

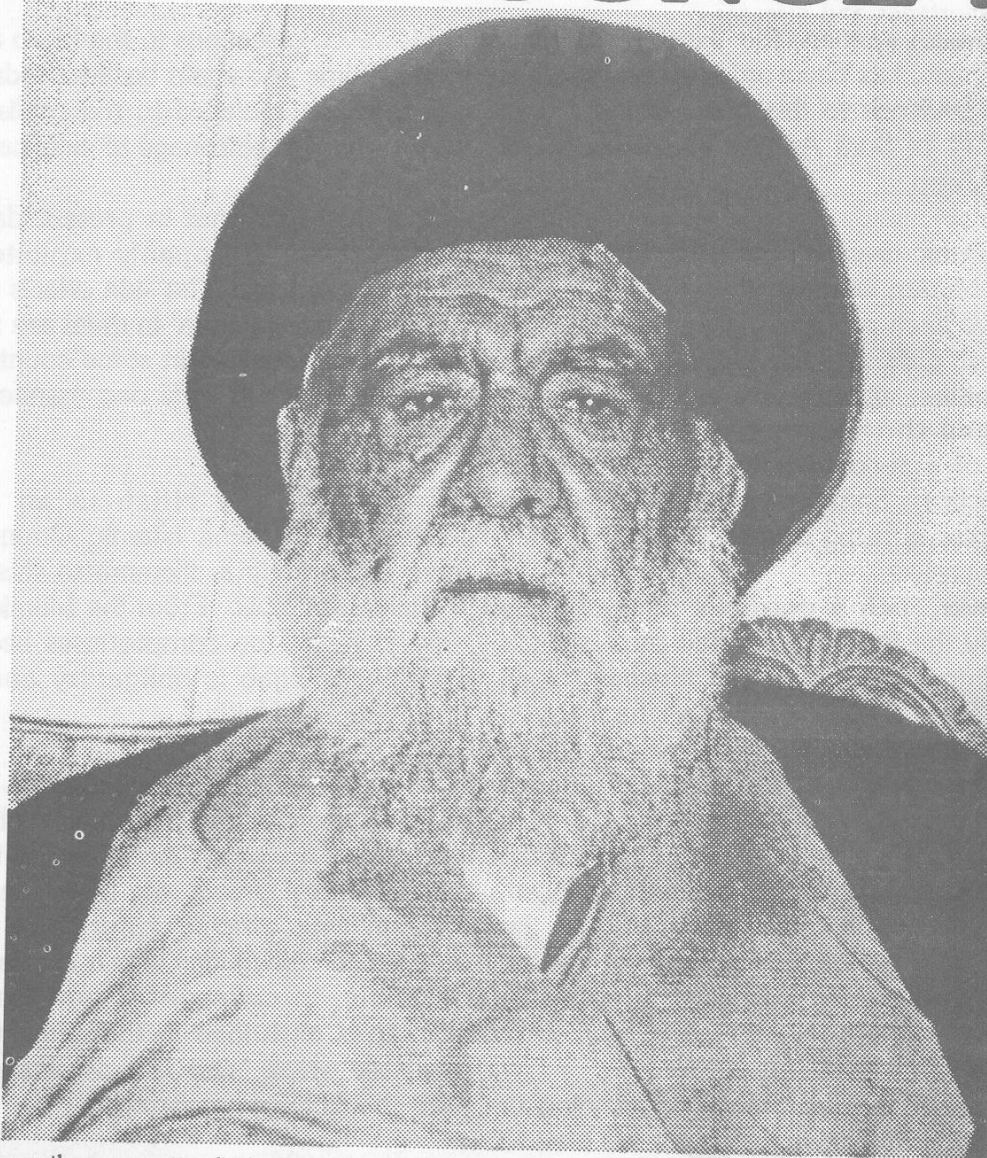


Federation Samachar

Volume No. 25, No.2. Ramadhan 1411, March 1991
A publication of the Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaats of Africa

Editors: Mohamedali Chagani, Munir Daya.

WE DENOUNCE ...



The uncouth manner in which the ruling regime in Iraq apprehended our Marja-e-Taqlid, Ayatollah Abul-Kaseem El-Khui, his family members and other prominent Ulemas is indeed unforgivable.

Helicopter-borne commandos, comprising of mostly obdurate Republican Guards, savagely attacked the school of theology in Najaf and after killing Agha's aides they apprehended him, his family plus some Ulemas, and flew them to Baghdad.

During the attack, Agha was dragged over the corpses of martyred Ulemas to an awaiting helicopter. Considering that Agha is 91 years of age, the viciousness of the attack reflects on the despotism of a regime which has continuously undertaken atrocities against its own population. (Continued on the Back Page)

In Defence of the Hijab

For Muslim women, the 'Hijab' an Islamic Modest Dress, has been ordained and there is a textual evidence to this effect in the Quran in verse 31 of Sura An-Nur and verse 59 of Sura Al Ahzab.

The Islamic dress is now being increasingly worn by Muslim women around the world but there have been problems, especially amongst women or girls seeking work or education opportunities, whereby the authorities have challenged the wearing of the Hijab on grounds of non-conformity with uniforms or work practice. Some have even classified the Islamic dress as being unglamorous.

However, with a down to earth attitude backed by the intrinsic fact that the Quran is the guiding constitution for Muslims, such objections and confrontations have been overcome time and again in different countries around the world, including England, France and Canada where Muslims form only a minority. In Kenya, objections that were prevalent in some quarters against the Hijab, were clamped upon earlier this year when the Country's President made a clear-cut speech emphasising the freedom of worship in Kenya.

Contrary to popular misunderstanding in the West, the hijab is not a device for men to exploit women and neither is it meant to prevent women from participating in social activities. This dress is there to protect women from lustful gaze and to promote an aura of chastity in society. Uncalled for sexual stimulation can lead to frivolous distractions that only dechastise society!

However, objections to the Hijab are bound to recur time and again because today's world and media is enslaved to materialistic values which pay high patronage to external beauty.

It is no secret that in present day society many women are openly exploited in the name of glamour. The side effects of this so called 'human freedom' in dress are many and the high divorce rate in some countries (50% of all marriages) is only one manifestation of the ills of free society.

Ironically, the Hijab is an issue of contention in some Islamic Countries and there is currently a dilemma to this effect in Tanzanian schools. From the Islamic point of view there are no compromises because the wearing of hijab is obligatory and part of practising one's faith.

It is not true that the 'Hijab' is meant to undermine prescribed uniforms. Rather it is to allow muslim women to follow an important tenet of Islam. Infact, the hijab can be made to align with official uniforms as much as possible (in colours etc) within allowable limits. Certainly, in countries where freedom of worship is enshrined in the constitution and especially where Islam is a dominant religion, hijab should have no obstacles.

Just like nuns from Convents can don "habit" (nun-dress) in Universities, the hijab in schools need not arouse any religious bias against it. If it does then the problem is elsewhere and needs to be identified and redressed.

Editors

Letters should be addressed to:-

**THE EDITORS,
FEDERATION SAMACHAR,
P.O. BOX 6710,
DAR ES SALAAM.**

Editorial contributions may be telexed in on Number 81029 RNTKIL or Faxed on Number 20896 in Dar es Salaam.

Dear Brothers,

Assalamun alaikum

I have gone through the last issue of 'Federation Samachar' and was pleased with the excellent articles therein. Congratulations for the nice work done.

I support your idea of having a representative in each Jammata and would also suggest that you add articles in Kiswahili for our Swahili speaking brothers.

I pray to ALLAH (S.W.T.) to guide you in this noble task.

With salaams and duas

M.P. Walimohamed
P.O Box 1880
MWANZA.

Dear Brothers,

Assalamun alaikum

I received a copy of the last 'Federation Samachar' during a programme of nauha and marsiya that I had recently organized at the Hujjat Imambara in Stanmore for children under the age of 16 years.

Having lived in Leicester, UK for the past ten years, we have organized a number of communal programmes and last year, for the first time, a Julus in commemoration of Imam Hussein's (A.S.) martyrdom was organized. The procession was featured on the front page of the local paper 'Leicester Mercury' with adequate elaboration on the reasons for the tribute walk.

In future editions of the 'Samachar', I suggest that more coverage be given to communal activities around the world. This will encourage more people to read this magazine.

Meanwhile, please do arrange to send me copies of future 'Samachar' publications regularly.

May Allah bless you all and keep up with your efforts.

**M.K Rajani,
Leicester
UK.**

Dear Brothers,

Assalamun Alaykum.

Last May, we attended the annual convention of the ABA which was held in Las Vegas in the State of Nevada.

This convention is a very interesting event in which you can see the whole pageant of the American book-publishing and marketing industry. The industry has put a new accent on children's books, the sale of which, in the United States, has gone up by 160 per cent. This means a tremendous upsurge in the sale of books for children.

We availed of the opportunity of our presence at the convention, and selected 57 books which are a "cross-section" of the children's fondness for the printed word. Each of them is designed not only to catch the eye but also to arrest the reader's interest at once. In other words, each volume is packed with reader appeal.

Riffling through the pages of these books, we gathered that most of them are inspired by the Bible. The children's unconsciously assimilate the biblical knowledge. This, we think, is an ingenious way of imparting religious education to the children, and to lay firm foundations on the Judeo-Christian ethos of their character.

We would like to suggest that the Muslim publishers match this effort by the American publishers, by putting out a series of books the fountainhead of which should be Qur'an. This content, form and style should be story-like but the moral should be clear, i.e., obedience to Allah is basic to being a Muslim. In this manner, the ethos of Qur'an would form the underpinnings of the character of a Muslim child living in the West.

We would be happy to receive comments on the foregoing suggestion. We are also enclosing by separate mail a sample copy of the above mentioned books and the new editions of Khadija-tul-Kubra and Elements of Islam.

Your brother in Islam

Aunali Khalfan, NEW YORK

'SAMACHAR' REPRESENTATIVE

To regularly obtain news from other Jamaats, the Editorial Board of Federation Samachar wish to appoint one member of each Jammata as its liaison representative.

Representatives can furnish the Editorial Board with activities of their Jamaat and can also assist in soliciting funds to cover publication costs.

A limited response was made to our Circular No. 64/90, issued in November last year to this effect. In our next issue, we plan to carry names of our editorial representatives and we therefore appeal to Jamaats which have not responded to do so immediately.

Editors.

World Federation President in Iran



The President of the World Federation, Al Haj Mulla Asgherali Jaffer, was in Iran last September to present collections made by our Community in the United Kingdom towards the Iran Earthquake Relief Fund. The visit was coordinated by the Iran Interest Section of the Pakistan Embassy in London. The World Federation contributed pounds sterling 10,000 and medicines towards this fund.

During his visit, Mulla Asgher also attended the burial ceremony in Qum of the late Ayatullah Syed Shahabuddin Najafi Marashi and conveyed condolences of the entire Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Community to Marhum's son, Hujjatul Islam Dr. Syed Mahmood Marashi.

On return to Tehran, Mulla met the Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Ali Akber Wilayati and presented him a draft of pounds sterling 53,467 for the Irani Earthquake Relief Fund. It is estimated that total individual and collective contributions towards this Fund by our Community in the UK surpasses pounds sterling 100,000.

Dr Wilayati thanked the World Federation for the contribution and said he had been moved by the generous response from Muslim countries, individuals and organisations towards the plight of Earthquake victims.

During his visit, the World Federation President also met the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatullah Syed Ali Khamenei. Ayatullah Khamenei said that he was keenly pursuing the deliberations and resolutions of the World Ahlul Bayt (A.S.) Conference - in which representatives of the World Federation had also participated.

The Iranian leader stated that soon a permanent Secretariat would be established and efforts made to implement the resolutions. As a first step, he said, the Secretariat would be carrying out a general census and collecting information on Shia Centres throughout the world to establish contact with them.

Mulla also visited Qazvin, Laushan, Manjil and Rudbar in the earthquake stricken region and saw for himself the devastation brought about by the earthquake. The situation prevailing in this area was pathetic and sorrowful. A number of villages in the area had been completely wiped out.

The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran had rushed emergency aid to afflicted people through Red Crescent (equivalent of Red Cross). In the first phase tents were provided for the homeless and in the second

phase, the government is putting up prefab structures for the families together with other public amenities like washrooms, etc. In the third phase, the homeless will be rehabilitated in permanent structures.

The Red Crescent (Hilale Ahmar) has made a special appeal for erection of 1750 schools required for children of the afflicted families. The cost of construction of each is approximately pounds sterling 7000.

Education Complex for TALOJA, INDIA:

Taloja is situated less than 50 kilometres from Bombay on the road between Bombay and Pune and is easily accessible by public transport. Here a huge complex is now being sponsored by our Marja-e-Taqlid, Ayatullah Al-Uzma Sayyed Abul Qasim Al-Khui, to house a proposed Islamic Education University.

The proposed facilities and amenities have been meticulously planned to make the University complex the best of its kind in the world. The foundation stone for this project was laid on 15th Shabaan 1410, the 1400th year of Ghadeer.

Bombay Musafirkhana is renovated:

The Musafirkhana of Seth Jumabhoy Laljee Charitable Trust at Dongri in Bombay, formerly in a dilapidated condition, has now been renovated and is being run under the management of Anjumane Faize Panjetani.

This Musafirkhana can offer accommodation only to Khoja Hujaj and Zaereen but should any member of the Africa Federation wish to have temporary accommodation for marriage or medical reasons, accommodation can be availed through an authority letter from the Council or the Constituent Jamaat.

Donations for accommodation up to 10 days have been fixed as under:-

1. Big room with attached Bath and WC
Rs. 125. per day per room
2. Small room with attached Bath and Wc
Rs. 75. per day per room
3. Smaller room with attached Bath only
Rs 50. per day per room
4. General room (in Dormitory) for single males with facility of common Bath and WC
Rs. 10. per day per room

The above rates include electricity charges for lights and fans. Any member wishing to take advantage of this facility may collect an introductory letter from his Constituent Jamaat which should ensure that the offer is not abused.

AI MURTAZA SCHOOL, PAKISTAN, holds Oration Contest:-

To commemorate the 1400th death anniversary of the Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H.), a declamation contest was held on 28th, Safar, 1411 A.H (19th September, 1990) at Al-Murtaza School in Karachi.

Topics on various aspects of the life and teachings of our Beloved Prophet (P.U.B.H.) were circulated to a number of schools of Karachi. B.V.S Parsi School, Foundation Public School, Habib Girls School, Beacon House Public School, Central Model High School, Defence Authority School, St. Patric School and Al-Murtaza School took part in the competition. From each school one speaker spoke in English and one in Urdu. The judges were Dr. S. H. M. Jaffree, Ph.D, Director of Pakistan Studies Centre, University of Karachi, Dr. Naeem Taqvi, Ph.D, Professor Karachi University and Mrs. Hasnain, M.A. English, Head of Cambridge section of Habib Boys School.

The following won prizes in English Speeches: Ayesha Toor of Defence Authority School - 1st Prize, Fariha Saleem of Habib Girls School - 2nd Prize and Sami Ahmad of B.V.S. Parsi School - 3rd Prize.

Formation of the Muslim Sisters Organisation of India

An organisation has been formed in India by a number of sisters following the real Islam under the name of 'The Muslim Sisters Organisation of India'. The aim is to enlighten Muslim women about Islam and impart Islamic education for girls and women and to introduce the real Islam to those women who are away from it. It also aims to implement a scheme for social service to the community to uplift the standard of living.

We welcome the formation of this organisation and hope that our Muslim sisters will try to form such organisations in their respective countries and cities which will help in awakening society and bring people closer towards Ahlul Bayt (A.S.).

Malay Translation for Books about Ahlul Bayt (A.S.)

Books regarding real Islam Ahlul Bayt (A.S.) are always on big demand wherever a few reach. Recently, a number of books have been translated in Malay language, and in other languages like Indonesian, Brunei and Singaporean. These books are in good

demand among Muslims in South-East Asia. It is reported that thousands of copies are being photocopied because original copies are not available. The greatest demand is said to be amongst university students, professors and the educated people in general.

Bhalloo is new NASIMCO Chairman

For the past few months, the NASIMCO group of North America have been under the pioneership of a new Chairman, Ahmed Bhalloo who holds a Management Accountancy and Chartered Secretary qualifications.

Bhalloo comes from East Africa where he was also involved in honorary services at Communal and national level. In Canada, he has served as a Honorary Secretary of the Kitchener and Toronto Jamaats and has also played a substantial role in drafting the internal audit programme and pertinent guidelines for the Toronto Jamaat and the World Federation.

Whilst working as a Financial Administrative Manager for the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority, Bhalloo also has a range of sidetime pursuits and since 1987 he has served as a Board Member of the Scarborough Public Library, as Chairman of the Management and Services Standing Committee of the Library Board and then as Vice Chairman of the Library Board as well as the Chairman of the Finance and Property Standing Committee in Toronto. In 1989, he was also appointed Honorary Treasurer of the United Way for Metro Housing.

Bhalloo has pledged to inexorably undertake the objectives of NASIMCO in North America and to maintain cordial and constructive contact with the World Federation and the Africa Federation. He said that his term will be goal oriented with targets being set that him and his Committee will vie to achieve.

Our best wishes to NASIMCO and we do expect to be enlightened on endeavours.



Arif Raza
Chairman Zainabia Trust

Pakistan's Zainabia Trust Marks Five Years of Success

A grand dinner was held in Karachi on 15 February this year to mark the fifth anniversary of the Zainabia Trust. The occasion was

Shia World

appropriately held to coincide with the Wiladat day of Janab-e-Zainab (S.A) in whose memory the Trust was founded.

A perspective look at the achievements of the Zainabia Trust in alleviating the housing problems of the Shia Community in the past five years shows a remarkable and commendable progress.

The Trust has far surpassed its initial target of accommodating one family per month and so far 491 families have been helped in securing accommodation at a total expenditure outlay of over 37 million rupees. The Trust is also subsidising 130 families who are paying rents disproportionate to their incomes.

A summary of the current position with regard to flats is:-

6 buildings containing	121 flats
Other flats numbering	25 flats
inanced flats numbering	265 flats
Deposit flats numbering	82 flats
Bringing a grand total of	493 flats

Of the 493 flats, one flat has been reserved for communal and religious purposes whilst another has been kept at the disposal of the Africa Federation for

use by patients from Africa who travel to Pakistan for medical treatment.

With the above figures, the total number of families helped in one way or another is about 600 i.e. an average of 10 families per month in the 60 months the Trust has been in existence.

Donors have contributed over 50 million rupees since the founding of the Trust with overseas contributions accounting for about 60% of the amounts pledged.

Our Marja, Ayatullah Uzama Aga-e-Sayeed Abul Qassim Al-Khui has given the Trust an Ijaza for collection and spending of 100% of the Sehme Imam portion of Khums.

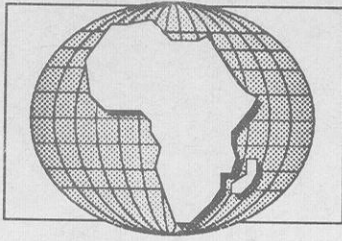
The Trust is currently building a Plaza in Hyderabad and about 60 Flats are envisaged for a Garden East plot in Karachi. Financial assistance to the tune of 15 million rupees is also planned for 150 families to enable them to purchase flats of their choice.

Accommodation problems still beslege many of our Community brothers in different parts of the world and if philanthropists could undertake some venture on these lines, if not on this scale, housing bottlenecks can be greatly mitigated.



Bohora leader calls on Aqa Moosawi

Dr. Mohammed Burhanuddin, leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, made a courtesy call at the residence of Hujjatul Islam wal Aqae Sayyed Mohammed Al Moosawi, with his entourage comprising of his brother, sons and other senior members of his community. Aqae Moosawi briefed him on the developing status of the Shias worldwide and stressed on the need of communicating the message of True Islam, which is the Islam of the Ahlay Bayt (A.S.) to the human community.



Chairman Visits Tanga Jamaat

To the Islands

A delegation comprising of the Chairman, Alhaj Habib J. Mulji, Habib P. Virani (Hon Secretary), Murtaza Walji (Hon Treasurer), Ahmed Daya (Chairman - Education Board), Ali H. Sheriff (Councillor and member of Education Board), Aliraza Rajani (President, D'Salaam Jamaat), Murtaza Nasser (President, Mwanza Jamaat), Asaf Gulamhussein (Chairman, Sports Council), and Masumali Meghji (Youths Representative, Mombasa), visited the Islands of Madagascar, Reunion and Mauritius in December last year.

The delegation attended the Constitutional Conference of Madagascar where Alhaj Anverali R. Rajpar, the President of Mehfile Murtaza and the Chairman of Zainabia Trust of Karachi was also present.

After attending the Constitutional Conference, the Chairman and his delegation visited some Jamaats of Madagascar - Morondava, Tuliya, Morombe and Tananarive. Having limited time, he designated Aliraza Rajani and Murtaza Nasser to represent him in Majunga Jamaat.

The Madagascar Conference had a full attendance and was conducted with great success. During the run of the Conference, elections were also held with Alhaj Asgherali Mulla Janmohamed being elected Chairman by majority votes.

On behalf of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Mulji conveyed heartiest congratulations to Asgheralibhai and assured him full support and co-operation. To the participants, he requested their full allegiance and support to their new Chairman and added that the responsibility for the success of the Madagascar Territorial Council had to be shared equally by all to enable the Chairman to fulfil his future plans.

The appeals and exhortations of Alhaj Habib-bhai in the Conference and while visiting other Jamaats of Madagascar, Reunion and Mauritius resulted in creating and consolidating bonds of unity and brotherhood among Jamaats under the Madagascar Territorial Council and the Community there is now more aware of the functions, successes and commitments of the Africa Federation. •

The Chairman, Alhaj Habib J. Mulji paid an official visit to Tanga Jamaat from 7th to 10th February, 1991 with Hon. Secretary Habib Virani, Hon. Treasurer Murtaza Walji, Br. Fidahussein Hameer the Chairman of Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania and Br. Ahmed Daya, the Chairman of Education Board, Moshi.

Alhaj Habibbhai Mulji returned with high praises for the young Chairman of Tanga Jamaat, Br. Shabbir Alidina and members of his committee and said that the number of projects being undertaken by the Jamaat there was enough evidence of their will to serve.

The delegation was shown a project adjacent to the mosque where three flats were renovated on the first floor to be given to widows and the ground floor was modified to suit a dispensary that will be an extension of the Jaffery Dispensary situated elsewhere in the town. A multi-purpose hall has been constructed with the ground floor to be utilised as boys madressa and the first floor as a female madressa. The construction cost was Shs. 3 million that was pledged by donors.

On the other side of the mosque, a commercial and residential project under the name of Al-Mehdi Building is to commence. The foundation was laid by the President of the World Federation, Mulla Asgherali M. M. Jaffer during his last visit. A donation of Shs. 6 million has been pledged for this project by Bande Khuda.

The Jaffery Dispensary has proved successful and is popular because it has good stocks of medicine, fine facilities, modern equipment, all under the able management of Br. Anver Shivjee and due to the capability of Doctor Kiango whom patients endear.

The Chairman also visited the boys madressa which currently lacks enough teachers but Jamaat officials are in the process of remedying this situation.

The visiting delegation then officially met with the Tanga Management Committee during which various issues were discussed. The Chairman also addressed male members of the Jamaat and the Mogadiscio episode was received with such sympathy that shs. 650,000/= towards Somalia Hijrat Fund was collected immediately after his speech. The Chairman then visited Pangani with some members of Tanga Jamaat.

The Delegation returned to Dar es Salaam the following day. •

In Office.....

Since the publication of our last issue, elections of new office bearers in Jamaats affiliated to the Federation have taken place. Results of appointments are:-

Tanga Jamaat

The Annual General Meeting held on 6th October, 1990 elected:-

Br. Shabbir H. Alidina	Chairman
Mohamedraza A. Hassanali	Vice Chairman
Shabbir A. Bhaloo	Hon. Secretary
Arif G. Haji	Hon. Jt. Secretary
Anver A. Fazal	Hon. Treasurer
Jaffer M. Khimji	Hon. Jt. Treasurer
Mohammed G. Chandoo	Committee Member
Mohammed A. Sumar	Committee Member

Mogadishu Jamaat

The Managing Committee elected for the year 1990-91 is:-

Br. Mohamedraza Haji Hussein Haji Muraj	Chairman
Ahmed Haji Abdulkarim Gulamhussein	Vice Chairman
Mohsin H. Haji Hassan Bhanji	Hon. Secretary
Nasirudin H. Haji Ali Ukeru	Hon. Jt. Sec.
Abdulhussein S. Haji Ali Muraj	Hon. Treasurer
Aliraza K. Haji Jaffer Parpia	Committee Member
Abdulhussein K.H. Raheemulla	Kassam Committee Member
Jawad A.A. Haji Ahmed Muraj	Auditor

Songea Jamaat

The General Meeting held on 27 October, 1990 brought in:-

Br. Shoukat Mawji	Chairman
Mohamed Versi	Vice Chairman
Sajjad Hamza	Hon. Gen. Secretary
Yusuf Hamza	Hon. Treasurer
Bashir Versi	Mukhi
Alidina Pardhan	Committee Member
Fidahussein Remtulla	Committee Member
Hussein Rajani	Committee Member



Al Haj Asgherali Kermali

Alhaj Asgherali Jannmohamed Kermalli	President
Alhaj Rossan Jamil	Vice President
Alhaj Akil Akberaly Daya	Hon. Secretary
Alhaj Akilhussein Akberally Jaffer	Joint Secretary
Alhaj Mamodaly Hederaly Visram	Joint Secretary
Alhaj Mamodhoussein Mamodraza	Hon. Treasurer
Alhaj Amirali Mamodaly Khamis	Hon. Asst. Treas.

Madagascar Territorial Council

During the last Constitutional Conference of the Madagascar Territorial Council held in Tananarive between 7 and 9 December, 1990 the following were elected into Office:-

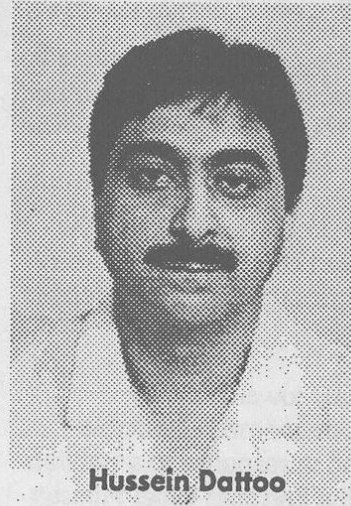
Managing Committee changes - Arusha Jamaat.

Following the resignation of Br Inayat Manji, Br. Tahseel Sheriff and Br. Mohamed Thaver, the Arusha Jamaat Managing Committee is now comprised as follows:-

Br. Mohamedraza Sultanali	Chairman
Mohamed Walli	Vice Chairman
Sajjad P. Hemani	Hon. Secretary
Zakir Pirbhai	Hon. Treasurer
Hussein G. Karim	Manager (Mukhi)
Mehdi Rashid	Committee Member
Anver Panjwani	Committee Member
Gulamhussein Mukhtar	Committee Member
Gulamhussein Saleh	Committee Member

School Appointment

At the last Annual General Meeting of the International School Dar es Salaam, Brother Hussein Dattoo was elected a Director of the School amid stiff competition from other candidates who also have children studying in the same school. Brother Hussein polled 345 of the 446 votes that were cast.



Hussein Dattoo

Dar es Salaam Jamaat

Elections were held in Dar es Salaam in October last year and the following were elected into office:-

Br. Aliraza Rajani
Chairman

Hassanali R. Jaffer
Vice Chairman

Shaukat Jaffer
Hon.Gen.Secretary



Aliraza Rajani

Mohamedali Rhemtulla
Hon. Joint Secretary

Mohamedtaki Rajwani
Hon. Treasurer

Azim Dewji
Member

Aunali Kassam
Member

Aunali Khalfan
Member

Hussein Dhanji
Member

Mustafa Pirmohamed
Member

Hussein Dattoo
Member

Mohamed Manji
Member

Yusuf Kermalli
Member

Mohamed Lalji
Member



Hassanali Jaffer



Shaukat Jaffer

The International School is a multi-racial school attended by a sizable number of students from our Community. In his new capacity, Brother Hussein is well placed to look into various issues affecting students and could well defend students' rights in the event of undue dilemma at the school.

An Ophthalmic Optician by profession, Brother Hussein is also on the Board of the Al Muntazir Islamic Seminary.

AD-HOC Hawza Committee.

Following a resolution adopted during the last Supreme Council Session held in Nairobi, the Chairman of the Federation has appointed the following five members to form the Ad-Hoc Hawza Committee:-

Alhaj Mohamed A. Khalfan	DAR ES SALAAM
Alhaj Ali H. Sheriff	ARUSHA
Alhaj Manzoor Kanani	NAIROBI
Alhaj Raza A. Dattoo	NAIROBI

In view of the great importance attached to this matter, the Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Habib Mulji will himself head the Ad-Hoc Committee.

AD-HOC Acquisition Committee

The Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji has appointed the following onto an ad-hoc committee for acquisition of Trusteeship of Wakf Properties in Zanzibar:-

Alhaj Mohamed Kassamali Nasser	Chairman (D'Salaam)
Alhaj Akber N. Thaver	Member (D'Salaam)
Br. Gulamabbas Saleh	Member (Zanzibar)
Br. Abbas Shariff	Member (Zanzibar)
Br. Hussein Bachoo	Member (Zanzibar)

The first meeting under the Chairmanship of Mohamed Nasser was inaugurated by the Chairman, Habib-bhai in

Flying to Arusha?

The 49th Session of the Supreme Council will take place in Arusha from 31 May to 2 June, 1991. For those members who are planning to travel via Dar es Salaam, the Secretariat hopes to obtain block bookings for onward and return journeys.

Members wishing to enlist their names are requested to do so immediately because air traffic is heavy on the Dar - Kilimanjaro route. The return fare is Shs. 21,600/=.

Around Africa

Zanzibar last November. Also present at the Meeting by invitation were the Vice Chairman of the Federation, Mohamed Khalfan and Hassanali Nathoo, the Chairman of Kuwwatul Islam Jamaat, Zanzibar.

There are about a 100 Wakf properties involved, the trusteeship of which were taken over by a Government Decree in 1966. The properties need extensive repairs to avoid further degeneration.

A special urgency has been laid towards the re-acquisition of the Nasser Noormohamed Charitable Dispensary Wakf Building and in response to a petition sent to him by the Council, the Zanzibar Chief Minister asked Chairman Alhaj Mulji to personally present the Council's case to his Principal Secretary.

The Chairman led a delegation of three from Dar es Salaam who were the Vice Chairman, Mohamed A. Khalfan, the Ad-Hoc Committee Chairman, Mohamed K. Nasser and Akber N. Thawer, the Committee member. At the meeting the delegation was joined by Hon. Secretaries of both the Jamaats, Gulamabbas Saleh and Abbas Sheriff.

The delegation met the Principal Secretary with other two officials also in attendance. The Dar es Salaam group returned the same day.

The office-bearers of the Federation are following up the issue closely and pray for a successful redress.



Alihussein Janmohamed

Health Board Begins Operations

In accordance with a decision made during the last Supreme Council session held in Nairobi during December, 1989 the Chairman of the Supreme Council Alhaj Habib Mulji, has appointed the following as Office bearers of the Central Health Board:-

Mr. Alihussein M. Janmohamed	Chairman
Mr. Shaukat A. Jaffer	Secretary
Mr. Mushtaq A. Damji	Member
Dr. Fuad H. Sheriff	Member
Dr. Mahmood F. Hameer	Member
Mr. Habib P. Virani	Ex-Officio
Mr. Ramzanali M. Nanji	Reg. Rep. Kenya

Brother Shaukat Jaffer subsequently resigned and his position will soon be refilled. Appointments of other Regional Representatives will follow in due course.

The address of the Board and its chairman is as follows:-

CENTRAL HEALTH BOARD
P.O. BOX 845, DAR ES SALAAM
TEL: 21836/21989/31616 (OFFICE)
41162/41773 (RESIDENCE)
TELEX: 41304 DPL TZ

The Health Board has a primary function of raising Communal awareness towards living healthier lives and will also provide or arrange to provide consultancy, treatment and information on health related issues.

The CHB will also assist in arranging for treatment abroad in cases where local services are deficient. To

this effect Mehfil - e -Murtaza, Karachi have agreed to provide one fully furnished flat in Karachi to be used exclusively by CHB recommended patients. Similar cooperation has also been offered from India.

The Health Board launched Nutrition classes which have been received with overwhelming enthusiasm by ladies of our Community.

Our sisters in Kenya insisted on similar arrangements and CHB sent their Dietician, Zohra Lookmanjee to Mombasa for a crash course of two weeks. Some forty lady members attended the classes during Christmas and New Year holidays. Such arrangements may be extended to other regions where possible.

The first batch at Dar es Salaam has completed the course and eligible candidates were awarded certificates of full participation in the course.

In Morogoro, the CHB undertook a pilot screening exercise of members of the Jamaat, which revealed the prevalence of previously unknown risk factors. The response rate to the exercise was about 53% with 43 of the Jamaat's 110 individuals being screened.

A similar exercise is planned for other jamaats and to enable diagnosis of samples, the Board has ordered a special analysis equipment at a cost of over US\$ 12000.

Jamaats have been requested to inform members that the CHB has officially commenced services. Services include the providing of general information on medical facilities provided in Kenya, India, Pakistan and the United Kingdom plus current cost estimates and accomodation options, especially for the accompanying relatives.

Vice Chairman visits Canada and the U.S.A.

After having attended the World Federation Conference in London, the Africa Federation Vice Chairman, Alhaj Mohamed A. Khalfan made a private visit to North America in October/November, 1990. In Toronto (Canada) he exchanged assurances of closer ties between Nasimco and Africa Federation and also exchanged views on current Communal affairs at a luncheon-meeting held jointly by the office-bearers of Nasimco and the Toronto Jamaat. Another joint meeting was held to discuss the welfare of the Community in Somalia.

Mohamedbhai, as the main guest, also made a presentation of awards to the best speakers of a dinner-debate held at the Jaffery Islamic Centre in Toronto. The parents lost the debate to the youths. "The parents have failed their children".

Br. Mohamed Khalfan had the opportunity to speak on Islamic subjects before the Jamaats in Toronto (Canada) and also in Allentown (U.S.A.). While in New York, he was taken by the President of the New York Jamaat on an inspection-tour of the new Hussainiya complex of the Jamaat which is in the final stages of completion.

While in Orlando, Florida, Alhaj Mohamedbhai noted that the Community there is small but active. It has a Mehfil plus a Sunday Maddressa is operating. Of the four teachers, two are American housewives who have embraced Islam after being wedlocked to Shia brothers. One of them even speaks in Gujerati to her children, who observe strict Hijab without any hinderance from school authorities.

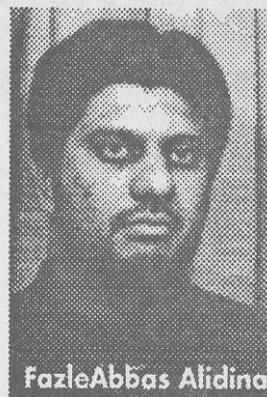
In his talks at various levels, Mohamedbhai took up the theme of the Africa Federation Chairman, Alhaj Habib J. Mulji and that was:

"Commitment to Unity of the Community through loyalty to our own Organisations"

Profile - Fazleabbas Alidina.

Brother Fazleabbas Alidina is one of the many recipients of Education Loans granted by the Supreme Council to deserving students of our Community wishing to pursue further higher education abroad.

He has done a Diploma Course at City/Guilds in Telecommunication and Electronics and was successful in attaining a Final Technical Certificate. At present he is working for the Metropolitan Police in London in their Radio Branch as a technician.



Fazleabbas Alidina

The City/Guilds course has now been replaced by a B. Technical course for those interested to pursue a career in telecommunications and electronics as telephone engineers or radio engineers.

Fazleabbas is regularly repaying the Education Loan in accordance with arrangements made.

We wish him every success in his future undertakings.

They Visited...

The President of the World Federation, Alhaj Mulla Asgherali M. Jafferli and Vice President, Alhaj Hussein (Chacha) Paryani visited Tanzania at different times in the past few months.

Alhaj Mulla Asgher had come for the wedding of his son in Arusha but visited various Jamaats in Tanzania where members had an opportunity to listen to his educative majlises.

In Dar es Salaam he met Council officials, Jamaat officials, Committees of the Council and Councillors and in addition to majlises he also lectured twice.

From Tanzania, Mulla went to Mombasa where he met our Somalia brethren and passing through Nairobi, he went to Moshi for a day to perform an opening ceremony of the El-Ghadeer Arcade built under the auspices of Moshi Jamaat.

The Vice President, Chacha Paryani of Toronto had discussions on matters of mutual interest with Council officials and sub-committee heads. During these discussions he enlightened officials on issues pertaining to the World Federation, Nasimco and even on the political, communal and economic situation in Toronto.

Chacha Paryani was particularly impressed with the methodic running of the Africa Federation Secretariat based in Dar es Salaam and expressed appreciation of the many issues being tackled simultaneously by the Federation.

Arusha Jamaat hands over Classrooms

In memory of Ayatullah Ruhullah Khomeini, Arusha Jamaat undertook the construction of three classrooms at the Meru Primary School in Arusha. The completed classrooms named the 'Agha Khomeini Wing' were officially handed over in July last year at a short ceremony attended by the Regional Commissioner and other high ranking Government officials, members of our community and representatives of other communities.

Around Africa

Molvis Seminar dwells on improving preachings

A Molvis Seminar was organised last year by the Tabligh Committee of the Supreme Council. Like the previous two Seminars in 1973 and 1983, this Seminar was also hosted by Dar es Salaam Jamaat.

The Seminar was chaired by the former Ambassador of Iran to Tanzania, Hujjatul Islam, Agha Seyyed Mohammed Ali Lavasani.

The Tabligh Committee under the Chairmanship of Alhaj Raza Kara presented a paper titled 'The Sustenance of the Effectiveness of preaching in the Community' in which some 11 suggestions were enlisted for proposed implementation.

The paper, which was duly adopted, was bi-lingual (in English and Urdu). The proposals are meant to counter the 'lack of interest in preachings' attitude amongst our youths and also to improve the style of delivery which should be backed by wisdom to match the fastidious tastes of contemporary audiences.

Allah (s.w.t) has directed in the Holy Qu'ran that: 'call people to the path of your Lord with wisdom (hiqmat) and mild exhortation; reason with them in the most courteous manner'(Chapter 16 verse 125).

The adopted paper had the following proposals:

1. The continuous rotation of topics covering comprehensive teachings of entire Islam

instead of a confinement to restricted selective topics which give rise to monotony and therefore boredom because of the repetitive deliveries.

2. A thorough preparation of each topic with re-assessment of some traditional reasoning where such reasoning may have been relevant to the time the Islamic scholars/authors presented it but is now considered irrelevant.
3. Re-assessment of the strategy of trying to prove any point from a certain verse of the Holy Qu'ran through complicated arguments as a new contribution in the debate when the obvious meanings and indications are far from the point. Such attempts are unimpressive and erode credibility, not of the preacher, but of the preaching or teaching itself!
4. A preacher who is well prepared in his topic would be willing to entertain questions at the close of his preaching session. Questions and answers make preaching sessions more meaningful, productive and credible.
5. Inclusion of historical events of Islam, the history of the Islamic civilization, the historical events of the World and such other information in relation to the previous and present state of Muslims is essential for the youths. The Holy Qur'an has underscored the importance of narrating the old events as a lesson when calling people to the path of Allah (S.W.T) see ch. 7:176, ch. 12:111 and ch. 20:99.



The Chairman, Hujjatul Islam, Agha Seyyed Mohammed Ali Lavasani addressing participants at the Seminar. Sitting from left to right on the main table are the President of the Dar es Salaam jamaat, Aliraza Rajani, the Chairman of Africa Federation, Habibbhai Mulji, Maalim Ahmed Issa and the Chairman of the Tabligh Committee, Raza Kara.

6. Covering of current local, national and international events and relating them to the religious topics under discourse. The international events which militate against Islam and the interests of Muslims and Shias in particular are almost daily occurrences. They are history in the making.
7. Preachers keeping themselves informed of all social evils and the situation in western countries find themselves periodically touching on such issues with the confidence of details in hand.
8. The Community is not made up of sinless people. It is only humane to want to be assured repeatedly of the "shifaa" (inter-cession) on the Day of Judgement. On being so assured, the Community and the youths tend to develop a taste for such mind or soul tranquillising preaching. Such a subject can be dealt with objectively to maintain credible balance through constant practicing of Amra bil Maarooft and Nahiya anil Munkar in the preaching.
9. In the mourning occasion of Muhurram when more youths attend preaching sessions, a discourse more on the message or lesson derived from the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain A.S. and his companions and their application in our daily life will engage better

attention of youths. They have so far been used to analytical approaches with comparable examples to all historical events in the history of man.

The message: "that life is honorable that fights oppression, injustice an indignity to man and Islam and in the process, if need be, surrenders only to martyrdom, a weapon fearful to oppressors - all for the pleasure of Allah (S.W.T)" can have a better impact on the thinking of youths if due prominence is given to this philosophy in the preaching.

Youths can be moved to weeping as much on the tragedy itself as on the way we are failing the martyrs - in our response to their message.

10. Sessions should not exceed 45 minutes as there is a limit to which attention can be engaged without being distracted by stray thoughts. This is more true for youths who attend owing to some pressure from their parents.
11. Normally, members of the Community gain the knowledge of understanding the Urdu language after listening to preachings in Urdu over some years. The understanding is much more difficult to the youths. The language should be simple and difficult words translated into English or Gujarati.

Valour and Devotion in Somalia Salvage

The Chairman of the Federation, Alhaj Habib J. Mulji on behalf of the Federation and the Community in Africa bestowed upon Al-haj Sajjad M. Rashid, who is also the Chairman of the Mombasa Jamaat, a Haldery Medal on the Khush-hali night of 3rd Shaban, 1411 (18 February, 1991) in Dar es Salaam.

This was in appreciation of Brother Sajjad having organised and led a sea-borne rescue of some 950 members of our Community from Mogadishu which comprised of also women, children, the aged and sick people.

The entire operation was wrought with danger as Mogadishu was then rocked with violent rebellion and looting which caused three deaths in our Community.

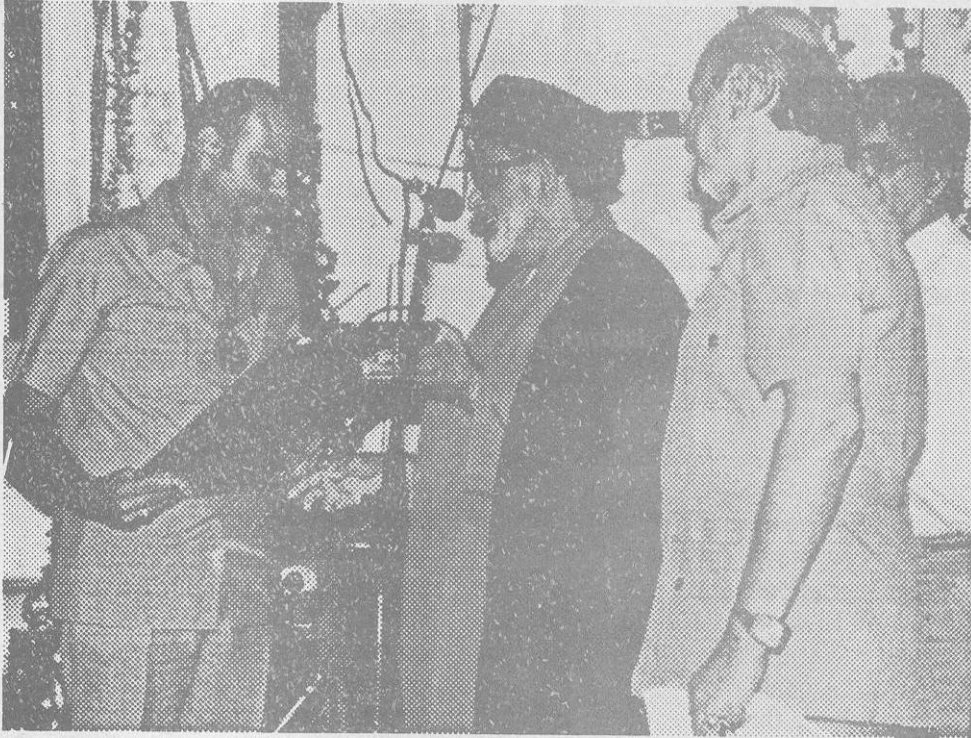
Brother Sajjad was assisted by a team of volunteers, including women. The women demonstrated exceptional bravery and a sense of sacrifice undeterred by the clear threat to their lives, because much more including honour was at stake if their team had lost

hope and courage and abandoned Mission after three days of struggle and set-backs at the port of Mogadishu (Somalia).

While the operation was on, Br. AshikHussein M. Rashid who is the brother of Sajjad and the Chairman of the Nairobi Jamaat (Kenya) provided needful support to the Operation and paved way for the evacuees to land in Kenya. The Chairman of the Federation bestowed upon him a Hussainy medal.

Another recipient of a Hussainy medal was Br. Hassan A. M. Jaffer also of Mombasa (Kenya). Apart from other services, he maintained communication channels during the operation and fed the Secretariat of the Supreme Council in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) and other organisations of the community overseas with regular up-dates on the preparation and then the progress of the operation (marred with twists and setbacks, with anxiety and fear of failure) until the successful berth of the ship., "AMBASSADOR I" at the Mombasa port on 17 January, 1991.

Around Africa



Maulana Sayed Saeed Akhtar Rizvi presenting the Haldery Medal to Alhaj Sajjad Rashid with Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji and Secretary, Habib Virani looking on.

Br. Hassan is a Councillor of the Africa Federation and an Executive Councillor of the World Federation.

The 18 volunteers who had participated in the operation were each presented a special plaque on behalf of the Federation in appreciation of their role in the operation.

The recipient guests flew from Kenya to Tanzania to attend the citation ceremony of the Federation. The ceremony was hosted by the Dar es Salaam Jamaat and was well attended.

The remaining members of the Community in Somalia, who numbered about 200, were subsequently evacuated by two chartered flights when the Mogadishu airport authorities permitted the airborne evacuation. This too was led by Br. Sajjad M. Rashid, assisted by some volunteers.

The sea and airborne evacuation operations involved our entire Community in Somalia comprising of about 1200 people and also benefitted a fair number of members of other communities and races.

The operation was a challenge to the Community which rose to the urgency of the occasion and met the challenge.

A greater challenge is still to be met - that is, of finding new homes for a Community which suddenly finds itself displaced and dispossessed after a settlement of 100 years through three generations in Somalia - a country which they knew and adopted as theirs and their descendants'.

They are currently temporarily sheltered in Kenya and some in Tanzania and are being looked after by the Community, while still trying to wear off bitter past memories and experiences. The ordeal of being uprooted en-masse was

agonizing enough but the uncertainty about the future with regard to such issues as attachment to extended families or interruption of their offsprings' education leaves them in a precarious situation indeed!

Mobilization and pooling of financial and other resources by the Community, locally and at international level is now required to meet this greater challenge. It is a test and a trial more for those who are not the victims themselves.

The Community has the means, the will and the reasons for meeting the challenge - motivated by humanitarian and religious obligations and a spiritual contentment.

*The brave team that did it
(with the ladies not in the photograph)*

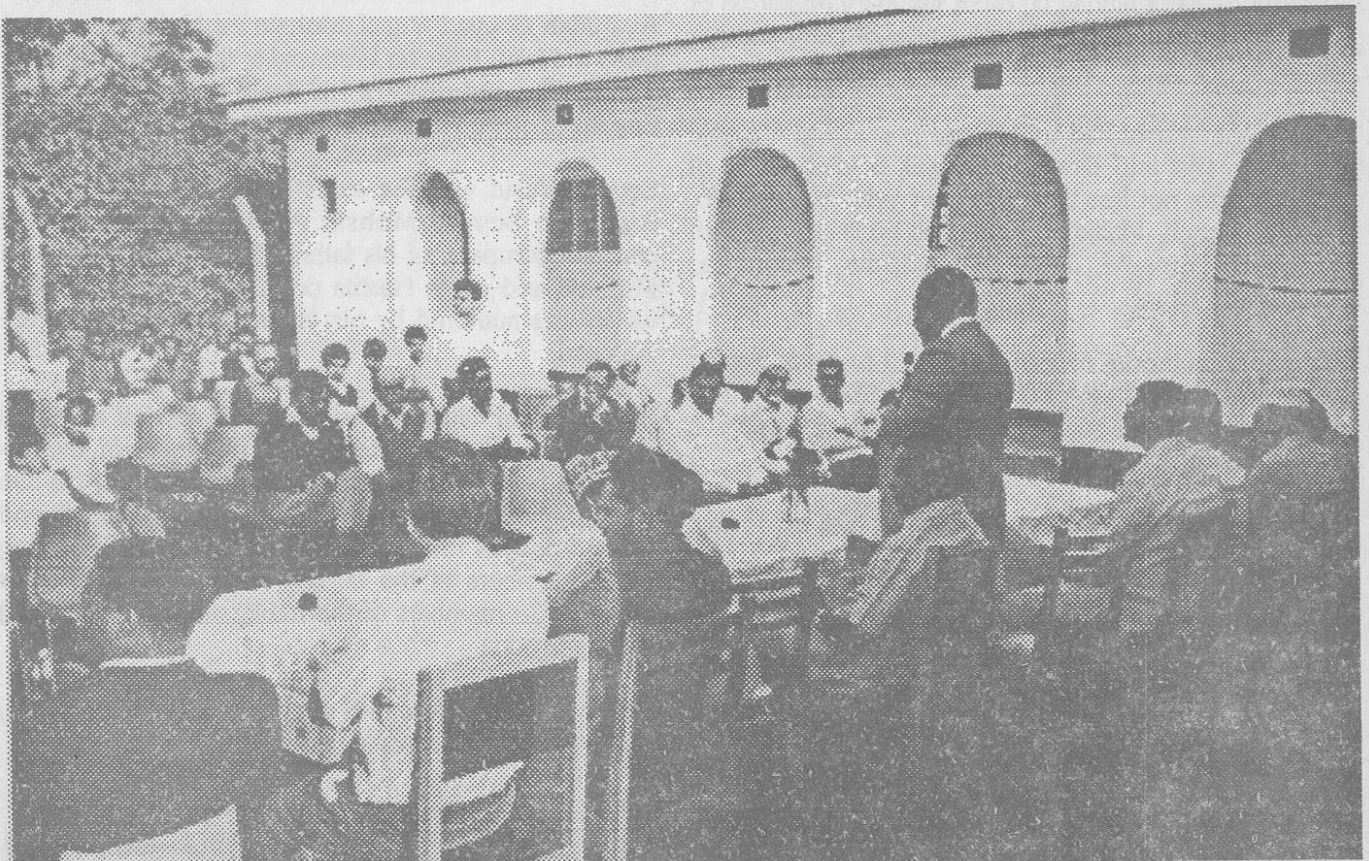


A Veteran Community Cricketer, FIDA KARA who is well known as F.H.R., recently received a special Trophy from the Captain of the Sussex County Cricket Club, after a dinner held at the Polygen Hotel in Southampton.

The inscription on the Trophy was marked 'From Friends in the Southern Cricket League- 70 not out.'



The Municipal Director of Arusha Municipal council, Dr. Mayunga, addressing a gathering at the opening ceremony of Hemani Nursery School under the S.K.I Jamaat of Arusha held in July last year. The dignitaries on the Main Table include the Vice-Chairman of Arusha Jamaat, Brother Mohamed Walli and the Resident Maulana Sayyed Akhtar Hassan.



Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raajiun

AYATULLAH AL UZMA MARHUM SAYID SHAHABUDIN AL-MAR'ASHI AN-NAJAFI

The late **AYATULLAH SAYID SHAHABUDIN AL-MAR'ASHI AN-NAJAFI** died of heart failure in Qum, Iran on Wednesday 7 Safar, 1411. This happened after returning home from leading his last Isha prayer in the vast compound of the Mausoleum of Masuma-e-Qum where he had led Magrib-Isha prayers for the past one decade.

Sayid Mar'ashi was born in Najaf, Iraq on 2nd Safar, 1315 and began his studies under his father. His teachers included religious scholars like ash-Shaykh Murtaza Taligani, Nuruddin Shafi'i, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Shirazi, Ayatullah Mirza Muhammad 'Ali Rashti, Mirza Mahmud Shirazi and Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Tehrani Najafi.

Later in Kazimayn he joined Dars-e-Kharij of fiqh, Hadith, Rijal and Dirayah conducted by late Ayatullah as-Sayyid Hasan as-Sadr and studied Usul near late Ayatullah ash-Shaykh Mahdi Khalisi. Returning to Najaf, he studied Ilm Kalam and Tafsir from late Ayatullah Jawad Balaghi and late Ayatullah Shaykh Muhammad Isma'il Mahallati.

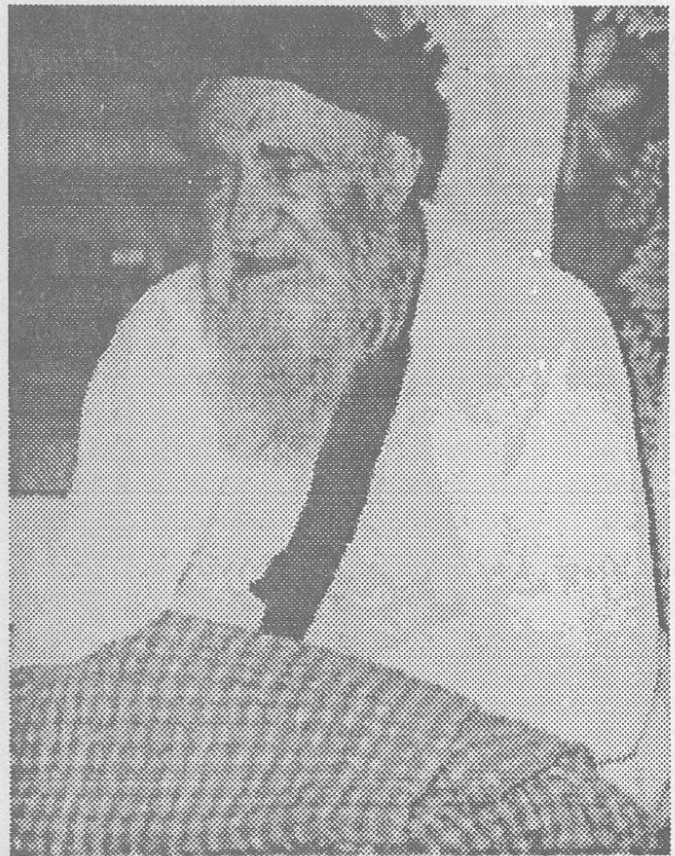
In the prime of youth, he was recognised as a Mujtahid with the Ijazas of Ijtihad by other luminary Mujtahids of his time. His life was a perfect model of piety and self denial.

Ayatullah Mar'ashi had the unique position in the field of hadith, rijal and dirayah and was holding Ijazas of fiwayah from not less than 150 mashyekh of Zaydiyah, Shafihi, Hanafi, Maliki and Hambali sects of Iraq, Iran Arabian Peninsula, Jabal 'Amil, India, Indonesia, Yemen and Egypt.

He was an authority on genealogies of Sadat as per his book **MUSHAJJARATU ALIR-RASUL** and could trace the ancestral root of any Sadat whose name was given to him.

He was buried in his library as per his will on Friday, 9th Safar, 1411 A.H.

May the soul of the deceased rest in eternal peace in the proximity of Chaharde Masumeen (a.s.).



AYATULLAH SEYYED YUSUF MOHSIN AL-HAKEEM

Ayatullah Seyyed Yusuf Mohsin Al-Hakeem passed away in Najaf, Iraq, on Wednesday the 13th, February, 1991. The sad news of his death was received from Seyyed Baqir Al-Hakeem in Iran through Dubai, U.A.E.

Seyyed Yusuf was the eldest son of the late Marja, Ayatullah Seyyed Mohsin Al-Hakeem and was in constant company of his father. He himself was also a Mujtahid and wrote Hashia on URWATUL WUTHQA which was authored by his father, Seyyed Mohsin Al-Hakeem.

Seyyed Yusuf witnessed and suffered reprisal atrocities committed against the innocent members of the Al-Hakeem family which included the execution of his two sons, Seyyed Kamaal and Seyyed Abdul Wahab and two grandsons (the sons of Seyyed Kamaal), among other members of the family. It is believed that as many as 35 members of the family are still languishing in Iraqi prisons.

We pray to Allah (s.w.t) to rest his soul in the proximity of Chaharda Masumeen (a.s.).

Late Haiderbhai F. Meghji (Tanga)

A prominent member of Tanga Jamaat, Haji Haiderbhai F. Meghji passed away in January last year but we missed his obituary in the last Issue of the *Samachar*.

Haji Haiderbhai rendered sincere and useful services to his Jamaat in various fields, including in capacity of Hon. Secretary and Chairman.

He is still remembered by many for establishing the Ithnaasheri Scouts and being the first Scout Master. Late Haji Haiderbhai is also credited for building the wall at our Cemetery in Tanga.

May Allah (S.W.T.) bless the soul of the deceased and rest his soul in the proximity of the Chaharda Masumin (A.S.).

Late Alhaj Akberali Alibhai Sunderji of Madagascar

Another obituary that the *Samachar* did not feature earlier was that of Marhum Alhaj Akberali Alibhai Sunderji in Madagascar.

Marhum was once the Chairman of the Madagascar Territorial Council and also served as the President of Morundava and Tananarive Jamaats of Madagascar.

The late Akberbhai was also a renowned Zakire Husain and although he was a person with a soft disposition, his delivery from the mimber had a remarkable effect on his audience.

May Allah bestow mercy on Marhum and repose his soul in the proximity of Chaharda Masumin (A.S.).

LOGIC TEST

(Prizes for Winners)

There was fair response to the initial logic test with entries however only coming from Tanzanian readers.

The solutions to the last quiz are: 1) 24 triangles; 2) i) 0.25; ii) 22; iii) 106; 3) i) Brochure; ii) Renegade; iii) Pinnacle; 4) $5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$.

Winners were Miss Anisa Murji, Mehboob Haji and Ali Kanji, all of Dar es Salaam. Congratulations to you all and prizes of Shs 6,000/- each will be mailed to you.

Logic Quiz entries are open to all readers and should be addressed to:

The Puzzle Corner,
Federation Sumachar,
P.O. Box 6710,
DAR ES SALAAM.

The first three correct entries will be awarded T.Shs. 6,000/- (or its equivalent).

Quiz No. 2

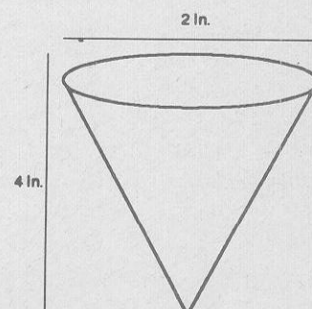
1. Unveil the following Anagrams:

- Neat film (for fibre)
- Sing stop (for guide)
- Neat glib (for 'there to be seen')
- Sane make (for homonym)

2. Give one word which applies to both meanings:

- Periodical; store of arms
- A game; insect
- Beseech; plead for forgiveness

3. What is the volume of the cone?



4. What is the value of each angle in a hexagone?

**Kigoma Jamaat of
Tanzania in 1962**





Ujiji Jamaat in 1911

Feature

RAMADHAN more than just fasting!

The command for fasting in Ramadhan came in the first year of the Hijra. The Holy Prophet (SAW) delivered a lecture on the last Friday of the preceding month, Sha'aban, in which he said:

"O people! You are now under the shadow of the month which has a night (Lai-e-tul Qadr) which is better than a thousand months. It is the month of Ramadhan in which fasting has been made compulsory by God. It is the month of patience; and the reward of patience is paradise. It is the month of mutual sympathy.

The word 'Ramadhan' is derived from the root 'R-M-DH', which indicates 'Heat and Restlessness'. It is said that the name of the month indicates the hardships which accompany a fast, like thirst and restlessness.

But the best explanation was given by the Holy Prophet (SAW) himself who said: "Ramadhan burns the sins and faults as fire burns the wood".

The Real Fasting

Fasting, like living things, has a body and a soul. The required abstinence from food, water, sexual relations, etc. is the body of the fast; "piety" is its soul. If we are not striving to refine our character by fasting, our fast will be a body without a soul. Fasting cleans our body from impurities. Likewise, it must purify our hearts from all impure thoughts, improper desires and undisciplined sensations.

The Holy Prophet (SAW) saw a woman who was fasting on that day (not in Ramadhan) abusing her girl servant. The Prophet (SAW) admonished her and told her to break her fast. The woman protested, "But I am fasting today". The Holy Prophet (SAW) said: "But was not your fast broken by the abuses you were hurling upon that poor girl?"

Imam Jafar-As-Sadiq has said, "Your fast day should not be like other ordinary days. When you fast, all your senses - eyes, ears, tongue, hands and feet - must fast with you". How?

Eyes: Keep your eyes off unlawful things and objects; spend this most precious gift of God in good cause and pious acts and read the Quran and du'as.

Ears: Abstain from hearing unlawful gossip, lies, false statements, music and obscene topics. Pay attention to sermons and topics of learning.

Tongue: Do not tell lies or useless tales; do not spread rumours of damaging gossips about other people; keep aloof from falsity. Use the power of speech in spreading the word of God; in creating goodwill in society.

Hand: Do not inflict injury upon others by your actions; instead strive to help them as much as you can.

Feet: Do not go towards forbidden places, like bars and cinemas. Do not run between people creating strife. Go towards those places where God is remembered, and your movements should be to bring people together.

And above all, your heart and mind must be with you in fasting. Because fast, in its real sense, will not be complete unless your thoughts, your emotions, your actions - in short, all aspects of life - become pure, clean and free from blemishes.

Code of Conduct

Islam has given mankind a perfect code of conduct. Men from every walk of life have been clearly instructed how to perform their duties; how to behave. Islamic law is based on justice, Islamic ethics, love and grace.

The most strict rules have been laid down for those who enter public life, like judges, governors, etc. The Holy Prophet (SAW) once sent a man as a Qadhi (representative) to Southern Arabia. When he came back, he brought many gifts given to him during his stay there. When the Holy Prophet (SAW) came to know about it, he demanded that all gifts be brought to him to be distributed among the poor. The ex-judge protested that they were his personal property, as they were given as gifts. The Prophet (SAW) said, "Had you gone there in your private capacity without any official credential, these gifts would have been your private property. But as long as you were my Qadhi, the things presented to you were not 'gifts' but "bribes" to please you so that they might benefit from you". The man returned all his "gifts".

Sincere Repentance

This holy month of Ramadhan is generally referred to as the month of 'Tauba' (repentance). Repentance is the best way to the grace of Allah for a person who has sinned. Allah is His infinite grace, forgives his sins if the sinner repents sincerely. The operative word is 'sincerely'.

To describe 'sincere repentance', Imam Jafar-As-Sadiq (A.S.) said, it is "repenting and never committing that sin again".

According to the Islamic belief, a repentance uttered by tongue, without a change of heart, is no repentance at all. Repentance must produce a change in habit,

Continues on Page 23

When Amateur is Amitter

British Schools face spelling problem

Keep calm! Don't let spelling mistakes give you a headache! If you can spell as good as this, you are University material, in England anyway.

A leaked report citing the above examples has revealed plummeting standards of spelling and grammar among 1,700 pupils preparing for University entrance at an un-identified college near London.

The report is one of many piling up on the desk of the Secretary of the State for Education, suggesting that something has gone badly wrong in British schools.

In another leaked report, two psychologists said tests on nearly half a million seven-year-olds showed an increase of up to 15 per cent in the proportion with severe reading difficulties.

Whilst in another, it was disclosed that one of four young adults has difficulty in reading and writing.

The report on the college pupils, aged 16 and 18, is the most alarming because the deterioration in standards has been very rapid and is masked by a new national examination that suggests standards of English in 16-year-olds have been improving.

The teacher who leaked the report did so out of exasperation after her complaints to the Department of Education, local education officials and examination Boards had failed to produce action.

Over the past six years, every pupil arriving at her school has been given a standard spelling test - the Schonell Diagnostic and Attainment Test, devised in 1950.

Pupils have to spell 70 words in graded difficulty from "large" to "subterranean". One boy managed only 28 correct answers. His mistakes included *car*, *headach*, *polosy* (policy), *imideate*, *ensiatic* (enthusiastic) and *amitter* (amateur).

In 1984 only 14 per cent of the 1,700 pupils tested made a mistake in the spelling of "bargain". By 1989 the proportion had risen to 25 per cent. The proportion mis-spelling "committee" was 57 per cent six years ago, but is now 75 per cent. Nearly all the tested children were of above average intelligence.

Many had achieved good results in the English paper of the General Certificate of Secondary Education. This nationwide examination places more emphasis on

meaning and expression than on formal spelling and grammar. The result has been a 10 per cent increase in the number of children obtaining "passes" in English.

But employers know that standards among school leavers are deteriorating, and employers' views were given official support this week in a survey published in *Director*, the magazine of the Institute of Directors, a leading business pressure group.

The survey, carried out by the government-funded Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit, showed that one in four young adults has reading problems, a third serious difficulties, 43 per cent seldom or never read books and nine per cent seldom or never read newspapers or magazines.

Only 1,000 16 to 20-year-olds were questioned but, projected across the country's 3.8 million young adults. The findings mean there are a million new workers with literacy problems and 1.5 million who cannot spell.

Employers competing for the dwindling number of school leavers will now have to recruit those they would have rejected in the past, and taken on responsibility for putting right their educational defects.

Teachers acknowledge there has been a falling off in spelling and grammar standards and offer a wide variety of explanations, including low teacher pay and low classroom morale.

About 300,000 people of working age have dropped out of teaching, forcing some schools to hire German, Dutch, Scandinavian and other non-native English speakers as teachers.

"Supply" teachers are one of the biggest problems. They are hired by the day to cover staff shortages and absences. One London five-year-old had 28 different teachers in his first year of school.

In yet another adverse report last week, the National Association of Head Teachers said that more than 250,000 children have their education disrupted every day because their regular teachers are away for professional training. The training is supposed to equip teachers for the new National Curriculum, a panacea that the Government hopes will cure Britain's classroom ills.

Many teachers complain that the courses are vague, impractical and unrelated to classroom needs, but this form of in-service training has increased by nine per cent in the past year. The teaching of teachers has a disruptive effect on the teaching of children.



Feature

A Men's World?

Women count, but are not counted

Life is tough for women in the Third World. The Human Development Report published for UNDP shows that Third World women get less of everything - except suffering.

Female children in developing countries get less food, less health care and less education. In some countries, more girl babies die before their fifth birthday than boys. Adult women get less education, less professional training and less pay even when they work longer hours than men. In some societies women have few or no property rights.

Many countries are apparently ignoring the high social dividends of investing in women. Higher female literacy results in lower infant mortality, better family nutrition, reduced fertility and lower population growth. In Bangladesh for example, children of illiterate mothers face five times higher child mortality than those of mothers with at least seven years of schooling.

Nothing illustrates the magnitude of female deprivation more than statistics for maternal mortality. The risk of

death for an expectant mother in some developing countries is fifty times that in industrialised nations.

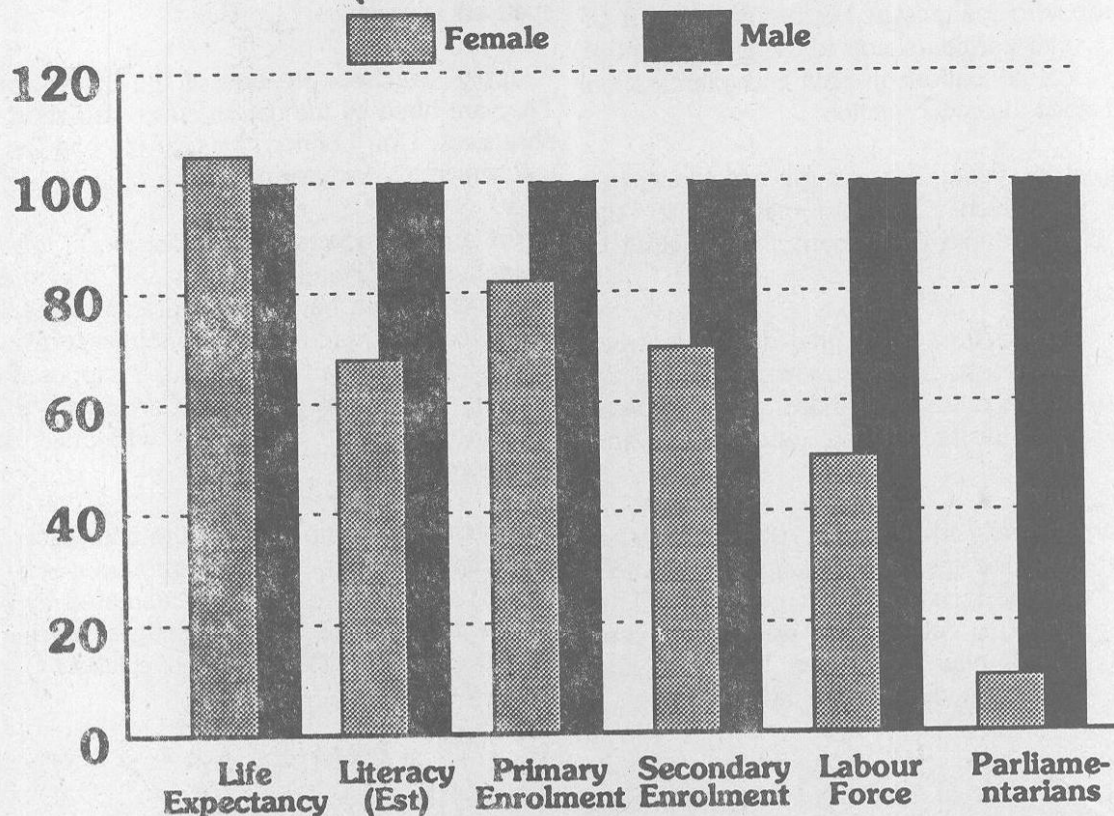
"No other North-South gap in human development is wider than that between maternal mortality rates," says the report, describing it as "a symbol of the neglect of women's health in the Third World."

High mortality rates have devastating social consequences. Maternal mortality rates were 1,000 or more per 100,000 live births in Somalia, Bhutan, Ghana and Congo, and were over 400 per 100,000 in more than 14 more countries. Most of these countries have high infant mortality rates as well.

Neglect of women's well being takes many forms and starts early, says the report. Female children are fed poorly, clothed cheaply and often not sent to school nor taken to the doctor. Families in India's rural Punjab spend more than twice as much on the medical care of male infants as on that of female infants. And spending on clothing there is 40 per cent higher for boys than for girls.

Discrimination against women's is enforced in education. Even men living in rural areas have better literacy levels than the overall literacy rate of urban women. The male literacy rate for the developing world as a whole is now three-quarters that of the male. The gap has narrowed slightly in the last three decades, but much progress remains to be made," the report says.

Developing World's Female - Male Gap (Female as % of Male)



Official Statistics

There still are 17 developing countries where twice as many boys attend secondary school as girls. In 16 countries, female primary school enrolment is less than two-thirds that of males.

The true extent of discrimination against women is not revealed by official statistics. Much of the work that women do remains "invisible" in national accounting and censuses. Women typically work about 25 per cent longer hours than men. Much of their work - including household work and growing subsistence crops - is unpaid. But women's remuneration is less even when they are paid because of lower rates and because they usually wind up in low paid jobs such as agriculture and informal sect

The Report for the first time calculates separate human development indices for males and females. The results are devastating. Even in those developing countries which have achieved high human development levels, gender discrimination is very pronounced.

The Report recommends that more investment be made in women as an integral part of the human development strategies for the 1990s. - UNDP

On Deeds...

- A noble deed is a step towards God.
- Good deeds ennoble us and we bear the brunt of our own actions

.....From page 20

honesty in dealings, fear and love of Allah in prayers, improvement in character, generosity in behaviour and humility in nature.

Amir-al-Mumineen Ali (A.S.) described characteristics of repentance in the following words: "Repentance has six elements: A repentant must be truly sorry for what he has done; he must have firm determination not to do it again; he must make amends for whatever wrongs he did to others; he must fulfill all the obligations of religion which he had neglected previously; he should fast long enough to melt away the flesh grown from unclean and unlawful food; and he should feel the taste of obedience to God as he was previously enjoying the taste of sin".

When a man repents sincerely, Allah makes him as clean as he was the day he was born. The Holy Prophet (SAW) has said, "One who repents from sin is like the one who never commits any sin".

For the Reader...

To defray printing costs we now invite donations from readers. You can pledge a page for a minimum of 5000 Tanzanian Shillings or 500 Kenyan Shillings, All pledges and Mailing requests should be addressed to

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

The current uprising in different parts of the country demonstrates how much the people are disgruntled of being used as pawns or scapegoats to satisfy the whims and desires of their rulers.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait last year and refused to withdraw inspite of repeated warnings, innocent people were the ultimate sufferers because they were left exposed to the heaviest bombardment in the history of human warfare. The death toll ran into thousands, public services and amenities are almost at zero level and food shortages and diseases prevail amidst a shortage of medicines.

In wake of the revolt, the ruling regime is reportedly using napalm bombs and other poisonous gas in various areas including Najaf and Kerbala. Some of our Holy Shrines have been damaged including the Shrine of Imam Ali (A.S.) which was hit during the capture of our Marja.

The local television portrayed Agha with Saddam and knowing that in the history of our Maraja' they have never gone to visit a ruler at his official premises, the television portrayal was a clear indication that Agha was forcibly brought to Baghdad after being kidnapped from Najaf.

It was made to appear that our Marja condemned the Mujahedeens in their uprising but the Government has so often aired deceiving and fabricated propaganda that no one sincerely believes what is aired over TV or Radio stations.

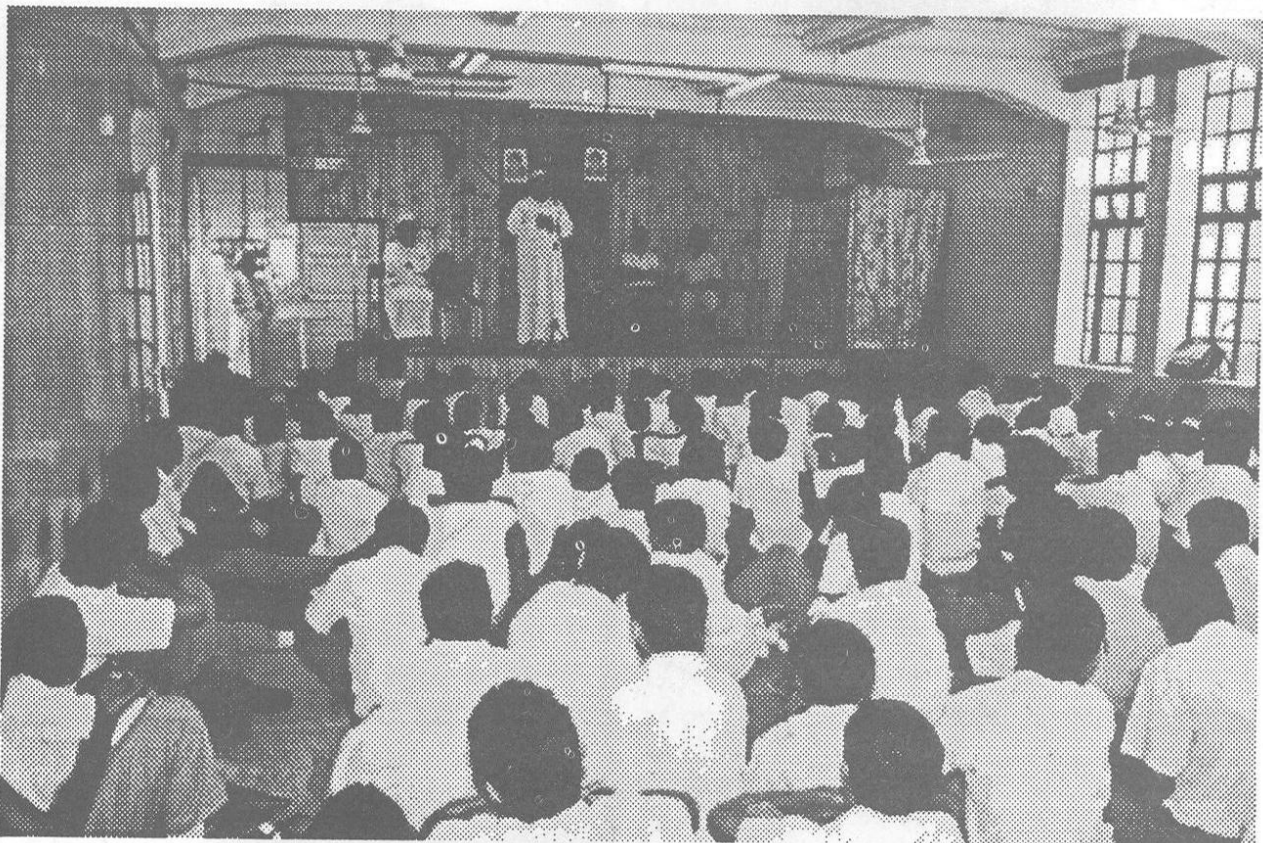
Just recently the much propagated 'Mother of all battles' became the 'Mother of all defeats' thereby proving that the Iraqi war bulletins which always talked of 'victory' were in fact fabricated. In his attempt to use the good name of our Marja to mis-inform the world vide the media, Saddam has been beaten in his own game because nobody sincerely believed the so called condemnation over the TV.

Ayatullah Agha Khui issued two fatwas (directives) in Najaf in Shabaan 1411 (March 1991) which clearly show that he would not condemn the Mujahideens.

Numerous protests have been made on the kidnapping of our Marja and though he has been released, his family and other Ulemas are still in captivity.

The kicks of a dying horse are always suicidal but can sometimes harm. Saddam is on his way down but as the regime becomes vulnerable, life is becoming increasingly unsafe for our Marjah, his family and Ulemas. We pray to Allah to safeguard their positions and also to rest the souls of those martyred in eternal peace.

The Africa Federation has declared the current period as a grievous one for our Community at large. Merriment at a time when our brothers in faith are currently enduring extremely difficult conditions would be a paradox to the teachings of Islam. Jamaats have been asked to advise their members to this effect beginning with the Eid festival which should be marked with simplicity.



Praying for our Marjah... at the Al Muntazir Islamic Seminary in Dar es Salaam