



Editorial Board

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Editorial

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Bismillah hirrahman nirraheem.

Dear readers,
 Assalam-o-alaikum Warahmatullah

With much delight and optimism, I present before you the March 2010 edition of Bakhabar.

At the onset, a big and enthusiastic “thank you” to all of you, for the warmth and optimism with which the last issue of this newsletter was received.

Pleasure, in that this newsletter is serving as a canvas to portray the performances and as a platform to voice the concerns of Bihar Anjuman.

It is said: “the more and better you communicate, the more and better the chances of yours being understood”.

Let’s hope these humble efforts of ours to reach you through this newsletter will, in course time, forge stronger bonds between us, defying time and distance.

Through this edition of Bakhabar, Bihar Anjuman is sharing a few instances of benevolence and the miracle collective efforts can result into. However, there are numerous examples, and citing some of these incidences is solely intended to highlight the fact that humanity prevails and people are working silently for the sake of community.

May Allah (swt) never put anyone in a test that He put Zeeshan into. I, on behalf of Bihar Anjuman, pay sincere homage to his assassinated parents. Bihar Anjuman assures Zeeshan that he is not alone, but with a lot of brothers standing beside him, and for him, in his pain and grief.

I put forward a general appeal to support such causes and help the needy around you, not necessarily on being asked for.

Dard-e-dil ke waste paida kiya insaan ko
 Warna ita’at ke liye kuchh kam na the karr-o-bayaan

-Syed Shibli Manzoor

When we wake up in the morning, we have two simple choices.
 Go back to sleep and dream, or wake up and chase those dreams.
 Choice is Yours!

List of scholarship provider for Indian Muslims

[Http://www.biharanjuman.org/scholarships.htm](http://www.biharanjuman.org/scholarships.htm)

Help to needy people through RAHBAR (NGO)

A/c name: RAHBAR
 A/c number: 00891450000123,
 Bank name: HDFC Bank
 Branch: D-965, Mata Ka Mandir, New Friends Colony, New Delhi - 110065,
 IFSC Code: HDFC0000089, MICR Code: 110240009

Madrasa RAHBAR-e-Banat reaches the first milestone, in just 2 months: crosses the 100 girl-students mark

Madrasa RAHBAR-e-Banaat: School for holistic education & guidance of girls
Location: Rahimabad village, near Tajpur block, district: Samastipur, Bihar

Head of the institution:

Maulana Atiqur Rahman Sb: Alim and Fazil from Madarasa Darus Salam, Umarabad, Vellore, TN Served as head Mudarris of Madrasa Aziziya Salafia, Rahimabad. Belongs to the same village

Vision: Educational empowerment of Muslim women, by making holistic education & guidance accessible to them.

Mission: Comprehensive Holistic Education [Islamic + Contemporary] & Training to every female of Bihar and Jharkhand, by establishing one girl's madrasa in every district of the two states.

Progress Update:

(1) As of 19th Feb 2010: Mashallah, there are 100 girl students (classes started on 1st Dec. 2009 only)

(2) Land acquisition: 6 kattha land has already been acquired, and Rs. 20,000 arranged for land-development and temporary class-rooms (thatched roof on

bamboo supports 4 classrooms for 20 students each plus an office room built, as in the picture below).

(3) Appointment of Teachers: two teachers (one for Islamic studies, and another for contemporary education) are already appointed, and sponsorship of their salaries has been arranged.

(4) Approval from Islamic institutions and authorities : Maulana Anisur Rahman Qasmi Sb, Nazim of Imarat Sharia and Chairman, Bihar State Hajj Committee , and Maulana Sanaul Hoda Qasmi Sb, Naib Nazim of Imarat Sharia, Patna visited the site and approved it. Approvals and

and idaraas are being sought. (5) Classes for primary sections started on 1st December 2010. More classes will be added as more funds become available. Total 60 students got enrolled in the first month ... enrollments have been stopped after that, considering lack of teaching staff.

(6) Foundation stone laid for construction of permanent hostel building, on 3rd Jan 2010, by Jb. Md. Ali Ashraf Fatmi Sb. ex-minister of state for HRD, govt. of India.

(For more details and project updates, please visit: http://www.biharanjuman.org/RAHBAR-e-Banaat_madarsa.html)



Madarsa RAHBAR-e-Banat, Rahimabad, Samastipur, first school project of Bihar Anjuman

recommendations from other institutions

6th Award ceremony: RAHBAR Coaching Centre, Patna, held on 15-02-2010

(Inspired by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's Aligarh Movement and the great AMU fraternity)

Following personalities attended the award ceremony, on special invitation of Bihar Anjuman:

1. Chief Guest: Jb. Qais Siddiqui Sb. (Poet, writer and artist)
2. Jb. Shoaib Khan Sb. (IPS, retired DIG - teaching voluntarily at the coaching centre)
3. Dr. Shamim Balkhi Sb. (lecturer)
4. Jb. Najmul Hassan Najmi Sb. (proprietor of the Najam Foundation School)
5. Jb. Enam Khan Sb. (Convener of Patna chapter & and in-charge of the coaching centre)

The Chief Guest Jb. Qais Siddiqui sb. while addressing the students stressed that "simply having certificate is of no use, until and unless they have acquired knowledge". He also said that "this free coaching centre is God-gifted opportunity and who fails to avail it will be very unfortunate" Following awards on the basis of classes conducted during January 2010 were distributed:

BEST PERFORMANCE in tests (Rs. 100/- to each student)

Class VIII:

1. Osama Nasim (62%), s/o late Mufti Naseem (mother gets maintenance from Imarat Sharia)

2. Md. Nadeem (54%), s/o Md Nayeem working as a Tailor.

Class IX:

1. Irfan Alam (73%), s/o Saidul Haque working as an auto Driver.
2. Irshad Alam1 (64%), s/o Md. Mushtaque Alam, working as a road Side Vendor.

Class X:

1. Md. Jawed (71%), s/o Md. Zahoor, small Cycle Parts shop
2. Danish Raza (58%), s/o Md. Imam Raza having grocery shop

BEST ACHIEVER COMPARED TO LAST MONTH (Rs. 50/- to each student)

Class VIII:

1. Md. Shahabuddin (+13%), s/o Md. Sharfuddin, Mason
2. Ashna Firdaus (+4%), d/o Md. Shoib, watch repairer

Class IX:

1. Darakshan Khaton (+26%), d/o Md. Anwar a handicapped
2. Md. Irfan Alam (+13%), s/o Saidul Haque, an Auto Driver

Class X:

1. Abda Naseem (+41%), d/o Late mufti Naseem (his Widow is under maintenance support from Imarat Sharia)

BEST ATTENDANCE (Rs. 50/- to each student)

Class VIII:

1. Osama Naseem (100%), s/o Late Mufti Naseem Sb. (his Widow is under maintenance support from Imarat Sharia)
2. Reyaz Alam (100%), s/o Late Nezamuddin Sb. (widow)

Class IX:

1. Irshad Alam 1 (100%), s/o Md. Mushtaque Alam (Road side Vendor)
2. Irshad Alam 2 (100%), s/o Md. Aseeruddin (Painter)

Class X:

1. Md. Jawed (100%), s/o Md. Zahoor (working in Cycle Parts Shop)
2. Md. Arif (100%), s/o Md. Iqbal (Tailor)

Appeal for Dua-e-Magferat

Dear readers, Please pray for the Maghferat of:

1. Sister of Br. Md. Aslam, native of Chakardharpur, currently in Dubai.
2. Mother of Br. Fazal Alam, Native of Darbhanga, currently Pursuing M. Sc. (Bio tech) from A.M.U

2nd award ceremony: Darbhanga coaching centre on 7th Feb. 2010

Location: Darsgahe-Islami, Purani Mansafi, Darbhanga

Chief guest: Dr. Mohammad Nehal Sb (Reader, Department of Zoology, Mithila University)

Dr. Nehal is an active academician and involved in many academic development and research activities.

Jb. Noorullah sb.: Introduced the guest and briefed the audience about Rahbar coaching project.

Jb. Badruddin sb.: hosted the program.

Program started by tilawat of quran-e-pak by class 9th student, Hafiz Shah Imam. Followed by Dr. Sharique's update about coaching progress.

Anwer hussain sb. (physics and Maths teacher at the coaching), shared his experience teaching at the coaching center. Md. Arman Ansari (Class 10th student) told about his experience studying at the coaching.

The chief guest in his address appreciated the initiative taken by Rahbar & the prize distribution pattern. While sharing his experience with other voluntary activities he said that "sometimes efforts may dilute with time and finally it may affect the outcome of the project" so he called for constancy and consistency in any voluntary project. He also shared information about scientific video conferencing program conducted nationwide for school children and promised to invite Rahbar coaching students for this program.

Jb. Mohammad Hasan Arshad sb. briefed Bihar Anjuman and appealed for voluntary contribution while quoting one ayah from

quran, {La-ukallefullaho nafsan illa wus-aha}. "Allah SWT didn't burden any soul without its capacity". Program concluded with the dua by professor shameem ahmad.

BEST PERFORMANCE (Averaged) IN TEST EXAMINATION IN JAN. & FEB. 2010 (Rs.150 for 1st and 100 to 2nd)

Class VIII:
1. Shakeelur Rahman (86%), s/o Md. Khalur Rahman (Welder)
2. Md. Iqbal (78%) s/o Md. Mukhtar Alam (Jhar/Phoonk mauvi)

Class IX:
1. Faizur Rahman (87%) s/o Faridur Rahman, (he is unemployed)
2. Mihaj Shareef (84%) s/o Md. Hasnain (working as Compounder)

BEST ACHIEVER IN COMPARISON TO LAST MONTH 2010 (Rs.50/- to each students)

Class VIII:
1. Md. Reyaz

Class IX:
1. Rashid Shahab
BEST ATTENDANCE (Rs.50/- to each students)

Class VIII:
1. Shakeelur Rahman (100%)

Class IX:
1. Faizur Rahman (100%)
(Note: Test for class 10th students was not conducted. Class 10th student's used to come for 1-2 hours for their questions and leave early.)



The Rules for being Human

When you were born, you didn't come with an owner's manual; these guidelines make life work better.

1. You will receive a body. You may like it or hate it, but it's the only thing you are sure to keep for the rest of your life.
2. You will learn lessons. You are enrolled in a full-time informal school called "Life on Planet Earth". Every person or incident is the Universal Teacher.
3. There are no mistakes, only lessons. Growth is a process of experimentation. "Failures" are as much a part of the process as "success."
4. A lesson is repeated until learned. It is presented to you in various forms until you learn it -- then you can go on to the next lesson.
5. If you don't learn easy lessons, they get harder. External problems are a precise

reflection of your internal state. When you clear inner obstructions, your outside world changes. Pain is how the universe gets your attention.

6. You will know you've learned a lesson when your actions change. Wisdom is practice. A little of something is better than a lot of nothing.
7. "There" is no better than "here". When your "there" becomes a "here" you will simply obtain another "there" that again looks better than "here."
8. Others are only mirrors of you. You cannot love or hate something about another unless it reflects something you love or hate in yourself.
9. Your life is up to you. Life provides the canvas; you do the painting. Take charge of your life -- or someone else will.
10. You always get what you want. Your subconscious rightfully determines what energies, experiences, and people you attract-

- therefore, the only foolproof way to know what you want is to see what you have. There are no victims, only students.

11. There is no right or wrong, but there are consequences. Moralizing doesn't help. Judgments only hold the patterns in place. Just do your best.
 12. Your answers lie inside you. Children need guidance from others; as we mature, we trust our hearts, where the Laws of Spirit are written. You know more than you have heard or read or been told. All you need to do is to look, listen, and trust.
 13. You will forget all this.
 14. You can remember any time you wish.
- (From the book "If Life is a Game, These are the Rules")

Heart wrecking story of Zeeshan Ashraf (An example of tragedy and benevolence)

How Almighty Allah saved Zeeshan Ashraf, from the planned manslaughter of his family [He is the orphan son of Late Jassim Ashraf Sb, slain principal of Imarat Sharia's ITI @ Purnea] is a clear sign of Allah's absolute power over life and death. Please go through the series of events that occurred with this young boy:

3rd February, 2010: Nazim (Secretary) of Imarat Sharia, Maulana Anisur Rahman Quasmi Sb. requested the moderators of Bihar Anjuman for assistance to the widow and son of Late Jasim Ashraf Sb. (belonged to Jitwarpur village of Samastipur district), who was working, as Principal at Imarat Technical Institute, Gulabbagh, Purnea (Imarat's ITI). He was shot dead on 13/12/2009 while sleeping in his residence, by unknown persons.

3rd February, 2010: One of the moderators of Bihar Anjuman made an appeal to two organizations:
(a) Aaghaz Foundation, based in Lucknow [www.aaghazfoundation.org] and

(b) The Aligarh Forum of Dr. Razi Raziuddin, the sponsors of 2 coaching centers managed by Bihar Anjuman

4th February, 2010: Both the above organizations announce their intention to support the studies of Zeeshan Ashraf, the orphan child of the slain principal.

4th February, 2010: Dr. Razi Raziuddin Sb. requests all the concerned people to devise a career plan and related support mechanism for Zeeshan.

8th February, 2010: Imarat Sharia provides the fee details from St. Paul's High School, where Zeeshan was studying. Contact number of the principal of the school is provided to Jb. Enam Khan Sb. convener of Patna chapter of Bihar Anjuman

13th February, 2010: Enam Khan Sb discusses with the principal of Zeeshan's school about the academic performance of Zeeshan and his future at the school, obtains the account number of school for

transfer of fees. He also discusses with Zeeshan's mother about guardianship of the orphan boy, and talks to his uncle (brother of Zeeshan's mother) how far he would be able to look after Zeeshan, etc.

14th February, 2010: Jb. Enam Khan Sb. provides the 5 year plan for Zeeshan to the sponsors and supporters, after discussing the issue with Zeeshan's uncle, the principal of his school, and other members of Patna chapter.

15th February, 2010: Aaghaz Foundation sends, by courier, a cheque of Rs. 12,000 to the bank account of St. Paul's High School, Digha, Patna, to cover for one year fee of Zeeshan.

26th February, 2010: Newspapers of Bihar publish the tragic news of brutal murder of Zeeshan's mother along with their maid on the 25th night. Allah saves Zeeshan from this manslaughter, as he decided to spend the night at his uncle's place.

Bihar Anjuman forms committee to bring the criminals to book, and to help Zeeshan out of this trauma

A great tragedy has befallen on Zeeshan Ashraf, the 13-year-old child from Patna, who just two months after his father's brutal murder, has now lost his mother under equally tragic circumstances.

Zeeshan's mother Ghazala Ashraf was killed along with her maidservant when some criminals sneaked into her rented house in Digha, Patna and slit their throats in the intervening nights of Thursday/Friday, February 25/26.

Zeeshan had a lucky escape as he was staying with his grandmother that night (as per newspapers).

In December, Zeeshan's father, a principal of ITI, Imarat Sharia was murdered in Purnea. Shortly after his father's death, the orphaned child's case was brought to our notice, and on our request, Aaghaz Foundation of Lucknow decided to bear the cost of his school fees for the entire year.

One can well imagine what Zeeshan would be undergoing after losing both his parents so quickly, and in such a brutal manner.

May Allah bless Zeeshan's parents with a status of shaheed, and bless them with high places in Jannatul Firdaus! May Allah keep Zeeshan under the shade of His mercy, and make him truly successful! Please join us in praying for ibratnaak punishment to the criminals.

Janab Enam Khan Sb, the convener of Bihar

Anjuman, Patna, has sent the following update with respect to Zeeshan (28th Feb 2010).

Motivated by Janab Dr. I.A. Khan Sb, retired consultant of UK health services, living in London, Enam Khan Sb of Bihar Anjuman, Patna chapter, formed a committee to pursue the case of Zeeshan with police and administration, and to safeguard all the interests of Zeeshan that the killers intended to snatch away from him. The committee is constituted of the following members:

1. Janab Shoaib Khan Sb, retired DIG of Bihar Police/ RPF (he teaches free at RAHBAR coaching centre, Patna), is the chairman of this committee,
2. Janab Maulana Anisur Rahman Qasmi Sb, nazim (secy) of Imarat Sharia, Patna [also, chairman of Bihar State Hajj Committee],
3. Janab Enam Khan Sb, convener of Bihar Anjuamn's Patna chapter,
4. Janab Najmul Hassn Najmi Sb, co-convener of Bihar Anjuamn's Patna chapter.

The committee met today (28th Feb 2010), and the following is an outcome from their efforts:

a. They spoke to the Purnea SP, Patna SP, and Patna DIG.

b. Purnea SP, Nayyar Hasnain Sb is on leave. He provided the name and contact of

the officer in-charge of the case, and the committee talked to him.

c. The officer in-charge of the Purnea murder case (Zeeshan's father, late Jasseem Ashraf Sb, principal of Imarat's ITI, was killed there, on 13th December) informed that late Jaseem Sb's mobile has been found, they have some new clues based upon which they are moving in the right direction.

d. Purnea SP has assured that he would meet Patna SP after holi, along with Bihar Anjuman's committee members, and help us in following up with the case to bring the criminals to book, soon, insha-Allah.

e. Due to massive security measures for holi celebrations, the law agencies are not able to do much in this respect. f. Shoaib Khan Sb is extremely concerned about the safety of Zeeshan, who might have been the main target of this heinous crime against humanity.

g. Zeeshan has been moved out of Patna, for safety reasons. His mamu (maternal uncle, Javed Sb, his guardian, as nominated by his mother, after his father's murder) was not available for consultation.

If you are in Patna, or Purnea, please come forward to help us, in punish the killers and to help Zeeshan out of his trauma. Write to bakhabar@biharanjuman.org, or call Enam Sb on 9334082259.

Support to late Mohd Abrar's family [Deenyat teacher @ RAHBAR Coaching, Patna for a week] after his death

Jb. Enam Khan Sb. reported the unfortunate death of Deenyat teacher @ RAHBAR Coaching, Patna, Mohd Abrar died, on the 24th November. He worked for Patna Coaching Centre from 16th November to 23rd November 2009, i.e. for a week. He is believed to have died of severe cold that possibly struck him on his way back, in the evening, after teaching the students of the coaching centre. This news was circulated to various groups. Jb. Syed Ali Rizvi Sb. President of Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations [www.aligs.org], Lexington, MA, USA, suggested to Bihar Anjuman to initiate a fund to support the family, and volunteered to add the first token amount himself. Jb. Jawed Usmani Sb. an MIT-

Muzaffarpur alumni, belonging to Jamshedpur, who lives in California, USA, coordinated with Jb. Rizvi Sb. and added his own contribution (equal in value to that of Jb. Rizvi Sb.) and sent the money to Patna, as the chain of support that was not stopping at all. On 5th December, Jb. Enam Khan Sb. confirmed the receipt of Rs.6830/- from USA. One of the brothers in UAE sent Rs. 2,500 to Jb. Enam Sb. on 1st January 2010. Jb. Syed Rashique Ahmad Sb. convenor of Dammam / Al-Khobar chapter, initiated an appeal to provide support to the family of late Mohd Abrar Sb. for the marriage of their eldest daughter, scheduled in March. His appeal led to overwhelming response from members of Bihar Anjuman's online

community. On 13th February, 2010, Jb. Enam Khan Sb. confirmed that he had received Rs. 32,710, as total contributions – he also provided a list of all donors. Jb. Syed Rashique Ahmad Sb. confirmed that he would transfer additional Rs. 50,000 contributed by members from Dammam / Al-Khobar, and other cities of Saudi Arabia. Members were advised not to transfer any more funds to this effect. The community is definitely alive and ready to support any other member of the community who is struck by a tragedy. Subhanallah! Who says, we do lack benevolence within the community?

Dare to Dream: Support to Varanasi Welder's daughters in becoming IAS and MBBS

On 1st February, an appeal was made to Aligarh groups, by moderators of Bihar Anjuman to support Aaliya Adil, a girl who dares to dream for the Civil Services, and to be among IAS/ IPS/ IFS cadre, despite being challenged in so many ways - she has been selected by the Hamdard Study circle, Delhi which provides required coaching to her.

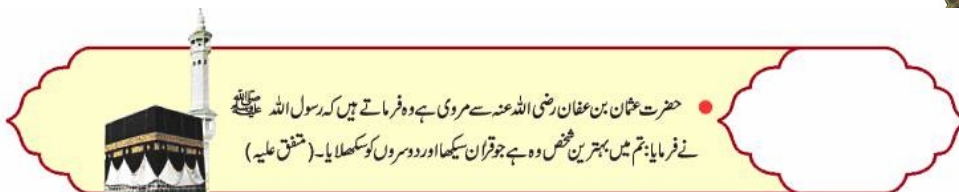
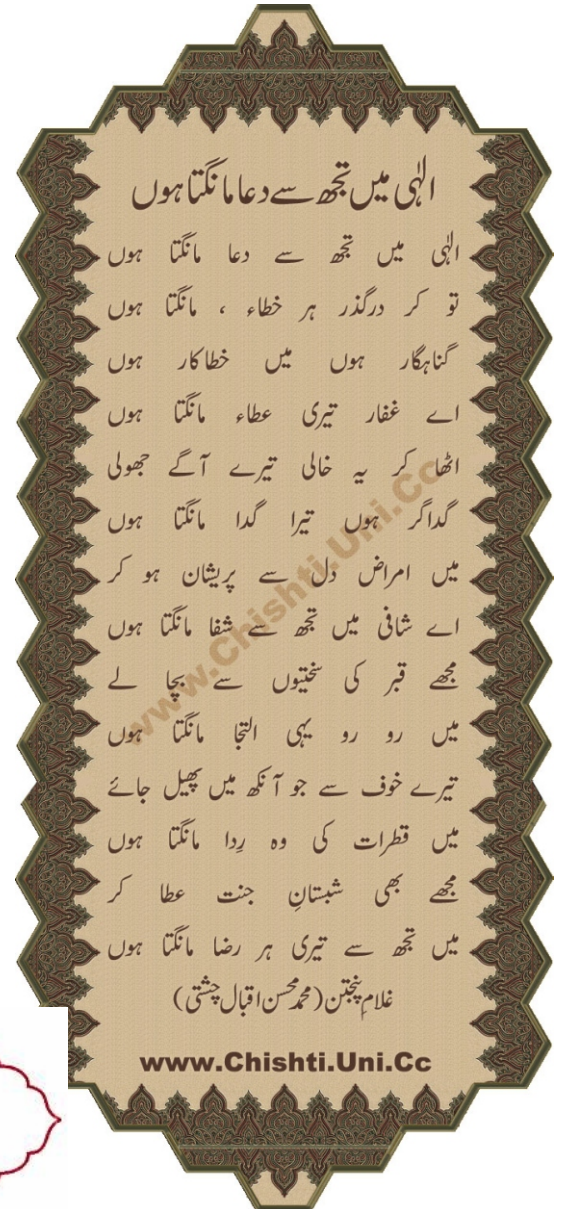
The appeal also mentioned that this daughter of a welder (Aaliya), in Varanasi, has a sister who topped her school (CENTRAL HINDU GIRLS SCHOOL, KAMACHA, VARANASI) and is studying MBBS in the G.S.V.M MEDICAL COLLEGE, under KANPUR UNIVERSITY, at KANPUR.

We must salute their parents who not just dared to dream such careers for their girl children (he has no son, only 3 daughters), but also managed to get them there. His sweat and tears seemed to have been rewarded suitably by Allah, thus showing the desired results.

The appeal was made to provide Rs. 2,000 per month to one of the sisters, or both. Overwhelming response was received from all corners. Dr. Razi Raziuddin Sb. of The Aligarh Forum launched an emotional appeal for raising Rs. 24,000. Within 24 hours of

the two appeals, online community members (in various Aligarh groups) raced with each other to support these two girls. Subhanallah! It became really difficult to turn down most of the contributions, after choosing the first two sponsorships that would have sufficiently covered for the Rs. 4,000 per month support asked for. Within 2 days, the IAS aspirant girl received contributions that would cover her expenses for next 10 months.

Aaliya Adil is doing her MBA at Hamdard University, and needs to deposit her tuition fees, for which she has requested us, We have requested Delhi chapter to verify her academic documents, and make sure that her claim of the MBA fees are genuine. We have also requested to try to get her fees waived, or discounted. After some progress in this respect, her dream of becoming an IAS may become easier, insha-Allah. The overwhelming support from community members proves, beyond doubt, that the community is definitely alive and ready to support any other member of the community who needs help in pursuing her dream. Subhanallah! Who says, we lack benevolence within the community?



Please join us in welcoming these new members of Bihar Anjuman in Feb 2010:

S.	Location	Name	Native of	e-mail id
1	Delhi	Hasibil Hassan	Gaya	hasibul786@gmail.com
2	Delhi	Md Kafeel Ahmad	Muzaffarpur	mka21@rediffmail.com
3	Delhi	Md. Jabihul Quamar Jugnu	Darbhangha	jabihjugnu@gmail.com
4	Delhi	Minnatullah Rahmani	Supaul	minnat_rahmani@yahoo.com
5	Delhi	Md. Aslam Khan	Godda	zaslamz@gmail.com
6	Delhi	Zillur rahman	Darbhangha	zrtaimi@yahoo.co.in
7	Bahrain	Shahab		shahab_khann@rediffmail.com
8	Bangalore	Asad Ejaz	Patna	as.ejaz@yahoo.com
9	Bangalore	Asif Eqbal	Samastipur	asifeqbal_01@yahoo.co.in
10	Bangalore	Mohammed Shamim Khan	Chapra	shamim27khan@gmail.com
11	Bangalore	M. Naushad Ansari	Nalanda	ruby.naushad@gmail.com
12	Bhopal	Nusrat naseem	Patna	nusrat_naseem@yahoo.co.in
13	Kolkata	Irshad ahmad siddique	Gopalganj	aron_jonah@yahoo.com
14	Saudi Arabia	Mozibul Haque	Siwan	mozibul2001@yahoo.com
15	Saudi Arabia	Mohammad Imran Ahmad	Jahanabad, settled in Ranchi	er.imran99@gmail.com
16	Saudi Arabia	Iqbal Ashif	Darbhangha	iqbal.ashif@yahoo.com
17	Saudi Arabia	Syed Khalid Naseeruddin		khalid_s11@hotmail.com
18	Saudi Arabia	Ajlal Mohib	Siwan	azlal_mohib@yahoo.com
19	Saudi Arabia	Syed Rashid		srashid@nour.com.sa
20	Saudi Arabia	Farhan Falki	Ranchi	farhanfalki@yahoo.com
21	Saudi Arabia	Syed Shamim	Munger	syed.shamim@sipco.com.sa
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23	Ranchi	Sibghatullah	Ranchi	saifi2995@yahoo.co.in
24	Patna	Saad	Patna	paithana1969@yahoo.com
25	Mumbai	Nafis ahmad	West Champaran	nafisdx@gmail.com
26	Kanpur	Ali imam akhtar	Siwan	aiakhtar77@yahoo.com
27	UAE	Md.Jamil Akhtar Siddiqui		jam_alig@yahoo.co.in
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31	Bhubaneswar	Akhlaque Ahmad	Darbhangha	akhlaque_2@yahoo.co.in
32	Hydrabad	Md. Ashif Iqbal	Nawadah settled in Patna	ziqbal@gmail.com

..... آگاہ رہو کہ میں نے بات پہنچا دی (خطبہ جمعہ الوداع)

”لوگو! میں تم سے پہلے رخصت ہونے والا ہوں اور خدا کے سامنے تمہارے متعلق شہادت دینے والا ہوں۔ واللہ! میں خوش کوثر کو یہاں سے دیکھ رہا ہوں۔ مجھے سلطنتوں کی خزانوں کی تختیاں تقویٰ بخش کر دی گئی ہیں۔ مجھے اندیشہ نہیں کہ تمہارے بعد مشرک ہو جائو گے۔ ڈر یہ ہے کہ نہ نبوی مفاد کی نگہداشت میں نہ پڑ جاؤ۔“ (خطبہ جمعہ الوداع)

”میں تمہارے درمیان ایسی چیز چھوڑے جا رہا ہوں کہ جب تک اس پر کاربند رہو گے۔ کبھی راہِ راست سے نہ ٹو گے۔ وہ ہے اللہ کی کتاب۔ آگاہ رہو کہ میں نے بات پہنچا دی۔“ (خطبہ جمعہ الوداع)

لے اللہ تو خود بھی گواہ رہیو“ (خطبہ جمعہ الوداع)



How We spend our life-span: 24 years Sleeping

13 years working
6 years in amusement
3 years at the dinner table
3 years in transportation
3 years in conversation
15 years in education
1 years in reading
2 years in watching TV

every day, you would be giving ALLAH 5 months of your life.

Can't we give 5 months out of 70 years?

Let's all give ALLAH a minimum of 5 months of our lives! (try)

May ALLAH Bless all of us.

If you prayed 5 Times

[Quran, 9:111] Indeed Allah has bought from the Believers their persons and their possessions in return for the Gardens; This promise (of the Gardens) is the true pledge of Allah made in the Torah, the Gospel, and the Qur'an

Indian Muslim-A Case of Missing Political Link

- Mohammad Allam, Minto Circle, A.M.U. (mohammad_allam@rediffmail.com)

Living in a world of political activism, where political power manifests itself in different forms to dominate the national and international issues, the attitude of Indian Muslim towards the Indian political setup is a matter of great concern. With a population of 138 million (census of 2001, but according to recent estimates, more than 200 million) scattered throughout India with decisive power to decide the fate of more than hundred Members of Parliament, the Indian Muslim presents a classic case of 'political begging' in post-independence era.

Indian Muslim living in a multicultural society failed to understand the working of democracy. Democracy is not the dominance of the will of majority or minority but the sharing of the aspirations of the community and the country for the betterment of whole. The Muslim, being the minority, has always been led by one opportunist group or the other, playing the role of power broker not for the community but for their affiliated political ideology and masters. The Muslim does not put much emphasis on the construction of political structure, mechanism, planning and preparation to hold power for long. But what they did for the last sixty years was the molding of the Muslim masses into a political tool, worked for the vested interests and seasonal leaders and parties.

The political ideology of Indian Muslim gets inspiration from the works of the pseudo-Islamists. For them, the politics is 'forbidden tree'. To go near the forbidden tree would be an invitation to destroy the foundation of Iman. They do not want to do hard labour for the forbidden tree by synthesising of political system of Islam and the West. Their only interest is to condemn the existing political system to prove their own integrity.

They want a just political order in India, by keeping themselves aside from all sorts of active politics and strengthening the political power. They do not want powerful media houses, business houses, political parties, middle class for leadership and educational institutions. But they want political leadership of the nation. Is it not day-dreaming and inviting of political nightmare?

The creation of a class of leadership is a dream of Indian Muslims for the last 60 years. But the methods and practices adopted by them are contradictory to the demand of real politics. The egoistic nature, the emotional imbalance, entanglement in petty issues and lack of understanding of power structure; the Indian Muslims always chopped their own established and mature politicians. The numerous elections for central and state legislature show how they deliberately ousted their experienced leaders. The Muslims don't have trust in their own leadership. The habit of Muslims to punish their leaders for petty emotional issues is an important cause of leader-less community. The class of leadership may have all sorts of vices, but they fulfill the aspirations of the community, and so, the nation should give them constant support. Personal interests should not be given a chance to overpower the community interest. The case with Indian Muslim is that they want a class of leader of Khilafat-e-Rashida in Machiavellian system of political set-up. How a Machiavellian system can create a class of leader of Khilafat -e-Rashida?

Indian Muslims selects parties and leaders based on merely sentimental issues. For them, the sweet tongue is better than hidden dagger ushered in the life-line of the community. Why they want to be a darling of one political party and untouchable for

other parties? Is this the right approach in a multi-religious, multi-cultural, and multi-ethnic society and country? The principle of mutual interaction on the basis of common interest and aspiration should be the only basis of contact with all parties and communities. Having a fixed option for a particular party in Indian politics, the Indian Muslim is providing opportunities to both the communal politics and the hidden enemies to flourish and put Indian Muslim's interest on stake, in short and long-run. Is it right political strategy of Indian Muslims in interest-based politics?

The need of the hour is to create a class of leadership in all areas and have trust in them. What have we achieved by not trusting them and destroying them, on our will, for the last Sixty Years? We have to develop a common consensus among the players of political system, and other communities, at different levels. Otherwise, we would be in vulnerable position in Indian political system, with a habit of begging for political power, running from one party to another.



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درسِ حدیث

حیاءِ مومن کا امتیازی وصف

رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا:

“الْحَيَاءُ مِنَ الْإِيمَانِ.” (صحیح البخاری)

”حیاء ایمان کا ایک حصہ ہے۔“

شرم و حیا ایک ایسا جذبہ ہے جو انسان کو گناہوں اور غلط کاریوں سے روکتا ہے، اسی لئے ایک اور حدیث میں رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا:

“إِذَا لَمْ تَسْتَعِ فَاصْنَعْ مَا شِئْتَ.” (صحیح البخاری)

”جب تو شرماتا نہیں تو جو چاہے کر۔“

یہ ہر قسم کا کام کرنے کی اجازت یا حکم نہیں ہے بلکہ متعدد یہ تانا بانے کہ جب انسان بے حیا ہو جاتا ہے تو پھر اسے کوئی بھی کام کرنے میں حجاب اور تامل نہیں ہوتا۔ بے حیائی ہر برے سے برا کام کرنے کا پروانہ اجازت ہے۔ اسی بات کو ایک فاضل مصرعے میں اس طرح کہا گیا ہے۔

بے حیا ہاش و میرچہ خوانی کن

(یعنی بے حیا ہو جاؤ اور پھر جو جائے کر)

Har Mirch

Seraj Akram



Hamlog hamesha apne aaba wa ajdad ke karnamo ka zikr karte nahi thakte, kya us se zyadah hamay aaj ke halat ke mutabiq mansuba par zyadah zor nahi dena चाहिए?

- aaj bhi jitni waez aur nasihat ki bat Muslim samaj me hoti he utni shayed hi kisi qaum me hoti ho phir bhi muslim samaj me woh behtari nahi zahir hoti jo honi चाहिए. Aakhir iski wajah kya he, kya ham sirf mazi me jite hain aur hazir me rote hain aur mustaqbil ke liye la parwah hain. Aakhir kya wajah he ke itni pareshan kun halat me bhi sudhar ki raftar itni sust kyon hain? Batayn bahut hoti he lekin uska asar kyon nahi hota. Kya tanqeed karne ke bajaye har kisi ko apni taraf se koshis nahi karni चाहिए?

Education for Employment and Empowerment

-Sahim Ahmed, BARC, Mumbai (sahim16@rediffmail.com)

The non-stop student suicides in Mumbai and a recently released film have opened up a debate on the faults of our education system and role of parents. Let me have my say in this important debate. I am beginning with the basics. In an average life, every individual has to deal with three things: Self, Society and the System. And education should prepare us for the same. The society is like a well-knit fabric of individuals and the system is like a steel structure of individuals, ideas and institutions. A self is a person with three dimensions, namely physical, psychological and moral, and is always bound by three P's: Problems, Priorities and Passions. All these factors vary with the person's age, gender and socio-economic conditions. Any individual or institution has to take these into consideration while setting goals and formulating rules. Negligence of any of these interlinked factors can over stress the individual and lead to chaos.

This is most true for kids and teenaged students because they still are in the learning phase of their lives. Suicidal tendencies to students don't come overnight and actually get developed over the years. Hence, care and preventive measures should be started from their childhood age. People have unnecessarily become crazy about high-fees private schools, tuitions and finally about some particular professional courses. I believe that the real classroom education starts at the age of 8 to 10. And till that age, the type and standard of school makes no difference to the kids' overall development, as long as there is reasonably good care and attendance of the kids. The

environment of creative freedom should also be there in academic institutions along with the usual conformist syllabus.

The approach towards students of all ages should not be the same. The students may be broadly classified in three age groups: kids of below ten, teens and twenties. Teaching style, timing, course volume, content etc may be kept different for the three groups to suit their health and other requirements. Kids should be given very little conventional education and maximum creative freedom along with enough sleep. Teens should divide their time equally between creative/social/personal activities and academic commitments after eight hours of daily sleep. College students group may do as per circumstances and career requirements but 6 – 8 hours of sleep is a must for them too. Sound sleep is very important for the development of young minds and it helps prevent stress related disorders like hypertension, diabetes, depression, anxiety, personality disorders or suicidal tendencies. In the pursuit of excellence, kids should not be left unattended or pushed to become eccentric.

Classroom activities should not be thought as the only means of education. At least one of the parents should give enough time to their kids. Parents should not have unreasonable expectations of their wards. Rather they should provide moral support after any failure and reassure them that no failure is the end of the world. Destiny can also be blamed for individual failures and the faith should be kept that something different and better must be on the cards. Students'

merit should be rewarded not only with financial temptation but also with a sense of intellectual pride and social responsibility. Children should be sheltered from too much exposure to sex, crime and war in computer games, TVs and films. They should be encouraged towards sports and literature to inculcate balanced behavior and a thoughtful attitude. Schools and colleges should give some weightage of marks to sports & extra-curricular activities in the final assessment of students. In schools, one optional subject should carry no marks so that a student can be free of burden/stress from the subject, in which he/she is weak. In these days of nuclear families and busy lifestyles, new subjects like health and family studies should also be introduced to instruct students the usually neglected topics like sex issues, moral values, social conduct and role of relatives and neighbours.

Education is meant to be a tool of empowerment and employment but certainly not that of ending one's life. It should also enlighten people about the social values and awareness of their rights and responsibilities. The ultimate aim of education is to produce healthy individuals with physical, mental, social and economic well being. The number of student suicides in our country for last one decade is indicating that our present educational system needs restructuring. Indian society and system should come back to their wise ways and take a balanced and human approach towards education. I hope that happens sooner rather than later.



اکبر چاکی
جب سے بیگم نے مجھے مرنا بنا رکھا ہے
میں نے نظروں کی طرح سر بھی جھکا رکھا ہے
برتو! آج میرے سر پہ برستے کیوں ہو
میں نے دھودھا کے تمہیں کتنا سجا رکھا ہے
پہلے بیلن نے بنایا میرے سر پر گوڑ
اور چمچے نے میرا گال سجا رکھا ہے
سارے کپڑے تو جلا ڈالے مری بیگم نے
زیب تن کرنے کو بنیان پھینا رکھا ہے
اے کنوارو! یونہی آباد رہو شاد رہو
ہم کو بیگم نے تو سولی پر چڑھا رکھا ہے
وہی دنیا میں مقدر کا سکندر ٹھہرا!
جس نے خود کو یہاں شادی سے بچا رکھا ہے
حق نسواں کی جو لیڈر ہیں، بتائیں تو ذرا
کس نے سرتاج کو جوتی پر اٹھا رکھا ہے
روز لیتی ہے سلاخی وہ پولیس کی مانند
پوچھتی ہے کہاں پیسوں کو چھپا رکھا ہے
پنی جا اس مار کی تلخی کو بھی ہنس کے اکبر
مارکھانے میں بھی قدرت نے مزہ رکھا ہے

Views on News

-Anayatullah Niyazi (anayatullah_niyazi@yahoo.co.in)

Somali jihadis warn government against offensive

Somali Islamist on Tuesday warned Somalia's transitional government against a planned offensive, saying it faced defeat. Hezb al-Islam militia and Al Shebab fighters said that the government and the African Union (AU) peacekeepers backing the regime will "regret" raiding them. "Our fighters are confident they will defeat the enemy of Allah however they are prepared and whatever they have with them. Allah will help us win the battle," said Mohamed Osman Arus, the Hezb al-Islam spokesman. "We have information on the planned offensive by the apostate government against the positions we control here in Mogadishu and other regions as well, and we are fully prepared to counter-attack them," he told AFP. The two jihadi groups seized much of Mogadishu from the government in fierce battles launched last May aimed at toppling the American backed Somali government. With the help of the AU troops, the government controls just a small area and strategic sites in Mogadishu where it continues to come under relentless attack. "Our position is clear and we are always well prepared to defend our religion from any attack," Shebab spokesman Sheik Ali Mohamud Rage said Monday. "The preparations that the apostates are making is not new to us. They always vow to wage final war against us and it never happens," he added.

Jewish state worried about its relationship with Turkey:

Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman said yesterday that Israel would strive to salvage its strained relations with Turkey, despite Ankara's "weekly" condemnations. "To sharply condemn Israel every week, to say Israeli military forces have carried out genocide, to call operations to protect our citizens 'a crime against humanity,'" Lieberman said at the start of a three-day visit to Azerbaijan. "This sharp anti-Israeli line cannot be repeated every week." "For 10 years we have supported very close and friendly relations with Turkey," Lieberman said. "The recent changes in Turkey's foreign policy concepts were unexpected and not entirely clear. We hope Turkey will make certain amendments to its foreign policy." Tension flared last month after Lieberman's deputy, Danny Ayalon, humiliated Turkish envoy Ahmet Oguz Celikkol during a meeting to protest an anti-Israel television program airing in Turkey. Ayalon told photographers in Hebrew: "Pay attention that he is sitting in a lower chair and we are in the higher ones, that there is only an Israeli flag on the table and that we are not smiling."

Obama promises tough sanctions against Iran:

US President Barack Obama has said the US and its allies are developing a "significant regime of sanctions" against Iran for its nuclear programme. He said the international community was unified over Iran's "misbehaviour". Speaking in Washington, he said despite Tehran's denials, it was clear Iran was working to build nuclear weapons. His remarks came after Iranian state media reported that Iran had started the process of enriching uranium to 20% for use in a medical research reactor. Obama also said he was pleased at Russia's quick disapproval of Iran's latest move. But he said it was unclear how China would respond to a new push at the UN Security Council for another round of sanctions against Iran. China, a UN Security Council member, has called for further talks over the issue. China and Russia have been reluctant in the past to support international sanctions against Iran.

Pakistan offers Taliban talks to stem Indian influence:

Pakistan has offered to mediate with Taliban factions in return for a friendly Afghanistan and ways to stem the growing Indian presence the New York Times reported citing Pakistani and American officials. Pakistan has told the US it wants a central role in resolving the Afghan war and has offered to mediate with Taliban factions who use its territory and have long served as its allies, the influential US daily said in a report from Islamabad on Wednesday. The offer, aimed at preserving Pakistan's influence in Afghanistan once the Americans leave, could both help and hurt American interests as Washington debates reconciling with the Taliban, it said. "Pakistan's army chief, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, made clear Pakistan's willingness to mediate at a meeting late last month at NATO headquarters with top American military officials," the Times said citing a senior American military official familiar with the meeting. "The Pakistani offer makes clear that any stable solution to the war will have to take into account Afghanistan's neighbours, in a region where Pakistan, India, China, Iran and others all jostle for power," it said. What the Pakistanis can offer is their influence over the Taliban network of Jalaluddin and Siraj Haqqani, whose forces American commanders say are the most lethal battling American and NATO soldiers in Afghanistan. "In return for trying to rein in the Haqqanis, Pakistan will be looking for a friendly Afghanistan and for ways to stem the growing Indian presence there," the Times said citing Pakistani and American officials.

Taliban: Can't beat them then bribe them:

This week major powers supported Afghan President Hamid Karzai's plan to woo moderate Taliban fighters who disarm. An internationally backed fund believed to be worth 500 million dollars formed the main plank of Karzai's proposals at the conference. Karzai told the forum, Afghanistan and its Western supporters must "reach out to all of our countrymen, especially our disenchanted brothers who are not part of Al-Qaeda". British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said 140 million dollars had been pledged for the first year of the fund. "What that money is for is to ensure there's proper employment opportunity... proper infrastructure into which reintegration can take place," he told BBC television. He said it would also provide "proper security so that if people do move from the insurgency back into their communities they are protected because obviously the Taliban will be after them." US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said she thought the plan would work. "We expect a lot of the foot soldiers on the battlefield will be leaving the Taliban because many of them have wanted to leave, many of them are tired of fighting. We believe the tide has turned against them," she said.

The NATO-led force fighting the Taliban is due to swell to 150,000 by the end of the year after a US surge, but Karzai said his country would need international help for at least another decade. "With regard to training and equipping the Afghan security forces, five to 10 years will be enough," he told BBC radio.

Nearly half of Americans admit to anti-Muslim bias:

The level of anti-Muslim prejudice - 43 percent of Americans admitted feeling at least "a little" - is more than twice as high as Americans' reported feelings toward Buddhists, Christians and Jews. Fifty-three percent of respondents said their view of Islam was "not too favourable" or "not favourable at all," according to a 32-page Religious Perceptions in America report released recently. "It was interesting to note that Americans admit no more prejudice against Buddhists and Jews than they do against Christians," said Dalia Mogahed, director of the Washington-based center. "So this isn't just simply a problem against minority religions. There is a somewhat unique issue with Muslims in particular."

What do employers look for when interviewing a candidate?

- Dr. Mohammad C. Jamali, (mjamali@eim.ae)

Work ethics, honesty, loyalty, confidence and problem-solving ability are some of the traits looked for in a prospective hire. The key four Es here are 1.Exposure 2.Experience 3.Expertise and 4.Excellence.

A student from a reputed college, without work experience, would be considered as having an exposure to certain concepts and will be expected to demonstrate those in his application.

Experienced people would be expected to perform with limited or no supervision. An expert is a person considered to have good conceptual understanding of a wide range of subjects relevant to a domain, and who can guide others in the organization. Finally, excellence is when a person's expertise is known beyond the boundary of an organization and hence respected by the industry. Employers look for someone who is a good fit not just in terms of technical skills but also the social culture of the organization.

Your job interview tips...

Focusing on the three Ps: 1.Presentation 2. Preparation 3. Positioning

When presenting, your attitude, appearance and resume presentation carries far more weightage than you would imagine in an interview. Hence dress professionally and be punctual for your interview; it shows professionalism. Your resume is an opportunity to sell the brand 'YOU'.

Customize your resume so as to highlight your skills to fit the kind of job you are applying for. Research thoroughly about the industry, company and job you are applying for. Ask relevant questions (usually at the end of the interview). And prepare by taking mock interviews.

Formulate your responses using the STAR format 1.Situation 2.Task 3.Action and 4.Result

This method relies on your prior experiences to predict future behavior. As regards positioning, all interviewers have a preconditioned mindset of the 'best fit' candidate. Hence positioning yourself in the minds of the interviewer that you are the best fit, is the key. Are you a person with unique competencies or superior skills for which specific companies are willing to pay a premium? And finally watch out for the big P – Pressure!

What factors contribute to a good appraisal of a professional?

Today, performance review systems are focused on career development and enhancement based on open and detailed discussions with one's superiors. Many

organizations are now moving towards a 360-degree feedback system wherein a performance review is sought from all sources that an employee has an interface with, which includes peers, team-mates and reporting seniors. For an effective appraisal you must be open to communication with peers and reporting seniors, and have a clear understanding of key performance indicators.

What are the dos and don'ts of salary negotiation?

Salary negotiations are the most sensitive yet important conversations of your career. Once the company has decided to hire you they will look at the least expensive cost-to-company to get you on board. Accepting whatever the companies offer may make you appear weak and not worth your mettle. Yet being over-aggressive and pushy at the negotiation table may leave a bad taste in the mouth, especially knowing that you have to work with these people on a daily basis from here on. Being well-prepared on what would be a good compensation for your experience and expertise goes a long way in the negotiation. Often the compensation could be coupled with equity or other perks. Study these well to see if they match what you want. Don't accept a salary lower than what you are worth in anticipation of future hikes.

Understanding how much you need the company and vice-versa, will also give you an idea of your stance in the negotiation. Knowing when to stop negotiating can be tricky. It's not a case of who wins. If you refuse to bow down they will begin to think that you are a wrong choice. When you know it's time, accept your offer with grace, and thank the management for its time. When turning down an offer, thank management for the negotiation; it's professional and refined.

Which sectors have potential for a promising career in the near future?

Green jobs throw open several career options that are both meaningful and promise growth. Green-collar jobs are accessible to people from varied educational backgrounds and professions, engineers, bio-technologists, environmentalists, auditors, accountants, scientists, economists, media professionals and the like. Telecom was one of those highly resilient sectors, which weren't too affected by the recession. Infrastructure projects -- roads, bridges, and railways are gaining momentum -- and were one of the first few to experience a revival. Animation and gaming is an interesting and new avenue. Even private banking players are recruiting actively especially in wealth

management, microfinance and insurance. The automobile industry is also revving up! How can a professional identify the best job profile for himself?

Several personality profiling tests available in the market help guide a candidate in identifying the right career path. Apart from this it would be advisable to study your inherent traits and qualities and look for jobs that necessitate these qualities in abundance.

Is it true that fresher who take up jobs in an economic downturn situation end up being in a disadvantageous position?

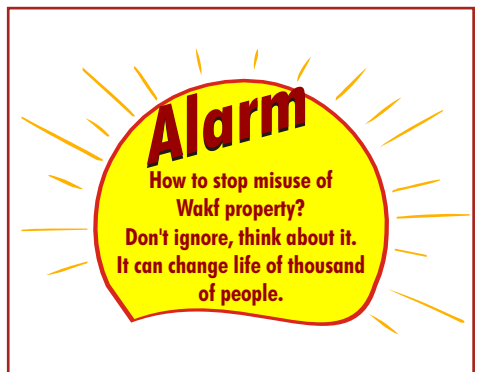
More than a year back, there were unrealistic expectations on pay packages and growth rates. Freshers got unbelievable salary packages. Experienced candidates sometimes got 200 per cent hikes in a single year! There's a definite correction happening in the job market. The new, more normal economy will be seasoned with reduction in salary and benefits. Today, many are happy to keep their jobs and retain current salaries, even when presented with higher salaries. However, finding good talent has become tougher. Hence freshers have a greater chance of finding the right job.

What can professionals do to insulate themselves from a downturn?

Constantly updating oneself technically, skill upgradation and active participation in learning and development programmes offered within the organizations is recommended. Finally ensuring a sound connect with the market, through professional networking sites such as LinkedIn will add some fillip to your job retention strategy.

Read Seerat-un-Nabi (life stories and sayings) of Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu Alaihe

<http://www.biharanjuman.org/hadith/Seerah.html>



On Cognitive Empowerment

Sharjeel Ahmad, New Delhi

“Coming to understand a painting or a symphony in an unfamiliar style, to recognize the work of an artist or school, to see or hear in new ways, is as cognitive an achievement as learning to read or write or add.”

Nelson Goodman

The Muslim Indian community is today plagued with various maladies, including poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, and political insecurity. Perhaps M. A. Jinnah had foreseen and prophesied this state of the Muslim Indian community, and had vehemently demanded the partition of the Indian Subcontinent. Jinnah may or may not have been justified in his demand for a separate state; however, Partition has in no way solved these problems; neither in India nor in Pakistan. At the same time, it is cognitively absurd at this juncture to divulge, introspect, and resent on a historical rhetoric beyond our control. Today, our mental cerebration almost always stops us from extricating the effect of Partition and its emotional implications on the sorry state we cut today. Why is any thought of the future so hauntingly dismayed by the past? Why cannot our thought process be alienated from this rhetoric impediment? The primary reason is that we acutely lack cognitive empowerment; and love to mix emotions and thinking [aka mixing drinking and driving??].

Cognitive empowerment might be a heavy and loaded term for many; however, it needs a high level of consideration. Before we define it, let's talk about the different types of learning and thought processes. Benjamin Bloom, a noted scientist in the field of learning psychology, has laid down three domains of learning in the taxonomy that he has developed:

- Cognitive: Deals with intellectual learning abilities
- Affective: Deals with emotions and behavioral skills
- Psychomotor: Deals with physical movements, coordination, and use of motor skills

Note that the learning we are talking about here is not related to appearing and passing an exam; rather extending to acquiring the skills to visualize, think, perceive, deduce, interpret, and act cogently in a given situation. All these three domains of learning play a major role in developing the cognitive thinking and decision making skills of an individual. For example, how we react to an adverse situation, say confronted with a person abusing, which reflects a combination of emotional outburst, combined with an intellectual action requiring physical movement. The reaction could be highly emotional, by replying in the same language or slapping the abuser; wherein the affective domain dominates the decision making ability, combined with psychomotor skills. In very rare cases, the reaction might include ignoring the person with the thought that he/she has done some wrong to himself/herself, not to me – and contemplating to avoid a similar situation in future. If we gain the ability to ascertain the requisite levels of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor involvements and control our thought process and actions accordingly, that is when I would define as having attained cognitive empowerment; which is evidently promoted by Islam as well.

The irony with the Muslim Indian community today is that we precariously allow the affective domain to dominate in our thought process and decision making skills. This has a direct bearing of the environment that we are generally exposed to. Err; please allow me to call it ghetto, not environment!! We have been brought up in a ghetto that constantly reminds us that learning starts and ends with literacy – the ability to read and write. Unfortunately, learning starts much beyond simple literacy. Unfortunate in its sense because the intellectuals and frontrunners of the Community have never delved in this surprising verity – and we are often too happy and content with our efforts towards making the Community literate; maybe with a few degrees and certificates – nothing beyond that.

It is this ghetto that compels us to argue for reservations and other leverages; perceiving them as means to an end. Unfortunately again, these are ends in themselves, barriers that prevent us from moving any further. What we do with reservations and similar leverages is elevate ourselves on the same platform of abjection and wretchedness; when we should have actually thought of moving forward, not staying at the present location on an elevated platform. It is this ghetto that surreptitiously tempts us towards the coziness and security of being enclosed within a self-defined boundary of progress; bravely negating the external veracity. We are belittled by the same ghetto to view engineering, medicine; maybe management and mass communication these days, as the conviction to success, while pompously ignoring any other unconventional but promising career.

Cognitive empowerment can be developed with a sincere will combined with the ability to retrospect and question. Questioning leads to arguments, debates, and inductive and deductive reasoning. It has also been encouraged in our religion. The glorious Islamic history is witness to the birth, development, and implementation of this cognitive empowerment and reasoning; which might have obligated Allama Iqbal to proclaim that “the birth of Islam is the birth of inductive reasoning; an intellectual revolt against the speculative philosophy of the Greeks”. However, we have perhaps misplaced it somewhere. We need to search and reconstruct this intellectual revolt against the contemporary, and recognize, see, hear, and induce the reality in new ways. Let's make this effort to understand a painting and a symphony detached from our conventional thought process. It would mark a renaissance to break open our ghetto thought process and regain our lost cognitive empowerment – not seemingly similar to gaining our lost glory, as per some think tanks. Till then, we have miles to go before we sleep...

Don't teach English to your children in Class 1

A recent news report highlighted the fact that only 48.3% of Indian children in Class 1 could read the English alphabet, even in big capital letters.

Global research shows that children should learn reading and writing in their mother tongue first. Only after they can read fluently at a minimum of 45-60 words per minute and can they absorb what they are reading. Such fluency is most easily achieved in the mother tongue. Once that is established, learn in a second language becomes much easier.

Premature teaching of a second language

— like English — can prevent a child from learning to read fast enough in its mother tongue. Early reading and writing is vital: children that cannot do so fluently by Class 2 will likely never catch up with classmates in higher classes.

This is not an argument against learning two or three languages. Indeed, children under 8 learn new languages most easily. But research shows that proficiency in one language makes it easier to master a second. Learning the first language expands the cognitive networks of a child's mind, making it easier to grasp the same

concepts in a second language.

Rich children with pre-school education enter school with a vocabulary of 3,000 words, but poor children may have a vocabulary of just 500 words. So, poor children already struggle to keep up in Class 1. Their struggles can become intolerable if they have to learn a second language.

English is important. But even more important is reading and writing in your mother tongue.

Prayers in Islam, Part-4

-Gheyas S Mahfoz Hashmi, Jeddah (hgheyas@savola.com)

..... Continued from the Previous Issue.

In Jan 2010 issue we have discussed that those who are ignorant of prayers or are not punctual of it will be in the wrath of Allah, His misery and anguish. On the other hand the 5-time prayer performers will inherit Paradise where they live forever. Here are some more goods news for such prayer-performers.

Truth will prevail in this world but it may not be for individual man of righteousness to see it here. It may be for their heirs and successors. In the life to come, all will undoubtedly see the fruits of their actions done here and the righteous will inherit heaven. Allah also says in Sura (Ma'arij):

“ Indeed, man was created very impatient; Fretful when evil touches him; and Niggardly when good reaches him; Not so those devoted to Prayers. Those who remain steadfast to their Prayers.”

We see in these verses that the man complains in adversity and gets into despair while in prosperity, they become arrogant and forget their rights and obligations towards people and also omit their own shortcomings. But those who devote to prayers are exempted from these ill-traits. Devotion to prayers does not merely mean completion of a certain number of formal rites or prostration, but it means complete surrender to the wish of Allah, seeking His pleasure and abstention from His

displeasure and spending in charity. Allah also says in the same Surah about the award they will be getting hereafter:

“And those who guard (the sacredness) of their prayer, will be honoured in the garden (of bliss)

In fact, the secrecy of closeness to Allah is hidden in Salah as revealed in Quran (Sura Alaq):

“ Prostrate thyself, and draw near (unto Allah)”

If anyone wants to be closer to Him, he is required to be regular in his prayers. The faith and belief is directly related to prayers. In Surah Baqarah (143), the word "Iman" (faith) has been used in lieu of Salah. According to the commentators, Eman here refers to those prayers that were said facing Jerusalem before getting the commandment of Allah to change the Qiblah. Some of the companions of the prophet were eager to know if their prayers had been acceptable or not. In order to ward off their anxiety, this verse was revealed whereby they were told that Allah would not spoil their Iman (prayers). It means prayers guarantee the safety of Eman. Where there is no prayer, there is no Iman.

We are bound to respect prayers and to perform them punctually. The Quran has preferred Salah (prayers) to any sort of worship. It is the only worship that was

willed by all prophets to their respective nations. Do regularise it and urge others (family members, relatives and neighbours etc) on its performance. Allah says:

(1) “Enjoin prayer on thy people, and be constant therein. We ask thee not to provide Sustenance. We provide it for thee. But the (fruit of) the Hereafter is for righteousness”. (Ta-ha)

(2) “O my son! Establish regular prayer, enjoin what is just, and forbid what is wrong”. (Luqman)

(3) “You are the best of people evolved for mankind, enjoining what is right, forbidding what is wrong, and believing in Allah”. (Al-Emran)

As stated above, we are not only needed to be regular and steadfast in saying prayers but also equally required to invite our wives, husband, children, relatives and friends to Salah. We have to be strict towards our children and wives. We may face, while embarking on this mission, some problems, criticisms and taunting. We are not required to take it serious and, instead, we should continue it in a very polite manner. This is one of the duties Allah assigned to every Muslim. Guidance comes from Him. We can't lead anyone to a true path. We can only make true path known to them.

..... to be continued.

How the collaborative efforts saved the educational career of an engineering student from Bhojpur [Mohammad Irshad Hussain Ansari]

How the collaborative efforts saved the educational career of an engineering student from Bhojpur [Mohammad Irshad Hussain Ansari]

On 12th November 2009, an appeal was received by moderators of Bihar Anjuman, from Maulana Anisur Rahman Qasmi Sb. Nazim (secretary) of Imarat-e-Sharia, to support an orphan student of engineering. Mohammad Irshad Hussain Ansari [permanent resident of Mukundpur, Champokhri, Bhojpur (Arah), Bihar, present resident of Ali Manzil, Room No. 12, Kutbuddin lane, Darya pur, Sabzibagh, Bankipur, Patna. He is an engineering student at Maulana Azad College of Engineering and Technology; Patna. His branch is Computer Science under batch no.2006 roll no.050. He is an orphan boy with no source of income for continuing his education. He received support from Imarat-e- Sharia in his admission and for his fees until now. But, Imarat-e- Sharia found it difficult to support the same student over a

long period, as they continue to receive requests from many students under similar financial need. Therefore Nazim Sb. requested Bihar Anjuman to help this student, otherwise he would be forced to quit his education.

On 13th November, Nazim Sb's appeal was forwarded to Bihar Anjuman's moderators and chapter representatives, and all of them overwhelmingly supported the idea of sponsoring this student's requirements. Most importantly, Bangalore chapter committed to raise Rs. 20,000 per year for this needy student, Alhamdulillah. Since the appeal involved purchasing of a computer for him, as well, therefore sponsorship commitments from members were required. Therefore, the appeal was forwarded to yahoogroup for sponsorship. A benevolent brother, Muhammad Qaiser Siddiq offered to pay the price of computer and one month's expenses. Brother Dr. M.C. Jamali Sb, from Al Ain, UAE offered to sponsor the monthly expenses to the extent of Rs. 2,000

per month, and transferred one month's expenses as well. But, later on he was asked to stop the transfers because of the following sponsorships that became available.

On 23rd December, an appeal was made to Dammam / Al-Khobar chapter to sponsor part-expenses of this student. Jb. Syed Rashique Ahmad Sb. convenor of this chapter took upon himself the responsibility to raise enough funds for this student, and based upon his efforts, and emotional appeal Jb. Amjad Hussain Sb. Riyadh, and Jb. Razaul Islam Sb. from Al Khobar, KSA, together committed to pool the required Rs. 2,500 per month required expenses of Irshad. By the end of January, the coordination to support this student was accomplished securing his educational needs, Alhamdulillah.

Thus the group collaborative efforts saved the career of a needy orphan student from an impending disaster, by the grace of Allah, the Almighty and the Most Merciful.