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Rabi-ul-Awal / Rabi-us-Sani - 1444 H

Mahbubul Hoque, North East's Sir Syed



Governor Satya Pal Malik presents the Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service to Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya and Chairman, Education Research and Development Foundation, at Raj Bhavan in the city, for his pioneering and outstanding contribution in the field of higher and technical education.



Abdul Bari
Masoud

New Delhi: In the wake of an ill-intentioned survey of madrassas in Uttar Pradesh, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind (M) constituted a steering committee to investigate the matter. Convening a meeting of madrasa rectors and representatives at its headquarters on September 6, the Jamiat leadership declared that they will defend Islamic seminaries at all costs, and termed the UP government's proposed survey of madrassas as a malicious attempt to disparage the madrasa education system. It also announced the opening of a helpline for madrassas that encounter any issues. According to an estimate, there are more than a lakh madrassas in UP. More than 200 madrasa

Tahfuzz-e- Madris Conference

UP govt attempts to survey madrasa
smacks of evil intention



representatives, including those from prestigious seminaries like Darul Uloom in Deoband, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow, Mazahir Uloom, Saharanpur, and others, attended the meeting under the banner of "protecting Madrassas". They denounced the Yogi government's

attempt to demonize the madrasa, saying it is the country's greatest asset because it was instrumental in the liberation movement and made immeasurable sacrifices. The Uttar Pradesh government had announced to conduct a survey of unrecognized madrassas in the state to gather information about

the number of teachers, curriculum, and basic facilities available there, among others.

The 12-point survey questionnaire being used by the UP government was discussed at the meeting. A PowerPoint presentation gave a thorough explanation of the purpose and scope of the survey. In the discussion, it was agreed that the madrasa system's laws and regulations needed internal revision.

The meeting also raises concerns about the government's retrograde mindset, which by adopting a combative approach causes confusion and fear among the populace and builds a barrier of mistrust between the communities. This government's behavior is completely unacceptable. Governments ought to stop this sort of conduct. It pointed out that madrassas have played a significant historical role in this

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Spl Correspondent

New Delhi: The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), a well-known rights organization, claimed that the ban on hijab in educational institutions issued by the BJP-led state government and upheld by the Karnataka High Court has prevented thousands of Muslim girls and women in Karnataka from receiving an education. In its report, PUCL emphasized

Hijab Prohibition in Karnataka prevented thousands of Muslim Girls from pursuing Education: PUCL report

testimony from students across the state and that the High Court's ruling infringed several rights. According to the report, "These rights which have been violated include Right to Education without Discrimination, Right to Equality, Right to Dignity, Right to Privacy, Right to Expression, Right to Non-Discrimination and

Freedom from Arbitrary State Action." The group stated that the Karnataka government had completely neglected its constitutional obligation because of its "single-minded emphasis on ensuring that the hijab was forbidden in institutions." Numerous students were

reportedly compelled to drop out of their academic programmes as a result of the instruction. The rights organization urged Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai to revoke the notification that forbade the wearing of the hijab at schools and colleges. Additionally, it requested the judiciary to look into the reasons

behind the government's "sudden, arbitrary, and unlawful" action. "The human rights commission and minority commission should register suo motu complaints against the principals and CDCs [college development committees] for violating the fundamental rights of the concerned students and initiate actions at the earliest," the report stated.

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Staff Writer

Aligarh: In the online "6th Annual FSEV Concept Challenge" (Pi-EV 2022) of Formula Bharat, an ergonomic and potent Formula-Student Electric Car created by a student team of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Z H College of Engineering and Technology (ZHCET), the collegiate club of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), has received numerous rankings and awards. The AMU SAE ZHCET team won the Concept Challenge, which featured student teams from prestigious universities such as IIT Madras, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Goa, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, and VIT, among others, for designing the Formula-Student Electric Car, placing ninth in Procurement Strategy, twelve in Engineering Design and software and intelligence

AMU Team Gets Top Ranks for Designing Formula Electric Car

integration, seventeen in team management, and thirteen overall. "The vehicle is incorporated with a power transmission mechanism to improve the driving experience as well as a driving assistance system consisting of accelerometer, gyroscope, magnetometer sensors, and a digital speedometer using Raspberry pi", said Syed Imaduddin (Captain, SAE ZHCET).

Syed Taimoor Ali (Vice-Captain, SAE ZHCET) pointed out: "The Orion Battery Management System capable of data acquisition in the electric car will come in handy in improving the future design".

Congratulating the team, Prof Mohammad Muzammil (Chairman, Department of Mechanical Engineering), said that the achievement will motivate the other students to



follow in the footsteps of SAE ZHCET in exploring the realm of electric mobility.

Faculty advisors, Dr. Syed Fahad Anwer and Nafees Ahmad said that the AMU community stands proud of the nationwide recognition of the SAE ZHCET Club for providing environment-friendly mobility solutions.

"The team members Abhishek Kumar (Manager), M Ashraf (Technical Head), Haisam Khurshid, Fawwaz Bin Tasneem, Mohd Saif Usmani, Ammar Salman, Faraz Khan, Shahil, Mohammad Areeb Siddiqui, M

Athar Zaid, Mohd Rehan, Mohd Ahad, Syed Haider Ali, Mohd Areeb, Mohd Saif, Abdul Rehman, Abu Athar, Ali Hesham

Raza, Mohd Zeeshan Khan, and Mohd Asad were rigorously trained", said Arqam Hashim Siddiquie, student-chairperson, SAE ZHCET Club. ■

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Hijab Prohibition in Karnataka prevented thousands of Muslim Girls from pursuing Education: PUCL report

The report also asserted that students were scared to attend schools and colleges as a result of security measures put in place in educational institutions as a consequence of the court case. It also noted situations in which Hindu boys are said to have used WhatsApp groups to send threatening messages.

"They said that they wanted to punish us and kill us, and other similar threats," the report quoted a student as saying.

Furthermore, students reported to

the PUCL team that some boys had dubbed them "O Hijab" and "O Burkha" and harassed them in public. According to the report, several colleges failed to protect their students against harassment and even encouraged bullying.

"When the principal notices us, he chastises us and asks me why we still attend this school. The report quoted a schoolgirl as stating, "Why we continue to wear the headscarf, and other similar mocking queries. ■

» Page 1

nation and have consistently made sacrifices for the country. Even today, madrassas continue to benefit the nation by educating youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds and advancing efforts to achieve national literacy rates of 100 percent. Madrassa graduates become sincere and patriotic citizens of their nation.

Actually, it is malicious to refer to madrasa students as not adhering to the government system. It is essential to respond with a reasonable approach. Maulana Mahmood Asad Madani, the meeting's organizer and the head of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, voiced these

views.

Maulana Mahmood Madani said they will safeguard the madrasa system at all costs. He told the media that a steering committee has been formed for further action.

The steering committee comprising Maulana Arshad Madani, President JHU (A); Maulana Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani, Sheikh Al-Hadith and Mohtamim Darul Uloom Deoband; Maulana Muhammad Sufyan Qasmi Mohtamim Darul Uloom Waqf Deoband; Maulana Mufti Muhammad Rashid Azmi, Deputy Mohtamim Darul Uloom

Tahfuzz-e- Madris Conference

Deoband; Maulana Syed Ashhad Rashidi, Mohtamim Jamia Qasmiya Shahi Moradabad; Maulana Hakimuddin Qasmi, General Secretary of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind; Maulana Niaz Ahmad Farooqui, Secretary Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, Maulana Mufti Ashfaq Ahmad Azmi; Kamal Farooqui, Member, All India Muslim Personal Law Board; Mr. Mujtabi Farooq, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind; Syed Azhar Madani, Gangoh; and Mahmood Madani, President, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind.

The meeting gave nod to a three-

point plan following mutual consultation.

(1) Madrassas' internal systems should have any legal flaws fixed as quickly as possible.

(2) The Jamiat Ulama-i- Hind should set up a helpline and have a team ready to assist the Madrassas in fixing the paperwork.

(3) Madrassas ought to begin offering modern education in NIOS or another format.

Religious seminaries are a sore spot for communal forces, according to Maulana Arshad Madani, thus we should be aware of their motivations.

Mufti Abul Qasim Nomani stressed the need of improving the internal structure of madrassas, particularly the structure connected to Dar al-Iqama, (hostel), etc.

Maulana Atiq Ahmad Bastavi, representing the Nazeem-e-Ala of Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, Maulana Syed Muhammad Rabi Hasni Nadvi, argued that the survey questionnaire had been included for mischief rather than reform. Therefore, a suitable response should be made to this new evil of communal forces. In this context, he suggested getting in touch with government representatives. ■

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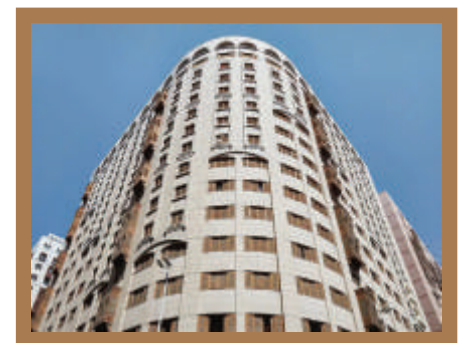
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UP Government's Muslim Outreach Plan gives a Push for Infrastructure Projects

Syed Ali Mujtaba

The Uttar Pradesh government has allotted Rs 53.73 crore for the welfare of the Muslim community in the state. The money will be spent on establishing health and education-related projects in several Muslim-dominated districts of Uttar Pradesh. A total of 14 projects have been sanctioned by the Yogi Adityanath government for the benefit of the Muslim community.

A 200-bed girls' hostel and a multipurpose conference room will be built at the Government's Girls Intermediate College in Gazipur. Similarly, the government-run girl's intermediate college in Pattadeva in Deoria will have a 100-bed girls' hostel. A government-run homeopathy dispensary will be built in Swar city in the Rampur district. Similarly, a government-run homeopathy clinic will be built in Hapur, a multipurpose hall in Amroha, a 100-bed working women's hostel in Bulandshar, a 50-bed working women's hostel at Gangoh in Saharanpur, and more classrooms for the industrial institute in Basti. All these places have a high Muslim population. Danish Azad Ansari, State minister of Minority Affairs in the Adityanath government said, "the center is funding 60 percent of the project cost and the rest is borne by the state government. The first installment of the budget is received and the additional funding would be approved as the projects move forward."

The Minister also said that job

fairs are being organized in 19 Muslim-dominated divisions for employment for the Muslim youth. The timetable of the job fairs will be announced soon, he said.

The president of UP BJP's Minority Morcha wing, Kunwar Basit Ali said; "Muslim community is getting lion's share from the development and welfare schemes of the BJP-led Central and State governments. The community which comprises nearly 18% of the state's population is getting more than 30 percent share in the welfare schemes like PM Awas Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Mudra Loans, and free ration scheme. Nearly four crore Muslims out of 13 crore beneficiaries will benefit from these schemes," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had stressed the need for developing the Pasmanda (backward) Muslim community. The Yogi Adityanath government has appointed Danish Azad Ansari, a Pasmanda Muslim as a State Minister of Minority Affairs and Chaudhary Kafil-Ul-Wara, as the Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Urdu Akademi.

The BJP is making a renewed effort to reach out to the Muslim community after its success in the 2022 Assembly election. The BJP has intensified its Muslim outreach programme after winning the Lok Sabha by-elections in Rampur and Azamgarh, both Muslim-dominated seats. The BJP's Muslim outreach programme is an effort to get a reasonable share of Muslim votes, which were traditionally pocketed by its rival parties.

Jamiat (M) mulls involving women in its activities

Bhopal: A committee was set up by the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind (M) to examine a proposal to include women in the organization's activities. The Jamiat's two-day national consultative meeting in Bhopal ended with a commitment to strengthen the organizational framework at the local level. Hitherto, Jamiat was a male preserve, and women's representation was taboo in the organization.

The meeting of presidents and general secretaries of the state and

regional units of the organization was held in the city and it was presided over by Maulana Mahmood Madani, national president of the Jamiat.

"After the debacle of the movement of Hazrat Shah Waliullah Sahab, the Jamiat took upon itself all the responsibilities to take care of the Muslim community in India," said Maulana Madani.

"Whenever any catastrophe strikes the community, Muslims look to the Jamiat with hope as it

stands by them. Hence, when we are not able to work as per their expectations, they criticize us," he admitted.

He claimed that 42 percent of youth are exposed to alcoholism. They live in villages and cities, we can reform them only when the representatives of the Jamiat are present everywhere.

A motion to include women in Jamiat activities was made during the meeting, and a committee has been formed to evaluate its feasibility.


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A B Masoud

Mahbubul Hoque, North East's Sir Syed, 'Meghalaya Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service'

Shillong: For his exceptional achievements in the sphere of education, Mahbubul Hoque, the founder and chancellor of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya, received the "Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service-2022." On August 27, at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan, the honour was given to him by Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik.

Governor Malik, who presented the awards for excellence, praised Mahbubul Hoque as a visionary educator who is dedicated to creating institutions that cater to rural communities. Everyone has noticed the impact he has had on the education sector as a result of his passion and unselfish contribution to the cause of education.

Hoque thanked the Governor and the people of Meghalaya for accepting the award and for allowing him to help the community by promoting higher and technical education as well as several outreach initiatives. He recalls the assistance provided by the late Dr. Donkumar Roy, former Lok Sabha speaker and Chief Minister P. A. Sangma, former Governor R.S. Mooshahary, and the officers' overall support.

Mahbubul Hoque is also lovingly called Sir Syed of North East for his selfless work in the education sector he was raised in a rural household in the isolated Purabgul village in Assam's Karimganj district. He had a



difficult childhood because he lost both of his parents and his caring older brother. He had to work to pay for his education by giving tuition and selling vegetables he had grown himself at the neighbourhood market. He received numerous employment offers from MNCs and domestic and international IT businesses after earning a Master's in Computer Science from the esteemed Aligarh Muslim University, but he chose to return to his hometown with a vision and began a career in educational entrepreneurship.

With barely 85 rupees in his pocket, he began his humble endeavor in Guwahati with 1 computer and 4 students in a rented room. To raise money to set up a computer lab, he manufactured computers and sold them in the market. At first, his

situation was so difficult that even landlords were reluctant to rent to him because of his financial situation. However, his study center, Central IT College, rose to become the second-best Manipal Group study center in the entire nation. There was no turning around.

He established the Education, Research and Development Foundation (ERDF) in 2005 while serving as its chairman to improve the North Eastern region's educational infrastructure. One AICTE-approved engineering college, two PCI-approved pharmacy colleges, one BCI-approved law school, one AICTE-approved business school, one NCTE-approved B. Ed. college, one women's college, and his largest dream venture University of Science & Technology Meghalaya where more than 5000

students are enrolled are among the pioneering educational institutions that were established under the ERDF umbrella. An exceptional accomplishment, the University received an "A" Grade from NAAC in its first round of assessment in 2021. USTM is now placed among the top 200 universities of India in the NIRF-2022 Ranking.

More than 10,000 students are receiving quality education from the institutions he founded, 35% of whom are from indigenous tribes, 20% are from poor, backward classes, and receive free education, 80% of whom are from rural areas, and 57% are female students. Under his dynamic direction, more than 1200 teaching, administrative, and non-teaching staff members are working to advance the schools. More than 30 students from communities and tribes throughout the northeastern states attend the institution, which is one of its most significant aspects.

Mahbubul Hoque, who has received the "Shikshacharya Award-2019" from the Asam Sahitya Sabha as well as numerous other honours for his work in higher education, including the most recent Community Excellence Award given to USTM by UNESCO, has started several charitable initiatives like endowment funds, emergency medical assistance, interest-free loans, relief drives,

health camps, etc. He is very concerned about energy conservation and environmental protection, which is evident in his adoption of the Green Campus Initiative, for which USTM has already won numerous accolades by the UN's sustainable development goals.

As part of the USTM Neighbourhood Mission, different USTM departments have adopted nearby communities, and the children of these towns can receive free or reduced-price education at the university. Mahbubul Hoque's creation and implementation of the Pay Back Policy, which reimburses full course fees to students who pass competitive tests, is a noteworthy initiative.

The USTM future roadmap includes research and extension initiatives that are centered on rural education and reaching its Milestones. By drawing students and scholars from all over the world, fostering local youth, and building a global community, he has established milestones to transform USTM into a world-class university by 2030, assisting the state of Meghalaya in becoming a destination for international education. His present vision for Meghalaya is a medical school and hospital with cutting-edge research capabilities. Another aspirational proposal put out for adoption by the Assam government is the establishment of a women's university in his hometown of Karimganj. ■

Art Exhibition Winners Felicitated

Staff Writer

Aligarh: At the conclusion of the three-day Annual Art Exhibition '2022 that the Department of Fine Arts organized at the Moinuddin Art Gallery, Ms. Yamini Baghel and Ms. Farheen from the Department of Fine Arts and Ms. Adiba Nizami and Ms. Rashi Sharma from the Women's College, Aligarh Muslim University were honoured with the four best painting awards.

The award certificates were presented to the finalists by the chief guest, Prof. Mohammad Gulrez (Pro-Vice Chancellor), and the guest of honour, Prof. Naima Khatoon (Principal, Women's College) at a ceremony held on September 19.

The former dean of the faculty of fine arts at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Professor Sadre Alam, a member of the jury and a guest of honour, praised the exhibition's artworks for their high calibre.

Prof. Mohd Gulrez lauded the students' unique artworks and



noted that such shows assist young artists to gain confidence and better comprehending the difficulties involved in finding suitable employment and establishing a profession. Female students' participation in the exhibition was praised by Professor Naima Khatoon, who also pushed them to pursue success in this subject by working harder and more passionately.

The artwork on show at the art gallery, according to Professor Badar Jahan (Chairperson, Department of Fine Arts, and Coordinator, Moinuddin Ahmad Art Gallery), was created by students using a variety of mediums, techniques, and experiments over the course of several years. The award function's proceedings were presided over by Dr. Waseem Mushtaq. ■

Muslims face discrimination in securing employment and earn less: Oxfam

Zeena Akhtar

New Delhi: Historically disadvantaged groups including Dalits, tribals, and religious minorities like Muslims continue to encounter prejudice in India when trying to obtain jobs, livelihoods, and agricultural loans. This was revealed in the latest study on discrimination in India by the international charity organization, Oxfam.

The Oxfam India's Discrimination Report 2022 blames "societal and employers' prejudices" for women's lower wages. The report said Muslims experienced the most increase in unemployment during the early months of the Covid-19 outbreak, with a rate of 17%.

"During the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic, the sharpest increase in unemployment - at 17% - was for Muslims." The report noted that non-Muslims made 7,000 rupees more per month than Muslims, those from the lowest castes and tribes

made 5,000 rupees less per month than others, and men made 4,000 rupees (\$50; £44) more per month than women.

"The fall-out of discrimination in Indian society is not just social and moral but also economic, leading to adverse consequences to society," Amitabh Behar, Oxfam India's CEO, said.

Behar also underlined that "The inequality for women and other social categories is not just due to poor access to education or work experience but because of discrimination".

By analyzing official data on employment, income, health, and access to agricultural finance for various social groups between 2004 and 2020, researchers from Oxfam used statistical models to quantify prejudice.

The CEO of Oxfam recommended that in order to create an India free from prejudice, the government, political parties, decision-makers, and civil society must work together. ■

Mumbai: In the wake of growing hatred mounted by the divisive forces in the country, a group of prominent Muslims from the metropolis have decided to organize the Prophet For All Campaign in the month of Rabiul Awwal. The idea is to educate people, especially Non-Muslims on the life of the Prophet, to remove misunderstandings, and spread a message of Peace and Brotherhood.

The meeting, held on September 12, noted that in today's times to gain political mileage there is organized propaganda of misinformation against Islam and the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). "People of other faiths tend to believe what is shown by the Media while the truth is something else, waiting to be discovered. This evil propaganda has led to social disharmony, unrest, and avoidable conflicts," the meeting observed. The idea is to create awareness for all, especially people of other faiths, on the life of the Prophet (PBUH). Secondly, to remove the growing misunderstandings about the message of Islam and bring about communal harmony in society.

Starting 28th September 2022 and going up to 9th October or 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal, Prophet Muhammad's birthday (PBUH), also called Eid-e-Milad, celebrations and special introductory programmes will be held all over Mumbai to spread the message of Friendship, Peace and Brotherhood...

Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), is the Last Prophet of God and the World's greatest personality. The world never saw a person like him before nor will see another until the end of humanity. He had a formidable reputation as a truthful, trustworthy and merciful human being. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was a highly compassionate human being.

Mumbai Muslims decide to launch Prophet for all Campaign in Rabiul Awwal



Muslims around the world love him the most, however, he was not only sent for Muslims but all mankind.

Prophet For ALL:

In the Holy Qur'an, the Almighty God mentions; "And We have sent you (O Muhammad) not but as a mercy for all worlds (not only mankind but all the creations of God)" [Surah al-Anbiya 21:107]. His teachings were Universal, not just for Arabs or Muslims but for the whole of Mankind. His mercy and compassion were not just for humans but for the entire creation of the Almighty as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an. He managed to transform the fiercely warring tribes of Arabia into a reformed Nation through The Holy Qur'an, his teachings, and his flawless manners, which were appreciated even by his enemies.

What can We do?

Each one of us should join in this Nobel Mission. Let us honor the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and spread his message of Peace, Love, and Brotherhood to ALL specifically to people of other Faiths, especially between 1st Rabi ul Awwal to 12th Rabi ul Awwal.

Activities for the #ProphetForAll Campaign

They appealed that each of us must perform at least one deed of Compassion, Sympathy, Mercy, Welfare, Love, or Care for all living beings in our own way, either collectively or individually.

Create Awareness & Educate:

Educate people of other faiths, about the importance of Prophet Muhammad, not just for Muslims but all the creations of Allah Ta'ala

as mentioned in the Holy Qur'an.

Convey the Teachings of the Prophet to All. Narrate and explain at least a few Hadees to people of Other Faiths, especially on his Social Life.

Organize Lectures/Competition on the Seerat (the Prophet's life):

- Invite Ulemas/Scholars and request them to narrate the Seerat to everyone, especially to our friends of other Faiths.
- Organize Seerat Competitions Especially for School and College Students within our Building, Society, or Institution, and give prizes to winners.
- Invite your Non-Muslim friends for Lunch / Dinner at your House, Masjid, and Institutions:
- Invite social leaders, influencers, your friends, and neighbours of other faiths for Lunch or Dinner. Create awareness about the Prophet's life and promote the true teachings of Love, Affection, and Compassion of the Prophet (PBUH).

Forgive people to make a better and peaceful society

Make sure that on these important days, we forgive all those who have harmed us or offended us in any way. Strive to establish Brotherhood not only in the Muslim Community but in the entire Society.

Remember the Hadees that if we forgive people their mistakes, Allah SWT will forgive our sins on the Day of Judgement.

Visit Hospitals, Old Age Homes, and Orphanages and help deserving people:

Distribute fruits and sweets and let them know about the Prophet's

birthday. Tell them about the Hadees that sick people's Duas are accepted quickly by Allah SWT and request them for Duas.

Create a Big Display of the Prophet's life:

We have decided to Stand with Placards and Banners at Public Places on 11th Rabiul Awwal, which is Saturday, 8th October at 11 AM all across Mumbai. You are requested to participate in this event and show collective efforts in conveying the Teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) InshaAllah!

Participate in Public Events:

Invite your non-Muslim friends and contacts to attend events in Rabiul Awwal to understand better the life of Prophet Muhammad

SAW so that communal peace and harmony can prevail.

Organise an ideal Eid e Milad Juloos:

Be a part of the organizing committee of the Eid e Milad Majlis/Juloos in your area and ensure unIslamic acts are not followed like DJ, music, Band or Dancing, etc.

Celebrate in Social Media:

And finally, we can make a huge influence on TODAY'S GENERATION by not indulging in #hate on social media. Remember, that is not the way of our beloved Prophet SAW who believed in even forgiving his enemies.

#ProphetForAll theme should be common in all the banners, displays, videos, creatives, etc. Social media posts and messages should have the hashtag and tag the social media accounts. ■

Marathi Saint Literature Speaks of Human Values

Staff Writer

Aligarh: Delivering a lecture on "References from Sant Literature in Literary Research", Dr. Taher H. Pathan, In-charge Marathi Section, Department of Modern Indian Languages, Aligarh Muslim University, said Sant-Sahitya is a theocentric thought, possessing human values and self-realization. Saints worked selflessly among downtrodden sections of society.

The lecture was organized by UGC Human Resource Development Centre, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.

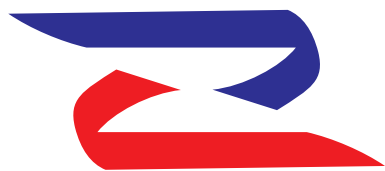
Prof Pathan said the Sant-Sahitya taught a sense of brotherhood, integration, harmony, and human dignity using the medium of poetry and music to advance their thoughts. Marathi saints' works enriched Indian languages,

literature, and Indian culture".

Citing examples from the Saint literature, Prof Pathan said that the importance of the eternal voice of saints will remain relevant in every age as the ideals of divine love of saints have universal appeal.

"Saint Poetry depicts the simple-hearted feeling of the devotees who are ready in sadhana and wish well for all the people. That lighthouse has been giving light to human society for centuries while wandering in the darkness of despair, lust, resistance, and retribution. It will continue to show the way in the future also", he added

"Saint poets were the founder of universal human religion and believed that as long as there is a distinction between caste and religion in society, humanity cannot be respected," he concluded. ■



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Youths Trained in Disaster Management

New Delhi: A workshop was arranged by the NGO "Society for Bright Future" to prepare young people for calamities. Officers and specialists from the disaster department taught the youngsters how to handle calamities on this occasion. Irfan Ahmed, the SBF National Coordinator, outlined the event's goals and objectives by stating that since its beginning, SBF has been preparing young people around the country who not only work to save humanity during natural disasters but also oversee rehabilitation for those affected. What types of disasters exist, what are the best methods for preventing them, and how can those in need of immediate medical care get it? Suresh Kumar, a member of the New Delhi Civil Defense Department, went into further detail on each of these subjects. Using examples from the course, he showed the



audience how they might protect themselves from unexpected disasters by doing several key things quickly and easily while also assisting others. The Society for a Bright Future is lauded by Kumar for his unselfish devotion to humanity and unwavering honesty. He exhorted those taking part in the programme to help others by volunteering for SBF. The types of fires and ways to prevent them were highlighted by Delhi Fire Service Station Officer Firoz Khan. He discussed several

important fire-control strategies. Along with this, he introduced the fire prevention equipment needed and gave practical examples of when and how to use it. These devices piqued the curiosity of the program's participants, who tried them.

A PowerPoint presentation was utilized to discuss an important topic, Prospective of Social Service in the Field of Humanitarian Relief, by S. Ameenul Hasan, the foremost psychologist in the country as well as a motivational speaker and vice president of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind. He discussed how service to mankind is work done with total honesty and without the intention of achieving renown in light of the Qur'an and Sunnah. Dr. Amir Jamal, SBF Volunteer Coordinator, Zahid Afzal, and MohdMarghoob, SBF Public Relations Officers, all contributed significantly to the workshop's success. ■

Dr. Muneela Khanam received the Bharatiya Ratna Award

Dr. Muneela Khanam received the Bharat Ratna Award as Best Life Coach of the year for her exceptional services in the field of Education and Social work received from Padma Shri Awardee Shree Padma Reddy. She has done her Ph.D. in Psychology, Handwriting Analyst, and Graphologist. Founder and Director of ANSZ Educare India, Member of the Institute of Scholars, an Educationist, Author, Motivational Speaker, and Inspirational Master Trainer. The Global Scholar Foundation has conferred her award recognizing her contribution, appreciating her efforts, and acknowledging her success as an Educationist who plays a major contributor to the economic development of our Nation. She has already bagged many



prestigious awards at State, National, International, and Global levels for her phenomenal performance in the field of Education, Training, and Development sector. Her expertise has helped thousands of Students and Teachers achieve outstanding results over 14 years of experience. She has a strong vision of Transforming lives and strongly believes in "Empowering the Students and Strengthening the Nation". ■

Muslim Friends Society Honours Merit Students

Nagpur: Muslim Friends Society, a prominent city non-profit organization conducted its 27th-year annual programme of felicitation of meritorious students of the community. It was held at the auditorium of Anjuman College of Engg and Technology. Noorul Hasan Dy Commr of Police Zone-4, Nagpur, Firdos Mirza, Senior Advocate High Court, and Dr. Ms. Humera Qureshi, Asstt Prof of English from Bhopal were the key dignitaries. The speaker emphasized that these events serve as springboards for motivating students in their quest of achieving their higher goals. They said that modern education has opened a wide vista

of careers and students should not restrict themselves to a few conventional professions. Nurul Hasan said that he came from an economically weak background and had his primary education in a village. But this did not deter him to pursue higher studies and qualify for the Civil Services. A unique feature of the felicitation was that girls outshone boys in most spheres. In the SSC category, 89 students (including 57 girls) secured more than 92% marks, and in the HSSC category, 26 students (including 16 girls) secured more than 90% of the marks. 26 students (including 20 girls) passed the entrance test for medical education. 5 girls passed the UGC NET. ■



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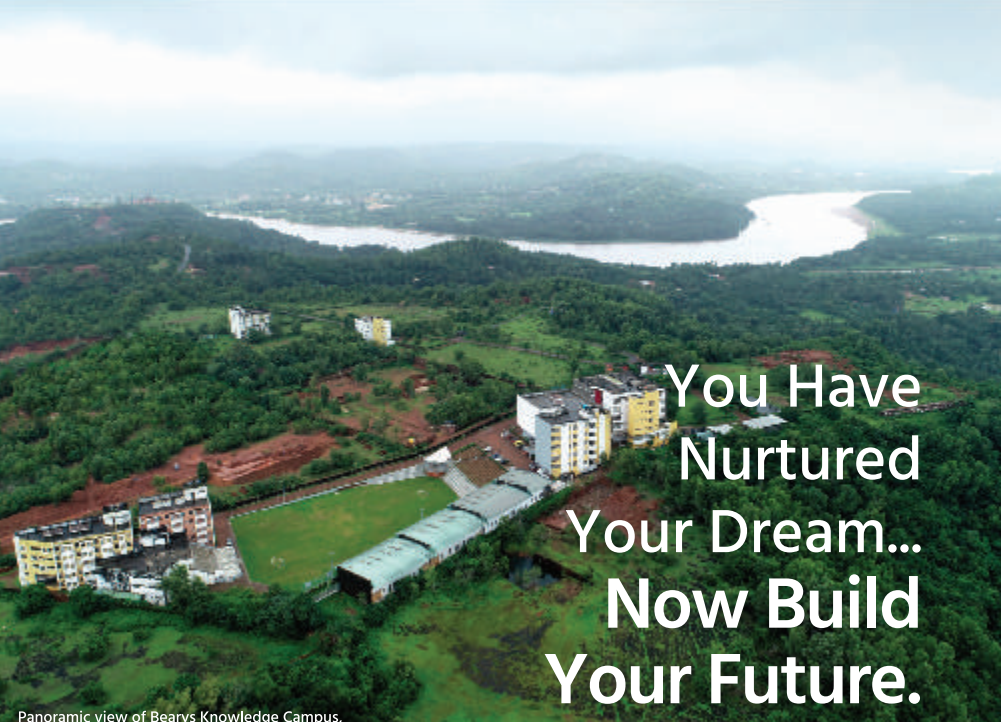
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Zia Ahmad

NSW Labor to Counter Islamophobia and Vilification

Sydney: The New South Wales (NSW) Labor Party Leader Chris Minns together with his 15 shadow ministers met more than 100 Muslim community leaders and Imams over dinner at ANIC offices in Chullora on 12 September 2022, assuring the Muslim community to counter Islamophobia and religious vilification in NSW.

The talking points during the dialogue included concern about Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiments across some sections of the Australian society, laws against vilification and hate speech on religious grounds in NSW, countering right-wing extremism, and the upcoming state elections on Saturday 25 March 2023.

Chris Minns assured the Muslim community saying, "I can give you this assurance that a New South Wales Labor government will stand up against Islamophobia wherever we find it. We've supported religious vilification legislation in the past and make no mistake, it's important to protect the unique multicultural society that we have built in this country and we're determined to do it."

The program was started by the MC, Bilal Rauf, ANIC Senior Legal Advisor & Media Spokesperson with



acknowledgment of the country and recalling a similar meeting held a couple of years ago in the same place before the commencement of COVID-19 restrictions.

Imam Anas Yaghmour recited from the Quran, Chapter 30, Verses 20-24 calling on humanity to reflect on the signs of creation, companionship, compassion and mercy, and diversity of languages and colors.

President of the Australian National Imams Council (ANIC), Imam Shadi Alsuleiman during his address appreciated the great turnout of politicians and community leaders to have a dialogue on issues of concern and cooperate for a diverse, multicultural, and harmonious

NSW.

The Grand Mufti of Australia, Dr. Ibrahim Abu Mohamed said that Australia remained one of the best countries in the world safeguarding human dignity, security, freedom, and stability. He admitted that Australia is indeed a success story for multiculturalism where all citizens have the right to celebrate their culture, practice their faith and raise their voices resonated by the state and federal political leadership.

Ms. Sultan referred to the third Islamophobia in Australia Report released earlier this year, which documents incidents of reported Islamophobic incidents that took place between 2018 and 2019 showing that Islamophobia in

Australia does exist and is a persistent social issue that overwhelmingly targets women, especially those who are identifiably Muslim when wearing a hijab.

She also referred to the recent publication of a report by the Australian Human Rights Commission, "Sharing the Stories of Australian Muslims" that drew on the contributions of more than 1000 survey participants, and participants in consultations across the country:

The report identified some key themes:

- That there is a need for Protection from Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hate.
- Firsthand experiences of harm and attacks on Australian Muslims, especially women.
- The increasing threat of far-right extremist ideology.
- Media and political narratives.
- The need for broader community allies.
- The need for legislative protection against religious vilification and especially Islamophobia.
- Redressing the balance-countering violent extremism and social cohesion.

Highlighting the strong bonds between the Labor Party and the Muslim community, he said, "In fact, we need to convince you

and all the communities in New South Wales that we're worthy of your trust and that we're worthy of your support as leader of the New South Wales Labor Party. I'm aware of the strong links and historic links between the Muslim community and New South Wales Labor in many elections at local state and federal elections. We've enjoyed strong support from the Muslim community in New South Wales. So my shadow cabinet and I are here tonight to recognize and honor that long-standing relationship and the help and the support and the electoral support that the Muslim community has given my party for decades now." He further emphasized, "We're also here to reaffirm the value of our friendship and commitment to the community, the Muslim community here in New South Wales. And I want to assure you, each and every one of you, from the senior leadership of this Council to every member sitting here tonight, that we will never, ever take your support or your friendship for granted" "We are grateful and appreciative for you and all of your colleagues who have attended, particularly those who have come from certain distances. And we know that that's a real ask of your time. And we're grateful for that," Mr. Minns concluded. ■

• Saudi Arabia and five other Gulf Arab countries issued a joint statement demanding that Netflix remove content they say "violates Islamic and societal values and principles," Saudi media reported.

• The statement said that the streaming giant's material was in breach of government regulations.

• Netflix has come under fire in many Middle Eastern countries for its feature of LGBTQ+ characters and content.

Saudi Arabia and five other Gulf Arab countries issued a joint statement demanding that Netflix remove content they say "violates Islamic and societal values and principles," Saudi media has reported.

The statement said that the

streaming giant's material was in breach of government regulations, though it did not make specific reference to which topics or shows broke those rules.

It's widely believed, however, and voiced by local media and officials, that Netflix shows featuring homosexual characters, same-sex kissing and children portrayed in a sexual light are the targets of the directive.

The move was taken "in light of the recent observation that the platform was broadcasting visual material and content which violates content controls in GCC countries," read the statement by

Saudi Arabia and Gulf Neighbors threaten Netflix over content that 'Violates Islamic Values'



the Saudi General Commission for Audiovisual Media and the GCC Committee of Electronic Media Officials. The content "violates Islamic and societal values and principles. As such, the platform was contacted to remove this content, including content directed at children, and to ensure adherence to the laws."

The GCC, or Gulf Cooperation Council, is comprised of the largely conservative, Muslim-majority states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. Homosexuality is criminalized in these countries and can be punished by fines, prison time or even the death penalty.

"All legal measures will be taken to protect the Kingdom's sovereignty, citizens and residents from any intellectual attack aimed at affecting its societies, values, safety of upbringing their generations and protecting them

from harmful content," Esra Assery, CEO of the Saudi General Commission for Audiovisual Media, told Saudi outlet Arab News.

(Reported by **Natasha Turak**) ■

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Religious Diplomacy, Key in Promoting 'Common Values,' says MWL Chief

**Kazakhstan conference praises Makkah Document
and its importance in promoting peace, dialogue, and cooperation.**



Riyadh: The closing statement of the Kazakhstan Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, attended by more than 100 delegations of influential international religious leaders, has praised the contents of the historic Makkah Document.

The document was signed by senior muftis, scholars, and thinkers of the Islamic world in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, home of the Grand Mosque, affirming its importance in promoting peace, dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect for the good of the world.

Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, secretary-general of the Muslim World League, had assigned Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Zayd, deputy secretary-general of MWL, to represent the league in the congress.

Al-Issa sent a recorded television speech in the opening session of the congress, at the invitation of Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, along with the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in the presence of the Pope and international religious leaders.

In his speech, Al-Issa addressed the importance of "common values," stressing that religious

diplomacy is an important and influential tool in the context of promoting these values, as seen at the conference, bearing common humanitarian goals.

He noted the importance of dialogue and civilized and cultural communication, stressing that being far from each other has generated anxiety and fear and created a gap that widens with time due to illusions and doubts. He added that errors in perceptions and judgments have resulted in dangerous negative effects throughout human history.

Al-Issa refuted the theses that hold religions responsible for some conflicts and wars, declaring that most of the conflicts and wars throughout human history were the result of ideas blamed on religions, but in reality, they only expressed the thoughts of their owners, and never expressed true religion or any civilized culture.

Many Islamic leaders participating in the conference described, in the final statement considered the Makkah Document as a significant turning point in contemporary Islamic history, due to its religious and intellectual context that embraces all Islamic sects.

Al-Issa refuted the theses that hold religions responsible for some conflicts and wars, declaring that most of the conflicts and wars throughout human history were the result of ideas blamed on religions, but in reality, they only expressed the thoughts of their owners, and never expressed true religion or any civilized culture.

The Makkah Document was celebrated on a number of international platforms for its religious and cultural diversity. It was also adopted by Islamic countries at the meeting of foreign ministers in Niamey, Niger, and it has been adopted in the training of imams in many Islamic countries and countries that include Muslim communities. The sponsor of this document was King Salman, who sponsored the international conference held in Makkah in 2019, organized by the MWL, with the approval of about 1,200 muftis and scholars and more than 4,500 Islamic thinkers. MWL Secretary-General Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa addresses the opening session of the congress. (Supplied) (Arab news) ■

Archaeologists find Mosque from when Islam arrived in the holy land

**The Israel Antiquities Authority estimates that the mosque uncovered
ahead of new construction in the Bedouin town of Rahat
in the Negev desert, dates to the 7th to 8th centuries.**

Workers pray inside the remains of a mosque discovered by the Israel Antiquities Authority and which they say is one of the world's oldest mosques, in the outskirts of the Bedouin town of Rahat in southern Israel on July 18, 2019. (Reuters)

Archaeologists in Israel have discovered the remains of one of the world's oldest rural mosques, built around the time Islam arrived in the holy land, they said on Thursday.

The Israel Antiquities Authority estimates that the mosque uncovered ahead of new



construction in the Bedouin town of Rahat in the Negev desert, dates back to the 7th to 8th centuries.

There are large mosques known to be from that period in Jerusalem and in Mecca but it is rare to find a house of prayer so ancient whose congregation is likely to have been local farmers, the antiquities authority said.

Excavated at the site where the remains of an open-air mosque — a rectangular building, about the size of a single-car garage, with a prayer niche facing south towards Mecca.

"This is one of the earliest mosques known from the beginning of the arrival of Islam in Israel, after the Arab conquest of 636 C.E.," said Gideon Avni of the antiquities authority.

"The discovery of the village and the mosque in its vicinity are a significant contribution to the study of the history of the country during this turbulent period." ■

OIC Medicine Regulatory Authorities Organizes Second Meeting



Staff Writer

Istanbul: The Second Meeting of National Medicine Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Member States held on September 5.

The NMRAs Meeting for access to safe, effective and quality medicine and vaccines in OIC Member States was inaugurated by the Turkish Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Tolga Tolunay and in the presence of Ambassador Askar Mussinov, OIC Assistant Secretary General for Science and Technology and the heads of NMRAs.

In the opening session, Amb.

Mussinov conveyed the greetings of the OIC Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taha. He also expressed his thanks to the Republic of Türkiye, as well as, the Republic of Indonesia for hosting the Meetings of NMRAs.

Ambassador Mussinov stated that this meeting comes at a time when the world is recovering from COVID-19 pandemic and this platform has proved to be a useful tool in rallying the NMRAs of Member States to exchange ideas and experiences.

Amb. Mussinov recalled the efforts that started by the establishment of the OIC Vaccine Manufacturers' Group calling for support to the process to overcome the challenges faced by some African Member States during the epidemic period.

On the sideline of the Meeting, Amb Askar met Dr. Tolunay where they both discussed the mutual relation between the OIC and Republic of Türkiye on medicine issues and other related topics. ■



Iran Sportswomen make history in Islamic Countries Games



TEHRAN (MNA): Iran's female athletes made history in the latest Islamic Countries Games with remarkable achievements, proving that the hijab is not a restriction on the path to success. The 5th edition of the Islamic Solidarity Games was held from August 9 to 18, 2022 in Turkey under the aegis of the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF).

Over 4,000 athletes from 56 states

competed in the Games in which 19 sports and four Para sports were on the program.

The fact that our female athletes enter sports arenas with hijab [Islamic modest dressing] is very important," he further noted.

Thanks to the support of the 13th government, Iranian female athletes could scoop colorful medals in the event while observing the Hijab as Islamic culture. ■

New Delhi: A book authored by a Vatican cardinal and published by the New Delhi-based Islamic Studies Association aims to help Christian readers discover and contemplate the spiritual gems found in the Quran, the holy book of Muslims.

Emeritus Professor Akhtarul Wasey of the Jamia Millia Islamia on September 3 released the booklet *"Journeying with Muslims: Listening, Praying and Working Together"* at a program joined organized by the Indialogue Foundation and Indian Social Institute along with the Islamic Studies Association.

The book was written by Cardinal Michael Louis Fitzgerald, one of the foremost Catholic scholars in the field of Christian-Muslim relations. The 85-year-old cardinal served in the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue as Secretary between 1987 and 2002 and then president for the next six years.

While launching of the book, Wasey thanked Cardinal Fitzgerald for offering the "wonderful" text. He further said that in *Journeying with Muslims*, the Cardinal proposes Christians could accompany their Muslim brothers through reading and reflecting on the passages of the Qur'an without compromising their identity as Christians. Since the Qur'an lies at the heart of

Book Launched to Help Discover Spiritual Gems in Quran

Since the Qur'an lies at the heart of Islam, the new booklet helps Christians to enter a heart-to-heart dialogue with Muslims.



Islam, the new booklet helps Christians to enter a heart-to-heart dialogue with Muslims. This idea came from the cardinal's long association with the Muslim world, his deep knowledge of Islam and Muslims, and his deep commitment to his Christian Faith.

"It is a bold idea since the booklet invites Christians to get familiarized with selected texts from the Qur'an by praying with them," Wasey added.

Jesuit Father Denzil Fernandes, the executive director of the Indian Social Institute, urged the gathering to explore the common

areas of convergence between the two great faiths to work together for justice and peace in the world. Indialogue Foundation secretary general Behzad Fatmi pointed asserted interfaith dialogue as a must today. "Dialogue is the first step in establishing a healthy society. Dialogue avoiding the polemical arguments gives precedence to common points, which far outnumber polemical ones," he explained.

Jesuit Father Joseph Victor Edwin, the secretary of the

Islamic Studies Association, pointed out that the Catholic Church affirms that it rejects nothing true and holy in various religions. The Church eagerly learns from the 'true and holy' from other religions.

Further, the Catholic Church urges Christians to familiarize themselves with the national and religious traditions of fellow citizens. Concerning Islam, the Catholic Church situates Islam as the first great non-biblical monotheistic religion.

The Vatican Council document *Lumen Gentium* (16) affirms that "the plan of salvation also includes those who acknowledge the Creator. In the first place amongst these, there are the Muslims, who, professing to hold the faith of Abraham, along with us adore the one and merciful God, who on the last day will judge mankind."

Noting that Christians and Muslims adore the one, merciful God is a significant statement to make considering the stiff polemical exchanges between them in the past.

Father Edwin further said despite such openness on the part of the Catholic Church towards Muslims, many Christian faithful, including some sections of the clergy and religious, in India are not only ignorant of the Muslim faith but also unfamiliar with the teachings of the Church on the subject.

The many unfounded prejudices against the Qur'an create fear and suspicion in the hearts of many Christians. In this context, *Journeying with Muslims* will hopefully make a significant contribution to helping Christians develop a better understanding of Islamic beliefs, Father Edwin said.

(By Matters India Reporter)

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Muslim Woman Presents Sermon in Church



Syed Ali Mujtaba

Chennai: Shehanaz Parveen, a member of Jeeva Shanthi Trust that provided yeomen service during the Covid-19 crisis was invited by the iconic CSI All Souls' Church in Coimbatore to give a sermon at the Sunday service inside the church prayer hall on August 28, 2022.

In her three-minute address, Ms. Parveen said, "Our service to humanity is a real opportunity to prove our genuine love for God, and God alone."

Ms. Parveen who addressed the gathering wearing Hijab, ended

her sermon with a verse from the Bible, "One who is gracious to a poor person lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed (Proverbs 19:17)."

"We do not have words to explain our happiness. I truly believe that this type of gesture among different faiths is what the country needs right now," Ms. Parveen said adding, "after all, all religions emphasis love and harmony."

Ms. Parveen got a standing ovation from the congregation as she thanked the CSI church for the

rare gesture of honor and to give a glimpse of Jeeva Shanthi's services. Jeeva Shanthi Trust had arranged the last rites for more than 10,000 persons, including for unclaimed and abandoned bodies during Covid 19 pandemic.

The Trust's founder Mohamad Saleem said the appreciation they received during the Sunday ceremony had given them more strength to continue their services. The trust has members and volunteers from different faiths. During the introduction, presbyter and church chairman Rev. Charles Samraj said the service rendered by the Trust and its volunteers to society, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, deserved appreciation as they worked irrespective of the religion, caste, creed, or social status of people who were in need.

"We have a theme for every Sunday service. This Sunday's theme was 'God: For people of all faith'. We found that it was appropriate to invite key people from the trust and honor them as their services do go well with the theme," he said. The church administration felicitated all representatives from the Jeeva Shanthi trust with shawls.

(Syed Ali Mujtaba can be contacted at syedalimujtaba2007@gmail.com)

Jamiat Organizes Sadbhawna Sansads across Country to Spread Message of Love



New Delhi: On August 28, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind (M) held Sadbhawna Sansads (communal peace assemblies) in more than 100 cities throughout the nation, including Bhopal, Kargone, Ranchi, Darrang Karimganj (Assam), Manipur, Goa, Meghalaya, Mewat, Yamuna Nagar, Kishanganj, and Mohali.

The objective behind this campaign was to spread the message of national unity and peace which is under threat from the Hindutva communal forces. The participants raised slogans such as "Manovta Ka Raj Hoga", and "Pura Bharat Saath Hoga", "nafrathataodesh Bachao, nafratke pujaari Bharat chodo, hinsawadideshke Dushman haen, na teer se natalwar se

desh challenge peyaar se'. These slogans were also displayed at the meeting places.

JUH president (M) Maulana Mahmood Madani, said that, "India is our homeland, and we love it with all of our hearts. Its greatest strength is its unity in diversity, and numerous civilizations and religious groups have lived here for millennia. Even the tyrannical British government was unable to abolish this distinction.

Without taking the name of RSS, he said these days certain forces want to erase the diversity of this country. But no matter how powerful they are, they cannot defeat our centuries-old unity. The purpose of holding sansads is to thwart the design of communal

forces.

In his message, Jagadguru Vijayendra Saraswati through his representative said that people of all religions in India are like the five fingers of a hand and will remain so in the future too. He said that unity, *sankalp* and prayers are three such *mantras* that are for the sons of this great land. And undoubtedly Muslims are also the sons of India. Addressing the meeting, JUH, General Secretary Maulana Hakeemuddin Qasmi said that this event was not of any particular group, but a joint gathering of all those people who love the country. Sikh leader, Harpath Singh, Christian Pastor Santom Church Yesri Sargunam in Chennai, Mahendra Pratap Singh Director Hoffman in Ranchi, Bhaskar Prasad in Bangalore, Manohar Chandra Prasad of Dalit Christian Leader Bangalore, Surjeet Singh Imphal, Bhante Sarpet Sahib Amravati, Swami Dujendrananda Maharaj Ramakrishna Mission Ashram, Malda, Dayaram Naam Devji Bhopal, Father Stephen Mariaji, Professor Manoj Jain ji, F. Max Periya Goa, Mahant Madhugiri, Guru Vasu Devgiri Mukteshwar Mandir Palanpur, and five hundred Hindu religious from across the country participated in the Sadbhawna Sansad.

Report on five members of the Muslim community Meeting With Bhagwat Ji



S Y Quraishi

Ever since the news broke out that five members of the Muslim community met RSS chief Mr. Mohan Bhagwat on 22 Aug 2022, the media has gone to town with its various interpretations.

The five Individuals were former LG of Delhi, Najeeb Jung, journalist Shahid Siddiqui, hotelier Saeed Shervani, Lt Gen Zameer Uddin Shah, and this writer.

I would like to clarify that this was entirely an initiative of five of us, a motley group of friends, with a common concern about the insecurity of the Muslim community and belief in the process of dialogue.

After the news broke, we received innumerable messages of support from members of the Muslim community and even the non-Muslims, echoing our feeling that the process of dialogue is the only way forward.

We have also seen many critical comments. Like who 'authorized' us to represent the community.

Some expressed concern that our so far untarnished individual reputation would be in jeopardy by our "association" with the communal organization like the RSS. Some warned us of being "entrapped". Yet no one questioned that dialogue is the only way forward.

We have been asked a host of questions which I will deal with through this piece, requested by the Indian Express, to set the record straight.

What prompted us to seek this meeting? Well, our pressing concerns about the way things are going. The insecurity is being increasingly felt by the Muslim community in the wake of recurring incidents of lynching of the innocents, calls by Hindutva hotheads for genocide, marginalization of the community in almost every field, etc.

What was the meeting like? First of all, we were surprised to see the simplicity of his modest office. His punctuality when he entered on the dot at 10 am. His patience. He listened to all of us with rapt attention for an hour without once interrupting any of us.

The only other person in attendance was Mr. Krishan Gopal, his close associate.

Of course, we could sense that he was speaking from a position of authority. But it was subtle. No overbearing demeanor. Nothing that would make us uncomfortable.

In his opening remarks, he emphasized three things:

One that Hindutva is an inclusive concept in which all communities have equal room. The country can progress only when all communities are united, he added.

In a very significant statement, he emphasized that the Indian Constitution was sacrosanct and the whole country has to abide by it. He sought to dispel the fear that RSS is seeking to abandon the constitution at the first opportunity. And that Muslims will be disenfranchised.

Then he said the Hindus are extremely sensitive about two things, the first of which was the cow. We responded that the Muslims fully understand this especially since cow slaughter has been banned in most of India. The law already punishes the violators, as it should. His inference seemed to be that even in states where there is no legal ban, Muslims should voluntarily shun beef. Easy enough if ensures security.

The other sensitivity he mentioned was Hindus being called "kafir". We responded that though the original meaning of this Arabic word was non-believer, if it is considered offensive and derogatory, Muslims must avoid it completely. Very easy. Very doable. The Quran mentions that 'Allah is rabbulalamin', not rabbul Muslimeen - God of the universe, not of Muslims alone. Quran says 'unto you your religion, unto me mine.'

We also pointed out to him an equally offensive term used for every Muslim - jihadi and Pakistani.

He agreed that it must stop immediately.

We suggested the need for a continuing dialogue and whether



Moin Qazi

The South Indian city of Bidar the northernmost part of Karnataka, 145 km from Hyderabad is barely known beyond the subcontinent. But in recent years, it has built a great reputation in the field of education. It is drawing students from miles around, and the teaching pedagogy at its largest seminary (madrasa) that is delivering amazing outcomes has confounded educationists. The madrasa is not just opening the gateway to modern careers but also strengthening the prospects of eternal salvation.

In a narrow alleyway, opposite the 15th-century edifice of Madras, a of Mahmud Gawan (1472) in the GoleKhana area of Bidar stands Shaheen School, the flagship institution of a vibrant educational revolution whose ripples are touching thousands of lives across the country. Parents seeking a blend of temporal and spiritual education are choosing it over mainstream institutions. It offers a bridge course for madrasa pass outs and enables them to join the mainstream education system.

When Abdul Qadeer, an engineer by profession, began his enterprise in a one-room tenement accommodating 18 students way back in 1989 he never imagined that his effort would become a harbinger of a unique educational revolution. With a mission to "shape an ideal seat of learning that is accessible to one and all the movement has mushroomed into a major center of academic excellence and a beacon of modern learning, touching the lives of more than 11000 students supervised by 400 teachers, all of them engaged in the creation of knowledge wealth. The network comprises nine schools, 16 pre-university colleges, and a degree college having its clones in several cities. It has turned more than 900 students into doctors in the last 15 years.

A Madrasa that Promises Both Heaven and Earth



Shaheen School, Bidar



Abdul Qadeer

Muslims desperately need such institutions. they comprise 14% of India's population but have the highest illiteracy rate (42.7%), the lowest level of enrolment in higher education (4.4%) the lowest share of public (or any formal) jobs, school and university posts including that of government jobs (4.9%), earn less than other groups, are more excluded from the financial world, and spent fewer years in school even though. Pitifully Muslims account for 40 percent of India's prison population.

While the debate over the modernization of madrasas continues, there are several madrasas in India initiating change to bring them in tune with modern times. Some recent reform efforts have focused on modernizing the teachings on offer at madrasas. This modernization includes the introduction of computer proficiency and English language classes which strengthen the employment potential for students outside of the religious sector.

Qadeer is one of the many links in the chain of modern liberal Muslim education that was forged

by Sir Syed Ahmad who founded the Aligarh Muslim University. Sir Syed found the madrasa syllabus unsuited to the present age and to the spirit of the time. He criticized it for encouraging memorizing rather than real understanding.

Secular Muslim educationists also tend to agree that curriculums at most madrasas have become fossilized and it cannot be reformed by cosmetic changes, like tweaking a few courses or installing a few computers. They have to be provided with physical and intellectual resources and, most important, cultural temperament to equip their students for the complex demands of a highly competitive modern world.

Madrasas have played an important role in the history of Islamic civilization. They have been powerful nodes in the learning system and have been harbingers of several revolutionary achievements in fields as diverse as jurisprudence, philosophy, astronomy, science, religion, literature, and medicine. It was only when the Golden Age of Islam began to decline that the madrasas lost their academic and intellectual purity, and ceded

prime space to western-oriented education.

Qadeer has spent his active life bridging the divide between traditional and modern education. His schools teach secular subjects like science, medicine, technology, social sciences, and history, in addition to classical Islamic texts. Having a realistic frame of mind, he tried to inspire Muslim society toward modern education. Historically, madrasas were institutions of higher learning until their importance diminished with the onset of Western education. On account of Shaheen's resounding success in medical entrance tests, the college has been attracting students from as far as Canada and the Middle East. Non-Muslim students come in large numbers; Parents value the quality education and appreciate the environment of Shaheen's campus.

Madrasas and mosques are an important feature of the Muslim community and can reinforce community cohesion and integration. People like Qadeer have presented in Shaheen a model worthy of replication. It is true that more than the model, it is

the charisma of inspirational leads like him that infuse institutions with vibrancy. But these madrasas clearly demonstrate that there are silver linings in the educational horizon of Muslims. The lesson we must learn is that the community's own shortcomings cannot be easily palmed off on others.

Madrasas elsewhere should take a leaf out of Shaheen's book. Since the curriculum and pedagogy they follow were designed for a society far different from ours, these madrasas have lost their vitality and relevance. Accordingly, madrasas need to introduce subjects that can broaden the minds of students and equip them to understand modern society with all its complexities. This way madrasas can produce able religious leaders and scholars who can comprehend the modern concerns and complex challenges. Madrasas, like those run by Qadeer, can play a vital role in promoting an intellect that is well equipped to face the challenges of the modern world. Since the students are schooled in classical and modern science as well as secular and religious thought, they are better able to spot scriptural distortions. They also tend to be more connected to their own communities as well as to the mainstream society and their stable sense of identity, religious and otherwise, shields them against radicalism. These madrasas are powerful allies in India's transition to modernity.

Here is what the founders of Jamia Millia Islamia wrote for its students to sing as the official anthem:

"Here conscience alone is the beacon..."

It's the Mecca of many faiths, Travelling is the credo here, pausing a sacrilege,...

Cleaving against currents is the creed here,

The pleasure of arrival lies in countering crosscurrents.

This is the home of my yearnings, This is the land of my dreams."

Let this noble thought remain a guiding credo for every Muslim. ■

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Report on five members of the Muslim community Meeting With Bhagwat Ji

he would name some of his associates with whom we could take the interaction forward. He named four persons. And volunteered to be available himself if required.

I used this opportunity to present to Shri Bhagwat my book The Population Myth: Islam, Family Planning and Politics in India with the prior consent of my colleagues.

While presenting the book I mentioned four things.

1. Muslim population growth is the highest but the rate is highly exaggerated. The difference between the Hindu and Muslim rates which were 1.1 thirty years

ago has come down to 0.3 since Muslims are adopting family planning much faster than the Hindus.

2. Contrary to general perception, Muslims have the least incidence of polygamy as per the government of India's own report and old Census figures.

3. Polygamy is just not possible in India because of the adverse gender ratio. There are only 940 women against 1000 men which means 60 men don't even have one wife! (He had a hearty laugh at this, clearly indicating that he registered the point).

4. Muslims can never overtake

the Hindus even in one thousand years as clear from a Mathematical model which Professors Dinesh Singh and Ajay Kumar prepared at my request

The moment media got wind of it, they all pounced on the news. Reaction? Is overwhelmingly positive.

Reservation? RSS won't change. Maybe. Maybe not.

Criticism: We are "legitimizing" them! Well, they don't need our legitimizing. They are already the largest and most powerful organization in the world. Who are we anyway? A bunch of retired people who have played

our successful innings and are concerned about society and the country.

Are we elitist? Possibly. But nowhere near our accuser, who lives in a palace 10-15 times bigger than our relatively modest houses. We are not illiterate. We are equally aware of the ground realities. Lynching. Calls for genocide. Rape. Economic boycott. Voting right. Discrimination in getting a house or jobs.

Our dilemma: how much exposure to media. We didn't want to go to them in the first place. Neither did we want to hide from them when

approached. After all, we kept it from the media for a whole month, while freely talking to dozens of our friends. That should answer some cynics who said we are seeking publicity.

We firmly believe that dialogue is the only way forward. We have nothing to lose, but everything to gain. We want to take our feelings to the Honourable PM as well, at the earliest. We hope he will oblige us with an audience.

The writer S Y Quraishi, is the former Chief Election Commissioner of India and the author of 'An Undocumented Wonder - The Making of the Great Indian Election. ■



Ghulame Ghouse

It is usually seen that Muslim political representatives are surrounded by illiterates, sycophants, gundas, and greedy persons who can only do *Jai Jai Kar* to their master. These sycophants do not allow others to meet the MLA easily. Nobody knows when the MLAs will be available. They will not receive the phone calls and do not ring back. How can we accept such MLAs as our representatives? These politicians should realize that they are not masters of every subject, but unfortunately, they consider themselves as masters of every subject and ignore the views of the experts. This reflects their arrogance. Actually, they must surround themselves with educated advisors who can give them expert advice as is done by politicians in Europe and America. If we read the thinking of our politicians, we find that they are more interested in their personal success than the success of their party. To overcome this thinking all the political parties must make it a rule that no one will be made a minister for more than two terms and for thirty months in each term and not to those above 70 years of age. This way they can avoid revolts and satisfy all the ministerial aspirants. It is shameful



to see that in areas represented by Muslim MLAs there are no good roads, no Govt colleges, engineering colleges, medical colleges, Govt hospitals, libraries, reading rooms, banks, post offices, factories, and multinational companies while all these are available in the areas represented by non-politicians. Why is it so? Because they have no learned advisors. Most of our Muslim MLAs do not place and discuss the problems and views of Muslims within their party. They do not discuss the problems with Muslim organizations and intellectuals. They seem to try their best to avoid intellectuals. If a politician spends his ill-gotten money on his supporters, they call him *Qaid e millat*, *Qaide Azam*, leader of the community, and *massayah* of the poor.

Are the Muslim Politicians Rendering Real Service to the Community

In today's scenario, no single party will get an absolute majority. These are the days of coalitions. Although Muslims are nearly 20 crores they are scattered in different areas. For the success of our representatives, we need the support of both Muslim and non-Muslim voters. This our candidates can achieve only by doing good work in the constituency. There are Muslims in every political party but most of them are semi-literates who are fit only to shout slogans and paste posters. It would be better if educated Muslims join every political party and become the eyes and ears of the politicians. It is common knowledge that our Muslim MLAs do not give importance to Muslim organizations and intellectuals. They take us for granted in such a scenario we Muslims have to think

whether we can also ignore Muslim politicians and look to non-Muslim MLAs to get redressal of our grievances. They will listen to us, respect us, and get our work done. Muslim MLAs should take this lesson before the above ideas take root in the Muslim community. We Muslims must think of different political strategies in different States. If there is any coalition of secular parties in any State, we must support the coalition. In other States where there is no coalition, we must support any one party without getting our votes divided. Here we must also remember that most of the coalitions have failed because of the greed of some

politicians. Karnataka, Bihar, and Maharashtra are examples. For the present, we have no other alternative. Just we can hope that the coalitions do not break. MIM and SDPI cannot claim that they represent Muslims because they are one among the other political parties. They are not the representatives and spokespersons of the Muslims. They should accept this truth as early as possible. It is better if these parties try to join the coalitions in every state and leave the leadership of the community to the Muslim intellectuals and *Ulamas*. Whatever may be the negative propaganda against the Aam Admi Party, it is emerging as a force to reckon with because of its honest administration, free Health care, and free quality education. ■

Fear of Death

Human beings are by nature afraid of death. This natural fear protects them from potential dangers to life. They would instinctively run away from raging fires and on-rushing floods and tsunamis. But the potential danger to life lurks in every walk of life. That danger is inherent when they travel on foot, in a vehicle on the ground, or in the air. They may have an unexpected encounter with an accident that may end their lives. But for that matter, they cannot stop travelling for fear

of death. Humankind has therefore to take calculated risks in performing its worldly affairs. Fear of death is sometimes stretched to a ridiculous extent. One such instance is related in the Qur'aan (Verse 2:19) on people inserting their fingers into their ears to shut out the fear of lightning striking them. If they are destined to be struck by lightning, it hits them whether they shut their ears or not to the accompanying thunderstorm. Mohammad Shafi ■

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Syed Tahsin
Ahmed

There was no trace of social stigma around divorcee women at the beginning of Islam. A divorcee man marrying a divorcee woman (even having kids) was an accepted practice that did not raise any eyebrows. Much later, Muslim society started considering divorce as a stigma for the woman and therefore she preferred to live in toxic, torturous, and extremely abusive marriages, rather than being labelled as a 'divorcee'. Such a negative approach towards divorcee women has no basis in Islam. Muslim women trapped in unhappy and unhealthy marriages face socio-cultural and legal hurdles while trying to secure a divorce. The mother of a suffering daughter, who should be the first person to empathize, sometimes advises her daughter to forget and forgive her husband's follies to keep up the pretense of a happy marriage before relatives and friends. When a girl expresses her intention to walk out of her marriage, elders of the family get together to grapple with the issue. The very first advice given to the girl is to give another chance to her husband even if he is found guilty and to continue living with him, at least for a few months, without giving a thought to the trauma she has to undergo. There will be unsolicited advice from relatives and unless the girl has solid facts to back her decision, it is more likely that she will be pushed back to maintain the status quo.

The New Woman

But things have changed a lot now. More and more women are getting educated and they have also taken up jobs and are earning. Sometimes, they earn more than the boy. They are more independent, and they feel it is better to take a drastic step of separation if their marriage is unhappy, rather than suffer the whole of their life. Although Sharia law permits divorce, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) **declared that the most detestable of lawful things before Allah is divorce.** There is no second opinion about the fact that divorce is hateful and must be avoided. But in some situations, divorce becomes a necessary evil. If it becomes impossible for the parties in the marriage to carry on with mutual affection due to incompatibility, in such cases it is better to allow them to get separated, rather than compelling them to continue to live together. The reasons for separation commonly given are abusive husband, husband having an extra-marital affair, emotional torture by in-laws, the husband

being impotent, etc. Many such allegations may not be true and may not be genuine.

Talaq, Khula and Darul Qaza

A divorce can be initiated by the husband (*Talaq*) or it can be initiated by the wife (*Khula*). It is generally seen that even when a husband agrees to separation, he wants the wife to initiate '*Khula*' proceedings. The wife has no choice but to agree since she cannot re-marry until the dissolution of the present marriage, whereas the husband can re-marry without the present marriage getting terminated as he is permitted to have more than one wife. If it was a religious marriage performed by a *Khazi*, the estranged couple can approach the Sharia court (*Darul Khaza*) seeking separation. The *Darul Qazas* (an informal justice delivery system) try to prevent the break-up of the marriage by counselling both parties in order to bring about an amicable settlement. But, if the parties do not agree on reconciliation and still insist on separation even after the counselling, a decision will be taken. Devoid of cumbersome legal procedures and legal jargon, cases are disposed of within a relatively short time in the *Darul Khazas*, in contrast to months or years taken by the civil courts. *Darul Qaza* will perform the role of mediation and arbitration, but its order is not binding on litigants. If they are not satisfied with the decision of the *Qazi*, the aggrieved party can approach the civil court. Matters like marital disputes between spouses, dissolution of marriage, *mehr*, dowry issues, custody of the child, maintenance, and issues related to the division of properties among heirs as per Islamic law are entertained by *Darul Qaza*.

Legal Remedy

If the marriage was performed as a civil marriage before the Sub-Registrar (who is also the Marriage Officer) under the Special Marriages Act, only the civil court (family court) is competent to decide on granting a divorce or otherwise. If the couple getting separated is having a child, the custody of the child will be with the mother till the child reaches the age of seven years. There are many legal intricacies involved and I cannot go further in the matter since I am not an advocate and in all these cases a competent advocate should be consulted. I am dealing only with the social problems and issues arising in such cases of separation. Parting with the custody of a child even after the child attains the

Break-up of Marriages

Of late, a disturbing trend noticed is that there is an increase in the breakdown of marriages among Muslims. It is learned that more women are approaching the Sharia courts (*Darul Qazas*) seeking dissolution of marriage than men. What are the reasons behind this?



seven-year limit is not easy for the mother. In one case of Zaheda (name changed), her husband is unreasonably seeking the custody of even a four-year-old child, leaving her no alternative except to approach the Family court and consequently getting entangled in prolonged litigation. In another case, the husband of Mubarak (name changed) did not want custody of the child at all but refused to pay any maintenance. She decided not to approach the courts fearing prolonged litigation and she now has the responsibility of bringing up the child on her own.

The process of separation is quite often ugly but settling the matter of child custody can be even uglier. It is sad to see the agony that couples undergo, but it is even more painful to see the suffering of the child. Re-marriage of a divorced woman is another major concern, not only for her parents but also for the community.

The Other Side of The Coin

It is not always the case that the wife is innocent and the husband or his family is creating problems. In the case of Munnavar (name changed), his wife harassed and tortured him emotionally for a year. Ultimately, he decided to call off the marriage but had to pay twenty-five lakhs to his wife as demanded by her to give her consent. In the case of Mohsina (name changed), she was misbehaving with her husband and the in-laws, but when confronted, filed a false case of domestic harassment against the husband and his family members. The poor boy, harassed by the police, struggled to avoid getting arrested. Later dragged to the court, he is struggling to attend the court whenever summoned since

getting leave from his office is not easy. Mrs. Parveen (name changed) has a boyfriend, but when confronted by her husband, threatens to slap a dowry harassment case against him. The laws tilt in favour of women.

The Art of Successful Marriage

In a failed marriage, the boy's side will put all the blame on the girl and the girl's side will put all the blame on the boy. It is difficult to tell what the truth is. Perhaps, the truth lies in-between in most cases. The solution to prevent such domestic conflicts and avoid strained relationships is that the bride and bridegroom should undergo marriage counselling before and after the marriage. Prevention is better than the cure, as the saying goes. The DMS Human Rights Foundation, Bangalore headed by Mr. Hyder Wali has been rendering great service by holding Counselling sessions on marital life for both boys and girls for the last ten years. Mr. Syed Tanveer Ahmed (ex-CEO, Brainy Stars International Montessori), Mufti Abdus Sattar Qasmi (Imam, Eidgah Masjid, Jayanagar 4th block), and Moulana Mahmood Ali Mazhari (Former Khateeb and Imam, Masjid-e-Mouzzam, BTM layout) form the team of speakers. Moulana Mahmood Ali Mazhari told me that the Foundation has conducted 110 programs so far. These programs are mostly held in different mosques, but they have also been held in other places. The Foundation has also published a book "*The Art of Successful Marriage*" which they distribute free of cost. Masajid committees and other organizations should utilize the services of the DMS Human Rights Foundation and help in guiding youngsters to eliminate all the hassles and balance marital issues with trust, understanding, and love in order to lead a happy and successful married life.

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

In a failed marriage, the boy's side will put all the blame on the girl and the girl's side will put all the blame on the boy. It is difficult to tell what the truth is. Perhaps, the truth lies in-between in most cases.

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A Noble Defeat for Islam

To say that Islam is backward would only be telling the truth. Because the essence of Islam, which prioritizes concepts such as compassion and conscience, goes against the production of weapons of mass destruction

Mahmud Erol Kilic

When the subject of civilization arises, there is a question that is frequently asked, especially in Western literature. **"Why did the Islamic world lag behind?"** Many different methods are used to try and answer these and similar questions. British biochemist Joseph Needham's answer is quite remarkable. In a book chapter titled *"East's Knowledge, West's Science"* that was translated into Turkish many years ago, Needham, an expert on the history of science and China, says the Chinese knew what fire was and they also invented gunpowder. But they could not combine both to invent a weapon of mass destruction, a weapon designed to hit anyone, because they had the Taoist worldview in their mindset.

According to Needham, because of this Taoist worldview, the Chinese were unable to invent something so cruel and unscrupulous in design. That is, their way of thinking influenced their actions. Unlike weapons of mass destruction, they combined fire and gunpowder to produce fireworks for their religious holidays. In essence, they created a product for their entertainment and rituals.

With Needham's approach, we can find an answer to the question of **"backwardness"** in the Islamic world. Indeed, there must be a reason for such a great civilization that has contributed to the common heritage of the world in countless fields, from mathematics to astronomy, from optics to sociology, to **"lag behind."** Considering the global contributions of the Ottoman Empire, which was the strongest representative of the religion of Islam for many years, for example, this question loses its meaning.

How did polymaths like al-Ghazali, al-Khwarizmi, Euclid, Ibn Sina, Ismail al-Jazari, Omar Khayyam, and many others emerge in Islamic civilization? Well, can we say that the societies of Western civilizations, which we consider **"advanced,"** have **"gene superiority?"** The answer is a big no when employing basic scientific data.

In the heyday of the Ottoman Empire, individual warfare tools such as bows and arrows, the most advanced tools of the period, were produced. However, this know-how did not evolve into the creation of weapons of mass destruction over time. However, it is widely accepted that Western civilization was ahead in the invention and spread of weapons of mass destruction. From this perspective, we can clearly see a gap forming between the two civilizations in the arms industry. This development, which we can



almost call a breaking moment, is one of the most fundamental reasons for today's question.

From this perspective, to say that Islam is backward would only be telling the truth. Because the essence of Islam, which prioritizes concepts such as compassion and conscience, goes against the production of weapons of mass destruction. This **"backwardness"** has become one of the biggest factors in changing the destiny of an entire civilization. **Yes, Islam is "backward," but in a positive sense, of course. Islam could not be merciless. Islam could not be without conscience. Islam could not kill the innocent. Islam could not harm nature. Islam could not enslave people.**

During my tenure as ambassador in Indonesia, I read and listened to many horrifying historical anecdotes. Indonesian people have been subjected to many tortures in their history. The Netherlands, which came to the Indonesian region to increase spice imports, enslaved and tortured the Indonesian people. We are also all familiar with the slave trade and enslavement activities in Africa. Western countries, which needed cheap labor for mining, exploited the lives of African people, regardless of whether they were children, old or sick. It would not be wrong to say that these and similar exploitation activities, which lasted for many years, contributed to the **"advancement"** of Western civilization. Yes, this is **"progress,"** in a way. When we think about it on the physical and material plane, it is indeed extraordinary progress. When you think of the skyscrapers in New York or London's subway that has been operating for centuries, it is difficult not to describe the point the West has reached today as **"progress."**

Such progress could never have been made in the Islamic thought system. For example, **Yunus Emre**, one of the most prominent names in the Islamic world, says, **"First of all, it is important to win hearts."** That motto summarizes why this religion is hindering **"progress."** *There is also the belief in Islam that an employed worker must be given what he is owed before the sweat on his forehead dries.* That is, an employer must give their worker their wages as soon as their work is finished. Of course, such norms are perceived as irrational by today's capitalist and unconventional

structures.

In fact, when looking back at the traditional religious roots of Western civilization, you will once again come across similar values. However, with the Age of Enlightenment, the West manipulated its religious roots and turned secularism into a God. Secular man has postponed divine references and has no value to account for. If we speak in the language of the Quran, the expression **"nefsi emmare"** can be used to describe the Western-created secular man, a phrase used to describe the dark side of a person. This feature that always encourages evil, immorality, and wrongdoing is present in everyone. **Sigmund Freud** describes this aspect of a man very well. Freud, who especially studied the depressions experienced within the Vienna bourgeoisie of the period, almost revealed the psychological structure of the secular man in his works.

Likewise, **Karl Marx** revealed the economic ambitions and actions of this new human typology. Marx's effort to organize the working class against oppression was perfectly just and innocent. However, of course, Marx's continuation of this war by directing it to metaphysics and God caused him to deviate from his main purpose. It can be said that there are basic problems in Marx's philosophy, not his understanding of economics.

An Inevitable End

From a philosophical and theological point of view, therefore, Islam's **"backwardness"** was inevitable. **If we are to call it a defeat, then it is a very noble defeat.** Well, in the meantime, have there been any benefits from all the "progress?" Some technical progress has been made for the common good of humanity. However, we need to bring these and similar advances under the control of the human value system. Otherwise, we cannot prevent a monster from being created. Under a value system that does not fight with the sacred and puts the human and aesthetic in the foreground, technical progress benefits all of humanity. Otherwise, life becomes more unlivable by the day in a world without borders populated by a human type with no restrictions. The strong crush the weak and injustice becomes colossal.

(The author is a Professor, director general of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA))

(S O U R C E : https://www.dailysabah.com/opinion/op-ed/a-noble-defeat-for-islam?gallery_image=undefined#big)

LIFE AND RELATIONSHIPS

When You left, You left your language with Me



Adil Nazir, Srinagar participant

I was very much concerned about what was and what will be, while in DYS (Discover Yourself workshop held on the 16-19 September 2022 in Srinagar) I realized yesterday is history and tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift and that's why it's called present. Because I was surrounded by conflicts, and traumatic experiences I was helpless to claim why only me, why I am in this situation...I cannot tell you the tears which I used to cry. I was a mental slave, I was fed up questioning myself all the time why I am surrounded by those kind of filthy relationships, because from a very tender age I was gripped by conflicts and experienced traumas and as a student of psychology running after this text to that text, this research to that research, this therapeutic approach to that therapeutic but in the end, it was confined to words only and describing the lines.

But attending the DYS was experiential and what psychologists say is practically taught here. Here are some experiences that I get not what I understand...

When you invest in yourself/ work on yourself you'll see the transformation in others

You are an eagle flight is your vocation, you have other skies Stretching out before you

Your faith should empower you to try to grow don't ever be helpless! Will it matter in the end?

"It is as it is".

Each day you are one step closer to your living best day yet!

Seize every opportunity.

Every day that you wake up in the mornings it is a sign

'The Best Is Yet To Come'.

'Behold dear heart it's the season of change of falling crimson leaves and the gold skies, of the purple and pinks and crisp breeze, behold O dear heart let go of the fear and embrace the Change!'

People have a story that impacts how they treat you. You can offer them grace, understand they're hurt, and decide to take space from the relationship because it's not healthy for you. Knowing what someone has been through is not a reason to stay in an unhealthy relationship. Release yourself from the responsibility of healing them and remaining loyal when you're being hurt.

Accessing our heart's natural intelligence can create an energetic field of unconditional love and harmonious interactions helping humanity to realize we are one earth, one yard, one people.

I'm grateful to Sadatullah Khan sir, who has devoted his entire life to this mission. May Allah bless you with the absolute best Amn.

I'll leave you with these comments.

When you left, you left your language with me. I use some of the words you had used, and in mid-conversation, I pause as your thoughts weave through my heart. And it's like, it's like the language we both spoke still remains despite everything. And I look for it everywhere, in every stranger but though they speak it, it sounds foreign in their tongue.

Wallahi your feelings are a language of your own that at times no one can understand, but your Lord is the Master of all languages so be affirmed that He understands. ■

Accessing our heart's natural intelligence can create an energetic field of unconditional love and harmonious interactions helping humanity to realize we are one earth, one yard, one people.

REFLECTIONS



Mohammed Rafiq

Man is a social animal, just like many other social animals, he also lives in the community. But what makes human beings different from others is that they share their emotions and experiences in the communities that they live in. They extend compassion to fellow beings and extend moral and physical support whenever and wherever needed by others. But other animals though they live in groups still do not share intense compassion and empathy with their fellow members. Perhaps that is the difference that puts humans in a totally different spot. The other day a friend of mine forwarded a message on social media. The essence of which was to educate on spending time, effort, and resources on self rather than on others, the apt assertive title was 'live for you'. In times where every person is connected in the virtual world, but still lives disconnected in the real world sometimes even living under the same roof. Every person seems to be in the rat race without any clue about the destination each one is heading towards. Infants struggle for the attention of their parents, adolescents have no time to dine with their families, grandparents are reduced to caretakers, and adults struggle to see either the sunshine hours at home or enjoy the moonlight under the open sky. Everyone seems to be on a constant voyage of searching for peace and happiness. Unfortunately, it is very much available under everybody's feet but everyone struggles to look beneath. In the rush of discovering the sweet spot in time and space, one is getting entangled deeper into the self-destructive whirlpool of chaos.

Live for Whom?

In the rush of discovering the sweet spot in time and space, one is getting entangled deeper into the self-destructive whirlpool of chaos. Whether in education, relations, or even charity, one is keen to get an upfront confirmation on "what is in it for me"

Whether in education, relations, or even charity, one is keen to get an upfront confirmation on "what is in it for me" (WIIIFM). This self-indulgent and self-centered approach of 'me'-I-'myself' has trivialized every act of kindness. Unless one is satisfied by getting an ego massage, one prefers to keep the hands off the circumstances. A comparison between the past and present is rightly said as "*nekikarsamundar me daal*" (do good and dump into the ocean) in the past, but now it is tweaked to "*nekikar social media meindaal*" (do good and broadcast on the social media). In simple terms, the bygone generation served others as an obligation seeking no compensation except rewards from God and their inner conscience.

Quran in its profound declaration states that the purpose of the creation of humans is: "*And I (Allâh) created not the jinn and mankind except that they should worship (serve) Me*". (Surah51-V-56). In its all-encompassing explanation, worship is not restricted to the five important principles, but all those acts that please Almighty Allah. In another ayah of the holy Quran, it is said: "*By no means shall you attain Al-Birr (piety, righteousness), unless you spend (in Allâh's Cause) of that which you love; and whatever of good you spend, Allâh knows it well*". (Surah3-V-92).

The self-indulgent mindset has an immense impact on how one looks at self and the others around. We have started looking at everybody around us as a threat to ourselves

and as a competitor to the available limited resources. Every person tries to be self-sufficient, but most go overboard. Amassing resources unethically that goes against the saying '*there is enough for everyone's need but definitely not for everyone's greed*'. The past two years of a pandemic have broken all the myths of denial. Everything has come into the common parlance of discussion as to how some have turned a blind eye even when the closest of the family members were in dire need.

When wrong priorities become the norm and the same is passed on to the next generations, the results can be nothing but horrifying and disastrous. The most advanced nation on the planet has approximately 36 million men and women now living alone, representing a record high of 28 percent of all U.S. households (www.thehill.com). The exact picture in India is not available as we do not have official data substantiating the situation. In one study, 3.4% of those above the age of 45 years live alone, and about 5.7 percent of the country's senior citizens (age 60 and above) live on their own without the support of family or friends as per a report published on January 6, 2021 (www.downtoearth.org). About 58% of the families in India are nuclear, it is not very long ago when joint families and community living were a widespread practice. The generation that lived in joint families still exists and continues missing their nostalgic past. Today we have '*Gated*

Communities', but hardly represent the community concepts of the past. Residents are unaware of the members living next door or on next floor. There is hardly any emotional bonding except an inquisitive silent inquiry in physical spaces like elevators, parking lots or resident association meetings.

Islam teaches us to live for the welfare of society and collective interest takes prominence as against the interest of the individuals. The best example of compassion was displayed by the companions of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh). The Ansars offered everything that they possessed to the immigrant Muhajirs. "And the foremost to embrace Islâm of the Muhajirûn (those who migrated from Makkah to Al-Madinah) and the Ansâr (the citizens of Al-Madinah who helped and gave aid to the Muhajirûn) and also those who followed them exactly (in Faith). *"Allâh is well-pleased with them as they are well-pleased with Him. He has prepared for them Gardens under which rivers flow (Paradise), to dwell therein*

forever. That is the supreme success". (Surah9-V-100)"

As said in the Quran: "And those who before them, had homes (in Madina) and had adopted the Faith show their affection to such as came to them for refuge, and entertain no desire in their hearts for things given to the (latter), but give them preference over themselves even though poverty was their (own lot). And those saved from the covetousness of their souls, are the ones that achieve prosperity. (Surah59 - V-9)"

Prophet Muhammad under his leadership, groomed and developed companions who were par excellence and became role models for others to imitate. They were very much clear on the pressing question of '**live for whom**' in their hearts. It guided them to be immortal exemplars for the whole of humanity at all times. It is not too late to realign our priorities and direct all our efforts to focus on others. Because together we survive, bloom and excel in the purpose of our very existence. All the other self-centered attempts have only complicated lives and living. We can return to the global community of humanity rather than be a disintegrated population of individuals.

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Believers are the Winners

Earth is not man's real address. Death will one day erase all coloured identities. That is, worldly pleasures are temporary.

Md. Mekail Ahmed

Big or small, rich or poor, every human being has some goal, purpose, or mission in life. Although the destination is known in the game of horse racing, most of the time in human life, the destination to reach the goal is unknown. The longing desire to reach this unknown destination drives people every moment. In the mission to reach that goal, people become tired, exhausted, and frustrated. Still, there is no pause for a moment. Whatever the destination, he must be successful, although the definition of success is often unknown to people. The invisible horse called dream is

running. Horsemen are also running along. But many do not understand when to pull the reins of this horse. And that's where the problem lies. Some are addicted to achieving worldly success and some do not appreciate achieving worldly success at all. He does not want to indulge in unnecessary worldly worries because he knows that he is a two-day traveller in this world. Earth is not man's real address. Death will one day erase all colored identities. That is, worldly pleasures are temporary. Very little is the time for which man spends his whole life and youth.

What a waste of this important time! Allah has given this time to prepare for the hereafter. Because succession this earth is not real success. Wise people are never deceived by the earth. Because they know the earth is not a place of enjoyment. The life of the earth is a prison or a test equivalent to it. In a hadith, Abu Huraira (R.A.) reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: *The world is a prison-house for a believer and Paradise for a non-believer*. [Sahih Muslim, Chapter 1, Book 42, Number 7058]. The success of the hereafter is the ultimate success. This is the

belief of the believer. The name of this belief is *Iman*. And the believers are successful. Allah says, *'The believers have indeed reached Salvation.'*

[Surah Al-Mu'minun:1]

The earth is the crop field of the hereafter. Allah Himself has taken responsibility for the sustenance of every life in the world. People should not be concerned about *rizq*, what we are munching on. Every precious moment should not be spent indulging in needless chatter to the exclusion of important work. Prayer is the key to heaven. Unfortunately, many people neglect the time of prayer.

People get drunk on worldly jokes and sports. Just as prayer, fasting, and hajj are obligatory, paying zakat is also obligatory. Achieving the fear of Allah is one of the criteria for achieving success in life. Allah says, *'O mankind! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female and made you nations and tribes so that you may identify yourselves with one another. Indeed, the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most God cautious among you. Indeed, Allah is all-knowing, all-aware.'*

[Surah Huzrat verse: 13]

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ESSAY

Allah's Universe Produces Life Universally

I am a Reform Rabbi who first became interested in Islam 63 years ago, when I studied Islam at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. I have continued my study of Islam off and on since that time.

12,000 worlds. (2:196a)

I am a Reform Rabbi who first became interested in Islam 63 years ago, when I studied Islam at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. I have continued my study of Islam off and on since that time. I now consider myself to be a Reform Rabbi and an Islamic Jew. Actually I am an Islamic Jew i.e. a faithful Jew submitting to the will of God, because I am a Reform Rabbi.

As a Rabbi I am faithful to the covenant that God made with Abraham – the first Hebrew Jew, to become a Muslim/submitter to the one God, and I submit to the commandments that God made with the people of Israel at Mount Sinai. Thus, I see scientific things from the perspective of both the Qur'an and the Torah.

In 2013, astronomers estimated that there could be at least 17 billion Earth-sized exoplanets in just our galaxy; the Milky Way. They also said that one in six stars could host an Earth-sized planet in a close orbit.

Recent scientific studies support a Muslim and Jewish view of God as the creator and ruler of all living beings, on all the inhabitable worlds. The number of observed exoplanets - worlds circling distant stars - has passed 5,000. Of these, dozens could be habitable - orbiting at a distance where it is neither "too hot" nor "too cold" for water to be liquid on the surface.

One study in the journal, *Nature* found organic compounds of unexpected complexity exist throughout the Universe. Thus, complex organic compounds are not the sole domain of life. They can be made naturally by stars. This means that life is not a random

fluke; the universe itself is formed to create life.

Organic substances commonly found throughout the Universe contain a mixture of ring-like and chain-like components. The compounds are so complex that their chemical structures resemble those of coal and petroleum. This discovery suggests that complex organic compounds can be synthesized in space even when no life forms have yet evolved on any planet.

By analyzing spectra of star dust formed in exploding stars, the astrophysicists showed that stars are in fact, making complex organic compounds, and doing so in extremely short time scales of weeks. Most interestingly, this organic star dust is similar in structure to complex organic compounds found in meteorites. Since meteorites are remnants of our early Solar System, the findings raise the possibility that stars enriched our early Solar System with organic compounds. The early Earth was subjected to severe bombardments by comets and asteroids, which would have carried organic star dust to planet earth; that then helped create life on earth.

Another study published in *Astrophysical Journal* found that methanol formation is the major chemical pathway to complex organic molecules in interstellar space and much more complex organic molecules are required to create life. The range in methanol concentration varies from negligible amounts in some regions of interstellar space to approximately 30% of the ices around a handful of newly formed

stars. They also discovered methanol for the first time in low concentrations (1 to 2 percent) in the cold clouds that will eventually give birth to new stars.

As a Rabbi who believes in the verses of the Qur'an and the Hebrew Bible cited at the beginning of this article, I say that random luck has nothing to do with it. More and more evidence is accumulating that the laws of nature have been formed specifically to create life.

But planet Earth is essentially a 'dry' planet, with only 0.02% of its mass as surface water, so oceans must have come long after it had formed. Scientists think that happened when water-rich asteroids or comets in the solar system crashed into our planet. But there was no evidence to support this theory.

Now scientists announced that for the first time both water and a rocky surface, two "key ingredients" for inhabitable planets, have been found together beyond our solar system. The star GD 61 is located about 150 light years away. It has a fragmented asteroid (so it can more easily be analyzed) which is composed of 26% water mass, very similar to Ceres, the largest asteroid in the main belt of our solar system.

As a Rabbi I am faithful to the covenant that God made with Abraham – the first Hebrew Jew, to become a Muslim/submitter to the one God, and I submit to the commandments that God made with the people of Israel at Mount Sinai. Thus, I see scientific things from the perspective of both the Qur'an and the Torah.

Both have a vastly higher percentage of water than planet Earth.

This new discovery shows that the same water 'delivery system' that delivered water to planet Earth, could have occurred in this distant star's solar system.

For those who believe in the One God of all the inhabitable worlds, none of these new scientific studies are shocking. For unlike the Italian inquisition's condemnation of Galileo, no Muslim or Jewish astronomer was ever condemned by a Muslim or Jewish inquisition, because Jews and Muslims never had an institution like the inquisition.

Also, because both Muslims and Jews had many philosophers who were critics of Aristotle's and Ptolemy's science, most medieval Jewish and Muslim religious leaders did not feel they had to prevent new science from disagreeing with Greek science. Thus, even as new discoveries always change the scientific understanding of God's universe; the religious belief that the whole universe exalts God and reveals God's glory remains the same.

As it is written in the Zabur of Prophet David, King of Israel; "The heavens declare the glory of God. The universe proclaims God's handiwork." (Psalms 19:2)

And as the Qur'an proclaims over and over again, "All that is in the heavens and all that is on the earth exalts Allah" (Qur'an 57:1, 61:1, and 64:1)

(Islamicity.com) ■



Sana Rubiyana

Grief can be defined as the intense emotional and physical reaction that an individual experiences following the death of a loved one. Grief is not only characterized by deep sadness, but also by an intense yearning to be with that person again.

Bereavement is considered to be a normal human experience with the majority of individuals adapting over time to their loss, and grief, however, it remains a very painful period.

No two people will experience loss in the same way. How individuals express their pain depends upon several factors including their personality, circumstances surrounding the

death, and the way they view the world.

One of the roles of a psychologist is to help bereaved individuals through their grieving process by trying to increase their sense of control and facilitate their adaptation.

Loss, change, and control are the three major psychological components of grief. Helping individuals identify as to what they have lost is an important step in the grieving process.

Change is an inevitable consequence of loss and how much change the person has to navigate tends to correlate with how much their lives overlapped

with the deceased.

Learning to adapt to changes requires a lot of time and effort.

Control plays a central role in the cognitive interpretation of grief. When someone dies, the bereaved do not have any control over the surrounding circumstances of the death. Due to this lack of control, they can feel overwhelmed.

Five stages of grief

- Denial
- Anger
- Bargaining
- Depression
- Acceptance

How does grief affect the brain?

Grieving can lead to distraction in hormone production that results in specific symptoms such as disturbed sleep, loss of appetite, fatigue, and anxiety.

Healthy ways to cope with grief and loss-

- Seek support, find good listeners in your circle with whom you can share your thoughts too, seek professional help, and join support groups.
- Be patient. Take time to heal, do not rush.
- Stay present. Take each morning as it comes.
- Express yourself. You can choose to talk about how you are feeling either to a counselor

individually or talk in support group sessions. Maintain a journal in which you can pen down, how you are feeling and what you are thinking.

- Allow yourself to have fun. Indulge in activities that help you relax or distract yourself.
- Have a routine. Building some structure can give you a sense of normalcy and hope.
- Take care of yourself. Eat well, stay hydrated, exercise regularly and avoid alcohol, drugs, and smoking.
- Remember and celebrate the life of the deceased. Anniversaries or birthdays of the deceased can be a difficult time for friends and families, but they can also be a time for remembering and honouring them.

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Nasira Jibeen

There is no doubt that children need both love and respect. We provide them with food, but we have stopped sitting with them at the table. If we sit with them, then we are on the laptops or over the phones. There were days when parents used to sit with the children and feed them with their own hands. Those few morsels were the reason to touch their hearts and shape their personalities.

Heart warming and soothing discussions were part of our lives over lunch or dinners. Parents were demonstrating high morals of paying respect to the food firmly and politely. How to eat? How to sit? And even how to laugh with elders was taught. We have left this approach of parenting or mentoring, so how can we wish to receive the desired outcome from our children? When we don't form a strong bond with them, there is no obedience.

Our five times Salah teaches us the worth of bonding. Salah is a medium of a strong bond with Allah the exalted and a loving discussion with the creator and receiving warmth from Almighty Allah. This slow process of bonding shapes up an obedient and practicing believer. But we are not applying it to our children and forgetting the importance of bonding.

There are many ways to form an unbreakable bond with our children in the early seven years. Reassuring physical touch can make a huge difference. Physical expressions of love include touch such as kissing, hugging, patting of backs, stroking of heads, and holding or squeezing of hands. It

Respect and Love Transform the Personalities of Children

Our Prophet (Pbuh) demonstrated a simple life and made things simple for the coming generation. We left his divine ways and now are paying the high price in the form of a ruined young generation. A generation that has lost its dignity and potential to balance life and maintain harmony.

also includes non-touch such as encouraging gestures like the thumbs up and a smile and a look in the eye. Allah's Messenger (Pbuh) showed his affection for the children in many ways. He hugged them and patted them on the back. He touched their heads, combed their hair with his fingers, etc.

"...Allah's Messenger took Ibrahim (his son) and kissed him and smelt him..." [Bukhari]

The following hadith shows how kissing your children has been related to the amount of mercy and kindness you have in your heart.

'A'isha (Allah be pleased with her) reported that there came a few desert Arabs to Allah's Messenger and said: *Do you kiss your children? He said: Yes. Thereupon they said: By Allah but we do not kiss our children. Thereupon Allah's Messenger said: Then what can I do if Allah has deprived you of mercy? ...* [Muslim]

Through Respect

Respect is a two-way street and when you choose to model mutual respect, you'll be well on your way to raising respectful children.

'A'isha, the Umm al-Mu'minin, said, *"I did not see anyone who more resembled the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, in the manner of speaking than Fatima. When she came to him, he stood up for her, made her welcome, and had her sit in his place. When the Prophet came to her, she stood up for him, took his hand, made him welcome, and made him sit in her place. She*

came to him during his final illness and he greeted her and kissed her." [Al-Adab Al-Mufrad 971]

It's a perfect example of how kids treat parents based on how they are treated because we, as parents, are their first school of love. These days when we lack common courtesies, how can we teach our kids to be respectful? Are both respectful to us and other kids and adults? The answer is that we have to model the respect we hope to see from our kids. When children feel valued and capable, they are less likely to engage in power struggles.

Through Gifts

As parents, we are always buying things for our children. Giving gifts is not about the material accumulation of toys and clothing or about satisfying our child's whims and fancies for the latest things. Instead, it should be about giving with love whatever you give! Especially giving of our love.

If you give your child a toy, then make sure you spend time to play that toy with her. If you give your child a book, then make sure you sit and read that book to or with him. It's more about the love that you can both share with that gift. Children often crave your attention more than the gift itself.

Quality Time

When you spend quality time with your child, it tells him or her that you love being with him or her. Being able to spend time with your loved ones is crucial to any

relationship. I will reiterate here that children crave their parent's attention whether negative or positive attention. Most of the time parents give their children negative attention by focusing on what their children shouldn't do. This will only reinforce the negative action. Parents should instead focus on giving children their positive attention. One way to do this is to spend quality time together.

It was narrated that Abu Taiya said: *"I heard Anas Bin Malik say: The Messenger of Allah used to mix with us so much that he said to a little brother of mine: 'O Abu 'Umar, what happened to the Nughair (one of the narrators Waki' said that it means a bird that he used to play with).'"* [Ibn Majah]

Children don't understand hidden love. Express your love openly for them in every little thing. Children thrive during play instead of being

burdened with too much organization and extra-curricular activities. Prophet Muhammad would have fun with the children, make them laugh, and play with them – Sunnah encourages simplicity; a simple life with plenty of time to play.

Our Prophet demonstrated a simple life and made things simple for the coming generation. We left His divine ways and now are paying the high price in the form of a ruined young generation. A generation that has lost its dignity, grandeur, and potential to balance life and maintain harmony.

Being hopeful is a sign of Imaan. A strong hope is still alive. The moment we realize where we failed we can mend it with the help of Allah the Almighty and with lots of Duas.

Let us promise ourselves at this moment to turn to Allah and seek help at every step of mentoring our children to transform the atmosphere of our household into a blooming garden. When we will achieve this vital goal of our lives then our children will become obedient personalities with worldly success and in the hereafter too.

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Moqheeta

Rocks are continually evolving which is also called the rock cycle. Nonetheless, the progressions occur at such a leisurely pace that they are hard to see.

I never thought I would be writing on this topic, but here I am predestined to write about this unadorned creation.

Two weeks ago, I happened to attend a movie premiere titled *'Kohinoors of Deccan'*. The movie was about preserving the million-year-old rocks and learning to live around them.

The film was going to be premiered early on Sunday at 10 am. I reached the theatre before time thinking I could exchange views with some like-minded people. But I was completely

blown away by seeing the crowd. There were nearly a thousand or more people, the hall was spilling out of its capacity. I couldn't believe it. I had to squeeze my way in. The young, the adults, and even people with walking sticks....all were present. It was unbelievable to see so many people coming for a movie on Rocks.

The movie was hugely applauded. This amazed me even more. The concept of saving rocks was so passionately received by all. More than 98% of people were of other faiths. We (Muslims) were just a few in number, very sparsely dotted.

This made me think, a creation of Allah and so few of us! How should the Muslims approach this subject matter? Do we not acknowledge that everything around us is an ayah from Allah? Are we not the *khalifa* sent on this earth? Should we not be the people safeguarding the natural



Rocks

resources given to us by Him?

Today, I won't talk much about the facts about rocks, because you all have covered it in your science or social studies. You all know what igneous rocks, sedimentary rocks or metamorphic rocks are. What I want to do today is to integrate your scientific knowledge about rocks into the knowledge every Muslim should hold.

One might think, how can a rock be of any significance to Muslims? Isn't rock such an indistinct creation lying around anywhere? Is that so? The first lesson we will take today is to consider each creation as a

miracle of Allah. This lifeless creation is found everywhere. No matter where we are, we are bound to be around rocks. It is the most used creation since the beginning of time. As a tool, as a weapon, as furniture, as utensils, as building materials,it has been used for countless purposes and it is still being widely used.

Sadly, rocks have also been used as idols of self-imagined gods and have been worshipped by numerous generations. These people went against the prophets and spread mischief.

Allah swt draws our attention in chapter *Al Hijr* named The Rock verse 80, to the Dwellers of the Rock, whose fate is mentioned as a warning to those who contemplated the slaying of the Prophet.

Rocks have played an important role even for Muslims, but we never gave them the position of worship. *Hajar ul Aswad* is a

revered stone and all of us try our utmost to go near it and kiss it. But never has it been more than a stone.

As a Muslim parent or teacher, one must make use of this humble rock to educate the children in so many different ways. This is what *Taleem* is. *Taleem* is not imparted only through books. We should use the *ayaat* around us to connect our children with their creator.

Create opportunities for children to learn more about the purpose of rocks, their uses of them, rocks mentioned in the Quran, and rocks used as a metaphor for the human heart.

Let them explore more about the Dome of the rock, the rock which has the footprints of Ibrahim AS, and the Black stone.

Let the children see the beauty and purpose in every creation of Allah swt. Let their research make them fall in love with their Rabb and constantly be in His praise. ■

Staff Writer

Aligarh: Aligarh Muslim University mourned and paid rich tributes to its alumnus Prof B Sheik Ali who was a renowned historian and former Vice Chancellor of Goa and Mangalore universities. He passed away in Mysuru after a brief illness. He was 98 years old. "It is with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Prof Sheik Ali. On behalf of the AMU community, I send the deepest condolences to the deceased's family and friends. We are all mourning the sad demise, but we will keep celebrating his remarkable seminal works and contributions. It was an honor to have known such a great person", said AMU Vice Chancellor, Prof Tariq Mansoor.

Prof Gulfishan Khan

AMU mourns Prof B Sheik Ali's Demise



(Chairperson, Centre of Advanced Study, Department of History) extended earnest commiseration to Prof Sheik Ali's family and friends.

"There are few people who have had such a profound impact on the way we look at history. His energy and life-long dedication to his academic areas will continue to inspire generations of historians across the country", she said.

Prof Sheik Ali authored 32 books which include, 'A Leader Reassessed: Life and Work of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, a book exploring what all propelled Sir Syed to focus on modern education, and 'Dr. Zakir Hussain Life and Times, A Comprehensive Biography', a scintillating array of multifaceted accomplishments of the celebrated educationist.

He also translated Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's 'Tarjuman-ul-Quran' and 'Javed Nama' by poet Sir Muhammad Iqbal.

Prof Sheik Ali was also an authority on Mysuru rulers Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan and had carried out extensive research on the Mysuru Kingdom in the British era.

He attained PhDs from the

Aligarh Muslim University in 1954 and the University of London in 1960 and presided over the 47th session of the Indian History Congress in 1986. Prof Sheik Ali was the founder and president of the Karnataka History Conference.

He was the recipient of the Golden Jubilee Award of the Mysore University for research in Humanities and Social Sciences, Rajyotsava Award for Distinguished Educationist, Mythic Society of India Award for Distinguished Historian, and Maulana Jauhar Award in 2003. After retirement, Prof Sheik Ali founded the Sultan Shaheed Educational Trust, Mysuru, which established many educational institutions in Mysuru.

Prof Sheik Ali is survived by his wife, son, and daughter. ■

MATRIMONIAL

WANTED GROOM

Kuwait-based Sunni Muslim parents seek Alliance for their daughter, 24 years, 5' 7", Weill Cornell Medicine, Qatar, and 1st year resident in Neurology, Case Western Uni, Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Groom should be from Bangalore based well-educated family, Doctor/Engineer, smart, good-looking, religiously inclined and practicing Muslim, able to balance Deen and Duniya, Respectful, Kind Hearted and having good humour, working in the U.S.A. **Contact:** +96597861271, +965 66594660.

Proposals invited from parents of professional qualified employed preferably the United Kingdom settled boy for a Syed hijab-wearing girl doing final M.Sc. (Home Science) August 1998 Bangalore born, 5'1", fair and slim. Father retired Gazetted Officer, the Karnataka government. **Contact:** 9591806242, **Email:** bilal25zaheer@gmail.com

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WANTED BRIDE

Muslim parents in Mumbai invite proposals for son: Senior SW Engineer well settled in the US, working in Fortune 500 Co, 49 years, 5'11", good looking divorcee. A professionally qualified bride, in India or US, is preferred. **Please send details to WA: 9820719129**

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Bearys bags "National Energy Leadership Award" from CII



Bearys Global Research Triangle (BGRT), Whitefield, Bangalore wins the prestigious 'National Award for Excellence in Energy Management' by CII for three consecutive years, 2020, 21 & 22 and was declared the 'National Energy Leader'. Bearys was also commended and won another accolade for the

'Most useful Presentation' at the award ceremony. The awards were presented by Dr. Ashok Kumar, Director, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Govt. of India to Mr. Mazhar Beary, Executive Director, in the presence of other eminent dignitaries at a grand award ceremony held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on

Wednesday 21st Sept. 2022. BGRT, is India's first LEED Platinum R & D Park and is globally recognized by both Industry and Academia as an epitome of sustainable development and an exemplary benchmark project. It has become an arche model where streams of students from pan India, architects, consultants, and fellow developers are visiting the project to see, learn and understand more about sustainable development and its manifold benefits. 'We, at Bearys feel elated to receive this award and would like to dedicate this laurel to our mentors the late Dr. Prem C Jain, former Chairman, IGBC and the late Mr. Mahendrarajji, renowned structural consultant, New Delhi, who have inspired and guided us along the way. We now rededicate ourselves to our relentless pursuit to promote Sustainable Development & further the IGBC led 'Green Building Movement' in India" proclaims Mr. Syed Mohamed Beary, Founder & CMD. ■

OBITUARY

Influential Muslim religious leader Yusuf al-Qaradawi dies at 96

Qatar-based Egyptian scholar Qaradawi, who was in his nineties, was well-known across the Muslim world.

Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi, one of the Sunni Muslim world's most influential religious scholars, has died.

Al-Qaradawi, an Egyptian who was based in Qatar, was the chairman of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, and also a spiritual leader for the Muslim Brotherhood. He was 96 years old.

His death on Monday, 26 September 2022 was announced on his official Twitter account.

Al-Qaradawi, who formerly made regular appearances on Al Jazeera Arabic to discuss religious matters, hosted a popular TV program, "Shariah and Life," in which he took calls from across the Muslim world, dispensing theological rulings and offering



advice on everything from global politics to mundane aspects of daily life.

His death sparked strong reactions across the Muslim world, as people took to social media to mourn his death.

He wrote more than 120 books and received several international awards for his contributions to Islamic studies. ■

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