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Prof. Mumtaz Ali Khan



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Mass production of Halal Meat



Vol 33-08 No 404 July 2021 **Bengaluru** Pages 20 Rs. 40 Dhu'l-Qi'dah / Dhu'l-Hijjah - 1442 H

#### Ebrahim Raisi is the Newly Elected President of Iran



The 60-year-old Rasisi will take office in August. He promises to c o m b a t corruption and

solve the economic problems Iran has experienced under the outgoing President, Hassan Rouhani. He is the current head of the country's judiciary.

In 2017, Raisi surprised observers by standing for the presidency and lost to Rouhani, a fellow cleric who won a second term by a landslide victory, receiving 57% of the vote while Raisi came second 38%. However, He secured a crushing victory, winning 62% of the vote in the first round this time

After the revolution, when Ayatollah Khamenei became Iran's president in 1981, he joined the judiciary and served as a prosecutor in several cities. Ebrahim Raisi born in 1960 in Mashhad, Iran's second-biggest city at the country's holiest Shia Muslim shrine. Raisi's father died when he was five years old. His wife, Jamileh, teaches at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, and they have two adult

daughters.



# Role of Waqf Institutions in Post-Covid-19 Era



aqf is a concept unique to Islam. Although the Qur'an does not mention Waqf per se, there are many passages in the Qur'an encouraging the believers to spend their wealth on charity. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) translated this doctrine into an institution (Waqf). Hazrath Umar ibn Al-Khattab (ra), who had

acquired the land of Khyber in Madinah, sought the Prophet's advice and was instructed by the Prophet (pbuh) to make the property inalienable and distribute the usufruct as a charity. Thus, Waqf came to be defined as a permanent dedication by any person, of any movable or immovable property for any purpose recognized by Muslim law as pious, religious, or charitable.

Generally, waqf institutions emphasize more emphasis on pious and religious aspects and, to a far lesser extent, on charitable activities. This is understandable since a vast majority of the waqf lands endowed by donors (waqif) are intended for religious purposes like constructing mosques, establishing madrasas and Muslimburial grounds.

Of late, in the Muslim world, we are witnessing a paradigm shift in the focus of Auqaf (plural for Waqf) towards charitable activities. In countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Turkey, a waqf is playing an increasing role in the economic upliftment of the

downtrodden by adopting innovative methods. I will come to that later.

#### Role Of NGOs During The Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused devastating implications for families and even business enterprises. Vast numbers of daily wage workers have struggled to find their next meal due to loss of work and lockdowns. Many Muslim NGOs all over the country have done, and are still doing, yeomen service towards Covid relief work. The community resources were put to good use in Bangalore, for instance, where NGOs like Mercy Mission and a network of NGOs under the banner of Mercy Angels fed the poor, operated helplines, and organized oxygen beds. Muslim volunteers also assisted in arranging for the last rites of the dead Covid victims irrespective of religion and community. The public has recognized this selfless service.



Ayesha Siddiqua, Age-18 Bangalore

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The group inaugurated its

#### Shaheen Group Opens Covid Care Centre in Bidar



#### By MA Siraj

The Shaheen Group of Institutions in Bidar opened its Shaheen Covid Care Centre on June 3. The 30-bed facility has been set up in the group's hostel building on Mailur Ring Road. Maulana Abdul Ghani Khan, president of the Jamiatul Ulema, Bidar inaugurated the centre.

The Mercy Mission from Bengaluru gifted 30 oxygen cylinders and 30 concentrators for the purpose. Dr. Abdul Qadeer, Chairman of the Shaheen Group, said that Dr. Abdul Jameel is heading the centre with several nurses. The centre has acquired two ambulances for bringing the

patients who provide free service. The centre has also put in place a virtual clinic for a home consultation. Around 66 doctors who formerly studied at the Shaheen institutions and are now working in various hospitals in the town after attaining MBBS degrees provide medical advice on the phone.



Community Kitchen early last month in Bidar to provide free, hygienic vegetarian food to the needy for lunch and dinner. The kitchen is currently supplying 2,500 meal packets containing rice, roti, curry, daal, and curd to the needy, those isolated and quarantined at homes, duty staff in government hospitals, on-duty policemen, those deputed on check-posts and 60 families residing in the Raj Ground Colony. Two delivery vans carry the food to those who book the meals on the helpline and 20 two-wheelers. The kitchen is fully mechanized from cleaning the ingredients, cutting the vegetables, steam-cooking the rice, and a mechanical roti maker. Around 35 personnel, mostly women, work for 16 hours a day in two batches to prepare the meals packed in plastic trays with lids before being dispatched to the

(Extracted from an article in siasat.com)



#### Ambulance Driver Aneef

He covered 350 km in 4 hours and 30 minutes to save a 22-day-old infant



Bengaluru: In a bid to save the life of a 22-day-old infant, ambulance driver Aneef covered over 350 km in around four hours and 30 minutes to reach Narayana Multispeciality Hospital in the Electronic City in Bengaluru. Aneef had left AJ Hospital at 10.40 am with the infant and the parents, who hail from Pavoor on the city's outskirts, and reached their destination at 3.15 pm.

Volunteers had positioned themselves at places vulnerable to accidents along the stretch and ensured that the ambulance reached the hospital within the golden hour. Ishak Thumbe, who oversaw the entire operation, said the ambulance driver did not face any problems and reached the hospital at 3.15 pm.

(Extracted from deccanherald.com)

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#### Role of Waqf Institutions In Post-Covid-19 Era

#### Role of Waqfs During The Covid-19 Pandemic

Most people, however, are not aware of the commendable work done by the waqf institutions (particularly in Karnataka) towards Covid relief work.

The Karnataka Waqf Board also rose to the occasion and urged all the waqf institutions to utilize up to 30 percent of their income for Covid relief work. Here, I will mention a few waqf institutions that are helping to mitigate the suffering of Coronavirus patients:

a) Shortage of beds in hospitals and shortage of oxygen prompted the Jayanagar fourth block Idgah Masjid in Bangalore to set up a Covid Care Centre in association with ShihabThangal Centre for Humanity and SAFA Medicure Hospital. This 38-bed centre has three full-time doctors and eight nursing staff. Treatment is given free of cost.

b) An 80-bed Covid Care Centre with an oxygen facility has been set up in the Shadab Shadi Mahal, Bangalore.

c) The Anjuman-e-Islam, Belgaum, has started a hospital and has dedicated it as a Covid Care Centre.

d) 100 oxygen cylinders were donated by the Jamiya Masjid, Madhugiri.

e) The Raichur district waqf

institutions have set up a 50 bed Covid Care Centre in Raichur.

f) Bijapur district waqf institutions and NGOs have set up a 60 bed Covid Care Centre in the Tekade Galli area of Bijapur city.

g) The Datari masjid committee, Vijaypura, conducted a free vaccination camp for eligible persons.

h) Food provision kits have been distributed to daily wage workers who remained unemployed during lockdown by the Lababeen Masjid, Bangalore, Anjuman-e-Askaria, Holavanahalli of Koratgere Taluk, Umar Khan masjid, Mysore, Anjuman-e-Jaffariya, Alipur, Gowribidanur, Masjid-e-Taha, Mathikere, Bangalore and by the Dargah Hazrath Kambal Posh, Bangalore, to name a few.

#### Role of Waqf Institutions In Post-Covid-19 Era

Post-pandemic, waqf institutions have to re-focus their priorities to extend a helping hand to vulnerable sections of the society facing an economic crisis. Moreover, unemployment and poverty have to be tackled under the waqf framework since Waqf, along with zakat, is an essential Islamic financial instrument.

#### Utilize Covid Care Centres Establishez

In the post-covid scenario, the Covid Care Centres established in

wanf institutions at a considerable cost will remain un-used. It will be prudent to establish polyclinics, mohalla clinics, dialysis centres, and dental clinics there. With the advent of specialist doctors, the poor have to pay high consultation fees to get treatment for ordinary flu, fever, cold, indigestion, etc. Mohalla clinics headed by MBBS doctors (either full-time or parttime) can meet the immediate needs of poor patients. Facility for sugar tests, BP check, thyroid test, etc., will be a boon for needy patients.

#### Microcredit for Small Traders, Street Vendors, and Push Cart Vendors

A recent study conducted by the School of Business and Management, Indonesia found that waqfs can boost economic activity through waqf assets' utilization for many purposes such as education, health, and infrastructure in post-pandemic times. In addition, waqfs can potentially help vulnerable populations in various forms, such as microcredit for small traders and street hawkers. Self-help groups (SHGs) could also be formed for long-term benefits.

#### Establish Bait ul-Maals

Micro-level planning is more effective in contrast to macrolevel planning for the Muslim community. Therefore, it is necessary to establish a bait ulmaal attached to every mosque. Zakat and Sadaqah amounts collected by the bait ul-maal can be used to provide scholarships to students, financial assistance for medical treatment of patients, assistance for marriages, etc., for the poor in the locality. In the postpandemic era, this localized help can be of immense help to the needy.

#### Cash Waqf

Cash Waqf is a concept that is new to India but is being successfully managed in countries like Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Bangladesh. Waqf funds pooled can be handled by a body operated by financial experts who invest the corpus in shariah-compliant mutual funds, shares of blue-chip companies (low risk), and other businesses. The An-Nur Corporation Berhad (WAN Corp) was established in Malaysia to manage assets and shares of Johor Corporation (Jcorp). Out of the income of WANCorp, 70% is re-invested in shares, 25% for Fisabilillah charity, and 5% for the Islamic Religious Council. By 2011 itself, WANCorp had 16 branches of An-Nur Waqf Clinic, four dialysis centres, and one Waqf Hospital.

The Indonesian Waqf Board has appointed 18 Shariah financial institutions to collect cash waqf funds from waqifs. In

Bangladesh, an author has made a waqf of the royalty from the copyright of his famous books. The income from the sale of the books plows back to the Waqf, which is called Waqf of intellectual property.

#### Online Waqf

Online Waqf in Indonesia provides several financial services and is appointed by the Indonesia Waqf Board to handle cash waqf funds. Online waqf services are provided using the internet waqf platform. Donors who wish to donate money to the Cash waqf find it very convenient to do so through internet banking transactions.

#### Conclusion

In the post-pandemic era, resources, including Waqf, have to be synergized to address the crisis. Waqf as Islamic social finance can be leveraged to bridge financing gaps and can also be used to create safety nets. A Disaster Relief Fund in every city will come in handy. This is possible with the creation of Cash Waqfs to be managed by a team of dedicated and honest individuals familiar with handling financial instruments. These methods can work in tandem with mohalla bait ulmaals, which are localized institutions.

(The author has served as CEO, Karnataka State Board of Waqfs. He can be contacted on tahsin789@yahoo.com)

#### Tariq Ahmad Patloo: Floating Ambulance Service

Srinagar: According to a report in India Today, last year in August, when Tariq Ahmad Patloo, a houseboat owner in Srinagar, was infected with Covid and needed a ride to Srinagar's SMHS Hospital, he was unable to find a shikara to take him across the lake. Even after his recovery, the memory of that apathy haunted him more than the virus. Upon regaining his strength, Patloo began looking into the idea of starting a water ambulance service to help Covid patients who are unable to find support. He converted a traditional shikara into a makeshift ambulance with financial assistance from the Satya Rekha Trust He fitted it with an outboard motor so that it could reach destinations quickly. The ambulance, launched in



December 2020, has already helped many people reach the hospital. It is equipped with a stretcher, a wheelchair, masks, PPE kits, a glucometer, BP apparatus, oximeter, and a first-aid box. He has sought help from the government to have a dedicated medical practitioner and paramedic assigned to his service so that emergency treatment can be given on the boat itself. The boatman has circulated

his number via WhatsApp groups and on posters carrying messages about saving the lake from pollution. He gets frequent calls from families living in the lake area to ferry their ailing family members (Covid positive or otherwise) to hospital. "Recently, I even ferried bodies in the ambulance," Patloo says. "I give patients and their attendants PPE kits from the ambulance to prevent the spread of Covid. Every morning, I set out on my boat and raise awareness, reading out Covid SOPs on the loudspeaker fitted on the ambulance. The fuel on these trips cost me Rs 300-500 daily, and I pay for it from my own savings. I also distribute masks for free to boatmen who are without masks." (Extracted from indiatoday.in)

#### MEASI Donates Rs 1 cr to CM Covid Relief Fund



Chennai: The Muslim Educational Association of Southern India (MEASI) has donated? one crore towards the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund (CMPRF) to help support the state's initiative in combating the Covid pandemic. President of the MEASI, Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, Prince of Arcot, accompanied by the Honorary Secretary, Elias Sait, Honorary Treasurer, a Chartered Accountant (CA), and Secretary General of Seafood Exporters Association of India, Najmuddin Majeed, and businessman, K. Alauddin and Dr. Junaid Rasheed called on Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and handed over the cheque to him.

# AMU-Trained Doctors Reach Out to Covid Patients in Rural Bihar

#### Dr. Amjad

**Bihar:** A group of doctors is giving free Covid-19 consultations to patients in rural Bihar. As the cases started to surge in the second wave of the pandemic, three doctor friends, who are alumni of Aligarh Muslim University, came together and created this group to reach out.

Dr. Amjad, who led the group, completed his studies in medicine from AMU's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College in 2008; he is an eye surgeon in Bihar's Siwan district. The other members include Dr. Bilal Asif and Dr. Saba



Siddique. Dr. Bilal, a robotic surgeon, is currently assistant director at the Medanta Hospital. He frequently organizes online

video meetings of the group with the senior specialists of Medanta, where they discuss new studies on covid-19. The trio has put together a -- WhatsApp -- group -- of -- 250 members. They advise the patients over this group. "We have treated many patients so far by giving them advice over WhatsApp or on phone calls," said Dr. Amjad. "We prescribed them medicines and asked them to follow protocol, and most of them recovered just by following our advice." Dr. Saba Siddique is posted at Raipur AIIMS.

(Extracted from clarionindia.net)

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#### Rehan Alam (NRI) Donates 15 L To AMU

Aligarh: Rehan Alam Siddiqui, a Non-Resident Indian (NRI) based in Jubail, Saudi Arabia, has donated Rs 15 lakhs to Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) to set up an oxygen generation plant at its Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC). AMU saw many cases and deaths during the second wave of the Coronavirus pandemic. The university appealed to the organizations and individuals for help and support. Rehan Siddiqui obliged and donated the considerable sum to

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#### Rashida Sayyad

Mohammed Nabeel, aged 21, is pursuing his third year of engineering, and he has devoted his major part of his time to help COVID victims. Talking about his purpose of joining the Mercy Mission amidst the raging second phase COVID, he said, "I am already running an NGO called Daal Chaawal for the last few years. I was motivated by Tanveer, sir, to join Mercy Mission. It feels like living a life with a purpose by helping people when they need us the most.'

So, how does the family react to his decision to join Mercy Mission at this hour? Nabeel replied, "my parents supported me, and my mother is a doctor, so it was not difficult to convince them. I take all required precautions, like sanitizing before reaching home and taking multivitamins. That is all." Speaking about his experience with MM, he says, "I work both for transferring patients to hospitals and burying victims' bodies as per their customs. I have performed more than 40 last rites

Yet another volunteer Hameed, 18 years old, is associated with Mercy Mission for the last few months. Hameed tries to create a perfect balance between his life as a social worker and as a son. As he puts it, "I lost my mother two years back, and my father also cannot move much due to heart ailment. So I have to look after my father also at home. But, since I

# Mercy Mission Angels: There is no stopping them

Lest we forget the contribution of the young volunteers who have come forward to help the COVID victims, here are a few of them. Read on-

have been doing social service since the age of 14, I managed it." He further adds, ` When my friend's father died due to COVID, I helped them in every way I could and also helped them during his burial. So, slowly and finally, I got actively involved in helping the families and giving respectful farewell to the victims.'

Hameed was contacted by MM when few daily newspapers wrote about his services. 'I got a call from MM, and then I continued my work with them." He expressed his concern over the scarcity of volunteers as he says, "we need more volunteers to come forward and join the Mission for a noble cause.'

Toufeeq, aged 17, is working for Mercy Mission for the last year. "I joined MM during the first wave of COVID. When I saw the bodies being dumped in the pit on social media, I was quite disappointed. I wanted them to get a respectful burial. Soon, I came to know

about Mercy Mission, and I joined them." Talking about her family's response, he says, "initially, I told them that I am engaged with the food distribution work, but later when the truth was out, they were quite concerned about my safety. I convinced them somehow I selfquarantined myself for few months and then started leading a normal life with the family, as it became my daily job".

Speaking about his experience in these two phases of COVID, he says, "I have performed last rites for more than 300 bodies. At first, I was scared but slowly learned to handle the cases."

Lastly, Nadeer Delvi concludes, "We do it to please our Creator." God forbid, but what if the third wave of COVID hits the city? "Mercy Mission is prepared" concluded Toufeeq.





Hameed Abousheair

Toufeea

# How The Pandemic Caused Some Changes in My Life



Nabeel Mazhari

For many families in different parts of the world, the coronavirus pandemic came like a disaster and destroyed their lives. Thousands of people died, lost their kith and kin, their jobs, and more. All this is very disheartening. Listening to those heartbreaking incidents, I really felt like crying.

In pre-COVID times, when I would get up in the morning, among the first things I would do would be to find or prepare something to eat, and then I would ask my siblings what they needed to do for school. I am the eldest of the three children in the family. and so I am responsible for ensuring that my siblings are doing well in school. But because of the virus, we haven't been going to school for quite some time now.

So, these days, I and my siblings do things together. If someone gets stuck, you just ask, and we can help each other.

Being confined to the home these days, I watch the news when I feel exhausted. Coronavirus and its current status are the news that I follow the most. Often, I bingewatch historical T.V series. Netflix and Prime have become my good friends. I do not know if this is a good thing, but this is how I have been spending much of my time at home these days.

When my mother first experienced some mild symptoms of COVID we were all confined in our rooms. After a week or two, my father showed the same symptoms, and that was troublesome. After that, we were on our own. We had no one except my elder cousin, who staved with us the whole time. Living in the same house, I couldn't ask my mother to cook a lip-licking dish. I missed my mother's angry

My mother was quarantined for around 14 days, but my father remained in isolation longer. I felt really sad about my father sitting with his hands on his head, depressed. I felt like bumping into my parents' room and hugging them, but that would have been inappropriate.



bickering and my father's quiet minor suggestions. Staring at the dining table, I used to think about the moments we sat together eating and laughing, my father's interesting life stories, which he usually narrated after dinner. How we admiringly looked at our father and listening to his tales! There was no one now to come and wake me up, to ask about my homework or about what I ate. I felt very lonely and negative. Many emotions went through my head. I felt angry, shocked and depressed at the same

My mother was quarantined for around 14 days, but my father remained in isolation longer. I felt really sad about my father sitting with his hands on his head, depressed. I felt like bumping into my parents' room and hugging them, but that would have been inappropriate. I really felt terrible about my two younger sisters, who were deprived of their mother's care and father's love at such a young age.

I felt like a grown-up. I noticed a sense of responsibility towards the house, my younger siblings, and

my parents. Rather than being reputed for laziness, I did all the household chores with my cousin. I did all I could, and even more. The good thing was that everyone was at home. We all were restricted, but at least we were together the whole day. To be honest, I had never stayed at home this much. I was always out doing something, but nowadays, I'm mostly in my room and the living room. I was not always home earlier, so I never really spent a lot of time with my family. But during the lockdown, I gave myself a chance to really sit down with my family and reconnect our emotions and talk about ourselves, which we never properly did before. I learned to enjoy the little things that we take for granted. Here was an opportunity to think about and work on oneself. I played a lot of games with my siblings. Together, we recounted memories of our childhood. I felt that in the past, I had missed out on them. But now I really feel close to everyone in the family. My sisters want a promising future ahead of them and are really inspired to work and make their dreams come true, making me really, very happy. The younger one keeps me excited and laughing. She is a very talkative girl! Her little cheerful chats have really kept me high these past few weeks.

During these recent months, I suppose there have been many cases of families reuniting, with members of the family sharing about things that other family members didn't know, sharing about things they did when they weren't home much of the time. I think before the phase we are now going through, many people lived under the same roof but actually in different worlds. Many families lived in the same house, but they did not spend enough time with each other. Because of being busy with work and traveling, many people didn'toften communicate with their families. But now because many of us are confined to our homes, there are chances for family members to come together and be in each other's company. I think people should avail of this because families are one of the most important things we have in times like these.

Time flies. It has been a very long time since I last sat with my friends in a classroom, enjoying every period, laughing like idiots, playing on the grounds, and a lot more. But despite all that has happened and everything that has upset me. I am learning to change my attitude. I would say that it is up to us how we adapt to the environment. COVID, undoubtedly, changed everything. Like us, the whole world is changed.

Be safe. Take Care. May God bless us.

(The author, based in New Delhi, is a Class 12 student)



#### Rashida Sayyad

"Mazhab nahisikhata apas mein bair rakhna, Hindi hai hum, watan hai Hindustan hamara."

These lines aptly describe the selfless service of dedicated COVID volunteers working to serve those irrespective of caste, creed, and faith. They reflect the essence of being an Indian and of devoting oneself to help others. Among such people are a group called 'Mercy Mission,' who are working round the clock to save lives and bidding a dignified farewell to victims of COVID.

Mercy Mission was born on 21st March 2020 in Bengaluru. Realizing the enormity and gravity of the challenges lying ahead, a group of NGOs operating in Bengaluru across various fields and activities decided to join hands and agreed to work together to take the fight against COVID head-on.As the word spread, some other NGOs also joined. Mercy Mission overgrew to become a coalition and collaboration of more than 25 NGOs- the HBS Hospital, The United Foundation, Project Smile, Lifeline Foundation, Humane Touch, Thanal, VCET. Humanitarian Relief Society, Swabhimaan, HWA trust, Palm Trust, Healing Touch, Cigma Foundation, AlAnsaar trust, amongst others.

Although it was challenging to manage the unforeseen situation filled with emergencies, deaths, fear, and distress, the years of experience of various NGOs associated with Mercy Mission enabled it to go ahead with excellent coordination and dedication

Soon after Mercy Mission was launched, Mercy Angels swung into action immediately to distribute dry ration kits and food kitchens. During the lockdown of several weeks in 2020, Mercy Mission NGOs distributed 83,000+ dry ration kits worth approximately Rs 8.5 cr spread across 300 localities in Bengaluru and more than 25 towns across Karnataka. Also, Mercy Mission NGOs and affiliated groups operated 33 Mercy Kitchens across Bengaluru, where they cooked and distributed 14.5 lakh food

# Mercy Mission: Serving God and Humanity During the Pandemic



packets. Mercy Mission volunteers also picked up and facilitated 12.3 lakh food packets given by donors such as Wipro, Atria, Compass, Prestige, BBMP, among other organizations.

Mercy Mission also operated an ambulance service for the transport of COVID deceased in Bengaluru. Mercy Angels carried out the last rites of more than 400 COVID victims in Bengaluru based on their faiths. Mercy Mission NGOs also supplied free medicines, distributed PPE kits to front-line workers, organized medical camps, elder care, and blood bank activities during the lockdown period.

Mercy Mission is also engaged in awareness campaigns on COVID and social distancing in the slum areas in tandem with government authorities. It opened a free online clinic to provide sound medical advice to all. More and more COVID cases started increasing in the city; Mercy Mission operated oxygen centres, providing oxygen cylinders until patients could source scarce hospital beds. One of its core NGOs, HBS Hospital, started providing COVID services with 56 beds in July 2020. Mercy Mission facilitated HBS to open and operate an Oxygen Centre serving 32 patients (recovered or with mild symptoms) close to the hospital. In August 2020, Mercy Mission commenced coordinating plasma donations and recipients in the city.

The year 2020 ended, but Mercy Mission was still striving to save lives as the year 2021 again witnessed a surge in deaths due to the second wave of COVID. Dwelling on the present scenario in Bangalore, Ali Sharief, Mercy Mission, the secretary said, "We had to upscale Mercy Angel's operations in April due to surge of deaths in the city. We have made 250 last journeys in April alone, based on one's faith, to crematoriums, cemeteries, and burial grounds. Three hearse vans and 29 volunteers are working incessantly to meet the demand." He further informed that various teams of volunteers are working across town providing this service. Vans have been supplied by Halai Memon Jamath, Project Smile, and HBS Hospital for this activity.

Mercy Mission is currently operating six Mercy Oxygen Centres across Bengaluru; a volunteer team of 18 is handling the centres. Mercy Mission launched a free Mercy Clinic

Mobile App to give sound medical advice, the correct information, and guide people. Several doctors have enrolled and are providing online video consultations.

Mercy Mission commenced coordinating plasma donors and recipients separately. During the first wave, 550 patients received plasma. Since April 2021, the demand has surged. Project Smile and TUF organized Antibody Testing Camps along with Jeevan Raksha, and 35 potential plasma donors were identified out of this drive.

Ali Sharief says, "To reduce the burden of exorbitant pricing for ambulance services to patients, Mercy Mission has a total fleet of seven ambulances equipped with oxygen to transport patients." He further adds that Project Smile is operating, managing, and maintaining the operations of the Ambulance fleet. Nominal charges on a not-for-profit basis are recovered to enable operational sustainability. Mercy Mission has also developed a modern, hygienic kitchen facility to prepare a nutritious full meal for the doctors, hospital staff, COVID patients, and the poor.

MM has also worked towards vaccine awareness campaigns, and Lifeline Foundation across 15 slums has done talks. Vaccination camp was conducted by one of the member NGOs-HWA Foundation, on 29th April 2021. BBMP provided free vaccination, and 47 people got vaccinated. HBS Hospital also got permission to work as a Vaccination centre.

A centralized public helpline was setup by Mercy Mission to cope with emergencies, operated by Project Smile, in association with TUF (The United Foundation) to reach out to the patients requiring an ambulance, oxygen, plasma, and guidance services. A team of 50 volunteers and 20 staff are operating the helpline.

With the support of APPI (Azim Premji Philanthropy Initiative), Mercy Mission also facilitated HBS Hospital to open and operate an oxygenated centre having 32 rooms. "This centre hosted patients recovering from COVID who were fit for discharge but needed close monitoring. It helped enhance hospital capacity and free beds for critical patients. During the first wave, 250+ patients benefit from it," points out Ali Sharief.

One of the Mercy Mission NGOs, HBS Hospital, became a dedicated COVID facility in April with 50 beds. It is among the few hospitals providing dialysis to COVID patients. In response to the massive requirement for oxygenated beds, HBS is adding beds to admit and treat more patients.

As the pandemic is still hovering, Mercy Angels, too, are spearing ahead. As Tanveer Ahmed, Mercy Angel, said, "I have isolated myself from my family and staying in one room. Family support has given me the strength to continue with the work. We do it for the sake of the Creator and humanity."

Sadiq, another Mercy Angel, adds, "[Sometimes] even the relatives don't come near the victims, so it is our moral duty to give a dignified farewell to the victims."

(Contact Email: mercymission.in@gmail.com)

Mercy Mission is also engaged in awareness campaigns on COVID and social distancing in the slum areas in tandem with government authorities. It opened a free online clinic to provide sound medical advice to all.



## A tribute to Dr. Mumtaz Ahmed Khan - Sir Syed of South India

#### Nikhat Fatima

umtaz Ahmed Khan, the well-known educationist, is often referred to as Sir Syed of South

Dr. Mumtaz Ahmed Khan Moved to Bangalore from Kerala after his father's death. The wealth he inherited made him decide that he must devote his life to a cause and not to his profession.

He observed that Muslims were divided into different schools of thought like Deobandis, Barelvis, etc., and felt that education was the only thing that would bind them.

He even noticed nothing like the Jamal Mohammed College of Trichy from where he hailed was in Karnataka. This college was a minority institute that provided education to the downtrodden and socially backward sections of the society, particularly Muslims. So he felt the need to have something like this in Karnataka.

At the age of 31, in 1966, he founded the Al Ameen movement

or the Al Ameen Educational Society with support from his likeminded friends. And thus, the first college was set up under the Al Ameen Educational Society. Today, society has educational institutes from Nursery to postgraduation, including nursing, law, pharmacy, and management, medical and engineering colleges.

Today Al Ameen has close to 250 institutes across the country with more than 2.5 lakh students.

In an interview taken a couple of years ago, Mumtaz Ahmed Khan shared that all communities, Christians, Brahmins, and other communities are ahead of the Muslim community by at least 50 years. And we need to catch up with

them. Hence what better way to start than with education? He also observed that Tirupati, which receives massive donations from devotees, has set up a University under their trust. This University has several courses with quality education. But the Ajmer Dargah trust that also receives huge donations spends their money organizing quawalis, Mushairas,c etc. They have not given a thought to establishing an educational institute.

Dr. Mumtaz helped several people set up schools and colleges all over India from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Under the Al Ameen itself, several schools in rural Karnataka provide education to the poor, charging affordable fees.

He is also the founder of Al Ameen Medical College, set up in 1986 in Bijapur District, Karnataka, which has produced thousands of doctors who are now practicing worldwide. Later a dental college was established in Bijapur.

Dr. Khan had a few advice for those who wanted to establish a new organization and succeed. Firstly faith in Allah - Emaan; Sabr patience; Azam - determination, consistency; keep away from opportunists, have courage, grit and keep doing your job.

He dreamed that Muslim students should get a quality education, compete with students from other communities, and show their mettle. He was satisfied and happy seeing his dream being realized. Yet, despite his vast achievements, he was down to earth and humble. He used to say, "By the grace of Allah, the organization is running; I am only playing my role."

Dr. Mumtaz also worked to promote the Urdu language as most of his schools were in Urdu medium. And he also founded the Urdu daily 'The Salar Daily.' He also served as Pro-Chancellor cum treasurer of Aligarh Muslim University.

An award for the best teacher is named after him 'Dr. Mumtaz Ahmed Khan Best Teachers Award'.

Dr. Mumtaz Khan is the recipient of several awards. Some prominent ones are Karnataka Raivothsava Award (1990) for Education by the Govt of Karnataka; AFMI|American Federation of Muslims from India (AFMI) Award: Junior Javcees Award; Kempegouda Award; Federation of Senior Citizen Forums of Karnataka Award and Public Relations Society of India Award.

The title Baba-e-Taleem was conferred to him on the 47th Founders Day of Al Ameen by the Al Ameen society.

#### Umar Ismail Khan Al-Ameen Educational Society new Chairman

On 24 June 2021, Umar Ismail Khan, son of Founder and

Chairman Late Dr. Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, was appointed the new Chairman of the AL-Ameen Educational Society with the consensus of the Executive Council. Umar shared the dream and vision his

father had to uplift the community and society through education. As a result of his dedication and hard work, 236

institutions were established throughout the country. Keeping the flame of his father's dreams and efforts still burning, Chairmanelect Umar wishes to take on the new role with the same zeal and passion for taking the

Al-Ameen Movement to greater heights.



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A Siraj

ormer Karnataka Minister Prof. Mumtaz Ali Khan passed away on June 7, 2021, due to age-related ailments. He was 94.Prof. Mumtaz was Minister for Minority Affairs, Wakf, and Hajj during 2008-11 in the BJP government headed by Mr. Yeddiyurappa. He had taken voluntary retirement as Professor of Sociology in the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru in 1982, where he taught for around two decades. He later dedicated himself to social work among the Dalits and Minorities. He authored several books, edited a magazine, Crush devoted to highlighting the situation of subaltern classes, and established several institutions. He also established the Salamath Kannada Medium High School to promote Kannada medium education among Muslim students. He had set up Dalit Research and Development Organisation to encourage research on the two segments of the society on the lowers rungs of development.

Prof. Mumtaz will, however, be remembered more for several new measures he initiated when he held the Minority Welfare portfolio under the BJP government in the State. He separated the Minority Welfare Department from the Backward Classes Welfare Department to bring a sharper focus on the development of minorities. He framed cadre and recruitment (C&R) rules for the Directorate of Minorities Welfare. He would regularly hold a conference with Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of districts to take stock of the various schemes meant for minorities and check the allocation of budgetary finances. He introduced scholarships for minority students appearing for competitive examinations and scholarships for those opting for higher education overseas. Around 200 such scholarships (each granting Rs. 10 lakh to an individual) are currently being granted to students going abroad. During his tenure of a little less than three years, the annual budgetary allocation went up from Rs. 150 crores to Rs. 300 crore.

#### Hajj Ghar

During his tenure that foundation for the Hajj Ghar was laid and the facility was inaugurated in Hegdenagar colony of the city. Although the direct Hajj flights from Bengaluru had started in 1996, the plans and proposals never really took off from paper during the preceding Congress and Janata Dal governments. The



## Prof. Mumtaz Ali Khan

#### Former Minister, a Social Scientist as well as a Social Worker

massive facility on the road leading to Kempegowda International Airport is currently improvised as Covid Care Centre. The first BJP Government under Mr. Yeddiyurappa (2008-11) had sanctioned Rs. 50 crore for the purpose and ultimately bore the entire Rs. 80 crore till it took the final shape.

#### Wakf Reforms

Professor Mumtaz initiated steps to update the Wakf property records and initiated digitizing the landed and other physical assets. He would hold Wakf conferences in the four divisions of the State regularly. He was instrumental in getting several Wakf properties restored after the removal of encroachments. A special Wakf cadre was set up during his tenure, and nearly 200 officers were recruited to maintain, manage, develop and restore Wakf properties in the State.

#### **Honest to the Core**

Mr. Akram Pasha, IAS, who served as the Secretary, Ministry of Minority Welfare under Prof. Mumtaz for three years (he is currently Labour Commissioner) recalls that he was an upright man, no-nonsense person who delved into the affairs of his portfolio without fear or favour. He says he was down-to-earth and honest. He recalls that the Government had decided to allot a Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) site to each of the 224 MLAs in 2011 under 'G' (i.e., Government) category to all those who did not possess a house of their own or site in the city. Prof. Mumtaz declined saying he already had a house of his own and needed no further property. Nearly 200 of the 224 MLAs filed affidavits claiming they possessed no landed assets or house in the city. Prof. Mumtaz was not a politician in the real sense of the term and was picked up by Mr.

Yeddiyurappa as a Muslim



him nominated as a Member of the Legislative Council. He accompanied Mr. Yeddiyurappa when he split the BJP in the State and formed Karnataka Janata Party (KJP). He later joined the Congress for a short while but quit the party and the politics for good. Mr. Narayanaswamy a student of Prof. Mumtaz in the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) who currently teaches Veterinary Physiology at the same University, recalls that he (i.e. Prof. Mumtaz) as a member of the Board of Regents of the UAS (1988-1991) was instrumental in recruiting as many as 35 teachers of the SC/ST communities into the elite University. He said he set up a school within the University campus for the children of University staff, which turned into a robust institution over the years. His role in getting a monthly grant of over Rs. 1,200 for each of the SC/ST students in the University is remembered with gratitude by the Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Welfare Association in the University. Prof. Mumtaz was the first President of the Association when the SC and ST community members were scared of coming up under any such banner in the University. He also recalls that Professor Mumtaz first raised the demand for conferring a

doctorate on Dr. Ragi Lakshamaniah for his outstanding research work. He belonged to the SC community, and the dominant groups were ignoring his position within the University.

#### **Kannada Champion**

Professor Mumtaz was a champion of Kannada and would advise Muslims to learn the State language to integrate well with other communities and understand the dominant trends within society. He wrote several books in South India: Past, Present and Tomorrow: Mysore Village Revisited. The book was in English by a British-Austrian Jewish anthropologist who wrote the book following her visit to the village near Mysuru 40 years after her first visit.

Prof. Mumtaz's doctoral thesis in Sociology pertained to women sex workers and their conditions. In a chat several years ago with this scribe, he had said he

interacted with several of such women in and around Bengaluru. Curiously, one such worker charged him a fee for providing him input for his study. She had commented: 'This is my fee for such a slot of time. I am not bothered whether one spends this time to talk to me or does otherwise'.

Prof. Mumtaz has a daughter from his first marriage, which ended in divorce. She retired as a professor from Bangalore's Maharani College. He has a son from the second marriage who works for a large financial firm in Manhattan in New York. Yet another son died young in an accident. He named Salamath Kannada High School after the departed son as Noor Ahmed Ali Khan Memorial Secondary School in Ganganagar. This institution receives grant-in aid from the Dept of Public Instructions.

(M A Siraj is a Bengaluru-based seasoned journalist who writes for various newspapers, including The Hindu, and news portals. Extracted from siyasat.net)

As a Minister,

**Prof Khan** initiated several reforms in the **Minority Welfare Department of** Karnataka. He was also a minister under a BJP Government.

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#### UK Film Charity to overcome Muslim Stereotypes on Screen

A new charity was launched in the UK to challenge Muslim stereotypes on screen. Brit actor and producer Sajid Varda founded UK Muslim Film in response to what he said were years of working within the industry both in front of and behind the camera and "realizing that Muslims need representation at all levels, in writer's rooms, and as commissioners." The charity will advise the entertainment industry on representing Muslims on screen better while also helping "support, nurture, and fund projects" from emerging



storytellers and be a port of call for authentic Muslim representation.

"The lack of representation also impacts the types of stories that are told, leading to more content based on negative stereotypes which impact Muslims adversely daily," said Varda. He is the first

Muslim character on the longrunning BBC teen drama Byker Grove, covering a groundbreaking storyline around racism. "There are many talented Muslim creatives from the Muslim community and other underrepresented groups that find it hard to get a foothold into the industry. We want to change this. We aim to encourage greater understanding and engagement between the Muslim and the wider community, finding what connects us, and to advise the industry on better authenticity in productions."

#### British Muslim Cultural Charity Wins Queen's Award

A British Muslim charity promoting cultural awareness and diversity has received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, a prestigious reward for outstanding achievements by volunteers. The Muslim Arts and Culture Festival, Macfest, was founded in 2017 in the wake of the Manchester Arena terrorist attack to act as a bridge between different communities and confront discrimination with culture. One of the 241 social enterprises given the award, created to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 50-year reign as Britain's head of state.



Started by British Muslim novelist Qaisra Shahraz, the annual Muslim Arts and Culture Festival hosts more than 70 social events a year that encourage community exchange and engagement. The organization now puts on shows across the UK and this year hosted its first international festival live and online from Azerbaijan.

#### NATIONAL NEWS

#### Hyderabad's Kind Breadman

People have been donating money, distributing essentials, and cooking for the needy during the ongoing pandemic. But a breadman in Tolichowki, Hyderabad, is helping the needy with his out-of-the-box initiative. Mohammed Iqbal, who runs Abdullah Naan



Mahal, does not want anyone to go hungry. So, he came up with Neki ki Roti ('Bread of Goodness'). Every morning, he places a basket outside his eatery for people to buy naan rotis and

put them in it. "Anyone, rich or poor, can pick up the rotis from this basket. No one should go hungry," he says.

Iqbal himself places at least 20 *rotis* a day in the basket. "By doing this, we are not helping people but God. It is God who is making us do this," he believes. "Even those, who are not my regular customers, are now buying Neki ki Rotis to help the poor."

(Extracted from newindianexpress.com)

#### Sir Syed Global Scholar Award 2021-22 announced

Twenty-eight students from various departments of Aligarh Muslim University students (AMU) have been selected for the prestigious Sir Syed Global Scholar Award (SSGSA) for the academic session 2021-22. The award is given by a US-based non-profit entity Sir Syed Education Society of North America (SSESNA).

Announcing the award, Salman Bin Kashif, Chair, SSGSA Programme and a past beneficiaary of the programme, said, "The quality of applications continues to improve each year. In the coming years, it will serve the students well if they go the extra mile in building their overall profiles through projects and internships while being diligent in learning the fundamental concepts of their respective subjects." He said a record number of applications were received from Arts, Commerce, Humanities, Science, Medicine, Life Sciences, Engineering, and Technology faculties.

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# Sultan of Perak (Malaysia) Praises Sikhs

The Sikh community arehighlyvalued citizens of Malaysia and play a vitally important role in Malaysia's rich multicultural society. The Sultan of Perak (Malaysia), Nazrin Muizzuddin Shah, recently said although the Sikhs made up only 2.5 percent of the population, they had always stood out and made their presence known. Speaking at the launch of the book entitled Sikhs in Malaysia: A Comprehensive History written by Ranjit Singh Malhi, Sultan Nazrin said the Sikhs could be found at the top in all professions. He added that they also excel in business, industry, sports, culture, and the arts. He said the book highlighted the Sikh community's contributions to the country, from its establishment as a British colony until today, including in the field of security. "As the book reminds us, this was in large part of what made them so suitable for this profession in the early days of British Malaya. "A few turbaned and moustached Sikhs were apparently all it took to strike fear into the hearts of those considering doing wrong.

"A well-deserved reputation for courage, loyalty and discipline also played an important role, of course."

Sultan Nazrin said it was these characteristics which led to the Sikhs' dominance of the early police and paramilitary forces established in Perak, adding that many Sikhs had come to Malaya from the Punjab specifically for this purpose. The very first Perak Armed Police set up in 1874, he said, was even renamed the 1st Battalion Perak Sikhs in the 1880s.

"These early Guards helped to make safe the treacherous mountain passes between the tin mining areas and the coastal settlements, which were previously plagued by highway bandits.

"The Sikhs' prowess in the security forces became so well established that, as the book informs us, even non-Sikh Indians were reportedly encouraged to don a turban in order to qualify," he said.



The Sikhs continued to play a special role in Perak, said Sultan Nazrin, and were mounted as the Royal Bodyguard for his great great grandfather, Sultan Idris Murshidal Azzam Shah. He said the establishment of the bodyguards reflected the remarkable level of trust that the Sikhs inspired, due to their unfaltering devotion to duty, and remembered as an important part of the Perak Sultanate's history. He also said Perak today hosted the largest Sikh community in Malaysia outside of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

success across the board." Sultan Nazrin said despite their small numbers overall, there were notable Sikhs in all areas of public and private life in Malaysia. Among others, he named former Chief Justice of Malaya Tan Sri Swaran Singh Gill, Malaysia's first female paediatrician Dr. Harban Kaur Virik, footballer Datuk Santok Singh, and singer DJ Dave. Another person was Police Commissioner Datuk Seri Amar Singh. He was the Director of Commercial Crime Investigation, the highest rank attained by a Sikh in the police force, before his retirement in December 2018.

Sultan Nazrin highlighted five characteristics of the Sikh community which contributed to their success, which were adaptability; patriotism; commitment to education; hard work and thriftiness; and respect for tradition. These main ingredients, he said, had together empowered the Sikhs to conquer

Sultan Nazrin highlighted five characteristics of the Sikh community which contributed to their success, which were adaptability; patriotism; commitment to education; hard work and thriftiness; and respect for tradition. These main ingredients, he said, had together empowered the Sikhs to conquer the "highest heights in modern Malaysia".

"Here, as elsewhere, they have long moved beyond the security sector in which they originally excelled, bringing their talents and skills to many other fields.

"And the very same qualities that served them so well in the colonial police and military forces, especially their dedication, discipline, and sense of duty, have propelled them to the "highest heights in modern Malaysia". "This book helps to highlight the immense contributions made by the Sikh community to the development of Malaysia, while providing us with fascinating and illuminating details of various aspects of their history here", he said.

(Extracted from www.nst.com.my)



# Al-Azhar Grand Imam: "Religious Scholars exert efforts to Initiate Coexistence."



Al-Azhar Grand Imam Ahmed El-Tayyeb has said that religious scholars play an important and influential role in initiating tolerance and coexistence among people. He addressed a meeting with a delegation led by Secretary-General of the Anglican Consultative Council Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Bishop Mounir Hanna of the Episcopal Church in Egypt, North Africa, and the Horn of Africa, and the new Archbishop of Alexandria, Samy Fawzy. The delegation hailed El-Tayyeb's international efforts in dialogue and human fraternity among followers of different religions. It also praised the religious discourse of Al-Azhar that is based on accepting difference and diversity.

# Sikh family donates Ancestral land to build Mosque in Malerkotla



They are setting an example of communal harmony in Malerkotla, Punjab; a Sikh family from Jitwal Kalan village in the newly created district's Ahmedgarh subdivision has donated its ancestral land to build a mosque. Around a dozen Muslim families residing in the village, situated about 15 kilometres from the district

headquarters, had to go to neighbouring villages to offer prayers during Eid and other occasions.

Jagmail Singh, 40, whose family owns a large tract of land, recently announced to donate 6 biswa (around 8,000 square feet) in the centre of the village to construct a mosque. "There are around 12 Muslim families in the village. They have to go to other villages to offer prayers. I knew they could not buy land, as they mostly work as labourers and are poor," said Jagmail Singh.

(Extracted from www.hindustantimes.com)

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#### Religious Practices in Public Workplaces: My Response

We need to learn to relate to different cultural settings appropriately, with respect, and wisdom.





have had the honour of serving as a Vice-Chancellor to three major universities in India. One of these was the central university of Pondicherry, where I spent six years. My period is termed as a golden period of 300% growth. The B grade university for 20 years was turned into A grade, ranking top 10 in the country and less than 350 in the world ranking. Like several other public institutions, religious and cultural practices prevail in Pondicherry university too. I want to share my thoughts on such practices and my response when I was head of the institution.

In Pondicherry University, seminars or conferences would invariably start with the lighting of oil lamps on a brass pedestal followed by an invocation, either in praise of goddess of learning or a song in praise of the local language and culture. To welcome the Vice-chancellor to any grand function, a few girl students would stand at the door to garland him and put a little sandal paste on his forehead. On the last day of Dasara, there would be worship, and at the end, a big pumpkin

**Every community** always respects a practicing Muslim for his good conduct, honesty and integrity, wisdom and regard, good relations, tolerance, and respect for others.

would be brought and broken in front of the chief of the institution. On Independence Day ,Gandhi Jayanti and Ambedkar Jayanti, the Vice-Chancellor would first garland the statue of Gandhiji or Babasaheb Ambedkar and offer floral tributes. I am sure the practices are not much different in other public offices or government institutions.

I want to narrate my response. I would accept the garland from the students and the sandal paste on the forehead, light the lamp symbolizing the start of a function and stand up with all when the invocation was sung. When a pujari would come to my room with a lamp in a tray, I would keep a currency note in the tray and say thank you with a pleasant smile. I would lead the garlanding of statues of Gandhiji and Babasaheb Ambedkar and pay floral tributes. Finally, on Dasara, they would invite me to watch them rotating the pumpkin three times and break it into pieces on the ground. I would stand and watch while the rituals were being conducted.

In my perception, this was an appropriate response in a multireligious and multi-cultural society if one is working in a public office particularly holding high positions. We need to learn to relate to different cultural settings appropriately, with respect, regard for others, goodwill, and wisdom. Imagine a hypothetical case of a Muslim Vice-Chancellor, who is looked upon as a respected figure by hundreds of teachers and thousands of students. Suppose he had avoided doing all that I did. What would he have achieved thereby? Nothing positive. Firstly, he would have hurt the feelings and sentiments of innocent students. But it may not just end there. His attitude could be picked up by the media and could be used as a means to polarize society and shape public opinion to embarrass theentire community. The worst affected might be innocent Muslim

students and teachers, who would be embarrassed and could face awkward comments and even face bias. In brief, he would have disturbed the harmony, tranquility, and learning environment of the campus, and he would be distracted from his challenges of management, development, and providing academic leadership, which he was appointed for.

I must also share thatI could provide a place for namaz on the campus, arrange for sehri and iftar in Ramadan, and place for tarawih and arranged for only halal meat to be served in university hostels. It was mutual tolerance and respect that allowed me to do what I wanted to do for the university's good and to maintain harmony and come out with laurels that the community would also be happy

Several cultural practices are not specific to any one particular religion. They are often shared by people from different religious backgrounds. It is a fact that many Hindu traditions have also been embedded in Indian Muslim society, and they should be considered cultural. To cite a few, a particular sort of necklace with black beads in weddings, sindhur on a married woman's forehead in Bengal, haldi and mehendi and face-showing ceremonies in marriages, and many more.

The biggest challenge before the Muslim community today in India is polarization, Islamophobia, and lack of connectivity and cordiality of the community with the majority population. Our children's future is our priority, good relations and cordiality with the majority population are very important. Besides, the community's youth should enter higher education in large numbers and aim to attain high positions in government organizations and also in every profession, including finance and banking. A community that secludes itself from mainstream society will always be the biggest loser of the gains of the nation's progress.

Every community always respects a practicing Muslim for his good conduct, honesty and integrity, wisdom and regard, good relations, tolerance, and respect for others.

(The author is former Vice-Chancellor of Kashmir University, Pondicherry Central University, and Abdur Rahman Crescent University, and is a former member of the UGC. Can be contacted on Email: tareenjak@yahoo.co.in)

#### **READERS SPACE**

Sir, It is good to restart the magazine. But considering the changing demographics of the readers, please make it digitalonly. That will save you operational costs and keep the magazine alive long after we are gone. Also, you could follow the Readers digest model where the best articles of other magazines are reprinted in one place to benefit the readers.

Nawaz Ahmed.

Sir, recently, in 'Siasat Newspaper' my uncle gave an advertisement for second marriage as he lost his wife last year. He received hundreds of proposals in two days. But it was extremely shocking and sad that 99% of proposals came from girls who took khula from their previous marriage and all of them were highly qualified girls. Some being Postgraduates, MBBS, M.Tech, B.Tech, B.Ed, M.Ed, etc. Not a single proposal came from uneducated girls. Wonder why this is happening! Girls are taking khula within a year of marriage. Is this the impact of education? Is being highly educated making them ultimately incompatible for marriage. And marrying someone who is beneath them in terms of educational credentials leads to ego clashes. Some of these girls were single after seven, some five, and some three years of khula. It's highly pathetic that this is happening in Muslim society; why are our young generation impatient? Why isn't there mutual understanding in marriages these days? Why are decisions taken in so much haste? I guess alliances



primarily break due to insufficient knowledge of our religion. This religion teaches one to be forbearing, have selfcontrol, and endorses that a divorce should be the last option. In case of discrepancies as it's a halal act which Allah (swt) dislikes the most. Parents' role to raise their kids Islamically to protect our younger generation from falling prey to such whims and fancies. Also, the sunnah of our beloved prophet Muhammad (pbuh) should be imbibed right from childhood.

#### Anonymous As received

Sir. Read an article under the heading "Relevance of Maulana Azad's Understanding of Unity of Deen" by Mr. K. Rehman Khan in the June-2021 issue of Islamic Voice. Maulana Azad was not pro-Muslim. He was a stooge of the Brahminical lobby. This lobby was using his Muslim name and honorific title of Maulana to mislead the Muslims, and such namesake Muslims have done more harm to Muslims. He was given a ministership for his anti-Muslim stand throughout his life. Islamic Voice has wasted precious space by publishing an article about such shoe polishers.

Farooq Abdul Gafar Rajkot, Gujarat

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ISLAMIC VOICE July 2021 11



Rahman Khan

n discussions about Muslim education, the subject of madrasa education is often raised.

In Arabic, the word madrasa means a school. In the distant past in India, besides knowledge of religion, madrasas also provided knowledge of languages and various sciences. But over the years, madrasa education in India came to be dominated by religious leaders. And now, madrasas, by and large, are known as places where only what is conventionally regarded as 'Islamic education' is provided. Today, the vast majority o fmadrasasfunction as Islamic schools.

A large number of madrasas have been set up in India during the last 100 years and more. Most of them were established by individuals who had themselves passed out of a madrasa. Most madrasa students come from economically weaker sections of the Muslim population, from families who cannot send their children to an excellent regular school. Many madrasas provide free food and shelter to their students and also free religious



# Reforming Madrasa Education

education. These madrasas are funded mainly through charity that is inspired by religious sentiments.

Madrasas in India today have become a subject of considerable discussion. Overall, the system of madrasa education remains very conservative. There are significant madrasas, which are called Jamias. These are higherlevelseminaries for older students. Generally, the Jamias provide a course that extends fromseven to ten years. The graduates they produce turn out to be religious scholars and leaders, but often with little, if any, training in modern education. Despite years of study, they often lackthe skills necessary to interact meaningfully on the broader society.

Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, in particular, have a large number of madrasas, and a sizeable number of young men pass out from these institutions every year. Many of them cannot find any jobs outside the 'religious' sector. Most of them do not possess any skills required for employment outside that sector. Hence, most of them are absorbed as madrasa teachers, imams (prayer leaders), muezzins (callers to prayer) in mosques, and so on. The only alternative for many of them is to start a madrasa of their own by collecting donations.

In the Mughal period, besides what are now regarded as specifically 'religious' or 'Islamic' subjects, many madrasas taught subjects that are today conventionally considered 'secular.' But with the advent of British rule, English-medium schools took the place of madrasas for many. Christian missionaries took the lead and established many such schools in various parts of India. The Madrasas remained confined to teaching subjects such as Arabic, the Quran, and Muslim jurisprudence. Many madrasa authorities vehemently opposed English and Western-style education. This led to a segregation of education between Muslims and others, causing Muslims to fall far behind

One crucial issue that the Muslim community must work on is to reform the *madrasas*. Generally, when well-meaning people advocate 'modernization' of madrasas or the restructuring of madrasa education, it is not their intention that Muslim religious education be done away with. Religious education is, in fact, as essential for Muslim children as is basic secular education. Both are required. Unfortunately, however, there is considerable confusion among the ulemaon the issue. Some erroneously think that modern education cannot or should not go side by side with religious education. There is a pressing need to change this perception.

#### Here are a few suggestions for reforming madrasa education:

1. In addition to teaching their syllabus, all madrasas should facilitate their students to geta basic secular education. Madrasas should arrange to have their students also enrolled with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and thereby enable them to complete their 10+2 by the time they leave the madrasa. After that, it should be left to the student to choose the specialization theymay want to take up.

2. There should be an authority constituted with the consent of leading Muslim scholars to regulate madrasas' setting up.

3. Every madrasa should also offer skill development courses.

(The author, who is based in Bengaluru, is a former Union Minister and a former Member of the Rajya Sabha)



Najeeb Qasmi

Due to the spread of corona virus, various restrictions have been imposed in various parts of the world, including in our country, since last year. The pandemic has severely affected educational activities. Students in universities, colleges, and schools are forced to stay at home. Online classes are compensating for their academic losses to some extent. Some school children do not benefit much from online classes. But it is still important to continue online classes, rather than shutting down the education system completely. Getting something is better than getting nothing at all. It will somehow help to save an entire year from being wasted. If online classes are suspended and the children are cut off from their education, they will surely lose skills. In the current situation, there is no other solution. Although efforts are being made to save the year from zero through online classes in universities, colleges, and schools, the same facilities of online classes have not yet been arranged in Islamic madrasas. In the current scenario, the *madrasas'* administration also

## Starting Online Classes in Madrasas

should have taken advantage of the new technology and should have used the online classes system to continue educational activities.

Assessing the situation last year, I suggested to the officials of Islamic madrasas to start online classes to stay connected with education. The Nadwatul-Ulama (Lucknow) and the Darul-UloomWaqf Deoband, although very late, have started online classes, followed by some other madrasas. Other madrasas also need to pay attention to this, so that students' academic year is not totally spoiled.

Madrasa officials who are not enthusiastic about the idea of online classes cite the excuse that most of the madrasas' students do not have a smartphone. The fact, however, is that more mobile numbers are currently in use than the world's population, as there are more than 8 billion registered mobile numbers in the world, while the global population is still less than 8 billion. Currently, there are about 4 billion smartphones in the world, which is more than 50% of the world's population. India, a country of 1300 million or so people, has about 600 million



**Corona Pandemic** affects Second Consecutive **Educational** Year

smartphones. This leads us to assume that there are very few households that do not have even a single smartphone. The use of smartphones is increasing day by day and will probably continue to increase. Therefore, to say that most students do not have a smartphone is to deny the ground realities. And even if we accept this, why should those who do have the facilities should be

Another excuse cited by madrasa officials who are not enthusiastic about online classes is the argument that smartphones supposedly spoil the society. Therefore, they do not urge their students to use smartphones. The question is whether the misuse of smartphones can be prevented by not starting online classes in *madrasas*. The fact of the matter is that we can no longer stop the new generation from using smartphones. But they can be prevented from the misuse of mobiles to some extent by engaging them in positive, useful online classes.

I urge the officials of all the major madrasas to start online classes in a more systematic way, like universities, colleges and schools, using the new technology. Of course, there may be some difficulties, but we should not be afraid of them. We should always be prepared to face them. Madrasas can start online classes immediately for old students after training the staff members in new technology. Free programmes are available online for online classes which can also be used. If it is difficult to start regular online classes at the moment, at least create a WhatsApp group for each class and make a daily video and upload it to the WhatsApp group so that students can benefit from it at their own convenience. Almost all textbooks are also available for free download on various websites. These textbooks should also be uploaded on the websites of more *madrasas* so that students can use them at home. I myself started a series of similar online classes at my school Al-Noor Public School in Sambhal (UP). Many children are using these online classes.

There is no doubt that these online classes cannot be a substitute for real, but at the moment, we have no other choice. That is why I urge madrasa administrators to start online classes in the present situation. Just as educational resources have changed drastically in the last decades, in the same way, books will be replaced with laptops, tabs, mobiles, and the Internet in the future. It is good to keep up with

(The author is an alumnus of Darul Uloom Deoband and Jamia Millia Islamia. New Delhi. He is the founder of Al-Noor Public School, Sambhal (UP). Besides many articles, he has authored several books. He can be contacted on

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#### Some Musings on Education



In the present situation, where the unemployment crisis is increasing day by day, students need to have a clear career map in their minds to achieve their goals in life. Here are certain stages of a career plan which students can reflect on:

- 1. Choose a field and identify your skills that might match this field.
- 2. Reflect on your level of interest in the field.
- 3. Explore the scope of your chosen field.
- 4. Decide to pursue your career in this field.
- 5. Learn the essential skills required to excel in this field.
- 6. Pursue the field by setting achievable goals.
- 7. Select some extracurricular activities, which could be related or unrelated to your chosen field that could generate additional income and act as a financial supporter for you.

An additional skill provides an additional opportunity to excel in life. When love, passion, and skill work together, we can expect a masterpiece. Generally, due to further training, a skilled person is rewarded more and has better opportunities and responsibilities than someone who has fewer skills. Regardless of their job description, a skilled person remains a treasure to the company or organization they work.

Till some generations ago, joint families were common. Children were guided by their elders, who were skilled in many different ways and had long years of experience. The elders of the family taught children with great passion, dedication, and concern. They gave particular importance to morals, manners, and



discipline, besides teaching children various skills. Such a thing is rare in today's world. In today's technological era, students are often guided by gadgets like smartphones, computers, and laptops, which lack the human touch, which plays a crucial role in leading a successful life in this world and Hereafter.

In today's world, many human beings are simply becoming money-making machines. For many people, values are thought of as less important than 'valuables.' Certain precious qualities like humanity, love, and affection, and concern for others are slowly becoming extinct from our lives. We are in an era where minds are becoming more prominent and heart smaller.

I have been in the teaching field for almost two decades. In these years of teaching, I have observed that students who excelled in communication, had good manners and character, and possessed valued skills later found themselves well placed, with a job of their desire. But there is another side to the story. Today, many students do not accept that they lack specific skills that they

ought to learn at the appropriate time of their student life. They dream of acquiring the position of their desire without putting in the required effort.

Education ought to make a student concerned about the well-being of others. Additionally, it must make them better persons, not just more informed persons. Suppose the sort of education a person receives makes them concerned only about their own material success and does not help them become better as persons. In that case, it defeats what ought to be a basic purpose of education. It gives immense pleasure to a teacher to see students climbing the ladder of success, provided they are on the path that leads to their inner development and the development of the wider society and that they can contribute to the good of God's creation as a whole.

(The author is Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry, University College for Women, Osmania University, Hyderabad)

#### JMI Ph.D. Student Receives Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Abstract Award



Aresearch scholar of the Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has received the 'Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Abstract

Award for Scientists' - Firdoos Ahmad Gogry will attend the World Microbe Forum 2021 for his contribution. He is among a few applicants around the world to receive this prestigious award. Enrolled in Ph.D under the supervision of Prof. Qazi Mohd Rizwanul Haq, Microbiology Research Lab, Department of Biosciences, Faculty of Natural Science, JMI, Firdoos received the award for his abstract entitled "Occurrence of high-risk mcr-1, blaNDM and OXA genes in bacterial isolates from Delhi, India",

(www.news18.com)

#### Need for Value Education

#### By Javid Hassan

While literacy figures might be increasing all over the world, how does this relate to ethical living? Besides providing information to students, how do formal educational systems across the world fare to enable students to become better human beings? That is where moral education can play a vital role. In addition to studying

v a r i o u s demic subjects, children also n e e d t o b e nurtured in basic human values such as compassion, kindness, patience,

h on e s t  $\bar{y}$ , and sincerity. They should learn not to imitate others blindly.

An alarming trend here is the misuse of technology by many young people who are supposedly receiving 'education,' engaging in various aberrations like indulging in fraudulent transactions and high-tech crimes.

Parents, teachers, and other elders need to give this issue more significant attention. Failure to take corrective measures can ruin their lives and that of others. Morally upright individuals constitute a good society. A country's prosperity is directly linked to its inhabitants' ethical quality of life at another level.

Another issue in this context is that of enormous social and economic inequalities in societies. There is a yawning gulf between the rich and the poor in many countries. That is where 'mind craft,' an intellectual version of handicraft, could pave the way for people with intellectual and financial resources to create new opportunities and raise the quality of life of the people.

Here, MNCs, public and private

and people with creative ideas could work together as a team. They need to be persevering in their approach to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Sincerity, patience, and perseverance are values highly

sector companies, politicians,

athletes, film stars, philanthropists,

Sincerity, patience, and perseverance are values highly recommended in Islam. They work for our own benefit and also for others. The lack of sincerity caused

the downfall of Saba (today's Yemen), once known as Arabia Felix (Arabia the Blessed), during the time of

Prophet Solomon and Queen Bilqis.

An agricultural land watered by the Ma'arib Dam produced fruit, spices, and frankincense, thanks to God, Who showered His Grace on hardworking and skilled people. But when their material success led to a decline in spiritual values, their pride had a fall symbolized by the worm eroding King Solomon's staff. It was a forewarning of Yemen's downfall when the Ma'arib Dam burst, unleashing a mighty flood a lesson valid for all times.

Children need to be nurtured in basic human values to become good human beings, such as compassion, kindness, patience, honesty, and sincerity.

# One of the youngest Indians to figure on Stanford University's top scientists' list.

Dhangri Village (Rajouri District): Jammu & Kashmir: Life has come full circle for a 31year-old scientist from the border district of Rajouri, who has become one of the youngest Indians to figure on Stanford University's list of top 2 percent scientists in the world. Dr. Shakeel Ahmed, Assistant Professor at the Department of Chemistry in Government Degree College, Mendhar, has published research papers on green nanomaterials and biopolymers for various applications, including biomedical, packaging, and water treatment. He has penned more than 15 books on polymers, nanomaterials, and green materials. He is a member of the American Chemical Society and R o y a 1 Society of Chemistry. It was a hard-earned success for a 31-year-old scientist



who lost his father when he was just a year old. "I was just one year old when my father passed away. At that time, there was no breadwinner in my family. I had suffered a lot during my childhood, and sometimes, it was difficult for me to continue my studies. I am first generation learner in my family", he said. For the last three and a half years, he serves as an assistant professor in GDC, Mendhar in Poonch district.

(Extracted from www.indiatomorrow.net)

#### Indian Student Gets 10-year UAE Golden Visa

Tasneem Aslam, who hails from Kerala's Alappuzha district, has been granted the 10-year golden visa of the United Arab Emirates for topping in the Islamic University. The UAE governmentrecognized her merit and excellent academic credentials to extend her a 10-year Golden Visa, reserved only for prominent global personalities. Tasneem received the Golden Visa in the exceptional student category and can stay in the country till 2031. The UAE unveils significant reforms to attract international talents from people belonging to all walks of life

"This is one of the best moments in my life. I feel privileged to achieve this, and I am thankful to Almighty Allah. My parents 'support has been enormous, and Inshallah, I hope to sponsor them in the near future," Tasneem was quoted by *Khaleej Times*.

Tasneem studied Islamic Sharia

from Al Qasimia University in Sharjah and topped her class, which consisted of pupils from 72 nationalities, with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.94 on 4. Tasneem has memorized the Ouran. She has enrolled for a postgraduate degree in Fiqh (Islamic Jurisprudence) at the University of Sharjah. She had attended the Emirates National School in Sharjah, where her mother works as a teacher, and secured 95.6 percent in her Grade XII examinations. Tasneem's father, Muhammad Aslam, is a former employee of the Sharjah City Municipality and now runs a typing centre in the emirate.

(Extracted from clarionindia.net)



By the yearly Muslims' celebration of the "Sacrificing Feast," or "Eid ul-Adha," the Muslim nation is witnessing a great experience of numerous and challenging spiritualties within the core belief of each One's heart. To navigate such virtuous meanings, we must first remember the basic story behind celebrating such an occasion. The story of the Prophet Ibrahim and his son Ismail (May peace and blessings be upon them both) is giving clear-cut evidence about the Islamic Monotheism (Tawhid) and the complete submission to Allah's will; For that Allah is the one and the only Creator, and the Most-Deserving of one's heart unconditional surrender.

The story began after the Prophet Ibrahim has received a definite command from Allah the Almighty in his dream - to sacrifice his beloved son Ismail for the sake of

Allah has blessed Ibrahim with the birth of his son Ismail after his supplication to Allah.

That is mentioned in the Quran: "My Lord! Grant me (offspring) from the righteous. So We gave him the glad tidings of a forbearing [Surah As-Saffat: Verses: hov." 100.1011.

The son Ismail grew up. The fatherand-son relation has been getting closer and stronger over time. Yet the Prophet Ibrahim is asked from the Almighty to sacrifice the most beloved and closest person to his heart. How the Prophet Ibrahim would respond to his Lord! And how many other Muslims would have responded if being in the same situation! That is what Eid is for introspection and ponder.

#### The Optimal Islamic Monotheism:

Islam means: To Submit or surrender, it also means peace, so technically, the word Islam refers to the verbal testifying by the tongue (La ilaha illallah mohammadar rasulullah), which is proved by a sincere faith inside one's heart, and further followed by a proving physical action - with the body on the real-life ground.

The three aspects should be steadily fulfilled: Islam with the tongue, the faith in the heart, and the proof of this with outward actions of various Islamic commands. Without sticking to this Islamic monotheistic belief between the internal and the external aspects of worship, one's faith would never reach the complete optimal form that the Prophets Ibrahim and his son Ismail have reached.

In the Quran, Almighty Allah states: "And when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him, he

## Islamic Monotheism:

## A Sincerely-Physical Submission Beyond Verbal Testifying



said: "O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you (offering you sacrifice to Allah). So look what you think!" He said: "O my father! Do that which you are commanded, Insha' Allah (if Allah wills), you shall find me of As-Sabirun (the patient)." (Surat As-Saffat, Verse: 102).

This verse elaborates for us several virtuous meanings to ponder over regarding the positions of both the Prophets. The Prophet Ibrahim willingly chose to submit to his Lord to sacrifice his son. He prioritized Allah's command above

The son also willingly submitted and accepted his father's decision. He showed enough courage and patience for his father to do what he ought to do. Both of them fulfilled absolute total submission to Allah's command. That is merely a great manifestation of the profound true meaning of "Islamic Monotheism" or "Tawhid"; to worship only one

Fundamentally, Islam is all about Monotheism. All of the rituals, morals, and transactions in Islam emphasize this belief that it is to do everything only for the sake of Allah. Subsequently, the obligations and prohibitions aim to allow and facilitate the fulfillment of this belief upon Muslims. All the consequences, Heaven, Hellfire, reward, punishment - are designed to finally test those who submit to Allah and those who do not do so.

#### **Submission of Prophet Ibrahim:**

The Prophet Ibrahim sincerely fulfilled a total surrender to Allah's command, and his son Ismail was very patient in one of the most difficult trials ever. And when Ibrahim implemented Allah's command, Allah blessed him with a sacrifice – sent by the ark angel Jebreil and rescued his son from being sacrificed.

In the Ouran: "Then, when they had both submitted themselves (to the Will of Allah), and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead (or on the side of his forehead for slaughtering); We called out to him: "O Abraham! You have fulfilled the dream! Verily thus do We reward the Muhsinun (gooddoers). Verily, that indeed was a manifest trial. And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice (i.e., a ram); And We left for him (a goodly remembrance) among the later

generations. "Salam (peace) be upon Ibrahim (Abraham)! Thus indeed do We reward the Muhsinun (good-doers). Verily was one of Our believing slaves." [Surah As-Saffat: 103-111]

#### Reflection of Monotheism on Pilgrimage (Hajj):

Since that time, the celebration of Muslims of this occasion began on "Eidul Adha," declaring and pointing out a great momentous model of Islamic Monotheism (Tawhid) for the whole Muslim nation, till the Day of Judgment.

A set of symbolic rituals during pilgrimage/Hajj (like stoning the devil on the day of sacrifice) acts as a significant back flash story reminder for all Muslims to test their faith and make them contemplate.

It refers to the acts of the Prophet Ibrahim, his wife Hagar, and their son Ismail - during the sacrificing incident - when they had stoned the devil who whispered get them distracted from submission to ALLAH's command.

That shows that The Prophet Ibrahim is the most excellent role model fulfilling the Islamic Monotheism further in actions than verbal Testifying. It also indicates Allah's reward - in the worldly life and beyond - to those who would similarly exert their efforts to submit to Allah to achieve Islamic Monotheism through the tongue, heart and actions

#### **Reflection on the Daily Life:**

Do we have enough courage to sacrifice the most favored things to our hearts, only for the sake of

In real daily life, attachments could be many, be it yourself, your offspring, parents, wealth, husband or wife, relatives, friends, or Trade. Detachment of one's heart out from various worldly gains would end up getting this heart attached to Allah only.

In the Quran: "Say: If your fathers, your sons, your brothers, your wives, your kindred, the wealth that you have gained, the commerce in which you fear a decline, and the dwellings in which you delight are dearer to you than Allah and His Messenger, and striving hard and fighting in His Cause, then wait until Allah brings about His Decision (torment). And Allah guides not the people who are Al-Fasiqun (the rebellious, disobedient to Allah). [Surat At-Taubah: 24]

The main purpose of Islam is reaching the Islamic monotheism (Tawhid), in both inward and outward actions, and achieving piety and submission to Allah. Entirely Allah does not need our sacrifice. Allah had protected the Prophet Ismail from being offered at the end.

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#### Eid-ul-Azha - Festival of Sacrifice

Promoting peace and brotherhood is one of the Fundamental Duties of each Indian. Being Muslim, our additional duty is to ensure that corruption of any nature is not spread on Earth.



Eid-ul-Azha – Festival of Sacrifice is the second most important festival for Muslims. The silver line attached to this festival is the selfless sacrifice resulting in the charity of distribution of good quality meat to the poor. The underprivileged eagerly await this festival; equally, the privileged class also waits to fulfill their religious obligation.

All do not always like good things. There is mushrooming of various Right-Wing organizations claiming to be animal lovers or protectors of cows. The country has witnessed riots, mob lynching, arson on suspicion of cow slaughter, wherein scores of Muslims have lost their lives and properties. These unfortunate incidences have given leverage to Right-Wing Parties, and therefore, some Organisations always search for the occasion to highlight and exploit such situations.

The Central Government and many States under the Right-Wing influence have created laws that target sacrifice practices in one or another form. The disputes about these laws reached up to the Supreme Court. The Fundamental Right that guarantees religious freedom was pointed out, but Supreme Court held that: -

"Sacrifice of any animal by



Muslims for the religious purpose on Bakri'd do not include slaughtering of cows as the only way of carrying out that sacrifice. Slaughtering of cows on Bakri'd neither essential nor necessarily required as part of the religious ceremony. An optional religious practice is not covered by Article 25(1)." (Supreme Court of India)

By stating the above proposition of law, the Supreme Court of India made it loud and clear that it does not recognize Qurbani of Cow or its progeny as a Fundamental Right of Muslims or an essential practice for their religion. Though this law was stated in 1995 for the first time and then restated in 2005, after the Right-Wing Governments came in different States and Centre, the laws were changed,

making complete prohibition on cow slaughter. At present, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, and West Bengal only permit slaughter of Bullocks above a particular age. In the rest of the States, the slaughter of cow, their progeny are entirely banned – carrying a punishment of more than five years imprisonment for violation.

In the light of various judgments and changes in law, the only way out for Muslims is to perform Qurbani within the four corners of the law of the land. Let us not permit the Right Wingers to convert our celebrations into hardships.

The Qurbani could be without any trouble if we can follow the principles that could be summarised as follows:-

- 1) In the States wherein there is a complete ban on slaughter of cows and their progeny (Bulls, Bullocks, Heifer, Calf of any gender), no Qurbani of these cattle be performed in any case.
- 2) The States that do not have complete ban but some restrictions, those restrictions be followed.
- 3) The animal should be purchased from a registered market with a proper Invoice. The Bill should be preserved until disposal of the flesh; it would help in proving that the slaughter was not of the prohibited animal.
- 4) For petty monetary benefits, unregulated sale and purchase should not be encouraged.
- 5) In permitted States Certificate from the Veterinarian must be obtained about the fitness of the animal.
- 6) For transportation of these animals from the market, the relevant rules operating in the States must be followed, those mandates requirement of Fitness Certificate and restriction of several animals per Vehicle.
- 7) The slaughtering should be performed only at designated places because, as per the

Slaughterhouse Rules, 2001, it is an offense to slaughter animals at any other place. This is in the community's larger interest as it helps maintain the cleanliness and hygiene of the localities.

8) If you intend to offer Bullock in Qurbani, then first verify from a legal practitioner about local restrictions.

Make it a point not to publicize your intention from the Masajids. A Constitution Bench of Supreme Court in 1958 observed that "It is part of the known history of India that the Moghal Emperor Barbar saw the wisdom of prohibiting the slaughters of the cow as and by way of religious sacrifice and directed his son Humayun to follow this example. Similarly, Emperors Akbar, Jehangir, and Ahmed Shah, it is said, prohibited cow slaughter. Nawab Hyder Ali of Mysore made cow slaughter an offense punishable with the cutting of hands of the offenders."

Promoting peace and brotherhood is one of the Fundamental Duties of each Indian. Being Muslim, our additional duty is to ensure that corruption of any nature is not spread on Earth.

"Sacrifice of any animal by Muslims for the religious purpose on Bakri'd do not include slaughtering of cows as the only way of carrying out that sacrifice. Slaughtering of cows on Bakri'd neither essential nor necessarily required as part of the religious ceremony. An optional religious practice is not covered by Article 25(1)." (Supreme Court of India)

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#### Islamic Monotheism: A Sincerely-Physical Submission Beyond Verbal Testifying

In the Quran: "It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is piety from you that reaches Him. Thus have We made them subject to you that you may magnify Allah for His Guidance to you. And give glad tidings (O Muhammad – peace be upon him) to the Muhsinun (doers of good)." [Surah Al-Hajj: 37]

To fulfill the optimum level of belief - the Islamic monotheism/ Tawhid — in both inward and outward actions is the ability to give up - from one's heart - everything but Allah and exert the One's paramount effort to prove that physically through acts of worship.

The pilgrimage (Hajj) represents a practical act of worship by which one would prove that every ritual

within reflects on the Islamic Monotheism.

These revealed stories are not mentioned in the Quran purposelessly. It's instead a call for us to imitate the same level of submission in our hearts; if we seek to reach out to a sound belief of (Tawhid).

In the Quran, ALLAH is telling about the stories of Prophets:

"Indeed, in their stories, there is a lesson for men of understanding. It (the Qur'an) is not a forged statement but a confirmation of (Allah's existing Books) which were before it [i.e., the Taurat (Torah), the Injeel (Gospel), and other Scriptures of Allah] and a detailed explanation of everything and a guide and a Mercy for the people who believe". [Surah Yusuf:

1111.

Allah is rewarding the pure hearts which favored Him - the Almighty - above all. One must reschedule one's priorities, making sure that Allah is on the top of the One's list with no one or thing else before Him. Re-organizing and checking the levels of love and attachments around oneself are all essential facets of faith that would intensely help reach the optimal level of Islamic Monotheism of *La ilaha illallah mohammadar rasulullah* "There's no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah."

(Based in Cairo, Egypt, the author is an educator and an Islamic Studies student. She is interested in art, poetry, and knowing more about cultures all over the world).



#### **Stunning Animals Before Slaughter**

It is a fact that the mainstream of conventional meat slaughterhouses in North America uses some form of stunning to subdue and immobilize the animal before the slaughter. Different stunning types are used for different species, including turkeys, chickens, lamb, and cattle. In addition, most Halal slaughterhouses in North America also use some form of stunning before slaughter. Therefore, the Islamic ruling of stunning is an issue of paramount importance which has tremendous implications for Muslim consumers and businesses alike.

We have to differentiate between the act of stunning and the animal's legal status, which has been slaughtered after stunning. These are two different issues that are independent of one another and should not be gathered together under one banner.

There are many stunning types, including the pneumatic stunner, which delivers a blow to the animal's head, the captive bolt pistol, which shatters the animal's brain, electric water, which gives an electric shock to the poultry electric brain stunner for sheep. Some methods are reversible, and others are irreversible. When irreversible methods of stunning are applied, the animal will die if it is not slaughtered within a few minutes. Other methods are

Halal food is that which adheres to Islamic law, as defined in the **Ouran.** The Islamic form of slaughtering animals or poultry, Dhabiha, involves killing through a cut to the jugular vein, carotid artery, and windpipe. Animals must be alive and healthy at the time of slaughter, and all blood must be drained from the carcass

# Mass production of Halal Meat



reversible in theory, and the animal can get up and walk around if not slaughtered in a few minutes. The common factor in all these stunning methods is causing extra pain to the animal above and beyond the pain experienced during the slaughter itself. For this reason, many scholars have declared that the act of stunning is extremely disliked and close to being impermissible. Stunning is a grave matter. Some scholars have used powerful language when describing the stunning practice such as 'against the spirit of Islam' and an 'evil innovation.' Therefore, a Muslim should avoid using this practice as much as possible when slaughtering an

A second independent issue is the ruling of consuming an animal that has been stunned before a proper Halal slaughter. Stunning is an unacceptable action, and the person who stuns will be sinful for causing extra pain to the animal. However, the impermissibility of the act of stunning does not influence the lawfulness of the animal which was stunned and does NOT necessarily mean that all stunned animals are also unlawful to consume. The legal status of an animal that has been stunned depends on whether the animal was alive at the time of slaughter. If the animal was indeed alive at the time of a proper Halal slaughter, then the meat of such an animal will be lawful to consume. On the other hand, if it is established that the animal was indeed dead at the time of slaughter, such an animal will be unlawful to consume even though it was slaughtered according to Islamic law.

Since the legal status of a stunned animal is dependent on it being alive at the time of slaughter, there is a need to discuss how to ascertain that the animal is alive at the time of death. A renowned Islamic scholar, **Mufti Taqi Usmani, has shed light on this important issue, and he writes:** 

The jurists have mentioned many signs that can be taken as proof of an animal being alive at the time of slaughter, for example if the animal bleeds at the time of slaughter like a living animal, or closes its mouth or eyes, or pulls together its legs, or shows any kind of movement, etc. Therefore, if the fact that the animal was alive can be established in any way, it will be permissible to slaughter it, and its meat will be considered Halal. The observation of movement in the animal, or establishing the fact that a pulse exists is sufficient to prove an animal alive."

After learning of the evil of stunning, a Muslim should do his best to consume meat that was not stunned and support businesses that supply non-stunned Halal meat. There are numerous advantages to non-stunned meat. including complete drainage of blood, better consistency of the meat, and no concern of the animal dving due to the stunning. In practical terms, the percentage of non-stunned Halal meat is extremely low, and the majority of Halal meat is stunned. Approximately 90% or more of chickens are stunned through the reversible method of the electric water trough. Most beef slaughterhouses use a pneumatic stunner or a captive bolt pistol to subdue the animal before slaughter. Likewise, the vast majority of lamb and goat slaughterhouses apply an electric rod to the animal's head before slaughter.

In the current situation, the supply of non-stunned Halal meat is insufficient to meet the supply needs of the North America Muslim community. The majority of Halal lamb and goat in America and a good

percentage of the Halal beef is imported from New Zealand and Australia. HFSAA (Halal Food Standards Alliance of America) sent a delegation to research the Halal status of this meat and found that almost all of this meat is stunned due to the governmental regulations in these countries. That presents challenges for the Muslim consumer who makes a conscious decision to consume only nonstunned Halal meat. That is further complicated by the fact that authentic, hand slaughtered meat itself is not readily available. The majority of the 'Halal' meat in America is processed using doubtful slaughter methods. A good percentage of Muslims are not consuming authentic Halal products, are not concerned about Halal, or cannot find authentic Halal products in their cities. This point is verified by extensive research at the ground level on the Halal supply chain in numerous cities all over America. If the Halal authorities were to completely reject stunned Halal meat and only accept non-stunned meat, then it would be tough to find authentic Halal meat in America.

Based on the Halal needs of the Muslim community, many renowned international Halal organizations and authorities have accepted animals that are stunned with strict requirements and measures in place to ensure that the animal is alive when slaughtered.

Halal inspectors and supervisors closely monitor the level of voltage and the application of the stunning mechanism. The slaughterers are trained to look for signs of life and reject animals that do not bleed properly or display signs of life. They are authorized to remove such animals from the line and ensure that they are not included in the Halal production.

It is recommended that stunning should be avoided as much as possible and Muslims in the long term should move towards removing stunning completely from Halal slaughterhouses. The Jews have historically taken a strong stance against stunning and do not allow it under any circumstance. Likewise, many Muslim leaders are entirely opposed to stunning and do not allow it. We must do our best to educate the Muslim public with regards to the harms of stunning and plan to introduce a system to label products which are stunned and products which are not stunned.

At the same time, there is a scarcity of authentic Halal products and we understand that stunning is needed in the short term to meet the needs of the Muslim community. Therefore, after careful consideration, HFSAA has decided to approve reversible methods of stunning in the short term for poultry and sheep under strict supervision to ensure that the animal does not die. However, HFSAA will not allow lethal and irreversible stunning methods for cattle which will cause the death of the animal in a few minutes and will initiate a cardiac arrest. There is a viable alternative in the form of the 'kill box,' which restrains the animal for slaughter and eliminates the need to stun. HFSAA has adopted a balanced approach in the short term regarding stunning and has consciously chosen the 'lesser of the two evils' to provide more options for Muslims to consume authentic Halal products. The longterm goal is to move closer to the Sunnah method of slaughter and stop causing extra pain to the animal through stunning. (Ref: https://www.hfsaa.org/stunninganimals-prior-to-slaughter/)

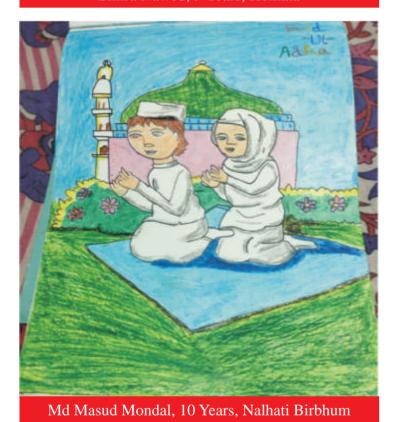
[The author is the Immediate Past President of IRFI (Islamic Research Foundation International, Inc) Louisville, KY, USA]

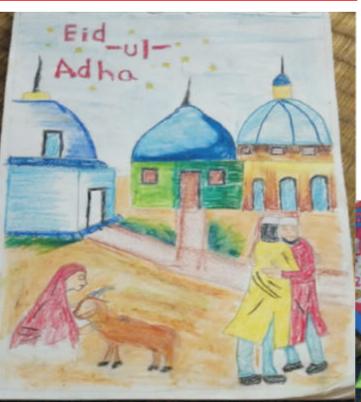
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Simra Nawed, 9 Years, Kolkata





Syed Farhan Akhtar, 10 Years, Kuli Murshidabad

#### It's A Very Good Day

It's Eid today! We will go to Masjid and pray. We don't read books this day It's Eid today! It's Eid today! All are happy in this day It's Eid today! It's Eid today! New clothes, New shoes In this day it makes our mood It's Eid today! It's Eid today! We eat fish and meat And go for a happy treat It's Eid today! It's Eid today!

Rizwan Hossain

#### A Message for Eid ul Adha

The legacy of Hazrat Ibrahim (a.s) teaches us to sacrifice what we hold dear to us for the one who should be dearest to us.

Look in your life. What is that which you need to sacrifice for Allah? What is something that is pleasing to you but not to Allah? Figure that out and sacrifice it for Allah so that you may celebrate Eid in it's true essence.

Aneequa Fathima 8yrs old

Crescent Matriculation **Higher Secondary** School, Chennai.

#### GIFT TO ALL PARTICIPA

Alhamdulillah! We received a tremendous response. *'ISLAMIC VOICE'* thanks all the participants but regret that we could not accommodate all the entries in Islamic Voice due to scarcity of space.

**D NEWS** to all the participants that each one will receive Eid Gift (Eidy) from *Islamic Voice*.

We request all the participants to Email us your name, postal address, Pin code, and cell no to send the gift (Eidy).



Once, on Eid-Ul-Adha, I was in my maternal grandmother's house. We sacrificed 8 or 12 sheeps. I enjoyed that day and remembered it till now.

Abdullah, 9 year, Hyderbad

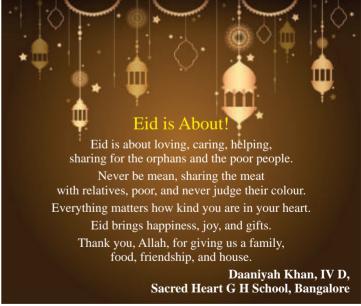
#### A Message of Eid-ul Adha

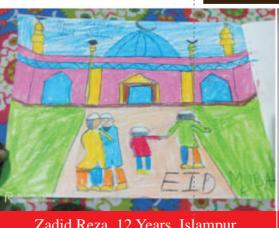
The legacy of Hazrat Ibrahim(AS) teaches us to sacrifice what we hold dear to us for this one who should be dearest to us?

Look in your life. What is that which you need to sacrifice for Allah/ What is something that is pleasing to you but not Allah? Figure that out and sacrifice it for Allah do that you may celebrate Eid its true essence.

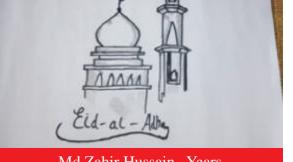
Aneequa Fathima, 8 years,

Crescent MHS School, Chennai









Md.Zahir Hussain, Years

#### Eid ul Adha

To some the month of zilhaj begins with a journey to Mecca ..

To some dreaming of Mecca and the twaafs of kabaa

Trials of Ismail and hajira alone on deserts of safa and

marwa,later

Gifted us khana kabaa

Trials of Ismail and ibrahim on Arafat and mina ,later Gifted us Eid ul adha after journey of kabaa...

The duo of father and son built a square shaped house of allah named kabaa

The beautiful journey comes to an end with a feast of sacrifice Eid ul adha after days in his house khaana kaaba...

Nafiah Fathima

Class 1 std

Crescent Matriculation Higher Secondary School



#### **EID-UL-ADHA**

EID-UL-ADHA, the Eid of sacrifice which is also known as "BAKRID" in Urdu. We celebrate it because ALLAH (SWT) and his Prophet MUHAMMED (SAW) commanded us to do so. But, what is the reason behind it?.......

Years later, The Prophet IBRAHIM (AS) return to Mecca to see his son (AS) as a grown man. But ALLAH (SWT) wanted to test IBRAHIM (AS)'s submission again. In a dream, The Prophet IBRAHIM (AS) was commanded to sacrifice his son ISMAIL (AS) to ALLAH (SWT). IBRAHIM (AS) told ISMAIL(AS) about the dream, Both agreed to submit to the will of ALLAH (SWT). ISMAIL (AS) lay prostrate with his forehead touching the ground, while his father laid a sharp knife upon his neck. At this moment, ALLAH (SWT) called down: "OH IBRAHIM! You have done my bidding and now you will be rewarded!" A large ram appeared as an alternative sacrifice and instead of slaughtering his son (AS), IBRAHIM (AS) slaughtered the sheep to the glory of ALLAH (SWT).

"It is neither their blood nor their meat that reaches ALLAH (SWT), But it is piety from you that reaches ALLAH (SWT)." May ALLAH (SWT) grant us hidayat to be obedient to him as IBRAHIM (AS) and strengthen our iman and make us among the practising muslims.....AAMEEN

Maryam Bint Fazal Intermediate Student, Hyderabad.



#### Eid ul Azha

Eid ul Azha is the time of happy and gay,

And it is also a time of islamic day.

It is a happy time, and it is also an islamic clime

When other thinks that it is not nice,

Then the islam rise.

When we are offering namaz,

And when we are going to sacrifice,

When everything is done

We pray to Allah that he should give

Our last steps in paradise (jannah).

Md Arfain Fahim Laskar Class v Al Ameen Mission

Academy Milonmore, Siliguri

#### Eid ul Adha Mubarak

Scented with flowers
By taking light from the moon

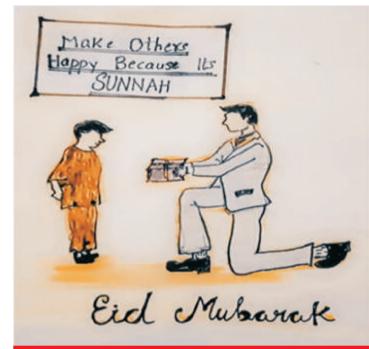
With sweetness from honey Praying from the heart

We wish you a happy Eid... Happy Eid ul Adha! May Allah flood your life with happiness on this occasion, your heart with love, your soul with spiritual, your

mind with Wisdom.

Wishing you a very happy
Eid ul Adha. All the very
best wishes for you and your
family, May Allah grant you
a Harmonious and
prosperous life & very
warm Eid ul Adha everyone.

A. Sana Syed 1st standard 'B'



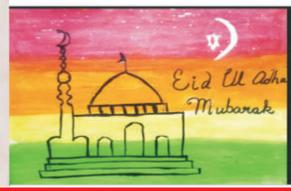
Sara shammas, 20 Years, Tamilnadu



Yasmin Mehtab, 6 Years, Hyderabad



Imtiaz Hussain



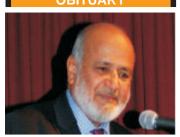




Ayesha Siddiqua, 18 Years, Bangalore

Md Sumayyah Naazneen, 9 years Kakinada, AP

#### ODITUADI



#### Mohd. Ziauddin Ahmed Shakeb

Born in 1933, Shakeb grew up in Hyderabad and Aurangabad. He received a BA in Political Science from Osmania University, and an MA from the Aligarh Muslim University in 1956. He completed his doctorate on Relations of Golkonda with Iran from Deccan College. He was appointed as an archivist at the State Archives of Andhra Pradesh in Hyderabad, where he created the Mughal Record Room. From 1980 to 1987, he taught Indian history and the history of Indo-Islamic art and culture in the Department of Indology at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He also played a crucial role in setting up the Haroon Khan Sherwani Center for Deccan Studies at Maulana Azad National Urdu University. Shakeb died in London earlier this year, aged 87. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son, and nine grandchildren.



#### Usman Khan

Hockey player Usman Khan recently passed away. He played for India during the 1960s. He was born in Madanapalle town in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. He studied at the Aligarh Muslim University, where his hockey talent began to blossom. Later, he shifted to Kolkata, and he played for a few years under the colours of Mohun Bagan's hockey team.



#### Mufti Abd-ur-Razaaq Khan

Leading Islamic scholar and freedom fighter Mufti Abd-ur-Razzaq Khan breathed his last after a prolonged illness. The 96-year-old Mufti was also the national vice president of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind (Maulana Arshad Madani faction). He authored more than 50 books.

#### PEOPLE

#### Prof M Afshar Alam New Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard



Prof M Afshar Alam has been recently appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi. Prof Alam worked as a lecturer for a year after his MCA in 1995. He eventually joined Jamia Hamdard in the lecturer

position and was promoted to the posts of reader and professor. He has also served as the Director, Computer Centre; Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering; Dean, School of Engineering Sciences and Technology (SEST), DSW, and Foreign Students Advisor at the Jamia Hamdard.

Prof Alam was currently serving as the Finance Officer of Jamia Hamdard. Distinguished Computer Science professor and Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) alumnus.

#### Pulitzer Prize 2021: Megha Rajagopalan wins for reportage



Megha Rajagopalan, an Indianorigin journalist, along with two contributors, has won the Pulitzer Prize for their innovative investigative reports that exposed a vast infrastructure of prisons and mass internment camps secretly built by China for detaining hundreds of thousands of Muslims in its restive Xinjiang region. Rajagopalan from BuzzFeed News is among two Indian-origin journalists who won the US' top journalism award.

Rajagopalan's Xinjiang series won the Pulitzer Prize in the International Reporting category. In 2017, not long after China began to detain thousands of Muslims in Xinjiang, Rajagopalan was the first to visit an internment camp. At a

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time when China denied that such places existed, *BuzzFeed News* said. "In response, the government tried to silence her, revoking her visa and ejecting her from the country," *BuzzFeed News* wrote in its entry for the prize. "It would go on to cut off access to the entire region for most Westerners and stymie journalists. As a result, the release of basic facts about detainees slowed to a trickle."

"The blazing Xinjiang stories shine desperately needed light on one of the worst human rights abuses of our time," said Mark Schoofs, editor-in-chief of *BuzzFeedNews*.

Barred from China, Rajagopalan instead traveled to its neighbour Kazakhstan, where many Chinese Muslims have sought refuge. There, Rajagopalan located more than two dozen people who had been prisoners in the Xinjiang camps, winning their trust and convincing them to share their nightmarish accounts with the world.

(Extracted from firstpost.com)

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Riyadh: Sunni Muslim Bangalorebased parents, invite alliance from well educated, religious and cultured families from Bangalore or Gulf settled families for their V fair and beautiful daughter 25 years, MBA, HR, observes hijab. Mohammed Vaseemuddin - please email or WhatsApp profiles to mvasim@gmail.com, Mob -+966567957472 (Riyadh, KSA)

Chitradurga, Karnataka: Wanted Muslim groom, pious religious employee, below 30 years for their only daughter age 26 years, height 5.2, 2nd PUC, ITI. Contact: Mohd Hussain 8277586708

Bangalore: Muslim Sunni parents from Bangalore seek alliance for daughter, B.E (computer science). Working. 5'4" fair to medium skin tone. Does hijab. Contact 9448044919. Email abdulahad4991@gmail.com Bangalore: Sunni Muslim Shaik Girl from Bangalore, age - 35 years, BBM, MBA (HR), complexion, wheatish, height - 5.2". Looking for Educated and Religious Groom. Contact No - 9632839996

Davanagere: Sunni Muslim Shaik Girl from Davanagere, age - 30 years, BSc, BEd, complexion, wheatish, height - 5.4". Looking for Educated and Religious Groom. Contact No - 9902774090

Bangalore: Sunni Muslim Girl from an upper-middle-class family in Bangalore, 24 years, fair, 5.4 inches, bachelor's in interior design, Working for International Interior Design Company. Looking for a Professional well-settled coloring boy from good family background, preferably settled in the US, Canada, or Europe. Contact 8050248502



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#### Media and Muslims



In an ideal world, journalism is a profession of incredible integrity, and journalists are among the world's most dexterous and skilled people. We have all benefited from the work of persistent journalists who put life, limb, family, and even sanity on the line in their pursuit of truth. The world, however, has changed, and often what's masquerading in the name of journalism is business — with an open display of bigotry and hate against certain social groups.

Sections of the press follow a familiar, negative narrative in their coverage of Islam and Muslims. The distorted images of Islam stem partly from a lack of understanding of Islam by others and partly from the failure by Muslims to explain themselves clearly. The results are predictable: hatred feeds on hatred.

Many non-Muslims, misunderstanding Islam, fear it. They believe it threatens their most fundamental values. Fantasy, conjecture, and stereotypes replace fact and

Many non-Muslims misunderstand Islam. They believe it threatens their most fundamental values. Fantasy, conjecture, and stereotypes replace fact and reality.



reality. Similarly, Muslims have their own misconceptions about Islam. Reacting to others' views creates a defensive posture within their communities and a hostile environment built on rhetoric. In this heat and misunderstanding, voices of tolerance are drowned out.

Much coverage of Muslims in the news outlets has a negative slant. We've seen how some papers get their news about Muslims wrong and how often they reuse the same stereotypes. True, like many others, Muslims also have a share of negative elements. But the story has to be fair and reflective and shouldn't generalize about all Muslims and feed into a broader far-right narrative. Good storylines of Muslim characters are woefully few. Often, there is a consistent stream of sloppy reporting, bias, or willful sensationalism about Muslims. The way stories are deformed to fit a formula about Muslims.

Surprisingly, the media has not attracted the brightest Muslim talents like other fields, such as medicine, technology, academics, and sports. The narrative of any story can be changed by dropping subtle hints about the social and cultural perspective of the general

Muslim society when a few misguided individuals do acts repugnant to Islamic values. It can dilute the toxicity of the story and educate the reader about authentic Muslim ethos. But this will require an extra effort -going beyond the ordinary call of duty -and can easily be done if we have well-informed Muslim iournalists in the mainstream media. The problem with many editors is that they don't have adequately trained journalists to cover religious and community issues. This is further compounded by the fact that Muslim institutions and organizations don't have professional media managers. There's also the absence of

adequate coverage for a lot of positive news of Muslims. Muslims also cannot project their achievements properly through the wide variety of communication channels that modern technology has opened.

Muslim leaders can play a significant role in sensitizing the media to the various complexities of Islamic issues. Broader dialogue can lead to more nuanced understanding and better appreciation among all stakeholders. The bottom line is clear: we need more and brighter Muslim talents to join the media.

#### The Monday Langar

In this interview with Islamic Voice, Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz, former Vice-Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, shares his initiative of the Monday Langar, which started last year in Zakir Nagar, New Delhi, distributing food to the needy.



The idea of the Monday Langar emerged while I was studying the Quran, specifically the 107<sup>th</sup> chapter of the Quran, which says: Have you seen one who denies the Day of Judgment? Who turns away the orphan, and who does not urge the feeding of the poor? So woe to those who pray but whose hearts are not in their prayer. Those who do things only to be seen by others. Who are uncharitable even over tiny things.

In this chapter, God is telling the reader to motivate others to feed the indigent. Encouraging people to feed the needy is thus an important commandment ordained by God upon us.

This Surah from the Quran inspired me to initiate the Monday Langar.

The second reason was that since my childhood, I have observed that among many Muslims, the meaning of ibadat has been confined to just five times prayers, hajj, zakat, and fasting. But, actually, there are many other essential commandments from the Divine which are also ordained upon us but are not practiced by Muslims, generally speaking. As mentioned above, the Quran tells us that one should motivate people to feed others. Thus, this is also an essential part of ibadat that we should engage in, just like prayers, fasting, and zakat. So, that was basically the idea behind starting the langar program. I consider feeding the needy and poor as part of ibadat in the manner indicated by the Quran.

The purpose of the *langar* is to highlight that feeding the needy and displaced is an *ibadat*. It is *farz* on us, a binding duty. The *langar* sends out a positive message to others too about their responsibility towards feeding the hungry.

Giving poor people food with your own hands when you are on the street, and other volunteers distributing food packets sensitizes you as a human being. It gives you exposure to a different aspect of human reality when you personally interact with the people who receive the food. It strikes a chord in your heart personally when you

relate with them.

We started the langar in August 2020. The *langar* is held on the main road of Zakir Nagar, in New Delhi, on the turning of the street where our Quran Centre is situated. It is held every Monday at lunchtime in the afternoon. Some volunteers and I together personally serve the food.

We serve vegetarian biryani at the *langar* because many people who take the food may not eat meat. We kept it vegetarian so that more people can access it—people of different faith backgrounds—and we wish to convey the message that being Muslim does not necessarily mean eating non-vegetarian. Vegetables are also a gift from the Almighty and mercy too.

The paid cook prepares the vegetarian biryani. It is packed in half a kilo aluminum boxes then distributed to the people because we do not have space to feed them at our centre.

We distribute 500 packets of food during the Monday *langar*. We have small packages for kids too. The people who come for the *langar* are mainly construction labourers from nearby sites, rickshaw pullers, and maids. They are from different religious and social backgrounds.

The expenses of the langar are met through family funding. While I contribute some money, a significant portion is sent by my son. Two other family members also chip in. We do not collect any donations from other people, and nor do we do ask for any. When we distribute the food, many people come to me and say that they want to contribute money for this. I request them not to donate money but, instead, to start a similar initiative in their street or locality. I tell them that money is not important, but what is important is that they should put in their own effort by distributing the food to the needy with their own hands. I tell them that however small it may be even a few sandwiches they should personally give the food to the needy.

We continued the distribution till the beginning of Ramzan this year and halted it when Ramzan began. God willing, we will restart it again after lockdown and Ramzan concludes.

Through the *langar*, the message sought to be conveyed is that we must serve people irrespective of religion, community, caste, and creed. We must serve humanity that is the best service.

### Media and Muslim Issues

#### M. Alamullah

Muslims need to be much more effective in articulating their concerns and issues through the media. There are mucheducated youth among the community, but how many of them are engaged in this work? Some Muslim institutions that claim to have a media lack professionalism and quality. Once upon a time, the pages of Urdu newspapers were dedicated to important social issues, but now the result of the declining quality of Urdu newspapers is that these pages are being used to highlight just a few people. In the case of news, the reporting of Urdu newspapers is, by and large, disappointing. Sometimes, they simply repeat what has been published elsewhere. Some Urdu newspapers engage in 'emotional journalism' and lack objectivity.

What should Muslims do in such a situation? Here are some thoughts and suggestions:

- a. Newspapers, news portals or small media channels run by the community should be supported. b. Muslim media houses should try to hire professionals in their organizations.
- c. Muslim organizations and

NGOs can reach out to the media and request them to publish news on Muslim issues.

d. Muslim organizations and institutions should give scholarships to some senior journalists (including from other communities) and request them to write columns on Muslim issues and issues of general social concern.

e. Youngsters can use social media to highlight Muslim-related issues.

There is a lot of scope in the points mentioned above. Remember, the media can only benefit if used according to the correct principles instead of cheap emotions.

# INDIAN MUSLIMs the way forward

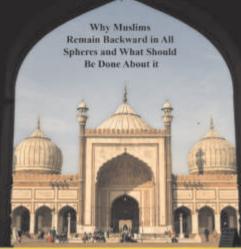
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