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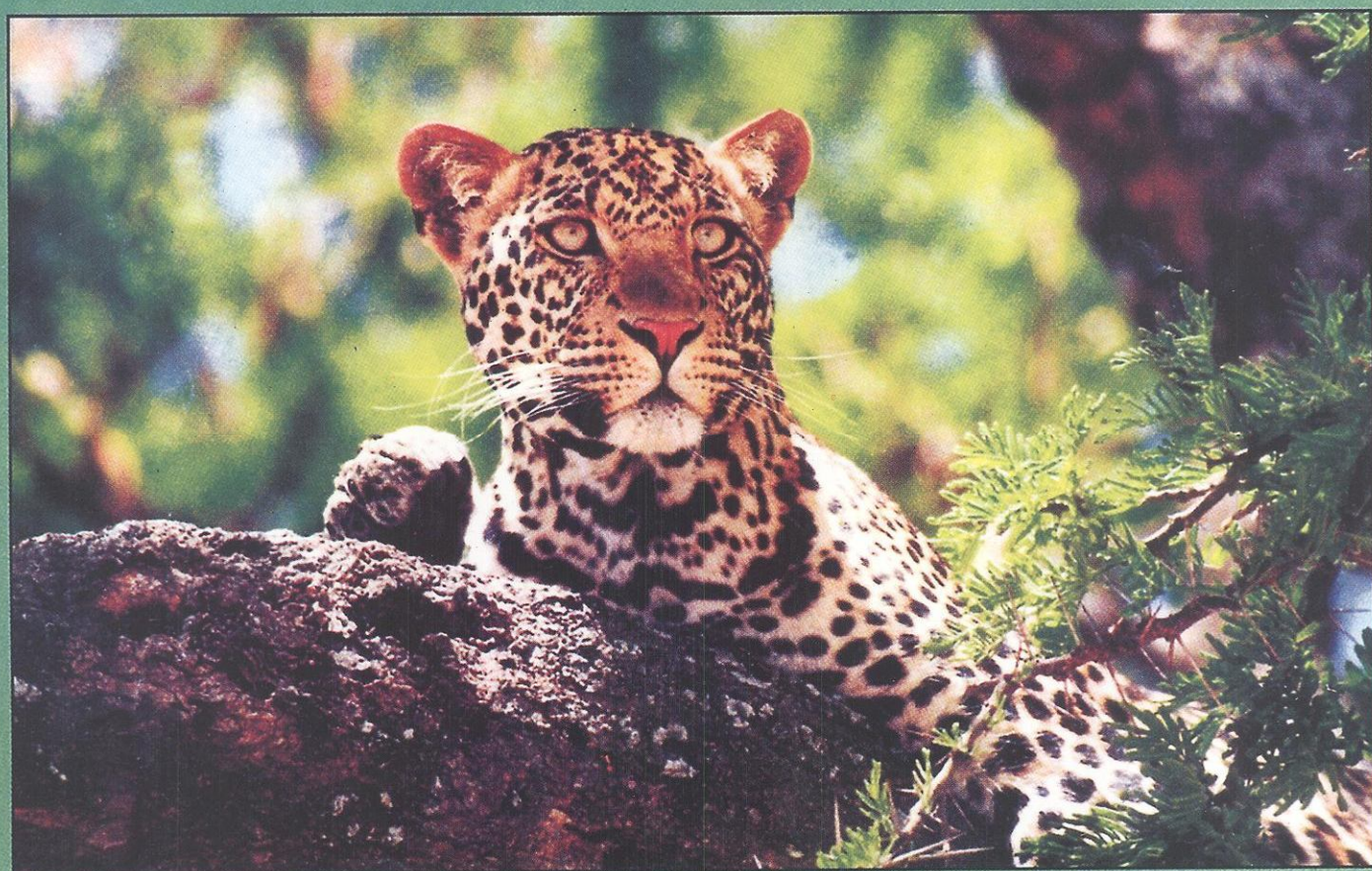
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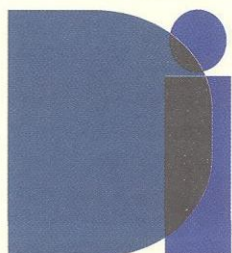
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FEDERATION SAMACHAR

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Jamaats of Africa

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COVER PICTURE

Mwanza boy, Mohamed Hirji along
with Zahra Nagri of

Dar es Salaam were the historic
winners of the Council's First Qur'an
competition.

CONTENTS

Page 5

Editorial

Pages 7 - 15

Mailbag -
Your letters to the Editor

Pages 17 - 46

Around Africa

Pages 47 - 72

Muslim World News

Pages 73 - 76

Obituaries

Pages 77 - 79

Election News

Page 80 - 81

Youths

Page 82

Religious rulings

Pages 83 - 86

Women

Page 87

Religion

Page 88

Health - More on the herb *jeera*

Page 89

Family issues

Page 90

Anon

Pages 91 - 93

Letter from
North America

Page 94

Letter from India

Page 95

From Down Under

Page 97

Wayside Wisdom

Pages 98 - 100

Classifieds

Page 101

Book Review

Page 102

The Back Page

COLUMNISTS

Baqir Alloo - Dateline Toronto - Page 51

Sakina Zainul Datto - Women issues - Page 83

Mohamed Khalfan - Family issues - Page 89

Ghulam Sajan - Letter from North America - Page 91

Syed Ali Mahdi - Letter from India - Page 94

Dr. Asghar Moledina - From Down Under - Page 95

Munir H. Daya - Wayside Wisdom - Page 97

The views expressed in the *Federation Samachar* are not
necessarily those of the Africa Federation
or the Editorial Board.

From the Editor's Desk

Council sessions need to be more productive

It goes to the credit of the Supreme Council that we have completed 57 glorious years since the council was formed in 1946. The significance of the Africa Federation lies in the fact that our community has made great progress in infrastructure and in providing amenities to members ranging from religious worship facilities, education, welfare, health, resettlement and enhancement of our media, among others.

During this period the Council has weathered many a storm. But such is its in-built strength based on religious and philanthropic values that it has emerged stronger after every storm. Unfortunately, notwithstanding its manifold successes, there are some shortcomings especially during the annual meetings when there is a big dichotomy between Council theory and practice.

A candid cursory glance at the 61st session of the Supreme Council held in Mombasa over the Easter holidays this year raises glaring questions. The intention of this Editorial is not to be unduly critical about the session but to candidly self-appraise ourselves.

The first mishap of the session was the timing coincidence of the opening and second night with the taraab music in the hall nearby. The music was loud and though participants in the meeting pretended to condone this, it was obvious that the noise shattered the normal silence that prevails during such an august session.

Time management of the session was rather poor and this is why there were numerous complaints by participants that issues were allowed to drag on with deliberations that were often repetitive. One may ask, was it necessary to re-read the Chairman's key-note address again in Gujarati after a text translation was distributed?

Federation Samachar

The tabligh report was only seen by the delegates on the day it was presented or on the day prior to this. Considering the sensitive nature of the discussions involved should this not have been circulated well before the session? During deliberations of this paper some members seemed to be testing their lungpower rather than raising issues of importance.

One wonders why precious time and energy are wasted on meaningless arguments and quibbling equivocations. The Supreme Council Session is not a debating society but is a forum for effective interaction of views and opinions. It is not a session for exchanging blind arguments or a forum for speakers to show off their vocabulary or oratory strength.

At our sessions, the conduct and attitude of some members leaves much to be desired. Many do not take the proceedings seriously. They do not take down notes and few, if any, councilors go back home to discuss burning issues. The thin attendance after the lunch breaks or early morning sessions indicates that many delegates attend with a half-hearted approach or that our session timings should be reduced.

Time could be saved if sensitive issues that require thought are discussed by way of a working paper distributed to community members and organisations well before the Council session. This would allow delegates to be more focused in their deliberations. In the Mombasa meeting it was obvious that some delegates were not well aware of the discussions taking place as they had no prior knowledge of issues being discussed.

Presentations to deserving workers made during the opening night are acceptable but these need to be brief. In Mombasa it was probably not necessary to read out all the

plaques awarded to the recipients. As a result of the delays, the World Federation representative, Dr. Hassam only took to the mike after midnight when many were exhausted after a long day.

In meetings, delays have a catalytic effect and ultimately the pressure was felt on some Boards like the Samachar Editorial Board whose Web report and proposal to launch an external Media Desk was not presented.

Our meetings could be more focused if reports are circulated to councilors, invitees and delegates at least 30 days before the meeting thereby allowing them time to poise focused questions. The traditional story has been that Board Chairmen do not honour deadlines. The AF Secretariat would do well if it gave all Board Chairmen an ultimatum of submitting reports before a stipulated deadline, failure of which would exclude their report from the main session folder. Excluded reports could be distributed in the session with limited time being availed for discussions.

In the last session in Mombasa and also during the session in Arusha there were times when one felt that some individuals or jamaats would walk out but the Chairman wisely did not allow this to happen. However some participants are rather sarcastic and at times over-critical in their comments. The Chairman and his team should be seen to control such aggressive behaviour not necessarily to show power but to maintain tranquility and brotherhood.

A Supreme Council session should rise up to the role history has assigned to it. It should be a session with disciplined and thought-provoking deliberations dictated by optimum time management.

Munir Daya



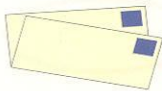
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LETTERS



Dear Brother,

Dar and other big jamaats need good musafirkhanas

First, we all like to appreciate and congratulate you and your team for the wonderful and excellent job you are doing in enlightening the community on various issues affecting it. May Allah (S.W.T) reward you all amply in this world, and in the hereafter for this commendable and noble task you are performing. "Amin" keep it up.

Even our brothers (ie. columnists, and other community members) from inside Africa and overseas contribute a lot by sending thought

provoking articles, some of which if implemented can prove fruitful and beneficial in achieving progress and revolutionise our way of thinking. The *Federation Samachar* is quite informative and makes an interesting reading paper and printing is of high quality. It is a worthwhile medium for community members to express their views.

We like to express our views on the need to have a proper and reasonably good musafirkhana in Dar es Salaam. This is a long overdue issue which the Dar es Salaam jamaat needs to attend to. The jamaat has no doubt done a commendable job of building a magnificent and spacious mosque to accommodate the growing number of our members of the community and has also embarked on the equally important project of building the new Tabligh Centre.

We do not know whether the building of a good musafarkhana is yet in the list of priorities for the Jamaat but we feel it should be considered because Dar es Salaam is a big urban centre that is visited by many community members from different destinations for different purposes. Some of our community members go to their relatives, some stay at hotels and still many prefer to go to a musafarkhana because it is located near the mosque with also the advantage of allowing visitors to come into contact with other brothers from other places.

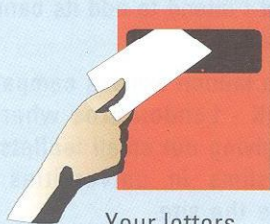
The existing facility was built or rather restructured over thirty years ago, during the exodus of our brothers from Zanzibar due to the political instability over there at that time. No doubt it served the need at that time but now it is high time to make some changes

especially when half of the facility (parallel side which contained some four or five rooms) has been demolished since last year in order to facilitate more space on the ladies side of the Imambargah.

In the remaining half facility, some two or three rooms are permanently occupied. With the exception of one or two air-conditioned rooms with two beds the rest of the rooms are with four beds which is inconvenient and outdated. It doesn't matter if there are one or two such rooms but most of the rooms should be with two beds only. In this regard all jamaats should follow the example of Moshi Jamaat that with the initiative of Mehmood Daya took the responsibility of commendably maintaining a fine musafirkhana. May Allah (S.W.T) reward him abundantly in this world and in the hereafter for his great sacrifice of time and money. "Amin".

As there is a constant flow of musafirs (travelers) to Dar es Salaam, we do hope the Dar es Salaam Jamaat will look into this. At Kampala, there is a good facility for a musafir with a family as a Flat is available. However for single persons there is none. Actually there should also be a facility in Mombasa where the previous facility collapsed some eight or ten years ago and hasn't been replaced or reconstructed till now. It is high time something concrete is done to alleviate the problem for the mutual interest and benefit of the community at large.

Gulam S. Jaffer
Hussein S. Pirmohamed
Inayatali Y. Rashid
Mohammed R. Ramji
Bukoba



Your letters

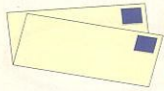
Views, opinions or articles should be addressed to:

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

All letters sent to the *Federation Samachar* by mail or to our email (samachar@raha.com) will be considered for publication unless the author specifically refuses its publication.

Letters will be subject to editing for brevity and content. Only destructive letters and those lacking objectivity or reason will not be considered for publication.

Readers are requested to keep their letters short and to the point.



Dear Brother,

Leaders have to be aware of community needs and problems

Everywhere leaders are in short supply and as our jamaats become bigger, it becomes a problem for our honorary leaders to manage its institutions properly. The problem becomes one of balancing time spent on their own personal affairs, be it employment or business, and time that can actually be allocated for community affairs.

In the majority of cases, leaders are chosen based on their experience as successful businessmen or professionals and it is gratifying to note that the leaders have done us proud; they have served our community with zeal and dedication. I am not undermining the essential qualities which a leader must possess like honesty, truthfulness, piety and moral turpitude. [Jaffer H. Walji, "Leaders should be seen to be transparent," *Federation Samachar*, Vol 33, No 4, April 2003, p 16]. The problem, in my view, has arisen from paying lip service to Islamic teachings and failure to follow the teachings of Ahlul Bayt (a.s.).

The impression people have about Europe and America is that people there are rich. But their streets are not paved with gold and if assistance is not required with regard to perhaps education, medical or social needs perhaps because the majority of members are well off, then a leader has to explore other legitimate demands and needs of the community like for example housing and take appropriate action to remedy problems by raising appropriate funds. I personally prefer actions to words, less talk and more work.

The problem is not whether or not India has extra voting strength to elect leaders, it is to do with how the voting is utilised.

We need our leaders to assure us

that money raised would be properly utilised. During the time of Marhum Mulla Asgarali M. M. Jaffer, the World Federation's finances were open to any member or jamaat wishing to inspect but through proper channels. But then it is a very good idea to have an internal auditor, to ensure everything is above the board. A proper accounting system would then exist with proper checks and balances. To me personally, this requires immediate application.

The delegation of volunteers that were sent to India, to my knowledge, worked dedicatedly day and night to accomplish their task in the shortest period of time. For anyone to query whether they had paid their own fare or World Federation (WF) had paid for it, to me personally, is an insult of the highest order. I am sure the volunteers do not want praises as they are serving WF to seek the pleasure of Allah (s.w.t.), but then we should not discourage them by making comments which would hurt their feelings. Even if WF had paid the fare it was money well spent. Whenever the occasion merits, WF ought to openly acknowledge the contribution made by all the volunteers who are serving in different capacities.

Lastly, leaders are accountable to the members of the jamaat in their Annual General Meetings and through newsletters published by the individual jamaats.

As far as majalis are concerned, the tradition is that it must relate to religious issues only. This orthodox thinking has to change as religion embraces all facets of secular education. We need, from time to time, for professional people to go to the mimbar (pulpit) and give lectures on business, finance, taxation, law and medicine and in

Dear Brother,

Online bookshop is a great idea

I am proud to be associated with the kind of people who dedicate themselves for the sake of Allah (s.w.t.) and the web site of Dar Al-Tabligh is a clear manifestation of such dedication. Mashallah what really gripped me is the online bookshop bringing technology and Islam into one aspect. I hope that this project continues to benefit more people as you develop.

I meanwhile invite all to visit a site that we have also dedicated to Islam www.muslimunity.co.uk. It is my Islamic duty to help to promote the bookshop on the tabligh web page and I intend to add its banner to our website.

I wish to launch a mass campaign in the UK - London area where I will be giving out small leaflets to non-Muslims in universities to advertise the site.

I am also the editor of a youth magazine called Youth Today. We reach the youth on a large scale and our last issue reached over 4000 people in the United Kingdom after only starting last year. We currently are the only mass Shia media in the UK, and are also expanding in pages and numbers. Inshallah by next muharram we are planning to publish 10 000 copies.

I feel the service provided by the tabligh website is paramount to our youth and must be promoted.

Amir Jawad Taki
Youth Today - Editor
Webmaster
www.muslimunity.co.uk

that way our community will benefit a lot. Such lectures do not have to be always serious but humour should be added where appropriate.

Mohammed,
UK.

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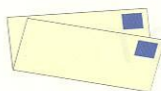
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Dear brother,

Samachar is interesting and deserves thorough reading

On Saturday 31st May, I received a copy of the *Federation Samachar* from our dear Haji Mohibbhai and by Sunday, I went through this entire magazine of our community.

First of all, let me congratulate the Editor Janab Munir Bhai Daya for the pain he takes in bringing out such a comprehensive *Samachar*. I am on the mailing list of Insight magazine published by the World Federation in London but matters pertaining to various burning issues and subjects relevant to our community are very well covered in the *Federation Samachar*.

Janab Zulfikarbai Khimji's frank and fearless interview with Janab Daya is an eye opener and "The person behind the image" on Mohtrama Razia Janmohmed is excellent especially for the people who devote life for the service of the community.

Janab Shabbir Mohammed's article from Toronto is really a nice piece and should be circulated everywhere in the Shia world.

Let me here quote that latest message of Ayyatollah Moh. Fadhlullah to the Shia world - "Dear Friend! Do not move with Husayn in history, instead, move with him in reality, revolution and change. So each of us should be Husayn, even if only one percent because we live Husayn in his methods, thought, spirit and on how he handled issues of justice and

Dear Friend! Whoever is with Karbala of Husayn (a.s.) cannot pledge allegiance to an oppressor, nor can such a person fight alongside an oppressor or excuse an oppressor or justify his oppression. Therefore shorten your tears when they are tears of history and let them flow when they are tears of the oppressed and downtrodden human being."

In the last *Federation Samachar* the Anon article 'A Stereotype is sinning if...' was thought provoking. I read it twice. Congratulations to the writer who rightly wrote about some people wrongly harbouring a generalised unfavourable view about an entire group of people or a sect or a community because of an isolated incident.

The article on Family issues by Mohamedbhai Khalfan was equally thought provoking. His mention of Ayat 34 from Sura Nisa was appropriate.

However, I am afraid, present day readership is so much involved in worldly affairs that little advice is absorbed by their minds. This is my personal experience. People read for the sake of reading, some people just turn pages and let us therefore pray for them so that they ponder, probe and understand Islam in its true spirit.

Haji Akbar Tejani
Mumbai
India

Dear brother,

Seeking improvement on the *Samachar* online edition

Thank you for making your magazine available on the internet. It is now possible for us who live far away to read it. May Allah (s.w.t.) reward you for your good and hard work and help you in the same path in the future.

Further I would like to draw your attention to the downloading aspect. It takes a long time to download the *Samachar*. One cause can be that there are too many advertisements included. In Sweden we have a lot of magazines online and they do not include adverts. Moreover they are in miniature form so that if one wants to read the article then one can simply "zoom in".

I hope that you have understood the problem because I am not good at IT, but I came across this problem and thought that I should notify you.

With Salaam & Dua

Jenny Has
Sweden.

We value your comments and are always pleased to get a feedback from surfers so that we can keep on improving the quality of content online.

Our web page designer has taken note of your comments and will look into making the necessary amendments.

If you have not visited our site recently please do so to see our newly designed web site. Editor.

Dear Brother,

Article on women touched relevant issues

This is in response to the article on Women; 'Indian Culture- less Islamic than the west' published in the *Federation Samachar*, volume 33 no. 4, dated April 2003.

Without doubt the writer has hit at some relevant issues that needed to be addressed. A number of our traditions are ancient but still ingrained in us for some 150 years or so just because we inherited them thus not bothering to discard them. Instead all we have been doing is hitting at westoxication not noticing the Indian culture that has already eroded our values.

Alas we can't even differentiate whether our ideology is really Islamic or whether it's the so-called Indian culture. The other sad fact is that we try to keep away of westoxication but cling to the Indian culture like it would be a sin to let go of.

The West believes in the equality of women in every aspect but the Indian culture regards them as inferior human beings with no rights or identity of their own. Islam on the other hand believes in equity, which is much closer to equality. The concept is therefore much more beautiful and more in line with the western concept and less terrorising than the Indian one. As a matter of fact a woman in Islam is in an absolutely win-win situation.

However do we realise that by following these Indian traditions we are not practicing Islam although mistakenly thinking we are? Are we prepared to accept it and to shed off these wrong practices? Aren't we scared to let

go of the stereotypes that we are expected to become? Can we even think of using our maiden names or does it sound too blatant??

When we try to answer such questions we get scared of the answers because when we begin to refute the Indian Culture we tend to think we've become too westernised not realising that the Islamic culture is more in line with it.

I fully support the suggestion to keep the topic open. It gives us a platform to discuss and put down our opinions and get rid of our phobias and wrong practices so that we finally draw the line and end up with the right ideology.

Shelina Khimji,
Dar-es-salaam,
Tanzania.

Dear brother,

Reading the *Samachar* in prison

One of the brothers from Bilal Muslim Mission of America (in New York) sent me an edition of the *Federation Samachar* and Alhamdulillah, the magazine has really touched me. Please place me on your mailing list for future editions.

The Ilm contained in your publication is really enlightening, motivating and uplifting. Presently I am in prison and converted to Islam in 1994. I have maintained the Kalimah and haven't deviated from the Din Al-Haqq (Allahu'Akbar).

I am an African-American and inshallah I will write to your Pen Pal section to allow me to correspond with others in the community.

May Allah Ta'ala continue to grant you all success, blessings, faith, determination, knowledge, wisdom and love for the holy Prophet and his holy household (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon them all).

Amir Ali Muhammad Abdullah Hakin
P.O. Box 8504
Coalinga CA93210, USA.

Dear Brother,

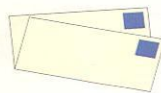
Look down memory lane

I must commend you for the beautiful and informative Federation Samachar. I would like, however, to point out that Marhuma Hamidabai Manji's father was called "Malim Mia" for being a teacher in the Faize Ithna-asheri Night School and scoring centuries in local cricket matches held in Zanzibar. His actual name was Haji Mohamedjaffer Rashid Nathani.

I am happy and proud to say I was also a student of this madaressa and later on was fortunate to be taken as a diniyat teacher.

Secondly, in the "Down Memory Lane", the name of the 2nd man in the Standing Line is Brother Hamza Chatoo and not Br Ahmed Bhaloo as mentioned by you. Proper name of Golo Saleh is Gulamhusein Saleh.

Yusuf Alidina,
Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania.



Dear brother,

Housing project in Mombasa is a step in the right direction

Personally I have not met the Chairman of Mombasa Jamaat, Mohammedbhai Hemani but I consider him to be visionary, humble, pious, with foresight, and without ego and I shall explain why. He correctly identified the need for "good affordable housing for the less privileged members of our community" and this has a serious impact on the well being of us Shias ["Mombasa Jamaat Chairman cautions against detractors....," *Federation Samachar*, Vol. 33, No 4, April 2003, pp 47-48]. Indeed reasonable living standards depend on the provision of affordable housing in a healthy environment. Although the Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat has made great strides on this issue, however, for Mombasa Jamaat it was the case of the Gujarati saying "*Jagya tyarhi sawar*."

With hindsight it is easy to criticise that such developments should have been put into practice four decades ago when the times were not economically difficult and development costs were much less. The question is when is the right time to venture into such projects and for how long can these projects be postponed and at what cost. According to me there is no time righter than now. We should learn from our past mistake of a lack of foresight and reluctance on the part of jamaats to take bold steps.

Indeed, any jamaat, in my humble opinion, should sit and make a list of priorities for the next decade and should try to plan for these priorities from now. Waiting for things to get better may be an easy but not a better option, as things may get worst.

Alhamdulillah our various jamaats are endowed with people having

ideas, capabilities and resources - financial or otherwise. As our jamaats grow from strength to strength they have to cater for the needs of diverse groups consisting of children, women and the elderly. One way to go about this is to mobilise capable people into the various projects undertaken. This calls for 'unity' in the real sense of the world as factions within the community will only divide us.

I shed tears of joy on learning that the previous trustee of the Mombasa Jamaat, Al Haj Yusuf Datoo had donated a piece of land on which the housing project is to take place. I congratulate Yusufbhai for doing so whilst he is still alive and I pray to Allah (swt) to fulfil all his legitimate Islamic wishes and to grant him a long life. (Amin).

Here I remember a hadith narrated to me by Maalim Ahmed Issa Hasham of Dar-es-Salaam that during the time of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) a prominent businessman had died and having left no off-spring or relatives, the Prophet (PBUH) was invited to distribute dates, which were kept in several warehouses, to the needy. After having distributed all the dates to the needy, one of the companions commented that the deceased was lucky because his dates were being distributed as charity with the pious hands of the Prophet (PBUH).

The Prophet (PBUH) picked up a discarded date from the floor and commented "Had the deceased given this one date as charity during his lifetime he would have got more sawab than all the dates which were distributed after his death." I need speak no more but I pray to Allah (swt) for more people of my community to follow the grand example set by Yusufbhai.

I was also overjoyed to learn that several volunteers have come forward to help in the development of Al Mehdi Housing Project in Mombasa and that they have the full support of the jamaat. What impressed me most was that the jamaat's managing committee and the trustees were not taking the credit for the housing project for which they rightly deserve. Instead they consider themselves as part and parcel of a large family working together and complimenting the collective achievement of the entire community. I consider that such humbleness should be the buzzword for every committee within every jamaat.

Mohammed Baqir,
Birmingham.

Dear brother,

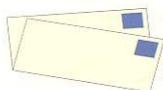
Samachar is educative

Thank you for the complimentary copy of the *Federation Samachar*. It is really very educating and an eye opener for our community in the world if our brothers decide to take a lesson from the articles and letters.

The editorial 'Jamaats should initiate Open Forums' is a perfect guidance for a healthy and prosperous community. My heartiest congratulations to Mr. Jaffer H. Walji for his bold approach and comments towards the '*people who forget what they said at the time of elections*.'

Insha Allah, the almighty will bless you for all your efforts. However I did not find your telephone contact in the '*Samachar*'. Please be kind enough to provide the same to me so that I may be able to speak to you personally sometime.

Amirali M. Merchant
Rexello Castors Pvt. Ltd.
23/D, Mahal Industrial Estate,
Mahakali Caves Road, Andheri (E)
Mumbai, 400 093.



Dear brother,

Golden opportunity missed to establish university

I have a feeling that our jamaats are complacent in not undertaking projects when opportunities arise. There has been a marked improvement as far as Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat is concerned. In the past Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat had foresight in building a boarding school and as it was hardly utilised one would have considered it as a total failure but in recent years it has served the members many fold.

A property which was bequeathed as a dispensary was partly used as offices and for indoor games down stairs and to house widows on the top floor but now it is working as a fully fledged dispensary serving not only the members of our community but also the indigenous people.

The masjid at Bagamoyo was lying idle but it was ideal for the Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat to organise majlises there once a year. With the construction of a new road from Dar es Salaam to Bagamoyo and the fast development of Bagamoyo for tourism, I am sure the masjid will be an asset.

In the whole of East Africa, there was only the primary school in Mombasa, Kenya. The Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat has done us proud by buying properties, extending them and turning them into Al-Muntazir school where our children from primary to secondary level of education are being catered for.

So what is missing? For the first time I came to know that our visionary leader and Chairman of African Federation, Al Hajj Zulfikarbai Khimji had floated the idea of establishing a university. What a grand idea which in the

past would have been an unthinkable project. Unfortunately the Chairman did not get support from Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat and had to abandon the plan, hopefully temporarily. Without doubt the Chairman was sincere in his quest to building a university and the grand project was not for mere glorification. May I beseech the bold souls to immediately revive the project which I am sure will be a jewel in the crown and I request timorous souls not to put a spanner in the work of the visionary Chairman. Please let us think positively and refrain from any negative thoughts.

Let us examine the various tasks undertaken by the Chairman and see where he has gone wrong. I find none and I am compelled, like the achievements of Asgerbhai, to praise him. I vividly remember what I had to go through when I was in Dar es Salaam when trying to find a school for my son. The Agha Khan School would give preference to Ismaili children. I was compelled to give a huge donation to get a place for my child. Having a university in Dar would mean saving huge amounts of money and giving a university education to those children who would, otherwise, never dream of it.

So establishing a university should be priority number one and I humbly urge the chairman to put the project in motion and for Dar es Salaam Jamaat to wholeheartedly support him. As far as the standard of education is concerned, an arrangement can be made with a British university to validate the course.

Perhaps the Chairman and his team

can consider providing degree courses in journalism, psychology, sociology, law, finance and taxation, which are cheaper to provide and for other courses like medicine and engineering students can be sent abroad. Bright students who are sent abroad should first explore the avenues of getting scholarships from the university where they intend to pursue their studies.

From my experience, unless things are made to move fast, projects tend to take many years or are shelved for good. I am not calling for establishing a university on a grand scale. We should start with students completing their "A" levels and let it grow gradually when the finance improves, if finance is the hindrance to progress.

Mohammed Baqir Hemraj,
Birmingham,
UK.

The working paper providing explicit details why the project was postponed was carried in the June, 2002 (Rabi ul Aakhar 1423 A.H.) issue of the *Federation Samachar*.

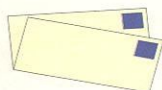
The working paper was prepared by an ad-hoc committee formed by the Dar es Salaam Jamaat that included key educationists of the community.

This committee provided a number of reasons why it did not consider it pragmatic to launch a university at that time.

Among the reasons provided, amid others, was that the 'A' level output of students was estimated at about 60-65 students some of who would pursue science, others art and others would travel overseas thereby leaving only about 30 potential community students who would join the proposed college.

This report was forwarded to the Africa Federation by the Dar es Salaam Jamaat and there was a tacit acceptance of the same.

Editor.



Dear brother,

Why don't articles in *Federation Samachar* generate debate?

In the past we had dialogue on reports and articles in the *Samachar* but recently one notices that there is very little debate on the columns submitted. Have we become passive or most of us get a copy of the *Samachar* with no intent to read? In the last issue, however, there is a comment by Mohammed of Birmingham which is good.

With a view to generating some discussion, I venture into the field. First of all, I have enjoyed reading *Samachar*, including the bumper "crop" of April 2003. At one time I thought I would not finish it but the articles were excellent and, therefore, I read each and every one of them. Please no more bumper issues.

I will start off with minor matters and progress towards other issues. The sample 'will' that was placed as an insert in the *Samachar* was great. Only thing to inform your readers is that the beneficiaries should not be witnesses otherwise they lose out.

It is encouraging to note that the Dar walk raised Tz. Shillings 57.5 million. I believe it would be great if such fundraising walks are also organized for projects beneficial to the poor of the countries our communities live in. Similarly it would bode well if some financial pledges also go towards addressing hot issues like AIDS in Africa.

One is always overwhelmed when a member of the community gains an award. It was with great pleasure that I read Sakina Zainul Datoos won a Writing Contest prize. (Incidentally, we have another star

of the community, Jawad Khaki of Seattle who also won an award. I suppose you will be carrying the story elsewhere in the *Samachar*).

The story on Haydom hospital by Kazim Dhalla once again tells us that we Muslims have failed in our duties. We have been so bogged down with our rituals that the case for humanity is of little consideration. We Muslims should have provided such services. This is where our religious dues should be spent. In addition, we should also strive to eliminate poverty, at least in some sections or some parts of the world.

This calls, once again, for strong leadership and this is what we should expect from our federations. However, the presidents of the federations can only function well if we support them and they listen to our suggestions.

As indicated in your Editorial, jamaats should initiate open forums with a view to conceptualising future course of action. Jamaats should in turn pass these matters to the federations. Then, this should be followed by unwavering support to the leadership including ensuring that all funds are channeled through our own organisations and appropriate powers and rights are obtained where necessary.

'Changing the traditional majalis', as stated by Shabbir Mohamed is important. One finds that there is very little attention paid by most jamaats in selecting their zakir. Shabbir's points are valid and I hope jamaats will pay serious attention to the issues of zakirs,

mullas and maulanas.

Columnist Asghar Moledina makes a valid point regarding learning Arabic versus Gujarati. My observation has been that there is more culture in Eastern languages than the western ones (especially English). As Muslims, ideally we should all learn Arabic. This will enable us to communicate with each other effectively. However, will this make us better Muslims?

Haraam, Halal on the back page of the last issue is a good article. It teaches us to be polite in all our dealings with non-Muslims (and Muslims too).

Gulam Sajan
Toronto
Canada.

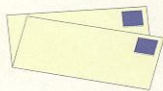
Dear brother,

Your Editorial was apt

Recently after balloting was undertaken in Dar es Salaam to seek votes for the new President of the World Federation, dialogue was exchanged by way of emails, rightly or wrongly, criticising our jamaats for not allowing community members a forum to speak out.

This subject on Open Forums was well covered in the Editorial of your last issue. All the jamaats in Africa should organise open forums to give them a better opportunity to address the grievances of community members.

Observer
Dar es Salaam.



Dear brother,

Re-asserting the correct role of the World Federation

We should not lose sight of why the World Federation (WF) was formed in the first place. Granted that regional bodies [see "The Federation can enhance communal unity," *Federation Samachar*, Vol. 33, No 4, April 2003, p 13] have their own problems and axe to grind, the constitution should show how the WF can solve the problems of regional bodies without it being construed as interference by WF.

The first problem to consider is under what capacity can WF help any regional body. Is it as reconciliatory body, advisory body or mandatory body? The second problem is to what extent is the decision reached by the WF binding on the regional bodies and what punishment can be meted out if a regional body refuses to abide by the decision of the WF?

The Council of European Jamaats had a problem with registering itself with the Charities Commission as a charity body and some amendments to the constitution were necessary before its final acceptance. As far as I am aware, it is not reluctant to affiliate itself with WF. Africa Federation has become a strong body due to the many years of experience they have accumulated and perhaps has perfected itself through trial and error and learning from their past mistakes. Madagascar Regional Council (MRC) may have valid points to make but still I feel they ought to have a big heart and more understanding on thorny issues involved.

It has been rightly said that it is only the shoe wearer who knows where the shoe is pinching. Of course AF and MRC should be united but then at what cost? What may seem to others as a petty matter may seem a very grave

Federation Samachar

matter indeed to the parties concerned. What is needed is solving the problem amicably by taking the examples set by Ahlul Bayt (a.s.). To me no one ought to feel 'small' for apologising for any wrong done. I keep on saying "to err is human but to forgive is divine."

I was more intrigued when Nasimco elected a chairlady. Without the benefit of hindsight no one had predicted or was it foreseen by those who elected her at that time that this would cause a problem in the future and that she would, under 'suspicious circumstances' (sic) be removed and

Dear Brother,

New AF Web Page is impressive

Being a regular reader of the *Federation Samachar*, I recently also had the opportunity to visit the Africa Federation web-site where I expected to see the normal web page lay-out. However to my delight I found a totally redesigned web page.

The whole layout is professionally designed with the added links including the dialogue section and the photo archives. The photo archives provide a good opportunity to our community members to view so many old photographs and I spent hours browsing the many achievements of the community recorded by way of these photographs. I was glued to the screen going through generations of photographs with links to the history of Zanzibar. It sent my mind rolling back to the 18th century down memory lane and wondered how much was then done that we have not recorded.

The dialogue section with the first subject of 'corporal punishment' in our schools will hopefully encourage our community intellectuals to discuss this sensitive but crucial subject. Let the community speak aloud on whether or not our schoolteachers are abusing our students. The quick links are useful and the graphics make the web page even more appealing.

Had the photographs not been archived I wonder if many of us would ever see these in our lifetime and I wonder how many of such photographs would be preserved for the posterity. The archiving of the photographs is a great step forward and I do hope the Web Team will continue increasing the number of archived photographs.

Congratulations to the Africa Federation web team for a job well done. Keep it up.

Sajida Mohamedali.
Dar-es-salaam.

would ask WF for reconciliation. I feel any organisation which has a right under the constitution to elect office bearers has a right to dismiss them. Again it is a constitutional matter as to who can apply directly for the membership of WF and what requirement such a member has to fulfil to gain acceptance.

I understand that democratically each member of a registered body should have a voice to air their views, but from this it does not naturally follow that the bigger the body, the bigger the problem and hence the greater the voice. I have my doubts on this so called logical exposition.

Baqir Hemraj,
UK.



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Chairman leads delegation to Mauritius, Madagascar and Kampala

... then visits Dar es Salam, Kampala and other jamaats



The Africa Federation Chairman, Zulfikarbhai Khimji delivering an official address during his extensive itinerary which has taken him to all jamaats in Africa.

The Chairman of the Africa Federation, Zulfikarbhai Khimji traveled with a delegation comprising of Mohamedraza Khamis (Vice Chairman of the Africa Federation), Dr. Ahmed Hassam (Vice President of the Word Federation), Shiraz Walji (President of Kampala Jamaat), Hussein Manji (Trustee, Mwanza Jamaat), Gulamabbas Khimji (Trustee of Nairobi Jaffery Sports Club) and Mehboob Nanji of Nairobi to Mauritius on 9th July 2003.

During his visit he met the managing committee of Mauritius Jamaat, the past and long-serving President, Alhaj Haiderali Pirbhai and the former Hon. Secretary Shabbir Rajani. During the Chairman's meeting with the managing committee, he gave a brief summary of the Africa Federation's activities and informed them that the Regional Council of Indian Ocean Islands is

now officially a member of the Africa Federation. This implied that Mauritius Jamaat can only be a member of the Africa Federation by virtue of being a member of the Regional Council. Mauritius Jamaat consented to become a member of the Regional Council.

The Chairman was disheartened to note that there are two jamaats in Mauritius for the past seven years. The Africa Federation offered its assistance in merging the two jamaats and an acceptable agreement was drawn for their joint running. The Chairman officially announced this during his address to the Mauritius Jamaat and the Federation also committed to obtaining a land for a Kabrastan in Mauritius with the assumption that the jamaats would operate as one entity.

The delegation departed Mauritius on 11th July 2003 for Madagascar

to attend the 25th General Assembly (Triennial Conference) of the Regional Council on 11th to 13th July 2003.

Madagascar

The Chairman and his delegation, also accompanied by Shabbir Rajani attended the triennial conference in Madagascar where Navazalybhai Molou was elected as the President of the Regional Council. At the meeting the delegation was honoured to meet the Presidents of all the 17 Jamaats of the Regional Council. They were also honoured to meet the incoming and outgoing office bearers of the Regional Council.

The Chairman of the Africa Federation also visited the newly established Africa Federation Secretariat office in Madagascar headed by the 2nd Vice Chairman of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Mohamedraza Khamis.

Visit to Jamaats

In Kampala, the office bearers had a dinner session with members of Kampala Jamaat on Saturday 28th June 2003 wherein the Africa Federation Chairman highlighted achievements during the present term and expressed profound gratitude for the jamaat's support. The office bearers also met the executive committee of the jamaat at a separate session which was held after the address to community members.

The office bearers satisfactorily concluded their visit by jointly investing in a property with Kampala Jamaat worth US\$ 1.6 million. The Africa Federation has put in a share of 25% worth of the property while Kampala Jamaat has put in a share of 75%. The income however, will be shared on a 50-50 basis. Funds coming to the Africa Federation will be specifically attributed to financing education within the community. The annual income of this property will be about US\$ 300,000.

The Chairman and his delegation

(continued on page 18...)

(...from page 17)

also visited Dar es Salaam, Nampula, Arusha, Moshi and Kigoma Jamaats in September this year.

During his address to most jamaats this year, he accentuated on the council's continuous efforts to boost education. At present 140 Federation loan students are pursuing studies around the world. He also spoke about how centralisation has boosted khums revenue while also explaining why the constitution had to be recently amended to allow better representation of the Regional Council in the affairs of the Africa Federation. He also spoke of how there has been fine progress towards documentation of properties and towards ensuring that these properties are efficiently rented out.

In his addresses, he encouraged community members to write out their wills and to hand over some of their properties to the jamaat for *sawab e jaariya* because after death only 33% of one's funds can be distributed as willed.

He also mentioned about the new Tabligh Board under which all Bilal institutions will operate and said that the Africa Federation is considering to have MAMAS as a separate Board under its wings.

He further stated that most of our Somalia brothers have now received a proper status thereby culminating years of hard work to resettle them. He called on the Somali brothers to work hard in their new working environment.

Over the past three years the Chairman with different members in his delegation have traveled exhaustively to visit each and every jamaat in Africa with an intention of consolidating links. The visits enabled the office bearers to get a first hand understanding of problems, issues and plans at each jamaat and the Federation has tried to address such issues after assessing their level of priority.

Nairobi Jaffery Education Board invites suggestions for proposed Jaffery college

Having successfully completed the construction of the Lunch Pavilion early this year, the Nairobi Jaffery Education Board (NJEB) has embarked on the construction of a nursery school and swimming pool expected to be completed by this year.

The Board is also actively contemplating the development of "The Jaffery College". It is envisaged that the proposed college will be able to offer recognized international degree programmes and professional courses locally by affiliating with universities in the United Kingdom, United States or Canada.

This is the first such project in East Africa and is meant to promote continuous education to degree level for our community students at a fraction of the cost in western countries.

The Board appreciates that the development of this institution requires a lot of input, knowledge and experience in areas concerning design of the buildings, the requisite facilities, courses and programmes, development of IT facilities for the college and for teaching material, administration, management, etc.

In an effort to ensure that the proposed institution rates amongst the best in the region, the NJEB requires to know how some of the existing institutions in Kenya and elsewhere approach and manage the task of institution building. A lot of work requires to be done to initiate and develop this institution.

It is in this regard that the NJEB has appealed to members of our community worldwide to come forth and offer their services by way of knowledge, experience, suggestions and contacts. Should one feel that one can contribute in any way possible, please feel free to contact the Board through:

E mail – eyestyle@iconnect.co.ke

Direct discussion with the NJEB member through the Hon. Secretary – Murtaza Somji on Tel Nos: 4445836 or 4448440 or by correspondence to Fax No: 4447200

In the near future the NJEB will be posting the proposed architectural plans on the notice board of the Nairobi Jamaat and will circulate this through the media network of the community. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Should any community member be interested in serving on the College Development Committee, the NJEB would be pleased to hear from him or her.

Mahomedraza Mohamedhassan Khamis is Vice Chairman of the Africa Federation



The Chairman of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Zulfikarbhai Khimji declared Alhaj Mahomedraza Mohamedhassan Khamis of Antananarivo, Madagascar as the vice chairman of the Africa Federation from the Indian Ocean Islands for the remaining term of office.

Alhaj Ramzanali Mulla Nanji of Nairobi continues as the Vice Chairman from Africa mainland.

This is further to the amendments made to the constitution of the Africa Federation at the Extra-Ordinary Conference held in Mombasa, Kenya on Friday 18th April 2003, whereby Article 15 a. and b. of the constitution allows a vice chairman from the Regional Council to be appointed under the rules of the Regional Council.

We congratulate Alhaj Mahomedraza Mohamedhassan Khamis on his appointment and wish him good luck in his new portfolio.

This is the first time in the history of the the Africa Federation that the position of vice chairman is being held by somebody from Madagascar. The change in the constitution will in future allow more representation of members from the Regional Council in the affairs of the Africa Federation.

Nairobi to host International Marriage Forum

The Africa Federation will be hosting an International Marriage Forum to be held in Nairobi from 25th to 29th December 2003 to coincide with the Sports Festival, where participation of our youths from all over the world will enable them to interact with one another.

The Secretariat of Africa Federation has extended invitation to all jamaats within Africa and all over the world to participate in this Forum. Jamaats have also been requested to send representatives of their matrimonial committees to participate in the Forum.

During the International Marriage Forum the major theme will be "Spouse Selection" and will cover the following sub-themes:

- The issue of 'compatibility' in marriage: education, family, akhlaq, culture and finance
- Are marriages made in heaven?
- Resolving the issue of mixed marriages.
- Marriage- a long-term investment.
- Different shades of the relationship over time: the issue of 'faith, trust, tolerance and commitment'.

The programme will be conducted in the evenings after Maghrebain prayers from 25th to 29 December 2003. All participants of the Africa Federation sports festival, in particular the youths, will be invited to participate.

A variety of approaches and methods will be used to conduct the programme and initiate discussion, involvement and participation from the youths.

These will include:

- Talk-shows with experts.
- Quizzes involving participants/audience, followed by discussions.
- PowerPoint presentations.
- Audio visual clips of situations (real life or fictitious), clips from appropriate dramas, followed by discussions.
- "Experts" will be invited to coordinate and contribute to activities, they will include prominent community members/social workers and individuals working with the youth.
- Subject to time, the possibility of small-group discussions or 'counselling sessions' will be considered.

Questionnaires and surveys will be distributed and these will be aimed at identifying areas of interest and potential conflict in youth, and providing information for future activities.

This is the first time for a Marriage Forum to be held during a Sports Festival and considering that so many youths will be congregating in Nairobi, one expects that the Marriage Forum will draw fine participation.

Africa Federation launches newly designed web site

The Africa Federation Web team has launched a newly designed web site that is more user-friendly to surfers. The site was launched with two new subjects on the dialogue section and now also hosts many archived photographs dating back to decades.

The site has a spate of other information including an online Shi'te Encyclopedia plus the contemporary rulings of Ayatullah Seestani. Information from the previous site has more or less been all maintained.

On the new site, a separate icon has been created for the Education Board (EBS) that facilitates the downloading of loan and guarantee forms and surfers are updated with Muslim world news by the minute through catchy headlines.

Islamic resources on the site include the Holy Quran, the Nahj ul Balgha, As-Sahifa al-Kamilah Al-Sajjadiya, the books 'Then I was Guided' and 'Peshawar Nights' plus a detailed account of the significance of Hajj.

Community news, death announcements, weekly thoughts, audio archives of recent council meetings and circulars from the Africa Federation are all available online.

The *Federation Samachar* can also be read online with a facility to download issues through the Acrobat Reader software which is provided free of charge on the site for surfers who don't have this software.

The Africa Web Team consists of three members, Munir Daya (Web Manager), Amirali Virjee (Web Designer) and Fatima Patel (Coordinator of inputs).

Federation Samachar

Amir Virjee migrates to Toronto



The Africa Federation Website Designer, Amirali Shams Virjee departed for Canada in September this year but will continue to work with the Web Team and in the Editorial Board of the *Federation Samachar* when in Toronto.

Bidding him farewell at the Supreme Council office, the *Federation Samachar* Editor and Africa Federation Website Manager, Munir Daya thanked him for his devoted service. Only 48 hours prior to his departure Amirali was still giving final touches to the newly designed Africa Federation Website.

Amir holds an Advance Diploma in IT and after having worked for two top IT Companies he set up his own business involving website development/hosting, consultancy services and online/offline marketing. He expects to continue working in this field when in Toronto.

Those wishing to obtain regular circulars can register their names on the site. Currently the Council's mailing list consists of many members who are regularly updated with circulars, news etc. At the time we went to press the site had retrospectively drawn over 28000 visits from surfers.

The newly designed web site also offers companies online advertising for as low as \$10 per month.

Community members are invited to visit the Africa federation website on <http://www.africa-federation.org>.

At community level he hosted a website for the Dar es Salaam Jamaat and was initially involved with the Tabligh website. He briefly also served as head of the Employment section of the Ithna Asheri Union of Dar es Salaam Jamaat.

During the past two Council sessions Amir ensured the sessions were relayed almost live to the world. For the first time in the history of the Africa Federation, council meeting sessions were relayed live beginning from 2001.

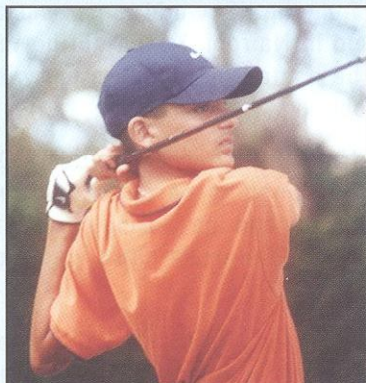
Prior to leaving, Amir said he felt privileged to be able to continue working with the website even when in Toronto. He is also expected to look into consolidating the North American edition of the *Federation Samachar* through joint meetings to be held in Toronto in early November with the Editor, Munir Daya and other members of the North American team.

Zanzibar musafarkhana renovated

The Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Hujjatul Islam Jamaat of Zanzibar has completed renovations to the musafarkhana. This now offers comfortable and necessary services at an economical rate.

Members of the community visiting Zanzibar are invited to utilise this facility which is ideally located near the mosque.

Sarfaraz Daya notches hole-in-one



Sarfaraz Daya (16) of Dar es Salaam scored a rare hole in one feat in September, 2003 at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club. Using a four-iron club he played the 'hole in one' on a par 3 sixth hole of the Gymkhana Golf course that is considered to be the most difficult hole on the Gymkhana course.

Sarfaraz, who plays at one handicap, was excited about the achievement but said that his main objective is to play at zero handicap. He said this would require a special effort because he is pursuing IB studies at the International School and only plays golf part time.

Sarfaraz represented Tanzania in the Junior World Golf Cup in Edinburgh, Scotland last year where he was further inspired seeing Tiger Woods play in the British Open Championship.

He has over thirty trophies to his collection and last year was declared the golfer of the year by the Gymkhana Club.

Sarfaraz looks forward to playing in the Karibu Sports Festival in Nairobi in December this year on a course that, unlike Dar es Salaam, has greens. Considering his single handicap, he said he could practically only go for the gross prize, if there is one. Nevertheless he said he would love to participate simply for the fun of it so as to meet other community golfers.

Federation Samachar

Gulammehdi Datoos honoured



Gulammehdi Mohamedali Datoos (70) a renowned banker born in Tanga, has been honoured for his long services to the Standard Chartered Bank.

He pursued a successful career in banking having joined the Standard Chartered Bank of South Africa Ltd (Tanga) in September 1949.

The name of the bank was later changed to Standard Bank Ltd. He climbed the corporate ladder gradually to achieve the post of accountant. By that time the bank was nationalized and called the National Bank of Commerce (NBC).

He was later transferred to the NBC Bank House Branch in Dar-es-Salaam to serve as Assistant Manager.

He reached the peak of his career when he was appointed Branch

Manager of NBC Bank House Branch. He held this post until his retirement in January 1987 at the age of 56.

The NBC previously employed a number of Tanzanians of Asian origin but according to local press reports Gulammehdi bhai Datoos was the last Asian working for the NBC at the time of his retirement in 1987.

During a special occasion to mark the 150 years of existence of the Standard Chartered Bank which was graced by the presence of the Tanzania Deputy Minister of Finance, Honourable Abisalaam Issa Khatib and the Bank's Chief Executive Officer, Stanley Tsikivayi, Gulambhai was honoured and presented with a colour TV set in appreciation of his long and devoted service.

After a life-long service one purpose supersedes that of accumulating wealth. That is the satisfaction of having worked sincerely in one's life time. The honour bestowed on Gulambhai speaks on the integrity of the person who despite having held crucial positions was never lured towards ill-gotten wealth.

CONGRATULATIONS



Mazaher Hassan Jaffer (20) has achieved excellent results in both his O levels and A levels. He got 8

A's in O levels and 4 A's in A levels (G.C.E.- UK). He is now proceeding to Medical School.

Great results. We invite other students with very good results to send us their photographs and actual results for publication in future issues of the *Federation Samachar*.

Good results by some students often provide an inspiration to other students to also perform well.

Central Bilal Board formed in Arusha Tabligh meeting

The 61st Session of the Supreme Council in Mombasa, Kenya in April 2003 passed a resolution giving mandate to a sub-committee to:

- a) Formulate the Terms of Reference of the Tabligh Board of Africa Federation; and
- b) Deliberate on the year 2003 Tabligh Board report of the Africa Federation and add, amend and/or delete part or the whole of the said Tabligh report

The Tabligh Board committee held its meeting in Arusha from Friday 20th to Saturday 21st June 2003, warmly hosted by the Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat of Arusha.

The session was attended by representatives of constituent Jamaats of the Africa Federation, Bilal Muslim Missions of Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar and the Tabligh Board of the Africa Federation.

The meeting charted out a clear future for tabligh both inside and outside the community. During the meeting, it was resolved to create a Central Bilal Board to deal with external tabligh activities, under which all the Regional Bilal Boards would fall. The Tabligh Board was retained with renewed terms of reference to carry out tabligh activities within the community.

Amendments were made to the Tabligh Board report submitted in April 2003 and the report was then adopted.

The make-up of the Central Bilal Board along with names of representatives from the Regional Bilal Muslim Missions are outlined on the Election Round-up pages of this issue.

Federation Samachar

Nairobi to host Karibu Sports Festival

The organizing committee of the Africa Federation 10th Sports Festival has extended invitations to all jamaats from the KSI world to participate in the Karibu Sports Festival to be held in Nairobi, Kenya during the Christmas holidays. The festival will be hosted in collaboration with Dar-es-Salaam, Madagascar and Nairobi.

It is proposed to have the festival from the 22nd December 2003 through to the 31st December 2003. The opening ceremony will be held on the 21st December 2003 after maghrib and the closing ceremony on the 31st of December, also after maghrib. The exact dates were not available at the time we went to press

During this festival, the sports to be organized will be cricket, boules (to be introduced this year with the help of Madagascar Jamaat), soccer, table tennis, volleyball, squash, swimming, tennis and golf. While there will be restrictions on the maximum number on players allowed per team, events like tennis, squash, golf and swimming will be allowed to register additional participants, who will be slotted in individual competitions. Depending on the response, the organising committee also intends to have some activities for ladies.

The organising committee is proposing to avail playing kits and tracksuits to all participants. These kits will be handed over to the respective teams upon their arrival.

The charge for each participant for this festival will be:

Participation	- US\$ 100.00
Kit	- US\$ 50.00
Insurance	- US\$ 15.00

There will be an additional US\$100 charge for golfers. Therefore for each participant the cost will be US\$ 165.00. For golfers the cost will be US\$ 265.00 each.

The facilities will include:

- Transfer to and from the airport or bus station (whichever is applicable) to residence.
- Accommodation during the tenure of the festival
- Meals during the tenure of the festival
- Transfer from residence to the sporting venues and back.
- Playing kit (clothing only) for respective sports
- Personal injury Insurance.

Every participating jamaat shall be required to have their team list duly endorsed in form of an official rubber stamp or seal with office bearers signature over it confirming that the participants are recognized by the respective jamaats as Shia Ithna Asheries and members of their jamaat. Any discrepancy in this respect shall be handled by the disputes committee of the festival.

Participants wishing to make alternative arrangements need to make their request which will be looked into by the organising committee. The cost for alternative arrangements shall be borne by the individual and this will not absolve any participant from being levied the stipulated participation charges.

The sports festival organising committee can be contacted on:

karibu@afedsportsfestival.com and Website: www.afedsportsfestival.com

The Education Board catalyses academic progress

The Education Board of the Africa Federation (EBS) operating from the Jaffery Institute of Professional Studies (JIPS) premises in Mombasa is still essentially involved in the vetting of loan applications and approval of education loans for deserving students aspiring to go for further education abroad.

The EBS together with constituent jamats also declare the "Student of the Year" award. This year there were two further awards, the MGN loan scheme of Sterling pounds 10000 for three years awarded to three students and the Academic Excellence Loan Awards, also for Sterling 10,000 awarded to three students, for a period of three years. The Academic Excellence awards were jointly funded by the World and Africa Federation.

In the year 2000/1 there were 25 loans taken up. In the year 2001/2 there were 33 loans taken up. In the year 2002/3 there were 56 loans taken up. For this year the EBS also received many loan applications and currently over 140 students are pursuing Degree Courses around the world through loans facilitated by the Africa Federation. This will require financing to the tune of USD 390,972.00 for this year. Together with the ongoing loans, and the provision of US\$ 30,000 for vocational training, the expense forecasted this year is USD 740,000 inclusive of 50% to be contributed by respective jamaats. The World Federation's involvement against the Academic Excellence loans is Sterling pounds 45,000.

The Africa Federation policy is to

ensure that all students, both boys and girls, get an equal opportunity to be able to access higher and further education. The maximum ceiling for loans is USD 7500.00 for students going to overseas universities, which would work to approximately 50-60% of the fees. Full assistance is provided to students going to local universities.

The loan forms have been modified slightly to include more information to assist the jamats to better assess an applicant's details and from this year the pre-loan system has been replaced with only one loan form. Forms can be downloaded from the Africa Federation Website.

The Board has put particular emphasis on vocational training for students and adults so that they can build up their career prospects and living standards.

On its part, the Africa Federation has offered a free scholarships for any deserving student who would like to study Islamic theology at a reputable institution.

When seeking to pursue further education, students are being advised to carefully appraise the high cost of education overseas and to first consider local and regional colleges. Presently our students are spread all over the world from Australia, South Africa, Malaysia to the United States.

Among the recent activities promoted by the Education Board were Career Teacher Training courses held at all the four schools, with Brother Aliasghar Sheriff and his team of career consultants running a seminar on careers and accelerated learning methods.

Teachers from all our schools attended this seminar. The over all cost of the programme facilitated by the Africa Federation cost just under Sterling pounds 6000.

Later Nisar Sherali and his team came from Canada to conduct teacher training courses at our madressa and schools at the four centers. As a result of the visit a Book drive was conducted by Toronto Jamaat and they sent one container of used books, which was shared between the Mombasa Jaffery Academy and Bilal schools.

Meanwhile the Education Board continues to have a school's discussion e-group to discuss educational issues while a Student Tracker Data base has been developed to store all students' files and records.

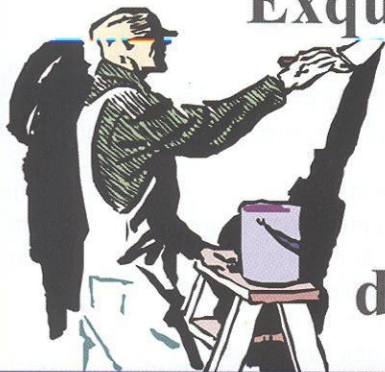
The Education Board has meanwhile strongly emphasised that the education representatives of jamaats should be proactive to aggressively promote education activities in their own jamats with full assistance from the EBS and in turn advise the EBS on the problems faced by their jamaats.

The EBS immediate plan of action is:

1. Be more proactive – newsletters/ publicity;
2. Further promote VT;
3. Ensure each student leaving school is encouraged to pursue further education;
4. To prepare a proposal on education insurance;
5. To build a data base of information on local and regional institutions and to then distribute this information to all jamaats;
6. School Inspections.

The role of the Education Board with regard to schools as per

(continued on page 25)



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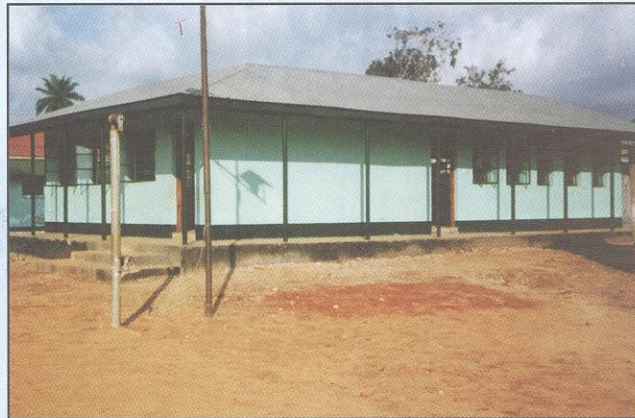
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(...from page 23)

the terms of reference provided two years ago at the June 2001 meeting in Dar es salaam make the Board an executor/implementor and also a policy maker with regard to educational issues in our schools. The terms of reference indicate that the Education Board should act to promote career education, school inspections, inter-school meetings and to enhance cooperation between schools among other issues. The schools continue to operate under each jamaat.

With more students being facilitated with loans, with more emphasis being provided on education in our schools, with JIPS doing well and with a nursery school being opened in Tanga along with the Jaffery English Medium Primary School in Bukoba, the course is all set to consolidate the education infrastructure within the community.

The launching of MAMAS will meanwhile help towards reducing the financial plight of those who cannot afford basic education in our schools.



The Jaffery English Medium Primary School in Bukoba



The Africa Federation Chairman, Zulfikarbhai Khimji visited the Bukoba School in September this year. Pictured in the front row from left to right, Jafferbhai Visram (Jamaat Chairman), Zulfikarbhai Khimji and Rustambhai Moledina (Jamaat Vice Chairman). Back row from left to right, Gulambhai Ladha (Education Board Chairman), Mohamedbhai Ramji (Board Member) and Liyakatbhai Fazal (Hon. Secretary).

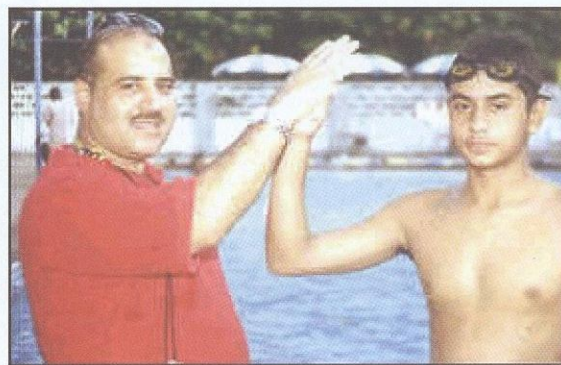
Jiwa Excels

International swimmer Mohammed ali Jiwa won four titles during the well organised Mombasa Open swimming gala which attracted over 700 swimmers at Fort Jesus earlier this year.

Jiwa who is the Kenya Open short and long course champion is a student at Mombasa Academy and is considered to be one of the best long distance swimmers Kenya has ever produced.

The soft spoken student started his title hunt in the gala by winning the boys open race which covered two lengths.

Federation Samachar

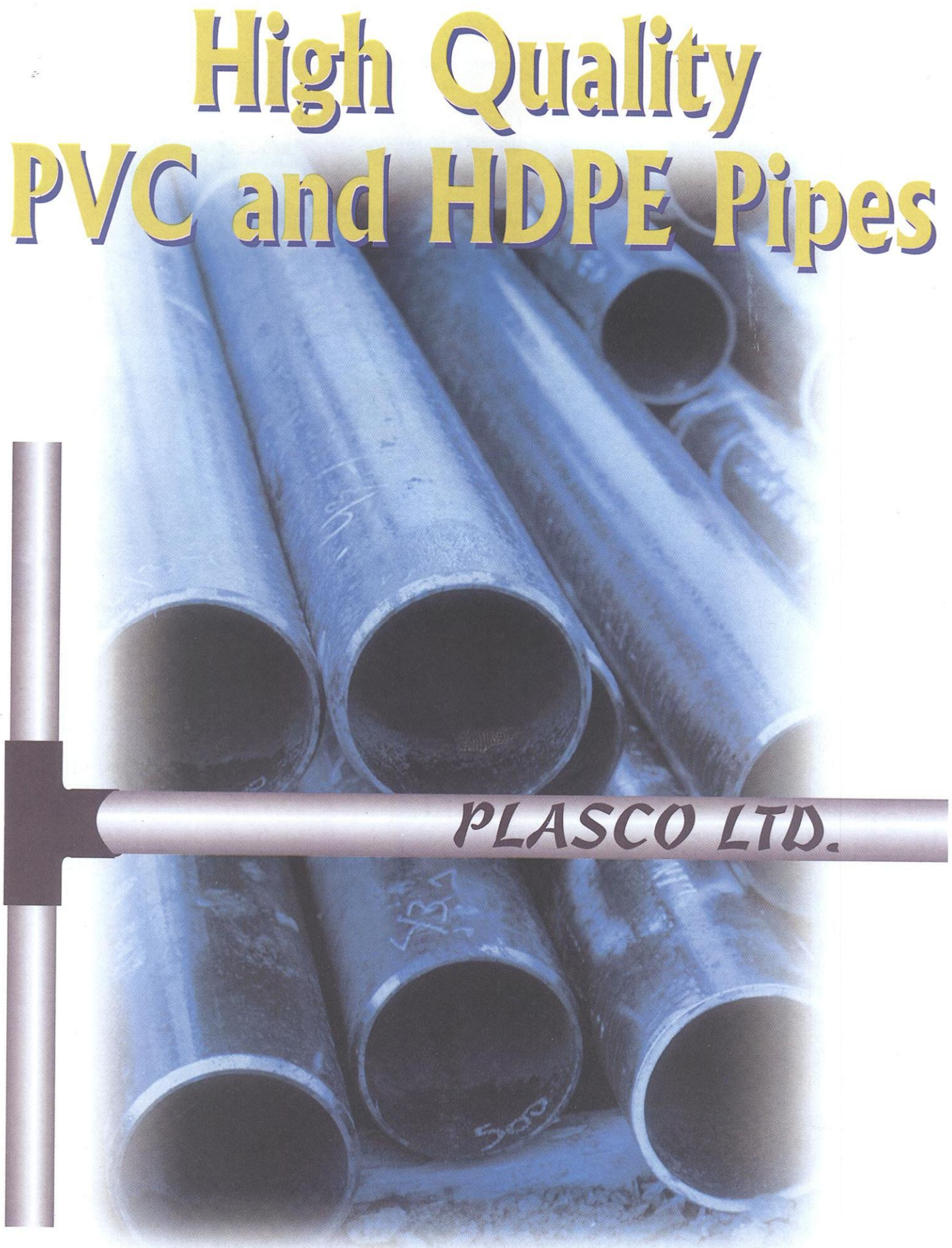


Mohammedali Jiwa with his coach. Mohamed was declared the best swimmer during the Mombasa Open Sea Water Swimming Gala sponsored by the Red Bull Energy Drink at Fort Jesus.

He went ahead to win the 11-15 years event of one length before winning the Open Relay where he steered his team to victory. Jiwa bagged the fourth title when he was adjudged the best swimmer of the championship.

He was on course of winning the Open butterfly event but he says he was pulled back by a swimmer while swimming. Jiwa has represented Kenya overseas in both the junior and senior teams.

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Jaffery youngsters lead way in hunger charity walk

A noble, kind and humanitarian gesture was extended to the less fortunate members of the public by the Jaffery Academy primary boys who successfully completed a 25km charity walk.

This time round the school was represented by 20 strong primary boys who braved the hot weather to complete the 25Km walk, which was flagged off by the Mombasa District Commissioner, Hon. Mr. John Egessa.

More than 30 schools, including both primary and secondary schools, participated along with members of other public institutions and private company representatives.

True to the Jaffery spirit, all their boys finished the walk. Jaffery also had three youngest participants among the top six who finished the walk.

Before reading the President's speech, the District Commissioner who was also among the walkers, highly praised the three young walkers from Jaffery Academy and even mentioned their names in his speech.

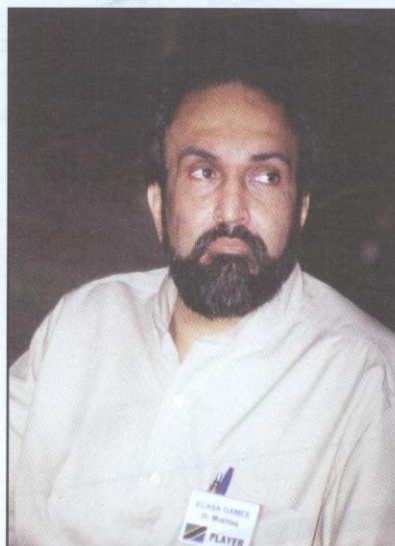
The three trophies given out for the top youngest walkers were all scooped by the Jaffery boys. Abdul Rasul Kassamali 4B, Murtaza Bhujwalla 4B and Ismail Rashid 4B were each awarded trophies for being the youngest walkers among the top ten finishers.

Ten other Jaffery boys were awarded tokens of appreciation by the District Commissioner for being among the top finishers. Surely the Jaffery boys went for the walk with one clear objective - *to walk with a high spirit for the less fortunate.*

Federation Samachar

Dr. Mushtaq Esmail qualifies for World Scrabble Event

Dar es Salaam scrabbler, Dr. Mushtaq Esmail (46) of Dar es Salaam has qualified to represent Tanzania in this year's World Scrabble Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 19th to 25th October, 2003. The Dar es Salaam-based medical doctor won the right to represent Tanzania after winning two of the three qualifiers held in the city.



The Tanzania Scrabble Players Association said that Esmail will be the second Tanzanian to compete at the world championship after the country last participated in the 2001 event in the American city of Las Vegas.

Esmail's qualification for the Kuala Lumpur championship is a pride to the community and should provide an inspiration for more community youths to play this intellectual game. Scrabble is a game that girls and women of our community can

also actively participate in.

The Kuala Lumpur championship will be a 24-round modified Swiss tournament with the top two players contesting a five-game final. Official Scrabble Words International, Webster's 10th and Chambers dictionaries will be used for adjudication of words comprising more than nine letters. Competitors will be penalised five points for each challenged word found to be in the dictionary.

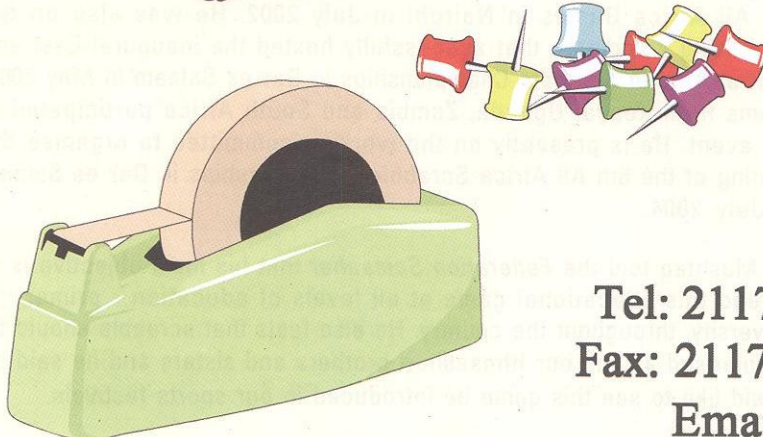
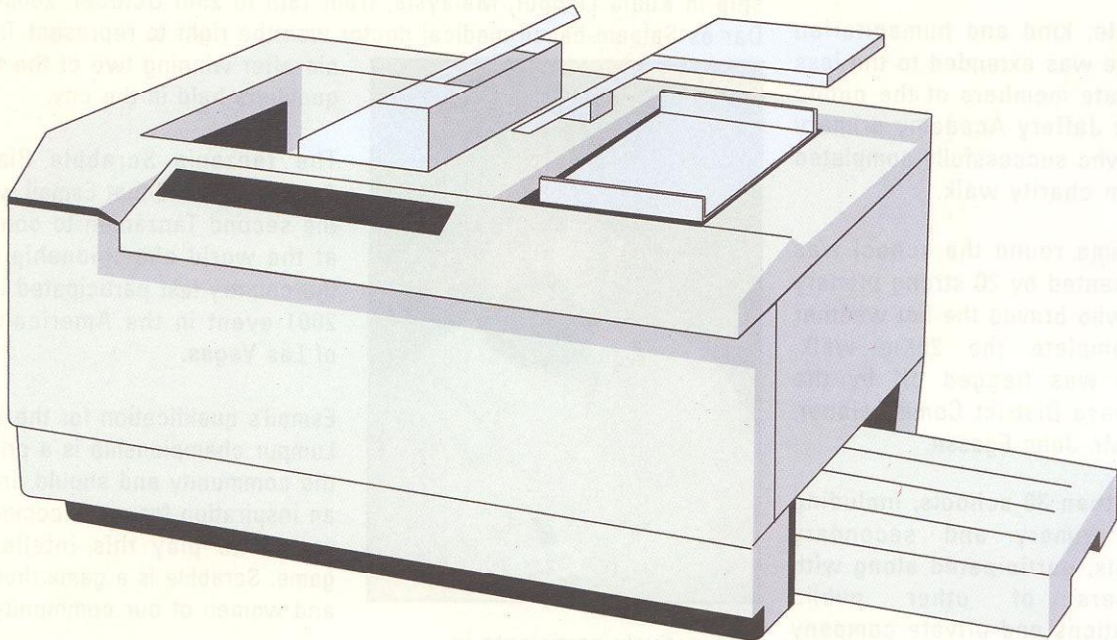
Born in Singida, Dr. Mushtaq pursued his secondary education at the Shabaan Robert School in Dar es Salaam and is now a General Practitioner at the Zainabiya Clinic in Dar es Salaam. He qualified as a doctor in India where at university he attained the M.B., B. S at Jabalpur Medical College, Jabalpur, M.P. India. He is married and has two boys.

He started playing competitive scrabble two years ago. He is the Vice Chairman of TASPAA (Tanzania Scrabble Players Association) and is the current Tanzanian Scrabble Champion. As an official of TASPAA he was instrumental in sending the Tanzania Scrabble team to participate in the All Africa Games in Nairobi in July 2002. He was also on the organising committee that successfully hosted the inaugural East and Central African Scrabble Championships in Dar es Salaam in May 2003. Teams from Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and South Africa participated in the event. He is presently on the working committee to organise the hosting of the 6th All Africa Scrabble Championships in Dar es Salaam in July 2004.

Dr. Mushtaq told the *Federation Samachar* that his main objective is to spread this educational game at all levels of education - primary to university, throughout the country. He also feels that scrabble should be popularised among our Ithnaasheri brothers and sisters and he said he would like to see this game be introduced in our sports festivals.

We wish him good luck in the championship.

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Alijawad Hasham and Taveer-e-Fatema declared best students of 2002

The Africa Federation received twenty three nominations for the Best Student (Male/Female) Award from respective Jamaats and after close scrutiny on the set criteria of selection, the awards went to:

Alijawad M. Hasham
of Dar es Salaam
and

Tanveer-e-Fatema M. Panju
of Mombasa.

The runners up were:

1st Runner up (Boys)

Hassanali Kassam of Mombasa

1st Runner up (Girls)

Adila Moloo of Nairobi

On behalf of the Chairman of Africa Federation, Alhaj Zulfikar Khimji and his office bearers and on behalf of the Chairman of Education Board Alhaj Iqbal Sunderji and his Board members we take this opportunity to congratulate all the students who participated.

Special felicitations go to the winners and their parents for their outstanding achievement. May Allah (s.w.t.) grant them every success in their future endeavours, Amen.

The points system for selection of the Best Student Award is as follows:

Academic Performance:

50 Points

Madressa/Religious:

20 Points

Extra Curricular Activity:

20 Points

Sporting Activity:

10 Points

Federation Samachar

Mombasa Jafferys visit Tanga for sports exchange



The Hyderys Tanga Youth Football team at the Popatlal Ground in Tanga.



The Mombasa Jaffery Sports Club Youth Football team at the Popatlal Ground in Tanga

A group of 26 youths from Mombasa visited Tanga between 31st May and 2nd June, 2003 to play the hosts, Hyderys Tanga in volleyball, cricket, football and table-tennis.

In the first soccer encounter between both the junior teams, Hyderys Tanga beat Jaffery Mombasa by 5-2. In the second encounter Hyderys won by 3-2.

The cricket encounter was cancelled due to rain while in table tennis Hyderys beat their Mombasa counterparts 6-2.

In volleyball, Hyderys won 2-1 in a well contested game wherein the Tanga team donned T Shirts donated by Husseinali M.Y. Dhirani. After the encounter, the Mombasa Jaffery Vice Chairman, Zuhair Kanji presented a token of appreciation to the Sports Secretary of Hyderys, Mustafa Kara.

Hyderys were excellent hosts, catering for the visitors throughout the stay. Prior to the departure of Jafferys, the Hyderys committee along with the cricket committee had a joint meeting with Zuhair Kanji of Mombasa Jafferys at the Hyderys Volleyball Ground to discuss cricket net practices for the development of youths and to uplift the standard of cricket in Tanga.



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Mombasa hosts 61st Supreme Council Session

The 61st Supreme Council Session was hosted by Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Mombasa from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th April 2003 at the Mullah Asgar Memorial Hall.

This Session was attended by councilors, delegates and invitees from constituent jamaats in Africa which included Arusha, Bukoba, Dar-es-Salaam, Kampala, Kinshasha, Madagascar, Maputo, Mombasa, Moshi, Mwanza, Nairobi, Nakuru, Nampula, Tanga. From overseas, delegates from UK and Dubai were in attendance. The World Federation was represented by its Vice Chairman Dr. Ahmed Hassam. The Regional Council delegation was led by their Chairman, Alhaj Moejiz Khamis.

The session gave an opportunity of extending brotherhood between the participants who had congregated for this meeting.

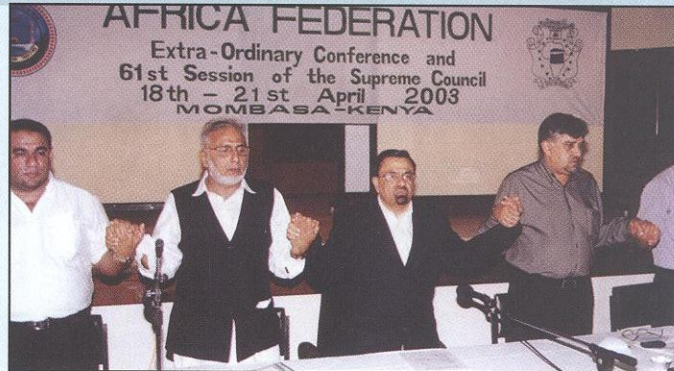
Proceedings began on Friday afternoon 18th April 2003 with the Extra-Ordinary Conference whereby the proposed amendments by the Council Regional of Indian Ocean Islands to include them as official members of the Supreme Council were adopted.

During the course of the day the office bearers held meetings with all Boards and in the afternoon the Education Board had its meeting and the Africa Federation Qur'an Competition was held.

OPENING NIGHT

Proceedings of the opening night began with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an and Dua-e-Wahdat followed by a welcome address by the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Alhaj Sibtain Sadak who welcomed all participants to Mombasa and

Federation Samachar



The head table during recitation of dua -e-wahdat on the opening night of the session.



Sajjad Gulamhusein being awarded the Sportsman of the Year Award by the Africa Federation Chairman, Zulfikarbhai Khimji

wished the session successful deliberations.

Alhaj Mohamed Hemani, Chairman of Mombasa Jamaat then formally welcomed all to Mombasa.

He talked on the difficult times experienced by Muslims in the world especially in Iraq and prayed for the ordeal to come to an early end. He also prayed for the safety of our Marja and all Mumineen in Iraq and remembered fellow Muslims brothers in Gujarat, Kashmir and Palestine.

He said that the peaceful elections in Kenya showed that it is a mature and peaceful nation and hoped this would be an example to many States in Africa and the world and that the rest of the countries in Africa, will be blessed with similar peaceful developments.

He ended with prayers to Allah

(s.w.t.) in His Mercy to grant knowledge, understanding and wisdom to the congregation for it to conduct affairs in a spirit of utmost harmony, co-operation, mutual respect, love and unity.

He then requested Alhaj Zulfikar Khimji, Chairman of the Africa Federation to present plaques of appreciation to some members of Mombasa Jamaat for their selfless and dedicated services and support over the last three years since he was elected as Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

In his keynote address the Chairman, Alhaj Zulfikar Khimji welcomed and thanked all the participants present and first remembered prominent members of the community who passed away during the year.

(continued on page 33)



A delegation from Mozambique was also present for the session

(...from page 31)

He paid special tribute to Hujjatul Islam Sayyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi who will be remembered for his unflinching devotion to the work of Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania. He also prayed for the safety of the Muslim Umma all over the world and particularly our Marja and the mumineen in Iraq and for the safety for our Holy Shrines in Karbala and Najaf.

The Chairman once again stressed on the need for unity within the community and co-operation amongst all our Jamaats, sister Federation and other institutions in the services of our community in Africa and the world at large.

He enumerated on the following points:

- The entry of the Regional Council as a full member of the Africa Federation.
- *Huqooq* Collection has increased satisfactorily and he requested all jamaats to encourage their members to continue channeling their *huqooq* funds through the Africa Federation. As a result of good collections, the Africa Federation was able to increase the financial assistance towards tabligh, education and other needs.
- Higher Education: 90 education scholarship loans were granted during the past two years in line with the Federation's declared

path of making this term as a "Term of Education". However the Chairman observed that our community is still at critical cross-roads in regard to education. He emphasised the Africa Federation's absolute commitment towards this goal and appealed to parents to encourage all their sons and daughters to pursue higher education.

- Our brothers from Somalia have been granted residential status and work permits in Tanzania.
- Financial assistance for medical insurance and for critical illnesses has been extended to certain jamaats
- Formalisation of property documents in Tanzania and lease documents with revised and increased rental income in Dar-es-Salaam have been finalised. The same has been initiated in Kampala, Uganda. This has helped increase the Council's rental revenue.
- A comprehensive "Will" (*Wasiyat*) document with guidance and provisions has been published. This document incorporates the mention of our jamaats and institutions, should one decide to endow out of his/her one-third portion.
- To create unity and enhance public relations, the office bearers visited over 90% of our member jamaats in Africa and many jamaats out of Africa.

• He outlined the achievements of the Boards during the past one year and gave details on the formation of the Strategic Planning Committee which he referred to as the "Guide-Beacon" of our community affairs. He requested jamaats to give them support and co-operation to undertake their task which is presently to compile a data base of the community in Africa. This will assist them to chart out a road map for the Federation and to inform the community on how to implement plans for our future progress which entail three new policies adopted by the office bearers which are: 'Education', 'Economic Upliftment' and 'How to make our institutions stronger'. This committee under the chairmanship of Abbas Jessa, will also look into reviewing the constitution of the Africa Federation.

The Chairman ended by appealing to jamaat chairmen, councillors and delegates to prepare a candidate for the chairmanship who would take over the reins of the Africa Federation next year.

ADDRESS BY OVERSEAS DIGNITARIES

The Session was also addressed by

- * Alhaj Moajiz Khamis, Chairman of the Regional Council,
- * Alhaj Dr. Ahmed Hassam, Vice Chairman of the World Federation,
- * Alhaj Yusuf Nurmohamed Chairman of the Nampula (Mozambique) Jamaat,
- * Alhaj Saeed Vazir of Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo),
- * Alhaj Masum Somji of Dubai, Vice President, JIBA International.

PRESENTATIONS


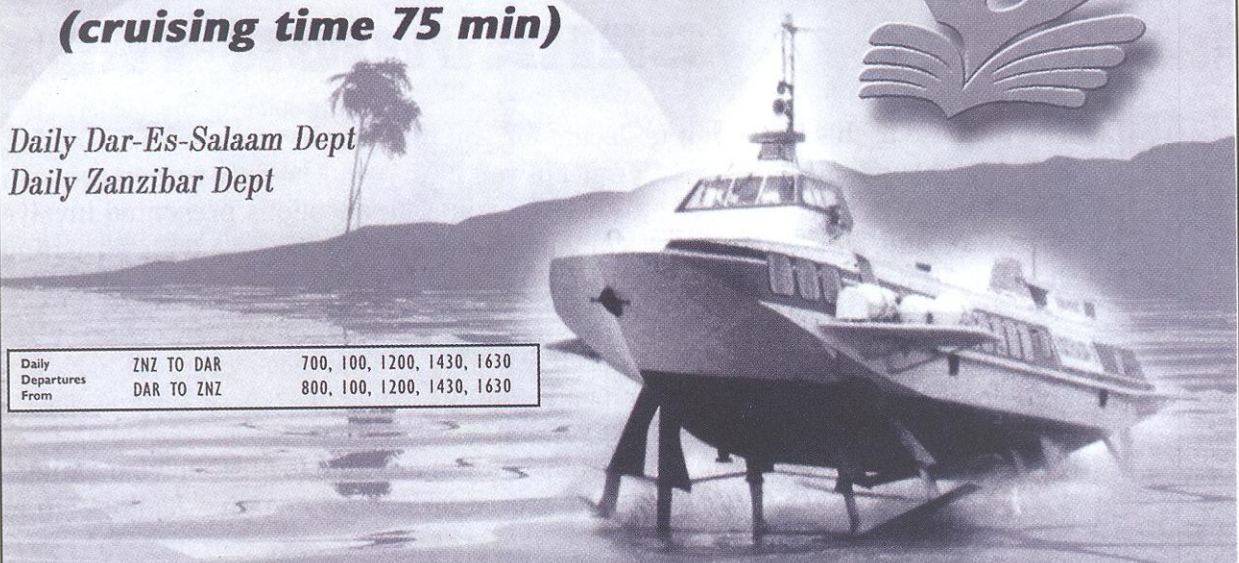
On behalf of the Tabligh Board of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Shabbir Janmohamed, Secretary of the Tabligh Board announced the winners of the Africa Federation

(continued on page 35)

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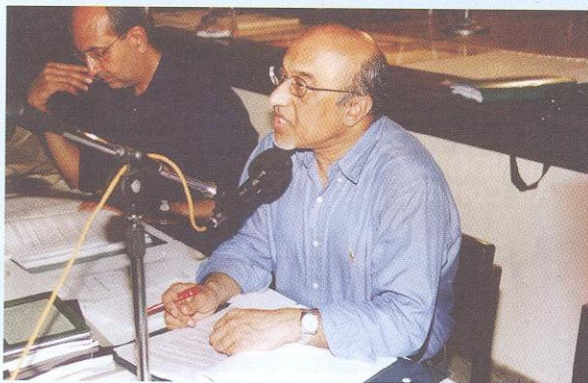
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Maulanas graced the opening night of the session.



Dr. Hassam of the World Federation addressing the session.

(...from page 33)

Qur'an Competition which was contested by 14 participants from seven jamaats. The winners were Mohamed Hirji of Mwanza and Zahra Nagri of Dar es Salaam.

Alhaj Amir Somji, Chairman of the Sports Council then took the opportunity to announce the Sportsman of the year Award 2002 to Br. Sajjad Gulamhussein of Mombasa.

BOARD REPORTS

Reports of the Boards were presented by the following

- Central Health Board – Safdar Jaffer,
 - *Federation Samachar* – Munir Daya,
 - Sports Council – Amir Somji,
 - Setwel Board – Azim Dewji,
 - Strategic Planning – Abbas Jessa,
 - Tabligh Board – Mohamedarif Suleiman,
 - Regional Council and Madagascar Bilal – Roshan Jamil,
- Federation Samachar*

- Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania
- Pyarali Shivji,

- Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya –
Abbas Nasser,

- CRC Report of the World
Federation – Amir Somji,

- Africa Federation Youth Network
- Nishathussein Karim.

During the Board Presentations two sports members were awarded special recognition for representing the community in the World Cup. Aasif Karim was recognised for representing Kenya in the Cricket World Cup in South Africa and Sarfaraz Daya was recognised for participating in the Junior World Cup in Edinburgh, Scotland last year.

YOUTH CONFERENCE

Following the successful Youth Conference at the 60th Session in Arusha, a second session was organised to coincide with the 61st Session. The session came up with a resolution adopting the Youth Board under the Africa Federation. This resolution was unanimously adopted and Br. Murtaza Bhalloo of Dar-es-Salaam was appointed as

its Chairman.

RESOLUTION

The resolution proposed by the Education Board on Education Loans was adopted with slight amendments and reads:

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROCEDURE OUTLINED IN FURTHER DETAIL IN THE AFRICA FEDERATION STUDENT LOAN APPROVAL, DISBURSEMENTS AND RECOVERY POLICY IS HEREBY APPLICABLE AND BINDING UPON ALL MEMBER JAMAATS IN RESPECT OF THE STUDENT HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN SCHEME AS FURTHER SET OUT IN THAT POLICY."

SCHOLARSHIP PLEDGE

During the presentation of the Tabligh Report, the Chairman of the Africa Federation announced one scholarship to any student intending to pursue Islamic Religious Education.

TABLIGH REPORT

During the deliberation of the Tabligh Report of the Africa Federation, the Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat moved a resolution which was adopted after discussions with slight amendments which read:

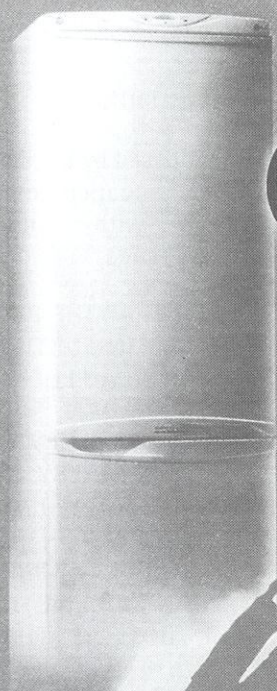
"THE COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES TO GIVE MANDATE TO A SUB-COMMITTEE WHICH MANDATE SHALL BE BINDING ON THE COUNCIL TO:

a. FORMULATE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TABLIGH BOARD OF THE AFRICA FEDERATION

b. DELIBERATE ON THE YEAR 2003 TABLIGH REPORT OF THE AFRICA FEDERATION AND ADD, AMEND OR DELETE PART OR THE WHOLE OF THIS SAID TABLIGH REPORT.

THE ABOVE SHALL BE FINALISED BY 30TH JUNE 2003.

(continued on page 37)

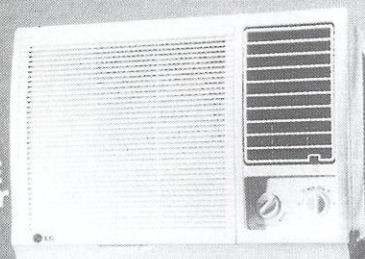


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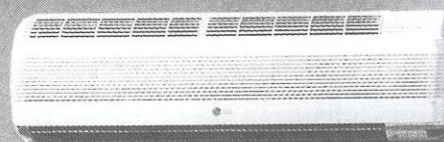


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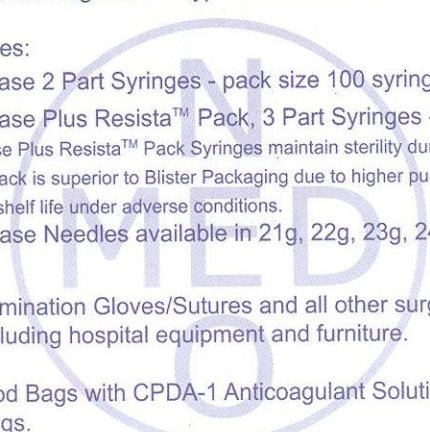


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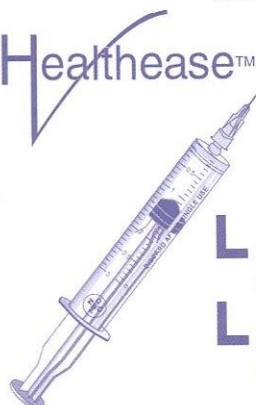
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(...from page 35)

THE SAID SUB-COMMITTEE SHALL COMPRISE OF:

a. 2 MEMBERS OF THE TABLIGH BOARD OF AFRICA FEDERATION

b. 2 MEMBERS EACH FROM BILAL MUSLIM MISSIONS OF KENYA, MADAGASCAR AND TANZANIA

c. 1 INDEPENDENT MEMBER FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF AFRICA FEDERATION AND ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH CONSTITUENT JAMAAT IN AFRICA."

Alhaj Munawer Dhanani of Nairobi was appointed as the member to represent the Africa Federation Secretariat.

WORLD FEDERATION

During deliberations on the World Federation constitution, Alhaj Amir Somji member of the WF Constitution Review Committee gave explanations on the report and requested all jamaats to send their feedback to the Africa Federation secretariat so that necessary amendments could be forwarded to the World Federation for discussion at the constitutional conference in October 2003.

Chairman Alhaj Zulfikar Khimji told the session that Alhaj Hasnain Walji, President of the World Federation had expressed his inability to continue to lead the World Federation for personal reasons. The session then mandated the secretariat to:

1. Nominate a person for the post of President of the World Federation for the 2003 - 2006 term upon receipt of that person's consent.

2. Seek delegates for the Triennial Conference in Dubai in October 2003.

3. Agree upon the World Federation draft constitution with the Africa Federation delegates for the constitutional conference in Dubai in October 2003.

The Session ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Asghar Moledina.

Federation Samachar

61st SUPREME COUNCIL SESSION RESOLUTION - EDUCATION LOAN

The following resolution from the Education Board tabled at the 61st Supreme Council Session held in Mombasa from Friday 18th April 2003 was adopted with amendments to payment procedures (No 4 and 7).

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PROCEDURE OUTLINED IN FURTHER DETAIL IN THE AFRICA FEDERATION STUDENT LOAN APPROVAL, DISBURSEMENTS AND RECOVERY POLICY IS HEREBY APPLICABLE AND BINDING UPON ALL MEMBER JAMAATS IN RESPECT OF THE STUDENT HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN SCHEME AS FURTHER SET OUT IN THAT POLICY.

Preamble:

Policy: Promotion of Higher Education for all.

Introduction:

The aim of the new proposal to change the procedure is to create more grass-root level involvement. This will have the effect of creating more efficiency and reliability in approving and disbursing funds, as jamaats will have better socio economic knowledge of the applicants. It should also improve the recovery rate from students as the jamaats are closer to applicants than the Federation is.

Proposed Procedure:

1) The student applies for a loan to his home jamaat.

2) The Jamaat Education Board approve or disapprove loans based on the criteria set by the Africa Federation Education Board. For every case where there is a rejection the jamaat has to provide a written reason to the student with a copy to the Federation.

3) The jamaats send a list of all approved and disapproved students to the Federation stating the amount required from the Federation.

4) The Federation will require the jamaats to submit a payment schedule, accompanied by a full set of application forms from each student and guarantee forms signed by two guarantors in favour of the Africa Federation

5) The Federation will supply the jamaats with a consolidated repayment schedule, which the jamaats will be required to confirm.

6) Once all the documentation is completed between the jamaat and the Federation, the Federation will remit its 50% share to each respective jamaat.

7) Member jamaats will be expected to pay the Federation immediately upon receipt of repayments from students. In the event that monies are not recovered from the students within five years, the loan will be transferred to the Education Board of Africa Federation with all supporting documents for the Africa Federation to follow up in the best way it deems fit.

(continued on page 38)

(...from page 37)

8) The jamaats will have the primary responsibility of the collection of the debt with support being provided by the Education Board.

9) The Appeal procedure: -

i) All students will be informed on the loan application form that in the event of the student not being in agreement with the local jamaat's decision they have a right of appeal to the EBS by putting their appeal in writing.

ii) The student would still have a right to a final appeal, and would need to make a written appeal and send it directly to the Africa Federation Secretariat. A copy of this final appeal is sent to the local jamaat and to the Appeal Board.

iii) The Appeal Board will consist of the Chairman of the Africa Federation, two Education Board members and one member from the local jamaat.

What each party has to do to make the system work:

1) The Role Of The Federation:

a) The Federation would have to carry out training for each jamaat's Education Board on procedures of accepting applications, vetting and processing for payment.

b) The Federation will monitor the fairness of applications by having an audit and appeal procedure in place.

2) The role of the jamaats:

a) The jamaats would have to give the scheme full support and follow all laid down procedures.

b) The jamaats would have to create an Education Board

c) The jamaats would need to avail their Education Board members extensive training.

3) The new role of the Education Board:

Federation Samachar

a) Initially the Education board would train the jamaat's Education Board.

b) They would carry out regular audits of the jamaats.

c) The Education Board would handle special loan schemes and awards e.g. MGN and Brilliant Student schemes.

d) The Education Board would negotiate preferred rates for our students directly with higher education institutions.

e) The Education Board would visit and review our own education institutions with a view to further improve present standards and facilities.

f) They would provide higher education career counseling.

g) The Board would look at developing a system of education policies for students.

h) They would promote the theory of education for all.

Conclusion:

With a scheme like this in place our communities' educational needs will be handled more efficiently and there would be positive cost implications.

There certainly is a need to get involvement at grass-root level to instill a greater sense of responsibility on the part of the jamaats and loan recipients. The single largest benefit to the community would be that the Education Board of the Africa Federation would be able to focus on larger structural education needs of our community.

Sajjad Gulamhusein is 'Sportsman of the year' for 2002



The Africa Federation announced at the Mombasa Supreme Council meeting that Br. Sajjad Gulamhusein of Mombasa has been adjudged Sportsman of the year, 2002.

Sajjad is 18 years old and plays cricket and football. He has represented the Coast cricket team and also captained the under 15 and under 17 cricket teams.

He represented Kenya with the under 17 cricket team and was awarded the 'man of the match' versus Tanzania. The Coast Cricket Association also chose him as the 'Upcoming Player of the Year'.

Sajjad is currently studying "A" levels at Jaffery Academy, Mombasa.

The Chairman of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Zulfikar Khimji and his office bearers and the Chairman of the Sports Council Alhaj Amir Somji and his committee members congratulated Br. Sajjad Gulamhusein and Mombasa Jamaat for this prestigious award.

LOANS

The secretariat of the Africa Federation has informed community members who intend to apply for business/housing loans that all applications have to be recommended to the Africa Federation by the respective jamaat of the applicant.

On approval, the loan will be disbursed by the secretariat to the applicant's respective jamaat that will be responsible to disburse the loan and collect it from the applicant.

The Africa Federation will make its claim from the respective jamaat and not the applicant when the repayment is due.

MAMAS launched

....plans underway to make it a separate Board to operate under the Africa Federation

A scheme for sponsoring students for secular education in Tanzania, the Mulla Asghar Memorial Academic Scheme (MAMAS) was launched in Dar es Salaam on 5th July, 2003 on the eve of the wiladat of Sayyidah Zainab (a.s.).

The Chairman of MAMAS, Aunali Khalfan addressed a large congregation at the Dar es Salaam Jamaat on the aims and objectives of the new organisation that has been launched with support from the Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme (ZCSS) that today sponsors about 11,700 students worldwide.

The President of Dar es Salaam Jamaat, Pyaralibhai Shivji announced the launching and welcomed the President of ZCSS, Alhaj Mohamed Visram of London who specially flew in to Dar es Salaam with his Vice Chairman, Sajjad Tejani for the launching of MAMAS.

MAMAS will financially support students from Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri families with limited or uncertain means to ensure they complete their basic nursery to advance level secondary education without hitches.

The scheme is almost like the Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme (ZCSS) which came into existence in 1982 as one among the multifarious services established by the World Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities in London. The main activity of the ZCSS is to support secular education through sponsorship of students in poor families of our community. Presently, there are nearly 12,000 students benefiting from the ZCSS and the number of sponsorships

The proposal is for a member of each jamaat welfare committee to be represented on the MAMAS Board. The Chairman of the Africa Federation shall appoint the MAMAS Chairman who will then appoint his core working team. The jamaat representatives will form the remainder of the board and the MAMAS Board will report to the Africa Federation secretariat at the Supreme Council conference. The Africa Federation secretariat will then report to the World Federation secretariat on progress made.

One of the advantages of the proposed working modality is that there will be less duplication of effort if one board for Africa is created rather than creating one for Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, Reunion, Uganda etc. The proposed MAMAS Africa Board can then gain regional as well as local information which would help in determining the level of funds to be allocated.

keeps rising.

MAMAS has been initiated by the World Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities as a tribute to Mulla Asgharali M. M. Jaffer who passed away on 21st March 2000 in London.

The MAMAS Board's primary focus has been in Dar es Salaam where there are many students who cannot afford fees for the Al Muntazir schools. While the response has been overwhelming in Dar es Salaam, MAMAS also intends to spread out assistance to other jamaats and has already visited Mwanza and Arusha to solicit support from local jamaats there. The long term objective is to have representatives from each jamaat reporting to the MAMAS Board. MAMAS and its representatives will work closely with the jamaats in order to fulfill its aims and objectives.

To support the scheme, the World Federation has released Stg. 10,000 and the Africa Federation US\$ 10,000 for the scheme. The Chairman of ZCSS, Mohamed Visram also pledged to provide Stg. 150 for each application approved by MAMAS for a period of three years.

Along with MAMAS in Tanzania it was planned that similar Chapters be opened in Kenya and Madagascar. However the Africa Federation has proposed that instead of having various Chapters, a single board be created to be called the MAMAS Board for Africa with monetary funding to be handled by the Africa Federation Secretariat.

Following the launch of the scheme there have been over 70 approved applications in Dar es Salaam and

(continued on page 41)

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funds for these students were directly remitted to the Dar es Salaam Jamaat.

The modalities for the formation of a MAMAS Board under the Africa Federation were scheduled to be discussed at the World Federation conference in Dubai.

In a working paper prepared by the Africa Federation on the proposed operation of MAMAS as a separate board, the proposal is for a member of each jamaat welfare committee to be represented on the MAMAS Board. The Chairman of the Africa Federation shall appoint the MAMAS Chairman who will then appoint his core working team. The jamaat representatives will form the remainder of the board and the MAMAS Board will report to the Africa Federation secretariat at the Supreme Council conference. The Africa Federation secretariat will then report to the World Federation secretariat on progress made.

One of the advantages of the proposed working modality is that there will be less duplication of effort if one board for Africa is created rather than creating one for Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, Reunion, Uganda etc. The proposed MAMAS Africa Board can then gain regional as well as local information which would help in determining the level of funds to be allocated.

Through this proposal it is felt that the ZCSS would then get more accurate information including that of rural jamaats which also require educational subsidies. The Africa Federation would have the advantage of being privy to accurate information that would be useful in future planning and budgeting with regard to higher education loans and welfare needs.

The proposed policy on MAMAS would also be in line with the protocols and policies set up by the World and Africa Federation.

Federation Samachar

Mwanza and Dar es Salaam notch honours in Qur'an competition



Mohamed Hirji of Mwanza, the winner of the Qur'an competition.

The Tabligh Board of the Africa Federation organized a Qur'an Competition on Friday 18th April 2003 in Mombasa, Kenya to coincide with the 61st Supreme Council Session.

Fourteen male and female participants from seven Jamaats took part in this competition with Mohamed Hirji of Mwanza and Zahra Nagri of Dar es Salaam emerging winners. For both, Mohamed and Zahra, their win is historic because this is the first time a Qur'an Competition was organised to coincide with the Supreme Council session.

The runners up were as follows:

Male:

- 1st Runner Up Aliasgher Meghji - Dsm
- 2nd Runner Up Ammar Keshvani - Nairobi

Female:

- 1st Runner Up Tanvir Hasham - Moshi
- 2nd Runner Up Sakina Kassam - Mombasa

The other participants were:

Male:

- Jehangir Sheriff - Arusha
- Ahmed Inayat Jivraj - Mombasa
- Saqalain Kassamali - Moshi
- Mazaher Fazal - Tanga

Female:

- Majida Mohsin - Arusha
- Suhaila Alloo - Mwanza
- Adila Moloo - Nairobi
- Sakina Bandali - Tanga

The judges for the competition were as follows:

- Salman Farsi Qur'an Competition (Masumali Meghji Shield)
- Br. Naushad Khalfan - Mombasa
- Sheikh Murtaza Waezi - Nairobi
- Br. Mohamed Jaffer Pyarali - Dare es Salaam

Janabe Fizza Qur'an Competition (Masuma Meghji Shield)

- Sister Fatma Chagpar - Nairobi
- Sister Aarifa Dhanji - Mombasa
- Sister Rubab Walji - Mombasa

All contestants in this competition can take pride from the fact that they represented their jamaats which considered them to be among the best Qur'an reciters in their respective jamaat. The initiation of such a competition by the Tabligh Board under the umbrella of the Africa Federation is a healthy step towards encouraging our youths to improve their Qur'an recitation abilities.

ZCSS Chairman talks to the *Samachar* Editor



The Chairman of ZCSS, Mohamed Visram with the scheme's Tanzania representative Bashir Tejani (left) and the ZCSS Secretary in Dar es Salaam.

During his visit to Dar es Salaam from 4th July to 6th July, 2003 for the launch of MAMAS, the Chairman of the Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme (ZCSS), Mohamedbhai Visram talked to the *Federation Samachar* Editor, Munir Daya. The interview follows:

Q1- Please give a brief background of the ZCSS.

A1- In 1981 Mullah Asgar Saheb together with other members of the Executive Council of the World Federation visited Gujarat in India, and whilst they were there they witnessed members of our community sleeping in open graves due to poverty. This they found very disturbing and on meeting with them and talking to them, there were two basic things that these people asked for: a shelter for their families and education for their children.

On returning to London, Mullah Saheb established this scheme and made Br Muhsin Dharamsi the chairman of Zainabiya Scheme. The name 'Zainabiya' was inspired by the original children of Zainabia, who Bibi Zainab looked after on the journey from Kerbala to Kufa and then from Kufa to Sham. The way the scheme works is by way of sponsorships. As the message of Zainabiya spread over a period of time, the scheme started to grow and spread. Now there are 11,700 children being sponsored at any one time, and so far roughly 50,000 thousand children have passed

through the scheme. To-date ZCSS has constructed six schools and many Zainabiya institutes, that are a refuge for students wanting study and receive the best possible education that is available in their locality.

Q2- Does the scheme cover only secular education or does it also cover religious education including madressas?

A2- In ZCSS we believe that a child's character is incomplete as long as that child does not receive both secular as well as religious education. We insist that the child attends madressa as well as Quran classes. If the child's school report shows that the child is not performing well at religious education although he is doing well at school, then we actually warn the child that if the situation does not alter in the next academic year, then we would consider stopping the sponsorship. In our own schools, religious education forms a very important part of the syllabus and we actually promote an Islamic environment in our schools. In those areas where there is not an established madressa, Zainabiya provides religious education in tuition classes.

Q3- I am given to understand that the scheme essentially operates in India, which has over 10,000 of the 11,700 children now being sponsored under the scheme. Why is the scheme so lopsided to India?

A3- It is true that the majority of the students that are being sponsored are in India, but this is as a response to need, rather than by design. Zainabiya answers the call of any Shia population that needs help with the funds for educating children. It has so happened that the need in India has been greater than anywhere else. India, by its sheer size and history, has one of the highest populations of Shia Muslims and because of its history especially pertaining to Shia Muslims, the majority of the Shia population is extremely poor. Whereas places like Pakistan have organised themselves better and are able to largely look after their own poor members, in India such organisation is very local and therefore the distribution of funds from the well off to the very poor is haphazard. Having said that, ZCSS responds to calls for help from every quarter of the Shia world. In recent years, a lot of work has been done in places like Iran, Northern Pakistan, Bosnia, Kenya and now in Tanzania. Alhumdullillah!

Q4- Many of our children cannot afford basic education in Tanzania and Kenya, and the Mullah Asgar Memorial Academic scheme (MAMAS) was launched to address this plight. Could not the function of MAMAS be included in the operations of the ZCSS, or is MAMAS an affiliated organisation of the ZCSS?

A4- MAMAS is a sister organisation of the ZCSS. Due to confidentiality that is required, when working amongst our own people, and to encourage the parents who need help with educating their children by maintaining their dignity, a different format had to be worked out for MAMAS. In ZCSS we try and tailor make the scheme to the population that we are working with. In East Africa, the formation of MAMAS was the best solution.

(continued on page 43)

(....from page 42)

We understand in ZCSS that an organisation in Africa would have to have a degree of independence, and also would have to come within the folds of the Africa Federation and World Federation working protocols.

We feel that MAMAS encompasses all this. We are extremely lucky to have the team that is working with compassion and devotion to MAMAS, and the success of the launch in itself is a testimony that the equation that was worked out during the formation of MAMAS was right. Lastly, we are extremely satisfied with the fact that; by calling it MULLA ASGHAR MEMORIAL ACADEMIC SCHEME, the name of Mulla Saheb will remain alive for many decades to come, inshallah. That is the least we could do to pay homage to the contribution that Marhum has made for our Khoja Shia Ithnashery community.

Q5- Prior to the launching of MAMAS, you operated in Tanzania through your coordinator, Bashirbhai Tejani. What was his role and will MAMAS now assume the responsibilities that were handled by him?

A5- No, MAMAS will not now assume the responsibilities that were handled by Br. Bashir Tejani. Bashirbhai is an agent for the ZCSS and he remains so. Besides MAMAS, ZCSS is still active in Tanzania. There are many sponsor parents currently in Dar es Salaam who sponsor children in other parts of the world and all of these sponsor parents will be given a choice to move to MAMAS if they so wish. However there will be some who will want to carry on sponsoring children that they have been doing for many years. We will respect the wishes of the sponsor parents in every case. In addition to MAMAS, ZCSS has also agreed to sponsor children in the Bilal Mission Tanzania, and these children will fall under the ZCSS and not MAMAS, and therefore Bashirbhai

will also be directly responsible for looking after these children's educational needs. At this juncture, I feel I ought to thank Bashirbhai and his family members, who have been ardent supporters of ZCSS for many years. In fact his son Sajjad Tejani is the assistant chairman of ZCSS, and has travelled to Tanzania with me, for the launch of MAMAS. I pray to ALLAH (SWT) to accept their efforts and reward them.

Q6- Considering that the ZCSS network is spread far and wide, how is this scheme managed efficiently considering that the majority of the workers in the World Federation are voluntary workers?

A6- The only answer I can give to your question is, that it is an unfolding miracle! We are blessed with two very dedicated full time workers: Zainabbai Kassam and Masoomabai Bhalloo, who work beyond the call of their duties for ZCSS. On top of this we have 8 to 10 volunteers who put in over 300 man-hours a month to keep the scheme on course. These are just the staff in the WF head office. We have a network of 33 agents around the world who scout for sponsor parents and spread the word of ZCSS around the world. All these agents are volunteers. Bashirbhai Tejani is your volunteer agent in Dar. Without the help and support of dedicated members of our community around the world, the work of ZCSS would have been impossible.

Q7- What is the cost of sponsoring a child today and do sponsors receive any reports on the academic progress of the children?

A7- the cost of sponsoring a child is £10 per month for children going to primary and secondary level up to A levels. The cost of sponsoring a University graduate in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Bangkok is £500 per year. The cost of sponsoring a Yatim (orphaned) or children of Asir (Captives) is £14 per month.

We are very particular about school reports. We insist that the child sends us at least one school report per year. We manage to get about 80% of the reports, and these are all then processed at the ZCSS office and are then sent to the sponsor parents. As there are 11700 children at the moment, you can imagine the amount of work this entails!

Q8- If one wants to sponsor a child, what is the easiest way of doing so?

A8- The easiest way to sponsor a child is by filling in one of our application forms. These forms are available from our agents, from the WF office, and also on the web. We try and make ourselves as user friendly as possible and therefore if none of the above sources were available then a simple request by letter, fax, phone or e-mail would be adequate.

Q9- Considering that the scheme involves support for one to five years, what happens to the student if this support is abruptly withdrawn by the sponsor?

A9- If the sponsorship is withdrawn for whatever reason, we just place the child with a new sponsor parent. The child's education is never interrupted. If there are no sponsor parents available at that time then the child is sponsored by the ZCSS until a sponsor parent can be found. One point I must clarify at this juncture is; that we never enquire to the sponsor parent as to why they wish to stop the sponsorship, nor do we ever put pressure on any parent to continue with the sponsorship. We are thankful to the sponsor parent for what ever they could do to help the cause of ZCSS, and we never make any judgements.

Q10- Does the World Federation have any statistics showing the success rate of students under the

(continued on page 44)

(....from page 43)

ZCSS? If the student fails to perform well, is there any provision to allow academically poorer students to repeat or receive coaching classes?

A10- No the World Federation does not keep any statistics with regard to the success of individual students. The aim of the ZCSS is to educate and make literate the whole community and therefore the number of pupils who are literate as opposed to the individuals measures the success of the scheme. What I can say with certainty is that; the communities in which ZCSS has been active for at least 5 years, the illiteracy has virtually disappeared.

In those areas, where a student attends a government school, ZCSS has made provisions for good and well known teachers to come and teach in tuition classes that are run by the ZCSS in the evenings. Where the students attend the Zainabiya schools, the teachers are encouraged to attend teachers training classes. This policy has worked well and in fact, the Zainabiya school in Alipur had a 100% pass rate last year at the GCSE level, with 17 girls out of 30 scoring at an A grade standard. However, if students fail to perform at the level required, they are given an opportunity to receive extra tuition and if need be are allowed to repeat their exams until they achieve the desired grades.

Q11- Does the ZCSS cover university education?

A11- Those children who have gone through the Zainabiya scheme are encouraged to further their education whether it is by attending a university, technical college, or undertaking a vocational training course. If a student manages to secure a placement in any of the above institutions, the Zainabiya scheme will sponsor them to complete a degree or course in their desired field and thereafter will encourage them to undertake any

further education if they wish to but will not sponsor education that exceeds one degree due to limited resources.

Q12- Has there been in feasibility study undertaken by the ZCSS to find out how students practically benefit from the scheme and if students can be easily absorbed in the local work market? After spending millions by way of student support, is the ZCSS happy with the way students blend into the working environment after their studies?

A12- Although the Zainabiya scheme has not carried out a specific study to measure the benefit the students gain from the sponsorship of their education, the volunteers of the scheme have made several visits to the schools that are funded by the Zainabiya scheme and have been able to witness the prosperity that has arisen from the education provided by the scheme. Additionally, illiteracy can be seen to have been replaced by intellectuality and this has been confirmed by the number of graduate pupils that have given their gratuitous feedback and have been enabled to secure a variety of reputable jobs including doctors, dentists, pharmacists, computer analysts and many more. Furthermore, these students have prospered in their fields in their own country as well as abroad.

Q13-What plans does the ZCSS have for the immediate future?

A13- Inshallah the ZCSS will be able to sponsor every child who applies and give every child the opportunity to gain knowledge and achieve the highest form of ibadaat as Imam Ali (a.s.) has said that the acquisition of knowledge is the highest form of ibadaat. We can now say that the availability of education is adequate for the children of Zainabiya, and we would therefore now like to concentrate on improving the quality of the education provided.

Q14- Considering that so much

money is spent towards assisting nursery children, would you consider it appropriate if the children are allowed to join school from primary level?

A14- studies have shown that children's learning abilities are at their highest prior to the age of 5, and therefore the Zainabiya scheme feels that one should take advantage of these young minds and begin moulding their tender brains from a young age. Additionally, many of the Zainabiya schools teach in the English language and therefore if the nursery education were abolished, one would have to spend time during the child's primary years trying to teach them English. There is also a problem whereby children are scouted by traders to become victims of child labour and debt slavery and therefore we feel that by educating them from a young age one can not only prevent this evil scourge but additionally one can prepare the minds of these children and fuel their desire to learn from a young age.

Q15- I have noted that the ZCSS operates in Kenya already. How does the scheme operate there?

A15- The scheme in Kenya covers the Bilal children in Mombasa and Nakuru. The Zainabiya has now started to sponsor the Bilal children in Dares Salaam as well.

Q16- Does ZCSS have special provisions for education of orphans or are they included in the normal ZCSS scheme?

A16- The ZCSS covers all children including orphans in all of the countries where it operates with the exception of Iran and Iraq where a separate scheme was launched after the first Gulf War by the name of Zainabiya Yatim and Asir sponsorship scheme (ZYASS). This exception was necessary due to the large influx of Iraqi orphans and children of captives in Iran. The ZCSS therefore felt that there was

(continued on page 45)

Head of State recognises leading Mombasa social worker

Mombasa's Mrs. Khairoonnissa Abdulhussein Molu has been awarded with a Medal Head of State's Commendation (HSC), Civilian Division, for her exemplary philanthropic services.

Mrs. Molu, born in Mombasa in 1931, has been an active member of the Mombasa Jamaat having rendered sterling services in various capacities, as a member of the Faiz-e-Husseini, Family Relations Committee (FRC), as a committee member and as a Chairlady of Zainabiya Society.

The names of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Molu have been synonymous with that of the Kenya Red Cross Society of Mombasa. She has been the Branch Secretary of the Society since its establishment in 1965.

She has also been deeply involved in serving youths at the Borstal Institution at Shimo-La-Tewa and is a gazetted member of this institution. She has always worked hard to engender positive changes that have improved conditions of inmates.

Through her initiative she was able to construct a 20-bed convalescent home with two wards, one for normal illness and another for infectious diseases, complete with all the facilities. The main support for this project was given by Marhoom Roshanali Rajabali Merali Dewji who decided to name these wards as 'Karbala Wards'.

She has received and continues to receive full co-operation and support from the members of our community in Mombasa in this project and in her other efforts of rendering humanitarian services.

Federation Samachar

Interview with ZCSS Chairman.....

(....from page 44)

a need to create a separate scheme whereby money could specifically be collected and donated for this group of children. Additionally, by launching a separate scheme, sadqa money that the Zainabia does not usually receive was able to reach these children.

Q17- Does ZCSS rely on khums contributions?

A17- The ZCSS operates independently and receives only funds specifically donated to the cause. However, the sadaat children that are educated under the scheme do receive funds from the sehme sadaat portion of the khums money as we have been guided to do so by our marjah. An individual can however request to the sahibe ijaza, that the portion of their sehme Imam be utilised by the ZCSS and this request can be granted by the sahibe ijaza at his discretion.

Q18- Any observations on your visit to Dares salaam and did you get a chance to visit the schools in Dar es Salaam?

A18- Unfortunately my visit to Dar es Salaam fell during a holiday time and therefore I was unable to visit the Al Muntazir School. I was fortunate to gain the opportunity to meet the Central Board of Education and also converse with a couple of teachers who informed me on both the format and success of the school. I have promised myself that I will inshallah visit Dar es Salaam again soon specifically to spend time in the school. My interest in the school has been further enhanced by the fact that the majority of the MAMAS children attend the Al Muntazir School.

Q19- The book: 'Light behind the Veil', is a tribute to the principles upheld by Bibi Zainab A.S. What drew the ZCSS to pay this tribute by way of a book and who actually compiled the book?

A19- For the past few years, the Zainabiya scheme has published an average of six annual leaflets which are sent to prospective sponsors. Although these proved useful and effective, their shelf life was very short. With the influx of new and more youthful volunteers an idea was born that a book should be produced by the scheme which would not only promote the scheme but would also be a tabligh document having a much longer shelf life. As this was the first document of many inshallah to be published by the scheme, there was no question that the book should be based on the principles upheld by Bibi Zainab as it was these principles that inspired this scheme from the day it was established 22 years ago and given the appropriate name of "The Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme". This remarkable personality has indeed been the light behind the veil.

I would like to commend the two youths, Ali Bachoo and Nisar Visram who spent over a year working towards the compilation of this successful book and I pray to Allah (SWT) to reward them for their hard work in the name of such a personality and for such a worthy cause.

Q20- Briefly, what is your message to the readers from ZCSS and how can the public at large get involved in helping the scheme and making it even more successful?

A20- My message to the readers is: as long as you all continue to support us, we will endeavour to do our utmost to eradicate illiteracy amongst the Shia community. We need your prayers and support both in the form of voluntary work and finances. The paramount action that can be taken by the public is to spread the message of the ZCSS and MAMAS at large so as to encourage more people to donate their services in the way of Allah (S.W.T.), particularly towards deserving children who require to be desperately helped.

Letter from Mwanza.....

The Mwanza Jamaat participated in a peaceful demonstration organized by Bakwata against the war by coalition forces in Iraq. A message outlining displeasure on the war was sent to the United Nations after being read out in public in English and Kiswahili. The message was later received by the District Commissioner for Nyamagana, Hon Mr. Ferdinand Mkude.

The Jamaat Chairman, Sibtainbhai P. Meghjee meanwhile hosted a dinner organised by Bakwata to bid farewell to Mwanza's Past Regional Commissioner, Hon, Steven Mashishanga. Various government regional leaders attended the farewell dinner.

The jamaat also participated fully in a Maulid program organised by Bakwata at the National Level, in Shinyanga. The Jamaat Vice Chairman, Br. Mohamed Pardhan was given an opportunity to address the public which was broadcasted live by RadioTanzania in Dar es Salaam.

In a gesture of philanthropic support a jamaat delegation visited the Nyumba ya Mayatima (an orphanage) in Shinyanga and donated a bag of sugar, a bag of flour, a pale of oil and seeds to the 85 orphans residing there. Our resident Alim, Sayyed Arifali Naqvi, led the recitation of duas at the orphanage.

The Jamaat's Managing Committee consists of the following members:-

Chairman
Sibtain P. Meghjee

Vice Chjairman
Mohamed P. Pardhan

Hon. Secretary
Mohamed Ali Vakil

Hon. Treasurer
Shirazali M. Panjwani

Federation Samachar

Committee members:-

Amir M. Ahmad
Hasnain A. Hirje
Mukhtar S. Rajabali
Murtaza Alloo
Sajjad A. Khimji
Salim R. Dhalla
Saqlain A. Hirji

Ladies sub committee: -

Nazira H. Hirji

Zaida M. Aloo

Fatima R. Panjwani

Gulshan R. Fazal

Tahera S. Mawji

Sukaina M. Rajabali

Trustees: -

Hussein Manji Pirbhai

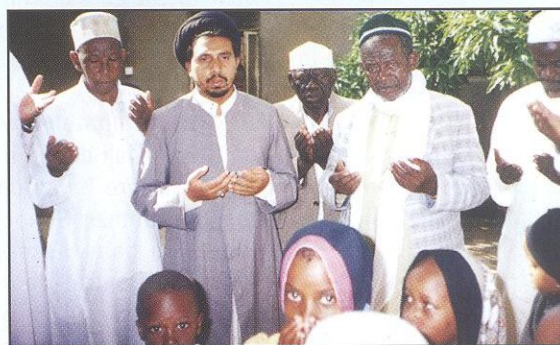
Mehboob Abdulrasul Satchu

Murtaza Najafhusssein Aloo

Shirazali Mohamedali Panjwani



At the Farewell dinner hosted by the Jamaat Chairman, Sibtainbhai P. Meghjee on behalf of Bakwata for the outgoing Mwanza's Past Regional Commissioner, Hon, Steven Mashishanga pictured in the foreground with glasses and a cap.

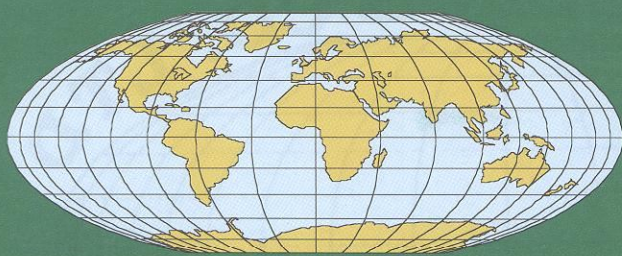


Mwanza Resident Alim, Sayyed Arifali Naqvi leading the recitation of duas at the orphanage visited in Shinyanga.

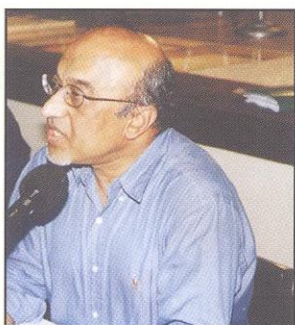


The Jamaat Chairman at a peaceful rally organised by Bakwata decrying the war against Iraq.

Muslim World News



Dr. Ahmed Hassam is new World Federation President



As per the results submitted to the returning officers appointed by the World Federation of KSIM Communities, Dr. Ahmed Hassam received the largest number of votes and has been duly elected as the President of the World Federation of the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities for the term 2003-2006.

In his acceptance statement in the capacity of President-elect, Dr. Hassam said:

"Salamun alaikum

"Surely Allah does not change the condition of a people until they first change that which is in their hearts". Holy Quran 13:11

It is an honour for me to have been elected as the President of the World Federation and to be in the fortunate position to continue the important work of this institution. To serve Islam and prepare for the arrival of our 12th Imam, Imam Mohamed Mahdi AS (*May Allah hasten his appearance*) is a duty that must remain uppermost in our minds. As I take this responsibility, I promise to stay true to the core

Federation Samachar

values of the World Federation, and to work towards the overriding goals of preserving our religious identity, elevating our spiritual self and eradicating illiteracy, poverty and disease.

Over the last few months I have made nine specific pledges and *39 key actions* in my manifesto. This is my covenant with you. It is now my responsibility to ensure that I have a team in place that delivers on them. I consider it imperative that we evolve and reform to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. We must always do so under the umbrella of our honourable Islamic principles, and we must ensure that this message of tabligh is brought to all.

As we embark upon the task of enhancing the organisation to even higher levels of inclusivity and efficiency taking into account the dynamic nature of our society and the ever increasing pace of change in the world, I invite and encourage all of you to share your ideas, your perspectives, your skills, and your participation in a common purpose: that of serving Islam and preparing for the arrival of our 12th Imam Mohamed Mahdi AS (*May Allah hasten his appearance*). Collectively, as one team, we will achieve so much more, and when we work together we will build a World Federation that truly represents and responds to you its constituents, inshallah.

By electing me as your President

you have put your trust in me to chart out new visions and ideas that will fulfil the needs and aspirations of our Community in the decade to come. With the help of Allah (S.W.T) and your continued support, I will, inshallah, not disappoint you.

My request to you is to pray that Allah (S.W.T) helps me in this task.

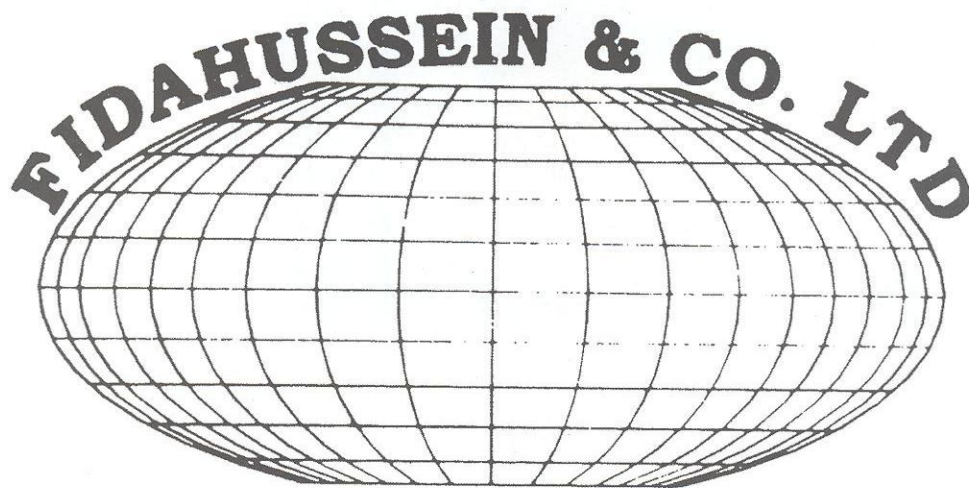
Salaams and duas"

The other contestant, Dr. Sibtain Panjwani also made a statement after the results were announced. He said, "Salamun Alaikum, I begin in Allah's name, for He is the most beneficent and merciful. To Him belongs all the worlds and it is He who we shall return to.

As I pen this statement, the community has made its choice for its future. I pray to the Almighty to give Dr. Ahmedbhai Hassam the strength to carry out the duties required of him and the community to work together to make the correct decisions in these challenging times. During this election, it was pleasing to see community participation in terms of voting but there is a need to increase this participation.

Whatever opportunities Allah (s.w.t) gives us all, it is with the contentment and yearn to continually serve Him that I say the following to you. I humbly thank the Almighty for giving me the opportunity to stand as a candidate for the World Federation for the term 2003-2006. And further, from the bottom of my heart, I thank all those who participated in this election. Jazakallah.

When I began this journey, I used the words 'Islam in Principle and Action' and I would like to end this statement on them. These words, of which I have summarised, were expressed by our Holy Prophet, Muhammed (s.a.w) and followed by Imam Ali (a.s). May Allah send blessings on Muhammad (s.a.w) and his progeny. And, may He give us all Tawfiqat to carry out His work for His pleasure. Amin."



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Sajeda Kermally obtains scholarship to John Hopkins university



Living in Los Angeles, Sajeda Kermally, daughter of Mazaher and Rozina Kermally, is one of the few recipients of a full scholarship from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland which is ranked as the highest medical school in the USA.

As an all-round student, her interests are not restricted to academic subjects only. While she maintains an above average grade point of 90% she also spends much time in community service activities.

As her father, Mazaher Kermally, is the president of Los Angeles Jamaat (SIJJLA), one of Sajeda's main extra-curricular activities during high school was community service. She dedicated many hours at the mosque and also served as a madressa teacher.

She took the Islamic faith to school, where as a proud 'Hijabi' she started an Islamic awareness Club to educate Muslims as well as non-Muslims about Islam.

While an avid participant in athletics, tennis, clubs and service projects, Sajeda was an International Baccalaureate (IB) candidate where she was one of eighteen students to graduate in a class of 504 students. Her rigorous course load made it difficult for her to balance her academics with her extra-curricular work but she managed.

Whether she is administering patients in hospitals or tutoring

students honorarily, Sajeda loves attending to others and it is for this reason that she plans to enter the medical field. She feels it is her true calling and plans to specialise in either paediatrics or surgery.

She says, "in order to achieve, you must be driven and have the ambition to succeed. Colleges and universities appreciate students who are driven to excel in everything they do. They also look for all-round students who portray good knowledge in a variety of fields and are able to maintain good marks while doing so."

She says that the key to her success has been through her immense faith in the Almighty and the support she has had from her parents.

Sabrina Habib bestowed with President's Achievement Award

Sabrina Habib of Washington was awarded a President's Achievement Award of \$2000 during the 33rd Annual Educational Opportunity Awards Banquet in the University of Washington earlier this year.

Sabrina graduated in June with a Bachelor of Science degree in cell and molecular biology and a minor in chemistry. She transferred to the University of Washington with credits from two colleges and a GPA of 4.00. At the Washington university she has maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.84. During her sophomore year, Sabrina spent her time observing dental work and now has been accepted into the University of Washington School of Dentistry.

While earning her undergraduate degree, Sabrina worked as a biology tutor and values her teaching experience to this day.

She is a member of Phi Lambda Epsilon, the National Chemistry Honor Society, the Muslim Student Association and the South East Asian Student Association. She participates in the Bridges for Health Sciences program and off-campus she participates in cooking for the Ithna-Asheri Muslim Association of Northwest (IMAN) as well as their summer camp program.

Her goal is to start her own dental clinic in her hometown of Marysville, Washington where she has lived for the last thirteen years. Here there has been a tremendous growth in the minority population, especially of the East India community. Sabrina feels that starting her own practice will allow her to serve as a role model for other minority high school students to view the importance of further education.

Los Angeles to host sports festival

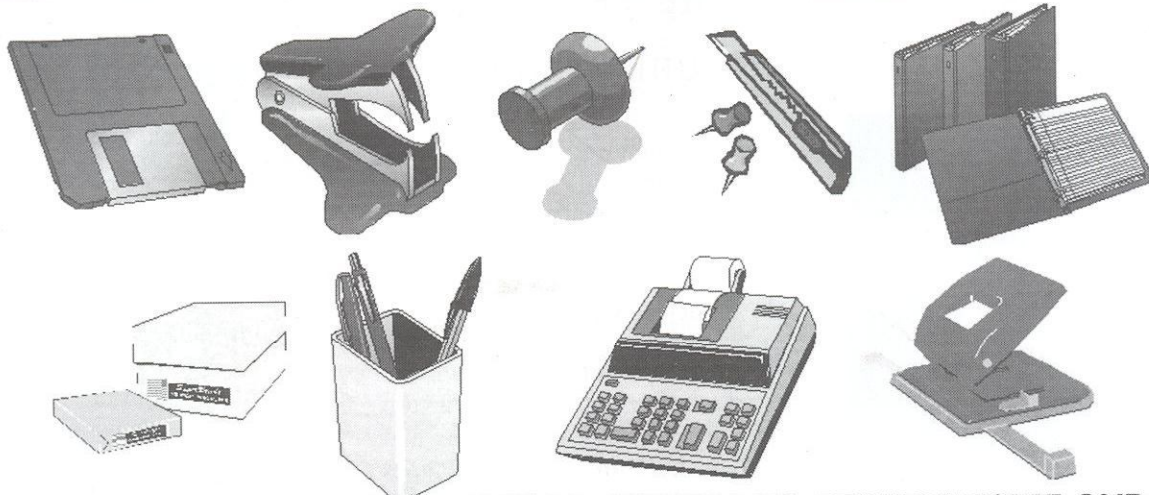
The Los Angeles Union will be hosting a Sports Festival in Los Angeles from December 25th – December 28th 2003.

For the first time in the history of the KSI sports festivals in North America, basketball, for both men and women, will be contested for in addition to volleyball, soccer and golf.

More information can be obtained from:

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DATELINE TORONTO

THE TORONTO JAMAAT witnessed the biggest election in the community's 30-year history. It was the biggest ever in terms of the number of contenders and the ballots cast.

The election was hotly contested and the campaigns were very much of North American style. The community based democratic principles were admirably upheld and a new Executive committee has been elected under the leadership of Br. Nazir Gulamhusein.

It is pleasing to see younger members voted into office. Forward looking members of the community strongly feel that younger members must be given the opportunity to lead the community providing smooth transition from the old to new to ensure stability and adherence to our values. The younger members can also play constructive roles in the mainstream social and political life of this country. We need to be more forward looking!

The new committee inherits a vibrant and united community. The community is not split into factions nor are there any divisive issues sapping the energy of the members. It is the hope and prayers of the members of the jamaat that we continue in the same spirit and the election pledges are matched with deeds.

In two years time, the Electoral College will be called upon again to judge the deeds of the



by Baqir Alloo, Toronto

Federation Samachar

committee.

A total of 43 candidates contested fifteen posts and polling took place on a rainy Sunday 11 May, 2003 at five polling centers supervised by the Speaker, Shabbir Jaffer and Deputy Speaker, Riffat Mamdani and their team of volunteers. All seats were vigorously contested in a civil manner and the turnout for voting was 70%, which is a record by any standards. The details of those who were elected are carried on the Election Round-up page of this issue.

Marriage Guidance book launched

A Marriage Guidance book authored by Ma'alim Mohamed Hussein Kermali and Brother Raza Sumar was officially launched by Toronto Jamaat on May 4, 2003.

This easy to read 50 pages book provides practical guidance to married couples and is a must read for the newly weds and for those who plan to get married.

Jamaat Secretary, Shabbir Jeraj launched the book on behalf of the jamaat. The book was commissioned by the Dar Es Salaam Jamaat to arrest the growing number of failed marriages. The jamaat had requested Ma'alim Kermali to author such a book and the need was reiterated at an International Conference on marriages hosted in 1998 by the KSIJ of Birmingham.

The need for such a book was reiterated at a Marriage Seminar held in Toronto on 5th January 2003. Toronto Jamaat came forward to publish this book and to distribute it to other jamaats with the hope that a copy will be given to newly engaged couples. The book is titled "Building A Happy Home Through Marriage - An Outline of the Basic Guidelines"

Message from Nasimco President

The new NASIMCO President issued the following statement (extracts) after being elected in May this year.

"My fellow brothers and sisters in Islam, asalamu alaykum. Today by the grace of Allah (SWT) I am writing you this message as President of Nasimco. I am very thankful to all our jamaats, the World Federation and Regional Federations for placing their trust in myself and other elected officials to lead the organisation that is presently going through its most trying time.

I would like to thank all the previous officials of Nasimco for their dedicated and selfless contributions for the betterment of our community and for Islam....

... the community has elected a very strong team in an effort to make the organisation vibrant and make its existence meaningful to our community in North America.

This is a big and challenging mandate, which we, with your cooperation, will inshallah endeavour to achieve.

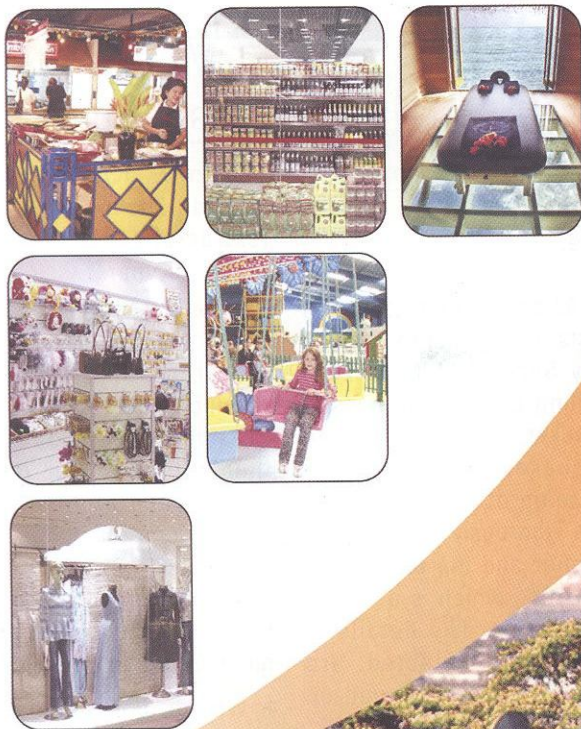
In the next one hundred days we, the officials of Nasimco, will present a detailed strategy to achieve the following objectives:

1. Raise our profile
2. Build confidence between Nasimco, member Jamaats, the World Federation and other Regional Organizations
3. Develop communication strategies
4. Develop an effective web site
5. Revitalize various existing Boards and Councils
6. Strengthen financial position
7. Centralize fund collection and disbursement

I seek the guidance of Allah, your support and cooperation during our term in office..... "

Hussein Kermali Walji

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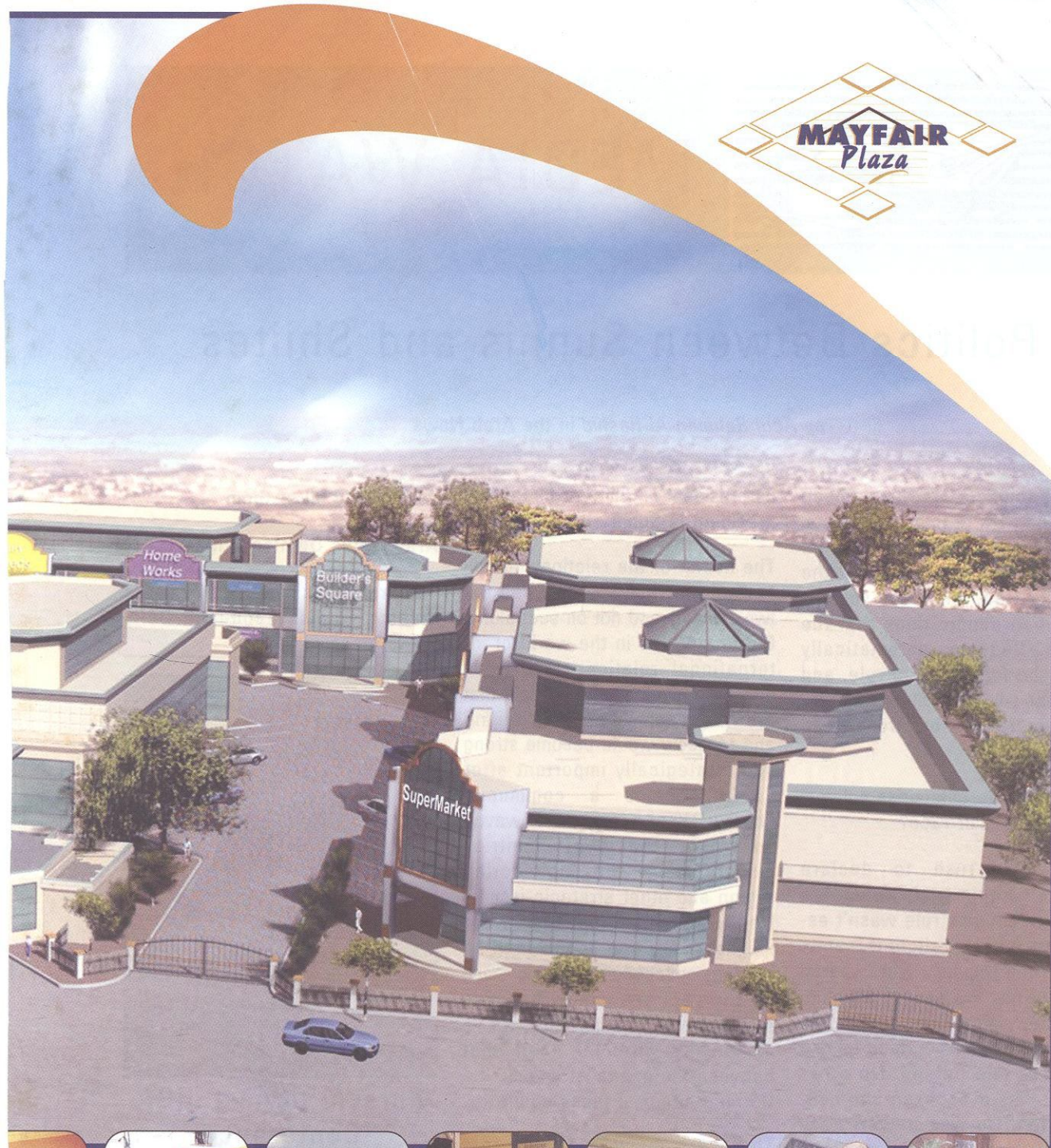
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MEDIA WATCH

Politics Between Sunnis and Shiites

by Abul Rahman Al-Rashid in the Arab News

Quick judgments are easily made when one tries to interpret events. The most prevalent now are the judgments being made about the events in Iraq, and more specifically when people think that the fall of Saddam automatically means the fall of Sunni rule, and that Shiite rule will follow and consequently Iraq will be strongly tied to Iran.

Is it possible to categorise political issues by sect or race?

Those who rush to declare Saddam's regime as Sunni are wrong; Baghdad's rule wasn't associated with a religious camp. None of the religions were spared persecution, whether Muslim, Christian, Kurdish, Arab or Turkmen. The regime stood for the benefit of one person. No other interest was ever taken into consideration. He was power-crazy and saw people as far beneath him — even the sons and daughters closest to him.

In recent history Saddam not only fought with his Shiite neighbor Iran but also invaded its Sunni neighbor Kuwait as well as threatening Saudi Arabia. Consequently it is impossible to describe Saddam's political sect as religious. This is true of other countries such as Iran. Iran has a good coalition with the Sunnis of Azerbaijan against the Shiites close to Sunni Turkey.

Many will discover that their relationship with the new Baghdad will not necessarily be good because

its president is Shiite or bad if that president is Sunni.

The health of the relationship will rest on the relations between the two systems and not on sect alone. Old prophecies in the world of international relations that were based on ideological links said that the relationship between Beijing and Moscow would become strong and strategically important after China became a communist country. What happened, however, was that the two countries disagreed on the Manchurian region and other strategic issues. Neither the fact that they were neighbors nor that they shared an ideology succeeded in allying them. On the contrary, enmity between the two lasted nearly 50 years — an enmity stronger than that between the capitalist enemy, the US, and either of those countries.

There are many examples that disprove anyone who base their judgments on religious, ideological or geographic considerations. Let us not forget what happened between the two Baath parties in Damascus and Baghdad. Relations were cut over a long period of time.

Those who overanalyse events in Baghdad from the sectarian point of view are venturing wrong prophecies, and I believe that whoever will rule Baghdad, no matter what their sect or stand, will discover that they need good political relations with their neighbours after the years of tension and adventures that Iraq has lived through

with nearly all of them.

Arab News Opinion 3 May 2003

The Arab News is the Middle East's leading English Language Daily Newspaper.

The Media Watch page carries articles that we consider would be of interest to our esteemed readers. We do not necessarily agree with all the contents of such articles.

Articles on these pages are meant to encourage dialogue. Those having opinions are welcome to send in their comments.

Articles are sometimes edited for brevity or for factual and grammatical corrections.

Karachi to host JIBA Conference

Jiba International will be holding the next International Conference in Karachi, on the 27th, 28th and 29th December 2003. It has invited members, particularly businessmen, from all KSI jamaats worldwide to participate in this session.

To coincide with the session, Jiba Karachi will be organizing an interesting programme for visiting delegates including visits to industries etc. Jiba Karachi will also arrange interesting programmes for the family members of delegates who will accompany them.

The moral debris from the Iraqi debacle

Before the Iraq war, many religious leaders said United States President George W. Bush had no case for invading a nation that posed no immediate threat to his own country. From the beginning to the end, the Vatican appealed for restraint.

"Preventive war is a war of aggression. There's no doubt about it," stated Archbishop Martino, head of Pope John Paul's Council for Justice and Peace.

Now that the war is over, and the coalition forces have declared the operation a success, many assume those moral warnings were exaggerated or even misguided. Locating mass graves of the Saddam Hussein regime's victims in Iraq would seem to vindicate US claims that it set Iraq free. Many Iraqis have spoken of feeling liberated.

Pope John Paul offers a more sobering perspective. "War," the Pope said in early May, "kills innocent civilian people, devastating regions and leaving wounds that take a long time to heal . . . I cannot forget the children and youth, who are often the most afflicted by situations of conflict. As it is very difficult for them to forget the problems they have gone through, they are often tempted by violence."

The use of military force must always be a last resort. Attacking another nation can never be justified no matter how advantageous or expedient. War tends to breed more war. Those seeking to justify the US invasion argued that a United Nations resolution required Saddam Hussein to get rid of all weapons of mass destruction. Some objected that as long as some nations were allowed

to keep their own array of deadly arsenal, the UN had no authority to impose such a restriction. The war did nothing to resolve this dispute.

We are further away from uniting nations in a common cause to govern the world with clear-cut international laws that apply equally to everyone. The coalition forces strengthened the authority of the UN by resting their case on Iraq's refusal to comply. But that was undone when they refused to heed the vote of the Security Council.

UN's shattered authority

The Pope is now asking the nations of the world to pick up the pieces and put the shattered authority of the UN back on its feet. "Since the period of the great world conflicts, the international community has provided itself with organisations and specific legislation so that war will never break out again. The UN is called to be more than ever the central place of decisions on the reconstruction of countries, and humanitarian organisations are invited to renew their commitment."

The Pope goes on to explain why the task of rebuilding Iraq requires UN intervention: "This will help affected peoples to take charge rapidly of their destinies, allowing them to pass from fear to hope, from uncertainty to commitment in the construction of their future. Moreover, it is an indispensable condition for confidence to return to the heart of a country."

As many voice their concern over the ability of the coalition forces to bring democracy to Iraq, the Pope is implying that UN intervention will avoid the pitfall of one nation trying to impose its political

vision on another. The host nation may think (rightly or wrongly) that their "liberators" are primarily motivated by self-interest. UN oversight would more likely convince Iraqis that they are the ones taking charge of their own destiny.

Because many Muslims tend to equate Christian ideals with the actions of the westerners, the Church's position has had one unexpected consequence. "The Pope's commitment to avoid the war in Iraq was very helpful to relations between Christians and Muslims. Many Muslim communities have called on their faithful to follow John Paul's example in favour of peace," said Father Pierre Grech, the secretary-general of the Conference of Latin Bishops in the Arab Regions.

Sunday Nation Thought for Sunday

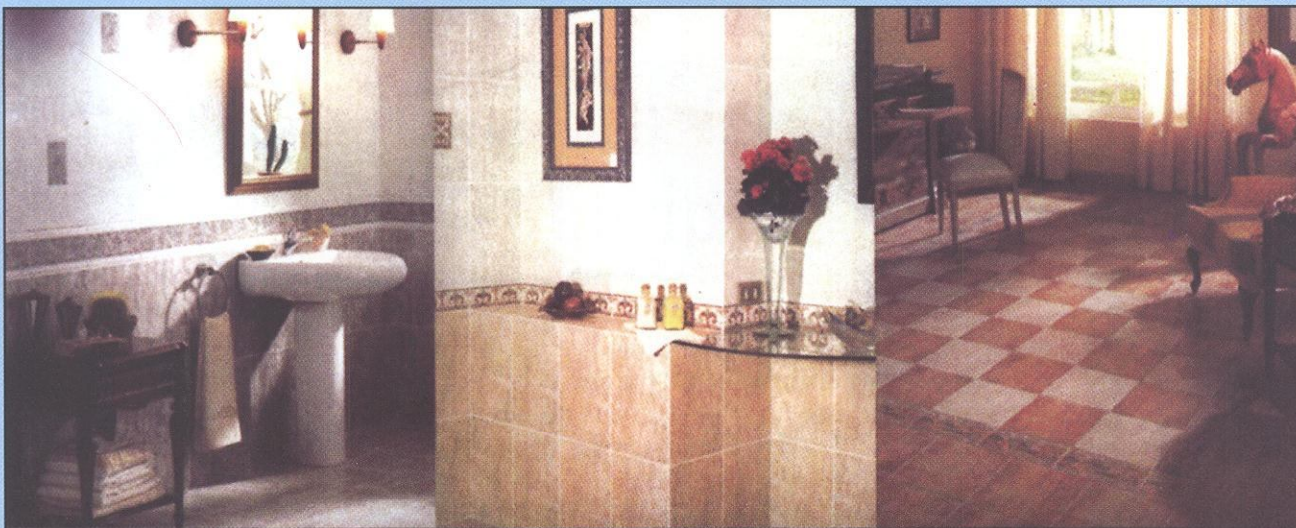
The Sunday Nation is East Africa's leading weekend newspaper.

Footnote:

The situation in Iraq remains highly unstable with fresh incidents of violence being reported almost every day.

Many Iraqis and over 200 coalition forces have been killed in post-war conflicts or bombings. These acts of violence have left many seriously injured.

With there being no signs of weapons of mass destruction, the case for launching the war has lost credibility. If the argument to attack Iraq was to eliminate a brutal regime then, say analysts, what stops a country from attacking so many other countries where human rights are being abused to this day?



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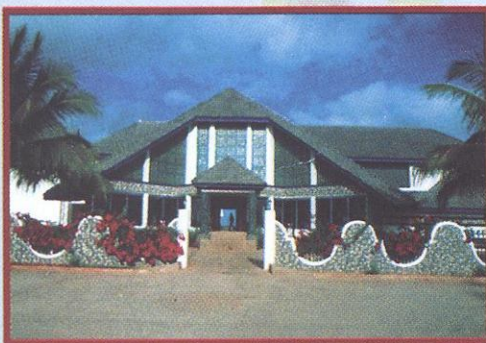
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Ordeal at the border



Watching her father being frisked, handcuffed and incarcerated has left Mehdiya Hudda feeling chilled about the neighbours to the south.

"We made a pact never to go there again," said the 11-year-old Kitchener girl.

Mehdiya was sitting in the back of a mini van with two younger brothers as the Muslim family headed for an Islamic conference in Washington, D.C., on May 22 this year.

After they crossed the Peace Bridge at Fort Erie and reached the U.S. border, a U.S. customs inspector asked Mehdiya's father, Shafiq Hudda, to open the van's rear hatch.

After a cursory look at the luggage, the inspector asked him to step aside, put his hands on the van and spread his legs. "I was in a bit of a shock," he said. "It was scary."

The inspector frisked him, then twisted Hudda's arms behind his back and slapped steel handcuffs on him, Hudda says.

During five hours in a small cell, Hudda says he was questioned by a customs officer and an FBI agent.

He was eventually photographed, fingerprinted and, along with his family, escorted back to the Canadian border.

According to Hudda, officers said they barred him because he didn't have a written invitation to the conference or proof that he had registered for the meeting.

Hudda, a Canadian citizen who is the current resident aalim in Vancouver, B.C. says he spent about \$1,000 to fly from Vancouver to Toronto and rented a van for the trip.

He wants the U.S. government to reimburse him for his expenses and wants to know why the U.S. officials questioned him for five hours and, above all, Hudda says, he wants an apology.

In a letter to the Prime Minister last week, Hudda asked Jean Chrétien to launch an investigation and formal protest of the incident.

Marie-Christine Lilkoff, a Department of Foreign Affairs spokeswoman, said Canada has contacted U.S. officials about Hudda's troubles at the border.

"A diplomatic note was sent to the U.S. Embassy asking them to investigate this incident," she said earlier this week.

Although Lilkoff didn't have any statistics, she said other Canadians have complained about being denied entry into the United States.

"More serious cases are referred to the U.S. Embassy by way of a diplomatic note for an investigation," she said.

Lilkoff said she couldn't disclose exactly what was written in the diplomatic note, but the Foreign Affairs Department is waiting for a reply from U.S. officials.

About eight million people each year try to enter the United States at the Peace Bridge crossing, said Michael Gilhooly, a spokesman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection based in South Burlington, Vt.

About 10,000 are refused entry annually — almost 28 a day. Gilhooly wouldn't talk about Hudda's specific incident. "We just

don't discuss individual cases," he said.

But anyone trying to enter the United States must "establish to the inspector's satisfaction that they are admissible," he said. "If they fail to do that for whatever reason, then they've become inadmissible and are not allowed in."

Being a Canadian citizen with a Canadian passport is not enough to ensure entry into the United States. According to U.S. Department of Homeland Security statistics, the number of people trying to enter the United States recently dropped about 15 per cent to 445 million in 2002 from 525 million in 1999.

The number of people denied entry during that time has also dropped to 733,444 from 781,078.

In March, Matthew Bailey-Dick, former Mennonite pastor and Waterloo resident, was turned away from the U.S. border where immigration officials cited problems with his student visa. Officials allowed him to enter the United States the next day.

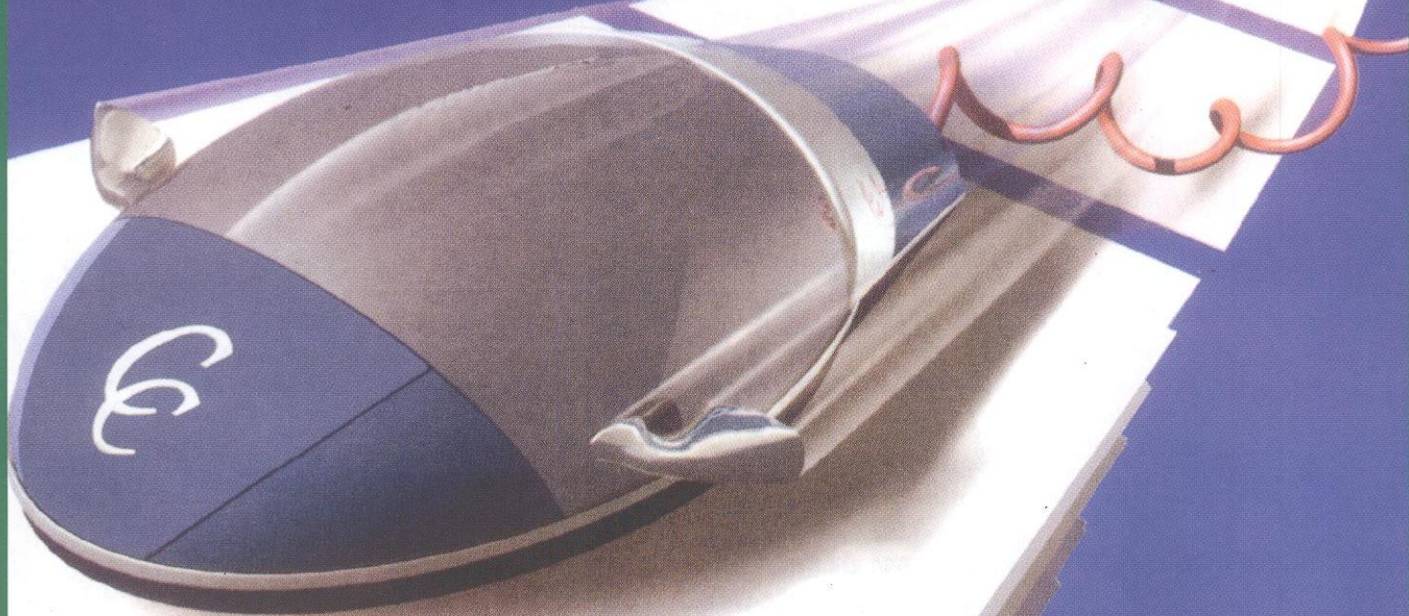
As a Shia Imam, Hudda says he regularly travels to conferences in the United States. He said he has been delayed by border officials about half a dozen times during the past 18 months.

Because of the latest incident, he has cancelled two forthcoming trips to the United States.

In the past, Hudda says his family had enjoyed travelling south of the border to go sightseeing and shopping or to eat at halal restaurants in Dearborn, Mich., which is home to the largest Arabic community in North America.

However, last week's experience will keep the family north of the border until further notice, he added.

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Successful youth conference on leadership in Paris

Over the weekend of the 13-15th September 2003, 65 youth delegates, both male and female from across Europe participated in the 2nd Annual CoEJ Youth Network Development (YND) conference hosted by Muhammedi Imambara in Paris. The conference was titled, 'Building for a new generation of community leaders'.

Based on the success of the 1st conference held in Trolhattan, Sweden last year, CoEJ YND wished to accelerate the development of youth bodies by providing effective leadership training within the context of Islamic and community practices.

The conference included speeches by youth leaders on the various activities they are involved in. This was complemented by a keynote discussion on a 'leadership vision for our community' and by personal development training. The conference also included the opportunity for delegates to network with each other and share ideas.

Alhamdhullah the conference was a great success with youth from across the EEC forging better links with each other and coming back with a renewed enthusiasm to continue serving the community.

Delegates were fortunate to be accompanied by many senior personalities throughout the entire trip. These included Maulana Saleh from Paris Jamaat, Br. Sabir Charifou, President of Paris Jamaat, Br. Navshir Jaffer, Vice President of CoEJ and Br. Shafique Govani, Operations Manager of the World Federation.

Hats off to the Paris Jamaat President, committee and volunteers for hosting such an excellent conference.

Federation Samachar

Toronto Jamaat President expresses commitment to guide his young team towards effective leadership

The new Jamaat President, Nazir Gulamhusein has said that the membership of Toronto Jamaat accepted the election platform that emphasised the need to have younger members to run the community. He said it was heartening to see younger members agree to participate in the process, in the first place, and then to accept the challenge and show the desire to move the community forward. He said the younger members of his team are focused on issues and want to distance themselves from petty politics frequently adopted by pockets of membership. He expressed hope and prayed that two years from now when his team looks back at what has been done, it will witness a model that could form the basis for other jamaats to follow.

Nazirbhai expressed commitment to provide his young team an opportunity as well as the room to stamp their personality on the running of the community. He said that was the primary reason for his decision to contest for the position. He expressed hope that not only will his team complete what has been started, but will do it professionally and correctly. He said, "if my team succeeds the credit will be all theirs. If they fail, which will never be for lack of effort, I will unashamedly take the fall."

OPINION

In the name of God: The dark side of religion

Religion is often found at the heart of hate, and is at the core of many conflicts and wars, people seem willing to kill, maim, torture and die for a religious or spiritual belief:

In the name of God, Shiites and Sunnis are at each others throats in Iraq, Iran, Pakistan etc. as are Arabs and Jews in the Middle-East.

In the name of God, the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11, 2001. This was the worst terrorist attack in the history of the United States.

In the name of God, Hindus and Muslims kill each others in India.

How quickly and easily religion and faith become handy tools to use in constructing a moral high ground, a justification, if you will to kill in the name of [God], all is holy and good.

That is not to say religious belief itself caused the death, guns do not kill people, people use guns to kill people. Faith in God by itself kills no one. It saves lives. Religious belief applied can be and should always be force for good.

We all are children of the same God. Let us try to someday embrace as brothers and sisters. There can be no more dangerous misuse of religious faith than its use justifying hate and violence towards others.

Akber A. Kassam
Minnesota, U.S.A.

AF Chairman addresses congregation at the opening of the Al Ahad Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

On 18th May 2003 the Chairman of the Africa Federation, Zulfikarbhai Khimji addressed the congregation attending the opening of the Al Ahad Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Extracts from his delivery follow:

"Mu'mineen we recently concluded the 61st session of the Africa Federation annual Supreme Council meeting in Mombasa. This year, the council has set its sights on three main objectives:

- 1) Educate as many as possible, at any cost;
- 2) Economically uplift the members of our community, and
- 3) Strengthen our institutions – both constitutionally and financially.

During our inauguration night, we had declared our term as "The term of education". I am proud to say that during the past two years, we have successfully been able to send over 90 students to pursue higher education.

In encouraging economic upliftment, we have advanced the idea to our brothers to engage in business and create inroads for their posterity and for the progress of our community. A business awareness trip to a China International Trade Fair was organised, wherein 30 people participated. This has benefited our brothers in numerous ways.

Strengthening our institutions is a challenge all community leaders face regularly. Challenges present themselves in various ways and forms, and to counter those challenges with skill is an art to be per-

Federation Samachar



After the inauguration ceremony, pictured (from L to R) Gulam Khaku, Mohamedraza Rashid Moledina, Zulfikar Khimji, Hussein Walji (President of NASIMCO), Dr. Asger Moledina, Amir Merali, Mohamed Khaku (Chairman Allentown Jamaat) and Anverbhai Manekia.

fect. A strategic planning committee has been put in place by the Africa Federation to chart out a road map for our community progress and to be a "Guide-Beacon" for our future.

....it is now fast becoming a battle of wits for our youngsters to take up community challenges and to embark upon diverse ideas and to envisage a better tomorrow for our future generations. It is my sincere hope that the youths will respond positively to these challenges and create inroads to make our community more organised and exemplary. To encourage our youths, the Africa Federation has formed the Africa Youth Network as a separate board within the Africa Federation.

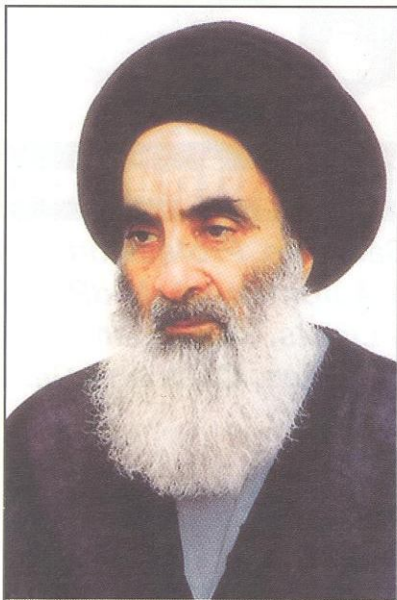
The Africa Federation recently embarked on a project to publish a guideline on how to write a Will as there are cases where people do not write a Will, and their property either goes to a Public Trust or is not easily traceable. In either case, a lot of time and money is involved in sorting such situations.

We found it apt therefore to embark on this project notwithstanding the fact that writing a Will is a sunnah of the Holy Prophet (SAW). The guideline has a sample Will attached which has clauses that make it flexible to use in which ever part of the world one lives. I brought some copies with me and have already presented some copies to the chairmen of various jamaats at the NASIMCO meeting. A copy is also available on our website www.africa federation.org. Please visit it and print a copy for your benefit.

Finally, I thank the organisers for availing me the chance to address this august gathering. I once again pay my deepest respect to the leaders and the volunteers for the construction of this superb development and pray that with the assistance of our Imam Mehdi A.S. we overcome the challenges we face and that our continuity flourishes.

Was-salamun Alaykum Warah Matullah-e-Wabarakatu"

Ayatullah Sistani expresses unease on US occupation in Iraq



The Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, the senior religious figure of Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority and the community's most influential voice, expressed "great unease" about the U.S. occupation and demanded that the United States allow Iraqis to rule themselves.

Sistani's statements, in written responses to questions from The Washington Post, represent a rare foray for the Iranian-born cleric into political affairs. Sistani, viewed by U.S. officials as a crucial force for moderation in the turbulent postwar aftermath, stopped far short of demanding a withdrawal. But his words seemed to signal growing anxiety among the country's religious leadership over the direction of the U.S. occupation.

"We feel great unease over their goals, and we see that it is necessary that they should make room for Iraqis to rule themselves by themselves without foreign intervention," Sistani responded from his home in the southern city of Najaf.

A reclusive, scholarly figure in his seventies, Sistani has not been seen in public since before the

U.S.-led invasion began in March. His replies were put in written form by his son and spokesman, Mohammed Rida Sistani, who acts on his father's authority.

Echoing other Shiite clerics, many of whom have become increasingly vocal in their denunciations of Western influence, Sistani also warned that the biggest threat facing the Arab country is "the obliteration of its cultural identity."

Despite Sistani's disavowal of any political role, U.S. officials, even as the war was underway, sought to open channels to the cleric, given his standing as the most respected among Iraq's senior ayatollahs in Najaf. He has refused to meet with U.S. officials, but U.S. commanders said that in the wake of Najaf's fall, Sistani issued a judgment urging Shiites not to interfere with American troops.

A copy of the edict was never published. But in a series of rulings, or fatwas, Sistani was credited with easing the transition after the fall of Saddam Hussein's government probably explaining why Iraq's largely Shiite south has remained relatively quiet.

He ordered an end to looting that wrecked Baghdad and scarred other cities, demanded that stolen items be turned over to local authorities and forbade revenge killings against members of the Baath Party, whose rule was especially repressive in the south.

He instructed Iraq's clergy to remain outside of government. That counsel was grounded in Sistani's theological view, a traditional line of thought that sees the clergy's calling as confined to spiritual affairs, not administrative. While other clerics in Iraq have spoken openly about political

ambitions, Sistani has made clear that he seeks no role in a future government.

"Religious scholars should distance themselves from positions of administrative and executive responsibility," said Sistani, who wears a black turban that, among Shiites, denotes descent from the family of the Prophet Muhammad.

L. Paul Bremer, the U.S. civilian administrator of Iraq offered to meet Sistani, who however declined the invitation.

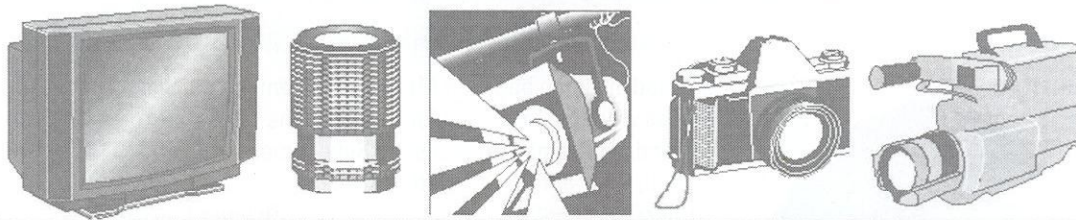
Sistani, with a long white beard and thick black eyebrows, speaks Arabic with a Persian accent, is a marja al-taqlid, a title held by a handful of the most senior ayatollahs. He has the right to interpret Islamic law in everyday life — in unprecedented and original fashion — giving him great sway.

For his followers, his authority is traditionally unquestioned, and his modest office down a ramshackle alley in Najaf is besieged daily by followers seeking aid or answers to religious questions.

His fatwas on numerous religious issues are published in a book circulated widely among Shias and all of his edicts can also be read online over the internet on various Islamic sites including the Africa Federation website www.africa-federation.org.

In the echo of Sistani's warning — the threat posed by a secular vision of Iraq endorsed by U.S. officials is the graver danger as many Iraqis consider the U.S. administration "as occupiers, not liberators." The situation in post-war Iraq continues to deteriorate and with every new death on either side, the level of animosity towards the other keeps on growing.

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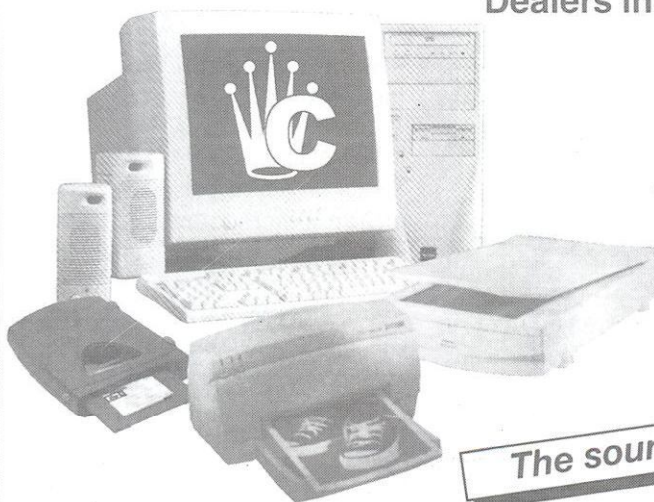
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Pizza shop slogan:

"7 days without pizza makes one weak."

Door of a plastic surgeon's office:

"Hello, can we pick your nose?"

Sign at the psychic's hotline:

"Don't call us, we'll call you."

At a towing company:

"We don't charge an arm and a leg. We want tows."

Billboard on the side of the road:

"Keep your eyes on the road and stop reading these signs."

On an electrician's truck:

"Let us remove your shorts."

In a non-smoking area:

"If we see smoking we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action."

On maternity room door:

"Push, Push, Push."

At an optometrist's office:

"If you don't see what you're looking for you've come to the right place."

On a taxidermist's window:

"We really know our stuff."

In a Podiatrist's office:

"Time wounds all heels."

On a Butcher's window:

"Let me meat your needs."

At a car dealership:

"The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

Karachi forms a seniors group

Following a meeting at Mehfil-e-Murtaza earlier this year, a Senior Citizens Forum for Khoja Shia Isna Asheri Muslims was formed to provide recreation and outing facilities for seniors. An ad hoc committee with the following members was appointed:

1. Mr. Ali Raza T. Lakhani (Convener)
2. Mr. Nisar H. Virani
3. Mr. Aunul Alibhai
4. Mr. Ghulam Ali Panjwani
5. Mr. Haider Ali Chagpar

The committee co-opted other members who are Mrs. Mumtaz Haji, Mrs. Fatima Mooraj, Mrs. Khurshid Ali Husain, Mrs. Ghulshan Pirbhai, Shiraz Aunali and Fawji Husain.

Many senior citizens welcomed the new set up and readily became members by paying the annual subscription of Rs. 250/=. The age limit to become member of the Forum is fixed at 50 years and above. The membership is open to males and females.

The Forum organized a picnic at Hawks Bay and a full day trip to Hyderabad for Ziarat of Qadamgah and outing. The participants enjoyed both the programs.

With the enthusiasm and dedicated efforts by the ad hoc committee it is planned to set up a library, reading room and recreation hall at the following places.

1. Upper Hall of Mehfil-e-Murtaza on gents side to be known as Societies unit. This has been facilitated through the kind courtesy of Mehfil-e-Murtaza and the Khoja (Pirbhai) Shia Isna Asheri Jamaat, Karachi.
2. Sughra Bai Agha Hall at Fatimiya Boys School, Britto Road to be known as Soldier Bazaar Unit.
3. First Floor at Platinum Plaza, Paria Street to be known as Kharadar Unit.

These units will cater for the recreation needs of the elders. Further units are planned if residents in areas not covered show interest.

The recreation units are expected to be equipped with the following facilities:

1. Library and reading room to provide books, magazines and daily newspapers and other informative literature.
2. Internet and computer facilities for members.
3. Video/TV to watch religious and informative recordings of majalis, manqabat, marsiya/nauha etc.
4. Audio cassettes for playing of majalis, lectures, marsiya/manqabat.
5. Light exercise e.g. stationary cycling, running etc. on machines.
6. Indoor games such as table tennis, carom board, ludo, chess, scrabble, master mind, uno etc.
7. Lectures, lessons, seminars, literary meetings etc.
8. Tuck shop to provide dry eatables and beverages at a discounted price.

In June the senior citizens organised their third outing programme. A day visit was arranged to the Arabian Sea Country Club located on the sea shore near Port Qassim.

Fatima's diligence and sense of humour catalyses her progress



There's little doubt Fatema Khimji has a sense of humor. She used this campaign slogan when she ran for president of her senior class in spring 2002: "It's all good under her hood. Vote Fatema for president."

Her "hood" is actually her hijab, a head scarf. Fatema, 18, won the three-way race for the presidency at Our Lady of the Elms High School in Akron.

The slogan may have been the clincher, Fatema says, adding, "People know I got good grades."

With brainpower and an impressive list of activities, Fatema clearly has a way of winning over more than fellow students.

One of this year's Akron Beacon Journal Star Students, Fatema won big scholarship offers to seven universities.

She rejected all that money to attend Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The biggest offer she turned down was \$60,000 (\$15,000 annually for four years) from American University, also in Washington.

Georgetown didn't offer her money because the school only awards need-based scholarships.

Fatema, who lives in Bath

Township, says she chose Georgetown because "it's got the best programs, the best professors."

She says that while her parents were initially hopeful she would attend one of the schools that offered her money, they were pleased with her choice of Georgetown.

Writing required essays for Georgetown and the other highly competitive schools was the "hardest part" of the college application process, she says.

Nevertheless, the fun-loving, perhaps quirky side that she displayed during her campaign run also showed up in those essays. In one, she talked about abolishing work and school on Wednesdays.

"I try to be upbeat about things," she says. "If you're depressed about things, you just depress everyone else."

Asked whether she's a glass-half-full type, she says "Yes," but quickly adds, "there are those days when the glass is shattered and half empty and dirty and awful."

The drama in her voice when she says that is not surprising, as theater is one of her favorite high school activities.

Teachers fondly remember her good-naturedly wearing a hijab when she played the Cheshire Cat in a school production of *Alice in Wonderland*.

Speech — among her many other activities — also captivated her. "When I first started I was really bad," she says. "It presented a challenge."

Fatema was a member of the school's speech team all four years and was president this year and last and qualified for the state finals the past two years.

She has been active with the Coming Together Project, which seeks to improve race relations throughout the region. As a member of the project's teen board she helped plan workshops, including one on interracial relationships. She gave a talk about friendships among those of different ethnicities and religions. She knows firsthand about that subject. She is one of few Muslims at the Elms.

This year, Fatema was senior class president of the all-girls Catholic high school. Elms college counselor Peggy Brooks wrote that Fatema is a "natural leader; she is always very organized and efficient. She delegates responsibilities well and her classmates show her much respect."

Fatema graduated with a 4.0324 grade-point average from the Elms, which has a college prep curriculum.

Not having a job during high school allowed her to get the grades she did and to be involved in so many activities, Fatema says.

At Georgetown, she plans to study international politics. She's looking forward to the mix of history, economics and politics, the degree program offers.

History is a favorite subject. Elms named her this year's "History Student of the Year" and this year and last she tutored a fellow Elms student in the subject.

International politics appeals to her, she says, "because there's a lot of problems in the world" that need to be addressed.

After Georgetown, she plans to go to graduate school. She figures that in today's competitive job market she'll need an advanced degree.

Shul Khalfan of New York is honoured



The Majority Leader of the U.S. Congress has appointed Alhaj Shul Khalfan of New York as an Honorary Chairman for New York for the Business Advisory Council of the Congress.

The position involves attending meetings in Washington to meet with members of the Congress and other high ranking officials on business issues and particularly tax policies and the economy.

By virtue of this position and as a holder of US National Leadership Award, he is an invitee, among others, to the President's Dinner.

Shul Khalfan has since been elected the President of the Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat of NY for the term 2003-2004, having served the Jamaat in the same position in 1994-96 also.

Br. Khalfan operates his business in Manhattan, NY and originally hails from Zanzibar, Tanzania.

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WF participates in United Nations meeting

The former Vice President and current President of the World Federation, Dr. Ahmed Hassam represented the World Federation at the UN in Geneva on 27th June 2003. The Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations convened this high-level segment meeting to obtain views of the NGOs on the declaration to be adopted by the Ministers of member states on eradication of poverty, especially in rural areas. The meeting was attended by NGOs from across the world, including India, Pakistan, Africa and Europe.

In their opening address, the UN representatives acknowledged that member governments and the international institutions realise that the United Nations is very good at agreeing on policy and declarations, but is very weak in implementing these declarations. They were also of the opinion that the UN is not engaging and obtaining the views of the communities, particularly those who are poor and excluded from the mainstream of society.

There was also concern on the current method of accountability where it was thought that the scrutiny for accountability should be with the people rather than government officials. The view therefore was that the NGOs by their virtue of working in the communities, particularly those who are marginalized, are more able to represent their views, assist in the implementation and hold the organisation accountable. They stressed that the role of the NGOs is of high importance and is valued by the UN and its agencies.

The rest of the day was spent on presentations by the NGOs of their work in the rural areas especially on the eradication of poverty; and

the successes and problems they encounter. Amongst the presentations were work in the areas of healthcare, sanitation, provision of clean water, land rights, rights of the minority communities, projects on economic upliftment, education and many others. From these discussions, the delegates were able to prepare and agree on the recommendations that were subsequently presented to the meeting of Ministers of member states.

For the World Federation, the attendance at this meeting served three purposes:

- Understanding of the contribution the NGOs make at the highest level of policy decision-making.

- Networking with other NGOs particularly those who work in Africa, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh.

- Introduction with officials of the United Nations who are responsible with dealing with applications from community and voluntary organisations who wish to acquire accreditation for a United Nations NGO status.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for Dr. Hassam to brief some of the key officials of the services the World Federation has been providing in various part of the world over the last 26 years in the field of healthcare, religious and secular education, housing and economic upliftment. They were very much impressed, and positively encouraged the WF to start the accreditation process as soon as possible, since it is a long process and takes up to two years to complete.

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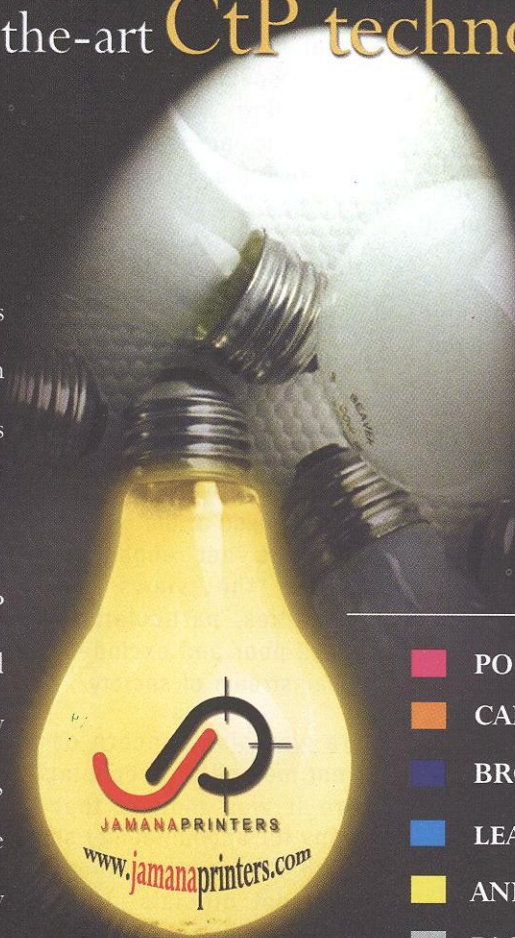
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Excellence within - Empowering young professionals in our community

On the 1st of June 2003, the World Federation's Careers, Education, Training & Advisory Board (CETAB) held a graduation conference, the first of its kind, at the Hilton Hotel, Watford, U.K. Entitled 'Excellence Within', the event was a significant milestone in the work of CETAB, and has been ranked as one of the largest, and most successful, programmes ever held for the Khoja Shia Ithna-asheri (KSI) community in the UK.

The main aims of the programme were as follows:

1. To recognise the achievements of our 2001 and 2002 graduates
2. To facilitate an environment for professional networking
3. To engage the graduates and professionals in constructive discussion directly with leaders of the World Federation and Regional heads

The Excellence Within team, comprising of nine individuals, created an event, which hosted over 200 attendees from across Europe. The programme for the day was designed to facilitate interesting and thought provoking sessions; culminating in the climax of a graduation ceremony to mark the success of the 2001 and 2002 graduates from a diverse range of disciplines.

The main sponsor of the event was Habib Bank AG Zurich, and their key employees attended the event. Habib Bank's presence at the event signified their work in contributing to the welfare of community youths.

Also in attendance, were well known academics from the community, such as:

known academics from the community, such as:

- Dr Mahmood Datto (Lecturer at South Bank University)
- Mr Arif Hasham (Deputy Headmaster)
- Mrs Hasinabhai Manji (Teacher of Physics)
- Mrs Sajida Rashid (Head of the Montessori school), and
- Teachers from the first and middle schools of our community.

Also in the audience were special invitees such as Professor Robert Rowthorn, from Cambridge University, Lady Mary & Lord Tovey and professionals (of various educational and working backgrounds) from the KSI community. Mr Charles Clarke, the current Minister for Education, was interested in attending but unfortunately had to decline due to a prior commitment in Whitehall.

The programme started with a blessed recitation from the Holy Qur'an, before being formally introduced by the Master of Ceremony, Muhammad Sajjad Tharoo, a professional from Stanmore Jamaat and a highly regarded public speaker.

Mr Murtaza Datto, Chairman of CETAB, gave the welcome speech in which he emphasised that this event was one of recognition. He highlighted the importance of our young professionals taking pride in, and volunteering their services to, the community. He also gave praise to those in the community that had dedicated their time and effort in guiding the youth of today in their educational endeavours.

A key feature of the day was the

hosting of twelve Focus Discussion Groups entitled 'Your Vision, Your Future'. Each Focus Group discussed a specific theme that related to the work of CETAB. Many valuable and interesting ideas were raised from the cross-section of attendees. The feedback obtained from them will be the basis of a report that will be presented to the World Federation, explaining where the youth would like to see attention most focused in both the educational and professional world.

After a break, which gave an opportunity for all attendees to network, the audience were given the opportunity to address a panel of several leaders of the community in order to directly address issues of importance.

The panel members were:

- Mahmood Hooda - President of the Council of European Jamaats
- Mohamed Lalji - President of Stanmore Jamaat
- Saeeda Jiwa - Chair of Khawateen Committee within the Council of European Jamaats
- Ahmed Hassam - Vice-President of the World Federation

The Chairperson for this discussion with the panel was Fatim Kurji, who achieved her Law degree from the University of Birmingham. Fatim has represented Britain at the World Debate Institute in America and is highly accomplished in this field.

The questions that were raised to the panel, and their responses, were intellectually stimulating and thought provoking. At times, some responses were even humorous in their nature. Overall, everyone gained great benefit and this led to much informal discussion throughout the day.

After a short break, there was a small speech given by Sharmin Valji, who is the head of the Legal Department of the Bereavement

(.....continued on page 69)

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(.....from page 67)

Support Group; within the Council of European Jamaats. Her department is made up of a team of lawyers from various Jamaats - around the country - that give presentations relating to the areas of will making and inheritance from an Islamic viewpoint.

Mr Murtaza Lakha, a renowned barrister and religious speaker, gave the keynote speech. He commented on the high degree of professionalism of the event and those who attended. He stressed that the values gained during time spent in education are critical, as they shape an educated person; and that these ideals would remain with the person long after the factual knowledge gained had somewhat faded away. He concluded that the values gained by graduates were an inspiration to the community at large.

The final part of the programme ended with a presentation ceremony that recognised the achievements of our 2001 and 2002 graduates. In all, there were 57 graduates, consisting of 30 ladies and 27 gentlemen, each presented with an award from well-known dignitaries within the community.

All those who received a gift, and those who were unable to attend the event will be recognise further when the final report is published. CETAB chose to present a crystal globe to the graduates, as a symbol of recognising achievements in education within the KSI community worldwide.

Mr Salim Zubairi, Vice President of Habib Bank, then praised the event and related fond memories of his 50 years in the banking industry. After this, the event was formally concluded with a Dua and Dinner.

The superb dinner served at the end of the evening, facilitated plenty of networking where much valuable feedback and idea generation ensued. It was also a chance for all those present to

USA beats Canada in third Haider Cup golf event

The 3rd Haider Cup matches, the Ryder Cup-style annual event held between United States and Canada Shia Ithnaasheri golfers, were recently played in Orlando, Florida. Organised this year by the Union Sports Club of Orlando, the event was a magnificent success.

This event was even more memorable because it featured some future golf talents: Hilal Virjee (13) of Orlando, Hassan Kassam (15) and Abbas Akbar (15), both from Toronto, Canada.

This year, the Haider Cup organisers adopted the Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme as it's cause celebre, raising \$615.00 in contributions from the players towards this noble cause.

The matches were played over three warm, humid days, but the weather was not a bother to anyone. Both teams displayed a very high level of sportsmanship and co-operation. Defending champions Canada put up a brilliant fight, but the United States just had that little bit extra this year.

After the first day scramble format, played on the beautiful LPGA International Course, the score was tied at 5-5.

The better-ball team matchplay event was played on one of Central Florida's finest layouts, Mystic Dunes. With some true Wally World-type greens, the Gary Koch-designed layout provided a fine challenge to all forty golfers. At the end of the day the United States surged ahead 12 points to 8 points for the Canadians.

The stage was then set for the final third day of singles matches played on the Greg Norman-designed ChampionsGate International course. Even though they were four points behind, the Canadians came in with a positive outlook, and knew that a 4-point lead, in this format of play (singles matchplay), was by no means insurmountable. The Americans, however, answered the challenge. By winning 10 1/2 points out of the available 20 points, the Americans secured the Haider Cup for the second time in three years.

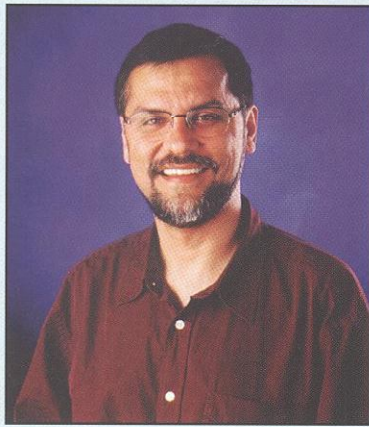
At the awards dinner, Canada team captain Hasnain Chagani displayed true sportsmanship by committing to come back the following year. He said the Canadians would try to reclaim the Haider Cup in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada next year. USA Captain Raza Dhanji expressed his gratitude to the Canadian team that put up a brilliant fight to make the event a major success.

relax after an intellectually stimulating afternoon.

Overall, the event proved to be popular with the graduates and professionals and received a tremendous amount of praise from the special invitees and business community members in attendance.

It is clearly evident from the success and recognition of this event, that CETAB has set the standard for similar gatherings in the future. It is now working extremely hard to transform some of the many ideas raised at the programme into potential projects that can serve the community and drive it forward.

Jawad Khaki honored in New York City



Washington State Activist, Jawad Khaki received the sixth annual 2003 Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award from the Interfaith Alliance Foundation (TIAF) on 22nd May, 2003 in the Rainbow Room at Rockefeller Plaza in New York City.

Jawad Khaki joined CNN host Larry King and Congressman Amo Houghton (R-NY) at a reception and dinner in honor of his dedication to bring about the positive and healing role of religion in public life.

"The Award Selection Committee was impressed and moved by the spirit and the substance of Mr. Khaki's activism and leadership. Indeed, his work is an extraordinary example of what the Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award promotes - courageous actions embodying the values of liberty, civility, tolerance, diversity, and cooperation in the advancement of public dialogue on traditionally controversial and divisive issues," explained the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, president of TIAF.

Khaki is a Muslim community leader and corporate vice president for Microsoft. He is also the president and founding director of IMAN, the Ithna-asheri Muslim Association, and is leading an

effort to establish the first purpose-built mosque and religious educational facility for his Eastside, Washington community.

Established in 1998, the Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award was created to recognize people of faith and good will who stand up for religious freedom and demonstrate the healing and constructive force of faith and religion in American life. TIAF seeks candidates for this award from all backgrounds and faith traditions - community activists, public officials, clergy and others who, through a specific act or event, have made a difference in their community.

"We should never lose sight of the fact that faith and freedom are precious liberties that must be vigorously protected and defended in a manner that strengthens - not undermines - the integral role of faith in the life of our nation," commented Walter Cronkite at the first award ceremony.

Recipients of this award are chosen annually from nominations that are reviewed by an Award Selection Committee. Last year's award recipients were Peter Jennings of ABC World News Tonight, and Forrest J. "Frosty" Troy, editor of the Oklahoma Observer, a bi-weekly newspaper distributed statewide. Jennings was honored for his conduct in reporting on the September 11 terrorist attacks on America, which he did with extraordinary sensitivity for the grief of those directly touched by the tragedy and with great courage in addressing the difficult issues related to religious diversity. Troy was honored for his efforts to

advance public dialogue on controversial issues in his newspaper writings and his speaking engagements.

The Interfaith Alliance Foundation (TIAF) is a nonpartisan, educational institution dedicated to promoting the positive role of religion as a healing and constructive force in American life. TIAF provides training, education, research and other support to a growing grassroots network of clergy and people of faith who are working to promote social justice in their communities.

In his speech at the award ceremony Jawad Khaki said:

"In the name of God the beneficent, the merciful!

Peace be with you!

It is a great honor for me to be invited here in this historic city - gateway to millions of immigrants over many generations.

I am happy to share this moment with my family and my friends who have traveled across the country and across continents to be with us here today. My 82 year old dad and my brother Haider from the UK, my sister Fatima and her husband Hussain from Tanzania, my other sister Layla, her husband Haider, my nephews Sajjad, Sameer and my friend Robert Bohrer all the way from New Jersey, my friends Laura and James Capestany, Phil Gearson and Cantor David Serkin-Poole from Seattle, Arun Sardana from Washington D.C., my friend and President of the World Federation

(continued on page 71)

(...from page 70)

of Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri Muslim Jamaats, Dr. Hasnain Walji and his wife Latifa. And of course my dearest Kaniz, and our children Ateqah, Ali and Asiya – who are missing school this week to be with their dad in New York.

This recognition is especially meaningful to me. Born in Tanzania, I arrived at JFK one September afternoon in 1985 with my wife Kaniz, my two year daughter, Ateqah, my infant son, Ali and \$500.00 in my pocket - responding to my father's call to come breathe the air of hope in America.

Who would have thought that such a person would one day be honored with the Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom award for doing what is job #1? Job #1 as taught to me by my faith, my family is getting to know my community and letting the community to get to know me and my fellow Muslims.

I am grateful to my family for their support. I am also very grateful to my friends, colleagues and the strangers who helped me and my fellow Muslims through these challenging times.

This is my first visit to Manhattan since the terrorist attacks of 9/11 when evil forces wanted to divide us and destroy us by implanting fear in our hearts. My heart is filled with the emotions and the pain that my soul shares with the survivors of this great tragedy.

I want you to know that my fellow Muslims and I are with you as we suffer through this together. Together we will rebuild not just the structures but the very foundations of liberty, freedom and justice, universal values for all of humanity.

I am moved by the compassion, the generosity and the courage that I see all around me in America. I am energized by our faith in God Almighty, our faith in humanity and the faith in the great American

people to uphold what our country stands for: one nation under God indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

In the Greater Seattle area we were blessed to have the bright shining star of Sacred Heart Church in the form of Laura Capestany inviting our congregations for a prayer.

This was a call to prayer where the young and old beseeched our One and only Creator to unite our hearts and minds and to move us to positive action.

I remember our Jewish, Christian and Muslim congregations writing onto red, white and blue ribbons to form a prayer chain - much longer than what I show you here - we felt the need to send our hundreds of feet long prayer chain to ground zero because not all of us could be here in person.

We found ourselves reaching out in different forums, understanding each other and a year later united and enriched by our diversities - working with Habitat for Humanity - Jews, Christians and Muslims together pounding nails - building houses for less fortunate - this is what makes America great - this is what ties us together to a common dream.

Personally, I felt blessed to be working with strangers who are now my friends. People from Temple B'Nai Torah, Sacred Heart Church, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Bellevue Christian Church.

Let me assure you, pounding nails on the roof all day guarantees a good nights sleep! This was a life changing experience for me. Now I know I have skills that can be applied to other things besides building software for the masses.

It was heartwarming to see Jews and Muslims, Catholics and Protestants eating, praying and working side by side. It was clear to me that unity comes when we move people to a common cause.

At the end of the day we helped four needy families have a home they can call their own.

But we accomplished much more than this. We forged human bonds that will continue to strengthen us as we prepare for the future. We increased our understanding of each other. We found ourselves moving from tolerance to respect. Most importantly we learned that despite our diverse backgrounds we worship the One and only Creator and that we serve by serving humanity.

That week we built a better America.

I think we are being called to "think anew, and act anew" at this moment in our history. I think we must "disenthrall ourselves" of many of the ways we have been looking at things.

Lincoln convinced a nation divided that there could be something better; that there were stronger, deeper, and more enduring principles that could hold the country together, that one view of the world, one view of race and human nature, had to give way to another, better view.

We live in a great and a dynamic country which has time and again demonstrated the capacity to change. Today as I appear in front of you I remain inspired by those who have come before me.

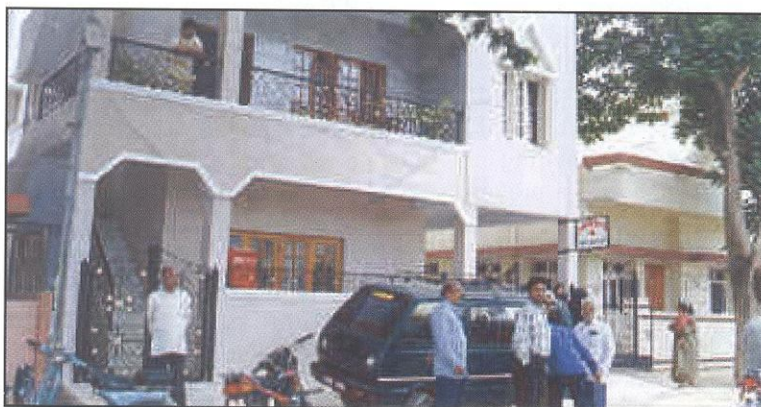
I envision an America that, with its rich tapestry of pluralism, incorporates all ethnicities and religions.

I envision an America that inspires not only those just within its borders but all those who inhabit this troubled planet of ours.

It is by action and not just words that we inspire others. Each one of us can take these simple actions.

(continued on page 72)

World Federation Opens its First Hospital - Aeinullah Eye Hospital



The World Federation's first hospital, the Aeinullah Eye Hospital in Bangalore continues to help the poor blind patients in Bangalore, India. Bangalore is a beautiful, thriving, prosperous capital of Karnataka State in South India. Just outside Bangalore in the slums of Neelsandra, over 100,000 people live in abject poverty and gross deprivation. Majority of the inhabitants are Muslims and mostly Shias. They lack basic facilities like housing, sanitation, and clean water. Health care is virtually non-existent. Most people are unemployed and getting enough to eat is a daily struggle.

In April 1996, the World Federation set-up its Zainabiya Health Centre to provide basic health care to the inhabitants. Coupled with this, health education is provided to teach the people basic preventive measures, immunisation, family planning and maternity care.

Incidences of eye diseases particularly blindness is very high in India. Young people in their 30's and 40's are blind with cataracts. The World Federation therefore started the Aeinullah Eye Clinic on 24th June 2001. It was turned into an Eye Hospital early this year and is fully funded by the World Federation and supported by many service minded people and donors.

Current statistics show that every five seconds one person in the world goes blind. Today nearly 50

million people are blind and another 150 million are victims of severe visual disability. Unless global efforts are significantly intensified, this number is projected to double by the year 2020. All major organizations involved in the prevention of blindness and delivery of eye care throughout the world have therefore to launch a focused and coordinated effort to address this avoidable tragedy.

About 90% of the world's blind live in developing countries like India. However if significant efforts are made in this direction then about 70% of the blind people will regain their eyesight. About 60% of all blindness worldwide is caused by cataract, childhood eye disease, trachoma and onchocerciasis. In India, there are over three years backlog of cataract surgeries to be done.

Aeinullah means eye of Allah (s.w.t.). It is also one of the names of our first Imam Hazarat Ali (AS). The Aeinullah Eye Hospital is fully equipped with state of the art machines. Dr (Mrs) Sameena Zamindar (M.B.B.S. & M.S.) and Dr Irshad (M.B.B.S. & M.S.) are the two renowned ophthalmologists (eye specialists) associated with Aeinullah Eye Hospital. They conduct outpatient clinics five days a week and screen at least ten patients per day. They conduct cataract and other operations twice a week and do a cataract surgery camp every month.

Jawad Khaki is honored

(...from page 71)

It could be sharing a cup of coffee with a person of a different background.

It could be inviting someone from a different faith over for a meal to enhance our understanding and building lasting bonds of humanity.

It may even mean signing up for and enlisting our colleagues and neighbors to swing a hammer to install a roof where one does not exist.

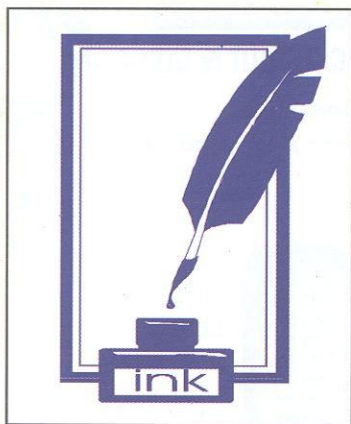
Most important of all, it is looking in the eyes of a stranger and seeing a potential friend.

Thank you all and I now would like to conclude by a short prayer. Please join me.

Almighty God, give us the inspiration and strength to build bridges of understanding between humanity – moving from tolerance to respect, from mere acceptance to love and compassion for all that reside on this planet. Our dignity is in working towards dignity for all in this global society. It is through open hearts and minds that we can effectively communicate and reach understanding, strengthening our bonds and achieving unity as we focus on common causes.

Amen."

The World Federation intends to conduct free cataract eye camps on a monthly basis. These will be conducted shortly in different parts of Karnataka where poor Muslims in general and Shia's in particular are concentrated. Patients selected for cataract surgery during these camps will be operated at the Aeinullah hospital. The regular cost of cataract eye surgery (out of camp cases) will be Rs 2,500 including inter-ocular lenses.



Death Jottings

Inna lillaahi wa inna ilaihi
raajiuun

The following deaths have been reported since the last issue of the *Federation Samachar*.

Marhum Rossanally Goulamaly A. Djouma who passed away in Re-Union on Saturday 4th October 2003 7th Shabaan 1424.

Marhum Hussein Jaffer Mawji who passed away in Mombasa on 2nd October 2003, 5th Shabaan 1424.

Marhuma Lailabai Muhammad Jessa Damani who passed away in Peterborough, UK on 1st October 2003, 4th Shabaan 1424.

Marhuma Mariumbai M Bandali Ladha who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Saturday 27th September 2003, 30th Rajab 1424.

Marhum Akberalibhai Ahmed Karim of Mombasa who passed away in Mombasa on Friday 26th September 2003, 29th Rajab 1424.

Marhuma Rubabbai Haider Ali, Hyderabad who passed away in Hyderabad on Thursday 25th September 2003, 28th Rajab 1424.

Marhuma Fatmabai Pyarali Manji Walli (originally of Tanga) who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Tuesday 23rd September 2003, 26th Rajab 1424.

Federation Samachar

Marhuma Dowlatebai Ashraf Panjwani who passed away in New York on Sunday 21st September 2003, 24th Rajab 1424.

Marhuma Shaheen Ladha (daughter of Akbarali Gulamhussein Ladha) who passed away in London on Saturday 20th September 2003, 23 Rajab 1424.

Marhum Aliasgar Jaffer Devjee (Chacha) who passed away in Toronto on Sunday 21st September 2003, 24th Rajab 1424.

Marhuma Zehrabai Khatau who passed away in Nairobi on Saturday 20th September 2003 23rd Rajab 1424 and was buried on Sunday 21st Sept 2003, 24th Rajab 1424.

Marhum Anverali Gulamhussein Virjee who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on 11th September 2003, 14th Rajab 1424.

Marhuma Khairunbai Habib Murji who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on 8th September 2003, 11th Rajab 1424.

Marhum Haji Hassanali Wallimohamed Merali Dewji who passed away in Nairobi on 7th September 2003, 10th Rajab 1424.

Marhum Yusuf Musa Moledina who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on 4th September 2003, 7th Rajab 1424.

Marhum Mohamedhussein Nurmohamed who passed away in London on 4th September 2003, 7th Rajab 1424.

Marhum Roshan Ashraf Sachoo who passed away in London on 2nd September 2003, 5th Rajab 1424.

Marhum Hussein Abdulla Khalfan who passed away in Mombasa on Monday 1st September 2003, 4th Rajab 1424.

Marhum Mustafa Ramzan Rana of Mtwara who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Sunday 31st August 2003, 3rd Rajab 1424.

Miss Rubab (Rubina) Sajjad Akberali Khakoo of Tanga who passed away in Tanga on 28th August 2003, 29th Jamadi-ul-Aakhar, 1424.

Marhum Mullah Bakir Mohamed Nazerali who passed away in Mombasa on 21st August 2003, 22nd Jamadi-ul-Aakhar, 1424.

Marhuma Pareenbai Muhammad Asgherali Shamji who passed away in Nairobi on 20th August 2003, 21st Jamadi-ul-Aakhar, 1424.

Marhuma Khurshidbai Hassanali Hirji who passed away in Arusha London, on 20th August 2003, 21st Jamadi-ul-Aakhar 1424.

(continued on page 75)

THANK YOU

The family of Late Gulamali Jiwan Panjwani is deeply grateful to community members for their messages of sympathy and condolence on the sad passing away of SHIRAZ AKBERALI GULAMALI PANJWANI at Chelmsford, Essex on 15th August, 2003.

At this very difficult time, your participation in our grief and your kind words of sympathy to the family were a source of great solace and comfort.

It is very consoling to know that he was well liked and respected by so many in sports and social activities and that we are not alone in our grief.

Your prayers for the departed soul have touched us. We would also kindly request you to continue remembering marhum in your prayers.

Thank you.

Panjwani Family.

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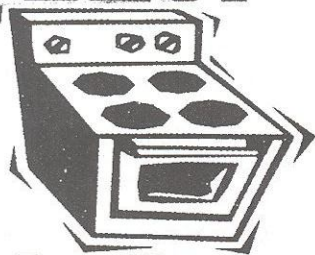


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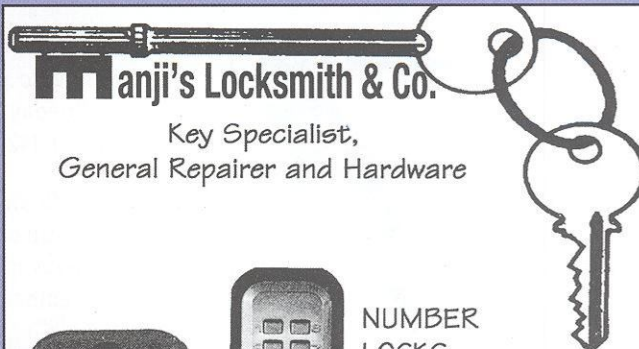
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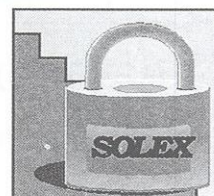
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Death Jottings.....

(....from page 73)

Marhum Shiraz Akberali Panjwani (brother of Alhaj Sibtain Panjwani, Sec Gen of WF) who passed away in London, UK on 16th August 2003, 17th Jamadi-ul- Aakhar 1424.

Marhum Haji Mohammedhusein A. Tejani who passed away in Dar es salaam on 9th August 2003, 10th Jamadi-ul- Aakhar 1424.

Marhum Haji Hyderali Pirbhai who passed away in Port Louis, Mauritius on 9th August 2003, 10th Jamadi-ul- Aakhar 1424.

Marhum Alhaj Gulamali Fazal who passed away in Los Angeles, on 9th August 2003, 10th Jamadi-ul- Aakhar 1424.

Marhuma Lailabai Manji Pirbhai who passed away in Mwanza on Friday 8th August 2003, 9th Jamadi-ul-Aakhar 1424.

Marhuma Aiman Amir Damani who passed away in Arusha on 4th August 2003, 5th Jamadil Aakhar 1424.

Marhum Muhammad Nazir Muhammad Yusuf (Father of Shaikh Musi Ridha of Dar-es-Salaam) who passed away in Zaidput (UP) India on 1st August 2003, 2nd Jamadi-ul-Aakhar 1424.

Marhuma Lailabai Akbar Gangji who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on 31st July 2003, 1st Jamadi-ul-Aakhar 1424.

Marhum Muntazir Mahmood Dhanji who passed away in Chicago, on 26th July 2003, 25th Jamadi-ul Awwal 1424.

Marhuma Zainabbai Assur who passed away in Mumbai on 23rd July 2003, 22nd Jamadi-ul Awwal 1424.

Marhuma Shirinbai Hasham Chagani who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on 20th July 2003, 19th Jamadi-ul Awwal 1424.

Marhum Mohammedtaki Bandali Kanji who passed away in Mombasa on Saturday 12th July 2003, 11th Jamadi-ul-'Awwal 1424.

Marhum Asgherbhai Hassan Jaffer Dhanji who passed away in Moshi on Friday 11th July 2003, 10th Jamadi-ul-'Awwal 1424.

Marhum Ahmed Abdallah Manek who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on 8th July 2003, 7th Jamadil Awwal 1424.

Marhuma Masumabai Taki Khatau who passed away in Nairobi on Monday 7th July 2003, 6th Jamadil Awwal 1424.

Marhuma Rubabbai Husein Hasanali Jivraj (Daughter of Late Haji Habib Kassam Manji) who passed away in London on 7th July 2003, 6th Jamadil Awwal 1424.

Marhum Zulkarnain Riyaz Ladak who passed away in Birmingham on Monday 7th July 2003, 6th Jamadi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhum Husein Hassanali Jagani who passed away in Toronto on Sunday 6th July 2003, 5th Jamadi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhuma Sakina Bagom S. Kadhim Musawi (sister of Marhum Agha Mahdi Shushtary) who passed away in Tehran on 4th July 2003, 6th Jamadi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhum Roshanali Mohamedali Hasham who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Wednesday 2nd July 2003, 1st Jamadi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhum Hassan Aziz Versi who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Monday 30th June 2003, 29th Rabi-ul-Aakhar 1424.

Marhum Abbas Ahmed Dungersi who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Saturday 28th June 2003, 27th Rabi-ul-Aakhar 1424.

Marhuma Rukiyabai Mohamed husein Abdalla Jaffer Alloo who passed away in Toronto on Saturday 21st June 2003, 20th Rabi-ul-Aakhar 1424.

Marhum Sayyid Yusuf Jaffer Maraashi (formerly of Zanzibar) who passed away in Muscat on 18th June 2003, 17th Rabi-ul-Aakhar 1424.

Marhum Akber Mohamedali Hasham who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on 18th June 2003, 17th Rabi-ul-Aakhar 1424.

Marhum Ahmed Mussa Mohamed Muraj (previously from Somalia) who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Tuesday 17th June 2003 16th Rabi-ul-Aakher 1424.

Marhuma Nargisbai Abbas Mussa Jaffer who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on 2nd June 2003 1st Rabi-ul-Aakher 1424.

Marhuma Raziabai Jaffer Rehemtulla who passed away in London on Thursday 29th May 2003, 27th Rabi- ul Awwal 1424.

Marhuma Khatoonbai Gulam hussein S. Mohammed who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Wednesday 28th May 2003, 26th Rabi- ul Awwal 1424.

Marhum Kassamali Fidahusseini Rajwani who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Wednesday 21st May 2003, 19th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhum Abdulhussein S. Alarakhia who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Saturday 17th May 2003, 15th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhum Mohamed Datoos who passed away in Arusha on Saturday 17th May 2003, 15th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1424.

(continued on page 76)

(....from page 75)

Marhum Mohamed Abdulrazak Sachedina who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Saturday 17th May 2003, 15th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhum Haiderali G. Rajani who passed away on Friday 16th May 2003, 13th Safar 1424.

Marhuma Fatmabai Mohamed raza Mohamedhusein Gulamhusein who passed away in Mombasa on Wednesday 14th May 2003, 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhum Gulam Amirali Fazal (originally of Bukoba), who passed away in Birmingham on Tuesday 13th May 2003 11th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhuma Fatmabai Husein A M Jaffer (Sister of Marhum Mulla Asgherali M M Jaffer) who passed away in Nakuru on Saturday 10th May 2003, 8th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhuma Khairunisa Mohamed Hussein Jaffer Suleman who passed away in Arusha on Friday 9th May 2003, 7th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhuma Masumabai Murtaza Juma of Dar-es-Salaam who passed away in Mumbai on 9th May 2003 7th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhum Najaf Hussein Jaffer Alloo (brother of Ahmed Alloo), who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Friday 9th May 2003 7th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1424.

Marhum Aunali Mohammedali Nasser Peera who passed away in Richmond Virginia USA on 7th May 2003, 5th Rabi-ul Awwal 1424.

Marhuma Fizzabai Akber Rashid Nathani who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Wednesday 29th April 2003, 26th Safar 1424.

Marhum Shabbir Fatehali Jessa who passed away in London on Monday 28th April 2003, 25th Safar 1424.

Marhuma Zahrabai Amirali Khalfan who passed away in Edmonton on Saturday 26th April

Federation Samachar

INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJIUN

Murabi Akberali Ahmed Karim of Mombasa

The Africa Federation learnt with sorrow the sad news the death of Murabi Akberali Ahmed Karim which occurred in Mombasa on Friday 26th September 2003 (29th Rajab 1424).

Since his youth Akberbhai served Mombasa Jamaat in many capacities and also had in heart the progress of the community. He took wide interest in the affairs of the jamaat and the Africa Federation and never hesitated in giving a word of advice.

Marhum Akberbhai was one of the longest serving councilors of the Africa Federation having served for over 40 years and his contribution towards the Federation was immense. He attended nearly all the Supreme Council sessions and conferences until a few years ago when due to his ill health he very regretfully couldn't attend. His death is a big loss to the community in Africa.

Marhum Akberbhai was the Editor of the Gujarati magazine Rehbar together with Marhum Mulla Asgherali M. M. Jaffer and was an acclaimed walker who

2003, 23rd Safar 1424.

Marhuma Fatmabai Abbas Ibrahim who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on Friday 25th April 2003, 22nd Safar 1424.

Marhuma Lailabai Muhammad Hamza who passed away in Dar-es-Salaam on 22nd April 2003, 19th Safar, 2003.

Marhuma Lailabai Jafferli Kanani who passed away in Birmingham on Friday 18th April 2003, 15th Safar 1424.

Marhuma Gulbanubai Mohdrazza Alibhai Ramji who passed away in London on Wednesday 16th April 2003, 13th Safar 1424.

Marhuma Gulibai Raza Mohamedali who passed away in London on Wednesday 16th April 2003, 13th Safar 1424.

advocated walking for health to community members.

We pray to Allah (s.w.t.) to grant Marhum maghferat and place his soul in the proximity of Chaharda Masumeen (a.s.) and grant his family solace to sustain this loss.

Let us recite a Sura-e- Fateha for the Marhum.

INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJIUN

Syed Muhammad Baqir Al Hakim martyred in Najaf, Iraq.

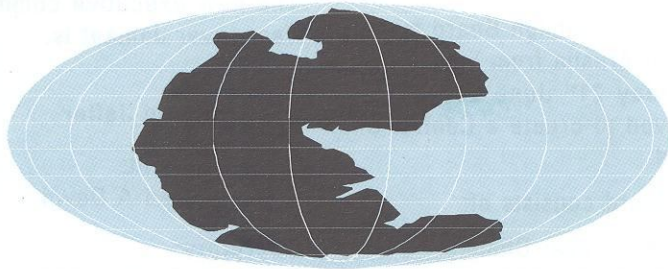
The Africa Federation learnt with shock and grief the sad news of the death of Syed Muhammad Baqir Al Hakim son of the late Ayatullah Syed Mushsin Al Hakim (Marjah before Ayatullah Al Khui), in a car bomb that exploded outside the Haram of Imam Ali (A.S) in Najaf on Friday 29th August 2003 (Rajab 01, 1424).

Around the Muslim world sessions of mourning were held and in the burial took place in Iraq over three days of official mourning.

The Africa Federation extended its heartfelt condolences to the family of the Marhum and instructed jamaats to observe three days of mourning and to arrange Quran Khani and majlis for the maghferat of the Marhoom.

We pray to Allah (s.w.t.) to grant Marhum maghferat and place his soul in the proximity of Chaharda Masumeen (a.s.), grant his family solace to sustain this loss and for the safety of our Ulema and Mumineen in Iraq. Amen. Let us recite a Sura-e- Fateha for the Marhum.

Worldwide Elections



NASIMCO

The following were elected to the Executive Council of NASIMCO for the term 2003-2006 at the conference held on Saturday, May 17th 2003 at Al-Ahad Islamic Center in Allentown Pennsylvania:

President: Hussein Kermalli Walji (Minneapolis, MN USA)
husseinwalji@msn.com

Vice President: Mohsin Kamalia (Toronto, Canada)
kamalia@pathcom.com

Honorary Secretary: Habib Dhala (Edmonton, Canada)

Honorary Treasurer: Sajjad Haji (Toronto, Canada)

Executive Councilors:
Shakil Virji (Albany, NY USA)
Dilawar Dinani (Akron, OH USA)
Sheikh Hasnain Kassamali (Vancouver, Canada)
Hasnain Jaffer (Allentown, PA USA)
Constituent Councilors:
Sabi Ahsan (Toronto, Canada)
Hasnain Dewji (Vancouver, Canada)
Sadiq Jaffer (New York, NY USA)

Presidential Councilors:
Jawad Khaki (Seattle, WA USA)
Shaukat Moloo (Edmonton, Canada)

The position of Honorary Secretary and the two Presidential Councilors are nominated by the President.

TORONTO

The Election held in Toronto on Sunday 11th May 2003 was the biggest in the community's 30 year history, in terms of the number of candidates who stood, polling stations that were available, voter turn out and votes cast. Such keen interest in the running of the community's affairs is a healthy sign and may it long continue.

The successful candidates were:-

President: Nazir Gulamhussein

Vice President: Gulamabbas Najafi

Secretary: Abbasali Kermalli

Treasurer: Shiraz Shariff

Mukhi: Raza Kassam

Chairlady: Nargis Vallimohamed

Elected Members:
Yasin Mohamed Devji
Mubina Jaffer
Sukaina Sumar-Ebrahim

Trustees:
Ahmed Bhalloo
Latif Fazel
Gulam Jiwan

Ladies Committee members:
Rosie Datto
Anis Fazal
Sheila Hirji
Laila Kara
Nargis Karim

The Election for the post of President and Vice-President of the Khoja Shia Isnaashari Jamaat, Mumbai for the term of 2003 to 2006 was held on 22nd June,

AFRICA FEDERATION YOUTH NETWORK (AYN)

The Africa Federation has appointed the Chairman and members for the Africa Federation Youth Network Board. They are:

Murtaza Bhalloo
Chairman Dar-es-Salaam

Nishathussein Karim
Vice Chairman Mombasa

Zaheera Alishaan
Secretary Dar-es-Salaam

Sukaina Somji
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer
Dar-es-Salaam

Dr. Jaffer Dharsee
Advisor, Dar-es-Salaam

Aliraza Rajani
Youth Network
Development Coordinator
Dar-es-Salaam

ZANZIBAR

At the General Meeting held on Friday 30th May 2003 the following were re-elected as office bearers of the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Hujjatul Islam Jamaat:

Abbas Mohamed Sheriff
Chairman

Sajjad Hussein Tarmohamed
Vice Chairman

Maalim Issa Ibrahim
Secretary

Ali Khalil Mirza
Asst. Joint Secretary

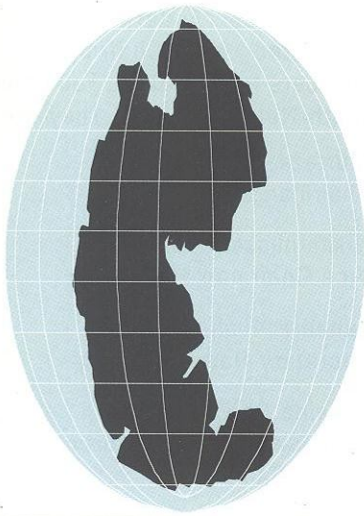
Shihab Hassan Taki
Treasurer

Rashid Topan
Committee Member

MUMBAI

2003. Brother Sultan Delhiwala was elected President and his colleague, Brother Safdar Karmali was elected Vice-President.

Worldwide Elections



NEW YORK

At the General Body Election of the Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat of New York held on May 31st, 2003 the following office bearers were elected:

Shul Khalfan
President

Dr. Riyaz Hassam
Vice President

Hussein Kermali
Secretary

Areef Jacksi
Jt. Secretary

Hussein Ismail
Treasurer

Mohsin Manji Haji
Jt. Treasurer

Chairlady:
Sister Riffat Khalfan

Firoz Mukhi
Mukhi

Mehboob Ebrahim
Mukhi

Committee members:

Hasnain (Sheni) Dharsee
Roshan Jivraj
Fuad Jacksi
Hasnain Sheriff
Abbas Jaffer

Federation Samachar

CENTRAL BILAL BOARD

During the Tabligh Board meeting held in Arusha from Friday 20th to Saturday 21st June 2003, it was resolved to create a Central Bilal Board.

The Board consists of:

Alhaj Moonaver Dhanani
Chairman, Nominee appointed by
Africa Federation

Alhaj Mukhtar Assaria
Hon. Secretary, Nominee
appointed by Africa Federation

Alhaj Mohamed Kermali
Member, Nominee appointed by
Africa Federation

Alhaj Fazleabbas Chandoo
Member, Nominee appointed by
Africa Federation

Alhaj Roshan Jamil
Representative - Bilal Muslim
Mission Madagascar

Alhaj Abdoul Momin Hassim
Representative - Bilal Muslim
Mission Madagascar

Alhaj Abbas A. Jaffer
Representative - Bilal Muslim
Mission of Kenya

Alhaj Abbas H. Nasser
Representative - Bilal Muslim
Mission of Kenya

Alhaj Zulfikar Dewji
Representative - Bilal Muslim
Mission of Tanzania

Alhaj Hassanali R. Jaffer
Representative - Bilal Muslim
Mission of Tanzania

The Bilal Muslim Missions of Kenya and Tanzania have provided names of alternative representatives in case any of their representatives are unable to attend meetings. The alternative representatives are:

Alhaj Muhammad P. Hemani
Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya
Alhaj Fazle Abbas M. Bhanji
Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya
Alhaj Pyarali M. Shivji
Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania
Alhaj Fidahusein Hameer
Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania

VANCOUVER

The new executive committee of Vancouver Jamaat is:

President:
Br. Mahmood Jaffer

Vice President:
Br. Mohamed A Dewji

Secretary:
Br. Minaz Fazal

J. Secretary:
Br. Hasnain Dewji

Treasurer:
Br. Mahmood Merali

J. Treasurer:
Br. Jaffer Ladak

MRC:
Br. Hussein Bhojani

J. MRC:
Br. Asger Ladak

Executive Members:
Br. Hassanali Fazal
Br. Mehboob Jetha
Br. Mehboob Khaku
Br. Moshin Kamani
Br. Iqbal Meghee

AF CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Africa Federation is pleased to announce the appointment of the Chairman and members of the Constitution Review Committee.

Amir Somji - Chairman
Arusha
mmtsomji@tz2000.com

Abbas Jessa
Dar-es-Salaam
ajessa@cats-net.com

Hussein Dharsee
Dar-es-Salaam
hussein@raha.com

The above members will spearhead the Constitution Review Process. Jamaats are kindly requested to collaborate and assist this Committee in soliciting views, comments and suggestions regarding the current Constitution of the Africa Federation.

LEICESTER

Following the elections held on 30th August 2003, the new office bearers of Leicester Jamaat are:

Management Committee:

President:
Muslim K Rajani

Vice President:
Syed Gulam Askari

Secretary:
Munawer Badami

Treasurer:
Yusuf Govani

Members:

Sajjad Bhojani
Arif Alladita
Hasnein Dhirani
Abdulkarim Alladita

Councillor WF/COEJ:
Ali Asghar Master

Muslim Council of UK
Representative:
Mohamed Jabir Bhojani

Ladies Committee:

Chair-Lady:
Raziya Bai Alladita

Members:
Sukaina Bai Master
Laila Bai Dalal
Farah Bai Khataw
Shabana Bai Alladita
Nasira Bai Haiderali
Tahira Bai Bhojani

Trustees:

Pyarali Master
Bashir Kassam
Fidahussein Rajani
Gulamali Dhanji

Resident Aalim:
Syed Murid Abbas Naqvi

Senior Citizen Group:
Bashir Kassam

Web Master:
Barkat Walji

Federation Samachar

LONDON

At the General Elections held on 8th August 2003 the following were elected as office bearers of the KSIMC of London:

President:
Kassim Manji
Vice-President:
Shabir Mamdani
Hon Secretary:
Azadali J Kassam
Assistant Secretary:
Anwer Dhanji
Treasurer:
Mohamedali Dharamsi
Assistant Treasurer:
Abdul Nurmohamed
Committee Members:

Mujtaba Virani
Mehboob Dossa
Aliasghar Sheriff
Mohamedhussein Manek
Mohamedsajjad Tharoo
Gulam Mehdi Sumar
Raza Jessa

Trustees:

Al-hajj Ramazanbhai Dhanji
Al-hajj Pyarali Merali
Al-hajj Mohamed Baker Bharwani
Al-hajj Hussein Merali

Trollhattan, Sweden

The Jamaat of Trollhättan, Sweden held its elections on 6th September 2003. Following are the results of the elections:

Chairman:
Br Mukhtar Hirani

Vice Chairman:
Br. Zulqarnain Mohamed

Hon Secretary:
Br. Anvar Alladin

Hon Treasurer:
Br. Sultan Kanani

Committee Members:
Br. Mehdi Bijani
Br. Mohsin Lakhani
Br. Yusuf Kanani

ORLANDO

The newly elected office bearers of Hussein Islamic Center, Orlando Jamaat are:

President:
Mr. Meheboob R. Jagani
Vice President:
Mr. Liakatali Fazal
Secretary:
Mr. Sajjad Jaffer
Treasurer:
Mr. Mohamedbaqir
Nurmohammed
Mukhi:
Mr. Mohamed Shafiq Hassan

Committee Member:
Mr. Mohammed Kassam

Board of Trustees:
Mr. Gulamabbas Abdulhussein
Mr. Mohammed Manekia
Mr. Mohammedali Bhojani
Mr. Zulfikar Ladak

South London

At the AGM held on 21st September 03, the following members were elected to serve the community for the next two years:

President:
Br. Bashir Alidina
Vice President:
Br. Hussein Alidina
Hon. Secretary:
Br. Riyaz Ladha
Asst. Secretary:
Br. Gulamabbas Hudda
Hon. Treasurer:
Br. Salim Master
Asst. Treasurer:
Br. Sarfaraz Jeraj
Mukhi:
Br. Sibtain Raza
Asst. Mukhi:
Br. Musabhai Ravji
Committee Members:
Br. Hassanain Walji
Br. Gulamhusein Kaba

Senior Trustees:

Br. Riyaz Datoo
Br. Zulfikar Kassam
Br. Mohamed Hasan
Br. Naushad Visram
Br. Amirali Rahemtulla

The Younger Generation

By Muhammad Tejani, Dubai

The younger generation possess pure hearts and spirits, which are full of sensations, emotions and enthusiasms. They are passing through the most sensitive and critical period of their lives and require guidance, support and sympathies. A young person is like a nascent sampling requiring the loving protection of a sincere, experienced and wise gardener, against diseases and accidents.

The famous Persian poet Sa'di said: "A young man is like an arrow; rigid, hard and straight. But it requires a flexible and bending bow (which is like a wise old man) for the arrow to hit the target."

Wisdom is not something that comes pinned-up with a university degree, nor can it be dished out ready-made on TV. It can only be achieved through attainment of a rich mixture of knowledge, both religious and temporal, personal efficiency, compassion, intellectual flexibility, objectivity of attitude to life, patience and experience of the ups and downs of life. "I appreciate an old man's cautious opinion more than the valour of young man." (Imam Ali. a.s)

The cultural maturity of a society, especially the Islamic one, is proportional to the importance it attaches towards the guidance, training, and continuous endeavours towards its younger generations. Notwithstanding, with the opinion of some people, training is a very difficult task, specially training younger generations, which is complicated and contains various delicate points. The German philosopher, Immanuel Kant has defined the training of the younger generation and governing a country as the most difficult in the world.

Unfortunately, in today's industrial societies, parents, because of being surrounded by numerous

mental involvements do not have the opportunity to think or ponder about the aim and philosophy of their own lives, while moments, hours and days pass by speedily. Very often the days pass into nights, a new day begins and weeks and months pass by without parents finding suitable occasion to indulge into serious communication with their offspring.

Although, the problem of raising responsible, mature, conscientious and righteous children is a serious matter that all parents are worried about, but how to deal with the younger generation and to establish a friendly and, rational and logical communication with them is an art, and naturally all of us are not skilled artists. So the thing remains in the chests of parents waiting for an appropriate opportunity, which very often never arises or does so when it is already too late.

Why are relations sometimes strained between parent and child? Why should each have his own separate ways unconcerned with the feelings of the other? And finally if one of them is following the righteous straight path, why does not the other join him? Is such mistrust brought about because of unhealthy associations with wrong company? Or is it because of influence of poisonous thoughts? Or is the environment to be blamed?

How about the differences of opinion and differences between the old and new ideas due to misunderstandings by the former? Finally what has created such a wide generation gap? The answer is probably that any one or more of the above causes could be responsible for a child's deviation and friction with his father. We need to first identify the causes and then to offer remedies leading

to a better understanding. Robert H. Shaffer said, "We must view young people not as empty bottles to be filled, but as candles to be lit."

At this critical and sensitive juncture when the enemies are determined to destroy all spiritual values to defeat Islam with empty materialistic ones, more than at any other time in the past, there is a need to build ideal monotheistic younger generations who can culturally and ideologically defend the fortress of Islam.

Ironically, a non-Muslim, Bernard Shaw, the famous writer in his book 'Getting Married' writes, "I have always looked at Muhammad's religion with extreme respect because it has wonderful energy and freshness. In my opinion it is the only religion that can adjust itself to different stages of a free life. Its instructions are compatible with time."

Coveting material things is a basic human nature. It is an instinct that is implanted in man the day he is born. It is this motive which allows him to struggle continuously and preserve himself. As a result of this instinct, we notice that man avoids that which harms him and is attracted by advantageous matters. Therefore, he is the hostage of the psychological phenomenon when he advances. That phenomenon plays a great role in advancing the level of human civilisation.

The future generations should be free from all sorts of prejudices, narrow-mindedness, nationalism, sectarianism, and shortsightedness and should think about the domain of Islam far beyond the narrow limited national boundaries. They must consider themselves like a fish in the ocean of "tawheed" (monotheism).

The Muslim parents have the duty to produce a generation who must believe in the greatness of Allah (s.w.t.). The success of the Islamic movement will depend if we could

(continued on page 81)

When youngsters have to make important decisions about colleges....

When youngsters have to make important decisions about colleges and careers, parents must play the role of facilitators.

As I watch the dazed faces of exam-fatigued twelfth standard students, it's clear that these youngsters are under great pressure. Their lives are full of coaching classes, tests, entrance exams and admissions. After two years of burning the midnight oil and rushing off to early morning coaching classes, it could be terribly disappointing for students if they fail to make the grade. Peer and parental pressure only makes things worse. Counselling plays a very important role at this juncture.

While it could be disheartening for the student when his efforts fail to yield the desired results, he must remember that knowledge never goes waste. Instead of feeling helpless and frustrated, students must be encouraged to rethink their plan of action, perhaps modify their goals and surge ahead.

Helping hand

Support from parents and teachers mean a lot to a stressed out youngster at this stage. These are the people who should help the students in rebuilding their self-confidence.

Each child is different from the other. While one may feel that criticism is for self-improvement, the other may feel dejected and worthless. So parents need to be very careful while handling their children during such situations.

Remarks like 'You will never make it', are best avoided. Parents must, in word and deed, show their teenager that they trust him implicitly. This trust goes a long way in making the youngster feel a sense of worth.

Youngsters need guidance, not criticism

It is also important to keep lines of communication open and uncomplicated. Instead of nagging or badgering, the parent would do well to talk and more importantly, listen. What your youngster needs is guidance, not criticism or disapproval. Help him or her list their goals and ambitions. If your teenager has no specific career goal in mind, you could help him make a choice without being overbearing and dictatorial.

Make suggestions of short-term goals. For instance, give them a task they can easily accomplish like studying a chapter in an hour or two. This could help them to define long-term goals and achieve them.

Encourage them

Encourage them to talk to youngsters — relatives, children of family friends — who have taken the competitive exam route earlier. Make sure you steer clear of comparisons, however great the temptation may be.

Give them the courage and confidence to chase their dreams, big or small. Remember they are students and if not guided they will only realise of their mistakes in planning when it is too late.

(..from page 80)

bestow upon the younger generations the enlightenment regarding the principles, beliefs, monotheism, prophethood, imamat etc. We must view young people not as empty bottles to be filled, but as candles to be lit.

They must be knowledgeable about international political issues, identify friends and foes, be aware about enemy onslaughts and tactics and should know how to counter them. Muslim parents are duty bound to make younger generations familiar with key issues facing the Islamic "ummah"

Simultaneously, we must do our utmost to produce a younger generation that orients their lives with the Holy Qur'an. They must feel the sweetness of the following verses in their own lives:

"If Allah assists you, then there is none that can overcome you, and if He forsakes you, who is there then that can assist you after Him? And on Allah should the believers rely" (Q. 3:159)

"And whoever submits himself wholly to Allah and he is the doer of good (to others) he indeed has taken hold of the firmest thing upon which one can lay hold; and Allah's is end of affairs." (Q. 31:122)

In this modern glittering age of science and technology in the present 21st century, together with the worldly education, if we could produce a generation, who feel the presence of Allah (s.wt.) in their daily lives, the parents must then thank Him for giving us the blessing of discharging our obligations successfully. By observing divine Islamic teachings we can pave the way for ourselves to create a spiritual revolution in our spiritual characteristics, in an attempt to achieve excellent human morals. The same I. Kant says, "Have faith in God, as we need such a belief. (How to Live pp. 184-188)

Allah is the best help and on Him we do depend.

CURRENT LEGAL ISSUES

Credit Cards

Q: Some banks distribute cards free of charge or for a defined price such that:

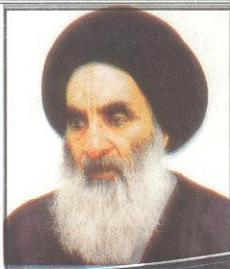
1. It is possible to withdraw any amount from the bank without interest except for service charges for the bank machine.

2. If he (user) delays repayment by a month, then he is charged interest under the title of "late payment" and similar items.

What is the ruling for this in the event where repayment is delayed or otherwise?

A: There is no objection to withdrawing the amount with the intention of "unknown owner" (*majhul al-malik*), and not as a loan; it can be corrected by obtaining permission as mentioned in response to the next question. The person's knowing that the bank will demand repayment of the principal and interest does not impair this, and when the bank requests it (repayment), it should be made to it. (MMS, p. 31, Q61)

Q: Do you not give your followers (*muqallids*) a general authorization to dispose of and deal with 'unknown owner's' property, and other transactions in it, by taking possession of the money from government or jointly-owned



Ayatullah al Uzama Syed
Ali al-Husaini Sistani

Federation Samachar

On credit cards, shares, insurance policies and working in shops selling alcoholic beverages

(private and government) banks without having to refer to al-hakim al-shar'i or his representative to rectify it, for the ease and facility for the believers? May Allah support and honor you.

A: Yes, we have allowed the believers — may they succeed in attaining the Exalted Allah's pleasure — to accept, through legal means from government or jointly-owned institutions, by taking possession of it (property) on behalf of those commissioned among the poor with the intention of performing acts of charity upon them (the poor). Then, they (the believers) can own it for themselves. This applies to salaries and the like. As for interest and the like, they are allowed to own half of it along the lines outlined, on the condition that they give in charity (*sadaqah*) the other half to the religiously-devout poor. (MMS, pp. 32-33, Q65)

Buying and Selling Shares

Q: What about buying and selling the shares of incorporated companies or others?

A: It is permissible to buy and sell shares of any kind of corporation on the condition that the transactions of this company do not engage in prohibited activities such as dealing in intoxicants or interest (*riba*). (FM, p. 408)

Insurance Policies

Q: What about insurance policies for people on their life or for other unforeseen events or for properties such as airplanes, cars, ships, or for fire or drowning, etc?

A: All of them are valid and there is obligation on both parties. (FM, p. 409)

Found Property

Q: How do I handle property that I

find in public places like the street, market, airport, train station, harbour or taxi and whose owner I am sure there is no possibility of finding?

A: Give it to charity on his behalf. (FM, pp. 420-21)

Q: What if a child finds a big sum of present-day currency?

A: If there is no particular description that would make it possible to find its owner and return it to him, then the guardian of the child is permitted to take it and keep it for him. Otherwise, it is obligatory to find out who (the owner) is as I mentioned to you in a previous dialogue. (FM, p. 421)

Working, selling or presence in places that sell alcoholic beverages

Q: Is it permissible for a Muslim to work in shops that sell alcoholic beverages or in places of entertainment without serving alcoholic beverages or doing other forbidden things, such as cleaning dishes or arranging the chairs and similar activities?

A: This is not permissible in shops that sell alcoholic beverages and, based on obligatory precaution, he should refrain also from places of entertainment. (MMS, pp. 23-24, Q38)

Q: Is it permissible for a Muslim to be present in gatherings where alcoholic beverages are served?

A: Eating and drinking in these gatherings is prohibited. As for mere presence, its prohibition is based on obligatory precaution. There is no objection to it if the aim is to prevent others from reprehensible actions, if one is able to do so. (MMS, p. 25, Q43)

Becoming a mum

Having become a mum late last year, I find myself feeling all new feelings all the time! Like all first time mothers, I am amazed to realise how much I can love. I can't overcome the magic of how someone so tiny can give so much meaning to my life. When she looks into my eyes and smiles, my heart skips so many beats it is amazing I still manage to breath!

And yet, it is not only what I feel that has changed. Significant changes are in the way I think, to my nervous surprise. While naturally, whatever I think is geared towards her now, I am also forced to assess my philosophy on the entire child-parent relationship.

Mother-child relationship, or for that matter, the very parent-child relationship is all about selfless love we hear of all the time. It is only parents in the world who always love their children unconditionally, we are told. Parents may scold, correct and advice children at appropriate ages, but whatever the children end up doing, parents are always supposed to be there — helping, supporting, understanding and loving. That, after all, is what the beauty of unconditional love is. And only parents can offer that to their children in the truest sense of the word.

And yet, it is so easy to slip from that ideal. From day one, we start talking about what our children can do for us when they grow up. We

start planning how they will live ever after, what they will become, how they should think and all the time, we put ourselves as the focus of our children's future lives. This instinct, that I succumb too now and then if I don't watch myself, is what makes me write this article to open debate and provoke thinking.

We see a lot of discord between parents and children of all ages within our communities. Children as they grow into adulthood are always seen struggling to move out of the strong grips their parents hold them under. It is a trend that cuts across cultures. If parents' love for their children is the most selfless love in the world, why do we pile so many expectations on our children demanding back what we have given? Burdening them such seems contradictory to the very foundation of the relationship.

Searching my soul on how to proceed with bringing up my little girl to be a dutiful Muslimah but a strong, intelligent and independent woman too, I felt ease when I stumbled across Imam Ali (as)'s saying about how we should treat our children.

You are their slave for the first seven years, he said. This is the period of struggle to teach them the basics of life but with great perseverance. As they throw tantrums and sometimes make you want to shout so loud that the world hears you, it means instead to not raise your hands but to bow down. Of course, it doesn't mean spoiling kids rotten by giving in to their every demand, but generally, this is the period to hold our babies close to our hearts and give them a whole lot of love. Patience and perseverance are the key terms.

the later seven years, your children are your slaves. This then is the real period to teach and mould them to be what they will be as grown-ups. This is the period when a foot can be put down and manners taught. Here are the most crucial seven years that put parents in the driving seats. We can at this period, try to influence their thoughts that will run on the rest of their lives. If we are smarter, this is the time to engrain in them the need and value of becoming soldiers of our living imam. Once lost, this period is gone and can never be fetched back. Trying to do that is the biggest mistake that we make.

And the seven years thereafter, be their friends and colleagues, Imam advises. This is when consultations and open discussions are the norms of the relationship. Advising, yet giving space, for children's own imaginative thinking to come across is the idea. Guiding but not commanding should be the order of the day.

What struck me from this saying the most however, is what is not clearly stipulated but implied. That as a parent, you have 21 years of active involvement in your children's lives. That is the time period when as parents, we can do the best we can to prepare our children to be people in their own right. At 21, we are to let our children loose — not abandon — but allow them space then to make their choices in life.

And if we truly do utilise the 21 years well in building our kids' characters, we should be content about what they will do thereafter.

Maybe I don't know what it will feel like when my daughter is 21



by Sakina Zainul Dato



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What helps after death?

A hadith of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.)

Idha ma'tal Insan, inqata amaluhu illa min thalatha:

When an individual dies, his account book of deeds is closed shut except for three things (which he may have done in his life time.)

1. Ala man sadaqatin jaariyah; - (Charity that is perpetuated after death).
2. Av ilmun yantafa'a behi; - (Or bequeaths knowledge that continues to benefit others).
3. Av waladun Saleh yad'u lahu.- (Or leaves behind "Saleh" (virtuous) progeny who pray for the deceased).

Sab'ata asbabin yaktubul abda thawabaha ba'da wafatihi.- (Seven acts (performed during ones life time) that continue to provide blessings -thawab - for a deceased after death.)

1. Rajula gharsa nakhla; - (Person plants a Tree);
2. Av hafra Be'ra; (Or digs a well);
3. Av ajra Nehra; (Or builds a Canal);
4. Av bana Masjida; (Or builds a Mosque);
5. Av kataba Mashafa; (Or writes a book);
6. Av waratha Ilma; - (Or bequeaths knowledge);
7. Av khalafa waladan Salehan yastaghfir lahu ba'da wafatihi; - (Or leaves behind "Saleh" (Virtuous) progeny who do Istighfar for the deceased parents.)

From the Nahjul Balagha

A m a a n a t

The Prophet (s) said: "I have been commanded by Allah to warn my people and say: 'Do not go from one mosque to another while someone's rights are upon you. If such a person stands up for prayers in that condition, I send my curses upon him till he restores the rights to its owner' " (Iddatul Daa'e)

Imam Ali (a) said: "Misappropriation of trust is the root of hypocrisy. Breach of trust is the proof of faithlessness and impiety." He further says: "Refrain from misappropriating of trust because it is the worst sin and one who commits it will be subjected to the torture of the fire of Hell." (ref: Ghurarul Hikam)

"Whoever is entrusted with something and returns what he has been entrusted with has indeed opened up one thousand knots of the Fire of Hell from around his own neck. Therefore compete with each other in being trustworthy, and know that Satan will appoint one hundred of his followers to tempt whoever is known to be trustworthy. They will tempt him to violate the trust, and get ruined. Only those protected by God, the Almighty shall be saved" Imam Jaffer Sadiq (a) Hadith 254, Mishkat ul Anwar.

Imam Ali (a) said: "If one out of four things makes its appearance in a house it ruins that house and deprives it of prosperity and blessings:

1. Breach of Trust
2. Theft.
3. Drinking wine,
4. Adultery and Unchastity

Khisal Shaykh Saduq Vol.1

The Prophet (s) said: "Safe custody and restoration of a Trust to its rightful owner increases one's wealth and its misappropriation brings about poverty" The "Qurbul Asnad" p.55.

Imam Jafar As Sadiq (a) said: "Any person in whom there is anyone of these three qualities is a hypocrite even though he may offer prayers and keep fast:

1. A person who tells lies during his conversation.
2. A person who makes a promise but does not keep it; and
3. A person who misappropriates trust."

(reference Tuhaful Uqool, pg 316)

Imam Baqir (a) said: "Indeed if the murderer of Imam Ali (a) entrusts something to me, I shall return it to him in perfect condition" ("Tohaful Uqool")

There are also verses in the Qur'an which command faithfulness regarding trusts and avoidance of sinning over trust.

If amaanat is usurped, mishandled, compromised, delayed or frustrated, it is a grievous sin which entails hell-fire unless the sinners are forgiven by the aggrieved victims.

Jeera: Carminative and digestive herb

Since times immemorial jeera has been an inseparable part of the Indian kitchen. Early ayurvedic literature gives ample importance to its medicinal value and even today it continues to benefit mankind whichever way we use it, whether as a spice or as a herb. Called "jeeraka" in Sanskrit and *cuminum cyminum* scientifically, it is commercially grown mostly in all parts of tropical India.

According to ayurvedic materia medica, jeera is pungent in taste and is light, dry, sharp and hot in effect. Jeera contains many important nutrients like protein, carbohydrates and traces of minerals such as calcium, phosphorous and iron in different proportions. Though jeera has been known for various medicinal properties affecting different systems of the body, its main area of action essentially seems to be the gastro-intestinal tract.

Apart from having the marked digestive and carminative effects, jeera is also a wind repellent, anticolic and intestinal absorbent agent. Of the vast range of its effects on human body, jeera acts as an anti-obesity, anti-inflammatory, blood purifier, diuretic, glactogauge (that enhances milk engendering during lactation) and uterine stimulant medicine.

Some ancient texts described it as "katu paushtic", meaning a bitter tonic. It is given in conditions where a patient complains of anorexia, nausea, indigestion, distension of the abdomen, colic pains, piles and intestinal worms. Jeera helps treat urinary stasis, prevents stone formation and has a number of uses if applied externally.

As a single herb, jeera is best used in roasted form. Taking a pinch of roasted and crushed jeera shortly

before meals enhances appetite whereas if used after food it helps in faster digestion. To allay severe or chronic indigestion, hiccup and abdominal distention, crush jeera, ajwain, black pepper, rock salt and small hararh in equal parts. This "jeerakadi churna" if taken in a daily dose of one to two gms. twice a day, with warm water or whenever required, is a simple and safe remedy to get the abdominal wind dispelled and to gain symptomatic relief from colic pain.

Jeera is also a very good medicine for mucous diarrhoea and non-specific colitis and is used in combination with other medicines to cure the irritable bowel syndrome. As a simple and safe remedy, by crushing 50 gms. of it with an equal quantity of each of nagarmotha, sonth, bark of kutaja and 250 gms. of pulp of bael and taking two gm of this powder two or three times a day helps in binding and clearing the stool. Decoction of jeera and dry dhanias helps to cure vomiting and loss of appetite occurring during pregnancy.

As a delicacy and appetizer there is a common practice to serve jeera water before meals. It is available at many eateries, but to overcome the risk of contamination and infection it is better to make this gastronomic and digestive recipe at home.

Taking two tablespoonful of each of roasted jeera powder and lemon juice, one table spoonful each of pounded mint leaves, dry mango powder called "amchur" and table salt, 50 gms. of sugar, half teaspoonful of black salt and black pepper and a pinch of hing makes about five to seven glasses of jeera water. Besides waking up the taste buds and enhancing the gastric secretions, "jal jeera" also makes a freshening summer drink.

Indian institute offers modern technology for repairing hernias

The Vrindavan Hernia Institute, Kandivali has for the first time in India, introduced a new 'Hernia Plug Technique'. Hernia operations are now done by a mini incision, compared to the bigger opening that the conventional methods require. Under the new technique, the operation is conducted under local anaesthesia, instead of the full anaesthesia administered in conventional methods.

Since its inception, 20 years ago, more than 6,000 abdominal wall hernias have been repaired successfully by hernia specialist Dr. Upendra Mehta, with recurrence rate below one per cent. Dr. Mehta operates with the mini incision tension free hernia plug procedure under local anaesthesia on a mini-stay (about six to 24 hours) basis in the ultra-modern Vrindavan institute.

Patients are discharged shortly after the repair with minimal discomfort and virtually no restrictions. And, they can return to normal activity including about two miles walking, lifting 10 kgs. weight, driving and going to work, in about two days. Even bilateral hernias are operated in one sitting, and patients needn't even fast before the operation.

For details contact: 2801 7878/2801 9513

Ayurveda has a large number of classic medicines where jeera is used as an important ingredient. To name only two, Jeerkadyarishta and Hingashtak Churna are the most famous digestive medicines. Apart from the jeera used in the Indian kitchen, which is known as "safed" (white) jeera, there is another variety called black jeera. It grows on high altitudes and is costlier than the former. Though considered a separate herb, black jeera has more or less the same medicinal properties as that of the common white jeera.

FAMILY ISSUES

When eating meals becomes a drab

There are "things" which we may think as small because we do not know that they in fact matter in a big way. One of such things is how a family at home have their meals.

The following scenarios are not uncommon:

The father and sons sit for meals together, leaving the female members to have theirs separately. Most likely, this arrangement is brought about to facilitate the male members to talk family shop or business over the meals.

Another example is where the entire family have meals together, but the worst part is that the male members monopolise the talk which is again often on the family business apart from other male talks like sports.

Intimidation

The female members are therefore "gagged" into a "disciplined" silence in front of the "bosses". The intimidation to the females may even extend to a point that asking for a dish to be passed would be a rude disturbance to the males' talk and, therefore, a breach of good manners at the dining table.

And yet there is even a worst scenario. Meals are served two or three times separately, depending

upon the unpredictable timings of those who are individually present and "ready" for meals. The arrangement has a semblance of a restaurant planted at home. The difference is that there are no bills.

We cannot deny that ordinarily meals taste better where there is a company. We tend to over-eat at a nyaz-khani in Imambara when we are in a company. What can be a better company than one's own family.

Ne'mat

In fact feeding means food, which is a necessity of life. The daily engagement is gratifying. To do so with family is a particular enjoyment. It is a "ne'mat" which is taken for granted.

Don't we keep our table spread with special dishes set out to await the arrival of our dear and near ones from a distant country as a part of the tradition of receiving them from abroad? They may not be hungry! But the dishes do not go to waste!

Meals are often the only reason when the family are together and can pass on dishes to one another in a display of mutual affection.

I had a personal experience of how gainful it is to have meals together. A long company with an obstinate malarial fever and the consequent weakness robbed me of my appetite. Meals would go back from the bed either untouched or little consumed.

I had to feed myself to regain strength and begin to move about. I needed an incentive. I decided to be assisted to the dining table and join the family for meals. It worked!

To certain tribes in East Africa, it is almost "religious" to relish meals together from one large common platter (thaal) in complete silence. Perhaps any among them who engaged in talking meant less morsels for him.

Remorse

The remorse for having lost the most enjoyable daily moments of partaking meals together in the family is felt after the head of the family has grown old and himself needs a company over meals when the children also will have grown up and left either for higher studies or emigrated abroad or married away or established their own separate homes.

The question is of priorities. Does not family come first before shop and business? The shop or business eventually parts when the head of the family grows old but the family does not part with him.

There comes a time when rushing in for meals and out again to business becomes a matter of the past in the later part of one's life. However, the memory of the past haunts. If only the past could be relived this time with wisdom as a person who appreciated thankfully what was cooked and served and remembered what were the meals the day before.

We welcome opinions on this article and invite readers to share with us the type of discipline they exercise at home to ensure meals are taken in a truly Islamic manner. What about those who take meals while watching television?

Editor.



by Mohamed A. Khalfan,
Dar es Salaam

A witness gives evidence in a court of law. He is generally truthful as he should be. However, the court rejects his entire evidence as unreliable for a conviction. This is because, while tendering his evidence, he was caught lying in only one small piece of evidence. That piece was not even crucial but his credibility as a witness became undermined. Once doubts are created, the edifice of trust crumbles.

Preaching too has similar risks in the context of trust. A preacher may have said all that seemed authentic or rational to the congregation. But an unnecessary or indiscreet addition of any one narration which did not seem authentic or even rational can create doubt or skepticism in the mind of the congregation not only over the narration in question but it is likely also to extend in respect of the other reliable narrations. The positive effect of the preaching on the congregation can be undermined by a gross indiscretion on the part of the preacher.

Now, no section of the congregation can be blamed for the reaction because a critique mind is a part of human nature. Faith is sensitive and continues to be a personal spiritual issue under a constant scrutiny. It is therefore even more difficult to sell such indiscreet narrations to the youths who these days have a sharper questioning mind.

There is a tendency for a preacher to want to say new things so that he should not appear repetitive or copying from other preachers. He is conscious of wanting to enhance his brand of preaching and create a demand. But then preaching a faith or *aqeedat* means virtually saying the same thing again and again what need be said but in different styles.

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Counter-productive

Not every narration will sail through acceptance, without exception, simply on the reliance of the advantage of the reverence or respect that the community have for the Mimbar (pulpit) or by quoting just any book, and there are thousands of books with differing degrees of reliability, and some have quotations which are even counter-productive.

A narration of "someone's" dream can still be respected even if a few may seem "out of place", because often dreams are strange. But then narrating a dream as a premise for winning an academic argument in the matter of faith is tantamount to insulting the intelligence of a congregation.

As for miracles, the true ones, of course, are by a divine permission, and the purpose is, of course, always tabligh and the miracles, therefore never go waste. And yet, such narrations of miracles hardly end confirming that the miracles were a success in the aim of "da'wa". However, the preacher is after all successful in impressing that a miracle was performed regardless whether the miracle itself was successful in its purpose.

Exceeding bounds

In the attempt to deliver newer and newer narrations, an example of a narration of a flying carpet from within the Mosque of the Prophet in Medina to the Cave of Ahlul Kahf in Western Asia Minor and back to the Mosque would seem to be exceeding the bounds.

The preacher need not explain how the carpet flew through the small door of the mosque of the time without spilling over the five riders, one at the end of each corner and the fifth at the center because that too was a part of the miracle.

There is also no mention of a crowd having gathered at the Mosque to

await the return of the miraculously flying carpet sent on a mission of the Prophet wanting to impress the riders with a piece of truth, as if the Prophet was not trusted in what he said.

There is another example which is even more strange because it has no lesson to impart to the audience. A tree in paradise, perhaps one for the entire paradise, produces, not fruits, but ready cooked Indian mithaai, including tasty *laddus*. Its roots can be traced down to the town of Kufa in Iraq. What a poor perception of Allah's splendour and glory in paradise! And what an expectation of gullibility from the audience!

Besides, there is the question of the valuable time at the disposal for preaching. There is no reason at all for a preacher wanting to take as long as one hour or more for his topic if only to fill the full length with such narrations as would question his discretion in the choice of narrations.

The community is already at a cross-road on the question of how to keep the youths interested in listening to preaching. Decisions need be made now before the trend of youths losing interest gets momentum.

With the advancement in Information Technology and unprecedented accessibility to information on all spheres and dimensions of life, youths are now in a better position to perceive the naked reality on the ground with no frills of "make believe" or idealism. The youths can be won over more by reasoning, which Islam is reputed for, than by the traditional emotions which our brand of preaching is reputed for.

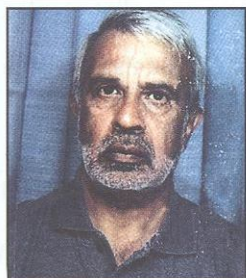
The azadari which includes zakiri is an important Shia institution. It must be practiced with the seriousness and respect which it deserves.

LETTER FROM NORTH AMERICA

Old age is unavoidable unless one prefers to die young. Our Prophet (s.a.w.) and our Aeema (a.s) have left a wealth of guidance on how to take care of oneself so that benefits are reaped later in life. Quoting them in this article will render it lengthy. The gist of many ahadis exhorts us to live a life of restraint and avoiding over indulgence in even matters, which are lawful. Islam has defined the priorities in life and condemned in clear terms excesses (Israf) which are unacceptable to Allah (s.w.t). Leading a decent life saves one from suffering in this world and in the hereafter. The Qura'n uses the term dhulm bi Nafs for sins and excesses in life. A little imagination can convince us that self-abuse through sinning has an effect on our body and mind.

The truth of the guidance that we have received from our Auliya stared at me starkly when I read a book titled "Age Power" by a well-known author Ken Dychtwald PhD (ISBN 0-87477-954-5). I was impressed by his rational arguments and decided to share with readers a few points adding my comments thereto.

I have also added some information from "Real Age". I would recommend all readers to go



by Ghulam Abbas Sajan,
Toronto

Federation Samachar

Growing old gracefully – some thoughts to share

to realage.com and get tips on a daily basis.

This book primarily deals with the American baby boomers who will begin to retire from the year 2011 since they will be turning 65. There will be millions of them and millions more around the world. Most of them will retire but the world will not be ready for them.

Throughout 99 percent of human history, the life expectancy was 18 years, most people died because of infection, accidents and violence. Few survived. The life expectancy increased to 47 at the turn of the twentieth century. Today it has skyrocketed to 76.

The myth of old age at 65 was created in Germany as a political ploy. In 1881, Germany introduced the first pension plan, not to provide benefit to workers but to win their votes, and the Chancellor of Germany selected 65 as the marker for old age. At that time life expectancy was 45. We are stuck with it and most of us wait for this magic age so that we could retire for now we are too old to work. This scheme never envisaged that life expectancy would go up. Life expectancy did go up but in most countries, retirement age has barely changed.

The author calls this 65 as meaningless, unfair and even dangerous. As we grow older, we have various ailments like arthritis, osteoporosis, prostate and breast cancer, and heart diseases. Some of these are avoidable and some are hereditary. Even when affected by an ailment, the response will determine the aging process. Let us look at some examples.

My wife, Zarin, got arthritis 41 years ago. In the beginning she was bed-ridden and she suffered for many years. But she fought

back. She decided to be active, carrying out most housework, including minor repairs. Although her arthritis will not go, she decided to live on.

Another example is Baqir Alloo. He was in a wrong family, a family (like mine) where everyone gets some sort of heart problem. I believe although it is hereditary, if he had lived differently early in his life, he may have avoided all the pain he goes through. But Baqir is a fighter. He refused to give in. Most of us get e-mails from him, he uses his brain to its fullest, is involved in various community matters including resolving disputes. He could very easily have decided that he was a patient who was going to die the next day and, therefore, a vegetable. May Allah (s.w.t) give him a long life full of zeal and energy. There are other examples of such fighters.

Then we have far too many examples of people who give in. We are all familiar with them. And we have heart patients who refuse to give up smoking, even after bypass. We are aware of cases that some of them even smoked while still in hospital.

"If we continue to elevate life expectancy without fostering "healthy aging", too many of us will live on for decades riddled with decay and pain"

Let us examine our life style. We want to do the same things at 60, 70 or 80 that we did at 20. This specially applies to our diet. At weddings we must have oil-laden biryani together with jalebi enriched and floating in liquefied white sugar.

I sometimes go to the seniors' programs. It is amazing to see the

(continued on page 92)

(...from page 91)

type of food they eat. Meat is a must. Many years ago, we went to New York for the opening of Husseini Madressah. Most of the people on the bus were seniors. They started eating the moment the bus left Toronto. Half way through, the men gave up but the ladies continued eating. Once in New York, the hot oil-rich food was a welcome site to them. To this date I have not figured out where did all the food go except adding to their ill health.

Some people bring the onslaught on "old age" early in life. During the Uganda Exodus, many people went to the United Kingdom. There was a large number, which did not seek any means of earning livelihood for the Social Security payment was great. They adopted a sedentary life style, contrary to Allah's command, "go about your business". After 33 years, most of them are sadly in a sad state. Compare this to Muhamedali Fazal of Birmingham. He was involved in a train accident. A likely candidate for a sedentary life style. Once he was well enough, he refused to woe over his misfortunes. He has made himself so busy that he has to book appointments for the various chores he does for the people of Birmingham. Though disabled, he is much healthier than many of the "Queen's guests".

We have the Jaffari Islamic Housing Corporation where the tenants pay rent based on their income. There are some who could have saved on rent by taking social assistance but they refused to sit at home. They would rather pay more and be healthy. However, there is a faction which does not want to sweat it out, although able bodied, with good education and still comparatively young.

Unless we comply with Allah's command to be active all the time, we will be like Tithonus depicted in the ancient Greek fable. According to the fable Eos, a beautiful goddess falls in love with

Tithonus, a mortal. She begs Zeus to grant Tithonus immortality. She was granted her wish. In her hurry, she forgot to ask for youthfulness as well. As time went by Tithonus became old and acquired many ailments but he could not die. This is what will happen to us. We will live longer but will suffer because we refuse to take care of ourselves.

At a wedding, Sheikh Faezi of Chicago narrated a concept of retirement, especially among the Indo-Pakistanis. The tendency is to try to retire as early as possible. As soon as the son is married, it is time for the father to retire. It is now up to the son to look after his mother and father even though both of them are capable of looking after themselves. Although his reference was to mistreatment of daughter-in-laws, the point to note is a strong desire on part of many to be lazy early in life.

Exercise is an important aspect in life. For some it may be too late even to walk but if they practice yoga and tai chi, they will be more flexible. RealAge indicates some studies. In recent research, study participants who were over the age of 65 and had always been sedentary reduced their risk of heart disease by 36% and their risk of cancer by 51% when they adopted an active lifestyle during the study.

Another study indicated that engaging in low-intensity exercises not only will burn extra calories, but it also may safeguard your heart. A recent study compared the effects of different kinds of exercise on the cholesterol profiles of older women. After several weeks, heart-friendly cholesterol changes were observed in the women regardless of whether they performed high or low intensity exercises. The heart benefits depended on how long, not on how hard, they exercised.

Another example from RealAge: Trading in the treadmill for the great outdoors this summer may be better deal for your bones. Low

bone density can lead to osteoporosis in both men and women. A recent study revealed that an outdoor run provided more potential for bones building compared to running on a treadmill. The varied surfaces involved in an outdoor workout creates more physical challenges, which can stimulate bone growth.

Next and this is very important. The diet has to change with age. The desire for rich food should be curtailed. Imam Ali (a.s.) had stated that when eating, one should fill the stomach 1/3 with food, 1/3 with water and 1/3 with air. Instead we fill our stomach 4/3 (four-thirds) with food, 1/3 with soft drink, which is nothing but sugar, and no air. This aspect is not good at any age but more particularly as one grows older. A dietician/nutritionist can guide us with recommended food intake to provide more energy as we age.

"If we could understand how caloric restrictions produce its effects, then we'd understand a great deal more about the basic biological mechanism of aging. And that would give us a way to intervene. It could provide that magic bullet we talk about" said Dr. Richard Sprott, head of National Institute on Aging's biology of aging program.

RealAge has this to say: The components of a traditional Mediterranean diet are nutritious and diverse. In addition to vegetables, fruit, fish, olive oil, and legumes, the Mediterranean diet also features cereals, yogurt, and cheese. Experiment with new recipes or take favourite recipes and change the main ingredients to incorporate more Mediterranean diet staples.

Another tip is eating a piece of fruit before each meal may help to melt pounds away.

One more tip from RealAge is: A few dietary changes could have a medication-like impact on your

(continued on page 93)

(...from page 92)

cholesterol profile in as few as 30 days. In a recent study, people who ate a diet that incorporated nuts, soya, high-fibre grains, and margarine made from lipid-lowering plant sterols cut their LDL (bad) cholesterol levels by 29% after only one month. Study participants who took cholesterol-lowering medications and ate low-fat diet experienced a similar drop.

Another aspect is boredom for people who have no activity. This can be taken care of by group discussions and support. In Canada, for those over 65, University education is free. It may be worthwhile to go back to school and learn something new. But where there is no free education, the jamaats can arrange programs for retired people. Many jamaats have tried computer courses. Others could take first aid, swimming, becoming volunteers in hospitals, schools, etc. In developing countries there are numerous opportunities to provide various services to Allah's creations.

Many older adults who are lonely and depressed have given up on making new friends. Making new friends is equally important for this expands the horizon. It prevents depression. Getting involved will get us new friends.

To keep the mind alert at all times, one must not give up reading at any age. If followed by group discussions, this would make life really exciting. The reading should not be confined to novels only but should include a variety of topics.

In the current environment of pollution, preservatives and plucking fruits and vegetables before they ripen, we are deprived of all the nutritional values in our foods. While the food is being processed much nutritional value is lost. I had a discussion with a nutritionist. She claimed that the fruits and vegetables have full values. When I told her that there were reports from US scientists as early as in 1930's stating that that

American soils were depleted of minerals, she would not agree. Transportation is another cause of loss of values in fruits and vegetables.

There was a report by one of the leading nutritionists in Toronto that I heard over the radio. She is recommending that our meals should be supplemented with vitamins. Here, we have another battle. Many medical doctors think vitamins are useless. But more and more doctors are giving in and slowly accepting the usage of vitamins. One has to be careful about the vitamins and minerals that one takes. Many of them do not provide any value. There was an interesting study done by University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, on many supplements. The study found that some of the ingredients mentioned on the labels were missing. Therefore, one has to take good quality vitamins. These should be coupled with antioxidants to prevent damage of cells by free radicals which are produced by all of us and we get additional intake through pollution.

RealAge states "Popping a vitamin C supplement each day may help lower your risk of heart disease."

"Heart disease is one of the most common causes of death in the United States. In a new study, people who took a C supplement daily had as much as a 28 percent lower risk of developing heart disease. The study was conducted in women, but researchers say that vitamin C has heart benefits for men, too."

One has to remember that modern health care is geared towards disease and not health care. Whereas in ancient China doctors got paid when people were well, current health care is a disease-management industry where the chief beneficiaries are the medical practitioners, insurance companies, hospitals and medical manufacturers. The strongest lobby-group in the USA is the pharmaceutical lobby.

Medical drugs are addictive, have

side effects and, psychologically, are dependence creators. Often we hear of side effects but the strong lobby prevents information from becoming public knowledge as long as possible. A case in point is the hormone therapy for menopausal women. These medications, in most cases change our moods and temperaments. Therefore, before taking medication one should consider alternatives which are not habit forming. These are more effective as prevention but once affected by serious medical condition, one has to be extra careful.

Keeping oneself active can also be financially rewarding. In 1991 a woman, aged 75, went into a well respected home-based business with very little investment. At 85, her income was US \$70,000 per year. Most of our people are enterprising. If this woman could be active at 85, why can't the rest of the elderly adults?

The following is a direct quote from the book:

"Tips for Age-Proofing Your Life

- Plans to live a very long life – 80 or 90 years – and take steps now to guarantee the intellectual and social stimulation you'll want in your latter years.
- Don't get trapped in yesterday's "linear" model of aging: Adjust your psychological, social, and financial expectations to support a "cyclic" life plan.
- Envision new career goals and challenges. Intellectual flexibility and the ability to learn new skills and technologies will be key assets in a more longevous era.
- Be prepared to reinvest yourself several times in adulthood – you may discover aspects of your

(continued on page 96)

LETTER FROM INDIA

Not another Karbala, but the victims have almost been the same as they were some fourteen centuries back. The followers of Imam Husain (a.s.). In the same country. Only the players have changed, as if Saddam Husain was not enough for their systematic and gradual annihilation. The 'Shias of Iraq, while they observed the last Muharram, had to face a U.S.-led war. But, certainly, they believe that the sufferings and sacrifices of their great leader in 61 A.H. were and will ever remain to be unprecedented, what if they did not inspire millions of protestors, the first time in the history of humanity, to come out on the streets throughout the world, not to mention the multitude of Abdullahs (ibn Abbas) who made it on the Internet.

Every year in Muharram, we listen to the events of Karbala in our Islamic centers, imambargahs and husainiyahs. Karbala, however, is not simply an event; it is, in essence, a historical representation of a philosophical concept, a symbol of relentless struggle between truth and falsehood, Islam and pseudo-Islam, the Islam of the community and the Islam of the state, a manifestation of the eternal, internal crusade between the animal and the human self of



by Syed Ali Mehdi
in Aligarh

Federation Samachar

Karbala. Concept and Symbolism

man. Karbala is not only history, it is a philosophy of history, one symbol of a revolutionary Islamic concept.

The key to social dynamics that Marx found in wealth, Freud in sex, and Russell in power, Islam finds, through historical demonstration, in ideology. According to Islam, history propels forward in the course of struggle between the ideology of Haqq and the ideology of Batil, not denying or diminishing other factors that largely enact, in varying degrees, a subsidiary or non-consequential role.

Imam Khomeini has brilliantly expressed the essential reality of Karbala in the following words: Every day is Ashura; every place is Karbala. Ashura is not the name of a particular date in which occurred a unique battle between Imam Husain (a.s.) and Yazid nor is Karbala the name of a particular place situated in Iraq where that battle was fought; rather, both Ashura and Karbala are symbolic representations that cannot be confined within the boundaries of time or place. To confine them to the pages of dead history would be tantamount to the negation of Islam's philosophy of history and revolutionary spirit, without which we have become, and will continue to be, stale and stagnant. Such a stratagem has always been attempted by the enemies of Islam and Karbala. And at times, our simplistic zakirs unwittingly, for some reason or the other, reflect the same mindset while reciting majālis. Muhammad Iqbal, the renowned philosopher-poet of Islam, has articulated the idea in one of his inspirational Persian couplets:

plets:

Musa-o Firaun-o Shabbir-o Yazid;
ein do quwwat az hayat aayad
padeed

(Moses and Pharaoh, Husain and Yazid; these two forces have existed since life began)

However, with our particularistic and individualized approach, we have unfortunately failed to appreciate the essence and the concept, and have by and large abstained from drawing lessons from it for our practical life (assuming that Imam Husain [a.s.], instead of being a role-model for us in the practical sense, was the greatest figure who merely deserves praise and devotion). We have not shown any amount of enthusiasm in identifying and highlighting other such symbols either from the past or the present.

The Noble Quran has numerous references to the story of Abraham, of Moses and of other prophets—how they struggled for the divine cause and the problems that they faced in its propagation and achievement. But the issue is: why does Allah relate them repeatedly? If Quran would have been a textbook of history, anything beyond a single narration would have appeared unwarranted; but since the purpose of Quran is human guidance, and human beings have the tendency to forget, He reiterates them off and on to keep us awakened lest we become neglectful.

Similar is the rationale for remembrance of events of Karbala

(continued on page 96)

FROM DOWN UNDER

After the annual Africa Federation meeting in Mombasa, a natural question came to my mind, "where is our community heading to?". One very important outcome of this year's meeting was the resolving of the Madagascar Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri community's concern. We proved once again that we are a community capable of resolving our issues and understanding each other. There will be times also when we must also agree to disagree without shaking the foundations of our community, the foundations which our forefathers so painstakingly strived to build!!

The last Supreme Council meeting was an opportunity to meet old acquaintances and for me to revisit my birth-place. What a change I found in Mombasa. This year's meeting was held at Jaffery Academy, my alma mater – the Alibhai Panju Primary School. I could recognise each and every corner of my school. Each classroom brought memories of my past!!! The old classrooms are intact and as fresh as ever!! I could notice that our old main assembly hall has given way to other developments and now a new magnificent multi-purpose hall in memory of my mentor, Mulla Asgherali M. M. Jaffer has been built. Surprisingly the present hall appears to be much smaller than our original hall. Perhaps the reason

could be that I am seeing the present new hall with now much bigger eyes, than my tiny eyes of primary school! We had a lovely garden adjacent to the hall with a fountain in the middle – this has disappeared obviously a victim to development in a land shortage situation.

The Clock Tower has disappeared from the face of the school!! This clock gave us accurate and perfect time and was well serviced and maintained by the Late Mr. Dossa, who was the official keeper for our school Tower Clock. Of course all *Lillah* service for the love of the community!!! We had a lovely cage near the garden where some birds and a peacock and peahen were kept. A big painting done by one of our teachers showed a boy trying to aim a catapult on to a bird, with the beautiful saying somewhat like this, "Don't do that little boy, don't kill life" Mombasa has remained static to some extent despite so many changes as far as our community is concerned. We have shifted almost en-mass from the Old Town to Ganjoni / Lighthouse and Nyali areas, although our two centers, commonly referred to as Bustani – and pronounced as such – (formerly Hujjat Jamaat) and Misid – and pronounced as such – (formerly Kuwwat Jamaat) remain firmly intact in the heart of old town.

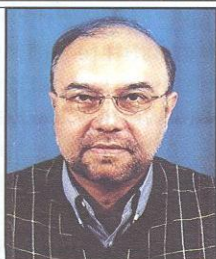
It is from these two centers that we acquired the knowledge for living, the knowledge of life. It was here that we learnt the basics of Islam and it is from here that the foundation of our life was built. These centers were responsible for making the future leaders of our community world-wide.

The most vivid memory of my childhood at these two centers is the unity of these two former jamaats – Kuwwat and Hujjat Jamaats. This unity meeting and the joining of the two jamaats as

one was followed by the pulling down of a wall in the Kabraastaan that once even divided the dead of our community into separate plots!!!! I can still picture the Marhumeens of our community who at that time were the pillars of our community taking hoes and axes into their own hands and pulling down the wall. Many faces come to mind, some among those of Late Sadak Maghjee Jivraj, Late Mohamedali Dhala, Late Mohamedali Meghjee, Late Mulla Gulamhusein Bishon, Late Mulla Asgharali M.M. Jaffer, and with pride my late grandfather, Late Haji Kassamali Moledina. Of course there were many more, all proud that they had finally succeeded in bringing the two jamaats together. May Allah (s.w.t.) bless them all and give them a place among the proximity of our Fourteen Masumeens. Amen.

All these observations brought to my mind the question as to what was the community doing once again meeting during the Easter break. Each individual who comes for this annual meeting spends at least about 30 man-hours. That multiplied by about 200 participants brings the total manhours spend to 6000 hours. The total cost of about 120 delegates coming from outside Mombasa, the cost of hosting the meetings and the total cost of time spent perhaps runs into millions, in which ever currency one counts!!! As Allah swears "By time" in the Holy Qura'an, the most pertinent question that comes to mind is, "Is all this time that we spend well spent or not?" Perhaps there is no easy answer!!! Nobody can know for sure the motive (*niyyat*) of the councilors, delegates or invitees attending the meeting. However one thing is certain that all of them attend with the pure intention of improving the social, economic and spiritual lives

(continued on page 96)



by Dr. Asghar Moledina,
South Africa

(...from page 95)

of our community members in Africa and world-wide. We may discuss this till the early hours of the morning, we may argue and tear each other apart during the meeting but once all is over we either reach a consensus or merely just agree to disagree. All for the betterment of our community!!!! How beautiful!!! How ever rewarding in this life and in the eternal life hereafter!!!

Purity of heart should be our niyyat and intention when attending to the work of our community and at such meetings and everything else will fall in place. Unity should be the foundation of our community and this is what the pulling down of the wall in our Mombasa Kabrastan taught me about 50 years ago!!! With this mind we shall go a long way in achieving our dreams and making our vision a reality!!!

(...from page 93)

potential you never knew existed". This reminds me of Japanese saying, "I want to die young as late as possible".

All the above bring us the beginning of this article:

- Be active all your lives, either earning livelihood or carrying out social, political, or religious activities. Be a Haji Naji or Gulamali Bhanji.
- Take preventive care by taking nutritional supplements in order to cut down dependency on drug-based medication. At the same time watch what you eat.
- Do not give up to illness or handicap. Be a Muhamadali Fazal, Zarin Sajan or Baqir Alloo.

Above all remember Allah (s.w.t.) and the Ahlul Bayt much. Reflect on the lives of Ahlul Bayt on those around them. Not only will you gain spiritually but also physically and mentally and you will avoid the pains of old age. You will die a youth, full of energy even at 98.

Federation Samachar

Funny Instructions

These are actual instruction labels on consumer goods...

On a food processor:
Not to be used for the other use.
(Now I'm curious.)

On Sainsbury's peanuts:
Warning: contains nuts.
(but no peas?)

On an American Airlines packet of nuts:
Instructions: open packet, eat nuts.
(somebody got paid big bucks to write this one...)

On a Swedish chainsaw:
Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands.
(Raise your hand if you've tried this...)

On a child's Superman costume:
Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly.
(Oh go ahead! That's right, destroy a universal childhood belief.)

Karbala: Concept and Symbolism

(...from page 94)

each year in Muharram. However, with the passage of time, as a poet laments, reh gaye rasm-i azan, rooh-i bilali na rahi (only the ritual of call to prayer has survived, while the spirit of Bilal is nowhere to be found). The symbol has survived, while the concept has vanished as soul from the human body. The result is fairly evident: we no longer remain the symbols of extraordinary abilities and revolutionary commitment as we used to be till about a century or two back, instead we have become, disagree at your own peril, the most, or to be a little liberal, one of the most, unfortunate communities of the world. It is not because of our going on about Karbala, as some would prefer to diagnose, but due to our fascination with the histrionics and outward form at the cost of its inherent message and values. Only a cultural revolution could restore its original significance.

It is, at all times, imperative for us to bear in mind that concepts precede symbols, the latter being a vindication of the former. This is all the more important when we evoke such powerful and emotional events as Karbala. The main value of symbols lie in their providing real-life inspiration to human beings, especially the unsophisticated ones who lack the ability to comprehend and imbibe concepts on their merit. However, in any case, the concepts should constitute not only the reference point but also the starting point of all our symbolisms. If it happens otherwise, a reasonable and balanced world-view becomes impossible to achieve, paving the way for all sorts of deviations and misrepresentations. If we don't understand Islam, how are we going to comprehend the real significance of Karbala and the true meaning of the sacrifice of Imam Husain (a.s.) and his lineage? It is always advisable to remain in touch with the concepts lest our naïve spaceship strays in the vast universe of passionate symbolisms anchorlessly.

WAYSIDE WISDOM

Some people like believing that there is no happiness in the world. They live in gloom and try to make others gloomy by making it appear that living is burdensome and difficult unlike the years or generations gone by. Every generation brings along a different standard of living but the weaker ones easily translate their minor problems or ailments from a mole-hill into a mountain.

Instead of being thankful for the many positive things God has bestowed human beings such individuals tend to blow up minor discomforts in life. Among us we have hundreds of blind, deaf and dumb people and there are so many who suffer from major disabilities plus those who are mentally disabled. There are also so many people suffering from serious diseases like cancer, AIDS and the like while others suffer ailments like stammering and the like.

Take a look at the type of people among us: People born with de-fected bodies, deformed faces, no hands, no legs, just heads and stomach, walking on the stomach and disabled beyond our comprehension. These people too have families who have to see them everyday and be there for them everyday. Yet so many of them face life positively and some are even constructively self-employed.

The list of those suffering is endless and includes:

The clinically depressed;



by Munir H. Daya,
Dar es Salaam

Federation Samachar

Errors do not become mistakes until one refuses to correct these

People with alcohol, drug or sex addiction;
Anti-law, anti-society, anti-working and anti-living people;
Those with fathers and mothers who live honourable and respectable lives but don't get the required attention;
People in hospitals for years or at repeated intervals;
People who live without any out-ings (health or money problems),
People who have no friends, none at all;
People who have no regular meals;
People who have just a few clothes to wash and wear;
Penniless widows;
People who've lost their sweet-hearts too early and don't know how to deal;
Children in orphanages;
Parents whose children have passed away;
The young forced into prostitution;
Mothers cooking, washing, sleeping in a hut and watching on helplessly as life goes by for others;
People hurting miserably and hoping against hope;
People wondering what's taking God so long;
People who've lost friends and families without a goodbye or last look, just gone with so much left unsaid, unshared;
Wives who have turned against husbands;
Husbands who have cheated continuously on wives;
Children who rob their parents;
Brothers fighting with brothers over business or sisters at war;
Wrecked family lives;
People who live with memories, nothing but memories;
People who feel abandoned by God;
People who know they are doing wrong and still do wrong;
People who have fallen from their own eyes;
People who had it all once, now with nothing;
People who've never had it;
People who love somebody who

love somebody else;
People cheated out of their homes or without homes;
Those sexually abused at home;
The elderly ill-treated and traumatised by their children;

Think about it. Without the above disadvantages you have so much. So much that you can easily give something to someone else to share your normal, happy, peaceful life with. Help another be happy. Big way, small way, anyway, but definitely in some way; because by doing this you will be yoking yourself to the yonder and expressing your gratitude to God by showing your solidarity towards the rest of our world.

You're better off by far and is it then not a crime against the bounties of blessings when we only live selfishly. Is it not immature, infantile when one can't use life for bettering it? Is it not odd that people graze on the meadows of mediocrity endlessly and are stuck on the same pattern of life for years? I would hate myself to be this year what I was last year or the year before; life is fuel, almost everyday one should be impatient to step on the gas.

Books, growing one's business, meeting and helping people, sharing experiences with others, community service, raising one's spirituality through praying every day, all serve to inch one towards enrichment. We are meant to grow, to live, to expand the muscle of the heart; those who don't have the above disadvantages are expected to take advantage and pump iron into the soul of life.

If you have any of the disadvantages, remember that struggle is the objective of life and success or failure is in the hands of God. If your disadvantage is through your own error, remember that an error does not become a mistake until you refuse to correct it.

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PRIZE QUIZ

QUIZ BASED ON AKHLIQAIE, SAYINGS OF

HARDHAT ALI (AS) AND ISLAMIC TRADITIONAL HERITAGE

- 1) On which THREE occasions a person is advised not to be alone?
- 2) Which THREE acts ought to be performed as soon as possible?
- 3) What THREE characteristic qualities ladies may possess while the gents must have its opposite?
- 4) Which THREE situations are approved or appropriate for a person to go out of his house?
- 5) Decrease of which THREE items is indicative of one approaching the end of life in this world?
- 6) Friendship or association with what THREE type of characters should be avoided?
- 7) How should one take the THREE daily meals-breakfast, lunch and dinner?

OPTIONAL QUESTION:

- 8) What are the FOUR pillars of FAITH (Iman)?

1st prize of Shs.10,000/= for all correct answers.
2nd prize of Shs. 7,500/= for at least four correct answers.
3rd prize of Shs. 5,000/= for two correct answers.

Note - Answers should reach the Editor by 10th December, 2003.

This quiz has been sponsored and compiled by:

M. G. Pardhan
Advocate
Box 527
Dar es salaam.

Learning from bubbles!!!!

My son had a bottle of bubbles. You know the type, it's basically soapy water with a plastic loop on each end. You dip the loop in the bottle, pull it out, and blow it to make bubbles.

My son understood the principle, but was vainly trying to blow bubbles. He would dip and dip and blow and blow, but alas, no bubbles.

He handed me the bottle and loop and asked me, "Daddy can you make bubbles?" I hadn't blown bubbles in years. I am a chemist by education, fairly well-trained in surfactant technology. I have formulated several shampoos, so I understand surface tension and related foaming characteristics of surfactants. Surfactant is just a big fancy word for a soap or detergent.

All that knowledge isn't worth a hoot when trying to blow bubbles from a loop filled with soapy water. I was having no more success than my son. I would dip and puff, no bubbles, the soapy film on the loop would just pop without releasing any bubbles.

After several futile attempts, I changed tactics. Instead of puffing on the loop of soapy water I gently breathed on it. My son squealed with delight as a big beautiful bubble emerged and floated away.

He grabbed the loop, dipped and blew. No bubbles. I explained to him, "Son you can't blow hard, you must ever so gently breathe on the loop to make bubbles."

He followed my advice and saw big bubbles. I saw a principle of life floating away in the bubbles. There are some things that you can get with brute force but there are other things that only come with the gentleness of a soft breath. Too often, we try to force love, or real respect. It won't come. It just pops before the bubble can ever form because we try to put too much force on it.

Federation Samachar

Book Review

"An Introduction to Tadabburul Quran"

Reviewed by: Shabbir Mohamed, Toronto

"An Introduction to Tadabburul Quran" is a book based on reflection on the Quran. Several books have been written on this subject but this book is different in that it has adopted a thematic approach to explain the basics of the Quran, beginning with the definition to the brief history and covering a wide range of important topics embodied within the text of the Quran. It uses different Quranic verses on the subject putting them side by side to explain the topic and arrive at a clear and coherent Quranic message.

The book, published under the auspices of the IEB and launched at its last Retreat to discuss the topic of "The Quranic World View", aims at developing an intellectual approach to the study of the Quran by starting a course of studies on Quranic research and reflection for senior students in our Madaris. It is intended to equip students with the necessary background knowledge to understand and appreciate the high status and the lofty position of the Quran and acquaint them with the limitless wealth of knowledge and wisdom embodied in it.

The book will help them to read and recite the Quran with better understanding and reflection on the "Ayats" of the Quran and encourage them to do further research into the "Ayats". At present our madaris lack such a course of studies that would enable students to write their research papers on various themes and be able to dispel many misunderstandings that prevail regarding the Holy Book.

However, the book falls short of providing the methodology and techniques of doing such research, such as the use of various online resources and tafaseers which provide abundant materials to build on these themes to write papers independently as part of the curriculum of our madaris. Perhaps the intention was to leave this part to the teachers to write their own guidelines and train and guide the students accordingly to produce such papers.

The Quran is the most important book in Islam, central to all Islamic studies and covers the entire field of human knowledge of the seen and the unseen, physical and spiritual matters relating to the here and hereafter. Therefore, all in all the book is a major contribution to Quranic studies and offers valuable resource material to both the students and the teachers of our madaris and seminaries. It also provides a lot of informative material about the Quran for the general reader who wants to know more about the Quran.

The other Woman

by Munir Daya, Dar es Salaam

In society one hears about men having mistresses and some girls' even take pride in having affairs with married men. In most cases it is men who entice the vulnerable women for short term flings by telling them all sorts of things, like how their wives neglect them, how they are unhappy in their married lives and how much they have fallen in love with their new girl. They will also buy expensive gifts to win their new girl's praise and this could well be at the cost of providing adequate funds to their own household.

During outings with their new girl friends, men often become conservative, kind, caring, understanding, God-fearing and strict to win the admiration of their new girl who would believe he has most of the qualities that many men lack. They would be ready to listen to their new girl's work problems and to offer sound advice while at home they would always complain about being too busy to assist their wives or to help out their children in their homework.

There are many women whose husbands are having affairs behind their backs. The executives do this by saying they are having business meetings or are entertaining clients. They have many similar excuses like having to make business trips while some husbands threaten their wives and tell them to mind their own business or even abuse them if they ask questions. There are countless wives who are indeed good and caring but have husbands who are just irresponsible.

The non-executives and low wage earners cannot afford 'second' relationships but nevertheless the keen ones indulge in relationships with bar maids, street girls and the like despite the serious vulnerability to sexually

transmitted diseases and HIV. By doing so they also expose their wives to such diseases.

Husbands are supposed to be loyal, spend time with their wives, take them and their children on holidays and are supposed to anxiously wait for their children each day when they return from school. When they get involved with other women, the family suffers while on the other hand the mistress feels she is better than the wife and that it is the married man's prerogative to choose who he wants to be with.

The mistresses never think that they are potential family wreckers. In life they have a chance to love any another unmarried person but choose a family man instead. In his love for the mistress the married man loses his temper on his wife for the faintest of reasons and in their arguments the children end up living in fear and disappointment on how their father treats their mother. During the course of time they begin loving their mother more but continuously harbour the fear of the mother leaving the house out of frustration.

In the course of events, mistresses also end up suffering at one time or another but it is their choice to do so. One need not pity them for degrading themselves by entertaining someone else's man and thinking that he loves them more. When men get tired of their mistresses they abruptly turn cold and rude and lose all their patience and understanding. Like it is common for men to have mistresses it is equally common for men to abruptly dump their mistresses.

Mistresses are foolish when they fall to vain promises from married men. For a promise of job, for small gifts, for vain praises, for winning one-off contracts or tenders, girls

agree to be exploited by men who more often than not dupe and dump them in the end. Even in cases when the second woman succeeds to win the permanent love of the married man, it should be remembered that the married man would then have to divorce his first wife and more or less loose contact with his first family thereby making him more like a social outcast in his own community, many of who would regard to second woman with contempt unless the divorce was not pre-empted by the second woman.

Life is short and for girls who are plus 20 years of age, they just cannot afford to waste away precious years of their life with married men. Ultimately if and when they break up with their married partner it becomes even more difficult for them to get a decent spouse because of their advanced age and because of their known relationship with a married man.

While married man need a heart not to make false promises to vulnerable women just to satisfy their sexual lust, women should realize that playing the 'other woman' almost always ends up into a turbulent break-up which becomes even more unpleasant when the married man's wife learns of the illicit relationship.

In this scenario it is important that wives live up to their husband's expectations and share in not only the joys of married life but also in times when for one reason or another their husbands face distressing times. Wives should learn not to be too financially demanding, share in their spouses hobbies, maintain a cheerful disposition and share healthy sexual relationships to make their spouses less interested in the 'other woman'.

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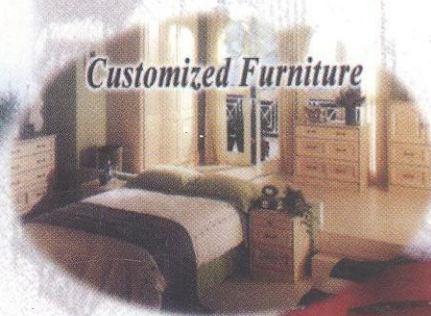
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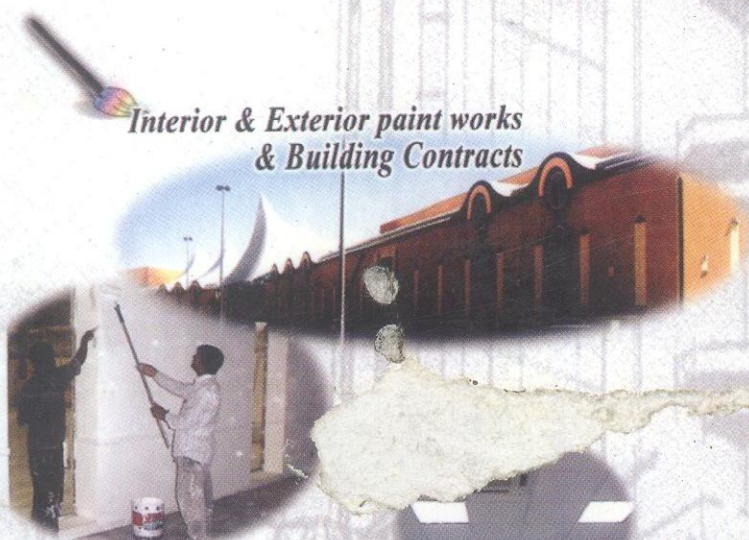
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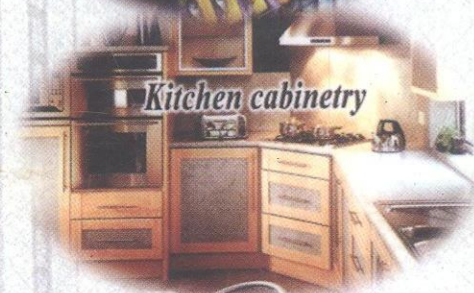
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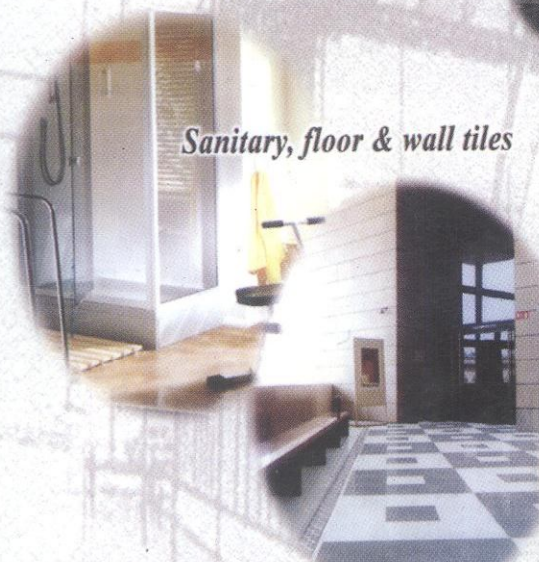
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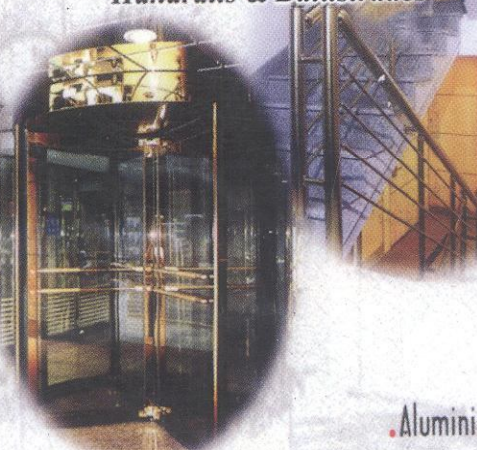
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