



Federation Samachar

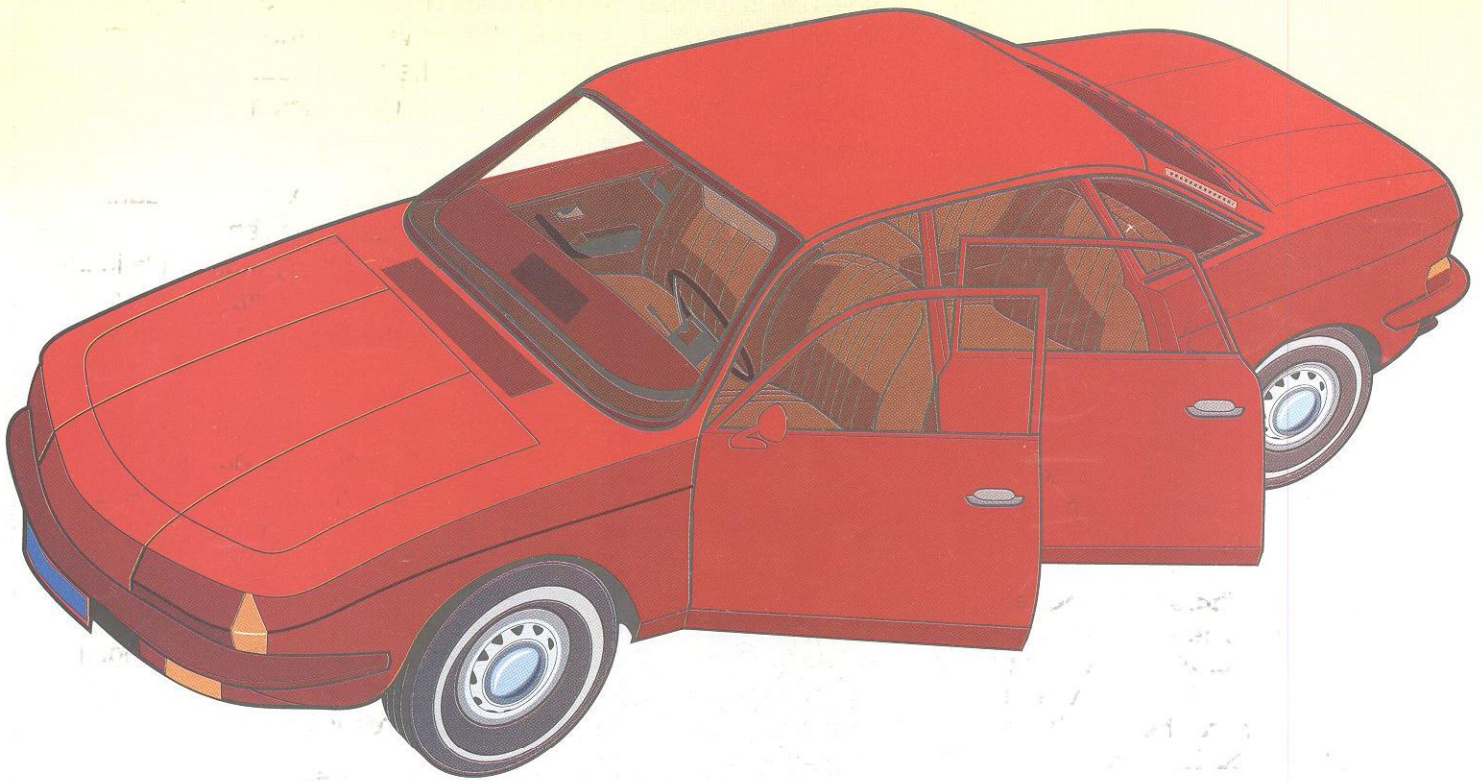
Volume 28, No. 2. Rabi-ul-Akher 1415 A.H. / September, 1994

DESTINATION KENYA!



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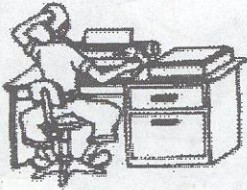
FEDERATION SAMACHAR

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

Volume 28, NO. 2

Rabi-ul-Akher 1415 A.H.
September, 1994

Editors: Mohamedali Chagani
Munir Daya



Editorial Assistant: Mukhtar Damji
Advertising: Amir Lakha
Distribution: Fazleabbas Dhirani
Photography: Murtaza Jivraj

The Editors welcome readers to submit letters, articles, comments or photographs to the Samachar. To ease the return of photographs, readers are requested to send us their return address. Photographs can be mailed back 48 hours after receipt. All correspondence to be addressed to:

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MUNIR DAYA

From the Editor's Desk

Let World Federation Grow up!

A history is always in the making in a society as years roll on. In the process, human beings who have roles in the history age and die yielding the roles to a succession of generations in perpetuation of the cycle.

The organisations created by human beings and nurtured through generations grow as years roll on. They not only grow in membership and in terms of services but intrinsically also 'grow-up' in viability and credibility to survive and thrive. It is the extent of maturity among the members who nurture their organisations which determines the extent of the viability through adaptation to changes of their organisations for survival.

The constant concern for the long term interest of an organisation reflects maturity and wisdom. Short term conveniences and accommodation, especially if in the interest of any individuals in leadership who themselves are subject to the inevitable natural process of transition, are detrimental to the organisation in its growth for survival.

The growth elements for survival lie primarily in the progressive framework of a constitution to ensure a durable viability through a sharpened sense of foresight. It also demands selflessness, sincerity and loyalty to the organisation and not to leaders as individuals, on the part of the members.

Our World Federation is no exception. It must be let to grow up without hindrance or impediment to survive and thrive through generations by ensuring for it the type of constitution which protects its long term collective interest and secures it from any manipulation.

The present Constitution of the World Federation adopted in 1990 has almost all the characteristics for growth to survive. However the responsibility upon members is to see how the Constitution can be further improved in the context of the long term collective interest and to be protected from being flawed under any circumstance.

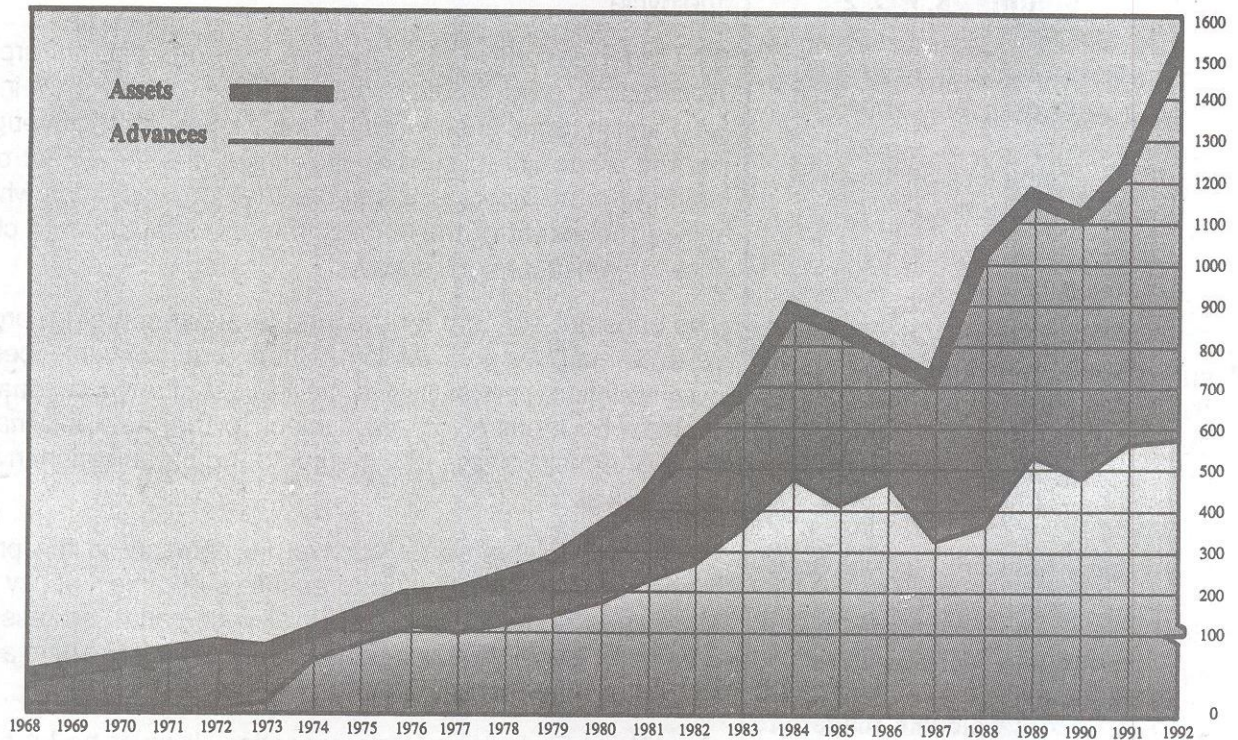
While the restriction in the Constitution against a third consecutive term of presidency is already a great improvement, inter alia, to attract new suitable candidates, perhaps it by itself is not enough. To this effect consideration can seriously be given to having election of nominated candidates to be voted by delegates at the Triennial Conference and through a block-voting system by the members.

Apart from attracting new suitable candidates, the contest becomes less demanding administratively and emotionally while the democratic principles remain intact.

Editor.



By the grace of Allah the progress continues



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MAILBAG

LETTERS

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

Dear brothers,

CHECK SUBSCRIPTION

I refer to your recent circular letter introducing a subscription of US \$ 10 per annum for four issues of the *Federation Samachar*.

I have enquiries from friends about remitting the subscriptions. If personal cheques for \$10 are sent to you by each subscriber from the U.S. will there be any cash left after bank and collection charges are applied?

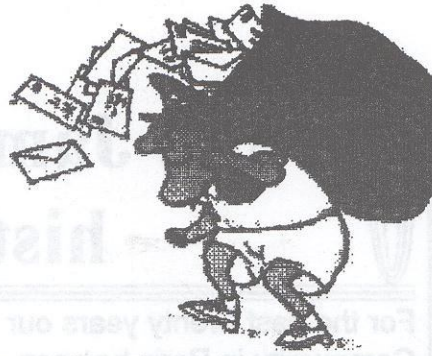
I feel there will be good interest from the Community in America to subscribe to the *Federation Samachar* and suggest you appoint an honorary agent to collect and remit funds.

Meanwhile the fifth revised edition of the Nationwide Directory of the K.S.I.M.C. of U.S. is earmarked to be released at the end of August and I have inserted an advert on subscription to the *Samachar*. I trust this will help to get you more subscribers as the Directory will be used in all Community households in the U.S.

Gulamabbas Dhala,
Los Angeles.

Your point has been noted and we will look into this. Thanks for the free advert in your directory which we look forward to receiving.
Editor.

Federation Samachar



Dear brothers,

KEEP IT UP!

We all pray for you to have the patience to carry on with the good and noble work you are doing.

Ali H. Sheriff, Arusha.

Dear brothers,

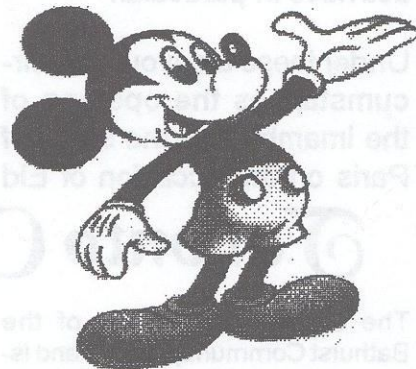
WELL DONE SAMACHAR!

The office-bearers recently discussed the *Samachar* in its periodical review and were pleased to note the great improvement carried out by your Board in the recent issue and felt that you may wish to increase on copies printed to meet growing demand.

The office-bearers also thank your Board for continuing to provide them with complimentary copies.

Secretariat, Africa Federation.

REQUEST TO WALT DISNEY WORLD



Last month I visited the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida which has welcomed over 400 million guests from over 100 countries since its opening in 1971 and surely it provides endless fantasy, excitement and enjoyment to both the young and old.

Entrance to the Disney World is expensive with a 4 day pass costing about US\$124 per adult and US\$ 89 per child and this is justified by the many things one gets to see and experience on the 29,900 acres that it spans on.

To make the most of one's ticket one has to start early and end late - normally it gets to past midnight after the spectacular night fireworks.

On a holiday Allah [s.w.t.] rewards the recitation of obligatory prayers even more but at Disney World and similar resorts like Sea World there are no facilities for praying.

Disney World has a policy of respecting all people of the World irrespective of their race or religion and even calls itself the "Vacation kingdom of the World." If members of our Community worldwide write and request for a Worship room to be made available at the resort, it could be acted upon thus making it easier to offer Wajibaat prayers there. A request can also be made to make halal meat available with copies of correspondence being sent to the American Embassy in each country to enable an easier follow-up. Why not pick the pen now!

Munir Daya

Ottawa Centre needs funds

The Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Association of Ottawa is soliciting financial support for their proposed Islamic Centre from the Community worldwide. The project, which will insha'allah see the emergence of the first Shia Islamic Centre in Ottawa, is projected to cost Canadian dollars 300,000 of which dollars 155,000 has been collected.

Donations for the Mosque and Imambara will earn Sawab-e-Jaria and capable families are called upon to put in their pledges.

Pakistan procession hit

A grenade was thrown into this year's Ashura procession in Islamabad, Pakistan and this seriously injured more than 10 mourners.

Indian Collective marriages

The tenth programme of collective marriages was held at Mahuva and Bhavnagar jointly on 29 May, 1994 under the auspices of the Council of Gujarat of the K.S.I. Jamaat in conjunction with the co-operation of the World Federation and philanthropists of the Community.

Forty nine marriages were arranged at Mahuva and twelve at Bhavnagar with each couple being given gifts to the value of 7000 Rupees.

Bhojani Family bereaved

At the time of going to press we received the sad news of the assassination of Shaukat Ali Bhojani in Karachi which has shocked the Community in Africa. He was the brother of Alhaj Hamidali Bhojani, the President of the Khoja Pirhai Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat.

It is reported that the deceased was gunned down outside his residence as he was about to leave for office in the morning of 7 September, 1994. The Africa Federation has sent a condolence message and may Allah [s.w.t.] rest the soul of the deceased in eternal peace. Amen.

Paris Jamaat makes history

For the past twenty years our Community in Paris has conducted its religious activities in private homes, rented Churches and halls but now it has its own Imambara and Mehfil.

In the last decade several attempts were made to get the French Government approval to start our Community Centre. Following the Iranian revolution in 1978-79, the French are highly sensitive to Islamic activities in general and Shia activities in particular.

Under these unfavourable circumstances the opening of the Imambara in the south of Paris on the occasion of Eid

al-Adha [21 May, 1994] and Mehfile Bibi Zaynab in the north of Paris on Eid al-Ghadir [29 May, 1994] were by no means small achievements.

The opening ceremony of the Imambara was conducted by Professor Abdulaziz Sachedina, whereas the already functional Mehfil was officially inaugurated by the President of the World Federation, Alhaj Mulla Asghar.

We congratulate the community in France for their success and pray for their continued prosperity. We also look forward to receiving activity reports from the Jamaat there for the information of our esteemed readers.

Toronto Centre opens

The opening ceremony of the Bathurst Community Centre and Islamic School in Toronto was held in Toronto on 4 September, 1994 in a grand programme which involved men and women of all ages.

The Ceremony was held in conjunction with an all day sports programme which included volleyball, soccer, basketball and a Tug of War between adults and the youths.

The Seniors had a walk race whilst others were involved in a walkathon that commenced at the Bayview Mosque upto the Bathurst site.

There were a variety of games for women whilst kids were occupied with their choice of sporting activities

which included a sack race and three legged race. Other attractions for the kids included a bouncing castle and playground.

Whilst the opening was officially conducted in the afternoon, sports action commenced in the morning and the trend of events ended at close to midnight with a barbeque.

The Centre and School are expected to go a long way in serving our expanding Community in Toronto which now totals about 4000 people [including non-members].

The Islamic school will also teach secular education and parents have already been advised to enrol their children in the school.

A page from the history of Bombay Jamaat

At the time of founding of the Bombay Jamaat in 1900, elders served the Community with zeal and sacrifice, the fruits of which the Jamaat is reaping today.

The office-bearers and trustees of the K.S.I. Masjid, Madressa and Imambara Trusts were all elected in 1900 whilst the office-bearers of the K.S.I. Jamaat were elected in 1901.

The Masjid provided all the religious facilities and the Jamaat office was also located in the Masjid premises.

In 1901 there were 560 members

whilst more joined subsequently. The location of the Masjid and its Trust office are still located at the same place.

It is possible that many people of the present generation in India and abroad do not know that their fore-fathers have served the Community. The *Samachar* is therefore carrying a list of all founder members and we thank Roshanali Haji Dawood Haji Nasser for the information provided.

The founder Trustees of the K.S.I. Jame Masjid Madressa

and Imambara Trust of Bombay were:

- 1] The Honourable, Fazalbai Vishram, C.I.E. President, 2] Haji Devjibhai Jamal, Vice President, 3] Dr. Ismailbhai Janmohamed, Vice President, 4] Haji Abdullahbhai Haji Mowji, Hon. Secretary, 5] Karmalibhai Pirbhai, Hon. Treasurer, 6] Fazalbai Alloo Muraj, Hon. Treasurer, 7] Ibrahimbhai Nanji, Hon. Treasurer, 8] Janmohamedbhai Haji Devji, Hon. Treasurer, 9] Hashambhai Vishram, Trustee, 10] Ebrahimbhai Hasham, Trustee, 11] Rehmatullabhai Khairaz, Trustee, 12] Khakibhai Hemani, Trustee, 13] Abdullahbhai Lalji, Trustee, 14] Hajibhai Vishram, Trustee, 15] Kasambhai Nanji, Trustee, 16] Haji Gulamhuseinbhai Mithwani, Trustee, 17] Hirjibhai Allarakhia, Trustee, 18] Laljibhai Sajan, Trustee, 19] Jaferbhai Rehmatulla, Trustee, 20] Kasambhai Nanji Miyani, Trustee, 21] Manjibhai Khatau, Trustee, 22] Nasserbhai Haji Mowjee, Trustee, 23] Gulamhuseinbhai Sumar Veera, Trustee, 24] Alibhai Haji Abdulla Mowjee, Trustee, 25] Karimbhai Kasam, Trustee.

The first office bearers of the K.S.I. Jamaat were:

- 1] Hashambhai Vishram, President; 2] Dr. Ismailbhai Janmohamed, V. President, 3] Haji Abdullahbhai Haji Mowjee, Hon. Sect. 4] Janmohamedbhai Haji Devji, Hon. Sect. 5] Gulamhusein Alloo Muraj, Treasurer and 6] Jusabbhai Peerbhai, Hon. Auditor.

Members of the Consulting Committee of the Jamaat were:

- Hashambhai Visram, J.P. Ebrahimbhai Hasham, Hajibhai Lalji J.P., Fazalbai Visram C.I.E., Abdullahbhai Lalji, Dr. Esmailbhai Janmohamed L.M. and S.J.P.,
- [Continued on next page]

Federation condemns bomb explosion at Holy Mausoleum

The Africa Federation Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji sent a condolence message on behalf of the Federation and Community in Africa to R a h b a r - e - M u a z z a m, Ayatullah Seyyid Ali Khamenei and to the President and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and through them to the bereaved families of the martyrs who died when a terrorist bomb exploded in the great Mosque of Imam Ridha [A.S.] in Mashhad on Ashura day.

The bomb caused extensive damage to the Mausoleum and killed over thirty people whilst hundreds more were seriously injured.

The objective of the terrorists was to cause a maximum in-

discriminate devastation and this is why the bomb was planted on Ashura day when pilgrims had flocked to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Husain [A.S.].

The martyred and injured were all civilians, amongst whom were a number of women and children. The spiritual leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatullah Sayyed Ali Khamene'i condemned the act and called upon security forces to go all out to bring the terrorists to justice.

This cowardly and cold-blooded massacre of innocent people engaged in prayers was condemned worldwide by all those who have no double standards or definition for terrorism.

AROUND AFRICA

A page from Bombay History

[.....from page 7]

Rehmtallahai Kheraj J.P., Devjibhai Jamal, Janmohamedbhai Asar, Fazalibhai Jumabhai Lalji, Sharifbhai Devji Kanji, Gulamhusainbhai Muraj Mistry, Fazalibhai Pirmohamed, Karimbhai Nensi Pirmohamed, Karmalibhai Pirbhai, Dostmohamedbhai Pirbhai Haji, Dr. Rajabalibhai Visram Patel I.M.S., Bhojabhai Allarakhia, Jaferbhai Rehmatulla, Karimbhai Kasam Nanji, Rahimbhai Hirji Allarakhia, Shabanalibhai Pirbhai Damji, Bandalibhai Hirji Khaku, Gangjibhai Punja, Janmohamedbhai Rehmatulla Sajan, Sachedinabhai Kalyan Mozambiqwala, Gulamhusainbhai Mithwani and Bhalubhai Vali.

Members of the Managing Committee were:

Haji Bhai Visram J.P., Banalibhai

Hajibhai Lalji, Jafaribhai Ranmal, Sharifbhai Devjibhai Kanji, Pyaralibhai Abdulla Dossa, Jusabbhai Pirbhai Bandrawala, Abdullabhai Allarakhia, Jafaribhai Mohamed Sajan, Fazalibhai Alloobhai Dharamsi, Sumarbhai Allarakhia, Karimbhai Kasam Nanji, Karimbhai Laljibhai Sajan, Kasambhai Nanjibhai Miyani, Dr. Kasamalibhai Jamal G.B.V.C., Najaralibhai Sharif Nathani B.A., L.L.B., Allarakhia Manek, Bandalibhai Shivji Virani, Gulamhusainbhai Molubhai, Abdullabhai Nurmohamed Jusabbhai Essa Kapadia, Alimohamedbhai Gulamhusain Sumar, Ismailbhai Dada Devraj, Gulamhusainbhai Mohamed, Nasserbhai Haji Mawji, Manjibhai Khatau, Abdulrasulbhai Bhalubhai Vali and Ebrahimbhai Nanji.

[May Allah [S.W.T.] reward the departed souls for their services which were rendered under difficult circumstances at the time. Editor.]

Dar Union elects leaders

At the Annual General Meeting of the Ithna-Asheri Union held in May, 1994 the following Office Bearers and Sectional Secretaries were elected into office:

Bashir Tejani	Chairman
Mohsin Nathani	Vice Chairman
Aunali Khalfan	Hon. Secretary
Sajjad Sumar	Joint Secretary
Gulam Hameer	Treasurer
Shiraz Rasul	Nursery School
Sadik Dewji	Literary
Shabbir Esmail	Volunteers
Sajjad Raza	Employment
Mohamed Somji	Sports
Mohamed Lalji	Ladies

Shiraz Rasul subsequently resigned as Sectional Secretary of Union Nursery School and was then co-opted into the Managing Committee. Mohsin Nathani took over the Nursery School position.



There is a solution at hand!

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Delegation attends Madagascar Conference

The Chairman, Alhaj Habib Mulji led a delegation of 8 people to participate in the Madagascar Territorial Council Conference which was held in Antananarivo from 12 to 14 August, 1994. The delegation consisted of 6 men and 2 women.

The delegation was made up by:

- Gulamabbas Janmohamed - Trustee;
- Aliraza Rajani - President, D'Salaam Jamaat;
- Zulfikar Khimji - Chairman, Nairobi Jamaat;
- Ali H. Sheriff - Councillor and member, Education Board;
- Habib Yusufali - Member, Education Board;
- Shafiq Kanji - Member, Education Board;
- Mrs. Razia Gulamabbas Janmohamed - Girls Madressa, D'Salaam and
- Mrs. Ismat Mohamed Mukhtar - Girls Madressa, D'Salaam

In the history of the Federation this is the first time for women to be part of the Council's entourage but from the results obtained it certainly will not be the last time. The women held meetings and discussed women issues of mutual interest with their counterparts at the centres of visit.

The Madagascar Territorial Council [M.T.C.] is the administrative wing of the Secretariat with its own constitution. The Secretariat maintains communi-

-cation with the Jamaats in Madagascar, Reunion Islands and Mauritius through M.T.C. which is also a constitutional organ of the Federation.

During the Conference Alhaj Asgherali Jaffer Hirani was elected as the new M.T.C. Chairman for the term 1994/1996.

Important issues in various fields were discussed and a number of important decisions were made at the Conference.

The Education Board members held a Careerama session which attracted a participation of more than sixty boys and girls. These young people also received individual counselling on higher education opportunities. This Careerama session follows a mini Careerama held in November last year during which Ali Sheriff of the Education Board from Arusha was also present.

On women issues, Mrs. Janmohamed and Mrs. Mukhtar held several meetings with

Madressa Teachers and Management with a view to making the teaching of religion more effective. They also met young ladies who immediately decided to form a Union of their own to undertake useful activities in Ladies Section. The women delegation also had a very fruitful meeting with the Ladies Managing Committee of the Jamaat where social and religious matters relating to ladies were discussed.

GOLD MEDAL FOR THE CHAIRMAN

As the Chairman Alhaj Habibbhai is now completing his final year of his final (second) term of the Chairmanship, he was honoured by MTC with a Gold Medal "Muhammadi Chandrak" for his long service to the Community which included his six visits to the Jamaats in Madagascar.

The Reunion Jamaat also presented to the Chairman the Jamaat's "Hussein Medal" on the occasion of the delegation's visit.

Sayings of Hazrat Ali [A.S.]

"If you are confused about good or bad effects of an action, then study carefully the cause and you will know what the effects will be."

On death.....

While you live you die; Each breath of a man is a step near death; Death awaits every living creature and everything must end; You are the game that death hunts. If you stand still, it will seize you; If you flee, it will overtake you; It is astonishing that any one, and even while seeing his life die, should forget death; One expecting death gives himself up to good deeds and whoever is not serviceable to his kind is to be counted among the dead.

AROUND AFRICA

DONATION APPEAL FOR HAEMORRHAGE CASE

A patient who recently suffered Brain Haemorrhage was rushed to Nairobi where he has been receiving specialised treatment under the care of a group of doctors to stabilise his condition. The treatment is very expensive and the recovery is expected to be slow.

A fair amount has been collected by the Jamaat concerned but this now appears to be far short of the amount which will be needed during the long duration of the treatment.

Donations should be remitted to the Secretariat at P.O. Box 6710, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or through local Jamaats.

VIDEOS TO SEE

A set of nine video cassettes covering the 52nd Session of the Supreme Council which was held in Arusha in April this year is now available at the Secretariat of the Africa Federation in Dar es Salaam.

The cost of each cassette is TShs. 2500/- [KShs. 280/-]. The same cassettes can also be borrowed from local Jamaats' libraries.

Overseas Readers

Overseas readers wanting to read the Samachar regularly can send us a payment of US \$ 10 for 4 issues with their address and a copy will be mailed regularly.

Editor.

Federation Samachar

50th Anniversary Celebrations Committee formed

The Africa Federation has formed an ad-hoc Committee known as the Preliminary Celebration Committee (PCC) to outline and chart out celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the Federation next year. The Committee consists of :-

Roshanali Fazal	Chairman
Asgherali Bharwani	Member
Amir Lakha	Member
Gulamabbas Janmoh'd	Member
Mohamed Somji	Member
Munawar Dhanani	Member
Sajjad Raza Pirbhai	Member

The last appointee is a young boy involved in youths' activities. His appointment is in keeping with the policy of involvement of youths in the affairs of the Community.

The Committee is required to make recommendations of a programme for celebration at the Federation level as also at Jamaats' and institutions/Madressa levels after seeking suggestions from various sections of the Community.

The intention is then to form various purpose-assigned committees at the



Federation level to organise the celebration during 1995 when the Federation will also be holding its Triennial Conference probably in April.

Jamaats and their institutions will likewise form their adhoc committees for their purpose, after the programmes have been approved and announced.

We recommend that youths institutions, males and females be also appropriately involved in the celebration which should be a historical experience for them. Most of them are likely, insha'allah to recall the 50th Anniversary celebration when they witness the 100th anniversary.

Mombasa Education Board update

The Jaffery Academy of Mombasa has achieved an improvement in the academic performance of its primary and secondary school pupils according to the July News Bulletin of the K.S.I. Education Board of Mombasa.

According to the bulletin, the Jaffery Academy [Secondary School] recently participated in the Science and Mathematics Improvement Project Exhibition held at the Aga Khan High School in Mombasa. The Academy was amongst the five

schools selected from Mombasa to participate in this Project which was co-funded by the Canadian International Development Agency [CIDA] and the Aga Khan Foundation.

Meanwhile the Education Board sponsored 12 teachers from the nursery school for a 3 weeks course held by the Early Childhood Education Project in August, 1994. The Board has also allocated KShs. 500,000/- to be used by Jamaat members who cannot afford to pay the recent increase in tuition fees.

Nairobi gears for Sports Festival

The sixth Supreme Council Sports Festival will be hosted by Jaffery Sports Club of Nairobi during the Christmas holidays in December this year.

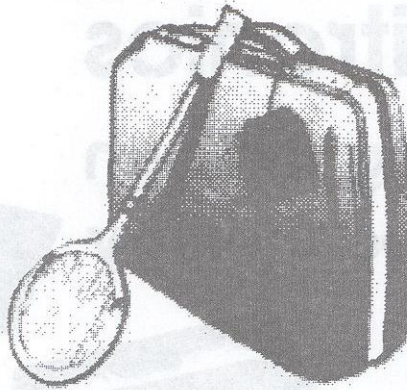
The idea of a sports festival involving our youths from Jamaats affiliated to the Federation was first conceived in 1984 when leaders of the Community saw a very good opportunity of bringing our youths together to foster the bonds of friendship, fellowship and brotherhood through the sports festival.

Since then we have had five festivals organised. The major costs and extensive preparations required eclipsed the earlier intention of having the Festival organised each year.

Youths have always looked forward to the Festival because it gives them the only opportunity to establish contact with their brothers from other Jamaats and to exchange views and ideas.

At the last Festival held in Mombasa in December, 1989 the Education Board of the Africa Federation collaborated with the World Federation to organise a Career Guidance Programme 'Careerrama' to coincide with the Festival. We do hope that this year something similar is organised for the youths be it in any form ranging from essay competitions, debates, religious lectures or a quiz.

The inaugural Sports Festival was hosted in Dar es Salaam by Union Sports Club in December, 1984 with four games and ten



Jamaats vying for glories. The second Festival was organised by Jaffery Sports Club of Mombasa in 1985 and in 1986 the third Festival was organised by Nairobi Jaffery Sports Club. The fourth Festival was held in Dar es Salaam in 1987 and the last Festival was organised in December, 1989, again by Mombasa Jafferys.

This year over 300 sportsmen are expected to congregate in Nairobi from various countries such as Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zaire, Madagascar and possibly even the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Canada and United States which now all have active sports events at Jamaat level. The games expected to be contested will be cricket, volleyball, squash, tennis, football, table-tennis, badminton and golf but final details are yet to be released by the organising committee.

At this stage further information can be sought from Jaffery Sports Club, Nairobi who are accessible on P.O. Box 49729 and Fax no. 218488. In the meantime Nairobi is gearing up for this grand communal event.

The story so far....

PAST WINNERS OF THE SPORTS FESTIVAL

Cricket

1984	Jaffery S.C.	Mombasa
1985	Jaffery S.C.	Mombasa
1986	Jaffery S.C.	Nairobi
1987	Union S.C.	Dar es Salaam
1989	Union S.C.	Dar es Salaam

Squash

1984	Union S.C.	Dar es Salaam
1985	Union S.C.	Dar es Salaam
1986	Union S.C.	Dar es Salaam
1987	Union S.C.	Stanmore
1989	Union S.C.	Stanmore

Volleyball

1984	Jaffery S.C.	Mwanza
1985	Jaffery S.C.	Mwanza
1986	Jaffery S.C.	Songea
1987	Union S.C.	Dar es Salaam
1989	Jaffery S.C.	Songea

Tennis

1984	Jaffery S.C.	Mombasa
1985	Jaffery S.C.	Mombasa
1986	Jaffery S.C.	Nairobi
1987	Jaffery S.C.	Nairobi
1989	Jaffery S.C.	Nairobi

Badminton

1987	Jaffery S.C.	Mombasa
1989	Jaffery S.C.	Mombasa

Football

1987	Union S.C.	Dar es Salaam
1989	Union S.C.	Dar es Salaam

Golf

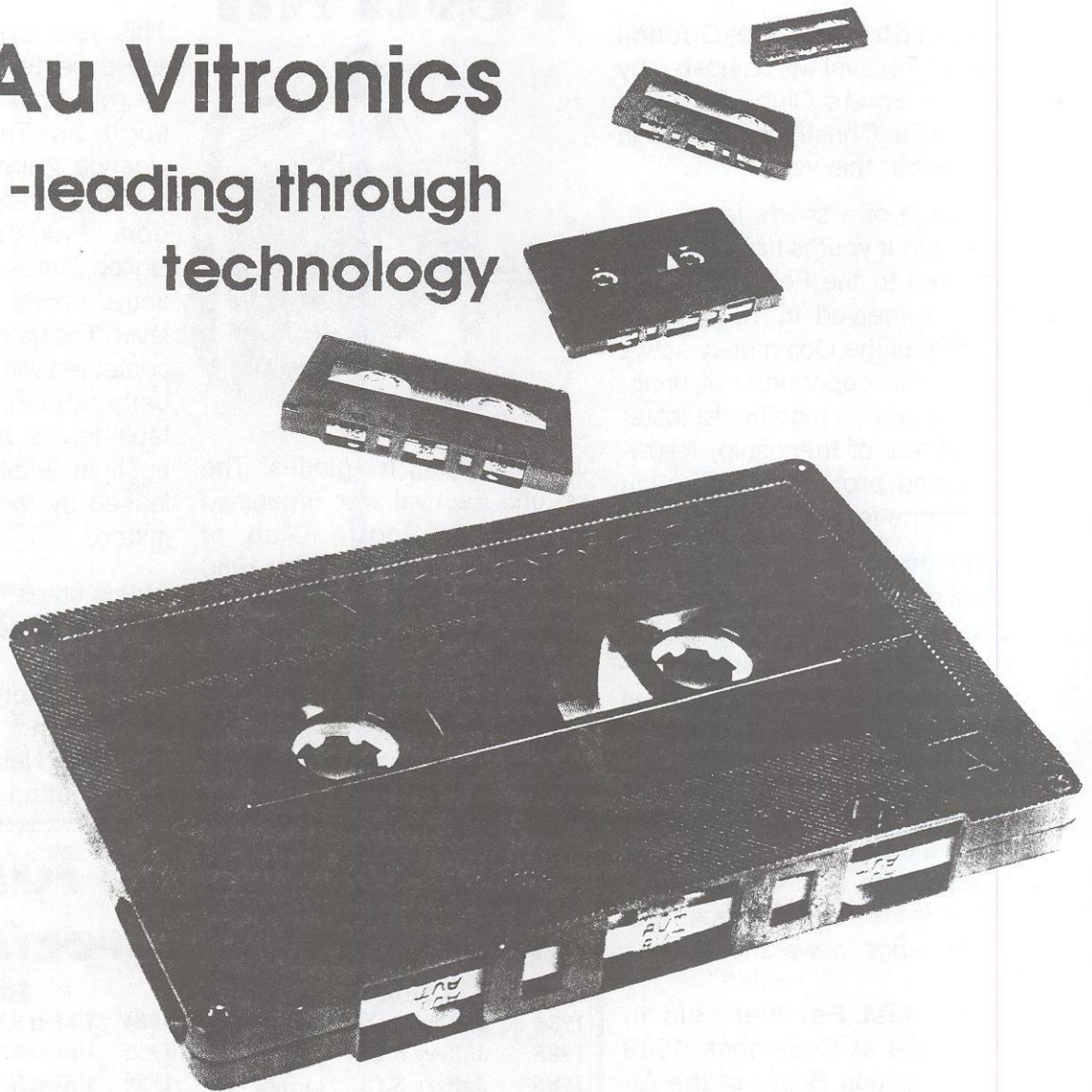
1985	Jaffery S.C.	Mombasa
1986	Kilimeru Gymkhana	Arusha

Table-tennis

1987	Jaffery S.C.	Nairobi
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Au Vitronics

-leading through
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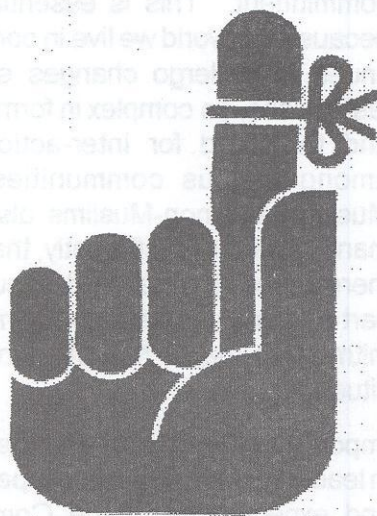
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The statement issued by the Africa Federation in August this year discusses certain Resolutions intended to be moved by some members in the World Federation Conference of October, 1994 in the U.K. The Secretariat clarifies the stand of the Africa Federation on the Resolutions.

Editors.

"The Constitution of the World Federation does not allow the World Federation President to do three terms in a row. However, he can stand for election after a gap of one term or more. Many members of the World Federation have a similar restriction in their constitution, including the Africa Federation. In the case of the World Federation, the restriction was included unanimously when a newly revised constitution was approved in 1990.

The World Federation is holding a Triennial Conference in October, 1994. One item on the Agenda is to confirm election of the President for the new term from 1994 to 1997. A few World Federation members have given a notice of Resolutions aimed at removing the restriction entirely. One member proposes that the President should be prevented

Africa Federation cautions on proposed World Federation resolutions.

There's more to the resolutions than what first meets the eye.

from the third term or a subsequent term only if any member successfully moves a Resolution at the Conference for this purpose.

The same member has also given notice of a Resolution to amend the Constitution so as to create a Department of Religious Affairs which is intended to act in parallel with the Executive Council and the Department will also be accountable to the Conference like the Executive Council. Only a person who can meet the high qualification proposed in the Resolution can be eligible for the chairmanship of the Department.

All the Resolutions including those not mentioned here will be discussed and voted upon at the 1994 Conference. Those which will receive at least seventy five percent vote will be adopted.

MANDATE

We wish to make the position of the Africa Federation clear on the Resolutions mentioned by this statement.

The Africa Federation exercised its mandate and was a party to the adoption of new Constitution at the 1990 Conference. Mandate is given by the Africa Conference which meets once in three years or by the Supreme

Council which meets once in an year - normally in April. The last meeting of the Supreme Council was held in Arusha in April, 1994.

In the absence of any new mandate, the Africa Federation will not be in a position to allow any of the existing provisions in the Constitution to be disturbed.

What is more, the Africa Federation has a strong feeling for the restriction in the Constitution against the President remaining on the post for nine years or more.

On the explicit mandate of the Supreme Council, the Africa Federation made a formal move to have the restriction included in the Constitution much earlier than 1990 when it was included unanimously during general revision of the Constitution.

Restriction on the third term is normal also with many other organisations worldwide because the principle and spirit behind it is universally understood.

SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

The restriction takes care of the normal human tendency in which, with the completion of each term, the zeal and drive for performing duties get less and less as the

[continued on next page]

AROUND AFRICA

[.....from page 13]

feeling of being wanted and therefore secure in the post rises. What is even worse is the misplaced belief that any person in a society can be indispensable, which is clearly un-Islamic.

Our Community always had and still have and will continue to have people who are willing to render service and give sacrifice by assuming leadership. They would normally want to be graceful by volunteering to fill a vacancy and not to contest the posts.

In the event of a contest for the World Federation Presidency, voting does not take place at the Conference which is normally attended by over 100 delegates. Thousands of our Community members worldwide who are themselves members of the World Federation members cast their votes at their local meetings to elect a President.

At that level of general participation, the voters are at too great a distance to be fully and keenly aware of the records of performances of the President (if he is seeking re-election).

What is more likely is that more voters will vote for him because of his publicity in the Community in the light of his current position as the President and at times even despite his poor performances. A new candidate will always find himself at a great disadvantage in this respect in the contest.

In the circumstances, unless the President announces his firm and final intention clearly and in advance of not seeking re-election,

he will almost always find that there are no consented nominations except his, unopposed, if he chose, until the final date of nomination.

PATTERN OF ELECTION

So the normal pattern of election will be almost a formalisation of re-election of the President at the end of each term, unopposed, either at the close of nomination or at an Extra-Ordinary Conference.

This type of election is likely to reduce the Community's interest in the important issue of election, and with it, its interest in the World Federation itself.

Among those, few who can make good leaders and who give prestige to the World Federation by their participation, may also lose interest not because they are seeking leadership but because of frustration on seeing that decisions are taken lightly without regard to the long term interest of the World Federation. They do not want to be seen as an opposition group to the leadership and their intention mis-judged nor as a party to the decisions. Sadly they may not be around to assist when they are needed for the post of President.

The restriction-clause as it now exists in the Constitution therefore not only ensures a change of leadership, at most every six years but also encourages persons willing to serve to come forward and offer to be candidates.

NEW VISION

Changes in leadership each time bring in possibilities of a new vision and approaches and also

initiate a fresh zeal, drive and commitment. This is essential because the world we live in continues to undergo changes so fast in pace, so complex in forms and the need for inter-action among various communities, Muslims and non-Muslims also manifests itself so differently, that there arises also the need on our part for renewed zeal and commitment to match the changing situation.

Importantly, periodical changes in leadership also raise the hopes and expectations of the Community and these act as a healthy pressure on the leadership to try to meet them.

The Africa Federation is now almost 50 years old. It is considered the mother of all other regional federations including the World Federation. Its long history of changes of presidency from one person to another at an average interval of about six years indicates the Community's maturity. The restriction in the Constitution of the Africa Federation, as an exercise of wisdom, made it possible for it to produce good leaders as and when needed, who proved their worth by preparing for and facilitating succession of power.

NOT PRACTICAL

Coming to the proposal that the restriction should apply only if the President is found not suitable for the next term and if a Resolution is moved successfully to prevent his re-election, this proposal will effectively kill the existing restriction entirely because it is not practical.

Firstly, the proposal will not fit in

[continued on next page]

the framework of the present constitution. Even if it does, no one has the time and energy to be a starting point and see through formulation and formalisation of the Resolution at his own Jamaat level and then at the Supreme Council session until it eventually reaches the World Federation Conference.

Secondly, the Resolution will be discussed by all Jamaats for mandate and voting at the Supreme Council of the Africa Federation and also by all World Federation members at their local meetings for mandate and voting at the Conference.

In the process of debate worldwide in the Community it is the President and his performances which will be discussed. The community will be divided into two camps, the one seeing him suitable for re-election and the other camp as not suitable. We can imagine the dis-unity and dis-harmony that this proposal can cause and as a result, these will influence other issues and extend the divisions in other activities of the Community.

UNITY AND HARMONY

Fortunately, the Community does not have this culture of seeking remedy however justified at the expense of our unity and harmony. We should not allow any element in the constitution which will encourage this culture.

As for the proposal to create the Department of Religious Affairs in the World Federation, this can be even more serious and harmful to our unity and threaten the very existence of the World Federation.

The amendment has all the settings for conflict between the existing Executive Council and the proposed department, especially when it is the department which will control almost all the finance (Khums) and can make decisions in the name of religion even against the Executive Council and announce all decisions directly to World Federation members and to the entire Community worldwide.

In fact the intention is to give the Department even greater power than presently exercised by the Executive Council itself on matters of religion and to give also to the Chairman wide authority and influence. He has a full control over the department by making his two appointments and the third and final place need not be filled if the Chairman is also the Ijaza holder, which also may be the intention.

What is more, the qualifications set for the chairmanship are so narrowly and selectively designed that it would be difficult to find persons who can match them. Therefore the person elected at the Conference is likely to remain on the chair of the department for a number of terms while the persons holding the World Federation Presidency come and go.

There is also often a claim that a leader holding Ijaza with his leadership position clearly stated in the Ijaza, his is still a personal Ijaza. The claim can make the situation in the function of the Department even more difficult with far reaching effects.

It is clear that the Executive Council will be displaced in many and

important fields of responsibilities and consequently will be replaced as the centre of decision-making where World Federation members have full constitutional representation.

There are no convincing reasons why such a department be created now when the member moving the amendment claims that it too has no reasons to be dissatisfied with the performance by the WF leadership so far in the matter of khums collection and administration.

CERTAINTY AGAINST DOUBT

We believe that it will not be right to move the amendments to the Constitution which are 'certain' to create problems or constitutional crisis to threaten the very existence of the World Federation merely because of some 'doubt' over the ability of all new leadership to administrate religious dues (khums) if there is a change now in leadership.

In fact there is already a precaution which was provided in the Constitution in 1990 at the insistence of World Federation members. The Constitution requires the President (who is by tradition the Ijaza holder) to fulfil, in conjunction with the Executive Council, the religious obligations placed by the Marja.

This statement is issued in view of the fact that the well-being and the long term interest of the World Federation is the concern of the entire Community. Therefore any changes in the constitution which can enhance or endanger the long term interest is of equal concern to all.

May Allah (s.w.t.) guide us all in unity and harmony to the solution of our present problems."

I'tikaaf: Dar members become Allah's guests yet again.

By Kassamali Chandoo, Dar es Salaam.

I'tikaaf means attaching or binding oneself to a Mosque for at least three days, fasting by day and praying and reading the Holy Qur'an at night. It includes eating and sleeping in the Mosque and one can only go outside the Mosque for a call of nature or to perform ablution or to take bath.

I'tikaaf can be done by both men and women. It is recommended during the last ten days of Ramadhan but can be performed in any month of the year. In Qum, Iran, many scholars and students perform I'tikaaf on every 13th, 14th and 15th Rajab [Imam Ali's birth anniversary week] in the Mosque of Imam Hassan Askari [A.S.].

(Resalah of late Ayatullah Al-Khui, Islamic Practical Laws explained, Third edition August, 1988, p.308 - 309. Resalah of late Ayatullah Gulpaygani, p.243., Third print, 1992).

In Dar es Salaam the first I'tikaaf was held in Ramadhan 1413 [March, 1993] being introduced by the visiting scholar Syed Hussein Murtaza Naqvi of Qum, Iran. This year it was continued by his student scholar, Sheikh Shabbir Hassan Maisami who visited Dar es Salaam for Ramadhan majlises. Last year 11 members took part whilst this year there were 13 elders and 65 youths, mostly of primary school age.

In the Qur'an, there are two instances where Allah mentions I'tikaaf. These are:

1] "Purify My House for those who visit it, and for those who do

I'tikaaf in it and for those who bow down on their knees in worship." [2:125, the Cow].

2] Have no dealings with your wives at night while you are doing I'tikaaf." [2:187].

Ibn Abbas [R.A.], a companion and cousin of Prophet Muhammad [s.a.w.] and also a companion of Imam Ali [a.s.] during his Khilafat reports that the Messenger of Allah [s.w.t.] said: "The person performing I'tikaaf saves himself from falling into sins because of his being bound to the Mosque and gets reward for all the good deeds done by others outside the Mosque."

Prophet Muhammad [s.a.w.] used to perform I'tikaaf in the last ten days of every Ramadhan. One Ramadhan, after the battle

of Badr which took place on the 17th of Ramadhan, the Prophet was too busy with State Affairs and could not perform I'tikaaf but he compensated this the following year by performing I'tikaaf for 20 days.

Our Imams also performed I'tikaaf and there are many incidents in their lives which indicate so.

I'tikaaf provides believers with a chance to concentrate deeply on supplications and during the I'tikaaf in Dar es Salaam this year, 16 young boys recited the last ten chapters of the Holy Qur'an by heart after perfecting themselves over three days.

One does hope that other Jamaats around the world will also start this sunnah in their Mosques, insha'allah.

At this year's I'tikaaf participants were informed on:

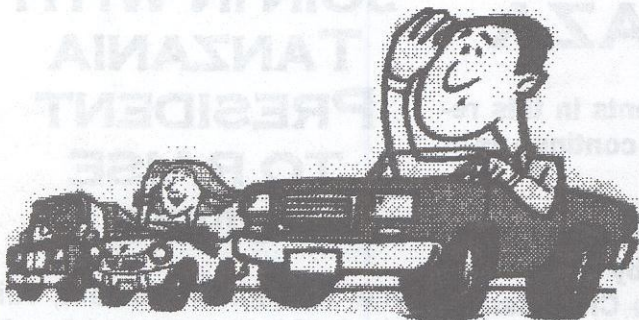
The Reward of reciting the Holy Qur'an

Imam Ali [A.S.] has reported a hadith from Prophet Muhammad [s.a.w.] that for every letter recited there are hundred blessings for one who reads the Qur'an while standing in Salaat, there are fifty blessings for one who reads the Qur'an while sitting in Salaat, twenty-five blessings for one who reads in a state of wudhoo and one blessing for one who does not read oneself but listens eagerly to the reciter; and

The benefit of reciting Salawat

At the I'tikaaf youths were asked to try and recite the Salawat 1000 times and were told of the benefit derived from reciting Salawat. It is believed that on the Day of Judgement, when the 99 sirens will be blown and people will rise from their graves and run in all directions in confusion, believers will keep on reciting Salawat and will thus obtain refuge in a comfortable place whilst waiting to give an account of their worldly deeds. Others who never recited salawat in this world and did not follow the Sunnat of Prophet Muhammad [s.a.w.] and his Ahlul Bayt will be exposed to the scorching hot sun.

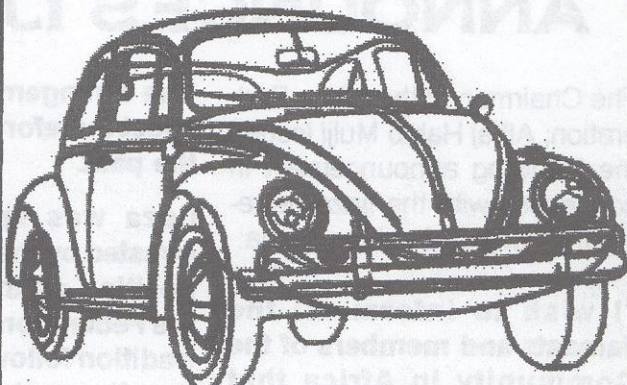
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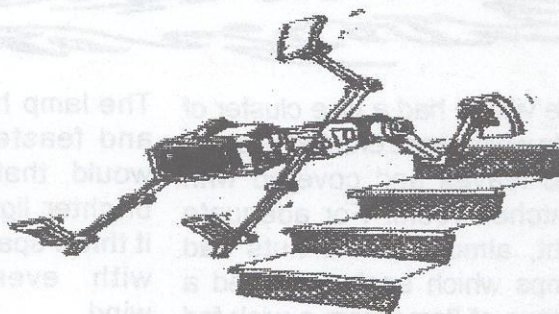
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CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCES IJAZA

The Chairman of the Africa Federation, Alhaj Habib Mulji issued the following announcement in connection with the Ijaza he recently received from the Marja:

"I wish to inform all the Jamaats and members of the Community in Africa that Ayatullah Al-Ozema Seyyed Ali Hussein As-Seestani (May Allah [s.w.t.] preserve him) has granted me in my name, by virtue of my position as the Chairman of the Federation, an Ijaza regarding khums from the Community in Africa.

The arrangements in this respect therefore continue as in the past.

Ijaza was specifically requested by me by virtue of my position as the Chairman of the Federation because of the tradition followed in the Community world-wide and the Marja was pleased to grant the Ijaza accordingly in keeping with the tradition in the interest of the Community.

The Marja has conveyed to the Community his Salaams and message of prayers."

Collective leadership is brighter!



The village had a nice cluster of huts which were erected of poles and leaves and covered with thatched roofs. For adequate light, almost all the huts had lamps which each produced a tongue of flame from a wick fed with oil.

The family in each hut saw themselves as a Community and saw the lamp as their guide, for it provided the needful light for them.

There was however one family or one community which for want of a brighter and still brighter light in their hut, went on lengthening the wick of their lamp and flooded it continuously with more oil to produce a longer and still longer tongue of flame from the lamp.

The lamp having been so fed and feasted, behaved as it would, that is, it produced a brighter light but in so doing it threw sparks in all directions with every small gust of wind.

This could not go on for long without a crisis and the hut was once suddenly razed down to the ground by fire.

The members of the unfortunate family were given a temporary refuge in some of the neighbours' huts which had even brighter light! The family saw 'light' for the first time. The work of brightening their huts was shared in each hut by many small lamps!

OUR SCOUTS JOIN IN WITH TANZANIA PRESIDENT TO RAISE FUNDS.

The Tanzania President, Ali Hassan Mwinyi took part in a 5 km. Charity Walk organised by the Tanzania Olympic Committee and the Dar es Salaam Shia Ithna-asheri boys Scouts to raise funds for the Tanzania Commonwealth games team. The Walk generated about 10 million Tanzania shillings.

The Charity Walk commenced at the Diamond Jubilee Hall in Dar es Salaam at 7.00 a.m. and ended at the State House. It attracted more than 500 participants including members of the diplomatic missions based in Dar es Salaam. The Canadian ambassador to Tanzania was befittingly present because Canada hosted the games in Victoria in August this year.

Tanzania, which sent a contingent of four boxers and two athletes to the Games, ended in the 26th position among 64 participating member States. The country notched one bronze medal in boxing.

SEND IN THE NEWS!

In all Jamaats something is happening at some time. Why not let other Jamaats also know of what your Jamaat is doing. Send us the news and pictures on :

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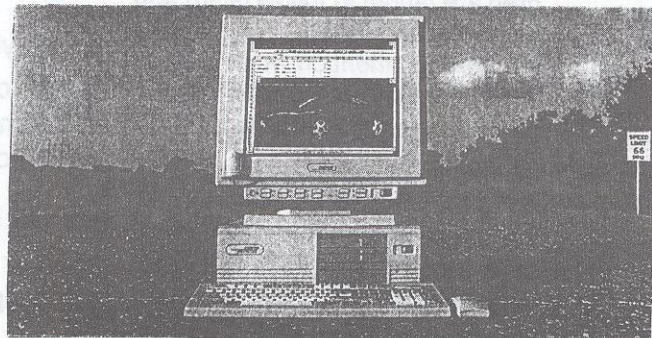
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The way to heaven

by Shazia Damji [Age:13 years], Toronto.

Drugs, crime, abductions and violence are some of the factors that make streets in the western world unsafe. That is why I feel that if Islam was a way of life here we wouldn't have all these problems.

First of all let me tell you about something that makes a true Muslim different from someone else. We have a strong belief in the Usool-e-deen and the Furoo-e-Deen. We know that there is only one God and that He is just. We know that the 124,000 prophets were sent to guide us on the right path. We also know about our wonderful twelve Imams [A.S.] who did so much for us by defending our religion and by making it easier for us to follow Islam properly in these modern times.

Even though praying Salaat seems like a difficult chore to some young Muslims, they still pray because they know that it is the right thing to do. They know that it is good to be thankful and praying Salaat is our way of thanking Allah [S.W.T.]. And even while friends of theirs at school are eating huge delicious lunches, they still fast in the holy month of Ramadhan because these children understand that by remembering those who go through this experience every single day, they achieve the closeness of Allah [S.W.T.].

True Muslims can also be distinguished by their good Akhlaq. We don't belch at the table, backbite, steal or talk back to others. We give elders the respect that they deserve and we maintain clean hygiene in all aspects of life.

Our Prophet Muhammad [S.A.W.] and Imams whom we follow were

very modest and true Muslims follow their example. This is unlike some of today's teens who lack adequate manners and talk arrogantly, very often aping film stars. These teens misuse their allowances on viceful indulgencies and a glutful of luxuries and some even steal from their parents to be able to afford their trendy but sinful lifestyles. Ruefully some parents are so occupied in their own lives that they don't even notice their children treading on the wrong path until it is too late.

Islamic rules may seem strict and severe but Muslims know that these rules, if followed properly, are their key to heaven. Of course Muslims believe in a life after death and we all know that this is a temporary life and that we must do our best to follow all the rules of Islam - Disobedience of Islamic shariat will see us ending up in hell!

Islam emphasises family life. We are taught that it is the parents responsibility to ensure that their children are taught to follow Islam and we young ones should politely draw our parents attention when they go astray. After all true Muslim children grow up to be respectable adults.

In conclusion may I say that if every single person on earth were a true Muslim, then this earth would be a much better place to live in. Unfortunately this has not happened and it is something that humans cannot change. Allah [S.W.T.] is simply testing us in this temporary life to see what permanent after-life will have in store for us. Insha'allah I will end up going to heaven.

BABY TALK

Child: My mummy is having a new baby.
 Friend: What's wrong with the old one?

 A child went to buy a calendar.
 Shopkeeper: Which calendar do you like?
 Boy: One with maximum holidays.

Teacher to 5 year-old. "What is a citizenship?"
 Boy: "A ship that carries a citizen is called citizenship."

 Dad: What's the best place to keep milk?

HOW ABOUT A WRITE-UP?

The Youths page invites the young and growing generation of our Community to present their views, suggestions or opinion on any aspect of life. Write-ups should preferably be typed in double spacing to allow easy editing.

Youths and children often abstain from writing because they lack confidence. Parents are asked to assist their offspring if need be.
 Editor.

INTERESTING HINTS

from Arifa Panjwani, Arusha.

- ☞ If curry is too hot, add a little sugar and the juice of sour lime.
- ☞ Put a pinch of salt in water before boiling eggs. The shell will come away easily.
- ☞ For getting more juice out of lemons, soak them in hot water for 2-3 minutes.
- ☞ Buying a pineapple? Gently wiggle one of the middle leaves, if it comes out easily, the fruit is ready to eat.
- ☞ Get sticky marks off the base of your iron by rubbing with a cloth dipped in vinegar.
- ☞ If your key doesn't turn easily in the lock, rub the key with a pencil point. The graphite in the pencil makes the key turn smoothly.

Son: In the cow's stomach.

 Teacher: Do insects have a good eyesight.
 Girl: Yes sir, I have never seen them put on spectacles.

GLOBAL UPDATE



Beginning from the previous Issue we began carrying a page on news relating to the economies of different countries.

We do hope readers find this informative. **Editor.**

TANZANIA ECONOMY TO HIT THE ROCKS?

The World Bank annual report for 1993 states that Tanzania's economy is performing well but the local population thinks differently.

The country's growth rate was 4.5% but industrial production plummeted from 12% in 1992 to 1.9% in 1993. Agriculture is the country's economic mainstay and this has been affected by drought, floods and a fall in international market prices for coffee and sisal.

Since independence in 1961, Tanzania has been treading the socialist path until the Zanzibar declaration of 1992 which did away with the leadership code. The resultant free for all situation plus the unchecked trade liberalisation has led to many social ills in the country.

The World Bank estimates of a GDP at \$100 [compared to \$2,685 in South Africa] justifies the low purchasing power of the common man while the tycoon's GDP is well over \$10,000.

Last year was dominated by the infamous retrenchment of about 250,000 civil servants which is still going on under the orders of the IMF and World Bank. The increase in the number of jobless and the infiltration of some refugees from neighbouring Rwanda has led to an increase in crime. Crime has to some

extent also been catalysed by the introduction of private television stations, some of which air unsuitable viewing material.

Over-expenditure in the 1993/4 budget resulted in the review and adoption of a mini budget in January, 1994 which imposed an unpopular surtax on saloon cars.

Scandals, particularly amongst the top brass, has eroded the good intentions of wholesale economic reforms and revised financial regulations. The sale of thousands of arable hectares of land to foreigners and a number of land disputes have also brought discredit to the Government and such blunders have eroded public trust.

To bridge its deficit the Government has now introduced a 10% tax on all services including hair-dressing, tailoring and other small time ventures. Treasury bills interest is now also taxable at 10% but more tax impositions are tempting people to evade taxes and often, successfully.

Kenyan bank to open in Dar

The Kenyan based Trust Bank Ltd. plans to open a subsidiary banking company in Dar es Salaam by the end of this year, making it the first Kenyan private bank to venture into Tanzania under the country's liberalisation policy.

The first banks to invest in Tanzania, Meridien BIAO and Standard

Chartered Bank are doing well and have poised a stiff competition to the National Bank of Commerce which monopolised banking until the end of state monopoly in banking last year.

Trust Bank is planning to begin operations with an authorised share capital of TShs. 2 billion and paid up share capital of TShs. 1 billion.

CURRENCIES FORECAST



Signs are that both Germany and Japan are catching up with the U.S. fast economic recovery with German industrial output surging once more and the Japanese economy showing amazing growth. An accelerating rate of growth was forecast for these two countries by the Paris based OECD at the end of June, 1994, rising to near 2.7% in 1995. Hence both the yen and deutschmark will be good currencies to hold - but not necessarily to buy because they are already strong.

The OECD forecasts that the French and Italian economies will be accelerating strongly through this year and next. The French franc is a better prospect because of the country's very firm grip on retail price inflation. Italy's budget deficit weakens the lira's case.

In the UK there will be growth but this will not be accelerating while price rises quite possibly will. Thus the pound sterling is not thought to be a good prospect at present and the situation is expected to persist until the end of this year. Interest rates in the UK are likely to rise in a series of steps but the experience of the recent past is that this holds on to the pound's international value rather than boosting it.

The Swiss franc is expected to be stable whilst the US dollar weakness which took the market by surprise is likely to persist, with possibly more falls to come.

Medical Anecdotes

Importance of Soups

The word 'soup' was attached once upon a time with a typical Western diet, but not anymore. With the changing trend in eating habits and food patterns, it is common to serve soup before meals.

Soup is generally prepared by boiling vegetables. It is lightly flavoured with salt and pepper and is served with different additives like fried bread pieces, shredded lettuce leaves, cream, grated cheese, egg cream or shredded chicken pieces.

Nutritionally 'soup' is an ideal dish for one and all. It acts as an excellent 'stomach filler' for those on a diet as it makes you feel full because of its high water content. It is rich in vitamins, minerals and also contains fibre.

Non-vegetarian soups like chicken, mutton etc. and 'dal' soup like mung dal and mung soup etc. are also a good source of proteins. They can be very useful to patients during convalescence as they are easy to digest.

To increase the nutritive value of soups, one should use a combination of different foods like corn and egg, mixed vegetables, palak and mung dal etc. A 'meal' soup which consists of vegetables, milk, pasta (spaghetti, macaroni, noodles) can be made for children so even if they do not have a proper meal, the soup itself provides them with the necessary nutrients.

Soup, the wonder food, is economically affordable and is highly recommended for regular intake so as to provide one's body with the essential nourishment it needs.

Beware of Hoarseness

The human voice is one of the greatest gifts of God to mankind. It is the medium of communication and social discourse. It can convey all human emotions ranging from excitement, joy, sorrow, compassion, comfort, friendship to hatred, jealousy and anger. A cultivated human voice can reach very great heights.

Occasionally the vocal cords are the seat of cancer. Even a small cancer, the size of 1 mm, can produce a change in voice, readily noticed by the patient. At this stage, if the cancer is detected (which is not difficult) a person can be cured with restoration of the voice to normal.

Unfortunately, people neglect a persistent hoarseness of voice and reach the doctor at a late stage. They go to their doctor when the vocal cord has lost its ability to vibrate, it is immovable and there is some narrowing of the air passage resulting in breathing difficulty and of course, hoarseness of voice.

Even at this stage, a person can be cured and his life saved, but there is

a price to pay. To secure his life, a person has to permit the surgeon to remove the voice box, an operation called Laryngectomy.

This results in permanent loss of voice and necessitates an opening in the neck which communicates with the trachea or windpipe. He breathes through this hole of tracheostomy, instead of breathing through his nose.

It is an inherent quality in man to accept challenges, overcome difficulties and try to achieve the impossible. The challenge of loss of voice has been countered by a natural method involving the cultivation of oesophageal speech.

The success of this endeavour depends to a large extent on the patient himself, his personality and his compulsions. At one time it was thought illiteracy and ignorance will be a great handicap.

In fact, we find that illiterate persons pick up oesophageal speech equally well. It is possible that their need is greater, hence their determination to learn is stronger.

Go for bananas!

If you have suffered a heart attack you need to eat bananas because of their high magnesium content. Medical experts believe that magnesium reduces the risk of mortality in the first few weeks of a heart attack by up to 50 per cent.

An Oxford University report says that magnesium reduces heart irregularities by countering calcium in the blood and helps to maintain blood thickness thereby facilitating its proper flow. Normally during an attack of diarrhoea there is also a

depletion of magnesium in the body and again bananas plus a variety of other foods containing magnesium can help towards quicker revival.

Magnesium is also present in legumes, milk, nuts, eggs [not suitable for patients with high cholesterol levels that could lead to a heart attack] and many green vegetables. However the best and cheapest source of magnesium remains to be the banana - only be careful where you throw the peel as they are very easy to slip on!

EATING WHEN OVER

55 YEARS OF AGE

Aging occurs throughout one's life cycle. There is no specific age that identifies a person as being 'elderly'. We have often heard 'she looks so young for her age' or 'he looks so old for his age'.

But however one looks or feels, there are several problems that are faced during the aging process. Among them are decreased taste buds, poor dental fixtures, painful joints and lack of physical exercise.

Foods that are more palatable tend to be those which are of smooth, soft and creamy consistencies such as puddings, ice creams and cakes or high fat foods such as creamed potatoes.

Other popular foods are fried such as mandazis, eggs, samosas and chips. More neglected are the fresh fruits, vegetables, milk and yoghurt.

There are also physical conditions that affect the elderly, such as osteoporosis, weight gain, constipation and exercise.

In layman's language, osteoporosis is called brittle bones. If one does not eat calcium-rich food on daily basis then the calcium in bones is depleted. As a result the bones become thin, more brittle and are easily broken.

It is a painful, disfiguring and a debilitating condition. Although

it is an irreversible disease one can prevent its progression by eating foods which are rich in calcium. These are normally dairy products like milk, yoghurt, cheese and also green leafy vegetables like spinach, turnip greens and other green vegetables such as okra, broccoli.

As a person ages weight becomes a problem too. This is because the metabolism slows down and consequently the daily caloric intake requirement decreases. However, most individuals do not reduce their intake and so a weight gain of 10 pounds per year is quite common.

The excess weight can cause problems to the joints, the heart and the individual's personal appearance.

An individual's weight can be reduced or controlled by decreasing the amount of ghee, oil, butter, margarine and fried foods. One could also increase the intake of fresh fruits and vegetable which are more filling, less fattening and protective against heart disease.

If chewing is a problem then mashed potatoes, vegetable

curries (with very little oil), boiled potatoes, githeri, ugali, mangoes, papayas, bananas, orange juice, fresh vegetables and fruit juices are some suitable foods.

Constipation is a common occurrence for the elderly. This is brought about by a diet which is high in fat content, low in fibre, and little to no exercise.

This condition can be eased by increasing the fibre in one's diet, which can be obtained from eating fruits, vegetables, whole grain (wheat) cereals and bread. Increasing the water intake can also help with relieving constipation symptoms.

Too much meat in the diet can also cause constipation as it is harder to digest. This can be very uncomfortable for the individual. A solution to this problem would be to follow a vegetarian type of diet as frequently as possible.

Finally, there are all kinds of benefits to be gained from regular exercises. Nothing strenuous or painful need be done.

Walking and swimming are the best and weight-bearing exercise whilst sitting in the chair are also good. So are simple stretch exercises which help to keep the blood circulation going. A simple daily exercise of 15-20 minutes is normally sufficient. Exercises are known to revive the spirits of individuals who often feel depressed and do help to make one more assertive in life.

SMOKING: Inviting death sooner

Smoking husbands or wives could even be killing their families with smoke!

The World Health Organization (WHO) has long promoted health awareness with the motto: "Health for all by the year 2000", in the hope of a better, more useful, and healthier life for all - a longer life span and a decrease in infants' mortality rates.

Unfortunately the biggest obstacle and preventive factor in this connection is the universal increase in tobacco consumption, mostly in the form of cigarette smoking. Cigarettes initiate fatal diseases like cancer of the lungs, mouth, throat, vocal cords, stomach, kidneys, bladder and catalyse diseases of the gastrointestinal system, heart, etc.

Tobacco used to grow in South America as a wild plant, and Indians brought it into use by smoking and inhaling through the nose. The most important constituent of tobacco is nicotine which ranges from 0.5% to 0.8% of its volume. According to very recent research, tobacco has over 4,000 chemical compounds of which 43 are known carcinogens (cancer causing substances).

Nicotine surely kills

If cigarette smoke is held for about two seconds in the larynx, about 70% of the nicotine will be absorbed by the body. A person smoking a pack of 20 cigarettes a day will inhale 100 mg of nicotine after a week - an amount which if taken at once would kill the person, as surely as a bullet.

Nausea, vomiting, extensive production of saliva in the mouth, diarrhea, sight and hearing problems, brain disturbances, hyper

tension, dizziness and excessive perspiration are symptoms of nicotine poisoning. The filters of some cigarettes absorb up to 3% of the nicotine. Solid carbon particles in cigarette smoke with dimensions of 1/1000 mm will not exit the filter.

Creosote, or cigarette tar, is a brown liquid which is obtained by pressurising smoke or cooling it. If a cigarette 8.5 centimeters long is smoked and the last 3 cm of the cigarette is thrown away, 500 mg of this brown liquid will still be formed, which contains 17 to 40 mg of net creosote. Dry tobacco contains more creosote than wet tobacco.

Cigarette smoke cools through the length of the cigarette. But the smoke of the second half, due to the shorter length of the cigarette, is warmer than the first half and is thus more harmful.

Diseases caused by smoking:

Smoking was first identified as the main cause of lung cancer. There was a simultaneous increase in the death rate caused by lung cancer with the increase of cigarette use in countless studies.

The following cases have been substantiated by comprehensive studies in Canada, England and the United States in connection with smoking and its related death rate:

a) The death rate of smokers is 30% to 80% higher than that of non-smokers;

b) The death rate increases with

increased cigarette smoking.

c) The mortality rate of smokers 45 to 54 years of age is higher than that of other age groups.

d) The mortality rate for smokers who started smoking at an early age is higher than for those who started to smoke in later years.

e) Smokers who inhale cigarette smoke deeply are at a higher health risk than those who do not.

f) Thousands of non-smokers die of lung cancer each year by inhaling smoke from cigarettes of others, such as family members.

Cigarettes and Lung Cancer:

Lung cancer was once very rare among non-smokers. According to recent research over 90% of the people affected by smoking die of lung cancer. If cigarette smoking is stopped thousands of lives would be saved.

In the course of smoking a single cigarette, smoke enters the bronchial tubes approximately 25 times. The alveoli absorb the nicotine from the smoke. The nicotine soon diverts the alveoli from their main function and nicotine dust in the air plus other chemical substances cling to the alveoli and cause cancer.

Connection between Smoking and Bronchitis and Emphysema:

Studies have shown that coughing and sputum production have a direct relation to the number of cigarettes smoked. Frequent respiratory infections with excessive mucus has been observed

[continued on next page]

[from page 24]

in smokers. In such cases the air channels narrow and hypoxia (less blood oxygen) results.

The mortality rate resulted from bronchitis and emphysema in smokers is 15 times higher than in non-smokers. Cigarettes smoke contains many substances which cause disorders in the activities of cilia on the walls of bronchioles.

The stimulant substances present in the smoke of cigarettes and tobacco are responsible for coughing and the narrowing of the bronchioles of smokers. Cigarette smoke causes hypertrophic (growth) of mucus glands and the resultant mucus irritates the patient in the form of sputum. The excess excretion of mucus and disorders in the cilia weakens the lungs defences against infection, which is why we often find lung infections in smokers. Cigarettes cause the destruction of alveoli and the disease of emphysema often results in smokers.

Cigarettes and Heart Disease

Nicotine causes the secretion of adrenaline and this causes adhesion of blood platelets and thrombosis (an intra-vascular clot) is formed. Nicotine can also increase a person's heart-beats up to 20 beats per minute. This works out to 10 million extra heart beats annually, which puts unnecessary strain on the heart.

The additional heart beats apply pressure on vessels that are already occluded by thrombosis and emboli and this can cause death. Smoking also leads to formation of aneurysms. An aneurysm, is a condition in which a segment of the aorta thins and changes shape. If the pressure inside the

artery increases this segment could be ruptured.

Cigarettes can increase the concentration of lipids in blood, a high concentration of which may produce atherom (fat plaque) and an incidence of arrhythmia, or irregularity of heart beats.

Smoking and Blood Pressure

Smoking 20 cigarette per day causes a 10% permeation of carbon monoxide in the blood and lowers the blood's ability to transfer and absorb oxygen and often the smoker suffers headache. To compensate for this shortage of oxygen, the body has to produce more red blood cells which, in turn, will cause blood concentration. Such blood easily clots and the smoker can have a heart infection or high blood pressure.

Inhaling smoke of cigarettes takes the monoxide inside the lungs and bronchioles and this results in the destruction of lung tissues. Gradually the lungs lose their elasticity and subsequently millions of thin layers of alveoli are destroyed in the lungs. As a result of this loss of many such layers, the remaining ones will not be able to exhale the carbon-dioxide and this causes the chest to expand due to the accumulation of a large amount of air in the lungs. A person then needs to breathe faster and more deeply to get oxygen. Hypoxia causes pressure on the cardiovascular system. The remaining carbon-dioxide in the body, instead of oxygen, combines with the haemoglobin and causes many difficulties.

Peptic Ulcers

Cigarettes disturb the balance between the acid and base secretions in the body, cause

disturbances in food movement in the duodenum and facilitate the return of food from the duodenum to the stomach. Antiacids are not effective in cigarette smokers who suffer from gastric ulcers and cigarettes increase the abdominal pain for those suffering gastric or duodenal ulcers.

Smoking and pregnancy

Smoking increases the mother's heart rate and that of the foetus too. Cigarettes can put the foetus under strain and increase its movements. Statistics show that the neonatal weight of cigarette smoking mothers is approximately 250 grams lower than other neonates at the time of delivery.

Effect on the Nervous System

The acrolin in cigarettes has a highly negative effect on the nervous system. It produces a gradual necrosis in the brain cells. Damage to a number of brain cells can cause seizures and muscle paralysis. Nicotine also affects the hormones which activate the nervous system. Stimulation of the nervous system results in diaphoresis, the slowing down of intestine movements and liver excretion of glucose.

Cigarettes and Medicine

The chemical compounds in cigarettes when tobacco is burnt can prevent the normal effect of drugs and vitamins on the body. Vitamins taken by smokers have lower concentrations because of less absorption, higher metabolism and faster urinary excretion. For example Vitamin C [which transfer fats from the liver and decomposes them] deficiencies are common in smokers.

Smokers, are you then not inviting death sooner!



This picture which is slightly distorted due to age was snapped in 1945/46. Sitting from left to right in the first row: 1] Mohamed Panju Jessa, 2] Hussein N. Kurji, 3] Shokat N. Rattansi, 4] Roshan Jessa, 5] Khurshid Haji, 6] Nazir P. Jessa, 7] Fida G. Jessa, 8] Ashok P. Rustam, 9] Shafiq R. Kara and 10] Mohamed Premji; in second row: 1] Unknown, 2] Raza H. Wajji, 3] Akber F. Nurmohamed, 4] Bashir Kara, 5] Unknown, 6] Pyarali Panju, 7] Kurban Haji, 8] Ismail Y. Nurmohamed, 9] Nazir Y. Nurmohamed, 10] Gulam H. Yajji and 11] Hussein Chagani; in 3rd row: 1] Ali Virjee, 2] Haider M. Murji, 3] Akber S. Dhirani, 4] Jaffer Merrali, 5] Jaffer Somji, 6] Haider Haji, 7] Mustafa Panjwani and 8] Mehboob Dattoo; in 4th row: 1] Anver I. Lajji, 2] Mohamed Suleman, 3] Roshan Versio, 4] Akber G. Mawji, 5] Haider Dharsee, 6] Mohamedtaki H. Wajji, 7] Bashir Rattansi, 8] Jaffer Dhirani, 9] Bashir Chatoo, 10] Sadig R. Alidina and 11] Hassan Chatoo; in fifth row: 1] Unknown, 2] Unknown, 3] Raza Virjee, 4] Shunu Dhirani, 5] Anver Mithani, 6] Mohamed Lila, 7] Amir Sumar, 8] Akber Dhirani, 9] Unknown, 10] Unknown, 11] Kassamali F. Nurmohamed and 12] Unknown.



The 10th Zanzibar Ithnaasheri Boys Scouts at the island's Victoria Garden in 1956. [Picture courtesy: Husein H. Ahmed].

Miracles and Dreams

Are we being taken for granted?

There are two areas in which authors would have little fear of being challenged over the authenticity of the events they choose to relate. The normal challenge is by the reasoning of possibilities of the events. One area is that of 'miracles' and the other of 'dreams'.

Events of miracles however related will surely defy human reasoning of the day to day possibilities in life because they are miracles after all.

On the subject of dreams, these too are known to have no limitations in their occurrence or scope or dimensions or choice of hosts. Anybody's dream can be true.

Miracles and dreams have had important roles during the time of the Prophets and Imams in furthering their mission of tabligh. Therefore invariably miracles and dreams had the aim of tabligh and because these were

performed or occasioned by the permission of God, they could never fail in their purpose.

As admittedly there are some ahaadith whose authenticity is questionable, some of the events of miracles and dreams can also be subject to test; mostly those which are rarely related.

In the case of ahaadith, consistency with the teachings of the Holy Qur'an is a main test for their authenticity. However, in the case of miracles and dreams, their successful lasting results in tabligh can be a test for their authenticity.

However, we can come across some events of miracles and dreams recorded by some authors, where the aims appeared to be far from tabligh and if it was the aim, then the results appeared barely successful and lasting.

On the contrary some of these events as related are an affront to the high divine mission and to the immaculate saintly status of the Prophets and Imams to whom they are attributed.

It is a common practice by some resident Alims who have no taste for prior preparation of their preaching to relate from any books they come across, any events of miracles or dreams, often unheard of before, as a filler in their deliveries which ironically often go beyond the closing time set as a claim of their mastery in preaching.

Any addition of graphic details to those recorded for a tasty presentation of events will also sail through because we rightly do not challenge miracles nor do we rightly have the culture of doubting them. Our full faith in 'all' miracles and 'all' events of dreams should not be exploited by preachers.

On contentment.....

Imam Ali [A.S.] has said:

The less you get from Allah is too much
And is preferable to that large amount
Which is obtained from his creature
Though all this belongs to Allah
A contended man though poor
And Barely clothed is honourable
Though naked and starving
The contented are most happy
Contentment is an incomparable treasure.

[kind submission of Ali H. Sheriff, Arusha]

"Allah be my guide"

by Abida Anverali Fazal, Tanga

When Allah showered me with his endless blessings
I was glorified with eternity
For now, have I realised that there is no power
Which can exceed or will exceed
Or no power which exists or will exist
But only one and that is Him
For He is the so unique and so great Allah
I beg salvation hoping and pleading
That Thee shall forgive me and I believe
Thee shall not let me down
As you are the king of mercy
But I ask you to be my guide
And guide me always
And then call me forever up on to you
Where I shall live always and forever with Thee.

Wayside Wisdom

By Munir Daya, Dar es Salaam.



WHY STEAL TO BECOME POPULAR?

There exists within each one of us a longing to be 'somebody' so that we die after leaving proof that we were here and did something worthwhile in life.

Many try to drown or ostracize this desire because it reminds them of their mortality but as a matter of fact we just cannot put away this thought of wanting to be remembered. We may outwardly claim not to harbour this feeling but the subconscious mind would give away your bluff simply because it is not human not to harbour this feeling. We do fear death but we are more apprehensive about dying with insignificance.

It is human for loving parents to want their children to remember them after they die for the long hours they spent in bringing them up and for the many affectionate things they may have done in life

to please their children like educating them, spending time and playing games with them, taking them for holidays and more so for upbringing them with correct morals and guiding them against vices.

Different people want to be remembered for different reasons and this is all normal. Some want to be remembered for their religious work, others for their wealth, benevolence, professional abilities (like sports stars), inventions, writings or even for their good ethics or good leadership.

The irony however is that in their yearn for popularity in this life and to be remembered after death, some people behave irrationally and thereby even indulge in wrong doings to be popular.

For instance take individuals who have made millions through

scandalous dealings. When a small part of this money is spent towards building religious structures or rehabilitating the poor or even through patronising popular social institutions, the individuals become extremely popular irrespective of the source of finance.

A few years or a few generations often wipe out all traces of one's existence and even if there are memories, these would be faint. It is sad then to see that people, instead of taking caution about the life hereafter (through good deeds) spend their time in seeking popularity at the cost of one's bliss in the hereafter.

When being buried it's not on how many people or who attended that counts. It is your good deeds that will provide you refuge in the hands of God. Let us not seek popularity through misdeeds!

MISBEHAVIOUR PROMPTED BY PARENTS

Normally a mother is more involved than the father in cultivating a sense of good behaviour in the children as they are raised up. This is because she is closer to and spends more hours with them than the father.

The mother's authority over her children is however only meaningful and productive when she is actually able to exercise such authority. The irony is that very often the husband, through his malfeasance, stifles her ability to

effectively raise children correctly.

The husband owes much to his wife for ensuring that the children are successfully brought up and yet it is common to see him undermine her authority over the children by misbehaving in front of them and even routinely insulting her in their presence with total disregard to her self-respect and dignity.

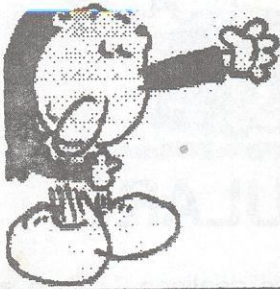
Men should stop undermining their wives in front of children and if there is an issue to be argued, this has to be resolved in

privacy. Of course, the wife too should be complaisant because her arrogance can equally affect children.

Children are quick to analyse situations and thus naturally pick up any insolence depicted by their parents who subsequently become victims of their misbehaviour when the children are adults.

Indeed children never do what we tell them to do but do what they see their parents, mentors or guardians do!

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'A lie is a perfidy'

Women's Issues are men's pretense

By Alhaj Mohamed Khalfan, Dar es Salaam

Apart from religion as an issue, if there is another issue which has been well exploited for social, economical, religious, political and commercial purposes it is the one of womens' rights and equality with men.

Our society which has always been dominated by men has always been unjust to women. It perpetrated injustice against women effectively in the name of religion and culture which included superstition.

Women therefore obliged the society by taking it upon themselves to suffer what was injustice - and did so devotedly in the name of religion and culture. The female mind was programmed into submission without its awareness.

It was Islam which came to the rescue of not only womens' rights but importantly, also their dignity, a matter unthinkable before.

There appeared a miraculous transformation of status and values for women after the spread of Islam in the society. The same society which exercised domination of men over women as a natural relation between superior and inferior human beings, accepted women as trust in the hands of men who fulfil it by guardianship, protection, love, compassion and dignity as a positive aspect of inequality in favour of women!

The Islamic teachings and val-

ues have succeeded well because they match perfectly with the differing psychological and emotional nature of men and that of women. And their respective nature have to be different to facilitate in turn, the complimentary physiological roles and functions so that the human society not only survives but functions as designed by the Creator.

It will be appreciated therefore that men with masculine moral strenght derive enjoyment from their natural propensity to protect, guard, love and care for women and women on their part with feminine moral response also derive enjoyment from their feeling of being protected, loved and cared for as trust.

However our society has men who are an 'exception' and show weakness against the mounting pressure of modernity. The evil tendency to perpetrate injustice against women will always be present to circumvent any protections created or taught by Islam for women.

It is not surprising therefore that the society should now be seen to be provoking women into campaigning for and seeking women's rights and now, dignity also, in the context of equality with men so that men can at last shed the burden of trust and secure emancipation for themselves from the masculine moral pressure, however natural - all now in the name of modernity, progress and the western standard of civilisation.

Women inevitably as a symbol of motherhood, chastity and as the centre of family-bond, will have to fend for themselves with children clustered around them if they grant to men emancipation only to lose protection, guardianship, love, care and dignity as of right - by accepting equality.

The emancipation of men has begun to manifest itself in the increasing incidences of single-divorced or unwedded mother-families, matrimonial bonds between males, lifetime bachelorhood and other similar decadence as a normal way of life. Women stand to lose much more in terms of emotional stability, tranquil mind, material provision, chastity and dignity in the process.

All this will affect the quality of motherhood and with it, that of the families as units of society.

O' Woman! How Terrible Thy Plight!

When Man From Thee As Trust Takes Flight!

[This thought provoking article counters the notion that women are suppressed in Islam. There are so many Islamic concepts which especially preserve the dignity of women and we call upon the writer to come up with more articles on the subject of 'Women'. We hope that the one published here is a fore-runner to more articles to follow. Readers with differing views are invited to write to us for publication. Editor].

Western press falters on coverage of controversial woman writer

Taslima Nasreen, the Bangladeshi feminist writer under threat of death for her views, stated on an Australian news programme that Islam treated women as slaves. The publicity-seeking writer said: "I write against the religion because if women want to live like human beings they will have to live outside the religion and Islamic Law". Asked if she was attacking Islam, she replied, "Yes directly".

Nasreen is now in hiding after the publication of a newspaper interview in which she allegedly said the Holy Qur'an should be revised. The Bangladeshi government has ordered her arrest and a Muslim leader there, Mufti Nazrul Islam has offered a 100,000 taka reward to her killer.

Nasreen has denied insulting Islam and said she was misquoted by the Indian newspaper, The Statesman. "I cannot lead a normal life", she said during the interview in Dhaka - "I can't go out." In the meantime, thousands of angry demonstrators have marched in Bangladesh demanding her execution.

Nasrin sought sanctuary in Sweden whose Prime Minister, Carl Bildt, it is reported, asked his Bangladeshi counterpart to let Nasrin leave the country. The Swedish government blessed Nasreen's flight to freedom and their Foreign Minister also received her at the airport.

Her arrival in Stockholm was front page news in the Times and of course the press had a field day attacking "Muslim fundamentalists" and their "narrow Mindedness". Nasreen was also awarded the

prestigious Kurt Tucholsky literary prize and will visit Oslo next month [September] where the Norwegian government will also host her and of course she will win a prestigious literary prize!

With all the diatribe and venom emanating from respectable news papers against Islam, what would one expect an ordinary westerner to do? He hears and reads of a "poor and frail" writer threatened with death by "mobs and hordes" of fundamentalists. He listens to the radio and hears about "fundamentalist" plans to take over Europe or to "destroy" it and surely gets alarmed. Stoking such fire in the hearts and minds of the average person is literally playing with fire.

It is reported that the Swedish ministry went scouring around the country trying to find a typewriter with the Bengali alphabet for Nasreen. Why all this provocation? Nasreen is by any standards a third-rate writer and could well be playing a drama to find a foothold in the west with affluence. She may even become a female Salman Rushdie with a chance to address literary clubs and to publish even more books.

Are not those gullible to her deliberately provoking Muslims? Why then did they not ask for the release of Palestinian intellectuals languishing in Israel jails? When an Israel gunman recently killed 65 worshippers in Hebron no newspapers in the West said he was Jewish - rather they called him deranged!

When Colombian soccer star Pablo Escobar was killed after scoring a self-goal in the recent

World Cup did any news agency say he was killed by Catholic gunman? David Koresh who burned himself and tens of others was described as a 'nut' although he claimed he was a priest. Nobody said Christians fired at the FBI in Waco.

Unfortunately we do not have access to the Western media to enable a correct portrayal of our news and views whilst most of the western media tends to largely ignore the positive aspects of Islamic culture and civilisation and instead focusses on negative deeds of morally decadent minority groups.

The 'holier than thou' pronouncements of the western world is certainly questionable because whilst they are quick to denigrate Islam by referring to Muslims as a backward and reactionary civilisation, they continue to profit from the material resources of the Muslim world.

This is hypocrisy because attacking pornography, racism, drop in family values and upholding morality do not constitute fundamentalism. If they do, then many devout Christians should also be described as such because they are striving to achieve the same goals.

Instead of provoking others and judging them by their own yardsticks and labelling them with choice words, the West should initiate a dialogue of understanding and tolerance to avoid an open conflict between Islam and the west. The attitude towards Nasreen by some western countries and their media is not conducive to starting such dialogue.

REFUSAL OF DIVORCE SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A WEAPON!

One of the realities of human relations is an unworkable marriage. The dignified solution is divorce to end the agony.

The unworkable marriage becomes a torture to the wife when the husband refuses divorce while no valid reasons exist for the refusal.

Today our Community around the world is faced with the problem of some unresolved divorce cases. These are mostly the stubborn cases in which the Jamaats' endeavours to reason out with the husband and bring the unfortunate marriages to their logical conclusion in the mutual interest of the couples have been rebuffed.

Even more painful is the example of the husband while refusing divorce to the long separated wife, he himself gets re-married leaving her marital future in limbo.

This is nothing less than arrogance, intimidation and perhaps vengeance indicating a brazen abuse of God's trust to him over the right of divorce.

Such cases even if few or far

in between are a disgrace to the society or the Community which harbours such husbands in its membership.

The shar'ii solution is to provide for women in the Community the option to offer themselves in marriage on a condition which is merely precautionary more than a prior indication of lack of faith - as a hedge - against the possibilities discussed above.

The prospective husband accepts the offer with the condition which he fulfils by delegating his right to divorce to his own or her Jamaat as his 'wakil'.

Divorce, if an issue, is granted on behalf of the husband only after a competent body in the Jamaat is entirely satisfied that it is due 'and dignified' with Allah (s.w.t.) as witness to the sincerity and justice in the decision.

The husband will have the right to appeal against the decision to another body set for the purpose within the Jamaat to ensure that justice is not only done but is also seen by the husband to be done.

The solution exists. What we need is the will for it.

There can be an argument of referring such stubborn cases to the Marja-e-Taqleed for a decision. But he then would want to investigate the case thoroughly involving a further delay before finally authorising divorce if it is due.

It is an onerous and delicate duty which the Marja keeps only to himself. No Marja ever delegates to any wakil the authority to make decision and effect divorce on behalf of any unwilling husband without reference to the Marja himself.

We therefore highly commend the leadership and members of the Khoja (Pirhai) Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Karachi which have already formulated a form of a marriage contract for use, insha'allah, very soon.

The Supreme Council is urged to follow suit and keep pace with the awareness of the realities of the time and thus join the Karachi Jamaat in setting out this solution for emulation worldwide in the Community.



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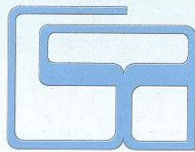
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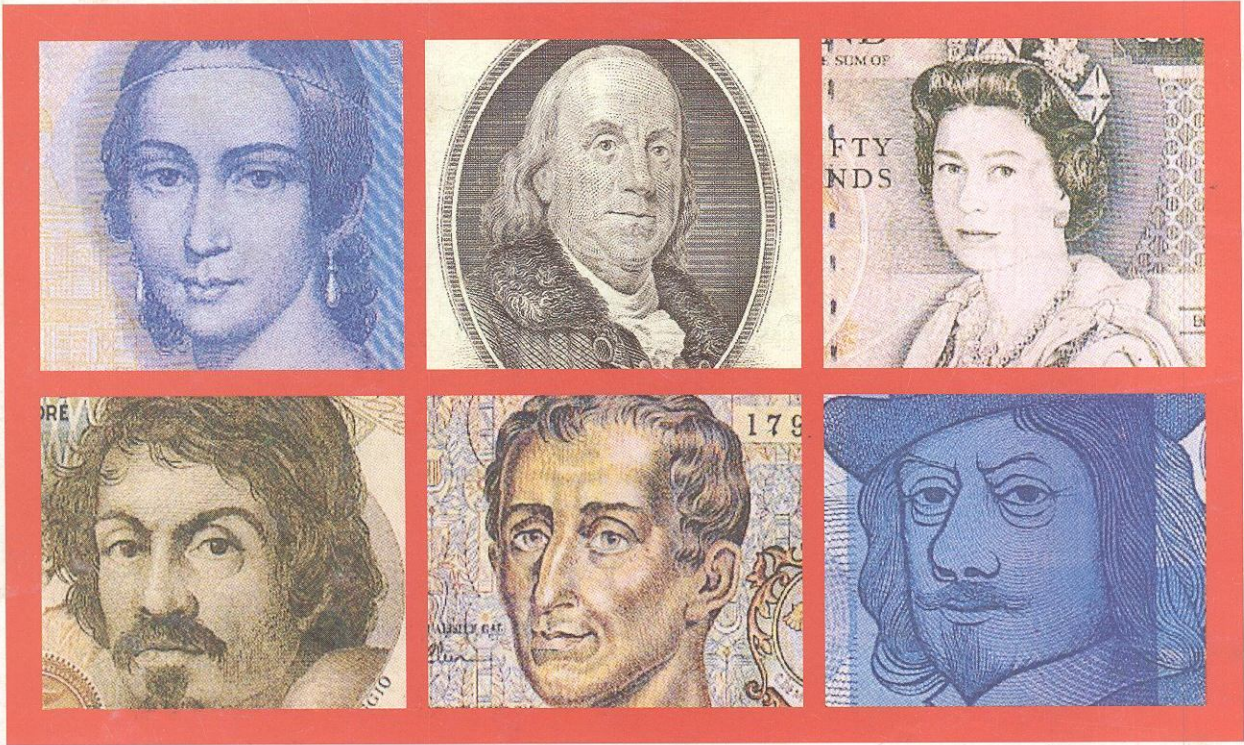
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