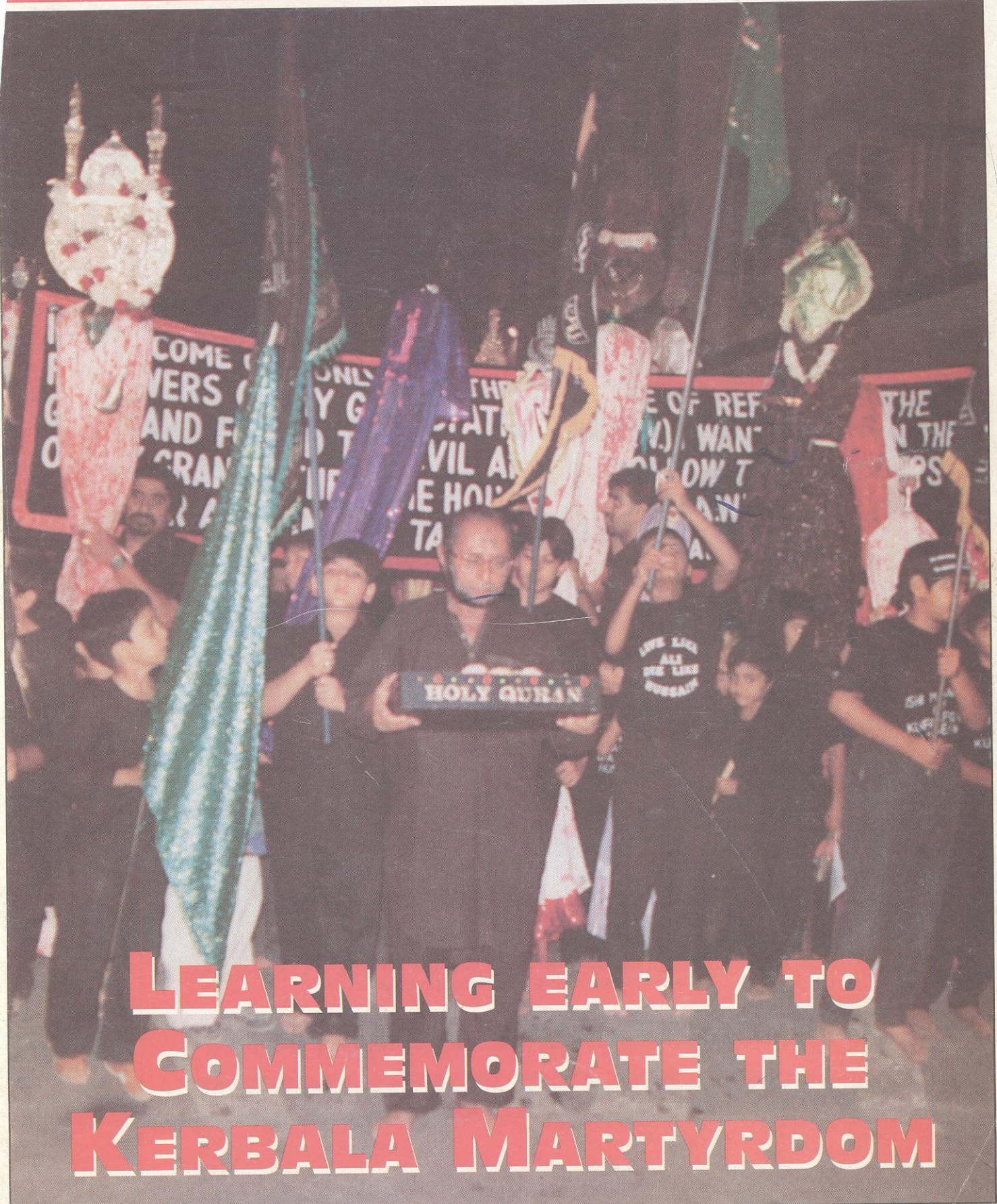




Federation Samachar

Volume 29, No. 1. Safar 1416 A.H. / July 1995



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FEDERATION SAMACHAR

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

Volume 29, NO. 1

Safar 1416 A.H.
July, 1995.



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Editorial Assistant: Mukhtar Damji
Advertising: Amir Lakha
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The Editors welcome readers to submit letters, articles, comments or photographs to the Samachar. To ease the return of photographs, readers should send us their proper address. All correspondence to be addressed to:

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COVER PICTURE

Ashura procession in Dar es Salaam. Our Jamaats world-wide, especially the larger ones, organise the traditional mourning processions on the eve of Ashura each year.

The purpose of such processions is to raise awareness amongst the public of the martyrdom in Kerbala.

From the Editor's Desk

A media for leaders and readers

At the April Conference held in Dar es Salaam the limitations, if any, that should be imposed on our media were discussed. The deliberations dwelt on how free our media should be and if there should be a control on the nature of articles published. It was noted that if Editors of publications published by our Regional Federations are given a free hand, as is the case with the Editorial Board of the Federation Samachar, this would garble the fact that the publication is a mouthpiece of the respective Federation.

However it has to be understood that the Federation Samachar has and will always be a a mouthpiece of the Africa Federation as long as it defends events and actions that respect the constitution of the Africa Federation and the collective interest of the Community world-wide. Being a mouthpiece does not mean that we stop being critical and refrain from objective journalism and instead opt to simply disseminate activities and news updates of the Federation. If such is the case, we would eventually stop catering for the intellectual class of readers and would play a passive role in the endeavour to effect changes for the better, within our Community.

The Editorial Board is dictated by the guide-line, and correctly so, that it should provide a forum for expression of views and ideas on Communal issues with comments being objective and constructive. The Editorial Board is expected to be critical on issues or activities that undermine, betray or are potentially detrimental to the ideals contained in the constitution [which has been rightly adopted in line with our Islamic belief] simply because such issues would deter us from the objective of effectively organising ourselves to practice and to propagate true Islam.

An Islamic media is one which is effective in propagating authentic information without being fearful when defending truth, justice and fairness. Our media is not meant to be melodramatic unlike other commercial media which sensationalise or distort news to boost sales. Our media is meant to enlighten readers on communal activities of the Africa and other Federations and on religious dictums i.e. fatwas, laws and ethics, economic and political updates and other similar macro issues relevant to society today.

An Islamic media expects leaders to answer questions raised to them for the sake of enlightening readers. If Editors are restricted in their scope of work, we would be laying a dangerous precedent whereby dirty hands can be guised by clean gloves. We propose that Editors of our Regional Federation newspapers should sincerely and clearly chart out the aims and objectives of an Islamic media and the level of co-operation expected from leaders world-wide when seeking information or clarifications.

With such guide-lines, Editors can carry sincere reports without raising eyebrows whilst leaders will be wary of the fact that they could be asked to elaborate on valid issues. Information is not intended to be consumed like food, forgotten and replaced by a new dish but should be worthwhile enough to provide food for thought and engender constructive thinking with the primary objective of uplifting our faith, knowledge and morals. Truth which Islam stands for can never be propagated through restrictive or insincere reporting.

Editor.



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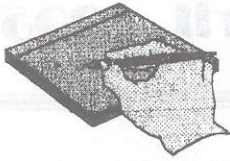
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Report of the Editorial Board

of Federation Samachar - April, 1995.

After the last Session of the Supreme Council held in Arusha in April, 1994 four Issues of the Federation Samachar have been published thereby bringing the attained total of publications during our term in office to 10 Issues against the proposed 12 Issues. The earlier problems associated with typesetting and printing were deciphered during our last year in office thereby enabling us to come up with a regular quarterly issue.

Towards the end of our term, in March, 1995 the Editorial Board received the poignant news of the death of our Chairman, Alhaj Mohamedali Chagani in Arusha. The Late Mohamedalibhai always had a burning desire for improvement and he contributed and edited many articles during his term. I am advised by one member of the Arusha Jamaat that when the January, 1995 issue of the Samachar was received in Arusha, the late Mohamedalibhai, as if sensing that this would be the final issue he would see, personally distributed copies to our members there. The Editorial Board and surely our esteemed readers will miss him dearly. May Allah [S.W.T.] rest his soul in eternal peace. At this juncture, may we now recite Sura-e-fateha for the deceased.

After the Arusha Session, our next Issue was released in June, 1994 [Muharram 1414 A.H.]. This Issue, amid other news, had a cursory glance at the Minutes of the 51st Council Session and covered the Arusha deliberations with also the Chairman's parting message.

The second issue in the final year was out in September, 1994 [Rabi-ul-Akher 1415 A.H.]. This carried a prelude to the Sports Festival in Nairobi plus the Council delegation visit to Madagascar and a caution by the Africa Federation on certain resolutions intended to be moved in the World Federation Conference of October, 1994 in the United Kingdom.

The third issue hit the stands in January, 1995 [Shaaban 1415 A.H.]. This Issue covered the World Federation Elections held in October, 1994 and also included a concise coverage of the Sports Festival held in Nairobi in December, 1994. The visit to Africa by Hujjatul Islam Seyyid Murtaza Kashmiri, the son-in-law of our Marja, Ayatullah Seestani was also covered as was a report on the tragic killings in Karachi. This was the first time in many years [ever?] that the Samachar comprised of 52 pages.

The current Issue [April, 1995 - Zilkad 1415 A.H.] covers the Council delegation historic tour of India and also has annotations from the Editor on his recent visit to Birmingham. This Issue also includes information on education opportunities in India with an update on the situation in Karachi.

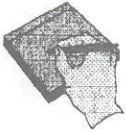
In all Issues regular features like Shia World News, News from Around Africa, Global Update, Editorial, Anon, Women's page, Health pages, Global Update, Fiqh, Down Memory Lane and Wayside Wisdom have been carried. These are supplemented by religious and feature articles.

The Editors are pleased to note an increasing interest in the Samachar. A first impression is believed to be a lasting one and probably the 'All-Colour' front page has helped to boost readership. The increased coverage of Communal events and a good selection of interesting feature articles are other factors which appear to have raised readership interest. Many overseas subscriptions have been received, especially from the United States and Canada and to facilitate distribution, the Editorial Board has now made arrangements with NASIMCO to distribute the Samachar in North America.

Local circulation greatly depends on 'awareness'. Constituent Jamaats need to adequately publicise the Samachar to its members and need to ensure that sales are executed effectively. The Editorial Board has been sending out publicity posters to major Jamaats to put on their notice boards before an Issue is out and if this has helped to draw more awareness, the system can be spread to cover all Jamaats. Smaller Jamaats can deliver Issues individually to each family in their Jamaat so as to maximise distribution. The objective, as we all know, is not commercial but rather to keep our members informed of events and educated on religious and general issues. 'Knowledge is power' and a Jamaat with enlightened members is a healthy Jamaat.

News feedback from Jamaats has 'failed to fill the bill'. A perspective glance at the four Issues that have been released after the Arusha

[...continued. page 6]



...Editorial Board Report - April, 1995

.....from page 5

Session vividly shows that some Jamaats have had nothing to report. Last year we emphasised that activity news and project reports [plus photographs] be sent to us in any form, following which we would bear the onus of editing the materials received. The response has however been poor.

The cost of publishing and distributing the Federation Samachar have risen with higher paper, colour separation, printing and postage costs. Sales generate revenue but we feel the issue is priced too low. Whilst we appreciate that the objective is for our media to reach a maximum number of households, we feel it is only pragmatic, in wake of higher costs entailed, to raise the selling price to say Shs. 300/-. We believe this will have a minimal (if any) bearing on sales and will help generate surpluses that can be spent on engendering further improvements in future issues.

Advertisements again came mostly from Dar es Salaam. Our appeal at the Arusha session [during which advertising rate pamphlets were distributed with the Samachar] was responded to by a 'cold shoulder' from most Jamaats. Is it because our

Advertising representative resides in Dar es Salaam? In that case it would be advisable for the incoming Advertising in-charge to solicit adverts by travelling to each Jamaat.

The Samachar offers a forum for expression of views and ideas on Communal issues. Comments should be objective, constructive and therefore effective. We had to be selective in accepting articles for publication and tried to refrain from knowingly promoting any debate on views which were ill-conceived or which resulted from misconception of an issue. The Samachar defends events and actions that respect the constitution of the Africa Federation but will abhor things that undermine, betray or are potentially detrimental to the ideals contained in the constitution simply because these would be harmful to the objective of effectively organising ourselves to practice and to propagate our religion.

We thank all advertisers plus those who sent in articles, news items and photographs for the Samachar. We are also grateful to Jamaats, Organisations and individuals around the world who have assisted in distributing the Samachar in their respective areas. At this point may I thank fellow members in the Editorial Board for their great support

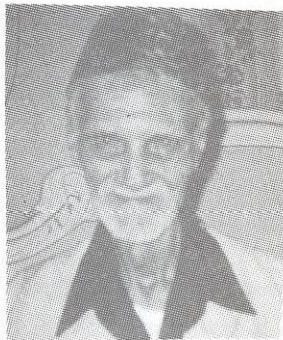
in producing and distributing the Samachar. They are Murtaza Jivraj [who has snapped many of the photographs that have appeared in the Samachar including the cover page of our current issue], Fazleabbas Dhirani [who ensures that copies reach all our Jamaats far and wide. If any Jamaat has not been receiving enough copies or are receiving surplus copies you are advised to contact him]. Also on the Editorial Board is Amir Lakha who is the man behind most adverts that appear whilst Mukhtar Damji liaises with Institutions to get in more communal news. This joint effort has helped to uplift the quality and regularity of the Samachar.

Let us unite and with the Grace of Allah [S.W.T.] make the Samachar a truly effective media of ours by vying to present information that is true and authenticated without being fearful when defending truth, justice and fairness. This media should downcast social evils that persist within our Community because such evils are an antithesis to the practice of justice and fairness and disrupt the very foundation upon which a democratic society like ours exists.

Wasalaam.

Editor.
April, 1995.

ALHAJ MOHAMEDALI ISMAIL DHARAMSI (POPE)



The Secretariat regrets to announce the sad news that Murabbi Mohamedalibhai passed away in Zanzibar on 23rd June, 1995. Murabi Mohamedalibhai was a dedicated worker and became well-known for his exemplary services to the Kuwwatul Islam Jamaat in Zanzibar, having first served as a Mukhi and then President. He was a pious man and was known for his fair treatment to one and all. This trait made him popular and well liked by all members of the Community.

His exemplary and dedicated services in the cause of religion and Community won him a "Husseini Medal" a few years ago. His demise will be very much felt by all those who knew him. May Allah (s.w.t) repose the soul in His mercy and grant patience to the bereaved family to bear the loss. Sura-e-Fateha is requested for the departed soul.

Your Letters

Views, opinions or articles should be addressed to:

The Editor,
Federation Samachar,
P.O. Box 6710, Dar es Salaam.

Dear brother,

On Cousin Marriages..

I refer to the Federation Samachar Volume 28, No. 4 of Zilkaad 1415 A.H./ April, 1995 in which you carried an article on 'Cousin Marriages' wherein it was mentioned " ...one of our Mujtaheeds, Ayatollah Nasir Muqarim Shirazi of Qum has said that according to our Aamma's narrations, it is advised to refrain from cousin marriages."

I would appreciate if you can please furnish me [name of book] of this information pertaining to cousin marriages.

**Sayed Abu Talib
Zakir-Nairobi Jamaat.**

The reference on 'Cousin Marriages' was made to the Medical Advisory Board of the World Federation by a Zakir in the U.K. You are advised to contact the Medical Board who should be able to give you the necessary information.

Editor.

Dear brother,

Zakirs should not be restricted on time

Your publication is renowned for the impartial views on burning issues concerning the Jamaat and your principles of upholding constructive criticisms to enhance the progress and solidarity of the community is commendable.

May I point out that during the month of Muhaftram, especially during the first twelve days, our Jamaat in conjunction with the Supreme Council, deserves praise for recruiting eminent Zakirs from India and Pakistan to preach and impart valuable knowledge whilst marking Azadari.

However it is unfortunate that Zakirs are restricted on time which leads to Zakirs not often dealing with a subject

Dear brother,

From the Ex-Chairman..

As immediate past Chairman of the Africa Federation, I wish to place on record with due appreciation and thanks, your fruitful direction and contribution as the Editor of the Federation Samachar during my term of Chairmanship.

I am confident that your co-operation, in whatever capacity and particularly as the resuming Editor of the Samachar, to the Supreme Council will continue unabated.

Please convey my similar feelings to your colleagues who joined you in the success of your Board.

**Habib J. Mulji
Immediate Past Chairman.**

Thank you Habibbhai. It was always a pleasure to work with you and your team and insha'allah we shall vie to make the Samachar even better in the months to come.

Editor.

adequately. Jamaats should be flexible on the 'time' issue to enable us get the maximum knowledge from Zakirs.

**Brother in Faith,
Dar esSalaam.**

The optimum time for a human mind to be perceptive on one subject is said to be 20 minutes. Concentration then dwindles to 'attention' power for about 40 minutes following which the mind often digresses to worldly thoughts unless the subject is of very special interest to the listener. And do we not need to also consider our children, elderly and sick who can't endure lengthy sessions?

Editor.

Dear brother,

Samachar for the library

We would like to introduce ourselves as a unique Shia Islamic Library organised on a non-profit basis. We have been operating for four years and now have a membership of over 550 members.

As your magazine is a thought provoking one which can engender our youths to think radically but within Islamic laws, we kindly ask you to include our name on your list of subscribers. This will enable us to put the Samachar in the library for the benefit of our readers.

**Abbasali D. Husein
K.S.I Jame Masji Library, Bombay.**

Thank you for your comments. The library has meanwhile been included on our mailing list.

Editor.

Dear brother,

Tribute to M.A. Chagani, your former Editor



M. ethodic he was in all he did;
A. ction what he always wanted;

C heerfully he greeted all he met;
H onest he was to all he dealt with;
A pparent he made, what he thought;
G oals he pre-set and met;
A uthor he was, with a style of his own;

N o is a word his dictionary did not have;

I nterest he took in all fields of life.

He was what he was! A man irreplaceable and a selfless social worker who was an example to us all.

Arusha Reader.

The Late Mohamedali Chagani was great to work with. We at the Editorial Board greatly miss him too.

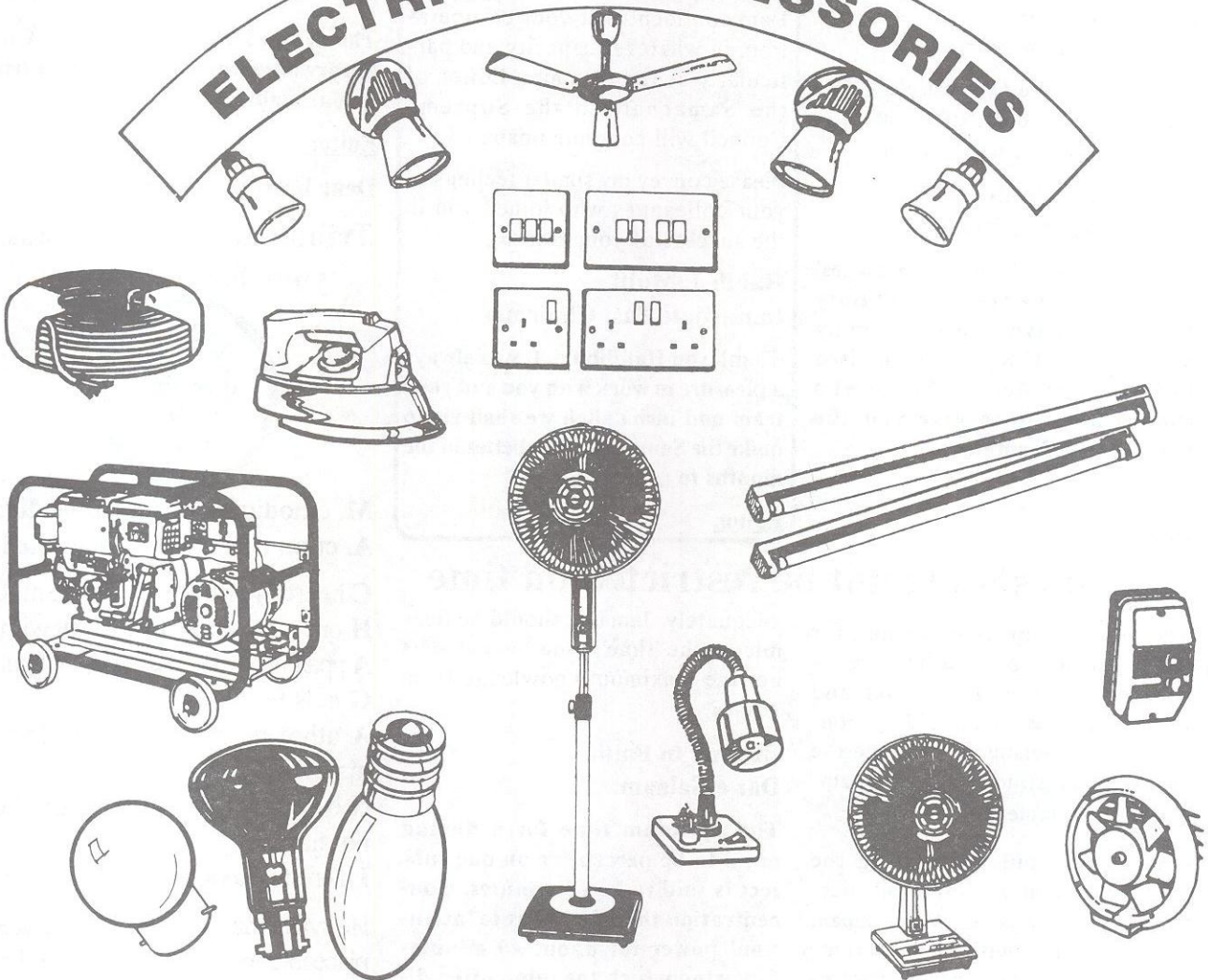
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From Ohio....

Report by Kurban Manji in Ohio

There has been a steady growth in the number of Shia, including Khoja, families establishing themselves in Central America. Jamaats were earlier established in Minneapolis and Fort Wayne, Indiana and subsequently one has been established in Cleveland, Ohio by the name of Jaffery Union of N.E. Ohio which also falls under the umbrella of NASIMCO.

The Ohio Jamaat consists of approximately 30 families which includes five Khoja families whilst the rest are Indian, Pakistani, Afghani and Iranian families. The Jamaat has been organising Muharram majlises, in both English and Urdu, at rented accomodations for the last five years. About a year ago a Madressa was inaugurated whilst during Ramadhan iftar, majlises and aamals are held in members' homes.

The Jamaat is now looking towards purchasing a suitable property for an Imambara and Centre. The cost is expected to be around US \$ 200,000 and it is expected that our brothers world-wide will contribute towards this project.

The Shias and Muslims in general are becoming an accepted part of life here and positive steps are being taken towards enhancing Islam in general and Shiaism in particular in this part of the United States of America.

Current office-bearers are:

President: Dr. Naushad Khimji
Secretary: Dilawer Dinani
Vice President: Dr. Mihr Shah
Scnd. Vice President: Syed M. Alikhan
Treasurer: Akbar Kanji
Mukhi: Kurban Manji
Ladies Section: Zainab Dinani, Sitara Shah and Shehnaz Khan.

World Faith leaders meet

The Religious leaders from nine of the world's main Faiths met from 29 April to 4 May, 1995 at Windsor Castle in the UK to discuss the environment. The group consisted of Bahai, Buddhist, Muslim, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Sikh and Taoist leaders who gathered not to talk about their own religious differences but about God and the environment.

The new group is called the Alliance of Religions and Conservation Foundation. Its establishment appears to already have some significant, beneficial fall-outs. The Windsor Summit confirmed that environmental protection was a basic principle in all Faiths with each leader committing to propagate towards a cleaner environment as a form of respect to God's creation. participants also agreed that a concern for the wise and respectful use of Nature's fruits is inherent to the principles of their religion.

The alliance has established a set of goals to be achieved over the next nine years with the ultimate objective of making the world a cleaner place to live in.

Iran renews death sentence on Rushdie

When the Iranian deputy Foreign Minister, Mahmud Vaezi met with European Union [EU] officials in Paris in June, he reiterated Iran's death sentence on British author Salman Rushdie and refused an EU demand for Iran to give a written undertaking to take no action against the writer.

Mahmud Vaezi repeated the validity of the Fatwa issued by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989 sentencing Rushdie to death for his blasphemous writings in his book 'Satanic Verses' against the Holy Prophet.

Pakistan bans newspapers

Pakistan has banned six Urdu-language evening newspapers for two months because they are reported to be reporting the violence in Karachi in a sensational style.

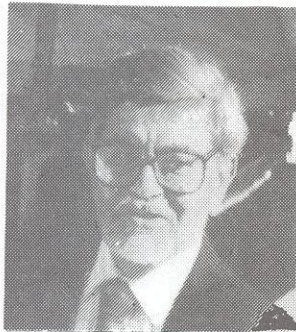
According to the authorities, the Government had been contemplating action against the Karachi evening papers for some months and claimed that the papers had ignored requests made through the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society and the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors to tone down their reporting.

It was the first such action against newspapers since Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto came to power in October 1993 on a platform of democracy and press freedom.

Residence in New Zealand

The Secretariat has received a Self Assessment Guide for those wishing to settle in New Zealand. The detailed seven-page guide has been distributed to Jamaats for the information of their members.

Toronto past President passes away



The immediate past President of Toronto Jamaat, Alhaj Mohamed Hussein Kermalli Alibhai [71], passed away in Toronto on 6 May, 1995 after succumbing to a massive heart attack.

The late Mohamedbhai was born and educated in Dar es Salaam where he also trained as an accountant. He moved to Toronto in 1975 and from 1980, he served as a Treasurer of the Jamaat there. His jovial approach made him well known to many members of the Jamaat which today is the largest in North America.

He became the President of Toronto Jamaat in April, 1993 and it was during his term that the Jamaat embarked on its ambitious 9000 Bathurst project which today is called the Islamic Education and Community Centre. This 28 acre site houses the As-Sadiq Islamic Schools and the Sunday Madressa. Many community activities take place here and currently in the pipeline is the building of an all-purpose gymnasium. The Ja'ffari Islamic Housing Corporation was also opened during his tenure of office.

Toronto Jamaat has lost a dedicated member whose zeal and commitment will be dearly missed. The late Mohamedbhai is survived by his wife, one daughter, two sons and six grandchildren. May Allah (s.w.t.) rest his soul in eternal peace. Amen.

Nahaj-ul-Balagha translated into Hindi

The Nahaj-ul-Balagha which is a compilation of sermons of Hazrat Ali (a.s.) has been translated into Hindi, the national and most widely spoken language of India.

The translation has been done by Azizul Hassan Jaferi who works as an assistant editor at the Publication Division of the Culture House of the Islamic republic of Iran in New Delhi.

Being the first translation in Hindi, Jafer's work has won commendable appreciation from the press and religious scholars in India and from other eminent personalities, including some from Iran.

Commenting on his work, which he commenced from January this year, Jaferi said that he hoped the translation would help Hindi-speaking people and scholars in their quest for understanding Islam.

The translation has been covered in 60 volumes with each volume containing four sermons. To date nine volumes have been released whilst the rest are under publication.

The translation work was undertaken on behalf of the Academy of Nahj-ul-Balagha studies, New Delhi.

Update on the U.S. Immigrant Lottery Visa

Winners of the US Immigrant Lottery Visa for 1995 have begun receiving notifications of their selection. Those who hear nothing by August, 1995 should consider themselves unsuccessful whilst those notified should complete and submit their forms immediately. About 110,000 applicants will be notified, of whom only 55,000 will be granted visas on a 'first come first serve' basis.

Malaysian Prime Minister stresses on the Qur'an

The Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohammed, said at a recent three day Seminar in his Country which focused on the "The Holy Qur'an - Almighty's last revelation to mankind", that the current problems facing Muslims in the world ensues from their imperfect understanding of the dynamic teachings of the Holy Qur'an.

He said that many Muslims have problems in understanding situations because they refer little to the Holy Book and its exegesis adding that some do not even pay enough attention to translations of the Quranic verses.

The Qur'an on 606 pieces of stone

An Indian Muslim calligrapher has etched all verses of the Holy Qur'an on 606 stone pieces for a fee of a mere \$ 1000.

The calligrapher, Mohamed Noureden, is reported to know Persian and Arabic well and is said to have spent about two years to complete the task which was ordered by the makers of a British film called "Julian". His work is believed to be preserved in a British museum.

Veil wrangle again

In Quebec, where many Muslims live, there has been a heated debate over the wearing of the veil following a campaign by the media which tried to link the veil with violence so as to prevent women from wearing it.

The Human Rights Organisation however published a report in Quebec defending the right of wearing the veil in public schools and denounced any attempt to ban the veil as being discriminatory.

Ottawa Islamic Centre established

The Ottawa Imambara building project was initiated in December, 1993 with a projected total cost of \$350,000. The first and major phase of the Imambara Project was completed with the moral and financial support of NASIMCO, World federation, ISI Jamaat of Toronto, other organisations and numerous individuals. The acquisition cost was \$252,000.

The Islamic Shia Ithna-asheri Association of Ottawa began using the building for religious and educational purposes since 17 December, 1994 [13 Rajab 1415 A.H.] when the celebration of the Milad of Imam Hazarat Ali (a.s.) was held at the new facility. The official opening ceremony of the Imambara was earmarked for May, 1995 after completion of renovation work.

The present office bearers are:

Syed Mujahid Abbas	President
Mahmood G. Damji	Treasurer
Shabir R. Mawani	Secretary
Jafir Jafri	Chairperson

Imambara Committee

The trustees are Syed Mujahid Abbas and Mahmmod G. Damji.

Mosque in Germany

Thousands of Muslims, mostly of Turkish origin, inaugurated the biggest Mosque in Mannheim, Germany. This modern Mosque with a huge dome, a high minaret and a prayer hall for over 2500 worshippers cost Dm 10 million [US \$6.6 million] to build.

Muslims asked to expound the tolerance of Islam

A famous American lawyer who once occupied the position of U.S. Attorney General, Ramzy Clark talked about Islam and its values in a lecture he recently delivered in Virginia, USA.

He called upon Muslims to explain how tolerant their religion is to the believers
Federation Samachar

Bombay library plans major improvements

With the metropolitan city of Bombay having a large Muslim population, youths put forward a proposal to the Khoja Shia Ithna-asheri Jame Masjid, Madressa and Imambara Trust of Bombay to start a non-profit Islamic Library. The proposal was accepted and the Jamaat delegated the implementation work to the youths who responded by initiating the library in the premises of the Khoja Jame Masjid, which is considered as the centre place for Shias of Bombay.

Initially, the library faced a shortage of books but following support of Hujjatul Islam Syed Mohammed Al-Moosavi, Iran Culture house, Iran Consulate and others, the library has considerably increased the number of in-house book titles. It also has cummunicated with different organizations over the globe to acquire Islamic literature and the request was responded to whole heartedly.

The library currently accomodates over 3500 different titles in English, Urdu, Gujrati, Arabic & Persian and has about 500 members. It is expected that by the end of this year membership will increase to about 700. The library also conducted about three seminars on the importance of acquiring Islamic knowledge and held two annual functions to reiterate the importance of knowledge.

The library plans to open a Ladies wing especially because there is no such facility for ladies available any

where in Bombay. It also hopes to open a reading room to enable students to conduct research and write thesis on various Islamic topics. Moreover the library Board has plans to organise competitions among youths so as to encourage them to gain access to Islamic literature and to stop cultural inroads.

The library also plans to go on wheels by operating a mobile library to reach the rural section of the society, which presently is totally deprived of any such facility. It also plans to arrange slide shows, video programmes and the like with the objective of creating social awareness on important topics. The library furthermore plans to publish, translate and compile books which enlighten the masses on Islam. Other objectives include the creating of awareness for academic education by organising vocational guidance programmes, career talks, aptitude tests and the like.

The library has called upon Islamic Libraries and publishing houses around the world to pledge to the library at least four copies of titles available with them and also does accept monetary support to enhance its activities. The contact of the library is:

The K.S.I. Jame Masjid Library
66/70, Samuel Street,
Bombay 400 009,
India.
Tel: 371 1470
Fax: 375 0571

in other religions who tend to be hostile towards them essentially because they do not understand the true values of Islam.

He said that the American administration has over the past few years encouraged non-Muslim inmates to convert to Islam after having found out that those

who embrace Islam, especially among criminals, become different persons who benefit American society at large, thereby proving that Islam is a great religion. He vehemently condemned Governments that discriminate against Muslims without giving them an opportunity to explain the motives behind their actions.

Blood still sheds in Karachi

Death toll is over 900 this year

The escalating violence in Karachi has touched new heights with government security forces and opposition groups fighting running gun battles.

The death toll in Karachi this year up to the end of June was over 900 meaning that about five people are killed each day in a city where unabated violence has made a mockery of the very meaning of Pakistan which literally means "Land of the pure". The white strip on the otherwise green flag of Pakistan, which bears a crescent and a star, represents the various ethnic and religious minorities who, according to the Constitution, can live freely under the precepts of their faith. The Country, now entangled in savagery, has abandoned what its flag stands for thereby besmirching its own name.

The MQM has promised to inflict more violence in the city unless Prime Minister, Mrs. Bhutto publicly apologises to the Muhajir ethnic group and even the Prime Minister now only travels by helicopter. Neither the MQM nor the Government has so far shown willingness to start a dialogue.

Foreign diplomats Karachi which has about 10 million people, are evacuating their families. The US has closed down its visa office and business activity has been greatly curtailed in the city which is the country's commercial capital and only port.

The Urdu-speaking Muhajir Muslim migrants from India, who dominate Karachi and other urban areas of Sind province have been on a collision course with the largely Sindhi provincial government of the ruling Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for the past two years. The latest escalation of violence

between the two came in May, 1995 when Mrs. Bhutto made a speech accusing the Muhajirs of being unpatriotic, terrorists and rats who were trying to destroy Pakistan. She later claimed that the words were only directed to the terrorists in Karachi but the MQM has interpreted it as a racial slur on all Muhajirs and has demanded an apology from her.

Mrs. Bhutto's angry speech shocked the nation, with commentators comparing her words to those used by politicians in 1970 for Bengalis, just before the war in the then East Pakistan led to Pakistan's break up. Public fears increased when the terrorists, whom the government says are MQM militants, notched up their violent campaign.

On June 1, 1995 two separate car bombs rocked the Sind parliament building and a naval residential area while two police stations were hit by rockets. It was the first time that such weapons have been used and in subsequent days, militants carrying rocket launchers became a common sight on the city's streets with many policemen mercilessly gunned down. Units of the heavily armed para military rangers were called out on false appeals for help and then ambushed.

Even though the Sind government arrested hundreds of MQM militants, the violence spread to all major towns in Sind where there are large Muhajir populations. The cities of Hyderabad and Sukkur were shut down for several days and a dozen smaller towns were also badly affected.

In an ominous development, terrorists began to paralyse urban utilities with gunmen targetting electricity pylons and grid stations, thereby

plunging much of the city into darkness for days and repair teams often refuse to restore power in many suburbs because of the constant gunfire. Security forces have mounted heavy guard on gas and water pumping stations.

Despite pressure from politicians and the army to talk to the MQM, Mrs. Bhutto has refused to do so insisting that she will not let terrorists turn Karachi into a hostage city. She said she would only be prepared for dialogue if the MQM first lay down their weapons.

Previous talks between the government and the MQM have failed because the government refuses to accept the MQM's demands for representation in the city's administration. Analysts are sceptical that the violence is unlike to abate in a matter of months but there are some indications that the MQM may after all agree to have a dialogue with the Government in accordance with conditions set up by the Government to facilitate such talks. If this happens there could be some alleviation in violence but one wonders for how long. Again the situation can become alarmingly worse if the talks end in a deadlock or in disagreement.

Today many victims often do not even report incidents in fear of reprisal. Police are known to advise people to keep cash at home and in the office to hand over to armed robbers if attacked. Some rape cases have been reported and car thefts are normal. There is also a booming heroin trade and a kidnap-for-ransom industry which along with a mountain of weapons left over from the 1979-89 Afghanistan war augments the violence. One wonders if Pakistan, amidst all the ongoing senseless killings and violence, can still be called an Islamic State?

Memorial Issue revisits barbaric Mosque killings in Karachi

The K.S.I. Pirhai Jamaat Jamaat in Karachi has released a glossy memorial in English, Gujarati and Urdu to record the tragic death on 24 Ramadhan 1415 A.H. (25 February, 1995) of 20 mumineen who were gunned down by terrorists.

In a dawn attack, whilst the worshippers were saying Fajr prayers at the Masjid-e-Abul Fazlil Abbas at Pir Ilahi Bus Colony of Karachi, the terrorists sprayed them with bullets and massacred a father and his two sons and three other momineen.

An hour after this incident, the terrorists struck at Mehfil-e-Murtaza in the P.E.C.H.S. area of Karachi where they lined up sixteen momineen against the wall at the Imambara between the Mimbar-e-Rasool (s.a.w.) and the Zarih of Charada Masomeen (a.s.) and sprayed them with bullets killing fourteen people on the spot and critically wounding two who managed to

survive. It is reported that about 130 empties of three types and sizes were recovered from the floor of the Imambara.

The sixteen people who had assembled at the Imambara after Fajr prayers at the Mosque, were making preparations for the funeral of Mehboobali Badami (brother-in-law of Hamid Ali Bhojani who also died in the massacre).

The brutal and barbaric killings has left an indelible dark spot and the special Memory Issue of the Jamaat News containing grim photographs of those who had been gunned down, reiterates the need for the Pakistan Government to not only bring the perpetrators to task but to restore law and order in Karachi where terrorism is now at its peak.

The Memory issue also carries a letter from the Jamaat to the Pakistan Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto calling for concerted Government efforts

to curb the violence in Karachi. Also included is another letter dated 22 October, 1995 from the late President of the Jamaat, Hamidali Bhojani to the Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Abdulla Shah calling for political stabilisation in Karachi. This was after seven members of our community had been ruthlessly killed in different incidents of violence.

The Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Pirhai Jamaat was established in Karachi in 1892 without any motives of indulging into political, ethnic or sectarian differences. It has existed as a socio-welfare, educational and religious organisation with immense contributions in the fields of health, education and socio-welfare activities in Pakistan in the past century.

The Community consists of about 8,000 families [about 40,000 persons] with most members being businessmen and industrialists.

Iran faces up to U.S. sanctions

The US trade sanctions against Iran which took effect on 6 June, 1995 virtually bans all trade between the two countries which valued about \$2 billion last year.

The USA announced the trade and investment sanctions against Iran, citing Teheran's alleged sponsorship of international terrorism and desire to develop nuclear weapons. Whilst Iran has denied the accusations, the sanctions, in short, look like being a US foreign policy fiasco which is intensified by the parallel row with Russia over the supply to Iran of two light-water nuclear reactors to the unfinished Bushehr power station. This goes back to a German contract signed by the Shah and interrupted by the Iran-Iraq war, which the original contractors refused to honour after US pressure. In 1992, Russia offered to supply

the equipment instead - which is identical to equipment to be supplied to North Korea (where there really is a nuclear weapons programme in the pipeline) under a US-sponsored deal - and now a contract has been signed for this purpose. According to Russian sources, the US State Department was kept fully informed and no objections were raised until this year. Iran, too, had taken the precaution of signing the Non-proliferation Treaty and submitting itself to International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) inspections.

Iran, the world's second largest crude exporter, normally supplied 2.5 million barrels per day to the market before the sanction. However little long-term economic damage is likely to be suffered by Iran, though local confidence was shaken, as the spectacular collapse of the rial against the dollar in mid-May proved.

New supply agreements with European oil companies have been signed and alternative suppliers for US goods will not be hard to find. All major US allies rapidly dissociated themselves from the move and the only sector that may cause anxiety is oil, for which US service equipment is essential but observers feel that Iran will soon find a way out.

The US administration claims that the reactors were the first stage in a nuclear programme and tried to put pressure on Russia to abandon the deal which they refused because Russia has long-term strategic interests in Iran, not least over the control of the Caspian Sea. The US is also trying to exclude Iran from participating in the multinational oil consortia being formed to exploit reserves in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan but with no success to date.

Education Board raises concern on loan repayments

During the 19th constitutional Conference of the Africa Federation held in Dar es Salaam during April, 1995, the Secretariat of the Education Board was moved to Nairobi. Br. Husein A. Rashid was elected as the Chairman and Br. Shabbir A. Alidina as the Hon. Secretary. Dr. Murtaza Rashid (Mombasa), Br. Makbul Jaffer, Br. Murtaza Somji, Br. Shabbir Pirmohammed, Br. Onali A. Nanji and Mulla Mohammed Kassamali have been nominated as members of the Secretariat. Br. Ahmed Daya (the past Chairman) kindly led his team from Moshi and Arusha to Nairobi on 6 May, 1995 for the handing over ceremony. The excellent work done by the past Secretariat is commendable and will surely egg on the incoming office-bearers to spare no effort to promote educational standards within our Community.

The new contact of the Education Board is:

P.O. Box 66545,
Fax 337703/ 448948/ 335435,
Telex 22627 norcon
Telex 22713 abbas,
Nairobi, Kenya.

Chairman
Telephone
(0) 225580, 226883, 337757/71/96,
(R) 741556

Hon. Secretary
Telephone
(O) 581716, 582861,
(R) 765306

A new Application Form has been compiled and this has been distributed to all constituent Jamaat's. Interested members are requested to contact their respective Jamaats and submit their written comments either to the Jamaat by 20 July, 1995 or directly to the Secretariat by 25 July, 1995.

Meanwhile a Mini Careerama programme was conducted for Nairobi from 23 to 25 June, 1995, for Mombasa from 5 to 9 July, 1995 and for Dar es Salaam from 9 to 12 July, 1995. This was made possible by Br. Aliasghar

Sheriff from Arusha, a qualified Career Master from UK, who despite being on holiday, willingly agreed at a very short notice, to conduct the programme. A member of the previous Education Board, Bwana Ali Sheriff was also present and kindly gave his full support and assistance for this programme. The Education Board is indeed very much indebted to both the brothers for their immediate response at such short notice.

Meanwhile eleven applications [3 from Mombasa, 3 from Dar es Salaam, 2 from Nairobi, 1 from Arusha, 1 from Madagascar and 1 from Bujumbura] for education loans have been received. This is the highest number of applicants received by the Secretariat since 1983. Only two girls have applied and the total amount of assistance requested is about US \$ 110,000 for the year 1995/96. It will only be possible to entirely assist all the applicants if adequate funds are made available.

The Education Board would like to approve all the applications with the requested amounts but due to shortage of funds they will be forced to reduce the annual loan amounts and request some applicants and their families to seek funds from alternative sources.

The current status of loans awarded (US\$) from the available data for the 20 students who had completed their

studies between 1986 and 1993/94 and the status of committed loans approved by the Board for students pursuing their studies have been summarised below with also a projection of possible new loans (based on current available trends) to be approved for the period 1995/98.

It can be seen that unless repayments are made on regular basis as previously agreed, substantial additional funds will have to be sought if new applications for loans have to be approved.

In this connection, for a start, all defaulters and their respective Jamaats have been alerted on this serious issue and the Secretariat is hoping for a favourable response. Further measures may have to be taken to maintain an inflow of funds so as to avoid the need to raise large sums of money every year. To this effect monetary pledges can be sought locally or through the Jaffery Education Fund.

Meanwhile the Education Board has redesigned the Questionnaire form with assistance from a qualified Career Master so as to enable it to plan and formulate a policy on the need for Career Guidance for our students. The questionnaire is designed to help the Education Board and local Jamaats to decide on what best provision to make for careers guidance to our youths.

	Loan	Repayments	Outstanding
- 7 Students (Dsm)	91,864.14	15,876.14	75,988.67
- 4 Students (Mombasa)	59,807.81	1,000.00	58,807.81
- 3 Students (Arusha)	36,083.20	8,880.00	27,203.20
- 3 Students (Moshi)	53,500.00	15,000.00	38,500.00
- 1 Student (Zanzibar)	43,892.00	500.00	43,392.00
- 1 Student (Tanga)	4,738.00	1,200.00	3,538.00
- 1 Student (Mogadishu)	350.88		350.88
Total (US\$)	290,230.69	42,476.14	247,774.55

	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98
No. of Students	9	6	3
Committed loans	50,000.00	41,000.00	26,000.00
New loans for 1995/96	60,000.00	60,000.00	60,000.00
New loans for 1996/97		60,000.00	60,000.00
New loans for 1997/98			60,000.00
Total (US\$)	110,000.00	161,000.00	206,000.00
Possible repayments (from past trend)	(20,000.00)	(30,000.00)	(35,000.00)
Nett Requirement (US\$)	90,000.00	131,000.00	171,000.00

Arusha Cricketer hits a six in golf!

The Northern Province golf tournament, an annual competition organised by the Tanzania Golf Union [TGU] was this year staged in Arusha under beautiful and lush conditions.

Top golfers from a number of countries participated with 65 golfers teeing off on the first day. The sun shone on the Arusha golf course but putting on the lightning fast greens was a horror. It needed courage and confidence to bring in a good score. The score of 71, one over par, brought in by Gulamraza Sheriff looked nominal but at the end of day one it looked like a possible winning score. And so it turned out. The closest was a 72, two over par and three strokes adrift was none other than leading Arusha

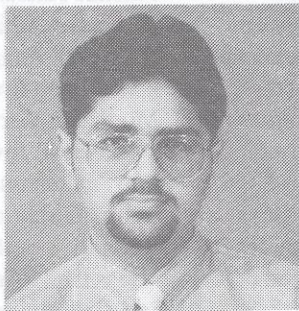
golfer, Mahmood Somji.

The next day the final group to tee off included Mahmood and Gulamraza and all were single handicappers except Gulamraza, whose handicap was 13. As the first 9 holes came to a close, our two boys jointly led the field while the rest fell away. Both played rounds of one over par. The second 9 holes were decisive. Like a true fighter, Mahmood fought hard while Gulamraza kept his nerves. The turning point came when Gulamraza parred the 16th and 17th holes to open up a lead of four strokes from Mahmood thereby sealing victory. It was a famous win for a player who started golf only three years ago, after giving up cricket in which circles he was famously known as "zimbo."

Aejaz Husein Walji is 'Best Student'

We extend our congratulations to Aejaz Husein Walji of Mombasa Jamaat for winning the 1993/94 Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Supreme Council Award for the "Best Student of the Year." Aejaz clocked 97% in the Selection criteria for this award which covered fields of Academic Achievement (75%), Attendance & Conduct (5%), Extra-Cirricular Activities (5%), Achievements in Sports (5%) and Madressa Progress (10%).

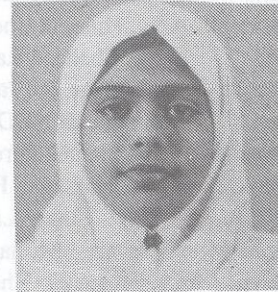
Aejaz obtained 9 'A's at GCE 'O' Levels in Mathematics, French, English, Chemistry, Physics, Economics, Accounts, Geography and Pure Mathematics. He is currently studying for 'A' Levels at Oshwal Academy, Mombasa taking Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. Thereafter, he plans to pursue a



BSc degree in Computer and Management Sciences at the University of Warwick in Coventry, England.

He excels in table tennis and is Mombasa Jaffery's top seed in the 'under 18' division and has also excelled at school where he has been winning annual tournaments. He is also an active volunteer and has an excellent Madressah record.

Tanga girl memorises 37 Surahs of the Holy Qur'an



A Quran Hifz memorisation was organised by the ladies I.V.C. of Tanga Jamaat during the Holy month of Ramadhan. The contestants consisted of 19 girls who had to memorise as many Surahs as possible from the last Sipara of the Holy Quran.

A 12 year-old girl, Zainab Gulamhusain Kara (pictured), surprised the Organisers by reciting all 37 Surahs in sequence of the 30th Sipara and was awarded with the Late Nargisbai Hemani Trophy in the ladies section.

Dateline Mauritius

Friday 17 March 1995 -- A delegation of our Jamaat comprising of the resident Aalim, Maulana Shamsul Hasan Zaidi, our incoming President Al Haj Raza Husain Kassamally Esmael and the Secretary, Shabbir Husein Rajani paid a courtesy visit to Honourable Shawkataly Soodhun, Chief Whip of the Government. Many issues were discussed including the situation of Muslims in the World at large and in Mauritius and Pakistan in particular. The Honourable Chief Whip pledged his support to our Community in case of need.

Saturday 18th March 1995 -- Our resident Aalim, Maulana Syed Shamsul Hasan Zaidi and the Secretary Shabbir Husein Rajani attended the 'National Urdu Award Ceremony' organised by The Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund Board which was followed by reception. The President of the Republic, Cassam Uteem graced the occasion by his presence. Other Ministers and prominent personalities also attended the function.



Maulana Syed Shamsul Hasan Zaidi conversing with the President of the Mauritius Republic, Cassam Uteem at the National Urdu Award Ceremony

Election Round-up

British Columbia

Elections were held on 14 April, 1995. The following were elected into office:

President: Jafferli A. Ladak
 Vice President: Hussein Bhojani
 Secretary: Shaheen Rashid
 Joint Secretary: Hameed Jagani
 Treasurer: Mohamed R.M. Dewji
 Joint Treasurer: Mohamed Pardhan
 MRC (Mukhi): Hassanali Fazal
 Joint MRC: Asger Ladak
 Committee Members are Mohamed R.N. Dewji, Mohsin Kamani, Shaffiq Ladak, Amir A. Megji and Gulamabbas Moledina

Arusha

Elections were held on 28 April, 1995. The following were elected into office:

Chairman: Mehdi R. Rashid
 Vice Chairman: Muslim M. Remtula
 Hon. Secretary: Murtaza Hirji
 Hon. Treasurer: Murtaza Jetha
 Committee Members: Amir Somji, Tahsil Sheriff, Sadiq Chagani and Mustafa Panju.

Los Angeles

Elections were held on 11 March, 1995. The following were elected into office:

President: Mohamed Iqbal Somji
 Vice President: Sis. Shabnam Dewji
 Secretary: Mushtaq Kermalli
 Treasurer: Gulamabbas Khakoo
 Councillors: Sis. Fatim Bata
 Muhsin Alikhaku

Toronto

Elections were held on 23 April, 1995. The following were elected into office:

President: Nazir Gulamhussein
 Vice President: Zuheir Ibrahim
 Hon. Secretary: Aliasgher Dhirani
 Hon. Treasurer: Sajjad Haiderali
 Mukhi: M. Taki Jeraj
 Chairlady: Sister Sakina Mehdi

Kampala

Elections were held on 2 March, 1995. The following were elected into office:

President: Dr. Asgharali Moledina
 Vice President: Shabbir Najafi
 Secretary: Shiraz P. Walji
 Treasurer: Mohamedraza G. Manji

Morogoro

Elections were held on 20 May, 1995. The following were elected into office:

Chairman: Riyaz Kanji
 Hon. Secretary: Akber Ismail
 Hon. Treasurer: Mohamed R. Ahmed
 Member: Shafiq Rajvani
 Member: Sajjad Abdulrasul
 Member: Mehboob Bhimani

The Trustees are Riyaz Kanji, Mohamedraza Kanji and Gulamali Mohamed. Shafiq Rajvani subsequently tendered his resignation on 24 May, 1995.

Re-Union

Elections were held on 7 January, 1995. The following were elected into office:

President: Mustafa Hassanali
 Vice President: Irshad Kassam Chinai
 Vice President: Akberali Amirali
 Treasurer: Mehboob Jiwan
 Treasurer: Murtaza J. Visram
 Secretary: Akber M. Jiwan
 Secretary: Azad Abdulhussein
 Councillors are Babu Gulamali, Mohamedraza Gulamali, Salim Mohamedali, Nasir Hassanali, Amir Kassamali, Raza-ali Asgharali, Anverali Sunderji, Salim Hassanali, Zulfikar Akberali, Umedali G. Jafferli, and Nazir Bahadurali.

Mwanza

Elections were held on 4 May, 1995. The following were elected into office:

Chairman: Amirali M. Pirbhai
 Vice Chairman: Liyakat A. Rai
 Hon. Secretary: Gulam H. Kara
 Joint Secretary: Hasnain P. Hooda
 Hon. Treasurer: Rizwan H. Railey
 Member: Habib E. Rai
 Member: Mehboob M. Abdulrasul
 Member: Murtaza Alloo
 Member: Mohamedrafik A. Parpia
 Member: Bashir M. Rashid
 Member: Mehboob H. Manji
 Member: Mohamed H. Lalji

W.F. Matrimonial Officer

The World Federation has appointed Yusufali G. Sabur as a liaison officer on their Matrimonial Board. His contact address is: **333 Scraftoft Lane, LE-ICESTER LE5 2HU, UK.**

Kinshasa

Elections were held on 14 April, 1995. The following were elected into office:

President: Mehboob Rehemtulla
 Hon. Secretary: Yunus Merali
 Hon. Treasurer: Gulam Vazir
 Member: Aunn Alibhai
 Member: Arif Gulamabbas Fazal

Mombasa

Elections were held on 19 May, 1995. The following were elected into office:

Chairman: Husein A. Walji
 Vice Chairman: Yusufali M. Kermali
 Hon. Secretary: Aliraza J. Karim
 Hon. Jnt. Secretary: Dr. Murtaza Rashid
 Hon. Treasurer: Murtaza M'Taki
 Committee Members are Asaf Gulamhusein, Akberali Peermohamed, Amir Kassamali, Abbas A.M. Jaffer, Gulam Khaku, Roshan Sherali, Shabbir M.T. Kanji, Salim Khaku and Dr. Moh'draza Karim.

Allentown

The following were elected into office:

President: Murtaza Jaffer
 Vice President: Mohabbat Mawji
 Secretary: Ebrahim Karim
 Jnt. Secretary: Murtaza Gangji
 Treasurer: Asgher Bhalloo
 Mukhi: Riyaz Kermali
 Member: Mohamed Raza Jaffer

Vancouver

The following were elected into office:

President: Jaffer A. Ladak
 Vice President: Hussein Bhojani
 Secretary: Shaheen Rashid
 Jnt. Secretary: Hameed Jagani
 Treasurer: Mohamed R.M. Dewji
 Jnt. Treasurer: Mohamed Pardhan
 Mukhi: Hassanali Fazal
 Jnt. Mukhi: Asger Ladak

Lindi

Elections were held on 9 March, 1995. The following were elected into office:

President: Gulamasgher Ladha Manji
 Vice President: Hasnein G.M. Manji
 Secretary: Mustafa K. Nanji
 Treasurer: Mohamed Y. Pirmohamed
 Member: Razahusein S. Dhalla
 Member: Gulamabbas A. Khaki

Dhirani is Chairman for an unprecedented third term...

...as Mulji bids emotional farewell

Our two longest serving Chairmans save no breath on the opening night of the Conference to expound on issues facing the Community.

The 19th Constitutional Conference which was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 14 April to 17 April, 1995 followed by the 53rd Session of the Supreme Council elected Alhaj Mohamed G.M. Dhirani as the new Chairman of the Africa Federation.

Having previously served as Chairman for two consecutive terms from 1983 to 1989, the new Chairman pointed out that he had consented to take over the Chairmanship for just one term after which the Community would have to elect a new Chairman.

The Session bade farewell to the retiring Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Habib Mulji who vacated his post to his own predecessor in line with the Constitution which bars re-election of a Chairman for a third consecutive term.

Alhaj Habibbhai was the Chairman of the Africa Federation for six years. Before becoming Chairman, he served for six years in the position of Vice-Chairman thereby bringing his cumulative period of service at the helm to a period of 12 years. It is hoped that Alhaj Habibbhai will stay accessible to the incumbent

team and to the Community at large for consultation and advice.

The parting address of Habibbhai and the inaugural policy address of Mohamedbhai Dhirani at the opening night of the Conference in Dar es Salaam showed glaring reflections of how leadership vision must keep on changing through individualism and new enthusiasm.

There was an additional dimension of festivity on the occasion of the triennial Conference because it coincided with the climax of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Federation. The Golden Jubilee Anniversary Committee arranged various programmes to mark the historic occasion and this culminated in a Grand Banquet held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on 15 April, 1995 during the run of the Conference.

The Conference was attended by over 100 participants amongst whom included the Presidents and Councillors from over 40 Jamaats from 11 African countries plus local and overseas invitees particularly from Pakistan, India, Europe, Canada and the USA.

On the opening night, which was attended by over 200 people, the retiring Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji with the President of Dar es Salaam Jamaat, Asgher Bharwani and the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Alhaj Roshan Fazal were accorded a traditional welcome by the Scouts and recitation of qasidas before they proceeded to the Imambara hall for the official opening of the Conference.

Following a recitation from the Holy Qur'an by Shabbir Sikiladha, the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Alhaj Roshan Fazal made an introductory address in which he reminisced that the first Conference was held in Dar es Salaam on 19 November, 1944 with an attendance of 35 participants and that 50 years later the venue was again Dar es Salaam with a gathering six times larger.

Vacuum in leadership is dangerous

After a welcome address by the President of Dar es Salaam Jamaat, Asgher Bharwani the retiring Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji took to the mike.

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[..from page 17]

He thanked Dar es Salaam Jamaat for hosting the Session along with the 50th Anniversary celebrations. He said Dar es Salaam Jamaat had hosted most of the Conferences since the founding of the Federation.

He said that in the 50 years of the existence of the Federation this was the second time that the election of a new Chairman would be done at the Conference, which he said was not a healthy sign. He said the onus normally lies upon constituent Jamaats whose Presidents have to make all efforts to come up with suitable candidates.

He said it was a shame for our Federation, which is viewed with a high esteem world-wide, to let a situation arise whereby there is a vacuum in leadership. He cited a reference made by the late Ayatullah Gulpygani, whom he met in Iran, who praised the Federation for its effective organisation and pragmatism. Mulji also recalled a meeting he had with President Khamenie of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who congratulated the Federation for its effective organisation, discipline and unity and termed the Khojas as the most organised of the Shias world-wide.

With such a reputation, Mulji said that we cannot afford to harbour an apathetic 'don't care' attitude when seeking responsible leaders because this could lead to the ultimate downfall of the Federation.

He said it was fortunate that the Constitution barred him from re-election for the third consecutive term. He said that had it not been for such a restriction in the Constitution, members of the community would probably impose a life-time Chairmanship on leaders which would be unhealthy and would also discourage members from seeking leadership.

On khums and commission

Mulji said that the Chairmanship position involved two primary responsibilities. One as a Chairman and secondly as an Ijaza holder for khums. He said that a few people harbour a wrong belief that Chairmans' are offered commission on khums money collected. He said that since the founding of the Africa Federation, no Chairman had kept even a shilling for himself out of the Khums money collected.

On India Tour

Mulji then gave highlights of his delegation's recent tour of India which he said gave them an opportunity to see first-hand, the plight of many of our brothers there. He also narrated the advantages to be derived if Bombay Jamaat becomes a member of the World Federation.

Finally in an emotional farewell he thanked his office-bearers, members of different committees under the Africa Federation and the Community at large for the support and cooperation given to him during his term of office.

Messages from well-wishers were then read out by the Vice-Chairman, Alhaj Habib Virani. In addition to the numerous well-wishing messages to the Federation, Alhaj Habib Mulji was also presented with a number of plaques and citations on his retirement from different Organisations. These included those from NASIMCO, Canada, Council of European Jamaats, U.K., Mehfile Murtaza, Pakistan, all the Jamaats in Africa jointly, the Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee and the Organisers of the Golden Jubilee Golf Competition under the Ithnaasheri Union, Dar es Salaam and one also from the Union itself.

The most befitting honour was however the bestowal of the pres-

-tigious Haidery medal of the Federation to him by the incoming Chairman.

New Chairman declared

Alhaj Habib Mulji then tabled the first item on the Agenda which was that of the Election of the new Chairman for the term 1995-98. After being proposed by the Dar es Salaam Jamaat President, Alhaj Asgher Bharwani and seconded by Zanzibar, Lindi and Arusha Jamaats, Alhaj Mohamed G. Dhirani was declared the new Chairman of the Africa Federation with a resounding nare-salawat of unanimity. He becomes the first Chairman ever in the history of the Federation to take a third term in office.

The new Chairman, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani who has been associated with the Africa Federation since its incorporation in 1946, when he was a regular young volunteer at the earlier sessions.

His coverage on a wide variety of issues facing the Community was a reflection of his 40 years involvement in Community service.

Addressing the congregation, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani thanked all the councillors and delegates for having given him the opportunity to lead the Federation once again. He emphasised that he had consented to take over the Chairmanship for just one term after which a new candidate would have to be chosen.

A look into history....

The new Chairman began his address with a brief history of the Africa Federation. Going back to the 1940s when our Community was scattered and living in isolation

[...cont. on page 19]

[..from page 18]

with few religious utilities in East and Central Africa, he said there arose a need to form a central organisation to cater for the needs of the Community.

He said that a Community newspaper from Zanzibar, Saal-Saabil aired views and opinions from community members and the ideas contributed to the newspaper were pondered and acted upon and eventually led to concerted efforts to form a Federation.

He said in 1945, Marhum Pirbhai Visram from Kampala with the assistance of Marhum Mohamedali Janmohamed and Gulamhusein Virjee organised the first Conference in Anjuman Islam Hall thereby officially inaugurating the Africa Federation.

He said that other notable delegates present in the preliminary Conference included Abdulrasul Nasser Virjee, Ahmedbhai Lakha Kanji from Zanzibar and Mohamedali Sachedina from Mombasa.

Progress of the Community

He then narrated on how our Community progressed with the establishment of Madressas, the mobilisation of Aalims, the granting of welfare assistance to the poor and widows and the introduction of scholarships for further education. He said subsequently youth seminars and career guidance sessions were also introduced along with the regular hosting of sports festivals. He related that medical facilities within the community have greatly improved and that members now have better access to health-care facilities in and out of the country.

On education, he said that this had to be a cornerstone of the community and stressed that this should include secular and Islamic education.

Offer of Scholarships

To mark the 50th Anniversary he then launched a Scholarship Fund and called upon members to pledge towards this fund. He said in consideration of the fact that our Community has few teachers and because teachers are a very important part of society, he would seriously consider to offer free scholarships to students wishing to pursue the teaching profession, in advanced colleges which would also have Islamic Faculties.

On tabligh..

On tabligh, he said that our majlises are often not to the required standard despite efforts being made through hosting seminars for Maulanas to improve their majlises.

He said majlises should draw our youngsters to the Mosque and for this to happen the majlises have not only to be knowledgeable but also have to be delivered in a language understood by our youngsters. The Chairman also envisaged the idea of sending our own boys for higher religious education which would also ensure a steady supply of religious teachers and preachers.

He commended the efforts made by Madressas to provide our youngsters with religious education but said that the mode of teaching is very often different to the system being used in secular schools. He said this needs to be looked into with an aim to ironing out the differences.

The new Chairman praised Bilal Muslim Mission for its efforts and also commended the previous office-bearers of the Africa Federation for initiating Shia Centres to enable our indigenous brothers to become more independent and responsible. He said that the setting up of schools for them with an Islamic syllabus

would further catalyse their transformation and help to make them stronger in their faith.

He then touched on a number of practical issues like on the need to maintain good relations with the leaders and members of other Communities and on getting our ladies more involved and active in community affairs.

He questioned on whether our Community needed to indulge in family planning because Khojas world-wide are increasing at slow rate and to spread our Faith faster we needed a bigger population.

He also called on parents to be more responsible to their children so that they can be guided morally and intellectually and castigated parents who take no interest in the childrens' doings.

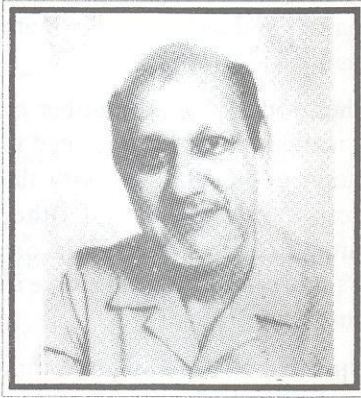
The new Chairman also decried the existen intellectual poverty in our Community saying that our members have to cultivate habits to develop our minds rather than simply sitting back and tackling life as it comes. he encouraged habits like reading learning of such issues as character building.

Haidery Medal awarded

Finally the new Chairman had volumes of praise to the outgoing Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji who he said had effectively led the Community through many crisis and through many a trying times. He then bestowed the prestigious Haidery Medal to the outgoing Chairman and said that for the contribution that Habibbhai had made to the Federation, even if there were two medals to be presented he would have bestowed both to him.

Before concluding he said that the Federation should stay with the times to fulfil the aspirations of its

[....cont. on page 20]



**Outgoing Chairman,
Alhaj Habib Mulji**



**Incoming Chairman,
Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani**

[..from page 19]

members and called for unity in the charting out of well versed plans on what the Federation should do in the next five years, if not fifty.

Shabbir Mulji then presented a trophy to Alhaj Habib Mulji on behalf of the 50th Anniversary organising committee whilst brother Hussein Dato read out a citation of thanks and awarded a plaque to Alhaj Mohamed Khalfan on behalf of the same committee for his extensive 'behind the scene' support to the Committee.

During the Session, religious (tabligh), social, welfare, educational and general planning issues were discussed with annual reports from 11 committees being adopted whilst the yearly audited accounts and budgets were also approved.

The annual reports adopted were:

- Secretariat's Report
- Tabligh Reports
- Bilal Muslim Mission - Tanzanian
- Bilal Muslim Mission - Kenya
- Settlement Welfare Board - Kenya
- Education Board - Moshi
- Central Health Board - Dar es Salaam
- Sports Council - Mombasa
- Sociology Committee - Dar es Salaam
- Federation Samachar - Dar es Salaam
- Census and Statistical Planning Committee [CENSTA] - Dar es Salaam
- Think Tank Committee - Dar es Salaam

**Three 'Mohameds'
at the helm**

For the first time ever, the Africa Federation has three 'Mohameds' at the peak and with just the glory that goes with that name, it would not be inept to expect a felicitous term in office.

In one hadith it is narrated that the Prophet (s.a.w) has said that "whoever is named after me with the hope of being blessed, will be blessed and be in peace till the day of Qiamah."

The new office-bearers of the Africa Federation are:

- Chairman Mohamed Dhirani
- Vice Chairman Mohamed Pirbhai
- Hon. Secretary Mohamed Somji
- Asst. Secretary Asgher Dhanji
- Treasurer Mohamed Hassam
- Asst. Treasurer Ahmed Alloo
- The Trustees are Gulamabbas Janmohamed [Dar es Salaam], Habib Virani [Dar es Salaam], Yusuf Dato [Mombasa], Ramzanali Nanji [Nairobi].

In perspective, the Session was a memorable one with the host Jamaat and the Organising Committee leaving no stone unturned to ensure that delegates were not inconvenienced at any time. The volunteers too did a wonderful job being readily at hand for any request.

The meeting ended speculations which were being made since the 52nd Session held in Arusha last year, as to who would replace Alhaj Habib Mulji at the helm.

The outgoing Chairman was well honoured by different Organisations and it would appear that the recognition and appreciation of his extensive services from overseas and from constituent Jamaats is in fact a recognition and appreciation of the cordial relation the Africa Federation has promoted and maintained with other sister members of the World Federation in the context of a strong global unity under the world body.

The Editorial Board wishes Habibbhai and his previous team a well-earned "adieu" from their previous responsibilities of the Federation and wishes the new Chairman, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani and his team a successful term in office.

Profiles of the new office-bearers were earmarked to appear in this issue but because not all had been received at the time we went to press, we will insha'allah carry the same in our forthcoming issue.

Due to space limitations we have also been compelled not to carry the highlights from the reports of individual Committees and to withhold the publication of photographs of the Session, both of which we hope to carry in our next issue.

Editor.

Nairobi's Haydari Madrasah marks Annual day

The Haydari Madrasah in Nairobi held its "Annual Prize Giving Day" on 6 March, 1995 amidst members of the community and their family members. The programme started with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Tahir Jaffer, a student of the Madrasah. The Master of Ceremony Mulla Muhammed Kassamali then welcomed guests and invited Madrasah children to recite a Sura from the Holy Quran by heart.

The Hon. Secretary of Haydari Madrasah, Anver Manji then presented the Annual report covering activities of the Madrasah during the year.

Mulla Muhammed Kassamali then introduced the Guest of Honour, Alhaj Ramzan Nanji, a well known personality in the community who is also a devoted social worker. Ramzanbhai renders medical services to the community and is also the Chairman of Bilal Muslim Mission, Nairobi along with being a trustee of the Supreme Council.

In his address, Ramzanbhai thanked the Madrasah committee for giving him an honour to be the Chief Guest and complimented teachers and the Madrasah staff for their dedicated and selfless services to the Madrasah. He advised parents to involve themselves in their children's education and to encourage them to live an Islamic way of life.

He told teachers to put their heart into what they teach and advised Madrasah children to take up religious education seriously. He also suggested that classes for youths be held at least twice a week and concluded his address with a presentation of Kshs. 50,000/= to the Madrasah.

Mulla Mohammed Kassamali thanked Ramzanbhai for his fatherly advise and generous donation and asked him to give away prizes and certificates to outstanding students.

The Chief Guest at the Ladies section was Mrs. Gulzar Ebrahim who has served Nairobi Jamaat in various capacities. Presently she is the Chairlady of the Ladies sub-committee. She has been teaching in the Haydari Madrasah for 18 years.

Chairmans attend Union meeting as new office Office-bearers are elected

During the Annual General Meeting of the Ithna-Asheri Union held at the Al-Muntazir Seminary on 25 June, 1995 the following were elected into office for 1995 and 1996:

Chairman: Bashir Tejani (re-elected)
 Vice Chairman: Raza Janmohamed
 Secretary: Aunali Khalfan (re-elected)
 Joint Secretary: Alijawad Jivraj
 Treasurer: Gulam Hameer (re-elected)

Sectional Secretaries:

Literary: Sadiq Dewji (re-elected)
 Volunteers: Shabbir Esmail (re-elected)
 Employment: Sajjad Raza (re-elected)
 Ladies: Asgher Dhanji
 Sports: Mohamed Nathoo

The Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani, retired Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji and the Dar es Salaam Jamaat President, Alhaj Asgher Bharwani were amongst others present in the meeting.

When addressing the gathering, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani first reported on the recent accident of the Union Chairman, Bashir Tejani and Council Secretary, Mohamed Somji and said the incident was rather unfortunate but with the Grace of Allah (s.w.t.) they were both recovering.

He regretted to note the small attendance at the meeting which he said was in sharp contrast to attendance in the 'old days' when halls used to be 'full to the brim'.

He pointed out that in the Union Annual report there was a mention that Jamaats did not afford opportunities to youths to take responsible positions but questioned as to how the youths could be denoted such positions when they showed no interest in attending meetings of the Jamaat or Supreme Council.

The Chairman recollected an old adage which said 'youths can move

mountains' but added that, "I have no desire to ask you to do this and neither has Dar es Salaam any mountains but surely you can move the Community forward with physical, mental and spiritual strength."

Finally the Chairman decried "intellectual poverty" amongst youths and called upon them to seek education and knowledge without sacrificing their religious obligations.

The retired Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji was especially honoured by the Ithna-Asheri Union for his glorious services during his term in office.

After thanking the Union for the honour bestowed upon him, he said that leadership in a community or in a society or even in a nation is not and has never been restricted to elders only.

He said there are many historical examples of wisdom and leadership demonstrated by young people where and when their elders have failed to rise to the challenges of the moment.

He called upon the youths to cast away the complex that elders know better, more or all and are therefore qualified to lead and set direction at all times.

He said youths need to have self-confidence which can come about only if they actively participate in the affairs of the community and thereby acquire experience by learning more about the background of the issues at hand.

He said that a puncture in self confidence is like a hole in a water bowl. There is always a flow of ideas in the mind but this flow soon disappears like water flowing into a bowl with a hole. He concluded by telling youths never to shy off from giving ideas for the well-being of the community and the world at large.

A Golden time at the Diamond Jubilee

To culminate the 50th Anniversary celebrations, a Grand Banquet was held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in Dar es Salaam on 15 April, 1995 during which about 600 guests attended.

The Programme commenced with a recitation from the Holy Qur'an by a Dar es Salaam Husseini Madressa student, Ali Rehmtulla after which the Master of Ceremonies and the Chairman of the Organising Committee called upon the new Chairman, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani to address the gathering.

Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani said that the many volunteers present during the occasion reminded him of the time 50 years ago when he was a volunteer aged 15 years when the Federation was formed and said that seeing the enthusiasm in the volunteers, God willing, one of them could also become a Chairman in times ahead. He then asked the outgoing Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji to address the gathering.

Alhaj Habib Mulji outlined the history of the Federation and his address in full is carried separately in this issue ["The Federation is felicitious...."].

The Hon. Secretary of the Federation, Mohamed Somji then read out a citation to Alhaj Habib Mulji from the current Chairman, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani for the Haidery Medal conferred to him. Saeed Saeed Akhter Rizvi, the Chief Missionary of the Bilal Muslim Mission in Tanzania, badged it onto the outgoing Chairman.

Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani then cut a 50th Anniversary cake following which presentations were made to the winners of the football tournament which was organised under the Ithna-Asheri Union Sports section, as part of the celebrations.

The convenors of the football tournament were Hussein Dato and Shabbir Mulji. The Seniors event which was sponsored by Tradeco was contested by 12 teams and the Juniors event, which was sponsored by Fazal and Company had 8 teams fighting for glories.

A friendly match between Dar es Salaam Jamaat and the Council was also organised and surely it was fun seeing our elderly folk, generally reserved, running around in baggy shorts to celebrate the Golden Jubilee.

Golf awards were then presented by the convenors Nazmul Jaffer and Raza Virjee. The Chairman of the Tanzania Golf Union, Amir Somji from Arusha, who was one of the participants in the golf tournament then presented a trophy of thanks to the sponsors F.K. Motors. The golfers also jointly presented the outgoing Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji with a trophy in thanks for his numerous services. The golf results are carried separately in this issue of the Samachar.

The Quiz and Essay competition was sponsored by Gulam Bhimani. The winners were:

Quiz

Winner: Murtaza Akber, Dar es Salaam
Runner-up: Sukaina Ahmed Daya, Moshi
Third prize: Sukaina Fazal, Tanga.

Essay Competition [Juniors]

Winner: Fatema Thawer
Runner-up: Zarina Nazerali
Third prize: Fatima Khalfan

Essay Competition [Seniors]

Winner: Ferhana Somji, Dar es Salaam
Runner-up: Mumtaz Khaki, Mombasa
Third prize: Maqbool Manji, Dar es Salaam

The Chairman, Alhaj Mohamed punctuated the run of the occasion with announcements on the scholarship pledges received in response to his request during his inaugural address given at the Conference on the previous day to launch a special scholarship drive as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations.

To date 15 overseas and 2 local scholarships pledges have been confirmed with the donors being:

Br. Ebrahim G. Jagani - Mombasa
Br. Anver Rajpar - Karachi
Br. Mohamedjaffer K. Gulamhussein - Karachi

Br. Hussein Hirji - Madagascar
Br. Hussein A. Walji - Mombasa
Br. Asaf Gulamhussein - Mombasa
Mohamedhussein Mulla Nanji Trust - Nairobi

Br. Mohamed Panju Jessa - Dar es Salaam
Zulfikar Dewji - Dar es Salaam
Fidahussein & Co. Ltd and Fazal & Company Ltd - Dar es Salaam
Fazal Kermali & Sons Ltd - Dar es Salaam
laam F.K. Group

Br. Gulamabbas Merali Alibhai - Dar es Salaam

Br. Hussein F. Dhirani - Dar es Salaam.
Br. Akber Hameer - Dar es Salaam

Before dinner was served, Mombasa's Akberbhai Karim entertained the congregation with his Shairis after which all the past Chairmans, living or dead, were honoured with accolades. These were the first Chairman, Abdulhussein Nurmohamed Nasser followed by Abdulrasul Nasser Virjee, Ebrahimhussein Sheriff Dewji, Mohamedalibhai Sheriff Jiwa, Mohamedbhai Meghji, Mulla Asgherali M.Jaffer, Abdulrasul Ahmed Lakha, Mohamed Dhirani and Habib Mulji.

The Chairman of the Sports Council, Feeroz Chagani then announced Mehboob Virjee of Mombasa as the winner of the Abul Fazl Sports Trophy for 1994.

The representative of the Council of European Jamaats, Sibtain Panjwani thereafter presented a 'Congratulations' plaque to the Africa Federation for commemorating its 50th Anniversary and also awarded a 'Certificate of Appreciation' to the outgoing Chairman for his services.

Finally the Chairman of CHB, Alhaj Mohamed Somji announced the winners of the essay competition organised by his Board to mark the Golden Jubilee following which the outgoing Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji presented the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Alhaj Roshan Fazal with a trophy of thanks for his and his committee's splendid efforts towards organising the celebrations.

"The Federation is felicitous" says Mulji at Golden Jubilee Banquet

Address of Alhaj Habib Mulji at the Grand Banquet held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall on Saturday 15 April, 1995 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Africa Federation.

"All Praise is due to Allah (s.w.t). He inspired in us the wisdom to establish this Federation some 50 years ago and it is He Who guided us to this stage of the celebration of its 50th Anniversary.

In 1946, when the leaders and members of the Community gathered to establish this Federation they were aware that the occasion was historical. But because many organisations do not last long they were not perhaps sure that this one was to be different among the few and that they themselves would later on be seen as part of the history in the making by those celebrating its 50 years Anniversary. Surely, we all who have gathered here to celebrate this occasion see all those founders themselves also - as part of the history itself.

Similarly, we all who are gathered here this evening to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Federation - are not only witnessing a continuity of history but we all ourselves here will be seen as a part of the history regarding the Federation when our children and grandchildren, as a grown up generation, will celebrate the next Jubilee.

Least Forgotten

It is not difficult to establish a Jamaat and see it through to its 50th Anniversary and many more. But it is not the same story when it comes to establishing a Federation of over 40 Jamaats spread over some 12 countries in Africa and making it grow stronger each year and today at 50 it is strongest ever.

With Praise to Allah (s.w.t.) and "Salaat" and "Salaam" to the Holy Prophet and his aal (progeny) we should remember with prayers and Sura-e-Fateha all those who were directly or indirectly connected with the concept, preparation and eventual formation of this Federation. They have long departed from us but are least forgotten by us.

The good coincidence is that the Federation was established in Dar es Salaam and this celebration also takes place in Dar es Salaam and rightly so, because Dar es Salaam has the largest Jamaat.

Therefore, my elders, brothers and children, on behalf of the Federation I welcome you all to this momentous occasion of the happy celebration.

We have among us distinguished guests from overseas who by their presence have given an additional dimension of happiness and delight to the celebration.

50 Years if minus Federation

We can only appreciate and appreciate well the happiness of this occasion if, for a moment, we try to recall in our mind what was the situation when the Community in Africa had no Federation of Jamaats. But we should not end it there; we should also imagine what could have been the state of the members of the Community as they became born and died - in the course of these 50 years, with no benefits of unity, brotherhood, service, co-operation or guidance from a Federation.

What could have been the state of religious instructions, religious education to our children, the religious tarvij (traditions) like majalis and azadari in individual Jamaats, whether large, small or tiny Jamaats, isolated from one another, far and wide, unknown to one another and unconcerned with one another.

What could be our fate on the Day of Judgement if we were asked why unity and brotherhood escaped us when we should have achieved it through a Federation for the sake of preserving the belief in our faith and the practising of our faith, generation after generation.

In the 1940s there were as many as 50 Jamaats in Africa, many very small in isolated small centres as far as at the

remote borders of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire and Tanganyika. At that time many of our members were operating shops, mostly dependant on a credit system and barely managing their livelihood to survive because such was the general economical state with keen competition. Long hours until past sunset was a normal shop occupation. The isolation among the Jamaats was the normal order of the day because of lack of good roads and lack of the communication system that we enjoy today.

Stranger within itself

The result was dismal. The Community "as a whole" did not know itself - it was stranger within itself. There were not mutual relations as followers of one single faith. The Community was not aware which Jamaat had boys without education and those with education but with no finance for higher education; which Jamaat had welfare or medical cases but no means to resolve their suffering, which Jamaat had cases of impending bankruptcies and needed temporary loans to avoid indignity; which Jamaat had grown up girls and spinsters destined to remain unmarried because their existence was unknown; which Jamaat had no alims or preachers or teachers or religious text books or lacked guidance on fiqh and sharii issues; which Jamaat had been suffering from internal quarrels and destroying itself for lack of impartial intervention.

Al-hamdulillah, all those scenario are now history - the one aspect of history we do not want to recall. Therefore, in 1946, we established the type of UNITY that defied not only all geographical barriers but also defied our fears regarding its survival and defied our imagination regarding its longevity. It was this phenomena that encouraged the establishment of the World Federation later on because the success in

[...continued on pag. 24]

THROUGH THICK AND THIN, THE FEDERATION HAS TO BE PRESERVED

[...from pag. 23]

Africa generated self-confidence elsewhere outside Africa.

Known more for achievements

The Federation is too well known in the Community throughout the world for its services and achievements to need any elaborate narration on my part.

Let me assure you that if there are Federal organisations of other communities also worthy of commendation, ours is even more than that. We provide no lesser services than they do in fields of religious education, religious propagation, secular and higher education, welfare, socio-cultural, housing, business loans, sports, health and medicare etc. What is exemplary for our Community organisation is that we also provide full "democracy".

We have not only survived because of democratic principles enshrined in our constitution but we have in fact also thrived because of it. We have in the course of 50 years developed a strong culture of respecting and being loyal to our constitution. We have long learnt a lesson: that we should first respect ourselves if we want others to respect us and one important way of respecting ourselves is to respect our own constitution.

The key to success

I now come to the most important part of the address: What is the key to our success?

I shall attempt to summarise the reasons as follows:-

1. Because all our Jamaats were relatively small in population, located far and wide over many countries of Africa with formerly a weak basic economy, the Federation gave them a sense of security and later that sense became translated into concrete aspiration for unity and

brotherhood. The fruit reaped is for all to see and appreciate.

2. The Africa leadership has been so strong and foresighted even before the establishment of the Federation, that the said sense of security dictated the wisdom of ensuring that each centre, or town had only one Jamaat and all local subsidiary organisations of the Community are under the Parent Jamaat.

3. Dedication of all Trusts either Foundations or Properties was made by the members of the Jamaat to the Jamaat. Private Trusts in the hands of families were never encouraged and those very few which still exist is against our tradition and therefore unfortunate. The best example is of Zanzibar where some families, especially the Trustees of the estate of Nasser Nurmohamed transferred to the Hujjatul Islam Jamaat as many as 10 houses which included one former palace under the Trusteeship of the Jamaat. The estimated value in 1905 was in the fabulous figure of 300,000 Rupees.

4. However, the most important factor which has made the Federation so much strong is the tradition of one single Ijaza in Africa being granted to the Chairman of the Federation. In the last 35 years, no Chairman has requested the Marja to grant an Ijaza of khums in his personal name for his life time or otherwise.

It has been the apparent policy of the Marja to allow the Community which pays khums to have for itself the benefit of 50% of such collection. Any member or family of the Community having in mind the interest of the Community, which include themselves and their children and their descendants to be borne, would not want to deprive that 50% portion to the Community.

5. Fortunately in Africa and perhaps in a few cases elsewhere also,

the Community is not influenced by the financial status of any persons when electing leaders. The negative complex that only rich people can make good leaders does not exist and never existed in Africa. Our loyalty is not to the person who occupies the position but to the position occupied by any one of whatever social or financial status.

As I have said earlier, our confidence in good leadership is realised not only through the personal integrity of the leaders but much more through the loyalty and commitment to the constitution which is the best safeguard. We upgrade our constitution after every few years.

7. And finally, the factor which has contributed to our success is primarily the blessing and Mercy and inspiration from God as a reward perhaps for our good intentions and sincerity in all matters of the Community. God likes the Community that likes unity and brotherhood. The formation of regional Federations in India, North America, Europe and the World Federation are a testimony to our aspiration for unity and brotherhood.

Covenant to Children

In this gathering, historical as it is, the organisers and their indefatigable chairman, Alhaj Roshan A. Fazal laid emphasis on the presence and participation of children from the age of 10 upwards.

For almost all of them, this is perhaps the first time that they join their parents at such a Banquet which is also rare in the tradition of the Community, so that this night and all its glory and celebration remain vivid and memorable during their life time.

This memory will be cherished by the children and serve as a misaak (a covenant) that they too will play their part when they grow up and guide the Federation further to its 100 years anniversary, insha'allah."

Golfers celebrate!

The golf competition as part of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations was organised by convenors Raza Virjee and Nazmul Jaffer at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club on 14 and 15 April, 1995. The competition was played on a stableford basis in both, the individual and the team events.

The competition was kindly sponsored by F.K. Motors Limited who presented golfers with T-Shirts, Visors, shirts for the caddies and glittering trophies for the eventual winners. There were a total of 34 entries of whom 27 golfers were from Dar es Salaam, 5 golfers came from Arusha and 2 came from Moshi.

By 1.00 pm on 15 April, 1995, the final batch of golfers holed out on the 18th Hole, results were then analysed and winners were subsequently awarded trophies at a grand banquet held at the Diamond Jubilee to mark the 50th anniversary of the Africa Federation.

The winners were:

Best Junior Player
Ali Raza, Dar es Salaam.

Best Upcoming Junior Player
Shakeel Shariff, Arusha.

Most Senior Golfer
Habibhai Shariff, Dar es Salaam.

'C' Division Runner Up
Mohammed Hasham, Dar es Salaam

'C' Division Winner
Ali Rehaan Rattansi, Dar es Salaam

'B' Division Runner Up
Riyaz Somji, Dar es Salaam.

'B' Division Winner
Mussadique Versi, Arusha.

'A' Division Runner Up
Amir Somji, Arusha.

'A' Division Winner
Raza Virjee, Dar es Salaam.

Team Event winner
Arusha

Overall Winner
Murtaza Nasser, Dar es Salaam.

At the banquet it was announced that the next Golf Tournament will be organised and held by Arusha Jamaat.

DTV LECTURER ON KERBALA IS HONOURED



Sheikh Musabbah Sha'baan Mapinda of Bilal Muslim Mission in Dar es Salaam narrated lucidly in Kiswahili the events that led to the Martyrdom of Imam Hussain A.S. and a small band of his Companions in Kerbala. The programme was organised during the 10 nights of Muharram on the Dar es Salaam Television Station [DTV].

The Sheikh is seen above being presented with an automatic SEIKO Wrist watch by the Chief Missionary of the Bilal Muslim Mission, Seyyed Saeed Akhtar Rizvi on behalf of a female viewer who was impressed by the delivery and wished anonymity. Such narrations and analysis of historical events leading to the Martyrdom are an effective and help to enlighten the public at large.

Chairman obtains khums Ijaza

The Chairman of Africa Federation Alhaj Mohamed G. Dhirani has been appointed a Wakil of Our Marja Ayatullah Al-Ozema Sayyed Ali Al-Husayni As-Seestani on matters of khums. The Ijaza has been given by virtue of Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani's position as the Chairman of the Federation.

Mauritius Elections

Elections were held on 20 January, 1995. The following were elected into office for the period 1995 to 1997:

President	Raza Husain Kassamally Esmael
Vice President	Rajabally Gulam Husein
Secretary	Shabbir Husein Rajani
Asst. Secretary	Goolam Husein Kassamally Esmael
Treasurer	Sajjadhusain Rajani
Member	Hassen Moosajee
Member	Inayat Ali H. Pirbhai

Car crash injures two

The Hon. Secretary of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Mohamed Somji and the Chairman of the Dar es Salaam Ithna-Asheri Union, Alhaj Bashir Tejani, were involved in a major accident near Tanga when travelling to Mombasa for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Young Men's Union on 13 May, 1995.

The Federation Chairman, Alhaj Mohamed Dhirani has sent a message of thanks to Tanga and Mombasa Jamaats for greatly assisting in post-accident medical arrangements. Both are now reported to be recovering well.

Appointments:

CHB

The new Chairman appointed is Aunali Khalfan and the Hon. Secretary is Asghar Alidina. Committee Members are Dr. Mahmood Hameer, Dr. Muhsin Sheriff, Dr. Kazim Dhalla, Dr. Rizwan Hameer, Razahussein Marji, Amin Valji, Fazleabbas Dhirani and Mohamed Mulla.

Federation Samachar

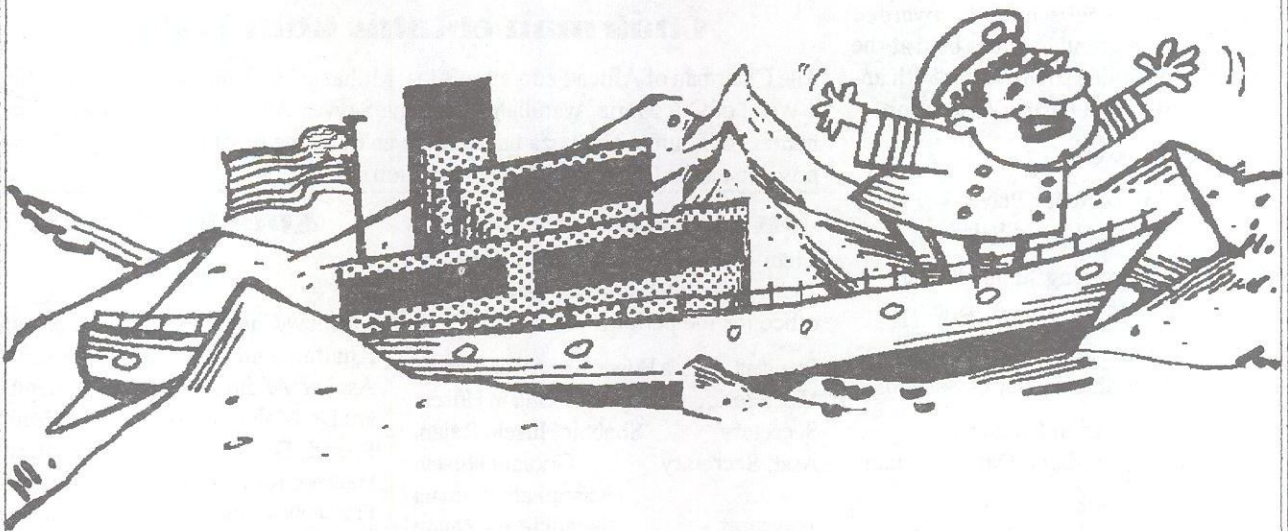
The new Chairman appointed is Munir Daya who continues to head this Board. He will be assisted by Mukhtar Damji (Asst. Editor), Fazleabbas Dhirani (Distribution), Amir Lakha (Advertisements) and Murtaza Jivraj (Photographs).

Executive Councillors

The Chairman has appointed the following new executive Councillors of the World Federation:

Asgher Bharwani Chairman, Dar Jamaat
Zulfikar Khimji Chairman, Nairobi Jamaat
Asgher J. Hirani Chairman, Madagascar Jamaat
Asaf Gulamhusein, Mombasa

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"Light" cigarettes are equally harmful

Many smokers sincerely believe that they inhale less tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide from 'low-yield' cigarettes and thus reduce their exposure to health risks. The fact is that the amount of tar and nicotine listed on the package has little to do with the amount a person inhales. The tobacco companies measure cigarette yields by using smoking machines, which take standardised puffs. However, people do not smoke that way - - they usually compensate for the low yield by puffing more, inhaling deeper and smoking the cigarette down to the filter. They may also smoke more cigarettes with the wrong belief that they are exposed to almost no risk.

Studies have shown that there is little correlation between stated nicotine yields from various brands and the nicotine levels measured in the blood of smokers. In effect, smokers

are able to get the same amount of nicotine, their "fix", no matter what brand of cigarette they smoke. Some tobacco companies are in fact known to manipulate nicotine yields in subtle ways to keep smokers hooked!

The notion that "light" cigarettes are safer has been disproved by a number of studies. One study conducted in 1989 at Boston University found that women who smoked the so called "light" cigarettes actually had a slightly higher risk of heart attack (the leading smoke-related illness) than those who smoked stronger brands probably because the women puffed harder on their cigarettes.

Analysts are now emphatically classifying "Light" cigarettes as a mere tobacco companies gimmick to boost sales.

Why Antibiotics fail

Very often patients do not respond to antibiotics and wonder why. This could be because of a development of bacterial resistance or due to inadequate therapy. The mechanism of the development of drug resistance is quite complex. If a patient has been taking a particular antibiotic frequently, the bacteria in his system are likely to become resistant to it. The failure of response due to inadequate or inappropriate therapy involves several factors some of which can be avoided.

When antibiotics are prescribed some patients hesitate to use them probably because of the cost involved or simply because they feel they do not need them. When the infection becomes severe patients finally buy and use the drugs after

having lost valuable time.

When symptoms are relieved, patients often stop medications when they feel better, without completing the full course, which then leads to bacterial resistance and on subsequent treatment with the same antibiotic there is a less effective response.

When lower dosages are taken or if frequency of intake is unduly decreased, bacterial resistance develops. Similarly combinations of two antibiotics each in a subtherapeutic dose would also cause bacterial resistance and finally lead to a failure of the treatment.

Doctors often make the mistake of prescribing antibiotics when they would be ineffective, like for viral infections such as measles, mumps

Shedding 'light' on 'lightning'

Many harbour the misconception that when there is a thunderstorm it is safe to take shelter under a tree to protect oneself from lightning. Lightning can uproot trees and leaning against a tree could cause the electrical charge to be conducted to the body with grave consequences.

In fact, staying anywhere outdoors, markedly raises one's risk of being hit by lightning. If one's body is wet because of rain or sweat, it becomes less resistant to electricity, making it, instead, a conductor of electricity.

Unlike earthquakes, lightning strikes can be anticipated since they generally occur during thunderstorms and the cardinal principal of safety is to scurry indoors. When indoors it is advisable to stay away from windows, balconies or open doors.

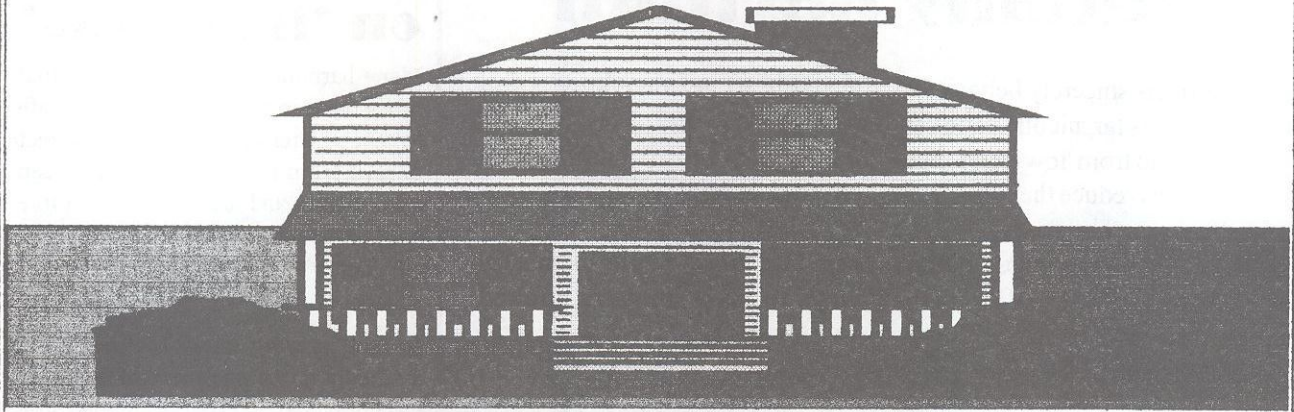
If one is caught outdoors, seek shelter in a building and take cover till the storm has passed. As heights are more prone to lightning strikes, stay away from hill-tops and always take cover, even if this is in a cave.

and chicken pox and for the vast majority of infections of the upper respiratory tract, all of which are not cured by antibiotics. Some doctors claim that in all these conditions, antibiotics are given to prevent secondary bacterial infections but how far this is justified is still a subject of controversy.

Another wrong application of antibiotics is for fevers of unknown origin. These fevers are usually due to viral or upper respiratory tract infections which do not generally respond to antibiotics. Fevers of long duration, such as in tuberculosis, normally require specific drugs.

Prescribing antibiotics indiscriminately or taking them in inadequate doses or even taking an inappropriate one, leads to their ineffectiveness.

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Handling asthma



Asthma is a chronic condition marked by periodic attacks of wheezing and difficulty in breathing. The cause of asthma attacks is from partial obstruction of the bronchi and bronchioles due to contraction of the muscles in the bronchial walls. Wheezing is caused by spasms in the bronchial airways or due to the swelling of the mucuous membranes.

The main symptoms of asthma are difficulty in breathing, a painless tightness in the chest and varying amounts of wheezing. Sometimes breathing becomes so difficult that it may cause sweating, an increased pulse rate and severe anxiety because of the diminishing supply of oxygen in the body.

Most asthma is triggered by an allergy to such things as pollen, skin particles (dander) from cats or dogs, some types of foods like chocolates, eggs, sugar etc. and dust. Attacks can also be caused by infections (especially in the respiratory tract), certain drugs, inhaled irritants, vigorous exercises, weather changes or psychological stress. In such cases all allergens should be identified and eliminated from oneself.

Whilst it is always apt to see a doctor whenever one has a severe attack or suffers a persistent period of breathlessness, there are some self-help ways to help prevent asthmatic attacks.

This includes eating slowly and with one's mouth closed so as to avoid any swallowing of air which can lead to discomfort and dyspnea.

One should also control the amounts of carbohydrates (breads, pasta, cereals and grains) consumed in a day because carbohydrates, when metabolised in the body, give out carbon-dioxide as a by-product thus

causing breathing problems. Foods that can make you feel bloated or produce gas should be avoided.

For asthma patients, consuming frequent but small meals during the day is ideal because consuming a large meal at any one time can lead to breathing difficulties.

One should also limit the amount of salt used in one's food. Sometimes the condition of one's lungs may cause a strain on one's heart and therefore the excess salt will make one retain extra fluid and thus increase one's blood volume, which in turn causes breathing difficulties.

One should try to consume a diet high in fibre as this will also help to keep bowel movements regular and therefore prevent any discomfort and bloating due to the lack of regularity. Fibre is found in fresh fruits, vegetables, salad, legumes, lentils, dried beans and peas.

One should also drink plenty of liquids, especially water because this helps to thin the mucous which is eliminated when one coughs it out. Beverages like coffee, tea or soft drinks should be avoided.

Those suffering from Exercise Induced asthma should start their programmes gradually so as to build their lung capacity. Exercises ultimately help to strengthen lungs thereby improving their capacity for inhaling and expelling air.

Some sufferers get attacks through their hobbies or at their work places. Gardening, pets, working in chemical industries or in dusty and polluted environments can all make one vulnerable to attack. At home dusty rugs and carpets or feather-filled pillows can also cause attacks.

During an attack, it often helps to sit elbows up straddling a chair. This keeps one's spine straight, stabilises

the top of one's ribcage and allows one's chest muscles to move air efficiently. The severity of an attack can be measured by a small peak-flow meter. By measuring the maximum flow of air with the meter when you breathe out, you can keep precise records of how much the air passages in your lungs narrow during an attack.

Drugs to treat asthma are categorised as prophylactics and bronchodilators. Prophylactics are taken regularly to prevent attacks by people who get frequent attacks or who can predict when an attack is likely to occur. Bronchodilators are best for people having occasional attacks and are normally taken only after an attack has begun, to relieve the symptoms.

Both types of drugs may be taken as tablets, inhalations or injections. Inhalation has the advantage of bringing the drug directly to the obstruction in the lungs. If no pill, liquid or inhalant succeeds in relieving a severe case of asthma, a bronchodilator drug may be injected into the bloodstream. This method almost always works. One group of drugs, steroids, is effective not only in preventing attacks but also in relieving the symptoms once an attack is underway. However many drugs do have side effects and dosages should only be taken after consultation with a doctor.

Despite the success of drug treatment, an asthma attack sometimes calls for hospitalisation. In hospital, one may be given a drug treatment with a nebulizer or be given muscle-relaxant drugs and be connected to a mechanical respirator. This eliminates muscle spasms in the air passages inside the lungs and one's chest muscles can also relax since the work of breathing is done by a respirator. One's respiratory system can thereby recover from a severe attack. In hospital, the presence of nursing and medical staff also help relieve the anxiety a patient has of being unable to breathe.

Let Zakireen pause and ponder

--are they not being sinfully unfair to the Martyrs of Kerbala?

This is a plea directed to zakireen in general which is not new nor infrequent.

We are aware that there is a message for all Muslims in particular and for the human society in general from the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain [A.S.] and his companions.

The message is derived from the historic and heroic example of sacrifice of all that is near and dear for the defence of Islam from subversion and of the people from oppression.

The message cannot be gleamed and portrayed and its impact saved when Zakireen confine their annual narrations to only the events that took place in Kerbala.

The events in Kerbala including the martyrdom itself is the result, foreseen and looked forward to, of the crucial historic decision of Imam Husain [A.S.] in Medina, not to swear allegiance to Yezid, at any cost, during that cross-road of history for Islam and the Muslim Umma.

After the martyrdom of Hazrat Amirul Mumineen [A.S.], the rule of Moaviya became even more despotic and cruel. The subversion of the spirit and essence of Islam became audacious and arrogant. The State terrorised people into silence and submission through summary executions, banishments and other physical and mental tortures with the the pious people being seen as political risks.

However the time of challenge arose when Yezid, an embodiment of all evils in the eyes of Islam, was

appointed the successor of Moaviya as the political and religious ruler over the Muslim Umma.

All swore allegiance to Yezid through fear including the few who had earlier hesitated or declined. People were inclined to believe that the time was so bad that even Imam Husain [A.S.] would eventually succumb to State pressure.

The best of supporters in Koofa and elsewhere began to distance themselves from the Imam for fear of retribution from the organs and agents of the State if the Imam refused allegiance 'up to the end'.

We shall find our heart moved to weeping and anguish even over the narrations and analysis of the events that faced the Imam and the families of Bani-Hashim prior to the events of Kerbala.

The martyrdom in Kerbala was a culmination of the success of the challenge accepted in Medina. The success was not only spiritual but also political and recorded in the history through the fall of the rule of Bani Omayya.

It is sad that our Zakireen avoid or ignore as "insignificant" or "dry" the narrations and analysis covering the entire history of the struggle.

We have two dynamic institutions which are unrivalled among the Muslim Sects. One is Ijtehad (Marjaiyat) and the other is Azadari (Husainiya).

The purpose for Azadari is much greater than simply a discriminately favoured means of an easy admission into Paradise. The purpose for Azadari is to keep

the message of Kerbala alive.

Zakireen should therefore not fail to narrate the historically important sermon of Imam Husain [A.S.] before the army of Yezid which is so widely recorded. This should always be the focus or central issue in their Muharram preaching but then, of course, it will rob them of their sensitization and dramatization pulpit-role of portraying unsaintly "self-pity" in the camps of the Imam.

The purpose of the mourning of the martyrdom is to keep the message alive and ironically many of us mourn whilst not knowing that the message spells out that every day is Ashura and every land is Kerbala thereby calling upon us to apply the message to our daily life because it is relevant at all times in the history of Islam and man.

Many of us fail to apply this message because Zakireen do not connect it to the martyrdom. Having made the event in Kerbala as the focus of their annual discourse and mourning, the Zakireen even imagine and compare the emotions and lamentations of the martyrs and their families in Kerbala to our feeble emotions of attachment and love for our own lives, our children and worldly wealth.

They thus not only lower the saintly status of the martyrs and their families but some also portray as if the events were not a willing sacrifice but beyond their expectations and as if the struggle was for power that proved a misadventure!



Wayside Wisdom

by Munir Daya, Dar es Salaam

Time and tide wait for no man

There is an adage that "between saying and doing, many a pair of shoes are worn out." Many individuals prefer to postpone their planned actions instead of tackling them forthwith. Through undue procrastination, one's plans often end up only on the drawing board - -unaccomplished!

In life, opportunities come now and then but many of such opportunities are wasted through not being performed when required. If one has time today to undertake something, why waste the opportunity when one never knows if the same time and opportunity will be available at a later date.

It is common to hear people postpone their tasks to the following day

or week because of petty allurements. Taking part in such allurements or recreational activities is fine as long as one does manage time effectively. Good time management means that one plans out the tasks that have to be performed and classifies these to different levels of priority according to their urgency. Proposed time limits have then to be set and these can be punctuated with leisure hours which provide a needful break.

However it is not uncommon to see people with impending tasks to justify their delay through lame excuses like that of being too busy when as a matter of fact they may be spending hours each day in conversing with their colleagues on simple

issues of little relevance or in watching television.

Lost time leads to neglected opportunities and when the required determination is lacking, the chances are that one will have to look back at neglected opportunities realising then that one has been 'hoping and willing' rather than 'willing and doing' things.

Procrastination is the thief of time and leads to a situation whereby we are always getting ready to perform but never actually end up to perform. If action has to be taken then it has to be now unless there is an authentic reason or an intentional strategy that justifies the delay to perform. Let's not put off to tomorrow what can be done today because time and tide wait for no man!

Tailpiece

Teacher to students: "If anyone can tell me where God is, I will give him or her an orange."

Student: "Sir, if you can tell me where God is absent, I would rather give you two oranges."

Speech improprieties

In common and generally accepted business communications one can find many improprieties in speech and strangely such slips are often tolerated as correct terminology.

For example many people have the habit of calling every other person "dear" when this word only applies to someone with whom you share intimate relations. The only exception is when the word "dear" is used as a part of a salutation in letters.

Very often we hear people say "I am through," when trying to tell us they have finished a particular task. Through! can they tell us through what? No, they can't simply because they have erred in their terminology.

There are many other examples where in the name of variety, people replace simple but correct words by better sounding but inappropriate words. Simple examples include the usage of "I guess" instead of "I think", "I expect" for "I suppose" or "blame it on him" instead of "blame him."

Another common mistake is to use "got" where it is unnecessary. "I have got an umbrella" is a common form of speech but "got" here is needless and it also is far from being a pleasing word.

Tell an unsporting businessman to play squash in the evening and don't be surprised if you hear, "I don't have

a time load to spare." There is no meaning to such a phrase and the correct reply should be, "I don't have enough time to play squash." - - a simple but appropriate reply unlike the other answer which sounds good but involves a speech impropriety.

When one develops one's understanding of a language, there is generally an improvement in presentations made. Proverbs, idioms or metaphors can be used to accentuate a point and more intricate, but appropriate, words can be used when the situation calls for a high-brow presentation. However in any language, good writing or speaking does not have to incorporate abstruse or nice sounding words at the cost of tampering with the propriety of speech.

The Africa Federation in the next 50 years as a Model for the Entire Community the World Over

A prize winning essay by sister Ferhana Somji of Dar es Salaam for the Seniors essay writing competition that was organised to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Africa Federation. The Seniors competition was open to all young writers between the ages of 17 and 30 years.

It all began with a dream. A dream for unity, a brotherhood; a united force against all oppression. Now, we celebrate half a century of this dream actualised.

The systematic yet unobtrusive dissection of Muslim sects around the world by foreign powers has brought a lot of misery and a steady decline in sympathy between the sects. Due to the links of the chain of strength being severed, the Shias needed a cooperative organisation. They got the Federation.

The Africa Federation has linked the jamaats in different parts of Africa, creating an invisible support system. Its main aim is to provide a stable platform which Shias all around the world can use as a springboard to get ahead.

The Federation is a model of unity we all need. At this point in time, there are many power hungry, money mad people in this world who are against the spreading of Islamic faith, especially Shiaism, thus Shias are often blocked from certain things.

This Organisation is showing us that it is possible to make a unified unit and thus remain less vulnerable against opposing forces. It has brought together different jamaats and through help of the Federation Samachar, it keeps Muslim brothers

continuously informed on new events; some good, some tragic.

Then there is unification through education. The building of schools and mosques furthers the Islamic message, educating the non-muslims as well as Muslims. These institutions are a means of making the flame of Islam brighter.

Among other things, the Federation has also provided medical advice and help, providing sponsorships for students who wish to specialise but don't have the means.

Looking to the Federation as a model, societies should now leave aside their differences and other petty grudges and trivialities such as race and focus on themselves becoming unified. We should start a communal support system where everything is for the betterment of the society and furthering of Islam. The need for skilled workers should be recognised and financial aid to floundering businesses with potential and to students wishing to study further should be considered a priority. This will result in specialised professionals with a commitment to the society.

To take the Federation as a model would be the beginning of a new era of Shia unity, the strengthening of bonds. The Shias would flourish and

businessmen would surge together to form a financial safety net and people, in the event of sickness, will be reassured that they will be helped and there would be overall good will.

The beginning of this dream, may not have looked feasible, but now it has become a stepping stone to reaching another level. If the guidelines of this: unity, is followed by every jamaat, the Shia world would soon be a force to be reckoned with and will hold some clout. Let us show our strength in our unity!

One way of increasing communication and thus the unification process by the Federation would be to install a satellite network world-wide. The world is growing smaller by the day and so communication needs to speed up. This could contain Muslim news world-wide thereby giving us quick access to information. The network can also contain Muslim programmes for children and adults and would be an effective and indirect way of showing the world the true Islam -- one without violence; and thus we would be contradicting propaganda and attracting more to join us in the path of God. Inshallah!

I conclude therefore, by emphasising that we should not limit our dreams and belittle our achievements -- **"You are your greatest asset, there is nothing you cannot do. No one can keep you from dreaming and only you can prevent them from coming true."**

Du'as provide protection

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) has said that du'as are a weapon for believers and truly it is the recitation of du'as which brings us closer to our Creator.

When our 4th Imam Zainul Abedeen (a.s.) was released by Yezid and left for Medina, he used to propagate Islam through reciting du'as. As he was being monitored by the enemies of Islam and was not free to express his views, it was through such supplications, which reiterate the different qualities of God and our timidness in this temporary life, that he imparted his treasure of Islamic teachings.

The treasure of Islamic teachings he left is what we today call the Sahifa-Kamilah. Our Imams expected us to reflect and ponder over these du'as to understand ourselves and our Creator.

The best way to communicate with Allah (s.w.t.) through du'as is first to make an Intention [Niyat] after which it is recommended to remember others before oneself when reciting the du'as. Imam Hassan (a.s.) used to see how his mother, Hazrat Fatema Zahra (a.s.) used to pray for others before herself and we too should remember our parents, relatives, neighbours and Muslims all over the world in our du'as rather than just supplicating for ourselves.

In our du'as we should also remember the Ahlul-bait by reciting salawat wherein we ask Allah

(s.w.t.) to send his blessings on the Holy prophet and his household. Finally one should also think of all the Ne'mats bestowed by Allah [s.w.t.] upon us.

If you beseech Allah (s.w.t.) in private he will grant your wishes in public and if you think of Him during times of prosperity and happiness he will think of you when you are in distress.

In addition to obligatory supplications, one should seek salvation from God by reciting du'as which will help to keep your faith intact thereby guiding you not to deter from the right path. Du'as also keep us safe from the mischief of the unbelievers and the hypocrites and constantly remind us that we are living in a temporary world that can come to an end at any time.

Respect your teacher

Children in school and in our Madressas spend much time each day with their teachers. Teachers are said to make or break a child and many of them spend painstaking hours towards uplifting their students standards so that they can face the challenges of the modern world, qualify into professionals or technicians and be well versed in religious knowledge when they leave.

It is the right of your teacher to respect him or her and to respect the dignity of his or her audience and to listen to them intently and to make all efforts to understand, ask and practice what they have taught you.

Teachers who constructively educate children deserve more honour than parents who merely give them birth because the latter provide mere life while the former ensure a successful life.

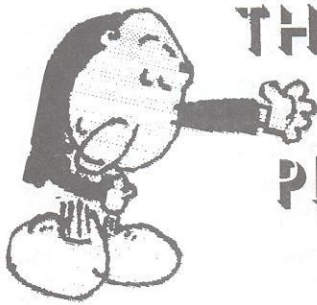
PRIZE QUIZ

Answer the following questions on Wudhoo with a 'YES' or 'NO' and send in your entries to Prize Quiz, P.O. Box 6710, Dar es Salaam. The first three correct entries will be presented with TShs. 5000/- plus a video tape 'Ris-Salaat' prepared by the Islamic Education Board of the World Federation.

- 1] Is it obligatory that one should wash the inner parts of the nose while performing wudhoo?
- 2] Can one wipe the feet during wudhoo from the tip of any toe of the foot up to the upper part of it?
- 3] Does water have to reach the skin of the face if it is visible under the beard?
- 4] Is the wudhoo valid, if the limbs, other than parts on which wudhoo is performed, are impure?
- 5] Is the wudhoo of a person who keeps his eyes closed while performing it, valid?
- 6] Is it necessary that water should reach the skin while wiping the head which has medium-sized hair?
- 7] Is the ablution through immersion (wudhoo Irtimasi) valid if the face and both the hands are dipped in water?
- 8] Can one do ablution through immersion with less than kur-water (i.e. less than 384 litres)?
- 9] Is the wudhoo in order if another person pours water on one's hand?
- 10] Is wudhoo necessary for offering prayers for the dead (Namaze Mayyet) or Sajdatus Sahv (Prostration due to forgetfulness)?
- 11] Is it unlawful (haram) to wash the face and hands three times each?

The Samachar offers a forum to our young writers to pen their thoughts. Youths and children can send in articles for the Children and Youth page preferably with their age. These should be addressed to:

The Editor, Federation Samachar, P.O. Box 6710, Dar es Salaam.



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 P.O. Box 6710, Dar es Salaam.

Women need to be conversant with Islamic laws to handle family and related problems

Islam has provided a great service to women by officially recognising their natural rights through teachings in the Holy Qur'an and Shari'a law. Muslim women can only truly understand their related status if they take pain to read through and learn such teachings.

The Islamic movement towards the liberalisation of womankind has been clear and unequivocal. It maintains the respect from as well as the responsibility which the daughter and the wife have to their fathers and husbands respectively with mutual respect to all being an objective to establish strong family ties.

Our women often do not know the rights that Islam has given them and one area which needs urgent advancement is that of making our women more literate in Islamic laws pertaining to women. Women need to work on educational publications to promote literacy on a range of issues and have to organise themselves into pragmatic groups that can deal with such issues as health, education, social welfare and propagation of family law matters such as protection against unfair divorce and the illegality of abortion even when there is undue pressure from the husband.

Women need to know such Islamic rights as the right to have a free choice in marriage and the right to corroborate specific conditions in a marriage contract, including protection from violence.

Because of little understanding of Islamic laws we today still have women who find it embarrassing to let their husbands assist in household chores. Housekeeping may be a duty for women but husbands are expected to assist their wives in this respect.

It is not fair that a man sits around idly while his wife remains busy performing one chore after another. Working at home is by no means degrading but is rather manly and even lures a wife more towards her husband.

The wife of the Prophet [S. A. W.] of Islam, Ayisha once said: "When ever the Prophet was free from his work, he used to sew his clothes, repair his shoes and used to work at home like other men." The reference "...like other men" shows that it was absolutely normal for men to assist in household chores. Indeed women should not stop their husbands from working at home as long as their extent of involvement is within considerate limits.

Similarly women should not accept their husbands being aloof and away from the family. Very often women, with a sense of false pride, tell their husbands that they can well do without them and even make it appear that they don't care when their husbands are away from home for a long time. This ego is dangerous and can draw one's husband further away from oneself. Rather an affectionate attitude almost always helps to keep one's husband more to oneself and to one's children.

A woman is her husband's partner and not a servant. She is not there to work all day and get fed in return but she is there as a permanent friend. She is made to feel even more vulnerable when her husband always associates himself with his friends or follows nightly pursuits, legal or illegal. However the key to solving marital problems almost always lies with women and with appropriate knowledge of Islam they can well learn how to keep their husbands to themselves.

Simple truths in marriage

1] Couples should remember that even the most destructive fights and conflicts start with good intentions. These good intentions indicate a hidden reservoir of hope that a fully satisfying relationship can be achieved.

2] One put-down will erase twenty acts of kindness. This principle is comparable to the fact that it takes but one minute to eat a piece of chocolate, yet it takes twenty minutes of exercise to work off its effects.

3] Little changes in you can lead to huge changes in your relationship. Listening to your partner just once, rather than walking away or yelling in the heat of an argument, can produce substantial changes in marital happiness.

4] Men and women fight to accomplish the same objective: Acceptance, support and affection.

5] It is not the differences between you and your mate that cause problems but it is how the differences are handled, that actually raise problems.

Partners in happy relationships develop good listening skills. These skills have nothing to do with eliminating differences, forcing agreement or giving advice. It is always frustrating to talk to the wall and thus it's best for each of you to at least listen to what the other has to say even if you don't agree!

Finally to boost relationships:

- 1] Find creative ways out of relationship ruts that cause stagnation;
- 2] Enrich the friendship between the two of you, say with common hobbies or a dinner out; and
- 3] Enhance the fun in your relationship which is often bogged down by boredom from routine and dull patterns. Make life more exciting!

From the Holy Quran...

The re-union of families in the hereafter...

"And those who believe and whose families follow them in faith, to them shall we join their families; nor shall we deprive them (of the fruit) of aught of their works: (yet) is each individual in pledge for his deeds."

"O ye who believe! Save yourselves and families from a fire whose fuel is men and stones, over which are (appointed) angels stern (and) severe, who flinch not (from executing) the Commands they receive from God and do (precisely) what they are commanded."

On possessions and progeny...

"And know ye that your possessions and your progeny are but a trail; and that it is God with whom lies your highest reward." [8:28].

"O ye who believe! Let not riches or your children divert you from the remembrance of God. If any act thus, the loss is his own." [63:9].

First we need to change...

"Verily never will God change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves." [13:11].

This Life and the Life to come...

"Know ye (all), that the life of this world is but play and amusement, pomp and mutual boasting and multiplying (in rivalry) amongst yourselves, riches and children."

"In the Hereafter is a penalty severe (for the devotees of wrong). And forgiveness from God and (his) good pleasure (for the devotees of right). And what is the life of this world but goods and chattels of deception." (57:20).

And on the day that the unbelievers will be placed before the fire, (it will be said to them): "Ye received your good things in the life of the world, and ye took your

pleasure out of them: but today shall ye be recompensed with a penalty and humiliation. For that ye were arrogant on earth without just cause, and that ye (ever) transgressed." [46:20].

There are men who say: "Our Lord! Give us (Thy bounties) in this world!" But they will have no portion in the Hereafter.

And there are men who say: "Our Lord! Give us good in this world and good in the Hereafter and defend us from the torment of the fire."

To these will be allotted what they have earned; and God is quick in account. [2:200,201].

Final attainment will be for...

Those who patiently persevere seeking the Countenance of their Lord: Establish regular prayers; spend out of (the gifts) We have bestowed for their sustenance, secretly and openly: and turn off evil with good: for such there is the final Attainment of the (eternal) Home. [13:22].

Gardens of perpetual bliss; they shall enter there, as well as the righteous among their fathers, their spouses and their offspring. And angels shall enter unto them from every gate (with the salutation): "Peace unto you that ye persevered in patience! Now how excellent is the Final Home!" [13:23,24].

On the Day of Judgement....

"The Trumpet will (just) be sounded, when all that is in the heavens and on the earth will swoon, except such as it will please God (to exempt). Then will a second one be sounded, when, behold, they will be standing and looking on!

And the Earth will shine with the glory of its Lord. The record (of deeds) will be placed open. The Prophets and the witnesses will be brought forward; and a just decision pronounced between them; and they will not be wronged (in the least)."

"And to every soul will be paid in full (the fruit) of its deeds; and (God)

There will be no respite...

And spend something (in charity) out of the substance which we have bestowed on you, before death should come to any of you and ye should say, "O my Lord! Why didst thou not give me respite for a little while? I should then have given (largely) in charity and I should have been one of the doers of good." But to no soul will God grant respite when the time appointed (for it) has come; and God is well acquainted with (all) that ye do. [6:10].

knoweth best all that they do. The Unbelievers will be led to Hell in crowds. Until when they arrive there, its gates will be opened. And its keepers will say, "Did not apostles come to you from among yourselves, rehearsing to you the signs of your Lord and warning you of the Meeting of the this day of yours?" The answer will be: "True: but the decree of punishment has been proved true against the unbelievers!"

(To them) will be said: "Enter ye the gates of Hell, to dwell therein. And evil is (this) abode of the arrogant!"

"And those who feared their Lord will be led to the garden in crowds. Until behold, they arrive there; its gates will be opened; and its Keepers will say: "Peace be upon you! Well have ye done! Enter ye here to dwell therein."

They will say: "Praise be to God, who has truly fulfilled His promise to us, and has given us (this) land in heritage. We can dwell in the Garden as we will. How excellent a reward for those who lived in righteousness.

And thou will see the angels surrounding the Throne (Divine) on all sides, singing Glory and Praise to their Lord. The decision between them (at Judgement) will be in (perfect) justice and the cry (on all sides) will be "Praise be to God, the Lord of the worlds!"

Global Update



Global Update continues to keep you abreast with news relating to different countries.



Currencies Forecast

Over the past few months the US dollar has continued to weaken against nearly all other industrialised currencies. This has led to a situation whereby the US currency is now seriously undervalued by almost any terms. The only prominent exception has been the French Franc which was affected by the recent presidential handover and the considerable uncertainty prevailing during the lengthy election period. People now prefer to avoid the French currency, that is until the future direction of economic policy in France is indicated. With so many rival currencies having excellent prospects it is not really difficult to stay away from the French monetary unit.

The headline news has been the dollar's weakness against the Japanese yen with successive post-war record lows being breached in March and April and a rate of 80 to the US dollar now possible within 1995. Japan's economic recovery is still very fragile and the huge positive current account and trade balances which are the cause of so much trouble are dropping but the US dollar is not expected to recover until 1996.

A strong yen makes Japanese products more expensive to American importers and Japanese industry has started to reel under this uncompetitiveness onslaught with the first modern car-plant closure taking place near Tokyo. The Japanese Government is hence under pressure to bring the yen down by cutting interest rates further. However with recent signs showing that Japanese manufacturers are responding well to their currency hardening, it is likely that the yen will remain firm against the dollar for the rest of the year.

The German deutschmark and the Swiss franc have been doing well against the

dollar, particularly the latter. Industrial output in both countries is rising at nearly eight per cent annually with the Swiss having a better control on inflation. The volume of business is going the DM's way which has been encouraged by the 1.5 point interest rate premium obtainable there under current circumstances. With much attention being paid to the DM this could be a good time to invest in Swiss francs. No change in German interest rates is expected and if the Swiss do raise their interest rates, their currency will inevitably gain immediately.

The Italian lira recently passed through a bad spell when it slumped drastically against contradictory indications from the economic front - rising inflation and a growing trade surplus. It is now showing signs of recovery on account of some very healthy economic and industrial output growth figures.

The currency to avoid seems to be the UK pound sterling. In the UK, firm economic growth is undoubtedly taking place but the rise in industrial output is lagging behind that of other European nations and general growth is not expected to increase in the long term.

A further interest rate rise was expected in May but it seems this was delayed for political reasons and when it comes it will probably be too late to improve the pound's level pegging against the ailing US currency.

Not being a member of the EMS, the currency is very weak within Europe where most of the nation's trade is conducted these days. UK exporters are delighted because with the pound not doing much better than the crisis-hit dollar, UK products are cheaper to European importers.

The budget in East Africa

The budget day in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda was on June 15, 1995. The budgets of the three countries showed remarkable similarities, being dedicated to economic reform and liberalisation under Structural Adjustment Programmes. Uganda and Kenya have made more progress along this line than Tanzania.

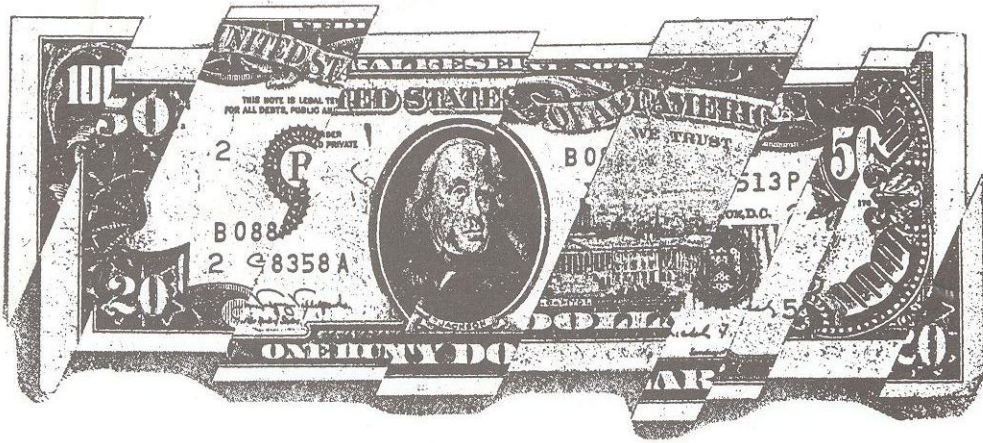
All three budgets called for greater control on Government expenditure, privatisation of unprofitable state enterprises, granting of investment incentives to foreign investors, lowering tariffs and abolishing any residual exchange controls.

In Uganda, inflation is officially down to 3%, GDP grew by 10% last year and the rate of interest on treasury bills is at 9% with foreign exchange reserves being healthy. Of concern is the external debt of over \$3 billion and the cost of servicing it. The Government plans to privatise 85% of public enterprises within the next two years.

The principal focus in the Tanzania budget was to strengthen tax collection. Some import duties were reduced and the minimum wage went up to Shs. 17,500/- (\$ 27.34). The Government's aim is to reduce inflation to 15% for the coming financial year but this seems unlikely because with the Presidential elections scheduled in October business activity seeks to be declining continually and the price of goods on the local market are expected to soar. Bank short-term interest rates range from 22% to 35%.

In Kenya, the Government set aside about \$ 145 million for special poverty alleviation projects in 1995/96. This underpinned the Government's commitment to the Structural Adjustment Programme with an economic turnaround being attributed to the on-going process of liberalisation and economic reform. The battle against inflation appears successful and since December 1993, Kenya has remained current in the payment, not only of arrears, but of its main external debt portfolio as well. This has been achieved without a deterioration in foreign exchange reserves which still equal five months of imports cover.

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