



Karnataka Electoral Scene

Congress-JDS Alliance Had Slight Edge

The political parties had caste, not the issues in mind, while selecting candidates and electioneering.

By A Staff Writer

The elections to the 28 Lok Sabha constituencies in Karnataka concluded in two phases. On April 18 polling was held in 14 seats in southern Karnataka comprising the region of the old princely Mysore State while in the second phase on April 23, another 14 seats in northern Karnataka went to polls. Northern Karnataka has most areas which were carved out of the Kannada-speaking regions of Bombay Principality and districts from Nizam's State of Hyderabad.

Though the Congress and the Janata Dal Secular (JDS), partners in the State Government, were able to firm up the alliance for the Lok Sabha polls, bonhomie was missing during the electioneering. The spirit of alliance visible at the top refused to seep down to the

ground level among the cadres of the two parties. Yet the alliance hopes to have a better harvest of the seats than the BJP which won 17 out of 28 seats from the State in 2014.

Straight Contests

Incidentally, Congress as the major partner displayed much magnanimity in conceding eight seats to the JDS, of which one, i.e., Bangalore North, came back to it after JDS failed to find a suitable candidate for itself. The alliance between the two parties has made it a straight contest in 27 constituencies between the BJP and the alliance candidates. However, the BJP is supporting film actress Sumalatha in Mandya constituency after the alliance decided that JDS will field Devegowda's grandson Nikhil Kumaraswami as its candidate. The seat had been won by Sumalatha's husband and film actor Ambareesh in 2014 for Congress. He died in December 2018. Sumalatha waited upon the Congress for quite sometime to be nominated, only to be disappointed.

The alliance has come as a Godsend for the Devegowda family to promote its dynastic hold over the JDS. Devegowda himself is fighting from Tumkur

Alliance between the Congress and the JDS which teetered on the brink of collapse was able to put up a united face.

and another grandson Prajwal Revanna is fighting from Hassan. All three constituencies are considered to be Vokkaliga bastion with considerable following for the Gowda family. They are quite likely to be won by the party.

Sons of former CMs

Shimoga has had an interesting contest with sons of two former chief ministers facing each other. Here the JDS has fielded Madhu Bangarappa against sitting MP, B. Y. Raghavendra, son of former BJP chief minister Yeddyurappa. In the neighbouring Chikamagalur-Udupi constituency, Shobha Karndalaje, close confidante of Yeddyurappa is pitted against Pramode Madhwaraj of Congress. Shobha seems to have an edge.



Metropolitan Bangalore has three seats. All three were won by the BJP last time. Bangalore South was won six times in a row by late Union Minister Ananthkumar who died in December last year. His widow Tejaswini was aspiring for the BJP ticket but the choice fell upon Tejasvi, a young advocate. It has annoyed the Brahmins in the elite constituency. But he is all likely to retain it for the BJP. Only Muslim nominee of the Congress Rizwan Arshad has been fielded from Bangalore Central against sitting BJP MP P. C. Mohan. Last time Rizwan lost narrowly against Mohan. Bangalore North has predominance of Vokkaliga voters. Two Gowdas, Union

Minister Sadananda Gowda and State Minister Byregowda are facing each other. It will be hazardous to make a guess about the outcome although the latter has an upperhand.

Arithmetic and Chemistry

The BJP has a solid grip on the Mangalore seat too where it should have no difficulty in retaining it, given the polarizing campaign it has been running for decades. In several South Karnataka seats such as Chamrajnagar, Mysore, Kolar, Chitradurga etc, though arithmetic may favour the alliance, chemistry between the two parties does not. Only last year the Congress and the JDS fought a tough battle on the turf

The LS elections in Karnataka have come as a Godsend for the Devegowda clan to extend itself into a dynasty.

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The Supreme Court has been approached by a Muslim couple from Pune seeking women's entry into mosques for worshipping. The couple has pleaded that Islam and the Quran do not place any bar on women entering and worshipping inside a mosque and it was normal for women to pray inside mosques during the time of the Prophet and in the early Islamic era. They have contended that several mosque managements have turned down their plea for allowing women to pray inside mosques while a few sects such as Mujahideen in Kerala allow and facilitate their prayers. It is a widely-known fact that women used to stand in rows behind the men even as the Prophet led the prayers in the Masjid-e Nabawi. This allowed them to make a quick exit and avoid intermingling of men and women. Hadiths also relate instances when the Prophet would shorten prayers if he heard the cries of kids who would accompany mothers to the mosques. It is also quite well known that a woman congregant at a Friday sermon questioned the second caliph Hazrath Umar about the dress he wore for the occasion as it was made out of clothes procured from the war booty.

Not a Prohibitory Diktat

Praying inside a mosque is not a serious enough issue to approach the apex court. It is more in the nature absence of logistics required for segregation of sexes.

Over the centuries, Islam entered several societies and geographies and the practice of women praying in the mosques took various forms as per the local conditions, architectural layout of the mosques and the prevalent security conditions. As a whole, mosques in South Asia did not make any special provision for women to pray inside, though not expressly prohibiting them. Yet, some sects such as Ahl-e Hadith all across the region and Mujahideen in Kerala generally allowed them entry and even arranged segregation of the two sexes within the premises. In more enlightened societies such as Egypt, women continued to worship inside mosques. In orthodox societies such as Saudi Arabia and other states in the Arabian peninsula, women were kept off mosques. But women

from all these societies migrating to nations in Europe and America found the environment freer and

prohibitory diktat. That some mosques do not have adequate space to allow women's use of the space is partly the reason to avoid making a provision for them. Others may be apprehensive about their security during prayers at dawn and after dusk.

The issue is not serious enough to secure a judicial ruling or directive in the matter. However, with changes

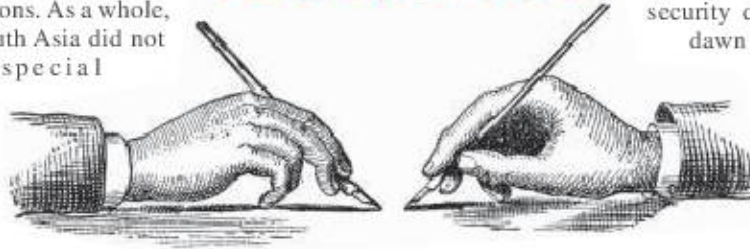
in times and the in the role of

share the sacred spaces just as their male counterparts do. The South Asian clerical establishment takes the position that though the holy Prophet directed his followers not to restrain women from entering mosques, they should not be encouraged to pray there either as mingling of sexes is fraught with moral hazards. This is more in the nature of a cautionary approach rather than a

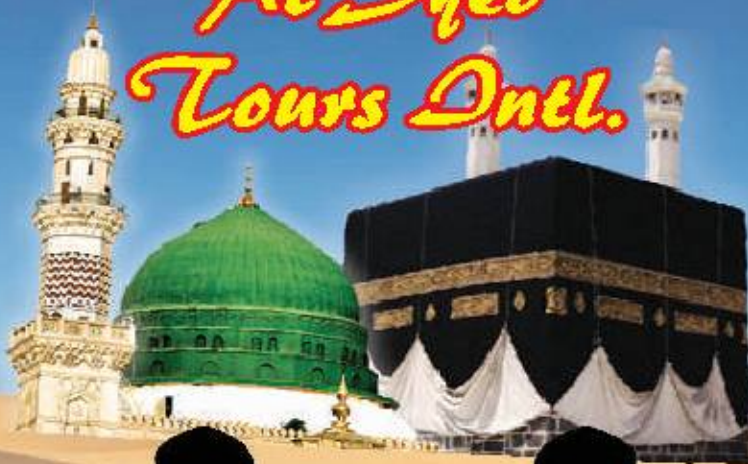
women, it seems imperative that women be allowed inside the mosques located inside or near colleges, universities, workplaces, vacationing sites and shopping areas. It is a common sight for burqa-clad women to stand outside the mosques even as men worship inside mosques in such places.

With a bit of management of logistics more mosques can make provision for women to pray within their premises. Modern architecture allows cellars, basements, side halls, upper floors and acoustics to take care of such segregation of sexes within mosques. One hopes the issue does not snowball into a contentious controversy with the community and leaders taking irreconcilable stands with media in the middle to inflame passions and pitting up 'hardliners' against 'reformists'.

Editorial



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Thabat Khatib

Palestinian Researcher receives two Patents for a drug that promises to cure Alzheimer's

By Muhammed Aladdin

Thabat Khatib, a Palestinian Neuroscience Researcher, has had an idea of developing a drug with a new formulation that would combat dementia in the elderly. Her dream of finding a cure to one of the most common, incurable diseases in the world, Alzheimer's, had just begun. The Palestinian scientist has led an academically-promising life; Khatib graduated from the Arab American high school in Jenin in 2009 with a success rate of 98%. She then joined the Biology and Biotechnology program at the Faculty of Science and Arts in the Arab American University, graduating with a grade-point-average of 3.95. Most people would stop at this point, but the aspiring neurologist has chosen to continue and applied for the Masters Programs at the Life Sciences Department at Al-Najah University, graduating with a rate of 4. Her pursuit of a Ph.D. saw her submitting applications to a number of European universities; the University of Aberdeen, the fifth oldest university in Britain, approved her application and provided her with a scholarship to follow her passion at the Faculty of Medicine. In 2018, in just three years, she earned her Ph.D. and went on to work as a post-doctoral researcher at Aberdeen University's Neuroscience department. She has found passion in the neuroscience field and looked to find clinical cures and drugs to the diseases of the nervous system, especially Alzheimer's, a type of dementia that affects 50 million people worldwide. During one of her experiments, Khatib noticed that many older



people who are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease lack a chemical substance called retinoic acid, which causes a malfunction in the efficiency of the nervous system's neurons. The body cannot produce this chemical on its own and must acquire it from Vitamin A; Khatib's idea was to synthetically-manufacture a more effective, more powerful form of retinoic acid in the form of a drug. Her work has secured more than EUR 400,000 in funding to the university, and she received the green light to begin drug preparations at the laboratory, as well as two patents for the idea. Khatib stated that she hopes that clinical human trials would commence soon. "If everything goes smoothly, it will be the first drug of its kind in the world in terms of formulation and function and will benefit patients on a larger scale," she stated. The scientist hopes that one day she can return to her homeland to teach and inspire younger girls in Palestine and the Arab world to pursue their dreams no matter the obstacles they face. She had this to say when asked about her advice to students, "You should believe in yourselves and in your abilities and not give up regardless of the challenges you may face. With hard work and faith, you can achieve your dreams and do what is impossible."

(scoopempire.com)

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Key Contests



General elections 2019 for the 243-member Lok Sabha are currently on. A cursory look at key contests and contestants is quite in order. Here we take a glance at the men and women vying for a niche in the corridors of power in some prominent constituencies across the country.

ASSAM

Dhubri: All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) has fielded sitting MP Badruddin Ajmal against Abu Taher Bepari of Congress and Zabeed Islam of Asom Gana Parishad. AIUDF had three MPs in the 2014-2019 Lok Sabha. It has again fielded Radheyshyam Biswas, sitting MP from Karimganj. However, it has dropped Sirajuddin Ajmal and instead fielded Hafiz Rafique Islam from Barpeta.



BIHAR

Patna Sahib: Film actor Shatrughan Singh who quit BJP but had won the seat for it twice before is the Congress candidate. He is pitted against Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad of the BJP. Congress is in alliance with RJD headed by Laloo Prasad Yadav's family with Jitan Ram Manjhi's party HUM. They are together called Mahagatbandhan.

Darbhanga: Abdul Bari Siddiqui of RJD is pitted against Gopal Jee Thakur of the BJP and Md. Mukhtar of the BSP. Sitting MP and former cricketer Kirti Azad of the BJP quit the party and joined the Congress. Ashraf Ali Fatmi of the RJD was denied the RJD ticket. Siddiqui has been elected MLA for six times. He was a leading figure in the 1970s agitation in Bihar.

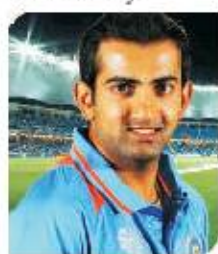
Madhepura: Sharad Yadav of RJD vs. Independent candidate Pappu Yadav vs. Dinesh Yadav of JDU. Pappu Yadav is the sitting MP who won the seat in 2014 on RJD ticket. Sharad won this seat in 1991 and 1996. Pappu was suspended from the RJD.



DELHI

North-east Delhi: Three term Congress CM Sheila Dixit will contest from this constituency.

South Delhi: Congress has put up boxer and Olympic bronze medallist Vijendra Singh from this prestigious constituency.



East Delhi: Cricketer Gautam

Gambhir is BJP candidate from here will face Arvinder Singh Lovely of Congress.

New Delhi: Veteran Congress leader fight for New Delhi seat against BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi.

North-west Delhi: Hans Raj Hans is the BJP candidate vs. Congress' Rajesh Lillothia. Sitting MP Udit Raj, outspoken Dalit leader, who was ignored by the BJP, quit the party.



GUJARAT

Gandhinagar: BJP National President Amit Shah vs. C. J. Chavda of Congress. Chavda is sitting MLA. Sitting MP is L. K. Advani.

Bharuch: Mansukhbhai Vasava of BJP vs. Sher Khan Abdulshakur Pathan of the Congress.



KARNATAKA



Mandya: Nikhil Kumaraswamy, grandson of former PM and son of Karnataka CM Kumaraswamy is pitted against film actress and independent candidate Sumalatha, wife of late actor and Congress minister Ambareesh.



She was keen to get Congress ticket. But under the Congress-JDS alliance, the seat went to JDS.

Hassan: Prajawal, grandson of former PM H. D. Devegowda of JDS (Supported by Congress) vs. A. Manju of BJP. In 2014, Devegowda trounced A. Manju who was then in Congress by a margin of more than one lakh votes.

Tumkur: JDS patron and former PM H. D. Devegowda vs. BJP's G. S. Basavaraj, four time MP from the constituency. In 2014, the seat was won by Congress's S. P. Muddahanumegowda.

Ballari: Veteran Congress leader V. S. Ugrappa, sitting MP is pitted against Y. Devedrappa of BJP. Ugrappa wrested the seat in a byelection in 2017 from the BJP.

Shimoga: Madhu Bangarappa of JDS (in alliance with Congress) faces B. Y. Raghavendra of BJP. Madhu is son of later CM Bangarappa and Raghavendra is son of former CM and BJP leader Yeddyurappa. Currently Raghavendra is the sitting MP. Of the eight Assembly seats under the LS seat, seven are held by the BJP.

Kalburgi (formerly Gulbarga): Veteran Congress leader and Opposition leader in Lok Sabha Mallikarjuna Kharge vs. Umesh Jadhav, who was congress MLA from one of the segments in the constituency. He resigned and jumped into the fray. Kharge has so far won Assembly seat for nine times and MP seat twice.



Chikkaballapur: Former CM, M. Veerappa Moily of Congress is facing B. N. Bacche Gowda of the BJP. Moily had won during the last two elections.

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Anantnag: Mehbooba Mufti of PDP vs. G. A. Mir of Congress vs. Hasnain Masoodi of national Conference. Only about 13% people cast their votes.



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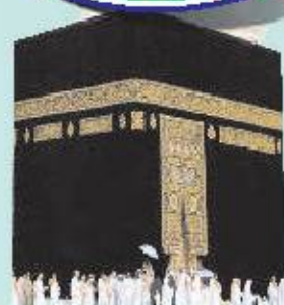
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Key Contests



BIHAR

Begusarai: JNU firebrand student leader Kanhaiya Kumar of CPI vs. Giriraj Singh of BJP vs. Tanveer Hasan of RJD. Sitting MP is Bhola Singh of BJP.

MADHYA PRADESH

Bhopal: Former CM Digvijay Singh of Congress vs. Thakur Pragna Singh of BJP, key accused in Malegaon blast case and currently on bail.

Guna-Shivpur: Sitting Congress MP Jyotirditya Scindia is pitted against BJP's



MAHARASHTRA



Akola: Prakash Ambedkar, grandson of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar vs. Sanjay S. Dhotre of BJP vs. Hidayatulla B. Patil of Congress. Prakash won this seat in 1998 and 1999 LS elections. Dhotre currently represents the seat.

Nanded: MPCC President Ashok Chavan vs. Pratap Patil Chikalkar of BJP.

Solapur: Veteran Congress leader Susheel Kumar Shinde vs. Mahaswami J. Siddeshwar Shivacharya

of the PBP. Even Prakash Ambedkar is contesting from here besides Akola.

Baramati: Supriya Sule, daughter of NCP chief Sharad Pawar vs. Kanchan Kul of BJP.

South Mumbai: Industrialist Milind Deora of Congress vs. Arvind Sawant of Shiv Sena and cardiologist Dr. Anilkumar of Vanchit Bahujana Aghadi (VBA) which is a combination of several Dalit organizations.

Ahmednagar: Sangram Jagtap of NCP vs. Dr. Sujay Vikhe-Patil of the BJP. Vikhe-Patil is from the Political family associated with Congress while Jagtap is NCP MLA from Ahmednagar. His father is NCP MLC and father-in law is BJP MLA from Rahuri.

ODISHA

Sundergarh: Joel Oram, Union Tribal Affairs Minister vs. Sunita Biswal of BJD vs. George Tirkey of Congress. This was the only seat the BJP could win and BJD lost in 2014.

PUNJAB

Amritsar: Hardeep Puri, only turbaned Sikh Minister in the Union Cabinet vs. sitting Congress MP Gurjit Singh auja. Puri is also a former diplomat.

Ferozepur: Sukhbir Singh Badal, former Deputy CM of Punjab is Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) candidate who will face Sher Singh Ghubaya of SAD. SAD and BJP are in alliance in Punjab. SAD has won this seat five times in a row. Sitting MP of SAD Sher

Singh Ghubaya joined the Congress on March 5.

Gurdaspur: Film actor Sunny Deol, son of legendary film actor Dharmender is the BJP candidate. He joined the party on April 23 and was nominated the same day. This seat was earlier represented by another film actor Vinod Khanna in the past.



Bathinda: Harsimrat Kaur Badal, wife of Sukhbir Singh Badal is SAD candidate facing Amarinder Raja Warring of Congress and Talwandi Sabo of AAP. Warring and Saboo are members of Punjab Assembly.

Khadoor Sahib: Bibi Pramjit Kaur Khaira is a candidate of Punjabi Ekta Party. SAD (Taksali) is

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Key Contests

supporting her against SAD and Congress candidates. Her husband Jaswant Singh Khalsa, noted human rights activist, was killed by Punjab Police in a fake encounter in 2000. Since then she has been fighting for justice. A park in Fresno City Council in Central California has been renamed to honour Jawant Khalsa.

RAJASTHAN

Jodhpur: Vaibhav Gehlot, son of Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot vs. Gajendra Shekhawat, Union Minister. Ashok Gehlot represented this seat for five terms beginning from 1980.

Dausa: Jaskaur Meena of the BJP vs. Savita Meena of Congress.

TAMIL NADU

Sivaganga: Karti Chidambaram, son of former Finance Minister Chidambaram has been fielded by Congress which is in alliance with the DMK. He is being opposed by H. Raja of BJP which is in alliance with the AIADMK. TTV Dhinakaran's party AMMK has also put up a candidate.

Chennai Central: Dayanidhi Maran, former Union Telecom Minister and grand-nephew of Karunanidhi is DMK candidate. He is pitted against PMK's Sam Paul. PMK is part of alliance headed by AIADMK. Kamala Haasan's party Makkal Needhi Maiyam has put up Kameela Nasser. Maran lost in 2014 but had won from here in 2004 and 2009.

Coimbatore: P. R. Natarajan of CPI(M) is pitted against C. P. Radhakrishna of BJP. Two communist parties are in alliance with DMK and Congress. Radhakrishnan was elected from here in 1998 and 1999. In 2014, P. Natarajan of AIADMK.

Chennai South: Jayavardan of AIADMK vs. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, son of former Minister Arcot Veeraswamy of DMK.

Karur: Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker M. Thambidurai of AIADMK is pitted against youth leader of the Congress Jothi Mani.



UTTARAKHAND

Nainital: Former CM Harish Rawat of Congress vs. BJP's Ajay Bhatt vs. Navneet Agrawal of BSP. Sitting MP is Bhagat Singh Koshiyari of the BJP.

Haridwar: Former CM Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank is BJP candidate and is pitted against Ambrish Kumar of the Congress.

UTTAR PRADESH



Mainpuri: SP chief Mulayam Singh Yadav vs. BJP's Prem Singh Shukla. Mulayam Singh Yadav has represented the seat four times. In 2014, he trounced BJP candidate S. S. Chauhan by a margin of 4.5 lakh votes.

Lucknow: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh (BJP) is seeking second term from the Lucknow seat. He is



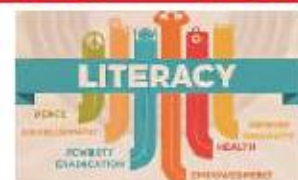
pitted against Poonam Sinha of SP. Sinha is wife of actor

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Key Contests

Shatrughan Sinha who is also fighting election from Patna Sahib in Bihar. Congress has fielded Acharya Pramod Krishnan from this constituency. In 2014, he defeated Congress' Rita Bahuguna Joshi who later joined BJP.

Rampur: SP leader Azam Khan vs. film actress Jaya Prada of the BJP vs. Sanjay Kapoor of the Congress. Jaya Prada recently joined the BJP. She was earlier with SP and TDP of Chandrababu Naidu. In 2014, the seat was won by Dr. Nepal Singh of BJP who trounced Naseer Ahmed Khan of SP. In 2004 and 2009, Jaya



Prada was elected from here. Both times she was with SP.

Mathura: Film actress Hema Malini of the BJP who is sitting MP is pitted against Mahesh Pathak of the Congress and SP-BSP-RLD combine's Kunwar Narendra Singh. In 2014, she defeated RLD candidate Jayant Choudhury by a margin of three lakh votes.

Gorakhpur: Ravi Kishan, Bhojpuri film star has been fielded by the BJP vs. Ram Bhual Nishad of SP which has alliance with BSP and RLD. This seat was won by current UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath four times. But since was appointed CM after Assembly election, he resigned. In the ensuing byelection, SP nominee Praveen Nishad was elected.

WEST BENGAL

Basirhat: Tollywood actress Nusrat Jahan, is the Trinamool Congress Party (TMC) candidate from this Muslim dominated constituency. She is pitted against Pallab Sengupta of CPI and BJP's Sayantan Basu. Idris Ali of TMC

won this seat in 2014 against CPI's Nurul Huda.

Baharampur: Sitting MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury of Congress is facing Apurba Sarkar of TMC, Eid Mohammed of RSP and Krishna Juadar Arya of the BJP. Adhir has won the seat four times.

Malda North: Mausam Benazir Noor of TMC vs. Khagen Murmu of BJP vs. Isha Khan of Congress. Both are party deserters. Noor won the seat in 2014 on Congress ticket while Murmu was with CPI(M). Noor and Isha Khan are cousins. Noor and Khan come from veteran Congress leader A. B. A. Ghanikhan Chowdhury's family who represented this constituency several times and passed away in 2006.

Malda South: Abu Hasem of Congress vs. Dr. Moazzem Hossain of TMC vs. Sreerupa Mitra Choudhary of the BJP. The Left Front has not fielded any candidate and it seems like they are supporting the Congress. Mitra quit the TMC in 2015. Abu Hasem is Ghanikha Choudhury's brother and had his early years in Toronto, Canada.

Page 1

Congress-JDS Alliance Had Slight Edge

as bitter foes.

Never Defeated

The BJP had a free run of several constituencies in North Karnataka in 2014. With little influence of the JDS in those areas, the contest is almost straight between Congress and the BJP. In Kalburgi (previously Gulbarga), veteran Congressman Mallikarjuna Kharge sits pretty and has remained undefeated for a record eleven times, of which twice for the Lok Sabha. Even Bidar is considered a safe seat for the Congress where Karnataka Congress President Eshwar Khandre is pitted against sitting

BJP MP Bhagwanth Khuba. Ballary was won by the BJP in 2014 but lost to Congress in byelection in 2017. Veena Kashappanavar is the only woman candidate of the Congress who has been fielded from Bagalkote. She belongs to one sect among the Lingayaths.

In seats like Vijayapura, Dharwad, Davangere, Koppala, and Belgaum, Lingayaths form sizeable chunk of voters. The BJP has worked assiduously to woo them. But the former Siddaramaiah Government passed a legislation favouring a section of them. It recommended a

religious minority status for the community which follows the 12th century saint Basavanna. It is to be seen how this factor works in the Lok Sabha constituencies. During Assembly elections it did not have much effect and majority of the Lingayaths still voted for the BJP.

Caste Dominates

Caste preferences have dominated the selection of candidates and campaigning. The electioneering was sans any issues although the northern districts are under the grip of severe drought and water scarcity. Though Karnataka was

the pioneering state in sanctioning private engineering, medical and other professional educational colleges, nearly all employment opportunities exist only in and around Bangalore. Life in districts and their headquarters is lackluster. The successive governments have failed to diversify development and employment opportunities. Industries and former industrial hubs such as Bhadravathi and Davangere have shut down one after another. The alliance did not do enough to raise Rafale deal issue and denial of opportunities to the Bangalore based HAL in a manner it deserved.

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Bihar Electoral Scene

Caste Dominates, Attrition Afflicts both Alliances

By Anish Ankur

By April 23, the State of Bihar had witnessed three phases of the seven-phase polls. But common masses seem to be a little indifferent, except looking enthusiastically towards outcome of elections in a couple of seats such as Begusarai where Kanhaiya Kumar of JNU is pitted against BJP's firebrand leader Giriraj Kishore.

There is a cliché repeatedly coined that caste plays a central role in the electoral behaviour of a voter, but no caste exceeds 12% of population, hence only a combination of caste can rule in a state like Bihar. Keeping this reality in mind every leading party is trying to accommodate maximum number of castes. Both the electoral alliances, National Democratic Alliance (NDA) led by Nitish Kumar and the Mahagathbandhan led by Tejaswi Yadav, Lalu Prasad's younger son, have tried their best to stitch a suitable combination. Janata Dal-United (JDU) led by Nitish Kumar, Lok Jantantrik Party (LJP) led by Ramvilas Paswan and BJP comprise NDA while Mahagathbandhan consists of RJD, Congress, RLSP led by former union

minister Uppendra Kushwaha in the Narendra Modi government. HAM by former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi and VIP led by film set designer cum politician Mukesh Sahni. BJP had been very flexible in ticket distribution after sensing the general anti-incumbency mood against them. It is fighting only on 17 out of 40 Lok Sabha seats from the State. It had won 22 seats alone in 2014 parliamentary elections. JDU also got 17 seats and LJP bagged six seats.

Contradictions Galore

In Mahagathbandhan, a lot of internal contradictions emerged during ticket distribution. Biggest alliance partner RJD is contesting on 20 seats, RLSP five, HAM and VIP 3 each. The Congress Party had to remain content with just nine seats. One seat has been given to CPI (ML-liberation) from RJD quota. Smaller parties were able to garner to get a bigger slice in proportion to their strength in the Assembly. According to political analyst Amit Kumar, "Parties with hardly one or two seats in the Bihar assembly got three to five seats while Congress with 30 seats in Assembly got around nine seats. The CPI(ML) has three seats in the Assembly but got just one seat in exchange of supporting Lalu Prasad's daughter Misa Bharti in Patliputra parliamentary seat." Left parties

With Nitish's credibility heavily dented and RJD showing open bias against uppercastes, people are looking for alternatives which are simply not there.

CPI, CPI(M) could not find space in the secular alliance.

Misrule

As for issues in this election, Nitish Kumar is talking about his development initiatives, but Srijan Sam, Muzaffarpur Shelter Home rape case, increasing crime graph, corruption scandals

If Kanhaiya Kumar wins in Begusarai, caste and community boundaries will be breached in Bihar. It is why a vast section is avidly looking at the outcome of Begusarai elections.

have badly dented Nitish Government's image. Most thriving construction sector came to standstill due to unavailability of sand. Despite repeatedly claiming 'rule of law' in Bihar during the ongoing campaign, the ground reality tells a different tale.

Banking on Modi

Ever since Nitish Kumar switched sides by hopping over to the NDA, his political credibility has nosedived. Sensing this changed scenario Nitish Kumar is now banking more on Modi's developmental programmes than his own achievements. Janata Dal-United (JD(U) leader has been repeatedly taking the name of Modi, praising him and lauding his works, including different schemes.

The NDA alliance is also facing anti-incumbency, both at the Centre and in the State. Being an agriculture dominated state, Bihar farmers underwent a severe agrarian crisis like lack of minimum support price, increasing cost of production etc.

According to senior journalist Imran Khan, "The truth is that even the Modi card does not seem to be clicking with the voters this time. Take, for example, the missing Modi euphoria in election campaign that has concluded for three phases out of the seven-phase poll. Now the NDA leaders have thrown out the development mask

Kanhaiya Kumar Vs Giriraj Singh



and openly evoking nationalism with communal connotation."

Lalu-Rabri Morcha

It is the first time in three decades that Lalu is missing from electioneering in Bihar. Absence of Lalu Prasad has created a rift in his family and party. Lalu Prasad's elder son Tej Pratap has raised a banner of revolt against his own party and fielded candidates from three constituencies Jehanabad, Sheohar and Saran from his newly floated forum 'Lalu-Rabri Morcha'. Adding insult to injury is desertion of some senior RJD leaders like M.A. Fatmi and Rambadan Rai after being denied ticket. In the ensuing confusion, the RJD is finding it very difficult to keep its flock together.

The RJD is highlighting 'misrule of Nitish Kumar as well as that of Narendra Modi Government. Tejaswi Yadav was very vocal against Muzaffarpur Shelter Home rape case but by fielding the rape accused Rajballabh Yadav's wife from Nawada, he has lost the moral ground.

There is a lot of dissatisfaction among every section of society with the Narendra Modi's rule but alternative to it also does not create any enthusiasm among voters. Same old and worn-out faces are in the fray in both the alliances. There is not much difference in their style of politics, slogans and behavior. Although NDA is facing problems on various fronts but whether Mahagathbandhan will be able to tap the anger and resentment is the moot question.

In some areas, like Seemanchal with a sizeable Muslim population, Mahagathbandhan is in comfortable position. Unlike the rest of Bihar, Seemanchal and regions (Kishanganj, Purnea, Katihar, Bhagalpur and Banka) had voted against the BJP-led NDA in the 2014 polls despite the 'Narendra Modi wave'.

If we look at the caste combination

of both alliances it seems both have formidable caste alliance behind them. The NDA is relying on support of uppercastes, extremely backward castes (EBC) and Dalit-

Mahadalit except Musahar's who owe their allegiance to Jitan Ram Manjhi. In the case of Mahagathbandhan, in addition to old and reliable social base MY (Muslim-Yadav), the RJD is also eyeing on caste base of its alliance partners like Kushwahas, Mallahs and Musars represented by RLSP, HAM and VIP.

RJD's Caste Bias

Mahagathbandhan will also get benefit by anti-Modi atmosphere created by various struggles launched by the Left-influenced organisations like farmer's unrest, worker's strike, intellectuals protest, students and youth's agitation etc. But the person who symbolised this protest and almost became a symbol of anti-Modi, is out of this Mahagathbandhan. Secular and democratic minded people were disappointed with the way RJD dealt with Kanhaiya Kumar. The explanation given by RJD for the denial of ticket to Kanhaiya Kumar is that he belongs to the

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Nitish's alliance with the BJP has not gone down well with people. His mask of development has slipped off from the face of opportunism.

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By Akhilesh Tripathi

The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) is in for trouble in Uttar Pradesh as the grand alliance of Samajwadi Party (SP), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) is giving it a tough time in most constituencies across all regions of the vast state. In 2014, these parties had fought against the BJP separately giving it a huge advantage. The BJP won 73 of the 80 seats, leaving only two (Amethi and Rae Bareilly) and five for the SP. Most of these seats had candidates from the families that dominate those political parties.

30 Seats at Stake

Thirty seats of western region which include Baghpat, Bijnore, Fatehpur, Meerut, Saharanpur, Agra, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr, Fatehpur Sikri, Nagina, Hathras, Aligarh, Mathura, Muradabad, Sambhal, Mathura, Bareilly, Rampur, Badayun, Aonla, Pilibhit, Etah and Firozabad may see a swing of fortunes for the contestants. These constituencies are predominantly inhabited by Jats, Gujar, Muslims, Yadavs and Maurya communities. The three parties realized their joint potential when they came together to fight the byelections in Gorakhpur, Bulandshahr and Phulpur early last year. This initiated a dialogue between Mr. Akhilesh Yadav of SP, Mayawati of BSP and Ajit Singh of the RLD. A reckoning of the 2014 results shows that the BJP had won 30 seats by a margin ranging from five to ten thousand votes. By merely fielding a single candidate by the opposition parties, the anger against misrule of the BJP at the Centre and the State could be tapped for dislodging the BJP. Additionally, the farmers have totally turned against the BJP due to unremunerative prices for their produce. The party governments both at Delhi and Lucknow could not address the issue of arrears of sugarcane growers. This has only added the weight of incumbency.

Internal Understanding

The refusal to take the Congress into alliance and the entry of Priyanka Gandhi has, of course, rendered the fight triangular. But there seems to be an internal understanding between the Congress and the alliance partners. Consequently, the Congress has not fielded Muslim candidates in Muslim-dominated constituencies, lest the Muslim votes remain intact. Similarly, it has fielded Brahmin or uppercaste candidates wherever the BJP has nominated candidates from these

Uttar Pradesh Electoral Scene

Alliance makes BJP Sweat for votes

Though the entry of Priyanka Gandhi has upped the Congress prospects in Uttar Pradesh, there seems to be an internal understanding between the Congress and the SP-BSP-RLD alliance not to split votes of traditional voters.

communities. This strategy seeks to erode the BJP's advantage. The Nyaay Yojana (NYAY) with a promise of Rs. 6,000 for each farmer every month, is also luring away farmers from the BJP. Congress has not fielded candidates against Mulayam Singh Yadav in Mainpuri and Akhilesh Yadav in Azamgarh. It has been reciprocated by the alliance leaving Amethi and Rae



merged his Bharat Samaj Party on the eve of 2014 LS elections. He wields considerable influence in eastern UP with seats like Varanasi, Bhadohi, Ballia, Chandauli, Ghazipur, Mau, and Azamgarh. The Nishad Party which controls the

votes of Nishads, the rowers of boat in rivers in eastern UP, too has distanced itself from the BJP. It can take away BJP votes in constituencies of Gorakhpur, Ballia, Sant Kabir Nagar, Kushinagar, Maharajganj and Deoria.

Given these circumstances, poll pundits are not willing to give more than 35 seats from the State to the BJP at this juncture.

“ With BJP ruling the Centre and the State, the party is burdened with enormous weight of incumbency. The party has no answers on arrears of cane-growers, GST and demonetization. ”

“ In 30 seats, the BJP won by a margin ranging from five to ten thousand votes. These seats are up for grab by candidates fielded by the three-party alliance. ”

Bareilly for Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi.

BJP's Handicap


However, for the BJP the greatest handicap is that it has virtually no face to put up before the electorate. Ruling the Centre as well as the State, it is virtually answerless for its follies like demonetization, GST and failure to clean up river Ganga. Killing of hundreds of people, mob-lynching by cow vigilantes and high corruption in Government has left them with no excuse.

Faking Caste Certificate

The diffidence within the BJP could be gauged from the fact that BJP's sitting MP and candidate from Machchlishahar Ram Charitra Nishad returned the BJP ticket and decided to join the SP. The SP has fielded him from Mirzapur. The furnishing of the fake caste certificate by Yogi Government Minister S. P. Baghel has also assumed importance. Baghel has produced the SC certificate to contest for the LS seat from Agra which is reserved for Scheduled Castes though he belongs to the OBC.

Mr. Om Prakash Rajbhar, a minister under Yogi Government too has deserted the BJP. He had

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RAMADAN MUBARAK



Polling for the 20 Lok Sabha seats in Kerala took place on April 23. Battlegrounds were drawn between the two main fronts i.e., the United Democratic Front (UDF) consisting of the Indian National Congress, the Indian Union Muslim League, Kerala Congress (M) and the RSP on one side, and the Left Democratic Front (LDF) headed by the Communist Party of India Marxist (CPM) and the Communist Party of India (CPI). The BJP led a third front with two small parties allying with it and hopes to improve its vote-share. It is doubtful if it will be able to garner a single seat. However, the biggest piece of the news is that Congress President Rahul Gandhi has entered the fray from Wayanad in the State for a second seat contest (he is seeking election from the traditional Nehru-Gandhi seat in Amethi in Uttar Pradesh also).

The Congress has fielded its candidate on 16 seats, leaving two for its long time ally Indian Union Muslim League (IUM). One seat had gone to Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), while the

“The BJP banks upon Sabarimala verdict to raise its voteshare in Kerala by garnering sympathy of women.”

lone remaining seat went to Kerala Congress (Mani group) nominee. On the rival side, CPM is contesting on 14 seats while two would be fielded as LDF-supported independents in Muslim-dominated Ponnani and Malappuram seats. The remaining four seats have gone to the CPI. Rest of the allies have not been given any seats.

In 2014 General Elections, the CPM won five seats, CPI one, Congress eight, Muslim League two, Kerala Congress one, RSP one and two seats (Chalaky and Idukki) were won by independents supported by LDF.

No More than Two

The Congress has not conceded the IUM's demand for one more seat even this time. The IUM would thus be contesting on the old Ponnani and Malappuram (earlier it was Manjeri) seats. For some time the name of Mr. SirajEbrahim, son of late Ibrahim SulaimanSait, was bandied about for nomination on one additional

seat. But it seems the IUM local leadership did not press the claim and is keen to keep the party contented with two seats although the IUM has a streamlined organization in the state with nearly 23 lakh registered members. The IUM has pitted the old faces E. T. Mohammed Basheer from Ponnani and former Kerala minister KunhaliKutty from Malappuram. Sources pointed out that Congress may lose several seats if the IUM is not part of the UDF, yet has been successful in keeping the IUM's share confined to two seats. Even the lone Rajya Sabha seat for the IUM has been used to nominate twice a Gulf based businessman P. V. Abdul Wahab who barely ever speaks in the Parliament.

Muslim Woman

The Congress has fielded a Muslim woman Ms. ShaniMol Usman from Alappuzha seat this time. A long time Congress member, she is one among the general secretaries of the All India Congress Committee (AICC). Currently, LDF led by Chief Minister PinarayiVijayan is ruling the State. During the 2015 elections, the LDF trounced the UDF with a huge margin winning 91 of the 140 seats. Of these, the CPM bagged 58, CPI 19, Janata Dal Secular three, Nationalist Congress Party two and LDF-supported independents five. Of the UDF's 47, the Congress's score was merely 22 while Muslim League could win 18. Kerala Congress had won six seats while another faction of Kerala Congress was successful on one seat. Even this impressive score by the IUM has not yielded any more seats from the UDF in 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Godsend for the BJP

2015 was the first Assembly election when the BJP could open its account in the Legislative Assembly with success on one seat. The BJP is now trying it utmost to secure at least one seat from the State in Lok Sabha. Anywhere it can come closer to success is Trivandrum. It is using Sabarimala verdict allowing women aged between 10 and 50 years to visit the Sabarimala temple to garner sympathy from women voters. The party which first welcomed the verdict, took a

Kerala Scene LS Election in Kerala

UDF and LDF to Slug it Out

But the BJP is trying to grab at least one seat and increase its voteshare.



“The IUM has failed to press its claim for one more seat from the UDF of the 20 seats in the State. It seems to be content with two.”

U-turn and went against it feeling pockets of opposition against the verdict in tradition-loving sections. It is doubtful if this sympathy can translate into a seat.

U-turns

The Congress too has reversed its

stand on Sabarimala. Congress President Rahul Gandhi however made it clear that his party in the State had a different stand against what he thought was right. The party fearing that the BJP would cut into the Congress votebank, thought it prudent to take a stand against the verdict. However the LDF did not budge from its stand of implementing the Sabarimala verdict and provided protection to the few women activists who attempted to enter the sanctum sanctorum. The Left even organized a Women's Wall in support of the verdict on January 1, 2019 when 3.5 lakh women formed a hand-linked chain along the 620-km National Highway running the State.

Besides Sabarimala entry, the issues that dominate the public discourse during the run-up to the election are flood and disaster management and drought and water scarcity.



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شَوَّال

* Whoever Fasts Ramadan and Follow it with Six Days from Shawwal it is as if They Fasted the Entire Year * (Muslim)

Civil Services Exam Results

30 Muslims among total 759 candidates

The list of the 759 successful candidates for the civil services this year carries 30 Muslim names. The exams were held in September-October 2018 and results were announced early this year. This is a bit impressive figure as it takes the representation to nearly four per cent. Here are the profiles of a few successful candidates:

Junaid Ahmed who was ranked third in the Civil Services ranking this year had secured 352nd rank last year and had been placed in the Indian Revenue Service (IRS). He is an alumni of the Aligarh Muslim University from where seven candidates have made it to the list of successful candidates. Besides Junaid, those include Veer Pratap Singh, BushraBano, Babar Ali, Md. Hashimvivek Kumar and Zaib.

Another successful candidate ShahidRaza hails from Sherghati town of Gaya district in Bihar. He is son of Mumtaz Ali who is a supervisor in

Bokaro steel plant. Raza joined the civil services coaching institute in JamiaMilliaDelhi. He was doing his MA in West Asian Studies in the School of International Studies of the Jawaharlal Nehru University. Md. Najeeb, the missing student of the JNU was his hostel mate and ShahidRaza has been an eyewitness to ABVP's assault against Najeeb after which he went missing in 2016. He has appeared before the CBI in this case. Raza says he would continue to help Najeeb's mother FathimaNafees in this case. Mirza Khader Baig, a BE in Electronics & Communication who was ranked 336th in the Civil Services exam this year, hails from Davangere in Karnataka. Son of Mirza Ismail and Habeeba, he was encouraged by his parents to appear for the UPSC competition. Following his BE, Baig studied in France leading to an MS Degree and later worked with the German multinational company ABB. This was his second attempt at the civil services exam.

Mohammed Abdul Jaleel from Kerala received his coaching at the Zakat Foundation of India's coaching centre in Delhi and secured 434th rank among the 759 candidates declared successful this year. He is a graduate from NIIT, Calicut. His father worked in Dhu Dhobi for several years. He chose Political Science and International Relations as optional subject for the UPSC.

Dr. Rehana Bashir, MBBS is the first Muslim woman who cleared IAS from Kashmir's Poonch district. She comes from Salwah

village. His brother Amir Bashir is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer. She got the 187 All India Rank (AIR). Speaking to newsmen in her village, she said she would think about improving the conditions of schools if she gets a posting anywhere in the district. Gauhar Hassan who scored 137th rank hails from Motihari town of Bihar. He cleared the UPSC exam after four unsuccessful bids. His primary education was in Pusa Institute's Public School in Bihar and secondary education from Iqra School in Motihari. He did his engineering diploma from JamiaMilliaIslamia in Computer Science in 2008. He received his coaching in the Jamia's Residential Coaching Academy for the civil services along with BE degree even while working in a computer company. Though his name is found in the list of successful candidates from Zakat Foundation of India, he said he only attended the mock interview in the Foundation. He selected Urdu as one of the subjects for the exam as Computer Science was not among the options. He said there is no discrimination in selection of candidates for the UPSC.



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Ghousia College of Engineering was started in the year 1980. The College is affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi and recognized by AICTE, New Delhi and Government of Karnataka. It is the No.1 Minority College in the State of Karnataka. The College is situated on an expanse of 35 acres of land, about 45 KMs from Bengaluru on the Bengaluru-Mysore Highway. The Library is housed in a separate building with a separate issue, Reference and General Reading Room Sections with a sufficient collection of books and subscribed to the e-Journals through INDEST-AICTE Consortium.

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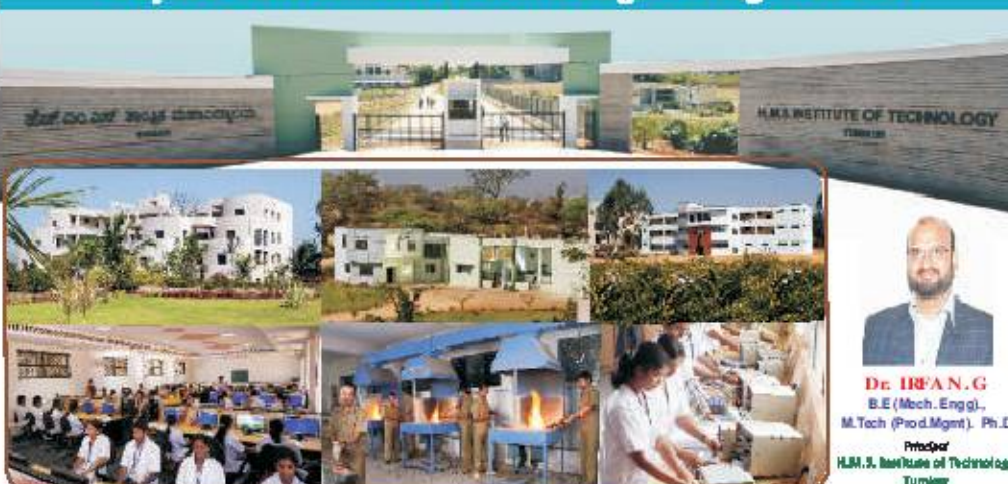
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Conference on Role of Education in Combating Terrorism

Jeddah: The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), represented by Sawt Al-Hikmah (Voice of Wisdom) Center and Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), jointly held a conference on the "Role of Education in Combating Terrorism and Extremism" on April 9-10, with broad participation of stakeholders. The conference reviewed the experiences of countries in combating extremism and terrorism through revamping education to develop the



coexistence culture through pedagogical systems. OIC Secretary General Dr. Yousef Al-Othaimeen indicated that the conference takes place at a time when the phenomenon of violent

extremism plaguing the Muslim world during the past three decades is on the rise. He stressed the importance to consider the ways in which curricula face the incursion of this phenomenon, which is categorically alien to the Islamic societies.

The OIC chief stated that every act of violence or extremism is the result of a distorted intellectual mindset that has developed and penetrated undetected away from the positive values of modern schools and formal curricula.

Nouakchott Hosts Workshop on Methods of Teaching Qur'an

The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the International Organization of Qitab and Sunnah (IOQAS), in cooperation with the Mauritanian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, held a "Sub-regional Workshop on Developing Methods of Memorizing the Holy Qur'an and Teaching its Sciences" in Nouakchott on April 9-12. Some



23 officials working in the field of the Holy Qur'an memorization and teaching Islamic education from Mauritania, Guinea, Mali, and Senegal participated in this sub-

regional workshop. The workshop is aimed at improving the level of work in Quranic institutions in the areas of planning, follow-up and assessing. The workshop will focus on ways to enhance the role of education in the values of dialogue and cultural diversity, as well as the use of modern techniques in memorizing the Holy Qur'an and teaching its science.

Azerbaijan Hosts Drug Enforcement Conference

Baku: The 36th International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC), co-organized by Azerbaijan's State Commission on Combating Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking, State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), was held in Baku recently. Held under the motto, "Leveraging



global partnerships", the two-day conference aims to bring together the high-ranking officials to fight

against illegal drug trafficking and to discuss the ways of solving this global problem. Attended by around 500 representatives from over 150 countries, the international conference will provide an opportunity for experts to benefit from the modern methods of combating drug trafficking.

New 18th Palestinian Government Sworn-in

Ramallah: The new 18th Palestinian government headed by Mohammad Shtayeh was sworn-in at Ramallah. While most of the 22 members of the government are new, key ministries such as the finance and foreign ministries, remained in the hands of the incumbents. President Abbas asked Fatah Central Committee member Mohammad Shtayeh to form the new Palestinian government on March 10 to replace the government of Rami Hamdallah, which rendered its resignation on January 29 after four years in office. The President said that the mission of the new



government will be to speed up reuniting the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as to work towards holding legislative elections in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip to strengthen democracy. Shtayeh was born in the village of Tel, near Nablus, in 1958 and got his undergraduate degree at Birzeit University and his doctorate in economics from the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom.

Jerusalem: Capital of Islamic Culture



Ramallah: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas expressed his appreciation to all those who contributed to the selection of Jerusalem as the permanent capital of Islamic culture. In his speech at the festival celebrating Jerusalem Capital of the Islamic Culture, launched in the West Bank city of Jericho recently Abbas commended the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), its General

Secretariat and all the member states. He called on the Islamic nations "to keep their lamps in Jerusalem burning with the light of good, truth, and peace, and that Jerusalem is lit up by its people and its loved Arab, Muslim and Christian ones." In turn, OIC Secretary General Dr. Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen thanked the Palestinian leadership, represented by President Mahmoud Abbas, and congratulated him on the selection of Jerusalem as the capital of Islamic culture.

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32
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Jamaat Elects a New President

Syed Sadathullah Hussaini is the new President (Ameer) of the Jamaat e Islami Hind. He was elected on April 3 for a four-year term by the 157-member Representative Council (Majlis e Numaindagan).

By Maqbool Ahmed Siraj

An electronic engineer, he hails from Aurangabad, but had spent considerable part of his life in Hyderabad. He has also authored a few books. At 48, he is the youngest person ever to be elected the Ameer of the Jamaat which has been meticulously democratic in its organizational structure all through its 70 years of history. Mr. T. Arifali is the new General Secretary (Qayyim) of the Jamaat while Mr. Ameenul Hassan from Tamil Nadu and Mohammed Jafer from Patna are new vice presidents.



Syed Sadatullah Hussaini, New President

“The Jamaat would need to overhaul its ideological position to align itself with the trends of time.”

The change at the apex has come about after nearly 12 years when the top post was held by Maulana Jalaluddin Umari for three terms. The new set of office-bearers is much younger and is expected to bring about new changes in the policy and performance of the JIH which is the only cadre-based organization with pan-Indian presence. However archaic the Jamaat may appear to an external observer, given its insistence on orthodox Islam, the Jamaat apparatus is modern in its structure inasmuch as democracy prevails at all levels and most of the office-bearers mainly come from modern educational institutions, rather than madrassas.

Tenacity

That the Jamaat has survived in its present shape for 70 years is a tribute to its tenacity. Nearly all Muslim organizations have suffered splits latest being the Tablighi Jamaat during their course of life. Credit for the same must go to the Jamaat's structure and organization which absorbs shocks and accommodates differences. Ideology rather than personalities have reigned supreme. No dynasties can take roots within its organization which bases itself on altruism rather than projection of individuals.

In a Groove

Yet there is a general perception that the Jamaat has entered a groove and finds it difficult to come out of it. Its main ideologue and founder, Maulana Abul Ala Maudoodi, who hailed from Aurangabad but migrated to Lahore after Partition, was a great

organizer but had less than adequate exposure of the new sciences, particularly humanities and modern languages in which the new scholarship germinated. He wrote nearly seventy books, all in Urdu, and raised a well-knit organization and left training modules which tailored articulate and devout workers. The Jamaat has largely followed the same ideology despite passage of around 40 years after his death. The changes in the ambience since his death have been breathtaking due to arrival of new technology which essentially goes into the organization of the society. Except for a book titled Maqasid e Shariat by Dr. Nejatullah Siddiqui, no new literature has been added to the corpus of books that crystallize the Jamaat ideology. An average worker of the Jamaat still takes the aims and objectives laid down by Maulana Maudoodi to be the be-all and-end-all of all ideas.

Constricted Space

Though the Jamaat at one time considered secularism, nationalism and democracy to be the bane of modern civilizations, it has come to realize the futility of opposing them, especially now that the rise of Hindutva is constricting space for diversity. It is more out of compulsion rather than conviction. Similar is the case of 'composite culture'. It was berated by the Jamaat journals till the late 1980s. But no longer so.

Clerical Stranglehold

Jamaat has failed to break free from the stranglehold of clerics from UP and Bihar who are unfortunately thought to represent mainstream Islam in India. It has towed their line on major issues in which most of the cleric-dominated bodies be it the Muslim Personal Law Board, Majlis e Mushawarat, Jamiatu Ulema or the Milli Council have pursued the reactionary path. This acts as an albatross around the Jamaat's neck. Predominance of rhetoric on ittehad (unity) restrains them from

taking a progressive stand on issues that are touted as central to the Shariat. This Shariat fixation has led the Jamaat to be part of the crowd on issues like Shah Bano case, Babri Masjid and Triple Talaq. While many within the Jamaat would privately concede that Shariat is not a fixed code, the Jamaat as a whole refrains from breaking ranks. This dilemma however, dogs the Muslims as a whole and few have the guts and gumption to stand up to the clerics who are out to serve their vested interests and protect their

“It is after 12 years that the Jamaat has brought in a new and younger face at the top.”

livelihoods in a much narrower sense. One would watch with keen interest how the Jamaat approaches the issue of entry of women into the mosques. Except recycling the old literature and postulations on Shariat, the Jamaat has failed to offer any new insight in the light of the 20th-21st century context. It is smug with satisfaction that all that could be said for the peace, progress and prosperity of human society has already been laid down in the holy text and nothing other than its rewording can be attempted. This attitude of comfort zone-living has led to romanticisation of the past and over-glorification of history. It smothers innovation and creativity.

Dichotomy

Jamaat's stand on human rights, gender rights, freedom of expression etc too has been extremely selective. It failed to condemn the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's bombing of Yemen, nor did it voice its opinion on murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul last October. While on the issue of Hadiya's conversion to Islam, it rightfully supported freedom of religion, one failed to hear anything on murder of Hindu boy Ankit (in the Nangloi village of Delhi) who was in love of Muslim girl Shehzadi Begum leading to boy's murder by parents and other kin of the girl. However, such dichotomy is commonplace among all Muslim bodies which makes their championing of modern values such as human rights, gender rights, freedom of expression and commitment to the Constitution

PEOPLE

Mahenoor Jahan

The second topper (Arts) in Bihar aspires to become an IAS officer.

Patna: Mohammad Ahmad and Mahenoor Jahan are among the toppers of BSEB Bihar 12th Inter 2019 Examinations results of which were declared by the Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB). Mohammad Ahmad from Durga Prasad High School secured the 3rd position in BSEB 12th Science stream



with 94.2%. While Mahenoor Jahan secured the second spot with 92% marks in Arts stream. Mahenoor Jahan, daughter of a farmer hails from Tegharia Village in Kochadhaman Block in Kishanganj District of Bihar. While talking to the Hindi daily Hindustan, Mahenoor Jahan said that she aspires to become an IAS officer. Gulam Sarwar Md. Sajjad of TNB College of Bhagalpur is also among the toppers. He secured 7th rank with 470 marks in Science stream. In 2018, a total of 12.07 lakh students had appeared for the Intermediate exams and in 2017, about 13 lakh students had appeared for the Inter examination.

Subia Parveen

An electrician's daughter bags prestigious US scholarship.



New Delhi: Subia Parveen, a student of 10th standard of the Jamia Senior Secondary School has been selected for the prestigious Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Scholarship. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Najma Akhtar met Subia Parveen and congratulated her for the achievement. Subia's parents were also present during the meeting. Subia has been selected for the prestigious

scholarship sponsored by US Department of State. She will be getting US \$ 28,000 scholarship to study for a 10-month duration programme in U.S. The programme will be held from August 2019 to June 2020. Subia's father Kamaluddin Ahmed is an electrician in the Jamia Millia Islamia. Subia studied in the school from Nursery class.

Movita Johnson-Harrell

First Muslim woman to be elected as state representative in Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia (USA): Movita Johnson-Harrell made history on March 12, after winning the contested special election for the 190th District seat, becoming the first Muslim woman to be elected as a state representative in Pennsylvania. "I'm running because I care about my community. I don't need a job," Johnson-Harrell said when she declared her run. Johnson-Harrell is the former interim supervisor of Victim Services for Philadelphia's District Attorney's Office. She secured more than 66 percent of the vote, with her nearest challenger at 20 percent. She ran on a platform encompassing key issues such as socio-economic opportunity and education reform to gun violence prevention. Johnson-Harrell defeated community advocate Amen Brown, activist and clergy woman, Pamela K. Williams, and Republican candidate Michael Harvey.



New Faces in the Fray Shanimol Usman from Alappuzha



Shanimol Usman, General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) has been fielded by the United Democratic Front (UDF) Alappuzha LS constituency in Kerala. Shanimol is an advocate and the first woman general secretary of the AICC from the State. She is being opposed by CPM's A. M. Ariff, MLA representing Aroor Assembly constituency under the Alappuzha constituency. The LS constituency has around 9.95 lakh voters, but only two lakh voters are Muslims.

MANUU Signs MoU with Al-Mustafa International University, Iran

Hyderabad: Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) added another feather in its cap by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Al-Mustafa International University (MIU), Iran. This is first academic collaboration by MANUU on an international level. Al Mustafa International University, Qum, (Iran) is an International Academic, Islamic and University-style seminary institute established in 1979. It has international branches and affiliate schools. The MoU was signed by Dr. M.A. Sikandar,



Registrar, MANUU, & Dr. Mohammad Reza Saleh, Chief Representative of MIU in the presence of Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz, Vice-Chancellor, MANUU and Prof. Ali Abbasi, and Dr. Hameed Jazaeri, Registrar of MIU. Collaboration between the two institutions will envisage

research in the field of Humanities, Culture, History, Persian, Arabic, Urdu languages and literature, Management, Mass Communication, Islamic Studies etc.; Provision for scholarship at Masters & Doctorate level for the Scholars of MANUU; Establishment of Chair of Eminent scholars/students; Exchange of Scholars; International Seminars, Conferences and Symposia. MIU will also extend cooperation and support to establish QuliQutub Shah Chair at MANUU so as to identify joint projects to work upon.

International Award for JMI Faculty

New Delhi: Dr. Ahteshamul Haque, Incharge of the Advance Power Electronics Research Laboratory, Department of Electrical Engineering, Jamia Millia Islamia and his research group has won an award worth Rs. 20 lakh from Switzerland based world reputed company Typhoon HIL.

The research group comprising of students from B.Tech, M.Tech and PhD headed by Dr. AhteshamulHaque has developed a model for Smart Solar Inverters with its control, and submitted it for evaluation in a competition organised by Typhoon HIL. Teams from America, Europe, Asia and Africa participated in this world level competition named '10 for 10 Programme'. Prof. Z. A. Jaffery, HoD,



Department of Electrical Engineering, JMI encouraged the research group to take part in this world level competition. In award, Dr. Haque and his research group got a powerful machine for research worth Rs.20 lakh. Name

of the machine is HIL-402 real time simulator, which is used in power electronics, microgrid and renewable energy applications. Recently, Dr. Haque has also received R&D project grant under MHRD SPARC scheme.

Haj House Centre Wins Big in UPSC

Mumbai: The civil services coaching centre at the city's Haj House, which until now has had limited success in pushing Muslim youth towards civil services, got a boost, after three of its alumni were recently selected by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Junaid Ahmad, who hails from Bijnaur in Uttar Pradesh and was trained at the IAS and Allied Coaching and Guidance Cell, run by the Centre's Haj Committee of India (HCI), for two years between 2013 and 2015, ranked third nationally in the UPSC examination. The other two successful aspirants - Zaib Shaikh, from Ahmednagar, and Mohammed Mustafa Aejaz, from Mehboob Nagar in Telangana - were placed at the 225th and 613th positions, respectively. An HCI official said the news of these achievements has generated a renewed interest and

awareness about the coaching facility among the community. "Ever since the UPSC results were declared on April 5, we have been receiving enquiry calls from all across the country. I still get around 50 calls every day," he said. Last year, as many as 6,732 graduates from across the country had applied for the centre's entrance test, up from around 1,500 registrations in 2017. This year, the HCI officials expect the number of applications to increase even further - the last day to apply is May 7. The Cell was established in August 2009, in the backdrop of the Sachar Committee report, which found that Muslims lagged behind most of the other communities in the country in educationally, economically and politically. Since then, the Muslim representation in civil services has improved to some extent. Of 1,099 candidates who

cleared the civil services examination last year 50 (4.5%) were Muslims, the highest since Independence. So far, the coaching centre has produced seven UPSC achievers, including the three who were selected this year. Several other alumni have joined other government agencies, including Reserve Bank of India, Central Excise Department and various state services. According to S.A.M Hashmi, the founder director, who headed the cell between 2010 and 2013, lack of proper leadership at HCI and the cell is to be blamed for its slow progress. "The leaders lacked either academic experience or administrative experience or both," said Hashmi, who was principal at Akbar Peerbhoy College, Grant Road, and now heads a coaching academy at Mumbai.

(Extracted from
www.hindustantimes.com)

LETTERS



Bold Article

My compliments to Janab M.A. Siraj Saab, for his excellent & bold article under the heading "Say No to Victimhood" vide issue of IV of April, 2019. The writer has rightly lamented over the silence of Muslims, when Saudis bombed Yemen, when Muslims were killed in Syria and Iraq, and when Saudi journalist Khashoggi was killed. The writer's effort to awaken the Muslims from deep slumber and draw their attention towards their short-comings is praiseworthy. Please keep it up.

*Farooq Abdul Gafar Bawani
Rajkot, Gujarat*

"The smell from the fasting person's mouth is better before Allah than the fragrance of musk."

138- Saheeh al-Bukhari, 5927

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ALLAH SAYS "HELP ONE ANOTHER IN GOOD DEEDS" Al-Quran

New Delhi: The Delhi Minorities Commission held a seminar on Muslim-Christian relations in cooperation with the Islamic Studies Association. Religious leaders, scholars, intellectuals and mediapersons from both communities participated. Inaugurating the seminar, DMC Chairman Dr. Zafarul-Islam Khan said that the holy Quran holds Jesus Christ and his mother Mary in highest esteem and describes Jesus as the "Word of God". He said Muslim-Christian relations were excellent during the first few centuries after the advent of Islam. In fact, the first two migrations of Mecca's persecuted Muslims were to Abyssinia ruled by a Christian king. And this is the reason why even in their heyday, Muslims never attempted to conquer Abyssinia. He said it is a testimony of Muslim tolerance that seats of four churches are based in the Muslim world, viz., Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria & All Africa, seated in Cairo; Syriac Orthodox Church, seated in Damascus; Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, seated in Istanbul and the Syriac Maronite Church of Antioch based in Bkerké, Lebanon. Dr. Khan said the immediate reason for holding this seminar is the joint document on "Human fraternity for world peace and living together" signed

DMC holds Colloquium on Muslim-Christian Relations

last February in Dubai by the leader of the Catholic Church Pope Francis and the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar Dr. Ahmad Al-Tayeb. He said although this document is about establishing good Muslim-Christian relations but, in fact, it can become a good basis of friendly relations between all religions.

Moderating the seminar, Laxmi Menon, India director of Unity Earth, shed light on Muslim-Christian relations in recent times and how they have vacillated between good and bad. She mentioned in particular how St. Francis of Assisi crossed the Crusaders' lines to meet the Egyptian Sultan, Malik al-Kamil, in 1219 AD which paved a new beginning of good Muslim-Christian relations despite the bitterness of the Crusades.

Prof. Poulse Mangai of Vidya Jyoti College shed light on past Muslim-Christian dialogues. He said the Catholic Church was not interested in developing



Dr. Syed Jamaluddin of the Institute of Objective Studies and a former professor of Jamia Millia Islamia, said that the decline of tasawwuf (mysticism) resulted in the decline of human values. We should live as a spiritual family and for this, purification of the soul is necessary.

relationships with other religions, but this changed in 1962 when the Vatican established a department to improve relations and understanding with other faiths. Dialogues started as a result. This policy has received impetus since Pope Francis took over the reins of the Catholic Church in 2013. Pope Francis believes that religion is a strong force to change the world. He is the first Catholic head to visit the Arabian peninsula. Prof. Shareena Bano of Jamia Millia Islamia said that the Al-Azhar-Vatican document should be used to educate the masses. If we want unity, we must think together. Textbooks of schools should be prepared on this basis. Thinker Basit Jamal, who popularises Islamic ideals through telling stories in schools, refuted the idea that Muslims do not want good relations with others and referred to Sura Al-Mumtahina (60:9) of the Quran where Allah exhorts Muslims to hold good relations with those non-Muslims

who do not fight and persecute Muslims. He mentioned the document preserved in Sinai's St. Catherine Church in which Prophet Muhammad has ordered Muslims to treat Christians well. Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, Vice Chancellor of Maulana Azad University of Jodhpur, said the joint statement of the Vatican and Al-Azhar is an important landmark for better Muslim-Christian relations which nobody can disagree with. Dr. Syed Jamaluddin of the Institute of Objective Studies and a former professor of Jamia Millia Islamia, said that the decline of tasawwuf (mysticism) resulted in the decline of human values. We should live as a spiritual family and for this, purification of the soul is necessary. Iqbal Mulla, a leader of Jamaat-e Islami Hind, said the Al-Azhar-Vatican document is based on humanity which is very much required in the current circumstances of our country and the world. These ideas should percolate to the masses and to the youth in particular. Secretary of the Islamic Fiqh Academy, Amin Usmani, said that the Al-Azhar-Vatican document is a comprehensive statement prepared by the leaders of two great religions.

(Extracted from <http://www.milligazette.com>)

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The Boy who Sold Eggs

Selling Eggs. Not many years ago it so happened that we visited a School with a Patron and Well-wisher. (With a heart of Gold!) A class was in session and the teacher was teaching.. We found a young boy, lets call him Abdulla, sound asleep with his head on the desk... He was gently woken up and asked... "Why are you sleeping in school? Sir, he said, my father is unemployed, I sit outside a liquor shop and sell boiled eggs till one a.m. in the morning to support the family...."

Silver Jubilee. In our current twenty-five years of work in Rahat Welfare Trust we have come across many Abdullas and Aminas... In some form or the other Rahat in its Silver Jubilee Year has been striving to ensure that children who have enrolled to schools don't become drop-outs due to poverty or adverse personal circumstances. Rahat is currently focusing on the education of orphans, and students from single parent families. (Or families who are in distress due to medical issues like Cancer or Aids...). At any point of time Rahat has about a thousand children under its net... enabling them to take care of themselves and to live a life of Dignity and Self Respect. These are the role models who have shown that a better world is possible. These are the shining stars who have enriched our efforts and have given an abiding meaning to our work. And we say this with great responsibility: only Rahat would have picked up these Rahat children, majority of whom are orphans.

Stories. In passing we may mention that some of these Abdullas and Aminas have grown up, (and we hope grown fat,) with spouses, kids, cars and Apartments. Like Majid Khan Rahat's Poster Boy of a Success Story who sends us Rs. ONE Lakh every year from Dubai.. Or Dr Rabia, MBBS, who has a thriving practice at Sagar City, Andheri West, Mumbai. Or Prof Jabeen. MSc in Maths.. who teaches in a Degree College who has gone from Bharat Nagar to Panvel, Navi Mumbai... Or Sana whom we started tracking when she was in the 3rd standard, who has enrolled to the First Year of a Unani College. Welcome aboard, Dr. Sana!!! God Bless you all.

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CA Topper Shadab Hussain

Discipline and Patience were his forte

He used to devote 13 to 14 hours for studies.

Shadab Hussain, son of a tailor from Kota in Rajasthan, topped the CA final examination under Old Syllabus this year. Having had studied all in Hindi medium, Shadab scored 75% marks (597 out of 800) in the exam conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Shadab's success may be inspiring for the youth as he comes from an ordinary family. His father Mohammed Rafeeq is a tailor and mother Halima Ansari is a housewife. He is the only male child in the family with four daughters to the couple. He had earned a B.Com degree from Kota University. Even the topper in the CA examination under the new syllabus, Mr. Siddhant Bhandari comes from Rajasthan and hails from Jodhpur city.

The 23-year-old Shadab devoted 13-14 hours each day for self-study and was expecting to be among the top scorers. "This is the biggest achievement in my family. I was expecting a good rank since I was also among top scorers in the Integrated Professional Competence Course (IPCC) exam," he said. Hussain received his coaching at Resonant



Coaching Institute in Kota, a city known for coaching institute for all kinds of competitive examinations.

Hussain told 'The Chartered Accountant', the journal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, "CA course meets global expectations. The exposure is very vast and it's the most economical course which helps even the students of a financially weak background to be amongst top professionally literate fraternity."

He said the first credit for his grand success went to his parents for their infinite support. Then came the teachers who put in their

extraordinary efforts. He also expresses gratitude towards his friend Rahul Ambwani who constantly exhorted him to excel in studies by telling him 'Cross the limit to be first' and not to postpone what is a priority. 'Sometimes later becomes never. Do it now', he would urge. Shadab has also started his own channel on Youtube to guide students on various issues. He aspires to join some good corporate group and also continue to guide students.

For Shadab, complete discipline, continuity, dedication and patience were the mantras for success. He also took inspiration from American author Earl Nightingale, who had said, "Don't give an excuse to your hard work and never complain about your fate. All you need is the plan, the road map, and the courage to press on to your destination".

Shadab says he used to take a break of 30 to 40 minutes break after every three hours of study and walked three to four kilometers. He began to reduce study hours as exam approached in order to keep away stress.

READERS SPACE

Cell Phone Addiction

Many students depend mainly on their cell phones as a source of knowledge, whether it's for an assignment, a project or any other academic task for which they need guidance.



By Cyma Khan

In a world which is constantly developing its technologies, huge numbers of people now have access to a cell phone. Every gadget has its own positive and negative impact, depending on how it is used by users. Cell phones can serve many positive functions, and today many of us have started depending on them for our day-to-day chores. However, newer innovations in cell phone technologies are coming into being that are enough to keep one busy and consume much of one's productive time.

Cell phones today are among the most important devices used in our life. What effects are they having on the younger generation? Are the youth using it to benefit themselves or are they unknowingly harming themselves?

As we look around us we see people busy with their cell phones. Many students depend mainly on their cell phones as a source of knowledge, whether it's for an assignment, a project or any other academic task for which they need guidance. Materials are easily available on the Net on cell phones, which consumes less time in comparison to offline sources.

In addition to this, young boys and girls are often busy with peering into their cell phones because of many social media applications. This obsession has engulfed them in its trap. The easy availability of Internet through cell phones has left the mind and body lethargic

and has brought the youth to a state of laziness. Many of them have stopped engaging in physical activities, whereas before the prevalence of cell phones, young boys and girls were found playing in parks, engaging in sports and so much more. Similarly, it's really upsetting that what served as a major source of knowledge for hundreds of years—beautiful books of great authors—are often simply lurking in the shelves of libraries while young people are now seeking knowledge from online sources, which may not be healthy in the long run. They find it so difficult to separate themselves from their cell phones that even before visiting a doctor, they visit a search engine to find if they're suffering from any disease or not when the harsh reality, which they refuse to face, is how badly they're harming themselves with their obsession with their phones.

There are always two aspects of every phenomenon positive and negative and we need to enlighten ourselves on both before coming to a conclusion about any matter. The same is true for cell phones.

It is agreeable that everything comes with a positive and negative aspect, but the greater advantage lies if the positive subdues the negative. Considering all the Pros and Cons of the given topic 'Is the youth really addicted to Cell Phones,' we come to a conclusion that the cons of using cell phones are much higher than the pros.

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**LKG To 10
Co-education**

By Abdul Bari Masoud

New Delhi: "It's not about the money, it is about the message that 'no citizen of India should have to suffer violations by the State and let us end this hate and fear.' This is what the Gujarat pogrom's gang-rape victim Bilkis Rasul Bano said at a crowded Press Conference at the Press Club of India here after the Supreme Court ordered the Gujarat government to compensate her with Rs 50 lakh and a government job with accommodation.

While thanking the apex court for this historic verdict which has a

'Let us end hate and fear in the country', urges Gujarat pogrom survivor, Bilkis Bano

new precedent and would discourage the State from taking side in communal violence, Bilkis Bano said with wet eyes that it has been a very painful period of 17 years for her who had sought exemplary compensation from the state government, refusing to accept its offer of Rs 5 lakh.

"I kept my faith in the Constitution and in my rights as a citizen, and the Supreme Court has stood with me. For that I am truly grateful to the honorable Judges."

After the Gujarat riots were engineered allegedly by the ruling party, while fleeing from the violence on March 3, 2002, Bilkis Bano was sexually assaulted in Randhikapur village near Ahmedabad. She was then 21 years old and five month pregnant. She was gang-raped



and 14 members of her family, including her 3 and half year old daughter, murdered. Several female members of her family were raped and murdered. Bilkis is the only adult survivor and eyewitness to the horrific massacre, who stood like a solid rock to fight her case despite all odds and continued intimidations to withdraw the case.

Speaking about her 17 year long struggle for justice and seeking

accountability from the State, she said, 'It has been a journey of a million steps, first seeking criminal conviction of those who destroyed my life, my child, my entire family. When asked what she planned to do with the money, Bilkis Bano said she wanted to finally give her children a stable life.

Perhaps see her eldest daughter grow up into a lawyer who can defend others. "I also want to use part of the money to help other women survivors of hate and communal violence seek justice. I want to help educate their children, in whose lives the spirit of my daughter Saleha will live on," said an emotional Bilkis, with her husband Yakub solidly by her side.

Flanked by her husband and her advocate Shobha and other activists, Bilkis Bano said it is historic day for women's rights and state accountability as it is for the first time in India, compensation of this magnitude has been awarded to a survivor of gang-rape and mass murder during communal and targeted violence.

“Speaking about her 17 year long struggle for justice and seeking accountability from the State, she said, 'It has been a journey of a million steps, first seeking criminal conviction of those who destroyed my life, my child, my entire family'”

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Sweden

Half of Internet Hate Crimes Target Muslims

By Atila Altuntas

Stockholm: Half of the hate crimes on the internet were committed against Muslims in Sweden in 2017-2018, according to the head of online hate speech monitoring group. Manager at Online Hate Speech Monitor Tomas Aberg said police reports showed rates of hate crimes committed over the internet doubling during this period, and tripling in northern cities. "50 percent of these crimes are committed against Muslims, 22% against asylum seekers and



21% against African descents," he said on Swedish state TV channel SVT.

The number of such crimes has increased in recent years amid greater use of social media, Aberg said, adding that these crimes posed a threat to

democracy.

He noted that hate crimes were generally committed by people over the age of 50, saying that 83% of the perpetrators were men, while 17% were women. He said 459 people received various sentences for hate crimes last year.

[Sweden map by P.S.Burton/Creative Commons]

Page 14

Jamaat Elects a New President

less credible. It is reflective of the religion-based organizations compulsions in the modern context.

The Jamaat has taken some steps in the field of socio-economic welfare of the community such as school and hospitals. This is indeed commendable. Its services in rehabilitation of victims of riots in Muzaffarnagar and floods in Kerala won it wide acclaim. It would need to widen

the ambit of its social service, particularly in the field of modern education which is key to economic development. One hope, the new and young Ameer would bring in changes that would align the organization with the trends of the times we live in currently. But more meaningful participation would urge living down the old shibboleths and contextualizing the mindset.

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- Abdul Rashid Hnjura, Founder

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NOTE: See the documentary film NAZR-E-ENAYAT on the Internet "YOUTUBE" in which there is a brief history of Girls and Boys orphanages

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Gaza's Energy Pioneer helps keep Palestinian Lights On.

Majd Mashharawi developed the Sunbox solar energy system to help provide low-cost energy in besieged Gaza.

Having no extra money to take a taxi or ride a bus has never stopped Samar from getting her child to the hospital - it was a matter of keeping her son alive. Walking under Gaza's blaring sun or having to contend with stormy weather was just what she had to do. Because of a lung condition, Samar's son, aged nine, had to undergo daily oxygen treatments. Doing them at home was risky, as the electricity was too unreliable to trust it with a matter of life and death. Then in June last year, Majd Mashharawi, a Palestinian energy entrepreneur, installed a prototype of the solar power system she has pioneered into Samar's home. "Now, I don't have to worry every day whether I can go to the hospital," Samar said. "I do not have to run anymore to be on time."

"It's saving lives," said Mashharawi, 25, proudly from her office in Gaza City. The civil engineer is the CEO of Sunbox, a three-component system that is made up of a solar panel, a generator, and a battery, and is marketed as a sustainable and affordable solution to Gaza's energy crisis. With Sunbox installed, it allowed the hospital to set up an oxygen tank in Samar's home, giving her the freedom of no longer having to walk her son to the hospital for treatment.

According to Majd, the system is about using the resources that Gaza has in abundance, such as sunlight.

An important part of what the business does is to educate the families "about solar energy and how to use it within each package we provide".

And the Palestinian businesswoman has just had some good news. SunBox was awarded a tender from the aid organisation Action Against Hunger to install photovoltaic (PV) solar systems for 10 desalination plants over Gaza Strip.

Green Cake's Market

It's a reward for hard work and determination for the young businesswoman, who first made a name with a project using the adversity faced by Gaza, under an Israeli-imposed siege for 12 years, to find energy solutions for its struggling population. Her first project, "Green Cake", sought to turn wood and coal ash into construction bricks. The plan was to rebuild the structures destroyed in the last three devastating Israeli assaults on Gaza. Though they created almost 30 jobs, built just under 40 buildings and sold over 50,000 blocks, the project struggled to maintain its market in Gaza. She has now expanded



Majd's solar package not only scales down the benefits of a larger solar farm, it is also comparatively inexpensive. The cheapest model runs at \$350 and allows a family to charge laptops and phones, run small electricals, and have light for up to 12 hours per day.

Green Cake's market by looking towards buyers in Dubai and the US, but Majd is convinced that Sunbox will be more successful. In the last quarter of 2018, they had installed over 80 systems across Gaza, giving electricity to 800 people, and the number is rising. "Now it is almost one thousand people. We provided for houses,

small business and big companies." Since winning the tender of an international Spanish NGO, she expects to hit revenues of \$400,000 in 2019. For 2020-2021, she expects \$1m by penetrating markets in the West Bank and South Africa. To date, they have built systems for a commercial mall in Gaza called Alulu and the transportation company Abu-Olba. The 20 percent earned from these tenders feeds healthy discounts to families in the Strip, sometimes even up to 100 percent of all costs. "Many families, I've seen them change just from having a solar system installed. You are giving light, you are giving hope for these people," Majd said.

Majd's solar package not only scales down the benefits of a larger solar farm, it is also comparatively inexpensive. The cheapest model runs at \$350 and allows a family to charge laptops and phones, run small electricals, and have light for up to 12 hours per day. The second starts at \$600 and does the same but can supply up to 20 hours and power large appliances such as refrigerators. Majd said that the company can provide as many

combinations of batteries and generators as needed with an increasing price structure.

Independent from the Grid One of the main attractions is the payment system, where households can spread the cost of the device over a number of years. The driving force behind the flexible approach is a solution to an electric grid which is dependent on politics. "We wanted to keep it totally independent from the grid," Majd says. "It's ridiculous, it's getting worse: Israel targeted the main power plant in Gaza to put pressure on the government. We want people to be independent of these political issues." Traditionally seen as a male-dominated industry in Gaza, many were surprised at Majd's choice to become an engineer. Success has not been an easy road. "It's very hard to be the first. If you were a man, everyone would clap for you," she said. Yet she remains hopeful of how small businesses can transform lives.

In 2006, Israel destroyed Gaza's only power plant, worsening the humanitarian crisis. In the 2014 war on Gaza, Israel shelled the power plant again, on a heavy day of bombardment and fighting that killed at least 100 people. The wars and siege have left Gaza dependent on the limited energy supplied by the West Bank's Palestinian Authority (PA).

(Extracted from middleeasteye.net)

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Mo Salah Calls for Change in Treatment of Women in Muslim world

Muslim women deserve more than what they are being given, the 26-year-old Liverpool forward says.

Angeles: Egyptian football star Mohamed "Mo" Salah has called for change in the way women are treated in the Muslim world, in an interview with Time magazine recently. The 26-year-old Liverpool forward was named one of the US magazine's 100 most influential figures of the year, alongside other athletes including Tiger Woods, LeBron James and Naomi Osaka.

Salah told Time that while his attitudes toward gender equality had evolved over the years, he wanted to see more change. "I think we need to change the way we treat women in our culture,"



Salah was quoted as saying, "It's not optional." He said the treatment of women "in my culture and in the Middle East" had changed his opinions on gender issues. "I support the woman more than I did before, because I feel like she deserves more than what they give her now,

at the moment," Salah told the magazine.

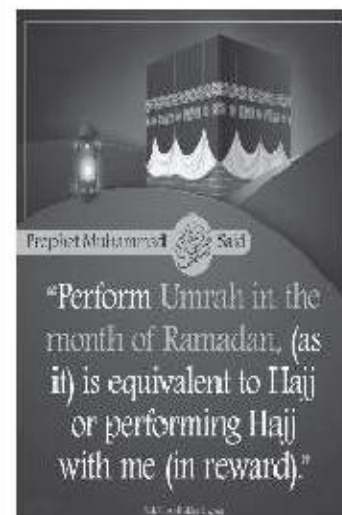
Salah is an icon in Egypt after helping the country qualify for the 2018 World Cup, the first time they had reached the finals of the event since 1990.

He was named African Footballer of the Year in 2017 and 2018 and was also English football's Player

of the Year in 2017-2018 following a dazzling season with Liverpool.

He told Time he has learned to cope with the "little bit of pressure" that comes with his elevated profile, while expressing pride at being regarded as a role model.

"To be the first Egyptian in this situation and no one has done this before... it's something different," he said, insisting that superstardom had not changed his lifestyle. "I just live my life normal," he said. "Most of the time I stay at home, I don't like to go out."



Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) said

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*Bazm's signature project, the scholarship grant programme, since it's inception in 1974, more than over 61,000 girl students have been benefitted from this scheme. They have qualified as Doctors, Engineers and Graduates in different fields. Some of these qualified doctors and engineers are working abroad.

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*Among other schemes being implemented by Bazm are to adopt Govt schools to improve the standard, infrastructure and academic excellence. *Bazm support students in specialized coaching for PUC and CET aspirants.

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*DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION OF ISLAM - Bazm also conducts meetings, Daras programs & Lectures on Islam to educate its members on the right perspective of Islam and to help them live a life which harmoniously blend spirituality with world life. To further encourage this, Ijtima is being conducted at Dar-us-Salam, Queens Road, Bangalore on every first Wednesday of each month.

This year Bazm-e-Niswan is distributing its 45th Annual Scholarship of around 1.50 Crores for around 8800 deserving under-privileged girl students from Pre-University to Master Degree courses.

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Ramadan: Best Time to Ban Smoking

Ramadan, the holy month is the best time, especially for Muslims, to abandon the distasteful habit of puffing as well as to put a comprehensive ban on it.

By Dr Md. Mahmudul Hasan

I vividly remember once, I saw an Imam inhaling the last few tokes of a cigarette while making his way into the masjid to lead the Zuhra prayer.

In another masjid, a smoker joined the congregation and stood right next to me. I presume, like the Imam, this neighbour had just taken puffs of a cigar before entering the masjid. The strong smell was terribly irritating. It was difficult for me to concentrate on salah. After a while, I could not take it anymore. I moved back to join the row behind. I have had such unpleasant experiences in masjids on several occasions. I have seen fathers smoking in family cars, exposing other family members including infants to second hand smoke (SHS). Such an irresponsible act can also involve the risk of fires within the vehicles.

Health at Risk

I have seen teenagers flaunt cancer sticks between their lips while riding motorbikes. Such juvenile delinquency places their and others' health at risk. They squander their parents' money and contaminate the atmosphere. Educational institutions are meant to foster talents and nurture future leaders. Unfortunately, many universities (and even secondary schools) have turned into havens for cigarette consumption. Some contributing factors are peer pressure and the easy access to cigarettes. What is more, some of these addicts to nicotine are disciples of their parents. I am sure that I am not alone in experiencing these situations. The smoking habit has penetrated into people of all levels and professions.

While smokers can potentially pollute public spaces, the rights of

non-smokers to breathe clean air and not to be exposed to SHS are regularly violated.

Children's right to a healthy environment and their health interest are contravened. In many cases, the perpetrators are their own parents.

As regards the teenage smokers, in all likelihood their money to buy ciggies comes from indulgent parents. This also tells us about the poor parenting practices of many in society.

"In Islam, health is a trust from God that should be protected and enhanced so as to be able to fulfill the purpose of creation" (Jamal Badawi).

Economic Exploitation

Many adult smokers are not highly educated and belong to the low-income group. A large portion of their earning is spent on cigars and on treatment for diseases caused by tobacco consumption. This is one of the worst forms of economic exploitation of the poor by rich tobacco companies and multinationals operating across geographical boundaries.

To the consumer's detriment, decades of promotion exercises especially through deceptive advertisements have neutralised the harms of smoking.

Most cigarette-producing, rich countries have progressively imposed advertising bans and legal restrictions on tobacco consumption, especially in public

places. It would be an interesting topic for research to find out if they have commensurately reduced the amount of cigarette production in their lands. If not, a logical conclusion is that they use other countries to dump their cigarettes and earn foreign currency thereby. This is a new imperial strategy and justifies cigarette's another name, "little white slaver".

Unfortunately, in today's world, Muslim-majority countries are at the receiving end of this profiteering, economic exploitation. A 2006 research – "Influence of Islam on smoking among Muslims" – published in British Medical Journal showed that some of the highest tobacco-consuming countries in the world were Yemen, Indonesia, Tunisia and Guinea.

Awareness is not Enough

Most smokers are aware of the harmful consequences of their addictive habit. So creating awareness through education is not all we need to do. Instead, what is now required is gradual but comprehensive ban on smoking and its strict enforcement.

Islam and Smoking

Importantly, addictive behaviours such as cigarette smoking and alcoholism – as either a lifestyle choice or stress-alleviating factor – cannot be justified in Islam.

Islam does not permit smoking or alcohol drinking in any such circumstances. It is not Islamically acceptable to resort to such practices to alleviate one's life stress.

In Islam, "health is a trust from God that should be protected and enhanced so as to be able to fulfill the purpose of creation" (Jamal Badawi). Therefore, Islam



prohibits unhealthy practices – including smoking – that are injurious to one's own health or that of others.

Seizing the Ramadan Opportunity

Ramadan, the holy month is the best time, especially for Muslims, to abandon the distasteful habit of puffing as well as to put a comprehensive ban on it. I hope governments of Muslim-majority countries will use the month to

start the process of totally banning cigarettes.

If some countries can set such an example, many others will hopefully follow their bold and courageous lead.

(Dr. Md. Mahmudul Hasan is with the Department of English Language and Literature at International Islamic University Malaysia. He can be reached at mmhasan@iiu.edu.my)

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My First Experience of Fasting in Ramadan

By Shaban Ali Nadvi

When I reached my seventh year, I heard people speak a lot about Ramadan. They were very excited. One day, when I was playing with a toy my father had given me, my elder sister said to me in a firm voice: "Shaban! You have to get up at night and observe fasting". I was paralyzed at that instant! A deep nervousness occupied me. I left my toy on the ground and started thinking how fasting would feel to me. I questioned my three brothers about Ramadan. They explained it as a commandment of Allah ordained on us and which we had to obey. One of them said: "We are committed slaves of Allah. If we keep the fast, Allah will reward us after death, and if a child keeps a fast, Allah, being pleased with his innocence, agility and strength, will be highly impressed with him". With this thought of being rewarded by Allah, I crouched down on the bed with my father. I stared into the glittering stars in the open sky. I was bewildered at how the people were able to control their hunger and abstain from eating and drinking for such a long period of time. Around 3 a.m. someone gently touched me and said: "Shaban! Get up, will you not observe the fast? Abbu is having bread mixed with milk and sugar for Sehri". Hearing this, I got up and ran in the other direction. My sister stopped me, held my arm and took me to the

Now, when I am twenty three, I feel grateful to my family for training me in fasting in such an enhancing way. How good I felt at the time of Iftar on the first day I had ever fasted!

kitchen. There, I saw my elder brothers and sisters having their Sehri. My elder brother warned me: "Have Sehri provided you observe the fast till Maghrib." My father, tapping my shoulder, said: "My cute child will keep the fast." In the morning, I got up and searched for my toys to play. I went to my friends. They were sitting in a garden, where there were many mango trees with ripe fruits. We were five in number. The others had never fasted. When I told them about my fasting, they took it as joke and said "You and fasting in this age? It is impossible!" I brushed aside their comments and we started to play a game. At the end, we felt thirsty. The others went to drink but I refused, saying "I am fasting. I cannot break my fast". I was feeling extremely thirsty and my throat was parched. I started gulping my saliva. Yet, I never thought of breaking my fast. I was sweating—it was the extreme heat of June. I returned home. Instead of rebuking me, my sister, whom I love the most in my family, made me lie down in a room and waved a fan above me, which she had made with her own hands, so as to circulate air so that I may sleep. Around 5 o'clock my eyes opened



There are some people who only want to while away time during fasting. Some sleeping whole the day or walk around very slowly, looking as if a huge burden has been loaded on them.

and I found myself on the bed. I came to the kitchen, from where a delicious smell was emerging. I saw my sister's forehead wet with sweat. She said to me mildly: "Go to the mosque, where your brothers are glorifying Allah". I headed towards the mosque. On the way, my friends watched me with surprise. I was glad to think that this was the first time I was keeping the fast. I was going to be included as one of Allah's righteous slaves, as most people think. Inside the mosque, I gently took a copy of the Quran. I opened the first chapter and a current of joy and excitement ran through me. I spontaneously started reciting. This is a celestial book, and it is guidance for mankind as my sister had explained the day before. With every passing second during the fasting I felt myself very lucky because I was going to fulfill one command of Allah. I had seen my family members fasting during the entire month of Ramadan. Today I was one of them. It was now time for Iftar. I sat crossed-legged on a mat with my father, who was very proud of me. Every member gave me different food items from their plate. My father announced: "Today, my cute son will inaugurate. He will eat

first." I took my first morsel, which felt very delicious! The first sip of something I had to drink is still fresh in my mind! Since then, for me keeping fast has felt easy. When my sister had ordered me to do so, I was very nervous. I didn't know much about Ramadan. I thought it was about being hungry. But as I grew up, I began to sense deeply that fasting in Ramadan is not just spending time with an empty stomach. It is a highly rewarded action and a mercy gifted by Allah. There are some people who only want to while away time during fasting. Some sleeping whole the day or walk around very slowly, looking as if a huge burden has been loaded on them. Here the point is to be noted that Ramadan comes with countless benefits physically, mentally, socially. Now, when I am twenty three, I feel grateful to my family for training me in fasting in such an enhancing way. How good I felt at the time of Iftar on the first day I had ever fasted! You know the joy you get when you do something good! (Shaban Ali Nadvi is an Aalim and Hafiz and has done graduation in Arabic from Lucknow, PG Diploma in Community Service and currently pursuing PG Diploma in Applied Islamics, from Yenepoya University, Mangaluru. He can be reached at shabanali0917@gmail.com)



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کل	10529	6667	26261	387

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We must always realise that duties of worship aim primarily at the formulation of an attitude of mind which governs the behavior of the believer, which develops his conscience and helps him offer his worship in the proper manner and adopt a good standard of behavior in life. From our point of view, we must always take the religion of Islam as a whole, as Allah willed it to be, with all the duties it imposes on us and look at it in the light of our overall duty of obedience to Allah in every respect. We must take it as a perfect, harmonious whole, which includes situations which require strenuous effort and situations of ease and concession, trusting the wisdom of Allah who knows best. Fasting was first made an obligation in the second year after the Prophet's (Pbuh) settlement in Madinah. As a new duty, fasting was very hard for Muslims. Allah, therefore, gave a concession to those who find fasting too much of a strain and who can do it only with great difficulty. They were allowed not to fast, provided that they feed a needy person. He also made it clear to them that to feed the needy is highly commendable, whether it is done voluntarily, i.e., not in compensation for not fasting, or by doing more than the minimum required. The compensation required for making use of this concession is to feed one person for each day one does not fast, and increase it to feed two or three or more needy people for each day. This is the meaning of the statement- "He who does good of his own account does himself good thereby". Allah follows this by recommending that fasting has great benefits for us. Most immediately apparent to us is the fact that it teaches self control, bearing hardships and making a conscious preference of obeying Allah, even at the expense of one's own rest and comfort.

Very Old, Men or Women

These recommendations were made preliminary to the withdrawal of this concession from all people who are healthy and living at home. Fasting was soon to be made obligatory, without any concession. The concession continues only in the case of the elderly who find fasting much too hard to bear and are not fasting in Ramadan, but fasting on some other days. Imam Malik, the Prophet's companion, lived until he was no longer able to fast. He used to compensate for it by feeding the hungry. It applies only to the very old, men or women, who cannot fast. They are allowed to compensate by feeding a needy person for each day of Ramadan. It is the Quran that built the Muslim nation and Muslims must always be thankful to Allah for revealing the Quran to them and they cannot express their thanks better than by fasting in

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Fasting - A Duty of Obedience to Allah

Believers, fasting is decreed for you as it was decreed for those before you, so that you may remain God-fearing! Fast a certain number of days. But whoever of you is ill, or on a journey, shall fast instead the same number of days later on. Those who find fasting a strain too hard to bear may compensate for it by the feeding of needy persons. He who does good of his own account does himself good thereby; for, to fast is to do yourself good, if you but knew it. It was in the month of Ramadan that the Quran was revealed, a guidance for mankind and as a self-evident proof of that guidance, a standard to distinguish right from wrong. Hence, whoever of you is present in that month shall fast throughout it; but he who is ill or on a journey shall fast instead the same number of days later on. Allah desires that you have ease. He does not desire you to be afflicted with hardship. You are, however, required to complete the necessary number of days having guided you and to tender your thanks (to Him). If My servants answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls to Me, Let them then respond to Me, and believe in Me, so that they may be wise.

(Al-Baqarah: The Cow: 2: Verses: 183-6)

“Allah says of Himself: ‘I am indeed near, I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls to Me.’ How kind, compassionate and friendly. With such friendliness from Allah and closeness to him, the difficulty of fasting, no matter how great, appears very trivial.”



Fasting is indeed a blessing from Allah, for which He deserves to be thanked and magnified. "Allah says of Himself: 'I am indeed near, I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls to Me.'" How kind, compassionate and friendly. With such friendliness from Allah and closeness to him, the difficulty of fasting, no matter how great, appears very trivial. Every

Five Psychological Benefits of Fasting

By Sheima Sumer

1. Fasting increases your sincerity to Allah which leads to true happiness.

As I mention in my book, "How to be a Happy Muslim Insha'Allah," the real source of happiness is a sincere relationship with Allah based on worshipping Him alone. Fasting is a very special type of worship. Allah says in a hadith qudsi, "Every deed of the son of Adam is for him except fasting; it is for Me and I shall reward for it..." (Bukhari, Muslim).

Islamic scholars have many ideas as to why Allah says that fasting is for Him alone. Some say that there is no "showing off" in fasting, since only Allah can know for sure if a person is fasting. Some scholars say that the phrase "it is for Me" means that fasting is the dearest act of worship to Allah. Fasting is difficult and proves your sincere faith in Allah. Psychology research shows that our behavior shape our personalities; therefore fasting shapes us into more sincere Muslims.

2. Fasting increases your Self Esteem.

Self esteem is how we feel about ourselves; our sense of self worth. A high self esteem directly relates to our inner happiness. Fasting each day for a month is quite an accomplishment. Each day that we fast, we feel a sense of triumph. Not only are we obeying the command of Allah, we are gaining mastery over our physical desires. We should also feel good

about ourselves because we are living a life pleasing to Allah, rather than the materialistic life that so many people choose. "Wealth and sons are allurements of the life of this world: but the things that endure, Good Deeds, are best in the sight of thy Lord, as rewards, and best as (the foundation for) hopes." (Holy Quran 18:46)

3. Fasting increases your Sense of Gratitude.

By experiencing long periods without food and drink, we realize what great blessings these are! Gratitude is important for psychological well-being and is also pleasing to Allah. "O you who believe, eat from the good things We provided for you, and be thankful to God, if you do worship Him alone." (Holy Quran 2:172).

"...If you are thankful, He is pleased by it in you..." (Holy Quran 39:7)

4. Fasting increases Social Ties.

Psychology research shows that positive social relationships are necessary for emotional health. Islam encourages us to break the fast together. Fasting increases our feeling of unity with our ummah.

5. Fasting increases our Self-awareness and Self-control.

The Prophet (Pbuh) said: "Whoever does not give up false

word in this verse adds to the air of friendliness and compassion. The fact that Allah considers the people His own, and answers them directly also adds to the air of compassion. He has not instructed His messenger to tell his people: "I am near." He Himself gives the answer directly to His servants as soon as the question is made. He has not said "I hear their prayers", but has assured them immediately by answering their prayers.

It is indeed a verse which fills the hearts of the believers with friendly reassurance and complete confidence. It makes their life happy, peaceful and secure. In this atmosphere of friendliness and compassion, Allah directs His servants to respond to Him and to believe Him. Their response and faith should lead them to be wise and to follow the right path. Thus, the final benefit from such response is theirs as well. Indeed, Allah does not need anyone. If people are wise and rightly guided, the benefit is theirs.



speech and acting upon it and offensive speech and behaviour, Allah has no need of his giving up his food and drink." (Bukhari). Fasting involves controlling what we say and do, as well as our stomachs. It is normal to feel irritable or down when fasting, for biological reasons. Being aware of these feelings will help us to control ourselves.

Self awareness is important for psychological well-being because it prevents us from acting in ways that we may regret. Self-control is a trait of mature and emotionally healthy people. Reminding ourselves about the psychological benefits of fasting will help us to love fasting even more.

(Sheima Salam Sumer is the author of *How to be a Happy Muslim Insha'Allah and The Basic Values of Islam* and can be reached at: howtobeahappymuslim@outlook.com)

Commentary by Adil Salahi

Fasting earns great reward. We quote the Qudsi Hadith which states: "All actions a human being does are his with the exception of fasting which belongs to Me. I reward it accordingly." (Related by Al-Bukhari). This is indeed a great promise. When Allah rewards an action as purely His, then the reward is limitless. It is given by the one whose generosity is not measured by percentage, multiplication or any other measure. It is commensurate only with His glory. It is sufficient to remember here that people normally weigh their actions according to their position. People always think 'it is unbecoming of a person in my position to do this or to do that'. If the reward is given according to Allah's position, then we do not have to think about its extent. We have only to remember that Allah's generosity knows no boundaries. It is useful to mention

Moral Values Attached to Fasting

A Qudsi Hadith states; "All actions a human being does are his, with the exception of fasting which belongs to Me. I reward it accordingly." (Related by Al-Bukhari).

here that another version of the same Qudsi Hadith may be translated as follows; "Fasting belongs to Me and it is Me who rewards it."

Show-Off or Deception

One may ask here why fasting has been singled out as belonging to Allah when all acts of worship are dedicated to Him. Moreover, any good action a believer does is normally done for Allah's sake. All scholars agree that this is because fasting cannot be done in order to gain favour with people, or for boastfulness, show-off or deception. This is due to the nature of fasting which is done by abstention rather than by any positive action. It is not possible for anyone to identify a fasting person by his or her appearance.



“The Prophet says: “He who fasts in Ramadan motivated by his faith and with dedication will have all his past sins forgiven.” (Related by Al-Bukhari).”

All other acts of worship can be seen by people. Hence, they may be done for purposes other than to please Allah and gain His reward. Not so fasting which can be known only if the person who fasts tells other people of his fasting. If a person goes around and tells other people of his voluntary fasting, then he may be seeking to win favours from them. But this is achieved through the act of telling them, not through fasting itself. Hence, when a person fasts for the sake of Allah alone, and does not tell people of the fact, his action is said to be dedicated purely to Allah. It is this fact which earns the person concerned that limitless reward. The Prophet also teaches us that there is another side to the reward

which fasting earns. He tells us that certain actions like prayers and charity (sadaqah) or Zakah ensure the forgiveness of past sins. Fasting is his on the list of these actions. There are numerous Hadiths which confirm this fact. We are told by the Prophet (Pbuh) that proper fasting, done with sincerity and dedication, ensures the forgiveness of all sins committed in the preceding year, with the exception of cardinal sins. Indeed, some Hadiths do not make that last exception. The Prophet says: "He who fasts in Ramadan motivated by his faith and with dedication will have all his past sins forgiven." (Related by Al-Bukhari).

It is for this reason that Muslims prepare themselves for the advent of Ramadan with the resolve to make all their worship, fasting and prayers included, free of any trace of hypocrisy. They are keen to

► Page 26

MAYMAR CHARITABLE TRUST (REGD.)

APPEAL

Dear Brother/Sister

ತುಮ್ಹಾ? ಲೋಕ, ಮಿಷ, ರ? - ರಿಮ

The Ramazan enjoins me to convey my heartiest greetings to our entire brotherhood. This auspicious month of Ramazan highlights the significance of Zakath and Sadaqa.

With your help and contribution Maymar Charitable Trust is serving the poorest of the poor section of our society from past 26 years.

The main objectives of Maymar Charitable Trust are in the field of Education, Health & Hygiene, Medical Aid, Women empowerment and Self Employment schemes.

Brief reports on the activities are as follows;

• Educational Assistance:

About 614 students ranging from middle school to the professional courses including BE, MBBS, IT and Business Administration courses were assisted through scholarships and counseling in the year 2018-19.

Of the above 614 students 94 are orphans

Number of students assisted through last 5 years		Maymar Graduates through last five years	
Year	No. of Students	Year	No. of Students
2014-15	331	2014-15	37
2015-16	383	2015-16	34
2016-17	546	2016-17	50
2017-18	543	2017-18	49
2018-19	614	2018-19	36

• Health and Hygiene: Around 56000 (Fifty six Thousand) women and children were treated from April 2018 – February 2019 with free consultation and free medicine in our six clinics as follows;

Sl. No	Clinic Name	Female	Children	Total
1.	Maymar Clinic, D J Halli	4810	3513	8323
2.	Salamah Clinic, Padrayanpura	5586	3237	8823
3.	Fathima Clinic, Gongondana Halli	7265	4077	11342
4.	Tayyaba Clinic, Avalahalli	5899	2587	8486
5.	Firdaus Clinic, D J Halli	8814	3854	12668
6.	Athiya Clinic, Bada Makan Siddaiah Road	5288	1369	6677
Total		37662	18657	56319

• Medical Assistance: Chronic patients of kidney, Heart and other ailment are helped.

• Economic Aid: Financial assistance is provided to the hawkers and petty business women.

• Tailoring Courses: Free tailoring classes are conducted for women at DJ Halli, Nayandahalli and Avalahalli. Successful students were issued certificates.

• Conducting Computer Classes at DJ Halli including Tally Course.

• Government Schemes (Mohalla Activities): By linking to Government Schemes like, Pan Card, Income and Caste Certificate, RTE, Health Card, ID Card etc. at D.J. Halli (Tannery Road)

We are very thankful to your valuable donations, support and participation in this noble task through the years.

We humbly request you along with your family and friends to be more generous in your contribution in the form of Zakath/Sadaqath to Maymar Charitable Trust.

Let your spending in the way of Allah may reward you to enormous returns and Ajre-Azeem in this world and hereafter.

Please call us on telephone no. 25596947/Mobile No. 9901671766 and we shall arrange to collect your valuable donations against receipt or you can transfer your contributions to our bank account directly.

Our Bank details are as follows:

Central Bank of India, Cantonment Branch, Account No: 3250933619, MICR Code: 560016004, IFSC Code: CBIN0280848

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President

AMJADULLA KHAN
Secretary

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By Mansoor Alam

In determining how the Qur'an establishes criteria for human development, we can begin by exploring verse 1 of Surah Al-Mulk (67:1).

The literal meaning of this verse is: "Blessed be He in whose hands is Dominion; And He over all things hath Power" [Yusuf Ali]. The Arabic word بَارِكْ 'Barakah' in this verse has been translated as 'Blessed.' But the word 'Blessed' does not reveal the full meaning of 'Barakah.' The root of 'Barakah' is (ba)—(ra)—(kaf). The meaning of this root is: something which is firm and stable in its place, which acquires proper nourishment and grows and develops as a result, for example, like a tree does. Starting as a tender sapling, it must continue to receive nourishment so that it grows and becomes strong to stand firm and remain stable in its place. Should it be uprooted from its place it would not be able to survive, let alone develop? The tree must continue to stand firm, not for a certain period of time but, for its entire life. The Holy Qur'an also uses the word 'Barakah' for Earth (41:10). The Earth, fittingly, remains stable in its place and is a source of nourishment, growth, and development for everything and everyone.

Provide Provisions for Nourishment

Allah asserts that all authority and sovereignty belong to Him (Qur'an 67:1). The purpose of His authority is: so that He may continue to provide provisions for nourishment and development to all. In this single assertion, significant Islamic principles are established: An Islamic system should be firmly rooted. It must be sound, strong, and stable; and its purpose should be to provide nourishment and provisions for the development of all living beings. The very first verse of the Qur'an (1:1) establishes an essential principle of the Qur'an, stating that a system is only worthy of praise and appreciation when it upholds and fulfils the responsibility of universal development for all. That is why the Qur'an states that the Supreme Being, in whose hands lies all sovereignty and authority of the entire universe, is responsible for providing nourishment and provisions for the development of all beings, and it is He who maintains the control and stability so worthy of our praise. Allah has established measures and standards — **Qadr** (Qadr) in the words of the Qur'an — in order to accomplish this aim while He maintains full control over all aspects of Qadr. He has Power over all things (67:1).

This is but one kind of development, i.e., physical development. However, human beings are more than just the physical body. There is, in addition, an essential aspect of our humanity

The Quran and Human Development

Qur'an has mentioned that a Momin will try to survive with less, and lead a life of hardship himself and give priority to others' needs above his own.

which the Quran refers to as our 'nafs'. We can call it 'human soul,' 'human self,' 'human personality' or 'human individuality' but, none of these descriptions fully explains the meaning of 'nafs'. Human beings become a part of humanity solely due to their 'nafs'.

With respect to the physical body alone, humans belong to the animal kingdom. But there is something else within each human for whose development, God's attributes are necessary. One can call these attributes Permanent Values. The 'nafs' acquires its capability for development through these core values.

The Mind's Eye

One self-evident principle which the Quran establishes for humans and which is common with animals, is that the human body develops from what it takes, from what it consumes. But the "human self" develops from another principle: self develops by that which humans give for the welfare of others; what humans do in order to improve the life of others.

However, this internal self or 'nafs' cannot be seen, cannot be felt; and others are not able to feel or touch it. If one has the 'eye' — not just the physical eye but also the mind's eye — then one can feel one's own self as to how much it has developed. For this, the Quran mentions the characteristics and the attributes of the Momineen. In reality, these Momineen are manifestations of these attributes. For example, the Qur'an has mentioned that a Momin will try to survive with less, and lead a life of hardship himself and give priority to others' needs above his own. This is not a decision that can be comprehended at the level of the physical body, but only at the level of what the Qur'an has called the 'nafs' meaning the 'higher self'.

The Qur'an explains further that a Momin is one who does this act of giving priority to others above himself and does this of his own freewill. By doing this, a Momin feels happy that he has been able to fulfil the needs of someone else who is more deserving than himself, even though his own life itself might be very hard. What is that entity within a human being that makes the decision to do this sacrifice? The human body cannot do this. The human body's development is based upon instinct as it is the case with animals. No animal will give preference to



some other animal over the needs of its own body. Man behaves similarly when he lives at the material level, i.e., at the animal level. In fact, those living at this level may even indulge in looting and exploiting others. In contrast, an animal, when his stomach is full, never

cares what happens to the leftover food, whether another animal eats it or someone takes it away. An animal sits contented and continues on carefree. It is only this human animal that despite his needs being little beyond bread, continues throughout life seeking to fill an ever unfulfilled greed. The animal does not exhibit greed once its basic requirements have been met. In other words, when man falls, he falls very deep to the lowest level — below even the animals!

Little Beyond Bread

Our human level is considerably different in that it is this level that the Qur'an addresses. And this is intended for our own self-development. The Quran's Qadr is a standard or measure so that we

“Our human level is considerably different in that it is this level that the Qur'an addresses. And this is intended for our own self-development. The Quran's Qadr is a standard or measure so that we may acquire the attributes established in the Qur'an for the Momineen.”

Moral Values Attached to Fasting

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achieve the degree of dedication which ensures the maximum reward from Allah. After all, we always commit mistakes, and we always face the temptation to fall in sin. It is only natural that we should be keen to have our sins and mistakes forgiven. When we have such clear statements from the Prophet that fasting ensures such forgiveness, then we find the difficulty of fasting very easy indeed. Hunger and thirst are no longer hard to bear.

Reward is Secondary

All this stress on the idea of reward may suggest to some people, especially to non-Muslims, that Muslims fulfil their worship duties purely for the sake of the reward they have been promised. This is not so. The motive of faith is much stronger. The ultimate goal is to please Allah. The reward is secondary. Hence, the stress in the Prophet's statements on the need for fasting and all acts of worship to be motivated by faith and offered with dedication. The reward is a mark of Allah's generosity.

The Prophet (Pbuh) was keen to point out the moral value of fasting. He states, for example; "The smell of the mouth of a

“When we consider such limitless reward and such moral values which are attached to fasting, who of us would want to fail to fast unless he lacks faith?”

fasting person is preferable, in Allah's measure, to the smell of musk." People like good smell. The perfume trade is a highly lucrative one. No one likes to be known to have a bad smell. Roses and flowers which have good fragrance are the favourite with all people. In this statement, the Prophet (Pbuh) touches on a very important point. Normally, if one does not eat for several hours, his mouth smell changes. He tries to wash his mouth or to brush his teeth, in order not to have a bad mouth smell. When we consider such limitless reward and such moral values which are attached to fasting, who of us would want to fail to fast unless he lacks faith? The Prophet however, was keen to drive the point home to us.

may acquire the attributes established in the Qur'an for the Momineen. For example, take human respect. This respect should be established in society as universal standard irrespective of color, race, language, age, religion, wealth, or status. This respect should be based solely on the basis of being human. This is the characteristic of the higher human self, not of the human body. As for the human body, the strong and powerful body will easily subdue the weak and poor one.

Does the Qur'an say that those with a strong body in this life will also be strong in the Hereafter? No, it does not. But, it does say that those whose 'nafs' has developed and has become strong to the extent that it is able to reach the level required to cross a threshold, then it will enter the next stage after death. They are the ones who will move forward. The Qur'an refers to this as the life of Heaven (Jannah). On the other hand, it says that those whose 'nafs' has not sufficiently developed will get stuck and not be able to move forward into the next life. This is referred to as Hell (Jaheem) by the Quran. Jaheem means a barrier which does not allow one to move forward. The choices we make in this life will decide where we end up in the next life. Thus, we pray: O, our Sustainer! Accept our humble efforts because you are fully aware of what we speak and what is hidden in our hearts. (2:127) (Source: islamicity.org)

Consider the following Hadith; "There is a door to heaven called Al-Rayyan through which only fasting people are admitted. It will be asked; where are the fasting people? They stand up. No one is admitted through that door except them. When they have entered, the door will be closed and no one else can get through it." (Related by Al-Bukhari) While this Hadith indicates that fasting people have a special status on the day of judgment which merits the provision of a special door for them to be admitted into heaven, the name of that door is very significant. "Al-Rayyan" is an adjective which describes in normal usage something which is ripe, full of juice. It is normally used to describe fruit and vegetables which have fully ripened. Needless to say that a person who fasts throughout the day, especially in the long days of summer, suffers from thirst. Nothing is dearer to him than a cool drink. When his gate to heaven is called Al-Rayyan, with all its associations and connotations of juice and ripened fruits, it is left for our imagination to have a picture of what awaits him inside heaven.

Seven Surprising Health Benefits of Ramadan

Although millions around the world have successfully observed the spiritual cleansing of Ramadan for more than a thousand years, some people fear that fasting over such a long period of time will have detrimental effects on their health. If you're one of those worriers, then check out these seven health benefits you'll enjoy during and after Ramadan.

1. Dates



Although three dates are eaten at the start of Iftar every day during Ramadan for spiritual reasons, they also come with the added bonus of multiple health benefits. One of the most important aspects of fasting is getting the right amount of energy, and considering an average serving of dates contains 31 grams (just over 1 oz) of carbohydrates, this is one of the perfect foods to give you a boost.

Dates are also a great way of getting some much-needed fibre, which will aid and improve digestion throughout Ramadan. Add to that their high levels of potassium, magnesium and B vitamins, and it quickly becomes apparent that dates are one of the healthiest fruits out there.

2. Boost Your Brain



No doubt you'll be aware of the positive effects fasting can have on your mental wellbeing and spiritual focus, but the brain-boosting powers of Ramadan are even more significant than you might think. A study carried out by scientists in the

Worried that fasting during Ramadan will have a detrimental impact on health? Find out why the month long fast can have some surprising health benefits.

USA found that the mental focus achieved during Ramadan increases the level of brain-derived neurotrophic factor, which causes the body to produce more brain cells, thus improving brain function. Likewise, a distinct reduction in the amount of the hormone cortisol, produced by the adrenal gland, means that stress levels are greatly reduced both during and after Ramadan.

3. Ditch Bad Habits



Because you will be fasting during the day, Ramadan is the perfect time to ditch your bad habits for good. Vices such as smoking and sugary foods should not be indulged during Ramadan, and as you abstain from them, your body will gradually acclimatise to their absence, until your addiction is kicked for good.

It's also much easier to quit habits when you do so in a group, which should be easy to find during Ramadan. Fasting's ability to help you cut out bad habits is so significant that the UK's National Health Service recommends it as the ideal time to ditch smoking.

4. Lower Cholesterol



We all know that weight loss is one of the possible physical outcomes of fasting during Ramadan, but there's also a whole host of healthy changes going on behind the scenes. A team of cardiologists in the UAE found that people

observing Ramadan enjoy a positive effect on their lipid profile, which means there is a reduction of cholesterol in the blood. Low cholesterol increases cardiovascular health, greatly reducing the risk of suffering from heart disease, a heart attack, or a stroke. What's more, if you follow a healthy diet after Ramadan, this newly lowered cholesterol level should be easy to maintain.

5. Lasting Appetite Reduction



One of the main problems with extreme fad diets is that any weight lost is often quickly put back on, sometimes even with a little added extra. This isn't the case with Ramadan. The reduction in food

consumed throughout fasting causes your stomach to gradually shrink, meaning you'll need to eat less food to feel full. If you want to get into the habit of healthy eating then Ramadan is a great time to start. When it's finished, your appetite will be lower than it was before, and you'll be far less likely to overindulge with your eating.

6. Detoxify



As well as being great for spiritually cleansing yourself, Ramadan acts as a fantastic detox for your body. By not eating or drinking throughout the day, your body will be offered the rare chance to detoxify your digestive system throughout the month. When your

body starts eating into fat reserves to create energy, it will also burn away any harmful toxins that might be present in fat deposits. This body cleanse will leave a healthy blank slate behind, and is the perfect stepping stone to a consistently healthy lifestyle.

7. Absorb More Nutrients



By not eating throughout the day during Ramadan, you'll find that your metabolism becomes more efficient, meaning the amount of nutrients you absorb from food improves. This is because of an increase in a hormone called adiponectin, which is produced by a combination of fasting and eating late at night, and allows your muscles to absorb more nutrients. This will lead to health benefits all around the body, as various areas are able to better absorb and make use of the nutrients they need to function.

(www.realbuzz.com)

HISTORY & HERITAGE

Neglected and Lying in Ruins, 'World's Smallest Mosque' cries for attention.

Hyderabad: Located a stone's throw away from the Dargah Hazrath Syed Shah Imaad Uddin Mahmood Al Hussaini, a nondescript structure stands out in front of the scenic hilltop on the banks of Mir Alam tank. This Qutub Shahi structure, popularly known as the Jino-ki-Masjid, may well be the 'smallest mosque' in the world. Less than 10 sq m in area, this structure has the traditional elements of Qutub Shahi architecture including turrets and a big arch, under which there is a small space for devotees to pray. However, although it is located within the complex of the Dargah, the small structure stands dilapidated. The lime plaster has given away at various places, revealing the skeletal brickwork underneath. The turrets are also broken at places. The way to the mosque is also rocky, with no clear path. The mosque's state could very well pose as a risk for visitors. The mosque gains importance as the



Dargah complex was home to Syed Shah Imamuddin Husaini alias Mir Mahmood Nimatullahi, one of the oldest sufis of Hyderabad. In 'Landmarks of the Deccan', its author Syed Ali Asgar Bilgrami wrote, "He first came to Hyderabad from Najaf (Mesopotamia) during the reign of Sultan Abdullah Qutub Shah and stayed on this hillock."

Mahmood had laid several buildings erected on this hill. "The mason who worked here were paid over and above the wages and the pregnant women-labourers were paid double the wages," Landmarks of the Deccan said, adding that since no one knew his source of income, "it was a general belief that the Saint had some supernatural means of income".

Once the land on which the Jino-ki-Masjid and the Dargah was built was to the tune of 600 acres. However, now, with time, most of it is occupied with houses built on one side of the hillock. The place comes alive during Urs, usually held on the 13th Shaban of the Islamic Calendar, which was on April 19. During that time, many visit the Dargah, and hence it becomes important to conserve and repair the 'smallest mosque'.

(Source:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com>)

The Month of Mercy and Blessing

The Prophet ﷺ said:

When the month of Ramadan arrives, the door of mercy are opened.

(Sahih Muslim, 2496)

WANTED BRIDE

Sunni Muslim parents invite alliance for their son BE (E&C) aged 31 ht 5'6" working in Bangalore MNC seek religious, beautiful graduate girl aged 22-25 ht 5'3" - 5'5" **Cell no: 08762555630**

Sunni Muslim parents invite alliance for their son BE (E&C) aged 28 ht 5'6" working in Dubai seek religious, beautiful graduate girl aged 21-24 ht 5'5" - 5'7" **Cell no: 08762555630**

Sunni Muslim, Bangalore based Syed family looking alliance for Son age 29, 5.9, fair, religious, grown beard, qualification : BE, own house, working in MNC as Senior software developer, Salary More than 1 lakh per month, Looking for Bangalore based family, age below 26, qualification any graduate, religious. **Contact: +916366019049.**

Bangalore Sunni Muslim parents invite alliance for their son, age 31 years, height 5.9", B.E. M Tech Working for soft Ware Company. Looking for a graduate girl from a well educated family. **Contact / what's app - 98864 19383/ 8073102016**

SMU/Doctorate/Well settled, french citizen, (T.Nadu), Fair, Handsome Indian boy 29/5.8 (1.73cms). M.E, M. Res, Ph.d final year, Paris, FRANCE (with salary) & working as a

Prof in University (Compl Salary). Participated in many conferences in U.S.A and EUROPE. Seeks Beautiful, Fair, Graduate Indian bride willing to settle in France. **Ct: nikah.paris@gmail.com, w.a pp: 00(33)626324628**

WANTED GROOM

Sunni Muslim, Bangalore based from Syed family seeks alliance for their daughter BE working in a MNC, age 23, ht-5'3" fair, looking for a professionally qualified and well settled from an affluent background Preferable from Bangalore, Age between 25 to 29 years, **Contact: 9886747727 E-mail: psyed9309@gmail.com**

Bangalore Muslim Sunni parents invite alliance for their daughter 24, MBA, (SAP), 5'6. Looking for a Bangalore based family. Groom should be well educated (preferably engineering and masters degree) decent family, working in Bangalore/Overseas. **Contact: 9886316958 E-mail: thadpatri@gmail.com.**

SM family invite alliance for their sister gynaecologist 29yrs 5'2" government doctor, fair, religious (divorce, no issues) Looking for a Bangalore based family only doctors (masters) preferred age between 32-38 years **contact / whatsapp 9900093279 / 9731122739 (contact between 5pm-8pm)**

Sunni Muslim mother seeks alliance for their daughter brought up in orphanage aged 24 years BA BE d fair

religious working as a teacher. Groom should be employed with good character. **Contact: 00971565500136 Email: imran_381@yahoo.com**

Bangalore based Sunni Muslim, khan family, Parents well educated, invite's alliance for their pious daughter, who is a Doctor from BMCRI & ECFMG certified, cleared all US medical licensing exams and preparing for PG-NEET & PLAB aged 25 years, 5'2". Seeks alliance of a doctor who is doing or has done his residency in USA, UK or INDIA, who hails from a pious, educated and good family, which is Bangalore based. **Contact: mobile no. 9845035135, 99000195135, E-mail: njecco@gmail.com**

Sunni Muslim, Bangalore based-Syed family looking alliance for daughter age 26, ht-5'5", fair, religious, Qualification- Bsc Biochemistry and own house. Looking for Bangalore-based family age between 27 to 31, qualification BE or MBA, working in Bangalore or Gulf, religious and own house. **Contact: +919108564965.**

Sunni Muslim parents from Karnataka seek alliance for their daughter 33 years unmarried 5'4", beautiful, fair, convent school educated M.Tech, religious. Looking for well-settled professionally / businessman call and **whatsapp: 09890811988 / ph: 9145055744**

WANTED GROOM: Mysore-based Sunni Muslim parents invite marriage alliance for their unmarried daughter 27 years, height 5.6", very fair complexion, B.Sc., (MBA). Working. Please send bio data and photos/ **Contact no: 9342599348 / 9380397496**

Page 9

Caste Dominates, Attrition Afflicts both Alliances

upper caste category, i.e., Bhumihar, but the same yardstick were not applied for notorious Anant Singh's wife from Munger and Akhilesh Singh's non-political son from Motihari.

All Eyes on Begusarai

Begusarai has become the most talked-about seat in Bihar. Kanhaiya Kumar is locked in a triangular fight with highly vocal Giriraj Singh of BJP and Tanveer Hasan of RJD. Prominent film personalities, political leaders and civil society figures like Shabana Azmi, Javed Akhtar, Prakash Raj, Swara Bhaskar, Teesta Setalvad, Sitaram Yechury, Atul Anjan, Yogendra Yadav, Katil Khan, Kunal Kamra have campaigned for Kanhaiya in Begusarai. Lot of activists from

across the country are camping in Begusarai to extend support to him. One reason why people are taking keen interest in Begusarai, apart from charismatic personality of Kanhaiya, is because they see in him a Left alternative emerging to NDA and Mahagathbandhan in terms of policies. It has been noted that wherever left parties fielded candidates, they are getting enthusiastic response from people. Social activist Jaiprakash says, "The way Kanhaiya became a rallying point for secular politics of the country, it seems the old caste and religious boundaries will be breached in Begusarai. It may herald a new political churning in Bihar."

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By Adil Hussain Bhat

Women constitute one half of the society.

This gives birth to the other half

So it is as if they are the entire society (Ibn-taymiyyah).

Women in Muslim societies are thought to be subjugated, degraded and oppressed by their religion. Islam is stigmatised as an oppressive religion. On numerous occasions authors wrongly attacked the religion of Islam for the cultural practices of Muslims in certain places of the world. Polls have showed that about 70 percent of the American public acknowledged being unfamiliar with Islam. Thus, it is not a surprise that most Americans cannot distinguish Islamic religion practices from cultural practices by Muslim majority countries. Culturalists in some Muslim societies cite the Islamic faith in defending "honour killings" of women and marriage for child brides and right to choose her spouse by her parents. Muslim women are marginalized not by the true tenets of their faith but by patriarchal cultural practices.

Exterior of Islam

The mistreatment of women in some Middle-Eastern societies or in Muslim families is due to the culture that some Muslims absorb and follow exterior of Islam. About fourteen hundred years ago, Islam gave women rights that women in the West have only recently began to enjoy. It is only in the last twenty-years that western society has recognized the rights of women, while Islam has allowed their rights from all times. The question which naturally arises here, what constitute Islamic practices? Islamic practices and beliefs are those that have roots in the Quran (which Muslims believe to be the last and unchanged revelation from

God) and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh). Any belief or practice even if it is common among some Muslims majority countries, which is not backed by the Quran or the Sunnah cannot be regarded as Islamic belief or practice. Many of the countries that are commonly called 'Islamic countries' which in reality are merely 'Muslim-majority countries' practising an amalgam of Islamic as well as non-Islamic elements.

I think it is not wrong to say that Muslim culture is, on the one hand, damaged by the non-Muslim culture of different societies and, on the other hand, distorted through innovations and misinterpretations by Muslims themselves. The culture which we have presently is not Islamic but a bag of borrowings which we have borrowed from different societies like the practices of dowry system, restrictions on acquisition of wealth by women, right to choose her spouse by parents, practices of divorce and right to obtain inheritance, right to education and so on.

Bridal Gift of Value

Islam allows the practices of dowry system but in this form! Husbands must give women their dowry (Quran 4:4). Unlike the traditional system of dowry where a woman must give her husband a bridal gift of value upon marriage, Islam reverses the concept, where it is the husband who must pay his wife whatever amount she requests. Not only he is obliged by law to give his bride this dowry, but also the Quran states he must do so graciously,

WOMEN

Oppression of Women has nothing to do with Islam, rather It is the consequence of Cultural Practices.



In Islam women are not subjugated to spend on their families. But husbands are ordained to spend on their wives. A man is obliged to financially provide for his wife. He is responsible to provide food, clothing, shelter and medicine all necessities to the best of his ability.

without expressing any dissent:

"And give the women [upon marriage] their [bridal] gifts graciously." Quran 4:4

Islam did not restrict women for acquiring wealth. Upon receiving dowry, the husband is prohibited from touching this wealth entirely. In fact, the Quran mentions that even if she received an immense sum of money; the prohibition still applies:

"Do not take [bridal] from it anything. Would you take it is injustices and sin" Quran 4:20

Another cultural practise which is practised mostly by parents in our societies is to choose spouse of daughter without her permission. Islam came to annul this ignorant practice and give a woman the right to be her agent. In fact Islam gives women the right to choose their own husband as clearly shown by the great statement.

The Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) said:

"The virgin women should not be given in marriage until she gives permission"

The most common cultural practise which men follow after marriage in our societies is to avoid kindness with her spouse in order to make them sub-ordinate. This cultural practice sometime leads to conflict between them. But Islam denounces this cultural practise and Quran implores men to treat women in kindness and respect, this means spouses must practice beauty in their speech, their action and in their overall presence amongst one another.

"And live with them in kindness" Quran 4:1

In Islam women are not subjugated to spend on their families. But husbands are ordained to spend on their wives. A man is obliged to financially provide for his wife. He is responsible to provide food, clothing, shelter and medicine all necessities to the best of his ability. This includes providing his wife with the same standard of living which he expects for himself:

"Let him spend (on his family) from what Allah has given him" Quran 65:7

Last but not the least, the cultural practice of divorce which is prevalent in different Muslim societies especially in Indian society has distorted the real image of Islam and among the adherents of Muslims who are unable to read the Quran and Hadith. Then what Islam preaches regarding divorce? Islam preaches to avoid bitterness following divorce (Quran 2:231). In many instances in the Quran, God advises Muslims towards patience and avoid divorce. He in fact states that if the two spouses truly wanted to resolve their issues, Allah would reconcile the two of them together. Nevertheless if divorce does happen, Allah advises both spouses to do so in a manner that is both righteous and honourable, void of all hardships and conflict. So yes, for some Muslim women, like all other women, may face oppression in their homes. Clearly, it has nothing to do with Islam rather consequence of cultural practices. If it is not culture then why many women around the world, mostly in developed nations, willingly embrace Islam?

(Taken from newageislam.com)



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43rd Anniversary of the Land Day

Israel has so far occupied over 85% of Palestinian land, says a new Report.

A new report says Israel has so far occupied more than 85 percent or some 27,000 square kms of historical territories of Palestine in an expropriation process which still continues unabated. Ola Awad, the president of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), announced the grim news in a report carried by the Palestinian Ma'an news agency recently, the eve of the 43rd anniversary of the Land Day. In late March of 1976, Israeli troops killed six Palestinians, wounded 100 others and detained hundreds more who had held peaceful demonstrations against Israel's confiscation of 21,000 dunams (5,189 acres) of their land. Palestinians, both at home and overseas, have been marking the event known as the Land Day with rallies and remembrance ever since. According to the report,



Palestinians now live on and own only 15 percent of their ancestral land. Awad said since the Oslo Agreement of 1993, Israel has used the deal's land classification of A, B and C to further tighten control, particularly in areas classified as C with an area of 3,375,000 dunams. Some 2,642,000 dunams, constituting 76.3 percent of the total Area C, was exploited by the Israeli occupation directly.

The Palestinians utilize only 931,000 dunams, which constitute about 17 percent of the West Bank area, the report added. Elsewhere in

the report, Awad said that by the end of 2017, there were 435 Israeli settlements and military bases in the West Bank, including 150 settlements and 116 outposts.

The report further showed that the total number of Israeli settlers in the West Bank was 653,621 by the end of 2017, 47 percent of whom were living in Jerusalem al-Quds province with a total number of about 306,529. This is while 225,335 of these settlers were living in the parts of Jerusalem al-Quds which were annexed by the Israeli occupation in 1967.

The report concluded that the proportion of settlers to the Palestinian population in the occupied West Bank is around 22.6 settlers per 100 Palestinians compared to 70 settlers per 100 Palestinians in Jerusalem al-Quds province.

Pope Francis Visits Morocco

Head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis, recently visited Morocco on his latest trip to a predominantly Muslim state. He was welcomed to Morocco by King Mohammed VI. He met migrants and Muslim leaders, and held a Mass for the country's small Roman Catholic community. Pope Francis called for tolerance and peace at a mass for thousands of Catholics, after warning the faithful there against trying to convert others. "Often we are tempted to believe that hatred and revenge are legitimate ways of ensuring quick and effective justice," the 82-year-old pontiff told those gathered. "Yet experience tells us that hatred, division and revenge succeed only in killing our peoples' soul, poisoning our children's hopes, and destroying and sweeping away everything we cherish." Ahead of



the mass the pope insisted to an audience of around 400 at Rabat's cathedral that trying to convert people to one's own belief "always leads to an impasse". "Please, no proselytism!" he said. Christians are a tiny minority in Morocco where 99 percent of the population is Muslim, with sub-Saharan Africans making up a large part of the country's 30,000-strong Catholic community. Islam is the state religion and authorities are keen to stress the country's religious tolerance, which allows Christians and Jews to worship freely.

UK Troops accused of Training Child Soldiers in Yemen

UK Foreign Office minister Mark Field has promised to get to the bottom of "very serious and well sourced" allegations that British special forces have been training child soldiers in the Saudi-led war against Yemen. He was answering an urgent question asked in the Commons recently by the shadow foreign secretary,

Emily Thornberry, who suggested the British troops may have been witnesses to war crimes. She claimed as many as 40 percent of the soldiers in the Saudi coalition were children, a breach of international humanitarian law. Field also said he would be



because they flew in the face of successive assurances given by ministers that the UK was not a participant in the Saudi war against Yemen, and was only providing general logistical support to Riyadh.

The Saudi-led war has taken a heavy toll on the country's infrastructure, destroying hospitals, schools, and factories. The UN has already said that over 22 million Yemenis are in dire need of food, while 8.4 million are threatened by severe hunger. According to the world body, Yemen is suffering from the most severe famine in more than 100 years.

making inquiries with the UK Ministry of Defence in light of a report that British Special Air Service (SAS) soldiers were injured in a firefight with the Houthi Ansarullah movement in Yemen. Conservative Party MP Andrew Mitchell said the allegations were so serious

Germany Selling Arms to Countries Bombing Yemen

Germany's coalition government approved nearly €400 million in arms exports to Saudi Arabia and its allies involved in the Yemen war, local media reported. Despite a coalition government agreement last March restricting arms exports to countries involved in the Yemeni conflict, Berlin has so far approved 208 arms deals with Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait, according to German news agency DPA. Arms deals with Saudi Arabia has topped the list with the government issuing 10 permits worth €255 million, followed by dozens of defence contracts with the UAE which amounted to €57 million. Opposition parties heavily criticized Chancellor Angela Merkel and her coalition

partner Social Democrats for the arms deals. "The federal government must stop aiding Saudi Arabia's war crimes in Yemen. There should be no more arms deals with the dictators, neither with Saudi Arabia, nor with the UAE, which is its close ally in the Yemen war," the Left Party wrote on Twitter.



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Muslim Council Calls for Muslim Women in Leadership Roles

The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) has urged for more Muslim women in leadership roles in Muslim-led organisations across the UK, at its inaugural Women's Conference in London recently under the theme #BalanceForBetter. Keynote speaker, Yassmin Abdel-Magied, Sudanese-Australian writer and broadcaster, said, "Our identity as Muslim women has been politicised but it is a religious identity first and foremost." Samayya Afzal, Community Engagement Manager, said, "Muslim women have long been talked about, and talked over. This event was an opportunity to hear from a diversity of women from different backgrounds, to empower the voices of women in



our communities and organisations, and allow a platform for Muslim women to be unapologetically themselves." The conference also saw the launch of the 2019 Women in Mosques Development Programme (WIMDP), a scheme designed to accelerate the development of talented upcoming female leaders to be the mosque trustees, committee members and centre manager of the future.

'True Muslims seek harmony with everyone': Muslim World League chief

Kazan: Extremist groups are active only in stagnant cultural and social environments, the head of the Muslim World League (MWL), Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, said. In a Friday sermon, delivered at the Grand Mosque in Kazan, Tatarstan, Al-Issa said vigilant Muslims can defeat extremist propaganda. Peace and harmony are the most important guarantors of stability and prosperity, he said. Al-Issa said that true Muslims respect unity and the laws of the countries in which they live, seeking harmony with everyone, regardless of their religion or nationality. The MWL chief, who has been on a visit to Russia, warned against recalling historical events and drawing

analogies to a current situation. The responsibility of each historical era rests only with the people who lived in it, he said. Al-Issa stressed the need to improve understanding for the benefit of all, saying that

"extremism can only win with a lack of awareness." He cautioned worshippers against conflict and division, pointing out that Islamic law called for learning from others and from the lessons of history.

Application for School for Mentally Challenged Children

Krishna Chaitanya Special Residential School for Mentally Challenged Children, recognized by the State Government, is situated at Halebyrohalli, which is 25 kms. off Bangalore on the Mysore Road.

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Pope blames US, Europe for Deaths in War Zones

Pope Francis says arms sales by the United States and Europe are to blame for the deaths of people, including children, in such places as Yemen, Syria, and Afghanistan. "The rich Europe and America sell weapons... used to kill children and kill people," said the pontiff, in unprecedented remarks made while addressing students and teachers at Milan's San Carlo Institute recently, the Associated Press reported. He said violence-scarred countries like Yemen, Syria, and Afghanistan would not be

witnessing wars if it was not for the arms. "A country that produces and sells weapons has on its conscience the death of every child and the destruction of each family," the Pope said. The Pope also spoke about the need for countries to welcome migrants, rejecting any association between migrant integration and increase in crime rates. Foreigners are not the source of most crimes, the Pope said, adding "we also have lots of them (asylum seekers)" in Italy.

(Full report available on presstv.com)

Muslim Charity Gives \$5000 to Repair Defaced Jewish Cemetery

A Jewish cemetery in Massachusetts (USA), that was defaced with anti-Semitic graffiti recently received a \$5,000 donation from a Muslim charity to help repair the damage. The charity, Celebrate Mercy, has donated over the past two years, \$115,000 to rehabilitate desecrated Jewish cemeteries and memorials in Missouri, Illinois, New York, Massachusetts and Colorado, and facilitated the donation of around \$238,000 to the Jewish Tree of Life Congregation in Pittsburgh after the massacre there last year. More than 60 gravestones at Hebrew Cemetery in Fall River, Massachusetts were vandalized. Cemetery groundskeeper Jeffrey Weiss man told the Forward that he had received an outpouring of support from around the world. In particular, he recounted receiving a check for \$5,000 via mail from "Muslim Americans



nationwide to our Jewish cousins of the Hebrew Cemetery of Fall River."

"In the spirit of responding to evil with good (as taught by Prophet Muhammad), that inspired the previous campaign, Celebrate Mercy is proud to have supported this community in their time of distress," the organization wrote on its Facebook page.

Foundation Stone Laid for Abu Dhabi's first Hindu Temple

The temple is being built on 13.5 acres (55,000 square metres) of land gifted by Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the Indian community.

The historic foundation stone-laying ceremony of the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi was performed recently in the presence of officials from India and the United Arab Emirates as well as thousands of members of the community. The ceremony was presided over by Mahant Swami Maharaj, the spiritual leader of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha - the organisation building the temple, along with other priests. Indian Ambassador Navdeep Suri attended the event in the presence of over 2,500 Indians from the UAE and across the world, according to



Gulf News. Suri and BAPS Hindu Mandir committee head and community leader, B.R. Shetty were among those who laid the foundation stones. Some 50 priests from India were part of the ceremony, the Khaleej Times

reported. The temple will be built in phases with all the pink stones and marble being transported from Rajasthan to the UAE capital. The stones of the temple will be hand-carved by artisans in India and then transported to Abu Dhabi. Once completed, this will be the first traditional Hindu stone temple in the Middle East. The temple is being built on 13.5 acres (55,000 square metres) of land gifted by Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to the Indian community.

(Extracted from muslimmirror.com)

Women in UAE Knit Clothes for Underprivileged Children

Abu Dhabi: In the true spirit of community activism, a group of women living in the UAE have devoted their free time and talents towards helping children living in orphanages and refugee camps through the simple act of knitting and sewing, with all of the clothes they make, donated to the children. Founded five years ago, the community group Rags to Riches UAE, has 140 active female members with 5,000 followers on social media. Meeting every week, the women sew, knit and quilt fabrics into clothes such as shirts, shorts, hoodies, tracksuit bottoms and dresses.

"We're just a group of women who have a hobby for sewing, knitting



and quilting, and so we've all come together and decided to put those efforts towards a good cause," said one of the group's organisers Ceri Rocca, from the UK. "All of this activity is done in our spare time, we don't ask for any money as we're not a charity, we just make the clothes and collect them together and then send them off to orphanages or refugee camps," she added. Rocca

explained that the group receives monthly requests for clothes from international humanitarian organisations such as Bring Hope, keeping them busy with their volunteerism. Latifa Ghezala, an Algerian member of the group also spoke glowingly about the shared unity between women in the group. "It makes me the happiest person on Earth to help these young children. When you make something yourself after hours of knitting and sewing, there is a special feeling behind that as you know a young child is going to be wearing those clothing items to stay warm during the cold winter months," she added, feeling pride in her activism. (gulfnews.com)

Brainstorming in the Desert

The Saudi Arabian Trail!



- The Discover Yourself workshop was held in Jeddah, Jubail, Dammam and in Riyadh in the month of April 2019. Some of the Participants share their Experiences.
- Through brain storming, this workshop has increased my organizational skills.
- It helped me build a strong relationship with Allah. It helped me in forgiving and letting go of my ego.
- It is a must for the present youth. Very much needed for the whole human community.
- It has helped me a lot and my life is more peaceful. Before I used to burst in anger for anything small and petty. Now, I am calm. This workshop is a must in anyone's life.
- It helped me understand myself, introspect, find some answers that I was looking for. Thought provoking and

interesting.

- It helped me to reaffirm my beliefs about myself, my life and understand myself better and find inner peace.
- In my lifetime, I attended 20-25 seminars, but this workshop was altogether different. This was more about yourself and Allah. My perspective changed towards my family and friends.
- To treat all human beings as human beings and express love to all.
- This workshop has given me the energy and knowledge to lead a life of submission to God, which is the reality. It was an eye-opener for me in interpersonal relationship building and teamwork.
- I was in depression earlier. Now I am happy after forgiving everyone. I came out of the past and I want to

live in the present.

- My love and affection of other human beings irrespective of their religion is now clear as I recognize it as worship of Allah.
- I realized that I was not born to just earn, pay bills and die. I have a purpose in life.
- It was a journey to the inner center of myself and finding the truth and Allah.
- It was excellent and I suggest everyone to attend the workshop at least once.
- It helped me to understand my true self and live in reality.
- It was life transforming as it pointed out the blind spots and how to remove them.
- It was one of the best experiences in my life and it helped me to learn a lot about life and people.



MOTHI LAL: The workshop had a great impact on my personal life. It is an excellent workshop with practical experience connected to life experiences, does not discriminate religion, race, sex, caste, creed, nationality, it helps all people. The workshop provides simple solutions for every problem.

SAIMA: Before attending the workshop, I did not know who I was or what I wanted from this life. I had many ill feelings in my mind. But the experience at this workshop was amazing. I felt very much at peace in my heart, Alhamdulillah!

AMTUL: I always think of my children and too much about their studies and education. I was really disturbed and suffering too much. I got hypertension, high blood pressure, and diabetes. Now I realized my mistakes and will try to rectify. I must change myself. Alhamdulillah, now I started my life with peace. I will see everyone as a human being.

SANA: A terrific and life changing event, so motivating and it clarified the purpose in life. I know now how to manage my emotions, forgive others and connect to Allah. For past couple of months, I was in a miserable and hopeless condition. My relationships were messed up. After attending the workshop, I understand how I need to control and take charge of my emotions, my thinking and whole life. My family is so happy with me because of the

positivity and energy I got from this workshop.

ASMAVIL: I came with questions in dealing people with "I know everything" attitude, lethargic, preconceived notions, two faced, jealous, comparing, back biting, but here I learned that all these are external factors and the real remedy, solution and not answers is Internal. Willingness to submit and accept the reality. This will definitely have a positive impact in my life, among the people with whom I live. I will practise and share this concept in my life, Insha Allah. Jazakallah Khair!

JAVORIYA: It is a life changing workshop for me. Coming to this workshop, I realized the real me. I was able to control my anger and emotions. I came out of my world of assumption. My mother scolded me for using the mobile, I said to myself, it is okay, accept the fact. My family saw a very big change in me.

RAHEEM: I used to judge people a lot. I always used to advice others, but never thought that I am also wrong. I used to have a really bad temper now, I control my temper, I stopped judging people and started treating everyone as human beings. I have attended many workshops, but this one is the best.

ZAID: The workshop was extremely useful, beneficial and extra-ordinary. My life was like hell and I was proud about myself. I felt superior over everyone, but now Alhamdulillah, I see everyone as human beings.



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Blind Love

The Bangalore-based Al-Aman Educational & Welfare Trust is coming up with the residential Ashiana Centre for the Blind and the Physically Challenged, offering skill training and much more! It's a path-breaking effort to help the community realise setting up more such social institutions is an urgent need of the hour.

Kannamangalappa, the Ashiana Free Food Bank on Mosque Road and the Ashiana Free Skill Development Institute in Bhoosandra, is back again this time with an institution to help the visually- and physically-challenged!

Mohammed Farooq, Chairman of the Al-Aman Educational &



Expansion Work at Ashiana Old Age Home

Complacency does not exist in the dictionary of the Bangalore-based Al-Aman Educational & Welfare Trust! The Trust, which has showcased success stories like the Ashiana Old Age Home in

Welfare Trust, along with Amina, the Trust's General Secretary, have ventured out courageously to set up a centre for the blind and the physically-challenged in Kadgunahalli in the city. The



Building of the Ashiana School for the Blind in progress

building is coming up just behind one of Bangalore's largest slums, D.J.Halli.

The centre, which will be residential, will offer skill training for the visually- and physically-challenged in various vocations so that they are empowered to handle life independently. Also, the space can also be used for things like personality development workshops in the non-teaching hours, explains Amina.

The spark to start the centre began when Mohammed Farooq, Amina and other Trustees realised that the community had almost no such institution at all. 'Parents who have children who are visually- or physically- challenged often feel embarrassed and keep them in hiding in their homes and do not want to expose them to the world.

But these people too have a right to live a dignified life, a better life than living in claustrophobic environments. God has blessed these people with some extra intelligence or skills which even the sighted do not possess. So we hope that the centre will open doors of opportunity for the blind and physically-challenged to learn, develop and contribute positively to the society through their talents,' explains Amina.

The building work has begun. Some people might wonder why the Al-Aman Educational & Welfare Trust is putting its finger in so many pies. But honestly there is so much to be done by way of service to humanity and we want to leave behind a legacy of charitable work so that the next generation takes over. The current flock of youngsters have no clue about the miseries of the poor, needy, the blind, the physically challenged, of the hungry and the sick. The Ashiana centre for the Blind, like the rest of our institutions, should be a torch that will light the path ahead for the coming generations,' says Amina. Meanwhile, the Trust also would like to expand its existing Old Age Home, which is perhaps the only Muslim-run home for the elderly destitute in Bangalore and is completely free of charge. It has a 10 year history of caring for the old. Its building needs to be expanded so

that the inmates can get more comfort and so that more people can be taken in. The place has a capacity of only 45 people, but has already taken 55. The Trust gets several calls every now and then for people who need a place in the Ashiana Old Age Home. But the Trustees have to reject these calls due to lack of space. In this regard, compassionate philanthropists and organisations can chip in to help the Trust in its plans for a new building with more intake capacity.

Sitting with Amina reflecting on the Trust's mission for the elderly destitute and the visually- and physically-challenged reminds one of how many of us simply take for granted take our happy state of mind or our physical health or our God-given eyes. The commitment of the Trust and its team in serving people in severe need is truly touching.

If you'd like to share in this noble work, you can catch up with Mohammed Farooq and

Amina by email on

mfarooq032@gmail.com

Ph: 9740125500, 9964908600.

Donations in favour of:

Al Aman Educational and Welfare Trust

our bankers: UCO Bank, Frazer Town Branch

Ac no: 06240210000830

IFSC Code: UCBA0000624 (Reported by Nigar and Dolcy)

SAYEEDIYA YATHEEM KHANA / DARUL ULOOM SAYEEDIYA

AN APPEAL

Alhamdulillah, the **Darul Uloom Sayeediya Trust, established in the year 1988**, is maintaining a *Madrasa*, a *Masjid* and an Orphanage - '*Sayeediya Yatheem Khana*' (for boys). The Orphanage was established with the aim of providing free care and education to the deserving orphan students of our community. Hundreds of orphans are deprived of the privilege to study and it is our responsibility to take care of such children and provide them education. According to Ahadith one who takes care of an orphan is rewarded with heaven by Almighty Allah. **Darul Uloom Sayeediya** requests assistance from all welfare minded persons by way of sponsorship contributions or donations. They can help deserving Orphan students with sponsorship contributions - **of Rs.18000/- per year @ Rs.1500/- per student per month** from their *Zakath / Sadaqaat* or for '*Eisal-e-Sawab*' of their deceased relatives.

All the students are being provided free education with boarding and hostel facilities. The source of income for the institution is donations from welfare minded persons of our community. All are requested to encourage the Management with their assistance **especially during the holy month of Ramadan which is a month of Charity**. It is hoped that your assistance to these deprived children will protect them from getting their lives destroyed and will, Insha Allah, make them educated responsible citizens of the Society.

SAHRI and IFTAR: Since there is no holiday in the institution during Ramazan students stay at the institution and observe fasts throughout the holy month of Ramazan.

SAHRI and IFTAR arrangements are made for the students and staff at the institution. Donors are requested to contribute for this arrangement or provide food grains etc. for this purpose.

May Allah grant acceptance to the noble acts of our donors who help the needy with the intention of obeying His commands and earning His pleasure and reward them highly. Aameen.

For further details please contact:

Moulana Syed Abdur Rahim Sayeed Rashadi,

Secretary, Sayeediya Yatheem Khana & Darul Uloom Sayeediya

Sayeed Nagar, Kaval Byrasandra, Bangalore - 560 032 Mob: 98451 77695.

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Grooming Our Children

Parents must realise that they will be answerable to God for how they have groomed their children. When the Prophet Jacob (Yaqub) was dying, he didn't ask his children where they will rule or work or whatever. Rather, he asked them whom they will serve.

By Dr Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz

Proper parenting is today widely recognised as an issue of immense significance. How our children turn out to be depends much on the sort of parenting that we provide them.

Grooming children is something that should begin even before a couple gets married. How our children turn out to be has much to do with what criterion is used to select a marital partner.

Generally speaking, in our community what do we consider when looking for a groom or bride for our child? We look at the social status and wealth of a family, or the political influence it might have. We think that these things will give our children security and will help them lead a comfortable life. Some of us might even imagine that getting our children married into a family that is considered of high status will improve our own fortunes.

But, please think: Does the solution to our problems or that of our children lie in things like money and power, or does it lie with God?

It is a fact that relatively few families consider things like piety, intellect and morality of a family in selecting a partner for their children. Naturally, then, this will crucially effect our children and how they turn out to be.

Another issue that needs to be seriously considered here is that we have neglected the importance of a mother in the family. We have not given women the respect that they deserve. When a girl marries into a family, she is like a plant that has been suddenly uprooted and transplanted elsewhere. When a plant is transplanted, the gardener takes great care of it, providing it with appropriate nutrients and protection, so that it develops strong roots and grows into a healthy tree.

That is exactly how we should be treating our new daughters-in-law. But the reality is very different. Generally, we are eager to push daughters-in-law into domestic service as soon as possible. Mothers-in-law make the situation even more grim for them by complaining about them to their sons. In such a situation, how can young wives be at peace, leave alone grow intellectually, without which how will they become good mothers of good children?

In our society we don't even recognise children as full personalities. We dismiss them by saying 'They are just kids'. But kids today are very intelligent. They note everything. If at all we give them attention, it takes the form of verbal advice: "Do this! Don't do that!". Our children may hear us out, but our actions speak louder than our words. What they will act on is not our verbal advice but our own actions. So, for instance, if a boy sees his father bossing over the women in the house and treating them as if they should always be at his beck and call, that is how he will probably behave



“We have not given women the respect that they deserve. When a girl marries into a family, she is like a plant that has been suddenly uprooted and transplanted elsewhere.”

when he grows up.

If parents want their children to turn out well, there's no alternative to spending enough quality time with them. But what do we do? In families where both parents are working outside the home, they send their children to a crèche or employ a maid—and in that way deny their children the parental presence that is indispensable for their healthy growth. Some parents get their children addicted to TV and video games so that they can go about with their work without having the 'headache' of minding the kids. In many other families, children are left to roam in the streets. They come back in the afternoon for lunch and then again they are off, into the streets. As a result, when they grow up, they do just that roam in the streets, whiling away time and coming home just to eat. Their parents have no idea what they are doing.

In preparing a dish, various ingredients are used. In a finely-prepared dish, the various ingredients are used in proper proportion. If there's even just a little bit extra salt or chilly, one can easily make out the difference. So, too, when it comes to developing the character of a child. Various influences, including inputs from parents, are ingredients that go into developing their character. If there is even a slight imbalance in these influences, it will show up in how the child turns out to be.

Parents must realise that they will be answerable to God for how they have groomed their children. When the Prophet Jacob (Yaqub) was dying, he didn't ask his children where they will rule or work or whatever. Rather, he asked them whom they will serve. A dying father is so concerned that his children should serve God and God alone. Is this our concern too? We need to spend adequate time with our children and help them connect with the Quran, because without that they will not understand the difference between right and wrong. For this, it is important for them to understand the meaning of the Quran, through reliable translations, and communicate this understanding to their children. It is good that parents are sending their children to school. At the same time, however, they should make adequate arrangements for proper Quranic education of their children at home. In addition to this, they must seek to live out the Quranic teachings the best way to teach someone is to practice what one teaches.

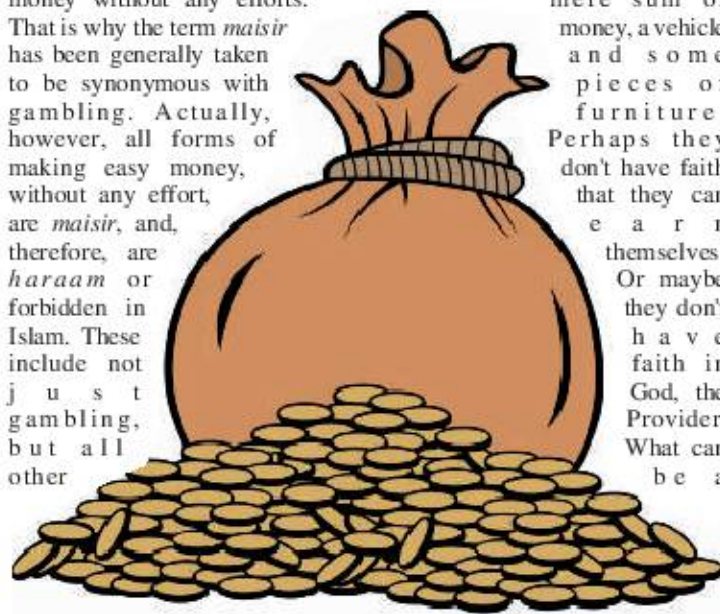
Dowry is Haraam

Men who expect and demand dowry from their would-be spouses barter the prospects of a happy marital relationship for a mere sum of money, a vehicle and some pieces of furniture.

Dowry (*jehez*) is a major issue that afflicts many Muslim families today, even though demanding dowry is un-Islamic. The Quran clearly prohibits *khamr* and *maisir*. Both are forbidden or *haraam*. *Khamr* has been translated as alcohol, while *maisir* has been translated as gambling. At the time when the Quran was being revealed, gambling was perhaps the only way of making money without any efforts. That is why the term *maisir* has been generally taken to be synonymous with gambling. Actually, however, all forms of making easy money, without any effort, are *maisir*, and, therefore, are *haraam* or forbidden in Islam. These include not just gambling, but all other

forget the difficulties her parents faced in trying to meet their dowry demands. Such a girl comes into her husband's family with deep sorrow in her heart, and so she can never truly love her husband and his family.

Men who expect and demand dowry from their would-be spouses barter the prospects of a happy marital relationship for a mere sum of money, a vehicle and some pieces of furniture. Perhaps they don't have faith that they can earn themselves. Or maybe they don't have faith in God, the Provider. What can be a



such means, including demanding dowry. Demanding dowry being a form of *maisir*, this practice is thus *haraam* or forbidden for Muslims. A second point to consider in this regard is that girls generally love their parents intensely and remain emotionally attached to them even after marriage. If a girl gets married into a family that demands dowry, she will never

bigger example of the emasculation of a man than his living off the wealth of his wife's family by demanding a dowry from them?

(Dr Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz is currently Vice-Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad and can be reached at maparvaiz@gmail.com).

Encourage Science, Technology Training for Girls

Jeddah: Dr. Yousef bin Ahmad Al-Othaimeen, secretary-general of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), has called on all member states and affiliated institutions to encourage young girls to study and work in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, information technology and communications. "The 7th Ministerial Conference of Women, which was held in Burkina Faso, endorsed a resolution adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of the OIC held last month in Abu Dhabi. This resolution calls on member states to approve legislative and executive measures offering science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs to women, to bridge the gap between their education and the requirements of the labour market," Al-Othaimeen said.



TALETIME

A Tale for Nani Ma

Rukhsana regaled Nani Ma with many interesting facts about the Solar System, which, as you can imagine, intrigued Nani Ma no end.

By Dolcy

"Nani Ma, will you please tell me a story to put me to sleep?" Rukhsana asked her grandmother. "Child, why don't you tell me a story instead?", Nani Ma replied. "I've told you so many stories and now it's your turn to tell me one. I'm sure I could learn many things from you things that you learn at school. I didn't have the opportunity to go to school when I was a child. You know many things, so maybe you could put some of that together as a story and tell it to me!"

"Waah! That's such a lovely idea!" squealed Rukhsana. "Maybe I'll tell you some interesting things about the Solar System that we learnt in class the other day."

"Solar system? What's that?" Nani Ma asked.

"Such big-big words you use sometimes!"

"Nani Ma! You'll have to wait till tomorrow night to know what it is!" Rukhsana excitedly replied.

The next day Rukhsana searched the Internet for material about the Solar System for the story that she wanted to tell her grandmother. She jotted down some points that she thought Nani Ma would find interesting.

That night, after dinner, Reshma went to Nani Ma's room, taking with her the manuscript of her story. "Nani Ma, remember I mentioned to you about the Solar System? Well, it's a collection of



the sun, the Earth and a couple other planets, all of which are floating about in space." Reshma said.

Nani Ma had no idea what a planet was and Rukhsana had to explain the term to her. She knew about the sun and the moon of course, and the stars, of which she thought there were just a couple of dozens. You can imagine how surprised she was to learn from Rukhsana that the Sun is just one of hundreds of billions of stars in the Milky Way, the galaxy we live in, and that the whole Universe has at least 100 billion galaxies in it! When Rukhsana explained to her that a billion was 1 followed by 9

"Nani could hardly believe it when she learnt that on Jupiter, a planet that has at least 66 moons, there is a storm that is bigger than the Earth and which has been blowing for 350 years or maybe longer, and that on the hottest planet, Venus, the average temperature is 460°C."

zeros, that is 1,000,000,000, she was astounded! "God is so great! He made such a very large world! I never knew this!" she exclaimed. Rukhsana regaled Nani Ma with many more interesting facts about the Solar System, which, as you can imagine, intrigued Nani Ma no end. She told her that Jupiter, the largest planet of our Solar



System, is so big that 1321 Earths can fit into it, and that the Sun is so huge that it would take 1.3 million planets the size of the Earth to fill the same volume! Nani gasped when she heard that the Sun is 93 million miles from the Earth (she thought it looked much, much closer!) and that the light from the Sun takes only 8 minutes to travel that huge distance all the way to Earth! "God be praised! Another of God's marvels!" she said.

"Wait Nani!, Here's another amazing fact!" Rukhsana continued. "Did you know that the nearest star to the Earth after the Sun, which is called Proxima Centuri, is 24 trillion miles from Earth and light from it takes four years and three months to reach Earth?"

"You really mean to say that the

closest star to Earth after the sun is so, so, so far away?" Nani Ma asked in wonder. "I thought the stars were just a couple of miles up in the sky!"

Rukhsana shared with Nani Ma some other very interesting things about the Solar System, including how planets orbit the Sun with intricate precision and about how planets, which of course are so, so heavy, are suspended in space without any visible supports. Nani could hardly believe it when she learnt that on Jupiter, a planet that has at least 66 moons, there is a storm that is bigger than the Earth and which has been blowing for 350 years or maybe longer, and that on the hottest planet, Venus, the average temperature is 460°C almost five times the temperature at which water boils!

"Ouch! That's really very hot!" Nani exclaimed.

"Nani Ma, that's nothing compared to the Sun, where the temperature is around 5,500°C!", Rukhsana responded.

When Rukhsana completed her story, Nani Ma said to her, "Thank you very much for telling me all this. It's all new to me. I don't think I'll remember even a tenth of the things you've shared. But one thing your story has taught me, and that is, if the Universe God has made is so vast and well-designed, how infinitely great God is!"

"How right you are Nani Ma!", Rukhsana added excitedly.

By Nigar

Hi Kids!

So, you all must be having summer holidays now. Wonder what you are up to! Hope you are not video gaming or scampering around in big malls. So boring! Here is some exciting news from Nature and the wild!

Maybe most of you like animals, birds insects and butterflies. Let me tell you about Greeny, a big tom cat. He was brown in colour with stripes and very lovely green eyes like emeralds. He often came to the house where I live and drank some milk and also munched cat food. Greeny was very well-mannered. When the other cats - Socks and Tabby - were eating their food, he would never disturb them. He was very polished. He liked his own bowl and did not eat leftover food eaten by Socks or Tabby. Greeny also had good table manners: he never made noises like "gurr-gurr" while munching his food. He would bend his cute head and focused his eyes on his meal. Isn't this the way we should eat too?

A very good quality about Greeny was that he did not poke his nose in other cats' affairs. Tabby, the small cat, would sometimes be naughty, but Greeny did not scold Tabby.

Socks, the white cat, was bigger than Greeny and growled and made faces at him. But Greeny did

not growl back. He would silently fold his paws and tail and sit on the window ledge. Once, Greeny had a small injury on his ear and I put some powder there. But Greeny did not complain about the pain. He was a very self-respecting cat. This summer, Greeny had become weak and would just come and sit on the window ledge and bend his head. He wasn't eating his favourite cat food also. The last time I saw Greeny, he was drinking water in the backyard, and after that, he wandered away somewhere to a place only God knows.



Nature Trails

Graceful Greeny & Noble Zoyi



Greeny was a very saintly cat: so kind, peaceful, wise and very gentle. Whenever I patted him, he would be very happy and from Greeny I learnt that the world and

its problems are all temporary and we should not worry about tomorrow as, like Greeny showed, God will take us wherever He wills and we should surrender to His will like Greeny did! God bless Greeny!

Now, let me tell you about Zoyi, who is a big doggy and lives with Mora Auntie who loves animals a lot and is very kind. Zoyi is a very good dog and barks only when necessary. Otherwise, the whole day she is sitting under the dining table and

watching Mora Auntie doing work on her laptop or watching Zara, the bigger dog, wagging her bushy tail.

We think that only human beings are kind and do good work. But kids, you will be amazed to know that even animals do good things. It so happened that another dog belonging to a friend was not well and needed blood. So, Mora auntie sent Zoyi to a vet's Clinic and there Zoyi donated blood for the sick dog. Isn't that wonderful?

So, kids, this summer vacation, try to make friends with animals, birds and insects. You will learn so much from them, things which you may not be able to learn from your school textbooks!

NEW ARRIVALS

Super Stories with Tips & Activities

By Shahin Ashraf Ali
Published by The Pauline Sisters Bombay Society,
143 Waterfield Road,
Bandra, Mumbai-400050
www.paulineindia.org
Price: Rs 70

Shahin Ashraf Ali is an author of children's books, a freelance journalist and teacher. She teaches memorizing techniques to school students in Mumbai. Shahin lives with her husband and best friends: books, trees, plants and pets!

Like Shahin's previous well appreciated book, Once Upon a Summer Vacation and 19 Other Stories, this book sensitively addresses challenges of childhood. The stories may have an appeal for all age groups. Super Stories with Tips &



Activities is a wonderful little book of interesting and inspiring short stories, helpful tips you can use and fun activity pages. Enjoy! (For online purchase, visit www.paulineindia.org or www.amazon.in)

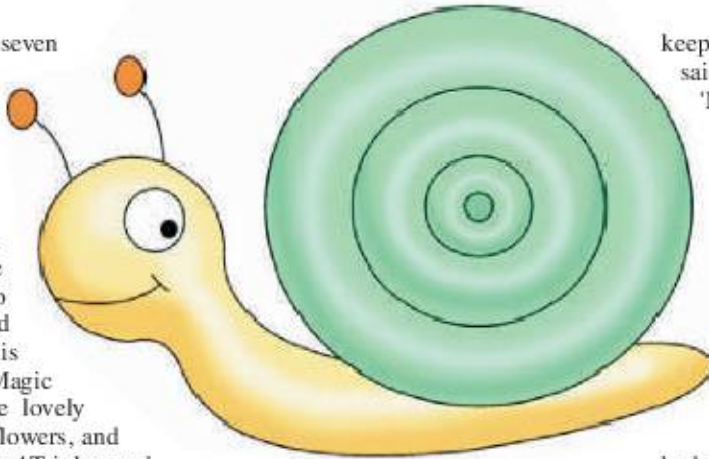
TALETIME

The Kind Kids and the Snail

No good deed is too small, even helping a tiny snail is a kind deed in the eyes of God!

By Niggy

Trinkoo is just seven years old, that is 5 plus 2! He has a big, round face. In school, Trinkoo likes to read fairytales and sit in the shade of a tree and watch the birds sing. Trinkoo loves animals and birds, and in his house, called the 'Magic Terrace', there are lovely green plants and flowers, and lots of butterflies too! Trinkoo and his friend Chinku often do what they call a 'nature walk' on the terrace, spotting different kinds of insects. Trinkoo does not like hurting even ants. So, whenever he walks, he puts his small head down and walks carefully so that he does not step on the ants and hurt them. They are also creatures of God, and so let them be happy,' he says to Chinku and even the grown-ups. In school, one day, the teacher told all the children to do one good deed on a Sunday, called the 'Sunday Kind Deed', and on Monday, everybody had to say what good deed they did. It so happened that on a Sunday when Trinkoo and Chinku were playing on the Magic Terrace, they spotted a very cute brown snail crawling on the ground. Now Trinkoo and Chinku had seen snails only in story



keep it with us as a pet!' said Chinku.

'No Chinku, the snail has to live in a garden! Come, let's put it in a flower-bed. It will be very happy! Otherwise, someone may step on it, or it may get swept away by a broom,' said Trinkoo, who

had read many things about snails and beetles in his picture books.

Trinkoo took a big leaf and gently put the snail on it and then kept it on a hibiscus flower-bed. Trinkoo and Chinku watched it happily crawling along the flowers. And guess what? It turned around and looked at the two kids with its tiny beady eyes and nodded its little head as if to say 'Thank you kids for such a lovely bed!'

The next day in school, Trinkoo and Chinku told the class of their Sunday Kind Deed with Sunny the snail and the teacher gave them a special prize for being kind to a pretty creature of God!

So kids, it's alright to be slow and steady like a snail! And no good deed is too small: even helping a tiny snail is a kind deed in the eyes of God! So, be kind like Chinku and Trinkoo!

books, and the grown-ups would always keep saying, 'Don't be slow like a snail!' That's pretty much all they knew about snails. So, they were very pleasantly surprised to see one, right in front of them!



'W u p p y'! squealed the kids. 'Hey Trinkoo, let's put Sunny the snail in a box and

UPDATE

Dar ul-Umoor Holds Annual Convocation Function

So far, some 450 students have passed out from Dar ul-Umoor and have gone on to work in various fields.

By A Staff Writer

Srirangapatna: The Dar ul-Umoor Tipu Sultan Research Centre, which seeks to provide madrasa graduates with a basic grounding in a range of modern disciplines, recently held its 18th annual convocation. Graduating students were presented with certificates.

Those who addressed the audience included the Founder and Chairman of the institution,



Mr. Ziaulla Sheriff, Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz, Vice-Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University

(Hyderabad) and noted Science writer in Urdu, Maulana Maqsood Imran Rashadi (Imam and Khatib of Jamia Masjid, Bangalore) and Prof. Sheik Ali, well-known historian. Some students made power-point presentations, which covered a range of issues.

So far, some 450 students have passed out from Dar ul-Umoor and have gone on to work in various fields.

Doctor-Doctor!

Sheema became a story-writer and not a doctor. In the month of Ramadan, she would take out her annual zakat and give most of it to an organisation that provided free medical aid to poor people.

By Dolcy

Even as a little girl, Sheema wanted to become a doctor. She loved playing 'Doctor-Doctor' with her friends, a game that she had invented. She could spend hours nursing her two favourite toys a fairy and a teddy-bear. And if anyone at home fell sick, she'd try to do whatever she could to help them get better, even if it was sitting by their bedside and chatting with them, trying to cheer them up.

When she grew up, Sheema didn't become a doctor, however. Instead, she became a journalist. She got a job as a children's story writer in a magazine. She loved writing tales for kids just as much as she had loved the idea of becoming a doctor when she was little. The dreams that we have in childhood often remain with us even when we grow up. And so, even though Sheema became a story-writer and not a doctor, she still

The dreams that we have in childhood often remain with us even when we grow up.



loved to help people who were sick and needed medical help. Every month, she would donate a good part of her salary to a hospital for injured and sick birds and animals. If someone she knew couldn't afford to pay for their medicines, she would help them with money or buy their medicines for them. In the month of Ramadan, she would take out her annual zakat and give most of it to an organisation that provided free medical aid to poor people. And if someone at home or a friend of hers fell sick, she would always be there to help them and nurse them back to health. Sheema is busy nowadays writing a book of tales for children about doctors from different parts of the world. "I didn't become a doctor myself, but I'm writing this book hoping that it will inspire some children to become a doctor or a nurse and help the sick," she says.

FROM HERE & THERE

2019 World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize winners



Amman: Jordan's King Abdullah recently attended the 2019 King Abdullah II World Interfaith Harmony Week Prize ceremony. At the ceremony, he presented awards to the winners. The first prize went to the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative for the activity "Love of Neighbour - ur Prayers for our City". Co-hosted with Faith, Hope, Love Communities in Elsie's River, the activity aimed at taking prayers from places of worship to people in troubled areas. The second prize was awarded to Interreligious Committee of Rome for its

"Interreligious Manifesto of the Rights in End of Life Path", which was signed by religious leaders from different faiths to ensure religious and spiritual support for sick people at hospitals, hospices or at home. The third prize was jointly awarded to URI Cooperation Circle Brasilia for the Public Audience in the Legislative Chamber of the Federal District of Brazil and the SUNFO Global Federation for its Campaign for Interfaith Harmony in Sri Lanka. A number of Muslim and Christian religious leaders attended the prize ceremony.



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Utter Disregard for Innocent Lives

Sri Lanka Terror Attacks on Easter Should Unite Us Against Hate

BY EJAZ NAOVI

Just about a month ago, I wrote about the terror attacks on two Christchurch mosques during Friday prayers. The details are still emerging but there has been a series of terror attacks on churches and hotels in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday. The attacks were apparently pre-planned and well coordinated. I said this after Christchurch terror attacks and is worth repeating again- we are certainly living in troubled times and even the places of worship are not safe- and in fact are the prime target for the haters.

Long considered sanctuaries, the churches, mosques and synagogues are no longer safe places to be-even at some of the most sacred days. Just because one does not believe in the faith of others does not justify the attacks. Unfortunately, the haters are blinded by their hateful ideologies.

After the Christchurch attacks, the Prime Minister of Canada had given a passionate speech at the Parliament.

People are tired of fighting this alone without the full backing of their leaders. But we can take a stand here and now in Canada and around the world and say that enough is enough. That the days of spewing hatred and inciting violence without consequences are over. We owe it to the people of Christchurch, and the people of Sainte-Foy, of Pittsburgh, and of Manchester.

I am calling on like-minded countries of the world to stand with Canada in this fight: Muslims, Christians, Jewish, Black, White, all of us, we must



fight this hatred as a team.... a team tired of sending our thoughts and prayers

The early indications are that the attacks were carried out by a previously little-known radical Islamic group.

In Islam, life is sacred. Places of worship, where God's praises are celebrated are sacred.

....if any one slew a person - unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land - it would be as if he slew the whole people: and if any one saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people. The Qur'an 5:32

And in terms of protecting the churches, synagogues and other places of worship, the Qur'an has this to say: *And had there not been Allah's repelling some people by others, certainly there would have been pulled down monasteries and churches and synagogues and mosques in which Allah's name is much remembered; and surely Allah will help him who helps His cause... 22:40*

One of my social media friends

from Sri Lanka said it best: *We are one human family. As a Sri Lankan born American this tragedy resonates very close to my heart and it has been is very painful. The Christian and Muslim minority in Sri Lanka share similar challenges and always stood together. This is an attempt to rip us apart.*

We owe it to the victims of Christchurch, NZ; Pittsburg, PA and Colombo, Sri Lanka and all other places of worship, to be united against hate- no matter who the victims are and no matter who the attackers are. The terrorists have one thing in common- their hateful, twisted ideologies and their utter disregard for innocent lives. My heart goes out to the victims and their families and friends victimized by haters and fear mongers. May the victims rest in peace. Ameen.

(Extracted from patheos.com)



Sadaqah wipes out sins like water extinguishes fire

FOCUS

Terrorists are Anti-Human, Anti-God



New Delhi: Prominent Muslim and Christian leaders expressed shock and solidarity with the blast victims who were killed on Easter Sunday in a deadly serial suicide bombing in Sri Lanka. They condemned the attack in the strongest possible terms and described it as an act of devilish forces. At a joint press conference in the Constitution Club here, Muslim and Christian religious leaders expressed solidarity with terror victims in Sri Lanka. They dubbed terrorists as anti-human, anti-God and anti-civilization and incarnation of most heinous and

devilish forces on the earth. Maulana Mahmood Madani, General Secretary Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind(M) said that 'we condemn this dastardly act without ifs and buts. It is not a time to blame each other but it is time to express solidarity with the victims and help to enable them to rid out of this trauma. On this occasion, Christian leader Father Flex, Father A. C Michal and Father Abraham thanked Muslim leaders for expressing solidarity with their community in this most testing hour.

(Extracted from

<http://muslimmirror.com>)

M.K. Caterers, Proprietor, Muneer Ahmed Khan

Winner of the Life Time Achievement Award from Federation of Karnataka Caterers, on 25th March 2019

Born in the year 1955 in Bangalore, Mr. Muneer Ahmed Khan comes from a humble background and was originally taking care of his family profession of men's tailoring unit in Commercial Street. He began his journey in outdoor catering by the name of MK Caterers way back in the year 1987 along with his cousin brother Mr. Khalid Khan when the term of catering or caterers was unheard of among the people especially among the Muslim community.

Slowly he managed to carve a niche for himself in the small market then with its friendly customer centric approach and became a one stop shop for clients for all their needs relating to any function or wedding related queries. There were hardly 2-3 caterers during the late 80s and early 90s and his early success inspired many others to take the plunge in this field, since the demand was huge for taking orders to serve 20-30 people at once, he has expanded his business where the company can handle 4-5 events catering to more than 10,000 people at a time. He is now ably supported by his son Mr. Farhan Khan and his bother-in-law Mr. Tanveer Khan.



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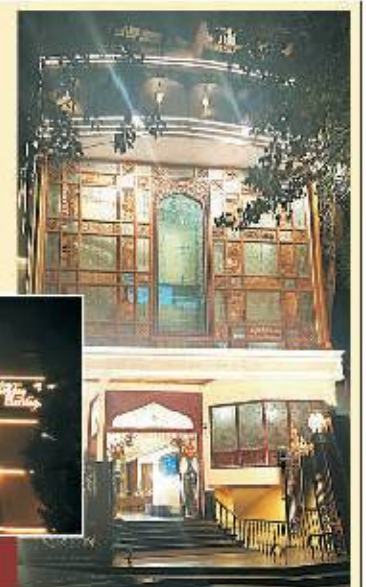
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Sri Lanka attacks bring together Muslims, Christians

Muslim Parliamentarians, community members pay visit to Archbishop Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith after attacks in Sri Lanka.



By Busra Nur Bilgic

Muslim parliamentarians and members of a Muslim group in Sri Lanka have paid a condolence visit to the Archbishop Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith, following the terror attacks in the country that claimed 310 lives. According to a press release issued by Mufti M.I.M Rizwe, President of All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama, Ranjith said preserving peace and religious harmony between the communities is important especially at difficult times. "Both parties emphasized on further strengthening of the good relationship that exists among the communities, for the betterment of our Motherland." "They also pledged to offer the fullest support in carrying out the necessary actions to be meted out on the perpetrators and terrorists," it added. On Easter Sunday, at least 310 people were killed and 500 others injured when a total of eight explosions targeted eight different locations in and outside Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. The bombings hit churches in Kochchikade, Negombo and Batticaloa cities, as well as



Kingsbury, Cinnamon Grand and Shangri La hotels in Colombo. (www.aa.com.tr)

Muslim Council of Sri Lanka
The Muslim Council of Sri Lanka strongly condemned the multiple bomb attacks in Sri Lanka that killed a total of 207 and wounded over 400 people. "The Muslim Council of Sri Lanka (MCSL) condemns the attacks on the places of worship of our Christian brothers and sisters on their holy day of Easter, as well as on the hotels in Colombo," the group said in a statement. It described the attackers as "the extremist and violent elements who wish to create divides between religious and ethnic groups to realize their agenda". The attack was deliberate and aimed to create panic and disrupt civil life, the statement added.

Muslim Council of Elders
The Muslim Council of Elders, under the Chairmanship of Dr Ahmed El-Tayeb, the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar strongly condemns the cowardly terror attacks carried out in a number of churches and hotels in Sri Lanka on the morning of Easter Sunday, which resulted in hundreds of casualties and injuries. The Council vehemently denounces such despicable attacks which go against the teachings of all religions and creeds as well as international laws and social

norms. The Council also stresses the urgent need to intensify international efforts towards countering all forms of terrorism. The Muslim Council of Elders also emphasizes that attacks on innocent civilians celebrating a religious holiday proves that the persons who carried out these attacks are nothing more than inhumane cowards.

OIC Secretary General

The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Dr. Yousef A. Al-Othaimeen, has strongly condemned the multiple cowardly attacks carried out in churches and hotels in Colombo and neighboring towns targeting innocent worshipers and civilians, which killed hundreds and wounded many more. Extending the solidarity of OIC with Sri Lanka at this painful moment, the Secretary General offered his deepest condolences to the families of the victims, Government and people of Sri Lanka on the tragic loss of lives and wished early recovery to the injured people. Dr. Al-Othaimeen expressed his firm rejection of these terrorist acts, which violate the sanctity of human life and reiterated the principled position of the OIC against all forms of terrorism and extremism.

(Extracted from oic-oci.org)

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