

KHITAAB



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF AHMADIYYA ANJUMAN
ISHAAT - I - ISLAM (LAHORE) FIJI

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Unification Of Humanity And Its Religions Is Highest Islamic Ideal

*"WHILE THE MUSLIMS ARE BY THE UNIFYING FORCE OF ISLAM WELDED INTO A SINGLE BROTHERHOOD,
THE ISLAMIC HOPE IS NOT FOR UNITY EXCLUSIVE TO ITS FOLLOWERS
BUT FOR THE UNIFICATION OF ALL HUMANITY"*

Islam inculcates a proper appreciation of life in its followers.

Islam is not merely a faith, but a way of life, denoted by the Quranic term "al-Din". The Quran is not only a revelation of topics exclusively religious in nature, but also a body of divine injunctions on moral, social and legal questions.

Bosworth-Smith aptly calls it a "poem, a code of law, a book of common prayer, and a Bible in one." Therefore Islam must be taken as an all-embracing system covering what is commonly understood as religion, social conduct, law and the general problems of the world.

Such a synoptic system cannot but give to the Muslim a distinctive attitude towards the life here and hereafter.

Islam shares with Judaism and Christianity in the highly spiritual belief that the good spirit in man will survive death in a life of eternal bliss and peace. But Islam does not overlook the importance of the world this side of the grave.

Being the creation of a Loving God and the manifestation of His wisdom, the life on this earth merits

serious consideration and even to a certain degree, the devotion of the believer. The Divine gift in man of the power to master the forces of nature should be used for the elevation of mankind. Thus the Quran enjoins:

"Seek with the wealth, which God has bestowed on you, the home of the hereafter but forget not your portion in this world; therefore be the doers of good, as God has been good to you." (Quran 28:77).

This proper appreciation of life is also seen in the historic approach of Islam to the problems of religions. There is no exclusiveness in the Islamic claim to be the recipient and transmitter of God's Divine Truth.

While it preaches the finality of its message, which is to modify the teachings of its predecessors and to clear the errors resulting from human interpolation, Islam recognises the presence of a great deal of truth in other religions. The Quran has borne testimony to this by saying:

"The same religion has He (God) established for you as that which He enjoined on Noah, on Abraham, Moses and Jesus, namely, that you should remain steadfast in religion

and make no divisions therein." (Quran 42:13). Muhammad himself has admitted that he is no bearer of "new" doctrines, and that he is only, though the last one, in the series of messengers that God has sent to the human race.

ISLAM'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS NON-MUSLIMS

The office of Muhammad is again and again emphasised in the Quran as but "a plain warner" and a bearer of God's revelation. Belief being a matter of internal conviction, his duty was fulfilled as soon as he had called (as the Quran puts it) "Men to the way of the Lord with wisdom and goodly exhortation" and reasoned with "them in the most gracious manner." It is the choice of the individual whether to believe or disbelieve; for the Quran unequivocally declared:

"Let there be no compulsion in religion." (Quran 2:256).

In putting this divine declaration in exemplary practice, Muhammad gave the Jews in Medina "the same standing" and adopted them as

"one community" with his followers; he guaranteed the Najran Christians the liberty to exercise their religion; he preserved the freedom of his Zoroastrian subjects to pursue their religious conviction; and on his death-bed he reminded his followers:

"Observe scrupulously the protection accorded by me to non-Muslims."

As can be seen in the history of Islam, this policy of tolerance was, with very few exceptions, maintained by the successors of Muhammad wherever they gained power in the world.

In Western Asia, this tolerant policy won for Islam the love, and in many cases the conversion of the subject peoples. In Spain, it brought about spells of inter-marriages and fusion of race and culture. In Russia, it inspired gratitude even by the Roman Catholic Pope John XII. And in all other parts of what now have become the Islamic world, it gained for Islam masses of converts and permanent cultural influences.

So prevalent was the practice of tolerance among the Muslims that even the Christian knights coming with Crusades were induced to adopt a likewise tolerant attitude towards Islam.

ISLAM IS PEACE

Furthermore, Islam does not stop at tolerance. By its very name, Islam is a religion of peace. It enjoins on the Muslims "to incline towards peace" wherever their enemy is so inclined, even if it entails disadvantages on the Muslims. But the Islamic conception of peace is not the same as pacifism. A Muslim must therefore make a constant effort to prevent morality from evaporating into "impractical idealism or sheer sentimentality".

It is the duty of every Muslim to lay down his life, if needs be, in the

cause of right, and in abolishing "persecution", "aggression" and "oppression" and in protecting not only mosques, but also "cloisters, churches and synagogues" which, says the Quran, are the symbols of the freedom of conscience.

Since Islam recognises the individual and his fundamental rights in human society, the Islamic approach to human problems of this world is from a non-sectarian viewpoint of moral criterion. Justice is strongly advocated by the Quran in all dealings with all men, regardless of race, colour or creed. The Holy Prophet, in his capacity of judge and witness to his people, was the greatest exponent of this justice and the mighty strivings he made during his lifetime for the proper establishment of human rights and justice bore testimony to the grand universal character of Islam and its Holy Founder.

MANKIND IS ONE COMMUNITY

"Let not hatred of a people incite you not to act equitably," enjoins the Quran. To fulfil social obligations justly and honourably is an indispensable part of the faith. It is forbidden to a Muslim to revile other religions, or to blindfold his reason with fanaticism. The human race is one family under a common Father, called by what name He may be - Yahweh, God or Allah. As the Quran puts it. "All mankind is but one community". (Quran 25-38).

The Quran tells again -

"Whosoever submits his whole self to God and is a doer of good, be he a Jew, a Christian or a Sabian, will be entitled to God's reward." (Quran 2:62).

From the beginning of human history there have always been a people, who as the Quran describes them. "Direct others with truth, and dispense justice therewith" (7:18). The Jews as a nation were holding God's Special Favour by virtue of

their moral zeal. The Christians are referred to in the Quran as "the nearest in friendship to the Muslims' because of their devotion to God and their spirit of self-denial. (Quran 5:85).

ALL SCRIPTURES ARE FROM GOD

The same God who revealed the Torah and the Gospel gives to the world the Quran. While the Muslims are by the unifying force of Islam welded into 'a single brotherhood', the Islamic hope is not for unity exclusive to its followers but the unification of humanity. Muhammad was sent by 'the Lord of the worlds as a mercy to all creatures'. (Quran).

Just as God's sunshine and rain are not confined for the benefit of any particular people or creed, so should His mercy not be denied to non-Muslims. Thus the Quran enjoins, as an expression of love for God, charity to the needy, the unemployed, the travellers, the refugees, the widows and the orphans. Speaking of this mercy, Muhammad said:

"The mercy I am talking about is not a mercy for any one of you, limited and personal, but a general mercy for all people (humanitarian and social), mutual assistance, loving each other, and having pity for all creatures of God."

ISLAM RECOGNIZES HUMAN RIGHTS

Yes, it is a mercy that embraces all God's creatures of whatever race or faith. This humanitarian ideal of the Prophet found devout adherents in his successor, even in their capacity as head of the Islamic world. Thus we find the first Caliph giving generous allowance to Christian priests in Egypt, and establishing "social security in favour of non-Muslim subjects at the expense of the

Central Exchequer."

Under the Ummayyad rule, Christians were entrusted with posts as high as that which we now know as Secretary of State. Later under the Turkish rule, "the land, the immunities, the domestic jurisdiction of the patriarchs, the bishops, and the clergy, were protected by the civil magistrates; the learning of the individuals recommended them to employment as secretaries and Physicians;" and, as Gibbon showed, some of the Christians were raised "to the command of cities and provinces". Under Sulaiman, the various Christian sects were represented in the council of the Empire".

THE NEED FOR WORLD UNITY

At no time in the history of mankind has the need for unity been more felt than in this age of hydrogen bombs and inter-continental missiles. Attempt has been made by political as well as non-political bodies to divert the catastrophe of an impending world war. Religions, too, should participate in such a movement but with the view of achieving, the long-term solution of world unity.

The Jews of today have shown in their attempt to unify their scattered race all over the globe a dazzling example of human brotherhood. One could only wish that such a spirit of unity be extended to those outside the faith.

In the God who sent St. Peter to the Gentile Cornelius we find a universal God no longer different from the Muslim "Lord of the Worlds". If only the Christians would sink their theological differences with the Muslims beneath the realization of their common origin and their duty to mankind, the two faiths could be a great unifying force in the world.

"O Peoples of the world! come to an equitable understanding between you and us in that we

worship One God within one common brotherhood" is the call of Islam and its Holy Prophet. In this lies the great message of the Quran, the word of God, that beckons the world of men into one nationhood, into unity, love and everlasting peace upon the face of God's blessed earth.

The World cries for peace, for Islam; let us then call upon all men to participate in the Islamic world brotherhood for the establishment of God's Kingdom on earth - peaceful and happy as it is in Heaven.

[Editor's Note: This article was supplied by the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-I-Islam of Guyana. Many thanks.]

SAMINA SAHU KHAN'S UPDATE ON THE BERLIN MOSQUE

"As previously published in Basharaat-e-Ahmadiyya I had met with the Monument Department of Germany last August. At that meeting they had promised to undertake the repairs to the Mosque and Mission House. Since then I had kept in touch with them through the fax and phone.

Before departing for the annual jalsa in Lahore I received letters from the Monument Department informing me that a scaffolding was going to be placed in December around the taller Minaret in reparation to plaster it in February. Also they were preparing a publicity book about the Mosque which they were going to use to raise funds for repair of the Mosque.

When in Pakistan for the Jalsa the Board of Directors of the USA Jamaat and I met with Hazrat Ameer and with the Executive Committee and apprised them of the progress made so far. They were extremely pleased and instructed me to continue with the repair project.

A few days after I returned from the Jalsa I had to leave again for Berlin because the Monument and Cultural Department authorities wanted to see me in order to discuss the publicity book and show me the plan for renovation. I took permission from Hazrat Ameer and obtained his blessings before proceeding to Berlin. I had several meetings with the Monument and Cultural Department concerning the Mosque. The Plan shown to me by the Monument Department consisted of three stages.

1) The first stage would be to make the most urgent repairs to prevent further damage to the Minaret and the Parapet in front of the Mosque.

2) The second stage would be to repair the Roof of the Mission House in order to prevent further rain damage to the walls and ceiling and to repair the Dome of the Mosque to prevent rain damage to the Prayer Hall.

3) The third stage would be to restore the Minarets to their original form and to replaster the Mosque and the Mission House.

I am very thankful to Almighty Allah that I went because they had many questions to ask about the Mosque and the relationship of the other Muslims and the Ahmadiyya Movement.

While in Berlin I also met several times with Brother Hassan Haaca, a German Muslim, who is the President of the World Muslim Congress. On my last day he invited me for Iftar at his home where I met his charming and hospitable wife and their four cute girls. Mr Haaca has tremendous knowledge about the Berlin Mosque and had been a great help during the preparation of the Publicity Book.

This Mosque was built by great sacrifices by Maulana Muhammad Ali and Maulana Sadruddin. Great service to Islam in Germany was rendered through this Mosque by Dr Abdullah and others.

It is the ardent desire of Hazrat Ameer that this Mosque be renovated and the literature of Maulana Muhammad Ali be translated into German during his life time. In response to this the USA Anjuman had translated eight major books of Maulana Muhammad Ali and the Teaching of Islam into German and shipped them to Germany over the last four years.

The Anjuman needs almost five hundred thousand marks in order to meet its share of the twenty percent of the renovation costs. Please donate generously for the sake of Allah."

FIJI WELCOMES THE PIERKHANS

Fiji welcomed to its shores the President of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-I-Islam of Suriname Mr Mohammed Rashid Pierkhan, and Mrs Pierkhan, early in April. The couple arrived on Tuesday 2 April for a nine-day visit. At the Nadi International Airport they were received by the Anjuman's Assistant General Secretary Mr Nazeem-Ud-Dean Sahu Khan, Mrs Ainul Sahu Khan and other members of the jamaat in the west. A grand welcome reception for Mr & Mrs Pierkhan was hosted by Nazeem and Ainul Sahu Khan at their residence in Ba on Wednesday 3 April; the reception was attended by our jamaat members in the western division and a good number of non-Ahmadees.

On Thursday 4 April a similar reception was accorded to the couple by the Maro branch of the Anjuman at Maulana Muhammad Ali Masjid.

Mr & Mrs Pierkhan arrived in Suva on Friday 5 April and attended Jumuah at Masjid Noor. The Fiji Anjuman hosted a special jalsa at Masjid Noor on Saturday 6 April in honour of its distinguished guests and esteemed visitors. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Movement also organised a special function for the Pierkhans.

Throughout their stay in Fiji Mr & Mrs Pierkhan were guests at lunch and dinner at the residence of various members; this opportunity was considered a privilege by the members who played hosts, Alhamdulillah.

It was Wednesday 10 April that saw our beloved visitors leave Fiji. Members of the Anjuman were at the airport to bid farewell to Mr & Mrs Pierkhan with a special request "come again".



DUA-E-SHIFA

Mrs Jinnat Dean (74), mother of Mr Nizam-Ud-Dean (VP of the AAI Suva Branch) and Mr Jalal-Ud-Dean (Secretary of the AAI Suva Branch) is presently recuperating at home after undergoing surgery to her gall-bladder at the CWM Hospital. She was admitted to the hospital from 24 June to 01 July.

Mr Wazid Kamal-Ud-Dean (85), father of Mr Shafi-Ud-Dean, has had to seek medical attention recently for general weakness and associated complaints.

Maulvi Riasat Ali (86) and Maulvi Muhammad Yunus (73) both of Nausori, are also not in the best of health.

Members are urged to pray fervently for the good health of the above.

ANJUMAN COMMEMORATES MASIH MAUOOD DAY

The annual jalsa to commemorate Masih Mauood Day was held at Masjid Noor in Suva on Saturday 15 June. The programme commenced with Maghrib namaaz and concluded later in the evening with Isha namaaz, and dinner. Members from Nausori and the western division also attended. The jalsa was remarkable both in quality of material presentation and the scope of coverage by the various speakers and nazam singers. The speakers were Mr M Nazeem-Ud-Dean Sahu Khan (Assistant General Secretary), Maulvi Abdul Kuddus Hussein (Pesh Imam at Maulana Muhammad Ali Masjid), Mr M Imran Sahu Khan (Pesh Imam at Masjid Noor), Mr Mehboob Raza (Vice-President: Propagation), and Miss Femida Raza. Nazams were rendered by Miss Shabana Sahu Khan, Miss Razia Dean and Mr Wahid Ali Buksh. Tilawat Quran at the commencement of the programme and dua at the conclusion were done by Mr Muhammad Ameen Sahu Khan. The programme was very ably chaired by the Anjuman's General Treasurer Mr Abdul Nasim.

SWORN DECLARATION OF HAZRAT MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD OF QADIAN:

"I make it clear to the public that I swear by Almighty Allah that I am not a *kafir*. My belief is *la ilaha ill-allah Muhammad-ur rasul Allah*, and regarding the Holy Prophet I believe that "he is the Messenger of Allah and *Khatam al-Nabiyyin*" (the Qur'an, 33:40). I swear to this statement as many times as the Holy Qur'an, and as many times as there are excellency of the Holy Prophet in God's eyes. No belief of mine is opposed to the directions of God or of the Holy Prophet, and he who thinks otherwise is mistaken. Whoever still considers me a *kafir*, and does not refrain from declaring me as such, should remember with certainty that God will question him after his death."

"In all matters my beliefs are the same as those of the other *ahl sunnah*. In this house of God, I admit most clearly that I believe in the finality of prophethood of the *Khatam al-anbiya*, the Holy Prophet. Whoever denies the finality of prophethood, I consider him to be a disbeliever and outside the pale of Islam."



AMEEN MEETS SYDNEY MEMBERS

The General Secretary of the Fiji Anjuman, Ameen Sahu Khan, was away on holiday in Sydney from 5th to 22nd April. While there he met quite a few members at the residence of their prezident Dr Muhammad Ali Sahu Khan. Ameen spoke to the gathering on the ten conditions of bai'at. It is heartening to know that the Sydney Jamaat is contemplating buying a property for its centre.

REGIONAL NEWS

From *Sbaukat A Ali*
AAII Regional Director - South/East Asia and Pacific

Assalaamu Aleikum Wa Rahmatullahe Wa Barakatahu

"And the life of this world is but a sport and a play. And the home of the Hereafter, that surely is the Life, did they but know!" (Holy Quran, 29:64)
"And those who strive hard for Us, We shall certainly guide them in Our ways. And Allah is surely with the doers of good." (Holy Quran, 29:69)

Our prayers are with all of you for good health and happiness. *Alhamdulillah*, news from Lahore, Pakistan have been very encouraging and we are delighted to note that the health of *Hazrat Ameer*, Dr Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib, has continued to improve and he is able to walk on his own and attends to prayers with the *Jamaat*. Members are however, requested to continue to pray for his long and healthy life so that we can continue to enjoy his noble guidance. As a result of your constant prayers from around the world, the *Jamaats* in the Asia and Pacific region have continued to progress by the grace of Almighty Allah as you can see from brief reports provided below, in alphabetical order of the countries:

AUSTRALIA

The General Secretary of the Sydney *Jamaat*, Mr Mohammed Usman Sahu Khan, has continued to provide information on its activities in recent months. Apart from their regular *Jumah*, *Dars-I-Quran* is now held monthly in rotation at members' residences. The Branch observed *Eid-al-Adzha* on 28 April at the residence of its President, Dr and Mrs Mohammed Ali Sahu Khan. Prayers were led and *Khutbah* delivered by Dr Abdul Habib Sahu Khan. *Masih Mauood Day* was commemorated at the residence of Mr and Mrs Abdul Khalik Shah; chaired by the President, Dr M A Sahu Khan. Speakers included Dr A H Sahu Khan, Mr Khalik Shah and Mr Sadr-ud-Dean Sahu Khan and the function attracted an excellent attendance. Among the prominent visitors to the Branch was the General Secretary of Fiji *Anjuman*, Mr M Amin Sahu Khan, who delivered an inspiring address. A Vice President of Fiji *Jamaat*, Dr M Yusuf Sahu Khan also paid a short visit to Sydney and attended *Jumah* Prayers at the residence of Dr A H Sahu Khan. The *Jamaat* launched an appeal for funds for Berlin Mosque and had collected over A\$3,300 by the end of June 1996, while a former Fiji member residing in Adelaide, Mr Manzoor Raza has responded to my appeal and

contributed A\$50 towards the Berlin Mosque project - *Jazakallah*.

FIJI

As you can see from this issue of the *KHITAAB*, the activities of the *Jamaat* has continued with enthusiasm and zeal. *Alhamdulillah*, a very staunch and dedicated member of Suva Branch, Mr M Aslam Khan, has contributed F\$1,000 towards the Project in India - *Jazakallah*.

INDIA

Masha-Allah our activities in Calcutta, Delhi and Madras have been progressing satisfactorily. Brother Abdul Razak Sahib of Bombay with whom I have been in regular contact is making an excellent recovery as a result of your continuing prayers. His condition has improved to a stage where we are planning to visit Calcutta and Delhi later this month. *Alhamdulillah*, information received from these two Branches indicate that there are a few more people who are desirous of accepting the *Bai'at* to join the Movement during our forthcoming visit. We are also planning to arrange publication of a few more books while in Delhi.

News from the other branches in India i.e. Bhaiderwah, Bombay, Jammu, Sofipura, Srinagar and Yaripura have also been very encouraging. *Alhamdulillah*, construction of a grand mosque at Sofipura was completed recently at a cost of two hundred thousand rupees, of which eighty thousand rupees was contributed by our respected brother Haji Mohammad Sadiq Bhat Sahib. Our respected brother Prof. Noor Dean Zahid of Srinagar has advised that the new office at their Mosque is fully operational and run by Prof. N D Zahid and Mr M Hafeez Qurieshi. Work on the Library, Reading Room and the Museum is progressing satisfactorily and is expected to be completed shortly. *Alhamdulillah*, I am very delighted to report that by the grace of Almighty Allah, after some fifteen years of his labour of love and enthusiastic work our dear and respected Brother Dr Khurshid Alam Tareen Sahib has completed the translation of the Holy Quran in Hindi - *Jazakallahu Khaira*. In addition, he has simultaneously completed the translation of the Manual of Hadith into Hindi language. May Omni-potent Allah reward him abundantly for accomplishing this monumental task - *ameen*. He is now undertaking the final checking prior to their publication. *Insha Allah*, further information of

these and other Hindi and Urdu publications will be provided in the next Newsletter.

Brothers Abdul Hafeez, Basharat Saleem and Basharat Iqbal sons of late Master Abdul Kareem of Bhaderwah have been in regular correspondence with me and have been providing information on the *Jamaats'* activities in Bhaderwah and Jammu. Regular *Jumah* and *Dars-I-Quran* are held at the respective branches and other functions such as *Eid-ul-Adzha* Prayers were also arranged as usual. Our esteemed brother Mr M Y Taseer Sahib of Yariपुरa, Kashmir has written a long letter in which he traced the history of the *Jamaat* since the partition in 1947 and its activities, particularly since 1989. The *jamaat* there is making good progress under his able leadership. Activities similar to those at the other branches are also held there on regular basis.

INDONESIA

Following my successful visit to Jakarta and Yogyakarta in January 1996, I provided in my previous Newsletters brief reports on our *Jamaat* in Indonesia with some information on its facilities and activities including publication of our literature in *Bahasa* Indonesia. *Alhamdulillah*, I was able to visit Jakarta and Yogyakarta again from 14 to 29 June 1996. During the latest visit, we discussed a number of items of mutual interest and areas where there could be greater collaboration between the *jamaats* in this region. The trip to Yogyakarta was particularly fruitful as I was able to visit other areas where we have members. The National President of the *Anjuman*, Alhaji Maulana S Ali Yasir, and six other officials and members accompanied me on a six-hour road trip from Yogyakarta to Pare, Kediri in Eastern Java, where a very warm welcome was extended to us at a reception attended by about 200 members. I was told that this rural area has a large membership of very learned, staunch, sincere and dedicated *Ahmadees* and saw the evidence of it during our interchanges and from the questions and comments following my address.

The President of the East Java *Anjuman*, Mr Musni Nur Ahmad, gave a brief historical background of the establishment of the *Jamaat* there which may be of interest to share with you. As mentioned in my previous Newsletter, two *Ahmadi muballighs*, Maulana Ahmad and Mirza Ahmad Baig, arrived in Indonesia in 1924. One of their disciples was Sunandar Wirjo Burhanul Arifin (S.W.B. Arifin), who was domiciled in the village of Templak Gadungan, Pare, Kediri. He began propagating Islam which spread to the people of Puncu, Pare. People began enjoying the teachings of Islam which continued to expand and a branch of the *Gerakan Ahmadiyah Indonesia* was established in 1964. Mr S W B Arifin arranged Islamic studies continuously till the

end of his life in 1981. By then, the *Ahmadiyah* mission was very well established and his followers, some of whom are Musni Nur Ahmad, Drs Yahid Burhany, H Khoetadji, H Matsusin, Djazuli Ali Zen and M Shofwan carried on with the programme he had developed. They worked incessantly with great zeal and enthusiasm in order to spread Islam and *Ahmadiyyat* to the neighbouring communities. Currently, they have over three thousand members in East Java.

NEW ZEALAND

Mr Abid Raza, President of Auckland Branch, has also been in contact with me and has provided a report on the activities of the *Jamaat*. *Jumah* Prayers are held regularly at the residence of the President. *Eid-ul-Adzha* Prayer was also held at the President's residence and was well attended. The *Jamaat* is commencing regular monthly *Dars-I-Quran* and they plan to inaugurate Sunday classes in July 1996 with lessons in Islam and *Ahmadiyyat*.

APPEAL FOR FUNDS FOR BERLIN MOSQUE

As I stated in my previous Newsletters, the *Anjuman* has declared 1996 as the Year of Berlin Mosque and our appeals for funds globally will be focused on repairs to Berlin Mosque this year. Please contribute generously to this worthy cause and support this noble project wholeheartedly. I am delighted to note that several *jamaats* in the region such as Australia, Fiji, Indonesia and New Zealand are raising funds for the project. Remember, Almighty Allah has promised that:

The parable of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is as the parable of a grain growing seven ears, in every ear a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies (further) for whom He pleases (Holy Quran 2:261)

As stated in para.2 above, I have received a contribution of A\$50 from Brother Manzoor Raza of Adelaide, Australia. That, together with a contribution of DM2,000 from Thailand is being sent to Berlin. Your contributions can be sent through your local branches to the *Imam* at the Berlin Mosque directly.

CONCLUSION

I would like to once again extend our sincere thanks and *Salaams* and request you all to pray for *Hazrat Ameer Sahib's* health and long life. Prayers are also requested for Brother Abdul Razak Sahib of Bombay, Brother Choudry Masud Akhtar of Hayward, California who has undergone a second heart bypass surgery as well as Secretary of UK *Jamaat*, Brother Shahid Aziz's aunt who was hospitalized recently, and for all the other members globally.

Wassalam,

Shaukat A Ali, Regional Director

MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS APPOINTED

Two prominent members of the Fiji Jamaat have been appointed Marriage Celebrants (Marriage Officers) by the Registrar General of Fiji on the recommendation of the Anjuman's Board of Directors. They are Mr Muhammad Imran Sahu Khan (Pesh Imam at Masjid Noor and the Anjuman's Assistant General Treasurer) and Mr Abdul Nasim (the Assistant Pesh Imam at Masjid Noor and the Anjuman's General Treasurer).

The Fiji Anjuman congratulates Brother Imran and Brother Nasim on their well-deserved appointment and wishes them every success. May Allah guide the two and bless them as they prepare to execute their new duties.

[Others who were appointed Marriage Officers on the recommendation of the Fiji Anjuman years back are Mr Abdul Aziz (Nasinu), Maulvi Mohammed Yunus (Nausori), Mr Rasul Buksh (Nausori), Maulvi Sheikh Usman (Lautoka), Mr Abdul Majid (Nadi), Mr Muhammad Ameen Sahu Khan (Suva)]



OBITUARY

"Surely we are Allah's and to Him we shall return"

The Fiji Anjuman regrets to have to announce the death of Mrs Zairun Nisa Sahu Khan, wife of the late Dr Abdul Hamid Sahu Khan, formerly of Nadi, Fiji and (later) of Brisbane, Australia. Mrs Sahu Khan died in Fremont, California, USA on Saturday 25 May 1996. Her funeral was held in California with the janaza namaaz led by Mr Hasmullah Khan; a janaza ghaibana was held at Masjid Noor in Suva after Jumuah on 31 May. Condolence gathering in Fiji was held at the residence of Mrs Jinnat Dean.

"O soul that art at rest,

Return to thy Lord, well-pleased, well pleasing,

So enter among My servants,

And enter My Garden."

(Holy Quran: Ch.89, Verses 27-30)

NATASHA RAZA IS CROWNED CHARITY QUEEN

Eighteen year old Natasha Raza, a sixth form student of Indian College in Suva, earned herself the Charity Queen title at the school's recent fundraising event. Natasha raised a total of \$3383 and was crowned the College's Charity Queen by the Manager of Johnson and Johnson, Mr Savendra Dayal. She received a cash prize of \$200 and other prizes by the sponsoring firm.

Congratulations, Natasha.



LEST IT'S OVERLOOKED AGAIN

ADIL HUSSAIN IN THAILAND

The Secretary of the Anjuman's Maro branch, and a Senior Research Officer with the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr Mohammed Adil Hussein (s/o Mr Mohammed Saheeb Hussein) attended a six week course on "Developing Skills in Asian Seed Management and Technology" at the Chiang Man University in Thailand from 6 November to 16 December last year. The course was sponsored by the Pacific Regional Agricultural Programme funded by the European Union.

While in Bangkok, Adil met with the Anjuman's Regional Director for S.E. Asia & Pacific, Mr Shaukat Ali.

SHEIKH IMRAN ALI PASSES EXAM

Sheikh Imran Ali, son of Sheikh Shamsheer Ali of Sigatoka, passed the Fiji School Leaving Certificate Examination from Lomawai Secondary School.

Conratulations.



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WORLD IN BRIEF

[from our newspapers]

Islamic sect 4 detained

KUALA LUMPUR, Reuter - Malaysia's government is planning to arrest more members of a banned Islamic sect that has attracted thousands of followers to its doomsday creed, the national news agency *Bernama* reported yesterday.

Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayub said that four members of the mystical group Al Arqam had been detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA), which allows almost indefinite detention without trial.

"The ministry expects to detain several more former members who are trying to revive the organisation," he said.

Malaysia banned the Sufi sect in August 1994 for preaching "deviationist teachings", including a belief in the coming of a Messiah. Al Arqam schools were shut, their literature banned and their communes put under surveillance.

Al Arqam has a strong following among middle class and educated Malays, with an estimated 10,000 hardcore members and 100,000 worldwide.

Sect leader Ashaari Mohammad recanted his beliefs on television after he was deported from Thailand and arrested under the ISA in September 1994. He remains under house arrest.

The renewed crackdown on Al Arqam comes amid official worries about the growing popularity of the Shi'ite branch of Islam on Malaysian university campuses

[Fiji Times 30.5.96]

Suspected witch gets burnt alive

PORT MORESBY: Four people have been arrested and charged with murder after a mother of three suspected of being a witch was burnt alive in Papua New Guinea's eastern highlands, according to a weekend report here.

The Post Courier newspaper quoted provincial police commander Steven Touilly as saying the woman had been put inside a copra bag soaked in kerosene by a group of people who suspected her of sorcery and the bag was then set alight. Copra is dried coconut kernels.

The woman, from Kerowagi in the Chimbu province, was rescued and taken to hospital with severe burns but died later.

Four people, including a woman, were arrested and charged with willful murder, Touilly said.

He said many women from the province had lost their lives through sorcery-related incidents and warned that police would not tolerate people committing such crimes.

[Daily Post 25.6.96]

*This newsletter is sponsored by
Muhammad Ameen Sahu Khan*

in memory of his beloved mother

Mrs Mariam Sahu Khan

22 March 1912 - 10 February

1996



Searching for ways of building bridges of respect and understanding between people of different religious traditions for the sake of the wider community.

INTERFAITH SEARCH NEWS

PRAYER FOR FIJI

"Creator God,
you have entrusted these islands of Fiji
to us, your people,
We seek your blessing on all our hopes
and all our plans for the future.
Bless those who lead us
and guide them with your wisdom.
Bless all the people of Fiji;
we come from different backgrounds
cultures and religions.
Increase our understanding
and our respect for each other
as we strive for unity, harmony and peace.
Bless our children;
they are our hope for the future.
Be with us all as day by day time unfolds."

*[Written by the Council members of Interfaith Search,
including Revd Paula Niukula.]*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Interfaith Search Fiji, held at the Suva Sangam High School on Wednesday 29 May, re-elected Mr Hardayal Singh its Chairperson for another term. Muhammad Ameen Sahu Khan (Fiji Anjuman's General Secretary) was re-elected one of the three Associate Chairpersons. The two newly elected Associate Chairpersons are Mr Bhuwan Dutt of the Arya Pratinidhi Sabha and Mr Joe Sokia of the Latter Day Saints Church; the two have replaced Rev. Paula Niukula who passed away recently and Sister Teresia Tinanisolo who is now on her Catholic Church secondment overseas. The meeting re-elected Mrs Tessa Mackenzie its Secretary and Mr Mahend Narottam is Treasurer. A shared meal, pretty sumptuous, followed the meeting.

ASSOCIATE CHAIRPERSON PASSES AWAY

Reverend Paula Niukula, an Associate Chairperson of Interfaith Search Fiji (and a past president of the Methodist Church in Fiji) passed away on 21 April. A memorial gathering to pay tribute to the Reverend was held at the Holy Trinity Cathedral on Sunday 19 May; a large crowd attended. The Fiji Anjuman was represented by its General Secretary, and the Secretary of its Suva Branch Mr Jalal-Ud-Dean. All

religious organisations were accorded the opportunity to speak, to read from their sacred scriptures and/or to pray in thanksgiving for the life and devoted service of the Reverend whose wisdom, compassion, warmth, courteousness and humility have deeply touched those of us privileged to have known him. He stood with the poor, the underprivileged and oppressed of all races. He held a deep sense of justice which permeated all he did and all those he worked with.

The Reverend Niukula stood as a beacon for reconciliation and forgiveness in these trying times, when the strands that hold our multi-ethnic and multi-racial society together have been stretched to their utmost limits.

Reverend Niukula dedicated the last years of his life to ceaselessly promoting the lessons of reconciliation, peace, and democracy in our society.

At the Consultation on the National Agenda on 17 December 1993, the Reverend Paula Niukula said,

'If we continue on these islands, we have got to find the way to live together as God intended - as a family of His children, otherwise the alternative would seem to be chaos and disaster. The truth is that "God has made of one blood all men to dwell upon the face of the earth". What affects one group affects all the others.'

FROM THE PROVERBS 27(1-2)

**"Boast not thyself of tomorrow
For thou knowest not
what a day may bring forth.
Let another man praise thee
and not thine own mouth,
a stranger and not thine own lips"**



SUCCESS IN THE NEXT LIFE

"Awake, therefore, and arise, and be watchful that you may not stumble and fall, and that you may not have to set out on your last journey in a state which may in reality be the state of unbelief and faithlessness. Know and understand it clearly that the hope of salvation and success in the next life does not entirely depend upon the acquisition of this ceremonial knowledge and learning; but there is an imperitive need of the heavenly light which drives away and dispels all kinds of doubts and suspicions, and puts out the flames of greed and selfish desire, and draws toward the true love, devotion and obedience of the Most High God...."

It is really a matter for great regret that whatever zeal and enthusiasm you display in the propagation of these ceremonial activities and sciences, you devote not even a small fraction thereof to the heavenly dispensation. Your life has been devoted mostly to such matters which, in the first place, have no concern whatsoever with religion, and if there be any relation, it is of very trivial and trifling nature, far behind and below the real object. If you have those feelings in you, and the fine wisdom which takes straight to the true goal, you should not take any rest unless you have attained to and achieved that real object.

Ye people, you have been created for the love, knowledge and obedience of the Most High God Who is your Creator and the true object of worship and adoration; and until this thing which is the prime purpose of your creation, be manifestly displayed in you, you will be lagging far behind the true salvation and success."

Faith-i-Islam by the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement.