

April 1993



# Federation Samachar

## TURBULENCE...

## ...AROUND

## THE

## WORLD



**A quick glance at current world affairs shows that there is a riding tide of Anti-Islamism. Islam is viewed as medieval anti-progress and even tyrannical and is interpreted to be a major threat after communism. In Bosnia, 'ethnic cleansing' by the Serbs continues and Muslims are being forcibly ejected out of their homes, their properties plundered and their women raped at a scale never before heard in world history. And international mediators are proposing further division of Muslim Bosnia into autonomous regions thereby giving no say to the Muslim Government.**

[cont....page 4]





## From the Editor's Desk

### Happiness is a trial to be feared!

Happiness and Contentment are both a state of mind. Happiness is more related to the values one holds or the attitude one cultivates towards material comforts and sensuality of this world while contentment is the growth of spiritualism.

A person may be happy at the good state of his health or worldly means but not content with it yet. He fails to appreciate that there are many others who are not as fortunate. Because he is not content, he is not likely to offer "Shukr" to God.

On the other hand, a person may not be happy with the state of his health or worldly means and yet, despite his unsuccessful efforts, he is content reposing full faith in God.

This is only because there are priorities in the aspiration of man, and these are ranked according to the values he attaches to the comforts of his life, however temporal and to the bliss of the next life which is eternal, however distant! This pre-supposes that he does be

lieve in the Hereafter! It is this order of priorities that determines whether one is happy but not content or content and therefore happy too!

The mind that is inclined towards wrong priorities is restless in pursuit of contentment and that towards right priorities is tranquil because of its contentment.

There is, no doubt, certain joy in the possession of material benefits but this kind of happiness soon fades and again the quest is for even better things. The search is never ending and 'happiness' becomes elusive as that imaginary 'something' at the converging end of two straight lines. One may walk towards it but it will never seem any nearer and if one reaches out for it, it never can be grasped.

The problem is that the materialistic approach to achieve happiness draws many into the 'rat-race' and in their quest for quick money some people even indulge in dishonest dealings whilst others are known to relegate religious obligations.

But the soul which is tranquil with contentment is one which finds itself in peace with the guidance of its Creator. To such a soul happiness is temporal, related only to this world. More often this happiness is a trial to be feared.

Selfless leaders in the history of the community are the examples of those blessed souls who find or found contentment and tranquility of mind (nafsul mutma'in) through service to the community at the expense of 'the happiness' which they could have achieved if they had instead devoted themselves with the same zeal to their business or occupation. Theirs are and were the brilliant minds that could have been profitably applied to achieve the happiness of this world.

They served the Community more conscious of how God judged them and not the mortals. Theirs were the tranquil minds free of emotions which are out of place and suspicions which are misplaced.

**Editor**



# YOUR LETTERS

## FEDERATION SAMACHAR

A Publication of the Federation of  
Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaats of  
Africa.

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Editors: Mohamedali Chagani  
Munir Daya



Editorial Assistant :Mukhtar Damji

Advertising: Amir Lakha

Distribution: Fazleabbas Dhirani

Photography: Murtaza Jivraj

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MUNIR DAYA

### Defending Shias with a Pen

Dear Brother,

Assalamu Alaykum

We hope and pray that you and all Momeneen in Tanzania and East Africa are in the best of health and prosperity by the Grace of Allah Ta'ala.

In your last Issue [Volume 27, No. 2], I was delighted to see the article 'Defending Shias with a pen' by Munir Daya and appreciate the views expressed therein.

The World Ahl-ul-Bayt (A.S.) Islamic League [W.A.B.I.L.] believes that increased efforts are seriously required to tackle the situation with regard to attacks on the Shia faith from the western media. The Shia need to concentrate more on the media because it is one of the strongest weapons in today's world.

We should encourage our people to enter the media, in all its channels and to defend the reality of Shia Islam through these channels. The example of the Jews is in front of us - - they effectively control the media and hence control the opinions of millions of people all over the world.

W.A.B.I.L. is trying it's best to do whatever possible in this regard in spite of many difficulties and we hope that articles like 'Defending Shias with a Pen' will

spread the awareness among our communities in East Africa and worldwide that we need to have an upper hand in the media if we want to defend the real Islam.

May Allah bless you with more light and Taufeeq to be of the sincere servants of Imam Al-Mahdi (A.J.F.) and my Salams to all Momeneen of East Africa.

Sayyed Muhammad Musawi  
Secretary General  
W.A.B.I.L.  
56 Brondesbury Park  
LONDON NW6 7AT

### A Good Word

Dear Brother,

Assalamu Alaykum

We thank you for sending us your publication regularly. The *Federation Samachar* is full of information about community activities and is also a source of guidance for members. The Issues are being keenly circulated amongst our members.

Meanwhile we enclose some news which we hope you will find suitable to publish.

With duas and salaams

P. Hirani  
Editor, Jamaat News  
Khoja (Pirhai) S.I. Jamaat  
Karachi, PAKISTAN.

Thank you for your comments. Please keep on sending us the news.

EDITOR.



## COVER NARRATION

# TURBULENCE

AROUND THE

# WORLD

[from cover page]

In Iraq, sanctions continue to bite despite its acceptance of Gulf War ceasefire terms and Somalia is still boiling in its ethnic melting pot whilst in India the destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya and the subsequent massacre of Muslims leave tragic memories. The story is the same in Burma, Afghanistan and Palestine.

It is incumbent on Muslims to counter such situations in whatever way they can without deviating from our faith in Allah. Fighting back through terrorism which kills so many innocent civilians cannot be acquiesced and neither can the destruction of sacred places, like the recent destruction of temples after the demolition of the Babri Mosque. Such 'tit for tat' acts of aggression only aggravate the situation further.

Islam is a peaceful religion and Muslims are absolutely no threat to anyone unless it or they are threatened. When some activists fight the oppressors they are wrongly referred to as terrorists.

Such terms as fanatics, extremists, terrorists and fundamentalists are frequently applied to Muslims by the Western media and this is a clear demonstration of insensitivity towards the world's almost one billion Muslims.

Western tolerance of alcoholism, fornication, prostitution and drugs is abhorrent to Islam and Muslims should not be expected to adopt Western values at the cost of Islamic values. The irony is that those who actually indulge in terrorism are now audaciously blaming the Muslims for indulging in it. But can one forget Vietnam, Hiroshima and only recently, the air strike on Iraq, which has accepted all U.N. terms. The simple answer is 'NO', however much the perpetrators may wish to do so.

## Chairman's Eid Message

### *When wealth is a debt*



I begin with the Name of The Beneficent, The Merciful.

Boundless thanks are due to the Almighty for granting us the Blessings of the Holy Month of Ramadhan and the benefits thereof of both the worlds. Today, as we tearfully bid farewell to the Holy Month, let us beseech The Lord to change our little acts of worship into greater ones and accept them.

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of my colleagues and on my own behalf, I convey to you all Felicitations of Eid.

In the Qur'an, the Lord Almighty admonishes : "And give to your kinsman his due and to the needy and the wayfarer and do not be a wastrel. Indeed, the wastrels are brethren of satans; and Satan has always rebelled against his Lord." (27;26-27).

Wealth is among the greatest blessings of the Lord. Grave are its responsibilities too. It is said that whosoever fails to fulfil its responsibility will, on the Day of Judgement, repent and wish he had not been wealthy on earth and did not have to face such dire tribulations.

Just as wealth accumulated un-

lawfully is the cause for punishment, similarly, blessings bestowed lawfully are also accountable.

In Islam, wealth is a blessing that will be tried. And if the wealthy in the Community spend lavishly for the luxuries of life, they are not fulfilling the obligations of the blessing due upon them.

Imam Zainul Abideen (a.s.) has advised : "Wealth earned through lawful means and spent appropriately is a blessing for you. Do not spend it only on yourself, but in Obedience to The Lord and do not be tight-fisted. Do not allow yourselves to fall victims of its adverse consequences and rue it afterwards."

No one knows when death will embrace him. So, before that happens, let us expend the blessings well and pass the trials with flying colours.

This is the first Eid since the passing away of Ayauallah El-Khoei. We pray to The Almighty to elevate his status in the proximity of His Mercy.

At the same time, we beseech The Almighty to grant our Marja-e-Taqlaad, Ayatullah Al-Udhma Seyyid Muhammad Ridha Gulpaigani a long, healthy life and under his guidance bestow upon the Community spiritual and wordly progress.

In the end, let us recite Fatiha for our brothers and sisters who left this world during the year as well as for all the departed souls.

1st Shawwal, 1413  
25th March, 1993



## JIBA ELECTS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE BEARERS

At the third International Conference held in Dubai on 2 January, 1993 the following were elected to spearhead the JIBA International Chamber of Commerce and Industry for a period of two years.

- Anver Rajpar - International Chairman
- Nisar Virani - International Secretary
- Husein I. Haji - International Treasurer
- Nazir Jessa - International V.C. for U.K.
- Jaffer Karmally - International V.C. for U.S.A. and Canada

**Asgheer Bharwani** - International V.C. for Africa  
**Mustafa Dhanji** - International V.C. for Asia

The Dubai session was attended by over 100 delegates from Pakistan, India, America, Britain, Canada, Madagascar, Kenya and Tanzania amongst others.

The JIBA secretariat will be based in Karachi and the next Conference will be held there in December, 1993.

## In Ontario, Canada

Courts in Ontario traditionally conduct an opening ceremony of the courts at the beginning of the new year and this year's occasion was held on 6 January, 1993.

For the first time, the service at the opening of the courts was this year delivered by Toronto's resident alim, Dr. Liyakatali Takim, in the presence of many judges and lawyers including the Chief Justice of Ontario, Charles Dubin.

Dr. Takim spoke on justice in Islam and the Chief Justice described it as an excellent and enlightening speech. This is the first time in Ontario for a Muslim to speak at a Jewish Temple in front of a largely Christian congregation.

## Nahj Al-Balagha in 10 Languages

The Nahj Al-balagha Institute in Iran has declared that it intends to publish the Nahj Al-Balagha (traditions of Imam Ali Bin Abi Talib A.S. that were edited by Al-Shariff Al Radi) in ten languages to allow readers from different sectors to benefit from it.

The Institute has established a special school which handles any queries one may have with regard to the Nahj Al-Balagha. Readers wishing to have more information may write to: Beniad Nahj Al-Balagha, P O Box 11365/ 635, Tehran.

## Liberian Muslims Suffer

Muslims in Liberia now number about 1.8 million and are thus in the majority but they have been suffering since December, 1990 through the Liberation National Front led by Charles Taylor, who launched ferocious attacks to topple the military regime and in these attacks, Muslims were made the main target of attack by rebels.

Liberia was founded as an independent Republic in 1847 and have been ruled by Christians since then. Christians comprise of about 15% of the population. Muslims there are not necessarily demanding the throne but are asking for peace, tranquility and mutual living if they are not to hit back.

The outbreak of civil war in the country has cost the lives of 20,000 Muslims and 700,000 Muslims have been rendered homeless. Of these about 300,000 are refugees in Guinea.

## M.A.B. imposes new Levy

The Medical Advisory Board (M.A.B.) of the World Federation is now charging Sterling Pounds 50 as administration charge for any patient going to the UK for treatment.

Since its inception in 1979, the M.A.B. has served over 2539 patients and increasing administrative services necessitated the establishment of a sub-secretariat in Birmingham in 1984. The World Federation has since spent Sterling 71,000 in running the M.A.B. in Birmingham. Today administrative costs run to Sterling 11,000 per annum.

Of the 2539 patients who have been served by the M.A.B., less than 2% have contributed towards the administration costs and the new levy has been imposed in wake of the increasing deficit. Medical and Welfare services by doctors and volunteers will continue to be offered free.

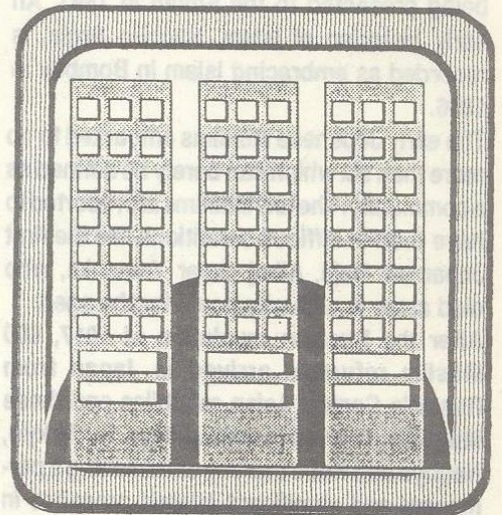
## KHOJA JAMAAT COMPLEX FOR KARACHI

The Pirhai Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat in Karachi has planned to construct a Khoja Jamaat Complex in Karachi. The proposed Complex will house two large Community Halls, the Fatimiyah Girls School (upgraded to Metric level), a Religious Centre, a Library and Study Centre plus a Dead Body Bath House and Jamaat Secretariat.

A 2000 square yards plot has already been purchased in the heart of the city in an area extensively populated by the Khoja Community. The projected cost for the Complex is Rs. 35 million.

Ayatullah Gulpaegani has granted permission to spend Khums or Sehme Imam (A.S.) for this project. Further information or remittance may be made to:

**Khoja (Pirhai) S.I.J., Gul Manzil, Opp. Quaid-e-Azam Birth Place, Fakhre-Matri Road, Kharadhar, Karachi - 74000, PAKISTAN.**



ARTWORK OF THE PROPOSED JAMAAT COMPLEX

## HOLY QURAN IN ZULU

The Islamic Propagation Center International (IPCI) of South Africa has published a translation of the Holy Qur'an in Zulu.

The Zulus, led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, are the largest ethnic population group in South Africa totalling 8 million.



## Upsurge of Islam in Japan

Once considered a distant and exotic religion in Japan, Islam is now attracting increasing numbers of converts and they are estimated to number about 30,000 which is way above the early 1980s figure of 2000.

Religion plays a small role in Japanese life and their approach has been casually syncretic. However young people are now searching for alternatives to the rigid social structure and materialism of Japanese society. A number of new religions have cropped up, of which some have already discontinued but this new openness has set the stage for the discovery of Islam.

Japan had almost no contact with either Islamic countries or Islam itself until the beginning of this century. No records exist on how Islam was actually introduced into Japan but the first signs appeared in the 1890s when diplomatic ties were established with Ottoman Turkey.

One Abdal Khalil Ramada, considered to be the first Japanese convert to Islam, moved to Turkey for 18 years and had the honour of being presented to the Sultan in 1893. An early historian of Islam, Hachiro Argia, is recorded as embracing Islam in Bombay in 1896.

The early Japanese Muslims amounted to no more than six which can barely be defined as a community. The few Muslims are reported to have lived in difficult conditions like the first Japanese Hajji, Alhaj Omar Yamaoka, who died alone in a charity home for the aged.

After the Russian revolution of 1917, 600 Muslim refugees arrived in Japan from Russia's Central Asian republics and these Muslims formed communities in Tokyo, Nagoya and Kobe thereby establishing a permanent and significant Islamic presence in Japan for the first time. By the 1930s, they were able to build Mosques in Kobe and Tokyo in co-operation with resident Indian, Chinese and Southeast Asian Muslims.

However there has been little contact between Muslim refugees because of a language and to some extent, a cultural barrier and for this reason there are very few actual Japanese who have converted. The Tokyo and Kobe Mosques have always been under Turkish Imams.

In 1976, the Co-ordinating Council of Islamic Organisations of Japan was formed to unite different Islamic groups in Japan and the

influx of men from Muslim countries who go to Japan in search of work has helped increase the awareness towards Islam.

Ministry figures for 1991 indicate that most Muslim immigrants are from Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan and Malaysia. They often marry women in Japan and it is for this reason that most Japanese converts are women. Of the 80 new converts at Tokyo's Islamic Centre in 1992, the vast majority were women of whom 40 were preparing to marry foreign Muslims. In the past, Japanese women married the Muslims without consideration of the religious aspects involved but today there is an increasing awareness and some women have even married against the wishes of their family, virtually severing ties with them. This has fascinated the media, whose reports have led to public speculation that Muslim men are only marrying Japanese women in order to obtain residence visas.

This may be true in some cases but as Islam spreads, the better will it be understood and more will be the converts.

## Birmingham Elections

The 1993 Managing Committee for the K.S.I.J. of Birmingham is :

Raza Ali Virji	President
Mohamed Bharwani	Vice President
Shiraz Alloo	Hon. Secretary
Hassnein Kara	Jnt. Secretary
Riyaz Ladak	Hon. Treasurer
Shaukat Najafi	Joint Treasurer
Azad Jivraj	Mukhi
Muslim Dharamsi	Member
Hussein Kanani	Member
Afzal Velji	Member
Syed Muzaffar Abbas	Member
Mushtaq Ismail	Member
Gulamabbas Kassam	Administrator
Hassanali Rajpar	Trustee
Mohamed Bharwani	Trustee
Alimohamed Khimji	Trustee
Hussein Merali	Trustee

## When Men became Animals

The plight of Muslim men in regions where Muslims are being suppressed is sad but women and children are often faced with incomprehensible, chilling and harrowing experiences which are utmosty disgusting.

In Bosnia, women are being locked in mass chambers and then being raped by the Serbs. An extract from the Independent Newspaper from London of 8, February, 1993 'The rapes went on day and night' follows:

[Comment from one woman]: "They were crying and screaming for help. This time they took them to the toilets beside the gymnasium, just outside our room and we could hear the girls shrieking. They would often ask for women by name and always the children would cry and scream when their mothers were taken from them."

"They would come and demand money and would take a four or five year old and force him to a table and put a knife to his throat. The mother would be screaming but they would threaten to kill the child unless we gave them earrings or jewellery."

From India, gruesome rape reports also abound in disputes after the demolition of the Babri Mosque. Women were burnt alive after being raped and some were sexually molested or raped without being killed with the raping being filmed by perpetrators [Power lines were cut and

[continued on page 7]



[from page 6]

powerful floodlights used to focus on the rape victims after they were dragged out of their homes and set upon.]

In one horrific incident, an 18 year old girl, Yasmin, witnessed her mother fatally attacked and she was then raped by 10 people whom she could identify later, before being set on fire which she miraculously escaped from.



**"WE MAY NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, MY DEAR SON"**

A seven month pregnant women, Zaheeda, watched her children being torn apart before her eyes and saw her husband being hacked to death. She has now become mentally unhinged.

And the insincerity of the police stood out. Although some women identified the men who raped them, the culprits were often not in custody -- and neither were signatures taken on first information reports (as proof) nor the victims shredded clothes collected as evidence.

The above incidents are only a tip on the iceberg and considering that many [probably most] cases go unreported in the media, one can assess the magnitude and extent of such heinous crimes.

The children have also not been spared from the anguish of the fighting. Some have been killed, others crippled, orphaned or displaced and frightened. Some children have spent two or three months in underground shelters and many have seen people being killed or wounded thereby putting them into a virtual state of shock.

From this continuous apprehension, one 6 year old boy had his hair turn grey. Many children are so exhausted that some have even started to stammer when they speak. Each day brings a mixture of terror and tedium and parents who can manage, keep on sending their wives and children abroad. The sight of a father bidding farewell to his family is a tearful one because they all know that they might never see each other again.

An account from a Bosnian resident says: **"The coming night is uncertain, one awaits it with fear and trepidation. The Muslims are utterly terrified, conscious that they are surrounded and left to the mercy of those whom no one can pacify....The time is ideal for murder, plunder, ill-treatment, rape and arson.**

**It is all so terrible: sensible countries look to the future and work for their future generations while dark minds and dark forces, darker than fascism reign around us. How much hatred is there amongst these nations who were only recently neighbours and friends. Dark minds rejoice because they achieved what they desired - to destroy the trust between nations and nationalities... The world reacts at almost a snail's pace, slowly surveying the situation, slowly estimating and judging what is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina".**

## WORLD FEDERATION TO HOST EXTRA-ORDINARY CONFERENCE IN MAY

Following the notice of resignation of the Office-Bearers of the World Federation, an Extra-Ordinary Conference is to be held on 16 May, 1993 in Stanmore, U.K. to elect new office bearers for the remainder of the term which ends in October, 1994. The present three year term began in October, 1991.

The real reasons that could justify the intention to resign are not very clear as yet and therefore the move is seen as a sad development.

However, in the meantime, nominations have been called for from members of the World Federation and upon receipt of the nominations, the World Federation Secretariat will conduct a postal ballot for the election of President.

If the resignations are accepted and if no nominations are received, the elections will take place at the Conference. The Africa Federation will be block-represented at the Conference by upto 18 delegates.

## NEW YORK ELECTIONS

The following have been elected as office-bearers of the Shia Ithna-asheri Jamaat of New York for the period 1992-94:-

Jaffer Abdulhussein	President
Hasnain Aloo	Vice President
Shul Khalfan	Jnt. Secretary
Hussein Kermali	Jnt. Secretary
Gulamabbas Shivji	Jnt. Treasurer

Safder Hasham	Jnt. Treasurer
Shabir Master Baker	Mukhi
Feroz Mukhi	Jnt. Mukhi
Sherali Meghji	Member
Gulamabbas Dinani	Member
Inayat Habib	Member
Liyakat Fazal	Member
Mustafa G.R. Jaffer	Member
Amir Khalfan Nominated	Member



## Kampala Elections

At the Annual General Meeting held by the K.S.I.J. of Kampala on 17 January, 1993 the following were elected into office:

Pyarali R. Khimji	President
Roshan Alibhai	Vice President
Shiraz P. Walji	Secretary
Rifat Shaikh	Joint Secretary
Mohamed Manji	Treasurer
Habib Walji	Trustee
Gulamali Manji	Trustee
Ebrahim Kassam	Trustee
Gulamali Jamal	Trustee
Dr. Asghar Moledina	Member
Akbar Jamal	Member
Munawar Kassam	Member
Mr. Abidi	Member
Mohamed Nazir	Member

## Madagascar Elections

At the Annual General Meeting held by the Tananarive Jamaat on 7 February, 1993 the following were elected into office:

Bahadur Kurji	President
Asgher J. Hirani	Vice President
Amir A. Rajabali	Secretary
Firdaus Amarsi	Treasurer
Kazim Fidahusseini	Treasurer
Asghar Hirji	Member
Safir Bhaloo	Member
Yawar Abdulrasul	Member
Aki Daya	Member
Yakat Kadhaya	Member
Asgher Alibhai Juma	Member
Bahadur Jaffer	Member
Ramzanali Dhanji	Member
Nawaz Moloo	Member
Bashir Dungsari	Member

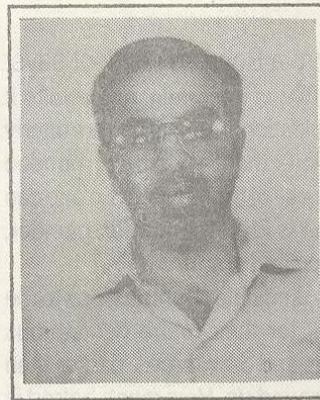
## The 51st Session

The Extra-Ordinary Conference and 51st Session of the Supreme Council is earmarked to be held in Dar es salaam from Thursday 8 April to Monday 12 April, 1993.

The next Issue of the *Samachar* will cover the Conference at length.

## New Governor for Crescents

The Golden Crescent Group has elected Muslim Haiderali Khimji [pictured] of Nairobi as their



Governor for 1992/93. The Deputy Governor is Saferali A. Jaffer whilst Makbul Kassamali holds the post of Secretary General.

The treasurer for the new term is Shabbir Hameer and cabinet members are: Mohamed Merali, Murtaza Janmohamed, Mujahidali Sheriff, Muntazir Bharwani and Shabbir Janmohamed.

Bulletin Editors are Amir Lakha and Mujahidali Sheriff.

The Group is spread over 10 districts covering Arusha, Birmingham, Bukoba, Dar es salaam, Mombasa, Moshi, Mwanza, Nairobi, London and New York.

## Arusha Elections

At the Annual General Meeting of the Arusha Jamaat held on 20 February, 1993 the following office bearers were elected into office:

Muslim Remtulla	-- Chairman
Sajjad Versi	-- Vice Chairman
Murtaza Hirji	-- Hon. Secretary
Shams Bhaloo	-- Hon. Treasurer
Bashir Lalji	-- Member
Tahseel Sheriff	-- Member
Muslim Ramji	-- Member
Muzaffer Yusufali	-- Member

## Kigoma Elections

At the Annual General Meeting of the Kigoma Jamaat held on 27 December, 1993 the following office bearers were elected into office:

Bashir Mulla	-- President
Asgher Remtulla	- Vice President
Hassan Lalji	-- Hon. Secretary
Mohamed Dossa	-- Jnt. Secretary
Gulam Husein Karmali	- Treasurer
Hassanali Ladha	-- Trustee
Mohamedraza Remtulla	- Member
Afzal Karmali	- Member
Mohamed Karmali	- Member

## New Fax at Secretariat

The Secretariat has installed a new fax machine to facilitate communications. The new number, which can be used for a Fax and Telephone Mode is **38364**.

If this number is inaccessible then the previous fax numbers **46693** and **46017** can be used. Fax 46175 has been discontinued.



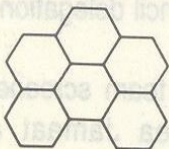
# THINK TANK DWELLS ON WOMEN INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

The Think Tank Committee (TTC) of the Supreme Council is currently in the process of preparing and producing recommendations to the Secretariat on the level and extent of involvement of women and their institutions in the affairs of the Community.

The TTC invited views and proposals from Jamaats and their institutions and also from Councillors and members of the Community, particularly from women and their institutions. The Committee is expected to take all observations into consideration when preparing its final recommendations.

At the Supreme Council Conference held at Mombasa in April, 1992 there was a suggestion that separate facilities should be provided by the host Jamaat for women of the community to listen to the proceedings of ongoing Conferences and meetings. Views to this effect were also sought and the final recommendations are expected to cover this aspect.

The recommendations framed by the TTC will conform with the requirements of the Sharia.



## Alhaj Mohamedali Shariff Jiwa calls it a day

After serving for almost three decades as Director and Chairman of the Jamhuri Sisal Estates Limited, National Investments Limited and Kibo Match Corporation Limited, Alhaj Mohamedali Shariff Jiwa [M.B.E.] of Moshi, Tanzania retired last year.

A program in his honour was organised at the Moshi Imambara late last year by the Companies which he steered over the years. Being a Khushali and with marriages bringing in people from Kenya, the Imambara was packed to its brim. The programme was declared open by Alhaj Roshan Mamdani and was followed by various appreciation speeches from Directors (or representatives) of the above companies.

The current Chairman of the Board of Directors of Jamhuri Sisal Estates Limited, Alhaj Roshan Fazal presented a testimonial and colourful memento to Mohamedalibhai on behalf of his company whilst the Vice Chairman of the World Federation, Alhaj Manzoor Kanani presented a Trophy on behalf of the Chairman of National Investment Company Limited, Alhaj Shaukat Jaffer. The General Manager of Kibo Match Corporation together with other Directors also presented mementos to Murabi Mohamedalibhai.

We wish Murabi Mohamedalibhai a present retirement.



Alhaj Manzoor Kanani presents a trophy to Alhaj Mohamedali Jiwa.



Alhaj Roshan Fazal presents a testimonial and memento to Alhaj Mohamedali Jiwa.



### IRAN OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Islamic Republic of Iran has offered 10 scholarships to the Africa Federation through the good offices of Seyyed Ali Khamenie. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic in Dar es salaam also played a crucial role in securing the scholarship offers.

Students below the age of 24 and who have completed Form 6 are eligible for the scholarships. Applicants should have achieved a pass rate of at least 70% or Grade B in the Advanced Level examinations. However girls who have completed Form 5 with good results will also be considered under special conditions.

The scholarship is open for all types of Higher Studies and applicants have been encouraged to apply for more than one course. Iran does have English medium universities and it is expected that the students will be posted to such universities, if selected.

### A visit to Mozambique

A Council delegation made of Councilors Ali H. Sheriff, Mushtaq Fazal and Alhaj Fidahussein Hameer visited the remote Nampula Jamaat from 16 January to 24 January, 1993.

Nampula is located in the North of Mozambique and the last visit made to the Jamaat there was in 1981. Then there were fourteen small Khoja settlements whilst now there are only five because the remote settlements have gradually been abandoned due to insecurity in rural areas.

The Chairman of the Jamaat, Brother

**Federation Samachar**

Yusuf Daya arranged a general meeting of the Jamaat to coincide with the delegation's visit. The delegation conveyed the message of the Council Chairman and then narrated to members the development and progress made in other Jamaats under the aegis of the Council. It was appreciated that the Council, apart from posting Zakir and Zakiras every Muharram had much more to offer in the form of various services.

Nampula Jamaat was only registered as a religious body in 1984 and until 1985 had a small room which was used as a Mosque and Imambara. In 1985, Brother Yusuf repaired and renovated a building on his plot and offered this to the Jamaat for organising religious functions. A plot which was purchased to have the permanent structure still remains undeveloped four years after it was purchased in spite of their being a willing donor to finance the project.

The delegates also had census forms filled during their visit. The forms revealed interesting information. Majority of the members have taken Mozambican nationality with only a few having Pakistan and Portuguese passports. It was noted that members prefer taking medical treatment in South Africa and a problem with secondary and higher education was evident.

Due to their remoteness, isolation and language barrier, members have a problem of finding suitable girls and boys for marriage and as a result intermarriages with non Shias and even with non Muslims is common. This is a moral issue which demands urgent consideration.

Few members have begun propagation work and initial results are encouraging. The idea of creating Shia Centres whereby local people can manage their own affairs with assistance, when necessary,

from the Jamaat was well received and through concerted efforts will Insha'allah be implemented soon.

The delegation also visited the old and sick members of the Jamaat and met Hussein Bhai Jamal Dhanji who was kidnapped by RENAMO guerillas and kept in captivity for six months before he escaped and eventually reunited with his family. The delegation also met Sheikh Ibraimo Issufo, the leader of the Shafi community in Nampula and had a session with Alhaj Hassanaly Haji Mohamed of Nacala who narrated interesting incidences which led to the first Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri landing on the coast of Mozambique.

The delegation has recommended that a follow up visit be made before the end of this year preferably with doctors, educationists and senior madressa teachers. Such a visit will enable the Nampula Jamaat and the Council to work out positive plans for the benefit of Jamaat members and of members of the proposed Shia Centre on the outskirts of Nampula.

### Delegation Visits Songea

A Council delegation comprising of the Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji with the Hon. Secretary, Alhaj Murtaza Walji and accompanied by Dar Jamaat President, Aliraza Rajani visited Songea Jamaat in Tanzania from 29 January to 31 January, 1993. A Central Health Board (CHB) team under Acting Convenor, Fazleabbas Dhirani plus three doctors and a laboratory assistant from the Ebrahim Haji Dispensary corresponded their visit with that of the Council delegation.

The CHB team screened members of the Songea Jamaat and during a

**[Cont. page 11]**



## AROUND AFRICA

[from page 10]

programme held after Zohrain prayers the Acting Convenor, Fazleabbas Dhirani introduced the CHB team after which the Hon. Secretary of the Supreme Council, Murtaza Walji highlighted the activities of the CHB reflecting on its formation, functions and activities. He also paid tribute to the Dar es salaam Jamaat for its continuous support of CHB activities.

Doctor Shiraz Dato then gave statistical briefings and talked of health dangers to which community members are vulnerable and outlined precautions to be taken. He emphatically decried the habit of excessive food intake.

On the same afternoon a visit was made to the Government Hospital towards which the Jamaat and individual members have made substantial financial donations. A visit was also made to a dispensary which was however closed at the time and finally the delegation visited the Bilal Muslim Mission campus. The Mission has three classrooms and tutorials are provided by three teachers sent by the Bilal Muslim Mission in Dar es salaam. The Mission had 35 students last year and a new batch is expected to begin classes this year.

On the same day in the evening, a meeting was held at the residence of the Chairman of the Songea Jamaat, Brother Sajjad Dinani, with members of the Management Committee of Songea Jamaat. During this session the Songea Jamaat requested for another Molvi because their resident Alim, Syed Sibte Mohamed, has been ill and is about to retire.

The visiting delegation was told of a plot owned by the Jamaat which is usable as a Sports ground. The Trustee ordinance matters to this effect are pending and the Dar es salaam Jamaat is helping in this matter. Alternatively the plot can be used

as a primary school but a project feasibility study has first to be undertaken.

The Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji thanked the Jamaat for its unflinching loyalty to the Council and emphasised on the need of such loyalty to consolidate the Council's and Community's aims and objectives. He also stressed on the importance of common taqleed and elaborated on the issue of a centralised khums system.

The busy day ended with a well-attended ladies and gents Function at night at the Imambara after which Nyaz was served. This Function was initiated by the Master of Ceremonies, Brother Alihussein Lilani. The young Jamaat Chairman, Brother Sajjad Dinani then spoke in Gujarati wherein he expressed the Jamaat's profound happiness on being visited by the Africa Federation delegation.

The Council Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji narrated the history of the Federation, the need, advantages and importance of common taqleed and referred to highlights of his recent trip to Iran where he paid homage to our Marja-e-Taqleed, Ayatullah Ozma Sayyed Gulpaegani. He asked youths to abstain from social evils and instead

to indulge more in sports and other constructive hobbies.

He stressed on the need of adequate education and gave an outlook of Islam and Muslims around the world. He also spoke on the need of brotherhood and referred to the guidance provided by Hazrat Ali (A.S.) to this effect.

The Dar es salaam Jamaat President, Aliraza Rajani (who originates from Songea) then addressed the gathering and his theme was on the current difficulties faced by Muslims around the world.

The Songea Jamaat then honoured Brother Hussein Rajani and Brother Bashir Versi for their long and dedicated service to the Jamaat and presentations were made by Alhaj Habibbhai.

Appreciation gifts were given to each member of the Council delegation and CHB team and a Shs. 100,000/- donation to CHB was received from K. Rajani and family. A slide projector was also donated to CHB by Hussein Rajani.

The visiting delegation left for Dar es salaam the following morning.

## TANZANIA WINS CRICKET ACCOLADES

**In Tanzania, the standard of sports in general has not been upto the level of its neighbouring countries and in 1992 the country achieved regional glories in only the Club Football Championship and in cricket.**

**The Tanzania Cricket Team which was led by Shakir Sheraly triumphed in the Quadrangular cricket tournament held in Zambia. The tourney was contested by Zambia, Uganda and Tanzania. Community members who were in the team included Kazim Nasser, Ibrahim Dato, Munawer Dhirani, Sibtain Kassamali (coach), Shabbir Dewji (the Tanzania Cricket Association Chairman and Sponsor) plus Hussein Ahmed (Physician).**



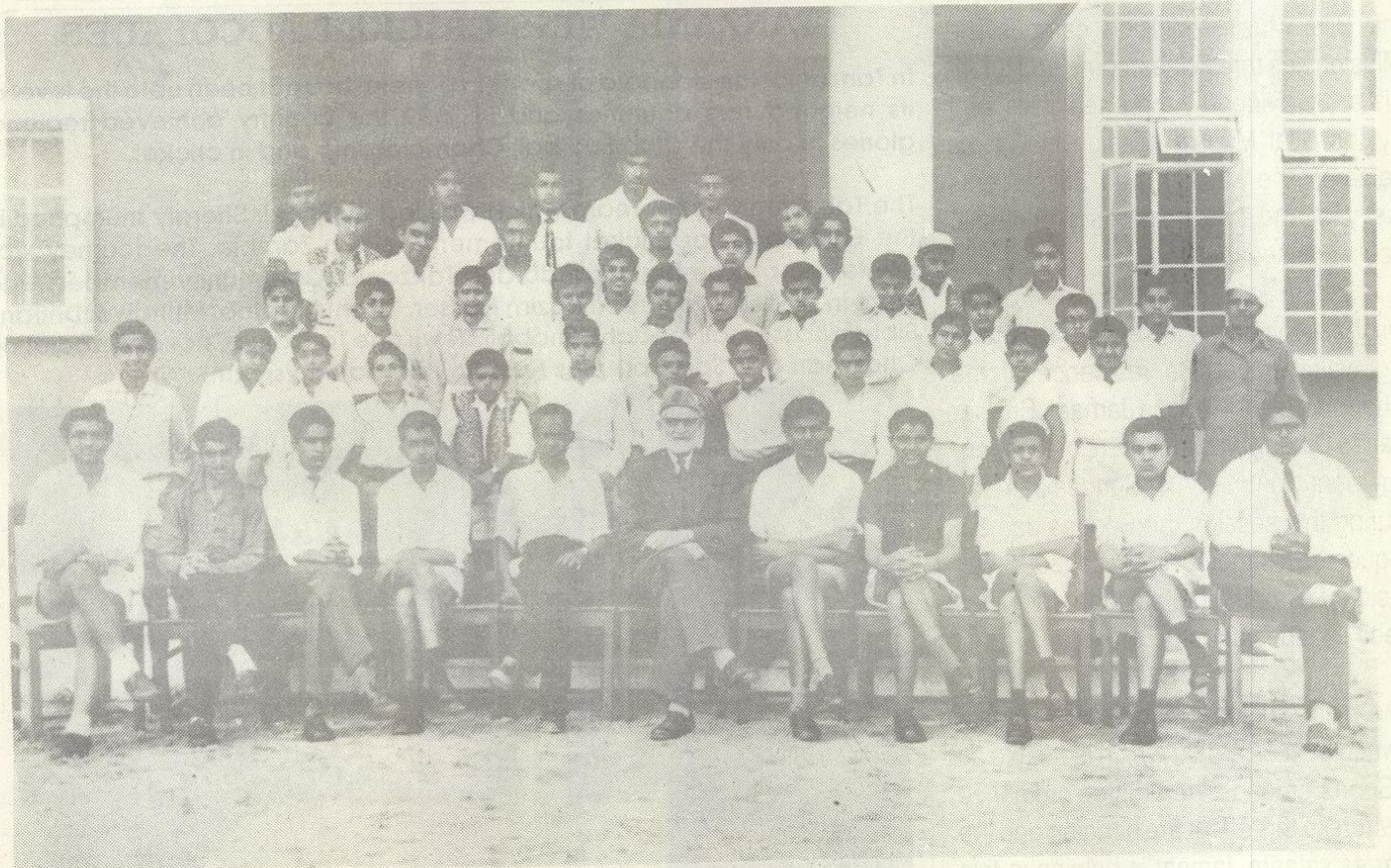
**Shakir Sheraly presents the cricket trophy to Tanzania President, Ali Hassan Mwinyi.**



## DOWN MEMORY LANE



*The Songea Jamaat in 1939*



*Shia Ithna Asheri Boarding House students in Dar es salaam in 1959. Seated sixth from right is the Superintendent, Sayeed Maqsudhusein Naqvi and next to him is Marhum Ismail Hashim Shivji.*



**If you have historic photographs for Down Memory Lane, please submit these to :**

**Murtaza Jivraj,  
Federation Samachar,  
P O Box 6710,  
Dar es salaam.**

**Br. Murtaza has assured that he will return photographs within a week after receipt.**

**Editor**

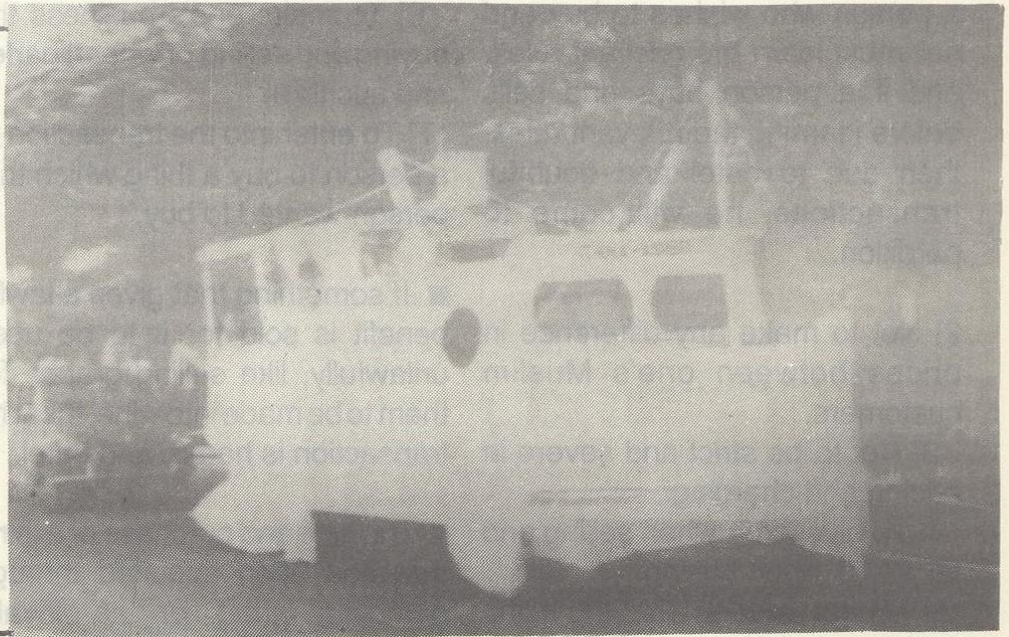


The Opening Ceremony of the Kanji and Ladak Musafirkhana in 1929 at Mombasa, Kenya.

*To mark Independence Day in Tanzania, on 9 December, 1991 our Mwanza Shia brothers led by Brother Alimohamed Haji Khimji designed the pictured ship for a procession.*

*The ship was designed from a 5 ton Austin vehicle and the principal designers were Brother Ebrahim Karim, Marhum Raza Manji Pirbhai and Brother Kurban Nasser Virji (now in Canada) among other personalities.*

*The Shia Ithna-Asheri Community won the second prize from the Tanganyika Government for the ship design.*





## Edicts of Ayatullah Ozma Sayyed Reda Musavi Golpaegani

■ The painting and photography of faces is makrooh..... and the ehtiyat is to refrain from painting all living things.

■ A woman whose husband has not had sexual intercourse with her has no 'iddah' i.e. after a divorce, she is permitted to immediately re-marry.

■ If a pregnant woman is divorced, her 'iddah' is until the delivery,...so, according to this, if she delivers, say, one hour after the divorce, her 'iddah' is over.

■ In buying and selling, five things are mustahab:

1] Learning the relative laws,..... Imam Sadeq(a.s.), has told us that a person who wishes to buy and sell must learn the relevant rules, and if a person buys and sells before learning the relevant rules, then due to batel and doubtful transactions, he will come to perdition.

2] Not to make any difference in prices between one's Muslim customers.

3] Not to be strict and severe in pricing and charging.

4] To give extra when selling and take less when buying.

5] When someone with whom one

has made a transaction becomes regretful and wishes to cancel the transaction(i.e. someone buys something and then wishes to return it), to be ready to cancel the transaction.

■ If, due to not knowing the rules, one doubts whether the transaction one has made is saheeh or batel, then one cannot make use of what has been acquired.

■ The following are some of the transactions that are makrooh:

- 1] Property selling;
- 2] Butchery;
- 3] Selling Kafans;
- 4] Dealing with people who are ill-mannered and vulgar;
- 5] Trading between the morning azaan and sunrise;

6] To make one's business the buying and selling of wheat, barley and suchlike;

7] To enter into the transaction of a person to buy a thing which that person wanted to buy.

■ If something that gives a lawful benefit is sold for it to be used unlawfully, like selling grapes for them to be made into wine, then the transaction is haram and batel.

■ The sale and purchase of a thing that has been acquired through gambling, theft or an invalid

transaction is batel.... and if someone buys it, he must return it to its original owner.

■ The sale and purchase of statues is haram as is the sale of intoxicating drinks.

■ A transaction is only valid where both the buyer and seller are not forced to transact.

■ It is wajeab for a person who will find himself doing haram due to his not having a wife, to take a wife.

■ Nothing can be taken from the inheritance of a minor to pay for mourning ceremonies of the deceased.

■ To begin the taqleed of a deceased mujtahed is not permissible, but it is permissible, to continue taqleed in those issues which, during the mujtahed's lifetime, one has practiced or has learned in order to put into practice. It is a worthwhile precaution, however, to refer to a living mujtahed in those issues in which one has not acted in accordance to the deceased mujtahed's fatwas when he was alive.

■ One of the great mustahabat is visiting the sick and it is mustahab to sit at their side, but one must not stay too long, unless the sick person requests it.

■ It is makrooh to bury two bodies in the same grave and to line the grave with bricks, stone and suchlike unless there is damp. It is also makrooh for a father to enter the grave of his child(i.e. to place the child's body in the grave.)



# ON SUNDAY! NOT FRIDAY!

It was with a sigh of relief that I greeted the news. A close acquaintance of mine - Let us call him "Muhib" because this is not his name - was to start his wajib prayers regularly. As all my previous efforts had gone in vain, I was anxious to know what or who moved him at last.

Muhib lamented that his thriving business had lately been accumulating losses and naturally he began to think of measures which included offering prayers "more" regularly and "more" on time so that God too would be moved to coming to the rescue of his business.

For this purpose he planned his routine with "honest" sincerity and would put it into effect from Friday - three days hence. Friday! The blessed day for the noble plan!

I enquired the extent of losses. If these could prick his "nafsul lawaama", then the blessed losses, if big, could move him also to keeping fasts in the month of Ramadhan. He confided to me with some embarrassment that his children, one

after the other while still minor, fasted the full month like their mother. The chain had not yet been broken.

The "Sawab" (reward) in the case of each child went to his credit as a good parent. I should have known that if only I had been regular in attending majlises like him and listened to the beautiful things said in the preachings.

I warned him that profits should also mean Khums and Zakat as additional items in his new determination for moving towards that distant goal of "taqwa". He said: "Taqwa reminds me of the need to sift earnings, you know! Halal from Haram".

He assured me that he was not stingy with his money. Did he not go on a long trip of Ziaaraat to all the shrines? "Except Medina" I corrected him. He said that Haj was always on his mind. What was important was "the invitation" or was he wrong? was he?

For a moment he appeared dejected. And then slowly, he looked up to me almost pleading: "I too

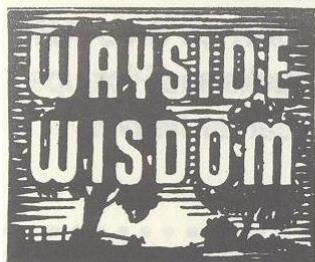
have a soul that keeps on crying out for help. I have some good sides. Am I not attending almost all majlises regularly? Am I not listening to all the preachings attentively? Do I challenge any of those?" I pitied the victim (or product!) of the preachings even more.

Muhi, then almost in a whispering tone, added: "I do believe in Qiyamat. I often feel a dread at the thought of death. But then immediately the thought of the promised "Shafaat" comes by re-assuring."

After a pause. ".....but then my problem right now is business losses. Shafaat is after death - not before. I have to seek out God."

Suddenly he brightened up and reminded me that there would be a "nyaz" for the entire Jamaat booked by him the following week and that my family and I should not fail to participate.

"No! No! not Friday! On Sunday I", he corrected me, "convenient for all."



THE  
BEST  
THREE

said: To me the best three are: To fight with a sword in defence of truth; to fast on hot days and to honour a guest.

A companion of the Prophet (S.A.W.), Salman Farsi said: The three actions I love most are: Sitting right in front of you, O Messenger of Allah; Looking at the face of Ali Ibn Abi Talib and the the building and maintaining of Mosques.

Then came down the Angel Jibrail (A.S.). He said: "O Messenger of Allah: The three things that I like most are: To guide a

a lost person back to the right road; to honour an orphan and to help a person who is unfairly treated.

Angel Jibrail went away. After some time, he came back again to the Prophet and said: Allah is giving you salaams and informs you of the three things which He likes most: A tongue that remembers him; a heart that thanks him and a body that is resistant and patient.

[Contributed by K.A. Chandoo. Based on a commentary given after morning prayers at the Dar es salaam Shia Ithna-asheri Mosque by Niaz Hussain, an Assistant of the Pakistan High Commission.]

The Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) once said: "The Three things which I love most are to walk behind a coffin in a funeral procession; to walk towards a Mosque for prayers and to walk towards a building to visit a sick person.

In response to this, Imam Ali (A.S.)





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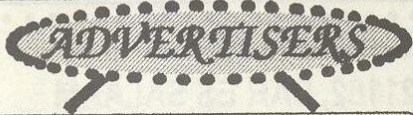
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**PAINFUL  
 REFLECTIONS  
 FROM CHILDHOOD**

**HATE THAT LOVE!**

A Girl from an affluent family was treated like a princess right from childhood. She was never allowed to help around the house and neither was she taught how to cook or sew.

She grew up living in a hypothetical situation of 'life is a bed of roses' whilst every little thing was looked after by her mother or maid - - whether a missing button, buying household grocery or serving early breakfast to her father.

Problems arose after her marriage when she came in for a lot of flak from her husband when she could not sew a button on his shirt and turned 'eye-watering' dishes in the kitchen.

When she had her baby, she could not even make a diaper for her baby and had to depend on her sister-in-law to flaunt her fabric creations for her little one.

Mothers beware! Undue love to your daughter could disgrace her after marriage and she may just despise you for spoiling her with extravagant love when she was a spinster.

**LANGUAGE OF LOVE**

A girl overheard her teacher making a remark that she had poor looks and this affected her psyche for a long time. Impressions received in childhood are indelible and can hamper a child's performance.

Calling your daughter 'ugly' or 'dull' casually can have lasting negative effects. However difficult your child may be, talk with the language of love and if need be, discipline him or her with respect.

*You Should  
 Know*

**Play to Learn**

There is a game you can play with children to help them learn what to do and how to handle dangerous situations.

Ask your child: "What would you do if.....?" and let him or her reply. Like you can say: "What would you do if you are picked late or not picked up from school?"

This will give you an opportunity to provide answers and to explain why a particular answer is not right and what would be the right thing to do.

**Shopping Solution**

Shopping is tedious when you have to keep on warning your child not to touch the items on display.

Try this: Let him hold something he likes in each hand, say a ball and a children's book. It will make him happy and will also stop him touching any items.

**Ringing Pram**

Attach a bicycle bell to the handle of your baby's pram and ring to let people know that you want to pass. This is helpful on crowded footpaths.

**Running Water in Bed**

Have you tried to record the sound of running water on a tape recorder and play it to put your newborn to sleep? They say this reminds a child of the sounds he heard in the womb and that it helps to put it to sleep.

**Fair Division**

When children are asked to share, they often blame the other one for taking a bigger piece.

Try this: Let one of them divide the treat equally and ask the other to pick his share first.



**WEST MUST ACCEPT ISLAM  
STANCE ON RUSHDIE**

The West must accept the Muslim revival and seek a dialogue with Islam to avoid a repetition of the Salman Rushdie affair, Iran's Vice-President, Ayatollah Mohajerani, told the U.N. Human Rights Commission recently.

He said that religious people cannot comprehend "that freedom of speech allows insulting the most sacred beliefs of people."

British author Salman Rushdie was sentenced to death in a religious decree by the late Iranian spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, four years ago for blasphemy against the Prophet in his novel, The Satanic Verses.

The decree was reconfirmed by Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who quoting from the Bible and the Holy Qur'an said: "Religion is the source of human rights and man's rights may only be recognised and realised when derived from divinity."

In Canada, Rushdie was recently given a warm welcome by senior officials from the Federal and Provincial Governments inspite of protests made by Muslims on his visit.

The irony is that only a month earlier, a British author and expert on history, Professor David Irving, was harassed until his deportation from Canada for challenging the holocaust figures. Like Rushdie he had also harmed the religious sentiments of an identifiable group and yet, whilst he was expelled, Rushdie was well received.

**Halal Board launched in Birmingham**

A Halal Board was launched in Birmingham in February this year to safeguard the interest of producers and consumers of halal food. Its primary objective is to promote the production and consumption of food in accordance with the Islamic shari'ah and to act as a monitoring body over producers, manufacturers, wholesalers, suppliers and retailers involved in vending halal food.

The Board also plans to promote animal hygiene

and welfare and will strive to relieve the suffering of animals.

The plight of Muslims in prisons is also expected to be perused as many prisons do not provide halal food.

**MORE MUSLIMS IN  
Britain and..**

The number of Muslims in Britain is about 2 million, most of whom are from Pakistan followed by Indians, Bengalis, Turks, Arabs and English.

**...in Liberia**

The number of Muslims in Liberia has increased considerably in the last decade to over 1.8 million out of the total population of 3.5 million. The Muslims are thus no longer a minority in the country.

**Detestable Carpets**

A recent issue of the American 'Home and Garden' magazine carried a report on 1993 decorations amongst which were carpets that bore the inscription of the Shahada.

These carpets, to be stepped on, are an insult to Muslims at large. It is only right that a stop order be put on the sale of the carpets. We however have no news to this effect.

**CATCHY SIGNS**

An ad for a slimming institute: 'Join us soon. Why weight!' and one for a washing machine: 'Don't kill your wife with housework. Let our washing machine do it for you.'

Sign in a small village: 'Drive carefully. No hospital nearby and we need every tax payer.'

In a health club: 'Preservation of health is a duty. Few seem conscious that there is such a thing as physical morality.'

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

■ Some English words have come from Arabic. These include: zero[sifr], syrup[sharab], musk[mesk], rice[ruzz], magazine[makhazen], sugar[sukkar], algebra[al-jabar], alcove [al-Qubba], camel[jamel], cable[habl], admiral[amir al-bahr].

■ A videophone has been invented whereby you can see the person to whom you are talking to on the phone. It's screen is about 3.5 inches and cost about US \$ 1500.

■ If unshaven, a beard can grow upto 27.5 feet.

■ 20% of the world's population is Muslim.

■ A pound of honey is the life work of about 1000 bees.



~~STRETCHED~~  
TO THE LIMIT

The Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, India was built more than 400 years ago in 1528 by Mir Baqui, a Governor of the Mughal Emperor Babar. On December 6, 1992 the Mosque was stormed and reduced to rubble whilst Indian security forces stood by in spite of a prevalent Supreme Court of India ruling that no construction [or destruction] could take place on the site until the matter was decided by the court.

Most of the people in India have passionately denounced the demolition as a 'national shame' which stripped the mask of three major Indian political parties and stigmatised the spirit of secularism and Hindu tolerance. The self-seeking political parties masquerading as the nation's leaders used the demolition to gain political votes for the next General Elections irrespective of the bloodshed that was likely to and did occur thereafter.

On the 'Black Sunday' the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), India's parliamentary opposition party, spearheaded by the Hindu extremist organisations, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Rashtriya Swyam Sevak (RSS) incited about 100,000 zealots to destroy the Mosque.

The Political Parties had been calling for over two years to demolish the Mosque with the claim that Ram was born at the site of the Mosque, a contention which Indian historians claim is based more on faith than on fact.

The temple-mosque dispute erupted in the 19th century and historians strongly believe that the division between Hindus and Muslim surfaced with the advent of British rule in India. The first bloody temple-mosque conflict flared in 1853 and again in 1855.

The British officials who were administering the area, tried to establish a case for the deteriorating law and order situation in the

Muslim Kingdom of Oudh (the present-day State of Uttar Pradesh where Ayodhya is situated). In their attempts to undermine the glory of the Mughal Empire they renamed the Mosque 'Janmasthan Masjid'.

A small temple on a raised platform - the 'Ram Chabutra' just outside the main entrance of the Mosque was catering to Ram devotees who developed a harmonious relationship with the Muslims. After independence in 1947, the Babri Mosque assumed nationalistic significance for both the Hindu and Muslim Communities.

In December, 1949 statues of Ram were placed inside the Mosque and the Muslims stopped praying there. Before that, the Hindus conducted their 'puja' (worship) on the raised platform while the Muslims prayed inside the Mosque.

The vie for political power and religious extremism once again ignited the temple-mosque controversy a few years ago and this culminated with the destruction of the Mosque. Muslims across India demonstrated against the demolition of the Mosque and communal violence erupted thereafter in several cities across India in which about 2000 Muslims are reported to have been killed.

The law enforcers, instead of protecting them, became tormenters. Like in one case a sugar factory owner had his factory looted and his fields set on fire but when he went to the police for help, they charged him with setting fire to his property to ignite communal trouble. And such cases were numerous!

Some prominent Indian newspapers have been sympathetic to the Muslims cause and have decried on the partisan attitude of the Country's police force. In one report, the **India Today** fortnightly reported: '**Post Ayodhya riots brought in shocking reports from all over the county of how the police had acted in a biased fashion and**

**lashed out at the minorities. Muslims are asking why not a single bullet was fired in Ayodhya while many of their brothers fell to bullets in the Muslim dominated areas of Bombay, Surat, Ahmedabad, Delhi and Kanpur.'**

Another Editorial stated: "**Since the destruction of the Mosque, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has not lived up to his post of prime minister to discharge his responsibilities. Even if one were to accept his inability to stop the demolition of the Mosque as an error of judgement, his failure to stop the carnage in Bombay was a failure of the most fundamental kind - an absence of Governance. It was a failure in the state's most basic duty to protect the lives and property of its citizens... India cannot afford - or survive - the masterful inactivity of our Prime Minister in times of crisis. Either he must lead or go.**"

The demolition drew numerous protests from around the world. From our Community the protests included letters from our Marja-e-Taqlid, Ayatullah-Gulpaegani, the World and Africa Federations, NASIMCO and various of our Jamaats and organisations.

Anger and distrust are the two dominant emotions that have come to the fore among Muslims as the Ayodhya issue ferments. Anger at the system that failed: the bureaucracy, Parliament, the Judiciary and politicians.

The main worry of the Muslims now is that if the extremists gain political control and violate minority rights, the country could once again be put into turmoil.

To avoid further bloodshed, debates on the disputed temple-mosque site in Ayodhya should be discontinued and a possible solution would be to declare the site out of bound - - with a board put up declaring that: **THIS IS WHERE WE BURIED OUR BROTHERHOOD AND OUR TOLERANCE WAS STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT.**



## Journalist risks life to report on Murder in the Iraqi marshes

The first foreign journalist to report from the marshes in Iraq, Shyam Bhatia, saw for himself the disastrous consequences of the draining of the marshlands in Iraq and effects of the poisoning of the marsh waters.

One 14 hour march included sprinting across the heavily mined Basra to Baghdad highway and when Bhatia did finally get to base camp, a reed hut in the Amara marshes, his feet were sore and he had to be carried inside. Bhatia lived with the resistance, surviving mainly on bread and tea for ten days and emerged to tell the world about the regime's callous strategies to wipe out the marsh Arabs.

The mujahideen who took Bhatia into the marshes, warned him of the terrible consequences if he was caught. Bhatia was undoubtedly aware of the fate of his colleague Farzad Bazoft but still risked his life to expose the murder in the marshes.

In his exclusive report which was published in the Observer on 28 February, 1993 he says that the most elaborate and perhaps the most wicked of Saddam's ploys is his deliberate poisoning of the very waters which are the lifeblood of the Shia Marsh Arabs. This is tantamount to genocide.

Last October, agents of his dreaded mukhabarat (security police) poured poison, believed to be an organo-phosphorous of the brand name Endrine 192, into the waters at strategic locations. This poison resembles the odourless and colourless rat poison thalium and has extensively reduced fish in the waters. People who have directly drunk water from the marshes, have suffered severe nausea and vomiting.

Entire villages have been gutted and thousands of families left desolate as Saddam keeps up his relentless attacks.

The army's favourite tactic is to blow up villages selectively and then sow mines in the water before retreating. They even planted butterfly mines disguised as toys, pens and cigarette lighters but the practice was discontinued when the mines claimed the lives of soldiers from the regular army. Bhatia saw the shattered remnants of these apparently innocent toys left amid the ruins of the flimsy, damp huts that were once home to tens of thousands of these helpless people.

Saddam's latest ruse is to divert the biblical rivers of the Tigris and Euphrates that used to pour into the marshes. Massive earthen dykes erected in the north near the town of Amara have succeeded in turning the tributaries of the Tigris so that their precious water is now channelled into the massive new canal, Anfal Three, that flows south to Basra. The result is that water levels in the northern marshes have dropped by as much as two metres, making it easier for the army to move in and obliging local families to leave their traditional homes. In the southern marshes, the Euphrates has been dammed, its life-giving water channelled to flow uselessly into the Gulf of Khor Zubair.

If the Shia resistance groups are right, the region will be drained of all waters by April, according to Bhatia. For the first time in 6000 years the marshes will then be as dry as a desert and the few remaining Shia Arabs, heirs to a culture that stretches back to the time of Sumer will be forced to abandon their once beautiful homes for a precarious existence in the cities, where their traditions and unique way of life will soon be forgotten.

It is beginning already, Bhatia observed. You cross gaping swathes of land given up by the waters, dirt brown and sodden at the edges and parched yellow further away from the mainstreams that are now so

shallow, that the narrow wooden canoes with outboard motors can barely traverse them.

The water level has dramatically dropped at the island of Sahein, once the site of Saddam's nine-bedroomed marsh palace which had reception rooms picked out in gold leaf, swathed in silks and the finest fabrics and carpeted by rugs so thick they could cover your ankle.

Marsh families know they cannot hold on much longer without outside help. The most these people can pray for is to survive. They say the mistake they made was believing former American President, George Bush, when, at the end of the Gulf War, he encouraged them to rise up and overthrow the butcher of Baghdad.

"The fact is that these people have been victimised by the regime," says Dr. Husain Shahrstani, the eminent nuclear scientist who was tortured for refusing to participate in Saddam's plans to acquire atomic weapons. "They are also the victims of a war between the regime and the Western powers. They require world sympathy and it is their right to be cared for and helped out of the present situation."

The journey back from the frontline took them past a ruined five-room clinic in Sleyyen Central demolished on Saddam's orders more than a year ago. Around its perimeter are a few recently dug graves, including one of a child. They contain the remains of a group of people who were lined up against the backdrop of Basra's palm trees and shot for sympathising with the mujahideen. The men of resistance discovered their bleached bones because their executioners had not bothered to bury them.

It is a sombre reminder for all those who continue to oppose Saddam that they too could end up in the same sort of barren burial ground perched at the end of an inlet where hundreds of fighters lie beneath a cover of loose rocks and flinty soil. For as long as Saddam survives, Iraq will resemble nothing so much as one vast cemetery ready to swallow up the best and brightest the country has to offer. Bhatia concluded.

Courtesy: Dialogue



## ATTENDING TO OUR CHILDREN

[from back page]

It is however important that parents love should not be excessive to the extent that it does not allow one's child a freedom of experience or the ability to solve problems by himself, thereby leaving him dependent on others when he grows. Do not spoil your child with superfluous love and Imam Baqir (A.S.) says: "The worst fathers are those who are extravagant and excessive in showing love to their child."

**"THE WORST FATHERS ARE THOSE WHO ARE EXTRAVAGANT AND EXCESSIVE IN SHOWING LOVE TO THEIR CHILD." - Imam Baqir (A.S.)**

When a wealthy father gives his schooling child a car does such love not lead to the child's detriment through misuse of the car? Very often it does and the parents are to blame.

The teaching of religious and ethical matters to a child, emphasising the oneness of God and acquainting him with religious terminology are important duties of parents and should be accomplished gradually. Parents should direct their child's habit on the basis of divine law, introduce Allah to him and also teach him the right way of living and stress on the need to maintain good health and be useful persons for society.

Children are an invaluable treasure from Allah and how unfortunate are those who discard them to the extent that they become social misfits.

## LIFE AFTER DEATH

*"Surely (as for) those whom the angels cause to die while they are unjust to their souls, they shall say: In what state were you? They shall say: We were weak in the earth. They shall say: Was not Allah's earth spacious, so that you should have migrated therein? So these it is whose abode is hell, and it is an evil resort;" (4:97)*

This verse is about those who live in an unfavourable environment which is ruled by the will of others. These people are condemned to tolerate their environment. In an attempt at justifying their lethargy, they argue that though the environment is corrupt, circumstances are favourable and they are frustrated in their attempt at doing something about it. They continue living in that corrupt environment, giving in to its ways and sink into its depravity instead of improving it or saving themselves from its evil influence, if changes are impossible.

When God's angels receive these spirits, they talk to them and consider their excuses unjustifiable because the least they could have done, was to settle elsewhere. The angels remind them of their faults and make them understand that they themselves are responsible for the sins they have committed and for the oppression they have suffered.

In this holy verse, the Holy Quran points out that poverty and frustration in an environment, are not justifiable excuses unless there is no possibility of changing one's domicile.

As perceived in this holy verse, death is interpreted as Tawaffa, meaning receiving. The word 'Tawaffa' in this verse does not only refer to death but explicitly shows a conversation and reasoning between angels and man at the moment after death. This verse implies that man talks with the angels through different eyes, ears and tongue after death.

*"And they say: What! When we have become lost in the earth, shall we then certainly be in a new creation? Nay! They are disbelievers in the meeting of their Nourisher. Tell them, the death angels, who is assigned for you will revive you fully and wholly at your death, and return you to God" (32:110).*

In this verse, the Holy Quran refers to the disbelievers' who question the reconstruction of one's physical being after death. The problem is not that our body decomposes and disintegrates but when it is lost, "We" are lost and consequently "We" or "I" would no longer exist. The sceptics claim that with the disintegration of the body, our real self is annihilated. The Qur'an here explains that, contrary to the sceptics supposition, the real self is not lost but is delivered to the angels right after death.

The following verse also points out quite explicitly that although one's physical being decomposes, one's real self (spirit) survives after death:

*"God takes the souls at the time of their death and those that die not during their sleep; then He withholds those on whom He has passed the decree of death and sends others back until an appointed term; most surely there are signs in this for a people who reflect." (39-42).*

This verse states the similarity between sleep and death, wakefulness and final Resurrection. Sleep is a light, short death and death is a deep and long sleep. In both cases, one's spirit or soul goes from one state to another.

The problems of sleep and death are among the unknowns in science. What is discovered is only the physical aspect which takes place and not the spiritual. The bottom-line fact is that the nature of death is not mortality and annihilation but a transference from one state to another.

[Excerpt from a write-up by Martyr Murtada Mutahhari]



## Serving the Community - a necessity!

Islam attaches great importance to public welfare like the construction of Mosques, orphanages and building of public amenities like water reservoirs which contribute to the welfare and well being of the people. Islam generally insists on its followers not to leave Muslims alone to face difficulties. The Holy Prophet, peace be on him and his progeny, says: "One who passes his day and nights without caring for the affairs of the Muslims (and does not strive to solve any problem of society) is not a Muslim." He said: "The best among the people is the one from whom people benefit more."

Imam Ja'fir Sadiq, peace be on him, has narrated that the sin of an able Muslim who does not assist a needy brother-in-faith is tantamount to that of helping an enemy."

If one possessing a house denies accommodation to a needy brother-in-faith, the Almighty Allah addresses the angels and says: "O My angels! Here is a creature of mine who is stingy in lending his house to another creature of mine. I swear by My Glory and Dignity that I will not provide him a residence in Paradise." On the other hand the spiritual reward for a benevolent attitude is very high.

After death one is rewarded for recurring benefits which accrue from useful work left by the deceased or from a good habit which one leaves as a remembrance or through a dutiful child who follows his parent's benevolent actions. The Holy Quran says: "Wealth and children are the bounties of this life. But deeds of lasting merit are better rewarded by your Lord."

The Holy Prophet, peace be on him and his progeny, says: "Allah gives spiritual reward equal to that of reciting four hundred verses

of the Holy Qur'an to a person who removes from the path of Muslims that which inconveniences them." He also said that "It is incumbent upon every Muslim to give alms (and do favours to others) every day."

Someone said: "How is it possible for anyone to do such a good deed everyday?"

The Holy Prophet replied: "When a person removes impediments from the path of the Muslims it is treated to be alms."

Whenever Imam Sajjad, peace be on him, saw a stumbling block lying on the road, he would dismount from the animal he was riding on to remove it with his own hands.

Mosques are the source for Islamic propagation and teachings. The Holy Prophet, peace be on him and his progeny, says: "One who constructs a Mosque, the Omnipotent Allah will grant him a house in Paradise." The Holy Qur'an elevates those persons who fearing none but Allah build Mosques and visit them, who believe in the Day of Judgement, attend to their prayers and pay Zakat (religious tax).

The Holy Prophet, peace be on him, said: "Allah has inhabited Paradise with some persons who enjoy a dignified position. They are the persons who have been meeting the needs of their brethren. One who fulfills the needs of a fellow Muslim is like one who has been worshipping Allah throughout his life." He also said: "Allah makes Paradise obligatory for one who helps a Muslim and diverts water and fire from him (i.e. one who rushes to assist and save flood or fire victims)."

The reward for helping a brother-in-faith are so great that Imam Husain, peace be on him, said that: "The requests which people make to you are Blessings of Allah. So do not feel weary or uneasy in fulfilling them."

Imam Ali, peace be on him, says: "How surprising it is on the part of a person who is approached by a brother Muslim for help and he

fails to help him and does not consider himself fit for performing a good act. Does this act not carry any spiritual reward which he should covet? Or can he not mitigate Allah's wrath by this means? Really, should one observe abstemiousness even in the matter of morals and virtues?"

Islam clearly considers the helping of needy Muslims and the general public as a sublime worship and does not permit negligence or carelessness in this regard.

Islam on the other hand abhors people who remain silent when his brothers are besieged by oppression. Imam Ali, peace be on him, said to his son: "Always campaign against the tyrant and help the oppressed."

The Holy Prophet, peace be on him and his progeny, says: "Allah appoints an angel to keep that person safe from the Fire of Hell on the Day of Judgement, who saves a believer from the oppression of a cruel person."

Imam Ja'far Sadiq, peace be on him, said: "When a Muslim, in spite of being in a position to assist his brother, abstains from doing so, Allah also abstains from assisting him in this world and in the Hereafter." He also said: "It is better for a Muslim to help his oppressed brother than to fast and to sit in seclusion for one month in Masjidul Haraam."

In an incident narrated by Imam Muhammad Baqir, peace be on him, a man was forced to emigrate from a country ruled by an oppressive king and subsequently took up abode in the house of an infidel, who accorded him great respect.

When the time of the infidel's death drew near, Allah revealed to him thus: "I swear by My Dignity and Glory that if there had been a place in Paradise for the infidels, I would have rewarded you but Paradise is forbidden to the infidels. However, O fire! Take hold of him but do not hurt him."

**LIFE IS SHORT AND WHAT MATTERS AFTER DEATH IS ONE'S DEEDS. LET US SPEND WISELY TO BUILD OUR HEREAFTER LIFE.**



# OUR CHILDREN NEED ATTENTION

By Munir Daya, Dar es salaam

In Dar es salaam, a visit to the Oyster Bay beach on the weekend, vividly shows how children are neglected whilst parents indulge in endless conversations. The nature of such conversations is another issue beyond the scope of this article.

It is appreciable that men need a break after a hard week's work but instead of whiling away hours in conversation it is only fair that they spend at least some time with their otherwise neglected children. Children may ask for toys, dolls or games but in reality they crave, more than anything else, love and attention from those who count most in their lives - their parents. The best 'toy' one can give a child is a loving parent who plays with his child and being such a companion to your child also lays a foundation for his emotional and psychological stability.

Of course parents do a lot of things with their children like taking them to a doctor, seeing them off to school and attending parents' days there plus undertaking daily chores like ironing their clothes and preparing their meals and finally tucking them into bed.

In these chores one does not however find the unhurried and unplanned times when you can talk and play with them. The time for enjoying each other's company and drawing closer to each other remains absent in daily chores and sadly, parents only realise how they missed out on their child's younger years, when their child grows up into bad habits through the influence of friends. With inadequate attention at home, children look for alternatives and this is the main reason why they often fall prey

to social evils which give them short term pleasures but are a long term disaster.

Parents have an important role of training their children and Imam Sadiq(A.S.) says: "The best heritage left behind by fathers for their children is culture and right training and not property or wealth."

The magic days of childhood are limited and at no cost can one miss out on spending them to the optimum. Imam Sajjad (A.S.) has said: "It is the right of a child to expect love and kindness from his parents. Therefore it is the duty of parents to be kind to their children." Such love should be accompanied with knowledge because love without wisdom is blind and wisdom without love is lame.

The options are many -- take them to the beach and let them build their sand castles or let them swim and play sports. Alternatively you may take them for a picnic or simply to a playground. For those parents who can afford, a visit to the game parks is a wonderful experience for all and so is an overseas holiday to any of the holiday resorts.

Children love eating out and it is good to occasionally take them out to a restaurant. There they can see how others eat and in public, good manners always make a lot of sense to children.

Evening or early morning walks with children are invigorating and the children often loosen up on such walks, thereby revealing deeply hidden thoughts or feelings which you normally would not have access to in the hustle and bustle of daily life.

You do not always have to go out. Instead you can stay at home and read to your children or play a game together. In Islam, making a child happy is part of worship. The Prophet of Islam (SAW) says: "One who has a child should behave like a child in training him." And Imam Ali (A.S.) says: "May God's blessings be upon the father who helps his child in goodness and good deeds, shows goodness to him, is his friend like a child and brings him up as a learned and cultured one."

You need to remind yourself that a day will come when they will not want to be with you but with their friends as this is a natural part of growing.

The children imitate their parents easily and it is thus important for parents to maintain excellent conduct at all times. Prayers, language, cleanliness, punctuality, politeness and similar habits are the source of a child's moral uprightness.

It takes determination to do things with your children and whenever you are tempted to do something more practical instead of being with them, you need to remind yourself that a day will come when they will not want to be with you but with their friends as this is a natural part of growing.

When that day comes, would you like to feel resentful or instead be relaxed and satisfied that you have given adequate parental attention and knowledge to your child and that while your children were yours to be enjoyed, you and them enjoyed them to the fullest.

[Turn to page 22 ]