



Zohran Mamdani's focus on real issues, clear views & his campaign won hearts



ANALYSIS

**SPREAD HARMONY, NOT HATE
REMAIN INCUSIVE, DON'T OTHERIZE
AMERICA FIRST, NOT ALLEGIANCE TO
FOREIGN NATION OR EXCESSIVE
PRESSURE OF ANY LOBBY**

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WHAT TV CHANNELS & SECTION OF MEDIA WOULDN'T TELL

Now that a few days have passed after Zohran Mamdani's stunning victory in New York and discussions are over, it's pertinent to look at the entire saga—campaign and election for the post of Mayor in arguably the most influential city in the world i.e. New York.

The perception about any nation or a region in any other country is formed through media in their own country and unknowingly the impact on minds is per the tilt of media group owner 's

political line, views, even location, future interests, expectations and association with the country.

Billionaires, multiple lobbies, influencers and at least two major sections with deep pockets, apart from the owner of X, Elon Musk, were against Mamdani.

But despite right-wing and section of supremacists' efforts, Mamdani ran a clean campaign and was open about his views and remained natural about his identity.

There was open display of hate and a targeted campaign was launched

on social media, when the first indication came that he was poised to win, but this didn't have much affect, as Mamdani seemed honest, hiding nothing and natural from the beginning, addressing the real issues. In Asian countries, media men don't realise that America has a history of Muslim heroes in the past, long before the recent immigration.

Karim Abdul Jabbar was an icon 6yrs ago. Mohammad

Ali was a national hero. Louis Farrakhan was taking out Million March, half a century ago, too.

Besides, it's not about religion, always. All states and cities are different. Hispanics, Blacks form huge chunk of population in many big cities.

Harsh anti-immigration policies & racism affect them too. [Contd on P 4]

Withdrawing criminal charges in lynching case would be wrong, inhuman: Travesty of justice in Md Akhlaq's killing!

When charges are dropped, criminals get emboldened. They can later contest election & become leaders, lawmakers too!

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REAL ISSUE

A middle aged man was lynched by a mob that included his neighbours and residents of the same locality, in Bisada near Dadri, ten years ago.

The man, Akhlaq, 52, was the father of an Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel.

Yet, a loudspeaker at the temple announced that there was 'banned' meat in the fridge of his house.

Subsequently, mob gathered at his house, attacked it, dragged him and killed him in cold blood.

His younger son, Danish, was also injured in this brutal attack that took place on September 28, 2015.

Later on, Indian Air Force also swung into action and got the family shifted from the region. Surprisingly, now the State government wants the charges dropped and prosecution has moved an application in this regard.

After Dadri incident, there was anger. The temple priest said that it was not his fault and he was forced by two youths of the village, who had allegedly entered temple and made announcements from the temple, forcibly.

Vishal Rana and his cousin Shivam were main accused apart from others. Vishal is son of BJP leader Sanjay Rana. After this incident, there were multiple cases in different parts of the country. Pahlu Khan, Junaid, Rakbar Khan and many other people were lynched. The right-wing vigilantes attacked



Akhlaq, the father of an IAF man was killed in Dadri in 2015.

He was lynched over a suspicion that there was 'banned' meat in the fridge in his house.

Withdrawing charges is seen as a step towards saving the goons and killers



Lynching incidents had mostly occurred in UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand et al.

on suspicion that anyone was carrying 'beef'. The incidents, drew attention of Supreme court as well. Social activists staged protests and Muslims even went to Idgahs and mosques, wearing black bands, to protest the killings that were taking place in different states. People were attacked in trains and on the streets.

Uttar Pradesh government has now sought that the charges be withdrawn in the case.

It has said that the statements of some of members of Akhlaq's family were not matching and hence the case should be withdrawn.

It would indeed be a travesty

of justice that such a horrible incident that occurred in Uttar Pradesh and that was a cold blooded murder, in fact, an organized killing, would be hushed up, after ten years.

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Leading educationist, author who dreamt of a world where women fly planes, run varsities

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An author and educationist who opened a famous school for girls more than a century ago, Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, is one of the most inspiring women and a role model in the sub-continent.

Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain was a multi-faceted personality who was champion of women's rights and a writer.

In fact, she wrote extensively and left two volumes that has collections of her essays apart from a famous novel.

She dreamt of a world where women were at the top--working as scientists, flying aircrafts, running universities and taking stand against war.

Talking about the woman's achievements, just remember the era she belongs to--she was born before Maulana Azad and Jawahar Lal Nehru.

She presided over education conference, organized women, opened the school that runs in Kolkata till today [now run by the State government].

After marriage, her husband fully backed her and she went on to learn English. Begum Rokeya had gone from house to house, urging women to send their daughters to the school. She attended multiple conclaves and conferences, even presided over the 'Indian Women's Conference.



Her life is a shining example of how a woman in that era, worked hard for the emancipation of women. She presided over women's conferences.

She died in 1932, at the age of just 52. She was buried

in Sodepur in North 24 Parganas in West Bengal, India. She was born in undivided India and she is a hero in Bangladesh too.

BBC's poll had her listed at the sixth place among greatest Bengalis of all time.

Begum Rokeya is remembered as a symbol of women's rights, education and empowerment.

She wrote two volumes of essays and also *Sultana's Dream*, the novel that centres on women.

She set up a famous school for girls, founded Association that worked for education and employment among women, apart from presiding over the Bengal Women's Education Conference in Kolkata in 1926.

Also, she presided the Indian Women's Conference. Rokeya Day is observed on December 9.

Her work in the field of girls' education inspired generations. Definitely, the role of early women leaders, writers, educationists, teachers and activists is huge and unforgettable.

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The world needs free media.

Corporate funded media is not free.

Media's failure to understand the ground realities and journalists' conditioning that stops them from getting right conclusions

Understanding US: Mamdani's plank was 'affordability'. He focused on housing, promised rent freeze on stabilized units, building new affordable units, ending developer tax breaks, universal free childcare, fare-free buses and expanded subway prices, dollar 25 minimum wage by 2027, addressing concerns of the gig works, community-led reforms, investing in mental health crisis et al.



USA is a huge nation—some states are bigger than countries of Europe. Further, American cities have immense diversity. Large sections of populace includes big groups like Hispanics, Blacks, Asians & those from Far East.

White Americans can be Republicans or Democrats, left-wing or right-wing. People are Christian or Unaffiliated, Jews or Muslim, Buddhists, Hindu, Sikh or Atheist. Countries are not entirely monolithic, issues change from region to region.



By Shams Ur Rehman Alavi

AMERICA is a nation of immigrants and United States' strength lies in its diversity. When the migrants started coming, there were natives—the American Indians who already lived here. In later centuries, immigration continued and the Americans took pride in terming United States as a nation that drew people from across the world.

But, in recent years, right-wing supremacists came up with a different stance. In recent years, there was crackdown on not just illegal migration but also narrative against immigrants gained ground in a section of society. Media houses and right-wing groups spread propaganda and even using term 'alien' (sic) became a fashion.

Elon Musk, who owns the X platform, is also an immigrant. He hails from South Africa. Hence, despite being an immigrant, the new stance of a section of right-wing in America, is that a person from Asia or Africa, a man who is Hispanic or Black, is seen as 'other' but a person like Musk who hails from South Africa is a natural immigrant because of

his race. It's no more shocking that Elon Musk launched Grokipedia that is seen as an encyclopedia that gives responses in accordance with right-wing ideology.

Besides, he selectively posted messages and talked about incidents in a way that show immigrants from Asia, Africa or Hispanics and Blacks in poor light. However, despite his huge following—over 229 million, the other big influencers from Europe and US, becoming part of the propaganda against Mamdani, they couldn't stop him.

Mamdani, who is a Muslim, has Indian ancestry and roots in India as well as Uganda. He didn't have a huge budget and didn't get much proactive support from the party's traditional system either.

But, the 34-year-old brought a freshness and energy to the campaign.

He made a strong connect with the people and didn't compromise on his values. When asked about Israel, he said that as Mayor his priority was to stay in New York and solve the issues in the city, as this is his job and also the prime

responsibility. A section of media and journalists with right-wing tilt, tried to present it as his bias against Israel. But, this helped him due to the public sentiment.

He met Jews and assured them that he would ensure safety. It struck a chord with the section of people who want an 'America First' policy.

Masses have been visibly uncomfortable about the open and **excessive subservience of a number of American politicians towards foreign country** [and foreign land], especially, due to the powerful lobbies that have huge money at their disposal.

The 2025 NYC Mayoral election didn't remain a city poll, but an election that drew attention of the entire world. Mamdani secured over 50% votes and defeated Andrew Cuomo, the independent candidate and Republican Curtis Sliwa.

He called killings in Gaza, a 'genocide'. He said that ordinary New Yorker was finding it increasingly tough to deal with rising costs.

While media in other countries was showing New York as per their own lens and as outsiders,

reality is that many journalists in Europe and Asia are not even aware of basics about America. They have fixed views about the vast nation that is spread over 95,00,000 sq kms and has 50 states.

Some states are bigger than Britain, France, Germany, Afghanistan and Spain. However, for a section of media men outside US, its their ideology first and they talk about their own expectations and personal beliefs, rather than understanding the ground realities of United States or issues of the common American citizens.

President Trump used the term 'socialist menace' for Zohran Mamdani.

But for resident of New York, the issues that affect them—rising rents or crumbling subway that mattered most. Outsiders didn't even know that New York has nearly 24% Blacks and 29% Latino. Further, New York has over 15% Asians.

Not just Muslims and Jews, New York has a substantial Sikh population. Hindus are a strong community as well. Buddhists too number around 85,000. Email: editor@asiantribune.net