1,236 cases, while mortgage identity fraud was comparatively rare, with just 43 cases recorded.

The warning signs you should not ignore

Experts say identity fraud does not necessarily begin with thousands of pounds suddenly disappearing from a bank account.

A small card payment you do not recognise, correspondence about a bank account you never opened, an unexpected mobile phone contract or changes to an insurance policy could all signal that somebody is using your identity.

Criminals also do not need to physically steal a bank card.

Personal information including a name, address, date of birth, telephone number and financial details can potentially be pieced together and exploited.

Iain Godding, founder of Inflection Point, said: “Card and bank account fraud stand out because between them they make up such a large proportion of the identity fraud being recorded.”

He warned that people should not assume they would immediately realise they had become a victim.

“An unfamiliar payment is an obvious warning sign, but identity fraud does not always start with somebody taking a large amount of money,” he said.

“Sometimes the first clue can be a small transaction, a letter about an account you never opened, a new phone contract you do not recognise or an unexpected change to an insurance policy.”

Consumers are being urged to regularly examine bank and card statements and periodically check their credit reports for accounts or applications they do not recognise.

Godding also warned people to be wary of unexpected calls, emails and text messages requesting personal or financial information.

Rather than clicking a supplied link or calling a number contained in a suspicious message, consumers should contact the bank or organisation independently using contact details they know to be genuine.

“If something looks unfamiliar, even if the amount is small, it is better to investigate it than ignore it,” Godding said.

IDENTITY FRAUD

THE NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

242,003
TOTAL IDENTITY FRAUD CASES
RECORDED IN 2025

Card and bank account fraud together account for more than 62% of all cases



RANK	TYPE OF IDENTITY FRAUD	CASES	SHARE
1	 Plastic card	87,818	36.29%
2	 Bank account	63,678	26.31%
3	 Communications	27,659	11.43%
4	 Online retail	17,794	7.35%
5	 Insurance	16,461	6.80%
6	 Loans	14,220	5.88%
7	 Other	13,022	5.38%
8	 Asset finance	1,236	0.51%
9	 Mortgage	43	0.02%
TOTAL		242,003	100%

**87,818**
Plastic card fraud cases
The UK's biggest identity fraud threat

**36.29%**
More than one in three identity fraud cases involved plastic cards

**63,678**
Bank account fraud cases

**62.6%**
Of all cases involved either plastic cards or bank accounts

WATCH OUT FOR:

 Small card payments you don't recognise

 Letters about accounts you never opened

 Unexpected mobile phone contracts

 Unexplained changes to insurance policies

 Credit applications you didn't make

DON'T IGNORE SMALL TRANSACTIONS



They could be the first warning that your personal details have been compromised.



Ocean adventures make a splash on the big screen

Storms, sharks, starvation and six months adrift on the Pacific Ocean feature in an extraordinary collection of true stories heading to the big screen this autumn.

The Ocean Film Festival World Tour is returning to venues across the UK from September to November, bringing audiences face-to-face with some of the planet's most remarkable ocean adventures.

Now in its 13th year, the festival combines breathtaking marine life with stories of human endurance, conservation and people whose lives revolve around the sea.

Leading this year's programme is *The Raftsmen*, the astonishing story of 12 adventurers from seven countries who set out to cross the Pacific Ocean aboard three handmade wooden rafts.

With little experience and guided only by the sun and stars, the crew battled storms, hunger and the psychological strain of being at sea for months.

Their epic six-month voyage became the longest raft expedition ever completed.

Half a century later, original 16mm footage of the journey has been restored in 4K, giving audiences the chance to experience the scale of the expedition on the big screen.

The 43-minute film also features previously unseen footage and testimony from survivors of the adventure, which began in 1973 and saw the crew contend with storms, sharks and increasingly frayed nerves.

But high-seas drama is only part of this year's line-up. *Granny Grommets* follows an inspiring group of older women who refuse to let age keep them out of the surf.

Some are in their 80s, yet they take to the waves every week – despite the concerns of their grown-up

children. The nine-minute film takes its name from the surfing term 'grommet', traditionally used for a young surfing newcomer.

Meanwhile, *Tides of Life* travels to Uruguay, where entrepreneur Richard Tesore established the country's first rescue and rehabilitation centre for marine mammals.

The 16-minute film follows his work caring for injured penguins, sea lions, otters and other wildlife while protecting the fragile marine ecosystem along Uruguay's coastline.



StoneBiter - Credit Ismaele Tortella

UK tour director Nell Teasdale said: "Each film in the 2026 programme will offer something special, whether it's extraordinary adventure, breathtaking marine life or people dedicating their lives to protecting the sea."

She added: "The ocean connects all of us, and this event is a chance to celebrate that connection on the big screen."

The Ocean Film Festival World Tour runs at venues across the UK from September to November 2026. For dates and tickets, visit www.oceanfilmfestival.co.uk



From a six-month Pacific crossing on handmade rafts to surfers in their 80s and a remarkable marine rescue mission, the Ocean Film Festival is returning to cinemas across the UK this autumn



Kelp Collector - photo by Jack Breedon

GLIT

Entertainment

THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENT AND CELEBRITY NEWS FROM BOLLYWOOD & HOLLYWOOD

LOVE
&
WAR

In cinemas
21 January 2027
Epic Romance/
Period Drama
Directed by
Sanjay Leela
Bhansali

Few filmmakers bring love, heartbreak and spectacle to the screen quite like Sanjay Leela Bhansali, and for Love & War he has assembled three of Hindi cinema's biggest stars - Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal - for what promises to be a sweeping story of romance, rivalry and conflict.

The film brings Kapoor back together with Bhansali almost 20 years after Saawariya, the 2007 movie that launched his career, while Alia reunites with the director following their hugely successful collaboration on Gangubai Kathiawadi.

For Vicky Kaushal, it marks his first film with Bhansali, creating a formidable trio at the centre of the director's latest big-screen production.

Much of the storyline is still being deliberately kept under wraps, but Love & War is set against a military backdrop, with love and personal loyalties colliding with the realities of conflict. The title itself hints at the emotional battle at its heart, while the first glimpses of the characters suggest Bhansali is once again building a world where romance comes with a heavy price.

Continued on page 34

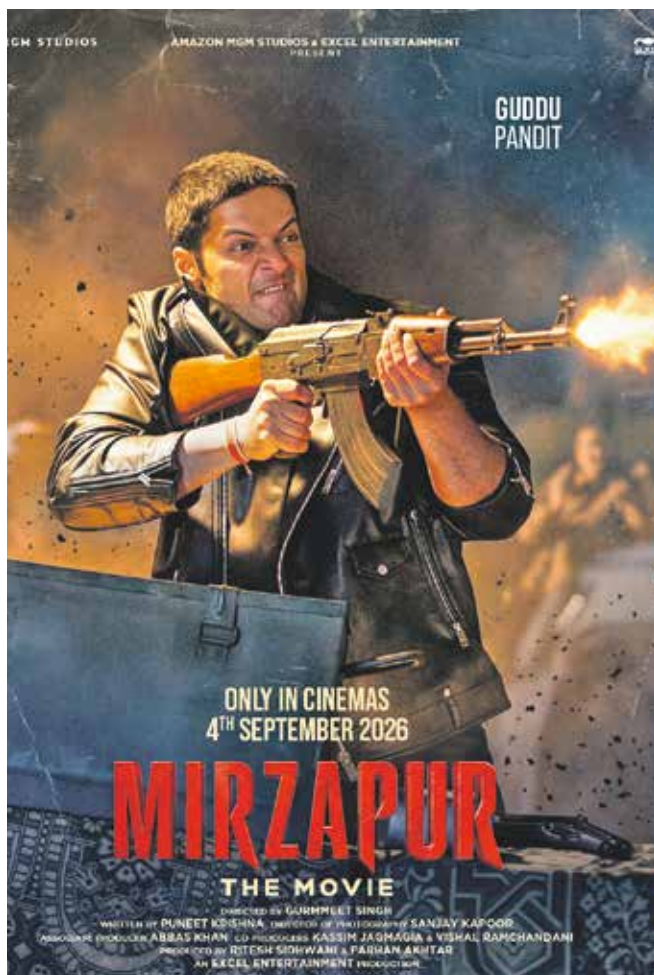
A FILM BY
SANJAY LEEA BHANSALI

LOVE
&
WAR

21 JANUARY 2027

STREAMING PARTNER
NETFLIXEXPERIENCE IT IN
IMAX

14 FT 11 IN



MIRZAPUR

hits the big screen as Kaleen Bhaiya, Munna and Guddu return

The guns are loaded, the Gaddi is up for grabs and some of Mirzapur's most notorious characters are back - this time on the big screen.

The trailer for Mirzapur: The Movie has landed, offering fans their biggest look yet at the cult crime franchise's move from streaming television to cinemas.

Bringing back Pankaj Tripathi as the formidable Kaleen Bhaiya, Divyenndu as fan-favourite Munna Bhaiya and Ali Fazal as Guddu Pandit, the film returns to the brutal battle for power that made Mirzapur one of India's most talked-about streaming shows.

And judging by the trailer, the makers have no intention of toning things down for cinema.

Dark humour, violence, swagger and the franchise's trademark dialogue are all back as old enemies and new contenders enter the fight for the Gaddi.

The story continues from the world established in the first season, but the scale has been dramatically expanded for its theatrical outing.

This time, the action stretches beyond the familiar streets of Purvanchal, with desert landscapes and new locations providing the backdrop for an increasingly fierce struggle for control.

Several familiar faces return alongside a formidable ensemble cast.

The line-up includes Jitendra Kumar, Ravi Kishan, Abhishek Banerjee, Rasika Dugal, Mohitt Maalik, Sheeba Chadha, Rajesh Tailang, Pramod Pathak, Shriya Pilgaonkar, Harshita Shekhar Gaur and Shweta Tripathi.

Sonal S. Chauhan, Anangsha Biswas, Shaji Chaudhary, Satendra Soni, Kulbhushan Kharbanda and Sushant Singh also feature in pivotal roles.

For longtime fans, however, the return of Munna Bhaiya is likely to generate some of the biggest excitement.

The character became one of the defining figures of the original series, while Tripathi's quietly menacing Kaleen Bhaiya and Fazal's increasingly ruthless Guddu helped turn the battle for Mirzapur into a streaming phenomenon.

Presented by Amazon MGM Studios and Excel Entertainment, Mirzapur: The Movie is directed by Gurmmeet Singh and written by Puneet Krishna.

Excel Entertainment founders Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar produce the film, with Kassim Jaggamia and Vishal Ramchandani serving as co-producers.

The move into cinemas marks a major new chapter for the franchise, taking a story built through streaming into a full-scale theatrical production.

LOVE & WAR

Ranbir Kapoor's striking new look certainly sets the tone. Sitting behind the wheel of a vintage blue convertible, sunglasses on and his arm covered in blood, he appears bruised but composed, offering an intriguing glimpse of a character who has clearly been through battle. It is a sharp, stylish image that reveals little while suggesting plenty about the danger ahead.

Bhansali has made a career out of creating cinema on a grand scale, marrying elaborate production design, music and costume with intensely emotional storytelling. From Devdas

and Bajirao Mastani to Padmaavat and Gangubai Kathiawadi, his films rarely do anything quietly, and Love & War looks set to continue that tradition.

The combination of Kapoor, Bhatt and Kaushal also gives the film considerable dramatic firepower. Rather than simply placing three major stars in the same frame, the promise of Love & War lies in seeing how their characters' relationships shift when romance, friendship, duty and rivalry are tested by circumstances far bigger than themselves.

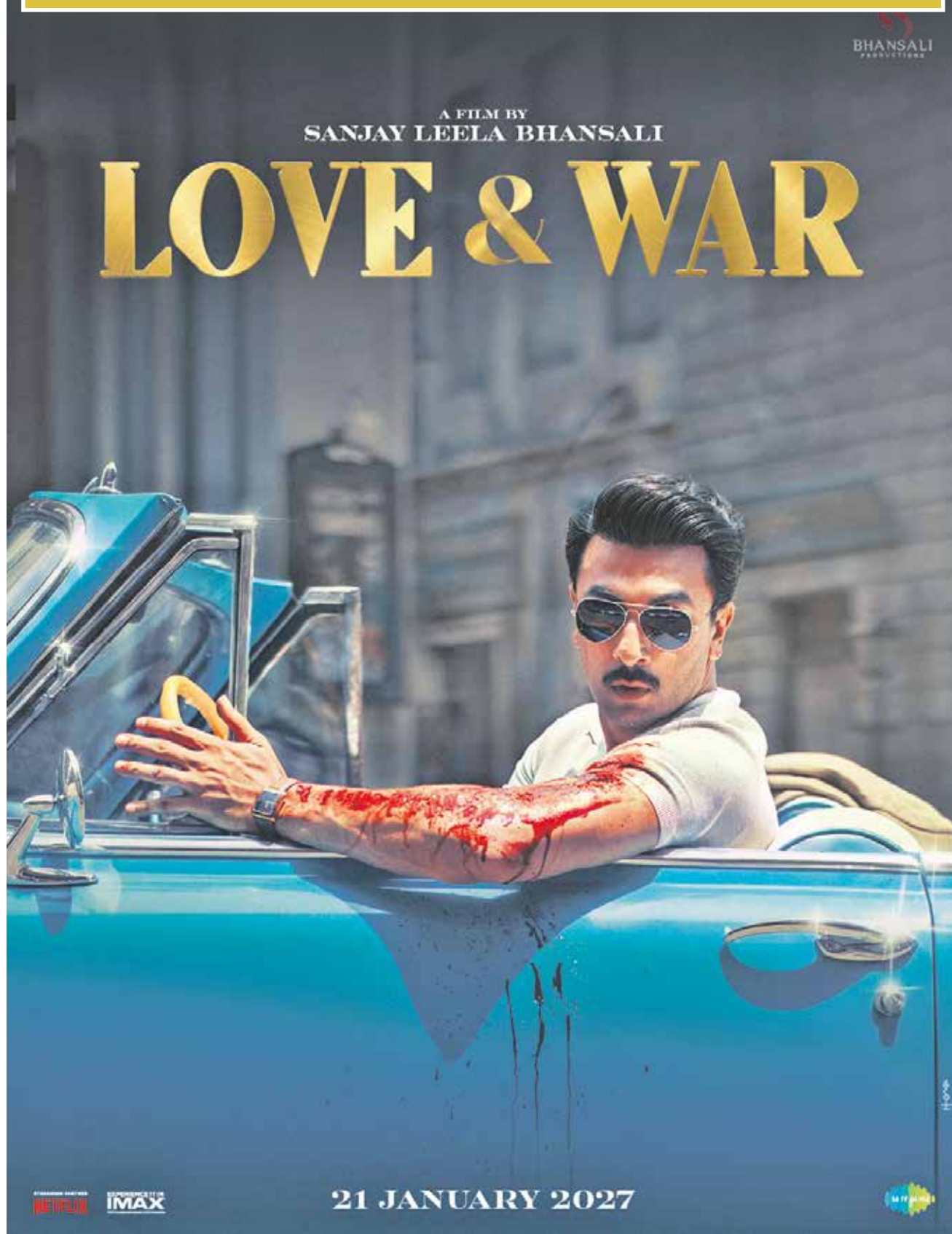
After a lengthy production and changes to its release schedule, filming wrapped in

September and the picture has moved into post-production ahead of its theatrical release. For now, Bhansali is revealing his epic piece by piece, keeping the finer details of the story firmly guarded while allowing its stars and imagery to build the intrigue.

With three powerhouse performers, a turbulent wartime setting and Bhansali's unmistakable taste for lavish, emotionally charged filmmaking, Love & War has all the ingredients of a major Bollywood cinematic event.

Love & War arrives in cinemas on 21 January 2027.

In cinemas 21 January 2027 | Epic Romance/Period Drama
Directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali



WHAT'S ON

in cinemas this month

FROM BLUMHOUSE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER OF *OBSESSION*
AND JAMES WAN PRODUCER OF *BACKROOMS*

Other Mommy

Starring: Jessica Chastain, Jay Duplass, Dichen Lachman, Arabella Olivia Clark
Director: Rob Savage

Genre: Horror

Cert: TBC

Release Date:

9/10/2026

THERE'S SOMETHING IN BELA'S CLOSET...

What if the monster hiding in your child's bedroom looked and sounded exactly like you?

Jessica Chastain takes a disturbing turn into supernatural horror in *Other Mommy*, a chilling new nightmare from Rob Savage, the filmmaker behind *Host* and *The Boogeyman*.

At the centre of the story is Bela, an eight-year-old girl played by Arabella Olivia Clark, growing up in a household already strained by problems between her parents.

Then something begins visiting her.

Emerging from her closet is a sinister presence Bela calls "Other Mommy" - an entity that resembles her mother, Ursula, but is very definitely not her. What initially appears to be a strange connection between a lonely child and an otherworldly visitor gradually becomes something far more threatening.

And soon it isn't only Bela who is in danger.

Chastain takes on the unnerving dual role of Ursula and the terrifying presence that imitates her, creating a familiar face that suddenly becomes frighteningly unfamiliar.

The actress has described developing a deliberately disturbing smile for the creature - one that reportedly frightened a child when she tried it during production.

The film is based on Josh Malerman's novel *Incidents Around the House*, with Jay Duplass and Dichen Lachman joining Chastain and Clark in the cast.

Rather than relying simply on what might be lurking in the darkness, *Other Mommy* plays with something considerably more unsettling - the fear that the person standing in front of you may look like someone you love, but isn't.

As Bela's home becomes increasingly consumed by the entity, childhood fears, family tensions and supernatural terror collide.

Because sometimes the scariest thing isn't the monster hiding in the closet.

It's when it comes out looking like Mommy.

Other Mommy arrives in cinemas on 9 October 2026.

JESSICA CHASTAIN

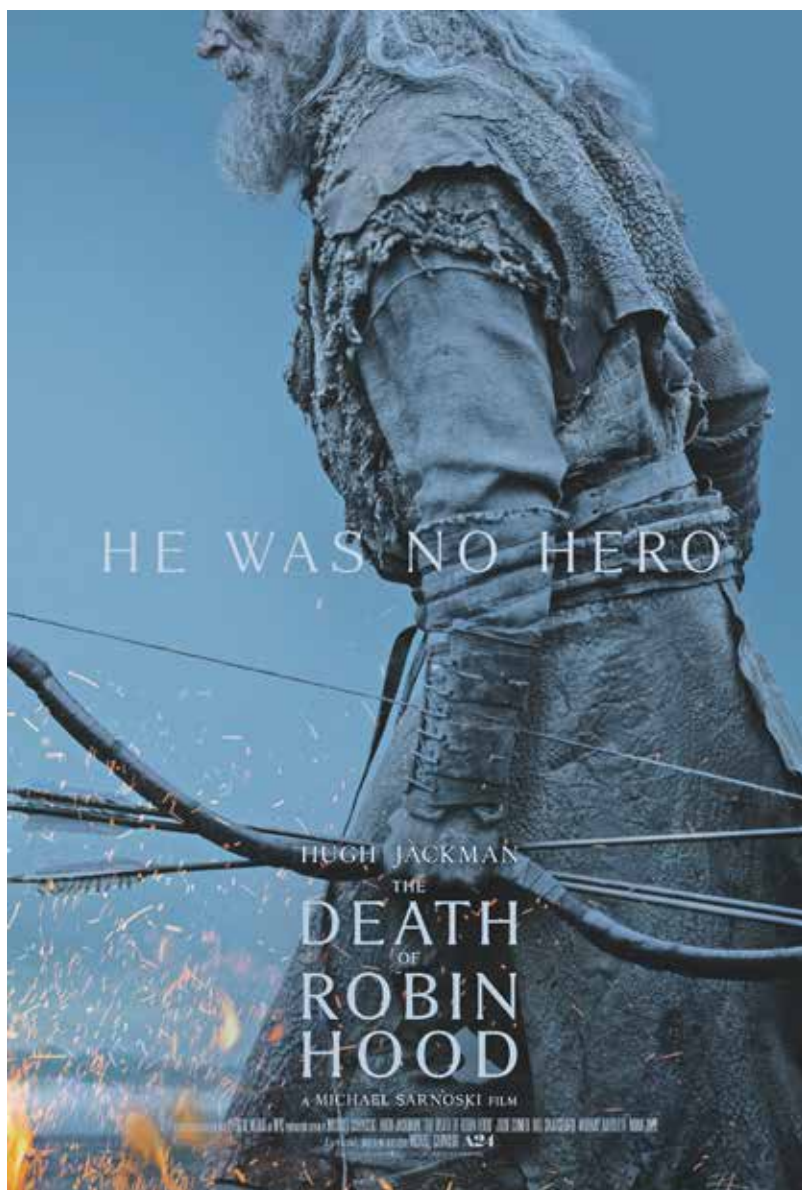
**OTHER
MOMMY**

YOUR MOMMY WON'T SAVE YOU

ONLY IN THEATERS
OCTOBER 9

WHAT'S ON

in cinemas this month



The Death of Robin Hood

Starring: Hugh Jackman, Bill Skarsgård, Jodie Comer, Murray Bartlett, Noah Jupe

Director: Michael Sarnoski

Genre: Action/Drama

Cert: 15 **Release Date:** 2/9/2026

Forget the merry men and heroic outlaw – Hugh Jackman's Robin Hood is older, bloodier and haunted by a lifetime of killing.

Robin Hood has been reinvented countless times on screen, but you've probably never seen the legendary outlaw quite like this.

The Death of Robin Hood strips away the swashbuckling heroics for a brutal, grown-up reimagining starring Hugh Jackman as an ageing and battle-scarred Robin forced to confront the bloodshed of his past.

This is no cheerful romp through Sherwood Forest. Robin is now a loner who has spent his life committing crimes and killing in the name of his cause. After being gravely wounded in a battle he believes will be his last, he finds himself facing death – and questioning the man he became.

His fate changes when he falls into the care of the mysterious Sister

Brigid, played by Killing Eve star Jodie Comer, who offers the dying outlaw something he may never have expected: the possibility of salvation.

Bill Skarsgård, Murray Bartlett and Noah Jupe complete an impressive supporting cast, with Bartlett playing the mysterious Leper and Jupe appearing as Arthur/Godwyn.

Behind the camera is writer-director Michael Sarnoski, the filmmaker responsible for Nicolas Cage drama Pig and A Quiet Place: Day One. Sarnoski has taken inspiration from the old ballad surrounding the death of Robin Hood rather than simply retelling the familiar adventures of the outlaw and his Merry Men.

The result promises something much darker: part medieval action movie, part character study and part reckoning with the mythology surrounding one of Britain's most famous folk heroes.

Jackman is also among the film's producers, while A24 – the studio behind Everything Everywhere All at Once, Midsommar and Uncut Gems – is distributing the movie.

And don't expect the violence to be hidden away. The UK release carries a 15 certificate for strong bloody violence and injury detail, fitting a film determined to show the physical consequences of Robin's violent life.

Much of the production was filmed in Northern Ireland, giving the movie a bleak, windswept medieval landscape far removed from the colourful Sherwood Forest adventures audiences may associate with the character.

For Jackman, it's another striking change of pace following his return as Wolverine, swapping superhero claws for an older outlaw confronting mortality, guilt and the possibility of redemption.

Fall 2

Starring: Virginia Gardner, Grace Caroline Currey, Harriet Slater, Arsema Thomas, Tom Brittney

Directors: Michael Spierig, Peter Spierig

Genre: Action/Drama/Thriller

Cert: 12A

Release Date: 9/9/2026

Scared of heights? Look away now – the nerve-shredding survival thriller is back, and this time the drop is 3,000 feet.

If 2022 survival hit Fall left your palms sweating, its sequel is preparing to take the fear of heights to another terrifying level.

Fall 2 swaps the original film's isolated 2,000-foot radio tower for a precarious plank high above the landscape of Thailand – and this time there's a 3,000-foot drop waiting underneath.

The story follows Jax, played by Outlander and Belgravia star Harriet Slater, who is struggling with the death of her sister Hunter.

Searching for a way to deal with her grief, Jax connects with Hunter's fearless friend Luce, played by Arsema Thomas, best known for Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story.

Together, the pair decide to honour Hunter by attempting the infamous plank walk of Mount Kwan in Thailand. What begins as an extreme adventure quickly turns into a nightmare when a sudden rockslide leaves them stranded on a fragile plank thousands of feet in the air.

With seemingly nowhere to go, Jax must overcome her fear, keep her nerve and find a way down before their precarious refuge gives way.



Runner

Starring: Owen Wilson, Alan Ritchson, Adriana Barraza, Rodrigo Santoro, Leila George

Director: Scott Waugh **Genre:** Action/Comedy/Thriller

Cert: 15 **Release Date:** 11/9/2026

Three hours. One life-saving organ. And a ruthless cartel determined to steal it. Alan Ritchson and Owen Wilson are about to have one seriously bad day.

Starring: Alan Ritchson, Owen Wilson, Rodrigo Santoro, Leila George, Adriana Barraza

Reacher star Alan Ritchson swaps military investigations for a frantic race against the clock in Runner, a high-speed action thriller that pairs him with an unlikely partner – Owen Wilson.

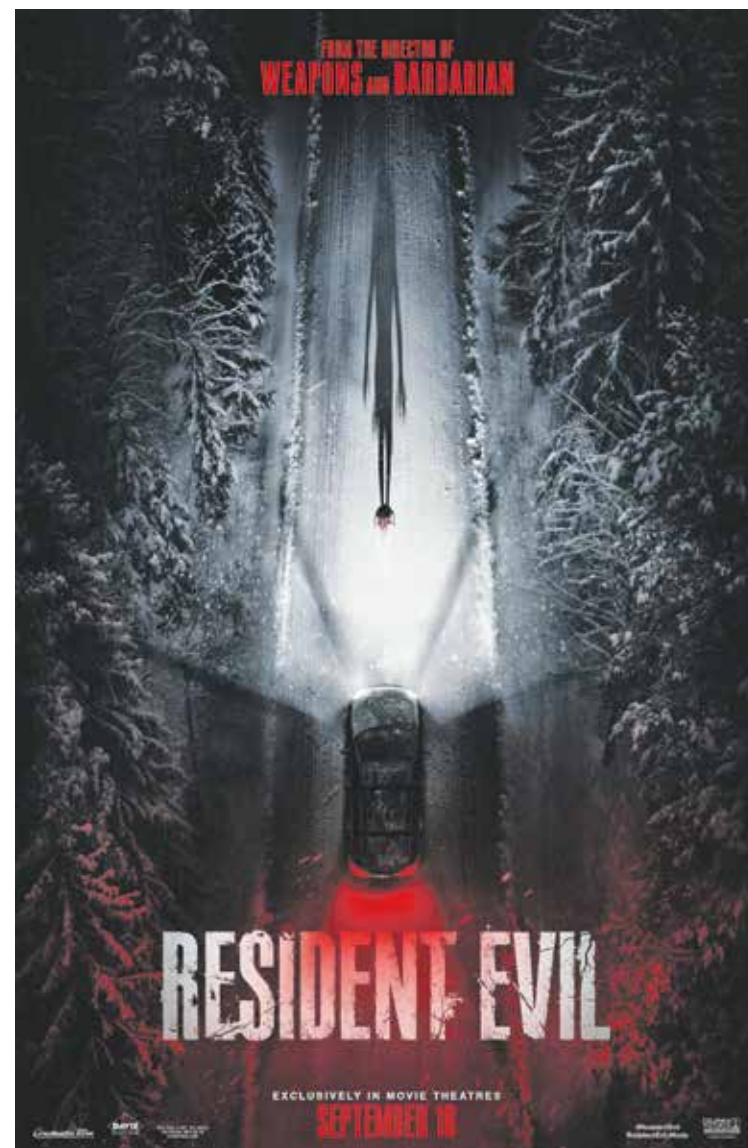
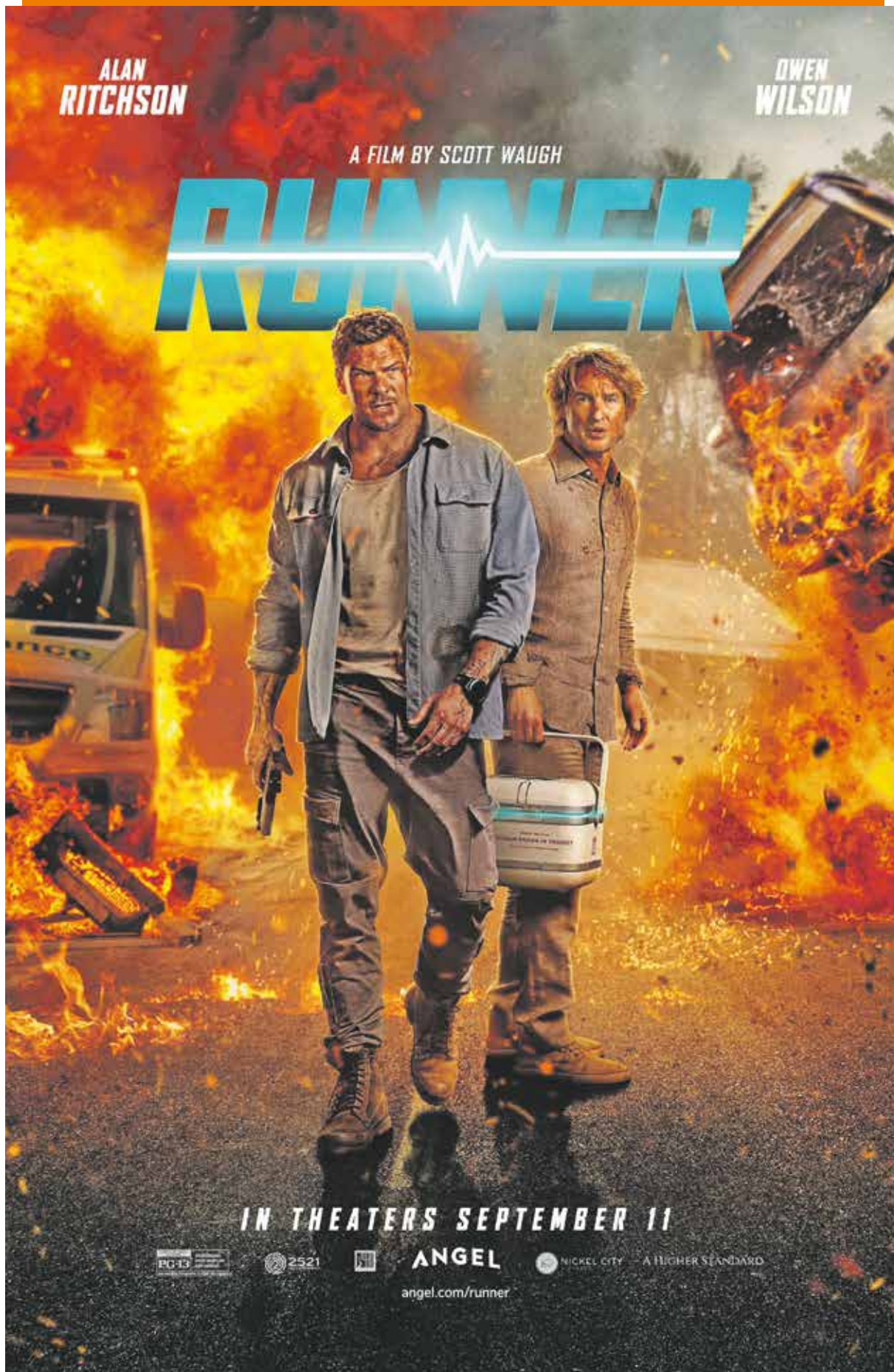
Ritchson plays Hank Malone, a former soldier who now works as a high-end courier. His latest job should be straightforward: transport a vital organ across the city so it can reach a seven-year-old girl desperately awaiting a transplant.

There's just one rather large problem.

A ruthless criminal organisation wants the organ too – and suddenly Hank's delivery run becomes a deadly manhunt involving gunfire, betrayal and seemingly no shortage of people trying to stop him reaching the hospital.

Making the mission even more complicated is Ben Bishop, played by Owen Wilson, the medical courier Hank is reluctantly forced to transport and protect. The mismatched pair have just three hours to complete their delivery before time runs out for the young patient.

With Ritchson providing the muscle, Wilson supplying the laughs and a life-or-death deadline driving everything forward, Runner looks designed as a fast, uncomplicated blast of action-comedy.



Resident Evil

Starring: Austin Abrams, Kali Reis, Zach Cherry, Paul Walter Hauser

Director: Zach Cregger

Genre: Horror

Cert: 15

Release Date: 18/9/2026

The nightmare begins again.

Resident Evil returns to the big screen with a blood-soaked reinvention of the legendary horror franchise, this time in the hands of filmmaker Zach Cregger, the director behind Barbarian and Weapons.

Rather than simply retreading familiar ground, Cregger introduces an all-new story centred on Bryan, played by Austin Abrams, an ordinary medical courier whose routine journey takes a horrifying turn.

Caught in the wrong place at precisely the wrong time, Bryan unwittingly finds himself plunged into a nightmare as one seemingly normal night rapidly collapses into chaos. With danger closing in and events spiralling violently out of control, he is forced into a relentless race for survival.

What begins as another job soon becomes a battle simply to make it through the night alive.

Cregger brings his distinctive brand of unsettling horror to one of gaming and cinema's most recognisable franchises, promising a darker, visceral take built around mounting dread, brutal violence and the sense that catastrophe could be waiting around every corner.

Joining Abrams are Kali Reis, Zach Cherry and Paul Walter Hauser, rounding out a cast thrown headfirst into the carnage.

Rated 15 for strong bloody violence, gore, horror and language, this is certainly not a gentle return to the world of Resident Evil.

Fast, frightening and deliberately ferocious, the new film takes the franchise back into survival-horror territory - where one terrible night could prove impossible to escape.

WHAT'S ON

in cinemas this month

Heart of the Beast

Starring: Brad Pitt, J.K. Simmons, Anna Lambe

Director: David Ayer **Genre:** Action/Drama/Thriller

Cert: 12A **Release Date:** 23/9/2026

Brad Pitt heads into the unforgiving Alaskan wilderness for a brutal fight for survival in *Heart of the Beast*, an intense adventure thriller from director David Ayer.

Pitt stars as Special Forces officer James Belmont, whose mission takes a devastating turn when a plane crash leaves him stranded deep in one of the most hostile landscapes on Earth. Alongside him is his combat dog, Odin - and together, man and dog must find a way to stay alive.

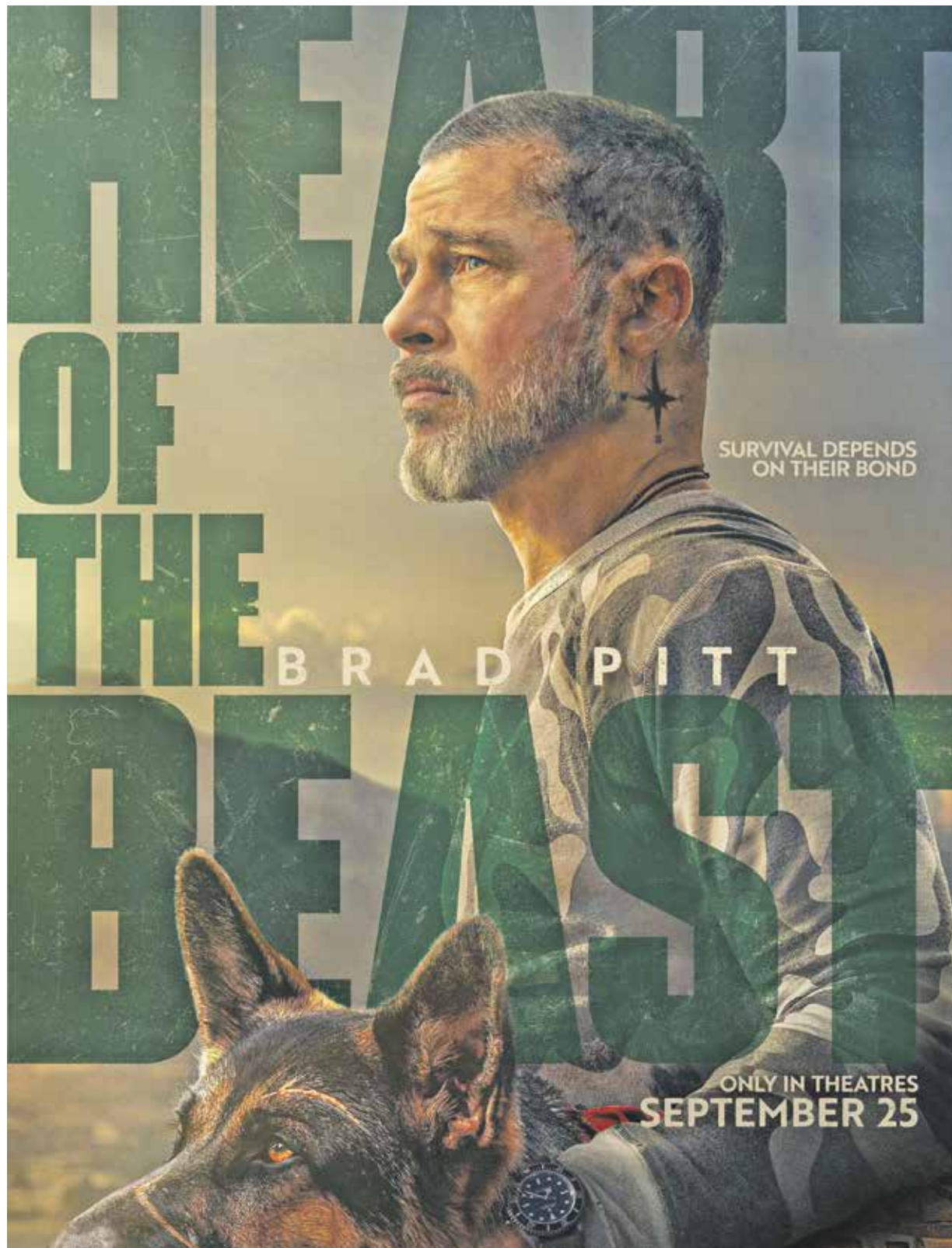
Cut off from civilisation and with little hope of rescue, Belmont is forced to draw on every ounce of his military training as the pair battle freezing conditions, treacherous terrain and dangers lurking in the wilderness.

But at the heart of the film is something more emotional

than a conventional survival story. *Heart of the Beast* explores the extraordinary relationship between a soldier and the animal that has fought beside him, turning their struggle to survive into a story of loyalty, trust and companionship under extreme pressure.

Director David Ayer, known for gritty, hard-edged action dramas, puts Pitt firmly through his paces, while J.K. Simmons and Anna Lambe round out the principal cast.

Combining wilderness adventure, drama and thriller, *Heart of the Beast* promises spectacle with an emotional core - with Belmont and Odin facing a battle in which survival depends upon them trusting each other completely.



The Social Reckoning

Starring: Jeremy Strong, Mikey

Madison, Jeremy Allen White, Bill Burr, Wunmi Mosaku, Betty Gilpin, Billy Magnussen

Director: Aaron Sorkin

Genre: Biography/Drama

Cert: TBC **Release Date:** 9/10/2026



Facebook changed the way the world communicates. Now, *The Social Reckoning* turns the spotlight on what happened when one insider decided the public needed to know what was happening behind the screen.

Written and directed by Aaron Sorkin, the film is a companion piece to his acclaimed *The Social Network*, returning to the world of Facebook more than 15 years after the original film explored its explosive beginnings.

This time, the story is inspired by the real events behind *The Wall Street Journal's* landmark investigation, *The Facebook Files*.

Mikey Madison stars as Frances Haugen, a young Facebook engineer who becomes increasingly troubled by what she discovers inside one of the world's most powerful technology companies. Convinced that its closely guarded

internal information must be exposed, she turns to *Wall Street Journal* reporter Jeff Horwitz, played by Jeremy Allen White.

What follows is a tense journey from Silicon Valley's inner workings to one of the biggest whistleblowing stories of the social media age, as Haugen risks her career to reveal thousands of pages of internal company documents.

Sorkin has assembled a formidable cast, with Jeremy Strong, Bill Burr, Wunmi Mosaku, Betty Gilpin and Billy Magnussen joining Madison and White.

Part biography, part corporate drama, *The Social Reckoning* explores the human battle behind the headlines - and the consequences of challenging a technology giant whose platforms had become embedded in the lives of billions.

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SHAKS SPECIALIST CARS LTD

BENTLEY GOES ELECTRIC - AND IT'S SERIOUSLY QUICK



Meet the new Torcal: 888PS, 0-60mph in 2.8 seconds and 375 miles of range as Bentley enters the electric age

Bentley has pulled the covers off one of the most important cars in its 107-year history - the all-new Torcal, its first fully electric production car and an entirely new fourth model line.

Designed, engineered and built in Crewe, the five-metre luxury SUV packs up to 888PS and a colossal 1,350Nm of torque, making it the highest-torque Bentley ever produced.

And despite all that leather, wool and handcrafted luxury, it is seriously quick.

The flagship Torcal S can launch from 0-60mph in just 2.8

seconds, reaching 100km/h in 2.9 seconds before topping out at 162mph.

Yet Bentley insists this isn't simply an electric performance monster.

"The Torcal is a Bentley first and foremost, created by hand by people who care, using the best available materials and technology to blend heritage with cutting-edge innovation. I believe this is one of the best Bentleys ever," said Bentley chairman and CEO Dr Frank-Steffen Walliser.

Continued on page 40

**“ LIVING
THE DREAM,
DRIVING
THE DREAM ”**



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BENTLEY GOES ELECTRIC - AND IT'S SERIOUSLY QUICK

Continued from page 39

375 miles - and 100 more in seven minutes

Power comes from two electric motors and a huge 113kWh battery, with the Torcal offering a claimed range of up to 375 miles.

Find a suitably powerful 400kW charger and Bentley says around 100 miles can be added in just seven minutes, while a rapid charge takes the battery from 10 to 80 per cent in under 20 minutes.

The Torcal also introduces Bentley's first fully active suspension, working with adaptive dampers and standard all-wheel steering.

Despite being five metres long, its rear-wheel steering helps give it an 11.1-metre turning circle.

There's plenty of clever tech too. Some 25 radars, sensors and cameras monitor the car's surroundings, while

the Torcal can even automatically reverse along a narrow road to make way for an obstacle.

Four powered doors can open and close automatically, while facial recognition can identify the driver and load their personal settings.

An EV with the beat of a Bentley V8

The really unusual bit, though, is the noise.

Rather than simply creating a synthetic imitation of an engine, Bentley brought in musicians.

Drums, viola and bass guitar were used to create what it calls the Bentley Dynamic Symphony, with its rhythm inspired by the beat of Bentley's 6¼-litre V8.

The sound changes according to speed and how hard the driver presses the accelerator, becomes more prominent in Sport mode - and can be switched off entirely when silence is preferred.



Even the indicator sound has been given the Bentley treatment. It comes from a recording of a hammer striking leather in the company's upholstery workshop.

Inside, traditional craftsmanship meets some rather modern materials.

Bentley has worked with Somerset textile maker Fox Brothers to develop what it says is the world's first 100 per cent Merino wool automotive fabric, alongside leather, aluminium and new

sustainably sourced finishes.

The seats come with 16-way adjustment, heating, ventilation and massage as standard, while an optional Wellness specification can massage the occupant's legs as well as their back and shoulders.

Curved OLED displays, an augmented-reality head-up display and a choice of four experience modes - Bentley, Comfort, Sport and Refresh - complete the transformation.

Two versions will be offered at launch. The standard Torcal produces 821PS and 1,194Nm, reaching 60mph in 3.3 seconds, while the Torcal S turns everything up to 888PS and 1,350Nm.

Bentley describes the Torcal as a template for its future cars, regardless of what powers them.

Electric Bentley has officially arrived - and it's certainly not arriving quietly.

Honda gives the Prelude a rather tasty red makeover for 2027

Limited-run coupe gets deep Garnet paint, a Bordeaux cabin and plenty of red detailing - but keeps Honda's e hybrid powertrain underneath

Honda has decided its reborn Prelude needs a little more drama.

Meet the Prelude 2027 Limited Edition, a Europe-bound special edition dressed in deep red, sprinkled with sporty details and due to arrive from autumn 2026.

Following its debut in Japan, the limited-run model gets an exclusive Premium Crystal Garnet Metallic finish, paired with a rather plush Bordeaux interior.

And yes, there's quite a lot of red going on.

Red outside, red inside

The Garnet paint has been designed to emphasise the Prelude's low, flowing coupe shape, with red accents added to the front and rear bumpers.

Behind the 19-inch black-cut alloy wheels sit vibrant red Brembo brake calipers, giving the otherwise sophisticated-looking Prelude a little more

attitude.

Things become even richer inside.

Honda has gone for a full Bordeaux theme using premium materials and contrasting detailing, while red stitching runs across the steering wheel, centre console and dashboard before continuing onto the seats and door trims.

Even the floor mats get red accents.

There's also an embroidered Prelude logo on the dashboard, intended to give each car something of a hand-signed feel. Tasteful? Quite possibly. Subtle? Perhaps not.

Same hybrid underneath

The Limited Edition is largely about appearance, so Honda hasn't gone fiddling with the Prelude's mechanical recipe.

It retains the e hybrid powertrain and Honda S+ Shift system, which aims to give the electrified coupe a more engaging driving character.

Honda says the inspiration behind the latest Prelude came not from fighter jets or Formula One cars, but from something rather more serene - a glider.

"The characteristics of the Prelude have changed over the years, but what has remained the same is its sportiness and specialty. When you think of a sports car, you think of something sharp, like an F1 or a fighter jet.

"However, I think the theme of this model is closer to the image of a glider that glides through the air with a sense of freedom," said Tomoyuki Yamagami, Large Project Leader for the Honda Prelude.

The Prelude name first appeared nearly 50 years ago, traditionally giving Honda somewhere to showcase new technology wrapped inside a sporty coupe.

This latest generation takes a rather different route from its high-revving ancestors, combining hybrid power with grand-tourer styling and Honda's latest chassis technology.

The Prelude 2027 Limited Edition will be available across Europe from autumn 2026.

Honda hasn't yet revealed European pricing or exactly how many examples will be produced - so for now, "limited" remains pleasingly vague.



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£6M LaFerrari leads hypercar invasion in Zürich



Barely driven McLaren Senna, ultra-rare Ferrari and Lamborghini Superleggera headline a spectacular line-up of performance icons heading under the hammer

Some of the world's most desirable supercars are heading to Zürich – including a Ferrari LaFerrari valued at up to CHF 7.5 million and showing just 92km on the clock.

Broad Arrow Auctions is assembling an extraordinary collection of modern performance machinery for its second annual Zürich Auction, taking place at the historic Dolder Grand on 7 November.

Around 60 collector cars are expected to cross the block, but three headline machines already promise to make this one of the most exciting European supercar sales of the year: a Ferrari LaFerrari, McLaren Senna and Lamborghini Gallardo LP570-4

Superleggera.

And the star attraction comes with an added twist – the LaFerrari is being offered without reserve.

The 2015 Ferrari, estimated at CHF 5.5million to CHF 7.5million, represents one of Maranello's greatest technological leaps.

Unveiled in 2013, LaFerrari became the manufacturer's first hybrid hypercar, pairing a ferocious 6.3-litre naturally aspirated V12 with HY-KERS electric technology derived from Formula One.

This particular car is finished in rare Bianco Fuji with a Bianchi/Neri leather interior and Giallo Modena yellow brake callipers.

More remarkable still is its mileage: just 92km at the time it was catalogued.

Its high-voltage battery was replaced by official Ferrari dealer Rossocorsa in

Milan following an inspection, as part of extensive servicing carrying a total invoice of more than €200,000.

Senna: 800hp and just 131km

Sharing the spotlight is a car carrying one of motorsport's most famous names.

The 2019 McLaren Senna was created as an uncompromising celebration of three-time Formula One world champion Ayrton Senna and McLaren's pursuit of extreme performance.

Finished in dramatic Volcano Orange, its 4.0-litre twin-turbocharged V8 produces 800hp and 800Nm of torque, launching the car from 0-100km/h in just 2.8 seconds before reaching a top speed of 340km/h.

Only 500 were hand-built.

The Zürich car is number 181 and has travelled just 131km from new. It also carries more than CHF 40,000

of options and is estimated at CHF 1.1million to CHF 1.4million.

Weighing only 1,198kg, the Senna was McLaren's lightest road car since the legendary F1. Its extraordinary aerodynamics can generate as much as 800kg of downforce at 250km/h.

Paul Gaucher, Head of Consignments, Switzerland at Broad Arrow Auctions, said: "The LaFerrari is one of the hottest collectables in today's market, and the Senna is a car that pushed the boundaries of performance as part of McLaren's Ultimate Series and which carries the spirit of one of the greatest Formula One drivers of all time, Ayrton Senna."

Lamborghini joins the party

Completing the headline trio is a bright yellow 2011 Lamborghini Gallardo LP570-4 Superleggera, estimated at CHF 135,000 to CHF 155,000.

Powered by Lamborghini's 5.2-litre V10, the lightweight, more track-focused Superleggera took the hugely successful Gallardo formula and turned up the aggression.

The Swiss-delivered example is finished in Giallo Midas over Nero Alcantara with contrasting yellow stitching. It has had only three owners and comes with a fully stamped service history.

Karsten Le Blanc, SVP, Head of EMEA Region and Broad Arrow Capital, said: "These cars are true performance icons and we are very excited to present them to international buyers at our upcoming Zürich Auction."

The Broad Arrow Zürich Auction takes place on 7 November 2026 at The Dolder Grand, overlooking Lake Zürich, in partnership with Auto Zürich.

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Licensing Act 2003

Notice is hereby given that we, Semere Nuguse, have made an application under section 17 of part 3 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the grant of a premises licence for the premises known as:

**Unit Leeds Bar & Restaurant, First Floor,
Benson Street, Sheepscar, Leeds, LS7 1BL**

We intend to conduct on or from the premises the following licensable activities:

Operate as a Bar/Restaurant and Sale of alcohol

We propose to conduct the said licensable activities subject to the following terms:

1. Sale of alcohol

From 09:30 until 01:30 Monday to Thursday

From 09:30 until 03:30 Friday and Saturday

From 11:00 until 23:30 Sunday

2. Play recorded Music and Dance performance

From 09:30 until 02:00 Monday to Thursday

From 09:30 until 04:00 Friday and Saturday

From 11:00 until 00:00 Sunday

Interested parties or responsible authorities (within the meaning of the Act) may make written representations to Leeds City Council about this application until 22nd October 2026 which should be sent to the following address:

Entertainment Licensing Section, Leeds City Council,
Civic Hall, and Leeds, LS1 1UR.

For full details and to view a copy of the application please contact the Entertainment Licensing Section on telephone number 0113 247 4095 or email entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and a person making such statement may be liable for a fine on conviction for this offence.

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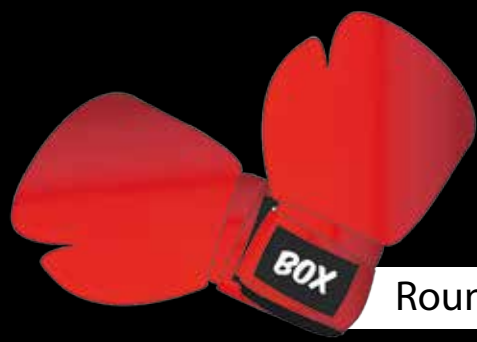
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Round up of all your local, national and international sporting news

KOHLI JOINS THE **15,000** CLUB - AND SHOWS HE IS FAR FROM FINISHED



At 37, Virat Kohli has little left to prove. Yet an extraordinary night against the West Indies showed India's great run-maker may still have another chapter to write.

There are milestones in cricket. And then there are numbers that make you stop and consider the career behind them. 15,000 ODI runs.

On 27th September in Thiruvananthapuram, Virat Kohli became only the second man in the history of one-day international cricket to cross that extraordinary line.

The other? Sachin Tendulkar.

Yet perhaps the most striking thing about Kohli's latest achievement was the way he reached it.

There was no sense of a veteran carefully accumulating runs or protecting a legacy.

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Asian Express

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Round up of all your local, national and international sporting news



KOHLI JOINS THE 15,000 CLUB - AND SHOWS HE IS FAR FROM FINISHED

Continued from page 45

Instead, the 37-year-old produced an unbeaten 139 from just 88 balls, smashing 10 fours and a career-best nine sixes as India chased down West Indies' 295-7 with 50 deliveries to spare.

It was Kohli's 55th ODI century - already a world record - and his 86th international hundred across formats.

But the 15,000 figure puts his longevity into rather different territory.

...ONLY SACHIN HAS MORE

Tendulkar remains out in front with 18,426 ODI runs.

Kohli is now the only other batter to have reached 15,000 - and he got there considerably faster.

Tendulkar required 377 innings to reach the landmark. Kohli did it in 303, some 74 innings fewer.

For a player whose career has been measured against Tendulkar almost from the moment he became India's batting superstar, it was another reminder that the two now occupy a statistical space largely of their own.

Yet, speaking to press, Kohli's reaction was telling.

"My focus has never been on milestones," he said afterwards.

"Just looking back at the start of my journey, it makes me feel very grateful.

"I enjoy each and every minute that I am out there playing for India, and I am able to do the job for my team. As a cricketer, this is all I could dream of."

And this was not simply another century added to an already enormous collection.

There was something different about the aggression.

Kohli reached 50 from 40 balls and his century from 74. His nine sixes were the most he has ever struck in a single ODI innings.

He later explained that even at this stage of his career, he had challenged himself to find another gear.

"It excites you when you have to unlock a new version at this stage of your career," Kohli said, adding that the approach had

allowed him to play with a "free mind".

That may be the most intriguing part of Sunday's performance.

Kohli is no longer an all-format international cricketer.

Having retired from T20 internationals and Test cricket, ODIs are now his sole international arena.

That makes every appearance feel a little more significant.

There are fewer innings left than there once were, fewer series and fewer opportunities to watch one of India's defining cricketers walk to the crease wearing the national shirt.

But Sunday's performance hardly looked like a man easing towards the exit.

THE CHASE MASTER DELIVERS AGAIN

West Indies had given India something substantial to pursue.

Justin Greaves struck a maiden ODI century, making 101, while John Campbell added 62 as the tourists built towards 295-7.

Kuldeep Yadav's 4-40 prevented the total becoming considerably bigger.

Then India went to work.

Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill put on 74 for the opening wicket before Kohli joined Gill.

What followed was vintage India.

Gill made 110 and shared a 151-run partnership with Kohli, effectively breaking the back of the chase.

Kohli remained there until the end.

India reached 296 in 41.4 overs to complete an eight-wicket victory and take the opening match of the three-game series.

For years, Kohli built his reputation on precisely these occasions - a target on the board, pressure in the chase and the expectation of millions following every delivery.

This time, however, there was another dimension.

At 37, with 15,000 ODI runs behind him and 55 centuries already in the record books, Kohli is still talking about becoming a new version of himself.

Perhaps that is why Sunday's innings mattered beyond another entry in cricket's record books.

BAD BY NAME. UNBEATEN BY NATURE

Harehills fighter Ubaid Hussain is 17-0, has landed a \$100,000 ONE Championship contract - and now the 20-year-old engineering student is coming for the world title

Securing the contract was a huge milestone, but Ubaid's ambitions stretch much further.

First comes a place among eight elite fighters in ONE Championship's Flyweight Muay Thai World Grand Prix. It is now confirmed that Hussain will face Muay Thai star 'Black Panther' in the quarter-finals at Lumpinee Stadium on 20 November.

"I have just been given the opportunity to fight on the ONE Championship World Grand Prix in Thailand with seven of the best Muay Thai fighters in the world," he said.

"So now my focus, in between studying, is preparing for that fight and making sure I win and get through to the next round.

"Inshallah, what is written for me will be."

FROM HAREHILLS TO THE WORLD STAGE

Ubaid was born and raised in Harehills and comes from a British-Pakistani family with roots in Chakswari, Azad Kashmir. His Muslim faith, he says, is central to his life. So is his family.

One of five children - he has two brothers

and two sisters and still lives in Leeds while studying chemical engineering at the University of Huddersfield, where he is entering his third year.

The fighting began almost by accident. At eight years old, football was his passion.

His father took him to a local Muay Thai gym primarily to help him lose weight, learn some self-defence and keep him out of trouble. A few sessions changed everything.

"I fell in love with the sport," he said. "I kept asking my dad when I would be going again. I really enjoyed training there.

"At the start my dad only took me there just to lose weight and help with my self-defence. It was fun, it got me off the streets and stopped me messing around with other kids.

"After a few months, one of the trainers saw something in me and started offering me and my dad fights. Within a year I was already having fights."

By the time Ubaid turned professional at just 16, he estimates he had accumulated around 60 to 70 junior and amateur contests, represented Team GB





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and won at World and European level.

There were weekends with repeated fights, sometimes more than one bout in a single day. Then it was straight back to the gym.

“Those early years of fighting literally every week, or having more than one fight in a day, taught me discipline and resilience,” he said.

“After my fights I would take no breaks and show up to the gym the day after. It was the same cycle over and over again, to the point where it came naturally to me.

“I had a few losses in the early days which are key to my success because I learnt a lot from those losses. They made me fix my mistakes and train harder.”

And then there is that nickname. “Bad” sounds like carefully manufactured fight-night branding. The truth is much better.

Coach Jompop Kiatphontip had only recently arrived in Britain and was checking people into a class with a pen and notebook when the young fighter gave him his name.

“He asked for my name and I go, ‘Ubaid’, and he was only new to the country so he didn’t know much English,” Hussain recalled. “I kept saying ‘Ubaid’ to him and he kept saying back ‘Bad’.

“At some point I just agreed and said, ‘Yes, my name is Bad.’”

It stuck.

“The name suits me because back then I was quite an aggressive child. I still am now in my fighting style,

but I’m bigger and stronger now and I use that aggression in a smarter way instead of going crazy like I was back in the days.”

THE ZERO

Seventeen professional fights. Seventeen victories. Ubaid admits protecting that zero brings its own burden.

“Yes, protecting my ‘zero’ on my unbeaten professional record does add pressure, but I don’t let it get to me when I’m fighting.

“It’s always in the back of my mind because my trainer Jompop wants me to always try my best and train hard no matter if I win or lose. He just wants me to push myself to my limits and beyond that.”

Yet perhaps the most remarkable part of Ubaid’s story is what happens when the gloves come off - he returns to chemical engineering.

Hussain studied maths, physics and chemistry at A-level and is determined to complete his degree, partly for himself and partly for his parents.

“Education is very important to me,” he said.

“Especially with having Asian parents, they made me understand that from a young age. Having a good degree and a ‘backup plan’ is important and I also want to fulfil my parents’ dream of me getting a degree.

“I enjoy studying, especially problem solving. It helps with my fight IQ in the ring and helps me figure out my opponent’s game plan.”

There have been times when the two worlds have collided spectacularly.

“This year I took quite a big risk by having a fight a week before my exam and it was a main event fight which I couldn’t risk missing.

“I also had a fight a few weeks after my exams, so I had to train and study leading up to it, which was hard. When I am flying out to fight I always take my laptop and books with me so I study there in between my training sessions.”

The result?

“I nearly got a first, which I was happy about.”

FIGHTING FOR MORE

For Ubaid “Bad” Hussain, success is also about what a kid growing up in Harehills might see when he walks into the ring.

“It’s an honour to represent my background and area on the largest

stage,” he said. “I want to inspire other kids in the same situation, or even better or worse situations than me, to show that it’s possible.

“If they can see me doing it, maybe they will think they can do it too. You just have to put the hard work in and leave the rest to God.”



That sense of responsibility extends far beyond sport. Following the example set by his father, Ubaid says he has helped raise more than £60,000 for charity, including a recent £2,600 appeal for an orphanage in Thailand.

“I always help out my community and people struggling around the world. My dad helped me get into this - he used to do loads of charity work and I’m just following in his footsteps.

“This responsibility comes from being a Muslim because one of the pillars of Islam is charity, so it’s mandatory to give back to poor and

needy people. I do believe if you do good for others, good things will happen to you.

“When I saw the kids in Thailand who had nothing, I wanted to do something for the country which has given me the opportunity to fight on the world stage.”

Now the ambitions are getting bigger. Hussain wants a master’s degree in chemical engineering - and he wants ONE Championship gold.

“I want to get a chance to fight for the world title belt in the next one to two years,” he said. “Inshallah, one day I will get it and I will then defend it and move on to better and bigger things.

“I try to take one step at a time and overcome each obstacle which is put in front of me to achieve my dreams.”

The next obstacle now has a name: ‘Black Panther’.

On 20 November, Ubaid will return to the Lumpinee Stadium ring for the quarter-finals of ONE’s eight-man Flyweight Muay Thai World Grand Prix, carrying that immaculate 17-0 record with him.

From an eight-year-old sent to a Leeds gym to lose weight and stay out of trouble, to an unbeaten professional carrying a six-figure ONE contract and preparing to face some of the world’s best.

The nickname may have started with a misunderstanding, but seventeen fights later, nobody is misunderstanding Ubaid “Bad” Hussain now.



Asian Express

SPORT

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Harehills fighter Ubaid Hussain is 17-0, has landed a \$100,000 ONE Championship contract - and now the 20-year-old engineering student is coming for the world title

BAD BY NAME. UNBEATEN BY NATURE



AIDING THE NEEDY



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By Asian Express Sport

He is called "Bad", has never lost a professional fight and, at just 20 years old, is already taking Leeds onto one of the biggest martial arts stages in the world.

But away from the violence and intensity of the Muay Thai ring, Ubaid "Bad" Hussain is more likely to be found with an engineering textbook open, surrounded by a family of seven at home in Harehills, or helping raise money

for people thousands of miles away.

And now the British-Pakistani fighter from Leeds has landed the opportunity that could change everything. Hussain stands at a perfect 17-0 as a professional and 8-0 in ONE Championship, having secured a coveted US\$100,000 ONE Championship contract after defeating Isannuea Sor Sasiwat at Bangkok's famous Lumpinee Stadium on 28 August.

"When I realised I had got the contract, at first I was lost for

words," Ubaid told Asian Express, recalling the moment he celebrated with his long-time coach Jompop Kiatphontip and his team.

"I didn't know what to say. I just went to run and hug Jompop and my team.

"I got emotional and was struggling to talk because I have always dreamed and prayed for this moment. I was super grateful for it."

Continued on pages 46 & 47

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