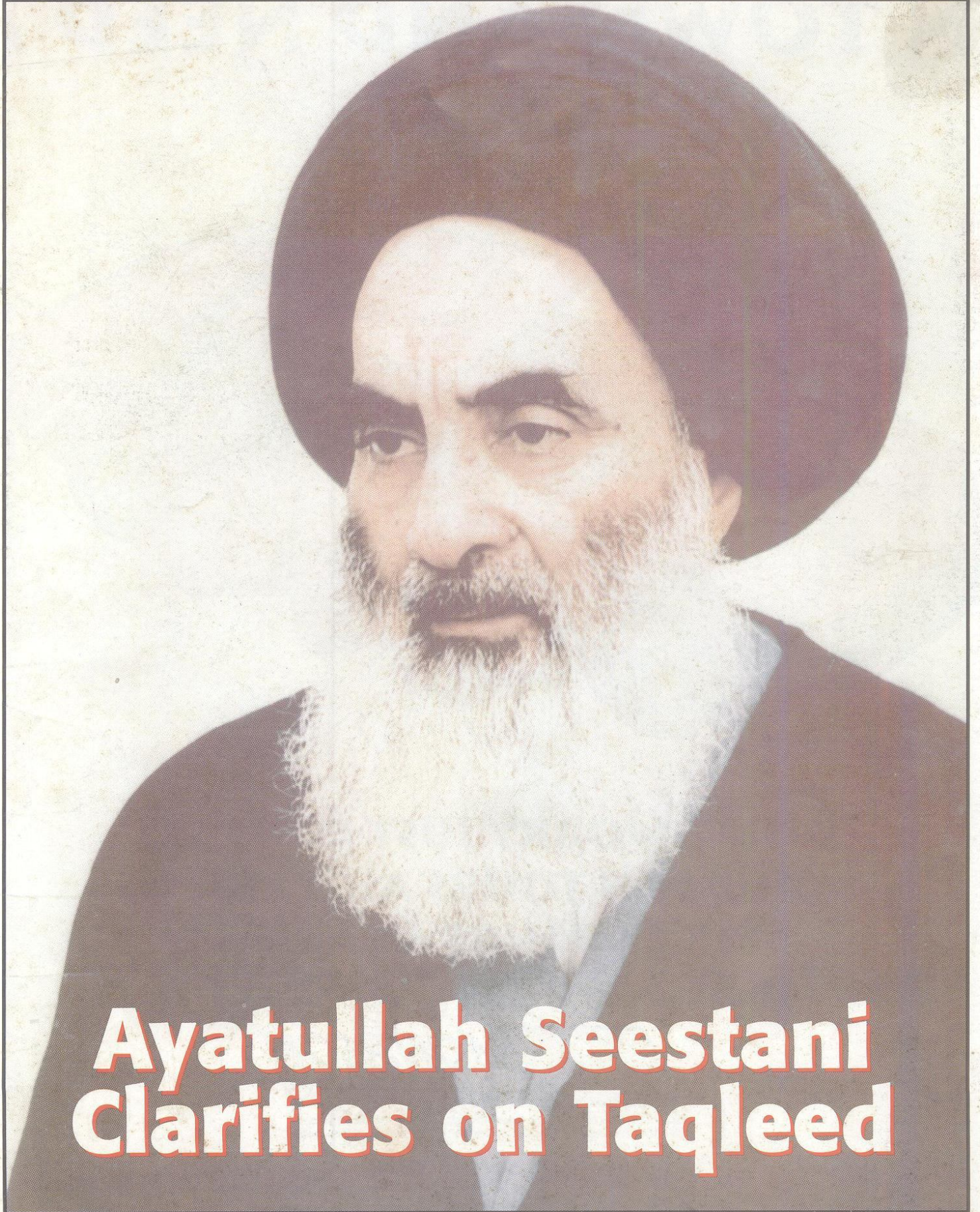




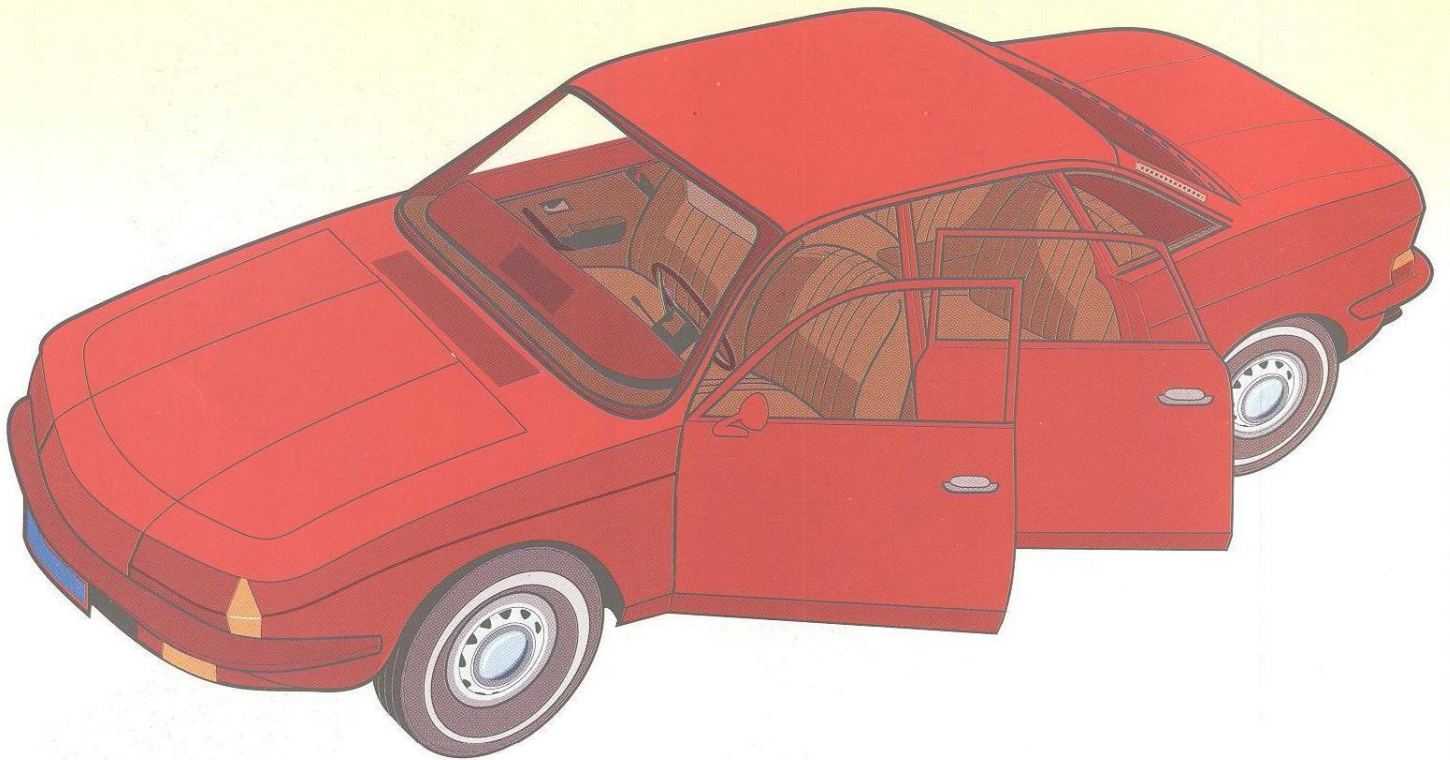
Federation Samachar

Volume 27, No. 5, Shavaal 1414 A.H. / March 1994.



**Ayatullah Seestani
Clarifies on Taqleed**

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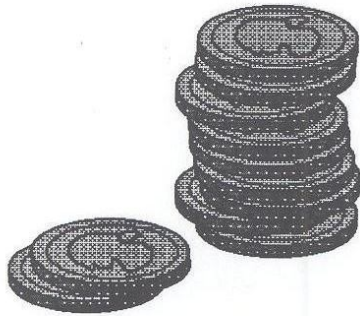


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A publication of the Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaats of Africa



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With salaams.

Editors.

FEDERATION SAMACHAR

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

Volume 27, No. 5

Shavaal 1414 A.H. / March,
1994

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Our new Marja-e-Taqleed,
Ayatullah Seestani.



From the Editor's Desk

They will not let us down

The youths of the Community in this part of the world have been at a disadvantage in their quest for higher or professional education as compared to our youths in other parts of the world.

In Africa normally the institutions of higher education are owned and controlled by the Government and because of national economic constraints, educational facilities are limited. As few places are available for a large number of applicants nationwide, the percentage of places possible for our youths is small.

The alternative is to send our students abroad where the costs may seem reasonable, if at all, when calculated in hard convertible currencies. However to youths in Africa, the costs are substantial in terms of local currencies which are susceptible to a chain of devaluations. The real value of money in Africa has been falling at an alarming rate and evaluating costs in hard currencies would hoodwink many into thinking that educational costs have increased only marginally over the years when the truth is to the contrary.

The establishment of the long awaited Jaffery Education Foundation (JEF) is therefore timely. It is a Trust with a difference! The normal Trusts which we were used to some decades ago were the private ones in the hands of family donors. The Community as an organisation had no say in the award of scholarships - though very few were available.

However, after the establishment of the Africa Federation, the funds have been arranged for by the Supreme Council and award of scholarship loans are made by the Council's Education Board, presently based in Moshi, Tanzania.

The Jaffery Education Foundation is a unique model. It is a world-wide Trust based in the United Kingdom, to be patronized by the donors world-wide who will set policies and adopt accounts. The management will be in the hands of Trustees to be appointed by the Africa Federation from all parts of the world. It will be the Education Board which will be approving the scholarship loans from the income allocated by the Trustees from time to time.

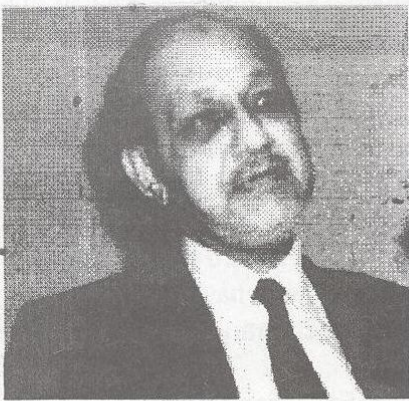
This set up promotes a sense of concern at the global level in the Community for our predicament regarding education. It also gives to the donors the right due to them to set policies and directions for achieving objectives for which the Foundation has been established. They have the right to a sense of belonging and involvement, all in the context of global unity.

We commend all those who were involved in selling the concept and eventually delivering the goods. The ball should soon start rolling and prospective donors will insha'allah not let us down.

Editor.

Chairman stresses on effective child upbringing in his Idd Message

The Chairman of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Habib Mulji this year once again delivered the traditional Idd message to mark the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadhan 1414 A.H. His message follows:



"The Community was struck with grief this year by the demise of the Marja-e-Taqleed, Ayatullah Al-Ozma Seyyed Muhammed Ridha Gulpaygani. May Allah [S.W.T.] grant him a high rank for his service in Islam and the institution of Marjaiyat and also grant a long life with good health to our present Marja, Ayatullah Al-Ozma Seyyed Ali Seestani.

May Allah [S.W.T.] also grant forgiveness to all those in the Community who passed away this year and repose them in His mercy.

Brothers and sisters, perhaps not all of us are fully aware of the serious and difficult situation which our innocent

children are undergoing in the present fast changing times and the need for their control and guidance while we are responsible for them.

In the name of progress, liberty and culture, evil tendencies are spreading to every nook and corner of the present world. Our children and young sons and daughters can easily become the victims of these evils.

What is more serious is the fact that once one is a victim of the effects of evils there is no escape and that these effects spread fast like a contagious disease of plague, extinguishing the spiritual light in the soul.

If we all as parents are not alert and wakeful, the repentance and remorse later in this world and the Hereafter is useless. I regret I cannot but draw the attention of parents to this serious matter as a matter of my religious duty even on this otherwise a happy occasion of Idd.

As children are a blessing to parents, they also are a test to the parents as to how they fulfil their responsibility to the children. Whether success or

failure in this responsibility, its results also whether good or bad will be reflected not only in our children as adults but also in their children too.

If parents are not careful the results will also show up in the general conduct, dealings and also in thoughts of the Community as a whole and then these conducts, dealings and thoughts will be seen as keeping with progress and demands of the time though they may be against Islamic teachings.

Those parents can be more successful in meeting this challenge who exercise proper control over their children and create children's confidence in them through love and tact. Of course we shall always need Allah's help also because the time as it goes on becomes more and more oppressive and we should pray for refuge against this oppression as participant or victim.

Finally on behalf of the Federation, I convey to all the Greetings of Idd."

1st Shawwal, 1414
14 March, 1994

JIBA International meets in Karachi

Collective Marriage held in Karachi

The Fourth International Jaffery International Business Association [JIBA] Conference was held in Karachi, Pakistan on December 30 and 31, 1993 with over 225 delegates attending the session.

The Conference was sponsored by the Karachi Chapter of JIBA and participants came from a total of 17 countries including Belgium, Czech Republic, Canada, France, U.K., Zaire, Kenya, Madagascar, Reunion, Tanzania, Yemen, India, U.A.E., Thailand, Singapore and Pakistan.

The proceedings started with recitation of Kalam-e-Pak which was recited by the Chairman of JIBA's Karachi Chapter, Liaquat Ali Wazir who then wel-

comed all the participants to the Conference.

The Chief Guest at the Conference was the Chairman of the Pakistan Investment Board, Safdar Abbas Zaidi, who was introduced to the participants by the Chairman of JIBA International, Anwer Rajpar. The Investment Board Chairman explained on investment opportunities in Pakistan highlighting the benefits available to foreigners who invest in Pakistan.

The regional JIBA Vice-Chairman's then reported activity updates from their regions. Asgar Bharwani spoke on the Africa area, Jaffer Kermali on the North American area, Nazir Jessa on Europe and Mustafa Dhanji for Asia.

A trade exhibition with about 40 stalls featuring a large variety of products manufactured by our industrialists was officially opened by Alhaj Mustafa Gokal and proved to be a success with some sales and many enquiries being received.

The 5th JIBA International Conference will be held on 29-31 December, 1994 in Nairobi, Kenya.

A collective marriage ceremony was held on 27 December, 1993 in Karachi, Pakistan whereby 10 marriages were initiated. The collective marriages are sponsored each year by the Khoja [Pirhai] Shia Ithna-asheri Jamaat of Karachi which provides dowry of about Pakistan rupees 30,000 to the marrying couples.

The provision made is not in cash but in the form of household items including furniture, appliances, crockery, kitchenware and other basic necessities required to start a new home.

The December Function was attended by over 1000 people who included the Hon. Secretary of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Murtaza Walji. The welcome address was given by Munawar Lald and speeches were then delivered by the President of the Khoja Pirhai Jamaat, Hamid Ali Bhojani, Maulana Kalbe Sadiq and other prominent personalities.

Three couples claimed a special prize of Rupees 5000 each for arriving on time whilst a further Rupees 500 was awarded to each couple by Ahmed Bhagar for their punctuality.



The Chairman of JIBA International, Anwer Rajpar addressing the Conference.

Chairman visits Karachi

The Chairman of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Habib Mulji visited Karachi in January this year and was accorded a warm welcome by various heads of different social organisations there.

During his stay there he attended the foundation laying ceremony of a Ghuslkhana and the Al-Mustafa Housing Project under the auspices of

the Khoja Pirhai Jamaat.

The Chairman visited various projects of the Jamaat, Mehfil-e-Murtaza and other educational institutions. His visit included the Fatimiyyah Girls School, Al-Murtaza School, Gulamane Abbas School and all Zainabiya building projects. He also had a long meeting with the management committee of the Pirhai Jamaat.

A dinner was arranged in his honour jointly by the Jamaat and Mehfil-e-Murtaza on 25 January, 1994 which was attended by a very large gathering of prominent personalities of the community and other social organisations.

During his visit he also attended and addressed the 8th Anniversary celebration of Zainabiya Trust.

"Education will take care of the Future" Mulji tells Karachi Jamaat

The Chairman of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Habib Mulji addressed the largest Khoja Jamaat in the world, the Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri [Pirhai] Jamaat during his visit to Karachi in January this year.

Addressing the large gathering he said that the challenge facing our Community is not only that of survival but also to make progress with the tides of time. He said leaders and members of the Community have to foresee the challenges that lie ahead and thereafter ensure that new situations are adequately adapted to. He pointed out that our Community, which only attained a distinct identity as a sect about 120 years ago, is placed in a disadvantageous situation because we globally number only about 120,000 souls and though we are spread in many regions around the world, we

only form a small minority wherever we stay Alhaj Mulji said that with Allah's [S.W.T.] grace we can counter this disbalance through global unity, confidence and loyalty of members of the Community, discipline of democracy and a strong faith in Allah [S.W.T.] and devotion to Ahlul-beit. He cited that as a Shia Community, **our primary objectives are to survive with human dignity, to thrive in piety and to die with faith.**

On the impending future Alhaj Mulji voiced his concern that industrialised countries are getting more united politically, militarily and economically so as to control all the wealth of the world which would then leave Asia, Africa and South America poorer. With increased poverty and in the wake of population explosions in

[continued on page 7]

SHIA WORLD NEWS

the poor countries, he said competition to eke out living and survival with dignity will become even more difficult.

He asserted that because the people in Asia and Africa will compete to survive above the poverty line, there is bound to be social unrest and civil commotion and asserted that this will enable western powers, which are hostile to Islam and Muslim unity, to have a more conducive environment for sowing seeds of discord among muslims so as to weaken their unity.

In this context, he forecasted that a minority Community like ours would be more vulnerable and is likely to suffer difficulties because ethnic minorities are not accepted anywhere but are simply tolerated. He said that where such minorities appear to be doing better than the ethnic majorities, then they are not even likely to be tolerated because the minorities will be seen as rivals or competitors against the sons of the soil for jobs, in shop-keeping, in trade and in many economical engagements including industrial enterprises.

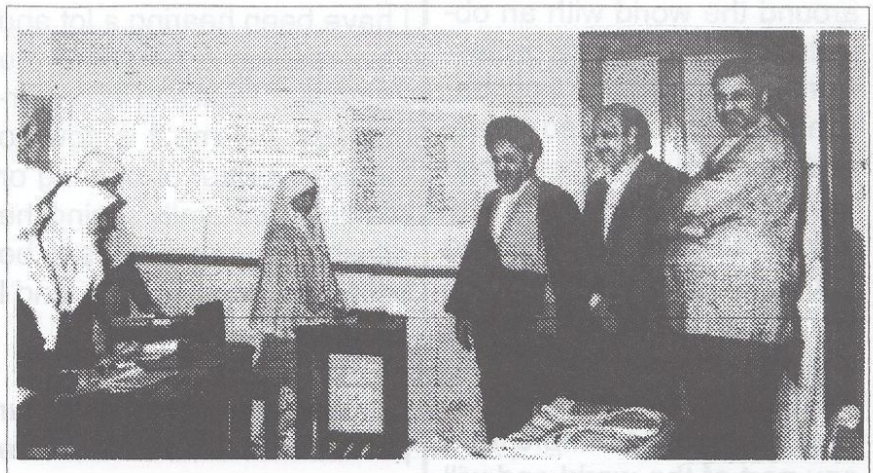
He accentuated that wealth is never and has never been a guaranteed companion unlike higher and professional education which are dependable in difficult times. He said wealth does not attract dignity but could attract enmity whilst

higher and professional education assures dignity.

He said that there is no question of avoiding wealth but there certainly is the question of striving not to miss higher education for higher numbers in our Community. He emphasised that we should all make a provision for our boys and girls to attain higher education over a period and to execute such a plan on a battle-footing and if need be, extra resources should be mobilised to ensure it's success.

He remarked that there is a vast technological advancement in the world today and to keep track with such advancements, it is important that a fair number of our members are engaged in professional and technology careers. He also suggested that regular assessments be made to identify brighter students before they enter secondary education after which their progress can be personally monitored with a view to sponsoring them for future professional careers.

[continued on next page]



The Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji at the Fatimiyyah Girls School in Karachi. With him are Sayyed Murtadha Kashmiri and Hamid Ali Bhojani, the President of Pirhai Jamaat.



.....Meeting the Managing Committee of Pirhai Jamaat.

He said that Islam stresses a great importance on ILM which is knowledge and that this includes higher education. He said that Islamic civilisations have produced many great scientists over the years including Islamic Scholars [Ulemaa] and that funds spent towards education and professional training would earn the pleasure of Allah [S.W.T.].

He said that the Africa Federation has established a Jaffery Education Foundation in the U.K. which is to be financed by generous donors around the world with an objective of producing professionals. He said this Foundation was not founded easily and required an experienced legal person to argue the case before successfully obtaining approval from the Commissioner of Charities for registration. The Foundation, he reiterated, will belong to all those who will become donors from any part of the world and will review and discuss policies and accounts and give guidance to Trustees who will allocate funds from time to time to the Education Board.

He said that in East Africa colleges and universities are owned by the Government and because applicants normally outnumber the places available for higher studies, very few places come into the hands of our applicants and that too if recommendations are possible from high places.

Federation Samachar

Mulji compliments Zainabia Trust at Annual Function

The Chairman of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Habib Mulji delivered the following speech at the Eighth Zainabia Trust Annual Function held in Karachi on 1 Shabaan, 1414 [14 January, 1994].

"In the name of Allah, the Beneficent and the Merciful.

I have been hearing a lot and also reading a lot about the Zainabiya Trust and its performances. For me it is now no longer a matter of hearing or reading but literally seeing the ravishing performances to be believed. I came, I saw and I "was" conquered!

If I was anxious to see your performance then I was more

anxious to meet the people - those few people - who produced the magic. If it is magic, show me your wand (magic stick), if it is a miracle then teach me your words of prayers. If it is none of these, then let me know what was that blunder which produced this wonder and I shall pray for many such blunders. Your blunder was your confidence in yourselves, confidence in the Community and confidence in the beneficiaries and above all tawakkal on God.

I thought all the tricks of progress are learnt from the mother - Africa Federation, but it seems a child can invent and apply some of his own and Zainabiya Trust is no exception.

[continued on next page]

He said that in almost all cases, students in Africa have to go overseas to pursue further education and this has proved to be very costly especially because the currency of many African countries have greatly devalued in the past few years and continue to fall in value, thereby making a few dollars seem a fortune!

He concluded his address by calling on the community in

Africa, India and Pakistan where we are in greater numbers and the level of professionals are comparatively lower, to address their concern towards education and to help each other in mobilising funds towards this end. He said our community is knit with a common mazhab and therefore the duty of uplifting our educational standards is also a common religious dut

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I am not being fair if I say it is nice, it is an honour or it is a pleasure to be with the real Zainabiya Trust people. It is much more than that. When I say this, I have in mind not only your housing projects and the benefits given to the beneficiaries but I have in mind also the generosity and compassion extended by you to the Africa Federation.

When we were establishing the Central Health Board (CHB) to facilitate overseas medical treatment for our patients not only in U.K. and India but also in Pakistan, you promised full co-operation to CHB and to prove it - as if we doubted it - you gifted us a flat in Karachi for use by such patients and their escorts. That was in April, 1991.

When the Africa Federation rescued our entire Community from Somalia and brought them to Kenya and Tanzania for rehabilitation where ever our Communities are domiciled and when we found that a challenge of this magnitude had suddenly befallen us, Zainabiya Trust was quick in extending hands to assist in rehabilitating some families. In fact, two representatives from Zainabiya Trust flew to Arusha to join us in a special meeting of the Africa Federation Settlement Welfare Board to discuss your participation.

You kept every promise which you made and you also honoured the *modus operandi* and the channels. As I am here today with you, let me publicly acknowledge your spirit, brotherhood and compassion and let me tell you that it meant a lot to us as it came when it came.

May Allah (S.W.T.) grant you more successes in your endeavours and reward amply you all who make endeavours and also all those who assist you.

WASSALAMUN ALAIKUM."

The anniversary celebration was hosted by Br. Sheni Haji and amongst those who attended was Hujjatul Islam

Sayyed Murtadha Kashmiri, son-in-law of our Marja-e-Taqleed Ayatullah Sayyad Ali Seestani.

Addressing the audience, the Chairman of the Zainabiya Trust, Anver Rajpar gave a detailed account on the working of the Trust. He said that the Trust has so far spent 98 million rupees on different housing schemes of which 25.76 million rupees was generated from khums money and the balance from general donations.

He also outlined future projects and said that the Trust would seek permission from the current Marja-e-Taqleed to permit usage of khums money for projects in the pipeline.



At a dinner hosted in the Chairman's honour by the Mehfile Murtaza and Khoja Pirhai Jamaat. From right: Seyyed Murtadha Murtadha of Nairobi, Anver Rajpar, Habib Mulji, Hamid Ali Bhojani and Sheni Haji.

Iran hosts World Ahlul Bait Assembly Conference

The biennial World Ahlul Bait Assembly Conference which was held in Tehran, Iran from 28 to 31 January, 1994 was attended by Shias from around the world to discuss social, religious, economic, cultural and political affairs of the Shia community.

The Chairman of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Habib Mulji was amongst those who attended. Picture shows Khoja members who attended the Conference. From right: Roshan Valli [Madagascar], Dr. Asgher Moledina [Kampala], Habib Mulji [Dar es



Salaam], Mohsin Jaffer [London], Mohamedtaki Abdulrasul [Madagascar], Gulam Sajjan [Toronto] and Fidahusseini

Kurji [Madagascar]. Missing in the picture are Ramzan Mulla Nanji and Ashik Rashid of Nairobi.

Toronto Appointments

The Executive Committee of Toronto Jamaat has made individual appointments to various sub-committees. These are: Raza Sumar [Marriage and Reconciliation]; Mohamedali Rashid [Burial and visiting the sick]; Baker Mehdi [Welfare and Employment]; Bashir Versi [Media] and Nazmul Damji [Public Relations].

Actress repents

An Egyptian actress, Suhair Al-Babili, recently retired from her profession and began publishing a weekly magazine in which repenting actresses work towards propagating Islam. She also plans to open an Islamic bookshop.

Myths Demythified

A half hour documentary programme entitled 'Myths demythified - Islam in perspective' was produced by the Toronto Ja'ffari Islamic Centre. The programme, which was aired on Rogers Cable [Channel Ten] featured Dr. Liyaqat Takim and Br. Nisar Sheraly who spoke on Islam's contribution to science and the need to dispel misunderstandings about Islam.

The Canadian Vision TV is also looking at the possibility of airing weekly Islamic programmes on Islam at prime time.

8000 German Women embrace Islam

The German magazine 'Der Spiegel' reported that 8000 German women have embraced Islam in 1993 and many of them now perform their prayers in their work places. The magazine says that humane feelings amongst the new converts has grown considerably after they stopped going to night-clubs and other cheap entertainment resorts and began learning the morals preached by Islam.

Germany has about three million muslims of which about two million hold German nationality. Most muslims are of a Turkish origin.

Trollhattan Jamaat appeals for funds

Following the arson attack that destroyed the Mosque in Trollhattan, Sweden in August last year, the Jamaat there has launched a project for rebuilding the Mosque.

In addition to the previous Imambada and Baytus-Salaah, the rebuilding will also include a Madressa section and an Alim's residence. Currently the Jamaat is spending SEK 50,000 per year for renting an Alim's flat.

The Jamaat projects that the total project cost will be SEK 650,000,000 of which about SEK 3,400,000 will be received through compensation from Insurance and a Government grant. The balance of SEK 3,100,000 [Sterling 250,000] has to be raised and the Jamaat has sought sponsors from around the world.

Trollhattan Jamaat has about 40 families comprising of about 150 men, women and children.

There is also a large population of other Muslim and Shia Communities of whom about 50 regularly attend our functions and at times they organise their own Majalis at our Mosque.

The Jamaat was formed in 1976 and the Mosque was built there in 1985 but was razed down in August last year thereby restricting communal activities there.

Activities included daily afternoon and evening Jamaat prayers, regular majlises including one for ladies every Friday. The childrens' Madressa was then attended by about 40 children. In addition to a resident Alim, Zakirs were invited for Ramadhan and Muharram.

The address for the Jamaat is:

**The Muslim Shia Forsamling Community,
P.O. Box 6042,
Trollhattan,
Sweden.**

South London Elections

At the Annual General Meeting held on 11 December, 1993 the following were elected into the management committee of the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri (South London) Jamaat:

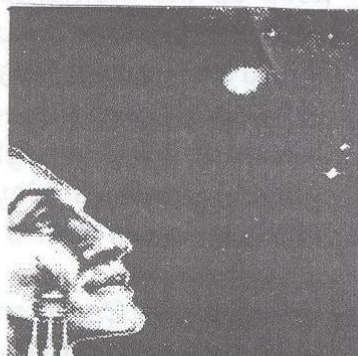
Dr. Liyakat Dewji	President
Haider Kassam	Vice Prsdnt.
Hasnain Kara	Secretary
Mohamed Dawood	Asst. Sec.
Baker Alidina	Treasurer
Shakir Asharia	Asst. Treasurer
Rizwan Walji	Mukhi
Ali Taki	Asst. Mukhi
Mustafa Dato	Member
Murtaza Janmohamed	"
Mumtaz Kassam	"

Western Media criticised

A professor in the University of New York and head of the World Research Centre, Dr. Ali Mazrui recently criticised the western media coverage of Islamic and African issues. He specified Somalia where a psychological complex is evident, for they "fear the blacks to the point of mockery and fear Islam to the point of hatred." The western media has often described Islam as 'the plague of this Era.'

Muslims demonstrate in China

Muslims in various parts of China recently protested against a book blasphemous against Islam because it portrayed Muslims praying with a pig near them.



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EDUCATION BOARD DRAWS CLOSER TO STUDENTS

The important decision about higher education arises when a student completes secondary education and finds it difficult to make a good decision especially because very often neither the parents at home nor the teachers at school appear helpful. This confusion finally deters a student from pursuing higher education or sees him make a wrong choice which proves costly and time consuming.

The Education Board of our Council of Africa has for the past several years been offering services to assist students choose a good course relevant to his or her aptitude. Booklets have been published in the past giving lists of short and long courses to enable students identify courses of their interest and addresses of various educational institutions have been made available to encourage students to contact them for brochures, pamphlets and prospectus.

These addresses are constantly reviewed and whenever there is an opportunity, students are assembled to listen to a short talk by a member of the Education Board. The theme of the message of the Education Board to students all

along has been that secondary education is not an end by itself but an important stepping stone to exciting educational opportunities which can make one's life secured and productive in terms of intellectual development, better employment opportunities and convenient earning of a livelihood.

Students are constantly reminded that there are certificate, diploma and degree courses some of which require only Ordinary Level passes whilst other require Advance Level passes and some need only working experience to satisfy admission requirements.

The exercise of educating and guiding students by way of short talks and publications of booklets has had limited results especially because easier earning through expanding commerce and trade has made many youths change their priorities in life. Some students have even deemed it appropriate to discontinue their secondary education in favour of starting a business.

In 1991, the Education Board with close cooperat-

ion and assistance of the World Federation arranged the first Careerama programme for girls and boys in Mombasa, Kenya. Two Career Advisors from the United Kingdom assisted by one Education Board member of the World Federation and local professionals addressed the students. Individual counselling was also done and the programme was received well.

The Education Board then arranged another programme in Dar es salaam but with local Career Advisors in order to minimize expenses. Local professionals volunteered to address students and individual counselling assisted boys and girls to think about their educational goals.

Careerama programmes on large scale had their usefulness but they were found to be expensive and demanded elaborate arrangements. To keep up the momentum and enthusiasm, the Education Board tried out less elaborate and shorter programmes with Nairobi Jamaat hosting the first mini Careerama in May, 1993 which spanned over 5 hours.

The initial mini Careerama was
[continued page 12]

[.....from page 11]

a great success and the Education Board called upon other Jamaats to follow suit.

In the subsequent five months, the Education Board has held three successful mini Careerama programmes in Tanga, Dares salaam and Arusha. Because the mini sessions do not require elaborate arrangements and expenses, it is strongly felt that such programmes will be popular and the Education Board plans to arrange two events each year in large centres where we have a sizeable group of secondary school students.

The Education Board has carefully analysed and assessed the results from the programmes held so far. It has been noted that the students are making enquiries thereby initiating a two way communication between the Board and the students as regards their needs, aspirations and other difficulties they may be experiencing.

The Education Board hopes that cooperation and assistance will be received from all Jamaats in their efforts to assist our youths to attain higher education and become useful members of society.

Federation Samachar

Madressa Organises Speech Open

The Debating Society of the Dar es Salaam Hussein Madressa [boy's section] held its 4th annual 'Madressa Speech Open' day at the gents Imambara in Dar es Salaam on 7 March, 1994 amid a large gathering of about 250 people.

The session which was convened by the Chairman of the Hussein Madressa Debating Society, Tehsin Takim was chaired by the Editor of the *Federation Samachar*, Munir Daya. Others on the main table were the visiting Maulana, Shabbir Maysam from India, the Chairman of the Hussein Madressa, Shakeel Dharamsi and Vice Chairman of the debating Society, Shabbar Dhalla.

The Chairman of the programme, Alhaj Munir Daya set the programme rolling with an introductory briefing on the

important aspects of public speaking, accentuating on the need to back speaking abilities with knowledge. The four speakers, namely Jamil Dato, Zaffer Abbas Mukhtar, Mohamed Taqi Tejani and Shakir Raza then delivered their speeches on 'Discipline in our youth', 'The legacy for our future generation', 'Significance of Kerbala' and 'Parents responsibility to their children' respectively.

Whilst the judges, Mohamed Somji and Dr. Rizwan Hameer analysed the speeches, Maulana Shabbir Maysam took to the mike and made some spontaneous clarifications on some of the views aired by the four finalists. The judges then declared Brother Mohamed Taqi Tejani as the winner with Brother Jamil Dato being declared runner-up.

Dar Library Excels

The Hussein Madressa Library in Dar es Salaam which has been offering services for the past fifteen years has greatly expanded over the years.

The Madressa began with only a few religious books on one shelf and now it has its own premises on the ground floor of the Hussein Madressa Building.

The library stores a variety of educative and informative books, magazines and audio cassettes and besides its normal functions has also organised two exhibitions and a 'Sale Day' when various books were displayed for sale.

Beginning this year, the library is also open to ladies.

Mombasa Jaffery's win at tennis

The Jaffery Sports Club of Mombasa emerged winners of the 'Late Kassim Rashid Shield' Interclub Tennis League for 1993 which was organised by the Coast Lawn Tennis Association.

Pictured in the winning team from left to right are : Amir Merali. Mahmood Karim [Captain Tennis Section], Dr. M.A. Karim [Vice-Chairman], Riyaz Virjee [Sports Secretary], Mutaza Kassamali [Team Captain]. Standing from left to right are: Gulamabbas K.G., Roshan Merali, Riyaz Fazal, Asger Molu and Mehboob Virji.



Huseini Fountain renovated

The Huseini Fountain was constructed in Italian marble at the Port of Kilindini, Kenya, by the Sheriff Dewji family in 1947 and handed over to the Port Authorities by the Ithna-asheri Community in memory of Imam Husein [A.S.].

Recently the Golden Crescent Group of Mombasa undertook to give the Fountain a facelift through reconstruction and renovation and the Fountain was officially opened by Alhaj

Ali Mohamed Jaffer Sheriff Dewji on 20 November, 1993 and re-handed over to the Port Authorities 46 years after he had originally presented it.

The Ceremony was also attended by the General manager of the Kenya Port Authority, Abbas Khaku, the Director of the Golden Crescent Group of Mombasa. Abdulraza Molu and Abbas A. Jaffer, the Chairman of the Mombasa Ithna-asheri Jamaat.



"NO" say ladies to lavish marriage ceremonies

In response to a circular issued by the Supreme Council on customs and ceremonies for engagements and weddings, which called on the women-folk of the community to organise seminars to discuss the issue and come up with their recommendations, the Ladies Committee of Arusha Jamaat under the guidance of its Chairlady, Mrs. Naseem Chagani, organised a seminar in Arusha last year.

The Seminar was a joint function between the ladies of Arusha and Moshi Jamaats. The organisation team consisted of Mrs. Raziya Versi as the Chairperson, Mrs. Shamim Yusufali as the Convenor and Mrs. Dilshad Moledina and Mrs. Farha Mohamedhusein as Committee members. The speakers who were selected from Arusha and Moshi were Mrs. Latifa Khimjee from Arusha who spoke on 'Sagai ane ena reet rivajo.'; Mrs. Sugrabai Daya from Moshi who spoke on 'Marriage and customs according to our Ahlulbait.' and Mrs. Shirinbai Ladak of Moshi who spoke on 'Islamic Marriage according to

the Shariah.'

The Seminar was organised in the gents section of the Arusha Imambara, which was appropriately decorated for the occasion. As is our tradition, the programme started with a recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an followed by its translation in gujrati. Incidentally, the whole programme was conducted in gujrati including speeches, the question and answer session and group discussions.

After the verses of the Holy Qur'an the Convenor welcomed and thanked all the participants, especially sisters from Moshi, whose positive response and good attendance added glamour to the occasion. In her short address she observed that marriage is a very noble act but is made complicated with unnecessary customs and traditions and that the extravagance we indulge into is far beyond the reach of poor and middle class families.

The Chairperson, Mrs. Razia Versi, who conducted the

seminar proceedings with ease, emphasised in her opening address, the importance given to the subject under discussion by our Supreme Council. After introducing the speakers, she posed a very interesting question to the audience which said, "By adopting the reet rivajo (customs and traditions) in our marriages, what benefits, if any, have we ourselves derived in our own matrimonial lives?" She requested all the participants to ponder over the question and give their comments later on in the proceedings.

All the three speakers were forceful and candid in their arguments which were mainly centred on the unnecessary customs and traditions during engagements and weddings, the un-Islamic acts during functions, extravagance and the like. Soon after the last speaker's address, all the participants had a short break during which they organised themselves into three groups for Group Discussions on all the three topics. The resolutions by the three groups make an interesting reading.

[continued page 16]

[.....from page 15]

First Group resolutions:

If we call ourselves followers of the true religion (Dine-Islam) then we should perform all our engagement and marriage ceremonies according to the Islamic Shariah. The function during the 'ring' ceremony should be kept very simple without any pomp.

Second Group resolutions:

- (i) Mendhi Party, Friends Party and cake cutting ceremonies should be discarded. Instead the money budgeted for these purposes be given out as Sadqa. We should perform our ceremonies in an Islamic way and teach others to avoid unnecessary expenses;
- (ii) Traditional ceremonies, if at all held, should involve family members only. Unnecessary 'rasmo-rivaj' should not be entertained at all.

Third Group resolutions:

(a) Simplicity in all our functions and ceremonies during marriages should be the order of the day. There should be no shaking hands with 'na-mahrams' or mixed gatherings. "Dahej" display should be discouraged as in a number of cases it has been found that the items on display were on loan thereby inflicting tension to the parents after the mar-

Federation Samachar

riage. In any case such displays are normally for show-off purposes which is not permitted in Islam.

(b) The newly-weds should not be accommodated in hotels on the wedding night, where they are likely to face 'Najasat'. They should be kept in place which is 'Paak' and where 'Hajats' to Allah are favoured and accepted.

At this stage the Chairperson sought an answer to her question which she had put before the participants earlier. Three ladies from the audience, a young mother, a middle aged married woman and an elderly lady were selected to answer the question. Their answers were as follows:-

A young mother:- The "reet revajo" apparently did not help or benefit her in any way in her married life. Her parents were in fact under pressure to follow these unnecessary customs and traditions just to reciprocate for the functions they themselves had attended, without considering the heavy expenses they were incurring.

Middle-aged married woman:- She too had not seen any advantages derived from these 'reet revajo'. She was of the opinion that instead of wasting money in such functions, it should be given to the newly-weds to build up their new life. Furthermore she stated that the more 'reet revajo' we will have, the more misunderstandings and mis-

feelings they will create.

Elderly lady:- She was not very much in favour of these 'reet revajo', but if at all we have to continue with some of them, like 'Pehramni,' they should be performed in privacy with family members only, so that those who cannot afford such extravagance are not embarrassed when hosting such functions. She also pointed out another damaging practice of burdening the bride's side with the boarding and lodging expenses of the groom's side, which is rather unfair and should be discontinued.

All in all it was a very successful seminar and the resolutions and opinions of the ladies prove that our contention that these 'reet rivajo' cannot be discarded because the ladies themselves like them very much has been proved wrong. Now it is upto the community leadership to ensure that necessary measures are taken in this connection.

Before dispersing to their respective homes, there were presentations to the speakers and a vote of thanks by Mrs. Chagani, the Arusha Jamaat Ladies Committee Chairlady. In her closing address she thanked the speakers, the organisers and participants for their contributions and prayed to Allah [S.W.T.] that we all make our lives more practical and meaningful.

World Federation Education Duo in Africa

The Chairman of the Career, Education and Training Advisory Board, Dr. Ahmed Hassam and the Secretary General of the World Federation, Hasnain Walji visited Dar es Salaam, Moshi, Arusha, Nairobi and Mombasa in January this year.

During their visit they had meetings with Managing Committees of Jamaats, Education Sub Committees, School Boards, Administrators, Teachers and officials of the Supreme Council who advised them of educational developments in the region. The visiting duo also visited various schools in the region.

The theme of their message centred on female education and provision of adequate finance for students wishing to take further education.

Tabligh Committee emphasises on Fiqh

The Tabligh Committee of the Supreme Council has strongly recommended all Jamaats to organise regular Fiqh sessions for ladies.

The Committee has reported that whilst male members of the Community have the benefits of regular Fiqh sessions, female members do not.

Jamaats have been called upon to organise special sessions for women and have also been recommended to allocate a few minutes for Fiqh before commencement of the ladies' weekly Majlis.

The Tabligh Committee can provide teaching manuals if required and has suggested that Jamaats should also subscribe to the monthly 'Al Noor' magazine from London which carries current updates on Fiqh.

Kampala Elections

At the Annual Meeting held in Kampala on 23 January, 1994 the following office-bearers were elected into office:

Dr. Asgherali Moledina	President
Shabbir Najafi	Vice President
Shiraz Walji	Secretary
Riffatali Sheikh	Jnt. Secretary
Mohamed Manji	Treasurer



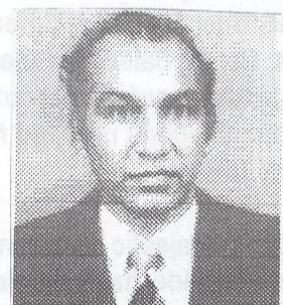
Asgherali Moledina



Shabbir Najafi



Shiraz Walji



Mohamed Manji

Central Health Board reshuffled

The Central Health Board of the Africa Federation has been reshuffled and the Board is now made up the following members:

Mohamed Somji	Chairman
Asghar Alidina	Secretary
Fazleabbas Dhirani	Member
Dr. Mahmood Hameer	"

Dr. Mohsin Sherif	Member
Raza Manji	"
Dr. Fuad Sherif	"
Alihusein Janmohamed	"

The Vice Chairman of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Habib Virani, will be representing the Supreme Council on the Board.

Mwanza Elections

The following Office Bearers have been elected into office for the 1994/95 term in Mwanza:

Gulamabbas Bhanji	Chairman
Murtaza Khimji	Vice Chairman
Hasnain Hirji	Hon. Secretary
Gulam Kara	Hon. Asst. Secretary
Rizwan Railey	Hon. Treasurer
Hussein Shariff	Member
Habib Rai	Member
Mohamed Mulla	Member
Mehboob H. Manji	Member
Mehboob R. Manji	Member
Bashir Manji	Member
Arif Bhalloo	Member

The registered trustees of the Jamaat for 1994/98 are Amirali Mohamed Manji [Chairman], Bashir Mohamedtaki Rashid {Vice Chairman}, Riyaz Hussein Railey [Hon. Secretary] and Hasnain Amirali Hirji [Treasurer].

Councillors from the Jamaat are Hussein Manji Pirbhai and Gulamabbas A. B. Bhanji.

Dodoma Jamaat organises Quiz

The Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Tabligh Committee of Dodoma recently organised a 'Go for Ilm' competition to celebrate the Birth Anniversaries of our beloved Imame Zamana Al-Qaim Al-Mahdi [A.F.].

The programme was held on 17 Sha'ban 1414 [30 January, 1994] after evening prayers for both ladies and gents at the Dodoma Imambara.

Participants were asked to collect an 'Essay on the life History of Imame Zamana [A.F.]' which had 11 small articles in English and had to read it thoroughly for the competition where oral questions on the essay were asked.

The competition attracted 21 contestants of which seven

were female. The Gents contest was won by Brother Ali Idd Suleiman who was followed by Zulfiqar Lalji and Issa Hamisi.

The ladies' contest was won by Sister Sabira Razahussein who was followed by Sister Arifa Z.S. Hussein and Sister Gulanar H. Versi in second and third places respectively.

The programme was very successful and availed participants to know their twelfth Imam better. Prophet Muhammad [S.A.W.] has said that "One who dies without knowing his Imame Zamana dies an ignorant death."

The contestants were awarded various prizes which included tickets for two to Zanzibar.

Shakir Sherally is Best Sportsman

The panel formed by the Sports Council of the Supreme Council selected Shakir Sherally (38) of Union Sports Club, Dar es Salaam as the Sportsman of the year for 1992 out of various nominations received from different Jamaats.

Shakir, a majestic batsman and an excellent fielder has been playing for the Tanzania national team since 1971 and in 1992 captained the national

team to win the Quadrangular Tournament in Zambia.

At Club level he has contributed towards many of the victories notched by Union Sports Club in local matches and at Sports Festivals out of the country.

His selection for the Abul Fazal trophy comes as no surprise and we congratulate him for this award which has eluded him for many years.



ARUSHA'S KILIMERU IS 25

The Kilimeru Gymkhana Club of Arusha recently celebrated its silver jubilee. The history of the Club dates back to 1949 when it was known as the Hussein Cricket team. In 1960, the team's name was changed to Ithna-asheri Team and in 1968 it was called Ithna-asheri Gymkhana until the name was finally changed to Kilimeru Gymkhana which signified an amalgamation of our Moshi and Arusha cricket teams. The name Kilimeru comes from Mt. Kilimanjaro in Moshi and Mt. Meru in Arusha.

The team has won a number of regional league and knock-out trophies and has in the past provided some very talented players who have represented the Tanzania national cricket team in regional tournaments or against visiting teams.

Overseas readers

If you are residing overseas and would like to read the Samachar regularly simply send us a payment of US \$ 10 for 4 issues with your address and a copy will be mailed to you regularly

Editor

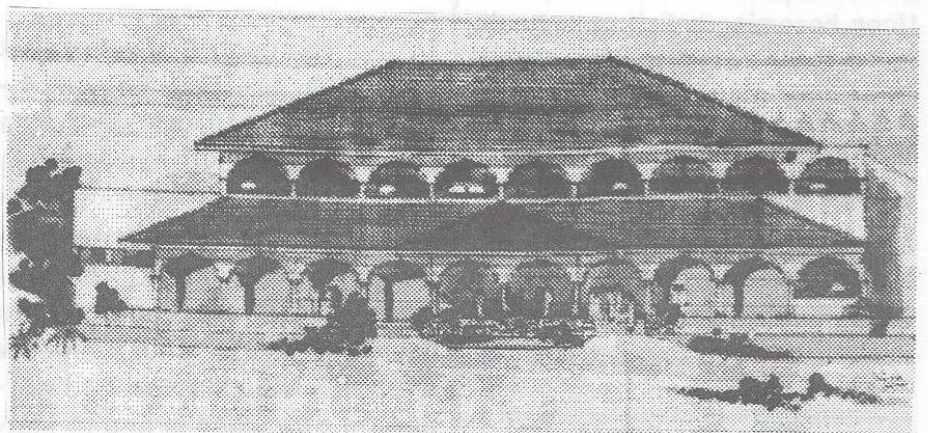
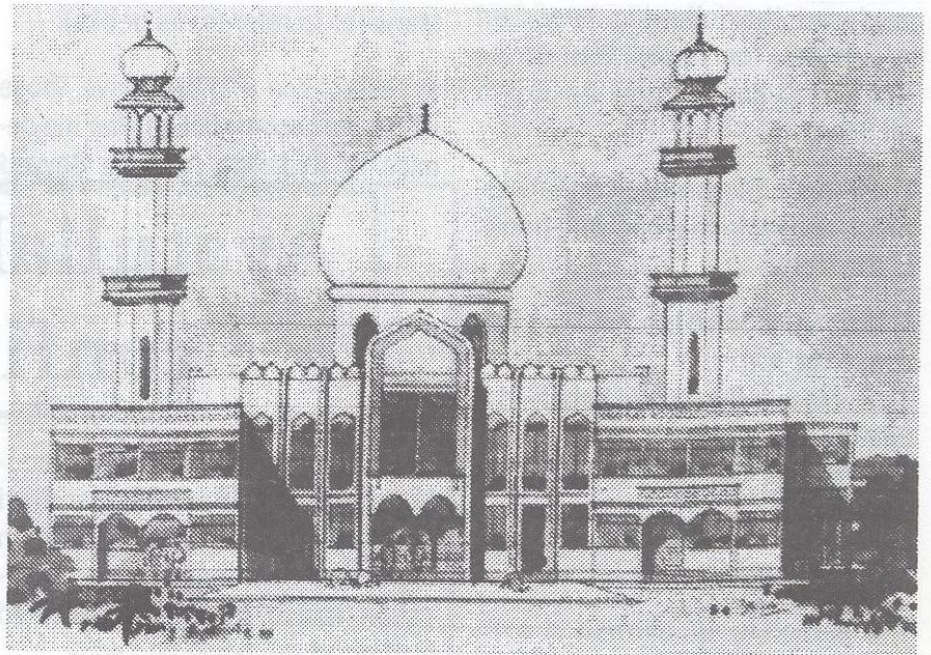
Federation Samachar

Nairobi Complexes need funds

In our last issue [Volume 27, No.4] we carried a story on the proposed new Mosque and Multi-purpose hall in the prestigious Lavington area, adjacent to the recently built Jaffery Sports Club Complex, in Nairobi.

The proposed cost of this project is U.S. \$ 1.3 million of which over 50% has now been pledged. The Jamaat has called upon generous members from all Jamaats to pledge their assistance to bridge the existent financial gap.

Artist impressions of the proposed Mosque and Multi Purpose hall are featured hereunder.



Taqleed of New Marja Clarified

In the last issue of the Federation Samachar [Vol. 27, No 4] we carried some religious Edicts of Ayatullah Seestani. However the Edict on the 'Taqleed of a New Marja' was incorrect and this has been corrected hereunder.

Editor

Hujjatul Islam Seyyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi, the Chief Missionary of the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania has produced the following important information for Muqallideen of the Marja Ayatullah Al-Uzma As-Sayyid Ali Seestani.

The information is on Edicts [Fatwas] which appear in the following books of the Marja:

- 1] Minhaju-s-Saleheen Vol 1- 1st Edition, 1414 A.H.;
- 2] Al-Masa'il Al-Muntakhabah- 1st Edition, 1413 A.H.;
- 3] Tawzihul Mas'ail (Persian) - 1st Edition, 1413 A.H.

The Edicts are:

- 1] A person is not allowed to commence taqleed of a dead Mujtahid. Upon becoming baligh one should commence taqleed of a living Mujtahid who is A'lam (most learned) among all living Mujtahids.
- 2] A'lam (most learned) is a terminology which refers to a Mujtahid who has the greatest expertise in deriving rules of Shari'ah from the Qur'an, Hadith and other recognised sources.
- 3] Where one was doing taqleed of a living Marja, who has now expired, and if the dead Marja was A'lam in

comparison to the living Mujtahids, then it is WAJIB for the said Maqallid to continue on the taqleed of the same late Marja.

4] The continuation on taqleed shall be in all masa'el in the books of the late Marja with no distinction whether he/she had learnt and/or acted on those masa'el during the life time of the late Marja or not.

5] However for such masa'el which are not found in the books of the late Marja' one has to ask the present Marja' (or to refer to his books).

In accordance with the above, those who have become baligh after the demise of Ayatullah Al-Uzma Seyyed

Gulpaygani [R.A.] should do the taqleed of a living Mujtahid who is A'lam. Ahlul-Khubra declared Sheikh Al-Araqi of Iran and Seyyid Al-Seestani of Iraq as A'lam upon the demise of Seyyid Al-Gulpaygani.

Those who were doing taqleed of the late Marja Ayatullah Al-Uzma Seyyed Gulpaygani or had continued on the taqleed of any of the previous Marja' should follow the directions stipulated in Edict 3 or Edict 4 above and continue on the taqleed of the late Marja' if the said late Marja' is still believed to be A'lam than the present one. They can refer to the present Marja' on any new masa'il not found in the books of the late Marja'.

Ayatullah Seestani confirms.....

Ayatullah Seestani recently confirmed to Seyyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi over the telephone the direction on taqleed as mentioned in the clarification above. He also elaborated further on the issue and said:

1] "If a Mu'min still believes that Ayatullah Al-Uzma Seyyid Al-Khui or Ayatullah Al-Uzma Seyyid Al-Gulpaygani was A'lam as before than other Maraje, then it is wajib for him/her to continue on the taqleed in all Masa'el mentioned in the books of the deceased Marja, and to follow Ayatullah Al-Uzma Seestani's orders in new Masa'el and in matters of Huquq-e-Shar'i."

2] "However, if the belief later on changes in respect of the above mentioned deceased Maraje, i.e. now he believes that they were not A'lam than Ayatullah Seestani, then the Mu'min should do Ayatullah Seestani's taqleed totally in all masa'el."

3] "If a Mu'min who still believes that any of the above mentioned deceased Maraje was A'lam as before and has done my (Ayatullah Seestani's) taqleed totally, he/she should return to the taqleed of the late Marja" in all Masa'el in the books of the late Marja (except for new masael and Huquq-e-Shar'i as explained above)."

OBITUARIES

O-B-I-T-U-A-R-I-E-S

Seyyed Abdu-Z-Zehra Al Khateeb

The renowned Scholar Seyyed Abdu-Z-Zehra Al Khateeb passed away in Damascus on 24 December, 1993 [10 Rajab, 1414 A.H.] at the age of 74. Originally from Iraq, he had been the Head of the Majlis-e-Shari', Awqaaf-e-Ja'fariya in Dubai for five years until his death.

The following is a short list of books, among many of the books and manuscripts recorded to his credit in the Shia world:-

- 1] Masadeer Nahjul Balagha wal Asanid (Authenticity of Nahjul Balagha) [4 Volumes];
- 2] Sharh il Islam (Book on Fiqh) [8 Volumes];
- 3] Tahqeeq Al Shafi (Editing and Reference on Imamah from the book 'Al-Shafi') [4 Volumes];
- 4] Tahqeeq Al Gharaat (Editing and reference of very old books on History of Battles of the Holy Prophet) [1 Volume];
- 5] 100 Sayings of Imam Ali [A.S.] from 'Al Mutanabee' (Research of Sayings of Imam Ali from very well known Arabic Poetry).

May Allah [S.W.T.] rest the departed soul in eternal peace.

Mohamed Kassamali Panjwani

The publisher of 'Shia International' and the 'Shia World Directory', Mohamed Panjvani sadly passed away due to heart failure in Karachi on January 3, 1994 at the age of 68. He was in Karachi for the 4th JIBA International Conference.

The Late Panjvani was born in Dar es Salaam where he joined his father's business after completing his basic education. Seeking greener pastures, he first moved to India and Pakistan in 1955 and later in 1957 to Tehran where he got involved in publishing. He had over a dozen English publications to his credit including newspapers, magazines, trade directories, business registers and Who's who guides. He also also planned out the first English language telephone directory for Tehran.



In 1972, he moved to Beirut where he launched two monthly magazines but after a civil war broke out in Lebanon in 1975 he moved to Toronto where he established a publishing business with half a dozen trade publications. He was also the Chairman of the International Publishing Group and a director of Mc Graw Publishing.

May Allah [S.W.T.] rest the soul of the deceased in eternal peace.

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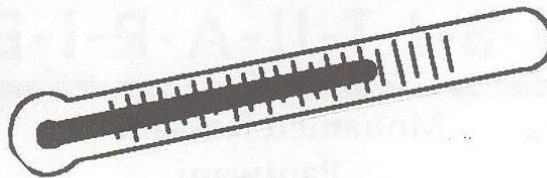
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HEALTH



HINTS

❑ You can speed aspirin absorption and beat its unsettling stomach side effects by first dissolving the tablet in a glass of water, milk or juice. The murky mixture helps sneak the pill through your gut so it won't leave the aspirin afterburn that comes from pill erosion in your stomach. Milk and juice kill the pill's bitter taste too.

❑ You can put a choke on chronic throat clearing by swallowing instead of coughing away an itch. Although an occasional "ahem" can clear obstructing mucus, frequent and forceful clearing irritates the throat's lining. A sip of water or simple swallowing does a better job of soothing a scratchy throat. If you suspect your throat clearing is more than a bad habit, see a doctor. It should be a sign of a digestive disorder, sinus infection, allergy or other ill.

❑ You can ensure top-quality freshness of dairy products by consuming them as soon after purchase as possible, even if the package 'sell-by' date is still a long way off. Designed for retailers, not consumers, 'sell-by' dates refer to the time allotted for keeping foods fresh when they are stored in commercial refrigerators. Since commercial refrigerators keep

items colder than your home fridge can, they preserve freshness longer. One solution is to buy smaller quantities more frequently.

❑ Do not expect antibiotics to bring a swift end to your flu or cold. These respiratory illnesses are caused by viruses, not bacteria and antibiotics have no value in thwarting them. In fact, by taking antibiotics to treat viral illnesses, you could be putting your body's disease-fighting capability at a disadvantage. Years of misuse of antibiotics by both doctors and patients have weakened the drugs' germ-killing powers and have promoted the growth of drug-resistant strains of bacteria. The consequence is that the next time you need an antibiotic, it may take a while before it really works. To use antibiotics correctly, follow these guidelines:

- Ask your doctor why an antibiotic is being prescribed to you and what type of bacterial infection it is meant to treat and the required dosage;

- Do not forcefully demand that your doctor should prescribe an antibiotic if he says it won't do you any good - even if you are convinced one worked in the past for a cold or flu. The truth could be that

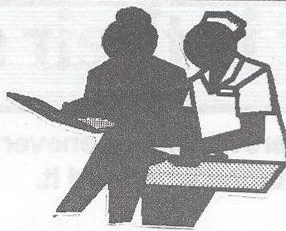
unless you developed a secondary bacterial infection, it's unlikely that the past drug may even have cured you. The illness then probably abated because it had run its course and fell victim to your body's natural healing powers;

- Take antibiotics correctly [for instance do not take tetracycline with dairy products, which interfere with its absorption] and for the prescribed period of time. If you stop treatment once you start to feel better, stubborn bacteria may remain in your body, ready to be passed on to others thereby making recurrences of the infection more difficult to treat.

- Do not self-medicate with pills left over from a previous illness. That specific antibiotic may not be designed to cure the new illness you are dealing with. And be sure not to pass any leftover antibiotics to other family members or friends.

❑ A recent study suggests that we may not have to rely on injections of human growth hormone to compensate for age-related declines in our later years. Researchers have found that people in their 60s who had exercised regularly for most of their life had higher levels of the muscle-building, skin-toning hormone than couch potatoes in their 20s.

WOMEN'S



HEALTH

If you find a lump in your breast...

If you or your doctor finds a lump in your breast, don't believe anyone who tells you are too young for breast cancer. It is true that for every malignant lump found in young women, twelve benign lumps are detected but it is also true that 5% of all breast cancers are found in women who are under the age of 40.

Upon examination your doctor may be able to determine whether a lump feels suspicious. Benign masses tend to have a definable outline and can be moved within the breast. Tender, noticeable lumps that appear only before menstruation are typically harmless but malignant lumps are single, firm [rock hard] masses that have indistinct borders and are difficult to move within the breast because they feel as though they are attached to other tissues.

If your doctor confirms there is a lump in your breast and the lump seems benign you need to get a mammogram [including breast density report] as soon as possible to evaluate the lump, the rest of the breast and the other breast. It is also

advisable to have an ultrasound examination, which can distinguish a fluid-filled cyst from a solid mass [the latter can be cancerous]. If the mass is cystic, the fluid may be aspirated in the office. If a distinct solid mass is found, a fine-needle biopsy or surgical biopsy may be recommended.

If a well-defined mass is not found on examination, see your doctor for a follow-up physical examination and have a review of tests one to two months after the first examination to see if the lump is still present. The visit should be scheduled after one's monthly period because one's breasts are then easiest to examine for lumps. If the mass is gone at this follow-up examination, no further evaluation besides regular breast-examinations and mammograms is necessary. However if the lump persists, a biopsy * should be performed.

If on the other hand the lump seems suspicious, one has to get a mammogram [including a breast-density report] as soon as possible to evaluate the lump, the rest of the breast

and the other breast. The need for a breast density report is particularly necessary in young women because their dense breast tissue increases the likelihood of a negative mammogram even when a lump exists. If a palpable mass [one that can be felt with the fingers] is present in a young woman, it should be followed very closely and/or biopsied even if it does not appear on a mamogram.

A biopsy may be done surgically or through a fine-needle biopsy. The needle-biopsy method is gaining popularity and is preferred by many breast experts.

After the biopsy a tissue sample should be sent for definitive laboratory analysis. If the lump is cancerous, treatment should be initiated and if you have any questions about your options, be sure to get a second opinion. Treatments include lumpectomy [removal of only the lump] usually in combination with removal of the lymph nodes and radiation therapy; or mastectomy [removal of the entire breast and

[continued on page 24]

Foresight is their sixth sense

The world has indeed become small - a mere global village. This is not only because man can travel around the world in a matter of hours only. It is not only because man can communicate instantly with any part of the world. It is also not only because man can go deep into space and turn to look at our whole planet as it revolves.

It is also because the major events in any part of the world affect each and every man on this planet. It is a situation of a sneeze in one hemisphere and the other hemisphere catching a cold, or the whole world dancing to the lone flute played -

wherever and whenever played by those who hold it.

One would expect man to have developed a keen sense of awareness of what is going on not only around him but also around the world and to be able to analyse the events as they keep on unfolding in so far as they affect him - - and they almost always do!

It is unfortunate that a large majority of our community who have a constant access to all the media seem to attach little importance to keeping themselves aware of the realities around themselves.

When two persons of the Community meet for the first time to strike acquaintance, they soon part after a cursory self-introduction and a few rounds of niceties, UNLESS of course it is the same line of trade or sports they have in common.

The day to day major events of the world are of no common interest - because they think they are of no concern to them. They lack a sense of foresight and remain oblivious to the realities. The poor sense of awareness leads to setting wrong priorities. It is only the WISE WHO ARE AWARE! Foresight is their sixth sense.

Arusha Hosts the 52nd Supreme Council Session

The 52nd Session of the Supreme Council will be held this year in Arusha, Tanzania from 1 to 4 April, 1994 at the prestigious Arusha International Conference Centre.

About 80 participants are expected to attend who will include the presidents and councillors from over 40 Jamaats from 11 African countries and will also include local invitees and those from overseas particularly from Pakistan, India, U.A.E., Europe, Canada and the U.S.A.

Arusha has always been a popular venue because of its cool climate, warm reception and its central geographical position among the Jamaats.

Federation Samachar

The Session is an important annual calendar event when religious (tabligh), social, welfare, educational and general planning issues are discussed and when annual reports are received from 11 committees for adoption. Yearly audited accounts and budgets are also approved during the Session.

An important feature of the Session is the traditional address of the Chairman which is delivered in Gujrati on the opening night. The address declares new policies or highlights some burning issues, setting directions on how the issues have to be addressed. As this is the last Session of the current second term of the Chairmanship of Alhaj Habib

Mulji, his address will be anxiously awaited. Proceedings will mostly be in Gujrati as some participants are from non-English speaking countries. The Chairmans of both, the World Federation and Africa Federation will be vacating their posts to make way to successors as their respective Constitution bars their re-election for a third consecutive term. It is expected that names of new candidates will begin to be sounded in the lobbies of the Session as an encouragement to prospective candidates worldwide for both the Chairmanship positions.

The next issue of the Samachar will carry a full report of the 52nd Session held in Arusha.

Editor

The Womens' Role

A society in which women are sufficiently intellectually developed and morally and spiritually sound will progress fast unlike where society consists of ignorant and restricted women. Men do better in a society where they are supported by their women and a society where women are inactive cannot perform better than societies where women are active and alert.

The duty of a Muslim women today is to strive along with men to build society. She must search for knowledge and develop sufficient morals and consciousness to be able to cooperate with men to fight existent evils in society. A woman should develop social consciousness to oppose a false social order that is said to be in the name of Islam. The Holy Qur'an says: **"The believers, men and women, are protectors of one another, they enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil, they observe regular prayers, practice regular charity and obey Allah and His messenger. On them will Allah pour His mercy, for Allah is exalted in power and wise."** [9:71].

It is the duty of Muslim women to encourage goodness towards parents. In Islam, parents are highly esteemed and

the Holy Qur'an speaks of goodness to parents as a duty for children: "And make yourself submissively gentle to them and say: **O my Lord, have compassion on them as they brought me up when I was small.**" The holy prophet [S.A.W.] says: **"To bestow good on parents is considered more rewarding than prayer, fasting, pilgrimage or jihad."**

Muslim women should also learn to live with and care for their and their husband's various relatives and should regularly pray so that their children can learn from them. Because women spend more time with the children, they are better able to inculcate truthfulness and honesty in them - - at all times they should speak the truth and maintain justice among children, not deceiving them even jokingly or making empty promises to them. This is because children can develop a habit of bluffing and lying if they see the same portrayed by their parents.

Some women engage their children in vain talks, confusing their minds and often frightening them with strange characters or monsters. Instead women should narrate to their children the gallant lives of the great men in Islam and

of other prominent personalities - - all of which can be presented in an exciting way to maintain the child's interest. In all such presentations, children should be made aware that noble deeds are primarily done in the name of God and should be regularly warned against the consequences of disobedience to Allah [S.W.T.].

Children have a very good memory and hence parents have to behave carefully in front of them. Mothers should try and get their children to memorise the Holy Qur'an because children do have the ability to grasp fast. When a child reaches the age of seven, he or she should be introduced to prayers and this habit should be developed until the child prays regularly. Parents often make the mistake of allowing their children not to pray when out on picnics or when holidaying or visiting relatives and in other such situations. This makes them feel that they can skip their prayers on such occasions and eventually becomes a permanent habit. Today there are many Muslims who miss the Wajib prayers in such situations because when they were young they also were given occasional exceptions from pray

[continued on page 26]

[...from page 25]

ing and have since continued with the habit. Children should be given no exceptions with regard to prayers!

Whilst women do pray for their children's welfare, they should remember that their duties towards Allah [S.W.T.] are greater than those towards their children and the former should therefore not be sacrificed in cases of conflicts between the two duties.

Muslim women should dress Islamically so that their daughters are encouraged to imitate them and they should treat their children with love and kindness so that the children too can develop this habit. They should not gossip and unduly worry about other people's affairs because by doing so they portray a wrong image for themselves and their husbands. The holy prophet Muhammad [S.A.W.] has said: **'The best among you is he who minds his own business.'**

A woman should also always be patient because impatience can easily destroy a home. It is very important that she controls her temper, especially in front of the children and this equally applies to the father. A father who insults his wife in front of the children indirectly guides them against their mother because the children

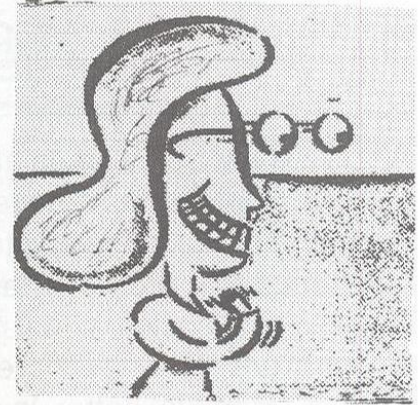
will gradually tend to lose respect for her and thereafter, efforts put in by the mother to train the children would be futile or extremely difficult.

In addition to their role of upbringing children, women should be chaste and respect their husbands as long as they are truthful and faith-abiding. They should not put unreasonable demands on them like asking for lavish gifts or mock them about how affluent another couple is because such petty grievances [which usually arise from jealousy or envy] eventually lead to major conflicts. Women should learn to live within the family budget and rather than complain about their husband's earnings they should seek means of supplementing their husband's income.

The ideal life in Islam expresses true love and affection and a house where all members live in peace, harmony and with contentment is blessed by Allah [S.W.T.].

According to the holy prophet [S.A.W.], **"A virtuous wife is the best treasure which a man can possess and justly be proud of. Such a wife is a strong fortress against the tricks of satan and is a partner for life."**

Women should appreciate and follow the role prescribed to them by God and fruitful results will then be there to be seen.



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The following ten points were mentioned by the majority of the children:

- 1] Do not quarrel in front of your children;
- 2] Never lie to a child;
- 3] Always answer children's questions;
- 4] Treat all your children with equal affection;
- 5] There must be a mutual tolerance amongst parents;
- 6] There should be comradeship between parents and children;
- 7] Don't blame or punish your child in the presence of friends;
- 8] Treat your children's friends with hospitality;
- 9] Concentrate on your child's good points and do not over-emphasise his shortcomings;
- 10] Be constant in your affection and your moods and do not let out your other worries on the innocent children.

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On 2 November, 1954 when Maulana Turabi visited Zanzibar. From left: M.I. Dharamsi, Ahmed Abdulrasul Dato, Hussein Alarakhia Rahim, Haji Hassanali Dossa, Maulana Turabi, M.A. Saleh, Sayeed Jabir, Sayeed Musa. All in the picture are now Marhums except for M.I. Dharamsi who has actively participated in Council Sessions over the years but is now sick. [Picture quality had to be upgraded through a computer to make it suitable for publication].



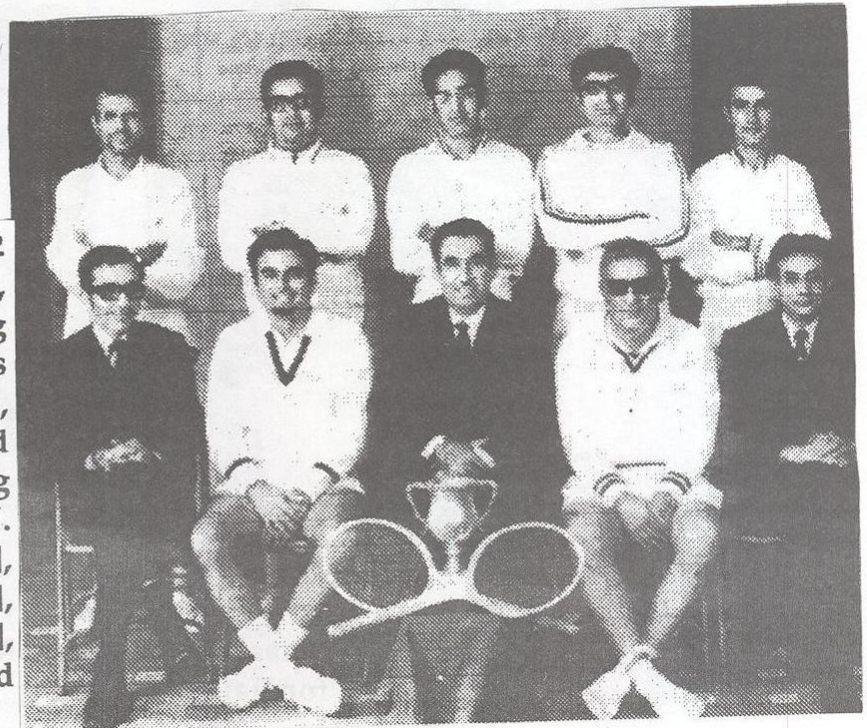
Group photograph taken in Dar es Salaam in 1968 after Majlis for the Hujjaj group going for Haj in that year.

DOWN MEMORY LANE



In Malindi in 1953. The Ithna-Asheri Sports Club Mombasa played a football match against Malindi Combined XI. In the picture standing from l. to r. are Ebrahim H., Gulamabbas H., Pyarali R., Abbas G., Akberali H. Sitting l. to r. are: Mohamedali N., Ahmed A., Kassamali N. Panju, Ahmed H. [Captain], Abdul A. Sitting on the floor are l. to r. Sadiq M. and Hassanali K.

Winners of the Mombasa 1972 Inter-Club Tennis tournament, Jaffery Sports Club. Standing from l. to r. are Gulamabbas Tommy, Gulamabbas M.T., Pyarali Karim, Roshan Dattoo and Mahmood G.S. Khaku. Sitting from l. to r. are Hassanali G. N. Lakha [non-participant Captain], Sikander Pyarali [Captain], Abdul Moloo [Vice Chairman], Gulamhussein Khaku and Husein Dhalla A. Panju.





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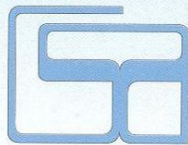
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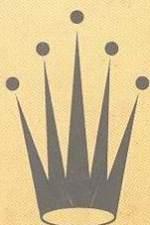
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