



FEDERATION SAMACHAR

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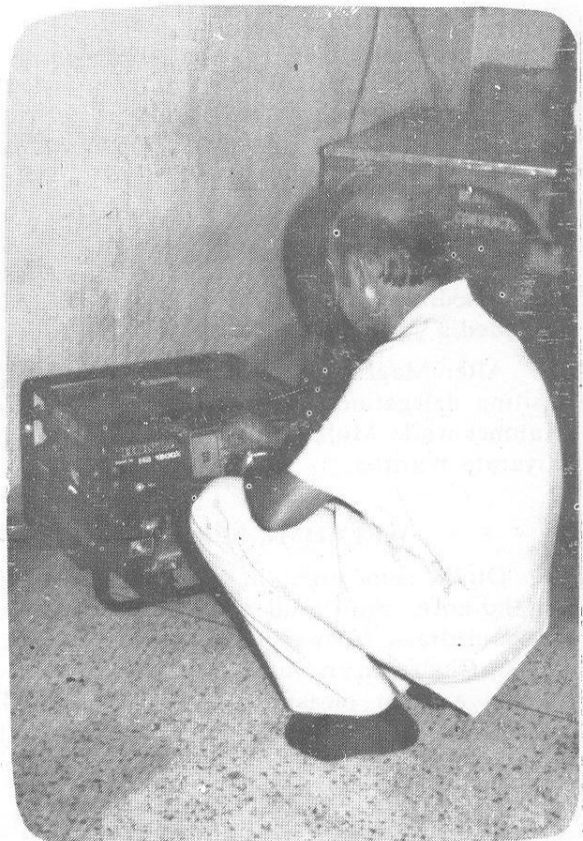
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EDITORIAL BOARD:-

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THE FEDERATION SAMACHAR IS PUBLISHED BY THE FEDERATION OF THE KHOJA SHIA ITHNAASHERY JAMAATS OF AFRICA, P.O. Box 6710, DAR ES SALAAM.



The Vice Chairman of the Federation Alhaj Habib Mulji officially switches on the new generator installed at the Nairobi Mosque for use during power failures.

ROUSING WELCOME FOR CHAIRMAN IN SOMALIA

In the evening of Thursday, 12 January 1984 the dignitaries and elders of the Mogadiscio Jamaat gathered at the Airport to welcome the Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani and his high powered entourage who were paying an official visit to Somalia.

On this visit, the Chairman was accompanied by the Vice Chairman, Habib J. Mulji, the Hon. Treasurer Akber F. Dhirani, the Councillors from Dar es Salaam and Arusha, Fidahusseini Khaki and Ali H. Sheriff respectively, the Chairman of Nairobi Jamaat Manzoor Kanani and Mulla Abdulrasul Khaki of Mombasa. The Hon. Secretary of the Mombasa Jamaat, Rajabali M. Bandali was supposed to join the delegation but missed the flight and could not reach Somalia in time.

Enroute to Somalia, the entourage had a night's stop over in Nairobi during which the Chairman of Nairobi Jamaat, Manzooral Kanani entertained them over a grand Barbeque at his residence. This was also attended by a number of invited dignitaries. During the stop over in Nairobi, the Chairman also paid a courtesy call on the Immediate Past Chairman, Alhaj Abdulrasul A. Lakha.

On arrival in Somalia, the whole delegation was accommodated at the residence of the President of the Mogadiscio Jamaat, Haji Mohamedraza Hussein Haji Mooraji, who afforded a generous hospitality to the visitors.

After Magribain Prayers, a member of the visiting delegation, Ali Sheriff recited Dua-e-Kaumel while Mulla Abdulrasul Khaki recited Ziyarate Waritha.

WELCOME SPEECH

On the same night, at a function organised by the hosts, the President of the Jamaat Haji Mohamedraza Mooraj gave a welcome speech for the Chairman and his delegation and said that it was a great pleasure and honour for the Somalia Jamaat to have the Chairman of the Federation leading such a high powered delegation to the country.

The Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani said in reply that he was truly moved by the warm welcome accorded to his entourage at the Mogadiscio Airport and other places.

The Chairman spoke of the sacrifices given by the community's past leaders and elders in forming the Federation and of the unity amongst various Jamaats that has been brought about by the formation of the Federation. He also emphasised on the need of participation in the annual council meetings which he said would help to associate them closer to other East African Jamaats.

Chairman Dhirani then said that as this year marked the 1,400 anniversary of the birth of Imam Hussein (A.S.), celebrations to mark this grand occasion would certainly be held befitting the status of our great and beloved Imam. In line with these celebrations he called upon members to focus on building any institution such as Mosque, Imambara, School, Flats, Library or Madressa in memory of the 1400th anniversary of our Imam. The Chairman also spoke on the fate of our ULAMAS in Iraq and requested all those present to constantly pray for their safety.

On the Second day, the delegation met the Managing Committee of the Jamaat, where various matters of mutual interest were discussed. The questions of TALAAK, DAHEJ, NAZAR and other religious matters were raised and ably answered by Mulla Abdulrasul Khaki. The Chairman also briefed the Managing Committee on the activities of the Bilal Muslim Mission in Kenya and Tanzania.

FULL FLEDGED EDUCATION SYSTEM

In the afternoon members of the delegation met the Education Board and were truly impressed to see that the Mogadiscio Jamaat was operating a full fledged Kinder Garten, together with Primary and Secondary Schools. The school has qualified male and female expatriate teachers from India and Pakistan including University Lecturers. English is the medium of instruction in the Schools and the Pakistani Syllabus is being adhered to with the final examinations (O Level) being conducted by the Pakistan Education Ministry through its Embassy. Thereafter students have an option to go to Pakistan for higher studies.

The Education Board briefed the delegation on its existent infrastructure and on the plans envisaged for the future.

In the evening the delegation participated in Dua-e-Samaat at Jaffery Baagh (Kabrastan) and

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at night after Wiladat Majlis of our 11th Imam (A.S.) the Chairman Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani again addressed a large gathering. Dhirani expressed satisfaction on the achievements of the Education Board and on the Educational opportunities available in Somalia. He also spoke on the availability of medical facilities in Kenya and said that the Nairobi Jamaat Chairman and his Committee would be ready to render assistance for any medical case requiring attention in Kenya.

After the Chairman's address, Ali Sheriff, spoke on Small Scale Industries and Technical, Vocational and Short Term Courses. An unexpected large number of questions came from the floor which Bwana Ali ably responded to.

VISIT TO MERCA

On the third day of their visit, the delegation teamed up with the President of Mogadiscio Jamaat and his Committee to visit Merca where our Jamaat has 75 members.

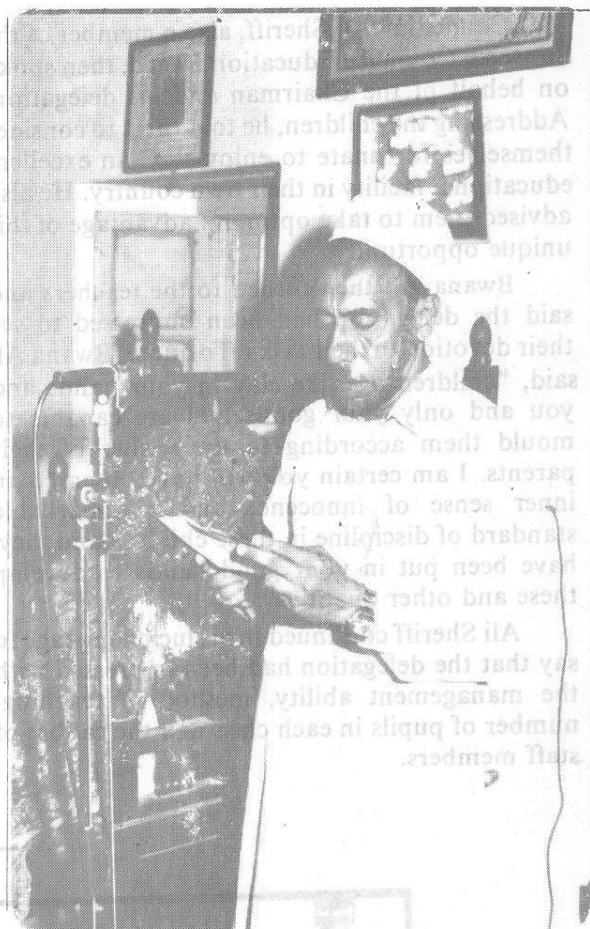
On arrival at Merca the guests were entertained to a lunch. Thereafter the Chairman, Mr. Dhirani, and his team, met the Managing Committee and reviewed the economic condition of the members. The Chairman also met and talked to individual members of the Merca Jamaat and thanked the Jamaat's President, Haji Fidahussein AbdulKarim, for the kind hospitality extended to himself and his delegation.

ACTIVE SPORTS SECTION

The delegation returned to Mogadiscio the same evening and visited Union Sports Club in the night. The Chairman met the Managing Committee and the Welfare Sub Committee of the Club. He was impressed to see that youths were involved in various useful activities, such as Sports, Volunteer Services and assistance to the needy. A Volley Ball match was also arranged in which the youths displayed their talents in the game. The Vice Chairman, Habib Mulji then addressed the youths and spoke on the importance of sports and the responsibility of youths towards the community.

SCHOOL VISIT IMPRESSES ENTOURAGE

On the final day of their visit, the delegation visited the Kinder Garten, Primary and Secondary Schools in the morning. They went round the classes and were happy with the standard of teaching, the progress of students and the high level of discipline. Apart from English,



The President of the Mogadiscio Jamaat, Haji Mohamedraza Mooraj delivering his welcome speech.

the children learn Gujarati and Urdu and the school intends to introduce Arabic Classes in the near future. Seperate streams exist for boys and girls and the standard of religious education is also commendable. The total attendance to the school is 140 boys and 149 girls and as each class has no more than 15 students, teachers are able to pay individual attention to students.

During the school visit, an assembly of students, teachers and staff was held during which the Chairman was given a welcoming address. After Tilawate Quran by Master Irshad M. Okera (Std V) another student Mohamed H. Gangji (Std. X) read the welcome address in English and was followed by Hussein G. Bhanji (Std IX) whose flowerly worded Urdu welcome speech, with a philosophical glimpse, was acknowledged with jubilation, both by the students and guests. Nazam was recited by Mohamed A. G. Hussein (Std IX).

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Councillor Ali Sheriff, also a member of the Supreme Council's Education Board, then spoke on behalf of the Chairman and his delegation. Addressing the children, he told them to consider themselves fortunate to enjoy such an excellent educational facility in their own country. He also advised them to take optimum advantage of this unique opportunity.

Bwana Ali then turned to the teachers and said the delegation had been impressed to see their devotion to their tasks. To quote, Bwana Ali said, "children are like clay in your hands and you and only your good selves are capable to mould them according to the wishes of their parents. I am certain you will have observed an inner sense of innocence and a remarkable standard of discipline in these children and they have been put in your good hands to develop these and other qualities".

Ali Sheriff continued in his lucid language to say that the delegation had been impressed with the management ability, method of teaching, number of pupils in each class and the calibre of staff members.

When addressing members of the Education Board, Bwana Ali said that it was imperative for the Board to be innovative in finding new ways and means for the staff to perform their duties effectively. He added that it was also important that a pleasant environment is kept in the educational institutions, like having posters of flowers, maps and the like which serve to create a subconscious pleasure in the minds of the children, thereby helping them in their studies. Ali Sheriff concluded his address with a word of praise for the Board on their dedicated services.

The Chairman, Mr. Dhirani, then presented awards to the winners of various competitions.

The delegation was given a warm send off after Zohrain Prayers, during which Mr. Agharali Sopariwala, on behalf of the Jamaat, said that Mogadiscio and Merca Jamaats had benefited tremendously by the delegation's visit. He said it was a painful farewell which they had to bid with heavy hearts. Leaders, elders and many members of the Jamaat were present at the Airport to wish the departing delegation a final goodbye.



The Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani being garlanded by a little girl when the delegation arrived in Merca. Looking on from left to right are: President of Merca Jamaat, Haji Fidahussein Abdulkarim, Councillor Fidahussein Khaki and the President of Mogadiscio Jamaat, Haji Mohamedraza Mooraj.

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STRIKING SUGGESTIONS RAISED IN WORLD CONFERENCE

While the conference was held in August last year we resolved to publish this article because of the thought-provoking suggestions disseminated by speakers at the conference.

Editorial Board

The Chairman of the Federation Al-Haj Mohamed Dhirani last year attended the inaugural conference of the World Ahlul-Bayt (A.S) League in London

The founders of the League are a group of well-known and eminent Muslim scholars. The League's aims and objectives include religious, economical, social and educational matters and to serve the Islamic movement which is based on the original Islamic ideology and the path of dynamic spiritualism. Also endeavoured is the spreading of thoughts and teachings of the school of the Ahlul-Bayt (a.s.) and a further support to the lineage of the *Maraji'* and the leadership of the Ulama who continue from the infallible leadership of Imam Mahdi (a.s.).

A Preparatory Committee was formed to prepare the constitution and all Shia-Ithnaasharia institutions of the world were invited to become members of the League or send delegates to the General Conference in London (U.K.).

The first conference was attended by almost 100 delegates representing Islamic associations and organizations from about 30 different countries. Before the conference commenced the Central Committee discussed the Constitution of the League and the Programme of the Conference.

The first day of the conference commenced with a recitation (Tilawat) of the Holy Qur'an followed by a welcome speech by *Hujjat al-Islam Sayyid Mahdi al-Hakim*. Then, *Hujjat al-Islam Sayyid Muhammad Bahr al-Uloom* gave the inauguration speech, spelling out the main problems in relation to Muslims in general, and

the followers of the Ahl ul-Bayt (a.s.) in particular. He underscored some of the challenging problems that Muslims have to deal with in the absence of sufficient amount of translated materials by publishers pertinent to the teachings of *Ahl al-Bayt* (a.s.) as well as the lack of good education and enough knowledge about them in the Muslim world. He went on to say that in the general survey which was made by some of the Muslim scholars *Ulamma*, it was found that all facilities and energies needed to tackle the problems were available but due to certain reasons they were scattered and sporadic.

Moreover *Hujjat al-Islam Bahr al-Uloom* pointed out that bringing all the efforts and energies together and pouring them into a pool had created the necessity for forming the League.

Dr. Saeed Rajai (Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran at the United Nations) pointed out how Western countries were giving importance to plotting and scheming against the Islamic Movement. He expressed his sorrow for those countries which are calling themselves Muslim, and yet humiliate themselves by following the enemies of Islam, seeking from them to solve their problems, when they should turn to Islam and its teachings.

Maulana Sayyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi from India (who was also the Director of the Preparatory Committee) said that the holding of such a conference was very useful as it offered the participants a chance to know each other and to get acquainted with problems and experiences of our brothers in Islam. He stated that there should be a census for the followers of Ahl ul-Bayt in the world and suggested that the World Islamic Ahl

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ul-Bayt League should publish a magazine concerned with the activities of Shi'ite Muslims all over the world. This magazine must also throw light on the followers of Ahl ul-Bayt in specific parts of the World to enlighten all our brothers about the life of the Shi'ite minorities in the world. He stressed the fact that if we all became united, we should through the blessing of Allah, succeed in achieving all our aims and objectives.

Hajjatul Islam Shaikh Muhammad Mahdi Shams Al-Din from Lebanon said in his speech that we must cooperate in the services of Allah and that we must assemble all individual efforts in a unified organization. He stated that the objective situation of the Muslims in certain parts of the worlds demanded greatly the need for unified community work. He then spoke about the Islamic Revolution in Iraq and stressed that it was the duty of every Muslim to support this blessed revolution in its fight and struggle against its enemies the *Kafir* forces who attempt to block the propagation of Islam. He also said that we must benefit from the Islamic revolution's intellectual and material support to the Islamic liberation movements. He then pointed out that the unity of all Muslims was a principle issue in the school of thought of the Shi'ite Muslims and that the Ahl ul-Bayt (a.s.) had also ordered their followers to mix and cooperate with followers of other Muslim faiths (madhahib). He stressed the necessity for such a conference and emphasized the importance of opening the door of *Ijtihad*. He stated that Islam is a civilized formula and that all Muslims were under attack by the imperialists who are all out to eradicate the Islamic character and replace it by a materialistic one.

Shaikh Muhammad Sarwar from U.S.A. urged the conference to send its envoy to convey a message to the Islamic institutes and to the United Nations in New York to demonstrate that the Shia Muslim minority in New York is a part of two hundred million Shi'ite Muslims all over the world. He emphasized that the American people must be enlightened about the problems that the Muslims in general and the Shi'ite in particular are facing nowadays. He also mentioned that there was a serious shortage of

the number of Preachers (*Mubalighs*) who propagate the Islamic Teachings in U.S.A. as well as of the Islamic books and publications. He also stressed that the Muslims voice must always be heard in the U.N.

Mulla Asgharali M.M. Jaffer, representing the "World Federation of the Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri Muslim Communities" said that his organization was ready to cooperate fully with the World Islamic Ahl ul-Bayt League. He also stressed his experience in propagating the Islamic *Da'awah* in East Africa in particular, where the Khoja Shi'ite Community live. He mentioned that the foundation of this league would certainly have a great influence particularly at this time when the world was witnessing an Islamic awakening.

Mulla Saheb went on to give a detailed history of Shia Communities in East Africa, the Federation of Khoja Shia Ithnaashery Jamaats of Africa and the Bilal Muslim Mission and its activities.

It was not possible, he said, within the limited time at his disposal, to enumerate all the activities of the Bilal Muslim Mission in detail. Of the many changes in the Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri Community he highlighted the fact that the Mission had spurred and prompted many Khoja boys and girls to engage in advanced religious studies. "With the African boys and girls in Iran today, we have a number of Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri students all pursuing higher religious education," he said.

Mulla Asgharali went on to say: "As I have mentioned earlier, the incessant and untiring efforts and contributions by Maulana Syed Saeed Akhtar Rizvi in this direction have been decisive and of great importance. His knowledge of Swahili and English has enabled him to offer his services without any hesitation. He was appointed Chief Missionary of Bilal Muslim Mission — an appellation signifying the new role of an *Aalim* among the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheris. For the first time, in its credence to this new appointment, it has been realised that the function of an *Aalim* can be much more beneficial, varied and discursive.

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"To this August Conference attended by the Ulema and intellectuals of ISLAM, I venture two submissions. First, that the Shia Ithnaashery Community of Africa has undergone a dispersal, and is now widely scattered in the West. The influence of ISLAM has got to be compatible with the inroads of anti-ISLAMIC influence, and the pace has got to be equal if not together. I hope and earnestly pray that this Ahlul Bayt League, with its high aims and noble objects will, with the aid of modern amenities and new approach, attend to this dire need giving it a preferential dispensation. The Programme need not be for Shias of Africa alone, for the problem faces all Muslims and is expected to endure if not remedied in time.

"The idea of leadership by Ulema is not a novel one. One can see such leadership provided by them is the history of Iraq, Iran, Syria, Lebanon and India. In modern times, we have seen it function in the Islamic Republic of Iran. With the establishment of this League, a new era has dawned, with our expectations running high. I hope that this leadership will not be restricted to the leading of the daily prayers, occasional preaching, solemnizing marriages and divorce, last rituals for the dying or the dead, exorcising those overtaken by the so-called evil spirits, amulets and divining. We hope that this leadership will conjoin the Islamic hope of heaven with justice on earth.

"Secondly, please do not forget Africa. Africa needs your prime attention. The faint but resonant recitation from the Holy Qur'an in the

court of Negus reverberates even today. Every African can become a replica of BILAL.

Mr. Yasin T. Aljibouri of "International Islamic Society of Virginia, U.S.A. in his message sought permission to state a few suggestions for uplifting the lives, spiritual and material, of missions of our Muslim Communities. "They are derived from my personal experience in Tabligh," he went on: "Our communities should get rid of the two most ferocious enemies: fear and easy to implement; accurate knowledge about Allah and his Deen (Religion), stronger ties among members of the Muslim community, dissemination and promotion of Islamic ethics and morals, especially among the youths. These can be achieved by well-organized sessions, debates, conferences, lectures, books and publications.... Members of The Muslim Community should be encouraged to ask questions about their faith, write about their problems and seek Islamic solutions for them." Mr. Yasin al Jibouri's another thought-provoking suggestion was when he urged the Conference "to utilize the literary, professional and scientific qualifications of members of our Muslim community, publish directories of talented and experienced muslims and encourage members of the Muslim community to seek their professional assistance rather than that of the Kafirs. Directories of Muslim organizations should be circulated around so that these organizations may contact each other and cooperate with each other in their Tabligh activities."

"Enjoin the Good and forbid the bad (evil) (al-amr bi al-Ma'ruf wa al-Nahy'an al-Munkar), otherwise evildoers will be installed over you, and your calls for the best among you (to rule) will go unheeded."
(hadith from "furu", Vol. V, al-Kafi, al-Kulayni)

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ACTIVE SCHEDULE FOR DELEGATION IN NAIROBI

The Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani, accompanied by Alhaj Manzoor Kanani, flew back from Mogadiscio on Sunday 15th January 1984 to start an official visit of Nairobi and received a warm welcome by members of the Managing Committee and elders of the Jamaat.

The Chairman was accompanied by the Vice Chairman Habib Mulji, the Hon. Treasurer Akber Dhirani, Councillor Fidahusseini Khaki from Dar es Salaam and Mulla Abdulrasul Hassanali Khaki from Mombasa.

The first official function was held on Monday night with a joint meeting between the delegation and members of the Managing Committee of Nairobi Jamaat. Some prominent community members and elders had also been invited to this meeting.

In his welcome address, the Chairman of the Nairobi Jamaat, Alhaj Manzoorali M. Kanani expressed gratitude to the delegation for visiting Nairobi and hoped the delegation would be able to appreciate and solve existent problems in the Jamaat there.

YOUTHFUL COMMITTEE

He said that while the Nairobi Jamaat had a vigorous Committee intrinsically composed of youths, this Committee often solicited help from experienced elders on delicate questions and responsibilities demanding experience and wisdom. He thanked the elders for their continuous support and said that because of this they had also been invited to the meeting with the visiting delegation.

Kanani then cited various developments of the Nairobi Jamaat in the past 10 years, like the construction of a Musafarkhana, the rebuilding of the Imambara, the building of a Madressa and the complete facelift to the mosque.

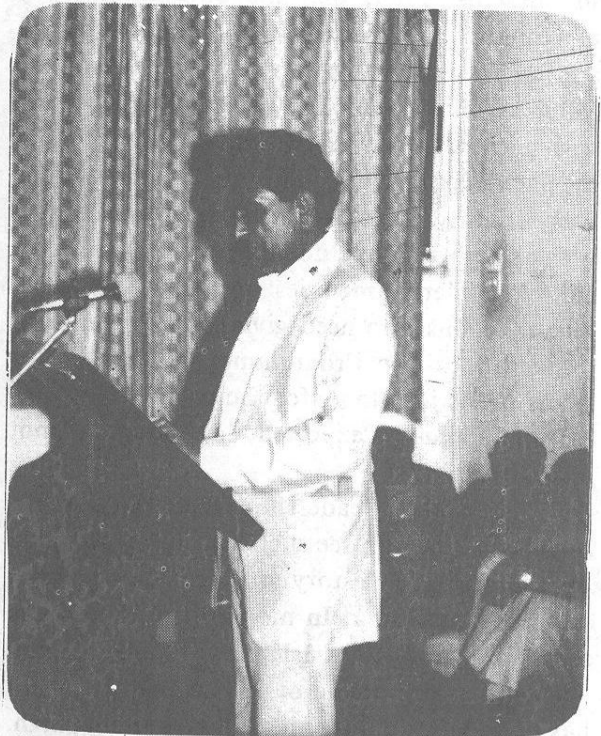
He said that while these developments had been confined within the precincts of the mosque complex, the Jamaat had even built residential flats for community members and emphatically looked forward to making further progress.

NEW OFFICE

He also announced the building of an office from which community affairs will be monitored

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Chairman, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani addressing members of the Nairobi Jamaat.

and stressed that an effective administration was needed for success in any project being undertaken. He also revealed plans to install an automatic telephone answer system to make information accessible to members living far from the Mosque.

On the new office, Kanani said he had anticipated this to be ready in time for the Federation Chairman to inaugurate it but unforeseen circumstances had delayed construction work. He thanked the family of Late Mulla Nanji for bearing the construction costs of the office but appealed for donations towards furniture costs.

FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

Kanani then aired the financial constraints of the Jamaat saying that the limited income producing assets generated only Shs. 5,000/- through rental income each month while the expenses for running the mosque and madressa alone came up to some Shs. 15,000/- per month. He requested the Council to consider channelling funds towards the present monthly deficits the Nairobi Jamaat is facing.

He also appealed for a subsidy from the

Council for the medical section because of the considerable demand on the Nairobi Jamaat to provide medical assistance sought by members of various other Jamaats. He said that with the present meagre income it was not easy to shoulder this financial burden.

Kanani also called upon the delegation to inform all constituent Jamaats that the Nairobi Jamaat will not extend medical assistance to any non member unless he produces a letter of request from his Jamaat. He hoped this would deter persons who can afford treatment from abusing this facility.

Finally he thanked the Federation Chairman for inviting him to join the delegation to Somalia and said the trip was not only enjoyable but also educational. He praised the Federation Chairman's tact, sincerity and wisdom in handling complicated problems and pledged to avail to the Nairobi Jamaat, whatever little he had learnt on the trip.

In reply the Chairman of the Federation said that he was happy to be with his Kenyan brothers and believed that personal contact was the most effective method to understand each other's problems and to enhance public relations. Mr. Dhirani added that he was highly impressed on how the affairs of the Nairobi Jamaat are being managed and attributed this to the vigour of the youthful committee coupled with the wisdom of the elders, whose help is solicited when necessary.

The floor was then left open for general discussion and many matters of mutual interest were discussed. The gathering was then treated to dinner.

The delegation visited Madrassatu Rasuluh Akram on Tuesday and had a lengthy discussion with the Principal of the Madressa, Sayed Murtadhā Murtadhā. The delegation was informed on the progress made so far and on the numerous problems being faced by the Management in the administration of the Madressa.

In reply the Chairman, Mr. Dhirani, said that the Council, to the best of its ability and resources, would try to assist the Madressa to solve some of its problems.

On the same day, the Chairman visited the HAIDERY ISLAMIC LIBRARY and also inspected all the Jamaat's premises.

After Magribian Prayers, the Chairman was met by all members of the Jamaat at the Imambara.

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The Nairobi Jamaat Chairman, Alhaj Manzooral Kanani during his welcome address to the visiting delegation.

CHAIRMAN HAILED

In his address, Mr. Manzooral Kanani hailed the Chairman for serving on the Council and in conferences for the past 20 years and for being the Chairman of the Dar es Salaam Jamaat for over 7 years and described as unique, the opportunity he had of receiving an outside Chairman to Nairobi unlike the past when the Chairman had always come from Kenya.

Whilst extending a cordial welcome to the rest of the delegation, Kanani highlighted the fact that this unprecedented visit had also coincided with the Golden Jubilee establishment of the Nairobi Jamaat.

He also pledged the Nairobi Jamaat's loyalty towards the Federation and its objectives, and asserted that as in the past, this support and cooperation will continue.

Kanani went on to recall the assistance the Nairobi Jamaat had enjoyed from the Federation, citing that Alhaj Mulla Asgherali M.M. Jaffer had donated Shs. 250,000/- in the name of the Federation towards the construction of new flats while Alhaj Abdulrasul Lakha, when Chairman, had donated Shs. 200,000/- towards construction of the Madressa. He also mentioned of a Shs. 100,000/- loan from the Council during the August, 1982 disturbances in the country, which he said proved useful in resettling some members.

He then reiterated his requirement for funds, pointing out that the roof of the Imambara and the adjoining flats was leaking thereby causing rain water to trickle through. The roof repairs needed some Shs. 100,000/- for which there were no provisions, he added.

NEW GENERATOR

Finally he announced on the installation of a new Generator at the Mosque for emergency use during power failures and thanked the Haidery Madressa and other donors who assisted towards the project.

In reply, Chairman Mohamed Dhirani said that the Council had always enjoyed excellent relations with the Nairobi Jamaat mainly due to its dedicated leadership and noted with gratification the pledge of full support and co-operation.

Dhirani added that the fact that the Nairobi Jamaat had provided two distinguished personalities to be Chairman of the Federation was a clear indication of loyalty to the Council.

Mr. Dhirani also conveyed greetings of the Somali Moamineens, who had shown great love and respect towards overall unity.

Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani then spoke on the 1,400 anniversary of the birth of Imam Hussein (A.S.) and the fate of our ULAMAS in Iraq. (See report of Somalia Visit).

Mr. Manzooralı Kanani then requested the Vice Chairman Alhaj Habib Mulji to switch on the newly installed emergency generator saying that the Vice Chairman's appointment by its very nature was also to function during emergency.

In his brief address before the ceremony, Mr. Habib Mulji said that by nature, human beings fear darkness and would do all they could to illuminate the world as soon as the sun sets. He went on to say that whilst we need glittering lights around us, we should also try to shine ourselves with Iman and maarefat so that in the life hereafter we are not dragged into infinite darkness.

On Wednesday, the Chairman, Mr. Dhirani made himself available from 5.30 p.m. onwards to meet members of the Jamaat with personal problems. He also visited the Haideri Islamic Madressa and took keen interest in the religious education of our children.

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SPORTS DINNER

In the night, the Chairman was the guest of honour at a grand dinner organised by the Nairobi Jaffery Sports Club at Park Road Primary School.

After the recitation of Holy Quran by Master Akil M. Karim, the master of ceremonies Mohamed Kassamali welcomed the Chairman of the Federation and his delegation. The Chairman of the Club Mr. Hassan Rashid then addressed the gathering and gave a brief history of the Club's 10 years existence. He narrated the hardship faced by the Club in its initial stages and the eventual progress made. He said that the Club had survived because of the dedications of its voluntary workers who had put their hearts into the Club and made it sail through thick and thin.

Today its activities include cricket, volleyball, football, tennis, swimming and table tennis.

Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani in his lively speech mentioned about the importance of sports and the part it plays in developing the minds of youths. He announced that the Supreme Council having been conscious of the development of youths had decided to organise a sports gathering at Africa Level and revealed, amid thunderous applaud, that the first such sports festival will Inshaallah be held this year. All the Jamaats will be invited to send participants to make it an event of great success.

The Chairman then presented trophies and miniatures to the winners of various tournaments. He also presented the Council's "ABUL FAZL Spotsman of the Year" trophy to Munir Merali for his outstanding performance in 1982.

On Thursday 19th January, the delegation paid a courtesy call on the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran and discussed how best Iran could assist our students to obtain higher Islamic Education and also attain degree courses.

During their four days stay, the delegation were accomodated at the residence of Manzooralı Kanani and Salim Dato. They were also entertained over lunch and dinner by Messrs. Aliasgher M. Nanji, Aunali Dato, G.H. Mussa, Aliraza M. Nanji, Ramzan M. Nanji and Rajabali Dato. ●

EDUCATION BOARD MEETS IN ARUSHA

Following the resignation of Haji Mohamedraza Pirbhai of Arusha as the Chairman of the Education Board, Haji Roshanali L. Mamdani of Moshi has been appointed in his place.

The first meeting of the Board under the new Chairman, was held at Arusha on 3rd March, 1984 wherein various topics were discussed which included the Draft By Laws of the Board, revised application forms for education loan and the report of the Secretariat of the Board since it was revived in April last year.

The Arusha meeting was attended by members of Education Boards from Mombasa, Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Moshi, Arusha and Mwanza. The Supreme Council was represented by its Vice Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji.

A detailed list of Technical Courses together with addresses of Educational Institutions were prepared by the Education Board and have been sent to each constituent Jamaat.

The Education Board's address is P.O. Box 1157, Moshi, Tanzania.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE EARMARKED FOR 1400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF IMAM HUSSEIN (S.A.)

The Muslim Ummah will be celebrating the 1400th anniversary of the birth of Imam Hussein (A.S.) on 3rd Shabaan 1404 A.H.

To mark this grand occasion and to ensure that the celebrations which will be held are befitting to the status of our great and beloved Imam, the following Committee has been appointed by the Chairman of the Federation to recommend a detailed programme for the event:—

Mr. Murtaza A. Lakha	Convenor
Mr. Raza Kara	Dar es Salaam
Mr. Akber Haji Peermohamed	Mombasa
Mr. Mohamed Khalfan	Dar es Salaam
Mr. Najaf Tejani	Dar es Salaam
Mr. Roshan A. Fazel	Dar es Salaam
Mr. Akber Thawer	Zanzibar
Mr. Anver Tharoo	Tanga
Mr. M. Baqir Alloo	Mwanza
Mr. Ali M.M. Jaffer	Arusha

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MOMBASA TO HOST SPORTS FESTIVAL

The Supreme Council being conscious of the development of our youths, appointed the following as members of the Adhoc Committee for organising the Sports Festival.

Mr. Mustafa Hassanali Pirbhai (Convenor)
Mr. Ibrahim A. Jivraj
Mr. Raza A. Virji
Mr. Mohamed Y. Somji
Mr. Mohamed Nathoo

The first task given to this Committee was to look into the viability of organising a sports meet at Africa Level and to recommend on the various tournaments, venues and the costs involved.

The Committee promptly responded to the call and produced its report. As a result the first ever Sports Festival involving youths of almost all the Africa Jamaats will be held in Mombasa in April.

The Secretariat of the Council records its appreciation to the Jaffery Sports Club, Mombasa for agreeing to host this great event.

W.A.B.I.L. HOLDS HUSSAIN DAY

The World Ahl ul-Bayt (A.S.) Islamic League held a grand ceremony to commemorate the blessed Revolution and martyrdom of the Master of the martyrs, Al Imam Al Hussain (A.S.).

We are told that the ceremony which was held on 22nd Safar, 1404 (27/11/83) was by the blessings of Allah very successful. This success was attested by the participation of prominent Ulema, in the forefront of whom were His Eminence Ayatullah Al Shaikh Azari Qommi, representative of the Imam of the Ummah, Imam Khomeini (may Allah continue His high shade over our heads) and the Secretary General of the Association of the Religious Scholars of the Hawza Ilmiya of Qom. There was also an active participation of 15 Islamic organisations in London and a large number of Mu'mineens. His Eminence Ayatullah Azari Qommi took part in the preparations for the Day and delivered a memorable speech during the ceremony.

Due to this success, W.A.B.I.L. has now decided to hold "Hussain Day" annually. ■

CHAIRMAN PAYS VISIT TO MOMBASA

The Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani was given a cordial welcome, when he landed at the Mombasa Airport, by the Chairman of the Jamaat Alhaj Akberali Peermohamed and members of his Managing Committee. Also present at the Airport were top officials of the Ithnaasheri Young Men's Union, Education Board, Bilal Muslim Mission and Jaffery Sports Club as well as other elders of the Jamaat.

The Chairman was accompanied by the Vice Chairman Habib Mulji, the Hon. Secretary Mohamedrafik Somji and the Hon. Treasurer Akber Dhirani. His entourage also included the Chairman of the Nairobi Jamaat, Manzooral Kanani, Councillor Fidahusseini Khaki from Dar es Salaam and Trustee Aliasgher M. Nanji from Nairobi.

Members of the delegation were accommodated at the residence of Haji Mohamedjaffer Mulla Hassanali Khaki where they were accorded excellent hospitality.

In the evening, the Chairman visited the Hussein Madressa and commended the principal, Mr. Aarif Abdula and his team of energetic workers for their great sacrifice in promoting religious education.

LOYALTY PLEDGE TO FEDERATION

The first official function was a grand reception dinner hosted by the Mombasa Jamaat at the Jaffery Sports Club on Friday, 20th January, 1984.

The reception opened with the recitation of the Holy Quran. The Chairman of the Jamaat, Haji Akberali Peermohamed then welcomed the Chairman and his delegation and said that Mr. Dhirani had saved the Federation by taking up the Chairmanship at a critical moment and that this was a gesture which the community would never forget. Haji Akberali went on to say "We realise that some destructive elements are trying to destroy our unity and to make your task difficult. But it should be noted that those who tried to kill the Federation in the past are themselves lying in their graves today, whilst the federation is progressing day by day. We assure you, Mr. Chairman, that any one who dares to disintegrate our unity will be crushed by us." He also pledged the Mombasa Jamaat's full co-operation and support towards the Federation.

Haji Akberali then gave a brief account of the activities carried out by various bodies affiliated to the Jamaat such as Faize Hussein, Young Men's Education Board, Jaffery Sports Club and Hussein Madressa. He said that all these institutions are commendably managed by our youngsters.

In reply, the Chairman, Mr. Mohamed Dhirani expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and said that the Mombasa Jamaat had been ahead of other Jamaats in a number of respects and he quoted the Alibhai Panju Jaffery School as one of the institutions of which the whole community was proud. He also praised the Jaffery Sports Club for representing the community well.

Mr. Dhirani said that the Headquarter of the Federation had been in Mombasa for 22 of the 37 years of its existence and that though the Federation had been inaugurated in Dar es Salaam, it had been nursed by Mombasa. He said that Mombasa provided the first Chairman, the Late Mr. A.H. Noormohamed, and also made available two distinguished personalities, namely the Late Haji Mohamedali Megji and Mulla Asgherali M.M. Jaffer, who ably steered the Federation to its present status. "The history proves that your Jamaat's loyalty towards the Federation has always remained unquestionable" Dhirani said.

DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM

The Chairman pointed that our community, apart from being a religious and business community, had also made this country its home and the numerous social and religious institutions which had been built were a clear indication of the community's faith in the country.

Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani then spoke at length on the democratic system of our organisation, which he termed as one of the best in the world. He added "We have gone through some difficult periods but at all times we remained united and solved our problems by exchange of thoughts and mutual co-operation. The important principle in our democratic system is that we believe in direct talks and whatever the difference of opinion may be, we agree to abide by the majority decision." The Chairman said that whatever the difference of opinion may have been in the Conference Room,

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delegates would normally embrace each other with affection when out of the room.

HIGHER ISLAMIC EDUCATION

Mr. Dhirani praised 10 boys and 8 girls of our community who have gone overseas for higher Islamic Education. He said that this was a step in the right direction and that more youths should be encouraged to pursue Islamic Courses. He congratulated Mombasa for producing 15 of the 18 students and then gave a brief report of the Madrasatul Rasulul Akram in Nairobi. He also called upon male students to take full advantage of the Higher Islamic Courses available there.

The Chairman then gave details of the financial assistance and loans given by the Council and said he was aware that much more was needed to raise the economic standard of members.

Mr. Dhirani also spoke on the celebration of the 1400 anniversary of the birth of Imam Hussein (A.S.) and the fate of our ULAMAS in Iraq. (see on Somali Visit). Moreover he announced that the Council would this year organise a "Youths Sports Festival" wherein teams from all the Jamaats will be invited to take part. It is expected that the games to be contested will be cricket, tennis, volleyball, squash and golf. "Youths are the backbone of the community and their development and progress must remain our prime objective" declared the Chairman. He also appealed to the Jaffery Sports Club to participate in full strength in this competition.

Later whilst having the sumptuous buffet dinner, the Chairman and his colleagues went round and chatted with many Mombasa brotheren.

On Saturday afternoon, the delegation met the Managing Committee of the Jamaat together with the Councillors and Executives of the Ithnaasheri Young Men's Union, Faize Hussein, Education Board, and Hussein Madressa. There was a candid discussion in which numerous questions were raised and various views were exchanged. At night the delegation attended a Barbeque hosted by the Ithnaasheri Young Men's Union and the Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri Education Board. After the dinner, the Chairman of the Federation was briefed on the activities of the Union by its Chairman, Mr. Asafali M. Gulamhussein. The Chairman of the Education Board, Haji Ahmed H. Sheriff spoke on the progress and problems of the Alibhai Panju Jaffery Primary and the Girls Secondary

Schools. In reply Mr. Dhirani requested the Education Board to look into the possibility of having a Secondary School for Boys as well.

This was followed by a general discussion which went through up to past mid night.

Sunday was the day for the Jaffery Sports Club. The Chairman visited the Club in the morning and saw the Jaffery Cricket team in action. A lunch was hosted by the Club at Dr. Mohamedraza Karim's residence and was followed by a meeting with the Managing Committee of the Club.

BILAL MUSLIM MISSION

At night, the delegation was invited to a dinner hosted by the Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya. The Chairman of the Mission, Mr. Razaali M. Raffiq welcomed the guests and spoke on the activities of the Mission. The Chairman of the Federation, Mr. Mohamed Dhirani praised members of the Mission for their unique efforts and said that it was only ALLAH who could assess the true reward of these efforts, since no worldly wealth could be an adequate recompensation. He advised them not be frustrated by unwarranted propoganda or lack of co-operation from any quarter. "You have reached very far and do not have to look back. Just keep on marching and Allah and His Ahlu Bait are with you" said the Chairman.

The delegation visited the Alibhai Panju Jaffery School on Monday 23rd January and discussed with the Management the present set up and future plans. Members of the delegation also went round to look at the Council's properties in Mombasa.

At night, the Chairman had a marathon 4 hours meeting with the Managing Committee of the Jamaat. A number of issues were discussed, some of them controversial, but the entire meeting was ably conducted by the Chairman of the Federation in a very cordial atmosphere. Throughout the meeting, the spirit of unity and brotherhood remained high and both the parties, Federation and the Jamaat, praised each other for the prevalent sense of understanding in solving problems.

On Tuesday, 24th January, the delegation visited the Bilal Muslim Mission complex at Mackinon Road and was greatly impressed to see the progress made for spreading Mazhabe Haq.

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GOLDEN CRESCENTS RECKONED

The Golden Crescent Group of Mombasa District hosted a dinner on the same evening which was attended by Executives of the Jamaat and various other institutions of the Jamaat. Many other dignitaries also attended this function.

The Director of the Group, Mr. Muslim Somji, in his welcome address thanked the Chairman of both the Federation and Mombasa Jamaat for attending the function and thus honouring the Group. The Deputy Governor, Mr. Abdulrazak A. Molu then introduced the guests.

The Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani praised the GCG members as being well disciplined and said that he had attended a good number of GCG Seminars and had been a speaker on one occasion and also had the privilege of chairing one seminar. Mr. Dhirani noted that various religious and social matters were discussed at these seminars and expressed certainty that if the recommendations made at seminars were implemented by the Jamaats, they would do a lot of good to the community. He said that many Jamaats had accepted recommendations put up by the group.

With regard to recognition of the Group by the Jamaats, or for that matter by the Supreme Council, the Chairman quoted a statement made by one of the Past Chairmans of the Federation, Mulla Asgherali M.M. Jaffer, who said that the G.C.G. was a group to be reckoned since it was a group of our youths who should not be ignored but rather encouraged on the efforts made by them.

Mr. Dhirani said that in smaller Jamaats which had no other youth movement, GCG enjoyed full recognition and was rendering valuable services. In larger Jamaats like

Mombasa and Dar es Salaam where other similar societies exist, Dhirani said that the GCG perhaps stood little chance for direct recognition but stressed this should not deter the group to concentrate in activities not covered by existing institutions.

Mr. Dhirani also commended the group for organising youth camps which served to tap hidden talents.

The Chairman of the Jamaat, Haji Akberali Peermohamed then praised the group for its role in serving the sick, poor and disabled. He said that many good deeds were being carried out by the group which must be appreciated and that the GCG had given opportunities to talented people to assume challenging responsibilities of leadership.

The Vice Chairman Mr. Habib Mulji then spoke in his capacity as the Immediate Past Governor and said that as a Governor he had noticed an immense interest in GCG Projects and that all crescents played their part in living up to the ideals of the Group. He added that the Group's sympathy for the poor, sick and the disabled of all races and creed gave its members deep satisfaction of serving humanity. Mulji said the project of sending a Moamin to perform HAJ was indeed exemplary and had astounded many.

Mr. Mulji added that the GCG has on record an impressive list of achievements and accomplishments for which members had to put in valuable time and resources not only for the benefit of our community but also for outsiders who needed assistance.

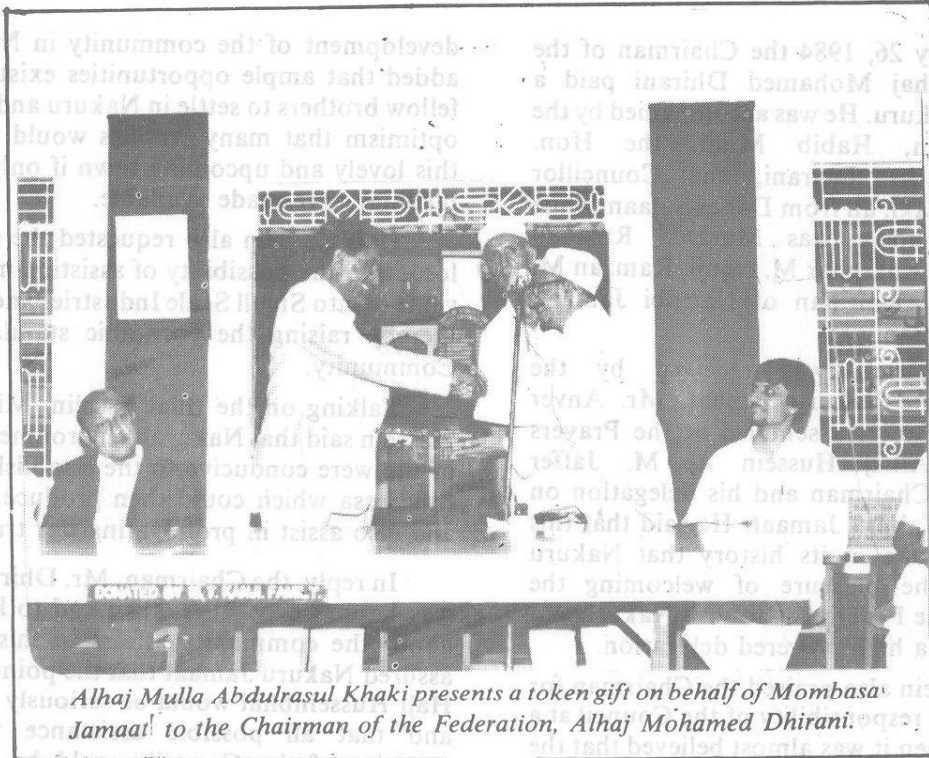
On Wednesday, 25th January, the delegation was seen off at the Mombasa Airport by the Chairman of the Jamaat and many distinguished personalities, including Mowlana Sayed Aka Haider Saheb.

THE MOST glorious moments in your life are not the so-called days of success, but rather those days when out of dejection and despair you feel rise in you a challenge to life, and the promise of future accomplishments.

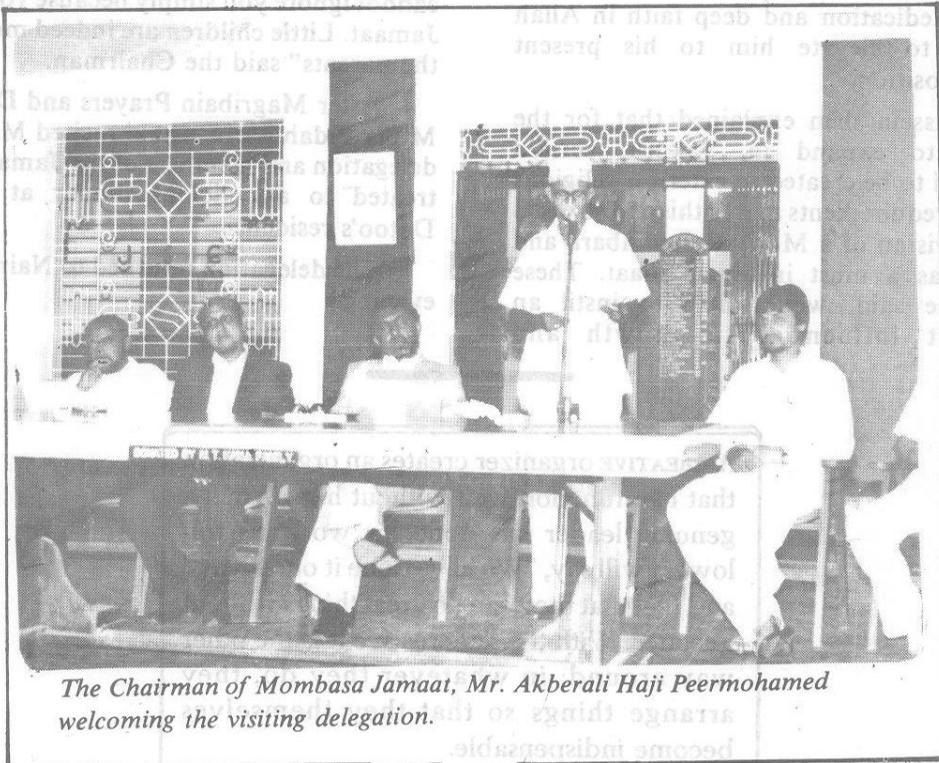
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MOMBASA VISIT IN PICTURES



Alhaj Mulla Abdur Rasul Khaki presents a token gift on behalf of Mombasa Jamaat to the Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani.



The Chairman of Mombasa Jamaat, Mr. Akberali Haji Peermohamed welcoming the visiting delegation.

VISITING CHAIRMAN TOLD OF PROSPECTS IN NAKURU

On January 26, 1984 the Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani paid a day's visit to Nakuru. He was accompanied by the Vice Chairman, Habib Mulji, the Hon. Treasurer, Akber Dhirani, the Councillor Fidahussein Khaki, all from Dar es Salaam while from Nairobi there was Murabbi Rajabali Dadoo, Trustee Aliasghar M. Nanji, Ramzan M. Nanji and the Chairman of Nairobi Jamaat, Manzoorali Kanani.

The delegation was received by the Chairman of the Nakuru Jamaat, Mr. Anver Dadoo and members assembled at the Prayers Hall where Alhaj Hussein A. M. Jaffer welcomed the Chairman and his delegation on behalf of the Nakuru Jamaat. He said that this was the first time in its history that Nakuru Jamaat had the pleasure of welcoming the Chairman of the Federation to visit Nakuru and that also, with a high powered delegation.

Haji Hussein also praised the Chairman for taking over the responsibility of the Council at a crucial time when it was almost believed that the Federation would collapse. He said the Chairman's dedication and deep faith in Allah had served to elevate him to his present prestigious position.

Haji Hussein then explained that for the community to expand in Nakuru, certain facilities need to be created to cater for religious and cultural requirements and to this end stressed that the provision of a Mosque, Imambarah and Madressa was a must in any Jamaat. These institutions, he said, would help to instil an environment influential to growth and

development of the community in Nakuru. He added that ample opportunities existed for our fellow brothers to settle in Nakuru and expressed optimism that many families would migrate to this lovely and upcoming town if only the basic facilities were made available.

Haji Hussein also requested the Council to look into the possibility of assisting members to venture into Small Scale Industries and Farming, thereby raising the economic standard of the Community.

Talking on the Bilal Muslim Mission, Mr. Hussein said that Nakuru's environment and way of life were conducive to the establishment of a Madressa which could then produce true Shias and also assist in propagating our true faith.

In reply, the Chairman, Mr. Dhirani, said he was happy to be in Nakuru and to know more about the community affairs in this town. He assured Nakuru Jamaat that the points raised by Haji Husseinbhai would be seriously considered and that all possible assistance within the capacity of the Council would be availed. "I cannot ignore you simply because you are a small Jamaat. Little children are indeed more loving to the parents" said the Chairman.

After Magribain Prayers and Dua-Kaumel, Mulla Fidahussein Khaki recited Majlis and the delegation and members of the Jamaat were then treated to a delicious dinner at Mr. Anver Dadoo's residence.

The delegation returned to Nairobi the same evening.

A CREATIVE organizer creates an organization that can function well without him. When a genuine leader has done his work his followers will say, "We have done it ourselves," and feel that they can do great things without a leader. With the noncreative it is the other way around: in whatever they do, they arrange things so that they themselves become indispensable.

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DAYA WINS UNION SQUASH TOURNNEY

The top seed, Munir Daya won the first Union Sports Club closed squash championship when he beat second seed, Hasnain Virjee 6/9,9/7,9/4,9/0 in an exciting 45 minute final before a packed gallery at the club's new squash court in Dar es Salaam.

In the Plate event, Haider Jeraj triumphed 8/10,9/3,9/4,9/5 over Riyaz Nurmohamed in another exciting 40 minute encounter.

The tournament which was contested by 36 players was sponsored by Mohamed Virani of Bobby Soap Factory who contributed T-Shirts and trophies, amongst which was the glamorous Virani Memorial Floating Trophy.

There was a record attendance of about 120 people on the night of the finals but the squash court gallery could only accomodate half as many while the rest kept abreast with oral scores.

Various dignitaries from the community attended the occasion amongst whom were the Federation chairman, Mohamed Dhirani and the newly elected president of Dar es Salaam jamaat, Gulam Janmohamed.

The presentation ceremony was held during a grand barbecue held immediately after the finals. President Gulam Janmohamed made the presentation to the winners of the Main event while the honorary secretary, Mohamedali Chagani awarded the Plate event winners.

The chairman of Union Sports Club, Saleh Jacksi presented two youngsters, Jamil Kermali and Imran Virani with radios for their promising performance during the championship.

The club's squash captain, Asgar Dhanji who was the Master of ceremonies for the night, promised to keep the section active in the coming season.

A word of appreciation also needs to be given to the rest of the tournament committee, namely Mohamed Nathoo, Iqbal Damji, Asgar Alidina and Munir Daya for making the event a memorable one.

In all, it jolly well was!

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Munir Daya poses with the Virani Memorial Squash Trophy.

NAIROBI JAFFERY KNOCKOUT RIVALS

The Nairobi Jaffery Sports Club Cricket side put on a remarkable performance over their rivals to emphatically win the 1983/84 season Kenya Cricket Association (KCA) Junior knockout tournament.

The success of the team was attributed to regular practices, hard work and good sportsmanship amongst players.

We congratulate the Club on this achievement and wish them all success in the next season.

Meanwhile we are told that the Club has hired the Jamhuri High School premises to cater for cricket, volleyball, swimming, tennis, football and table tennis. Use will also be made of the cricket pavilion at the school.

The three year hire contract has been taken up to further consolidate the welfare of the Club's members.

JAFFERY SWEEP MOMBASA CRICKET GLORIES

Mombasa Jaffery Sports Club cruised through a gruelling 28 weeks of hard, exciting and competitive cricket to emerge overall champions of the Mombasa Cricket Association league.

The league championship was contested by nine Mombasa teams who played each of their opponents twice. Jaffery finished the event with only one defeat in 16 games and were followed by Hatim Karimjee.

The team's stalwarts received recognition for their sterling efforts in the past season during the Annual General Meeting of the club which was held in February, 1984. Those who were awarded include: Shiraz Mohamed (1983) Cricketer of the Year; Mehboob Kassamali (Junior Cricketer of

the year) and A.P. Mohamed (Sportsman of the Year).

During the meeting, a new committee was also elected into office. Those elected are: Masoomali Meghji (Chairman), Hussein A. Merali (Vice Chairman); Hussein M.M. Jaffer (Hon. Secretary); A. Kassim Khaki (Hon. Treasurer) and Shabbir M.T. Kanji (Sports Secretary). Others on the committee are: Dr. M.A. Karim, Asaf Gulamhussein, Zulfikar Fazal, M.T. Gulamabbas, Gulamhussein Khaku and Roshan Merali.

Our congratulations and best wishes to the club for the forthcoming season.



JAFFERY STARS — At the annual General Meeting of Jaffery Sports Club Mombasa several team stalwarts received due recognition for their sterling efforts throughout 1983-84. They included (from left) Shiraz Mohamed '1983 Cricketer of the Year', Mehboob Kassamali 'Junior Cricketer of the Year', and A.P. Mohamed 'Sportsman of the year'.

UNION CLINCHES CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP

Union Sports Club of Dar es Salaam put in an exhilarating performance to emphatically win the national Sunday league championship for the seventh successive year.

Union breezed through the championship in grand style by keeping its rival teams under constant pressure and at the end of the season emerged unbeaten from eleven games.

The highlight of the team's batting was the performance of Team Captain Amir Yusuf's contribution of 386 runs at an average of 58.6. However Mohamed Nathoo grabbed the highest honour by hammering 383 runs to obtain a magnificent average of 76.6.

On the bowling side, Bashir Tejani

performed well to emerge as the team's highest wicket taker with a haul of 24 wickets but average-wise Kasim Bhimji was the best with 16 wickets for an average of 8.75. Union were also ably supported by Mohamed Rahim who bagged 23 wickets and Sajjad Lakha, who lacked an immense haul, but provided accuracy and control which limited the flow of runs.

Mention also needs to be made of the four players from Union's counterpart in Arusha, Kilimeru Club, who helped consolidate the team. The four players were Gulamraza Shariff, Raza Pyarali, Jameel Shariff and Munir Shariff.

We congratulate all the team's players for this memorable victory.

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MUSLIMS DUTY TO A DECADENT CULTURE

Analyses of the riots that have erupted in various areas in Britain and attempts to explain why mobs of young people have attacked the police, damaged and burnt property, and looted shops have often been made. The situation with a variety of factors and motives at work is complex but from an Islamic angle we are bound to say that the most important single underlying cause leading to these disturbances is the ruthless pursuit of materialism which one finds at all levels of society today. That is to say, the obsessive race for wealth, money, fame, status and outward glitter and glamour!

The individual's thinking is inundated through schools, newspapers, magazines, television, advertisements and other misleading medias that propogate a person with more money, more household gadgets, better job, power and attributes to be a superior person. The business man who cares only for profit and the looter who feels no shame both follow this standard as does the politician who wants power for himself and the vandal whose act of destruction makes him feel powerful. This blind race for materialistic ends has many disastrous consequences, four of which we mention below.

1: CONTEMPTUOUS DISREGARD OF LAW AND JUSTICE

When materialistic pursuits become the sole aim in life, the law then ceases to be regarded as the criteria for ensuring justice. For instance, at one end of the spectrum there is the industrialist who buys his way around the law through accountants and lawyers who steer him through the dubious region between legality and illegality. Seeing them, many people at the other end of the spectrum, to whom materialism is also preached but who have failed in the race, feel no qualms on ceasing any available opportunity to enrich themselves irrespective of how this is done.

2: LAW-ENFORCEMENT BASED ON MATERIALISTIC PHILOSOPHY

The second baneful consequence of materialism is that the law is enforced purely through physical force, by means of the police, courts, punishments and prisons since society and the state does not recognise the moral force

as a guideline to refrain from wrong—doing. There are many serious implications of this approach to law-enforcement, like, for instance the law being used, not to ensure justice, but to protect the interests of certain sections. Very often in such situations the state becomes obsessed with maintaining an image of infallibility for its law-enforcement agencies with a reluctance to acknowledge mistakes publicly and to correct any errors or breaches of the law committed by these institutions. The resulting grievances against the authorities, especially on the part of certain communities in particular areas, were a crucial factor in the recent disturbances.

3: PEOPLE JUDGED ON OUTWARD APPEARANCE

A third consequence of following materialistic standards is that a person tends to be judged and treated according, not to his character or doings, but to factors such as his outward appearance, clothes, accent, colour of skin, the area in which he resides, the model of car he drives and the like. No wonder, therefore, that those who are wronged in this way by state and society become alienated.

4: CONTEMPT FOR OTHER CULTURES

Yet another result of materialism is the tendency to regard as inferior, and to hold in contempt, the cultures, ways, and customs of people from the economically-backward lands of Asia, Africa and the West Indies. Material advancement is believed synonymous with civilisation, and hence those from poorer countries are considered uncivilised.

Aside from the above four destructive consequences, materialism generally lowers man to the animal level, makes him his fellow-man's enemy, and effaces within him any feelings of sympathy, charity and compassion and puts in their place greed, jealousy, friction and hatred.

Technical advance has made the world's leading nations arrogant and ruthless with a resultant ill-will atmosphere being created. This free and advanced society is thus unwittingly making progression towards retrogression. It has weakened human relations, disrupted human institutions, increased fondness towards art and

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pleasure and is gradually having its resources diverted to an increase in crime which will only lead to a further state of uncertainty and fear.

With no moral restriction, today's politicians under the guise of patriotism manage to deceive their own people and even usurp resources from other nations. Left to itself, guided by greed, comfort and pleasure with complete disregard to all idealism and higher values, it is only a matter of time when this society will grind itself to a halt after having lost all impetus to progress and will then be left clinging to only mere existence. It will be a society of killers, addicts and potential suicides. From our knowledge of history as revealed in the Book of God we know that when a society has reached this stage, when its existence is not justified by usefulness, then it ceases to be sustained by the Law of God and its final destruction is ordered.

The presentation of Islam to the people of our age therefore is not only a religious duty, but a social obligation as well. We owe it to mankind to acquaint it with what we know is in its interest and we are answerable to God for its conveyance which should be in a manner that does justice to the importance of His message.

Our success in presenting Islamic ideology depends on: (a) the image we establish in the minds of our contacts. If our character embodies Islamic virtues and what is generally considered to be good then we stand a reasonable chance of getting a favourable response to what we say; and (b) discretion in selecting our subject and choosing our moment.

We have the evidence of Abu Zar who was the sixth or seventh to accept Islam. When he heard of Muhammad — may peace be upon him — he sent his brother on a mission of enquiry. On his return his brother told him, "This man, whom they call a renegade teaches nothing but the best in etiquette, and the literature he recites is certainly not mere poetry, but something different." So Muhammad, to an observer of his time was not just calling people to rituals and religious practices as was the traditional religious

method, but was seen as a builder of character and a setter of a higher culture.

Then we have the evidence of Jaafar son of Abu Talib. When the king of Abbysinia asked him to explain this religion which his companions had adopted in preference to Christianity and Paganism, he replied: "O King! We were ignorant people, we used to worship idols, we used to eat dead animals, we used to indulge in obscenity, we used to harm our neighbours even a brother used to be unjust to his brother and the strong used to exploit the weak. But then a man appeared amongst ourselves of whose honesty, integrity and culture we were truly impressed. He invited us to obedience to God and taught us to leave worshipping idols, to be truthful, to abstain from shedding blood, to abstain from slandering women of good character, to observe prayer, fasting and paying of the poor rate. We believed in him and left worshipping idols and associating others in the sovereignty of God and we abstained from all those bad deeds."

Thus Islam, to an observer of that time was not just a metaphysical doctrine concerned with the soul and the hereafter, but also a movement against ignorance and man's subjugation and a movement against harmful habits for the betterment of the individual and his society. It was indeed depicted as a movement for the revival of human dignity!

Let us approach it with the consciousness of one who is trying to restore a lost property to its rightful owner even though the owner is unable to recognise it.

We also need to remember that our position is among them and not away from them. We do not have to behave as occasional preachers who condescend to preach the gospel to non-believers. We need to mix with our fellow men in all sincerity with a wish to serve them to the best of our ability. It can be recalled that the messengers of God did lay down obligations towards our neighbours and indeed to the various people we come across in our daily lives.

WE THINK OTHERS are thinking of us; but they aren't. They're just like us: they're thinking of themselves.