

# THE CHARGER

Nour Elhadi

## Trump Wins 2024 Presidential Election

Following a unique and highly divisive election season, Donald Trump has won the presidency and will return to the White House for a second term. The election was marked by unprecedented developments, beginning with President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw from the race in late July. This paved the way for Vice President Kamala Harris to become the Democratic candidate, launching the shortest presidential campaign in U.S. history. As a result of a disastrous campaign which alienated several key voter groups, Harris was unable to secure a victory. The final results showed 50% of voters choosing Trump, 48.4% backing Harris, and approximately 1% supporting alternative candidates.



(retrieved from AP News)

Trump has stated that upon inauguration he intends to implement several controversial measures, including aggressive crackdowns on illegal immigration, significant tax cuts, reduced regulations on climate change and carbon emissions, and the dismantling of the Department of Education. These proposed policies have already drawn sharp criticism from opponents and praise from his supporters. Trump has also begun assembling a new administration featuring a mix of loyal allies and high-profile figures. These appointments include individuals such as celebrity doctor Mehmet Oz and billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk. These choices underscore Trump's unconventional approach to governance and his reliance on figures outside traditional political spheres. As the country prepares for Trump's return to power, his plans and appointments suggest that the next four years will bring significant policy changes and continued political and cultural debates that are likely to further shape the nation's trajectory.

Zainab Rizavi

## Local News

This October, Villa Park has had some exciting new updates! To start, a new event has been added to the calendar. Food Truck Fridays, a foodie favorite, is a new culinary tradition where a selection of food trucks gather outside Lions Park every Friday. These trucks exhibit various types of foods, rich in flavor and exotic cuisines, allowing people to meet up and have a fun time trying these scrumptious delicacies. Another fun activity is Villa Park's first-ever Youth Art Exhibition, in which young artists have the opportunity to display their works to the public. High school students can submit pieces of photography, paintings, digital art, and more. This is a great way for these young, impressionable artists to mingle and share their thoughts and ideas. Finally, to stay environmentally friendly and reduce any strain on our surroundings, Villa Park has launched a "Go Green" campaign to encourage community members to reduce their ecological footprint and be more aware of how they use their resources. New recycling stations have been installed in parks, and local businesses encourage eco-friendly practices.



(retrieved from [invillapark.com](http://invillapark.com))

# News

Arwa Khan

## The Systematic Annihilation of Gaza

Over the course of the last few months, Israel has expanded its genocide of Palestine to Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen. Raids in the West Bank and shootings have increased since the siege of the Northern West Bank. In the past month, the estimated number of civilians left in the North Gaza Strip is estimated to be around 100,000. Sieges and raids of the Kamal Adwan Hospital have left around 4,000 newborns without the life-saving aid they need to survive. Sewage pipes are beginning to overflow onto the streets of Gaza City. Israel continues to refute aid agencies claims of denied entry into the North of Gaza. Without the little medical aid, food, and resources these aid agencies bring to the city, people will continue to starve and die from disease, alongside the relentless bombing. The UN warns of the imminent threat of famine overhead for the citizens of Gaza if action isn't taken soon. Evacuation orders are being shared via social media and dropped as pamphlets by the Israeli Offense Force (IOF). These fliers warn the remaining populace of North Gaza to head to the south, where safety is still not a guarantee. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report verifying that 70% of all deaths in the Gaza Strip are those of women and children.



(retrieved from Al Jazeera)

Layla Elsheikh

## Brief History of Islamic Architecture

The Islamic world is known for many things, but one of the most notable is the architecture that surrounds the faith and culture. During the 7th century, the rise of Islam brought with it a world of beautiful and inspiring new architecture. Its early development was shaped and molded by a fusion of local traditions and influences from the Byzantine and Sasanian empires. This led to the creation of masjids that encompassed the local artistic styles and the geometric style of the Muslim World. Masjids emerged as the central focus of Islamic architecture, with key elements such as domes, minarets, and expansive courtyards becoming staples of the style.

We have examples such as the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and the Great Masjid of Damascus. Both of these mosques showcase how Islamic builders adapted and transformed pre-existing architectural forms to reflect Islam's spiritual and cultural identity.

Maheen Elahi

## Character Trait of the Month: Empathy

The Character Trait of the Month for December is empathy. Empathy is the ability to understand how someone else feels and see things from their point of view. It is different from sympathy which is only feeling sorry for a person but not being able to understand their feelings. Allah says in the Quran, "We have only sent you (O Muhammad) (SAW) as a mercy to all worlds" (21:107). This verse highlights the Prophet (SAW)'s role in showing kindness and empathy to everyone, including people, animals, and the environment. In Islam, empathy is shown in how the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) cared for other people's feelings. One time, a woman came to him crying because she had lost her son. Instead of just offering empty words, the Prophet (SAW) understood her pain and comforted her with kindness and prayers. This shows us that true empathy means really understanding what someone is feeling and offering them support.

Empathy is really important in Islam. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) showed us that we shouldn't just feel sorry for someone, but we should understand their pain and help them. When someone is struggling, we should not only try to understand how they feel, but also comfort them and ask if they need anything. Looking at how the Prophet (SAW) was kind and caring reminds us to be the same way with others. By showing empathy every day, we can make a big difference in people's lives.



(retrieved from britannica.com)

These buildings highlighted both functionality and beauty. The Masjid's incorporated intricate geometric patterns, arabesques, and calligraphy to convey Islamic values of unity amongst all walks of life. Furthermore, As Islam spread to different regions such as North Africa, Spain, Persia, India, and Southeast Asia, Islamic architecture changed along with it by utilizing local materials and artistic traditions. And even with regional differences, Islamic architecture maintained a unifying style. They used decorations, like lanterns, and structures to create spaces that inspire both faith and awe.

# Ummah Updates

Aakifah Ijaz

**Dua:** لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ means there is no power and no strength except with God. It is very important to say especially before worship as it symbolizes complete submission to Allah. In Islam, it's important to have the quality of submitting to Allah as it is a main part of our deen. This dua is also a form of strength in difficult times because it reminds people going through hardships that Allah is with them at all times and provides ease for every hardship. It is very important to say this dua no matter what is going through your life, good or bad.

Aminah Tahir

**Salah will Change your Life**

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) stated: "Between disbelief and faith is abandoning the Salat".

This Hadith emphasizes the importance of Salat; it isn't something to be played around with.

There are three types of people in this world: the Kaffir, the one who does not pray at all; the Hypocrite, the one who prays but is not mindful in their prayer; and the Believer, the one who prays with Khushoo. Especially while attending an Islamic school, prayer often becomes lost in the back of our minds, even though it should be our top priority. Additionally, just because we pray doesn't mean our prayers are counted. In our minds we pray, we do the actions and recite but our minds aren't present. This **isn't** counted; "Woe to those who pray," "But who are heedless of their prayer" (107:4, & 107:5). Allah (SWT) tells us that we need Khushoo in our prayers. What is our excuse? We make excuses daily to delay our prayers, though on the Day of Judgement, while standing in front of Allah (SWT), no excuse is going to help you.

We need to realize that salah was a blessing gifted to us. You might have heard once or twice of a Tahajjud story that transformed one's life for the better. It is true, salah WILL change your life. It won't magically make you a mufti the next day, though it will give you a sense of peace. Allowing you to experience a sweetness in salah that no fruit can match. "Salah prevents you from sin" (25:45). It will make the sins that you commit unbearable. Making the hangouts with those friends who encourage haram and delude you, feel uncomfortable. It will change your perspective and open your eyes, realizing that this dunya was all a **delusion**.

Despite praying, it might occur to you that your life hasn't changed. Many solutions help prevent one from sinning, with the salah being the most important. There is nothing wrong with the salah itself, the issue lies in the quality of our salah. If you truly experience salah with Khushoo, you would never turn away. "Salah is a burden, except for those who pray with Khushoo". You will start seeing your life-changing when YOU start putting the effort into your salah. Now, this could be a sign from Allah to remind you to pray. **What is your excuse?**

Sources: Ali Hammuda and Jami' at-Tirmidhi 2618

Tamanna Mohammed

**Story of Umar RA - The Dignity in Humility**

During the year 637 CE, Jerusalem struck a truce with the Muslim nation under Umar رضي الله عنه's leadership. However, the leaders of Jerusalem put a condition that Umar رضي الله عنه would have to come in person in order to seal the truce, make it official, and hand over ownership of Jerusalem to the Muslims. Therefore, Umar رضي الله عنه set off from Madinah to make his journey towards Jerusalem with nothing but his camel and slave, no entourage or grand caravan. Throughout the journey, he would frequently switch with his slave when riding on the camel and often let the camel ride without any passenger to ease its load. The journey came with its own struggles and obstacles, and our beloved Sahaba's clothes became muddy and patched. His simple robes were indistinguishable from his slave's. Finally, they entered the threshold of Jerusalem, with Umar رضي الله عنه on foot. Abu Ubaidah, a very pious Sahabah, suggested that Umar change his clothes. After all, he was the Khalifa of the Muslim nation, and the people of Jerusalem were used to seeing people of high leadership and power dressing extravagantly. He advised that it would be best to do so so that they would not hesitate in handing over the keys of Jerusalem. At this, Umar رضي الله عنه hit Abu Ubaidah on his chest and reminded him that the Arabs had been a disgraced nation and that it was only through Islam that Allah had elevated them. He told Abu Ubaidah that if they tried to gain respect through means other than pleasing Allah SWT, they would surely be disgraced again. And so, he entered Jerusalem with his battered, muddied clothes. When the people of Jerusalem saw him, they began to cry. How could a man of such prestige, a man who led the Muslim army, look so humble and simple? When the patriarch of Jerusalem, Sophronius, greeted Umar, he must have without a doubt been surprised and amazed that the caliph of the entire powerful Muslim nation, dressed in the simplest of attire, was indistinguishable from his slave.

This story shows us the beauty in humility and simplicity. We have been commanded by Allah SWT to never show off or brag about the blessings he gives us. If one is truly grateful to Allah SWT, he will enjoy and appreciate his blessings while acknowledging that whatever he is or has is only from Allah. This story also teaches us that being humble is important in Islam. Nothing you do, say or think will grant you respect in this world except that you do, say, and think according to Allah's commands. As long as we follow the Quran and the Sunnah of our beloved RasulAllah ﷺ we will not require or even crave the attention and respect of others.



(retrieved from islamandihsan.com)

# Health & Science

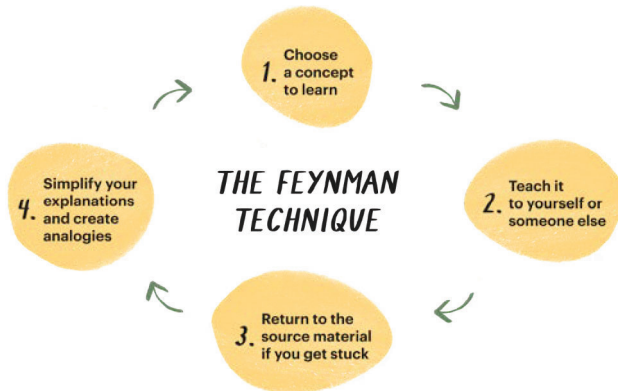
Aisha Saeed

## Preparing for Success

As exams approach, preparing early is the key to success. While intense study sessions can be overwhelming, lighter and consistent studying can boost your readiness. It's best to begin by reviewing the main concepts of each chapter to build a strong foundation. Try to use different study techniques such as active recall, spaced repetition, the Feynman technique, blurting, and the Pomodoro method to enhance retention and comprehension of the material. Creating flashcards or utilizing visual aids like charts, graphs, and timelines can also aid in memorization. For those who thrive in a more social environment, studying in a group can be beneficial, if you choose peers who share a commitment to focus on learning rather than socializing. A more strategic approach to study habits will not only allow understanding but also reduce anxiety as the exam day approaches.



(retrieved from passionplanner.com)

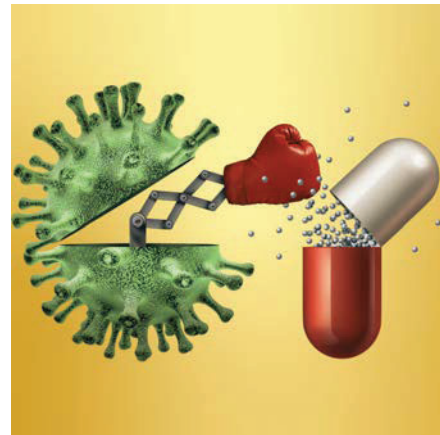


(retrieved from todoist.com)

Emaan Rizavi

## Antibiotic Resistance

What is antibiotic resistance? It is exactly what it's called; antibiotic resistance is defined as the lack of response from bacteria, viruses, fungi, & parasites to antimicrobial medicines, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). This resistance is built up in pathogens because of the overuse and misuse of antimicrobials by humans and can have many major consequences on a global scale. As these pathogens become drug resistant they end up killing 1.3 million people and contribute to the death of nearly five million others. Another negative outcome is that because people exercise all possible less intense treatments, they are forced to either deal with the pathogen infection or to move on to a more harsh treatment, which undoubtedly ends up in millions of unsolved illnesses and lifelong complications. Similarly, it also makes those same advanced procedures harder and riskier to perform, especially processes like chemotherapy or surgery. Antibiotic resistance also has significant economic costs; The World Bank estimates that it could result in 1 trillion USD of additional healthcare costs by 2050. All of these are enough reasons to try to fight against this resistance, but it is evident that we all must contribute. The main way you can do this is by following prescriptions of antibiotics to a tee, meaning for exactly as long as your doctor prescribed it without missing doses or messing up the timing.



(retrieved from pihhealth.org)

# Entertainment

Jannah Rasheed

## The Princess Bride

The Princess Bride was released on October 7, 1987, and was directed by Rob Reiner. This movie is a fairy tale that blends romance, adventure, and comedy. The movie tells the story of a girl named Buttercup and her true love, Westley, who embarks on a journey to save Buttercup from a marriage she does not want. The movie includes many unforgettable characters, including the brave Inigo Montoya and the lovable giant Fezzik. This movie also has a playful and fun dialogue, which makes it appropriate and enjoyable for kids and adults. What really stands out in The Princess Bride in my opinion is the humor. The script of this movie includes many clever lines that have become iconic, such as "As you wish", "Hello, my name is Inigo Montoya, you kill my father prepare to die", and "Inconceivable!" The film mixes action, comedy, and romance perfectly, which makes it a favorite and continues to entertain audiences of all ages.



(retrieved from [santa-ana.org](http://santa-ana.org))

## Art Submissions

Adam Barbarawi

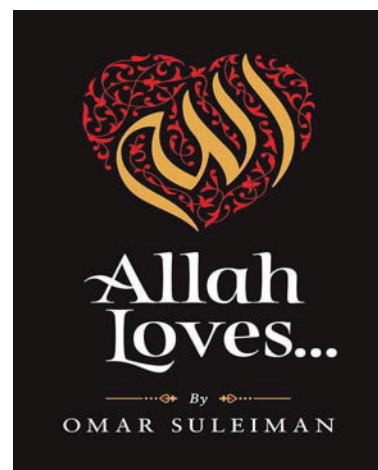
### Weather Poem

The season of winter is cold with snow,  
So stay inside and drink hot cocoa.  
The season of spring is wet as the sea,  
rain falls on the earth with a misty glee.  
The season of summer is bright and sunny,  
and the bee hives are dripping with honey.  
The season of Fall is cool with a breeze,  
colorful leaves fall from the trees.  
The world is amazing as you can see,  
with the power of Allah it shall be.

Hareem Nadeem

## Allah Loves by Omar Suleiman

"Allah Loves...." By Omar Suleiman is a piece of literature that explores who and what Allah loves. It is an ideal book to read for those trying to increase their iman, stay on their deen, and become a better Muslim overall as it shows how to become more beloved to Allah than we already are. Each Chapter carefully and eloquently states and explores a specific trait that Allah loves. For example Chapter 1 talks about "Piety" or *taqwa*. Page 3 of the book says, "...And so the fear of Allah is not the kind that would cause you to flee from him but come back to Him because that fear is not like the fear of anything else. *Taqwa* is inadequately understood when defined only in the context of fear. So how do we merge fear and love? We fear losing His love, that is actually why Ramadan is such an effective way for us to learn not to lose his love" (Suleiman). The quotes above demonstrate in great detail the meaning of *taqwa* or piety as being conscious of Allah in our actions coming from our fear and love. We fear losing his affection and crave his love and his attention. Other such traits in the book mentioned are repentance, excellence, strength, justice, those who are trying, trust, cleanliness, and more. The author, Omar Suleiman, has an amazing ability to blend spiritual guidance with textual evidence from the Quran and hadiths, to our everyday lives, actions, and problems, and he showcases this ability in the book. It teaches us practitioner and methodical steps to take to become a better Muslim.



(retrieved from [amazon.com](http://amazon.com))

# Sports

Muhammad Mirza

## High School Girls Varsity Volleyball

As the girls' HS volleyball season came to an end, they lost in the regional finals to Willows Academy with a set score of 0-2. According to a spectator, Talal Sana, the final point with which they were brought to defeat was quite the spectacle. One of the outside hitters from Willows performed a jump serve from such a high impact point that the ball traveled in a downward trajectory toward the Chargers' side of the court. Had she jumped any higher, her head might have hit the basketball hoop's backboard, which is always kind of in the way (jump servers understand what I mean). The game was challenging, yet the girls gave it their all to place second in the region. **Go Chargers!**

- **First set:** Willows 25-7 IFS
- **Second set:** Willows 25-11 IFS

Muhammad Mirza

## Middle School Boys' Basketball

The MS boys' JV and Varsity games against Calvary Academy were worthwhile events that I enjoyed watching. JV player Asraf Ahmad scored 0 points but had 21 rebounds and eight blocks. He was also pulling off impressive screens as it seemed difficult to get around his immense stature. During the varsity game, starter Ibrahim Aziz did the unthinkable. On a fast break led by Aiden Durani, the Chargers were on a 2v1 towards the basket. Aiden could not get a layup off due to the 6'3 8th grader #4 jumping before him. Instead, he passed the ball between his legs and tossed a lob pass for Aziz. The young prodigy punched the ball through the rim with authority. At a staggering 6'4, 12-year-old Ibrahim has a bright future in High School next year. **Go Chargers!**

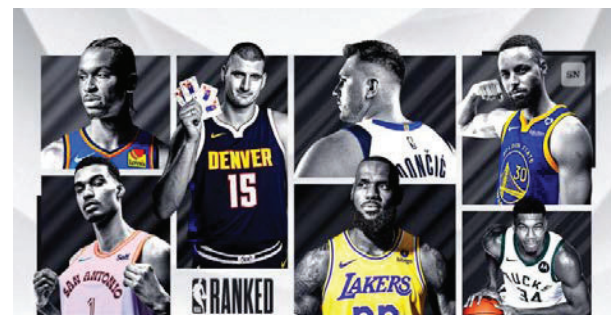
- **JV game:** Chargers 40-22 Calvary
- **Varsity game:** Chargers 88-30 Calvary

Baseer Ahmed

## Some Highlights of The 2024-25 NBA Season

The 2024-25 NBA season is already showcasing some fascinating developments, intense competition, and star performances that are reshaping expectations for the league. The Boston Celtics are returning as NBA champions. Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, and their most recent addition, Kristaps Porziņģis, have the potential to earn themselves another chip. Fresh off their successful Finals run, the Celtics are well-positioned for another strong postseason, while their depth makes them a top contender in the Eastern Conference. In the Western Conference, the Oklahoma City Thunder team is favored to win. After finishing last season at the top of the West, the Thunder somehow got Alex Caruso for Josh Giddey, of all people, bringing much more strength on the defensive end to a team already famous for next-gen players like Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Chet Holmgren. This trade, as well as the improvement of Chet Holmgren as he was finally able to play a whole season, puts the Thunder in a serious position to win the title.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Lakers were finally able to make LeBron's dream come true. LeBron James Sr. and LeBron James Jr. (more commonly referred to as "Bronny") were the first team to play a father and son in the same game. LeBron, or "Father Time," was only able to play with his son due to his historical longevity. LeBron Sr. and LeBron Jr. scored a combined 110 points, with LeBron Jr. scoring 28 from the line.



# IFS Insider

Aminah Tahir

## Student Spotlight: Aamina Kassim

**1. What's your name, age, and how long have you been at IFS?** My name is Aamina Kassim, and I'm 18 years old. I have been at IFS for 14 years since preschool.

**2. What is it like to be a student at IFS?** Being a student at IFS is amazing and I'm so grateful to be part of this community.

**3. What is your favorite event at IFS?** My favorite event at IFS would be House Colors.

**4. What was your favorite class during the time you were here?** My favorite class during the time I was here had to be junior year college math with Ms. Nausheen.

**5. What were your favorite extracurricular activities that you have participated in?** My favorite extracurricular activity that I participated in was soccer because of all the teammates and my coach.

**6. What do you think makes IFS unique from different schools?** It's very welcoming to all students.

**7. What made IFS most memorable to you?** What made IFS most memorable to me was the sports teams I was involved in.

**8. What was your favorite memory you made at IFS?** There's not a specific one, all my memories here are memorable.

**9. What is something you would like to see in the future for IFS?** Some things that I would like to see in the future for IFS would be different types of sports.

Rania Waseem

## A Day in a Student Athlete's Life

Being an athlete and a student at the same time is no small feat. They do everything that any other student is required to do. They still get homework, take tests, take quizzes, and come to do clubs. Yet, they still manage to do more. The conflicts that can happen in their schedules can lead to them having to choose, but their dedication to their sports remains unwavering. They're students that go above and beyond, both academically and athletically.

Most of our student-athletes start their day regularly prepping for school. It's when school is over that the routines start to differ. Students get ready and prepare for practices and games, as soon as school is over. Most practices are nearly two hours long, games being even longer with the travel time added. Once done with their hectic schedule, the student part comes in and they must complete all assignments that are due the next day. It is safe to say that being a student-athlete is not easy, with a long and tiring schedule. However, each athlete would say that it's all worth it to be a part of a team for a sport they love

## Our Newspaper Staff

Thank you for your dedication!

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