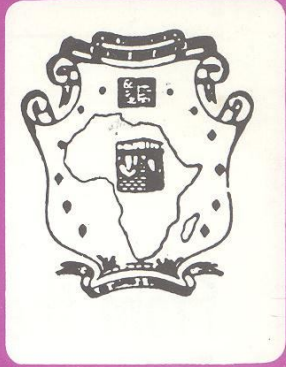


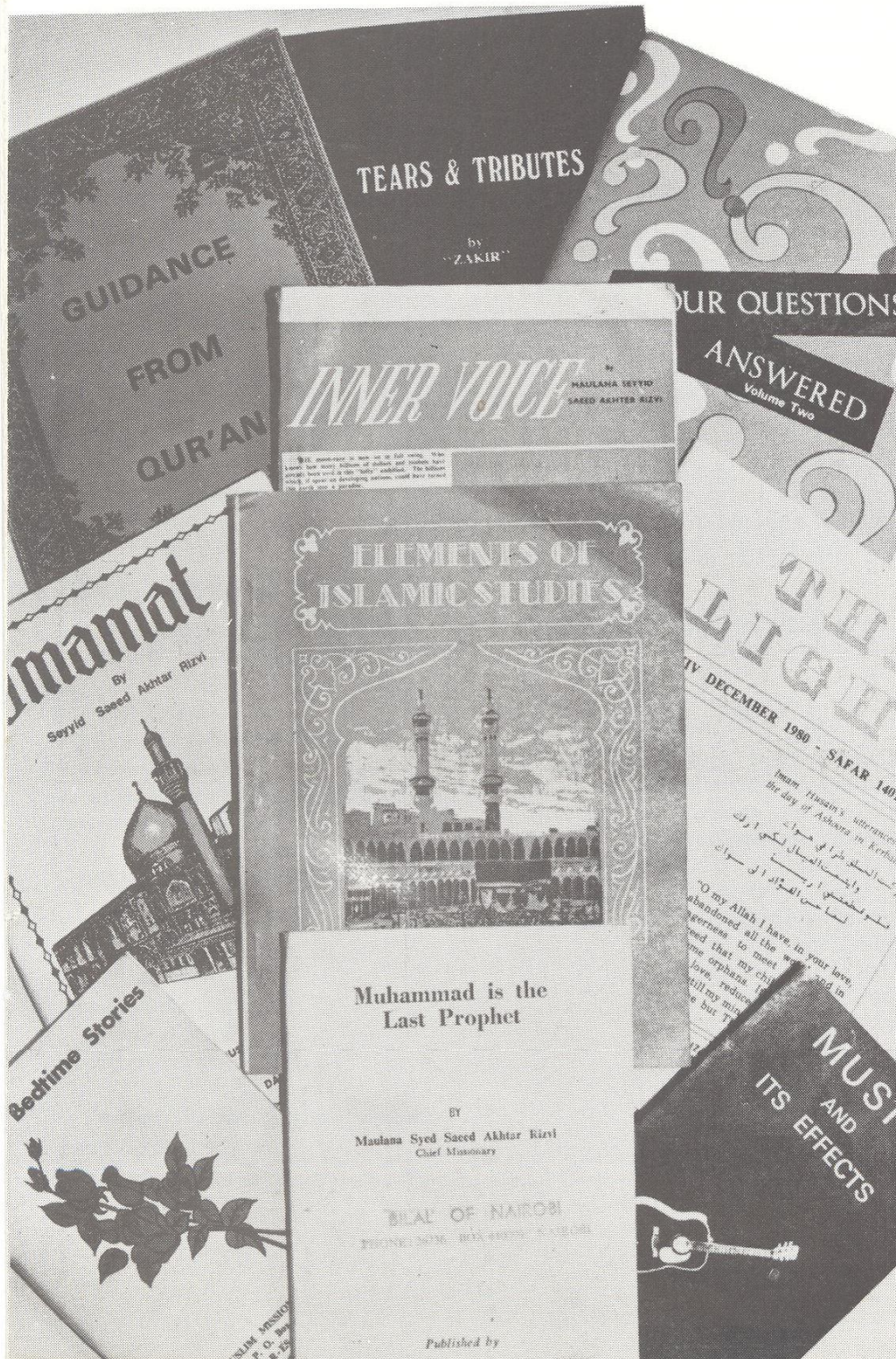
# Federation Samachar



VOL. 19

ISSUE No. 3

MUHARRAM 1401/DECEMBER 1980



Some of the publications of Bilal Muslim Mission which has published a number of books in English and Kiswahili. For information, please write to:  
**BILAL MUSLIM MISSION OF KENYA,**  
P.O. Box 82508,  
Mombasa, Kenya.  
**BILAL MUSLIM MISSION OF TANZANIA,**  
P.O. Box 20033,  
Dare-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

The mission is an organ of the Supreme Council of the Federation of the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamats of Africa.

Photo by courtesy of:  
CAMERA EXPERTS.

## From the Editor



We are happy to bring you the third issue of FEDERATION SAMACHAR. When reading a magazine, in most cases the reader will be savouring and absorbing its contents, quite oblivious to the flurry of activities behind the scenes and the machinery involved in preparing the magazine.

The production of a magazine and the endeavours to improve and make each issue more interesting than the preceding one, besides being a happy and satisfying affair, is also tedious and, at times, frustrating.

Why frustrating? Imagine that you are a farm-hand and have promised your boss as well as the market at large that you will fatten the sheep in a few months' time, but then failed to do so. A sense of failure and then profound frustration sets in.

Our magazine is the poor sheep that is as lean as before, nay, even leaner! Reason? There is a severe "drought" of news and lack of prompt response from most Jamats. "No news" in our case, is not "good news". It is a pity.

In spite of our appeal for news and views from all Jamats, there is a deafening and empty silence.

Further, the Editorial Board sent a circular letter to all Jamats, apart from pleading for fresh "samachar", for the possible appointment in each town or city, of a keen and diligent "Federation Samachar Representative" (FSR) who could be readily contacted for news, photographs (preferably black-and-white) and announcements of births, engagements, weddings and deaths within our Community. No response. Even telegrams from another department of our Federation, are treated like advertising pamphlets handed out in the streets. Where has our co-operative spirit gone? Where are our great and smart volunteer lads gone?

We receive anxious and earnest letters from Mo'meen brothers in cold and far distant corners of the globe, requesting to be listed for mailing so that they do not miss the next issue. They eagerly await news about our Community in other lands and places in which they may have once resided. For this reason, effective communication is vital. The

"buzurgs" thrive on news about their brothers. The air fills up with their prayers. The "sawabs" that lie behind the communication of educational messages and news to both young and old of our Community are innumerable. We have read and heard about our Aimma (A.S.) preaching the high esteem in which the quest for knowledge is held by Allah.

What if Al-Asnam's S.O.S. amidst the recent earthquake had gone unheeded by the community at large? The disaster, naturally, would have been even more appalling!

This is not to make any pessimistic deductions or project any negative implications from the foregoing, but rather, to create a spark that will fire and regenerate the spirit of UNITY and CO-OPERATION within our Community. Let's work together, not only in this particular case, to produce a better magazine with more news between its covers, but also in every other possible field.

### FEDERATION SAMACHAR

A communal organ devoted to the cause of religious and social upliftment.

Issued free by:  
The Supreme Council of the  
Federation of the  
Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamats  
of Africa.

### THE EDITORIAL BOARD:

Ahmed G. Virjee—Editor

Zaffar H. Dattoo  
Aliraza A. Karim  
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Mohamedraza A. Dattoo

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Nairobi, Kenya.

# NEWS FROM JAMATS

**BIRMINGHAM, U.K.:** The Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Jamat launched an appeal to build in three phases in order of the priority of the Community, an Imambara, a Mosque and a Flat for an alim together with a boarding house for overseas students. The approximate cost of phase one is UK£ 135,000 and so far the Jamat has raised £36,000.

**BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI:** At the Annual General Meeting held on 15th December, 1980, the following were elected:

- |                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| President         | : | Mr. Ahmed Hirji   |
| Vice-President    | : | Mr. Yusuf Ramji   |
| Hon. Secretary    | : | Mr. Bashir Jetha  |
| Hon. Treasurer    | : | Mr. Amir Bhaloo   |
| Trustee           | : | Mr. Iqbal N. Panju  |
| Committee Members | : | Mr. Yusuf Moloo<br>Mr. Yusuf Manji<br>Mr. Mohamedrafiq J. Habib |

**DAR-ES-SALAAM, TANZANIA:** The Ithna-Asheri Union Volunteer Corps held HUSSAIN DAY on Saturday, 3rd January, 1981 at 8.45 p.m. at the Ithna-Asheri Mosque on Market Street. The Mayor of the City of Dar-es-Salaam, Hon. Ramadhani Nyamka was invited as the Chairman of the occasion.

**MOMBASA, KENYA:** At the Annual General Meeting of the Ithna-Asheri Young Men's Union, Mombasa, held on Wednesday, 29th October, 1980, the following office bearers and members of the Managing Committee were elected for the year 1980/1981:

- |                          |       |                        |
|--------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Mr. A.R.A. Molu          | ..... | Chairman               |
| Mr. P.A. Karim           | ..... | Vice-Chairman          |
| Mr. Haider H.A.M. Jaffer | ...   | Hon. General Secretary |
| Mr. Hassan M. Sadiq      | ..... | Hon. Joint Secretary   |
| Mr. Gulamabbas Kassam    | ..... | Hon. Treasurer         |

Members of the Committee:

- Mr. Nassir M.M. Jamal
- Mr. Sajjad A. Walji
- Mr. Fazle-Abbas Bhanji
- Mr. Munir A. Sachedina
- Mr. Mohsin A.M. Jaffer
- Mr. Husein M. Kassam
- Mr. Husein A. Walji

\*\*\*\*\*

As in the past forty years, the Union organised yet another highly successful procession on Ashura Night on Tuesday, 18th November, 1980, from 9.00 p.m.

**AMPEES SHIPPING & GENERAL AGENCIES LTD., Haile Selassie Rd., P.O. Box 80632, Telephone 24854, 24858/9, Telex 21224 AMPEES Mombasa**

The procession marched from Hussein Mosque on Kitui Road, and proceeded through Nehru Road, Mackinon Market, Digo Road, Makadara Road, Mariakani Lane, and dispersed at Hyderi Mosque on Old Kilindini Road at 10.00 p.m.

The Union has this year been successful in securing half-hour programme, on VOK television, entitled — "ASHURA SPECIAL" which was screened on Friday 28th November, 1980 from 8.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\*

Faize Hussein organised a Blood donation in commemoration of the Martyrdom of Kerbala on Sunday, 14th November, 1980. A total of 63 pints (23 pints from ladies and 40 pints from the gents) was donated to the Blood Bank of Mombasa for the benefit of the Mombasa public.

**MOSHI, TANZANIA:** The new committee is as follows:—

- |                |   |                      |
|----------------|---|----------------------|
| Chairman       | : | Haji Sherali Ladak   |
| Vice-Chairman  | : | Mr. Anverali Somji   |
| Hon. Secretary | : | Mr. Murtaza Lalji    |
| Hon. Treasurer | : | Mr. Roshanali Hasham |

Committee Members:

- |                        |
|------------------------|
| Mr. Ali Virjee         |
| Mr. Ashak Taki         |
| Mr. Ibrahim Haji       |
| Mr. Gulamabbas Jusab   |
| Mr. Roshanali G. Kanji |
| Mr. Taki G.K. Daya     |
| Mr. Kassamli Parpia    |

**MWANZA, TANZANIA:** Mr. Mohamedhusein Gulamali Jetha has resigned as President of the Jamat owing to ill health. A general meeting was called on 25th December, 1980 to elect a new President. The new President is Haji Mohamedjafferbhai Nasser Virjee.

\*\*\*\*\*

The building of an ablution stand at the mosque is nearing completion. Care has been taken not to disturb the unique architecture of the mosque which is a landmark in Mwanza. M/s Cooper & Partner have kindly drawn the plans free of charge.

Tenders for building a Madressa and a multi-purpose hall will soon be considered and work on this one million shillings project is expected to commence early next year. The Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Supreme Council has pledged Shs. 350,000/- for the Madressa and the Golden Crescent Group/Husseini Volunteer Corps have so far raised Shs. 100,000/- through various projects.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. Sibtain Meghji and Mr. Gulam Mandan are the new Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Husseini Volunteer Corps.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Husseini Volunteer Corps under the leadership of Crescent Inayat Rajwani conducted a census of the Jamat in March, 1980. The total arrived at was 668.

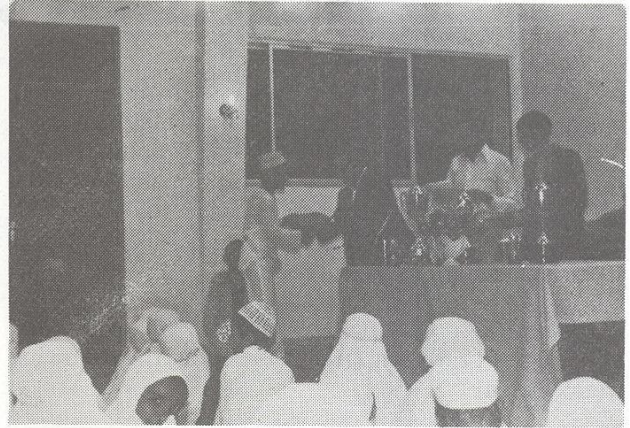
**NAIROBI, KENYA:** The Annual Prize-giving Day of the Heidery Islamic School was held on Monday, 1st September, 1980 in Nairobi's new Imambara after maghribein prayers. The Guest-of-Honour was the Chairman of the Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamats of Africa, AlHaj Abdulrasul Lakha. Among the guests who graced the occasion were the President of the World Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamats, AlHaj Mulla Asgherali M.M. Jaffer; the Chairman of the Nairobi Jamat, AlHaj Gulamhusain Mussa; the school's board of governors; parents of pupils and other Momineen.

The Administrator of the school, Mr. Hassanain 'Bilal' outlined the school's progress during the year. He said that the number of pupils on the school's roll had increased from 142 to 162 and this was an encouraging sign in Nairobi's community of 625 members. He added that the school's annual budget lay in the region of Shs. 50,000/- and as the school demands no fees from its pupils, all the expenses were being met by contributions from generous momineen to whom the school was grateful. He also thanked the Supreme Council for its financial support in the construction of the new school behind the Imambara now under way.

The Heidery Islamic School has a staff of 24 teachers (male and female), most of whom are serving on a voluntary basis. The School presently rents the use of 10 classrooms of the Muslim Girls School opposite the Imambara for one hour, five nights a week and imparts religious education to community boys and girls in the age range of 4-18 years.

AlHaj Lakha in his address pledged the Council's full support in the School's projects and said that it was committed to uplift the standards of religious

education in the community. He made a personal donation of Shs. 1,000/- to the Madressa.



At the Madressa function in Nairobi, the Chairman of the Federation, Mr. Lakha is seen giving a prize to a pupil. On his left are Mulla Mohamed Kassamali, the Headmaster and Mr. Zulfiqar Manji, the Asst. Headmaster.

\*\*\*\*\*

About fifty people went for Hajj in October, 1980.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Ashura Day of 1401 A.H. was marked by a very impressive and well-heralded procession that began at the mosque on Muslim Road. It progressed along Park Road onto Quarry Road where a stop was scheduled for a Majlis in Kiswahili. The route was well lined with eager spectators. The Mo'meen then walked on, with 'marshiyas' and 'nawhas' filling the air, towards the graveyard where a majlis concluded the procession. The whole procession was planned by Mr. Gulamabbas Khaku.



Ashura procession in Nairobi.

Photo by Camera Experts

**NAKURU, KENYA:** Earlier in the year, a Jamat had been formed and the following Office-bearers elected:

Chairman	: Mr. Mumtazali A. Kassam
Secretary	: Mr. Hussein R. Valli
Treasurer	: Mr. Masumali Dattoo

Committee Members:	: Mr. Ramzanali Jamani
	: Dr. Mahmood Hameer

continued on page 5

# News from Bilal

Correspondence Courses, "Masomo Ya Kiislamu" and Islamic Religious Course in English, continue to attract more and more enrolments from the indigenous people in East Africa and other places like Saudi Arabia, Ghana, Zaire and Mauritius. Over 10,000 people have enrolled for these courses and have completed them. Requests from organisations outside East Africa to adopt the English version of the course have been received. In his letter to the Mission in Kenya, the Managing Director of the Islamic Academy, Lahore, Pakistan, said that the courses offered by the Mission "propagate Islam in a beautiful manner" and that they are "a good sample" for educating the younger generation about Islam.

In the Holy month of Ramadhan, ten Muallims from Sunni Madressas were invited to Mombasa to attend a special course that was set up for them. This course achieved its objective. One of the participants, Muallim Khalifa M. Kay wrote to thank the Mission for the "light you have shown me". He said, "I think, I might have been blind or deaf, because I was against Shias for nothing. This was because I never bothered to read the truth from the books, or to discuss with those who understand more".

During the Idd-ul-Fitr celebrations, the Muslim Association held an exhibition at the Makadara ground in Mombasa. The Mission exhibited the various publications in which great interest was shown by people of all Muslim sects.

A Muharram programme of majlises was organised and all the "Zakirs" were given a comprehensive list of the topics they had to cover.

In Kenya, majlises were held in Mombasa, Lamu, Nakuru, Shimoni, Debwa-Taita, Masongaleni and Sagana. Majlises were also held in several towns and villages in Tanzania.

Between July and October, a total of 61 people embraced Islam in Kenya.

The October and December 1980 issues of The Light magazine have been published. The October issue contains articles on Myths about origins of Shiaism, Predictions of Hazrat Zainab (A.S.) in the court of Yazid, the social aspects of worship and a translation of Ziarat-e-Nahia. In the December issue, there are articles on Mojadid, The Abbasid Rulers, Malcolm X and Islamic Brotherhood, The Islamic peoples, On What Subject You Should Not Talk of Yourself and Your Questions Answered.

The following new books have been published in English:—

1. "Tears and Tribute" by Zakir (5th revised edition) - gives a detailed account of the tragedy of Kerbala in readable English.
2. Islam - the basic truths by Ja'afar S. Idris.
3. Did Islam spread by the sword?
4. Ten days in Tehran - by Dr. T. B. Irving.

The following books have been published in Kiswahili recently:-

1. Muhimu wa Hijab
2. Madhebu ya Kishia
3. Mambo yanayomhusu Maiti
4. Haja ya Dini
5. Kwa nini Uisilamu umeruhusa mume kuoa wake wengi.

# News from Jamats

From page 4

**NEW YORK, U.S.A.:** At the Committee Meeting of Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamat of New York, held on 4th December, 1980, it was decided to form a sub-committee for the purpose of acquisition of Imam Bara in New York—Queens. The following have indicated to work for the project:

Mr. Mohamed Manekia - Convenor  
 Mr. Mustafa G.R. Jaffer  
 Mr. G.G. Merali  
 Mr. Raza Hassanali  
 Dr. Shakir Mukhee  
 Mrs. Mumtaz Ladak  
 Mrs. Gulshan Hasham

**TORONTO, CANADA:** At the Special General Meeting of Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Union of Toronto held on 21st September, 1980 the following were elected:

President : Br. Mohsin Kamalia  
 Vice-President : Br. Raza Sumar  
 Hon. Secretary : Br. Gulamabbas Manji  
 Jt. Secretary : Br. Murtaza Jaffer  
 Treasurer : Br. Mohamed K. Alibhai  
 Asst. Treasurer : Br. Mahmood Rizvi  
 Committee Members : Br. Mohamedjaffer Panju  
                               : Br. Kassamali Lakhani  
                               : Br. Mohamedraza H. Merali  
 Director of Religion : Br. Takibhai J. Merali

# NEWS FROM THE SECRETARIAT

The Flag Day collection on Idd-el-Fitr, 1400A.H. (August, 1980) amounted to Shs. 9,013/55 made up as follows:

Dar-es-Salaam . . . . .	Shs. 2933.00
Singida . . . . .	Shs. 2240.00
Nairobi . . . . .	Shs. 2099.50
Mombasa . . . . .	Shs. 609.75
Arusha . . . . .	Shs. 540.00
Moshi . . . . .	Shs. 448.65
Morogoro . . . . .	Shs. 50.00
Pangani . . . . .	Shs. 50.00
Lindi . . . . .	Shs. 42.65

We would like to thank the Jamats for organising the collections.

\*\*\*\*\*

During the Idd-el-Hajj, the Council distributed Shs. 52,000/- by way of Idd gifts to the poor and orphans. We wish to thank the donors and pray to Allah to reward them in this world and hereafter.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Territorial Council meeting which was scheduled to take place in Tananarive in January, 1981, has been postponed and is likely to take place in March, 1981.

\*\*\*\*\*

During the year 1980, the Office Bearers have met on nine occasions on 24/25 May in Nairobi, 15th June in Mombasa, 25th June in Nairobi, 9th August in Mombasa, 11th September, 16/17th November, 12th December, 18th December and 29th December in Nairobi.

\*\*\*\*\*

The next meeting of the Supreme Council is scheduled to be held in Arusha, Tanzania, during the Easter holidays from Friday 17th April to Monday 21st April, 1981. Jamats have been requested to send to the Secretariat motions and resolutions to be tabled by 15th March, Tabligh Reports by 28th February and names to be considered for award of the Sportsman of the Year Trophy by 31st March, 1981.

\*\*\*\*\*

Alhaj Mulla Asgharali M. M. Jaffer has resigned as the President of The World Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asherī Muslim Communities. Writing on behalf of the Executive Council to Mulla Saheb, Mr. Hassan Walji, Secretary-General, said that "the prospect of the World Federation without you at

its helm is indeed a daunting one to say the least.... Words, however, vociferous, are inadequate both in terms of quality as well as quantity in expressing the deep gratitude and appreciation of our community at large and the Executive Council in particular for your efforts and initiative towards the establishment of the World Federation as well as your able leadership which has given it credence and conviction in so short a time."

In accordance with the appropriate provision in the Constitution, Haji Haider Haji, the Vice President, has assumed the office of the President for the remaining term of office.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Secretariat sent out Statistics Forms to various Jamats on 8th July, 1980 with a view to ascertaining the size of each Jamat, details of the Resident Alim, whether there was a madressa and a marriage bureau. So far the following Jamats have returned the forms duly completed:

Kenya: Nairobi, Nakuru

Tanzania: Bukoba, Dar-es-Salaam, Lindi, Morogoro, Mwanza, Nachingwea, Newala, Singida, Songea, Tanga, Ujiji, Zanzibar (Kuwatul Islam)

Others: Bujumbura, Kampala, Kisangani (Zaire), Morondava (Madagascar), Port Louis (Mauritius)

The remaining Jamats are earnestly requested to send in the forms as soon as possible.

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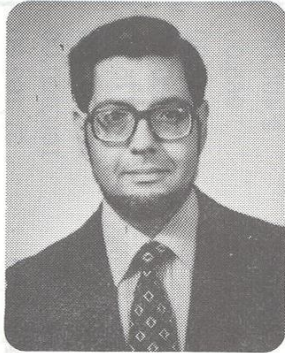
The Council has learnt with deep regret the death of Haji Hassanali Nasser Virjee on December 30 1980 in Vancouver, Canada. Haji Hassanlibhai was a prominent member of Mwanza Jamat and played a key role in the formation of the Federation. He has served the Federation in the capacity of Vice Chairman and Trustee. May Allah in His Mercy and Grace rest the departed soul amongst His Chosen Ones and in the proximity of the Charda Masumin A.S.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Council extends to Mr. Hassan A.M. Jaffer, Vice Chairman of the Federation, congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the wedding of his daughter Fatmabai to Maqbool Mohamedtaki Ladak of New York which took place in Mombasa on 20th September 1980.

## Profile

HON. SECRETARY



At the 14th Constitutional Conference held in Dar es Salaam between 4th and 7th April, 1980, Haji Mohamedraza Ahmed Abdur Rasul Dato (pictured) was unanimously elected as the Hon Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Federation of the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamats of Africa. Mr. Dato is the son of a prominent zakir and social worker in our community.

He was born and bred in Zanzibar. Having completed Form 4, he went to London in 1958 to do 'A' levels after which he read for the B. Sc. degree in Mathematics at the University of Liverpool. He then went to the University of Oxford to read for the Diploma in Education.

In 1964, he started his career as a teacher at Bournemouth Grammar School in England where he taught for three years. He returned to Tanzania in 1967 to take up an appointment as a tutor at Dar es Salaam Technical College and after a short spell, he joined The African American Institute in Dar es Salaam as Education Officer and was with them for two years. He won a place in East African Airways Graduate Training Programme in 1970 and came to Nairobi for intensive training in aviation industry which lasted for six months. He was then given a position at the headquarters in Nairobi in the Department of Tariffs and International Air Transport Association Affairs where he rose to the post of Superintendent. While with EAA, he attended meetings of IATA and other international organisations in many parts of the world, sometimes as the Chief Delegate. When the airline became defunct in 1977, he joined the largest Travel Agency in East Africa as Sales & Administration Manager and is still with them.

He was a Founder Member of the East African Ithna Asheri Union of London and was a member of its Managing Committee. He has also served as a member of the Managing Committee of Nairobi Jamat for two terms and is the Master of Religious Ceremonies for the last six years. He has played a key role in overhauling the religious education system in Nairobi and is a member of the Madressa Committee.

He is married with two children, a boy and a girl. His hobbies include reading, swimming and tabligh work.

## CHAIRMAN'S VISIT

The Chairman Alhaj Abdur Rasul A. Lakha went to Bombay on 8th October, 1980, and from there to Lucknow the following day. Whilst at Lucknow, he visited the Jameal Nazmia (Nazmia Arabic College) where he had useful discussions with its Principal, Syed Hamidul Hasan. He also visited Sultanul Madaris and Madresatul Waezeen where he made contacts and held discussions on matters of mutual interest. Upon his return to Bombay, he was joined by Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani, President of Dar es Salaam Jamat. In consequence of their visit to India, eight Molvis arrived in East Africa for the month of Muharram and Safar. The Chairman returned to Nairobi on 15th October, 1980.

On 13th December, 1980, the Chairman visited the Bujumbura Jamat and returned on the 15th. He addressed the Jamat on the 14th after Majlis and attended the general meeting of the Jamat on the 15th when elections of the office-bearers took place.

Whilst in Karachi on business, the Chairman was entertained to dinner by Mehfile Murtaza on the 3rd January, 1981. Apart from the members of the Managing Committee of the Mehfile Murtaza, the function was attended by the President of the Karachi Jamat, members of the Committee, trustees, the President of the Ithnaasheri Union of Toronto and the head of Bilal Trust of Pakistan. In addition, there were other members of the Community in Karachi who also attended this function. The Chairman delivered a short address, thanking the Mehfile Murtaza for the function and made a few pertinent observations.



At the function in Karachi, from left to right, Mr. Abdur Rasul Lakha, Chairman of the Federation; Mr. Anwar Rajpar, President of Mehfile Murtaza; Mr. Mushin Kamalia, President Ithna-Asheri Union, Toronto; Mr. Mohamed Jaffer K. Gulamhussein of Bilal Trust of Pakistan.

## At a glance..... Council's Monthly Assistance -1980

PARTICULARS	January to	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
	July						
1. Scholarship for Higher Education ..	15,200.00	6,400.00	—	4,200.00	—	—	25,800.00
2. Local Secondary Education.....	27,100.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	3,200.00	4,000.00	2,800.00	41,100.00
3. Marriage .....	30,000.00	3,000.00	—	5,000.00	—	5,000.00	43,000.00
4. Business.....	100,000.00	20,000.00	—	95,000.00	80,000.00	—	295,000.00
5. Bewa.....	45,954.00	6,385.00	6,085.00	6,085.00	7,260.00	4,760.00	76,520.00
6. Poor .....	79,582.50	14,385.00	9,360.00	8,435.00	10,360.00	16,910.00	139,032.50
7. Yatim .....	1,400.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	2,400.00
8. Poor General .....	965.00	—	—	—	—	—	965.00
9. Rehabilitation .....	4,415.00	—	—	—	—	—	4,415.00
10. Miscellaneous Chairman's Vote .....	6,400.00	1,000.00	—	—	—	—	7,400.00
11. Ramadhan Relief Fund .....	36,775.00	—	—	—	—	—	36,775.00
12. Idd Gifts to Orphan/Poor .....	49,600.00	—	—	52,000.00	—	900.00	102,500.00
13. Medical Dispensary .....	—	—	—	50,000.00	50,000.00	—	100,000.00
14. Aalim Grant .....	30,162.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	4,200.00	51,162.00
15. Bilal Muslim Mission .....	245,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	35,000.00	420,000.00
16. Major Projects .....	—	500,000.00	—	—	200,000.00	—	700,000.00
	<u>Shs. 672,544.50</u>	<u>592,570.00</u>	<u>56,845.00</u>	<u>263,320.00</u>	<u>391,020.00</u>	<u>69,770.00</u>	<u>2,046,069.50</u>



# Muharram Zakirs for the year 1401 A.H. (November 1980)

Following is a list of Zakirs who recited majlises in various Jamats during the Ashra-e-Muharram which fell on 10th November, 1980.

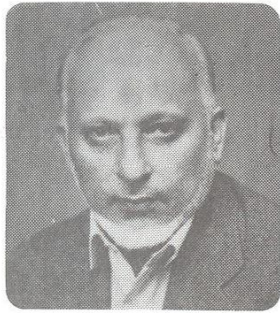
ZAKIR	FROM	TO
Maulana Sheikh Durrul Hassan	Mogadishu	Arusha
Maulana Khalil Abbas	Bujumbura	Bujumbura
Maulana Syed Murtaza Parvi	Moshi	Bukoba
Maulana Syed Nabi Hassan	India	Dar-es-Salaam
Maulana Munawwar Raza Naqvi	India	Dodoma
Maulana Syed Abul Hassan Manzoor	Mwanza	Kigoma
Maulana Sheikh Safdar Husein Jalali	Lindi	Lindi
Maulana Syed Sadiq Ali Shah	Majunga	Majunga
Maulana Gulamabbas Versi	Mikindani	Mikindani/Mtwara
Maulana Sheikh Mirza Mohamed Mehdi	Mombasa	Mogadishu
Maulana Syed Karrar Hussein	India	Mombasa
Maulana Sheikh Ali Abbas Khan	India	Morogoro
Maulana Syed Gulam Mohamed Hadi Rizvi	Dar-es-Salaam	Moshi
Maulana Shabbir Hassan	India	Mwanza
Maulana Syed Ali Abid Rizvi	Nairobi	Nairobi
Maulana Sheikh Mirza Taqi Haider	India	Nakuru
Maulana Mukhtar Hussein	India	Singida
Maulana Sheikh Gulam Rasool Najafi	Tanga	Songea
Mulla Roshan Versi	Tananarive	Tananarive
Maulana Syed Sabirhussein Nazirhussein	India	Tanga
Maulana Sheikh Mohamed Qaseem	Songea	Tunduru
Maulana Sheikh Mohamed Haider	India	Zanzibar

Additionally, Haji Gulamhussein Ali Peera, Haji Mohamedhussein Ahmed Lakha, Mulla Muslim M. Jivraj from Tanzania and Haji Razahusein Haji Karim, Haji Musa Janab Firdowski and Mulla Sajjad G.A.D. Mussa from Kenya went to recite majlises in various jamats in Madagascar.

Maulanas from India were then rotated between some Jamats in Tanzania as follows:—

	24th November to 14th December, 1980	14th December to 31st December, 1980	1st January to 18th January, 1981	18th January to 31st January, 1981
Maulana Nabi Hassan	Tanga	Mwanza	Arusha	Moshi
Maulana Syed Sabirhussein Nazirhussein	Mwanza	Arusha	Moshi	Dar-es-Salaam
Maulana Shabbir Hassan	Arusha	Moshi	Dar-es-Salaam	Tanga
Maulana Mukhtar Hussein	Dar-es-Salaam	Tanga	Mwanza	Arusha
Maulana Munawwar Raza Naqvi	Moshi	Dar-es-Salaam	Tanga	Mwanza

# OBITUARY



Inna Lillahi wa Inna Iaihe Rajeoon  
HAJI HUSEIN HAJI HABIB

On 12th Zulq'adah 1400 Hijri (22nd September, 1980) our Community lost a dedicated and enthusiastic man, Haji Huseinbai Haji Habib, who died in Mombasa after a short illness.

He had a long and outstanding record of service on the Management Committee of the Jamat in various capacities. In 1959, he was elected Hon. Treasurer to the Education Board, and it was during his tenure that the annexed six classrooms next to the Alibhai Panju Jaffery Primary School were built.

Among those elders who contributed towards the unification and final merger of the two Jamats in Mombasa, Huseinbai's name stands quite prominent. The new Haidery Imambara is indeed the most tangible tribute to his selfless devotion to the Mombasa Jamat. During the days of its construction, he supervised the work with ardent zeal and enthusiasm.

A keen sportsman himself, Huseinbai had the welfare of the Jaffery Sports Club at heart. After his retirement from active sports, he remained a veteran adviser to the Club Management.

During 1974-1977, he served as the Hon. Treasurer of the Federation of the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamats of Africa, and lent an unflinching support to the then Chairman of the Federation, Mr. Asgherali M.M. Jaffer.

The Office-bearers of the Federation learnt of this sad news with deep grief and sorrow. The Chairman of the Federation Alhaj A.A. Lakha flew to Mombasa specially to attend the funeral.

Marhum is survived by a large family, including his aged mother, his widow, a son, two daughters, brothers and sisters. We convey our sincere condolences to them all on this bereavement, and pray for Marhum for Maghferat, and that Almighty Allah may bless him with a place in Jiware Masoomeen A.S.

## Announcements

### BIRTHS:

Place	Date	Name	Child
Nairobi	15th July, 1980	Mr. & Mrs. Muslim H.M. Gulamhusein	Daughter — Shaina
Nairobi	24th Sept. 1980	Mr. & Mrs. Mushtaq Kalyan	Son — Minhal Husein
Nairobi	29th Sept. 1980	Mr. & Mrs. Akbar M. Kara	Son — Abid
London	17th Nov. 1980	Mr. & Mrs. Ahmed G. Virjee of Nairobi	Daughter — Masuma

### WEDDINGS:

Place	Date	Name
Mombasa	20th Sept. 1980	Mr. Maqbool Mohamedtaki G. Ladak of New York to Miss Fatmabai Hassan A.M. Jaffer

### DEATHS:

Place	Date	Name
Nairobi	11th Aug. 1980	Muliyani Mrs. Fatmabai Husein Rashid
Nairobi	21st Sep. 1980	Mrs. Sikinabai Hassanali Janmohamed
Mombasa	22nd Sept. 1980	Haji Husein Haji Habib
Vancouver	30th Dec. 1980	Haji Hassanali Nasser Virjee of Mwanza

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## READERS' FORUM

### ORGANISED CHARITY

I am all in favour of organised charity; the scope of doing good will, then, be immense. For a completely organised charity, a massive organisation will be required. This will be too heavy and impractical. There will always be a need of individual charity on a personal basis. The percentage of such charity has, however, to be reduced and so the aim has to be to get a larger percentage of charity to be diverted to organised charity.

Two basic facts will have to be considered. The older generation will only hand over donations to well known personalities. So it does not matter how efficient or dedicated an organisation is, the personality factor will play an important role in attracting donations.

The second item to be considered is that wealth today seems to have been distributed among more people. These people will be able to contribute small amounts on a regular basis rather than larger amounts intermittently. An organisation has, therefore, to be set up to give an opportunity to the masses to give charity 'regularly' - a form of action encouraged by the Quran.

M. H. Dharamsi - London

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AL-HOWZA AL-ILMIYYA MADARISE AL-IMAM ASH-SHIRAZI AD-DINIYYAH in Iran recently sent us a letter, the text of which reads:- "We have received a copy of your Communal Organ devoted to the cause of religious and social upliftment, issue No. 1 for July 1980/Shab'ban 1400.

It is a very good plan to serve Islam and Imamiah's school in that country.

Your article about the great thinking of the Shia world Ayatullah Sadr is the best way to teach the others the holiness of our Ulamas.

We ask God to bless you and give you more grace in this way, ameen.

Please accept our best wishes."

Alshirazi—Mashad

## Acknowledgements

The Editorial Board would like to express its sincere gratitude to the following Companies for their contributions by way of advertisements towards publication of the last issue:

1. Shabbir Motor Spares (Nairobi)
2. Shenco Arts (Nairobi)
3. Haidery Esso Services Ltd. (Nairobi)
4. Nairobi Optical House (Nairobi)
5. East African Optical Co. Ltd. (Nairobi)
6. Ryce Motors Ltd. (Nairobi)
7. Capricorn Tours, Travel & Car Hire Ltd.—  
(Nairobi and Mombasa)
8. Zahid Auto Services Garage Ltd. (Nairobi).

### Important Announcement

All those residing outside East Africa wishing to receive a copy of FEDERATION SAMACHAR, should please write to the Editor and let him have the current address in full. Only those who respond to this notice will receive a copy. Also, before moving to a new address, let us know the change well in advance. The magazine is supplied free.

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The Hon. Treasurer requests that those individuals who wish to make payments of any nature directly to the Bank Account of the Supreme Council, e.g. Khums, Poor Relief Fund, Education, etc. should follow the procedure below:—

An extra deposit slip should be sent to the Secretariat, Supreme Council, P. O. Box 81085, Mombasa, indicating the PURPOSE of the payment to facilitate correct allocation and proper disposal of the amount deposited. The donor may remain anonymous if he so wishes, but an address for the purpose of forwarding the receipt, will be appreciated.

The Council operates the following accounts:—

- National Bank of Commerce, Uhuru Road Branch, Arusha, Account No. 58132
- National Bank of Commerce, Jamhuri Street Branch, Dar es Salaam, Account No. 51158
- National Bank of Commerce, Kibo Branch, Moshi, Account No. 50201
- National Bank of Commerce, Zanzibar, Account No. 124530
- Habib Bank Ltd., Mombasa, Account No. 671
- Standard Bank Limited, Treasury Square Branch, Mombasa, Account No. 761303

# Personality of Prophet of Islam

In general there are five major factors that build a man. First, his mother makes the structure and dimensions of his spiritual form. The Jesuits say, "Give me your child until he is seven years old, and he will remain a Jesuit until the end of his life, where-ever he goes". The mother rears the spirit of man as something tender and sensitive, full of emotion, and gives each child its first instruction with her own gestures while suckling it.

The second factor in the making of man is his father, who makes the other dimensions of the spirit of the child after the mother.

The third factor that builds the outer and apparent dimensions of man is school.

The fourth is society and environment. The stronger and more powerful the environment, the greater will be its educative effect upon man. For example, if somebody lives in a village, the formative effect upon him of his environment will be less than in the case of one who lives in an extremely large city.

The fifth educative factor in the building of personality consists of the general culture of society or that of the world as a whole.

There are thus five dimensions which taken together form a mould into which the spirit of man is poured and from which it is extracted once shaped.

Education consists of the particular shape deliberately given to human spirits for the attainment of certain purposes. For if man be left to his own devices, he will develop in such a manner as to be unfit for the purposes of social life. We therefore provide men with certain moulds within which to grow and develop according to our desires and the demands of the age.

But in the life of the Prophet of Islam, whose personality must be regarded as the greatest factor in historical change, none of the factors mentioned above affected his spirit. It was, on the contrary, the deliberate purpose of God that no mould or form should be imposed on his spirit, and no artificial or inculcated form should touch his soul, in the way that earns men the approval of their time and their environment. For that great man came precisely in order to break all moulds, and if he had grown up within one of them, he would never have been able to complete his mission. For example, he might have become a great physician, but only according to Greek models; he might have become a great philosopher, but only according to Persian models; he might have become a great mathematician or poet, but only according to the models approved by his age. However, he was sent to grow and develop in an environment that was empty of culture and civilization, and to remain untouched by the influence of any of the five factors mentioned above.

It is for this reason that when the Prophet open his eyes, he does not see his father. Even though he

has his mother, the hand that would keep him free of all forms and moulds draws him into the desert while his mother is still alive. It was then the practice of the Arabs to send their infants into the desert until they were two years of age, so that they would spend their infancy in the desert. They would then return to the cities to grow up in the care of their mothers.

By contrast with this practice, the Prophet Muhammad went back to the desert after returning to Mecca, and he stayed there until he was five. After some time his mother died. These wise and subtle divine measures preserved from the influence of all forms and moulds the infant that was destined to shatter all existing moulds - Greek, Eastern, Western, Jewish, Christian, Zoroastrian - and to create a new mould. Then again the hand of providence and fate removed him from the city to the desert in his youth, on the pretext of making him a herdsman, so that the urban environment might not impose its own approved forms on the spirit that had to develop in freedom. In order that society and the age might not leave any effect on the Prophet, he was, moreover, created in a society that had no general culture. In addition, he was unlettered - that is, he was unable to read or write - because it was necessary that the mould of schooling also should not be imposed on him.

We see then that the greatest distinction and advantage enjoyed by the person who was to undertake such a mission lay precisely in his exemption from all forms and moulds accepted in his age, all the forms that fashion man according to a stereotype. For the man who was destined both to destroy all fire temples and to close down all academies and establish in their place the mosque, the man who was destined to destroy all racial, national and regional forms and moulds, should not himself be subject to the influence of any such form.

First, his father was taken from him so that his dimensions would not be imposed on the spirit of the Prophet. Then his mother was kept at a distance from him so that her maternal affection and tenderness should not taint with lyrical softness a spirit that had to be stern and powerful. He was, moreover, born in a dry peninsula, far removed from universal culture, so that his great spirit might not be affected by the educative influence of any culture, civilization or religion, for a spirit destined to endure and perform an extraordinary mission cannot be fashioned in any ordinary form. This apparent deprivation was in reality the greatest of advantages and distinctions for the person who was entrusted with the greatest role in the greatest event of history.

*Extract from Lecture  
"Approaches to the understanding of Islam"  
by Dr. Ali Shari'ati*