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Rabi-us-Sani / Jamadi-ul-Awwal - 1443 H

Reshma Nilofer Naha: First Woman River Pilot in the world.



The strong waves of the sea could not stop her from riding the ship. Her grit and determination made her the first woman River Pilot in the world she is Reshma Nilofer Naha.

Coming from the humble background of Chennai, Reshma completed her school education and pursued a professional course in marine technology from the Academy of Maritime Education and Training (AMET), Chennai. After the completion of the course, she sailed across the world on both passenger ships and container ships. Finally, she was trained at the Kopt (Kolkata Port Trust) for nearly six-and-a-half years and was posted as a full-time maritime pilot at the same port in 2018.

Dwelling on his role as a river

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All India Muslim Personal Law Board 27th Public Session

Enact blasphemy law and desist from imposing UCC, Board urges to government



Abdul Bari
Masoud

Kanpur: In the wake of growing instances of showing disrespect to Prophet Muhammad (PUBH), the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, on Sunday (November 21) strongly pitched for the enactment of anti-blasphemy law in India. The Muslim Board also cautioned the government that any insult to the Prophet (PUBH) is bound to hurt the feelings of all Muslims in the world and would tarnish the image of the country at the international level, particularly in the Islamic world.

The Board also counseled the government to desist from any attempt to impose the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) directly or indirectly, partially or fully, on the country as India is a multi-faith, multicultural nation and UCC is the antithesis to the idea of India. At its 27th two-day public session held in the industrial city of Uttar Pradesh, Kanpur on November 20-21, Board adopted a dozen resolutions including on blasphemy, UCC, social media, and other pressing issues and



issued a declaration. Around 200 AIMPLB members attended the two-day convention.

Blasphemy law

The powerful body of Indian Muslims representing all schools of thought made a forceful demand that the government should punish duly those guilty of showing disrespect to the holy religious figures which is not only an offense committed against them, it also hurts the sentiments of millions of their followers. Since the advent of the BJP government, radical Hindutva elements have been emboldened to openly insult Prophet Muhammad (PUBH) and other

religious leaders but the government did not act against such miscreants and even the police have been refusing to file FIRs against them. In its resolution on blasphemy, the Muslim Board underscored that "India is a multi-faith country, inhabited by adherents of various faiths. They have been devoted to different religious figures. It has been a glorious tradition of our country that its people have made due allowance for the religious sentiments of other faiths. They have avoided committing any blasphemy or sacrilege against the Holy Scriptures and religious figures of other faiths. This

tolerance has enriched the tradition of unity in diversity". And added that, "Esteemed Hindu, Sikh, and other non-Muslim scholars have consistently acknowledged the greatness of Prophet Muhammad. By the same token, in line with the teachings of Islam, Muslims have shunned attributing any offensive word about respectable figures of other religions". It further underlined that the attitude of communal forces is totally unacceptable and the government is not acting against those who seem to enjoy impunity from the long hands of the law. "It is, however, highly deplorable that of late some mischievous persons have openly insulted Prophet Muhammad (PUBH) whereas the government has not taken any deterrent step in this regard. This attitude of communal forces is totally unacceptable. This amounts to causing discord in the country and runs counter to the interests of nationalism and patriotism. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) stands out as the leader and guide of Muslims across the world. Muslims hold him in greater love and esteem than anyone else they prefer to

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All India Muslim Personal Law Board 27th Public Session

sacrifice themselves for his sake. Any insult to him is bound to hurt the feelings of all Muslims the world over. It would tarnish the image of our country all over the world. Therefore this session demands the government to punish duly those guilty of showing this respect to the holy religious figures”.

In this context, the Board demanded that the government should enact effective legislation for tackling this sensitive issue.

On Common Civil Code

Taking a strong note of attempts to enforce UCC on the country, the Board said, “UCC is neither suitable nor useful for such a vast multi-religious country as India and it also goes against the fundamental rights guaranteed in India's constitution. “India is a multi-faith country, and every citizen is guaranteed to practice and profess his faith and religious beliefs, and to act on and preach the same. Uniform Civil Code is neither suitable nor useful for such a vast multi-religious country like India. Any attempt in this direction is discordant with the fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution,” the resolution reads which passed on the second and final day of its 27th public session. On the growing menace of social media, the Board noted that in the past few years “poisonous propaganda” has been carried out against Muslims. It sought “curbs against communal and hostile posts on social media and legal action against miscreants”. The board also asked the government and judiciary to refrain from interpreting Holy Scriptures; saying only religious authorities were eligible to do that. Referring to the arrests of some Muslim preachers including Maulana Kalim Siddiqui, Dr. Umar Gautamin recent months, the Board said they were implicated in false cases of forced conversions even when the converts never made any complaint to police about being

forced.

Gyanvapi Mosque in Banaras

Board also asked the government to check the communal forces especially the Hindu Mahasabha, which is trying to disturb and vitiate communal harmony by raking up the issue of Gyan Vapi Mosque in Banaras and the Shahi Eidgah in Mathura. Strongly condemning their activities, the meeting urged the government to protect the religious sanctity of these places of worship.

Waqf Properties

On Waqf, the Board said it is essential to clarify that once a Waqf (endowment) is made, it becomes the exclusive property of Allah so the person executing Waqf or any individual, group, or government is not entitled to sale any waqf property or abuse its proceeds for any purpose other than that of waqf. “So any sale of Waqf property by its trustee or by government or courts permission to sell it runs contrary to Sharia and waqf law. This constitutes interference in Muslim religious rights and sharia laws. Muslims will never accept such attempts”.

Women issue

The Board session also expressed its deep concern over the rise in crimes against women. It asked the government to frame effective laws and ensure their implementation for the safety and security of women.

Attacks on minorities and Dalits

While condemning the attacks on Hindus and their places of worship in Bangladesh, the Board underlined that it is the basic duty of the state to protect minorities. “In the recent past, some temples of Hindu brethren were damaged in Bangladesh, and Hindus were attacked there. It is a regrettable incident that is to be condemned. Indian Muslims have protested against it”. However, the Board said equally deplorable it is that Muslims were persecuted in Tripura. The State police colluded with rioters which is further victimization of Muslims. It

betrays states' negligence of their duty and its bias against minorities and Dalits. “This representative body of Muslims urges the government to pay special attention to the atrocities against minorities, Dalits, weaker sections of society, and women, and ensure safety and security for every citizen. It should devise effective ways and means for controlling the barbaric and inhuman incidence of mob lynching,” the resolution said.

Muslims follow Islamic teachings

The Board also exhorted Muslims to implement Shariah in their life, conduct inexpensive weddings, not demand any money from the bride's family, shun extravagance, grant due share to women in inheritance, and protect in particular the rights of their mother's sister, wife, and daughter.

The 27th session of the Board appeals to Muslims and non-Muslims, particularly scholars and lawyers to grasp Islamic social law and its underlying wisdom. “They should avoid any misconception and misperception and remove mutual and misperception, and remove mutual misunderstanding. Islamic law is fully compatible with human needs. This explains why the Muslim Personal Law has been a major source in enacting family laws in India and other countries,” the resolution reads. Earlier on Saturday at the 27th General Body Meeting of the Board, Maulana Rabe Hasan Nadwi was re-elected as the president of the AIMPLB for a sixth consecutive term. Maulana Khalid Saifullah was formally elected general secretary who was made acting GS after the death of Maulana Wali Rahmani. Jamiat Ulema-e- Hind (A) president Maulana Arshad Madani and Prof (Dr) Syed Ali Mohammad Naqvi (Former Professor of Aligarh Muslim University) were elected vice-presidents. ■

27 Renowned Islamic scholars, physicians and academics granted Saudi Citizenship



Sayyed Muhammad Al-Husseini (first on the left),
Dr. Radwan al-Sayed (first on the right),
Mustafa Ceric (second on the left),
Dr. Khaled Hamwi (second on the right).

RIYADH: The preliminary lists of those who were granted Saudi citizenship following the issuance of royal orders by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman encompass all the vital fields of Saudi life. Granting of the citizenship was in recognition of their distinguished services and outstanding contributions in all major walks of life through decades-long

dedications and relentless efforts that qualified them to attain a distinguished status in Saudi society.

The list of those who were granted citizenship included 27 renowned Islamic scholars, eminent physicians, and well-known academics, according to a report in Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper.

Saudi Gazette report ■

Saudi Arabia to launch world's first 'Flying Museum'

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia launched the world's first “flying museum” highlighting archaeological finds on a plane journey between the capital and the ancient city of AIUla.

The museum, which is a collaborative project between the Royal Commission for AIUla and the national flag carrier Saudia, will exhibit a replica collection of artifacts that have been discovered in AIUla through archaeological excavations.

Passengers will also be able to watch a Discovery Channel documentary called “Architects of Ancient Arabia” that was released this year, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Rebecca Foote, director of archaeology and cultural heritage research at the commission, will provide an introduction to the documentary during the trip and



give an explanation about the artifacts featured in the museum. She said: “There is a major load of work ongoing in AIUla by local and international archeologists, and yet we are just beginning to understand the complicated nature of AIUla's past. AIUla is a hidden gem in the Arabian Peninsula, and we are slowly discovering its secrets. I am looking forward to sharing more information about our work with passengers of the Museum in the Sky trip, operated by Saudia.”? (<https://arab.news/zaz8f>) ■

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Reshma Nilofer Naha: First Woman River Pilot in the world.

pilot, Dwelling said, “The role of a marine pilot is to guide a vessel safely in and out of the harbor. The job requires tremendous physical and mental strength. It is never easy when you are the first one to achieve a feat.” Defeating people's doubt, she worked hard and completed the tough training successfully. She added, “People don't expect a woman to be the pilot. They thought I would leave the job in a few months, but I am here still doing my job.”

She admitted that her journey as a river pilot was not easy, especially when you are the first to achieve a feat. Talking about her job, she said, “We are the local

expert navigators attached to one particular port. We know the ship as we know the palm of our hand, and we know the ins and outs of the port so that ships can enter and exit with ease,” she further explained that the captain of the ship could not be an expert in every port, which is why the job of a marine pilot becomes crucial.

Mentioning some of the challenges a river pilot has to face, she said, “The river is very narrow and has several sandbars and bends, and currents that could create problems. You need to be mentally alert and capable of taking swift action as every second is crucial while maneuvering a ship to avoid

delays that could result in a disaster.”

Emphasizing the need for good physical fitness, she said, “We board a ship from a small pilot launcher or a pilot boat, and we climb up and down the ship using a vertical rope ladder, which requires some amount of fitness.”

Winning accolades from many, the recipient of Nari Shakti Puraskar continues to perform her duties with complete dedication. Staying away from family, roaring sea, and longer working hours have only made her stronger and gritty to do her job perfectly and inspire many others to join her league. ■



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Abu Dhabi allows non-Muslim Civil Marriage under a New Law

It is the latest step in the United Arab Emirates where personal status laws on marriage and divorce had been based on Islamic sharia principles, as in other Gulf states to maintain its competitive edge as a regional commercial hub.



Abu Dhabi: Non-Muslims will be allowed to marry, divorce, and get joint child custody under civil law in Abu Dhabi according to a new decree issued here recently by its ruler, state news agency WAM said.

It is the latest step in the United Arab Emirates where personal status laws on marriage and divorce had been based on Islamic sharia principles, as in other Gulf states to maintain its competitive edge as a regional commercial hub.

The decree from Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan, who is also president of

the UAE federation of seven emirates, said the law covers civil marriage, divorce, alimony, joint child custody and proof of paternity, and inheritance. The report described the civil law regulating non-Muslim family matters as being the first of its kind in the world "in line with international best practices".

A new court to handle non-Muslim family matters will be set up in Abu Dhabi and will operate in both English and Arabic.

(<https://www.hindustantimes.com/m/world-news/abu-dhabi-allows-non-muslim-civil-marriage-under-new-law/>) ■

Expo 2020 Dubai: Muslim World League launches exhibition on Lives of Prophets



Abu Dhabi: The Muslim World League pavilion has launched an exhibition on the lives of the prophets at Expo 2020 Dubai. "The Prophets As If You See Them" is the first and largest of its kind and carries a major global civilized message.

The exhibition also focuses on the life of Prophet Muhammad and presents his journey in Makkah Al-Mukarramah and then Al-Madinah Al-Munawwarah.

During the exhibition's activities, the biography of twenty-five prophets and messengers, who are mentioned in the Holy Qur'an, will be prInt lists the biography of the prophets in five languages—Arabic, English,

French, Hebrew, and Indonesian. The narration is characterized by an interactive style that brings the visitor closer to the prophets and introduces their names, titles, attributes, character, childhood, places where they were sent, and the narration also deals with the relatives of the prophets and their people, in addition to the miracles of these prophets, their languages and their morals that were revealed to them.

The second floor of the pavilion contains models of Makkah and Madinah, among other exhibits.

The Expo 2020 Dubai started on October 1, 2021, and will last for 6 months, ending on March 31, 2022. ■

Masnavi Sherif Tamil Translation released at Sharjah International Book Fair



Sharjah: Masnavi Sherif Tamil Translation 6th Part was released on 9th November 2021 at Writer Forum, Hall No 7 at Expo Center, Sharjah during the Sharjah International 40th Book Fair.

Sharjah International 40th Book Fair was inaugurated by Sharjah Ruler H.E. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi on 3rd November 2021. In this Book Fair UAE, India, Oman, Saudi Arabia and various countries thousands of publishers participate. Arabic, English, Tamil, Malayalam and various language books are published.

Masnavi Sheriff is an extensive poem written in Persian by Jalal al-Din Muhammad Balkhi, also known as Rumi. The Masnavi is one of the most influential works of Sufism, commonly called "the Quran in Persian".

It has been viewed by many commentators as the greatest mystical poem in world literature.

The Masnavi is a series of six books of poetry that together amount to around 25,000 verses or 50,000 lines. It is a spiritual text that teaches Sufis how to reach their goal of being truly in love with God.

The Masnavi Sheriff was translated into Tamil Language in Seven Parts. The Sixth part was released in the book fair by the social worker Alhaj Mohammed Maahroof. The first copy of the book was received by Mr Sanjay Ghosh of Manager, Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

Syed Abuthahir, Kavitha, Jasmine Abubacker are given the review about this book.

Muduvai Hidayath, Syed Abuthahir, Kader Hussain, Jamal Mohideen, Jalaludeen, Meern Moosa, Khalifa Musthafa, Yahya Mohideen, and others are also received. ■

The First Atlas printed in the Islamic World

Dreweatts auction house said the Ottoman atlas was the first printed in the Islamic World (Dreweatts/PA)



Ellie Iorizzo, PA

The atlas was discovered in an attic at Weston Hall in Northamptonshire.

The first atlas printed in the Islamic world has sold more than four times its estimate at auction after being discovered in an attic.

The "exceptionally rare" Ottoman folio atlas by Mahmoud Raif Efendi was sold for £86,250 recently by Dreweatts of Newbury, Berkshire.

It was one of only 50 produced and was among several discoveries made at Weston Hall in Northamptonshire, home of the

Sitwell family for more than 300 years.

Dreweatts auction house said the Ottoman atlas was the first printed in the Islamic World.

It was found in "extraordinary" condition in one of the nine attics at Weston Hall, stamped and dated 1804, and featured a hand-colored pictorial title with the monogram of Sultan Selim III, the auction house said.

Written in Ottoman Turkish with 24 hand-coloured terrestrial maps, the atlas included two twin-hemispheres and one world, with a plain celestial chart. ■

Saudi crown Prince announces World's first non-profit City



RIYADH: Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has recently announced the first nonprofit city in the world.

The city will be a model for the development of the nonprofit sector globally and an incubator for youth and volunteer groups and local and international nonprofit institutions.

"This will be the first nonprofit city of its kind, which will contribute to achieving the goals of Misk Foundation in supporting innovation, entrepreneurship and qualifying future leaders by defining nonprofit work in its internal operational concept and in terms of opportunities and youth training programs it will provide. In addition, the project will provide services that contribute to creating an attractive environment for all beneficiaries of the city's offerings," the crown prince said.

"Prince Mohammed bin Salman Nonprofit City, which implements the digital twin model, will host academies, colleges, 'Misk Schools,' a conference center, a science museum and a creative center offering a space to support the ambitions of innovators in sciences and new generation technology such as AI, IoT, and robotics. It will also feature an arts academy, art gallery, a performing arts theater, a play area, a cooking academy, and an integrated residential complex. In addition, the city will host venture capital firms and investors to support and incubate innovative enterprises to drive community contributions from around the world."

Prince Mohammed bin Salman Nonprofit City will be located on land dedicated by the crown prince, in Irqah neighborhood, adjacent to Wadi Hanifa, over an area of about 3.4 square kilometers.

The city's master plan embodies a human-centered, advanced digital metropolis designed to be sustainable and pedestrian-friendly. It will allocate more than 44 percent of the total area for green open spaces to promote sustainable development.

The city's establishment is in line to create a vibrant Saudi youth talent system to shape the Kingdom and the world's future by encouraging youth learning and developing leadership skills. Details surrounding the development phases and progress of Prince Mohammed bin Salman Nonprofit City will be announced in the coming months.

(<https://arab.news/yda6d>) ■

Ulema-State Alliance hinders Democracy and Development in the Muslim world

Por Ahmet T. Kuru

San Diego, USA: In September 2021, Turkey House was inaugurated in New York with a high-level state ceremony that included the presence of President Tayyip Erdogan. The ceremony began with a prayer recited by Turkey's top Islamic cleric: the Directorate of Religious Affairs chairman, which controls 80,000 mosques. The growing political importance of this cleric in Turkey symbolizes the growing partnership between Islamic scholars/clerics (ulema) and the Erdogan regime.

Turkey was known for nearly a century as the most assertive secularist state with a Muslim-majority society. Even so, in recent years, the ulema-state alliance has been strengthened. Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, the Taliban, an ulema-led organization, has regained power. Under the Taliban regime, the ulema is not simply an ally of the state; they are "the state," controlling the executive, legislative and judicial branches. There are 50 Muslim-majority countries in the world. Turkey is the country with the longest experience of a secular state, and Afghanistan is now the country with the longest theocratic experience (along with Iran). In many other Muslim-majority



countries, ulema-state alliances vary, but their common feature is that they all complicate democratization and development efforts.

Neither Islam nor Western colonialism

Of the 50 Muslim-majority countries, only seven are electoral democracies. Muslim countries also have lower levels of development, reflected in socio-economic criteria such as GNI per capita, life expectancy, years of schooling, and literacy rates compared to the world average. Overall, many Muslim countries suffer from a vicious cycle of authoritarianism and underdevelopment.

The contemporary challenges facing Muslim countries are all the more disconcerting given their early socio-economic and scientific progress history.

Especially between the 8th and 11th centuries, the Muslim world was home to many of the world's greatest cities and leading philosophers. It was far more developed than Western Europe at the time.

What explains the gap between the early historical brilliance of the Muslim world and the contemporary crises? Two explanations are often given: **Islam and Western colonialism. Both are futile.**

Blaming Islam for being a barrier to progress does not explain early Muslims' scientific and socio-economic achievements. Muslim societies had dynamic intellectual and economic classes for four centuries that established a philosophical and commercial Golden Age. Muslim polymaths made pioneering academic contributions in mathematics, optics, and medicine. It was Muslims who taught Western Europeans certain financial instruments and how to make paper.

The explanation based on Western colonialism is also problematic. The scientific and economic

stagnation of the Muslim world had already begun long before widespread Western colonization began in the 18th century. Moreover, several postcolonial non-Muslim countries in Asia and Latin America have achieved development or democratization, indicating that progress is possible despite a colonial past.

The Ulema-State Alliance

By contrast, the main reason for the problems of authoritarianism and underdevelopment in most Muslim societies has been what I call in my 2019 book *'The Ulema-State Alliance'*.

Between the eighth and eleventh centuries – when Muslims belonging to various theological schools cooperated with Christians, Jews, and others in the emergence of a Golden Age – there was a degree of separation between the ulema and the state. The vast majority of ulema worked privately in commerce. This historical reality refutes the modern cliché that Islam inherently rejects the separation of religion and state.

By the mid-11th century, however, the ulema-state alliance began to emerge. This alliance gradually marginalized independent thinkers and entrepreneurs, leading to centuries of intellectual and economic stagnation in the Muslim world.

During the 19th century, reformist rulers weakened their alliance with the ulema, and by the early 20th century, almost all Muslim state-builders were secular. However, these reformist and secular rulers had one problem in common: they were too state-centric. Instead of fostering the emergence of

dynamic intellectual and economic classes, they expanded the role of the military and civilian bureaucrats over politics and economics.

The failed policies of the secularists helped the rise of the ulema and Islamists from the 1970s onwards. For half a century, several major Muslim countries, such as Iran, Pakistan, Egypt, and Turkey, have experienced Islamisation as a social, political, and legislative project, also revived ulema-state alliances.

Oil as a driver of ulema-state alliances

Moreover, after the 1973 oil crisis, several countries, especially in the Gulf, began to use oil revenues to fund these alliances domestically and Islamist programmes abroad. Modern ulema-state alliances have passed blasphemy and apostasy laws that criminalize the expression of dissenting religious and political views.



By the mid-11th century, however, the ulema-state alliance began to emerge. This alliance gradually marginalized independent thinkers and entrepreneurs, leading to centuries of intellectual and economic stagnation in the Muslim world.

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510 students of Al-Ameen Mission (West Bengal) Qualify NEET Exam



Staff Writer

Kolkata: As many as 510 students of Al-Ameen Mission have qualified for NEET this year, and most of the students are from the most backward districts of West Bengal.

In a statement, Al-Ameen Mission founder Nurul Islam said that nearly 1,800 students appeared for the NEET examination this year for admission in medical courses. Among them, at least 500 to 550 students would get the opportunity to study medicine. The highest number of them comes from some of the backward districts of the state. 139 candidates belong to Murshidabad and 89 to Malda. Apart from them, 50 students hail from South 24 Parganas, 50 from Birbhum, 33 from North 24 Parganas, 25 from Burdwan, 24 from Nadia, 16 from Uttar Dinajpur, 15 from Dakshin Dinajpur, 13 from Howrah, 12 from Hoogly, 11 from Bankura, 10 from East Midnapore, 8 Coochbehar, 7 from West Midnapore, 3 from Kolkata, 2 from Purulia and 3 from some other districts. Speaking with *Islamic Voice*, Nurul Islam said most of the

students who have qualified NEET from Al Ameen Mission belong to very poor backgrounds and weaker sections of society. We nurture their talent, develop their intellect and provide them with an excellent environment to come out with their best.

At present, around 6838 students (40%) enjoy half-free studentship and 4257 (25%) enjoy full accessible studentship facilities from the Mission.

"We utilize Zakat and Sadaqah funds to achieve our goal and play our role in nation-building. We urge the community members to support our efforts," he said.

Al-Ameen Mission, headquartered in Howrah, has been credited to have produced more than 3500 doctors (MBBS & BDS) and 3000 engineers so far, apart from scores of researchers, administrative officers, teachers, and professors. It currently runs 70 coaching institutes in 20 districts of West Bengal.

The organization teaches 17,000 residential students, and it has more than 3000 teachers and non-teaching staff. The main campus of Al-Ameen Mission is located at Khalatpur (Udaynarayanpur) in the Howrah district of West Bengal.

Islamic Centre Firozabad Organized a *Sirat-un-Nabi* Quiz



Syed Ilham Jafri

Firozabad, U.P.: Islamic Centre Firozabad recently organized a *Sirat-un-Nabi* Quiz. The meeting was attended by many influential, political, social, religious, and intellectual figures. Muslim Personal Law Board member, eminent religious scholar, Imam and Khatib of Lucknow Eidgah, Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mehli was invited as a chief guest. While addressing Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mehli said that there are many challenges facing today's young generation. These challenges can only be met by bringing the teachings of the life of the Prophet (PBUH) into one's life. He emphasized that science, technology, medicine, and various fields of study in contemporary times should not be separated from the teachings and education that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) left to us.

On this occasion, Maulana Alam Mustafa Yaqoobi, Director, Islamic Centre, Firozabad, said that Islamic Centre, Firozabad, aims to fulfill the social and educational needs of all people, irrespective of religion and caste, and to take the country on the path of development.

While convening the program, Maulana Sayyed Saadi Qasmi said that the Islamic Centre Firozabad has been active for the last nine years to cater to the financial and domestic needs of the elderly, children, widows, youth, and the needy. The organization has the support of all intellectuals, religious scholars, administrative

officers, and political figures of Firozabad. Islamic Centre's tree-planting campaign, blood donation camps, visits to old aged homes, medical camps, cyber-awareness programs, distribution of PPE kits for doctors, thousands of masks and sanitizers to people on roads during the Covid lockdown period, distribution of ration kits, helmets for road-safety are the works that verify their urge and dedication to step into the field and do some good of the humanity.

On this occasion, the new magnificent building of the Islamic Centre was also inaugurated. The students who achieved success in the *Sirat-un-Nabi* quiz, Muhammad Talha, Gul Bahar, Sanobar, Muawiyah, Umm Salma, and Muhammad Bilal, were awarded trophies and cash prizes of around fifty thousand rupees. Consolation prizes and certificates were given to other participants as well. C.O. of Police, city Firozabad, Hari Mohan Singh especially praised the public popularity of Islamic Centre Firozabad and its achievements by his presence. Dr. Rehan Farooqi of FH Medical College, Maulana Naeem-ur-Rehman Siddiqui (Member UP Sunni Central Waqf Board), Zakir Shamim Alig, Dr. Nisar Ahmed, Dr. Saud-ul-Hasan (Member CISCE), Wajihuddin and others beside Mufti Akram Mustafa Ayubi, Maulana Adam Mustafa Sufi, and the spirit of all these activities, Master Syed Muhammad Ahsan were specially present.

M Nurul Islam Gets Maeshat Best Eduprenuer Award 2021



M Nurul Islam receiving the award from the hands of Dr. Aslam Khan, founder Chairman, Octaware Technologies Limited along with Danish Reyaz of Maeshat Media.
Photo: Maeshat

In recognition of his tireless commitment to the educational empowerment of minorities, M Nurul Islam, founder of Al Ameen Mission, Kolkata, has been conferred the Best Eduprenuer of the Year 2021 award at the 10th All India Minorities Business Summit & National Brand Awards, held in Kala Kunj, Kala Mandir, Kolkata on November 14, 2021.

Maeshat Media Private Limited organized the event, India's leading brand consulting and media firm, in association with Tameer Educational & Welfare Trust, Indian Institute of Research and Career Design 360. Hundreds of business leaders, dignitaries, delegates, and various social leaders from different associations graced the occasion. Receiving the award from the hands of Dr. Aslam Khan, founder Chairman, Octaware Technologies Limited, M Nurul Islam expressed his gratitude to the Maeshat Media for finding him deserving of this honour. And felt the award would further strengthen his resolve to work towards the educational as well as socio-economic upliftment of minorities.

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AMP Launches 2nd edition of National Talent Search for School and College Students

Staff Writer

Mumbai: The Association of Muslims Professionals (AMP), a Platform for all Muslim professionals and volunteers, will host its second annual National Talent Search Competition on a specially designed mobile app called - chAMPian. The National Talent Search is organized to increase and reward the Students' General Awareness and Competitive Spirit and identify the best and brightest students to support and nurture them.

This year AMP is gearing for record-breaking participation of 5 lac+ students from 20,000+ Schools and 5,000+ colleges across India. The organizers said it would be one of the biggest Online Events in the country.

At a special function held at Islam Gymkhana here on November 18, Maharashtra Minister for Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Minority Development, Nawab Malik unveiled the National Talent Search 2021 (NTS 2021) Poster and launched AMP's chAMPian Mobile App on Education Day, 11th November 2021 in a Launch Event held, Mumbai.

Apart from this, more than 100 unveiling events were organized across India with the help of influential personalities from the community.

According to the AMP press note, the exams will be conducted in 3-Categories:

- Sunday, 12th December 2021 – Senior/Degree Colleges (Undergraduates)
 - Sunday, 19th December 2021 – Schools (8th, 9th & 10th Std)
 - Sunday, 26th December 2021 – Junior Colleges (11th & 12th Std)
- To encourage the students, AMP is



giving out Cash Rewards worth Rs. five lac+ and Scholarships worth ? 20 lac+ and additional support for the students.

The uniqueness of this competition is that along with School, College, NIOS, ITI, Diploma students, even Madrasa students between ages 13 to 15 years can also participate in the National Talent Search.

This year in 2021, the National Talent Search competition is being hosted on a specially designed mobile app called chAMPian.

Registration Process:

- Download the chAMPian app from Google Playstore
 - Sign-up to the app with your details
 - Register for NTS by filling the Student Registration tab
- AMP President, Aamir Edresy told the media that “This mobile app will not only help students to appear for the exam, but will also help Students and Teachers in future with Career Guidance, Admission assistance, Scholarship Guidance, Mentorship and many more things.”

Prof. Syed Khaleel, the head of NTS, appealed to all the Schools,

Colleges, and Institutions to register their maximum students for the Competition. The Schools and Colleges with more participation will also be felicitated.

Gravity Classes from Lucknow is the Title Sponsor, and Shaheen Group (Bidar) from Karnataka, MS Academy from Telangana, and Beary's Group from Karnataka are the Co-Sponsors for the competition.

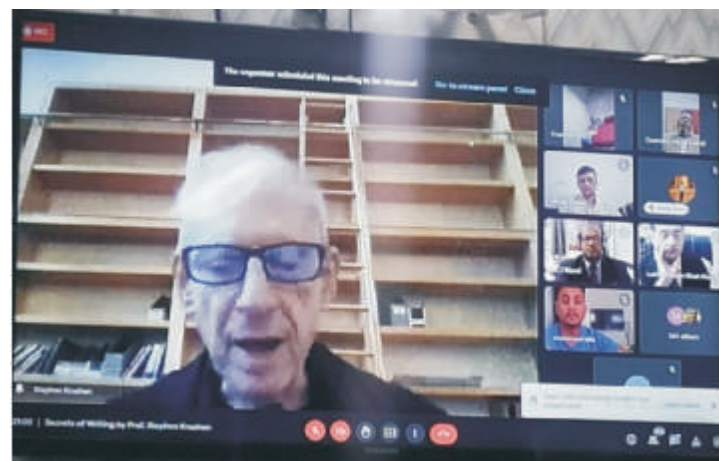
More details can be taken from the following link:

www.ampindia.org/National_talent_search

Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) has been working for more than a decade in Education Support, Employment Assistance, and Economic Empowerment for the Community and Country. AMP is a Platform for all Muslim professionals and volunteers to share their knowledge, intellect, experience, and skills for the overall development of society at large. AMP will shortly be completing 13 years of existence, working in Education & Economic Empowerment. ■

AMU Web talk on ‘Secrets of Writing’

**‘Don't become better writers by writing more’;
Dr. Stephen Krashen American professor Emeritus.**



Special Correspondent

Aligarh: “One cannot become a better writer by writing more and more but through revision, rereading what he has written and making improvements”. In a web talk on 'Secrets of Writing' of the Department of Linguistics, this suggested American linguist, educational researcher, political activist, and professor emeritus at the University of Southern California, Dr. Stephen D Krashen Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

Enlightening secrets of good writing from his vast experience, Prof Stephen said one should not be afraid of re-reading the best books. “How can you possibly produce outstanding outputs if you don't use the best raw materials and inputs? Read the best books you can get your hands on, and don't be afraid to reread them”, asserted the American linguist.

Continuing his online lecture, the American professor emeritus underlined that “We don't acquire language by study, and we don't become better writers by writing more—input counts, not output. But actual writing can help us solve problems and make us smarter. This happens largely through revision, rereading what we have written and making improvements”.

Quoting Peter Elbow, 'Meaning is not what you start with, but what you end up with'; Prof Stephen stressed that revising and rereading make way for improvements and allows one to examine important aspects of writing.

“Those who read more, write better: they spell better, have larger vocabularies, better grammar, and a more acceptable writing style”, he said.

Prof Stephen elaborated how spare and direct the famous author, Ernest Hemingway was and how he often worked through multiple drafts.

Further elucidating the importance of 'Revision' for writers, he pointed out that Charles Darwin once said, 'I cannot remember a single first-formed hypothesis which had not

after a time been given up or greatly modified.

Budding writers

The author of over 100 books and articles, Prof Stephen urged budding writers to engage in good reading and rereading, revising the drafts, planning and re-planning whenever necessary, taking short breaks between work, daily writing, coming up with original ideas and reading what is required as bulk reading leads to the habit of forgetting.

For writing research papers

Prof Stephen suggested elucidating the main idea, supporting ideas, procedures, and conclusions with short summaries, findings, implications, and future research. He stressed on keeping the introduction short and not to get upset with rejections. “Take all the data that has been published and reanalyze it and be ready for unobtrusive measures”, said Prof Stephen.

The American author concluded the talk by saying that scientific information should be free for the common good.

In the welcome address, Prof M J Warsi, Chairman, Department of Linguistics spoke about the thrust areas of Prof Stephen.

He said: “Prof Stephen specialises in theories of language acquisition and development. Much of his recent research has involved the study of non-English and bilingual language acquisition. Since 1980, he has published well over 100 books and articles and has been invited to deliver over 300 lectures at universities throughout the United States and Canada. Known for the theory, 'Comprehension Hypothesis', Prof Stephen is one of the most frequently cited scholars in the field of Language Education”.

Prof Imtiaz Hasnain moderated the Question and Answer session, while Dr Nazrin B Laskar extended the vote of thanks.

Over 300 participants from the USA, Yemen, Morocco, Egypt, Taiwan, Philippines, New Mexico, South Asian countries and Central American countries attended the web talk. ■

AMU clarifies on Monogram Controversy

Special Correspondent

Aligarh: The management of Aligarh Muslim University recently clarified that removing the Quran Ayah from the AMU monogram was not a political decision but to avoid disrespect to Quranic verses. However, the monogram with the Quran would continue to be etched on AMU degrees, diplomas, and other documents.

The removal of Quranic ayah from the monogram has triggered an outrage in the AMU fraternity and the Muslim community, who see the present AMU dispensation as appeasing powers that be.

Putting to rest the controversy, the AMU said in a statement that it was an old decision taken by the Executive Council (EC) through its resolution, dated October 4, 2005, and resolution no. 15, dated



January 1, 2005, resolved that “the monogram with Quran Ayah on the notices of meetings, invitation cards, pamphlets, examination, and test answer books, calendars, file covers, project and lab reports, examination and admission forms and letterheads will not be used to avoid disrespect of the religious verse due to the ephemeral nature of these documents”.

However, a monogram with five

stars in place of the Ayah in the circle may be used in such cases.

“The monogram with the Quranic verse will continue to be etched on AMU degrees, diplomas, certificates, final year mark sheets, character certificates of the students issued by Dean Students' Welfare, Sherwani (Traditional knee-length coat), badges, AMU flag, buildings, glow and signboards, books, monographs, diary, PG Dissertations, and PhD thesis”, said AMU Registrar, Abdul Hamid (IPS).

The notice issued by the Registrar calls for strict adherence by all concerned. ■





Abdul Bari
Masoud

New Delhi: The historic institution Jamia Millia Islamia has not only attained national but international accolades. It has been ranked at 186th position in the recently announced QS Asia University Rankings 2022 by the London-based QS University Rankings Agency, improving its position from 203 last year.

Earlier along with Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia made it to the top ten Universities list in the Union Education Ministry's National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) University rankings for the year 2021 in India. JMI secured the sixth rank among the top 10 Universities of the country while AMU is now ranked 10th.

Jamia is also making waves for its extraordinary scientific feats. In the centenary year 2020, Prof. Imran Ali of the Department of Chemistry has been selected as the number one scientist in India and 24th in Analytical Chemistry by a group of scientists from the University of Stanford, USA.

One more feather was added to Jamia's adorned cap recently. The prestigious Stanford University of the US has included 16 researchers from Jamia in the top 2 percent of scientists of the world. The global list was prepared by a team of experts led by John Ioannidis, an eminent professor at Stanford University, and was published by the Elsevier journal. A total of 3,352 researchers from India got featured in the list prepared by the university.

Stanford University has released two lists. The first coveted list is based on career-long data, and eight professors from JMI got enlisted in it. The second list is

Jamia Millia Islamia making Waves for its Extraordinary Feats



based on 2020 performance, and 16 scientists from the institution got featured in this list.

According to an official statement on JMI website, apart from Prof. Imran, professors Atiqur Rehman, Anjan A. Sen, Haseeb Ahsan, Sushant G. Ghosh, S. Ahmad, Tokeer Ahmad and Dr. Mohd Imtaiyaz have been included in both the coveted lists, while in the 2020 list of top 2 per cent scientists, professors Abid Haleem, Rafiq Ahmad, Tabrez Alam Khan, Mohd Javaid, Arshad Noor Siddique, Musheer Ahmad, Faizan Ahmad and Tarikul Islam have been included.

Apart from this galaxy, two other gems that have made Jamia proud and have set glorious examples for younger generations to emulate are Dr. Mansaf Alam of the Computer Science Department and Professor Shakeel Ahmad. They served as MK Gandhi Chair in the Department of Geography.

Dr. Mansaf Alam

Dr. Mansaf Alam and his team have developed an 'Artificial Intelligence Based Dustbin.' This invention has received a patent as intellectual property from the Patent Office, Government of

Australia.

The main objective of the invention titled 'Artificial Intelligence Based Dustbin,' according to Dr. Alam, is to make dustbins smart by enabling them to detect harmful objects like explosives and radioactive materials thrown in them.

"Sensors are fixed with the dustbin, which will intimate by sending signals about any harmful objects dumped in it. We developed this dustbin keeping in mind the security aspect, making the dustbin behave like human beings and work intelligently with the help of AI. It will surely be a useful product for society," said Dr. Alam.

Professor Shakeel Ahmad

Professor Shakeel Ahmad has been elected as a Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (Italy) to advance science in a developing country.

The academy supports sustainable prosperity through research, education, policy, and diplomacy. According to the information provided by JMI, Professor Ahmed is an expert in water sciences and taught at the Centre for Disaster Management as well as the Department of Geography during his two-year tenure at JMI.

"He has rich experience in teaching advanced development in water-related natural disasters as well as climate change," a statement on the JMI website said.

As a senior faculty member, Professor Ahmed's contribution to JMI has been extraordinary. He has published more than 13 research papers in high-impact international journals and contributed three chapters in books published by INSA and Springer, and Elsevier.

During his tenure at JMI, he was also elected as the Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences of India (NASI).

Before joining JMI, he served as a scientist at the CSIR's National Geophysical Research Institute in Hyderabad for 37 years. He reached the level of the senior-most Chief Scientist at the institute. He has led many national and international projects on earth science, including his major role in the mega programme of National Aquifer Mapping in India.

As its founder head, Professor Ahmed has led an Indo-French Centre for Groundwater Research in Hyderabad for almost 20 years. Professor Ahmed will be leading a high level delegation from India with Professor Atiqur Rahman of the Department of Geography, JMI, and many other scientists and experts from the country to Montpellier, France, to discuss with a matching French delegation the impact of climate change on water management in May, 2022.

The Jamia also won Boston University's Global Programs BUFI (2020) Seed Fund award for collaborative research proposal. This collaborative project is entitled 'Networks and Global health: Experimental Evidence of

Women's Social Networks, Reproductive Health, and Well-being in Rural India'.

Jamia also published 911 papers in journals that are indexed in a globally accepted SCOPUS database. For 2019, until April 20, we have already published 317 papers and expected to cross 1000 papers per year, which will enable us to achieve a per capita publication of over 1.40, Jamia media coordinator, Ahmad Azeem told *Islamic Voice*.

Jamia Millia Islamia was originally established at Aligarh in United Provinces, India, in 1920 became a Central University by an act of the Indian Parliament in 1988. In the Urdu language, Jamia means 'University,' and Millia means 'National'.

In recent years Jamia has made significant strides. It got NAAC Accreditation with Grade 'A' in March 2015. The MHRD's National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) placed it at the 19th position in the "Overall Ranking" for 2018 & 2019. In the Times Higher Education (THE) ranking for the year 2019, 2020 Jamia was placed in-between 601-800 and in the QS World University Rankings 2020 it was placed in-between 751-800. Round University Ranking in collaboration with Clarivate Analytics have ranked at 538 among 1100 universities participating in World University ranking 2020.

The story of its growth from a small institution in pre-independence India to a central university located in New Delhi offering integrated education from nursery to research in specialized areas is a saga of dedication, conviction and vision of a people who worked against all odds and saw it growing step by step. They "built up the Jamia Millia stone by stone and sacrifice by sacrifice," said Sarojini Naidu, the nightingale of India. ■

MANUU VC visits campuses at Bangalore



Staff Writer

Hyderabad: "We have to remove all the unnecessary hurdles damaging our education system morally, legally, academically and ethically. We must have a sense of accountability," said Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice Chancellor,

and Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) during his visit to MANUU campuses at Bangalore on November 15, 2021. He also planted a sapling at MANUU Polytechnic Campus on the occasion.

Addressing the faculty members & staff of Regional Centre, Polytechnic and ITI, Prof. Ainul Hasan said the purpose of his visit was to interact and resolve the problems for smooth functioning of the campus. He advised the faculty to maintain the academic affinity with the students. He also emphasized the importance of education in mother tongue.

He described distance education as the backbone of the University. The Directorate of Distance Education has to be strengthened, he opined. He also held one to one meetings with faculty and staff, took note of their issues and assured them to resolve them at the earliest.

Prof. Ainul Hasan also held a meeting with Dr. Devi Shetty, Chairman, Narayana Health Group, Bangalore to explore the

possibility of empanelment of their hospitals. He also met the Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University and had a productive and fruitful discussion with him. Dr. Khazi Ziaulla, Regional Director, RC Bangalore, welcomed, and Dr. Syed Nurussayidyn Madanibriefly introduced the Vice Chancellor.

Dr. Mohammed Riazur Rahaman, Principal, MANUU Polytechnic, proposed a vote of thanks. Dr. Khazi Ziaulla, Dr. Mohammed Riazur Rahaman, and Dr. Mohd Mozzam Moinuddin (In charge of Principal MANUU ITI) gave a brief report of their respective institutions. ■

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Ban on Women's Travel

Sir,
"Travelling for the obligatory Hajj and Umrah without a Mahram is not permissible in Islam," declared the Islamic Fiqh Academy of India (IFA) at its 29th Islamic Jurisprudential Seminar article published in November 2021 Islamic Voice issue

Several resolutions passed regarding the 29th Fiqhi seminar held at Hyderabad, and rules were laid down for women's travel to either Umrah or anywhere else. They have literally prohibited the travel of a woman to long and short distances without a Mahram. The scholars have spent three days and worked very hard to further divide an already fractured community into Fiqh and Maslaks by stating that their ruling applies to Hanafi and not to the other three, namely the Shafi, Maliki, and Hanbali. When the Saudi government has approved Hajj and Umrah for single women and the government has allowed the same, and thousands of women were performing Hajj and Umrah without Mahram, this seminar was uncalled for and an exercise to make their presence felt. Let them answer some basics. What if a widow has to travel for a job alone to feed and educate her children? What if a widow has more than one daughter who would like to go to university in their town or another town for higher education and has no Maharam? The worst

part of the decisions is their dictate is only for Hanafi and not for others. Are they suggesting that all those God-fearing women from other Fiqh are doing something wrong? In a camouflaged language, the resolutions of the seminar (if anyone takes them seriously) are only curbing women's travel for education, work, or any business, without realizing the economic and social implication of such dictates on the Muslim women and society as such.

The same conference discusses the problems of polarization in the country that is affecting the community. That is an important subject. In that case, they should have deliberated and come out with strategies to dilute the fast-spreading hate and Islamophobia, ways and means to improve interpersonal relations with non-Muslims. Bring in greater unity in the community, particularly between the Maslaks and Fiqh, and enhance community's efforts to educate the youth, particularly the women. They should have discussed allowing women to pray in masjids, discussed the reorientation of the imams to deliver Khutbas that are relevant to contemporary issues, use Masjids for several community-building activities, about which I have published in my previous articles. The community in the 21st century needs strong women empowered with high levels of professional education, skills, professional



knowledge acquired from India and abroad. A Muslim woman should aspire to be a Judge, a bureaucrat, a scientist, and even an entrepreneur. A Muslim woman should be a job creator rather than a job seeker. The statements such as "a woman needs the help of men" and binding her in the constraints of Maharam are not contested, but the context of its statement is regressive and confuses the already confused women of our community. Islam has commanded Muslims to even travel to China to acquire knowledge, but it never said only men should acquire knowledge or if women travel to acquire knowledge, should have a Maharam always.

Prof Jalees Ahmed Khan Tareen (Padma shri) And former Vice-Chancellor to three Universities

"Importance of pressure groups or lobbying"

Assalamualaikum,
 In the November 2021 issue of Islamic Voice, Syed Tahsin Ahmed is back, addressing the "Importance of pressure groups"

or "lobbying." Many of these lobbyists, some are known, many are unknown and unheard of but their presence is always felt in the corridors of power, halls of parliament and in the offices of the highest authorities in the government. Their power is enormous.

As the writer has stated, there are various lobbyists, and he has mentioned a few. Unfortunately, there is not even a single influential "Pressure Group" representing Muslims in our secular nation, the largest minority that can significantly impact the elected members. No lobbying, no political representation? How can we expect any change in our living conditions and lifestyle?

American Israeli Political Action Committee (AIPAC) is the world's strongest lobbying group. It is so strong that every American politician is answerable to this lobby despite being an outsider and from a small Jewish country. It is so powerful that the USA has a common understanding that "America's foreign policy is made in Tel Aviv."

This is just one example of how much this AIPAC is influential across political lines and why Israel is invincible as it controls and covers every aspect of aid and defense from the USA.

Vision Karnataka could be a ray of hope, but can it survive without significant Muslim representation at lobbying and political levels?

What is the outreach and influence of this "pressure group" on the general public? Would they be able to support a good candidate in the elections and make him win? Can they convince the eligible voters not to sell their precious votes? Can it arrange for en bloc voting, like Jews in America do? Probably not in the poverty-stricken areas to which most minorities belong and where money talks and disunity rules. I am not trying to discourage here, but instead, I am encouraged to bring unity among minorities and bring positive changes at the political level. Get united and get the good candidates elected by showing the special voting power. Pressure groups can only generate and apply heat on political establishments to squeeze political and social gains from them. May Allah protect us and give us the knowledge to safeguard our communities. Aameen

Qazi Minhaj Azher, USA.

Sir,

I have been an avid reader of Islamic Voice for nearly 25+ years, and Alhamdulillah has significantly benefitted. Now that I want to contribute to it through my articles, I request you to kindly consider publishing the same so that I can earn the pleasure of Allah through the readership of a wider audience, which Islamic Voice enjoys.

Dr. Yaaseen Masood, Ph.D, Chennai,

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Moin Qazi

Islam is a massive faith with 1.6 billion followers spread across the Islamic world that stretches over 15,000 kilometers. A considerable section lives as a minority community in many countries, battling stereotyping, discrimination, and identity.

With the powerful influence of Islamophobic brigades, there has been a massive surge of hatred against Islam and its adherents. Muslims continue to be demonized and projected as uniformly fundamentalist, intolerant and violent. This perception is not based on rigorous evidence but springs from intermittent misreporting and speculation in the media. This powerfully flawed narrative and negative stereotyping continue to fuel distorted perceptions about Islam. In a climate where Muslims are already feeling alienated and marginalized, it is unfair to mock and ridicule their religion and identity.

Islam is a religion of peace: That is its aim and goal. The Quran's powerful commandment should leave one in no doubt: "Whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as though he had killed all of mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind" (Q5:32).

Commentators have often overlooked the history of religious coexistence fostered by Islam. The literalist, puritan approach to revealed texts has imposed austere interpretations of the Quran and Islamic law, or shariah, ones that run counter to moderate understandings, including tolerance for other faiths. Shariah is not a monolithic system of medieval codes, set in stone and based solely on cruelty and punishment. Since the seventh

century, the body of law has co-evolved with different strains of Islamic thought — forgiveness versus punishment, tolerance versus intolerance, innovative versus literalist.

To believers, shariah is more than a collection of laws; it is infused with higher moral principles and ideals of justice. The weight of Islamic history skews toward moderate understandings, but several regimes and hardline Islamic thinkers have used their influence to breed intolerance in recent decades.

The Quran, in its essence, promotes justice, peace, and freedom. Compassion and kindness underpin its core message. To understand this, one has to read the entire Quran and not select verses. No verse in the Quran is a standalone commandment. Each not only has a bearing on the other but amplifies it too.

The voice of the text is the fruit of dialogue. For some, the peace of God is through His sword; for others, it is found in His unbounded mercy. The entire paradigm is built around human interpretation. The pacifists and the terrorists read the same text but present fundamentally different interpretations. It is important to consider the reader and interpreter of the Quran. The voice of the Quran heard by Islamic fundamentalists is not the same as the voice heard by progressive Muslims. The entire verses of the Quran must be read and understood in conjunction with each other. Reading and interpreting verses in isolation is a very incorrect way of engaging with the Quran. It would yield a meaning that conforms to your worldview.

For example, the current modern definition of jihad is contrary to the linguistic meaning of the word and the beliefs of most Muslims who equate it with religious extremism. The word jihad stems from the Arabic root word J-H-D, which

means "strive." Other words derived from this root include "effort," "labor," and "fatigue." Essentially, jihad is a struggle to stand by one's religion in the face of oppression and persecution. The effort may come in the form of fighting the evil in your own heart or standing up to a dictator. The first time the word is used in the Quran, it signifies a "resistance to oppression" (Q25:26) spiritual and intellectual rather than militant. The moralist approach espouses jihad through conscience (jihad bin nafs), while a more radical wing advocates jihad through the sword (jihad bin saif). In mainstream Muslim tradition, the greatest jihad was not warfare but reforming oneself and one's society. Prophet Muhammad explained that true jihad was an inner struggle against egotism.

There is a lot of misunderstanding on account of this verse: "slay them wherever you catch them" (Q2:191). But who is this referring to? Who are "they" that this verse discusses? The "them" are those terrorists who persecuted and killed innocent people for their faith. Some verses are very often "snipped" out of context by mischief makers for inflaming emotions, fostering misunderstandings, and perpetuating violence on all sides. Quran 3:8 preemptively calls out people who cherry-pick verses as "perverse" people, declaring, "...those in whose hearts is perversity seek discord and wrong interpretation of [the Quran]."

The permission given in Q22:40-41 to fight was only given to "those against whom war is waged." Islam does permit fighting but only in self-defense - in defense of religion, or on the part of those who have been expelled forcibly from their homes. At the same time, it also lays down strict rules, including prohibitions against harming civilians and against destroying crops, trees, and

livestock. We must understand this critical dimension of Islam.

First, Muslims cannot preemptively initiate a war. They are only allowed to act in defense. War can be waged if there is a situation where defenseless people are under attack. War is considered just when one party does not cease aggression despite a proposed truce. If the enemy inclines toward peace, Muslims have to follow suit: "But if they stop, God is most forgiving, most merciful" (Q2:192). Also read: "Now if they incline toward peace, then incline to it, and place your trust in God, for God is the all-hearing, the all-knowing" (Q8:61). Second, Muslims are not allowed to transgress divine injunctions: "fight for the cause of God, those who fight you, but do not transgress, for God does not love the transgressors." (Q2:190). Third, Muslims have to treat prisoners of war with honor. Prisoners have to be released after the war, either in exchange for Muslims captives or only as a favor.

Historian Sir William Muir records how the Prophet Muhammad instructed his companions to treat prisoners of war. The refugees had houses of their own, received the prisoners with kindness and consideration. "Blessings on the men of Medina!" said one of them in later days: "they made us ride while they walked afoot; they gave us wheaten bread to eat when there was little of it, contenting themselves with dates."

Contrary to what some historians have portrayed, Islam did not impose itself by the sword. The Quran says that "persecution is worse than slaughter" and "let there be no hostility except to those who practice oppression" (Q2:190-193). This has been emphatically made clear in the Quran: "There must be no coercion in matters of faith!" (Q2:256). In words quoted

by Muhammad in one of his last public sermons, God tells all human beings, "O people! We have formed you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another" (Q49:13). Moreover, Islamic wars weren't just to defend Muslims against persecution - but to defend Christians, Jews, and people of all faiths. All verses addressing fighting are preconditioned with rules of self-defense.

On his victorious rerun to Makkah after 20 years, the Prophet Muhammad bore no animosity for the locals who had persecuted him and his band, forcing them to emigrate to Madinah. He offered blanket forgiveness, the only condition being that Makkahans accept universal freedom of conscience.

In keeping with this spirit of tolerance that Prophet Muhammad demonstrated during his lifetime, today's Muslim thinkers feel there exists no imperative to distance themselves from this tradition of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. They are plumbing Qur'anic resources to find ways to help them adapt to the modern world and to shape it on those lines. Muslim religious scholars are exhuming and popularizing principles and practices that allowed Muslims in the past to coexist with others in peace and on equal terms, regardless of creed and faith. They keep reminding themselves that the seventh-century Madinah accepted Jews as equal members of the community (ummah) under the Constitution of Madinah drawn up by Prophet Muhammad in 622 A.D.

There is no better testament to Prophet Muhammad's credo of tolerance and forgiveness than the attestation of non-Muslim historian Stanley Lane-Poole: "The day of Muhammad's greatest triumph over his enemies was also the day of his grandest victory over himself. He freely forgave the Quraysh all the years of sorrow and cruel scorn in which they had afflicted him and gave an amnesty to the whole population of Mecca." (moinqazi123@gmail.com) ■

Dibakar Dutta

Cultural implications on Saudi Arabia after the Grand Mosque Seizure in 1979

63 Zealots Beheaded For Seizing Mosque

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi authorities on night raids Sunday beheaded 63 of the religious extremists who seized the Grand Mosque in Mecca, Islamic holiest shrine, last November, the official Saudi news agency said.

The executions were ordered by King Khalid after the country's religious leaders issued an edict ordering the execution of anyone who had seized the mosque, the Islamic holy book.

Beheading is the traditional method of execution in Saudi Arabia, and is rarely carried out in public.

The beheading of the 63 religious extremists was carried out in a number of areas in the east desert kingdom in an apparent move to show that the authorities were in full control of the situation.

Those executed included al-Juhaymi, the military commander of the Saudi Muslim group which attacked the mosque. He was a member of the al-Badr movement, a Saudi branch of the Islamic Front for the Liberation of the Holy Land.

The government said 41 of those executed were Saudi citizens. The others were 19 foreigners, the Saudi news agency said.



Saudi forces respond to the offensive carried out by the Islamists, on 20 November 1979, image via BBC/Alamy

and gave into to the demands of the Ulemas against increasing modernization of the Kingdom. In that way, King Khalid was able to

nullify domestic criticism of the monarchy. Before the seizure, there were talks about increasing women's

freedom, right to participate in public life, and education. All of that ended with the strict adherence to 7th century Sharia law. In

hindsight, Juhayman al-Otaybi was successful in making the Kingdom adopt his regressive ideas about life. The Islamists had set out to restore the pristine purity of Islam, something which was made possible by banning public concerts, movie theatres, enforcing strict dress codes on women.

According to Nasser al-Huzaimi, all measures towards achieving modernization came to a halt after the cease. He recounted, "Let me give you a simple example. One of the things he demanded from the Saudi government was the removal of female presenters from TV. After the Haram incident, no female presenter appeared on TV again." (<https://www.opindia.com/2021/11/how-terrorists-laid-siege-on-the-grand-mosque-in-saudi-arabia-in-1979/>) ■



Syed Tahsin
Ahmed

Aishe Survey and Muslims in Higher Education

Higher education is vital for better career prospects and as a stepping stone for career advancement in the twenty-first century. Of late, there has been much awareness in the Muslim community about the importance of primary and secondary education. But not much attention is given to finding out how the community is faring in higher education. In this context, it came as a bit of a surprise that the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-2020 conducted by the Ministry of Education, Government of India has collected much data exclusively about the Muslim community, among others.

AISHE 2019-2020

For preparing the AISHE Survey Report, data has been collected from 1019 Universities, 39955 Colleges, and 9599 Stand Alone institutions. Of these, 396 Universities are privately managed, 420 Universities are located in rural areas, and 17 Universities are exclusively for women. Karnataka is among the top 8 States in terms of the highest number of colleges. Bangalore Urban district has the highest number of colleges in the country with 1009 colleges, followed by Jaipur with 606 colleges. 78.6% of the colleges in the country are privately managed.

Student Enrolment

Uttar Pradesh tops the list with the highest student enrolment, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. Of course, this does not reflect the percentage enrolment vis-à-vis the population of the State. AISHE data shows that maximum numbers of students are enrolled in BA programme, followed by B.Sc and B.Com programmes. Hindi has the highest enrolment (1,32,426) in Indian languages at the post-graduate level. Urdu has 19,552 students enrolled at the post-graduate level, with 65.5% of them being females.

Enrolment of Muslim students

The percentage of students belonging to the Muslim community is only 5.5% out of the total enrolment in the country, which is well below their percentage population of 14.2%. Scheduled caste students constitute 14.7%, and Schedule tribe students constitute 5.6% of the total enrolment. 37% of students belong to Other Backward Classes, and 2.3% are from other Minority communities.

One positive outcome of the survey is that the percentage of Muslims has gone up from 4.67% in 2015-16 to 5.45% in 2019-2020. The total number of Muslim students enrolled in higher education is 21,00,860. Muslim female students (10,54,486) slightly outnumber Muslim male students (10,46,374). Uttar Pradesh has the



highest enrolment among Muslims (3,57,676), followed by West Bengal (2,35,333) and Jammu & Kashmir (1,78,676).

With more girls completing higher education among Muslims, social issues have cropped up in the matrimonial field. Girls with higher educational qualifications are finding it increasingly difficult to get a spouse matching their educational attainment. This should not be a deterrent since Muslim girls pursuing higher education in more significant numbers is a welcome sign signaling strong evidence of increasing gender equality.

As per the AISHE Report, the enrolment of Muslim students in the Institutes of National Importance like IIT, NIT, and IIM is 5630, of which males are 4430 and females are 1200. The percentage of Muslim students in

these National Institutes is merely 1.92% which is quite disquieting and needs much improvement.

Data about the faculty members

AISHE report also sheds light on the number of teachers employed with exact details about the teachers from the Muslim minority group. Out of the total number of 15.03 lakh teachers existing in 2019-20, 83,494 are from the Muslim community, which comes to just 5.6%, which is also way behind their population percentage. The ratio between male and female teachers in the Muslim community is 100:58. Out of the 83,494 Muslim teachers, 52,764 are males, and 30,730 are females, thus falling short in gender parity. The AISHE report also points out that the highest number of Muslim teachers are in Uttar Pradesh (10,566), followed by Karnataka (8762) and Maharashtra (8143). However, these numbers have to be understood in the context of the corresponding population size of the States.

Non-teaching staff

As per the outcome of the AISHE survey, Muslims fall short even in the employment of the non-teaching staff. The total number of Muslims employed in these posts is 45,393, which is just 3.5% of the total employment. Muslims have the lowest number of female non-teaching staff, which is 36 per 100 male non-teaching staff.

Conclusion

The data provided by AISHE makes it clear that separate measures and affirmative action are required to make Muslims equal participant in mainstream higher education. However, the steady rise in enrolment from 4.67% in 2015-16 to 5.45% in 2019-2020 reveals that the Muslim community is showing an inclining trend. Yet, bigger strides are required since the enrolment ratio is far below their population ratio. Although 21 lakh Muslims were enrolled in higher education as of 2019-2020, 77.63% of them were enrolled in colleges whose quality of education raises many questions. Therefore, there is a need to enhance the participation of Muslims in mainstream higher educational institutions. This is possible if the government provides the necessary support and initiates policies to provide better access to higher education and be a catalyst for their educational advancement. The Muslim community should spread awareness about the need and importance of higher education as a key to their progress and upliftment. Appropriate measures should motivate Muslim students to pursue higher education in mainstream higher education institutions and aim at higher targets.

(The author is a retired KAS officer and can be contacted at tahsin789@yahoo.com)



Ghulam Ghouse

Intolerance is a Sure Way to Destruction



The Constitution of India gives freedom to all its citizens to follow whichever religion they prefer. This was followed in principle till 2014 because the secular parties ruled India. But today, this freedom is under attack from those who are not aware of their religious books and religious ideology. These persons are creating anarchy in the name of the same religion which they have not understood. In the name of religion, they are showing intolerance towards other religions. The political parties are only interested in acquiring political power, whether through a peaceful or communal divide. Today intolerance has gone to such an extent that no one is prepared to tolerate any word against his religion and belief. Without understanding their religion, they start agitation and go to the extent of killing each other. That is the case with

Muslims throughout the world. Suppose an insane person speaks or writes anything against Islam or the Quran. In that case, the majority of the Muslims in the Muslim countries start agitating in the streets, closing their businesses, burning their vehicles and shops, pelting stones at the police who try to calm them, getting arrested on hooliganism, and then accusing their leaders of

not getting them released. Agitations are started by those persons who do not understand and follow their religion. Those who read and understand Quran, Bible, vedas, and Upanishads never commit atrocities on others. Some of our religious leaders also take part in stoking this fire. Recently we found this example in Bangla Desh where some miscreants, based on some false

reports, burnt some religious places and pendals of non-muslim minorities. These mad persons failed to understand the repercussions it would have on the Muslims in other countries. Whatever has happened in Tripura today against the Muslims, where some mosques, shops, and houses of Muslims were burnt and destroyed, is the repercussion of what happened in Bangla Desh. No doubt the Govt of Bangla Desh has taken stern action and arrested the miscreants, but it has not prevented the minorities from being targeted in Tripura, close to Bangla Desh. The innocent Muslims of Tripura had to bear the wrath of the communal forces. I agree that this is wrong. What happened in Bangla Desh should not be a cause to take revenge on the innocent Muslims of Tripura. But this is a ground reality which we all must accept. In the last 1400 years, some people have criticized Islam and the Prophet, but nobody started a war or punished everyone. Then why now, why this intolerance, and why are these agitations? Seeing

this intolerance of Muslims, everyone in the world has realized that if you want to destroy Muslims one need not wage a war, but just instigate a mad man to say or write something against Islam, Muslims will destroy themselves by way of agitation, burning and destroying their own properties and going to jails. The way innocent people are targeted and killed in this world I have no doubt that if Allah wishes to shower His wrath on these people, He will start it with the religious people because these people failed to hold the hands of the terrorists and failed to stop the destruction of the statutes and stop the bombing of sacred places. Given this, I suggest that every Muslim in every country must think of the repercussions our actions will have in other countries. If any innocent person is lynched or troubled by any goonda, one should use his right to defend himself and hold him till the police come and take him into custody. This is our constitutional right.

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What is Bitcoin? How does it Work



Bitcoin is a form of digital currency which is one of the first digital currencies to use peer-to-peer (P2P) technology to facilitate instant payments. Bitcoin is based on "Open Source Protocol," free of any central control or oversight of banks or governments. You can buy, sell, and exchange directly without an intermediary like a bank.

If Bitcoin is in capital letters, this means protocol and transaction network. If it is in small letters, it means currency. These Bitcoins have a resemblance to virtual currency.

- Bitcoin is a decentralized digital currency
- Bitcoin is a digital coin that can be sent through the internet.
- In comparison to other digital alternatives, Bitcoin has several advantages.
- promises lower transaction fees than traditional online payment mechanisms do, unlike government-issued currencies. It can be transacted between two persons without a bank or clearing authority.

Who invented bitcoin?

In 2008 the domain name .org was bought and an academic white paper titled Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System was uploaded. It set out the theory and design of a system for a digital currency free of control from any

organization or government.

How Does Bitcoin Work:

The independent individuals can develop Bitcoin on the internet, which runs through Bitcoin "miners", a free app.

By mining, you can earn cryptocurrency without having to put down money for it. Bitcoin miners receive Bitcoin as a reward for completing "blocks" of verified transactions added to the blockchain.

A public ledger records all bitcoin transactions, and copies are held on servers around the world. Anyone with a spare computer can set up one of these servers, known as a node.

Every transaction is publicly broadcast to the network and shared from node to node. Every ten minutes or so these transactions are collected together by miners into a group called a block and added permanently to the blockchain.

In much the same way you would keep traditional coins in a physical wallet, virtual currencies are held in digital wallets and can be accessed from client software or a range of online and hardware tools.

Bitcoins Subdivided

Seven decimal places can currently subdivide Bitcoins: a thousandth of a bitcoin is known as a *milli*, and a hundred millionth of a bitcoin is known as a *satoshi*.

Can bitcoin be converted to cash?

Bitcoin can be exchanged for cash, just like any asset. There are numerous cryptocurrency exchanges online where people can do this. Still, transactions can also be carried out in person or over any communications platform, allowing even small businesses to accept bitcoin. There is no official mechanism built into bitcoin to convert to another currency.

What is the purpose of bitcoin?

Bitcoin was created as a way for people to send money over the internet. The digital currency was intended to provide an alternative payment system that would operate free of central control but otherwise be used just like traditional currencies.

Are bitcoins safe?

The cryptography behind bitcoin is based on the SHA-256 algorithm designed by the US National Security Agency. Cracking this is, for all intents and purposes, impossible as there are more possible private keys that would have to be tested (2256) than there are atoms in the universe (estimated to be somewhere between 1078 to 1082).

There have been several high-profile cases of bitcoin exchanges being hacked and funds being stolen, but these services invariably stored the digital currency on behalf of customers. What was hacked in these cases were the website and not the bitcoin network.

What is bitcoin mining?

Mining is the process that maintains the bitcoin network and also how new coins are brought into existence. All transactions are publicly broadcast on the network, and miners bundle large collections of transactions

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The Booming Trend of Crypto in Indonesia



Putri Madarina hopes there will be more robust discussions about cryptocurrencies from an Islamic perspective that may change the fatwa. (Supplied)

According to Indonesia's Ministry of Trade data, the number of crypto investors in the country had grown from 4 million people at the end of 2020, to 6.5 million people by the end of May 2021.

It has exceeded the number of investors in the share market, which is around 2.4 million according to Bank Indonesia the central bank.

Putri Madarina, a certified financial planner and founder of Halal Vestor, a Shariah financial planner and education service in Jakarta, said the flourishing interest in crypto investing in Indonesia was partly due to social media, especially TikTok.

"It is even booming during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are actually in the second wave of the crypto trend," Ms Madarina told the ABC, referring to the crypto boom three years ago.

Ms Madarina has been investing in crypto since 2017 and said the Islamic decree hadn't deterred her from continuing to invest in crypto.

"What we bought is a digital commodity, like a collection that we consider valuable," she said.

She also considered crypto as a 'mal' an Islamic term for property which can take in many forms.

"So, as a medium of exchange, I think it's not a problem," said Ms Madarina, who is also a treasurer of an Islamic fintech association in Indonesia.

"As a property, I don't see any Islamic ruling being violated,

unless it was made to be a means of deception, which is also an external factor that we can't control."

Fatwas may change in the future. Cryptocurrency is still being discussed widely among Islamic scholars and institutions around the globe.

In 2018, the Grand Mufti of Egypt banned Bitcoin trading as it was prone to risks for the traders due to the price fluctuations.

Haitham al-Haddad, a British Muslim scholar, also considered cryptocurrencies not halal since it is virtual currency with "no tangible worth".

Similar views have also been shared by individual Muslim scholars in countries such as Turkey, Malaysia, and Saudi Arabia.

But others have taken the opposite view, including South Africa's Darul Uloom Zakariyya, Pakistan-based Shariah Advisory Muhammad Abu Bakar, and other Muslim scholars in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Ms Madarina said cryptocurrency was such a "hot topic" in the Muslim world.

She added the new Islamic decree would less likely impact the decisions of cryptocurrency investors, and instead be "an eye-opener" for investors or those who are about to enter the market.

(<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-21/cryptocurrency-is-considered-haram-in-indonesia/100630646>)

Indonesia Muslim body Forbids Cryptocurrency Trading

AFP

Indonesia's top religious body has declared that Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies are forbidden under Islamic law and should not be traded in the world's biggest Muslim majority nation.

The country's powerful Ulama Council issued a fatwa, or religious edict, as virtual currency trading soars in Indonesia and elsewhere.

Fatwas have no legal effect in the Southeast Asian nation of 270 million, but the declaration could potentially convince many Muslims to avoid cryptocurrencies.

Following a meeting recently, the Council likened crypto to gambling, which is haram or forbidden under Islamic law.



"Cryptocurrencies as commodities or digital assets are unlawful for trading because they have elements of uncertainty, wagering, and harm," the Council's head of religious decrees Asrorun Niam Sholeh told AFP.

"It's like a gambling bet."

Digital currencies are not tangible assets, and their value can fluctuate wildly, so they violate Islamic law, he added.

In June, Indonesia's crypto-based transactions amounted to some 370 trillion rupiah (\$26 billion) in

the first five months of 2021, soaring from a year earlier, trade minister Muhammad Lutfi said.

The edict comes after Indonesia's central bank said it was considering issuing its digital currency.

In 2019, the Council's branch in Aceh province slapped a fatwa on the hugely popular but brutal online game PlayerUnknown's Battlegrounds (PUBG) over fears it incited real-world violence.

More recently, it issued a fatwa against online lending. At the same time, it declared that Covid-19 vaccines were allowed under Islamic law even if they contained pork products, which are usually off-limits for Muslims.

(<https://guardian.ng/news/indonesia-muslim-body-forbids-cryptocurrency-trading/>)

Saudi Arabia allows overseas pilgrims to apply for Two Holy Mosques Permits

RIYADH: In cooperation with the Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority, the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah announced the launch of a service that allows overseas pilgrims to apply for Umrah and prayer permits in the Grand Mosque, and for prayer at Rawdah at the Prophet's Mosque.

The ministry said the service will be effective via the Eatmarna and Tawakkalna apps after registering on the Qudum platform. The ministry and the authority urged all users to update the apps.

On Oct. 16, the Ministry of Interior announced the easing of restrictions across the Kingdom, including those affecting the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah, allowing a full return to operations and capacity. (<https://arab.news/wpyd4>)

CAIRO: Washington DC hosted the first forum on Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter to promote the concept of one human family with its common values.

With the participation of US administration officials, religious leaders, heads of research centers, and a number of academics, five workshops discussed cooperation of followers of religions, minority communities, and the role of religious response in times of crisis.

Four global programs were announced based on Declaration principles and derived their activities from areas of international interest.

Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter is the first Islamic consensus of its kind that expresses the word of Islamic Sharia scholars on important contemporary issues.

Washington, DC, hosted the "Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter to Promote Global Unity and Coexistence: Interfaith Cooperation for Security, Health and Development" Forum, jointly organized by major Islamic and non-Islamic religious institutions from various US states, with the participation of His Excellency Secretary-General of the Muslim World League (MWL), Chairman of the Association of Muslim Scholars, Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based Partnerships and Neighborhood, Mrs. Melissa Rogers, a host of political and intellectual leaders, heads and members of think-tank and research centers, and a number of various religious and academic leaders.

The principles of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter and the sustainable development goals converge on the fundamental issues of justice, poverty, environmental damage, mitigating violence, promoting

Washington hosts 1st forum on Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter to Promote Global Unity and Coexistence

Washington hosts the first forum on Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter to promote the concept of one human family with its common values



peace and coexistence, and other fundamental issues around the globe.

In the opening session, His Excellency Dr. Al-Issa, reviewed the contents of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter, explaining that it is an extension of Al-Madinah Document or the Constitution of Madinah, which Prophet Mohammad, peace and blessings be upon him, drew up with the various components of society in Al-Madinah. His Excellency affirmed that Al-Madinah Charter was the truest expression of the values of Islamic tolerance, including the call for coexistence with full rights and duties while emphasizing human dignity and the right to exist in full legitimate freedom "whatever their religion, culture or race", and that there is nothing to support the beautiful meaning of freedom such as what is supported by

constitutional principles from which national laws are derived, that everyone is obliged to respect so that freedom does not turn into chaos, and then they do not find excuses to escape from the law under false pretexts that violate the law and the values of the national community, which in reality represent its national values derived from its constitution and common moral history.

His Excellency pointed out that the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter emphasizes the importance of respecting diversity in all its spectrum. In its true meaning, this represents respect for the will of the Creator to the existence of difference, diversity, and pluralism among human beings. He added that the Declaration calls for dialogue and an alliance of civilizations, not paying attention to the theory of conflict and clash of civilizations, stressing the importance of a deep understanding of philosophical theories on this subject so as not to rush and misunderstand their holders.

He noted that the message of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter has begun to take root in the Islamic consciousness, referring to the meeting of foreign ministers of Islamic countries in Niamey,

Republic of Niger, in November 2020, during which the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter was presented for discussion. Then the ministers, on behalf of their countries, unanimously announced in their final statements the adoption of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter to be used by religious, cultural and educational institutions in Muslim countries as a reference expressing the religious identity of the Islamic nation. It was signed by more than 1,200 muftis and scholars representing 27 sects. They came from 139 countries to meet and agree on this historic achievement next to Al-Kaaba in the month of Ramadan in 2019, expressing the word of the religious scholars of the Islamic nation on the most prominent contemporary issues.

Sheikh Al-Issa continued: "The Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter is an extension of Al-Madinah Charter, which established the values of religious tolerance and human fraternity, stressing that it is the first Islamic consensus of its kind that expressed the word of Islamic Sharia scholars on important contemporary issues, and that the presence of this diversity in their various sects to make this unitary historical achievement did not happen before throughout Islamic history."

He added, "The issuance of the Makkah Declaration with the signature of all Islamic sects confirms the level of great and exceptional impact of the Declaration, and this reflected the decision of the Islamic countries in the aforementioned Niamey meeting.

His Excellency wrapped up emphasizing that today's world does not lack international initiatives, speeches and decisions, but rather activating them to be a tangible reality and sustainable action in what requires

“Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter emphasizes the importance of respecting diversity in all its spectrum. In its true meaning, this represents respect for the will of the Creator to the existence of difference, diversity, and pluralism among human beings.”

sustainability. Therefore, the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter focused on practical programs and partnerships inside and outside the Islamic world.

His Excellency said: "This day, for example, has witnessed in its presentation, the announcement of the implementation of four global programs, based on the principles of the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter; Religious diplomacy with its common values with followers of different religions, youth engagement, women's legitimate empowerment and capacity building, which will derive their activities from areas of humanitarian, social and economic interest at the international level.

Subsequently, the speeches by the participants, including politicians and prominent religious leaders of all religions of various Christian denominations "Evangelical, Catholic and Mormons," as well as independent Jewish religious leaders, followed. The Forum also saw the speeches by Islamic religious leaders from all states, with prominent names of think tanks in Washington, DC, and academic leaders from Washington, DC, and some states. Everyone viewed that launching the Form from the United States and the warm welcome it received confirmation that the Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter is a global humanitarian declaration.

(<https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/109795/Washington-hosts-1st-forum-on-Makkah-Al-Mukarramah-Charter-to>)

Sheikh Al-Issa said, Makkah Al-Mukarramah Charter is an extension of Al-Madinah Document or the Constitution of Madinah, which Prophet Mohammad, peace and blessings be upon him, drew up with the various components of society in Al-Madinah.

Gurugram: Stories of humanity and brotherhood continue to strengthen society.

One such report was received from Gurugram, where a Hindu man offered the roof of his house for Friday namaz.

The man, Akshay Rao said: "I offered the land to the Muslim community as it was facing problems post objections raised by right-wing outfits."

"The right-wing outfits have raised objection to Muslims offering namaz in open spaces,

post which 50 percent of such prayers could not be held," he claimed.

"Such an initiative can help to maintain harmony in the society. I will also provide the roof of my property, where every Friday, some people can comfortably offer prayers," Rao said.

He said: "It is a responsibility of each citizen of India to maintain

Respecting others' religion: A Hindu man offers space for Friday Namaz



the law and order situation. It was my little step towards helping people. I welcome Muslim people to offer namaz at my place."

More than 25 people can offer prayers at the place provided by Rao.

Meanwhile, Muslim representatives have demanded that the district administration open the 19 mosques under the

Waqf Board, which are currently unused, for offering namaz.

Welcoming Rao's initiative, Muslim Ekta Manch chairman Haji Shehzad Khan, said: "It's a good initiative that a Hindu brother nearby gave his place to offer Friday prayers. There is a dispute regarding open Namaz in sector 12 of Gurugram. We are peace-loving people and do not want to disturb law and order." IANS (<https://muslimmirror.com/eng/respecting-others-religion>)



Dr. Yaaseen
Maswood

The Quran states:

“The day whereon neither wealth nor sons will avail. Except him who brings to Allah a clean heart.” (26:88-89)

As Muslims, we believe that life after death is true and never-ending life. It is towards this objective; we are sent to this world by Allah (SWT) to test our conduct in this world. We would be judged about our life in this world on the Day of Judgment. The prescription for our eternal success during that Day of Reckoning in the hereafter is brought out succinctly by Allah in the above verse. While Allah makes a mention of the various events and horrors that would unfold on that fateful day at various places of the Quran, He explicitly brings out this ayah, the yardstick with which our life in this world would be measured to determine the success or failure of each one of us.

While in the courts of this world, criminals can get away paying a ransom from their wealth to escape punishment, in the court of Allah, neither their material wealth nor their progeny would be of any avail. It is this fact Allah brings that out in these verses mentioned above from Sura As Shu'araa. Thus, these verses would serve as the acid test of our life's success or failure in this world. Only those of us with a clean and sound heart would be able to succeed in our tests of the Hereafter, these verses mention. In other words, anyone whose heart is tainted with any impurity will face doom. Allah's protection is sought!

Wealth and children, the two

important aspects of one's life in this world, are mentioned in this verse as they both serve as the yardsticks for success in this materialistic world. While this is so, Allah has termed them both to be adornments of this world in Sura Al-Kahf, and these two aspects would not be the ultimate basis for judgment on the Day of Reckoning. These two important assets, per se, are not evil, blameworthy, and to be detested, but the outcome from these would act as the criteria for our success. If the individual's wealth and children are used to gaining the pleasure of Allah, then it would be a source of comfort in the Hereafter.

These verses also mean that wealth and sons will be of benefit to us in the aakhirah, only if it is backed up by the cleanliness/soundness of the heart. So, what is a clean/ sound heart? Who has a pure heart? According to Ibn Abbas (radiyallahu anhu), a leading Commentator of the Quran and a great Companion of Prophet (pbuh), it means a heart of a believer that testifies the Oneness of Allah and is pure from Shirk. Ibn Sirin (rah) said: *“The Clean heart knows that Allah is true and that the Hour will undoubtedly come and that Allah will resurrect those who are in the graves.”* Sa'id bin Al Musayyib (rah) said: *“The clean heart is the sound heart. This is the heart of the believer, for the heart of the disbeliever and the hypocrite is sick, as Allah says: In their hearts is a disease.”* According to Abu Uthman An-Nisaburi: *“It is the heart that is free from innovation and is content with the Sunnah.”*

(Tafseer Ibn Katheer).

Thus it becomes clear that the sound heart is the heart with the



soundness in faith and is free from disobedience and sin. Our Prophet (pbuh) attached so much importance to the soundness of the heart that he (pbuh) said: *“Indeed, there is in the body a piece of flesh, which if it is sound, then the whole body is sound and if it is corrupt, the whole body is corrupt. Indeed, it is the heart.”* (Bukhari and Muslim). This hadith highlights the influence the heart has on the body and thus it becomes clear that the indulgence in sin by the body parts is only a result of the impurity of the heart.

This could be one of the reasons why our Prophet (pbuh) would very often and most frequently supplicate to Allah with these words: *“O Changer of the hearts, Strengthen my heart upon Your Religion i.e. make my heart firm upon Your Religion.”*

(Tirmidhi)

A similar dua of the Prophet (pbuh) reads thus: *“O Allah! The Controller of the hearts, direct our hearts to Your obedience.”*

(Sahih Muslim).

Another dua of the Prophet (pbuh)

was to seek the protection of Allah from a heart that is not humble and submissive i.e. from a heart that does not find peace and calmness in the remembrance of Allah.

O Allah, I seek refuge in Thee from incapacity, from sloth, from cowardice, from miserliness, decrepitude and from torment of the grave. O Allah, grant to my soul the sense of righteousness and purify it, for Thou art the Best Purifier thereof. Thou art the Protecting Friend thereof, and Guardian thereof. O Allah, I seek refuge in Thee from the knowledge which does not benefit, from the heart that does not entertain the fear (of Allah), from the soul that does not feel contented and the supplication that is not responded.

(Sahih Muslim)

If these were the words used in supplication by the one who had the cleanest of hearts and who was sent to purify the hearts of others from all forms of disobedience, then how often should we all be supplicating to Allah for a sound and clean heart?

Scholars of the past and present have also written in great detail about the heart's diseases, what causes them, and how to overcome them. Among the various ways in which the impurity of the heart manifests itself are: Malice, Hatred, Envy/Jealousy, Hypocrisy, Treachery, Vileness, Laziness, Self-centeredness, Self-glorification, Lustful glances of the opposite gender, Pride/Vanity, Self-delusion, Enmity, Rancor, Boastfulness, Excessive talking, Arrogance, etc. Each of these bad traits, in whatever quantity is present in one's heart, will cause the diseases of the heart to grow. In short, it is to love what displeases

and angers Allah.

Prophet (pbuh) has also warned about these evil traits and the consequences of nurturing them in our hearts. Whatever be the amount of rites and rituals one might perform, it will be of no avail to him/her, if the heart is infected with these ailments. The amount of importance, Quran places on the soundness of the heart, and its purification from all such vices and the exemplary code of conduct lead by our Prophet (pbuh) bears ample testimony to the divinity of Islam. Some of the ways in which the heart can be cleansed of its spiritual illnesses include:

- Reciting the Quran and pondering over it, for the Qur'an is Shifa (cure) for the hearts.

- Learning the blessed life of our Prophet (pbuh), for he was sent to perfect our character and was sent with lofty morals.

- Consistently performing righteous deeds and renewing the intentions constantly, for actions are to be judged by intentions, and the place of intentions is the heart.

- Leaving indecent and unnecessary actions, as most of these evil traits have something to do with others, for Prophet (pbuh) said: It is from the best of Islam to leave what does not concern him.

- Constantly seeking forgiveness from Allah, for sinning causes black spots in the heart, and seeking forgiveness cleanses those sins.

- Eating less, sleeping less, and Talking less.

- Knowing that ultimate control of the hearts is possible only through the help of Allah and therefore resorting to frequent supplicating Allah for the same, especially using the words of our beloved Prophet (pbuh)

May Allah bless us with a sound heart to benefit us both in this world and the hereafter. ■

Kolkata: Rehbar Financial Services Pvt Ltd, India's trusted consultancy service provider for the Ethical fundraising company of Bengaluru, has won Promoting Halal Company of the Year 2021 award by Maeeshat Media Private Limited India's leading minorities brand consulting and Media firm. The award ceremony was held on 14th November 2021, at Kala Mandir, Kolkata. It is attended by more than 300 Business Leaders, Dignitaries, Delegates, and Social Leaders from various associations.

Rehbar Financial Services won Promoting Halal Company of the Year 2021 Award

The companies are evaluated on multiple parameters such as business ethics, corporate governance, community services, goodwill, innovation, etc., through rigorous research conducted by Maeeshat Academy. A panel of jurists then evaluates the selected companies.

Founded in 2013, Rehbar Financial Services (RFS) has been operating



with a mission to enhance Sharia Compliant value creation for businesses. In its years of operation,

it has created value for over 75 businesses and advised many more. Its three main product offerings to businesses are Operating Lease, Profit Sharing Loan, and Project Finance. These offerings are provided through subsidiary group companies Rehbar Equipment Rental Pvt Ltd and RFC Equipment Rentals Pvt Ltd (RERL I and II), which serve as special purpose

vehicles for the activity.

Mr. Raashid Sherif, Head – Investments of Rehbar, says: “Rehbar is unique due to its state of the art ecosystem and approach, that revolves around the core business of fundraising for entrepreneurs and businesses who are looking for Shariah-compliant modes of financing. Rehbar also provides access to some of the industry's most seasoned mentors, many of whom are Rehbar clientele, as well as other partners and leading service providers”. ■

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Maryam Qarehgozlou

Islamic Parenting Guidance, Perfect means of Upbringing

Since 1954 every year on November 20, Children's Day has been celebrated universally to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improve children's welfare.

Every child deserves to have good parents and a proper upbringing, which would also promote their welfare.

However, parenting has never been an easy task; it is complex and daunting, as our children do not come with a manual.

While there are no fixed instructions to upbring a child, Islamic principles can provide us with practical parenting approaches to raise righteous children.

Although there are tried and true strategies in modern psychology based upon child development theories, Islamic principles having roots in the Quran and the sayings of Imams and Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) are also a great treasure to guide parents in raising their children.

Children are born Pure

Prophet Mohammad (PBUH): "No one is born except according to intrinsic nature, but their parents make them Jews, or Christians, or Magians, just as a cow gives birth to a calf that is whole do you find it mutilated?" As a general rule, children learn what they see more than what they hear. So, in order to bring up a pious and righteous child as a parent, the first thing to do is to be a role model for them.

Children are born pure, innocent, and instinctively predisposed to believe in Allah. Therefore, when a child misbehaves, they probably imitate what they have seen and cannot be blamed.

To nurture the child's innate



goodness of child parents should lead them by behaving well and not just preaching about good deeds and lecturing children on the importance of being pious. Actions definitely speak louder than words.

Treat children with kindness and Mercy

Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) treated everyone with kindness and mercy, especially children. He used to let children climb over him while in prostration and prostrate long enough for his grandsons to play as much as they wished.

It is essential to understand that it is natural to play or even make a mistake in a child's nature. Instead of blaming and scolding them, it is best to forgive them, explain why they did wrong, and help them rectify their mistakes or apologize.

Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) also emphasizes the importance of cuddling and kissing children to make them feel safe and wanted and continue the physical affection even when they grow up

and get older.

Scientifically, skin contact, or physical touch such as hugging and kissing, is one of the most essential stimulation required to grow a healthy brain and a strong body while help supports emotional development.

Set boundaries

Setting boundaries and guidelines help teach your children the correct and accepted behavior. Rewarding good behaviors encourage children to act according to the rules.

Teach children to be responsible

"Nay, and by the moon, And by the night when it withdraws, And by the dawn when it brightens, Verily, it is but one of the greatest calamities. A warning to mankind, To any of you that chooses to go forward (by doing righteous deeds), or to remain behind (by committing sins), Every person is beheld (accountable) on his own deeds."

[Quran: Chapter 74, Verses 32-38]

According to Allah, everyone is accountable for their own deeds. It is essential to teach children to be responsible to be independent, reliable, and productive in the future.

When they have a role in the family, they will be prepared to have a role in society, feel useful, and be accountable for their actions.

Start with small tasks. Assigning the children to do simple responsibilities while they are very young, like bringing their plate to the kitchen after finishing their food, would prepare for bigger responsibilities as they age.

Teaching children Islamic ethics

At age seven, children are ready for logical reasoning and, in the case of Muslim families, Islamic ethics. This is the time when children are prepared to soak up anything and everything you show, teach and tell them.

At this stage of upbringing, you can teach them about your religious beliefs. Remind them every day that Allah loves them unconditionally, and so they must love and obey Him and avoid displeasing Him.

Help your children realize how dependent we are on Allah and recognize and acknowledge the innumerable gifts that Allah has given them, such as availability of food and water, a secure home, being healthy, etc.

Treat all your children Equally

"Be just, for it is closer to piety. Have fear of God; God is Well Aware of what you do."

[Quran: Chapter 5, Verses 8]

The Holy Prophet (PBUH) has emphasized that parents should be just and fair to all the children, particularly in matters of gifts and kindness.

Discrimination among the children and favoring one more than the others will lead to jealousy, and nothing but evil can arise from this. The discriminated against child may hold a grudge against the parents, and the painful consequences are easy to imagine.

Importance of proper Upbringing

And those who pray, "Our Lord! Grant unto us wives and offspring who will be the comfort of our eyes, and give us (the grace) to lead the righteous."

[Quran: Chapter 25, Verse 74]

Children delight our hearts in their childhood and our companions and comfort when they get older. In Islamic law, parents are asked to guarantee a good life for their children. Even in divorce, fathers are fully responsible for providing their children with food, clothing, and other expenses.

Children are not just gifts; they are a responsibility. Love them unconditionally, talk with them about their feelings and validate them, listen to them, play and have fun with them, discipline them but do not shame or blame them, etc.

Parents are required to make sure their children are mentally and physically healthy by giving them proper upbringing, of course, according to their living standards, so that today's children become an asset to their families and the society in the future.

(<https://iqna.ir/en/news/3476555/islamic-parenting-guidance-perfect-means-of-upbringing>)

An Audio-Visual presentation on Tourism in Saudi Arabia was held in Bangalore

Bangalore: Karnataka State Haj Organizers Association organized the first-ever audio-visual presentation on tourism in Saudi Arabia, jointly with the Saudi Tourism Authority in Bangalore, on Thursday, 25 November. The event was attended by hundreds of participants, including a 5-member team from the Saudi Tourism Authority's office in India, Janab Rizwan Arshad MLA, Janab Zameer Ahmed Khan MLA, Janab N.A. Haris MLA and Janab Abdul Azeem Sahib (Chairman Karnataka State Minorities Development Corporation) delegates from Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Telangana, entrepreneurs, business representatives of several travel organizations from all over



Karnataka, mass media, and members of civil society.

The event opened a new chapter in the relations of India with Saudi Arabia in the services sector. Janab Shafi Ahmed, General Secretary, Karnataka State Haj Organiser's Association, welcomed the gathering. Janab Iqbal Ahmed Siddique saheb, Chairman of Karnataka State Haj Group Organizers, spoke on the multiple benefits from tourism in the country's development and the

scope of tourism possibilities in Saudi Arabia. He also drew attention to India's excellent relationship with Saudi Arabia, particularly the nearly 3 million Indian workers and their valuable remittances to India. He pointed out Saudi Arabia's role as the leading supplier

of crude oil to India and trade and investments between the two countries. A spectacular audio-visual presentation was followed by comments from Mr. Anand Menon and the Saudi Tourism Authority team, which showcased the variety of tourist spots in the desert, sandy undulating dunes, silver shine beaches, cities like Jeddah, Taif, Yanbu, etc., with iconic architectural and historical landmarks

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Zinda Tilismath launches Zinda Tilismath Balm



India's leading herbal (Unani) medicine manufacturer Karkhana Zinda Tilismath on Saturday, 20 November 2021, celebrated its 100th anniversary. As part of the centenary celebrations, Karkhana Zinda

Tilismath, one of the oldest companies of Hyderabad, launched its latest product, "Zinda Tilismath Balm," a pain reliever providing long-lasting relief based on herbal formulations. The Zinda Tilismath Balm has a unique formulation of pain-relieving ingredients. The balm itself has exceptional soothing properties that leave the affected area with the highest cooling sensation when applied. "It is essentially the goodness of Zinda Tilismath in the balm, and just like all our products, the Zinda Tilismath Balm too is formulated from 100% natural herbal ingredients", said Sohail Farooqui, Managing Partner of Karkhana Zinda Tilismath. In a video message, ace tennis star Sania Mirza, who is also the brand ambassador, congratulated the Zinda Tilismath family on the launch of the Zinda Tilismath Balm. Expressing trust in its medicinal properties, she said, "my mother had encouraged me to use Zinda Tilismath products, and I have been using it and encouraging my family now."

Allah's World

Dear Children,

This month, we will learn about the peskiest insect that has troubled all of us from time immemorial.

Have you wondered, as I used to....why did Allah swt create such an annoying and hurtful insect. One can think mosquitoes to be of absolutely no use.

But will Allah the supreme lord create something which is not of use? Will He, the best of planners, create something without a plan? No. We need to know two essential things about Allah swt's majesty. He has not created anything in jest. He created everything for a reason. And the second thing we need to know is if other entities have been created to be a man's service and for his benefit.

So we come back to the same question - why did Allah swt create mosquitoes?

Allah swt did not create only the blood-sucking type of mosquitoes. Just like any other creation, even in mosquitoes, Allah swt has created more than 3500 types. That's a lot of mosquito varieties, isn't it?

Only some species feed on the blood of humans and animals.

I leave you with this question - why did Allah swt create mosquitoes? Please put your thinking caps on and send us your thoughts. You are free to use any source for research. Please write to us at islamicvoicewriters@gmail.com, and we will in sha Allah post your answers.

Remember, Allah swt is al Jaleel and al Hakeem. He has created every creation for a purpose. Find the purpose. ■



What makes you great?

My dear, do you think you become great by having a strong body??

A camel is much stronger than a man!

Do you think you become great by having money?

Pharaoh (Firawn) was the wealthiest, and he had the most pathetic life!

Do you think a person becomes great if they're tall and big?

An elephant is much bigger!

Do you think a brave fighter is the greatest?

A lion is much braver than the most courageous man!

Do you think eating a lot of food makes you great?

An ox has a bigger stomach than that a man!

THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES YOU A GREAT HUMAN IS KNOWING AND LOVING YOUR CREATOR – ALLAH AND FOLLOWING HIS GUIDANCE ■



ACTIVITY TIME

Match the meaning with the Surah name

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. The Women | A. Al Ankabut |
| 2. Bees | B. Al Balad |
| 3. The Poets | C. Al Fatiha |
| 4. The night journey | D. Al Hujurat |
| 5. The Moon | E. Al Nisa |
| 6. The Pen | F. Al Tin |
| 7. Smoke | G. Al Nahl |
| 8. The Forgiver | H. Al Shu'ara |
| 9. The City | I. Al Isra |
| 10. The Elephant | J. Fatir |
| 11. The Fig | K. Al Qamar |
| 12. The Spider | L. Al Dukhan |
| 13. The Creator | M. Al Fil |
| 14. The Apartments | N. Ghafir |
| 15. The Opening | O. Al Qalam |



Who do you love?

The teacher gave a task to the children to write down about who they love.

Sufya wrote, "I love life, and I love all my family, friends, and relatives who make my life better."

Issa wrote down, "I love my teacher because she gives me good knowledge. I love my doctor because he helps me get healthy. I love all those who benefit me."

Aadil wrote, "I love those who have good qualities."

Zain wrote, "I love things that look beautiful. I love knowledge too. Also, I love power like that of superheroes."

The teacher smiled, reading their answers, and gave them a beautiful explanation:

Dear Sufyan, you said you love life, so how much should you love the One who gave you this life? Allah also gave life to your family, friends, and relatives whose company you enjoy. He blew life into all of you. Feel your heartbeat. My dear, your heart will continue to beat tirelessly as long as Allah wishes. For you, Allah has prepared the gardens of Jannah where you

will live forever! Won't you love Allah the most?

Dear Issa, you know that Allah is *an-Naafi*, meaning the One who benefits us. Who created your favorite person? Who gave the intelligence and the knowledge to the teacher to teach you? Allah is the Source of all benefits, and your favorite person is only a means to receive Allah's gifts. So won't you love Allah the most?

Dear Aadil, when you hear that someone has beautiful qualities like kindness, justice, love, wisdom, you will love them but remember Allah is the Source of the most beautiful qualities. *Asma ul Husna* are the beautiful names of Allah. Any good quality you see in anyone is just a tiny fraction of what Allah has. Allah is *ar-Rahmaan*, the Kindest who provides food and health to even those who disbelieve in Him. Allah is *al-Adl*, the Just. *Al-wadood*, the Most-Loving. *Al-Hakeem*, the Most-Wise whose plans for you are the best. So won't you love Allah the most?

Dear Zain, you love beautiful things, then remember Allah is *al-Musawwir*, the One who beautifully shapes things. He is the Most-Beautiful. You love knowledge, so know that Allah is

al-Aleem (the All-knowing), and He created knowledge. Nothing in the heavens and the earth is outside His knowledge. You love power, and you love powerful heroes, so remember that Allah is the Creator of power and heroism. We say "*La hawla wala quwwata illa billah*" - There is no power and strength except in Allah and through Allah. If Allah wills, He can give power to even a small mosquito to destroy a powerful person.

Humans have defects, but Allah is free from defects, so He is the One fit to be loved. Perfection is only for Allah and not for any created being. The most perfect is Only One; there is nothing and none like Him. He is above comparison, and He is independent, having no need or necessity. He has got no beginning and no end. He exists by Himself, and everything exists due to Him. Those who are wise will love Allah, while those who are ignorant will love other than Allah.

Now I ask you again, my dear students, who do you love?

They all replied: Allah. ■

« Page 5

Ulema-State Alliance hinders Democracy and Development in the Muslim world

The economic policies of these alliances are also restrictive and ineffective. For example, confiscation of private property is a way for states to control the economy and punish the opposition.

In the face of this persistent structural challenge, what can be done to reshape the future?

In a recently published report, I argue that dismantling ulema-state alliances and restructuring economies is crucial if Muslim countries achieve democracy and development.

Reform is necessary and inevitable.

Instead of blaming Islam or Western colonialism alone, Muslim societies should challenge secular anti-intellectualism and state control of the economy at the discursive level. Only through critical self-reflection can Muslim societies really address their political and socio-economic problems: does the Qur'an not say that "*God does not change the condition of a people unless He changes their inner self*" (13:11)?

At the institutional level, Muslim societies need open, meritocratic, and competitive systems in which political, religious, intellectual and

economic classes can function autonomously. This reform requires institutionalizing the separation of religion and state. Islam is not inherently opposed to this. In early Islamic history, there was a certain level of separation between religious and political authorities.

Reform must also include the extension of freedom of thought through the abolition of apostasy and blasphemy laws, and greater protection of private property, preventing the state from seizing it. There is a strong economic incentive for reform. Oil revenues, which have financed alliances

between ulema and states, are drying up with the depletion of reserves and the widespread adoption of alternative energy technologies. Many Muslim countries will need economic transformation and innovation to thrive in the post-oil era.

A reinterpretation of history is important to facilitate reform. The structural barriers that have hindered progress in the Muslim world, particularly the ulema-state alliance, have deep historical roots. However, paradigmatic experiences in Islamic history can inspire future reforms in state-religion relations and the economy.

Ahmet T. Kuru is Professor of Political Science at San Diego State University and author of *Islam, Authoritarianism, and Underdevelopment: A Global and Historical Comparison*. His latest report is entitled "The Ulema-State Alliance: A Barrier to Democracy and Development in the Muslim World".

(The Ulema-State Alliance: A Barrier to Democracy and Development in the Muslim World. Translated by David Meléndez Tormen from the English original published in *The New Arab*) ■



In the 8th and 11th centuries, the Muslim world was home to many of the world's greatest cities and leading philosophers. It was far more developed than Western Europe at the time.

Government.





Maimuna Rais

Women's Education – Harbinger of changing society

Education is the key to turning a weakness into strength and the most important thing that helps to face life's adversity. Without education, a person is like a body without a soul. It expands vision and outlook to see the world, become a better citizen, and enables us to be civilized. Most importantly, it enlightens the path of life. It also develops the capacity to fight against violence, corruption, discrimination, and many other elements as a person's fundamental right. Everyone should be given equal education irrespective of gender and caste.

Unfortunately, even today, there are many states in rural areas where women are not educated. According to the National Sample Survey (NSS), Rajasthan is the state which has the lowest number of literate females with 57.6%. The states which have the lowest female literacy rates are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand.

In the rural areas, women cannot access education due to the deep route culture of male domination. The negative attitude and lack of awareness among parents is also the reason that they don't send their girls to school. Some of them are

either limited to primary education or some are to secondary education. Poverty is also the root cause of many problems in India and the low female literacy rate. There is also a lack of accessibility to school, and as a result, it affects the literacy rate in rural areas. Even if there are schools, there is a lack of adequate facilities, which becomes a hurdle. Schools are really in a very pathetic condition; there is a lack of infrastructure. They don't have enough rooms to accommodate all students, so they teach under trees or on the ground. Another barrier is that there are no qualified female teachers, so no quality of education is there. Parents don't send their girls as schools are located so far at a distance or outside the village. There is no safety, security; simultaneously, they face harassment, threat, and molestation. Uneducated women aren't capable of doing jobs which also gives rise to unemployment problems in India. Likewise, there are many ups and downs which women have faced initially, but they have proven themselves tremendously.

A woman is a unique God's creation, multifaceted personality, and incredible powers of tolerance, patience, and stability. In the words of Rabindranath Tagore, "*Women are the builder and molder of a nation's destiny*". They play and

perform significant roles in life incredibly. They are the epitome of love and affection. They are soft as lily and sweet as sugar. They are compassionate towards sensible things.

Education is the only tool that helps women to hinder their obstacles and helps to build strong women. Even today, there are many states which are mentioned above that consider women as a liability. It is generally believed that educating a girl is a waste of money and time. So their focus is more on sons. They are carrying such a mindset; we are drowning in a deluge of it, so we need to step out from it. This is the reason we face obstacles in the growth of our nation.

Now it's time to realize that we have to break this old frame of mind; we need to understand that a well-educated woman is part of progressive nation. We must realize that education can only raise their status and eliminate all social evils. Also our nation will develop economically, and our country will bloom like a flower.

There is no denying the fact that India has made immense progress. If women were educated, they would come to know all their fundamental rights. Ultimately, it would help eliminate all social evils, decrease fertility rates, and lower infant mortality rates.

Participation of women in politics can also be seen due to their education. The state with the highest rate of female literacy in Kerala is 91.98%, and GDP stands 11th out of all Indian states. So this clearly shows educating women means developing nations.

We need to focus on issues that are hurdles for women's education. The government has introduced many schemes and programs to combat violence and discrimination against women. These are '*Beti bachao beti padhao*', one-stop centre scheme, Nari Shakti Puraskar, and many more others. Also, many foundations have been working delinquently, but is this really enough to empower women? The answer to this critical question is No! It is not enough until we work on an individual basis. We need more efforts to make a better nation and to provide education for women.

We have to concede that patriarchal society has been dominated from the beginning, which is a barrier to women's education. So we must give up our conservative look as society runs into wheels, and it should be equally vital to run smoothly. So the message is loud and clear. Let's educate women and develop the nation. Then they will bring the spring of achievements. ■

The personality of the Month Mehnaz



Aishah Kotecha

After graduating in tourism studies, Mehnaz started her career in the tourism industry with a leading airline in Dubai.

She took a break to pursue her master's in social work and continues her career in the education industry along with a passion for serving society, striving to spread the knowledge of *Deen* more through her deeds than her words.

Presently working as Principal at Endeavour Int'l School, Ernakulam, <https://endeavourschool.com/> Mehnaz also leads an organization called WINGS, where she's been the President of the Ernakulam sector for five years and is actively involved in social work.

WINGS, which is the acronym for *Women's Initiative to Nurture Growth of Society*, is a professional Muslim Women's platform, which is founded on the intention of rendering services to the weaker sections of the society in general and women and children in particular, irrespective of the caste/religion they belong. The services are free, carried out according to the experience and expertise of the members involved, like legal assistance, counseling sessions, medical advice/services, education awareness, financial aid, and the like. Recently she's been elected as state president of WINGS. (She can be contacted at mehnazashfaq@hotmaill.com) ■



Zaeem Atif Masood

Social media platforms pros and cons

such a way to reward your brain on getting more likes, views, and comments through notifications, in-app animations and design, colour theme and algorithms, turning people to snap and post more and more superficial and unrealistic pictures and moments of their lives on social media, leading them to feel more hollow and anxious for living this two-faced lives every day.

On the other hand, the audience watching and reacting to these fake, heavily photo shopped pictures and moments of other people's lives create this imaginative bubble in their minds where they feel extremely insecure about their personal life and status in comparison to the people they follow online, attaching a false identity onto themselves.

So much so that it decreases the release of Serotonin at an alarming rate, the chemical in your brain which keeps you happy and confident mentally.

The algorithms and the patterns laid at the core of these social media giants make you spend more and more time on social media websites just so that they can showcase more and more ads to you in turn generating greater revenue, even if it sucks the life out of our society at large.

Echo-Chambers



You might have heard this word, the "Echo-Chambers." This single term is the reason behind the greatest polarization ever created in the history of humankind.

In simple terms, Echo-Chambers are the places on the internet where users post their opinions on a topic with other people having similar preferences on the same topic. Thus, backing up an opinion by different individuals inside a bubble and ignoring the other side of the coin.

This turns people into online mobs filled with ignorance and zero common sense leading to more polarization and murdering the academic nature of debate and conversation we used to have for centuries in the past.

In the past few years, Echo-Chambers have served well for political parties and multinational corporates like Apple, Nike etc., to complete their objectives.

From the 2016 US election to the 2019 Indian election, echo chambers have made it possible for deception to prevail more

efficiently and effectively in our society. This ongoing trend of groupification and tribal mentality is the greatest factor contributing to the rise in instability and hatred among people from different backgrounds in the near future.

The Cycle of Wasting Time

I can't emphasize enough how much time and energy the world has completely wasted and



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NEW ARRIVAL



Muslim Woman's Participation in Mixed Social Life

by Abd al-Halim Abu Shuqqah (Author),
Adil Salahi (Translator)
\$8.95

Amazon.com

Publisher: Kube Publishing Ltd
Publication Date: March 1, 2022

The emancipation of women cannot be complete unless it is coupled with the emancipation of men.

This can only be accomplished by drawing our social values from the Qur'an and the Sunnah. In this volume, the author shows that mixed social life was the pattern in the early Muslim Society established by the Prophet. This 8-volume series is the author's abridged version of his longer work with the same title, spanning a 25-year study of the primary sources of Islamic Teachings: The Qur'an and the authentic Sunnah. The author's study comprised 14 great anthologies of hadiths. Still, in his book, he only rarely includes hadiths from any anthology other than the two most authentic ones of al-Bukhari and Muslim. This series will illustrate the status of the Muslim woman that is greatly different from what is assumed in most Muslim societies today.

What is Bitcoin? How it does Work

together into blocks by completing a cryptographic calculation that's extremely hard to generate but very easy to verify. The first miner to solve the next block broadcasts it to the network and, if proven correct, is added to the blockchain. That miner is then rewarded with an amount of newly created bitcoin.

What are the problems with bitcoin?

There have been several criticisms of bitcoin, including that the mining system is enormously energy hungry. The University of Cambridge has an online calculator that tracks energy consumption, and at the beginning of 2021, it was estimated to use over 100 terawatt-hours annually. For perspective, in 2016, the United Kingdom used 304 terawatt-hours in total.

The cryptocurrency has also been linked to criminality, with critics pointing out that it is a perfect way to make black market transactions. In reality, cash has

provided this function for centuries, and bitcoin's public ledger may be a tool for law enforcement.

Insurance risk

Some investments are insured through the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. Normal bank accounts are insured through the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to a certain amount depending on the jurisdiction.

Generally speaking, Bitcoin exchanges and Bitcoin accounts are not insured by any federal or government program. In 2019, prime dealer and trading platform SFOX announced it would provide Bitcoin investors with FDIC insurance, but only for the portion of transactions involving cash.

Fraud risk

Though Bitcoin uses private key encryption to verify owners and register transactions, fraudsters and scammers may attempt to sell false Bitcoin. For instance, in July

2013, the SEC brought legal action against an operator of a Bitcoin-related Ponzi scheme. There have also been documented cases of Bitcoin price manipulation, another common form of fraud.

Market risk

As with any investment, Bitcoin values can fluctuate. Subject to high volume buying and selling on exchanges, it is highly sensitive to any newsworthy events. Indeed, the value of the currency has seen wild swings in price over its short existence. According to the CFPB, the price of Bitcoin fell by 61% in a single day in 2013, while the one-day price drop record in 2014 was as big as 80%.

Where Can I Buy Bitcoin?

Several online exchanges allow you to purchase Bitcoin. In addition, Bitcoin ATMs internet-connected kiosks that can be used to buy bitcoins with credit cards or cash have been popping up worldwide. Or, if you know a friend who owns some bitcoins,

they may be willing to sell them to you directly without any exchange at all.

How Many Bitcoins Are There?

The maximum number of bitcoins that will ever be produced is 21 million, and the last bitcoin will be mined at some point around the year 2140. As of November 2021, more than 18.85 million (almost 90%) of those bitcoins have been mined. Moreover, researchers estimate that up to 20% of those bitcoins have been "lost" due to people forgetting their private key, dying without leaving any access instructions, or sending bitcoins to unusable addresses.

Should I Capitalize the B in Bitcoin?

By convention, use a capital B when discussing the Bitcoin network, protocol, or system. Use a small b when talking about individual bitcoins as a unit of value (for example, I sent two bitcoins). ■

An Audio-Visual presentation on Tourism in Saudi Arabia was held in Bangalore

The presentation was followed by lively questions from the audience and answers from the Saudi Tourism Authority team. The event ended with a dinner and vote of thanks by Janab Shoukath Ali Sultan, president of Karnataka State Haj Organiser's Association. Saudi Arabia hosts every year lakhs of Haj and Umrah pilgrims from India. It is worth mentioning here that the Haj was suspended in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic. Haj will be resumed next year, and the Haj Committee of India has notified the process of Haj application for the next Haj, i.e., for

the year 2022. In this connection, Karnataka Haj Group Organizers Association advised pilgrims to exercise caution in joining private haj group organizers, as Haj quota to private Haj Group Organizers (Haj Group Organiser's) has not commenced. Pilgrims have been asked to check the background, credentials, and trustworthiness of the HGO's and only get their names registered with them for Haj 2022 without any financial commitment because of the high risks involved. Karnataka State HGO Association will help with information on registered HGO's. ■

Social media platforms pros and cons

ruined on these soul-drenching websites and apps just to gain nothing but self-doubt, insecurity, and hollowness in their lives.

The algorithms on these websites are so finely tuned to your personal preferences that you can't even begin to understand its scale. Hooking you up each and every single day, sucking up your time more and more, stealing from you the magical experiences you can have in your life around you.

One of the most important learnings I got after quitting my social media accounts is the fact

that there's a lot of time present in a single day; there's a lot to explore, learn, appreciate and experience in our beautiful lives. From staring at the beautiful magnificent sky to learning something new about geography, maybe people or photography and whatnot.

Life is too much fun when you can just get rid of this rabbit hole of scrolling and wasting your time consistently every single day.

Final Thoughts

In the end, I just want to note that no matter how much I and others like me point onto the harms of social media, people at mass are still going to continue using these platforms.

That's the reason why many former employees of these companies and psychiatrists all around the globe are worried about the dreadful trend that's going on and of the near to see future of our society.

I think, for now, we can just tighten our seats and hope for the best.

(The author can be reached at zaeemmasoud@gmail.com) ■

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Sunni Muslim Nuclear family invites alliance for their Fair 5.1" 37 yrs, BDS, M.Sc., Counseling Daughter (Divorced, Khula, no issue) having own Flat. Looking for educated working Groom settled in Bangalore. Insha Allah, early marriage is preferred. **Contact : 8792840531 (Call / Whatapp) Email: atiya.zaiba@gmail.com**

Sunni Muslim parents invite alliance for their daughter (Practicing Muslimah) 24 years, 5'3", working as a H.R. in a Software company in Bangalore. The prospective groom should be broad-minded with a strong background of Islamic values and a well-educated professional (B.E, MBA, C.A). **Contact: 953 884 9716 / 961 178 7705.**

S.M. Bangalore-based parents invite alliance from well educated, religious, and cultured families from Bangalore or Gulf settled families for their V fair & beautiful daughter 25 years, MBA, H.R., observes hijab. Mohammed Vaseemuddin. **Please email or WhatsApp profiles to: mvasim@gmail.com, Mob: +966 567 957 472 (Riyadh, KSA).**

Sunni Muslim parents invite alliance for daughter age 24, height 5'4", M.Sc. qualified, religious. Looking for a working professional (BE/MS/MTech/MBA/MD/Ph.D.) from decent, educated family background. **Contact: 91 812 311 0990.**

Sunni Muslim parents from Bangalore seek alliance for their daughter age 33yrs. Height 5'8", B.E, EC, well-traveled, well-read, working in Canada. PR holder seeking the alliance of boy, B.E, Height above 5'10" from a decent family ready to relocate. **Contact: 9 5 3 5 0 9 6 4 2 6 E mail: waseemameen58@yahoo.in**

Sunni Muslim parents invite alliance for their beautiful daughter, age 27 yrs. Height 5'5", the groom should be working in any job/business aged between 30 to 32 yrs. Only from Bangalore. **Contact: Syed Sajid Mob No. 9066461159**

WANTED BRIDE

Sunni Muslim (Divorcee) 38 yrs. 5'9", B. Com., working in Dubai looking for a bride aged below 30 yrs. Widow/divorcee also preferred. From Religious, Educated, and respectable families. **Contact: Md. Iftekharulla - Mob: 9740191986**

Sunni Muslim family from Bangalore, Retired parents (Gazetted Officers) seek alliance for their son aged 27+, height 5'10", B.E. (Bangalore), M.S. (USA), currently working at an MNC in California (USA), looking for an independent, family-oriented girl from a well settled and educated family. The girl should be educated with a BE., / M.E., / M.Tech./ BE.MS., / B.E.MBA., / MBBS / MD, MBBS/MS/ Preferably residing in the USA. **Parents / family members can contact us at +91-998 664 2328 / +91-779 582 6021. Email: ahmedfamily44@gmail.com**

SMU, S.Indian groom (Tamilnadu) well settled in France (French Citizen) never married, Fair Handsome, 31, 5'8", (173 cms) M.E., M.Res., Ph.D., Paris, FRANCE. (All obtained in Prestigious Colleges), working in a reputed firm in Paris (France) as a Research Engineer, with a good salary. Seeks alliance for their only son. We are looking for a Beautiful, Fair Graduate, Religious, Indian bride from a respected Urdu Muslim willing to settle in France. **Contact: nikah.paris@gmail.com Wapp:00(33)626324628**

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CEO'S MESSAGE

Dear valued investors,

On behalf of Rehbar, I wish to convey my deep gratitude to all our valued investors for your continued support and trust. In this quarterly address I would like to highlight the importance of Rehbar as a financial intermediary. Businesses need huge amounts of funds and the surplus funds are available only as small savings with investors. The role of the Rehbar is primarily mobilization of savings and seeking out entrepreneurs to use these funds for production of real goods and the supply of services development and to also reward the savers/investors fair return on their investment.

The importance of a financial intermediary from the religious prism also is significant as Islam condemns hoarding of wealth and demands productive use of the wealth and savings. Rehbar compliments all our investors for sharing their wealth and savings.

Our Financial Performance for Q2 ended September 2021 for FY 21-22

The financial performance of Rehbar's SPVs: RERL I and II is summarized in the report and following are the notable highlights:

- Average investment has increased by Rs. 4.5 Cr to Rs. 53.1 Cr registering a growth in investment of 9.4%.
- Deployment has remained steady in last quarter at Rs. 44 Cr on account of some large project finance repayments.
- Gross profit of Rs. 161 L was earned and the share of the profits attributable to the valued debenture holders is Rs. 131.7 L which is about 9% (annualized).
- The average return to the debenture holders has increased marginally from 8.9% paid in the previous quarter. This is mainly on account of higher gross return on the deployments made. However, the net return has not increased as the deployment percentage vis-a-vis the total investment funds available has dipped. In the ensuing quarter, Rehbar hopes to deploy the entire surplus funds and expects a surge in the net return as well.

Our bond together and your continued trust and support will help our future growth and build a strong community and nation.

yours truly,

Mohamed Ashrafula

Chief Executive Officer
Rehbar Financial Services



Rehbar Fin Services Bangalore won the Brand of the Year Award 2021 for promoting halal investment and business finance. The award ceremony was organized by Maeeshat Media on 14th November in Kolkata

PERFORMANCE OF RERL DURING THE QUARTER ENDING 30th SEP 2021

Average Investment from debenture holders	₹ 5,307.8 L
Average Deployment Made	₹ 4,411.9 L
Gross Profit incl cross deployment	₹ 173.6 L
Gross Profit from deals	₹ 160.6 L
Fees, expenses and appropriations	₹ 41.8 L
Amount due to debenture holders	₹ 131.7 L

Deployment to Investment Ratio	83.1%
Gross Return on Deployment	14.6% p.a.
Net Return on Investment (Rol) for the quarter	9.0% p.a.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- Facilitated payments of profits to investors of over Rs 21 Cr since inception.
- Facilitated investments of over Rs. 82 crores in 100+ businesses so far.
- Successfully facilitated over 2000 investments for more than 900 investors.
- Received IFTSA Business Excellence Award 2017 for the promotion of Islamic Finance in New Markets.
- Member of the Association for Mutual Funds in India (AMFI Registration No: 162773)



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