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King Faisal Prize for Dr. Lemu Chinese Wins Medicine Prize, Science Prize for German

Riyadh: Prince Khaled Al-Faisal, Executive President of King Faisal Foundation, has announced the winners of King Faisal International Prize for the year 2014. The 36th annual King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam has been awarded to Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Abou Bakr Lemu of Nigeria, Chairman of Council of Trustees at Islamic Relief Commission Office. The Prize for Islamic Studies (Topic: Cultural Heritage of Makkah Al-Mukarramah) was awarded to Professor Abdul Wahab Ibrahim Abou Sulaiman of Saudi Arabia. Other winners are Professor Gerd Faltings of Germany (Science-Mathematics), Professor Yuk Ming Dennis Lo of China (Medicine -Non-Invasive Diagnosis of Fetal Diseases), and Dr. Abdullah Ibrahim Allawi Albussabah of Iraq, Cultural Advisor at Qatar Emir's Court. Sheikh Dr. Ahmed Lemu is an advocate of moderation. He is a member of several international Muslim organizations worldwide. His efforts towards education, development and call to Islam

are evident from his lectures, seminars and classes. He has authored several Islamic books and school references which fulfilled a significant part of the needs of the Nigerian community and served as important resources for many Nigerian Muslim generations, helping them to



understand Islam and expand their knowledge of the Islamic creed. He played a significant role in defending Muslim women's rights. His efforts culminated in the establishment of the Union of Muslim Women's societies in Nigeria, promotion of peaceful co-existence and fight against sectarian violence in that country. He also established the Islamic Dawah Institute to combat extremism.

About Sulaiman, who is member of the Saudi Council of Senior Islamic Scholars, was awarded the prize in recognition of his illustrious academic studies which monitor and document cultural exchanges between people in the holy Haram and its surroundings, particularly his text: "Bab Al-Salam", which portrays the issue during important historical periods. Professor Gerd Faltings, winner of the prize in science, is the Director at the Max-Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn. He has made groundbreaking contributions to algebraic geometry and number theory. His work combines ingenuity, vision and technical power.

He has introduced stunning new tools and techniques which are now constantly used in modern mathematics. The winner of the prize in medicine, Professor Yuk Ming Dennis Lo, UK/China, is the Director of Li Ka Shing Institute for Health Sciences. He serves as Professor of Medicine, Chairman and Chief of Service, Department of Chemical Pathology, Faculty of

» Page 5

Inventions 1001 brings 'Muslim Golden Ages' to Jeddah

Jeddah: While Europe was grappling through the "Dark Ages," the Muslims were thriving and experiencing what was for them, "the Golden Ages." They made groundbreaking discoveries and inventions in areas of astronomy, mathematics, medicine, mechanics, and more; they greatly influenced the lives of people and served as a foundation for educating generations for years to come. To showcase 1,000 years of scientific, technological, and cultural achievements reached by inspirational men and women from the Muslim civilization that spread from Spain to China from 7th century onwards, 1001 Inventions has been founded. 1001 Inventions is an award-winning educational organization, promoting an international effort to celebrate the contributions of the Muslim civilization, engaging over 70 million people worldwide.



The 1001 Inventions Exhibition 2014 has arrived in Jeddah and is already inspiring and enlightening the hearts and minds of thousands of visitors. The Jeddah exhibition is being hosted as part of Saudi Aramco's Knowledge Enrichment

programs that aim to spark the interest of young people in Saudi Arabia to pursue careers in science and technology. The Knowledge Enrichment program is supported and organized by King Abdul Aziz Center for World Culture. With a wide range of interactive technologies, displays, models, high tech games, and a 3D science theater, young visitors are learning with a pleasant surprise that the structure and function of the circulatory system was first uncovered and explained by a Muslim, Syrian physician, Ibn Al-Nafis.

He was the first to describe the constitution of the lungs, bronchi, coronary arteries, and the exchange of gases in the blood, and to elaborate how the coronary arteries delivered oxygen to the cardiac muscle — which was as early as 1200. Visitors of the exhibition in Jeddah have the opportunity to enjoy six interactive zones

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KMMA Calls Legislature Meet

State Govt. Indifferent to Muslim Grievances

By A Staff Writer

Bangalore: The Karnataka Muslim Muttehadah Mahaz (KMMA), a representative body of the various Muslims organizations in the State, has reminded the Congress Government in the State of the Party's promise to appoint a commission to look into the cases pertaining to the arrest of Muslim youth under trumped charges, appointment of a Muslim member to the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC), setting up fast track court to adjudicate the cases of incarcerated youth under charges of terrorism and police atrocities.

In a meeting with the Muslim MLAs and Ministers on January 2, Convener of the Mahaz, Mr. Masood Abdul Khader resented the indifference towards the promises made by the Congress Party prior to the elections in May 2013. He said

the Chief Minister Mr. Siddramaiah has not replied to the letter sent to him last September seeking an appointment with him to take stock of the situation pertaining to the Muslim minority issues.

Mr. Khader pointed out that the Government is yet to induct a Muslim member into the KPSC and in places like Udupi and Davangere, local administration is not allowing construction of mosques despite the managements securing all necessary approvals from the civic bodies. He cited a case in which houses earmarked for minorities under Ashraya Housing Scheme were allotted to only members of the Christian community.

Of the 11 Muslim MLAs in Karnataka Assembly, only four, namely Mr. Qamarul Islam, Mr. Roshan Baig (both ministers), Dr. Rafeeq Ahmed (representing Tumkur) and Mr. Iqbal Ansari (Gangavati) attended the meeting. MLC and former minister Naseer Ahmed and former Union Minister C. K. Jaffer Sharief were also present.

Mr. Qamarul Islam acknowledged

the role of the Mahaz in consolidating the Muslim support in favour of the Congress party in the last elections and emphasized the need to prepare strategy for the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls. Mr. Islam who holds the charge



of Municipal Administration and Waqf in the State Government said a special cadre of Muslim employees will be created in the State under the amended Central Waqf Act and 253 new employees would be recruited. He said, of the 395 staff members in the Waqf Department currently, 305 had been borrowed from other departments. He said, the last budget i.e., 2013-1014, had made a provision of Rs. one crore for special training of waqf officers. He said the Pre-Matric Scholarship have been made online and payment was being made through cheques. He also informed that in eight of the State's 28 districts, the Information offices of Minorities Welfare Department have begun operations.

Naseer Ahmed MLC said the proposal to set up a commission to look into the arrest of innocent

youth under Terrorism related acts was under active consideration of the State Government.

Mr. Abdul Khaliq, senior journalist, *Pasban*, stressed the need to file RTIs to find out the progress of minority welfare schemes in all the districts.

Mr. Maqbool Ahmed Siraj, senior journalist, wanted to know as to what was being done to reverse the cancellation of the land Khata issued by the BBMP under the

JDS Government for Jayanagar Eidgah in Bangalore. He said the previous BJP Government had cancelled the Khata issued under the chief ministership of Mr. J. H. Patel after prolonged struggle. He also emphasized the need to take peace delegation consisting of civil society activists and members of all religious communities to places where efforts are made to ignite communal tension and conflict. He said, the Mahaz need not reinvent the wheel and should adopt the 20-point agenda regarding Muslim issues and grievances presented by the Zakat Foundation of India. He pointed out the community should move from demanding welfare schemes (like Shadi Bhagya) to development scheme stressing that development schemes will boost confidence while welfare schemes would merely

encourage demands for freebies. He said real empowerment comes through higher representation in bureaucracy as 97% decisions are taken by bureaucrats and a civil service officer remains in decision-making seat for 32 to 35 years while politicians come and go every five years.

Moulvi Iftikhar Qasimi, President, Jamiatul Ulema in Karnataka there was need to hold accountability sessions with the members representing Muslims in the legislatures. He had a spat with Mr. Jaffer Sharief when the latter objected to Jamiat president Mahmood Madani's recent statement wherein he warned the Congress against creating BJP-phobia.

Maulana Maqsood Imran, Peshimam, City Jama Masjid called for defusing communal tension at local levels and stressed the need to adopt the agenda of the Zakat Foundation of India. Mr. Abdullah Javeed of the Jamaat e Islam, Karnataka said the Muslim leadership was extremely weak in the state. Mr. Naveed Ahmed wanted the Mahaz to take up the issue of drop-out of Muslim children from school.

Nasrullah Shariff, social worker from Chikmagalur the community should organize the coaching for Muslim students by organizing coaching classes for every three districts at a single place for civil services. Dr. Zaheeruddin from

» Page 3

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Tipu's Birthplace

Devanahalli to get a Facelift

Bangalore: Though Bangalore International Airport at Devanahalli could not be named after Tipu Sultan, the 18th century martyr who defended the Kingdom of Mysore against British colonialists, the Union Government plans to spend Rs. 6.25 crore to give a facelift to Devanahalli, the birthplace of Tipu. Union Petroleum Minister Veerappa Moily, who represents Chikballapur Lok Sabha constituency (55 kms north of Bangalore) visited Devanahalli

recently. He said Devanahalli will be developed as a tourist spot with its historic tank near the Devanahalli Fort equipped with boating, lighting and musical fountain.

Several Muslim organizations had pleaded that the Bangalore International airport should be named after the Sultan. However, the Union Government chose to go by the State Government recommendation to name it after Kempegowda, the 16th century founder of Bangalore. ■

» Page 3

State Govt. Indifferent

Mysore wanted the entire waqf income to be directed for education of the Muslim students. Mateen Arif, journalist from Tumkur said, Muslims themselves were primarily responsible for encroaching upon waqf properties.

Kannada Journalist B. M. Haneef invited the attention of the Muslims towards exaggerated stories of 'minorities appeasement' appearing in the Kannada newspapers.

Iqbal Ansari, JDS MLA and former minister, emphasized that

Muslim must be given reservation in legislatures.

Mahmood Qazi, advocate, Bijapur, large chunk of waqf properties were under unauthorized occupation of Central as well as State Government departments and several historically important mosques were locked by the Archaeological Society of India.

Mahaz secretary Syed Tanweer Ahmed welcomed the participants. Mr. Atharullah Sharieff moderated the session. ■

C. M. Ibrahim to set up Medical College

Bangalore: C. M. Ibrahim, Congress leader and former union minister will set up a medical college and a 300-bed super specialty hospital in Govindpur area of Bangalore. Disclosing his plan, Mr. Ibrahim who already

runs the HKBK Engineering College in the same area, said that the admissions will start for medical course in 1014-15. The medical college will be named Shuhda-e-Badar (Martyrs of Badar) Medical College and

the college and hospital will come up on a 6-acre plot of land near the engineering college, he told newsmen on January 5. ■



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Unauthorised Occupation of Waqf Estates

Task Force in Six Karnataka Districts

By A Staff Writer

Bangalore: The Karnataka Waqf Board is setting up a task force to evict encroachments on waqf properties and has ordered a fresh survey of waqf properties in the State. Such task forces have already been set up in Bidar, Davangere, Chikamagalur, Chikballapur, Bangalore Rural, Ramanagaram districts. Board Chairman Abdul Riyaz Khan told newsmen recently that a second survey of waqf assets in the state will be conducted and the exercise will be repeated every 10 years in accordance with the Central Waqf Amended Act 2013 which has come into force from November 1, 2013.

Riyaz Khan informed that under the amended Act, the waqf properties can be leased only for 30 years and any properties that have exhausted their lease tenure can be declared unauthorised occupation and the occupants can thus be evicted and the courts will not be eligible to intervene in the matter.

Khan has urged all mutawallis of the waqf estates to forward to the Board a list of unauthorised occupation in the State. He said the amended Act has made mutawallis responsible for bringing the unauthorised occupation to the notice of the Waqf authorities and failure to do so may attract action against them. ■

Court sets Free Innocent Muslim Youth

Rampur: Three Muslim youths who were arrested under POTA in 2002 for allegedly helping Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) were acquitted for being innocent by a Moradabad POTA court.

District Judge of Moradabad POTA court, Roop Kishore Gupta, on January 20 ordered the release of Javed alias Guddu, Taj Mohammad and Maksood due to lack of "desired quantum of evidence". The trio was later released from Rampur Jail, Superintendent of Police Sadhna Goswami said. Lucknow-based Special Task Force sleuths had nabbed the trio on August 13, 2002, from Rampur. The

police had alleged that maps of cantonments of Meerut, Roorkee and Dehradun were recovered from their possession and they were accused of helping the ISI. The STF had also arrested Mumtaz Mian, but a review committee on POTA had recommended withdrawal of POTA charges against him, in 2004, as no direct evidence was found. He is now being prosecuted under certain other sections of IPC, his lawyer Nazar Abbas said, adding that his release is expected soon.

Several Muslim organizations had lodged their protest at the arrest of innocent youths 12 years ago. The Uttar Pradesh Government had directed the Moradabad

District Magistrate in June 2013 to release the innocent youth as the Government had decided to withdraw the cases against them. The police had even petitioned the Judge in pursuance of the UP Government's directive. But the High Court had stayed the release following a writ filed by some communal bodies pleading that only Central Government could withdraw the cases.

As usual, the national media which publicises such arrests in banner headlines, chose to ignore the release of the innocent youth who became a victim of harassment campaign by the administration under the camouflage of fighting communalism. ■

India Islamic Cultural Centre

Siraj Qureshi Elected Prez for 3rd Term

New Delhi: Sirajuddin Qureshi has been elected the President of the India Islamic Cultural Centre

President, Safdar H. Khan also retained his position with 705-margin win over Dr. Mohammad



for a third term. He defeated Shakeel-uz Zaman Ansari by a margin of 783 votes. Current Vice

Fakhruddin of Hyderabad. Qureshi who had a 10-year grip

» Page 5

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Quran Gifted to Cops in Mangalore

Salaam Centre organizes stall at Book Fair

By A Staff Writer

Mangalore: Salaam Centre, Bangalore distributed nearly a thousand copies of the holy Quran's translation among cops from 20 police stations here during January, 2014.

The Centre had organized its pavilion at the ten-day Mangalore Book Fair for its "Quran for All" pavilion. The display of the books at the stall attracted thousands of visitors who received a gift packet of some books on Islam, Prophet Muhammad and the translation of the Holy Quran.

Taking time out of the book fair, Centre Chairman Syed Hamid Mohsin approached the Police Commissioner Mr. R. Hitendra at his office which was located opposite the Fair pavilion. He sought permission to distribute the translation of the Holy Quran in Kannada language among the policemen under his dispensation in order that the

policemen could directly access the message of Islam and see for themselves if religion of Islam preaches hatred and terrorism as is made out by the opponents of Islam or by hostile media. He was delighted when Mr. Hitendra accepted his offer. Availing the



Syed Hamid Mohsin presenting Quran to the Police Commissioner Mr. R. Hitendra

opportunity offered by him, the Centre organized the distribution of the copies of the translation of the Quran, books such as ISLAM, Facts vs. Fiction (*Tappu Kalpanegalu*), ISLAM For You (*Shantiya Dharma*) FOLLOW

ME, (*Muhammad Sarwajanara Prawadi*) etc among the nearly 1,000 members of the police force, in 20 police stations in Mangalore city including those from the traffic and women's police stations.

It was a novel opportunity for the Centre to offer Islamic literature as gift to the policemen in a city where communal peace had often been on razor's edge due to hate-mongering by vested interests. The whole operation was conducted smoothly and books were accepted with gratitude. Mr. Hamid Mohsin said people in India were extremely peace-loving and given an opportunity, are keen to listen to the message of peace. He said Muslims would need to exercise wisdom and discretion rather than displaying supremacist idiom in conveying the message of their faith to non-Muslim brethren. ■

« Page 1 King Faisal Prize ...

Medicine, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Prince of Wales Hospital. Professor Yuk Ming Dennis Lo has transformed the field of prenatal genetic diagnosis through his discovery of cell free fetal nucleic acids in the maternal blood and the identification of their placental source. Because of his pioneering role in the field of non-invasive diagnosis of fetal disease, he has been awarded the King Faisal International Prize in Medicine for the year 2014. Dr. Abdullah Ibrahim Allawi

Albussabah was awarded the prize in appreciation of his distinguished contributions to the study of the modern Arabic novel. Dr. Albusabah has employed different literary analytical methods in his book. His thorough knowledge of the Arabic narrative and world literary arts has enabled him to refine this complex specialty and analyze it in a persuasive manner, and to elucidate the discourse between the Arabic narrative and main stream narrative in world literature. ■

« Page 4

Siraj Qureshi ...

on the Centre and defeated External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid previously, also saw 9 out of 11 of his panel members winning the elections.

The election was held on January 11 and 12 for the post of President, Vice President, seven posts for Board of Trustees and four seats of Executive Committee.

Advocate H. R. Khan Suhel and Qamar Ahmad, Retd IPS officers are the only non-Qureshi panel candidates to win in this election. ■

« Page 1

Inventions 1001 ...

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The 1001 Inventions exhibition in Jeddah is open till February 13, 2014. Global partners for 1001 Inventions include the Foundation for Science, Technology, and Civilization, and Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives. ■



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Alhamdulillah by the grace of Allah we have completed 02 Umrah Groups & third group will be Departing on 12 Feb-2014 & other groups departing dates, are as follows:

Third Group – Dep - 02 Apr 14
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Fifth Group – Dep - 30 Apr 14
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Package Cost
Hotel at Madinah - Al Roudah / similar 2/3 star
Package cost – Quad sharing
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Haj Note :- Hotel at Makkah Hilton Towers , Hotels at Madinah - Madinah Oberoi / Dallah Taiba. Dates & Rates will be declared shortly

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11-year-old Saudi girl launches YouTube English language Series

By Abdulkarim Al-Dhiyabi

Taif: In an unprecedented step, a 11-year-old Saudi girl launched a YouTube English language series, apart from lessons in Arabic language, self-development, mathematics and the art of drawing and photography. Majd Al-Asiri's YouTube page, which was launched recently from Taif, has been watched by 14,000 people from 39 countries.

Okaz/Saudi Gazette visited Majd at her family home recently to learn about her future plans for her educational videos. Majd's father, Muhammad Abdullah Asiri, said his daughter has converted their home to a workshop to give lessons.

"She provides her lessons free of charge. Men, women and children of different ages benefit from her lessons on Alpha 71 Academy. Majd said she strives to boost the culture of knowledge, work and cooperation in the family and with others. She selects useful

information, develops, and then presents it for people to benefit from. Majd chose the number 71 because the number 7 indicates



her seven sisters and the 1 is a symbol of her only brother, Abdullah, who is only 7.

Majd's sisters have played a key role in the success of the YouTube page. She has assigned her eldest sister Reem, 26, who is doing her master's in the US, to manage the page. Maha, 24, who is doing her master's in computer science, has been assigned the task of technical management of

the page while Shahd, 21, who is a student in pharmacology, gives drawing lessons. Ahd, 20, is a self-development trainer. Raghad,

16, who specializes in graphic design, has been assigned the task of editing her videos. She stressed that she has not forgotten Abdullah. She has assigned him the task of training his peers in speaking English from home and the basics of drawing and swimming.

Meanwhile, President of Taibah University, Dr. Adnan Al-Mazrou, said the initiative is courageous and creative in a family whose members have strong bonds.

"The family is carrying out a clear message, which is new to our society. The family has several objectives, most prominent of which is to disseminate the culture of working from home."

(www.saudigazette.com) ■

Kaaba Kiswa Factory seeks Modern Technology

Makkah: The historical factory that manufactures the Kiswa, the covering for the holy Kaaba in Makkah, is exploring the possibility of importing state-of-the-art technology from the US, Japan, Switzerland, Italy and Germany, to upgrade its facility in keeping with the modern times. Mohammed Abdullah Bajada, manager of the factory, said the factory had set up a committee to study the modernization process including cladding, sewing and embroidery of the Kiswa. On July 1, 1927, King Abdul Aziz ordered the

construction of a special factory to be exclusively devoted to the manufacture of the Kiswa in Ayyad district in Makkah. This factory, which was built on an area of 1,500 square meters, was the first of its kind to be set up in Makkah.



When the factory was being set up, the Kingdom procured all the materials required to manufacture the Kiswa, including silk, dyes

and looms, besides recruiting the workforce. In 1962, King Saud ordered that a house to manufacture the Kiswa should be set up in Makkah. Later in 1977, the new Kiswa factory at UmmAl-Jud in Makkah was inaugurated during the reign of King Khaled, although the ground-breaking ceremony took place during the era of King Faisal. This new factory incorporates departments devoted to various operations involved in the manufacture of the Kiswa, including dyeing and weaving the silk, embroidering the inscriptions with which the Kiswa is adorned, and putting together the different sections of the Kiswa. About 200 artisans combine their talents to manufacture the Kiswa. ■

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Interview with Syed Hamid Mohsin

“Islamophobia can be Countered with Positive Message of Islam”

By A Staff Writer

Salaam Centre was set up by Syed Hamid Mohsin in 2008 in Bangalore. It aimed at taking the message of Islam in plain words to non-Muslims and remove their misgivings. It launched the “Quran for All” campaign soon after it was set up. The campaign was designed in a manner that it could trigger curiosity to read the Holy Quran among non-Muslims. The Centre



placed giant sized billboards on 30 important thoroughfares of Bangalore inviting the passersby to read the Quran. The response was tremendous. Hundreds of them approached the Centre and received gift packs carrying copies of the translations of the Quran and other books on Islam, Prophet Muhammad etc. The Centre adopted the strategy of distributing the Quran translations in various languages at various courts, police headquarters, gifting them to academics, libraries and universities. It also set up stalls at the book fairs and thus took the Divine message to lakhs of people.

Interactions with thousands of non-Muslim intellectuals, academics, litterateurs and common individuals enabled Mr. Mohsin to read their minds and this brought him a fund of experience. He perceived the need to compile books with specific needs of this audience. He

devoted two long years to compile and write three books in English i.e., Follow Me (a book on the life of the Holy Prophet), Islam For You (a general introduction to Islamic beliefs and practices) and Islam: Facts vs. Fiction (a book on common misgivings about Islam) and got them translated into Urdu, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Marathi. These books have reached lakhs of hands and have been instrumental in creating awareness about the doctrine and practices of Islam. The electronic versions of these books have been put on Internet too. Hamid Mohsin shares his experiences in an interview. Excerpts:

Q: You have compiled the book Islam: Facts vs. Fiction. There have been books on these topics by other authors too. How do you deal with the subject?

A: Yes, there have been booklets by other authors on the issue. They were penned for the specific audience. Islam: Facts vs. fiction compiled by me is a 250-page book which takes an objective approach to explain the Muslim/Islamic point of view. It is neither apologetic nor defensive. All facts have been supported by relevant data, statistics and references. It has extracted a lot of data from history, sociology, law and politics. It is not written in a manner that a Muslim is trying to defend himself against certain allegations. It therefore responds to the queries from modern minds.

Q: Did you have any specific objectives behind writing this book?

A: Three factors prompted me to take up the work. First there was a lot of biased history around which was reinforcing myths about Muslims. Second, there was general lack of awareness about

Islam, Muslims, the sharia, fatwa etc. Third and the most important was the Islamophobia which is currently working as an industry in the West. Islamophobia scares people away from Islam and creates dreadful stereotypes. It leads to alienation of Muslims from others. All this create a lot of social disharmony and inject poison in the society.

Q: Would you throw some light on Islamophobia?

A: Weapon manufacturing lobbies in the West are afraid of peace and are bent upon stoking war between nations which is the only guarantee for sale of their arms and profiteering through it. But wars cannot be waged all of a sudden. They need preparation of minds. So a lot of propaganda and myths against certain nations, communities or faiths have to be generated to psychologically prepare the people. Wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon necessitated propagation of the theory of terrorism which in turn would be used as a justification for launching assault against these hapless nations. So good deal of research went into arraigning Muslims and Islam for terror incidents. Terms like Jihad, Fatwa, Shia and Sunni, Wahabi and Salafi and Martyrdom etc were misinterpreted to malign Islam's image. An atmosphere was created whereby Islam evoked images of bearded gunmen with bloodshot eyes roaming around. Sufficient propaganda prepared the ground for the so called American war on terror which has only led to more violence and cycle of revenge. When hate and contempt take possession of hearts and minds, they are ready to accept violent reprisals against the objects of hate.

The West has on one hand imposed or tolerated despots, dictators and

tyrant sultans over the Muslim world and has colluded with them to wage wars against their local adversaries. It is the West which has created Israel in the heart of the Middle East whose illegal occupation of Arab lands, raids into Palestinian areas, usurpation of water resources and creation of the Apartheid wall has been constantly fuelling the Arab rage. The West uses all these to

trigger war between the Middle Eastern states. The book etches to relief all these factors that have been exploited by the West to create the bogey of terrorism. The book goes into unearthing these linkages between terrorism and injustice. Ideological issues should be tackled intellectually, not by violence.

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Living With 'Western Values'

Instead of building yet another mosque in Paris, why not spend the money on educating young Muslims on how to write a good CV and get a job?

By Idris Tawfiq

There are many who believe that the values of Islam and the values of the West are incompatible.

There are even some who suggest that vast hordes of Muslims coming from the East will change the balance within Western societies.

This has even been called a "clash of civilizations."

Well, as Muslims, we believe that there is no such clash and that Islam, far from being a threat to Western society is, in fact, a blessing. Indeed, Muslims believe that Islam is the natural religion of mankind and has existed since the beginning of time, speaking to the hearts of all men and women, wherever they live.

So where does the problem come from, for indeed there is a growing perception in many Western societies that Islam poses a threat to their way of life?

As economies continue to decline and people find it more and more difficult to make ends meet, they quite naturally look for reasons why their standard of living is falling. Unfortunately, to blame Muslims and Islam is a grave mistake.

Let us take the example of Switzerland. A few years back, the people of Switzerland voted in a national referendum to ban the building of minarets in their country. At the time of that referendum, there existed four minarets in the whole of Switzerland, which hardly seems

a threat to the Swiss way of life. Yet ultra-nationalist political parties had managed to whip up a feeling amongst ordinary people that Islam was somehow to blame and that its continued rise



would threaten the very nature of Switzerland itself.

The politicians did this in a very clever way. Switzerland is famous for clocks, for watches, for chocolate and for banking. It has always been a neutral country and its citizens are renowned for being clean and quiet. Imagine their concern, then, when large numbers of Muslims came from beyond their borders to live in the country, many of them without jobs and unable to speak the languages of Switzerland. The right-wing parties seized their chance and proclaimed this as a proof that Islam was threatening that clean and quiet way of life.

Let us be honest here. If Switzerland has a problem with immigration, then it should deal with that immigration problem. Islam, however, was not the

problem at all.

Similarly, in France or Germany, where large numbers of the population have parents who were born outside of France or Germany, there is a real problem of social integration. Vast numbers of young people, for example, feel alienated from their society. Living in communities where Arabic is the language most commonly spoken, they look instead to Morocco, Algeria or Turkey

for their identity. Often these social problems have erupted into violence on the streets.

Once again, though, we must stress that if France or Germany or any other country have problems of social cohesion, these problems need to be addressed. Islam, though, is not the problem.

In fact, the contrary if true. If people could only see it, the values of Islam are actually the very values that people in the West are longing for.

True Western Values

A while back, I was speaking on a Friday night at one of the universities in a large city in the UK. The talk finished around 11pm and I chose to walk back to my hotel through the centre of the city. What I saw there, appalled me. Being the centre of the city, there were many pubs and

nightclubs and it just happened to be the time when people were on the move from one club to another. Young people, both boys and girls, were staggering around drunk, fighting, being sick in the street and using the foulest language.

I thought then that, as Muslims, we have missed something very important. What appalled me on the streets of that city would have appalled any decent citizen. The "Western" values ordinary people adhere to do not include drunkenness and violence. The "Western" values they hold so dear include honesty, justice, fair-mindedness, a respect for the law, for the elderly, for women and for families. Are these not the very values embodied in Islam? Indeed, respect for others' beliefs has always been a central tenet of those Western societies.

Yet, as Muslims, we have managed to convince (or allowed others to convince) the people of the West

that our "Muslim" values threaten their very way of life. Maybe we need to re-think the way we approach our neighbours.

There are some calling themselves Muslims, who call for hatred of the West and, although living in the West themselves, have nothing but contempt for the societies where they live. Unfortunately, this tiny minority have grabbed the headlines and managed to make it seem that this is the stance of Islam.

Islam is at home in every country and in every society. Islam is not a threat to Britain or France or anywhere else.

In Western societies, there is a lot of work to be done in integrating the different cultural practices of those whom the Western countries have allowed to come and live in their countries. There is a lot of money available from the Muslim-majority nations to

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Behind the Legislative Deprivation

Muslim representation in the Lok Sabha and legislatures across the states in India is coming down election after elections. While some sections of Muslims have been pleading for reservation for the community in legislatures, a more worrying aspect has skipped the attention of the community i.e., seats and segments with Muslim preponderance being reserved for the Scheduled Castes (SCs). This robs the community of the prospects of victory such constituencies offer the contestants.

The political reservations for the SCs and STs have proved a boon in empowering these sections who were kept away from positions of power and influence in the country for centuries. Thanks to the proportionate reservation of constituencies, their representation in seats of power has gone up beyond the numbers they deserved. But it is unfortunate that this is being done at the cost of Muslims who are being deprived of getting elected from their areas of concentration.

Several Lok Sabha constituencies where Muslim represent more than 25% have been reserved for the SCs as a general pattern. For instance, Karimganj Lok Sabha seat from Assam where Muslims constitute 59% of the voters, is a SC-reserved seat. Bijnore, Bulandshahar, Bahraich constituencies in Uttar Pradesh (Muslim voters ranging between 35 and 40%), Birbhum in West Bengal (35% Muslims), and Gulbarga and Bijapur (25% Muslims) figure in the list of SC-reserved constituencies. Curiously, in some of these constituencies scheduled castes make up less than ten per cent of the voting population. Evidently, the reservation for scheduled castes is being done at the cost of deprivation of legislative representation of Muslims who stand a better chance to get elected from the areas and segments of their dominance, if not exactly preponderance. Almost a similar pattern is visible in state legislatures, mainly in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar.

Much against the outcome of the last Delimitation exercise, the National Commission to Review the Constitution set up by the former National Democratic Alliance Government (which had presented its report in 2004), had recommended that the next Delimitation exercise should strive to consolidate the minority concentration pockets into constituencies in order to enable them to enhance their representation. It seems the recommendation has gone totally unheeded. The Muslim representation in the current i.e., 15th Lok Sabha stands at mere 28, coming down from 33 in the previous Lok Sabha. Several large states such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand have no Muslim representative in Lok Sabha although Muslims have a considerable presence there.

Muslims should take up the issue with all parties that believe in fairplay and justice, and demand that the next Delimitation exercise is called earlier than it is due, to set right the anomaly.

LETTERS

AAP and Muslims

There is a discussion going on in the Muslim circles about why Muslims should support AAP (Aam Aadmi Party). Muslims are standing at the cross roads thinking, what role they can play in the forthcoming elections of 2014. On one hand, there is a Congress party and on the other hand, there is a fear in their minds that Modi is gaining popularity in this country to become the Prime Minister. Every day, we read newspapers with stories about AAP. Many felt it could become an alternative, but unfortunately till date, AAP has not addressed or even bothered to address the issues of minorities in the country. There is no representation of Muslims in Kejriwal's government. Till date, no policy has been framed with regard to Agriculture, Finance, Industry, External Affairs or Foreign Policy. Nothing has been talked about the backward classes and the Dalits and not a single word has been said by the AAP about the inclusive growth of the country.

Mohd.Khaleequr Rahman, Hyderabad

Dec. 2013 Issue was Excellent

Islamic Voice issue of December 2013 had some very good articles. To mention some, "Muslims Unveil 2014 Poll Agenda" was very thought provoking. The news item, "campaign to respect the name Muhammad" also was inspiring and I was happy to know that the students are doing such a noble task. Varsha Sharma's article "Prophet Muhammad's Noble Character and Muslims Today" was indeed excellent. Another very important piece that needs to be applied in our daily lives is about Prophet's (Pbuh) humble food habits. Other articles in the December 2013 issue were also worth reading.

Kazi Mohammad Ayub, Shehar Khateeb and Pesh Imam, Jodhpur

Cursing Non-Muslims is Not Islamic

By Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

Some weeks ago, someone sent me a list of questions by email, seeking my responses to them. Some of these questions had to do with the manner in which many Muslims relate to people of other faiths. Among these questions was the following:

"Last Friday, I went to a mosque for the Friday prayer. The *khutba* was in Arabic, but although I cannot speak Arabic, I could get a gist of some of the things the imam was saying. He was talking about the Christians and Jews in negative terms—perhaps as 'oppressors' of Muslims—and he also seemed to be praying for their suppression or destruction. He was talking of Muslims as persecuted people. I think he also did *dua* for their victory over non-Muslims."

The questioner believed that the imam of the mosque seemed to think of Christians and Jews—or, probably, all non-Muslims—as by definition 'enemies of Islam'. That is why he felt that the imam was praying for their destruction. He wanted to know my reaction to this imam, his *khutba* and his *dua*.

I replied to the questioner saying that this kind of *khutba* and *dua* are quite contrary to the Islamic spirit. I said that I was aware that this practice is very common among Muslims. But, I added, it is a fact that this practice is un-Islamic. Muslims have developed what in Urdu is called a *qaumi mazhab* mentality—they wrongly conflate Islam with Muslim community identity and perceived community interests. That is why, I explained, they have developed this kind of psyche. People who think in this way cannot be good *dais*. According to the Quran (7:68), the first prerequisite for being a *dai* is being a well-wisher for the *madu*. If you have hatred in your heart for the *madu* and curse him, how can you engage in *dawah*? How can you be a *dai*?

Dawah work needs sincerity on the part of the *dai* as well as *madu*-friendly behaviour. Without inculcating this behaviour, neither can the *dai* do *dawah* work properly, nor will he be rewarded by God. *Dawah* is a great Islamic action, but it entails a necessary condition. And this condition is the maintenance of a normal relationship between the *dai* and the *madu*. The responsibility for establishing such a relationship devolves unilaterally on the *dai*. That is, it is he, and not the *madu*, who is responsible for normalizing the situation between himself and the *madu*. This injunction can be found in several verses of the Quran. For example, the Quran (22:67) says: 'Let them not dispute with you on this matter. Call them to the path of your Lord—for surely, you are rightly guided—[...]'.

If praying for the destruction of non-Muslims is not the Islamic way, then, what *dua* should we do for people of other faiths, the questioner wanted to know.

In my reply, I said that we should pray for all on an equal basis. The Quran (1:2) refers to God as the "Lord of the Worlds" and not as "God of Muslims". This fact has been declared in the very first chapter of the Quran. Also, the Quran (21:107) calls the Prophet *rahmatul-lilalamin*, that is, a mercy for all mankind. The Quran does not say that the Prophet is *rahmat* or a mercy for Muslims alone. The Prophet prayed for the guidance of others. He never prayed for their destruction.

Of their own accord, many Muslims wrongly consider some people or communities as the 'enemies of Islam'. Seeing others in this light is their own self-styled belief. It has nowhere been mentioned in the Quran that these people are enemies of Islam.

In this regard, Muslims are committing a double mistake—that is, first, they have developed a self-styled belief of considering some people as enemies of Islam; and, second, this belief has no sanction in the Quran. Thus, it is not their right to say that someone is an enemy of Islam. Saying so is, without doubt, an unlawful act. If you see that someone is a *zalim*, or oppressor, according to your way of thinking, then why do you curse that person? You should instead engage in *dawah* with him. You should communicate the message of God to him. Give the Quran to him to read and understand. Under no circumstances do you have the right to curse him. You can only pray for his guidance, convey God's message to him and try to make him understand. Beyond this, everything lies in God's hands.

Our responsibility is to do *dawah* work, to convey God's word to people, and to help them discover the Truth. If people express doubt or apprehension, then one should sincerely try to discuss the matter with them, rather than curse them. If you take the name of Islam, or want to do something in the name of Islam, then you must understand that there is only one domain in which you should exert your energies—and that is, *dawah* work. One should explain and help people understand the message of God. One should also pray for them. But, to declare that some people are enemies and to engage in cursing against them is certainly not allowed in Islam.

Our task is to convey the message of God. The Quran says: "So, [O Prophet] exhort them: your task is only to exhort, you are not their keeper." (88:21-22). This means that the believer's task is to perform *dawah* work. The believer does not possess the right to take any action against others. Prophet is told that only peaceful *dawah* is his domain, and the rest has to be left to God.

There are certain prerequisites or conditions for carrying out *dawah* work. These conditions can be fulfilled only when the *dai* adopts patience and tolerance. If the *dai* does not remain patient, he cannot engage in the work of *dawah*. For *dawah* work, it is essential to maintain normalcy, that is, a peaceful atmosphere. And for that you have to be patient with the *madu*, not to go about cursing him! If you think positively and wish well for the *madu*, then you will be able to rightly convey the message of God to him by taking into account the demands of wisdom and *talif-e-qalb*—dealing with the *madu* in a manner that causes the softening of his heart towards the *dai* and the message of Islam.

Today, curses are invoked against others with great fervour in mosques. I can say with full conviction that those people or communities whom the Muslims consider as oppressors are not oppressors at all. These communities are not anti-Muslim or anti-Islam. But, for the sake of argument, if it were true that certain groups are oppressors, even then it is not permissible for Muslims to pray for God's wrath to come down upon them. In every situation, we have to be well-wishers for others, maintain our composure and convey God's message to them. We must pray for their guidance, and leave everything else to God. ■



MSDP Work in 144 UP Blocks

Lucknow: Infrastructural development work will be taken up in the 144 minority-concentrated blocks in Uttar Pradesh shortly under the Union Government's Multi-Sectoral Development Plant (MSDP). The follows the change in policy from Minority-concentrated districts to minority-concentrated blocks across the 90 districts. Of these districts, 25 fall within the state of Uttar Pradesh where Muslims make up nearly 18% of population. Other

minorities such as Sikhs and Christians are insignificant in number.

The UP government has chosen to engage an NGO for identification of Muslim-concentrated blocks and has earmarked Rs. 3.50 lakh for the purpose.

Under the MSDP scheme, work on infrastructure such as anganwadi, primary health centres, drinking water, roads, housing under Indira Gandhi Housing Scheme will be taken up.

Seminar on Peaceful Coexistence

Aligarh: The K. A. Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies of the Aligarh Muslim University will organize a two-day national seminar on 'Peaceful Coexistence in Multicultural Societies: The Quranic Perspective on March 8 and 9, 2014. The Centre has invited paper on various aspects of Peace (international, domestic, environmental, psychological,

spiritual etc). Interested scholars can contact: Dr. Mohammad Mubeen Saleem, Organizing Secretary, K. A. Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh 202002, Ph. 0571-2701230, Mobile: +91-9897788511, cqsseminar14@gmail.com, and www.amucqs.com

« Page 9 Living With 'Western Values' ...

help with this. Instead of building yet another mosque in Paris, why not spend the money on educating young Muslims on how to write a good CV and get a job, or helping Muslim women to speak the language of that country and so play a part in society?

The Social Values of Islam These social and political problems can be dealt with easily if there is the will to overcome them. The bigger picture, though, which we must address as Muslims, is that Islam has something very positive to offer to the West. It is not a case of Islam or the West, but of Islam

in the West. The social values of Islam are what many people long for and would be very receptive to if they could be promoted properly. Far from being a threat, Islam is beautiful, gentle and sweet and the presence of good Muslims will benefit any city or town.

Those calling others to Islam need to recognize this fact. Once the people of the West can overcome the hurdles presented to them by the media, they will then, perhaps listen to what Islam and Muslims have to say.

By preaching the message of Islam first, without showing people

By A Staff Writer

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Institute of Excellence (HIE) set up by Mr. Ghiasuddin Babukhan of Foundation for Economic and Educational Development (FEED) was formally inaugurated on January 5 at Modugula Chittampalli village near Vikharabad in Ranga Reddy district by Prof. S. Satyanarayana, vice chancellor of Osmania University. The Institute aims at 'providing world class education to high achievers' regardless of which economic strata they come from and will strive to produce thinkers and leaders. With its campus built on 120 acres of lush green land, the HIE

Urdu Diploma Course:

Karnataka Urdu Academy has invited applications for enrolment into one-year Urdu diploma 2014-15 course of the Academy for non-Urdu knowing candidates. Aspirants can register themselves with Rs. 200 towards admission fee at Karnataka Urdu Academy, Kannada Bhavan, J. C. Road, Bangalore or can contact Mr. Nizamuddin at 080-22213167. There is no age limit. Last date for application is February 28, 2014.

what Muslims are really like and what they have to offer society, people will not be receptive to the message. As Muslims we promote good citizenship, community cohesion and religious tolerance. (www.onislam.net) ■

HIE Inaugurated

is headed by Air Commodore Naseem Akhtar. The phase I of the Institute had begun functioning from the last academic year i.e., 2013-14 enrolling 120 students in Intermediate course. It will take students in 7th and 8th standard under CBSE scheme from 2014-15 academic session for which admissions are on. Intake will be only 30 in each class.

Present at the inaugural ceremony were Mr. S. A. Huda, Director General of Police Housing Corporation and Mr. A. K. Khan, Director General,

Anti Corruption Bureau and Ms. Tasneem Osmani, Director, Educate India fund, Chicago. For more admissions and campus visit, contact: Ms.



Ayesha Tanveer, 96526-99811, email: ayesha.tanveer@hie.net.in, or Arshia Jabeen, 90002-89203 email: a.jabeen@hie.net.in ■

Manuu to Hold Seminar on Higher Education

Hyderabad: The Moulana Azad National Urdu University will hold a national seminar on "Management of Higher Education—Persepctives, challenges and Strategies" on March 5 and 6 at the University. The seminar is being organized by the Department of Management and Commerce. It invites papers on Overview of RUSA (Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan), Industry-Institute Interface in Higher education, Human Resource Management in Higher Education, Issues of Policy Planning, Contribution of ICT in Management of Higher education, Role of Distance Education and Impact of Higher Education on Economic Development. Those interested in presenting papers can contact Seminar Coordinator,

Dr. Saneem Fatima, HoD, Dept of Management and commerce, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Gachibowli, Hyderabad-500032, Ph: 040-23008377, mheseminar@gmail.com. ■

Record sales of Urdu books:

The Urdu Book Mela organized by the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) at Malegaon in the first week of January 2014, registered a record sale of Urdu books to the tune of Rs. 75 lakh in eight days. The sales surpassed even the sales recorded by the Mela at Mumbai previously. Malegaon happens to be a powerloom town with a concentration of Muslims mainly speaking Urdu. The town has several Urdu medium schools and is an active centre for literary activities. ■

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First English Medium High Madrasah in W. Bengal

By Aditya Das in Kolkata

Kolkata: The first English medium High Madrasah will begin



enrolling students for the 2014-15 academic session from March this year. The Madrasah Authority of Panihal, a village in Nadia district, 130 kilometres north of Kolkata has decided to set up the English medium high Madrasah at Patiala. High Madrasahs in West Bengal are equivalent to High Schools

and are affiliated to the State Secondary Education Board and teach all regular secular and modern sciences together with

Arabic and Persian. Both Hindu and Muslim children study in them.

The English medium Madrasah was first conceived in 2010 by former Chief Minister Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharya who sanctioned Rs. 21 crore for setting up 14 such Madrasahs in 12 Muslim minority dominated districts of the State. Mr. Bhattacharya himself laid the foundation for the Madrasah in Panihal. The secretary of the

West Bengal Board of Madrasah Education, Mr. Arfan Ali Biswas claims this to be a revolutionary step.

“It’s a welcome move”, says Dr. Sayed Rashed Ali, Professor of Islamic history, Calcutta University. Mr. Maskur Alam, an IT engineer, flashes a smile, “It was long overdue. We, the Bongs, are all but Anglo phobic. I wish I were a student”. Mustaqeem Ali, a garment retailer, utters optimism, “Our children will avail what we couldn’t think of”. Sayed Ruhul Amin, the general secretary of All India Minorities Association (AIMA), seemed philosophical, “It’s right and should have been so because the Muslims are meant to shine and grow”.

At present, West Bengal has 609 recognised Madrasahs. 102 Madrasahs are running under senior Madrasah Education System and remaining 507 are under High Madrasah Education system. 395 out of 609 Madrasahs are High Madrasahs, 112 Madrasahs are Junior High Madrasahs and remaining 102 Madrasahs are Senior Madrasahs, informs the <http://www.wbbme.org>, the website of the West Bengal Board of Madrasah Education. ■

Courses in Urdu and Arabic

Bangalore: NCPUL is inviting applications for enrolment in one-year Diploma in Urdu Language and one-year Certificate Course in functional Arabic courses for the year 2014-15. The classes in Bangalore will be held in Madani Public School, behind AKS Convention Hall on the junction of St. John’s Church Road and Haines Road. The two courses enable the learners to pick up sufficient Urdu or Arabic for common

conversation with a little grammar. There is no age bar for enrolment. National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India.

Last date for receiving filled-in application forms is February 28, 2014 which can be had from Md. Zameer Alam, Coordinator, Ph: 93417-01352. ■

Green Life Foundation Helps the Disabled

Hunsur: NGO Green Life Foundation here distributed 150 kits of essential items among the

commemorate the 3rd foundation day of the organization, says a press note by secretary Sana Leelu.



disabled people from the taluqa to English conversation. ■

The organization has been working among the poor and the weaker section and imparting them skills to achieve self reliance. It has been instrumental in getting employment for 150 youth in different BPOs after having imparted skills and

Heritage Society Formed in Bijapur

Bijapur: Prominent citizens of the historic city of Bijapur have formed the Heritage Social, Educational and Historical Society to study, preserve and document the history and heritage of the city. It will also undertake educational and social

upliftment programmes. Mr. Abubakar Maulabaksh Thaiyabi is the president of the Society and Nabirasul Lalsaheb Telsang is the secretary. The Society has hoisted its website at www.hsehs.com. Contact Numbers: 9611218161, 91 8792103667. ■

Mushawarat Announces New Office Bearers

New Delhi: In an extraordinary meeting, the new team of the All India Muslim Majlis-e Mushawarat, the umbrella body of Indian Muslim organisations and eminent personalities, was announced here.

The elections for a 2-year term (2014-2015) were held last month. Dr. Zafarul-Islam Khan was re-elected unopposed for the new term and 20 Central Working Committee members were also elected. They are as follows: Maulana Syed Jalaluddin Umari, Mr. Syed Shahabuddin, Mufti Aatur Rahman Qasmi, Mr. Ahmad Rashid Shervani, Mr. Manzoor Ahmad, IPS (Retd), Mr. Mohammad Adeeb, Mr. Asaduddin Owaisi, MP, Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, Maulana Junaid Ahmad Banarasi, Maulana Mohammad Salim Qasmi, Maulana Asghar Ali Imam Mehdi Salfi, Mr. Navaid Hamid, Mr. Mujtaba Farooq, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, MP, Maulana Mohammad Wali Rahmani, Dr. S.Q. R. Ilyas, Maulana Ahmad Ali, Quasmi, Mr. Amanullah Khan, Mr. Khawja Mohammad Shahid and Janab Mohammad Sulaiman.

According to the Constitution of AIMMM, the President nominated the following Central Committee members to the Central Working

Committee: Janab Muhammad Jaafar, Janab Ejaz Ahmad Aslam, Prof. Humayun Murad, Mufti Fuzailur Rahman Hilal Usman, Janab Ilyas Malik, Janab Masoom Moradabadi, Janab SMY Nadeem, Janab Abdul Khaliq, Mrs Nusrat Shervani, Janab Nusrat Ali and Dr Javed Jamil.

The President also appointed Muhammad Jaafar, Manzoor Ahmad IPS (retd), and Hafiz Rashid Ahmad Chowdhury as vice presidents of AIMMM and Ahmad Rashid Shervani as Secretary General of AIMMM. For the posts of general secretaries of AIMMM, he appointed Prof. Muhammad Sulaiman, Mufti Aatur Rahman Qasmi, Dr S.Q.R. Ilyas and Masoom Moradabadi. This team will work for the next two years.

This was the first election after the re-unification of the two factions of Mushawarat on 27 October last year. A sizeable number of both the elected as well as the nominated members of the central working committee belong to the members who joined Mushawarat as a result of merger.

After the meeting, AIMMM welcomed the visiting delegation of the US-India Policy Institute over lunch in which AIMMM members and other guests also participated. ■



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Choice between Least Disliked and Most Despised

The 16th General Election for the Lok Sabha is upon us. A decade of United Progressive Alliance's (UPA) rule in Delhi has been a mixed bag. It did really well in managing the politically diverse Parliament and the resultant coalition at the Centre and still delivering a lot of its promises on the legislation front. Given the major indices, the economy too did consistently well for all these years and India came largely unscathed out of the 2008-10 recession. Employment scene was rosy all along. Militancy was largely under check—although the Mumbai terror attack smudged the copybook momentarily—and level of social violence came down considerably. These are the positives on the side of the UPA.

But going by the aspiration revolution triggered by the globally networked media, UPA's record was far from satisfactory. Its two major failings were on corruption and price rise front which have hit the common masses where it hurts most. Corruption has scaled unimaginable heights and wealth is concentrating in fewer hands thereby negating the gains from the employment generation and welfare measures. The most significant shift in corruption happened in terms of its focus being shifted from cash to land in the last ten years. Entire urban lands and properties have been carved up by cartels owned, supported or financed by the politicians and powerful bureaucrats. Owning a house in a city or town has been rendered a dream for the common men. A politician or an official lurks behind every villa, mall, resort, township and apartment in cities. Urban infrastructure is planned around the habitations of the rich rather than the people who actually want and deserve them.

Minorities though received a better deal by way of certain welfare measures,

their empowerment continues to be a sore point. There was certainly progress on Sachar Committee recommendations, But Ranganath Mishra Commission report was largely ignored. Reservation for Muslims in government jobs remains a distant dream. Threat of social violence by goons from the principal opposition party is bound to keep it on backburner.

Aam Aadmi Party's emergence augurs well for the health of the democracy. It has sent powerful shockwaves to the established parties. "People cannot be taken for granted and may plump for choices other than the Congress and the BJP" is the message in short. However 'anarchist' the AAP may be, it provides an option to the harried middle class out of the bipolar polity, at least to teach the traditionally major claimants of power. AAP may not be an instant success, but it threatens to upset their applecart. It will eat into votes of the entrenched parties and may lend the expected advantage to greenhorns from among the rivals. The choice is between the least disliked and the most despised.

But there is no escape from cynicism. The general perception is that people who wield power in Indian democracy come to power by so wide misuse of law that to expect that they would stand against injustice, corruption and excess is to expect the unexpected. How would the contestants and the parties vying for the coming Lok Sabha election will counter the perception in the intervening three months has to be seen.

Islamic Voice approached a wide variety of Muslim intellectuals, academics and thinkers in several states to figure out the issues before the electorate. Here are excerpts from responses received from a few of them:

Islamic Voice invited opinion from diverse quarters on the issues facing the voters during the forthcoming Lok Sabha election to be held around April-May 2014. The questions posed were:

1. What are the major issues facing the electorate across the nation or with specific reference to your region.
2. How voters from the minority communities would/should decide their choice?
3. Would parties like AAP with young, ebullient recruits have any chance outside capital Delhi? What is future of parties that can garner massive votes through mobilization of social media but are ideologically hollow?
4. General Assessment of Decade Long Rule of UPA.



Here are excerpts from some of our important readers:

Between Congress and AAP: Predicament of Minorities

Prof. Muzaffar Assadi, Professor of Political Science, University of Mysore

With the arrival of AAP in the electoral scape in recent days initially through mass mobilization and later through the mediation of party has created political ripples. Couple of questions are often raised : will the emergence signal the arrival of new political discourse, will it make the "ordinary" into "all powerful", or will the new experiment end up in throwing an "anarchist political structure" or will it fizzle out in the years to come.



4-right to food. It is pragmatic politics and everyday life issues such as increasing prices, non-accessibility to public goods, failed public distribution system including institutionalised corruption, that brought AAP to power. AAP's incipient experiment in the power politics also reflects the bygone French revolutionary "Commune" politics which ultimately ended up in "white terror"

AAPs arrival brought new political discourses: discourse of "ordinary" and "powerful",

discourse of engaging with democracy, discourse of choices. However what is missing is the absence of any "minority agenda". Neither it has any clear-cut agenda to defeat the undercurrents of Hindutva. In this context minorities face three predicaments: one, defeating political and cultural Hindutva, and two, predicament of "speaking as minorities" in the politics and three, dilemma of representation. This predicament is acute at the national level than in Karnataka. What is needed in this context is

» Page 15

It is obvious that it is not the construction of "flyovers, ATMs, FDIs, Big Bazars, Malls, New International airports" that brought the AAP to the centrality of political discourse and then to power. Even it is not the four important "right based development approach" that the Congress introduced such as 1-right to education, 2-right to job, 3-right to information and

"The one who forgives others is forgiven by Allah"



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UPA's Inclusive Growth Has Paid Dividends

Ali Shariff, Consultant, Pricewater House

1- The elections are being approached very differently by the BJP and Indian National Congress. BJP is making the elections a referendum on weak governance and corruption, and projecting a "strong" leader almost converting the pitch into presidential style of elections of USA. Congress is trying to cut its anti-incumbency losses. BJP presents the growth model while the Congress is projecting its measures towards distributive justice. While the former projects a business, market and media friendly image, the latter banks upon supports from the underprivileged.

2- In terms of the choice between the two leading parties, minority communities have no option but to support the Congress as the atrocities committed by the Hindutva brigade on minorities are well documented.

While a section of Muslims has come out openly in support of AAP in Delhi, it is unlikely that its candidates elsewhere will be able to garner winnable support. In states with strong regional parties, the secular, winnable local candidate will be the obvious choice for tactical voting.

3- AAP has taken the political scene in India by storm and shaken the very roots of established parties. AAP was able to mobilise

over a short period and reach a crescendo at the right time, due to a series of fortuitous developments that occurred in New Delhi over the last two years.



It has indeed demonstrated that elections can be fought and won within the legally permissible norms, which all

other parties flout with abandon, and this has been its most important contribution so far. Such a phenomenon is not easy to replicate across other regions so easily. Also, (my) analysis shows that in Karnataka, it is unlikely that AAP will be able to garner enough votes to win in any seat. However, it may eat into the votes of other parties to a limited extent in some urban area impacting their vote share. This is more like to harm the Congress than the BJP.

4- UPA rule has been a mixed bag, but the balance has clearly been favourable for the country.

Growth has been appreciable during its tenure and its policy

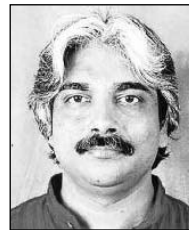
of "inclusive growth" is the right approach in a widely diverse country such as ours. Moreover, UPA has brought out landmark legislative changes such as Right to Information, Right to Employment, RTE and has devised many schemes such as MGNREGA, NRHM, JNNURM etc. Also, its sound policies and approach have helped largely protected India from the ill effects of one of the worst global depressions affecting most countries across the world. Its handling of foreign policy was mature. For minorities also, UPA took three highly appreciable steps – Commissioning of the Sachar Report, Formation of the Ministry of Minority Affairs and the scholarships, which is one of the very well implemented schemes.

Corruption and multiple scams have however sullied UPA's image and it is not able to defend itself. It could not take a decisive stand on Ranganath Mishra Commission Report recommendation to make 10% reservations for Muslims. ■

UPA Govt. Failed on All Fronts

Zafer Mohiuddin, Architect, Theatre Person, Bangalore

1-Issue of corruption is undoubtedly the most dominant concern for the voters today. Both principal parties, the Congress



and the BJP are involved neck deep in corruption. Land mafia, sand mafia and liquor mafia have taken over the governance and can bribe

their way to get anything done by the Government. Decentralisation of the governance is all an eyewash. Entire system gravitates around the vested interests of politicians at the top. Water, power and housing have become extremely expensive and leading to unprecedented price rise. The

Dr. Akmal Husain, Senior Scientist, Govt. of India, Chennai, Ex CEO, UP Sunni Central Waqf Board

The entire Northern India is reeling under aimless and incompetent political leadership with no respect for values like socialism, secularism, democracy enshrined in the preamble of the Constitution. The government system fails to deliver goods in major service sectors such as health, education, social security, law and order, infrastructure, energy, financial security and welfare measures implementation etc). People have reconciled themselves to the circumstances as bureaucrats are hand in glove with their political masters and in liaison with corrupt traders / hoarders and contractors. Emergence of AAP and Rahul Gandhi provides a silver lining. Leaders with trained/ expertise in e-governance and community leadership should be brought forth to fill the void.

2- The major target before



Minority community is to halt / curb the prospects of NaMo from capturing the gaddi at the Rasina Road through tactical voting. There are over hundred Parliamentary seats in the country where Muslims can decide the fate of the contenders considering the winnable, secular and capable person. In my view in Uttar Pradesh and its surrounding states, Congress, SP, AAP and BSP would be their choice. If Congress fields credible and able person he / she would be preferred over candidates from the small regional parties.

3-Yes, there is a good possibility because youth (18-45 years) constitute large chunk of voters. The leaders like Kejriwal will get not only gain momentum but maturity also with passage of time. People are fed up with babucracy and corruption. Decentralization mantra of administration (brainchild of Kejriwal) has immense appeal.

4- The UPA's performance has been above average during the decade long rule. Programmes like MGNREGA, scholarships for under-privileged students, and enactments like the RTI, RTE, Food Security Act, Waqf Amendment Act etc have immensely benefitted the people. But corruption has sullied the party's image. Representatives from minorities have performed miserably, with possible exception of Mr. K. Rahman Khan during the last two years. His Minority Welfare schemes have percolated down to grassroots.

(Dr. Akmal Hussain hails from Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh and is currently posted at Chennai)

«Page 14 Prof. Muzaffar Assadi ...

a clear-cut political position and an analysis of emerging situation. The new outfit although will make political dent, but given the absence of any "minority agenda", the party would not be treated as 'most preferred'. This is because for minorities it is neither inflation nor poverty, as the latter has been the victim of such issues for years together (this is reflected in Sachar

Report), but "security", "identity" and "development deficit" are the issues (in that order). In the ultimate analysis Minorities will vote for that party which has the capability to address these issues than inflation and corruption. Is Congress a better option, despite aberrations, than the AAP?

(Prof. Assadi can be reached at muzaffar.assadi@gmail.com)

legislators are least bothered about bills and legislation. Most bills are hustled through at the fag end of the session without any discussion. Politicians have now set up colleges and hospitals and reaping huge profits.

2-Some parties appease the minorities and some scare them. Atleast Muslims have realized it. They may go the AAP way.

3-All parties go through the face of ideological vacuum and dilemmas which AAP may be facing today. The current surge of popular support symbolizes the pining for change among the people

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UPA Did Well despite its Handicaps

Md. Harunur Rashid, social activist, Murshidabad, West Bengal

neglected in the struggle to find a secular option.

There seems to be little scope for the parties like the AAP due to their ideological hollowness. Yet they may affect the election result substantially with their potential to hijacking youths' votes from the national parties.

When objectively assessed the decade long performance of the UPA Government had not be lackluster. It was able to enact several landmark Acts essential to ensure inclusive growth, empowerment through education, food security and transparency in the governance. Crippled as it was by the compulsions of coalition government, it failed to execute its agenda with requisite confidence and aggressiveness. The overriding concern that held its hand all through was to keep its flock together.

(Harunur Rashid is Development Officer with LIC of India. He can be reached at harunur_rashid786@rediffmail.com)



It is going to be a major challenge to the intelligence and acumen of the voters to pick up a political party for his choice of representative in the Lok Sabha. The national scenario is highly chaotic, to say the least. The table of issues is crowded with corruption, price rise, development, stability, dynasty, fiefdom, transparency and assertive and effective governance.

As for the West Bengal, issues are currently taking a backseat. The elections have steadily become a game of brute force, intimidation, manipulation and an all out war against the political opponents. Elsewhere in the country a host of regional parties with their parochial issue will vie with each other and would not allow a single strong party to emerge at the national level. Stability may elude the government. The minorities' concern would be to keep the communal forces off the corridors of power. Sadly, issues pertaining to their education, social justice, equity and development may get

Only Commissions, No Implementation

Dr. M. Jawed Zulqarnain, social activist, Darbhanga, Bihar

and strengthen its base in the state, hence they are circumspect against him. Moreover, having shared power with the JDU for considerable period, the BJP is aware of the loopholes in administration in the state and is creating problems for Nitish administration.



Insecurity reigns supreme in Muslim minds. They have no platform to raise their voice. There is not even an organization where they can collectively discuss their issues. Leaders are not competent to take up their issues. They are neglected in matters of education, health, social welfare.

There will be a quadrangular fight between RJD, JDU, Congress and the BJP, unless there is alliance between or among parties. Although Lalu Prasad Yadav was convicted in the fodder scam, his popularity is gaining day by day in Bihar. Muslims see Nitish as one who allowed the BJP to expand

The Aam Aadmi Party certainly has a chance to woo the people outside Delhi and specially in Bihar. They should not involve themselves in petty issues as they did in Delhi recently. It remains to be seen how AAP takes up the grievances of minorities and

addresses their concern. The UPA gave a lot of lollipops to the minorities such as Sachar Committee, Ranganatha Commission, Srikrishna Commission et al. But only a few recommendations were implemented. It allowed a free reign to security agencies to harass and arrest Muslim youth on trumped charges and the campaign has run well over a decade without any let up. It has bred sense of insecurity among the minorities. It has lost the confidence of Muslims.

(Jawed Zulqarnain heads the Jan Seva Cooperative Society in Bihar. He can be reached atmjawedzq06@yahoo.com)

No Dearth of Alternatives

Gulame Ghose, Writer and Social Activist, Bangalore

The Congress Party was the only party which was considered strong, secular and pan Indian for four decades after Independence. It had strong leaders like Nehru, Azad, Shastri, Ambedkar, Moraji Desai, Jagjivan Ram, Nanda, Rajendra Prasad, Indira Gandhi

etc. To all these leaders, nation came first and all else next. Muslims and Dalits looked up to it as a saviour and protector of the interests of weak and infirm.



Unfortunatly, after 1990, it lost this status as greed, ego, selfishness, corruption and short sightedness replaced its previous ethos. Slowly, it turned in to a drawing room party which failed to understand the aspirations of the common man. It began to tolerate the perpetrators of communal riots. The destruction of Babari Mosque drove the death knell into Congress coffin. Muslims found an alternative in the local secular parties like SP, BSP, RJD, DMK, NCP, JDS etc. Though the Congress began to bounce back into public imagination from 2004 onwards, several of its leaders turned greedy, corrupt, egotistic and the party has degenerated into an amalgam of vested interests. Yes men and sycophants rule the roost. People have moved away from it.

As of today Muslims are a confused and divided lot, with no leader in sight to guide them on a clear and safe political path. In such a scenario the emergence of AAP in Delhi is attracting the attention of the people throughout the Country. It is an outcome of deep frustration against the Congress and the BJP by the Common man. It has not brought divisive issues of religion and caste into its campaign and has rather taken up the issues of price rise and corruption, issues that affect all people regardless of their faith. It promises strong and clean governance, honesty, and transparency. It echoes the feelings of the common man who is fed up of the so called due process, inquiries and commissions which take years to give their findings, and deprive the common man of justice. People are joining this party in droves and it is quite possible that it will emerge as a force in the 2014 election.

Now, Muslims have a choice between Congress, local secular parties and AAP. It is in the best interest of Muslims if they vote local parties in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Congress in all other States. It is equally important for the Muslims to vote AAP wherever it fields honest, secular and winnable candidates. However, AAP is unlikely to be a force at the Centre for the next five years. Congress is the only secular party that can keep the country united, strong and peaceful. Despite all its present weaknesses, it has the capacity to bounce back, provided its leaders shun the path of arrogance. Congress can also do what the AAP has done in Delhi by implementing people-friendly policies in all the States where it is in power and regain the confidence of the people.

(Gulame Ghose can be reached on geghouse1@gmail.com or Ph:9980827221)

Bureaucracy Put Spokes in the Wheel

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Makki, Karim City College, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand

Their youth are unemployed and want equal treatment and share in the education and job market but they are unable to give vent to their feeling. This will certainly decide their vote.



1. At present Indian electorates are facing several problems like security of life and honour, communalism, corruption, unemployment of youth, Poverty etc. In Jharkhand too the same problems exist besides common law and order due to Naxalites.

2. So far minorities particularly Indian Muslims are concerned, two major problems persist, first, security of life, honour and property due to communal forces and also by security forces who can fabricate any charges anywhere against them and put them in jail for many years without any trial. Secondly, equal opportunity in education and job sector. Muslim constitutes 14% of the Jharkhand population but in public and private domain they are hardly 2 to 4 %.

3. AAP is the reaction of common men against established elitist political system i.e. Congress and the BJP in Delhi. Common men are fed up with the saying and deeds of leaders of all political parties. In Delhi our mass media projected it in a very low profile. So only 28 candidates of AAP could win otherwise it must be 60 out of 70. Storm and ideological hollowness is there but it represents common man's feelings and his anger against the elite class enjoying all the power and privileges but doing nothing

and cheating their master i.e. Demo= people of the democracy.

4. Present UPA is ruling the country for the last one decade. It has enacted several new laws like right to information, right to education etc. Some time it seems that it wanted to improve living conditions of middle class people but bureaucracy, Police forces and other law enforcing authorities are not cooperating with it fully. Corruption is at its peak at all levels of governance. In spite of Sachar and Mishra Committee reports, the UPA Government has done nothing to implement them and whenever it tried halfheartedly to implement some of its provisions, bureaucracy adopted noncooperation attitude due to its biases and prejudices.

(Dr M. A. Makki can be reached at mukhtarahmadmakki@gmail.com, 0-9431759577).

← Page 15 Zafer Mohiuddin ... who are fed up with corruption in the ranks of the Congress party and BJP's divisive agenda. These parties have plundered the nation's resources or sold them to MNC for a pittance. Look at the SEZs, the auctioning of nation's forests, rivers and hills. The corrupt, fat, rich politicians today feel insecure facing the hungry, unwashed masses. AAP has done well by

cancelling the decision for FDI in retail sale and removing security and red light for ministers.

4-Manmohan Singh Government has been mired in one or the other scams all through the two decades. It failed on all fronts.

(Zafer Mohiuddin recently joined Aam Aadmi Party as a primary member.)

Back to the Past

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Tareen Joins AAP: Jaleel A. Khan Tareen, Vice Chancellor of the B. S. Abdur Rahman University in Chennai has joined the Aam Aadmi Party. Tareen said he was dismayed over Government's failure to bring about reforms in education system. Tareen was earlier vice chancellor of Kashmir University, Srinagar and Pondicherry University. He hails from Mysore.

Iyad Madani is New OIC's New Secy. General

Jeddah: The new Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Mr. Iyad Amin Madani, started officially his term of office at the OIC Headquarters in Jeddah, on 1 January 2014. Madani is the first Saudi national to take office of the Secretary General. He took office after Turkish diplomat and scholar demitted office on December 31, 2013 after completing nine years in office. Madani was born in Mecca in April 1946. He holds a bachelor's degree in production administration from Arizona State University in 1969.

Madani began his career as general director in a Saudi Airlines' administrative office in 1970. Then he joined media and he was editor-in-chief of Saudi Gazette until 1999, being the first editor of the daily. At the same time he served as general director of the Okaz Organization for Press and Publication until his resignation in April 1993. He was appointed to the shoura council as a member. He served there until 1999 when he was appointed Hajj Minister, a portfolio he held till February 2005. Next, he was appointed Minister of Culture and Information. On 1 August 2005, Madani as Information Minister announced the death of King Fahd on state television. Madani was elected as the head of the Islamic International News Agency (IINA) and the Organization of Islamic Broadcasting in 2007. He was in office until 2009 and was replaced by Abdulaziz Al Khoja in the post. During his tenure, Madani drew criticisms from Saudi clerics due to his tolerance towards the publications that were questioning the strong effects of the religious



establishment in Saudi Arabia. Madani was appointed chairman of the board of directors of Knowledge Economic City in Madinah on March 10, 2012. He also served as vice president of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Foundation for housing development.

Zafar Mohiuddin, architect and dramatist, joined the Aam Aadmi Party early last month. Zafar has directed several dramas and anchored TV programmes. He has been working for the coaching of potential dropout students who failed their SSLC and PUC exams. He said the AAP seems to be a better alternative to parties steeped in corruption.

Md. Zeeshan and Shamsheer Alam from Rahmani-30 coaching class are among the 32 students who were declared successful in the Regional Mathematical Olympiad in Bihar. A total of three Muslims figure in the list. The 32 would compete in the National Mathematical Olympiad to be held in Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai on February 2 among 896 from the entire country. Of these six will be selected to be sent to participate in the International Mathematical Olympiad to be held in South Africa later this year.

Tafazzul Ahmed, a BJP member and a former member of the Hamidsha Dargah Management Committee, Bangalore quit BJP and joined the Congress on January 6.

Elected: Rizwan Arshad was elected the President of the Youth Congress on January 13 for a second term. He defeated his nearest rival Varun Prasanna Kumar by a huge margin of nearly 11643 votes. He has indicated that he would seek a nomination for a Lok Sabha seat from the Congress. Polling was held on January 11.



Pak Child Hero: Aitazaz Ahsan, aged 17, who died while blocking a suicide bomber from attacking the children of a Government School in Hingo district of Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan has been awarded Sitara e Imtiyaz by the Government of Pakistan. Ahsan arriving late for the classes

wrestled with the suicide bomber and in the process was killed with the bomber. His father Mujahid Ali, who works in the United Arab Emirates, on his return from the



Dubai, told Express Tribune newspaper, that he was proud of his son who saved lives of hundreds of children of the school. "Though his mother is in deep grief, I am still happy that Ahsan has saved hundreds of other women from losing their children."

Appointed: Jamia Bayaaz was appointed the first woman district police chief in Kabul on January 18. She was provided four bodyguards, twice the number allotted to an incumbent of the post. She had been in the Afghan Police Force for the last 30 years.

Died: Syedna Muhammad Burhanuddin, chief of Dawoodi Bohra Community died in Mumbai on January 17 at the age of 99, as per Gregorian calendar (102 years as per Islamic lunar calendar). He was succeeded by his second son Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin



who will be the 53rd Dai e Mutlaq (the religious designation of the supreme spiritual leader of the community) which has its origin from Yemen.

Burhanuddin had become the 52nd Dai Mutlaq in 1965 after his father, Taher Saifuddin's death. He was born in Surat in 1915 and was designated the future Dai e Mutlaq at the age of 19 by his father.

Dr. Burhanuddin greatly modernized the community and its institutions. Under his stewardship the Bohra religious school Jameatus Saifiya at Surat introduced the modern curriculum together with religious curriculum and opted for International Baccalaureate program under IBO. He was conferred honorary doctorate by the Aligarh Muslim University and the Al-Azhar at Aligarh. He was also by the Egyptian and Jordanian governments with the highest award of the lands.

He was buried alongside his father at Raudat Tahera in Bhendi

Obituary: Ishrat Ali Siddiqui

A Gandhian and a journalist with great professional commitment bids adieu.

By A Staff Writer

Lucknow: Veteran Urdu journalist and Gandhian Ishrat Ali Siddiqui passed away at Lucknow on January 2. He was 94. Editor of Urdu Daily Quami Awaz in the 1970s, he had opposed then prime minister Indira Gandhi on the issue of press censorship imposed during the Emergency. His protest against censorship stood in stark contrast against the studied silence of his colleagues in National Herald and Navjivan, both papers also run by the Congress. When Director of Information censored a newsitem, he asked the printer to take out the item and run the printing machine with a blank space. Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi inquired about the incident and kept mum when she was told that Siddiqui himself instructed the space to be left blank.

The Congress government later honoured him with the Padma Sri and Indira Gandhi nominated him to the second Press Commission in 1980. Siddiqui availed this

opportunity to formulate reform proposals to improve the standard of Urdu journalism and contributed immensely to the modernizing of Kitabat (calligraphy). Born in Hardoi in 1919, he studied at Lucknow and then migrated to Hyderabad to edit the Urdu dailies Payam and the Hindustan. His nationalist articles led to the then ruler, Nizam Osman Ali, penalizing him. Siddiqui spent many years in Sevagram with Mahatma Gandhi and was president of the UP Working Journalists Union, and the UP Press Club and was the national councillor of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists (IFWJ). His book Zaban ka masa'ala and Gandhiji was published by National Book Trust. He was conferred with Padma Shri.

Siddiqui hailed from Sandela village and like a true Gandhian he only wore khadi clothes. He was active till the last days before his death. He suffered a fall and sustained fracture on December 24 at home. ■

Bazaar in Mumbai on January 18.

Haroon Yusuf, former Delhi Industries Minister, was elected the leaders of the Congress Legislature Party in Delhi Assembly. Haroon was elected the MLA from the Ballimaran segment in Old Delhi for the fifth consecutive term. Jaikishen from Sultanpur Mujra will be the deputy leader of the legislature party which has only eight MLAs in the house and is supporting the AAP Government led by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.



Farah Pandith, Indian-American special envoy to Muslims, leaves for Harvard

Washington: Indian-American Farah Pandith, the first-ever US special representative to Muslim communities, is leaving her position at the State Department to join the Institute of Politics at Harvard University. Appointed

to the position in June 2009, by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Pandith "always places people above politics, and she has performed groundbreaking work," said Secretary of State John Kerry. Originally from Srinagar, Ms Pandith will be joining the Institute of Politics as a resident fellow for the spring semester. She will lead weekly study groups on a range of topics. She holds a master's degree from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts. As a first-generation immigrant, Pandith achieved historic firsts for America, from changing the way the Embassies



engage with Muslim communities in Europe to getting a Quran placed in the White House Library. She has travelled to more than 80 countries and launched important youth programmes, including Generation Change, Viral Peace, and the Hours Against Hate campaign. ■



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In the name of God, the Merciful, the Beneficent

Detailed Commandments for Human Life

Say: Come, let me tell you what your Lord has forbidden to you:
Do not associate partner with Him; (Do not offend against but, rather,) be kind to your parents; Do not kill your children because of your poverty — We provide for you and for them;
Do not commit any shameful deed, whether open or secret;
Do not take any human being's life — which God has made sacred, except in the course of justice; This He has enjoined upon you so that you may use your reason.
(The Cattle: "Al-Ana'm" 6: 151)

"Say: Come, let me tell you what your Lord has forbidden to you." The Prophet, (peace be upon him), is here instructed to speak to people and tell them what their Lord has forbidden to them, not what they allege to have been forbidden. It is their Lord who has made the following items forbidden, because His alone is the position of Lordship, which includes the aspects of fostering and directing, as well as issuing legislation. Hence, He is only exercising His authority, because He is the Lord. God alone is the one who enjoys all rights of Lordship.

"Do not associate partners with Him." This is the foundation upon which the structure of faith is built. It is to this rule that all duties and obligations should refer and from which all rights and privileges are derived. It must be properly established, before any discussion of commandments, prohibitions, obligations, systems and laws can take place. The first and most important requirement is that people should acknowledge that God is their Lord who governs their lives in the same way, as they believe in His oneness. No partner can be associated with Him either as a deity or as a Lord. People must acknowledge that God alone controls the universe and conducts its affairs, as He indeed holds them accountable on the Day of Judgment for what they have done in this life and rewards them accordingly. They must also acknowledge at the same time and in the same measure that He alone has the authority to provide the law, which human beings must administer and enforce.

The guiding principle, then, purges

human conscience of all traces of associating partners with God, purges the human mind from all traces of superstition, human society from the traditions of ignorance and purifies human life from people's submission to one another. All forms of associating partners with God are included under the first and most important thing to be forbidden, because they lead to every objectionable thing. It is the practice, which should be most forcefully denied so that people can acknowledge that God



is their only God, Lord, King and Sovereign. Hence, they address all their acts of worship to Him alone. Believing in God's oneness is, thus, the most important rule, which cannot be replaced by any type of worship, moral value, human quality or action. Hence, the list of commandments begins with it: "Do not associate partners with Him."

"Be kind to your parents; do not kill your children because of your poverty- We provide for you and for them." This highlights the family tie between human generations. God knows that He is more kind and compassionate to human beings than their parents or children. Hence, He enjoins upon children to be kind to their

parents and on parents to be kind to their children. He links this commandment to the recognition of His absolute Godhead and the acknowledgement of His unique Lordship. He tells them that He alone provides for their sustenance. Hence, they must not impose any severe conditions on parents in their old age or on children in their tender years. They must not fear poverty, because God provides sustenance for parents and children alike.

"Do not commit any shameful

deed, whether open or secret." Since God has urged His servants to take good care of their families, He has also impressed upon them the need to maintain the family foundation, which is also the basis of society. This equates with purity, decency and chastity. Hence, they are forbidden to commit all types of indecency, whether openly or secretly. This prohibition is then closely related to the commandment immediately preceding it and to the first commandment. No family can prosper if they sink into shameful indecency, whether open or secret. Purity, cleanliness and chastity are the basic essentials for the healthy living of both the family and the

community. Those who like to see the spreading of indecency throughout the community are the ones who try to weaken the structure of the family and to bring about society's collapse.

The Arabic term translated here as 'shameful indecency' refers, from the linguistic point of view, to everything that goes beyond its proper limits. The term is also frequently used to denote a particular type of indecency, namely adultery and fornication. It is most probably in this sense that the term is used here. If we were to take the general meaning of the word, we should remember that murder, and the squandering of an orphan's property are both indecencies, but associating partners with God is the greatest of all. Hence, giving the term 'indecency' the narrower sense of adultery in this context is perhaps more fitting to the general drift of the passage.

Actions and circumstances that are also indecent precede the crime of adultery. Clothing which is too revealing, wanton behavior, un-inhibited flirtation with the opposite sex, shameless behavior, speech and laughter, deliberate temptation and inviting adornment are all indecencies, leading to the ultimate one of adultery.

"Do not take any human being's life, which God has made sacred, except in the course of justice." These three offences, associating partners with God, adultery and murder are frequently mentioned in the Qur'an in quick succession as things to avoid. This is because they are, in a sense, crimes of murder. The first, associating partners with God, murders

human nature, while the second, adultery, is a murder of the community and the third is a murder of individuals. When human nature is not nurtured by belief in God's oneness, it becomes dead. A society in which killing and vengeance are tolerated is one, which is threatened with destruction. Hence, Islam prescribes very severe punishments for all these crimes, because it wants to protect its community from destruction. Killing children by reason of poverty has already been forbidden. This is now followed by a prohibition of killing any human being. The way this prohibition is phrased suggests that every individual crime or murder seeks to kill the human soul in general.

The verse concludes by highlighting God's directives and commandments: "This He has enjoined upon you so that you may use your reason."

This comment is given in accordance with the Qur'anic method, which makes it clear that every instruction and every prohibition is given by God. This serves to enhance the impression that the authority, which bids and forbids in human life, belongs to God alone. This adds much weight to the effectiveness of these instructions and prohibitions. There is also a reference here to using our reason. Indeed, it is only logical that this authority is the only one to whom people submit. This authority belongs to God, the Creator, who provides sustenance and who controls every aspect in human life and in the life of the universe. ■

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Trials Compensate for Sins

A believer's (*mumin*) trials and agonies serve to be a recompense for his sins.

Hazrat Abu Sayeed Khudri narrates that the Prophet of Allah, peace be upon him, said : When a believer (Mumin) suffers some agony or gets into any difficulty, or falls sick or is afflicted with some kind of pain, or something causes him worry, all such trials serve as a recompense for some of his sins.

(Sahih Bukhari, Kitabul Marzi)

Life is a ride on a roller coaster with its highs and lows, turns and twists and sweet and bitter moments. Every individual passes through a variety of circumstances which are never constant. Sometimes he has joys and jubilation coming his way. On other moments, he may be facing trials and tribulations. Life is full of challenges. Successes alternate with failures. A believer should remain patient through them all.

Just as moments of happiness should not make him arrogant and self-centred, the pain and agony,

his travails and tribulations will erase his sins and will serve to tilt the balance of account towards

A believer should face the tests and trials with fortitude.

failures and disappointments, losses and difficulties, should not cause him dismay. The Prophet of Allah assures the faithful that all

virtues. This is a special favour for the believers.

The life for a believer is bound to be tough, a path full of thorns,

for he never tries to buy the life of ease and comfort and refuses to succumb to temptations. The constant struggle to protect his integrity, avoid the haram and earn the halal livelihood, behave justly with others, poses challenges. Far from siding with the vicious, he is even circumspect in claiming what should rightly and justifiably belong to him. This puts him into a constant conflict between satanic temptation and the call of the conscience.

A life of uprightness is not a bed of roses. Even more difficult is a life in a community where upholding justice and fair play earns enemies and sycophancy fetches rewards. A believer's sense of discretion is constantly tested. Consequently, a believer routinely attracts pain and discomfort, dismay and despondency and worry and concern. Those who face them

with steadfastness, they earn rewards in the form of their sins being deleted from their account of deeds thereby enhancing the weight of virtues in their account. Some Hadith even go to the extent of telling the believers that even if a thorn pierces the believers, it becomes a compensation for some of their sins. Thus the believer's constancy and patience in his hour of trial, serves as a cleansing agent for his records of deeds.

A believer should therefore never get impatient when in trouble. He should withstand it and face it with fortitude. Even in his moments of joy and happiness, he should never turn arrogant and haughty. The remembrance of God should keep his company in all circumstances. Such of the servants of Allah get elevated in the Divine estimation.

(MAS)

Beware of Suspicion

Abu Hurayrah quotes the Prophet (Pbuh) as saying: "Beware of suspicion, for it is the most untrue of what people say. Do not spy against one another, or compete with one another. Do not boycott, envy or hate one another, but remain as servants of God, brothers and sisters." (Related by Al-Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawood and Al-Tirmidhi).

By Adil Salahi

Suspicion could ruin relations between people, particularly when it is based on flimsy evidence, or hearsay. The Prophet (Peace be upon him) has spoken in very clear terms about misplaced suspicion, giving clear orders to refrain from it. One clearly authentic Hadith that groups together some of the actions that cause discord within the community and make people dislike one another is reported by Abu Hurayrah. He quotes the Prophet as saying: "Beware of suspicion, for it is the most untrue of what people say. Do not spy against one another, or compete with one another. Do not boycott, envy or hate one another, but remain as servants of God — brothers and sisters." (Related by Al-Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawood and Al-Tirmidhi).

This Hadith stresses the importance of maintaining good relations within the Muslim community.

The Prophet highlights certain things that would undermine such relations, and he tells us not to allow ourselves to indulge in them. Boycott, envy and hate should never be allowed to exist, let alone flourish in any Muslim community. Relations between Muslims should always be close. All members of the Muslim community should look at one another as brothers and sisters. They must value this tie of brotherhood, because it is established on the best basis, which is servitude to God.

But the Hadith begins with a warning against suspicion describing it as the most untrue of speech. This is an apt description because whatever said on the basis of suspicion has no basis in reality. It is all conjecture, leading to false accusation and false ideas. It poisons relations and leads to discord and hostility. It also encourages what the Prophet mentions next, which is spying

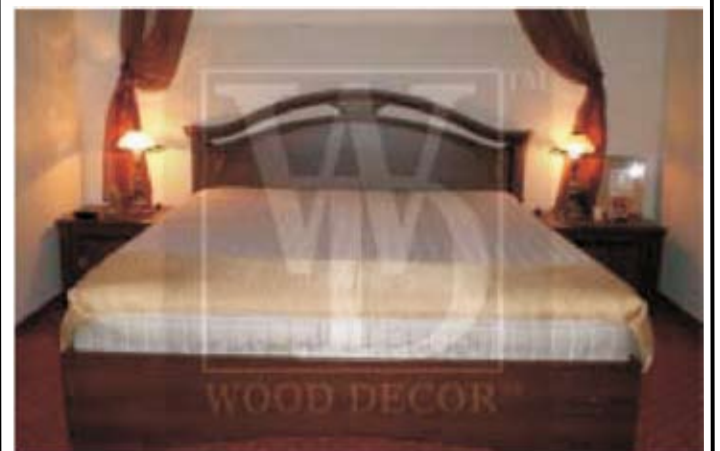
on one another. People would not spy against their neighbors or competitors unless they have some sort of suspicion which they want to explore. Hence, they try to gather information secretly, perhaps through spying. This is again forbidden.

Sometimes suspicion arises because of an event or a misfortune. Abdullah Ibn Masoud says: "A person who has been victim of theft continues to suspect until his offense becomes greater than that of the thief." (Related by Al-Bukhari in Al-Adab Al-Mufrad). This is clearly true. When we suffer a misfortune like theft, we are so aggrieved that we begin to suspect people, thinking that they were the perpetrators. But when we entertain such doubts on no firm basis, we soon become guilty of a worse offense, which is suspicion without evidence.

The Prophet's companions, particularly the scholars among

» Page 24

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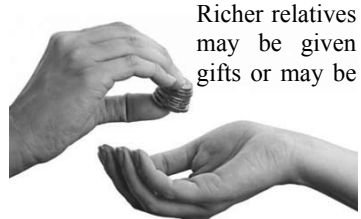
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When Recipients of Charity Turn Ungrateful

A: To be kind to relatives is one of the essential requirements of Islamic manners. Islam stresses the need to foster ties of kinship in all sorts of ways. If one is of reasonable means and has close relatives, who suffered poverty, then the best way to strengthen one's ties with such relatives is to help them financially.



Richer relatives may be given gifts or may be

visited every now and then in order to maintain a good relationship with them. With such an attitude, the normal response is to be grateful. Relatives who are visited are bound to be appreciative and those who receive gifts are bound to be thankful.

However, at times, you will find a relation who is ungrateful. This normally comes out of an attitude, which considers that receiving help from richer relatives is owing to one by right. Hence, any help which one receives is considered meager. Consequently, thanks which are due to the giver are substituted by gestures of ingratitude. What should be one's attitude in such a case?

The perfect answer comes from an authentic Hadith related by Muslim, Ahmad and others on the authority of Abu Hurairah who reports as follows. "A man came to the Prophet, peace be upon him, and said: Messenger of God, I have relatives whose kinship I try to foster while, they never. I make one good turn after another, towards them, when they reply with bad turns. They speak ill of me and I take an attitude of forbearance. The Prophet said; "If what you say is true, it is as if you compel them to eat burning ashes. You will continue to have God's support against them as long as you continue with your attitude." You appear to have had a similar experience to that of the man, who put the case to the Prophet. As you see, the Prophet did not tell him to stop extending kind treatment to his relatives, despite their ingratitude. In fact, he recommends him to continue with his kind gestures. He consoles him, however, that their attitude is like one who is forced to eat burning ashes. Perhaps nothing is more painful to eat than that. One can imagine that it is very easy to choke when one tries to swallow ashes, which have cooled down. To try to eat burning ashes is far worse, in addition to it being extremely painful. The Prophet describes their attitude as such because they do not appreciate kind gestures.

Q: We have two close relatives who are of limited means. We have been helping them regularly. Recently, however, we stopped giving them assistance because we learned that they were speaking ill of us. The point is that we would like to help them, but they seem to be extremely ungrateful. Are we supposed to continue to support them when they meet our generosity with ungratefulness?

He further assures the man that he has God's support against his relatives if he continues with his attitude, trying always to maintain a good relationship with them and foster his ties of kinship, while they return his good gestures with

bad ones.

A poor relative of Abu Bakr who used to receive regular financial support from him was once involved in spreading rumors against Abu Baker's daughter which was absolutely false. Abu

Bakr decided to stop his financial support. God revealed a verse in the Qur'an, which encourages Abu Bakr and people like him to continue their kindness to their poor relatives. He puts to them the rhetoric question. "Do you not

desire that God should forgive you your sins?" (Al-Noor: 24: 22)." When Abu Bakr heard this verse he said: "I indeed love that God forgives me." He immediately reinstated his grant to his poor relative.

From all this, you realize that despite the wrong attitude of your relatives, it is far better for you and more rewarding to continue to help them. Perhaps this is the best way to silence them. ■

Patients Seeking Free Treatment

Q: As a doctor working in an army hospital, I am often requested by relatives and poor people for free treatment, which could involve admission to hospital for examination, treatment and even operations. I request my specialist colleagues to see them and they do so freely, although this is against the rules. I often give such colleagues small gifts in appreciation of their help. Is what I am doing permissible? On the other hand, the number of patients I have to see on my round is very large and I am often exhausted. Some patients try to exaggerate their cases in order to stay in hospital or to have some drugs, which I have to prescribe. The choice is often between acceding to a patient's request and turning rigid. Please advise.

A: Your first question concerns helping people to receive medical treatment from the army hospital when the rules and regulations do not allow it. It is important to realize that such rules must be put in place in order to ensure that the hospital functions well and provides the service for which it is intended. If it was a free-for-all situation, it will become chaotic and the patients who are really in need of medical care may not be able to obtain such care. However, even the authorities setting the rules realize that there will always remain a margin of courtesy to some people, such as relatives of workers in the hospital and poor patients one comes across. When you help some of these, you are going against the letter of the law, but you are not doing anything for your own benefit.

You are helping someone in need. Having said that, I realize that there are cases where a doctor in your situation is asked to arrange free consultation and treatment for a person who can afford to pay the cost. Yet you will be hard pressed to refuse because that person is a relative or close friend.

When you are helping a genuine case, such as a person who is in real need for treatment and cannot afford to pay, you should not hesitate to help. You are not taking anything for yourself, and you are only using a facility run by the government or the army, which is paid for by people's taxes. Thus, you are helping someone who is entitled to receive help. The government of a country is responsible to look

after its population, and providing accessible medical care, free when the patient cannot pay, is part of the government responsibility. Therefore, when you look after such a case, even at a facility where the rules do not allow, you are helping the government and the country. Your difficulty is where the case is not genuine, or not deserving. In these cases, you should try to minimize the abuse. You can do so by giving a general impression that such services are not easy to obtain, or protest that the doctor specialized in this area will not be helpful, etc.

As for your second point, you

should try with your colleagues to ensure that medical doctors and nurses are not overworked, so that they do not mess up with the treatment of their patients. You should not work when you are exhausted. You will be liable to make mistakes in diagnosis and treatment. With regard to patients trying to take advantage, you should try what you can, not to be deceived. If you are genuinely deceived, this counts as a mistake, which God forgives. The Prophet, peace be upon him, says: "My community will not be accountable for what they do by genuine mistake, out of forgetfulness, or for what they are forced to do. ■

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The Exam of Life

If someone, out of genuine concern, reminds us that life is an exam that will determine our prospects in the eternal world to come in the life after death—how quickly we want to shut him down! We tell him to stop being ‘morose and boring and a fun-spoiler’,

By Suresh Shah

At last, the day you were so dreading has dawned! The Class 12 exams start today. Your performance in the exams will play a crucial role in shaping the rest of your life, or so you are made to believe. If you get good marks, you can take admission in a ‘good college’ to study Science and become a doctor or an engineer and earn ‘name and fame’ for yourself. If your performance is just about average, you can buy a seat in a mediocre college (if your parents are rich enough) and study History or Sociology and become a school teacher, for want of anything ‘better’. And if you fail, you think you’d rather the earth gobble you up!

You enter the exam hall and occupy the chair assigned to you. The attendant comes around, distributing the exam papers and answer sheets. At exactly 9 am, a shrill bell rings, and everyone begins writing frantically. They have no time to lose. So many words to spew out before the bell rings again, this time to announce that your time is up!

While everyone else is busy scribbling in their answer sheets,

imagine if you comfortably relax in your chair instead and doze off. It’s a wonderful swivel chair, with a very cozy seat. You close your eyes as you sink into the seat and dream that you are relaxing in the sun on a beach! You lift your pen—but not to write, but, instead, to playfully nibble at, imagining that it’s a giant ice-cream! Then, after a while, you start doodling with your pen on your answer sheet. You draw cartoons of funny faces—of your relatives and friends, people you love to ‘hang around’ with, as well as people you love to hate. You draw pictures of many things that you love fantasizing about—a giant house, a racing car, a mountain scene, and of you sprawled out in the sun on a beach, licking a giant ice-cream!

And before you know it, the bell rings again, this time to announce the end of the exam! You are rudely jolted awake from your wonderful reverie. You simply can’t believe that time rushed past so quickly. You think you are just imagining. ‘It simply can’t be! The exam has started when

it’s already over!’ you exclaim to yourself.

How you curse yourself for being so callous! How terrible you feel! How you hate yourself! You tear at your hair and scream in terror, but that’s not going to change anything a whit, and you know it.



You know what your behaviour is going to fetch you in the exam: a giant zero! Your whole future is in an utter shambles now! No ‘good’ college for you! The terrible prospect of being jobless for the rest of your life drives you mad! You have chosen to bring about your own destruction, when you had the choice of passing the exam with flying colours instead. You have no one to blame, but yourself.

This is precisely what life is—a slightly extended version, in

terms of time-span, of your 12th grade exam. This world is like a giant exam hall, where, at every moment of our lives, from cradle to grave, we are being tested. How we perform in this exam will determine our eternal future, in the life after death, just as how we perform in our Class 12 exam may crucially determine our career-paths for the rest of our lives. Our careers will, of course, one day come to an end—with the onset of old age, retirement, and, finally, death. But the ‘career’ of the life after death will never cease, carrying on

forever.

That’s what eternal life in the Hereafter means. If you pass the exam of life, you’ll be admitted into eternal heaven, just as if you perform outstandingly in your class 12 exams, you’ll get admission in a ‘good’ college. And if you fail in the exam of life, you will be hurled into eternal hell, just as if you fail in the class 12 exam, no college will admit you and you might be unemployable and unemployed for as long as you live.

Strange, isn’t it, that we take our ‘class 12 exams’ all so seriously (some even commit suicide when they fail) but yet are so utterly callous about the exam of life

that we do not even want to be told that this is precisely what life is all about! If someone, out of genuine concern, reminds us that life is just that—an exam that will determine our prospects in the eternal world to come in the life after death—how quickly we want to shut him down! We tell him to stop being ‘morose and boring and a fun-spoiler’, that life after death may be ‘just a fanciful tale or silly religious superstition’ or that it is ‘unscientific, old-fashioned and unproven’. Or else, we just shut our ears and flee from his presence! Or, worse still, we may think that he’s mentally disturbed and insist that he take psychiatric treatment!

We simply can’t bear to confront the truth—that life is an examination, and not an excuse for unrelenting fun and frolic! How we’d rather sit in our own ‘exam halls’ day-dreaming about relaxing on a beach licking a giant ice-cream and using our pens to doodle all those many things that we’d do anything to possess rather than fill in our answer sheets! And, then, before we know it, the bell of Death rings, announcing that the exam time is over!

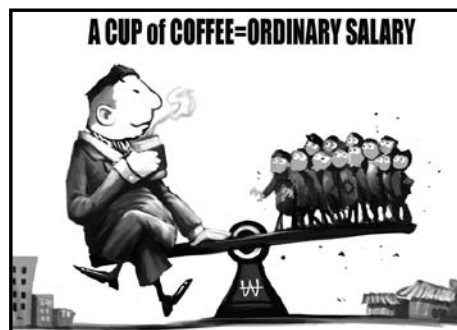
When that happens, how we’ll rue and curse ourselves for having caused ourselves to miserably fail the exam of life, terror-struck at the fate that awaits us thereafter! ■

Bare Necessities or a Comfortable Life

Q: I think that instead of leading a simple life, we waste much money on appearances, comforts and luxuries. Is that acceptable? When a small family can lead a simple and comfortable life in small house, why should that family try to live in a villa?

A: When God created man and placed him on earth, He made him the distinguished kind of all creation and master of this planet. God has given human beings certain instincts, desires and motivations. These influence people and spur them to do things in a certain fashion, and helps them to set goals in life. Progress and advancement are so essential to human life, otherwise, human intelligence would be of no value. You will certainly agree that it is intelligence that distinguishes the human species and makes man so different from other creations. It is an essential characteristic of human beings to seek comfort and to obtain what gives pleasure. This applies to all spheres of life. Besides, Islam acknowledges this and does not consider it in any way undesirable as long as its satisfaction does not involve disobedience to God. In the Qur’an we read:

“Say: ‘Who is there to forbid the beauty which God has brought forth for His creatures, and the good things from among the means of sustenance?’” [the Heights — “Al-A’araf” 7: 32]



This rhetoric question implies that anyone who forbids such beauty, adornments, luxuries and comforts has no justification, as long as enjoying such matters does not involve anything forbidden. In fact, the opposite is true. When God bestows some blessings and comforts on one of

His servants, He likes to see that person enjoying that blessing, and loves to see him or her acknowledging God’s grace and doing what expresses gratitude to God for bestowing it.

Thus if a person is given plenty of money, then God likes to see him giving his family a comfortable living, including a good house and plenty of provisions. However, God would also love to see that person giving out his Zakah and helping poor people and his community in other ways as well. In short, there is nothing wrong with a rich family choosing a large house or villa for living, although it may still be comfortable in a flat with two bedrooms. However, that family must not be arrogant. It must always be generous to the poor. ■

Animals in Cage

Q: Is it permissible to keep a bird in a cage at home? Is it right to deny freedom to such a creature of God?

A: What is not permissible in Islam is to be cruel to any animal, unless it represents danger to human life, health, etc. When an animal is kept as pet, such as a cat or a bird, it is very important to provide for it sufficient movement and exercise in addition to its natural food and drink. If an animal is used to move over a spacious area, as in the case of birds, it is unacceptable from the Islamic point of view to restrict it to



narrow confinements. Thus, when we put a bird in a small cage, restricting its flying movement to the small confines of the cage, we are placing it under a severe handicap. We do the same when we place fish in a small aquarium. It is not enough that we provide it with food and drink. On the other hand, it is a grave sin to restrict an animal’s movement without providing it with sufficient food and drink. While certain animals are created to help man in his life, as in the case of camels, horses, donkeys, etc. some are not made in that way. Therefore, treating animals should take their nature into account, and not subject the animal to too much duress. ■

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Naseeba aged 11 years met with **ACCIDENT** and is admitted at Manipal Hospital -father works as Loader with monthly income of Rs. 3800/ only -immediately needs **Rs. 1,60,000/(Rupees One Lakh Sixty Thousand Only)** and just does not know what to do?? Would you care to help??

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Interview with Syed Hamid Mohsin ...

Q: What is the most important issue discussed in the book?

A: All the contents of the book are important. But it makes certain significant point. One among them is that the world is in the throes of the Fourth World War. The Third World War was fought between the Soviet Union and the United States in Afghanistan. Following this, the Americans were looking for energy sources. They set their sight upon the oil wells of the Middle East. So they created alibis to trigger a new war. Having liquidated the Soviets, the second world, they have identified the 'Green Enemy' i.e., Islam and Muslims and become targeting them. Soviets were not easy to target because they had white skins. Muslims are easily identifiable as enemies due to their brown skins, a different mode of dressing, dietary habits and cultural mores. This war is being fought more on the TV screens, newspaper pages and over the social media. Even the India media finds a convergence of view with the Western media and has become an ally on the side of the West. It is equally infected with the germs of hate against Islam.

Q: Will this book be beneficial for Muslims too?

A: It carries a fund of information for the youth of the modern times

in order to disabuse their minds of the Western and anti-Islam propaganda. Today's Muslim youth is cerebrally empty and does not read anything except learning some rituals and practices. They are unaware of their culture, history, religion, its mores, ethos, norms and literature. They have virtually nothing to respond to the allegations by the West. The book will equip them with enormous amount of facts and realities.

Q: What is your message to general Muslims in the light of your dawah experience?

A: There is a vast section of Indian society which wants to be friends with us. The communal elements are in microscopic minority and are not in a position to overwhelm the entire society. The larger Indian society would like to live in peace and harmony. We have committed excesses against them by not having approached them with the positive message of Islam. And more sadly, we are unaware of what we have done to them and there is only heightened awareness of what others are doing to us. If a single Muslim individual reaches at least three non-Muslims with the message of the Quran and the Holy Prophet, it can have a salutary impact on the entire society. ■

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SM Syed Parents seek alliance for their daughter 22 years 5.4" fair, beautiful, religious, B.Sc (Bio Chemistry) own house. Boy should be B.E. religious,

own house only from Bangalore. E.mail: syed17487@gmail.com.

SM Mother invite alliance for her Daughter aged 36 years, 5.2" (Unmarried) Well educated currently in Dubai. Groom should be from Religious and Respectable family. Contact 9008490720/08939100064. Email: moosakazimvr@gmail.com.

Bangalore SM parents (Govt. Servants) invite alliance for their Daughter B.E (TCOM) 26 Years 5.6" wheatish working in MNC Bangalore, since 3 years. Groom should be Engg. graduate, Bangalore based good looking well settled. PRFNL / NRIS. No demands. Hailing from good family background. Early Marriage, Email Bio data samiulla2449@yahoo.com. Contact 9611523946.

Bangalore based SM sheikh parents seek alliance for their daughter 22 YEARS 5.4" fair BCA Graduate observing Hijab. Groom should be well settled from respectable family Please contact 9916708820 / 9900398375. Email: majidm6@gmail.com

SM parents invites alliance for their daughter 22 years 5.5" B.C.A fair belonging to a Respected family absorbed hijab, groom should be well settled employed from India/Abroad upto 27-28 years from religious family contact 9880508178 / 08025353621. Email waseembari.r@gmail.com

SM Family seeks alliance for their Daughter 27, 5.4 inch B.E IN

Electronics & communication working in central Govt. office in Bangalore Looking for Boy Around 32 Years Should be B.E, M.Tech., Working in Bangalore only, Religious, & From Decent Family. Early Marriage Contact 9901682829 Email.zubair999.bk@gmail.com

SM Mother seek alliance for her khula obtained daughter 27 years 5.4" M.Com., looking for groom preferably 30-35 years educated from good family. Please contact email: shab28@gmail.com. 9741711941

SM Parents seeks alliance for their daughter 27 years 5.5" wheatish good looking doing M.Tech looking for working or business from a simple and educated family. Contact 09890811988 / 09637089190

Bijapur. SM Parents seek alliance for their sister 45 years, 5.6'. Govt School Teacher issueless divorcee well mannered, slim, fair. From religious family. Groom should be well settled well mannered, contact: ph 09552247346/09890811988

SM seek alliance for their daughter 26 years, 5.1 B.E., MBA, (HR) ,working as a senior HR in reputed firm, Groom must be B.E., MBA well educated from respected family. email photo and biodata noorasma2008@gmail.com contact : 8892861272 / 9740359325

Syed Sunni Muslim Parents from Bangalore settled in Dammam, Saudi Arabia invite alliance for their beautiful 22 years 5ft 3" daughter, BBA, Gulf / Bangalore based Dr. / Engg / MBA preferred. Preferences will be given to boy working in gulf please contact by email aahhkb@gmail.com

Sunni Muslim Boy (Revert also) Welcome professional in his thirties, independent for girl educated, cultured, fair good looking height 5.1" In her late twenties please mail nazirabbas63@yahoo.com

SM Parents invites alliance for their daughter age 33 years B.Sc., M.Ed., Govt employee religious, hijab,

5.4" widow short period married life of six months, no kids. Groom should be age up to 38, unmarried, widower, legal divorcee suitable Govt employee, professional technical from Bangalore, Mysore, Tumkur regions. Contact: 9342880248 Email: smkhan@gmail.com

Alliance sought for Daughter M.B.B.S, Physician working 33, 5.5" pretty fair, religious, separated / divorced since 5 years. Interested Suitable well settled Doctors / Engineers within 40 years from Bangalore city only / Abroad may Contact for early marriage 080 41751538/ 9538225385

Sm brother seek alliance for his sister never, 32 years charming 5.3" height working in Hubli with good Islamic values. Groom should be moderate, professionally qualified well settled from decent family. Those genuinely interested with NO DEMANDS please send photo Bio Data by Email. goodhumanbeing1 @ gmail.com. Match makers excuse.

SM parents seeks alliance for their daughter fair, 25, 5.3" MBA (VTU) looking for groom from decent family, Highly Qualified Businessman, Doctors, Engineers. Please forward biodata with recent photographs - Early Marriage Contact 9880872112/ Email" siraj_tara@yahoo.com

WANTED BRIDE

SM Mother invites alliance for Son, B.E. (Electronics), 5'8", 35 years, fair, handsome, intellectual, well read, religious with modern outlook, well settled businessman belonging to an educated business family of Bangalore. Girl should be homely, religious, purdah observing, preferably non-working. Widows will also be considered. Contact with full details and photograph to: liyakhat176@yahoo.com", Mobile: 9916924814.

Bangalore Sunni Muslim parents invite alliance for their younger son,

27 year, 5.5" B.E., MBA, working in reputed company as HR executive. Girl should be fair, 5.2" to 5.4", beautiful, educated, religious, observing hijab from decent educated & well settled family preferably from Bangalore. Contact: 9008778421, Email: bm_ahmed2001@yahoo.com

SM Parents invites alliance for their handsome boy diploma in electronics, age 30 years, height 6 feet working in MNC as Team Leader invites religious bride of minimum graduate, Bangalore based height about 5.5 feet from respectable family contact 23331303 / 9448848819 Email: neosltn@gmail.com. Early marriage.

SM parents invites alliance for son BE Civil 28 yrs, 5.8, religious, handsome, with modern outlook working in Saudi Arabia girl should be religious, graduate, BDS, beautiful, 23-25 yrs, 5.4" ht. above from respected religious family of Karnataka. No Demands contact: 7795449722 / 2341762 Email: najeeba2u@gmail.com

BANGALORE: Sunni Muslim parents invite alliance for their son aged 32 years, 5.10" height, B.E. working in MNC Bangalore. Bride should be B.E. / any Master Degree, from a respectable family with religious background good looking and working / non-working from Bangalore. Can contact: 9741088249 or Mail Biodata and photo to Email: mogis.looking@gmail.com

Bangalore SM parents invite alliance for their son Electronics Engineer 5'11" 26yrs. Girl should be from a religious and educated family. Any graduate, MBBS, BDS and age below 23yrs preferred. No demands. Contact: 9880452254 email: aneesismail.fathima@gmail.com

» Page 19

Beware of Suspicion ...

them, understood this well and acted on it. Abu Al-Dardaa was one such scholar among the Prophet's companions. One day he received a letter from Mu'awiyah, the caliph, asking him to write down for him the names of all transgressors in Damascus. Abu Al-Dardaa said: "What business would I have with the transgressors in Damascus? How would I know who is a transgressor?" His son, Bilal, said: "I will write their names." He did so. His father said to him: "How do you know them? You cannot know that they are transgressors unless you are one of them. Begin with mending your own conduct." He refused to send their names to Mu'awiyah. (Related by Al-Bukhari in Al-Adab Al-Mufrad). We note here that Abu Al-Dardaa refused the caliph's request on

grounds that he could not for certain judge anyone unless he had clear information. How could he when he did not have firm first hand information? How could he have such information unless he was there and spoke to them? Hence, when his son wrote down their names, he told him that his action was not acceptable, because having the necessary information required associating with such transgressors. Hence, he told his son to start with reforming himself. We should note that Abu Al-Dardaa refused to accept his son's information as correct because it did not rely on first-hand knowledge. His son was later to become the chief justice in Damascus, during the time of Yazeed Ibn Mu'awiyah. ■

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Bangalore based Syed family invites alliance for their Son, B.E., MS, working in GERMANY, Height 5'8", wheatish fair, Age 27 years, smart, Attractive, Athlete Physique, religious and good Character. Looking for a bride, fair, good looking, Attractive, Slim with religious values and good Character, Height above 5'4", Age below 24 years. Educational requirements: BE (Non Working), BDS, MBBS (if working OK) from respectable families of Karnataka including Bangalore. Strictly no mediators (Agents). Please mail your details along with recent photos and Bio-data, to:

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Salaam Centre's E-book ISLAM, Facts vs Fictions



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A novel experiment by Syed Hamid Mohsin in taking the message of Islam to the uninformed and the misinformed.

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The Salaam Centre has put the three marvelous books i.e., 1. FOLLOW ME (a work on transformative mission of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him), 2. ISLAM For You and 3. ISLAM: Facts vs Fictions in the e-book format in the latest Flash software on the Internet. The books can be accessed in English, Urdu, Hindi, Kannada and Tamil. Normally all books are accessible only after payment of certain amount through credit or debit card. But the Salaam Centre books are for free downloading on the following three addresses:



Nearly a million have accessed these sites after the formal introduction on the Facebook. At least 20,000 of them and we are still counting have expressed liking for the message contained in the books and have forwarded the addresses to their friends and acquaintances. Curiously, 90 per cent of them are our non-Muslim brethren.

Advertisements on the Facebook:

Salaam Centre has placed teasing advertisements on the Facebook to attract new readers to the book Islam: Facts vs. Fiction. Merely a click on the advertisements takes them to the site of the book for free browsing and downloading. In fact, these advertisements have to be paid.



Some Contents of the Book

Debunks Mischievous Canards

- Is Jihad synonymous with terrorism ?
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- Do green flags symbolize loyalty to Pakistan ?
- Tipu Sultan: Just ruler or Bigoted Tyrant ?
- Do Madrassa train terrorists ?
- If non-vegetarianism encourages violence, why was Hitler vegetarian ?
- 'Kaafir' and 'Kufr': Do these terms carry an element of contempt ?

Unmasking the Facts

- Jihad: A term misused by anti-Islam forces.
- Aggression, violence, and terrorism:
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- Tracing back the roots of terror networks.
- Islam's concept of war
- Who waged Crusades, two World Wars, Bombed Hiroshima, destroyed Iraq and Afghanistan, committed genocide in Bosnia?
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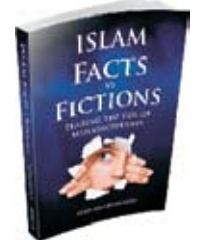
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ASI Team to Inspect the Stone Bowl

Bowl with Arabic inscriptions is being claimed as begging bowl of Buddha.

New Delhi: A team of epigraphist led Dr. G. S. Khwaja, Director of Arabic and Persian Epigraphy and Numismatics will visit National Museum of Kabul to examine if the 'Begging Bowl of Buddha' kept there is indeed begging bowl of Buddha. The team was constituted by the Archaeological Survey of India following demand from Member of Parliament, Raghweer Prasad Singh (RJD) that the bowl on display be brought back to India as it rightly belongs to India and should be reclaimed as part of the lost heritage. The team will try to decipher the inscriptions on it to arrive on the result if it belonged to the Buddha.

Minister of Culture, Government

of India had replied that it is to be examined that if really it is the begging bowl of Gautam Buddha



or not because as per the report of the curator of Kabul Museum, it bears an Arabic and Persian

inscription on the outer surface of the stone bowl. It measures nearly 5 feet in height and 6 feet

in diameter. Was it a possibility that Lord Buddha carried this heavy bowl to fetch bhiksha?

In the paintings in Ajanta and elsewhere, Gautam Buddha has been depicted as holding the bhiksha-patra in hand that must have been nearly one foot or 18 inch in size and that too of some metal.

In the Cunningham Report, it was stated, that a begging bowl was taken away by Kushan King Kanishka to Afghanistan.

The Archaeology Department of Afghanistan reportedly says that it is not the said patra. This huge vessel is of stone and said to have been in use for storing water for ablution in front of the Jama Masjid at Qandhar, another city in Afghanistan. Zahir Shah, the then King of Afghanistan,

brought it to Kabul museum for better state of conservation of this antiquity.

When Taliban activists had blown up the great statues of Buddha at Bamiyan, they also wanted to destroy this vessel, but the Arabic inscription on it was the factor which saved it from destruction. Dr. G. S. Khwaja, Director of Arabic and Persian Epigraphy & Numismatics, has been selected to be the expert in the delegation. Dr. Khwaja is Head of the Epigraphy wing of ASI. This is the only institution in India, which deals with medieval epigraphs and coins. He is an authority on Islamic calligraphy and Islamic Architecture. ■

Art Out of Junk Metal

Artist Ilyas Ahmed welds the pieces of junk material into fascinating object of arts.

By Maqbool Ahmed Siraj

Nothing really goes waste for Bangalore's Ilyas Ahmed who would like to term his work of art 'Scrapures' i.e., sculptures out of metal scrap.

A welder by training, Ilyas has pursued with passion the art of fashioning objects of art out of discarded metal pieces. A ferocious lion here, a leaping horse there or an alien for the shelf, Ilyas's sense of creativity finds a way to weld itself into artistic objects. He makes use of anything and everything that may be fit to be consigned to the junkyard of the workshops, foundries and factories. Discarded nut, bolts, screws, springs, crank shafts, pipes, chains, gears and all that could be heading for the scrap yard come handy for this expert welder who specialized in underwater as well as aviation welding.

Ilyas's works are symmetric, created with a perfect sense of balance and proportion. The crude, rough and often clumsy bits of machines gel with each other to go into the anatomy of a horse, or a squirrel nibbling at its favourite nut held in its forelimbs. His dexterous hands could envision a mobike if just two identical gear wheels could be spotted in the junk heap.

Ilyas worked for a brief period in Bangalore based Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (1987-89) and then moved on to join Maersk Oil, a Dutch company engaged in onshore and offshore



oil explorations. With readily available junk material, he could dream turning the mostly ferrous metal scrap into a charging bull or an extraterrestrial being for the mantelpiece. He was comfortable with any size. One of the artist's elaborate creations was statue of a Native American with chiseled face, metallic costume, a weapon in hand and a majestic headgear. It is now displayed at Golf Eden, a resort on the outskirts of Bangalore.

Ilyas says he uses cutting torches to weld the scrap into his object of art. His roving eyes and creative mind are quick to determine the position of a scrap bit into an art object. So a bunch of automobile chains could well be ideal for a horse tail or a pair of shock absorbers may fit into the scheme

of hind limbs or a pair of upturned discs could serve as blinkers for the horses.

He even employs advanced techniques of welding such as Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) welding



or Metal Inert Gas (MIG) welding to shape his creations. He even

underwent a course by American Welding Society in the US to gain expertise in underwater welding known as Submerged Arc Welding. He maintains a gallery at J. P. Nagar in Bangalore.



Ilyas Ahmed

Ilyas has to its credit nearly 250 megasize sculptures and

hundreds of art pieces for the shelves. He can be contacted at ilyasahmed1818@gmail.com or 9900019484 or access his website: www.ilyasahmed.in ■

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Time Management Tips from the Prophet's (Pbuh) Life

By Taha Ghayyur

If you study the seerah (life of Prophet Muhammad) with specific focus on his daily and regular routines, it is an eye-opener. How meticulous he was in planning every aspect of his day; how he prioritized tasks; how serious he was about keeping his word and how he kept his speech precise and not indulging in idle talk. Here are five lessons on time-management that we can draw from the Prophet's enormously productive and purpose-driven life.

1. Be an Early Riser

The Prophet said: "O Allah, bless my nation in their early mornings (i.e., what they do early in the morning)." [Ibn Majah] Schedule your important tasks earlier in the day, especially those which require mental exercise, and watch the blessings from Allah do the magic.

2. Schedule your day around the Five Daily Prayers

No compromises. The discipline to give up all your work and life's distractions to perform salah strengthens your willpower to live a purposeful life. Just as

Time is limited. Death is certain. However, our intention to live a productive life and to serve Allah and His creation will itself be enough to count as a positive action.

you endeavor to be punctual for meetings with your colleagues or project team mates, you should perform your salah on time.

While some of us who are students or working professionals may find it difficult to pray on time, we can overcome this by discussing the issue with your colleagues or friends. Once you have fulfilled your most important obligation, the rest will become easy for you.

3. Prioritize and Be Consistent

If we look into the seerah, we can deduce that the Prophet's day was divided into three main parts.

Spiritual development: This was the time he dedicated solely to Allah . It was typically the late part of the night when the Prophet would recharge himself spiritually for the next day and boost his resolve to face the challenges in his mission. It was during the night that he engaged in intimate communication with his Lord, the Source of all strength and empowerment, through qiyam (night prayer), dua (supplication) and zikr.

Family affairs: The prophet was

consistent in making time for family matters.

Personal/Social affairs: He consistently made time for his companions, so no one felt neglected or had their affairs swept under the carpet. This was



the time when men and women would come with their personal, marital, financial, spiritual and even health problems. This is when he would receive delegations from other nations and faiths or attend to nerve-racking issues of politics, conflicts and leadership. Figure out the real priorities in your life. What is worth spending an hour on? What comes first? What is a must-do and what is good-

to-do? Allocate time consistently to activities that matter. Unless you plan for and schedule time for community work, studies or attending to parents, your spouse or children on a daily basis, they are not considered important enough to you. Chances are, you will eventually start neglecting these high priority actions.

4. Hasten in Doing Good

Prophet Muhammad had a sense of urgency in doing good and warned others against procrastination.

Narrated 'Uqba bin Al-Harith: Once the Prophet offered the Asr prayer and then hurriedly went to his house and returned immediately. I (or somebody else) asked him (as to what was the matter) and he said, "I left at home a piece of gold which was from the charity and I disliked to let it remain a night in my house, so I got it distributed." [Bukhari] Procrastinators do not appreciate time nor the means and the opportunities that Allah gives

them to be productive. Each day has its own share of work and each time has its own share of obligations. Therefore, in the Prophet's life, there was no such thing as idle time.

5. Honoring the Time of Others

Prophet Muhammad was sensitive to his companions' time and needs. His khutbahs (sermons) were brief, concise and powerful. Aim to arrive for meetings, classes and events 10 minutes before they are scheduled to start. If you are running late, inform the other parties. Honoring others' time is part of fulfilling your promise. Breaking a promise not only causes inconvenience to others, but also causes you to lose their respect.

(Taha Ghayyur is a writer, consultant and community organizer. He works as a freelance writer with WordMatters.ca and as Development Manager with Sound Vision, a pioneer in Islamic multimedia in North America.)



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Learning about Denial and Submission in Saudi Arabia!

The Discover Yourself Workshop was held in Riyadh and Jubail, Saudi Arabia, in January 2014. Here, some of the participants share their experiences after the Workshop.



NASER: Earlier, my view of the world was confused. I was looking differently at worldly success and religious success. After attending the workshop, my understanding has unified for success. With family, my view has changed too. I started treating people as human beings and not objects. By practising with the given model of life in the workshop, I think I will win Allah's pleasure and love which is most important.

NASEEMA: I had a great experience. My husband used to ignore my parents, but after the workshop, my husband spoke to my father and my brother politely. He used to beat the kids, but now after the workshop he has changed. Before this workshop, I would scold my children, but now no scolding, only love. Thanks a lot. Jazakallah Khair.

MARIAM: I used to keep grudges against others. Now, I forgive everyone and feel free from the burden. Now I feel I am living in the present.

SHAMSUDDIN: It has broken down my ego. Before the workshop, I used to get angry about the things happening around me, and also when things did not happen according to my expectations. I used to feel very inferior about myself. Alhamdulillah, I have found some useful ways to overcome and also learnt how to forgive others.

FOUZIA: It helped me in strengthening my faith and my submission to Allah and in turn, discovered my true self. A very knowledgeable, lively and transformational

workshop. I realised that I was gifted with many blessings in my life. But somehow I missed many of them, now after attending the workshop, I rediscovered them and inshallah will apply the tools I learnt in the workshop.

MAHJABEEN: I really appreciate the work done by you. I request you to do the workshop in schools, because after attending the workshop, I felt it was too

late for us to get to know about reality of life. I would like you to instill these feelings and knowledge in kids as they are like a bud which will be blooming soon. Thanks.

AYESHA : I have transformed from being ungrateful to being grateful. I have done Hijrah from evil to good. I have freed myself from the clutches of bad and negative thinking. I will spread this message to all those whom I meet. May Allah bless

- It is an eye opener, essential, and I would have missed a valuable and transnational workshop.
- This is a very good basic workshop to understand oneself.
- It is life changing
- Every human being should attend this workshop "at least once in his life time".
- It is very useful. What is our purpose of life and how to deal with it is more clear now.
- Over all, it is good. After the workshop I learnt to be in reality and in an Islamic way.
- Excellent coaching to discover oneself. It is very informative and practical to achieve the goal.
- I have learnt how to negate my inside ego and purify my inner self.
- It opened the thought process. It created steps and awareness to approach problems in life.
- It helped me in changing my behaviour towards my family, colleagues and others. It should also be conducted for women.
- It is an amazing workshop and needs to be repeated. "My way is the high way" attitude that we all have, has to be stopped.
- It opens the consciousness within us to know the reality.
- It shifts the person to view life from a human perspective to Allah's perspective.
- Life time experience. Very useful topics that gave us an opportunity to understand oneself.
- Transforming life experience
- Every individual and child must attend this workshop.
- It helped me distinguish between denial and submission.
- It is an awesome method to teach Islam and about Allah.
- It is a marvelous way to discover oneself.
- A good attempt to discover, understand and learn about the truth of life and to love one another.
- It acted as an anti-virus which removed all the virus from the root (heart).
- It is awesome and hit us directly, moved us and pushed us to the right way to lead our lives.
- It was excellent and useful for life.
- Amazing, when I say amazing, I mean every word of it.
- It is good for young students like us.
- It was funny as well as informative.

Mr Khan with more strength and energy to bring unity among all.

ASHWANI: I was not confident. I thought I was a loser. I was having fears of examination. But now, I have changed all my evil thoughts to good thoughts. It was fruitful. It should be conducted to all students.

AMIR: Earlier, I was confused about my decisions, uncertain about my success and I lacked values.

After attending the workshop, I am able to take the right decision and have an idea on how to achieve my goals. I understood the importance of forgiveness. The person who conducted the workshop is very experienced.

ASHRAF: This workshop has made me confident. I now believe, that no one is my enemy. I am my own enemy, if I am not confident.



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Various Names for Books

We come across different types of books, such as Atlas, Dictionary etc. Of course, you know what the Atlas and Dictionary are all about. But we do not understand why some books are called Almanac, Encyclopedia, Novella etc. Here we explain the purpose they serve.

Anthology: A collection of writings by one author or on a theme such as an anthology of poems on nature.

Directory: An alphabetically arranged list of names of persons and organizations.

Encyclopedia: A book of articles on many subjects which provide information about them in detail. Earlier they were published. Now they are available on Internet e.g., Wikipedia or can be purchased on CD-ROM.

Yearbook: A reference book which arranges the happenings and events in a particular year, for example, Malayala Manorama Yearbook.

Travel Guide: A book of information with maps about a country or place, often with pictures.

Novel: A work of fiction usually involving imaginary people. A



historical novel may about real historical characters.

Glossary: A list of words and phrases used in a particular subject area, for instance A Glossary of Computer Terms.

Biography: A book about someone's life written by another person.

Autobiography: An account of a person's life written by himself or herself. Sometimes a 'ghost'

writer may help someone write an autobiography.

Gazetteer: A book that lists and describes places (countries, cities, etc).

Thesaurus: A book organized to show words with similar meanings.

Who's Who: Alphabetical summaries of the lives of famous people, living or dead, sometimes by their subjects (such as Dictionary of Scientists) ■

Prophet's Compassion for Children

The Messenger of Allah, Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) was completely balanced in the way he brought up his children. He loved his children and grandchildren very much, and instilled love in them. However, he never let his love for them be abused. None of them deliberately dared to do anything wrong. If they made an unintentional mistake, the Messenger's protection prevented them from going even slightly astray. He did this by wrapping

them in love and an aura of dignity. In teaching them while they were young to be sensitive to forbidden acts, the Prophet, established an important principle of education. Whenever he returned to Medina, he would carry children on his mount. On such occasions, the Messenger embraced not only his grandchildren, but also those in his house and those nearby. He conquered their hearts through his compassion. ■

✦ About one-third of our lives are spent sleeping, but very little is really known about it.

✦ Newborn babies can sleep for up to 21 hours out of 24. Children and teenagers need approximately 10 hours of sleep a night, while most adults need only 7 to 9 hours of sleep. Those over 65 need the least of all—about six hours.

✦ Trains have a "dead man's handle", which must be held at all times. If the driver falls asleep and loses his grip, the

Sleeping

train stops.

✦ At least 30% of the adults snore. Many inventors have come up with anti-snoring machines to solve the problem. These



include mouth or nose devices that alter breathing by blasting the snorers with sounds, giving them electric shocks or shaking their beds.

✦ Extreme sleep deprivation can be dangerous and even lead to death. In 1977, Maureen Weston of Peterborough in the UK stayed awake for 449 hours during a rocking chair marathon. She suffered from hallucinations but was otherwise unharmed. ■

All About Frogs

The world's largest known frog is the goliath frog which lives in central Africa. It measures up to 87 centimeter long and weighs as much as 3.66 kg.

The smallest frog and the world's smallest amphibian is the Eleutherodactylus limbatus frog, which measures only 8.5 to 12 mm.

The smelliest frog is the Venezuela skunk frog, which was discovered in 1991. It warns off its enemies by releasing a bad smelling chemical identical to the one produced by skunks.

The most poisonous amphibian

is the golden poison-arrow frog of Western Colombia. One adult contains enough highly toxic



poison in its skin to kill 1,000 people. ■

What is a tsunami?

Tsunami is a Japanese word which is combination tsu (meaning port) and nami (wave). But it is not a tidal wave. It is a powerful surge of water of the sea due to a subsea earthquake or eruption of a volcano. When water surges and heads for the coast, it can cause a massive flooding and can sweep away

villages and towns on the coast. Tsunami can be known in advance by volcanic roar, bubbling of water



Chinese are very creative people. They make use of even the

most frosty winters to attract the tourists from world over. Every year, on January 5, the north-eastern Chinese city of Harbin hosts the International

Ice Snow Festival. They erect sculptures of most famous landmark buildings and



or sudden rise in temperature of the water. An advance warning is therefore possible.

The worst recorded tsunami happened on December 26, 2004 in South East Asia which killed thousands of people in the coastal countries like Thailand, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Burma, Malaysia etc. Portugal's capital Lisbon was totally destroyed in a tsunami in 1755. ■

Harbin's Ice Festival

monuments of the world and decorate them with lights. An

Empire State Building here, a Pyramid there and an Eiffel Tower elsewhere, beckon the tourist in ample numbers. The sight is simply bewitching. It is said most of the city's people are Russian immigrants. ■

Most Married King

Henry VIII who ruled England between 1509 and 1547, was the most married king in the history of England. He was a brute and had six wives who suffered varied fates:

Catherine of Aragon (divorced), Anne Boleyn (beheaded), Jane Seymour (died in 1537), Anne of Cleves (divorced), Catherine Howard (beheaded) and Catherine Parr, who survived him. ■



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Dr Panky, the Kind Doctor and Rufus, the Naughty Germ

Live with Faith not Fear

By Nigar Ataula

Bizzy-Dizzy was a big town full of big buildings. All through the day, cars, buses, bikes and trucks went zooming up and down the roads, beeping their horns so loudly that the little hens and pretty cows crossing the road jumped in fright.

Tinkles was a tiny girl who lived in this big town. Her best friends were Binkles, a little boy, and her plump cat Triggy.

Winter was setting in and the cold December wind blew hard and fast. Everybody put on their thick woolies. Tinkles wore an extra coat as every winter she caught a bad cold and cough. Often, when this happened, she would go to the forest fairies, who sold herbs which they said would cure her.

Although Bizzy- Dizzy Town had big hospitals, Tinkles was afraid to go there as she thought the big goblins in white coats, who worked there would give her injections which would make her

even smaller than she already was and that she might even turn into a mouse. You can't blame her for that: that's what the forest fairies had told her.

The December winds became chilly, and Tinkles began coughing and sniffing like a coal engine. And so, one day, when it got too bad, off she went to the forest fairies, who gave her bottles of potions in different colours and a tin of brown pebble-shaped tablets. They told her to mix the tablets and the potions and have the concoction three times a day. Tinkles did just that, day after day, but each day her cough and cold became worse and she became even weaker.

One day, Binkles came to Tinkles' home to cook lunch with her. Tinkles told him that she felt it was time for her to read out her final Will as she felt this winter, the forest fairies' medicines were not going to work.

Watching Tinkles cough, Binkles told her that she should go at once

to the big hospital and see the goblin doctors who worked there in their white coats. Binkles was a brainy boy and had read many



books and he knew what he was talking. So, together they set off to the big hospital. There, they were taken to meet Dr.Panky, the senior goblin

doctor! Dr. Panky was not at all like what the forest fairies

had said about doctors in the big hospital.

Instead, Dr. Panky had a wonderfully friendly face and a very kind smile and did not wear a white coat! Instead he wore a smart black suit and was very gentle and friendly.

Dr. Panky also wore spectacles. "I'm sure they are magic specs," Binkles whispered to Tinkles as Dr. Panky took out a paper and pen and began scribbling something after having checked up Tinkles.

Dr. Panky patiently explained to Tinkles that there was nothing to worry about. First, some tests would be done to find out why Eerie Silly Rufus, (ESR), a mischievous germ in Tinkle's body, was running about at a speed much faster than expected of, because of which, Dr. Panky explained, Tinkles was feeling so tired. Dr. Panky then gave some medicines to Tinkles, which she had to take for the next fortnight. Tinkles began to feel brilliant just a few days after she began taking Dr. Panky's medicines. She began to eat more than ever before and she was never as cheerful as she was now. She was really grateful indeed to the delightfully-helpful and super-efficient Dr. Panky. Whenever Tinkles and Binkles met, their main topic of gossip was Dr. Panky, and about how nice and understanding he was! They went around telling all the folks they knew in Bizzy-Dizzy Town about how hard-working,

knowledgeable, friendly and efficient he was.

Tinkle's cold and cough had just vanished in just a few days. Dr. Panky had said that it was important to find out if Eerie Silly Rufus was still running around fast in Tinkle's body. So, she had a test done, and lo and behold, Eerie Silly Rufus was now back to crawling—at his normal speed.

Tinkles, of course, but Dr. Panky and Binkles, too, were very happy. Dr. Panky gave some additional medicines to Tinkles so that she would be stronger in future.

The word soon spread that Dr. Panky was a wonderful doctor and kings and queens from the lands across the seas began flocking to Dr. Panky when they were sick! He became the most famous doctor in all of Bizzy-Wizzy town.

As winter began fading away and the sun began to shine brightly, Tinkles became stronger. She was no longer afraid of chilly winters. Sharing the secret of her strength, she wrote in her diary, "My strong faith in my doctor Panky helped me get well soon!"

Back to school that summer, Tinkles read out to her class from her diary how her trust in her doctor and his kindness, had helped her become strong and how her fears about chilly winters had vanished!

Live with faith, not fear is her new motto! ■

Tale Time

Who is more Merciful?

This story goes back to those days when there used to be kings and kids used to pluck fruits by pelting stones.

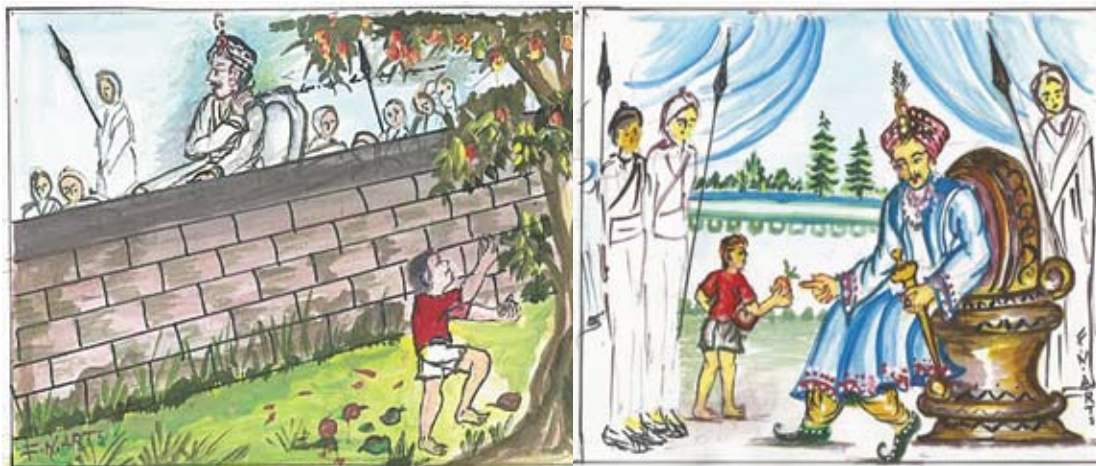
Once a boy was throwing stones

act of throwing stones at the wayfarers".

The boy was though greatly shaken for being brought before the King, gathered courage and

The witty reply pleased the King and he ordered the kid to be released.

(Translated from Urdu by Maqbool Ahmed Siraj) ■



Illustrations by Fakrunnissa Mohsin

at ripe mangoes hanging from the tree in an orchard. It so happened that the convoy of the King was passing by the fencing wall of the orchard. A stone struck the king's turban while flying back to the ground. The King was badly shaken by the incident and ordered his attendants to present before him the stone-thrower.

The soldiers in the convoy went around and caught the boy and brought him before the King. The King told him: "You will be punished severely for the

replied: "Your Majesty! I never intended to hurt anyone. It just happened that a stone flew away out of the fence and struck you. But I have something more to tell you. The mango tree which has suffered so many hits from my stones has never punished me. Rather it has always rewarded me with sweet and juicy mangoes. I think the mango tree seems to be kinder than you as it has never punished me while you intend to punish me for the unintentional act."

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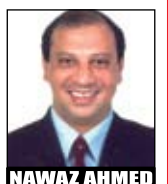
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