

Africa Federation Delegation meets the President of Zanzibar



Federation News

- Report of the 82nd Africa Federation Supreme Council
- Africa Federation Marks 75 years of Establishment
- Africa Federation Delegation meets the President of Zanzibar
- Grand Opening of Amira Apartments and Az Zahra Centre
- World Federation brings 5,000 Covid-19 Vaccines to Zanzibar
- Tanzanian Woman climbs Mt. Everest
- Obituaries
- Down Memory Lane
- Interview with Dr. Amir Lakha



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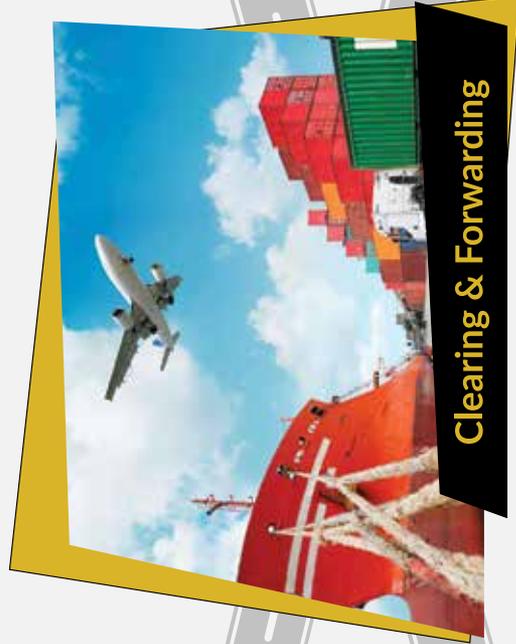
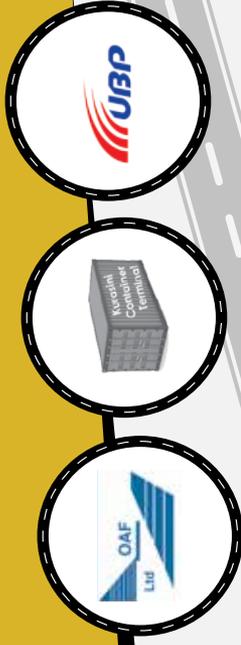
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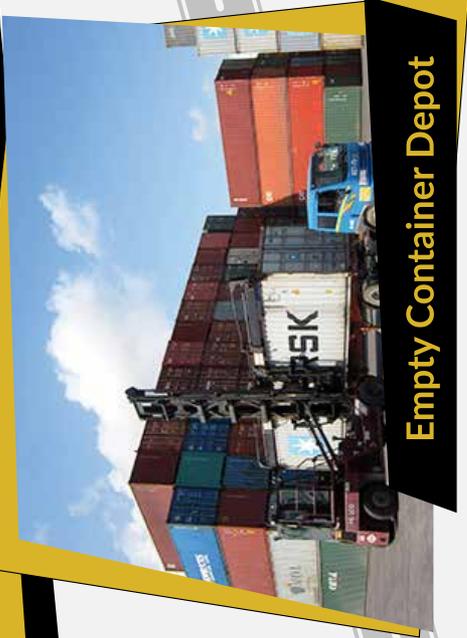


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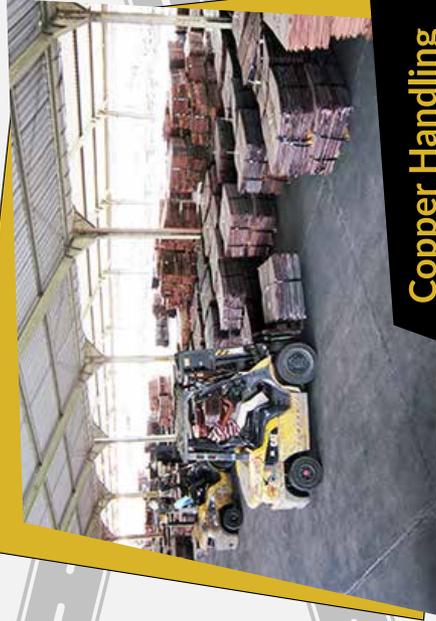


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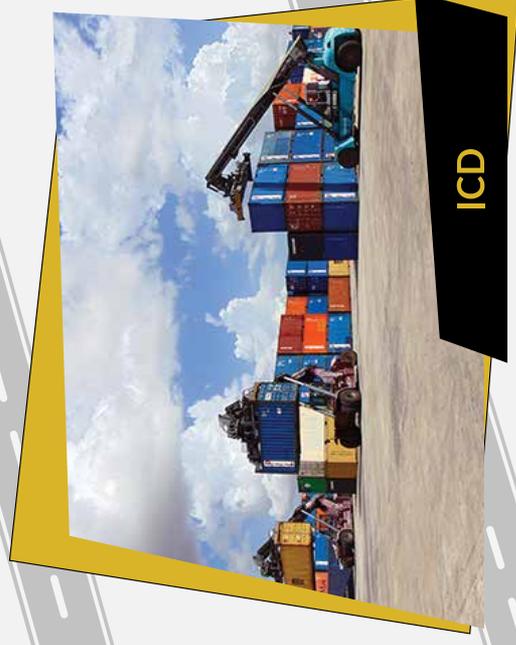
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Africa Federation Delegation Visits the President of Zanzibar.



Grand Opening of Amira Apartments.



Grand Opening of Az Zahra Hawza, Tanga.

 Columnists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Issues • Talking Point  Mohamed Khalfan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spirituality  Zakira Shyrose Jaffer-Dhalla
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Perspective  Mahjabeen Daya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayside Wisdom  Munir Daya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Column  Muhammad Tijani



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Please note that all letters to the Editor must include a name and mailing address even if this is not intended for publication. The views expressed in the Federation Samachar are not necessarily those of the Africa Federation or the Editorial Board. Federation Samachar is a non-profit magazine and printing costs are financed through advertising. We cannot endorse or guarantee any products or services advertised in the magazine.

Cover: Africa Federation (AFED) Delegation meets the President of Zanzibar.

From L: Hussein Karim, Chairman of the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT); Akil Hirji, Chairman of AFED Housing Development Board; Shabir Najafi, Chairman of AFED; His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, the President of Zanzibar; Aunali Khalfan, Vice Chairman of AFED; Ali Imran, Representative of BMMT and Munir Daya, Chairman of AFED's Editorial and Media Board.

The importance of being vaccinated against Covid-19

Our community, as the rest of the world, has faced difficult times enduring the Covid-19 pandemic. We went through uncertain situations, experienced lockdowns, social isolation and sometimes suffered with our businesses and even lost our loved ones. Some people followed strict guidelines to protect themselves, others did not and institutions, including mosques, gradually opened after ensuring certain restrictions are in place. The situation continues as the pandemic has not ended.

The advent of vaccines has helped to partially ease the situation but many people are yet to take vaccinations thereby leaving others vulnerable to the virus. As at September, 2021 almost 5 million people have died worldwide and the number of Covid-19 cases to date is about 227 million worldwide. These figures are massive and far surpass casualties of normal wars or calamities. The casualty on September 11th, 2001 when al-Qaeda attacked America left about 3000 dead. Twenty years later on September 11th, 2021 about 3100 people in America died from Covid-19. Another 3,100 died of Covid-19 on September 12th. And again, the same number died of Covid-19 on September 13th. This is an example of the toll that Covid-19 has taken, and reflects the dangerous nature of the virus to humans at large.

On 21st August, 2021 in Canada, the Toronto Public Health reported that since 1st May, 2021 almost 98.7% of hospitalized COVID-19 patients with known vaccination status were not fully vaccinated. Fully vaccinated people have greater protection against COVID-19 than unvaccinated people; the vaccine could also protect people against the Delta variant.

Being vaccinated should not lead to over-optimism about being protected against the virus because there are so many people who are yet to take the vaccinations. The wearing of masks, frequent cleaning of hands, regular disinfection of one's work premises and the implementation of social distancing is still very necessary to keep ourselves protected.

Over-optimism after taking the Covid-19 vaccines could distort people's risk perceptions and encourage unsafe behaviours that could lead to contracting the virus. While vaccines have proved efficacious, optimism creates an artificial sense of security that emboldens vaccinated people to prematurely stop masking and social distancing because they mistakenly consider these as burdensome and unnecessary.

Despite the early success of vaccines there are many open questions. What does immunity mean – not being infected, not passing the virus to others, or both? How long does vaccine protection last, and how could we tell? How should we account for people with weak immune systems, or children who couldn't get a shot? Will the answers to any of these questions change with emerging variants?

Despite the uncertainties it is wise to take the vaccine as a first step towards protection. The only exception is for those who have a medical condition that makes it unsuitable for them to take the vaccine. Vaccines may not be 100% efficacious but they do help prevent severe illness in most cases when vaccinated people contract the virus.

The real story of the pandemic is that millions have died and many more will die unless vaccine supplies further reach poorer countries. It is beyond logical reasoning on why some people aren't taking the vaccines. We have many people who have died just because of refusing to take the vaccine and a simple advise to all the unvaccinated – take your vaccination today unless you have a medical condition that stops you from taking the vaccine.

First Word



Munir Daya
Editor

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In appreciation of Federation Samachar's "Down Memory Lane" Pages

Thank you for including an admirable selection of thought-provoking, well-captioned photographs in your Down Memory Lane pages in each issue. These photos are much appreciated because they document the history of our organization in a visual way. Indeed, each photograph speaks a thousand words, reminding us of the significant events that have shaped the history of our community, and the contribution of noteworthy individuals – especially our ancestors, over the past few decades.

At the 49th Session of the Africa Federation Supreme Council which was held at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) in Arusha, Tanzania during Easter Holidays, 1980, I was part of a delegation from Tanga Jamaat. I was then the Hon. Secretary of Tanga Jamaat and a Councillor of AFED, representing Tanga Jamaat between 1979 - 1981.

After the Supreme Council, 1980 conference, we were given a photograph of nearly 60 people in a group photo, and were invited to name them. I missed only five names as the individuals were newer members from distant African countries. Recently, at my advanced age I have met a bigger challenge because I was able to remember the names of the individuals of Tanga Jamaat, whom I had named in that group photo decades ago!

I am contributing the two photos to Federation Samachar, in the hope that you can publish them!

Mohamed S.S. Alarakhia
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

All past magazines (with Down Memory Lane) of the Federation Samachar can be read online on the Africa Federation website: www.africafederation.org. Thank you for the two photos that we have carried in this issue - Editor.



Letters to the Editor

All letters sent by mail or email will be considered for publication unless the author specifically refuses its publication.

Letters must carry the name and contact information of the author even if this is not intended for publication.

Letters will be subject to editing for brevity, clarity and content.

Only destructive letters and those lacking objectivity or reason will not be published.

Readers are requested to keep letters short and to the point. Letters can be sent to: samachar@africafederation.org

Tribute to Marhum Mohamed Dhirani

Our condolences on the demise of an iconic personality in the Khoja Community, the late Mohamedbhai Dhirani. May Allah elevate his status and give sabre jameel to the families and all of us.

May I humbly propose that a Special Edition of the Federation Samachar be issued in his honour. The issue would recognize his services to the community in various leadership positions and also carry condolence messages from various members associated with him.

Thank you for considering the proposal.

Raza Kara
Richmond Hill, Ontario

The death of Mohamed Dhirani was a sad event, and his contribution to the community over the years has been immense. Insha'Allah in the future we will try to cover photo features of his activities for the community.

- Editor.

Inspired by Federation Samachar

I am writing to express my deep appreciation and admiration for an article entitled, "A moment of sheer epiphany" that I read in the February, 2020 edition of the Federation Samachar Magazine. The way author Zakira Shyrose Jaffer-Dhalla almost missed her flight and not one person had the authority to help her until that one person in charge so casually said, "let her go", and how the door of the airplane was literally opened up for her made me literally get goosebumps.

This article was really beautiful and this true story was just amazing. I wish every confused person reads it at least once in their lifetime and I know it can surely bring yaqeen to them. I am indebted

to Zakira Shyrose for introducing this magazine to us, and her thousands of global followers via her Facebook page.

Masha'Allah I must say I truly was highly impressed to read the magazine and to see the accomplishments of the Shia Khoja community around the world. I confess I didn't know much about the Khojas until I read this magazine.

Thank you Federation Samachar and please keep up the great work.

Sincerely,

Asim Naqvi
Lahore, Pakistan.

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Africa Federation Delegation meets the President of Zanzibar



Africa Federation (AFED) Delegation meets the President of Zanzibar.

From L: Hussein Karim, Chairman of the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT); Akil Hirji, Chairman of AFED Housing Development Board; Shabir Najafi, Chairman of AFED; His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, the President of Zanzibar; Aunali Khalfan, Vice Chairman of AFED; Ali Imran, Representative of BMMT and Munir Daya, Chairman of AFED's Editorial and Media Board.

A delegation of the Africa Federation (AFED) met with the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, His Excellency, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi at the State House in Zanzibar on 16th March 2021.

The delegation included AFED Chairman Shabir Najafi, Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan, the Chairman of Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania, Hussein Karim, the Chairman of Housing Development Board, Akil Hirji and the Chairman of the Media and Editorial Board, Munir Daya.

President Mwinyi was introduced to the members of the delegation by the AFED Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan who also presented a brief profile of the Africa Federation. He outlined AFED's various activities that encompass religious, social and humanitarian services in Zanzibar and Africa including the Indian Ocean Islands of Madagascar, Reunion and Mauritius.

Regarding the history of the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri community, Aunali Khalfan mentioned that many members have originated from Zanzibar, and generations

of these families continue to have a close affiliation with the island and its people.

The AFED Vice Chairman congratulated Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi on his election to be the President of Zanzibar and commended him for his distinguished leadership which, in a short time, has brought about a political affiliation and unity of the people of Zanzibar leading to peace on the island.

His Excellency, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi thanked the delegation for their visit

Continued on page 8



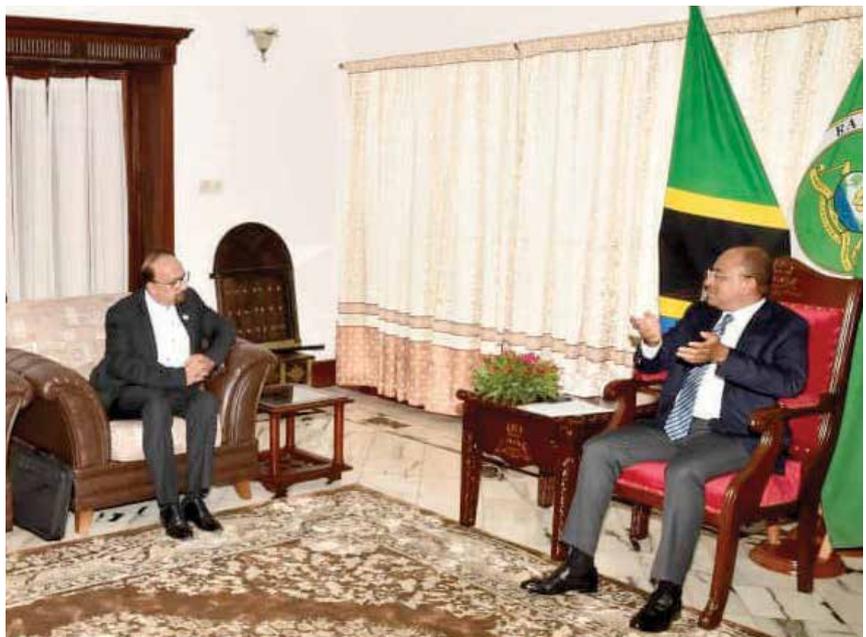
Above: Vice Chairman of AFED, Aunali Khalfan delivering his address: From R to L: President of Zanzibar, H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, AFED Chairman, Shabir Najafi, AFED Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan, Media & Editorial Board Chairman, Munir Daya and Housing Development Board Chairman, Akil Hirji.

and said he was aware of some of the good work being done by the community in Tanzania. He spoke about the conducive environment in Zanzibar to encourage investors to the island. He said the Zanzibar Government has made investment on the island more attractive in order to improve its economy which in turn will positively benefit its population by catalyzing employment and increasing per capita income.

Dr. Mwinyi mentioned that the Government Ministries will assist to facilitate smooth and orderly entry to serious investors. He cited areas such as tourism, fisheries, agriculture and modernized manufacturing industries as some of the favourable areas for investments. He also said that Zanzibar recognizes the role of the “Blue economy” which promotes socio-economic development through better stewardship of the sea and related maritime resources.

AFED Chairman, Shabir Najafi assured the Zanzibar President of AFED’s full cooperation and support in promoting investments in Zanzibar. He said that

with many members of the community having originated from Zanzibar there is a sentimental link of the community to Zanzibar. On behalf of AFED he offered



Above: Africa Federation (AFED) Chairman, Shabir Najafi in conversation with the President of Zanzibar, His Excellency, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi.



***Above:** The Chief Editor of the Federation Samachar and Chairman of Editorial and Media Board, Munir Daya presenting the latest copy of the Federation Samachar (AFED's Magazine) to H. E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi. Standing from left is Aunali Khalfan and Shabir Najafi.*

to build a modern deep water-well in memory of the late Syed Hassan Abbas Naqvi, the former Chairman of Africa Federation Tabligh Board (AFTAB), in an area to be identified by the Zanzibar authority where fresh drinking water is most needed.

Shabir Bhai presented to Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi a book titled "The Endangered Species" on the history of our community written by renowned Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Historian, Hassan Ali M. Jaffer of Mombasa, Kenya.

Husseinbhai Karim, Chairman of Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT)

presented a brief overview of BMMT's activities which also covered education, health and social services to the communities in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar Islands. He mentioned about the recent free eye camp which was held at Mpendae Secondary School in Zanzibar when the Zanzibar President and his entourage made a surprise visit to witness the camp activities carried out by Bilal Muslim Mission doctors and volunteers. He said BMMT planned other similar camps in future with the next one planned for Pemba island.

The Chairman of the Media and Editorial Board, Munir Daya presented a copy of

the latest issue of Federation Samachar to the President along with his personal book, "Weekends with Munir Daya." Munirbhai has been contributing weekly opinion columns in local English newspapers in mainland Tanzania and in Kenya for over thirty years.

The visit by the Africa Federation delegation to Zanzibar and meeting with the Zanzibar President was well covered by local TV stations and several Kiswahili and English newspapers. The meeting provided a good opportunity for AFED to consolidate its activities in Zanzibar for the betterment of the population at large.



Africa Federation Marks 75 Years of Establishment



The first East Africa Khoja Ithna Asheri Conference held in Dar es Salaam circa 1945/46, in the front section of the Dar es Salaam Imambaragh where the Africa Federation came into establishment. (Photo Courtesy: Archives Section, Africa Federation).

The Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaats of Africa was established in 1946 and is marking 75 years of establishment this year. To celebrate this event and the contribution of various individuals, the Africa Federation Secretariat has produced a special Logo. The new Logo will be used with the Africa Federation's traditional logo, until the year 2022 when the next conference is held.

In the year 1945, several passionate intellectuals and leading personalities of the community in East Africa met for the first time to discuss ways and means to foster broad unity in the community and how to inaugurate an association that would include all East African Jamaats. During this meeting it was agreed to meet again after a year to set up the operation of the proposed association with proper rules and regulations by way of a constitution.

As a result, the first ever Constitutional Conference of the Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaats was held in Dar es Salaam, (in then Tanganyika) in 1946. The Conference was attended by delegations of Jamaats from Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar. Murabbi Alhaj Abdulhussein Nurmohamed was elected as the first Chairman of the Federation.

With the success that the centralized Federation was enjoying, other Khoja brethren living in Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Madagascar, Reunion, Mauritius, Mozambique and Somalia were also attracted and the Jamaats in those countries also became members of Federation thereby widening and strengthening the unity under the helm of the Africa Federation. Today the Federation has the membership of 26 Jamaats in mainland Africa and additionally two Territorial Councils in the Indian Ocean Islands of Madagascar, namely Conseil Regional of Madagascar (CROI) and the Union des Associations Khodjas Shia Isna Ashri de la Reunion (UAKSIR) consisting of 18 Jamaats, making a total of 46 Jamaats with about 21,000 members.

Ever since it was formed, the Africa Federation has held its Supreme Council sessions every year and the Conferences



once every three years as required by the Constitution. These meetings have provided opportunities for members of the community to meet and discuss the pressing concerns of various jamaats and also deliberate and guide on social, economic, health, religious, media and educational issues.

The Africa Federation has come a long way since 1946 in all spheres of activities. Lately Africa Federation has made capital investments that are geared towards stabilising income to run its operations. The Africa Federation activities are undertaken by the following Boards:

- Africa Youth Network
- Africa Federation Tabligh Board
- Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya
- Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania
- Bilal Muslim Mission of Uganda
- Capacity Building Group
- Central Health Board
- Economic Development Board
- Education Board
- Housing Development Board
- Editorial and Media Board
- Sports Council
- Women's Board

CONFERENCES

	Year	Venue
1st	1945	Dar-es-Salaam (Preparatory)
2nd	1946	Dar es Salaam
3rd	1949	Mombasa
4th	1952	Zanzibar
5th	1955	Mombasa
6th	1958	Arusha
7th	1960	Dar es Salaam (Special)
8th	1961	Dar es Salaam
9th	1964	Tanga
	1967	Mombasa (Special)
10th	1968	Mombasa
11th	1971	Mombasa
12th	1974	Arusha
13th	1977	Dar-es-Salaam
14th	1980	Dar-es-Salaam
15th	1983	Dar-es-Salaam
16th	1986	Dar-es-Salaam
17th	1989	Dar-es-Salaam
18th	1992	Mombasa
19th	1995	Dar-es-Salaam
20th	1998	Dar-es-Salaam
21st	2001	Dar-es-Salaam
22nd	2004	Nairobi
23rd	2007	Arusha
24th	2010	Dar-es-Salaam
25th	2013	Dar-es-Salaam
26th	2016	Dar-es-Salaam
27th	2019	Mombasa



OFFICE BEARERS OF THE AFRICA FEDERATION FROM 1946 – 2022					
YEAR	VENUE	CHAIRMAN	VICE CHAIRMAN	HON. SECRETARY	HON. TREASURER
1946-49	DSM	ABDULHUSSEIN NURMOHAMED	MOHAMED ABDALLA KHIMJI	GULAMHUSSEIN N. LAKHA	ABDULRASUL M. DEWJI
1950-53	MOMBASA	ABDULRASUL N. VIRJI	H. K. JAFFER	MOHAMEDALI JANMOHAMED	JUMA HAJI
1953-56	ZANZIBAR	ABDULHUSSEIN NURMOHAMED	MOHAMED ABDALLA KHIMJI	GULAMHUSSEIN N. LAKHA	ALLY JAFFER SHERIFF
1956-59	KAMPALA	ABDULHUSSEIN NURMOHAMED	MOHAMEDALI MEGHJI	GULAMHUSSEIN N. LAKHA	FIDAHUSSEIN R. MOLEDINA
1959-62	ARUSHA	EBRAHIM H. SHERIFF	MOHAMEDALI SHARRIF JIWA	HASSANALI P. VISRAM	MOHAMEDTAKI R. PIRBHAI
1962-65	DSM	EBRAHIM H. SHERIFF (DIED)	MOHAMEDALI SHARRIF JIWA	HASSANALI P. VISRAM	MOHAMEDTAKI R. PIRBHAI
1965-68	TANGA	MOHAMEDALI MEGHJI	HASSANALI M. LADAK	ASGHAR M.M. JAFFER	HASSAN JAFFER
1968-71	MOMBASA	MOHAMEDALI MEGHJI	ALIMOHAMED JAFFER SHERIFF DEWJI	JAFFERALI H. ASARIA	JAFFERALI M. MERALI
1971-74	DSM	MOHAMEDALI MEGHJI	ASGHAR M.M. JAFFER	BASHIR PEERA (SEC GEN)	GULAMALI E. KARIM
1974-77	ARUSHA	ASGHAR M. M. JAFFER	HUSSEIN NASSER WALJI	BASHIR PEERA (SEC GEN)	HUSSEIN H. JANMOHAMED
1977-80	DSM	ASGHAR M. M. JAFFER	ABDULRASUL A. LAKHA	AKBERALI A. KARIM	MOH'DJAFFER G. HASHAM
1980-83	ARUSHA	ABDULRASUL A. LAKHA	HASSAN A. M. JAFFER (RESIGN ILL HEALTH) / Y. M. KERMALLI	MOHAMED RAZA DATOO	ABDULRAZAK KHALFAN
1983-86	DSM	MOHAMED DHIRANI	HABIB MULJI	MOHAMED'DRAFIQ SOMJI	AKBER DHIRANI/MOHAMED HASSAM
1986-89	MOMBASA	MOHAMED DHIRANI	HABIB MULJI	MOHAMED SOMJI	MOHAMED HASSAM
1989-92	DSM	HABIB MULJI	MOHAMEDRAFIQ SOMJI (DIED) MOHAMED KHALFAN	HABIB VIRANI	MURTAZA WALJI
1992-95	MOMBASA	HABIB MULJI	HABIB VIRANI	MURTAZA WALJI	MOHAMED HASSAM
1998-01	DSM	MOHAMED DHIRANI	MOHAMED PIRBHAI	ASGHER DHANJI	AHMED ALLOO
2003-04	DSM	ZULFIKAR KHIMJI	RAMZAN MULLA NANJI MOHAMEDRAZA KHAMIS (CROI)	HUSSEIN RASHID / BARKAT RAJANI	MUSTAFA PIRMOHAMMED
2003-07	NBI	ZULFIKAR KHIMJI (DIED) RAMZAN NANJI	RAMZAN MULLA NANJI DR. ASGHER MOLEDINA MOHAMEDRAZA KHAMIS (CROI)	BARKAT RAJANI (RESIGNED) FAZLEABBAS CHANDOO	MURTAZA KANANI
2007 - 10	ARUSHA	RAMZAN NANJI	ZULFIKAR DEWJI	FAZLEABBAS CHANDOO	MURTAZA KANANI
2010 – 13	DSM	ANWARALI DHARAMSI	SHABIR NAJAFI SABIRHOUSSEN GOULAMLAY (CROI)	AUNALI KHALFAN	MOHAMED HEMANI
2013 – 16	DSM	ANWARALI DHARAMSI	SHABIR NAJAFI NAVAZALY MOLOU (CROI) AMINE NASSOR (UAKSIR)	AUNALI KHALFAN	MOHAMED HEMANI
2016 – 19	DSM	SHABIR NAJAFI	AUNALI KHALFAN NAVAZALY MOLOU/ SHEIKH HANIPHE AKBARALY (CROI) AMINE NASSOR (UAKSIR)	HUSSEIN KARIM	MOHAMED HEMANI
2019 – 22	MOMBASA	SHABIR NAJAFI	AUNALI KHALFAN SHEIKH HANIPHE AKBARALY (CROI) AMINE NASSOR (UAKSIR)	ZUHAIR JAFFER	ZAINUL CHANDOO

SUPREME COUNCIL SESSIONS

	Year	Venue									
1st	1946	Dar es Salaam	26th	1967	Mombasa	51st	1993	Dar-es-Salaam	76th	2015	Mombasa
2nd	1947	Mombasa	27th	1968	Mombasa	52nd	1994	Arusha	77th	2015	Dar-es-Salaam
3rd	1948	Mombasa	28th	1969	Mombasa	53rd	1995	Dar-es-Salaam	78th	2016	Dar-es-Salaam
4th	1949	Mombasa	29th	1970	Mombasa	54th	1996	Nairobi	79th	2017	Nairobi
5th	1950	Dar-es-Salaam	30th	1971	Mombasa	55th	1997	Kampala	80th	2018	Dar-es-Salaam
6th	1951	Mombasa	31st	1972	Mombasa	56th	1998	Dar-es-Salaam	81st	2019	Mombasa
7th	1952	Zanzibar	32nd	1973	Dar-es-Salaam	57th	1999	Zanzibar	82nd	2020	Dar-es-Salaam
8th	1953	Mombasa	33rd	1974	Arusha	58th	2000	Mombasa			
9th	1954	Mombasa	34th	1975	Moshi	59th	2001	Dar-es-Salaam			
10th	1955	Mombasa	35th	1976	Dar-es-Salaam	60th	2002	Arusha			
11th	1955	Kampala	36th	1977	Dar-es-Salaam	61st	2003	Mombasa			
12th	1956	Dar-es-Salaam	37th	1978	No meeting	62nd	2004	Nairobi			
13th	1957	Mombasa	38th	1979	Arusha	63rd	2005	Moshi			
14th	1958	Mombasa	39th	1980	Dar-es-Salaam	64th	2006	Arusha			
15th	1958	Arusha	40th	1981	Arusha	65th	2007	Arusha			
16th	1959	Arusha	41st	1983	Dar-es-Salaam	66th	2007	Arusha			
17th	1960	Dar-es-Salaam	42nd	1984	Mombasa	67th	2008	Dar-es-Salaam			
18th	1961	Dar-es-Salaam	43rd	1985	Arusha	68th	2009	Arusha			
19th	1962	Moshi	44th	1986	Dar-es-Salaam	69th	2009	Dar-es-Salaam			
20th	1963	Kampala	45th	1987	Mombasa	70th	2010	Dar-es-Salaam			
21st	1963	Mombasa	46th	1988	Dar-es-Salaam	71st	2010	Dar-es-Salaam			
22nd	1964	Tanga	47th	1989	Dar-es-Salaam	72nd	2011	Mombasa			
23rd	1965	Mombasa	48th	1990	Nairobi	73rd	2012	Arusha			
24th	1966	Mombasa	49th	1991	Arusha	74th	2013	Dar-es-Salaam			
25th	1967	Mombasa	50th	1992	Mombasa	75th	2014	Dar-es-Salaam			



The Jafari Muslim Association, Lilongwe elects new Management Committee for the period 2021 – 2023



Jafari Muslim Association – Lilongwe Team 2021 – 2023.

L to R: Adnan Ali Ravjani (Committee Member), Ali Asghar Bheraiwala (Committee Member), Ali Emran Jamani (Treasurer), Muhammad Zain Variyalla (Vice Chairman), Salim Raza Dodhia (Chairman), Mohammad Taqi Somani (General Secretary), Mohammad Ausajah Jamal (Committee Member) & Kazim Raza Devjiani (Committee Member).

The Jafari Muslim Association of Lilongwe held its elections on 28th February 2021 and the following office bearers were elected:

Chairman: Salim Raza Dodhia

Vice Chairman: Muhammad Zain Variyalla

General Secretary: Mohammad Taqi Somani

Honorary Treasurer: Ali Emran Jamani

Committee Member: Kazim Raza Devjiani

Committee Member: Adnan Ali Ravjani

Committee Member: Mohammaad Ausajah Jamal

Committee Member: Ali Asghar Bheraiwala

Along with managing normal administration issues the newly elected team are contemplating the building of a new Center which will cater for the growing needs of the Jamaat. The Center is planned to be located at a site in Lilongwe which was donated to the Africa Federation (AFED) last year by the Saboor family. This project has been delayed due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic.

Tanga Jamaat Elects Office Bearers for the term 2021 – 2023

The following office bearers and committee members of the KSI Jamaat of Tanga were elected or appointed at the Annual General Meeting held in Tanga on 9th April 2021.

Office Bearers:

Chairman: Hussein A. Walji

Vice Chairman: Ashraf Siwjee

Hon. Secretary: Mohamed A. Fazal

Hon. Joint Secretary: Hassan A. Walji

Hon. Treasurer: Aziz A. Fazal

Hon. Joint Treasurer: Gulam A. Fazal

Committee Member: Amir A. Fazal



The Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Rwanda Jamaat – Kigali joins the Africa Federation.



Above: At the Africa Federation (AFED) 82nd Supreme Council Session, Kigali Jamaat joined AFED and was presented with the AFED Membership Certificate.

From L to R: Zainul Chandoo (AFED Hon. Treasurer), Zuhair Jaffer (AFED Hon. Secretary), Hasan Raza (Kigali Jamaat Representative), Aunali Khalfan (AFED Vice Chairman), Shabir Najafi (AFED Chairman), Amine Nassor, (AFED Vice Chairman and Chairman of Unions des Association Khodjas Shia Isna Ashri de la Reunion UAKSIR); Anwarali Dharamsi (Immediate Past President of the World Federation); Mohamedraza Dewji (Dar es salaam Jamaat President), Dr. Imran Versi and Br. Shaheed Rattansi (82nd Supreme Council Session Coordinators from Dar es Salaam Jamaat).

In December, 2020 the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Rwanda Jamaat – Kigali became the 43rd member jamaat to join the Africa Federation. With this membership the total population of members of the Africa Federation is now about 21,000 heads. Earlier in April, 2019, Lilongwe Jamaat in Malawi became the 42nd member to join the Africa Federation. The current population in Kigali is about 109 members.

The application by the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Rwanda Jamaat – Kigali

for membership of the Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaats of Africa was tabled at the 82nd Supreme Council Session held in Dar es Salaam from 18th to 19th December 2020. The membership of Kigali Jamaat was unanimously voted for by councillors.

The Kigali Jamaat Chairman, Amjad Ali Merchant and the Hon Secretary, Nasir Raza were represented by two members, Hasan Raza and Zaheer Abbas Karim at the Supreme Council Session.

Morogoro Jamaat Elections for the term 2021 – 2023

The following Office Bearers and Committee Members of the KSI Jamaat of Morogoro were elected or appointed at the Annual General Meeting held in Tanga on 5th May, 2021:

Chairman: Abdulrazak Kermally
Hon. Secretary: Mohammed Rajvani

Hon. Treasurer: Abbas Shariff
Committee Members: Ahmed Gulamali, Aliabbas Rashid, Sameer Manji.

Trustees: Abdulrazak Kermally, Abbas Shariff, Shafiq Rajvani.

Caretaker Committee Appointed in Mwanza

At an emergency meeting held in Mwanza Jamaat on Wednesday 23rd June 2021, the following members were appointed to take over as a Caretaker Committee of the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Mwanza. The meeting was called following resignations of the Managing Committee Members and Trustees of the Jamaat from the posts they were holding.

The Caretaker Committee comprises of:

- Hasnain Amirali Hirji
- Salim Mohamedrafiq Dhalla
- Shirazali Mohamedali Panjwani
- Aliasgar Mohammed Lalji

The Committee managed the entire affairs of the Jamaat for a period of 90 days from the date of the appointment w.e.f. 23rd June 2021. Their term will be extended until a General Meeting and elections of the Managing Committee and Trustees of the Jamaat is held.



Mwanza Jamaat Caretaker Committee
L to R : Salim Dhalla, Hasnain Hirji, Alhaj Shirazali Panjwani and Aliasghar Lalji.



AFED Delegation Visits Moshi Jamaat



Above: From L to R: Abdulhussein Kermalli (Moshi Jamaat - Hon. Secretary), Salim Khaki (Chairman Medical Board), Hussein Karim (BMMT Chairman), Ebrahim Haji (Moshi Jamaat - Trustee), Aunali Khalfan (AFED Vice Chairman), Muhammad Ladak (Moshi Jamaat - Vice Chairman), and Hasnain Sherally (AFED - Chief Operating Officer).

On 20th November 2020, a delegation from Africa Federation (AFED) visited its member Jamaat in Moshi for a full day visit. The delegation left Moshi for Arusha the same evening.

The delegation comprised of AFED Vice Chairman Aunali Khalfan, Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania Chairman Alhaj Hussein Karim, AFTAB Chairman Seyed Hassan Naqvi and AFED Chief Operations Officer, Hasnain Sherally.

In Moshi, the delegation was received by the Vice Chairman of Moshi Jamaat Alhaj Muhammad Ladak, and the first stop was at the residence of Murrabi Sherally Ladak who lost his elder son Mohsin Ladak just two days before the visit. Aunali Khalfan paid tribute to the departed soul and conveyed condolences to the bereaved family on behalf of AFED Chairman, Shabir Najafi and the office bearers. Sherally bhai Ladak is one of the elders of our community in Moshi who has served the Jamaat for many years in various capacities, since his young age as a volunteer. Moshi Jamaat has been a vibrant and progressive Jamaat with a big population of members, sadly the number of members has dwindled over the years.

A visit to the Jamaat owned and operated Jaffery Clinic which is located in the heart

of Moshi city. The Clinic is quite busy serving local community and also covers most insurances, including the National Health Insurance Funds (NHIF) which has the largest number of patients. The Clinic has a mini operating theater (currently not in use), an ultrasound machine, a dental section, a full-fledged laboratory and a pharmacy. Multiple specialists are on the roster providing specialists medical services to the community at reasonable cost.

The Clinic is currently running at full capacity and requires upgrades to ensure that it can derive its full potential in serving the local needs, it has a plan to expand by adding more beds and latest model digital X-ray machine that is in high demand in the area, the Jamaat has a land adjoining the Clinic where this expansion shall take place. Ebrahim Haji who is the Trustee of the Jamaat and Salim Khaki, the Chairman of Medical Board of the Jamaat explained the delegation of Jamaat's the plans for expansion of the Clinic.

After Zohrain prayers, the delegation then held a joint meeting with the Managing Committee of the Jamaat and Trustees. Present at the meeting were; Moshi Jamaat Vice Chairman, Alhaj Muhammad Ladak, Moshi Jamaat Secretary, Abdulhussein

Kermali, Moshi Jamaat Trustees Ebrahim Haji and Salim Khaki who is the Jamaat Medical Board Chairman with AFED delegation headed by the Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan, BMMT Chairman, Hussein Karim and AFED Chief Operating Officer (COO), Hasnain Sherally.

At the meeting various matters pertaining to the Trust Properties, Tabligh, Madrassah, Education, Community membership, Compliance and Jamaat Constitution matters were discussed. AFED offered its support to the Managing Committee to ensure that the Jamaat is up to date with all their compliance matters of Registration. Assistance was also offered to draft of a new Constitution for the Jamaat to replace the present one of 1950 which has outlived its usefulness due to time elapsed was requested by the Jamaat Vice Chairman.

AFED Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan, impressed upon the team to follow through the Vision of the AFED Office Bearers for the term 2019-2022, this will give the Jamaat clear direction towards achieving the overall goals. Moshi Jamaat was commended for being a self-sufficient Jamaat which they have prided itself for several decades.

Emphasis were made on the health and safety of the community members during this critical time of Covid-19 pandemic which has engulfed many parts of the world. The economic hardships due to the global recession and the Covid-19 effects are visible in Moshi also affecting some community members.

AFED had a fruitful visit to the Moshi Jamaat, the community unfortunately is dwindling in numbers, Moshi is an affluent city with lush greenery and has great economic prospects for various industries, we strongly believe that community members from other cities like Dar es Salaam can benefit by migrating to this city, the Jamaat is hospitable and welcoming, and will be more than happy to collaborate with those who are seriously thinking about migrating to Moshi, AFED will also support this move.



AFED Delegation Visits Zanzibar Jamaats For Ashra-E-Muharram 1442 A.H.



Above: AFED Vice Chairman addressing members after the majlis on 4th night of Muharram in Kuwwat Jamaat Imambargha ground floor. From L to R: Hussain Karim, Maulana Kazmi, Aunali Khalfan, Akil Hirji, Mulla Sadik Dewji and Akber Hassanali.

On 23rd August, 2020 (3rd Muharram, 1442 AH) a delegation from the Africa Federation (AFED) led by Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan accompanied by the Central Bilal Board Chairman, Hussein Karim, the Housing Development Board Chairman Akil Hirji, AFED Chief Operations Officer, Hasnain Sherali and Zakir-e-Imam Hussain (a.s.) Mulla Sadik Dewji visited Zanzibar to participate in the Aza'a of Imam Hussein (a.s.) with members of the two Zanzibar Jamaats. During the visit the delegation also met officials of the Jamaats.

Majlises were held at Nai Misid and Juni Misid in the afternoon and night and at Mehfil-e-Abbas in the morning. Some community members from the mainland also travelled to Zanzibar for the twelve days of Ashra organized by Juni Misid Jamaat, thereby enlivening the Azadari programs as the community's population in Zanzibar is small.

During the visit, the AFED delegation visited and appraised the conditions of the old school, Faize, Mehfil-e-Abbas and Taziakhana which are managed by Juni Misid. The delegation also visited

Mehfil-e-Bibi Fatima and Mehfil-e-Ali Makkam which has been well renovated by the present Juni Misid management.

The delegation later visited the bewakhana in Kiponda and a *waqf* property of Marhum Haji Mohamed bhai Allarakhia Shivji which is managed by trustees from Nai Misid. This property is in dire need of major renovations and some structural changes for the convenience of widows and guests.

The visiting delegation was informed that *waqf* properties of the two Jamaats are under the administration of the Waqf and Trust Commission, Zanzibar Government since the mid - 1960s. A way forward to repossess these was discussed with both Jamaats for the benefit of their members and for the posterity.

Separate meetings were held with Hujjat and Kuwwat Jamaat officials to discuss pertinent issues including the closure of the madrassah which has compelled some parents to send their children to the mainland for attending religious classes. The importance of running a madrassah for children of the

community was reiterated, this being the foundation for religion and building of faith. The two Jamaats are co-ordinating to ensure that the madrassah operates again and AFED has committed to send a teacher (muallim) for the madrassah.

Discussions also covered the welfare of community members in Zanzibar and Covid-19 challenges and precautions. The two Jamaats were advised to consider developing income generating projects to make them self-sustainable.

Emphasis was also made on the need for good maintenance and governance of Jamaat properties taking into account the importance of preserving the history of the community in Zanzibar. The Zanzibar Jamaat is the oldest Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat with the first mosque being built on the island in 1881. The Jamaat was once a prosperous and vibrant community with good awareness of the importance of religious and secular education.

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AFED Delegation visits Mombasa Jamaat



From L to R: Hasnain Sherally, Akil Hirji, Dr. Mohamed Jaffer, Zainul Chandoo and Yusuf Jiwa after meeting the President of Mombasa Jamaat at his office in Mombasa.

On 10th September 2021, a delegation from the Africa Federation (AFED) Secretariat comprising of Honorary Treasurer, Zainul Chandoo, Housing Development Board Chairman, Akil Hirji and Chief Operations Officer, Hasnain Sherally made a visit to Mombasa. This visit was to assess the properties of the Africa Federation. Similar visits to other jamaats and centres in Kenya were curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In Mombasa, the visiting delegation was welcomed by the Chairman of Mombasa Jamaat, Dr. Mohamed Jaffer and the Hon. Secretary, Yusuf Jiwa at Mombasa Jamaat. At Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya (BMMK) whose head office is in old town of Mombasa, the delegation was received by BMMK Chairman Iqbal Sunderji and some BMMK Board Members and Trustees.

officials, discussions on several key topics of common interest were held. The Jamaat explained on some great efforts

they had made with the support of AFED in curbing the transmission of Covid-19. The Jamaat also worked hand in hand



Above: The JIC Sports Club House.

Continues on page 19

During the meeting with Mombasa Jamaat



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Continued from page 17

with the Government of Kenya to ensure that the community remained protected. The economic hardship caused by the pandemic to our community in Mombasa was discussed and the severity there is similar to other jamaats under AFED.

During the meeting, Dr. Mohamed Jaffer briefed the delegation on the current development status of the Jaffery Islamic Centre (JIC) Sports Club House which will cater for sports such as netball, table tennis, badminton and many more indoor activities. He also spoke of the completed housing structure in the same compound which comprises of 80 flats. He said future plans include building a large sports ground that will cater for cricket and soccer.



Above: The proposed Sports Ground for development.

The JIC Twin Tower Residential Building which was completed in August 2018 has been developed specifically to accommodate our community members who need reasonable, safe and better quality accommodation. There is also a musafirkhana for visitors and a bewakhana which was donated by Marhum Dr. Naushad Merali of Nairobi, Kenya for the benefit of his late mother Marhuma Mrs.

Leilabai Merali.

In the meeting with AFED trustees, the delegation had constructive talks with the AFED Trustee in Kenya, Sajjad Rashid, who has been working closely with the AFED Secretariat on securing properties in Mombasa. The talks focused on the property portfolio in Mombasa, their

sustainability as well as regarding the need for any improvements to improve rental income for AFED. During the meeting, execution of property upliftment plans were considered and further investment options in Kenya were considered.

During the meeting with BMMK officials, it was noted that their years of efforts

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L to Rt: Yusuf Jiwa (AFED Housing Board Member), Zainul Chandoo (Hon Treasurer, Africa Federation), Sajjad Rashid (Trustee, Africa Federation), Akil Hirji (Housing Board Chairman, Africa Federation), Mohamedraza Rashid (Vice Chairman, Mombasa Jamaat) and Hasnain Sherally (Chief Operating Officer, Africa Federation).



Continued from page 19

have made a large impact in the eastern coast of Kenya to bring about a dedicated community of local Shia brethren. The BMMK officials provided an outline of the various activities being carried out in Mombasa, with plans to expand activities to other parts of Kenya.

In addition to Tabligh work, BMMK continuously strives to support the local Shia community to be self-reliant. In the meeting, BMMK projects supported by some institutions, donors, World Federation and AFED were discussed. BMMK also provided details on the activities of mubalighen and provided a general plan to consolidate tabligh efforts in Kenya.

The visiting delegation also visited AFED properties, including warehouses. This is with the intention to restore and renovate these properties so that these can generate better and sustainable income. The income from these properties is used for external tabligh activities.

The warm welcome to the AFED delegation in Mombasa signified the Jamaat's and its various Board's seriousness in enhancing community activities in Kenya in line with the policies of AFED.



Above: *The JIC Residential Building.*



Above at BMMK Head Office in Mombasa: *Sitting from L to R: Akil Hirji, Zaimul Chandoo, Abbas Nasser and Iqbal Sunderji
Standing from L to R: Hasnain Sherali, Murtaza Jaffer, Shamsheer Mauji.*



AFED steps up its housing commitment with opening of the Amira Apartments in Dar es Salaam



The Ribbon Cutting Marking the Opening of Amira Apartments

L to R: Zainul Chandoo, Aunali Khalfan, Akil Hirji, Azim Dewji, Anwarali Dharamsi, Muslim Meghji, Anver Rajpar, Mohamedraza Dewji (partly hidden), Sheikh Murtadha Alidina, Shabir Najafi and Mehboob Versi.

The Africa Federation (AFED) Housing Development Board held the official opening of the Amira Apartments on 3rd Shab'an 1442 (17th March 2021) to coincide with the auspicious birth anniversaries of Imam Hussein (AS), Hazrat Abbas ('A) and Imam Ali Zainal Abideen (AS).

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the ceremony was held on a small scale. The Amira Apartments are built on a 800sqm plot on Mfaume Street in Dar es Salaam. This plot was purchased by AFED through the support of Ahmed Daya who resides in the United Kingdom. On 10th August 2018 the plot was handed over to the contractors, Mohamedi Builders to commence construction work of

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Above: Officials of Africa Federation, Dar es Salaam Jamaat President and the ladies' members from AFED Secretariat and AFED Housing Development Board.

the 13-storey building which includes three car park floors, forty apartments (20 three-bedroom and 20 four-bedroom apartments), a fully equipped multi-purpose hall with state-of-the-art Information Technology (IT) facilities and an open-air terrace space.

The project was part of AFED's long-term plan to facilitate housing for community members on a "Rent-To-Own Scheme."

With the support and guidance of the Chairman of the Africa Federation, Shabir Najafi and great efforts by the Housing Development Board Chairman, Akil Hirji and his team, the project was completed ahead of schedule.

The official opening ceremony began with recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an by Ejaz Bhalloo of Dar es Salaam. This was followed by unveiling of the plaque and the cutting of the ribbon on the ground floor after which invitees proceeded to the As-Salaam Multipurpose Hall on the 12th Floor (terrace) of the building. This hall is fully equipped with latest technology systems.

The main function commenced with a welcome address by the Master of Ceremony, the Africa Federation Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan and recitation of Hadith-e-Kisa by Alihassan Kassam and qasidas by Ejaz Bhalloo.

In his address, the Housing Board Chairman, Akil Hirji elaborated on the Africa Federation long-term vision of facilitating housing needs of the community in some jamaats under the Africa Federation. He said the Amira Apartments project will give first time home owners the opportunity to have their own homes through the rent to own scheme.

During his address, a power point presentation was screened highlighting the work in progress stages of the Amira Apartments project which enlightened invitees of the mammoth work undertaken. Despite the Covid-19 Pandemic the project



L to R: AFED Housing Development Board Chairman Akil Hirji receiving on behalf of Ahmed Daya of UK a Plaque from AFED Chairman Shabir Bhai Najafi in appreciation of his support towards the Amira Housing Project.



L to R: AFED Housing Board Vice Chairperson Shakira Dhanani, Nargis Mohamedraza Dewji and AFED Housing Board Legal Advisor Zakiya Khamisa, following their presentations of Awards.



Seated: L to R : Standing Left to Right: Hasnain Sherally (AFED COO), Mohamed Moledina (AFED Project Coordinator), Hussein Karim (BMMT Chairman), Muslim Hassanali (AFED Nominated Councillor), Akil Hirji (AFED Housing Board Chairman), Nazmul Jivraj, Aunali Khalfan (AFED Vice Chairman), Taher Bhai Jafferji of Mohamedi Builders, Munir Daya (Editorial Board Chairman), Muslim Meghji, Zainul Chandoo (AFED Hon Treasurer), Asadali Hirji, Riyaz Khamisa, Alihassan Kassam.

Sitting Left to Right: Sheikh Murtadha Alidina, Noor-ul Ain Sheriff, Shabir Najafi (AFED Chairman), Anwarali Dharamsi (AFED Trustee), Azim Dewji, Mohamedraza Dewji (President, Dar es Salaam Jamaat).

was continued with due safety measures in place. Akilbhai thanked the AFED Chairman, office bearers, contractors and all stakeholders in the project for their support. He also thanked the main contractor, Mohamedali Builders, consultants, architects, engineers and sub-contractors for their cooperation throughout the project.

The President of KSI Jamaat of Dar es Salaam, Mohamedraza Dewji spoke on the importance of owning one's own home and how projects such as the Amira Apartments can accommodate the community's housing needs. He said the Dar es Salaam Jamaat is also contemplating a housing project which is expected to take off soon along Uhuru Street in Dar es Salaam.

The AFED Chairman, Shabir Najafi, congratulated the Housing Board for undertaking to meet the target of providing 200 houses for our community members across Africa, with projects in Dar es

Salaam, Madagascar and Nairobi. He stressed on the importance of continuing with the rent to own schemes to ensure that every community member has a home of their own and is not tied down by rental liabilities. He said that AFED through its Housing Foundation Fund shall continue to support this drive.

The Chairman thanked Taher Jafferji of Mohamedi Builders for his steadfast support to community projects by providing high quality construction in good time.

Taher Jafferji, the owner of Mohamedali Builders thanked AFED and the community for giving him the opportunity to serve Allah (SWT). He mentioned that his involvement in community projects lifted his company to higher levels of success. He commended Akil Hirji for his unwavering commitment to standards of quality and workmanship.

On behalf of his company he presented

AFED with a gift of three Ziyarat tickets to Iraq for the Ziyarat of Imam Ali (AS), Imam Hussein (AS), the martyrs of Kerbala and other holy personalities. He said tickets were to be given to deserving members of the community. He also presented Africa Federation a token of appreciation which was received by Chairman, Shabir Najafi.

Awards were then presented to contractors, sub-contractors and individuals who played a role in ensuring the successful completion of the Amira Housing Project.

The Program ended with a recitation and commentary of Sura-e-Nahl by Sheikh Murtadha Alidina who explained on the importance of appreciating the bounties bestowed by the Almighty in every step of our life.

Invitees had an opportunity to view the flats on the 11th floor. Tenants began occupying the building from 1st April 2021.



National Investments Company Ltd. is raring to go.



Group photo from one meeting seated L to R: Ahmed Alloo (NI Director/Company Secretary), Shabir Najaf (AFED Chairman), Hussein Peera (NI Director/Company Chairman), Aunali Khalfan (AFED Vice Chairman).

Standing: L to R - Zainul Chandoo (AFED Hon Treasurer), Hussein Karim (BMM Tanzania Chairman), Hasnain Sherally (AFED COO), Zuhair Jaffer (AFED Hon. Secretary), Akil Hirji (AFED Housing Development Board Chairman).

After facing challenges for the past 17 years, the National Investments Company Ltd. has finally managed to smoothen its operations under the aegis of the Africa Federation (AFED) after a lot of administrative work was put in by people appointed by the Africa Federation to enable the company to operate purposefully.

The National Investments Company (NIC) was formed on 15th February 1962 when a Memorandum and Articles of Association for Ithna-Asheri Investments Limited was approved creating a collective investment scheme for everyone in the community. The name of the company was later changed to National Investments (EA) Limited. The primary objective of the company is to operate as an investment company.

Initially five properties were purchased in affluent suburbs of Dar es Salaam with four in the Sea View area. These were:

Plot No. 21 Sea View.

Plot No. 2111/5 Sea View.

Plot No. 2051/5 Sea View.

Plot No. 77 Upanga Road.

Plot No. 572 Mindu Street in Upanga.

During the 1971 nationalization of

buildings by the Government of Tanzania, these properties were nationalized. The Government compensated a token amount of money to the company and efforts made to reconstitute the properties were unsuccessful. Due to nationalization, the company suffered heavily as there was an 80% drop in earnings.

The only remaining building belonging to NIC was the one on Mindu Street in Dar es Salaam. This had four maisonettes and was mainly occupied by civil servants whose payment of rent was irregular. The company faced difficulties in settling its statutory payments and therefore had to take a loan to pay its statutory debts. The efforts of the directors of NIC at the time to keep the company afloat ensured the company did not fold then.

The then directors of NIC Limited managed to remove the tenants from the building on Mindu Street and made a deal with M/s. Omni Enterprises who agreed to renovate the dilapidated building to a habitable status and to have it occupied in order to offset the renovation expenditure from the rent paid to NIC Limited.

In 2008, the Directors of NIC decided to swap the Mindu Street property with another property in Masaki, which is presently rented to Sali International Hospital Ltd. Through this move the income of NIC reasonably increased.

The NIC Directors, under the chairmanship of Shabir Mohamedrafik Somji and currently Hussein Habib Peera worked closely with the Africa Federation and have been trying to locate the individual shareholders of the company for a long time with little success. Many are deceased and some are not traceable. Efforts to track the remaining shareholders has continued but with little success. The list was also circulated through the AFED Mailing List following which some shareholders communicated with the company secretary.

In May, 2021 the company directors and major shareholders held a meeting to finalize and close all pending issues in order to be able to move forward. They discussed strategies on the best way forward taking into consideration the interest of the community and its members.

The share price for the company has been valued and agreed at a nominal market value set by independent consultants. The shareholders can contact the Africa Federation (NIC Team) to obtain further details on transfer of shares.

Amongst those who put in a lot of time to regularize the operation of NIC Ltd. are Hussein Peera, Ahmed Alloo, Munawar Bharwani, Aunali Khalfan, Marhum Syed Hassan Naqvi and Akil Hirji, Chairman of the Africa Federation Housing Development Board.

In keeping with the required regulations, the company directors have fully supported the transition towards new directors for which the Africa Federation will reach out to jamaats and interested members, for the future of this company.

Anyone interested in learning more about the National Investments Company Ltd. write to: afednationalinv@gmail.com.



Az-Zahra Bilal Centre inaugurated in Tanga



Seated: L to R : Hussein Karim (Chairman – BMM T), Sajjad Walji (Chairman – Africa Federation Tabligh Board – AFTAB), Zuhair Jaffer (AFED Hon Secretary), Shabir Najafi (AFED Chairman), Aunali Khalfan (AFED Vice Chairman), Akil Hirji (AFED Housing Development Board Chairman) and Hussein Walji (Tanga Jamaat Chairman).

On 19th May, 2021 (6th Shawwal 1442 AH), the Az-Zahra Bilal Centre was officially inaugurated in Tanga with a ceremony that was graced by various dignitaries including the Africa Federation (AFED) Chairman, Shabir Najafi, Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan and Hon. Secretary, Zuhair Jaffer. Guests included the Housing Board Chairman, Akil Hirji, the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT) Chairman, Hussein Karim, BMMT Vice Chairman, Abdulwahid Zakaria, BMMT Hon. Secretary, Mohamedraza Bharwani, Bilal Muslim Mission of Kigoma Branch Chairman, Mohsin Abdallah and the Africa Federation Tabligh Board (AFTAB) Chairman, Sajjad Walji.

Representatives from the main contractor, Mohamedi Builders and other stakeholders were also invited to the inauguration ceremony which was hosted by the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanga. The Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanga's Chairman, Hasnain Hassanali was represented by the Bilal Tanga Branch Hon. Treasurer, Hussein Walji. Also present were the Chairman of Tanga Jamaat, Hussein Walji, the Past Chairman of Tanga Jamaat, Mazaher Bandali, the AFED Chief Operating Officer, Hasnain Sherali, the AFED Management Accountant, Hussein Walji

Shaban, the AFED Project Coordinator, Mohamed Moledina and invited guests from Tanga Jamaat.

Work on the Az-Zahra Bilal Centre project commenced in September 2018 on Makoko Street in Tanga on a plot spanning 375sqm. The Africa Federation Housing Board Chairman, Akil Hirji, held multiple site visits during the construction phase of the building which was completed and handed over by the contractors on 25th June 2020.

During the inauguration, the master of ceremony, Sheikh Mubarak of Bilal Tanga, presided over the proceedings. The Mudir of the Hawza recited verses from the Holy Quran to commence the ceremony following which Hadith Al Kisa was recited to remember Bibi Fatema Zahra (S.A.) after whom the building is named.

Various dignitaries spoke during the ceremony. The AFED Chairman, Shabir Najafi, commended the great work carried out by the Housing Development Board, BMMT and Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanga. He also thanked the contractors, Mohamedi Builders for their good work stressing on the importance of having quality infrastructure for tabligh work.

Representing the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanga's Chairman, the Bilal Tanga Branch Hon. Treasurer, Hussein Walji spoke about tabligh activities in Tanga which commenced in the 1990's with a small library to educate the masses on the madhab of Ahlul Bayt (A.S.). He said that Tanga now has 52 Bilal Centres and tabligh activities are growing. He said the Az-Zahra Bilal Centre would help to yield more male and female mubalighen to cater for the increase in tabligh work. He thanked the Africa Federation office bearers, the AFED Housing Development Board and the contractors for delivering a good quality building completed before the



Above - AFED Chairman Shabir bhai Najafi addressing the gathering during the Opening Ceremony.

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Continued from page 25



Above: The Az-Zahra Bilal Centre - Tanga.

scheduled construction time.

From 2007 to 2015, various hawzas have been established in various regions across Tanzania to produce muballigheen. Management by the Africa Federation of the numerous hawza centres was difficult calling for a need to centralize operations which led to the development of the 8 storey Az-Zahra Bilal Centre for male and female hawza students.

The Az-Zahra Bilal Centre includes modern day amenities including classrooms, a library, dining hall for students and teachers, prayer rooms, offices for administration and teaching staff plus four Flats to accommodate teachers with their families. The 8th floor has a huge Multi-purpose hall

that can be used by about 70 teachers for their teachers meetings and for any other activities.

In a vote of thanks, the Chairman of BMMT, Hussein Karim, appreciated the work of

the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanga and the AFED Housing Development Board and thanked the contractors, Mohamedi Builders and all stakeholders who ensured the building was completed on time. He said any effort made towards tabligh work is rewarded multi-fold by the Almighty.

The Managing Director of Mohamedi Builders, Taher Jafferji said that since his company started working with the

Africa Federation on various charitable and community-based projects, they have not only seen rewards in their business but also in their homes which are filled with peace and tranquility.

He commended the Housing Development Board Chairman, Akil Hirji and his Board for their tireless voluntary efforts in ensuring the best for the community. He pledged Tanzania Shs. 3,000,000/- towards educating the hawza students, Tanzania Shs. 5,553,000 towards the eye camp to be organized in Tanga by BMMT and 23 beds plus 30 mattresses for the Az-Zahra Hawza Building. Awards were then presented to the contractors, sub-contractors and individuals who played a role in ensuring the successful completion of the Hawza.



Above - AFED Vice Chairman Aunali Khalfan and Bilal Tanga Hon. Treasurer, Husseinali Hassanali unveiling the Plaque.

Standing Left: Husseinali Shaban (AFED Management Accountant), Shabir Najafi (AFED Chairman), Mohsin Lalji (Bilal Muslim Mission of Kigoma Branch Chairman), Husseinali Hassanali (by Bilal Tanga Hon. Treasurer).

Standing Right: Zuhair Jaffer (AFED Hon Secretary), Hussein Walji (Tanga Jamaat Chairman) – Hidden, Sajjad Walji (Chairman – Africa Federation Tabligh Board – AFTAB), Akil Hirji (AFED Housing Development Board Chairman), Aunali Khalfan (AFED Vice Chairman).



Above - AFED Vice Chairman Aunali Khalfan and Bilal Tanga Hon. Treasurer Husseinali Hassanali cutting the ribbon to officially mark the opening of the Building witnessed by AFED Chairman Shabir Najafi, Housing Board Chairman Akil Hirji, AFED Delegates and Sheikhs and Mubaligeens of Bilal Tanga.

The building was officially inaugurated by the Africa Federation Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan. He said the Az-Zahra Bilal Centre is a milestone achievement for the community and said that determination, commitment, perseverance and sincerity always leads to good results. He thanked all present for sparing time to be part of this milestone and echoed the sentiments of Shabir Najafi and other speakers and praised the work by Bilal Tanga to ensure the continuity of the Madhab of Ahlul Bayt (A.S.). He also thanked Tanga Jamaat Chairman, Hussein Walji for his presence and Tanga Bilal team for organizing the inauguration ceremony.



The Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri Charitable Eye Center Opens in Dar es Salaam to provide Free or Subsidized Eye Care



Above: At the Opening of the Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri (KSI Charitable Eye Centre) (a project of KSIJ Dar es Salaam), is the World Federation President, Safder Jaffer (in centre) presenting a plaque to the Founder Chairman of the Clinic, Anver Rajpar (standing on the left), with Khairun Anver Alibhai (Mama Keki) and Anver Merali (standing on the right). From June, 2021 to October, 2021, upto 1,200 patients were seen at the KSI Charitable Eye Centre, and upto 50 cataract surgeries were performed free of charge.

The Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri Charitable Eye Center was officially opened in Temeke, Dar es Salaam on 20th June, 2021. The Guests of Honour were the District Commissioner of Temeke, Hon. Godwin Gondwe (represented by Dr. Project Mutasingwa) and the President of the World Federation, Safder Jaffer. The ceremony was also graced by Hon. Members of Parliament, the Founder Chairman of the Clinic, Anver Rajpar; the Past President of the World Federation, Anver Dharamsi; the Chairman of the

Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania, Hussein Karim; the High Commissioner for Pakistan in Tanzania, H.E Muhammad Saleem; the President of KSI Jamaat Dar es Salam, Mohamedraza Dewji, Head of KSIJ Central Medical Board, Abbas Sikander; and longtime volunteer workers Anver Merali and Mama Keki. Anver Merali unveiled the plaque to officially open the hospital.

During the ceremony the Tanzania Government honoured Anver Merali and

Khairun Anver Alibhai (Mamam Keki) for their invaluable services of over 30 years facilitating eye care in Tanzania. A plaque was presented to the two signed by Ummy Ally Mwalimu, Minister of State in the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government. The two have, in the past, also received recognition from various intuitions including the Federation of K.S.I Jamaats of Africa, KSI Jamaat of Dar es salaam, Ahlulbayt TV London, Mehfile Murtaza Karachi, WIPAHS, Kibaha, and



Goharshad World Award by Imaam Ridha A.S Shrine of Iran.

The Founder Chairman of the Clinic, Anver Rajpar, in his address to the congregation, thanked the World Federation of KSIMC and Federation of Khoja Shia Ithna Ashri Jamaats of Africa for the support to the Centre. He thanked Dar es Salaam Jamaat for leasing them the premises to house an Eye Clinic at no cost. He also thanked Dr. Projest Mutasingwa, Acting District Medical Officer, Dr. Ringo, Temeke District Eye Coordinator, and Dr. Fatma, Head of Private Health Facilities for their support.

In his list of acknowledgements, he also thanked Beta Charitable Trust, UK, Livingstone Charitable Trust, UK G1 Security (for providing security), Aston Media for providing signage and expressed gratitude to members of the community worldwide who willingly came forward with donations. He said Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Foundation of USA have funded the total cost of constructing and equipping the Operation Theatre. He thanked the Bharwani and Jessa Families for funding the cost of one Optometry Room. He said that an anonymous donor pledged to equip the second Optometry room.

He specially thanked Shiraz Dato, Shiraz Walji, Muslim Dharamsi and Mama Keki for devoting many hours and resources to ensure renovations and upgrading of the Centre.

The Chief Guest and other speakers commended the launch of the Eye Centre highlighting the fact that it will

benefit the less fortunate, many of whom are forced to live in blindness despite treatments being available.

The Khoja Shia Ithnaasheri Charitable Eye Center will provide free medical services to the less fortunate needing eye care services. In Tanzania, the non-availability of appropriate eye services and non-affordability are the major reasons why less fortunate people with poor or low vision suffer in silence. At the new Eye Centre all cataract surgeries will be done free through the sponsorship of BETA Charitable Trust in the United Kingdom. The Eye Centre will also treat any patient who cannot genuinely afford medical treatment.

The Centre provides affordable and quality eye care services and goods to local residents. Temeke District is one of three districts of Dar es Salaam that is most densely populated, with more than 1.5M residents over an area of 729 sq km. The district has no other eye surgical facility. The District has a historic significance to the Khoja Community. This is where the birth of Bilal Muslim Mission was envisioned by the Africa Federation (AFED) in the 1960's. The first Bilal Shia Mosque, Hawza and madrassa were built in this district that became the epicenter for the spread of the message of Ahlul Bayt (AS) in Africa.

The Centre, with state of the art equipment, provides eye care services with a hospital for patients to recover in. This Centre has been established where once the KSIJ Dispensary operated. This was owned by The Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania and managed by the KSI Jamaat of Dar es Salaam.

The Eye Centre is located just opposite the Bilal Comprehensive School. This will enable the Centre to use the vast facilities of the school during Free Eye Camps and Free School Vision Screening Programs when large crowds are expected.

It is planned to develop the Facility through a five phase programme that will finally also offer training.

Statistics of Eye Care in Tanzania:

- Eye conditions are amongst the top 10 diseases in Tanzania.
- There is only one ophthalmologist to every 1.3 Million population.
- 80% of blindness is treatable and preventable.
- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) the leading causes of blindness in Tanzania are cataract 50%, corneal blindness 20% and glaucoma 10%. Other causes are uncorrected refractive errors, retinal and optic nerve diseases, diabetes retinopathy, maculopathies, genetic anomalies and albinism.
- From 30 years of eye camps and screening outreach programs, the founders of the Centre have observed that:
 - 5-7% of the general population that came for screening had cataracts.
 - A simple cataract surgery can bring back vision.
 - 7-12% of students screened at schools had poor vision. A simple eye exam and a pair of glasses works wonders for them.



Fatema Kermalli appointed as Administrative Secretary of the AFED Tabligh Board (AFTAB)



On 1st August, 2021, the Africa Federation (AFED) Secretariat announced the appointment of Fatema Abbas Kermalli as an Administrative Secretary of the AFED Tabligh Board (AFTAB). Fatema takes over the post from Mehjabeen Khaki who joined AFED in April 2018 and is pursuing her future career elsewhere.

Fatema has extensive experience in administration and office management. She has also undertaken various teachers' training courses and is currently a teacher at the Husayni Madrasah Girls Section. She has been

actively involved with the Dar-es-Salaam Chapter of 'Who is Hussein', an organization that inspires people through the life of Imam Hussain (AS).

Fatema will be based at the AFED office located at Zahra Tower on Indira Gandhi Street in Dar es Salaam. While welcoming Fatema, the AFED Secretariat expressed their appreciation to Mehjabeen for her dedicated services during the period she worked with AFTAB where she demonstrated a high degree of commitment and zeal in her duties.

Fadhil Alishan appointed as AFED Media Coordinator and Designer



at Al-Muntazir School. He then went to Toronto, Canada for further studies in marketing and graphic designing. He returned to Dar es Salaam to continue with his profession. Currently he is based in Mwanza, Tanzania managing his family business.

As a volunteer in the Dar es Salaam Jamaat, Fadhil served in different capacities. He was the Vice President of the Development Society for several years. His voluntary services also include mentoring the youth and younger children at Mehfile Asghari (A.S.). After he graduated at Husayni Madrasah, he also assisted various sections of the Madrasah. He has also been a member of the Dar es Salaam Jamaat Media room and the Kafan/Dafan committee.

Fadhil is an experienced, resourceful and inspiring youth with keen interest in mentoring youth and children. He works consistently towards making a positive

impact in the lives of those around him. Fadhil has been a volunteer for AFED for several years. He has been instrumental in supporting various programs by the Africa Federation Boards, preparing posters, postings in AFED platforms and managing live programs. He played a pivotal role in online programs such as Unguja Yetu, AFED Solidarity Day Fundraising in 2020, Marhum Syed Hassan Naqvi's Memorial and several other events.

In recent years, media and networking has become an integral part of AFED Secretariat activities due to a considerable increase in communication with members. This requires constant monitoring and expertise to manage the section. Fadhil will be working as the Media Coordinator and Designer on a part-time basis from his station in Mwanza, in close collaboration with the Media and Editorial Board of the Africa Federation.

On 1st March, 2021, the Africa Federation (AFED) Secretariat announced the appointment of Fadhil Sadiq Alishan as Media Coordinator and Designer.

Fadhil was born in 1997 in Dar es Salaam. He obtained his primary and secondary education in Dar es Salaam



New Jaffery Hospital Mombasa



The Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Mombasa is progressing well in establishing the Jaffery Hospital, located in Mombasa. An appeal has been made to community donors and well-wishers worldwide to support the Jaffery Hospital in equipping the hospital with the required equipment and furniture which is currently estimated to cost US\$2 million. The construction work is at an advanced stage and the project will be ready in late 2021.

The initial funds for the construction (US\$ 1 Million) of the hospital building were donated by two foundations -- Dr. Mohamed H. Jaffer of the Jaffer Foundation, and Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer of the Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Foundation of U.S.A.

The Jaffery Hospital will be a full-fledged hospital and have a capacity of 80 beds. It will be inclusive of (and not limited to) the following facilities:

- Dialysis
- Infant Nursery

- Major Operating Theater
- Minor Operating Theater
- CSSD
- Female patient ward
- ICU
- Triage and Nursing Stations
- Consultation Rooms
- Procedure Room
- Emergency and Recovery Room
- Labour and Delivery Room
- Male Patient Ward
- Imaging Rooms - X-Ray and CT Scan
- Laboratory
- Pharmacy
- HDU
- Out Patient Department
- Casualty
- Physiotherapy
- Dental unit
- Mortuary facility
- Kitchen
- Laundry
- Waste Disposal

To donate towards the new Jaffery Hospital, please contact the Africa Federation or the Mombasa Jamaat.

Aliya Akil Hirji wins CSC Scholarship for Excellence



Aliya, who was raised in Dar es Salaam, is a student in the third year of her honours degree in construction management at George Brown College, in Toronto, Canada.

Aliya, who also completed a degree in architectural technology with honours last year, says her diverse background and exposure to multiple design methods are among her greatest assets for working in the industry.

When asked by CSC why she decided to pursue this field, Aliya said, "My greatest inspiration is my father who always pushed me to be the best version of myself. His relentless pursuit of perfection and keen attention to detail both fascinated me and invoked my passion for design. After delving into research into the field and seeking counsel from professional architects, I was convinced this is the path I wanted to follow. I studied architecture,

but the hunger of in-depth construction scratched me more. I, then, decided to further my degree in construction."

She said, "My ambition is to be at forefront of the industry and be able to create a lasting legacy. Having a strong desire for growth and advancement, I wish to manage multiple projects and be known for my knowledge, experience, and quality of work. The field of construction is very male dominated; therefore, I aspire to be a role model to all the women out there who think they have no chance to succeed in this industry."

Aliya received a Student Award Scholarship in 2019 and an Academic Achievement scholarship in 2021. She was one of three top nominees for the 2020 OAAAS (Ontario Association for Applied Architectural Sciences) Building Competition at George Brown College.

Aliya Hirji has received the Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) scholarship for excellence. The award is the first of its kind by CSC (an esteemed association dedicated to the improvement of specifications and drawings with members from all disciplines associated with construction). The award includes a C\$2,500 prize.



AFED Office Bearers Meet New Bilal Muslim Mission Tanzania Team



Seating from L to R: Aunali Khalfan, Nyambezi Bakari, Neelam Manji, Siddika Karim, Sheikh Musabah.
Standing from L to R: Kumail Haji, Mohamedraza Bharwani, Abdulwahid Zakaria, Hussein Karim, Hafidh Mansour, and Zainul Chandoo.

A joint meeting over lunch was held on Saturday 14th November 2020 between the Africa Federation (AFED) Office Bearers and the newly appointed Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT) Team at the AFED Office at Zahra Towers, Dar es Salaam.

The meeting was attended by Hussein Karim (BMMT Chairman), Abdulwahid Zakaria (BMMT Vice Chairman), Kumail Haji (BMMT Hon. Treasurer), Mohamedraza Bharwani (BMMT Hon. Secretary), Sis Nyambezi Bakari (BMMT Member), Sis Neelam Manji (BMMT Member), Hafidh Mansour (BMMT, COO), Sheikh Musabah (BMMT Head of Tabligh), Sis Siddika Karim (Head of Bilal Comprehensive Schools - BCS in Temeke), Aunali Khalfan (AFED Vice Chairman), Zainul Chandoo (AFED Hon. Treasurer) and Hasnain Sherally (AFED, COO). The meeting was also attending online by Shabir Najafi (AFED Chairman) and Zuhair Jaffer (AFED Hon. Secretary).

The AFED Office Bearers called the meeting to discuss the vision and strategies of BMMT's new team and also to share AFED Office Bearer's vision for external tabligh for the term 2019-2022. During the meeting AFED's Hon. Secretary, Zuhair Jaffer outlined AFED's expectations regarding external tabligh which include:

- Promoting tabligh and achieving sustainable growth in BMMT.
- Being innovative to keep pace with technology to ensure "our today is better than our yesterday."
- Creating a collective interaction between AFED Boards to ensure that there is structured direction in their events and activities.
- Having a dynamic structure with clear succession planning and sustainability to ensure continuous growth.
- Ensuring remote zones in various regions are catered for with special attention given to derelict centers and how to best utilize such centers as a resource.

- Increasing communication between centers and improving the understanding and practice of religion by the indigenous population.

The Chairman of BMMT, Hussein Karim presented an overview of the current BMMT activities and on proposed strategies to achieve the core objective of promoting tabligh activities to the indigenous population of the country in a structured way. He said this will be done with primary focus on education and economic upliftment along with other Bilal activities conducted with the sincere aim of raising the spiritual and economic life of indigenous people.

AFED Chairman, Shabir Najafi said, "Alhamdulillah we have a great diverse and qualified team at the helm of Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania after a long span. This is beginning to set in place a new way forward for the Mission to achieve the goals of external Tabligh. It is with the same spirit and synergies that Bilal



BMMK assists with Hygiene Management for Women

In Kenya, menstrual hygiene management continues to be a major issue mainly for low income women and girls. The lack of provisions can cause girls to miss at least three days of school every month. Women and girls in rural areas are especially disadvantaged for lack of access to hygiene products on the market.

As an Initiative to support young teenaged girls in the rural centers, the Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya (BMMK) introduced 'The Reusable Sanitary Pads' scheme to assist disadvantaged women to obtain supplies. The kits are distributed mostly to women in the 12-16 years age group at KShs. 100/- per piece while the market price is KShs. 600/-. BMMK organized a training session on 10th February 2021 at Magongo on the theme of stitching reusable sanitary dressings. Magongo is a township on the Mombasa- Nairobi road not far from Mombasa. The training was conducted by Joyce Ndunge and tailoring instructors from four BMM Kenya Centers were trained to ensure they could independently monitor the process of stitching sanitary dressings. During the training 2,571 dressings were stitched and distributed.

After the stitching process was done, dressings underwent a quality control check by the supervising team and white Ziploc bags and stickers were designed to ensure the kits were well packed. Each kit consisted of two undergarments, three reusable sanitary dressings, a bar of soap and a period tracker sheet. A total of 857 kits were packed and distributed.

Of these 729 kits were sent to 15 BMMK Centers and 128 Kits were distributed in nearby Centers. The BMMK received generous support and assistance for the project from Shaheenbai Pardhan, Inayat Daya and Family, and Sakina Virjee and Family along with many individuals who assisted in the preparation and delivery of the program.



Above: Tailoring instructors monitored the training session conducted on 10th February, 2021, instructing women how to stitch reusable sanitary dressings. 2,571 dressings were stitched and distributed in kits to nearby BMM centres at the Vaccination Centre.

Muslim Mission made great strides in its development after its formation by Africa Federation under Seyed Saeed Akhter Rizvi (the first head of Bilal Muslim Mission) in 1968 with a focus on tabligh and economic upliftment of the indigenous population. We will continue to expand and increase our reach with this new Board."

AFED Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan reiterated the need for the Board to work with modern technology and said teamwork and unity among Board members and representatives is necessary to fulfil the objective of the Mission.

He underlined the importance of secular and religious education for indigenous people, especially the upcoming generation who can be torch-bearers of Bilal in the

future. He also stressed on the importance of implementing the Bagamoyo Hawza project and the secondary school at BCS in Temeke. He said these projects are important because the current Hawza at Temeke is facing several impediments and needs to be relocated to pave way for the secondary school.

He also called for the improvement in Public Relations and Inter-Faith relationships with all communities and faiths.

The two young and dynamic Board Members recently appointed, the Hon. Treasurer of BMMT, Kumail Haji and the Hon. Secretary of BMMT, Mohamedraza Bharwani made their presentations to outline the various initiatives they are

planning to bring about and the changes at Bilal Head Office in order to align the finance and administration segments in meeting the standards required especially on-time management reporting to BMMT Board and AFED Secretariat, and performance monitoring.

There were various contributions from the members who presented their views and suggestions for improvements and towards the end, the floor was given for questions which were responded to by AFED Office Bearers and BMMT Chairman, Hussein Karim.

The Office Bearers appreciated the Team's efforts thus far and assured them of the full support and cooperation of the Africa Federation Secretariat in achieving their vision.



Bilal Muslim Mission Officials visit BMMT Temeke Campus



Bilal Comprehensive School located on the BMMT Campus at Temeke, Dar Es salaam.

On Wednesday, 25th September 2019 the then Central Bilal Board Chairman (CBB), Chairman, Hussein Karim, accompanied by the Board's Secretary, Hassan Dewji and the then Chairman of Bilal Muslim Mission Tanzania (BMMT), Muslim Meghji visited the Bilal Campus at Temeke, Dar-es-Salaam. This Campus includes the Bilal Hawza and the Bilal Comprehensive School.

The delegation first visited the Hawza building and after introductions, proceeded to have a brief meeting with the Hawza Team.

The Principal then took the visiting team to visit some classrooms and meet some teachers and students. The team also paid a visit to the dining area for teachers and students and expressed appreciation

for the efforts in maintaining standards.

Finally, the team observed the property close to Bilal Temeke Dispensary. The then Chairman of Bilal Muslim Mission, Muslim Meghji provided insight to then CBB Chairman Hussein Karim about the secondary school plan on this property. Hussein Karim gave his approval for research on the property.

BMMT Tanzania Management Team

On 14 December, 2020, the Secretariat of the Bilal Muslim Mission, Tanzania (BMMT) announced the appointment of the following staff at the BMMT headquarters:

- Hafidhi Mansour, Chief of Operations.
- Sheikh Msabbah Shaban, Tabligh Supervisor.
- Amina Hassan, Desk Service Officer.
- Hamisi Mikidadi, Project Manager.
- Swaumu Mohammed, Bookshop Manager and Distance Learning Coordinator.
- Sheikh. Juma Kazingati, Public Relations Officer.
- Shaukat Jaffer, Accountant.
- Fatima Kermali, Assistant Accountant.



Kampala Jamaat conducts successful Vaccination drive



Fourth from L: Africa Federation Chairman, Shabir Najafi with the team, and the President of the Jamaat, Sibtain Bhai Merchant, third from L, at the Vaccination Centre.

The Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Kampala organized a Covid-19 Vaccine Drive on Thursday 3rd June 2021; a total of 243 people got vaccinated. The drive was also open to brethren from the Bilal Muslim Mission Uganda (BMMU) and members of other Asian communities. A good number of those who got their vaccination had received the first dose earlier through Government facilities.

The vaccination programme was well organized and participants appreciated the arrangements made. The Jamaat is considering having another vaccination drive for those who are yet to be vaccinated and for those requiring a second dose.

The Covid-19 Team of Kampala Jamaat comprising of Mahmud Bharwani, Imran Vakil and Qasim Bhimani; they provided valuable support in accomplishing this exercise.

The Africa Federation Chairman, Shabir Najafi visited the event during the exercise. He commended Kampala Jamaat President, Sibtain Merchant

and his committee for providing this essential this service to community members and others. He also thanked Mahmud Bharwani for facilitating the exercise and coordinating with the health ministry.

In Kampala Jamaat, 90% of Jamaat members have been vaccinated. The Chairman urged all those who have not had the vaccine to also get the vaccination and continue with precautions like wearing face masks

even after being vaccinated.

With the Delta variant of the Covid-19 pandemic emerging in Uganda, more vigilance is required by community members and others to safeguard themselves. Community members in all jamaats have been requested to follow precautionary protocols as advised by the AFED Central Health Board (CHB) in their circulars.



Above: Vaccination in process in Kampala.



AFED Towers nears completion



The 12-storey Africa Federation (AFED) building named AFED Towers is now in its finishing stages with structural work all completed. The project faced numerous challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown which delayed shipment of materials and other equipment, thereby leading to a delay in completion.

To date, the ceiling, internal paint and first fixing of electrical and plumbing works have been complete. Tiling started along with other work such as Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and fire-fighting equipment installation. The external paint work and glazing is expected to begin in late 2021.

Regular site meetings take place with consultants, contractors, engineers and surveyors. Work is closely monitored by AFED's Housing Development Board members.

The Housing Development Board will invite tenders for commercial rental space for the shops on the ground floor and offices on the mezzanine floor and is expecting a positive response as the building is in an ideal location of the Dar es Salaam business centre.

AFED Towers will consist of a basement and a ground and mezzanine floor for commercial letting. The first and second floors will be reserved for Africa Federation and the remaining seven floors will consist of three-bedroom apartments (one apartment per floor). One floor will be allocated towards a Multipurpose Hall or Training Centre for AFED Boards and other eligible users. The proximity to mosque and other community places make the apartments an ideal location for community members to stay.

The Project is expected to be completed by December 2021 and will be ready for occupancy by February 2022.

The Zahra Residency in Antananarivo, Madagascar is ready for handover



The Zahra Residency Housing Project in Antananarivo, Madagascar is completed and new owners are taking occupancy in a progressive handover which is scheduled from August 2021 to December 2021. This is a Rent-to-own Scheme for first time owners of the Jamaat.

The Zahra Residency project in Antananarivo, the capital city of Madagascar is a five-storey building consisting of 30 Apartments. There are six apartments on each floor with a terrace, offering a beautiful view of the city. In the building, twenty apartments are of two bedrooms and ten apartments have three bedrooms. One parking space has been allocated for each apartment.



AFED Business Park – The Prestigious Project of Africa Federation Nears Completion



The AFED Business Park Project is nearing completion. This project was expected to finish earlier because of the Covid-19 pandemic, it took a little more time as the construction industry globally has been facing many delays and challenges.

Despite these challenges, AFED anticipates completing this project by

the end of 2021 Insha'Allah. The Board holds regular site meetings to keep a thorough check on the progress of the project.

On 3rd June 2021, during a site meeting, various discussions took place and deadline dates were set for final inspection and completion. The

commitment from all stakeholders during the project has been significant to ensure quality works and completion of works at the earliest.

The Africa Federation Chairman Shabir Najafi, accompanied by the Vice Chairman Aunali Khalfan, Hon. Treasurer/Managing Trustee Zainul Chandoo visited the site on 29th August 2021 together with the Housing Board Chairman Akil Hirji. They were happy to witness the quality and progress of the project.

The AFED Business Park is expected to generate income to make AFED economically self-sustainable in the long term

The Inauguration is scheduled for 31st October 2021 to coincide with the 83rd Supreme Council Session being held in Dar-es-Salaam.

This is a unique project, the first of its kind in Madagascar. This is a triparty project between Africa Federation, Madagascar Regional council (CROI) and Antananarivo Jamaat. It is the first ever "Rent-To-Own" project in Madagascar. The project was initiated by Conseil Regional of Madagascar (CROI) and Antananarivo KSI Jamaat for the members of KSI community in Madagascar. The Africa Federation Housing Development Board is co-ordinating the development of this project with the team of the Housing Development Board of CROI.

The project was overseen by the Housing project committee consisting of: Sheikh Haniphe Akbaraly, Br. Feride Ismael, Goulam Lakoubay, Br. Kassim LakoubaY, Mamod Nourmamod from

Regional Council, AFED Housing Board; Chairman Akil Hirji, and AFED Housing Board members Ashfak Vallimamod and Navazaly Molou. The Housing project committee had to liaise with a diverse number of stakeholders, including the client, consultant, main contractor, sub-contractors and local government offices. The Covid-19 pandemic caused various challenges especially in the shipments of materials and equipment. Alhamdulillah The building project committee dealt with it successfully.

For the project, the support from Anwarali R. Dharamsi and Navazaly R. Molou was especially acknowledged and appreciated.

The building is located in a prime residential district in Antananarivo. The

project, which took off in September, 2018 was constructed by a well-known French Construction Company, COLAS, and has been built with modern standards.

CROI and Antananarivo KSI Jamaat offered the Apartments to members who are first time home-owners on a Rent-to-Own Scheme, identical to the scheme developed for Amira Residency in Dar es Salaam. The remaining apartments have been sold to members who have been able to pay immediately which made it possible to settle the contractor's bills.

Zahra Residency Housing will accommodate 30 families and safeguard and uplift the families' economic status, and also give them permanent security of a shelter for generations to come.



BMMT distributes hand-washing units to 8 mosques in Mwanza

In April 2020, on the occasion of the Birthday of the 12th Imam (AS), the Bilal Muslim Mission Tanzania (BMMT), Mwanza Branch donated soap and eight water tanks (each of capacity 100 litres) to Sheikh Hassan Kabeke of the National Muslim Council of Tanzania, Mwanza, (Baraza Kuu la Waislamu Tanzania) (BAKWATA) for distribution to local

mosques. The soap and portable water tanks (with a stand) enable people to practice good hygiene, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. BMMT is accepting donations, the cost is USD 65 (54 Sterling Pounds) for one water tank and stand. The regional BAKWATA leader thanked BMMT for the donation.



Hand washing units.

BMMT provides Economic Upliftment in Lake Region

To uplift the economic plight of the less fortunate, the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT) assisted ten families at four Bilal centers in Lake Zone villages with five goats each in order to begin goat husbandry.

More than 40 families have since been supported thereby helping them to fulfil basic needs like the cost of education for their children, and medical needs.

Recipients of the goats easily adapt to domestic animal farming as this has been a cultural practice in Tanzania. Goats reproduce twice per annum, so the number of goats can multiply almost four times in just two years. A three-year-old goat is sold for about TShs.

60,000/- to Shs. 75,000/-.

Tanzania has a population of 59.6 Million people, and it is estimated that 49.1% of that number live below USD \$1.90 per day and have a life expectancy of 64 years.

Agriculture and animal husbandry economically sustains about 65% of the country's population. This also provides nutrition and economic gain to many Tanzanian families.

In the Lake Zone villages, BMMT arranged for a Creative Cooking Committee to conduct cooking lectures. Islamic religious education lectures were also arranged.

Free Eye Surgeries in Morogoro, Bagamoyo and Kondoa

From February to April, 2020, the Morogoro Eye Care Program, the Beta Charitable Trust and the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT) conducted Free Eye Camps and free cataract surgeries for underprivileged people at the Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH). Upto 1,075 people of all ages were examined and received treatment. Around 258 people underwent eye surgery.

During the Eye Camps it was noted that many people in the region suffer from cataracts. Patients who underwent surgery were asked to come back a week later for evaluation. During the Covid-19 outbreak, extra precautions were taken to protect patients and health workers.

During the year 2019, eye camps were also held in Bagamoyo and Kondoa.

In October, 2019, an eye camp was held at Bagamoyo to commemorate the 20th Death anniversary of the first President of Tanzania, Mwalimu Juilius K. Nyerere on the invitation of Honorable M.P. of Bagamoyo, Dr. Shukuru Kawambwa. This camp was held at Majengo Primary School in Majengo area in Bagamoyo. The Tamisemi and School administration were of a great help in organizing this camp. Upto 4,000 people were screened on October 12, 13, and 14, 2019. Upto 118 people were operated for cataracts, and 13 people had minor eye surgery.

In Bagamoyo, a total of 2,638 spectacles were distributed and 1,809 different types of medicines were prescribed including eye drops, Vitamin A, Vitamin B, Multi-Vitamins, and Paracetamol tablets were distributed to 492 patients. The diseases discovered were 5,157.

Continues on page 39



Quran Competition held at BMM in Temeke, Dar es Salaam



To encourage students to recite the Holy Qur'an in the blessed month of Ramadhan, The Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania through the Tabligh Office organized a Qur'an competition which was held at Hawzatu Bilal Temeke, on Sunday 9th May, 2021.

Aziz Hussein Rajani; BMMT Head of Tabligh, Sheikh Msabah Shaban, BMMT Chief of Operations, Hafidhi Mansour, Supervisor of Bilal Comprehensive School (BCS), Siddiqa Karim and guests from Madrasat Ta'lim wa Tarbiyah (MTT) with Sheikh Jabir Chandoo.

speeches by various dignitaries. The speakers explained the importance of continued recitation of the Holy Qur'an in the holy month of Ramadhan, the month in which the Holy Qur'an was revealed as a guide for the servants of Allah.

The competition was witnessed by various dignitaries including the past President of World Federation, Anwarali Dharamsi; Vice Chairman of Africa Federation, Aunali Khalfan; Chairman of BMMT, Hussein Karim; Vice Chairman of BMMT; Abdulwahid Mohammed, Chairman of Coast and South centers,

A total of 42 students participated in the competition that had seven categories:

1. Quran memorization ½ Juzuu 30
2. Qur'an memorization Juzuu 1
3. Qur'an memorization Juzuu 2
4. Qur'an memorization Juzuu 3
5. Qur'an Tajwid
6. Qur'an Tartili
7. Memorization of Dua

The event was highly competitive as participants prepared ahead of time. The judges had difficulty in deciding the results because each student performed extremely well.

After the competition, the students and guests had an opportunity to listen to

The winning students from each category were presented with gifts by BMMT. In addition, to motivate and to appreciate the efforts of Hawza staff, judges and the organizing committee, BMMT set aside hadiya for them as well.



Continued from page 38

In December, 2019, an eye camp was held in Busi, Kondo, in collaboration with Beta Charitable Trust. Busi is, 605 km away from Dar es Salaam which took 16 hours to reach by road. The Camp was held from 22nd to 25th December 2019. The Camp was officially opened

on 22nd December by Deputy Minister of Finance, Hon. Dr. Ashatu Kijaji. Representatives of Kondo district and other villages were also present.

Upto 1,900 patients were seen on December 22 to 25, 2019, and 227

surgeries were carried out.

In Kondo, BMMT donated an overhead lamp (for the surgery room), one maternity bed and three examination beds to Hon. Dr. Kijaji for Busi Health Centre. These were kindly financed by Aga Khan Hospital, Dar es Salaam.



BMMT provides food to families in Tanga, Mtwara and Dar es Salaam

In Ramadhan, 1441 AH, the Bilal Muslim Mission Tanzania (BMMT) Tanga Branch distributed food supplies to 714 people and 3,094 Madrasah students in Tanga Region through donor funds.

In the same month, in Mtwara, BMMT distributed food to Newala District

where 25 impoverished Shia families were supported.

On Friday, 3rd March 2020, the BMMT Chief of Operations, Hafidhi Mansour visited the Tabata Mosque in Dar es Salaam to distribute 780 kilograms of rice to needy families. Upto 26 family units each received 30 kilograms of rice.

BMMT Distributes 5,200 kilos of grain to Ikwiriri Flood victims

The Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT) distributed 5,220 kilos of grain to 174 families in Ikwiriri who were victims of flash floods in March and April, 2020. Each family received 30 kilos of grain. The floods destroyed at least 3,500 houses and 6,000 hectares of farms in the Rufiji District. About 40 people were killed, and 15,000 people in Muhoro, Shela, Ikwiriri, Umwe and Chumbi lost their homes and their means of livelihood.

Regional Commissioner, Evarist Ndikilo said that hundreds of affected residents were accommodated in shelters and public places such as schools.

BMMT's Chief of Operations (COO), Hafidhi Mansour visited families on 6th April, 2020 to distribute food and clothing and to evaluate how further assistance could be provided.



Food being distributed to one of the victims.

BMMU distributes food in Kampala

In Ramadhan, 1441 AH, during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Bilal Muslim Mission Uganda (BMMU) distributed food and hygiene supplies to people at the BMMU Centre in Kampala and in several mosques and orphanages in Kampala. About 800 families received ten kilos of food supplies, and about 40 families received food vouchers.

Donor Nizar Hussein gave 270 kilos of tea for distribution, and an anonymous donor gave portable water tanks and soap for hand washing. People also received Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) such as masks, and gifts that included hijabs, caps, and copies of the Holy Qur'an.

New Hawza in Pangani, Tanga

The BMMT Tanga Chapter inaugurated a new hawza called the Hawza Imam Ali (A.S) in Pangani on Sunday 5th January, 2020 (9th Jamadil Awwal 1441 A.H.). The Hawza consists of three houses for teachers, four classrooms, a library, two offices and several dormitories that can accommodate up to 80 students. Construction began in June 2018 and was completed in December, 2019.

The Pangani District Sheikh, Sheikh Khamis Rashid was present during the opening ceremony with officials from the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA). Dignitaries and guests at the event included Sheikh Amir Kipingi (Principal BMMT, Tanga), Syed Mansoor (Mudir, Hawzatul Qaaim, Tanga), Hasnain Hassanali (Chairman, BMMT Tanga), Mohamed Chandoo (Vice Chairman, BMMT Tanga), Mazaher Bandali (Chairman, KSIJ Tanga), and Sheikh Shafii Nina (Head of Ahlul Bayt Charitable Foundation, Tanga).

The title deed of the plot was also renewed.

BMMT Receives Media Equipment



From left: Hasnain Sherally (AFED Chief Operating Officer), Twalha Zubeir (Media In-Charge of BMMT), Hafidh Mansour (BMMT Chief Operating Officer), Aunali Khalfan (AFED Vice Chairman), Hussein Karim (Chairman of AFED's Central Bilal Board), and Shaaneali Meghji (AFED's Marketing Consultant).

On the 7th of August 2020, the Vice-Chairman of the Africa Federation (AFED), Aunali Khalfan handed over media equipment purchased by AFED for use by the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT) to the Central Bilal Board (CBB) Chairman, Hussein Karim during a brief ceremony held at AFED's Secretariat office at Zahra Towers in Dar es Salaam.

The equipment included a video recording camera with a tripod stand, a wireless microphone, and a digital camera with a tripod stand. It was received by Hafidh Mansour, the Chief Operating Officer of the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT).

The AFED Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan reiterated to CBB and BMMT that the media portfolio is an important part of AFED. Digital media helps to record and disseminate information about AFED and BMMT's work in the areas of tabligh, and humanitarian, social and economic projects that reach out and help indigenous community members in various parts of Tanzania.

He cited the example of the Free Eye Camps which are carried out by BMM volunteers who travel to villages offering

humanitarian services to the underprivileged. He also called on all BMM workers to use their media platforms to showcase the work being done by their Mission and to educate and provide materials for better understanding of the religion of Islam and the Madh'ab of Ahlulbayt (AS). He appealed that the equipment should be kept safe and well maintained, and used exclusively, only for the activities of BMMT.

The CBB Chairman, Hussein Karim said the equipment will help BMMT in new projects that are in the process of being launched. These include the audio/video production of short lessons about Islam including Fiqh, and understanding of the Holy Qur'an for the wider audience. He thanked AFED for the equipment which will greatly help in propagating and publicizing the activities of BMMT.

The AFED Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan thanked the AFED Chief Operating Officer, Hasnain Sherally for ensuring the equipment was procured and delivered on time. Also present at the ceremony were Twalha Zubeir (Media in Charge of BMMT) and Shaaneali Meghji, AFED Marketing Consultant.

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BMMK holds successful Online Quran Competition amidst challenges



Every year, during the month of Ramadhan, the Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya (BMMK) organizes a Quran Competition for madrasa children. Administrators faced challenges about hosting the recent competition due to COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions.

BMMK's administration organized the competition virtually through Zoom and Skype online sessions. All participating BMMK centres worked with the technical team and adapted well to be able to successfully organize the event. Internet Data bundles were distributed to facilitate the competition to be held online.

The event was held on 22nd May 2020 with 12 out of the 15 Centres managed by BMMK participating with a maximum of five students each. A total of 52 students participated in the competition in the following three categories:

- Quran memorization of Juzuu 30
- Quran memorization 1/2 Juzuu 30, i.e from Surah Nas to Surah Fajr
- Quran recitation (12 verses of Juzuu 29)

The judges of the competition were Sheikh Aidarus Athman and Sheikh Adan Mohammad Hassan. The organizing committee included Sheikh Musa Shali, Coordinator of the



program, Sheikh Yahya Mwangi, Quran Competition Facilitator and the Media Team of Sis. Bintihamsi Ramadhan and Yusuf Abwanzo.

The youngest participant was ten-year-old Rukia Mwanaidi from Madrasatul Rahma, Kilungu Centre. The eldest participant was 24-year-old Hadija Shee from Madrasatul Ahlul Kisaa, Kichakamkwaju Centre.

The judges were impressed with the participants and advised them on ways to maintain accuracy and recite Quran precisely from its source of origin so as to avoid changing the meaning of the verse. They also advised students to learn rules that are related to reading the Holy Quran. Students were also encouraged to memorize more from the Holy Quran.

Sheikh Aidarus thanked the Mission, mubaligheen, parents and the students for taking part in the competition. The judges praised the BMMK for organizing the event online and called on parents to continue to motivate their children to recite and memorize the Holy Quran.

The winning students from each category were presented with gifts. A cash "hadiya" gift was also paid to BMMK Centre staff, judges and the organizing committee.

BMM Tanga Celebrates Meraj and Imam Ali (AS) birthday

On 11th of March, 2021 (i.e., 27th of RAJAB-1442 AH), The Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanga observed Meraj. Earlier, they celebrated the birth of Imam Ali (as). A milad was conducted on 24th of February, 2021 (i.e., 13th of Rajab-1442 AH) at the

BMM Tanga Hussainiyah hall after Maghribain prayer. During the milad Sheikh Muhammad Mubarak gave an interesting speech on the attributes of Imam Ali (as).



BMMK Economic Upliftment Project – Module Two Training

According to an article prepared by United Nations (UN), women in rural areas are key agents for transforming economic, environmental and social changes required for sustainable development.

The Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya (BMMK) organized a Business Management (Module Two) training session for Rehema Women Group, at the Bahakanda Centre from 27th to 30th January 2020 and for the the Shufaah and Zaharia Women Groups in Chengoni Centre from 24th to 29th February 2020.

The main objective for conducting training for the Rehema Women Group was to educate them on how to handle and monitor the activities related to the Posho Mill Project. The course also covered the advantages and pragmatism of a microfinance scheme for members.

The objectives of the training included enhancement of communication, controlling business income, identifying profit and losses in one's operations, analysing Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT), marketing and record-keeping.

For both training sessions, Islamic Religious Education lectures were conducted along with demonstrations and role-play during the teaching process. Questions were encouraged and answers were provided. A Work Plan was then set up for members to follow.

The following achievements were recorded:

- The Cashbook was ably filled by participants showing they understood record keeping.
- Members elected a separate committee to handle issues for the Posho Mill project.
- A duty roster was prepared to ensure tasks were well delegated to members.
- Members were seen to be able to analyze the concept of profit and loss in a business.



Training in process

Participants gave positive feedback, stating that they understood the Business Model better after the training.

BMMT visits Kilwa



From right to left (standing): Hafidhi Mansour BMMT Chief of Operations, Rajab Shaaban (Administrative Manager) and Swaum Chega (Distance Learning Coordinator and Bookshop Manager). From right to left (sitting): Madam Hadija Sufian (Kilwa Women's Committee Chairperson), Hajra Omary (Kilwa Women's Committee Secretary), Siti Ali (Kilwa Women's Committee Treasurer) and Sis. Fatma Hashim (Bilal Ladies Committee representative).

On 9th March, 2021, a delegation from the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT) led by the Chief of Operations (COO), Hafidhi Mansour visited the Kilwa Bilal Muslim Mission Centre to assess the advancement of the

community development program there along with progress of tabligh activities. The delegation also included the BMMT Administrative Manager, Rajab Shaaban, the Bookshop Manager and Distance Learning Coordinator, Sis. Swaum Chega

and a representative from the Bilal Ladies Committee, Sis. Fatma Hashim. During the visit, the team met with the BMMT Kilwa Women's committee along with other female community members. The meeting was attended by 81 women from the BMMT of Kilwa. During the meeting tabligh activities were discussed and Hafidhi Mansour provided strategies to participants encouraging them to build their faith and to uplift their quality of life.

Fatma Hashim and Sis. Swaum Chega emphasized on the importance of acquiring religious knowledge and advancing cooperation amongst themselves. They also spoke on the importance of community service and asked participants to engage in small scale entrepreneurship to improve their standard of living.



BMMT organizes Seminar for Coast and Southern Centers to boost operating skills

The Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT) hosted a seminar on 29th and 30th June, 2021 for all its staff including muballighs, sheikhs, nursery school teachers and community leaders from all Bilal Centers in the Coast and Southern zones of Tanzania.

The seminar was led by Shabbirhussein Khalfan from the Africa Federation Central Building Group with participants coming from Songea, Newala, Mahuta, Tandahimbe, Kilidu, Kilwa, Lindi, Dimba, Ikwiriri, Mboga, Bagamoyo and Tabata. The objective of the seminar was to incorporate modern methods of doing Tabligh and managing BMMT Centers.

The seminar, which had a variety of topics for discussion, also aimed to boost the competence and personal operation skills of participants in conducting their daily activities. During the seminar, the management of BMMT, led by Chairman, Hussein Karim, also provided insight on how the goals and objectives of BMMT can be better achieved through better supervision and management of its Centers.

Participants shared their different experiences and provided a short report about the operations and the impact of BMMT in their respective communities along with the needs of their Centers.

BMMT Visit to Uvinza, Urambo and Tabora

A Bilal Muslim Mission Tanzania (BMMT) delegation comprising of the Chairman, Hussein Karim and Tabligh Coordinator, Sheikh Msabaha Mapinda visited Tabora including Urambo District and Uvinza, Kigoma. Kigoma is located in western Tanzania, bordering Burundi and Tabora is in central Tanzania.

The delegation visited Tabora to see how tabligh activities can be revived at the Tabora mosque. They found the mosque in a bad state with roofing repairs being required. Work to reinstate proper water supply to the wudhu area and replacement of toilets were immediately handled.

Tabora was once an active jamaat with the town having a vibrant Asian community of almost 4000 people. Our community had built a modest Husseniya and imambargah but most community members moved out between 1970 and 1980. For the past

almost four decades there have been no jamaat members remaining there. In late 1980, the mosque was handed over to the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania which was then under the patronage of Sayyid Saeed Akhter Rizvi. A sheikh was then posted to run a Qur'an madressah there.

The BMMT delegation also visited Uvinza, Kigoma where a Centre is being run by Maqbul Jaffer. The Centre was initially operated from a rented premises and plans are now underway to build a mosque and madressah.

Well-wishers interested to assist in the Tabora mosque renovations and the construction of the Uvinza mosque and madressah can contact the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (bilaltz@africafederation.org) or the AFED Secretariat (secretariat@africafederation.org).

BMMK Teacher Training Workshop held for 39 Primary School Teachers

The Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya (BMMK) arranged a joint workshop to facilitate professional development for all its Pre- Primary and Islamic Religious Education (I.R.E.) teachers at Imam Ar-Ridha Islamic Centre, Mtongwe on 21st to 28th March, 2021. A total of 39 Teachers (14 male and 25 female) attended. The objectives included:

1. Enhancing teachers' professionalism through building on and polishing up their knowledge and skills.
2. The acquisition of skills on the use of new technology in advancing their teaching methodologies and techniques.
3. Improving interpersonal skills on communication and awareness of teachers' social responsibilities and the need for cooperation through teamwork.

BMM Tanga Ramadhan Food Distribution to 4,500

In preparation for Ramadhan, all BMM centres distributed food. In Tanga, BMM staff delivered food to students and Mo'mineen at 52 BMM centres. Total beneficiaries were 4,543 individuals (3,813 students and 730 Mo'omineen). Each person received 10 kg. of maize flour, 5 kg. of rice, 5kg of beans, 2 kg. of sugar and 2 litres of oil.

BMMK Muballigh Workshop

The Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya (BMMK) held a Muballigh Teachers' Workshop for 80 BMM madressah and pre-primary teachers between 1st - 8th February and 14th - 21st February, 2021. The two groups received their training sessions at the Imam Al-Ridha Islamic Centre, Mtongwe, Kenya.

The main objective of this series of workshops is to enhance the madrasa teachers' teaching skills and capabilities towards greater professionalism. This workshop is a first in an ongoing series that will cover all muballigheen. In future this will include madrasa teachers from other tabligh centres.

During training, five instructional topics were presented:

- i) Methods and Techniques of Teaching, delivered by Ali Njloi.
- ii) Interactive Teaching Strategies, delivered by Saida Mueni.
- iii) Curriculum and Curriculum Development, delivered by Elisha Mwangi.
- iv) Written and Oral Reporting delivered by Mary Nyakanini and team.
- v) Information and Communication Technology delivered by Yusuf Abwanzo.



Teachers discussing teaching strategies.

BMMK Online Learning Program



A child using a tablet

BMMK's Online Learning Program was launched by the Jaffery Nursery School in Mackinnon Road Centre on 25th January 2021. Four tablets were handed by officials to the Centre to be used by Pre-Primary students during their learning sessions. The Program aims at uplifting the quality of education among younger children in our Centres.

The tablets have been installed with a learning program from Khan Kids Academy with online and offline content. The future objective is to establish online programs in all Bilal pre-primary Centres and acquire more tablets.

BMMK is working towards involving parental and community participation by using advanced technology in remote areas. They are developing similar integrated software for madrasa learning thus bridging the gap between spiritual and scientific education.

The program was launched by BMMK with generous support and assistance from Ms. Zakera and families of Munawer Panju and Hasnain Panju.

BMMT visits Pemba Island to oversee activities

In February 2021, a delegation from the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT) including BMMT Chairman Hussein Karim, Vice Chairman, Abdulwahid Abdallah and Head of Tabligh, Sheikh Msabah Shaban visited Pemba Island to oversee the various tabligh activities being conducted there. This was the first time for a BMMT delegation to visit Pemba.

Pemba Island was one of the first settlement areas of Khoja settlers from India as well as those who had earlier settled in places like Bagamoyo and Zanzibar. The two main settlements were at Wete and Chake-Chake. Most community members were traders and some ventured into clove spice farming in smaller villages like Mtambile, Kipapo, Chonga and Mkoani.

Our Khoja community built two mosques and imambarghas in Pemba. One was in Wete and the other in Chake-Chake. Both these mosques are big and are presently used by local Muslims for prayers. The mosques are well built taking into consideration that construction was done many years ago.

In Pemba, tabligh work is mostly done from two BMMT Centers in Mtambile and Ziواني. There is a sizeable African Shia community at Mtambile which has a mosque, madrasa building and Hussainiya. The community in Ziواني is smaller and they have a Hussainiya hall. The other African Shias in places like Wete are scattered and not organized.

BMMT is planning to undertake microfinance assistance to the community in Pemba so as to uplift their living standards. BMMT also plans to enhance delivery of religious and secular education on the Island.

Community members who wish to donate for thawab-e-Jariya towards the repairs and renovations of mosques and Hussainiyas in Pemba can contact the Secretariat of Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania at bilaltz@africafederation.org or the Africa Federation at secretariat@africafederation.org.



93 Children treated, and given shoes at BMMK's Anti-Jiggers Event



A child receiving treatment for jiggers (tropical fleas that cause sores in the feet).

The Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya (BMMK) in collaboration with Helping Hands Youth Group conducted an Anti-Jiggers campaign on Sunday 7th February 2021. This campaign was held in a village named Ramisi Bodo in the South Coast region of Kwale County. Jiggers are tropical fleas; the females burrow and lay eggs beneath the skin, and this causes sores.

93 students of Madrassatul Qadiriya between the age ranges of 3 – 16 years were treated. The treatment included washing the children's feet and surgically removing jiggers. The Helping Hands

youth group organized a meal for more than 100 children which was distributed after the treatment.

The Jaffery Medical team provided a medical officer who trained the volunteers of the Helping Hands Youth Group. Zainab Manzu, a nurse from Jaffery Medical was also part of the campaign to treat those affected.

Comfort Aid International, provided generous aid for BMMK to distribute 93 pairs of shoes to children, also covering the supply of all medical supplies required during the program.

BMMT Chief Operating Officer visits Ikwiriri



BMMT delegation led by Chief of Operations, Hafidhi Mansoor (standing in the center) on a visit to Ikwiriri to meet educators and community members.

On 7th March 2021 the management of Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT) led by the Chief of Operations, Hafidhi Mansoor visited Ikwiriri Bilal Centre in Rufiji District to view progress on Tabligh activities as well as community development programs. Also accompanying him were BMMT Administrative Manager, Rajab Shaaban, Bookshop Manager and Distance Learning Coordinator, Swaum Chega and a representative from the Bilal Ladies Committee, Fatma Hashim. During the visit the team met with Ikwiriri Women's Committee together with Madrasa and Nursery students and teachers.

The Madrasa at Ikwiriri centre has more than 60 students attending on a regular basis. The COO and his team succeeded in meeting and reviewing the progress of Madrasa students as well as their challenges. Ikwiriri centre has a nursery school with more than 40 students. The nursery was revived by the current management in 2019 after it had being closed for almost two years and it has progressed well with a lot of effort from the teachers. To encourage the efforts shown by the teachers, the management of BMMT provided them with additional teaching materials such as books and charts.

The visiting team also met with the female community members of Ikwiriri centre and discussed their challenges and progress in their religious development and learning. It was reported that the progress in Ikwiriri is going well as far as the social and economic development of women in the community especially since the economic assistance provided by BMMT in September 2019.

The women felt encouraged by the visit from BMMT and promised to take deliberate measures to do more activities especially in tabligh, social and economic development. They promised to attend Madrasa as well as encourage others to participate.

BMMT “Maulid” program attended by over 1500 Muslims from all Sects.



Chairman of The Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania, Hussein Karim welcoming guests.

Whilst Maulid celebrations were marked in various ways in the year 2021, last year the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania (BMMT) also organized a special program to celebrate the Maulid, (birth anniversary) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAWW). Over 1,500 people from all Muslim sects attended the event which was held on the night of 14th November, 2020 at Bilal Center (Udowe Mosque Compound), Kariakoo, Dar es Salaam.

The program was organized to commemorate Maulid and to promote interfaith relations. It was attended by Muslims of all sects from various parts of Dar es Salaam Region, as well as by teachers and students of Shia and Sunni madrassahs.

The program, for both ladies and gents, had a record attendance of

about 1,500 Muslims from various mosques, madressahs, centres including dignitaries from the general public. Invitees included the past Chairman of the World Federation, Anwarali Dharamsi, Vice Chairman of Africa Federation, Aunali Khalfan, current KSI Jamaat Chairman, Mohamedraza Dewji, past Chairman of KSI Jamaat, Azim Dewji, past Chairman of BMMT, Muslim Meghji, current BMMT Chairman, Hussein Karim, BMMT Vice Chairman, Abdulwahid Mohammed, BMMT Head of Tabligh, Sheikh Msabbah Shaban and BMMT Chief of Operations Hafidh Mansour.

The program was broadcast live on YouTube and on Facebook. The YouTube coverage drew over 1000 viewers online and the Facebook coverage drew 700 viewers.

The occasion commenced with Tilawat of the Holy Qur’an by Hawzatu Bilal Temeke Teacher, Sheikh Yusufu Mlanzi following which qasidas were recited by students from different madrassahs. The qasidas were in praise of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.). Many excerpts from the Holy Quran were recited. Traditional, local “Barzanji” chapters were also recited by the students.

Speeches were delivered by various speakers and Sheikhs including the BMMT Chairman, Hussein Karim, Sheikh Athumani Maulid from Zanzibar, BMMT Tabligh Supervisor, Sheikh Msabbah Shaban, Sheikh Mwinyipingu (Representative of Tanzanian Mufti, Sheikh Abubakar Zubeir) and BMMT Vice Chairman, Abdulwahid Mohammed.

The Maulid program is an annual event organized by Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania at various places across mainland Tanzania. This traditionally attracts many participants and speakers.



Sheikhs and dignitaries during the Maulid of the Holy Prophet (SAWW) celebrations.



CBG and MDP hold Masterclass online

The Capacity Building Group (CBG) and Mentor Development Program (MDP) virtually got together for a masterclass on 12th December 2020. It was a learning journey that emphasized on 'Mental Health for the Mentor'. The Session was facilitated by Shama Dewji, Sajida Master and Mohammed Abbas Karim. The Masterclass commenced with a reflection from the verses of the Holy Qur'an followed by a fun-filled and informative online quiz by Sajida Jaffer and Mohammed Abbas Karim. This was then followed by an interactive session by Shama Dewji.

The participants discussed the importance of mental health and ways that mentors could take care of their own mental well-being so that they could assist others. As always, masterclasses are a unique experience, filled with learning where best practices are shared.

Mentors operate across the spectrum, from business, finance and career planning, helping others to set personal goals and ways to achieve their objectives. In the field of mental health, a mentor is a trusted and respected adviser who can help one to improve one's mental health through his or her life experience and knowledge. Quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on individuals in a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations. Ultimately, mentoring connects people to personal growth and development, and social and economic opportunity.

MDP masterclasses provide advanced skills and knowledge to build mastery in mentoring. The classes are full of tips and techniques and with such training, even experienced mentors can become more effective. The Capacity Building Board (CBG) strives to keep the MDP Alumni at the learning edge by offering master classes in various jamaats.

AFTAB holds a Quran Quiz Competition online

The Africa Federation Tabligh Board (AFTAB) held an Open Quran Quiz Competition on 2nd May 2021 (19th Ramadhan 1442 online).

The Competition was divided into four age categories as per below

- Surah Faatir 10 - 12 Years
- Surah Dukhan 12 - 15 Years
- Surah Ankabut 16 - 18 Years
- Tafseer of Surah Kahf 18+ years.

The 43 participants from Arusha, Dar-es-Salaam, Kampala, Kigali, Mombasa Morogoro and Nairobi Jamaats undertook the Online Quiz in which the first three categories were based on the translation of the Surahs and the fourth (18+) was based on the commentary.

Each Category had three winners who were awarded cash gifts as follows:

First Winner	US \$ 200
Second Winner	US \$ 150
Third Winner:	US \$ 100

The winners were:

- 10 - 12 Years (Surah Faatir)
- Abbasali Jaffer Raza, Dar es Salaam
 - Syeda Mariam Zahra Baqri, Arusha
 - Jawad Dhalla, Nairobi
- 12 - 15 Years - (Surah Dukhan)
- Sabeeha Muhammad Karim, Mombasa
 - Aamena Merali, Dar- es Salaam
 - Fatema Abbas Muhammad, Dar es Salaam

- 16 - 18 Years - (Surah Ankabut)
- Khushboofatema Sajjad, Arusha

Note: This group had only one winner.

- 18+ years - Tafseer of Surah Kahf
- Syeda Narjis Zahra Baqri, Arusha
 - Mukarram Rashid, Arusha
 - Sibtain Moledina, Dar es Salaam

All the participants received a consolation gift of US \$ 50 and a certificate of participation.

CBG holds FDP Masterclass online

The Facilitator Development Masterclass (FDP) team got together virtually for a Masterclass on 23rd January 2021. The session was based on the topic 'Effective Teamwork Starts with Communication'. A total of 20 participants attended the virtual session led by Mumtaz Ladak and Shamma Dewji and co-facilitated by Sajida Jaffer, Soumeya D'Jaffar and Shehnaz Hirji. The Masterclass commenced with a reflection from the Verses of the Holy Qur'an followed by interactive sessions by the facilitators and presentations by the participants.

Communication bridges teams together and is essential to ensure teams work

smoothly and efficiently. The focus of the Masterclass was on how to use our communication skills effectively to create great teams. Team communication is the exchange of information within a group of colleagues working towards a common goal.

The session taught that there is a risk that team communication can become have miscommunication due to personal differences. Effective communication enables us to resolve differences, minimize conflict and create a thriving environment within our business community and personal lives.



AFTAB MCE's First Online TSP Graduation for Africa and India



Northern Council for Education (NCFE) through the World Federation Madrasah Centre of Excellence (MCE).

The Graduation was graced by Safdar Jaffer, President of the World Federation of KSIMC, Sajjad Walji, Chairman of Africa Federation Tabligh Board (AFTAB) and Ali Akber Shroff, Hon. Secretary of India Federation. It was presided by Seyed Aliraza Naqvi, Head of the TSP Programme and his team of facilitators.

The Madrasah Centre of Excellence (MCE) Teacher Skills Programme (TSP) in collaboration with the Africa Federation Tabligh Board (AFTAB) achieved yet another milestone by holding an online graduation of Teachers from Husayni Madrasah, Mombasa, Husayni Madrasah, Dar es Salaam and Madrasah Yusuf e Zahra, Mumbai on Sunday, 20th June 2021.

This was a first coordination of the different regions under the TSP umbrella and the diversity of the teachers proved to be a good learning experience. The TSP training sessions equips madrasah teachers with tools to teach effectively as well as to learn different methods of teaching to enhance student learning and understanding. A total of 24 teachers received their certificates from the

The graduation had motivational talks by the three guest speakers as well as student reflections from Mumbai, Mombasa and Dar es Salaam. The highlight of the event was a pledge taken by all the graduates making a noble commitment to be responsible, respectable, and sincere teachers.

AFED Education Board completes 356 Vocational and Career Counselling tests in different Jamaats

A primary focus area of the Africa Federation (AFED) Education Board (EB) for the term 2019 -2022 is to support individual students with effective career counseling mechanisms. The AFED EB administers Strong Interest Inventory (SII) assessments, through the support of The World Federation. The SII assessments are administered by accredited practitioners.

The SII test is an assessment that helps people match their interests with potential educational, career, and leisure activities, using an individual's preferences in a variety of areas to aid them in discovering what they would most enjoy doing during their work and leisure time. The SII assessments offer a list of career choices to an individual based on his personal aptitude.

The tests include General Occupational Themes (GOTs) that show individuals what they are generally most personally

interested in and what they naturally consider as good occupations to work in.

The SII is much more than just an interest matching tool. It is a complete psychometric assessment that covers things about one's personality taking into consideration:

- **Personal Work Style**
Whether one prefers to work alone or with and helping people?
- **Leadership Style**
Does one take charge more or lead by example?
- **Learning Style**
Is one more academic or hands on?
- **Preference for Risk Taking**
Does one prefer to play it safe or enjoy new ideas and opportunities?
- **Team Orientation**
Does one prefer to solve problems

independently or in collaboration with others?

EB has been rolling out the SII for a couple of years now. The below table summarizes the number of tests administered in different jamaats from 2016 to 2020:

Jamaat	Number of tests administered
Dar es Salaam	145
Arusha	54
Bukoba	19
Reunion	1
Madagascar	3
Nairobi	27
Mwanza	28
Mombasa	79
Total tests administered	356



Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat hosts the 82nd Africa Federation Supreme Council Session



Seated L-R: Zainul Chandoo, Africa Federation (AFED) Treasurer, Mohamedraza Dewji (KSIJ Dar es Salaam President), Aunali Khalfan (AFED Vice Chairman), Zuhair Jaffer (AFED Hon. Secretary), Amine Nassor (AFED Vice Chairman/UAKSIR President), Anwarali Dharamsi (WF Immediate Past President and AFED Trustee).

The Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Dar-es-Salaam hosted the Africa Federation 82nd Supreme Council Session from 18th to 19th December 2020 at Mehfil-e-Abbasi (a.s). The Session was attended by about 110 councillors and invitees from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Reunion. Attendees included past leaders of the Africa Federation and Dar es Salaam Jamaat (including Marhum Mohamed Dhirani who passed away a few weeks later) and community elders.

The Session commenced on Friday 18th December 2020 afternoon with a long agenda of items to be deliberated on. A key item on the agenda was the consideration of the application by Kigali Jamaat to join the Africa Federation (AFED). The application was approved hence making The Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Kigali – Rwanda the 43rd Member of the Africa Federation.

OPENING NIGHT:

The Opening Night began with recitation and reflection of the Holy Qur'an by Mehdi Kernalli followed by inhouse, health and safety rules by Dr. Imran Versi the coordinator of the Organizing Committee.

The Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat President, Mohammedraza Dewji then delivered his welcome address and this was followed by a keynote address from the Chairman of the Africa Federation, Shabir Najafi.

The gathering was also addressed by the immediate Past President of World Federation, Anwarali Dharamsi and the AFED Vice Chairman and Chairman of Unions des Associations Khodjas Shia Isna Ashri de la Reunion (UAKSIR), Amine Nassor.

PRESENTATION AND AWARDS:

The Chairman, Shabir Najafi bestowed "Abbasi" Medals to Sherali Mohamed Ali Ladak Kanji of Moshi and Murtaza Ramzanali Jivraj (Karbala) of Dar-es-Salaam (who passed away in Dar es Salaam a few months after this Session). The medals were presented to the two recipients during the Session.

in recognition of their dedication and honorary services to the community. Citations for each of the recipients were read out giving a brief chronicle of their outstanding achievements, dedication and

significant contributions to the community.

The Supreme Council Session reconvened on Saturday 19th December 2020 at 9.30 A.M. During this period many issues were deliberated upon when Minutes of the previous Session were presented followed by the Secretariat Report, Financial Report and presentations by different Boards operating under the Africa Federation. The



From L to R: At the Session - Africa Federation (AFED) Media and Editorial Board members Mahjabeen Daya, Associate Editor; Munir Daya, Chief Editor; AFED Archives Section Chair, Marhum Murtaza Jivraj, and Syeda Narjis Zahra Baqri, Secretary of the Africa Youth Network (AYN). In the background is conference invitee, Amiraly Dato of Bukoba.



Reports presented at the Session were:

1. 81st Supreme Council Session Minutes: Zuhair Jaffer
2. Secretariat Report: Zuhair Jaffer
3. Archives Section: Murtaza Jivraj (now Marhum)
4. Audited Accounts, Budgets and Trust Board Report: Zainul Chandoo
5. Capacity Building Board (CBG) Shabbirhussein Khalfan
Central Bilal Board (CBB) /
Regional Bilal Hussein Karim/
Kumail Haji/Muslim Missions:
Mohamedraza Bharwani
6. Central Health Board (CHB):
Aunali Khalfan
7. Economic Development Board:
Mirjean Remtulla
8. Editorial Board:
Munir Daya
9. Education Board:
Farhan Yusuf
10. Housing Development Board:
Shakeera Dhanani /Akil Hirji
11. Sports Council: Tasneem Hassam /
Fazle Kassam
12. Tabligh Board (AFTAB):
Sayed Hassan Naqvi (now Marhum)
13. Youth Network (AYN):
Seyeda Nargis Baqri

A team appointed by the Secretariat



Above: Africa Federation Board members and councillors at the 82nd Africa Federation Supreme Council Session held in Dar es Salaam.

presented a report on the Zanzibar Kuwwatul Islam Jamaat and Mwanza Jamaat issues following which discussions took place.

During the Session Shabbirhussein Khalfan, the Chairman of the Capacity Building Board provided the translating of presentations and English speeches into Gujarati for the benefit of councillors from Reunion.

The Session was well hosted by the KSI

Jamaat of Dar-es-Salaam with support from the coordinators of the organizing committee, Dr. Imran Versi and Shaheed Rattansi and their team, volunteers, the Media Team and others. The Meeting concluded on Sunday 20th December at 3.00 A.M.

The President of Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat, Mohamedraza Dewji and his family hosted a dinner at his residence on Sunday 20th December 2020 for all guests who attended the Session.



Above: Participants at the 82nd Africa Federation Supreme Council Session held in Dar es Salaam.



World Federation (WF) Visit to Africa Federation (AFED), and collaboration of WF, AFED and Dar es Salaam Jamaat to donate 5,000 Covid-19 Vaccines to the people of Zanzibar



From L: Africa Federation (AFED) Hon. Treasurer, Zainul Dattoo; Dr. Riyaz Hassanali, Sibtain Asaria, World Federation President Safdar Jaffer, and AFED Hon. Secretary Zuhair Jaffer at a meeting in Dar es Salaam.

A World Federation (WF) delegation led by WF President Sheikh Safdar Jaffer and accompanied by Sibtain Asaria from Dubai and Dr. Riyaz Hassanali from USA visited Tanzania in June 2021. During their visit they met the Africa Federation (AFED) Hon. Treasurer Zainul Chandoo and the Hon. Secretary, Zuhair Jaffer on Saturday 12th June 2021 at the AFED Secretariat Office at Zahra Towers, Dar-es-Salaam.

The WF delegation was in Tanzania primarily to provide support for vaccines to the population in Tanzania including Zanzibar. Until their visit, a vaccination programme had not started on the mainland or in Zanzibar.

During the joint meeting between WF and AF, several important issues of common interest were discussed. Future plans to assist community members facing economic hardships were also deliberated upon, particularly in the post-pandemic perspective.

On spiritual upliftment, there was a consensus to seek improvement in the quality and standards in madressahs, teachers training and teaching methods.

The AFED Hon. Secretary Zuhair Jaffer and the Hon. Treasurer Zainul Chandoo accompanied the World Federation

delegation on their visit to Zanzibar where they met the First Vice President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, His Excellency Mr. Othman Masoud Othman during a brief session in the First Vice President's office in Zanzibar.

During the visit the AFED Hon. Treasurer, Zainul Chandoo briefed the Zanzibar Vice President on developments since AFED's earlier visit to Zanzibar when a delegation met with the President of the Zanzibar Revolutionary Government, His Excellency, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi in March 2021.



Above: World Federation President, Safdar Jaffer signing the Visitors' Book at the Africa Federation headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

Zainul bhai expressed gratitude on behalf of AFED for the registration of the Africa Federation in Zanzibar and stated that site visits were made to various areas to identify ideal places that needed water wells. He said plans are under way to build a well in Mwera in memory of late Syed Hassan Abbas Naqvi, the former Chairman of the Africa Federation Tabligh Board (AFTAB).

On the medical front, Zainul bhai spoke about the Eye Camps being organized by the Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania and assured that more such camps will be organized for the general public in Zanzibar, Pemba and Mafia. He said Africa Federation looks forward to continue working with the Government of Zanzibar towards social and economic upliftment for the people of Zanzibar.

During the visit, the World Federation, in collaboration with Africa Federation and Dar-es-Salaam KSI Jamaat handed over a consignment of 5000 Covid-19 Vaccines as a donation from the community to the people of Zanzibar. This enabled Zanzibar to initiate the vaccine drive well before the mainland commenced its vaccination programme.



Aun Ali M. Khalfan of Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an (TTQ) meets Tanzania President, Samia Suluhu Hassan in New York.



Aun Ali M. Khalfan of Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an with Tanzania President, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan in New York.

Aun Ali M. Khalfan of Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an (TTQ), Inc., New York, sent to the President of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, a gift of a copy of the Holy Qur'an. The President responded with a nice letter to him, thanking him, and congratulated Aun Ali M. Khalfan on his mission of preservation and publication of the Holy Qur'an in various languages (including Kiswahili) with the ultimate goal of making humankind access the true word of Allah (SWT).

She also acknowledged with appreciation the fact that the objectives of TTQ are cognizant of the principles of unity in diversity which makes it possible for different religions to coexist harmoniously. She said that it is her personal commitment and that of the Tanzania Government to abide by this principle in the interest of peace and national solidarity.

After President Samia Suluhu

Hassan's first speech in New York, USA at the 76th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on 23rd September, 2021 (which was mentioned among the seven most important during the session) she briefly met Aun Ali M. Khalfan of Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an at her hotel. During their meeting, the two discussed the history and future of Islam in the United States, East Africa, and other parts of the world, as well as the responsibility of Muslims to spread Islam through the distribution of copies of the Holy Qur'an.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's speech was selected by the American website 'Foreign Policy' (FP) as being among the most important addresses at the assembly and the only one from a female Head of State. Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan became one of the only few female Heads of State from Africa to address the UN General Assembly.

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Tanga- Volleyball Association – Team in 1950 Competition. During the year 1950, the Ithnashery Team swept all major volleyball trophies during the year. 9-a-side league, 9 a side knock out, 6 a side knock out, 3 a side knock out.

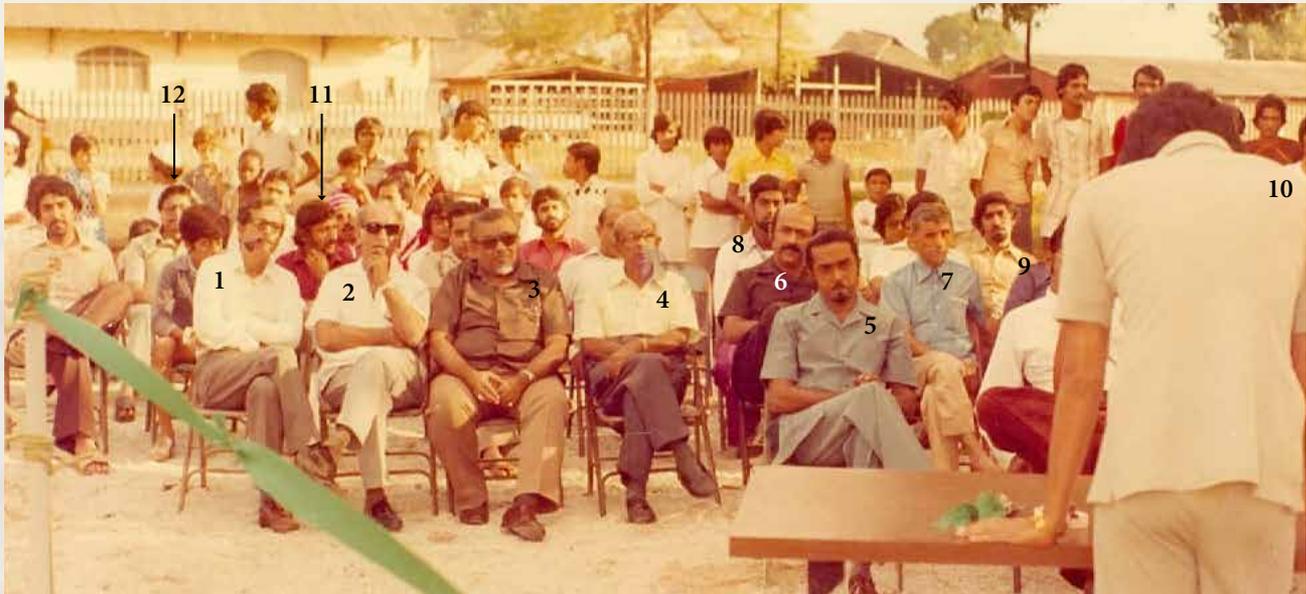
Sitting, L to R: Yusuf S.Khirnji Hassan Dhirani Raza Remtulla (Captain) Aunali Chandoo
Standing From (L): Habib Mohamed Hassan, Ashak Taki, Jaffer Somji, Sherali Remtulla, Amir Somji, Gulam Datoo.



Reopening of the Tanga Volleyball Ground, Tanga, 1979. Seen here are Tanga Jamaat officials including Marhum Anverali Mohamedali Shivji (who held the post of Tanga Jamaat president for ten years) and community members at the reopening of the grounds and formalization of the Tanga team.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| (1) President Anverali Siwjee | (5) Manzur Jaffer Chandoo | (10) *Aman Nasser | (15) Vazir of Vazir & Co. |
| (2) Vice President Raza Sachoo | (6) Roshanali Juma Ebrahim | (11) *Liakat Thaver | (16) *Yusuf Chandoo |
| (3) Hon.Sec.Mohamed S. S. | (7) *Hussain Fazal | (12) Anver Fazal | (17) Taki Virani |
| (4) Hassanali S.S.Alarakhia | (8) *Abbas Hussain Walji | (13) *Mohamed H Dhirani | (18) Kassim Kanani |
| | (9) *MohamedJaffer Pyarali | (14) Akber Mehta | |

* in background.



Spectators at the 1979 Reopening of the Tanga Volleyball Ground event included:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| (1) Habib Mulla Hassanali | (5) Mohamedraza Sachoo | (8) Mohamed Jaffer P.A. Sikiladha | (11) Hussain Fazal |
| (2) Roshan Juma Ebrahim | (6) Amanbhai Nurmohamed Nasser | (9) Gulam Mohamedali Kara | (12) Gulam Haji |
| (3) Anverali K.M. Tharoo | (7) Mohamed Jaffer Chandoo | (10) Kassim M. Kanani | |
| (4) Hassanali S.S. Alarakhia | | | |

Courtesy: Mohamed S.S. Alarakhia

Rawan Karim Dakik (20): Youngest African, first female Tanzanian conquers Mt. Everest in 64 day expedition



Above: Rawan Dakik at the peak of Mt. Everest, the highest point on earth..

Rawan Dakik (20) is the youngest African and first female Tanzanian to conquer Mt. Everest. At 6.15am on May 25, 2021, Rawan Dakik, 20, made history when she ascended Mt. Everest, the highest summit in the world at 8,848.86 metres (29,031.7 feet) above sea level.

Dakik became the second Tanzanian (and first Tanzanian woman) and the youngest African to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. Like all passionate climbers worldwide, this was part of her target to complete the seven highest summits of the world — Denali, Everest, Aconcagua, Carstensz Pyramid, Kilimanjaro, Vinson Massif and Elbrus. She has only Denali to go. She plans to travel to Alaska to climb Mt. Denali in June 2022 to achieve her Seven Summit ambition.

Rawan is the daughter of Karim Dakik, a resident and businessman of Arusha whose children studied at the Arusha Jamaat's madressah. On arrival in Tanzania after completing the Everest expedition Rawan was received by the Tanzania Deputy Minister of Tourism, Mary Francis Masanja at the Kilimanjaro International Airport. She was designated the title Ambassador of Tourism. She was also given an audience by the country's Prime Minister, Kaasim Majaliwa in Dodoma.

Talking to the BBC she said that, "It was no mean feat to ascend Mt. Everest, the world's highest mountain which is one of the deadliest. On base camp, which is at the height of the Kilimanjaro one is on a

glacier and above that is all snow, ice or glacier. It's a place where your body is not supposed to survive."

In the 2021 season, which had fewer climbers due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, 11 climbers had died up to the time she climbed the mountain including one Sherpa. Sherpas are Nepalese professional climbers hired to support mountaineering teams.

The death rate on Mount Everest between 1980 and 2002 has not changed over the years, with about one death for every 10 successful ascents. That is a sobering statistic for anyone who reaches the summit with approximately a 1 in 20 chance of not making it down.

Dakik set off on March 22, 2021 with a group of 22 other climbers from South

Africa, Sweden, the United States and Canada among hundreds of others. Starting with Day One of arrival in Nepal, it took Dakik 64 days to reach the peak.

She said; "This was a long trip but definitely worthwhile. Being on the mountain for a long period of time allowed me to experience a wide range of events from storms, to icefall; I endured cold temperatures, soaked in the stunning views, pushed my adrenaline rush and so much more."

It was Dakik's childhood dream to climb Mt Everest. She said, "My passion for outdoor activities and physical support started at a very young age. By the time I climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and one of the worlds highest seven summits as a student, I was hooked."

Dakik has already climbed about twenty mountains including several in East Africa including the Kilimanjaro, the snowcapped Mounts Kenya and Rwenzori; and Mounts Ngaliema, Meru, Ol Doiyo Lengai, Elgon, Nyiragongo, Sabyinyo, Longida, Nyamuragira, Virunga, Satima, Mikeno, Karisimbi, Biseko and others.

Although she has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro multiple times, with the first attempt when she was only 13-years old, Dakik says Mt. Meru, Mt. Rwenzori and Mt. Kenya impressed her the most and she describes these mountains as being "beyond perfect" for her.



Above: Rawan Karim Dakik Swith the Tanzanian flag as an official Ambassador of Tourism for the country.



Scenic Mt. Everest.

Living in Arusha she said, “I felt like I connected with these mountains like no other. I enjoyed connecting to my part of the world by climbing its mountains and meeting people that come from the same place as me.”

Dakik was born in 2001 in Arusha, Tanzania, and studied at the International School of Moshi up to Grade 10 before moving to Lebanon for further studies. She studied Sports Management in Spain to build her knowledge of the sports industry.

Despite her young age, Dakik pushes herself both physically and mentally during mountain climbing. She said what stood out in her climbs was the fact that she challenged her physical limits. She said that in mountain climbing the body gives up far before the mind and a climber is then challenged to push the mind to continue climbing further. “Being able to push myself and discover how far my body can go physically and mentally was one of the highlights of my Everest trip,” she said, adding that, “I found it amazing because no one truly knows until they put their bodies to the test.”

Dakik said she was happy meeting many people from different parts of the world including Sherpas climbers, guides and other staff members. She said, “We all

became one big family at the end of the trip.”

Nepal limited the number of climbers to 408 this year as measures against the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. An outbreak was reported at the Base Camp in May, 2021 but the government announced it was not shutting down the season. Several companies abandoned their expeditions but some of their clients remained behind to go ahead with the ascent. On Sunday May 23, two days before Dakik made it to the summit, about 180 foreign climbers and their Sherpa guides reached the peak.

It was a journey that took specific and meticulous preparation. Rawan trained both indoors and outdoors for almost two years to get her body ready for the long trek and climb. She said, “Training consists of both indoor and outdoor sessions of cardio and strengthening. During the climb, the best way to prepare is to keep eating efficiently because your body burns a lot of calories and you need to try recovering as much as possible.” This is her advice to would-be climbers.

She also recommends careful planning, training, organizing and letting the body recover. “After the expedition is over, the best way to recover is to allow your body to rest enough but also continue doing

strengthening workouts (but not intensive), just enough to keep the muscles and blood moving.”

For Dakik, climbing mountains sets her heart free, saying that despite being involved in other sports in school and in the city where she lives, she still feels most comfortable and happiest when in the mountains.



A rare moment where Rawan Dakik (Age 20) could pose for a photograph in what was otherwise a challenging expedition.

Marhum Mohamed Gulamhusein Dhirani (1929-2021)

Murrabi Alhaj Mohamed Gulamhusein Dhirani, who served as Chairman of the Africa Federation (AFED) for 12 years, and as President of the Dar es Salaam Jamaat for nine years, passed away at the age of 92 in Dar-es-Salaam on Sunday 3rd January 2021 night. He was buried on Monday 4th January 2021.

Marhum was born on 30th October 1929 in Tanga, Tanzania. He was the first child of Gulamhusein and Sakina Dhirani who had four sons and two daughters. Marhum obtained his education in Dar-es-Salaam where his family had moved to when he was young. His father served the Dar es Salaam Jamaat honorably as an Aalim and teacher of the madrasah.

On completion of his education, Marhum Mohamed bhai Dhirani worked in various government departments under the British Colonial Government, the Tanganyika Government, and the Tanzania Government where he was able to build a strong network with various government officials. He took up early retirement and established a printing business.

He began his services to the community at a young age as a volunteer at the Kabrastan and the Hussein Society. He attended the first meeting held in 1946 in Dar-es-Salaam to discuss the establishment of the East Africa Council followed by the first Conference in 1947 where the Council was formed. After attending and listening to the deliberations of these two meetings he was inspired to serve the community.

His services in Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat began in 1956 when he was the Hon. Joint Secretary, then Hon. Secretary and later Hon. Treasurer before taking over as the President of the Jamaat in 1971 to 1972 and from 1977 to 1983 after which he had to relinquish the post when he was elected as the Chairman of the Africa Federation in 1983.

As President of the Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat, he accomplished projects such as the reconstruction of the Haji Daya Walji Madrasah from a ground floor structure to a four-storey building, the Alawi flats to accommodate deserving members of the community, extension of the ladies Imambargha and establishment of the Ebrahim Haji Charitable Dispensary. He was also instrumental in centralizing the madrasah and the ladies committee under the Jamaat by appointing committees to oversee the affairs of these two departments.

When marhum Mohamed bhai was elected as Chairman of the Africa Federation for the term 1983–1986 he was the youngest Chairman in the history of the Federation. He was re-elected for the consecutive term until 1989 and again for two three-year terms from 1995–2001.

During his Chairmanship, he accentuated on the need of making higher education a priority within the community, worked with the Setwel Board towards the resettlement of evacuated Somalia brethren and encouraged women to be more actively involved in community affairs.

He also supported various jamaats in their housing, education and madrasah projects as well as for the construction of mosques and imambarghas. In conjunction with the Bilal Muslim Missions, he extended Bilal Tabligh works to neighbouring countries including Mozambique, Burundi and the DRC-Congo.

After completing his Chairmanship of the Africa Federation, Marhum Mohamed bhai Dhirani continued serving the community in an advisory capacity and was part of various committees appointed by the Africa Federation Secretariat to handle important issues like the AFED Constitutional Review committee, Marriage Contract Committee and the Review of Tanzania Constitution Team.

Until his demise, he continued to be a regular attendee of the Africa Federation Conferences



and Supreme Council Sessions. Despite his advanced age and frail health, he attended the 82nd Supreme Council Session on 18th December 2020 in Dar es Salaam a few weeks before his demise.

Marhum was bestowed the Haidery Medal in 1989 by Habib bhai Mulji, the then newly elected AFED Chairman for the term 1989–1992. In May 2014, the World Federation presented Marhum Mohamed bhai Dhirani with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

In a speech delivered during his funeral, the AFED Vice Chairman Aunali bhai Khalfan said that marhum's contributions to the community serves as an epitome of fine leadership which will be enshrined in the community's history. He praised marhum's personality, his insight and wisdom, his sharp memory and his courage to speak out on profound issues as some of his innate leadership qualities that he maintained throughout his life.

Marhum leaves behind two daughters, two sons and six grandchildren. May Allah (SWT) grant him maghferat and rahmat and high status in Jannah, Ameen.

Marhum Ebrahim Allarakhia Kassam (1926-2020)

Murrabi Alhaj Ebrahim Allarakhia Kassam who was a Trustee of the Africa Federation in Kampala, Uganda and a past President of Toronto Jamaat, passed away in Nairobi, Kenya on Thursday 31st December 2020.

Marhum Ebrahim bhai Kassam had to leave Uganda when Asians were given 90 days to leave the country in early August 1972 by late President of Uganda, Idi Amin. In the difficult days after the expulsion, marhum and his family had to stay at a camp in Vienna, Austria before getting an opportunity to move to Canada.

On arrival in Canada, he was employed at a farm to supervise the care of cattle, where he also milked cows. This was a total change from his life in Kampala where he owned a large number of farms and had employed many people to carry out such work. In time, he and his family moved to the city of Toronto where he joined the Jamaat as a Committee member and later served as the President of the Jamaat. During his tenure as President, with the support of the Gokal Family, the first mosque and imambargha in Toronto was established.

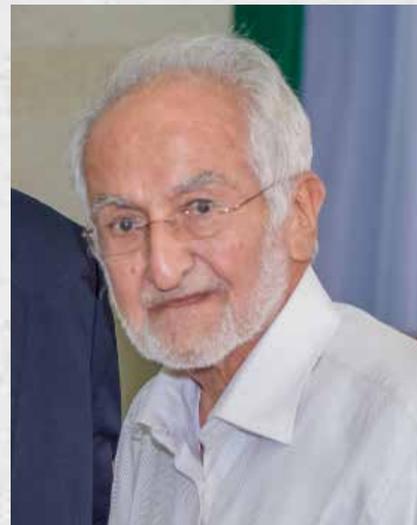
Prior to 1972 marhum's services to the community in Kampala were immense. He started serving at the age of ten as a volunteer, and served as the mukhi of the Jamaat before becoming the president of the Kampala Jamaat. He was actively involved in the building of flats for middle-class families in Kampala and on his return from Canada to Kampala he continued to serve the community. In 1998 he was elected as a trustee of the Africa Federation, a position he held until the time of his death.

Marhum Ebrahim Allarakhia Kassam was bestowed the Abbasi Medal in 2007 by the then Africa Federation Chairman, Ramzan Nanji for his vast contributions and selfless services to the community.

Marhum's mother Kulsum bai Kassam is amongst the first recipients of the Africa Federation Fatemi Medal in appreciation of her services and contributions towards the community.

At the 75th Supreme Council Session held in Dar-es-Salaam in May 2014, Marhum Ebrahim Allarakhia Kassam was presented with the Chairman's Award by then Africa Federation Chairman, Anwarali Dharamsi for his farsightedness, dedication and selfless services to the community in Uganda and to the Africa Federation. His advanced age in later years did not deter him from devotion and services to the community.

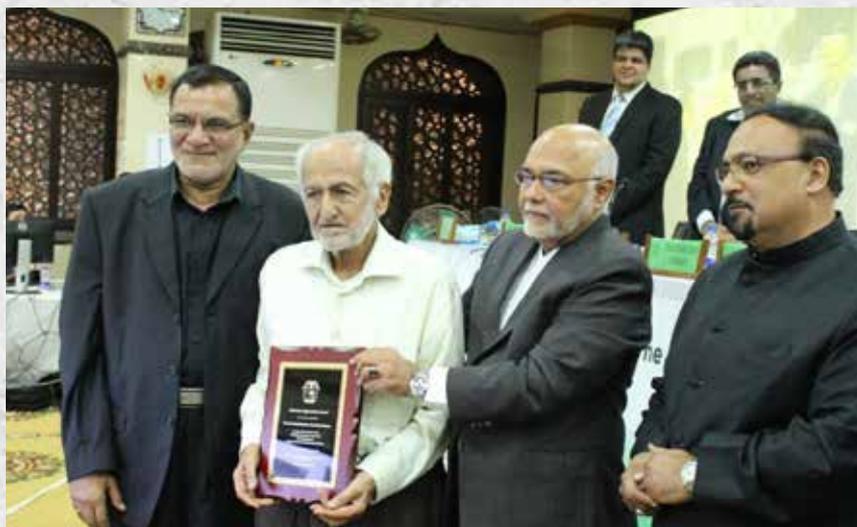
The Chairman of the Africa Federation, Shabir Najafi delivered a tribute during a majlis held for Marhum Ebrahim Allarakhia Kassam on 5th January, 2021. He spoke of marhum's deep attachment to the community and on his great level of discipline. He said that marhum dedicated most of his life to community services and was a regular attendee of the Africa Federation Supreme Council



sessions and conferences. He had attended his last AFED conference in April 2019 in Mombasa, Kenya.

Marhum is survived by his four sons, three daughters, 18 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

May Allah (SWT) grant him maghferat and rahmat and high status in Jannah, Ameen



Presentation of Chairman's Award to Marhum at the 75th Supreme Council Session in May 2014.

In the photo, are L to R: Anwarali bhai Dharamsi (then AFED Chairman), Ebrahim Allarakhia Kassam (AFED Trustee), Dr. Asghar Moledina (then WF President) and Shabir bhai Najafi (then AFED Vice Chairman).

Seen in the background are Kumail Manji (then AFED Hon. Asst. Secretary) and Mohamed Hemani (then AFED Hon. Treasurer).

Marhum Murtaza Ramzanali Jivraj (1946-2021)

Alhaj Murtaza Ramzanali Jivraj (fondly known as Murtaza Kerbala), who was the head of the AFED Archives Section since 2016, passed away suddenly at his home in Dar-es-Salaam on Friday 2nd April 2021. Marhum was 75 years of age.

Murtaza bhai was born in Ujiji, Kigoma on 3rd March 1946. He was the fourth child of Ramzanali bhai and Mariam bai Jivraj who were blessed with twelve children.

Murtaza bhai completed his primary education in Kigoma before moving to Dar-es-Salaam in 1964 to pursue his secondary school. On completion of his education, he joined the Ministry of Statistics, Department of Census in 1967.

In 1971 he moved to Mwanza where he started his own business of vehicle spares parts and hardware. He moved back to Dar-es-Salaam in 1975 where he and his brothers successfully established a photography company which over the years expanded to include a well-known company called Geo-micro & Photo Equipment Ltd. Many members of the community will recall his presence at many community occasions where he and his staff handled the videography needs of the event.

Marhum began his community services at a young age by serving as a volunteer of Kigoma Jamaat. He then served in the jamaat's managing committee before being appointed as the joint secretary in 1967. He played a major role in starting the Ashura Night Julus for the first time in Kigoma in 1969, a tradition which continues to date by the Bilal Muslim Mission as most of our community members have left Kigoma. When in Mwanza, Marhum also served as a volunteer and as a committee member of Jaffery Sports Club.

In Dar-es-Salaam Marhum joined the Ithna-Asheri Union Volunteer Corps (IUV) in 1975 and the Ithna-Asheri Union and Union Sports Club. He was actively involved in various programs of the IUV, which include the Rufiji Flood Victims Aid Program, Ashura night Julus, Bagamoyo annual majlis, Hussain Day and Milad-un-Nabii (SAW) programs facilitated from Dar es Salaam. He also served as the Principal of Husayni Madressa Boys' Section from 1983–1986 and was the chairman of Bilal Muslim Mission of Tanzania from 2004–2007.

Marhum Murtaza bhai joined the AFED Archives Section as a member in 2007 and



Above: *Shabir Najafi, AFED Chairman bestowing the Abbasi Medal to Murtaza Jivraj during the AFED Supreme Council in December 2020 Dar es Salaam. Seen presenting the Citation to Murtaza is Late Murrabbi Mohamed Dhirani, the past Chairman of AFED.*

was appointed as its head in 2016, a position he held until the time of his death. He had a great interest in the history of our community and had a large personal collection of historic photographs of different jamaats, mosques, imambarghas and of significant occasions. He collected and preserved these photographs as an enthusiast for the past many years.

Marhum often said that, “a community that forgets its past has no future and those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” He had a vision to establish a library and gallery at the new AFED offices being constructed in Dar-es-Salaam, and he presented the full plan of it at the 82nd Supreme Council Session held in December 2020.

He was bestowed the Abbasi Medal by the Africa Federation Chairman Shabir Najafi at the 82nd Supreme Council Session held in Dar-es-Salaam in December 2020, in recognition of his honorary and selfless services to the community, society and humanity at large.

In his condolence message, the AFED Chairman, Shabir Najafi described marhum Murtaza bhai as having an amiable, fascinating and inspiring personality. He said that his presence at any gathering would enliven the occasion. He had an immense recollection of the history of the community and a wonderful

sense of humour. He said marhum had the history of the community on his fingertips and his zeal and passion of sharing this information was unmatched.

In his tribute delivered during marhum's funeral at the Dar es Salaam cemetery, AFED Vice Chairman, Aunali Khalfan said that marhum Murtaza Jivraj served for the cause of Islam until his last breath, and that his love and devotion to the Ahlulbayt (AS) and Azadari of Imam Hussain (AS) shall remain enshrined in his legacy.

Aunali bhai said that marhum Murtaza Jivraj regularly attended AFED's Supreme Council Sessions and Conferences. He commended marhum for his vast knowledge of the history of our community and his passion to collect old photographs and books of history that have contributed to preserving our community heritage. He said marhum's valuable knowledge and excellent record-keeping enabled him to respond promptly to enquiries, and host the many visitors to the AFED Archives office who came to do research.

May Allah (SWT) grant Marhum Murtaza bhai Jivraj maghferat and rahmat and high status in Jannah, Ameen. Sura al Fateha.

Marhum Mujtaba Hussein Dattoo (1955 – 2021)

Alhaj Mujtaba Hussein Dattoo passed away in Los Angeles, USA on Friday night 30th July 2021. He was buried at Wadi-e-Hussain in Pomona, CA on Monday, 2nd August 2021. Marhum was 66 years old.

Born in Zanzibar on 3rd February 1955, Mujtaba was the fourth child of six children born to Husein bhai Abdulrasul Dattoo and Zainab bai Ahmed Lakha. Both his paternal and maternal families originate from Zanzibar Island and for many decades have been renowned for their communal, religious and social services.

Marhum Mujtaba obtained his primary education in Zanzibar, at Sir Euan Smith (renamed Haillie Sellasse Primary School after the Zanzibar Revolution in 1964). He completed his 'O' Levels education at St. Joseph's Convent School in Dar-es-Salaam and his 'A' Levels at Aga Khan Secondary School in Nairobi, scoring top grades. He was granted full scholarship at the Columbia University in the USA from where he laid the foundation of his professional career as an Actuarist. He held



Above: *Shabir bhai Najafi (then AFED Vice Chairman) presenting an Appreciation Award to Marhum Mujtaba Dattoo who presented a Paper on Preparing for our future generation - Volunteerism, Diversity and Inclusion at the Open Forum held in May 2014. Marhum was the Moderator of the forum.*

the professional designation Associate of the Casualty Actuarial Society and was a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries and a Fellow of the Conference Consulting Actuaries.

Marhum Mujtaba practiced his profession in both public and private sectors in the USA over a span of four decades where he progressed to attain the leadership position of Director in a leading international consultancy firm – AON Global Risk Consulting in Los Angeles, USA.

Marhum Mujtaba was a well-known speaker and excellent presenter who attended various Actuarial conferences and wrote articles and journals on the same. He took pride in his profession and promoted it within the Khoja Community, as this career was not being pursued by many from the Community during those years.

An Actuary and Business Consultant with over 30 years' experience providing actuarial services within the insurance and risk management fields, Marhum spent over

10,000 hours just in the last decade preparing actuarial reports, and thus qualifies as an expert according to the 10,000-hour rule popularized by Malcolm Gladwell in his bestselling book *Outliers*.

His services to the community is immense. He was one of the founding members of the World Federation of KSIMC. He served the North American Shia Ithna-Asheri Muslim Communities (NASIMCO) in various capacities since its inception and similarly in the New York (SIJNY) Jamaat. He was a regular attendee at the meetings of these institutions and served as the President of the Caretaker Committee of NASIMCO in 2017. At the World Federation Conference held in May 2017, he was elected to lead the World Federation Electoral Commission for the term 2017-2020. Marhum served the community until ill health obliged him to step down.

May Allah rest his soul amongst the 14 Masumeen.

Marhum Syed Hassan Abbas Ansar Hussein Naqvi (1955-2021)

Alhaj Syed Hassan Abbas Ansar Hussein Naqvi passed away in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania on Friday 12th February 2021 (29th Jamadi-ul-Aakhar 1442 A.H.). Marhum was 65 years of age. Marhum was the elder brother of Syed Mohamed Naqvi and Syed Ali Redha Naqvi. He is survived by his wife, Rehana bai, and his children, Zahra, Ishrat, Maitham and Zain ul Abideen.

Born in Moshi on 6th November 1955, Syed was the eldest child of late Maulana Syed Ansar Hussein Naqvi who came from Lucknow, India. Maulana was one of the first missionaries under the Africa Federation; his first posting was in Moshi Jamaat in 1953, and thereafter in Dodoma Jamaat.

Marhum Syed Hassan started serving the community at a young age. He was the Chairman of Dodoma Jamaat from 1984 to 1992, before migrating to the U.K. where he served as the Hon. Secretary of Birmingham KSIMC Jamaat from 1999–2003. He was one of the five candidates who contested the World Federation Presidential Elections in 2009. He was elected as the Electoral Commissioner of the World Federation for the term 2011–2014.

Marhum Syed Hassan joined the Africa Federation as Chairman of Tabligh Board (AFTAB) in 2010 under the leadership of then Chairman, Anwarali Dharamsi and he continued for two terms till 2016. Syed was reappointed in the same position in 2016 until his demise this year. He had recently also been appointed to lead the Dar-es-Salaam Jamaat Tabligh Board by the Dar es Salaam Jamaat Managing Committee.

Marhum's focus in the past few years was towards promoting effective networking with institutions of higher learning in the field of Islam and the Madh'ab of Ahlulbayt (A.S.). He was keenly involved in reformation of madrassahs in jamaats under the Africa Federation in order to blend the syllabus with the World Federation Madressah Centre of Excellence (MCE) program. This was with the objective of raising teaching standards and to promote better understanding of religion, the Holy Qur'an and the madh'ab of Ahlulbayt (A.S.) by madressah students. He served with zeal to cover all jamaats including the ones in Reunion, Madagascar and Mauritius Islands.

He also promoted Islamic and family values by organizing several workshops, seminars and training sessions conducted



by professionals involving youths and parents. He was deeply concerned with social vices our community is vulnerable to and he explained this with great concern in the last three AFED Supreme Council Sessions. Of late the Tabligh Board has also been involved in assisting with matchmaking by holding closed session programs and working with other similar organizations and individuals globally to match couples.

The Annual Qur'an Competition is a flagship of AFTAB. Marhum was very passionate about this event. Together with his team they made this into a popular annual event for madressah students in Africa Jamaats. The competition has grown over the years with more participation and more categories of recitation being introduced. The Maarifa part of this competition has become the highlight of the event.

Marhum was also actively involved in moon-sighting duties, including close coordination with various jamaats, ulemas and institutions in Najaf and Qum.

In his condolence message the AFED Chairman, Shabir Najafi described Syed Hassan Abbas Ansar Hussein Naqvi as one with an amiable personality whose presence at any gathering would brighten the mood of the place. He said that Marhum's passion and dedication for the betterment of the community was his priority and that together, they sometimes discussed complex issues for which Marhum would provide valuable guidance.

May Allah (SWT) grant Marhum maghferat and rahmat and a high status in Jannah, Ameen.



Left to Right: Aunali Khalfan, Vice Chairman of Africa Federation with Marhum Alhaj Syed Hassan Abbas Ansar Hussein Naqvi. In his tribute, Aunali said, "Syed Hassan and I travelled together to many Jamaats worldwide where he would spend his countless hours in discussions with the leadership of the Jamaats, Tabligh Boards, Heads of Madrasahs and students providing guidance and support and trying to understand how Africa Federation could better serve the Tabligh needs of the institutions. He had great love for Allah (SWT) and the teachings of the Ahlulbayt (A.S.) and was very focused and conscientious on inculcating the spirit of learning with proper understanding of the Holy Qur'an starting from Madrasahs."

Marhum Sheikh Hassan Mwalupa (1957-2021)



Alhaj Sheikh Hassan Mwalupa passed away at the age of 63 in Mombasa, Kenya on Sunday 25th July 2021 (14th Zilhajj 1442 A.H.) and was buried in Matuga, Kwale County in Mombasa on Monday 26th July 2021. His passing away is an irreplaceable loss to his family members, students, colleagues and the entire Shia community in East Africa.

Marhum Sheikh Mwalupa was born in Tanga, Tanzania on 8th November 1957 and was a student at Madrasatu Shamsiyya where he mastered Arabic at an early age. He joined the Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya, Mombasa for further Islamic studies under Maulana Sheikh Zaffar Abbas (presently in the UK). After working for a short time as a muallim at Mackinnon Road in Mombasa he returned to Tanzania.

In Tanzania, he got an opportunity to pursue further studies for three years in Tehran, Iran. In Tehran, he became familiar with the main teachers of the Hawza including the Ayatollah Haadi and Taqi Mudarisi brothers. Allama Taqi felt strongly that Sheikh was being underutilized and should be amidst them.

Marhum returned to Mombasa and commenced work on translating Arabic books

into Kiswahili. Among the titles he worked on were Tafsir al Mizan of Allama Tabatabai completing 30th Juzuu Amma. At the time of his death he was working on revising this to publish the second edition of Juzuu Amma of Tafsir al Mizan.

Marhum also started Madrastu Amir ul Muimineen with Sheikh Abdillahi Nassir in Matuga. This madrassah produced excellent results with at least 35 students going abroad for further Islamic studies. Many of these students acquired Ilm in various capacities and now serve the ummah as imams and muallims in various centres across East Africa.

About 3000 students studied directly under Marhum Alhaj Sheikh Hassan Mwalupa and will always remember him as a role model. Marhum conducted many seminars and courses for teachers from different institutions to spiritually uplift themselves. Until the time of his death, he was actively recording TV programs for IBN TV Africa and conducting online classes at Bilal Muslim Mission Kenya during the Covid-19 pandemic.

He did translation work for Al-Itrah Foundation in Dar-es-Salaam, where he used

to travel every month for ten days to make sure the projects were completed. His main projects with Al-Itrah Foundation were:

- Translating seven volumes of Arabic Tafsir al-Kashif of Allama Mohamed Jawad Mughniyya into a Kiswahili 30 volume series.
- Tarjuma of Holy Qur'an – Arabic - Kiswahili – One volume – 30 Juzuu.
- Translating a pocket sized publication Holy Qur'an in Kiswahili.
- -Writing his own Tafsir (Exegesis) of Holy Qur'an (editing is pending).
- Revision and publishing in six hard cover volumes the Tafsir al-Kashif, which was earlier printed in thirty volumes. This project was not completed at the time of his death.

The translation work of Tafsir al Kashif by Allama Jawad Mughniya, which Sheikh Mwalupa translated from Arabic to Kiswahili, is a masterpiece lauded by many. Many Imams of Masajid leading Friday Prayers often quote this Tafsir.

Marhum's own exegesis of the Holy Qur'an is undergoing final edit before being published soon. Marhum also edited and proofread many other Kiswahili books. His humbleness, honesty, hard work and discipline were outstanding and played a vital role in the propagation of the Madhab of Ahlulbayt (A.S.).

In his condolence message, the AFED Chairman, Shabir Najafi described Marhum Sheikh Hassan Mwalupa as a beacon of light who illuminated the hearts and souls of so many students and followers of Ahlulbayt (A.S.) during his life dedicated to tabligh. May Allah (SWT) grant Marhum Sheikh Hassan Mwalupa maghferat and rahmat and high status in Jannah, Ameen.

Marhum Mulla Abdulrasul Hassanali Khaki (1926-2021)

Alhaj Mulla Abdulrasul Mulla Hassanali Khaki passed away in Mombasa, Kenya on Wednesday 28th July 2021 (17th Zilhajj 1442 AH), at the age of 95. He was buried there on the same day. Marhum, well known by his deserving title of Mulla, was an iconic figure of Mombasa Jamaat dedicating his life in services to the community, maintaining Islamic values and promoting the Shia Ithna-Asheri faith.

Mulla was born in Mombasa on 15th March 1926, and had a special interest in Islamic History and Fiqh from a young age when he sought the company of Ulema to further his knowledge. He was one of the first teachers of the Huseini Night School in Mombasa when it was established in 1944, under late M. M. Jaffer. In 1956, he became the deputy Headmaster when late H. M. Nasser took over as the Headmaster following the death of Marhum M. M. Jaffer. Few years later, he became the Headmaster of the School where he continued serving what is now the Huseini Madrasah, until 2000.

Marhum Abdulrasul Hassanali Khaki was actively involved in the Ghul Kafan Committee and over the years, taught many individuals on related practices and masael. He also held such classes for Mualims of the Bilal Muslim Mission of Kenya from rural areas of Mombasa.

Marhum also conducted Islamic History classes for adults and special masael classes for prospective Hujjaj. Marhum also played an important role in imparting religious knowledge to community women in Mombasa. In the early 1970s he conducted classes on Fiqh, History and Muaamelaat (dealings) during which he indulged in interactive discussions with lady members. In 1974, when Mombasa Jamaat convened a special Open Forum for ladies to review rites, rituals, customs and traditions practiced by the community, Marhum Mulla Abdulrasul was present at this Forum with late Resident Aalim of the Jamaat, Maulana Syed Aqa Haider.

He was a member of the Marriage Reconciliation Committee and actively

involved in matchmaking. As a Zakir, he delivered majalis in Gujarati and on several occasions travelled to Madagascar and Paris during Muharram and Safar. For his vast contribution to the community

Marhum was bestowed various recognition awards. These included a special Citation by KSI Jamaat of Mombasa acknowledging his services and the Husseini Medal with Citation by the Africa Federation. He was also presented with the Al Baqir Award by the World Federation.

Marhum's passion for imparting religious education in Fiqh and Islamic history was such that despite his age and subsequent limited vision, he continued to provide individual, one-on-one teachings when called upon.

In his condolence message the AFED Chairman, Shabir Najafi described Mulla Abdulrasul Hassanali Khaki as a prolific, sincere and dedicated member who served all his life for the community's spiritual and social wellbeing. He said Marhum was always available to give guidance to Mombasa Jamaat, individual members and to the Africa Federation.



When the Vice Chairman of the Africa Federation, Aunali Khalfan visited the late Mulla Abdulrasul Khaki in August 2019, Marhum Mulla told him, "Please ensure that the number of days of attendance at madressahs (both for boys and girls) in our jamaats are increased to twice or thrice a week; we must also ensure that the Holy Qur'an must be included in the syllabus and taught with meaning and understanding." This important message and advice from Marhum Mulla was communicated to the Jamaats through Africa Federation Tabligh Board (AFTAB).

May Allah (SWT) grant Mulla Abdulrasul Hassanali Khaki maghferat and rahmat and high status in Jannah, Ameen.



Above From Left: Munir Sachedina (Mulla Abdulrasul's son-in-law - Mombasa), Murtaza Master (Birmingham), Mulla Abdulrasul and Sheikh Nuru Mohammed.

Marhum Dr. Naushad Noorali Merali (1951-2021)

Alhaj Dr. Naushad Noorali Merali of Sameer Group of Companies passed away in Nairobi on Saturday 3rd July 2021 at the age of 70 years. He was buried on the same day at the Shia Asna Ashri Jamaat Cemetery in Nairobi.

Naushad bhai was born on 2nd January 1951 in Mombasa, Kenya. He was amongst six siblings born to his parents, Laila and Noorali (well known as Bapa).

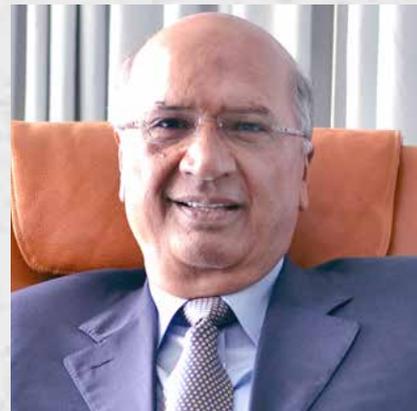
Marhum was a well-known personality in and out of Kenya known for his corporate and philanthropic activities, within and outside the community. From a humble beginning, augmented with hard work, foresight and strategic planning he became a renowned businessman, industrialist and philanthropist whose love and compassion for the community was immense. He wholeheartedly supported many projects and his contributions to underprivileged members of the local and other communities was remarkable.

With his wife Zarina he founded the Zarina and Naushad Merali Foundation for philanthropic support of several projects that supported hospitals, health care centres, Old-Age homes, and educational facilities. This included the establishment and equipping of

the “Zarina Merali Surgical Day Care Centre”, at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), that facilitates same-day, outpatient surgeries. Marhum Naushad, who made a large donation to aid the construction of this medical centre was quoted as saying that he was inspired to donate to the emergency ward of the KNH after a fire disaster, when he visited affected victims, and was deeply moved.

Marhum Naushad bhai was the Chairman and founder of the Sameer Group of Companies, a leading multinational organization in Kenya. He also founded Ryce Motors and Kencell and served on various Presidential Committees relating to trade and social services. He was a member of the Kenya National Economic and Social Council. He served as a Board Trustee of the National Cancer Institute of Kenya.

In recognition of his contributions to the development and economic growth of Kenya, Dr. Merali was honored with the prestigious Elder of the Burning Spear (EBS) in 2001 by the then President of Kenya, Late Daniel Arab Moi and the Chief of the Order of the Burning Spear (CBS) for his philanthropic efforts in Kenya. He was also awarded a doctorate degree (Honoris Causa) in Business



Leadership by Kabarak University in 2015.

Marhum’s contribution to the community has been immense. He contributed towards many projects undertaken by our jamaats in Africa including the Africa Federation’s Al Qa’eem Housing Project in Arusha. He was also one of the major sponsors of Sports Festivals organized biennially by the Africa Federation.

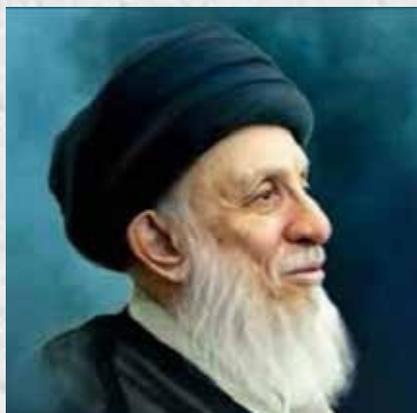
The Jaffery Islamic Centre (JIC) in Lavington, Nairobi and JIC in Mombasa benefitted greatly from Marhum Naushad’s generous contributions. He also funded half of the new development of the Jaffery Sports Club, i.e., the sports ground and the new pavilion. The then Governor of Nairobi renamed a road within the affluent estate of Lavington, Nairobi as the Naushad Merali Drive to honour Marhum’s contribution to business growth in Kenya during his lifetime.

In his condolence message, the AFED Chairman, Shabir Najafi described Marhum Dr. Naushad Noorali Merali as a humble and kind-hearted person whose thoughts and actions were always focused towards the betterment of the community. He said that his contributions in numerous projects in Africa and overseas and his noble act of giving quietly towards charities bear testimony to his philanthropic mission. May Allah (SWT) grant Marhum Dr. Naushad Noorali Merali maghferat and rahmat and high status in Jannah, Ameen



Zarina and Marhum Naushad Noorali Merali at the Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH). Their philanthropic organization, The Zarina and Naushad Merali Foundation made a large donation to aid the construction of the “Zarina Merali Surgical Day Care Centre” at KNH.

Marhum Grand Ayatullah Sayyid Muhammad Saeed al-Hakim 1936 – 2021



Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Saeed al-Hakim passed away in Najaf al-Ashraf, Iraq on Friday 3rd September (25th Muharram 1443 A.H.) and was buried there on 4th September, 2021.

Born in Najaf on 1st February 1936 (8th Dhil-Q'ada 1354 AH), he was 85 years old when he passed away. Marhum began his seminary education at an early age and was a student of Sayyid Muhsin al-Hakim, Sheikh Husayn al-Hilli, and Sayyid Abul-Qasim al-Khui. He taught jurisprudence and its principles as well as ethics and Quranic exegesis since a young age. He also wrote books on jurisprudence, theology and social issues with some of his books being translated into Persian, Urdu and English.

The books that he authored included the following:

- *Almohkem* in the fundamentals of the jurisprudence - a detailed six volumes full course on the fundamentals of jurisprudence.
- *Misbahul minhag* in the jurisprudence laws derivation - based on details in the book of *Minhag al Saliheen*. (Marhum completed 15 volumes).
- *Minhag al Saliheen* - his *Risala* - practical laws of his verdicts in three volumes.
- *Menasik* – Pilgrimage and Omra rituals.
- A message to the People in the West.
- A message to religions promoters and hawza students - translated into Persian and Urdu.

- *Morshid al Moghtarib* - instructions and verdicts related to people in the West.
- Religious laws of computer and internet - translated into English.
- Human cloning – translated into English.
- A message to pilgrims of the holy house of God.

Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Saeed Al Hakim was imprisoned for eight years from 1983 to 1991 during the oppressive rule of the Ba'athist regime. Many of the members of Al-Hakim family were then imprisoned and brutally killed during the reign of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

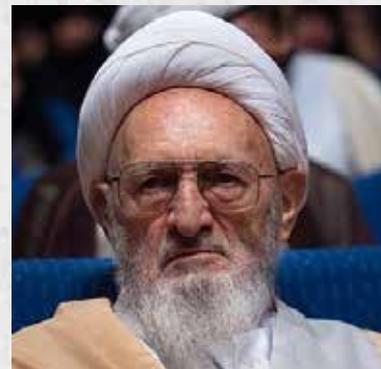
At the time of his death, he was one of four Ayatollahs at the Hawza, Najaf's Shia Seminary, along with, Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali al-Hussaini al-Sistani (May Allah (SWT) prolong his life and grant him good health and safety, Ameen).

Marhum always spoke on the importance of love towards Allah (SWT) and the Ahlulbayt (A.S.) and in his advanced age would participate in Arba'een processions. He facilitated many charitable activities including that of assisting the needy people of Iraq. He also supported reconstruction of various religious sites globally and consolidated tabligh activities in different parts of the world. He was firm in his support of oppressed people in places like Palestine and other countries.

The U.S. Department of State posted the following message on their website, "The United States extends its sincere condolences to the Islamic community and the followers of the doctrine of Ahl al-Bayt and the great Marja'iyah on the death of the religious Marja' Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Saeed al-Hakim. He was a symbol of peace, unity, and compassion across the region and the world. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones on this day."

May Allah (SWT) grant him maghferat and rahmat and a high status in Jannah, Ameen.

Marhum Ayatullah Hassan Hassanzadeh Amoli 1929 – 2021



Ayatullah Hassanzadeh was born on February 12, 1929 in the village of Ira in Larijan, Iran. He passed away in Iran at the age of 92, on Saturday, 25th September 2021, and was buried in Ira. Ayatullah Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran led the prayers at his funeral.

Marhum Ayatullah Hassanzadeh was known as a prominent and unique mystic and philosopher of our time, and will be remembered as "one of the previous assets and honors of the Islamic world."

At the age of 22, Marhum went to Tehran to continue his studies in 1950, and was taught by some of the best teachers of Iran who taught him Qur'an interpretation, mathematics, astronomy, and medicine.

In 1963, he went to Qom and began teaching, and at the same time was a student of Allamah Tabatabai for 17 years. As a theologian, he also attended the philosophical and mystical lectures of Sayyid Muhammad Hasan Ilahi. Ayatullah Hassanzadeh spoke highly of these lectures. He also studied with Sayyid Mahdi Qadi Tabataba'i, the son of Sayyid 'Ali Qadi Tabataba'i, who was an expert in Occluded Sciences, philosophy, and mysticism.

Ayatullah Hassan Hasanzadeh Amoli wrote numerous books on many subjects, including philosophy, ethics, theology, mysticism, mathematic, astronomy, Persian and Arabic literature, natural sciences and more. May Allah (SWT) grant him maghferat and rahmat and a high status in Jannah, ameen.

With a “Heads you Win, Tails you Win” attitude, Dr. Amir Lakha is a self-styled World Ambassador.

An Interview with Zakira Shyrose Jaffer Dhalla



Multiple award winner, physician, philanthropist, author, veteran community leader, business entrepreneur, motivational speaker, polyglot and activist for global peace, Dr. Amir Lakha is a prolific and visionary thinker whose remarkable lifetime of achievement is an inspiration, to all. Here he speaks to Zakira Shyrose Jaffer Dhalla who did the interview for Federation Samachar.

Dr. Lakha's charitable endeavours as a global community organizer of several extremely successful and ambitious projects to combat poverty and world hunger has earned him the notable distinction of being a recipient of the Corporate Social Responsibility World Leaders (CSR) Award from The World CSR Congress in 2016. This prestigious award is presented to companies that have used their privileged position to

help their colleagues, communities, customers, the environment and the less fortunate.

He is a Consul for the London Changemakers Group of InterNations and organises various charitable activities in London and workshops on various topics in other countries and was recently appointed with the distinct honour, by United Nations in September 2020, as a World Peace Ambassador. He said,

“The seeds of being a caring, loving, friendly person and in having a humanitarian approach to life were actually sown in my heart by my dear mother. She was a simple and down-to-earth woman who indoctrinated me to be kind, humble and caring. Growing up as a young child, I witnessed my childhood home as a place that people flocked to

for assistance. My mother had this almost innate ability to immediately assess what someone needed. She could empathize and sense what someone needed and would set about to help them to receive that assistance in a very organized and focused fashion. I took that mindset that one has to be a caring person to heart and the seeds were sown in my childhood. By age 4, I had already decided I wanted to be a doctor and helping others had already become my second nature.”

That childhood dream in Mombasa, Kenya at the age of four led Dr. Amir Lakha on a focused academic path that soon led to an impressive string of professional titles and qualifications after his name (M.B., Ch.B., MSc (Edin), DPM (RCP Lond & RCS Eng).

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He has worked in various fields, in Kenya and England, including in Paediatrics, Orthopaedics, Casualty Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Psychological Medicine, Public Health Administration, Infection Control and Pain Management. He was a family physician for 24 years until he retired in 2009 to devote full time to charity work. He is the founder and Chairman of Humanitarian and Charitable ONE Trust (HACOT).

He has been a leading figure in the early establishment of Primary Care Trusts (NHS) in England in the 1990s and was a professional member of the Primary Care Trust. He was also the leading General Practitioner (GP) to have achieved the highest scores in Quality and Outcome Framework and to attain the highest targets. He was the leader of the Fundholding team of his practice and responsible for commissioning services.

Medical patients from his thriving medical practice before his retirement in 2016 still frequently take to social media to praise the care that he selflessly gave to them and their families. In response to this, he said,

“In my medical practice, my patients were number one; I would often give them an hour and all of my undivided attention until I ensured that all their issues were addressed. The people in the waiting room knew that about my style and understood that and they didn't complain. And this caring nature of mine paid a huge dividend. I ended up having an extremely large practice of over 3,500 patients. That is almost triple the size of a regular practice.”

Dr. Amir Lakha's life has not been focused simply around his busy and thriving medical practice. He has also

found time to be a very hands-on father to his three children and subsequent five grandchildren, and has remained an active and dedicated community member who once ran an extremely vigorous and memorable campaign for the position of President of the World Federation in 2016. He has also made time in his busy life to serve on committees and as chairman for several terms on various high level mainstream institutions and organizations.

In 1995, Dr. Amir Lakha in his position as Chairman, had the incredible status and responsibility of arranging the World Trade Fair Exhibition at Earls Court Olympia.

Over the years, he has had a lot of experience in working with very poor, destitute and needy individuals and has organised and participated in medical camps. He has presented a Seminar on Smart Cities for Refugees at the very prestigious Annual General Meeting of the World Bank in Washington, U.S.A. and on the subject of Conflicts and Poverty at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, U.S.A.

He has not stopped working even during the recent global pandemic and received the Award of Fabulous Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) World Global Leader from the World CSR Congress.

After his retirement in 2009, Dr. Lakha has spent all of his time in setting up the infrastructure of his charity Humanitarian and Charitable ONE Trust (HARCOT) with monthly visits to various countries, meeting stakeholders and has attended in London, U.K., meetings of various forums including Bond, NCVO, Fund Raising Standards Board, End Water Poverty and Impact Alliance.

He has established a Centre in Mombasa, Kenya that has already

trained over a thousand very poor individuals to become independent earners in fields like agriculture, livestock farming, Computers, building construction, dressmaking, mining and business management. He said,

“In all of my lifetime of work, I feel that this particular project has been one of my greatest and most fulfilling achievements. It has been extremely satisfying to see impoverished individuals get a chance at becoming successful entrepreneurs. It has made me feel that if we all worked together we could seriously eradicate world poverty and hunger. I feel World Peace is also very achievable if we only worked together towards this cause.”

“I have identified some areas that I want to make a lasting impact on. At present I am working on dedicated projects to address seven specific areas:

- 1. Poverty and hunger reduction – Economic Empowerment*
 - 2. Refugees of the World*
 - 3. Global Peace*
 - 4. Smart Cities*
 - 5. CSR Projects with NGO collaboration*
 - 6. Effective Education*
 - 7. Achievement of Happiness*
- My latest projects such as language courses, help for divorced individuals, and marital counselling sessions fit into these 7 identified areas that I am focusing on.”*

In addition to the myriad of projects that Dr. Lakha is involved in, including countless appearances on TV channels as well as on several popularly watched interviews with Zakira Shyrose Jaffer Dhalla (myself) on Hyder TV and Hidayat TV, Dr. Amir Lakha also makes time to write books and articles,



Dr. Amir Lakha speaking at an international conference.

to lecture at conferences, to deal with correspondence and to travel internationally to attend meetings. He also regularly posts articles on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter and has a large following on social media. He runs a Global Citizens Group for Global Peace on Facebook and lectures on various topics in various countries.

Speaking on time management, he said:

“I do organize my day. It is important to have a schedule. One must make a list of what one needs to do, and keep ticking off items as they are completed. Basically you have to have a road map of what you have done, a plan of where you want to go, a list of needs and demands that need to be fulfilled. Before you go to bed you need to look at that list and ask if you have achieved what needs to be done. I work out for 45 mins in my home gym everyday as well. And yes, I

still socialize and spend time with family, Alhamdulillah.”

Dr. Amir Lakha is president of Novel Support Links (NSL), an organisation that provides support to widows, widowers and divorcees. Additionally, NSL helps to identify marriage partners for them so as to enable them to enjoy companionship and intimacy for the remaining span of their lives. He has also published several books on relationships and marriage and has spent the last year lecturing and discussing marital advice from his latest book, *“Heads You Win, Tails you Win.”*

He said,

“Our community is threatened with a high rate of divorces and I have made it my life’s mission to study what are the main factors that may lead to these divorces and how can we prevent them in our community. I am trying

to understand how can our local community practically, yet sensitively, support divorcees and my organization, Novel Support Links (NSL) aims to address these needs, We need to ask ourselves how can our local community help youngsters to enjoy a happily married life?

There is no such thing as a perfect, ideal marriage. Everyone has some imperfection. It is important to be positive and to look at the good points of the person and you will see you will be a happier person with no stress and no quarrels in your life.

When you are married it is not like dating that you simply leave each other once you don’t like what the other person does. Marriage is a sacred relationship based on divine guidance; it is based on a code of married life that is guided
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by divine methods. If you bring that divine guidance in, it helps matters.

When you deal with your partner, you need to communicate. Your partner is not a mind reader; you need to express yourself. Some people are introverts, they keep quiet not because they are hiding something or because they are being difficult. That is their normal nature. There are good qualities attached to being an introvert: they are very sincere, loyal, and reliable. They are very good people. They just can't express it.

Couples don't spend time with each other. It's extremely important even if it is for two or four hours a week. That time is for you two. It is a premium time where there is no disturbance. Spouses should enjoy time and intimacy together. Couples need to work hard to help physical and social bonding. Spending time quarrelling takes away from this bonding. Shouting and arguing and confrontation are not the only way of understanding each other. There is a positive way to connecting too."

Dr. Lakha's latest passion is a special educational program and scheme aimed at promoting Gujarati language among the Khoja Shia Ithna-Asheri youth and especially young parents settled in western countries.

"We are indeed already paying a price with foreign culture having gently pushed itself into our homes and altered the face of the family in many different ways.

I have had the opportunity to compare the cultural differences in those of our communities who have proudly retained the language

and those who haven't. There is a definite difference in etiquette, outlook and the level of family harmony. Those in the western countries are already paying a price with the children taking the role of parents and the parents having to adopt a subservient role.

"I am confident and excited that my educational scheme will be most helpful to retain not just our mother tongue but our dearly held culture and religion.

"There seems to be a general consensus that promoting Gujarati is an excellent option for retaining our cultural identity, with its direct and indirect benefits, so that's my aim right now."

His work is truly an inspiration for so many around the world and Dr. Amir Lakha continues to impress with his multi-talents, boundless energy, overflowing positivity and passion for making the world a better place. His legacy and achievements embody and encapsulate what it genuinely means to give back to the community and to the larger mainstream society as well.

He finds the time to involve himself in any worthy project and it is not unusual to see him working hands-on, in various capacities around the world from training refugees in the English Language and in writing CVs and in economic empowerment at a centre in Lewisham, South London, to running a marathon to raise funds for Centrepoint Hostels in London, U.K, then at Kabongo Port, to set up the "Smart City" in Burundi, or at the Consul of InterNations organizing a Fundraising Campaign for Handicap International to presiding over a meeting of InterNations Members in Cafe Nero, Piccadilly, London and recently, sponsoring and addressing the immensely successful The Spirit of Women in Leadership (WIL) Conference in Toronto, Canada.



Dr. Amir Lakha receiving one of many awards.

His relentless efforts, tenacity and enthusiasm exude sincerity for every cause that he devotes himself to and the large amount of success and work that he has managed to achieve indicates that he has been blessed, indeed. He is able to do more with the 24 hours that all of us are given each day, than some of us have been able to achieve in a lifetime. And this is only possible when Allah (SWT) blesses one's efforts with tawfiqaat and barakah.

An exemplary and visionary leader, thinker and philosopher, Dr. Amir Lakha has taken it upon himself to be a catalyst for change. His caring, loving demeanour makes the recipient of his kindness feel as if a father's hand has been placed over one's head. His dreams and ideas for the community's betterment, education and future are truly akin to a father's plans for his children's future.

He has trailblazed a path and illuminated the way behind him for so many to find their way.

And subhan'Allah the future, too, looks so much dazzlingly brighter.

Indulgence in ritualistic practices, however passionately executed, during ‘ashra can only be an insult to our own intelligence.



We just commemorated the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his progeny in the month of Muharram. What we need to understand from our commemoration is that mere indulgence in rituals, however fervently executed, cannot answer the call of Hal Min Nasirin Yansurna, if we ignore the call of our conscience towards social justice. According to the Holy Qur'an, when the moral fabric of a community is pulled apart, such a community passes through the path of corruption and is in a desperate need to be reformed.

In Ayah 88, Surah Hud, Hazrat Shoeib has been quoted as saying: "I desire nothing but reform so far as I am able, and my ability to do anything comes from none but Allah. On Him do I rely and to Him do I turn."

It is in that spirit that one must understand the spirit of Aza e Husein. In his own words Imam Husein (AS) declared his mission of reformation: "Wa innama kharajtu li talabi-l islahi fi ummaati jaddi" - "I am not taking any opposition in order to make merry, or be delighted over what I possess. I am not making mischief, nor exercising oppression. But I am fighting to defend

the sole goal of seeking reform of the ummah of my grandfather, the Prophet of Allah (SWT). I want to enjoin good and forbid evil and guide the affairs of the people as my grandfather, and my father, Ali bin Abi Talib (A.S.) were doing."

The key point made in this announcement was that Imam Hussein "left Madinah seeking reformation to the ummah of his grandfather." The mission of Imam Hussein (AS) sought reform of the ummah through amr bil ma'ruf and nahyi anil munkar.

To seek reform in Islam is a duty for everyone. Through amr bil maaruf and nahyi anil munkar, we are able to raise the human conscience and its quest for social justice. Every one of our actions should be a rededication to the message of Imam Hussein's (AS) message of reformation. We cannot remain indifferent towards personal and social disorders and injustices around us if we are to pay real homage to Sayyid-us-Shuhada.

Mere indulgence in ritualistic practices, however passionately executed, during 'ashra can only be an insult to our own intelligence if we lock them away for

another year and continue during the interim ignoring the call of our conscience to heed to the message of Imam Hussein (AS) to revive Islam and separate truth from falsehood. True reformers, who see reform as part of a divine pattern, try to change the direction of society towards goodness. Reform in Islam is regarded as a social responsibility that includes all affairs and efforts to remove deficiencies, weaknesses and corruption from within individuals and from society.

The modern world primarily regards reform in economic, cultural, social and political spheres. Such a compartmentalized concept of reform cannot truly resolve the real problems of mankind – all they really do is secure the interests of specialty groups. Reform in the Islamic context means attention to the promotion of social justice. The domain of reform in Islam is much wider than materialist schools of thought to the extent that it begins from an individual and ends in changing society.

The movement of Imam Hussein (AS) was a movement seeking reform based on the Islamic principles of justice and

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fairness. Imam Hussein's (AS) uprising campaigned against the corruption of the Umayyad government and the social injustices of that time when moral principles which were set up by the holy Prophet of Islam (SAW) were on the verge of destruction and human values were forgotten with treachery and injustice becoming common.

The details of Imam Hussein's (AS) life are obscured by the legends that grew up surrounding his martyrdom but his final acts appear to have been inspired by a definite ideology—to found a regime that would reinstate a “true” Islamic polity as opposed to what he considered the unjust rule of the Umayyads.

Today there are many parallels and we must not shirk our responsibilities to campaign against injustice, oppression, poverty, corruption and social disorders. Our Azadari must send a message to the world at large - in the name of Imam Hussein (AS) and seventy-two of his dear ones who sacrificed their lives under the scorching sun of that parched land of Karbala – that we stand for truth and social justice for all of humanity.

And that our weeping on the Karbala tragedy signifies that when we see any group of people being humiliated, downtrodden, oppressed or suffering from a despotic regime, we stand up for their cause. The constant lesson we draw from the events of Karbala is to refuse to tolerate the despots of this world and never to reconcile with an unjust authority, whether a Muslim or a non-Muslim.

A scholar and researcher states, “Imam Hussein (AS) uprooted despotism forever till the Day of Resurrection. He watered the dry garden of freedom with the surging wave of his blood, and indeed he awakened the sleeping Muslim nation. Imam Hussein (AS) weltered in blood and dust for the sake of truth. Verily he, therefore, became the bed-rock (foundation) of the Muslim creed; la ila ha illal Allah (There is no god but Allah).”

This is a period where we can once again inspire the concept of a better

society through the Muslim creed of la ila ha illal Allah. To do so, the framing of the message must be congruent with the society and the era we live in. It is important to emphasize that, in a place where the audience live in an area where they are in a minority they need to be equipped with sufficient knowledge of their religious tenets and history to be able to counter the polemics of others. If one lives in a multicultural pluralistic society, it becomes all the more important to offer solutions and assistance relevant to such a society.

Contextually, what is relevant in India or Pakistan today may not necessarily be relevant in Los Angeles or Kitchener. The language, mode and organization and above all the function and purpose of majlis may have to be markedly different in different parts of the world.

Majalises must address the real needs of members of a community. The style of oratory, the language medium and the level of scholarly debate has to reflect the expectations of a literate educated community and not the ‘perceptions’ of preachers and some ‘know all elders’ as to how the status quo may be maintained in the ritual of azadari ‘back home’. We have to face the fact that, if offering the same menu of rituals and sermons year after year is no longer as appetizing as it was once was, then the menu has to change.

Our functions of Azadari should propagate Islam by extolling it proudly and show what a truly peace loving Islam is. That is the challenge ahead. Our performance as organizers, leaders of the community will be critically examined and judged upon our ability or otherwise of doing so.

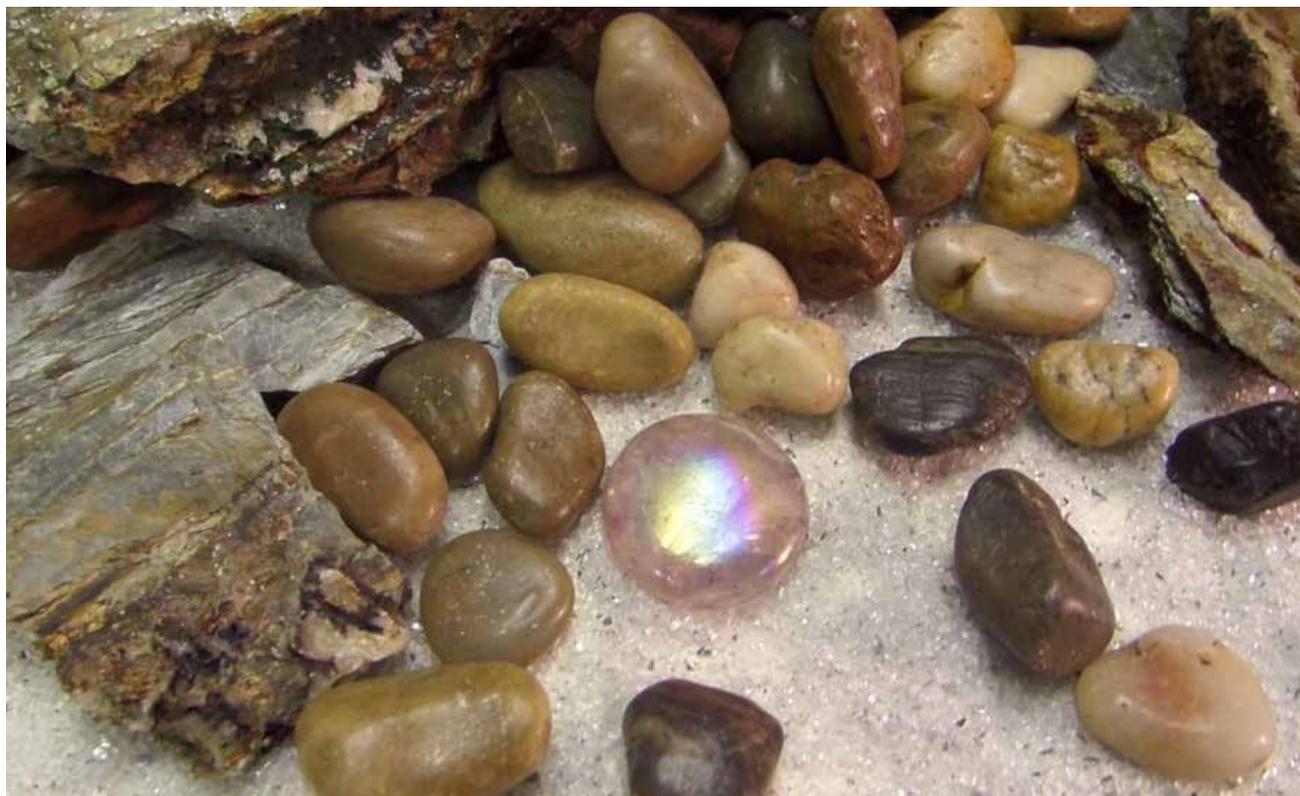
Azadari has blessed us with the structure of a Hussein Open University - Muharram Majalis - to equip one and all to live by practicing social justice for the benefit of humanity. By correctly doing so, we will have truly answered Imam Hussein's (AS) call of ‘Hal Min Nasirin Yansurna.’ - a call made to continue his mission to stand up and raise our voices against oppressions and social injustice.



By Muhammad Tijani,

Dubai

Distinguishing Truth as Pearls from Falsehood as Pebbles.



The message in Islam is simple in spirit and effect: keep being vigilant in seeking out truth, and when attained, acquaint it to one another. This is an obligation commonly resting upon all individually. Blind following has no part in it.

This message is imperative because there is truth and so are pieces of falsehood. While truth needs to be sought and possessed like 'pearls', falsehood is peddled aplenty loud and clear like 'pebbles.' But they may look alike.

It is simple to distinguish truth from falsehood by those who have retained the independence of intellectual thinking and reasoning but not by those who have forsaken the spirit of rational thinking by blindly trusting the peddlers.

This analogy applies also to the books of ahaadith. These books offer a selection of ahaadith which are reliable and

sparkling like pearls amidst many more which are not. Yet to many, the unauthentic ahaadith may be perceived as no different.

The issue of differing beliefs and the practices followed becomes compounded when the books of ahaadith are accorded more value than the texts of the holy Quran as a source for guidance. This is despite the fact that there is an assurance in the Quran that it is: "..... a guidance for mankind and clear evidence of guidance and discrimination (between wrong)" (2:185). The Qur'an emancipates humanity from the darkness of ignorance towards the light of knowledge and wisdom.

It is not strange therefore that among the beliefs also which are professed and practiced among the followers of any sect, not all of these are pearls. To be precise, therefore, beliefs and practices in agreement with Tauhid sparkle as

"pearls" to those with eyes open and anything different is Shirk and the pebbles look no different to the blind followers.

In such a situation where doubts are created between distinguishing pearls from pebbles there can never be a guarantee that all the beliefs and practices followed are the same pristine and true until known after death when the fate is sealed.

The warning comes as no surprise therefore that in the matter of blind following no soul shall bear the burden of another! Every soul is on its own to account for its choices whether the pearls or the pebbles or a combination thereof.

However, what is distressing is that Truth is always like an orphan while falsehood has many fathers each for different reasons.

Family Issues are Common – Choice is Managing or Facing Them.

The best love and concern we have are for our families. The most common issues in life are of families. The easiest issues to handle in life are those of families. And yet, these are the issues that can be made to defy common resolution when viewed as uncommon.

The mistakes that creep in are simple but not that simple to recognize. Times later tell how the issues could have been addressed differently with the energy more of light than that of heat.

Often a family issue appears much bigger than it is when it first makes a sudden appearance; it then seems ugly like a big problem when it may not be so. Such a perception often leads to a hasty reaction of rash behavior or approaches and such quick reactions are often laden with uncontrolled emotions and anxieties. What was a simple Family issue becomes a Family problem at hand beyond the point of return.

A 'rationale response' and not a 'spontaneous reaction' has to be set in motion not immediately but essentially after a small break for patience, coolness in anxiety and for a wider picture to emerge. At times, with such a short break for a breathing time issues get solved without intervention or assume a lesser seriousness than first thought.

The surest way to having an issue develop into a problem that defies any solution is to let emotions erupt immediately after the issue arises thereby letting words and body language play a greater role in the vent of emotions.

"He utters not a word but there is by him a watcher at hand" (Sura Qaaf Verse 18). Let us beware that merely a word wrongly used unwisely at the time of an argument, can wreck or split a family.

It should always be borne in mind that if an issue is mismanaged and a family is split the consequences and ramifications may affect the lives of the innocent ones also who were not a party to the issue nor to the engagement in seeking solution. This will linger on in succeeding generations while the actors at the scene of the time may no longer be around to atone for the wrongs inflicted on the victims in the family and others. But Time never fails to Tell.

Let us remember: we all have family issues, as common as hiccups in life. But some of us are luckily different in the way we artfully manage them. We choose not to face what we can meet.

Editor's Note: The writer has written a book of 30 chapters with a catalogue of common family episodes as examples. The title is "Time Tells".



By Mohamed Khalfan,
Dar es Salaam



The deception of the accursed one



“Just leave me alone!”

My eyes widen in shock as I hear these outrageous words from my grown child.

“It’s MY Life!!”

I step back in fear as the roaring sound of the words hit me as if I have been slapped in the face.

“You have no right to tell me how to live my life! You hate me! You just can’t bear to see me happy!”

I watch in disbelief at the defiantly arrogant facial expression, the curled lips blatantly showing disdain and scorn, the haughty stance and over-confident body language and the blazing eyes glaring back at me.

Where has my beautiful, loving child gone? The loving, trusting child who once could not bear to part from me for even a moment? How can this grown adult actually believe that I am now their enemy? How could a brilliant, sensible grown human being even imagine that their own mother would want to stand in the way of their happiness?

I look into the glaring eyes and search within the dark, angry depths.

No, this cannot be my child. Surely, someone, some enemy posing as a friend, has had a terrible influence on them and fed them these lies and totally deceived them.

I reach out to lovingly touch the shoulder of my child, this human being that is most precious to me in the entire world, and feel

them jerk back so that my hand cannot touch them. I move closer and reach out once again and am angrily shrugged away.

“My love, what has happened to you?” I whisper softly, as the tears begin to flow from my eyes.

“Who has deceived you about your mother? The mother who loves you more than anyone else in the world. That mother who has carried you and given birth to you. The one who fed you with these hands, taught you how to stand, how to walk, how to become this educated and confident person that you now are.

They say that becoming a parent makes one finally appreciate what one’s own parents have suffered in order to bring us up in this world. It makes even the best

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of us break down in tears at the deep realization of the great sacrifices they made for us.

But it is when one's child becomes a full-grown, self-confident adult and then speaks in an ungrateful and arrogant tone and turns away from the very hand that lovingly fed it, one finally gets a small glimpse at how Forgiving and Merciful our own Generous Lord has been to us.

And how disobedient, negligent and careless we thankless creatures must appear in the eyes of our Benevolent Lord.

This heart-breaking moment of truth has been faced by every parent in this world who has experienced the terrible teenage years of angst or the self-assured rudeness and careless negligence of an adult child.

And this moment of stark realization that, we too, behave this way in front of our Nurturer, our Rabb, can make the best of us break down into tears of regret and remorse. For haven't each of us defied our Merciful Lord with this same type of defiance and downright arrogance, every time we have disobeyed Him?

Haven't we denied His Benevolence and shown ingratitude every time we have boasted that we are solely responsible for all our success? Haven't we, with our repeated disobedience, metaphorically expressed with our actions, that we know better about what is best for us than He (SWT) who has Made us?

Haven't we, too, pushed Him away angrily and closed our ears to His (SWT) Call, every time He (SWT) has Lovingly reached out to us? Allah (SWT) asks us Lovingly, much like a mother asks her child, an entity that He (SWT) has Himself compared Himself to, in Sura Infitar (82:6-8):

يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنْسَانُ مَا غَرَّبَكَ بِرَبِّكَ الْكَرِيمِ {6}
الَّذِي خَلَقَكَ فَسَوَّاكَ فَعَدَلَكَ {7}
فِي أَيِّ صُورَةٍ مَا شَاءَ رَكَّبَكَ {8}

"O man! what has deceived you from your Lord, the Gracious one?"

Who created you, then made you complete, then made you symmetrical?

Into whatever form He pleased He constituted you.

When an innocent being is deceived, enchanted and seduced in a deceptive way, they become confused and suspicious about who their true well-wishers are. They turn against and become thankless towards the very mother who they had themselves witnessed as a nurturing, sacrificing and overflowing force of love in their lives.

The Prophet of Islam (saw) in explanation for the question posed by Allah (SWT) in the above verses has said: "His ignorance has caused him to be proud and neglectful."

Imam Ali (A.S.) in Sermon 227 of the Nahjul Balagha explains, in detail, what this mental state of ignorance that the Holy Prophet (SAW) refers to actually feels like in a person who has been deceived against His own Lord. He explains, "The addressee (in this verse) is devoid of argument and his excuse is most deceptive. He is holding himself in ignorance."

"O man! What has emboldened you to (commit) sins; what has deceived you about your God and what has made you satisfied with the destruction of yourself"? Is there no cure for your ailment or no awakening from your sleep?

Do you not have pity on yourself as you have on others? Generally when you see anyone exposed to the heat of



By Zakira Shyrose Jaffer Dhalla,

B.A (Hons), M. Ed.

the sun you cover him with shade, or if you see any one afflicted with grief that pains his body you weep from pity for him.

What, then, has made you patient over your own disease?

What has made you firm in your own affliction, and what has consoled you from weeping for yourself although your life is the most precious of all lives to you?

And why does not the fear of an ailment, that may befall you in the night, keep you wakeful although you travel on the road to Allah's wrath due to your sins?"

It is this very ignorance that leads us to behave like a child who turns away and brushes off the loving embrace of the very mother who is forgiving enough to, herself, call the child to her.

In Dua-e-Iftitah we confess to this tendency of pushing away the Loving reach of Allah (SWT) and of considering it an imposition and irritation on ourselves.

يَا رَبِّ إِنَّكَ تَدْعُونِي فَأُولِي عُنُقٍ
وَتَتَّحِبُّ إِلَيَّ فَأَتَّبِعُكَ إِلَيْكَ
وَتَتَّوَدَّدُ إِلَيَّ فَلَا أَقْبِلُ مِنْكَ
كَأَنَّ لِي التَّطَوُّلَ عَلَيْكَ
فَلَمْ يَمْنَعَكَ ذَلِكَ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ لِي
وَالْإِحْسَانِ إِلَيَّ

O Lord! You give an invitation but I turn it down, You become familiar with me but I do not care for You, and You show affection to me but I do not correspond to You, as if You are overreaching me!

Yet, all that has not stopped You from having mercy upon me, doing favours to me.

Imam Ali a.s tells us how to prevent this ingratitude on our part in Sermon 227 of the Nahjul Balagha

“You should cure the disease of languor in your heart by determination, and the sleep of neglectfulness in your eyes by wakefulness.

Be obedient to Allah, and love Him in remembrance, and picture yourself, running away when He is approaching you.

He is calling you to His forgiveness and conceding your faults with His kindness, all the while you are fleeing away from Him toward others.

Our repeated acts of defiance and heedlessness to Allah swt are evidence of the fact that we take His Mercy and Forgiveness for granted.

Allah swt describes himself as the Gracious Lord, rabikal kareem when He asks

يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنْسَانُ مَا غَرَّبَكَ بِرَبِّكَ الْكَرِيمِ { 82:6 }

O man ! what has deceived you from your Lord, the Gracious one?

It is exactly these divine attributes of forgiveness, generosity and beneficence “rabbikal kareem” (Your Lord, the Gracious one) that are used by the accursed Shaytan to insulate us from the Wrath and Displeasure of Allah (SWT) and to instigate man or woman to sin.

In Dua e Iftitah we admit and confess this taking for granted of the Mercifulness of Allah (SWT) and of the fact that Allah (SWT) truly is benevolent to ungrateful creatures such as us.

فَلَمْ أَرَ مَوْلَى كَرِيمًا
صَبِرَ عَلَىٰ عَبْدٍ لَيْمٍ مِنْكَ عَلَيَّ

So, I have never seen such a noble Master more accommodating to such a dissatisfied servant than You are to me.

Our reassurance of the Mercy of Allah (SWT) despite our ignoring his call is akin to that slave of Imam Zainul Abedin (a.s) who did not pay attention to his repeated calls and when questioned replied: “I relied upon your forbearance and charitable disposition. I know you will not punish me for my evasion of duty.” Imam Zainul Abedin (a.s) set him free.

Allah (SWT) reminds us that He not only created man, but also gave him a perfect symmetry and proportion together with intellectual and spiritual faculties and a free will. The bounties of Allah(SWT) should make us more grateful and we can show this gratitude by choosing the right path and following it all our lives. But often human beings turn away from the right path and deny the Day of Judgement. This is why Allah (SWT) asks us twice at the end of the same Sura 82, Al Infitar

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا يَوْمُ الدِّينِ { 17 }
ثُمَّ مَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا يَوْمُ الدِّينِ { 18 }

And what will make you realize what the Day of Judgement is?

Again, what will make you realize what the Day of Judgement is?

The true essence of Islam is the ethereal sense of peace one can experience when in true submission to One’s Lord. Those who turn away from God and are deceived by the Accursed one exhibit a neglectful arrogance based on the doubt and denial of the Hereafter. Those who feel a strong faith and belief in the Resurrection, their hearts are strengthened, and no negligence and carelessness will remain there.

It can be a deep, dark, self-alienating and endless free-fall into the abyss of ignorance once one begins to defy God and arrogantly stands against Him much like an adult child defies and stands against their own loving mother.

And when that Allah (SWT) whose love is more than the love of 70 mothers, blesses us with even more bounties and seems to overlook the defiance and arrogance with even more Grace and Love, let us not take it for granted and confuse this overlooking of our terrible behaviour as a sign of weakness from our Lord.

It is, in fact, akin to the loving wisdom of a compassionate mother who knows that only kindness and overpowering love and the embrace of forgiveness can melt our hardened hearts and ultimately set us free from the deceptive shackles of ignorance and negligence. It is imperative then, to soften our stance, strive for humility and to respond to the call of Allah (SWT) so that the embrace of His Love can enter into our heedless and ignorant souls.

...So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided. (Al-Baqarah: 186).

It is Time to Make a Noise over Noise in Mosques

Shouting into the microphone when it already amplifies any small voice or sound is tantamount to yelling. This is worse when it occurs in a mosque which is a sanctified and solemn place for Salaat.

The word “Masjid” is derived from “Sajdah” where believers are silently engaged in Salaat individually when they are not performing congregational prayers. Salaat is required to be performed in an environment of general silence which helps every individual to attain the concentration required.

Congregational salaat likewise need to be led with no excessive voices raised by the use of a microphone especially when the gathering is relatively small.

The solemnity of silence, that is free of noise pollution, is therefore a mark of great respect expected in any mosque. See Ruling No. 900 of the Islamic Laws of H. E. As Seyyed Sistani. Apart from obligatory Salaat which is performed in an environment of a controlled and peaceful voice, all other activities like duas and lectures are optional and they must not take place when others, however few, are engaged in individual Salaat. If these are conducted then the sanctity of the mosque must be observed.

A “dua” strictly is a ‘call’ to Allah (SWT) on an individual basis. It

is invoked humbly and quietly. Supplications are to be in a humbled low voice – at times tearful – like a slave (ab’d) pleading to his Master (Rabb). And that is what we all are in our relation to Allah (SWT). Anything else lacks rationality.

Let us remember, a loud voice – anywhere even at home - is a noise hazard and has been scientifically proved cause an irreversible gradual loss of hearing at a faster pace than through the process of aging. Islam forbids atrocity on fellow human beings and this is exactly what is inflicted when attendees in a mosque are exposed to loud noise. It is a noise menace.

As far back as 8th January, 2009, the Central Health Board of the Africa Federation warned on the health hazards of loud noise through a three page circular. With twelve years having elapsed since then, one wonders why noise hazard is still courted in some mosques as if it is a part of what Islam stands for.

Wisdom does prevail in some mosques and centres where noise volumes are kept moderate with signs all around calling for silence. May Allah SWT inspire us to attain His guidance so that we conduct ourselves in His place of Worship in the manner that pleases Him.



By Mohamed Khalfan,
Dar es Salaam

A Visit to the Benaki Museum of Islamic Art in Athens

In April 2018, after visiting a few islands in Greece, my husband and I spent two days in Athens to visit the Parthenon, the Acropolis, the Acropolis Museum, and the National Archaeological Museum. The archaeological museum is considered one of the greatest in the world and contains the richest collection of artifacts from Greek antiquity, worldwide.

Hours into the exploration of the museum, I was fortunate enough to notice an exit lobby where I helped myself to a free magazine on a rack. I was fascinated by a short article about the Benaki Museum of Islamic Art, which is a museum in the multicultural, Monastiraki/Psiri area of Athens. The author explained that the museum offers a view of the Islamic world from the 7th to the 12th century.



BENAKI MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART ORIENTAL ELEGANCE

In the Islamic world, it didn't matter whether an object was intended for day-to-day use, for decorative purposes or for war. Whatever its use, it had to be beautiful: from 7th-c. bottle caps to tableware that was iridescent with bright colors and floral motifs, from stunning ceramics from the Turkish city of Iznik and wooden doors carved in such detail they resemble lacework, to 19th-c. weapons adorned to signify the strength and wealth of the empire. The Museum of Islamic Art - which belongs to the Benaki family of museums - also features an entire hall put together piece by piece to resemble the reception room of a 17th-c. Cairo mansion. This would be where the Ottoman *kebabci* (a deputy) would invite his guests for a coffee or a pipe around a fountain, while listening to a tale from a storyteller. At the end of your journey in this fascinating world from a bygone era, enjoy a hot beverage at one of the prettiest cafes in the city, looking out at the Acropolis, the Ancient Agora and the Athens Observatory.

- MARIA KORACHAI

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When I was able to get an internet connection back at the hotel, I did some research and found out that the museum's collection of Islamic art is one of the top in the world, covering a wide range of history and artefacts "geographically and chronologically. The museum has exhibits from India, the Middle East, Asia Minor (also referred to as the peninsula of Anatolia, the major part of modern-day Turkey), North Africa, and Spain. The author of the article urged that visitors must visit the rooftop café to have a hot beverage to enjoy a serene and extraordinarily beautiful view of "the Acropolis, the Ancient Agora and the Athens Observatory." I decided that a visit to this museum of Islamic art was too good an opportunity to pass up, even though our flight out of Athens was scheduled a few hours after midnight.

By the time I arrived at the Benaki Museum of Islamic Art, it was mid-afternoon. I had less than two hours to complete a quick tour. Fortunately, unlimited photography is allowed in this museum (except for flash photography), and I took enough photographs to craft an article for Federation Samachar.

The museum was built in the late 19th century or early 20th century in the neoclassical style. An ancient tomb and a section of the ancient city's wall, unearthed during construction, have been incorporated into the museum.

The collection of Islamic art on several floors was amassed by a Greek art collector, Antonis Benakis in the early 20th century while he lived in Egypt. Born in 1873 to a wealthy family in Alexandria, Egypt, he was a benefactor who donated his treasure-filled museum to the Greek government a few years after he settled permanently in Athens in 1926. Like his father, Benakis contributed a lot of money to numerous



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charitable foundations, some of which helped the settlement of refugees coming from Asia Minor (now part of Turkey). Benakis died in 1954, and his incredibly beautiful contribution to the Muslim world is outstanding.

On the first floor, I admired "lustre ceramics" from Iraq and Egypt from the 9th to the 12th century. There were glass vessels from Egypt, Syria and Iran, from the 8th to the 12th Century. In the descriptions placed next to artifacts, I often found that the curators had given respect to both "Shiites and Sunnites", with a concerted effort to educate visitors. For example, in the section describing the Islamic world from the 7th to the 12th century, the curator had written:

"The origins of the schism between Shiites and Sunnites go back to the time of the first four caliphs. The Shiites, who believed that the leaders of the Muslim community should be a member of the prophet's family, gathered around Ali, the fourth caliph (656-661), cousin and son-in-law of Muhammad. After Ali's death they rallied around his descendants, regarding the Umayyads as usurpers."

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The curator gives credit to the all sects of the Muslim community for their joint contribution to the “magnificent flowering of Islamic culture and Arabic letters in the Middle Ages.” S/he writes that

“The Abbasids (750-1258), who overthrew the Umayyads and founded the new capital, Baghdad (764), managed to ease the tensions between the various ethnic and religious communities of the caliphate, which contributed to these advances as well as to the formulation of various schools of law and dogmatic theology. Islamic philosophy flourished and scientific research made enormous advances. In preserving, studying and disseminating the cultural legacy antiquity, the Muslims paved the way for the Renaissance.”

In the textile section there were fragments of a 10th Century shawl from Yemen that have excerpts from the first chapter of the Holy Quran.

In addition, there was part of a door panel from Iraq from the second half of the 8th Century, with decorative carved panels.

A unique, palm sized wooden carving that caught my attention had the following description:

“Portable mihrab intended for private worship, inscribed with the name of members of the family of Muhammad and Shii imams. Egypt, 10th c.” The mihrab, the central point in a mosque, indicates the direction of Mecca, towards which every Muslim turns during prayer.”



An engraved metal bucket from Egypt was described as having Arabic script originating from Iraq:

“Bucket with a Kufic inscription containing wishes for health and longevity. Egypt, 10th-11th century. The oldest Arabic script with angular characters is believed to originate from the city of Kufa in Iraq.”

A fascinating display in the museum was one that included five alams (described as “standards”) was explained by the museum curator as follows:

“Shiite processional standards used in the religious festival of Ashura, a day of mourning commemorating the death of Husein. Iran, 18th-19th century.”

“The five-fingered standards symbolize the members of Muhammad’s family – Muhammad himself, his daughter Fatima, Ali, his cousin and son-in-law, and his grandchildren Hasan and Husein. The division of the Islamic world into Sunnites and Shiites originated in the dispute as to whether the succession of Muhammad should be hereditary or not, and was sealed by the deaths of Ali and Husein, who were regarded as the first Shiite martyrs. The oval standard with its dragon-



shaped ends is ornamented with a pierced arabesque and inscriptions invoking Muhammad and Husein.”

An interesting wall tile that originates from Aleppo (Syria), an artist’s rendition of the Meraj ascension of Prophet Muhammad (SAWW) as follows:

“Representation of the prophet Muhammad on the fantastic winged animal, the Buraq, which carried him on his nocturnal journey to the seven heavens. Aleppo, 19th century.”



As one walks through the museum, they will discover textiles, tiles, carved wooden door frames, treasure chests, ornate writing desks, swords, ammunition, jewel-studded gold and silver to adorn fingers, ears, and necks; there are also unique ornate trays, water vessels and buckets, and miniature paintings from various parts of the Muslim world.

There are several items also included from India. The image below is of an ivory treasure chest that originates from India:

The curator’s description reads:

“Ivory casket decorated with carved floral scrolls, Mughal India, 18th century.”

“The casket, which copies the European’s fall-front cabinets used for keeping personal items, is fitted with interior drawers.”



Another ivory casket is from Bombay (now Mumbai), described as follows:

‘Ivory casket with a micromosaic geometric design in inlaid wood, Probably Bombay, circa 1880.’

The Benaki Museum of Islamic Art truly houses one of the world’s top collections of Islamic art, geographically and chronologically and one needs time to explore and appreciate the museum’s contents. As the museum hours came to a close, I was able to visit the rooftop café overlooking the new and old Athens. It was, as promised, a memorable event. I was served my coffee on the terrace where I enjoyed my much anticipated hot beverage and biscuit, while taking in the view.

Afterwards I walked for about ten minutes from the Benaki Museum to the famous Monastiraki Square where a monastery once stood. There is still an Ottoman-era mosque and orthodox church here. The mosque looked abandoned and quiet, and musicians began playing outside it at dusk. Outside, built against the mosque walls, a shop called “...in the old mosque” sells spices, and another shop called the Mater Terra (Mother Earth) had a pungent smell of leather as it sells handmade Greek sandals. As I stopped there to buy a pair or two, I had an epiphany that this was indeed, a sad juxtaposition. History was being wiped out here by reducing the mosque to an ordinary and insignificant place ...while just minutes away, history was being attempted to be saved from erasure by a Greek man, Anonis Benakis, a man who dedicated his life and wealth to collecting the art and cultural objects of centuries of Muslim culture and donating it to the world in a beautiful museum so that future generations would know more about the glorious past of the Muslim world.



Anonis Benakis, Founder of the Benaki Museum of Islamic Art.

For a virtual tour of the Benaki Museum of Islamic Art, visit www.benaki.org.



Shops outside the walls of an ancient mosque in Monastiraki, Athens. This is a short walk away from the museum.

Reciting and understanding the Holy Qur'an is a religious obligation

I recall that when my colleagues and I attended religious classes at the Daya Walji Madrasah in Dar es Salaam over 40 years ago the recitation of the Quran in Arabic was part of the syllabus, but the objective was to complete the recitation of Quran in Arabic rather than understand the Quran. We completed reciting the Quran but did not then understand the fact that recitation of the Quran is incomplete if done in a language that one does not understand.

The only way to best understand our existence better and comprehend the astounding power of the Almighty is to recite the holy Quran in a language that one understands. The Quran is not a book like any other; it is a timeless guide for life, death and the hereafter.

Allah (SWT) assures of divine guidance by 'unlocking the hearts' of those who seek guidance through recitation of the holy Quran. Sincerity is due to the Quran, its recitation, its interpretation and in trying to abide to its guidance. By reading and reflecting over the Quran, one fulfils an obligation and is rewarded for it in life and the hereafter.

When reflecting on the importance of the Quran one is reminded of a book "The

Amazing Quran" which was authored by a non-Muslim, Dr. Gary Miller, a Christian Missionary who then embraced Islam.

Dr Gary Miller was a renowned University lecturer in Mathematics in Canada. He later assumed an active role of a Christian Missionary. He was intrigued as to why Muslims believed that the Quran entirely consists of the words of God. In 1978, driven by his missionary bias and zeal of the time, he studied the Quran hoping to find errors of interpretation after the passage of over fourteen centuries in history since the time of its revelation.

He was, however, amazed and cognizant of by what he read in the Quran. He wrote a small book illustrating how and why he found the Quran so amazing and being free of errors. He gave the book the title of 'The Amazing Quran.' The book created a great stir among the Christian Missionaries. He stated that if the Quran were to be from other than God, there would indeed be many errors in it. He later embraced Islam and chose Abdul Ahad as his Muslim name.

The Holy Quran does not just comprise of teachings about the past nations but also illustrates life transforming instructions

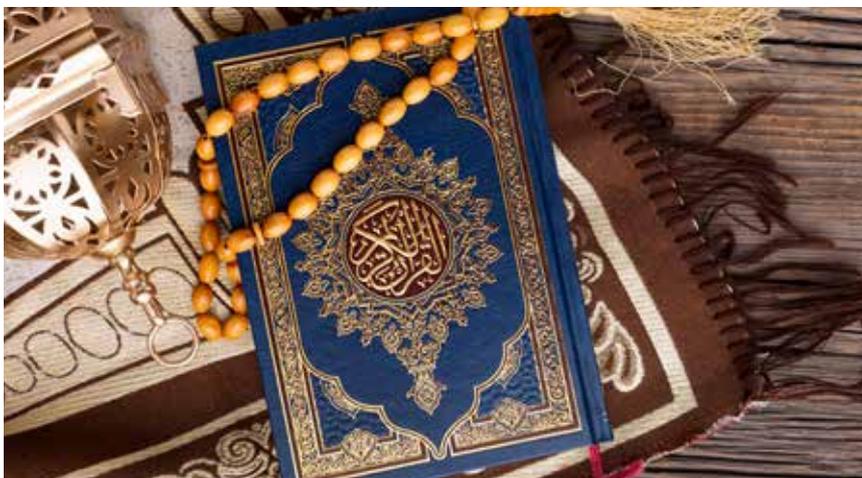


by Munir Daya
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

and guidelines from Allah (SWT). The Holy Quran states that: "And, We have certainly presented for the people in this Qur'an from every [kind of] example – that they might remember." (Quran, 39: 27). The Holy Quran has many real-life examples that provide constant guidance to the believers.

The Quran also cleanses the heart of a reciter by offering guidance and mercy. Allah (SWT) says in Quran: "O mankind! There hath come to you an admonition from your Lord and a healing for the (diseases) in your hearts and for those who believe a Guidance and Mercy." (Quran, 10:57).

The Qur'an is not just the Book of Allah (SWT) and a Guidance for mankind but is also a literary masterpiece. Every word, every ayat, every surah, and the whole Quran is such intricately structured, it is awe inspiring. Reciting the holy Quran with understanding makes one appreciate the significance of the Divine Book and leads one towards righteousness and morality. This religious duty to recite the Quran with understanding benefits a reciter in this world and the hereafter.





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