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Publisher: Bihar Anjuman
Chief Editor: Syed Shibli Manzoor
Editors: Sharjeel Ahmad
Md. Shamim Ahmad
Ashiya Parveen
Seraj Akram



bakhabar@biharanjuman.org

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Editorial

Syed Shibli Manzoor
syedshibli.manzoor@yahoo.com

Dear readers,

Assalamo Alaikum Warahmatullah

The editorial team feels honoured in presenting the April 2010 issue of Bakhabar before you. We thank all the readers for their solicitous response towards March 2010 issue.

Alhamdulillah, The 1st phase of establishment of 7 coaching centers and tutoring the underprivileged among our community is accomplished without much hiccups. The initiative was taken in June 2009, and in less than a year the idea that seemed to be a distant dream turned into reality.

Praise to Allah (swt) for His mercy and benevolence. May Allah bless the people who put their heart and soul in the establishment and running of various coaching centres.

Through the first phase of coaching, it is evident that the group we are focusing on for educational empowerment needs attention at an earlier stage (refer to the detailed report on pages 3&6).

To make the coaching project serve its purpose better, Bihar Anjuman had planned to start coaching students right from class 5th onwards hoping that this early start will give a better shape to the future of the pupil. We anticipate that this idea will also be welcomed and supported by warm heart, the heart that beats for our fellow Muslims who are not as privileged as we are.

For materializing the aforesaid, a lot of resources are needed. Please come forward and lend you helping hands in taking this ambitious project a step forward.

The story by Br. Shakeel Ahmad on page-4, illustrate the bitter truth that most of the volunteers face, but as concluded in the story we must not let our enthusiasm drop and always have faith that “the righteous will stand against all the hurdles”. What we need to do is to have faith on the cause we are striving for and put honest efforts. Inshallah, result will be no less than a marvel.

Summers are fast approaching with anticipated vacations and a whole bunch of joy and fun associated with it.

On the other hand, the academic session ending this summer will again witness the aimless shooting of a large number of students from different schools, longing for good career opportunities but getting lost in absence of proper guidance and support. The dying of these young stars even before they shine may sound very unfortunate, but it is a phenomenon repeated year after year. Is not there any solution for this problem that had been annihilating generations like a termite? We all are equally concerned for the upliftment of our educationally backward community, and it is a good time to contribute for a change. Give some time for the career counseling of less resourceful students of your neighborhood and participate in bringing this phenomenon to a halt.

There are numerous organizations providing monetary and counseling assistance to the poor and meritorious, the biggest hurdle for these groups is the ignorance towards the importance of education in the section of community they are focusing on. Motivate your children studying in higher classes to devote some time for teaching the underprivileged children in your neighborhood, and let their parents understand the importance of education.

This thoughtful act will cast dual impact of educational empowerment of our community, and in the backdrop, shaping the persona of our children making them be more responsible Humans.

-Syed Shibli Manzoor

AHADITH

1. Learn and Teach for the sake of Allah
Abu Hurairah (Radhiallaho anha) reported: The Messenger of Allah (Sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam) said, "He who calls others to follow the Right Guidance will have a reward equal to the reward of those who follow him, without their reward being diminished in any respect on that account."

[Muslim].

Commentary: This Hadith has glad tidings for those who learn the knowledge of religion, teach it and impart it to others. Riyad-us-Saliheen – Hadith No.1382. Sahl bin Sa'd (Radhiallaho anha) reported: The Prophet (Sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam) said to 'Ali (Radhiallaho anha), "By Allah, if a single person is guided by Allah through you, it will be better for you than a whole lot of red camels."

[Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

Commentary: "Better for you than red camels" is an allegory for every thing that

is better than anything else. Red camels used to be precious in Arabia, and their reference here is to highlight the value of guidance. Thus, this Hadith brings into prominence the importance of calling people towards Allah. But before calling others to the path of Allah, one must himself know it, and for this purpose, the knowledge of the Qur'an and Hadith is essential because one cannot provide any guidance in this respect without this knowledge.

Riyad-us-Saliheen – Hadith No.1379. Mu'awiyah (Radhiallaho anha) reported: The Messenger of Allah (Sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam) said, "When Allah wishes good for someone, He bestows upon him the understanding of Deen."

[Al-Bukhari and Muslim].

Commentary: Knowledge and understanding of Deen (religion) here stands for the understanding of the Qur'an and Hadith, religious injunctions, and knowledge of the lawful and the unlawful. This Hadith highlights the

excellence of knowledge and the fact that it is a sign of Allah's Help to the person who possesses it and acts upon it. Riyad-us-Saliheen – Hadith No. 1376. 2. Virtue of visiting the sick and the Divine reward

'Ali bin Abu Talib (Radhiallaho anha) reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah (Sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam) saying, "When a Muslim visits a sick Muslim at dawn, seventy thousand angels keep on praying for him till dusk. If he visits him in the evening, seventy thousand angels keep on praying for him till the morning; and he will have (his share of) reaped fruits in Jannah."

[At-Tirmidhi].

Thauban (Radhiallaho anha) reported: The Prophet (Sallallaahu 'alaihi wasallam) said, "He who visits his brother in Faith, will remain engaged in picking the fresh fruits from the garden of Jannah till he returns."

[Muslim]

Natural Remedies

• Backache

1. Rub some ginger paste on the affected area. Apply oil of eucalyptus on it.

• Baldness

1. Boil 1 cup mustard oil (sarson ka tel) with 4 tablespoon henna (mehendi) leaves. Filter and bottle. Massage on the bald patches regularly.

2. Grind the remains of tobacco smoked in a hookah and add to boiling mustard oil. Cool and store. Massage on the bald patches regularly.

3. Rub on the scalp 1 teaspoon oil in which raw mangoes have been preserved for over one year. Repeat this treatment frequently.

4. Grind 1 tablespoon liquorice root pieces (mulathi) in 1 cup milk with ¼ teaspoon saffron (kesar). Apply this paste on bald

patches at bedtime continuously.

5. Grind fenugreek seeds (methi dana), with water and apply on the head. Leave for at least 40 minutes before washing. Do it every morning for a month. Bed sores w Apply honey on the length and breadth of a banana leaf and lie on it for a few hours. Ensure its contact with the affected parts.

• Appetite loss (Anorexia)

1. Mix and powder equal quantities of carom seeds (ajwain), fennel seeds (saunf), dried ginger powder (sonth), salt and black cumin seeds (shah jeera). Mix a teaspoon of this powder and a teaspoon of hot ghee to cooked rice and eat frequently.

2. Take 2 teaspoon of amla juice and mix it with 2 teaspoon honey and 2 teaspoon lime juice. Add 1 cup water and drink on an empty stomach every morning. To take

out juice from fresh amla, remove seeds from fresh amla and grind the pulp into a fine paste. Tie it in a muslin cloth and squeeze out the juice. whenever fresh fruits are not available, dried amla can be used. Soak 1 tablespoon of dried amla at night in a cup of water. Strain it the next morning. Add 1/8 teaspoon black pepper powder (kali Mirch) and 2 teaspoon lime juice. Dilute it if necessary with water and drink every morning regularly on an empty stomach. 3. Take ½ teaspoon black pepper powder (kali mirch) and 1 tablespoon jaggery powder (shakkar) mixed together.

4. Cut 1" piece ginger (adrak) into small pieces. Add 1½ cups of water. Boil. Simmer for 2-3 minutes. Add milk and sugar to taste, and take it frequently like tea.

Always
remember
Allah

رسول اللہ ﷺ نے ارشاد فرمایا: ”تو مسلمانوں کو آپس میں رحم کرنے، محبت کرنے اور ایک دوسرے کی طرف جھکنے میں ایسا دیکھے گا جیسا کہ جسم کا حال ہوتا ہے کہ اگر ایک عضو کو کوئی بیماری لاحق ہوتی ہے تو جسم کے بقیہ اعضاءے خوابی اور بخار کے ساتھ اس کا ساتھ دیتے ہیں۔“ (بخاری، ابن نعمان بن بشیر)

Coaching of School Students to Minimize Drop-Out & Raise percentage of Minority students in Colleges and Universities

Proposal to move to 2nd phase: include grades 5th, 6th, and 7th, to make the foundation strong (<http://coaching.biharanjuman.org/>)

With Allah's limitless mercy, RAHBAR Coaching Centres have provided tuition assistance to the under privileged students of our society, for 2009-2010 session of Bihar Board, at 3 centres: Patna, Samastipur, and Darbhanga.

In the next session, the same shall be provided at 7 centres, insha-Allah @ Patna, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj, Aurangabad, and Chakradharpur (2 more centres are likely to be included in this phase, insha-Allah, depending upon availability of sponsorship and readiness of the ground-work for these centres).

The grade 10th students have just written their board exams, and 5 of them along with 5 from outside are undergoing a crash course of 10 days for the entrance exam of Rahmani-30, at RAHBAR Coaching centre, Patna. Grades 8th and 9th students have continued to be taught at the coaching centres, in order to remove their weaknesses, and make them ready for the next grade.

Please recall that we focused on students who were left out by the society, due to (a) poverty and (b) non-performance. Admission to the coaching centre was based solely on economic backwardness, not on merit, because these were considered the potential drop-outs. Meritorious students are offered waiver of their fees by many private schools, thus paving the way for proper education of even the poor students among them. But, how can a poor-performer, among the economically under privileged, get into the league of the meritorious, with no tuition facilities? A large percentage of Muslim students drop out this way, and thus leave the arena for "others" – please refer to the graph, below [The gap between us and other communities is constantly widening]. Can we remain satisfied with more than 75% of our population not moving beyond middle school education?

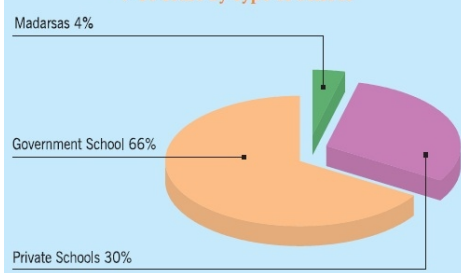
The strategy to stop drop-outs that was adopted has proved to be excellent. But...

From our experience, we noted that the merit level of many students in the grade 8, 9 and 10, was so poor that they deserved to be at grade 4 or below. When we enquired about how they got promoted to the higher classes, we were shocked. They adopted illegal means in

which the govt school teachers were their partners. We were trying to prepare these students in a way that they could get through diploma entrance exams at least, or enter programs like Rahmani-30. But, the unfortunate low merit levels of a vast majority of students made it really difficult to do much for them. Those students who were really sincere picked up a lot, particularly if they were also supported by their parents. Our program incorporated rewards for these performers, in order to encourage others as well. But, the most important learning from this project so far has been the realization that we MUST intervene at lower levels, that is at lower grades. Going too far below would be like opening a school, and may prove to be too expensive.

The experience of those who have visited the coaching centres, met the students, talked to them, suggest that unless we start coaching at lower levels, our intention to stop (at least, reduce) the drop-outs may not succeed.

Fig. 4.23 Distribution of Enrolled Muslim Children aged 7-16 Years by Type of School



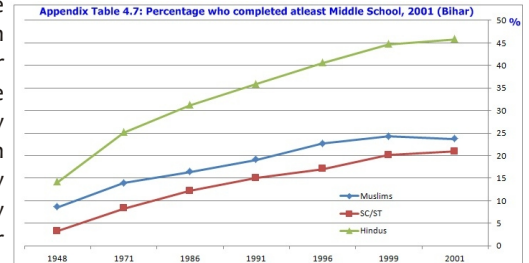
An eligibility criterion for admission to The RAHBAR Coaching centre is the student's enrolment in any of the govt. schools. Why govt. Schools?

1. It's a sure-shot indicator of low family income level of the applicant.
2. If 66% Muslim children are in govt. schools, as is clear from the adjacent figure, from Sachar Committee report, then we would be taking care of a vast majority of Muslim children.

Why not private schools, also? Simply to avoid complexities in deciding who is economically underprivileged and who is not. The chances of some student from this social group, without no support, at all, is very rare.

Br. Shakil Ahmad Khan (Riyadh) and Br. Asif Moazzam (Abha, KSA) had proposed to consider coaching the 5th graders for Navodaya, Sainik and Netarhat schools, so that they could get free education which is far better in quality than what any private schools can offer. Coaching the 5th graders to help them compete the Jawahar Novodaya

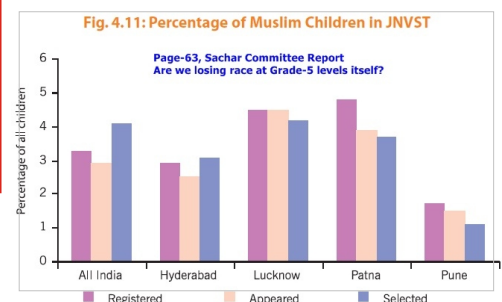
Vidyalaya (JNVST) entrance exams would be a great achievement. Out of those who enter these coveted schools, through the exams @ Patna region (Bihar – 19% Muslim population,



Jharkhand–18% Muslim population and West Bengal–25% Muslim population), only 4% Muslim students compete (Refer to Pages 62-64 of Sachar Committee Report). Remember, these schools take 30,000 students to impart the best quality education, free-of-cost. Can there be a better source for the poor Muslims to get decently educated?

Please note that students can write the JNVST test in Urdu also, which means this test is open to the madrasa students as well. This shows that our students are academically far worse off, at the grade-5 levels. Who drops out? One who does not do well... parents have no hopes from these potential earning hands. If they start doing well, the parents would allow them to continue. If we wish to increase their percentage at grade-10 or grade-12 levels, we would need to start intervening at these lower levels.

The extension of coaching to grades 5, 6, and 7 is possible at no extra cost. If the class-hours remain limited to 3 hours, the cost does not increase. However, the efforts of the teachers and the members of the management committee and the team-leaders will definitely increase. But, we have highlighted a problem, which needs a solution without which the objective cannot be achieved. We have suggested a solution which requires more efforts from our volunteers, unless we decide to pay someone to take the extra burden. If this is the only solution, let's try to implement the solution, and deal with the



related challenges, rather than get overwhelmed by the challenges, and do nothing.

Am I a fool?

-Shakeel Ahmad (shakeeluae@gmail.com)

It had been a hot and humid day, quite unusual for a day of March. But, when times are bad, even nature brings forth its own version of challenges! I felt tired after a day spent in taking my normal classes and answering the abnormal questions of my students, at my university, and in a series of meetings, many of them unnecessary. As the sun was preparing to take rest, and turning pink, as if it was as tired as me, my mobile rang. "You are late, my dear, the children are waiting", my wife's loving voice at the other end was full of anticipation. I prayed to the Almighty, for blessing my family with patience and ability to cope with life, even without me. I always wondered why my wife does not get habituated of evenings spent alone, even after four years of marriage, and a 2 year old baby to play with! I reminded her, as usual, "Darling, as I told you this morning, I have a meeting with my colleagues of the Delhi chapter of Goodwill Foundation. This is a crucial one, as we need to decide on strategies to select the most deserving beneficiaries for BANEE scholarship. I would try to come as early as possible." She was at least sure what "as early as possible" from me actually meant. Still full of anticipation, her voice was a combination of despair and sympathy, "Ok dear, but can you hear papa-papa, from your angel, Aamina? She is already growing impatient."

I reached Jamia's mosque just before maghrib. The wudu proved to be a real refresher for me, and washed away much of the day's physical and mental stresses. Subhanallah! After the prayer, I sat outside on our usual bench under the mango tree, waiting for my colleagues to turn up. Six of them were expected to deliberate with me on the ways and means to make the exercise of selecting new beneficiaries of BANEE scholarship, coined as "Delhi 2010", successful. The scale of success was not just the selection of the best possible beneficiaries, but also satisfying the guidelines prescribed by the moderators of the group. Although we were confident we knew the most deserving beneficiaries already, and there was no need to waste our time on publicizing the news to reach all the students of the university, forming a committee represented by the student community and the university's faculty and staff, and so on ... But, the group moderators would not trust the candidates recommended by us. They insisted that we follow the process, and select the beneficiaries only after every student has been informed through notices placed on all the notice boards. Our

colleagues were as reluctant in going through this lengthy process as me, and were ready to violate the guidelines

As the azaan (call for prayer) entered my ears, I realized it was Isha time already, and wondered how wasteful my wait had been since Maghrib. During this period, I had made calls to all of my colleagues. Three of them cited their inability to come, as they would be busy with other engagements, and asked to be excused for today. So, I was actually waiting for remaining three only, one of whom said he was on his way, while another one said he has just started and would be reaching shortly. The third one was not taking the call, at all. First, I thought he must be praying, then I thought he must have left his mobile on silent, for maghrib prayer, and then forgot to switch to the normal mode. After an hour of frantic calls, I started worrying about him. Why is he not responding? Is he all right? God forbid, did he meet with an accident? Is he in the hospital? Thoughts wandered haywire, and my stress level kept on rising. Better sense prevailed as I told myself I must not call him anymore. Whenever he happens to see all these missed calls, he would definitely call me back. But, the call did not come, nor did the other two colleagues. We had decided to pray together, here, in this masjid. That's the reason why I was getting more and more frustrated waiting for my colleagues who were decent intellectuals, well known in the society for their benevolence and concern to promote Islamic values. I kept wondering if they really deserved those tags!!

I am sure my Isha prayer in the masjid would not have been accepted, as neither the wudu nor the prayers could bring me back to normal; my heart and mind, both, remained on the boil. I remained as upset as ever. I waited for another fifteen minutes, after Isha, made my last few attempts at knowing if my colleagues would turn up at all. When these calls went unanswered – this time calls to all the three colleagues went blank. I must have made at least four attempts to each of them. In order that I didn't lose a chance of connecting with them, I disconnected at least three of my own calls from home. Finally, I decided to leave, feeling cheated, angry, frustrated, and hopeless. As if all of this wasn't enough, the moderator was on the line asking for an update on today's meeting. I could not take it anymore, and screamed, "Big brother, I just cannot take it anymore." I told him how I had waited for the colleagues, and how they had cheated me. I continued, "What do these guys think of me? Do they think I am a fool? Actually,

I am. The time that I could have better spent with my beloved wife and with my angel daughter, I was forced to spend waiting for them. What do they think of themselves? How long they can continue to fool me this way? I cannot take all of this anymore. I have decided now, I cannot work for this social cause any longer." Silence on both sides, for quite a few seconds, was as annoying as the wait for my colleagues, but I felt a lot better having vented my feelings out. Then the moderator's voice finally became audible. He first assured me I could leave all of this any moment I wanted to, but requested me to give him an ear for the next two minutes. He recited Surah Fateha, then continued,

"Brother, the other day I experienced something similar. My friend had invited me to pray Asr with him in the new masjid he had got constructed in his locality. I reached there fifteen minutes before, called him but he did not respond. Even after the congregational prayer was over, he did not respond to my calls. I decided to call off my wait, after the congregational prayer for maghrib was over. I did not feel cheated. On the contrary, I felt concerned for him, and decided to visit his home to check if he was fine. I did not feel cheated because another incident that happened during my university days was still fresh in my mind, and always will. I used to smoke, and having been brought up in a hostel of a Christian missionary school, all my life, did not use to pray at all. Waseem, a classmate of mine who was associated with Tablighee Jamaat used to persuade me all the time, and I felt annoyed. So, one day, I decided to teach him a lesson. I agreed to go to the masjid, to pray along with him. Wasted time on my cigarette and gossip, until the call for Iqamah, then pretended to move towards the washroom for wudu. As others, in wudu already, proceeded to pray, I returned to my hostel room. Waseem soon was in my room, telling me that he had waited for me, outside of the masjid, thinking I might have been praying the nawafil. I laughed at him, blew the smoke from my cigarette straight onto his face, made fun of him, giggling my heart out. I told him how easy it was to make a fool of him, the Tablighee idiots. He waited for me to stop, then asked me, coolly, if I really thought I made a fool of him."

The moderator took a deep breath, sighed as if in repentance, then asked me, "Brother, who do you think was foolish that day?" I immediately responded, "Of course, you". He was much quicker this time, "Indeed. Waseem invited me to a good, and he got its ajr (return) from Allah. I lost an opportunity to do good; in

Rahbar Coaching Centre, Patna: 7th Awards Ceremony(28-03-2010)

Carrying forward the commitment of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's Aligarh movement, Rahbar Coaching centre, Patna organized its 7th award ceremony last month. The ceremony aims at boosting the confidence of the students at Rahbar for their praiseworthy performance in the previous month's test. The function was proved successful with the presence of several eminent personalities who shared their experiences and thoughts with the students to help them develop an insight towards their future efforts. Committed to its credo of lending support to the needy students, Rahbar sets a precedent by providing a platform to the underprivileged students, says Janab Br. Enam Khan, in-charge of the coaching centre.

Other guests for the event included chief guest Dr. Laique Ahmad from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Jb. Najmul Hassan Najmi (proprietor of Najam Foundation School), Prof. Ziauddin of Rafiganj, Aurangabad and Jb. Mumtaz Daulatana of Arwal, Bihar Anjuman. All of them expressed their concern for strengthening the voluntary activities began by Rahbar.

They urged the people to join hand with Rahbar for extending support to approximately 200 under-privileged students at different branches of Rahbar Coaching Centre.

Following are the students rewarded at the function under different categories:

(A) BEST PERFORMANCE in tests conducted during February 2010 (Rs.100/- to each student)

Class VIII

1. Ashna Firdaus (90%), d/o Md. Shoib (Watch repairer)
2. Osama Nasim (79%), s/o late Mufti Naseem (mother gets maintenance from Imarat Sharia)

Class IX

1. Irfan Alam (69%), s/o Saidul Haque (Working as an auto Driver)
2. Kahkashan Hashmi (41%) d/o Khursheed Ahmad (Working as a salesman)

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

Class VIII

1. Ashna Firdaus (+44%), d/o Md. Shoib (Watch repairer)
2. Md. Danish Alam (+27%), s/o Md. Shamim Ahmad (Working as an Electrician)

Class IX

1. Md. Asif Iqbal (+18%), s/o Md. Kasim (Painter)
2. Md. Aftab Alam (+10%), s/o Md. Nazim (Seat cover repairer)

(C) BEST ATTENDANCE IN THE MONTH OF February



2010 (Rs. 50/- to each student)

Class VIII

1. Ashna Firdaus (100%), d/o Md. Shoib (Watch repairer)
2. Osama Naseem (100%), s/o Late Mufti Naseem Sb. (His Widow is under maintenance support from Imarat Sharia)

Class IX

1. Md. Irfan Alam 95 % s/o Md. Saidul Haque (Auto driver)
2. Irshad Alam 2 (95%), s/o Md. Aseeruddin (Painter)

(Note: Class of 10th grade did not take place, as the students were taking their State Board Exams.)



Am i fool?... Continued from page 4

Fact, I relinquished an obligatory act, and deposited some sin to my account. I cheated my colleagues, and I made fun of them. Some more sins, I earned. When I think of the act, I shiver with fear of hellfire, because I also behaved arrogantly. My arrogance was not only directed towards my colleague, but towards Allah as well. What a fool I made of myself?" He paused a little, as if he wanted me to speak, then continued, "Brother, how was the situation different for you, today? You invited your colleagues to share the ajr from the good deeds that all of you had planned to do, together. If they lost an opportunity, who turned out to be a fool? They earned some sins also, for their account of akhirah. Pray for their hidayah (blessings of the right path), and continue on the path of good you have chosen. Allah has blessed

you with this opportunity, think of how you can maximize the benefits from it for your akhirah, by means of planning and executing it in the best ways, to fulfill this responsibility, and thank Allah for this excellent opportunity Allah has blessed you with."

If he had not stopped speaking, I would have cried over the phone itself. But fortunately, he sought my permission to leave. I did cry, and cried a lot, in sajdah (prostration), asking Allah to forgive me for my unislamic thoughts and immature behavior. Allah proclaims throughout holy Quran that a believer's faith is incomplete

without good deeds; and those who get opportunities to do some good for others, and are able to exploit those opportunities, in a way that could please the Almighty, must feel blessed, and thank Allah.

Phir kabhi saamne aa zara yeh baat bata
Ab kahan hogi mere Mehboob mulaqat bata

Tu to Alim hai samjhta hai Kitabon ki zaban
Mera chehra bhi parh mere halaat bata

Bas hojaye mujhe meri Mohabbat Hasil
Tu koi aisi DUA aisi Manajaat bata

Coaching School Students to stop drop-outs and increase representation of Minorities in Colleges and Universities [http://coaching.biharanjuman.org/]

1st phase completes with 7 centres geared to go, in the new academic session

7th RAHBAR Coaching Centre, Chakradharpur : <http://chakradharpur.biharanjuman.org/>
6th RAHBAR Coaching Centre, Rafiganj (Aurangabad) : <http://aurangabad.biharanjuman.org/>

Centres that became ready during last one month (ads placed in Qaumi Tanzeem)

4th RAHBAR Coaching Centre, Muzaffarpur : <http://muzaffarpur.biharanjuman.org/>
5th RAHBAR Coaching Centre, Gopalganj : <http://gopalganj.biharanjuman.org/>

Centres already operational, since 2009:
3rd RAHBAR Coaching Centre, Darbhanga : <http://darbhanga.biharanjuman.org/>
2nd RAHBAR Coaching Centre, Samastipur : <http://gopalganj.biharanjuman.org/>
1st RAHBAR Coaching Centre, Patna : <http://patna.biharanjuman.org/>

Background of the project, and how we moved through selection of centres:

This project was announced, in June 2009 through Yahoo Group message dated 19th June 2010 (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/biharanjuman/message/19898>), and members were requested to support 5 centres to be sponsored by Bihar Anjuman, apart from the 2 for which sponsorship was already available from Aligarh Alumni Association of Washington DC. Subsequently, an appeal was made to all the group members [Yahoo Group Message : (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/biharanjuman/>)]

message/20608) and subsequent reminders] to propose their towns/ cities or villages for starting a coaching centre. This led to many brothers coming forward to prepare the ground work in their areas of interest. It was decided that the first 7 centres that become ready would be sponsored in the first phase [including 2 by Aligarh Alumni Association of Washington DC]. We should firmly stand by this commitment. As and when a centre has become ready, as per the announcement of the team-leader, and in accordance with the guidelines - please refer to online file @ http://www.biharanjuman.org/Coaching/Coaching_project_Guidelines.pdf - and subsequent confirmation from Br. Enam Khan Sb., Patna, who is overall in-charge of the entire project. The team-leader announces that the centre is substantially ready for launch. Thus, we have Patna, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Gopalganj, Aurangabad and Chakradharpur centres ready (3 of them

As we do not seek support from any government agencies, it is your support and cooperation alone, that has made the first phase of the project complete, and your continued support and cooperation can make these 7 centres deliver the promised outcomes, and move onto the next phase of 7 more centres. So, kindly lend your hand in whatever ways you can. An important question that comes up is when can we start with the 2nd phase of 7 centres, and when shall we be able to reach all the districts? A simple answer could be, let's try our best, by seeking support from more and more brothers and sisters, and keep exploring ways and means to achieve this goal. Let's remain optimistic, a trait that is loved by Allah, as the opposite is a denial of faith in Allah, because Allah says (Quran, 12:87):

... Truly no one despairs of Allah's Soothing Mercy, except those who have no faith.

يَبْنَى أَذْهَبُوا فَتَحَسَّسُوا مِنْ يُوسُفَ وَأَخِيهِ وَلَا تَأْيَسُوا مِنْ رَوْحِ

اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يَأْيَسُ مِنْ رَوْحِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا الْقَوْمُ الْكَافِرُونَ ﴿٤٧﴾

اے میرے بیٹو! جاؤ یوسف اور اس کے بھائی کی تلاش کرو اور اللہ کی رحمت سے نا امید نہ ہو بے شک اللہ کی رحمت سے نا امید نہیں ہوتے مگر وہی لوگ جو کافر ہیں

already operational, remaining to start classes in April, insha-Allah). The whole idea is to let every district have a fair chance of benefiting from this project, and group members have appreciated this mechanism that is based on fairness and equal opportunity. Policy: No district will have a 2nd centre unless a sponsor insists to sponsor a centre in that district only.

(Your suggestions can make this project more beneficial for the target students, and for the society, as a whole. Please take 2 minutes to submit your suggestions, by writing to myrahbar@gmail.com)

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حضرت ابو ہریرہؓ راوی ہیں انہوں نے کہا کہ نبی ﷺ نے فرمایا ہے کہ ”دو کلمے رحمن کو بہت زیادہ محبوب ہیں۔ یہ زبان پر بہت ہی ہلکے اور میزان (عمل) میں بہت ہی بھاری ہیں۔ وہ دو کلمے یہ ہیں۔ ﴿سبحان اللہ وبحمدہ سبحان اللہ العظیم﴾“

WHAT A PROGRESS?

-Asma Khan (asmao7khan@yahoo.com)

Known for its rhythmic culture, hand loom industries and religious monuments ...Uttar Pradesh is one of the largest states in India. With the changing face of the world UP is all set to compete. Growth and development is visible everywhere whether it is in the field of education, improved politics or good infrastructure, UP is running towards progress. This is an overwhelming experience for everyone living in UP. In the race of competition; growth; progress and development, there are certain areas where UP is champion such as population. It is progressing day by day. According to data collected by UNICEF rise in child birth from 18% in 2001 will shift to 22% by 2026. It is an alarming situation for all of us. But the most shocking progress is infant mortality rate

which has reached to 25%. The rate of maternal and infant mortality is highest in UP. It is a great challenge before us.

This problem has its solution at very grass root level. Main reason of this problem is early marriage, lack of knowledge, malnutrition, superstition and improper medical facilities. It is well said that a home is made by a woman. An educated woman can change the scenario and bring a pleasant change in the society. She has the ability to shape the future of the country.

Here also, UP has left behind other states but in negative sense. According to data, total population of uneducated married women is 66% whereas who has seen school for 10 or more years is only 13.1%. What positive change can be expected from these uneducated and ignorant

women?

For better tomorrow, we have to revolt against illiteracy of women. Our progressive state requires women empowerment, respect for the rights of women and children, quality education, higher standard of living and protection from abuse & exploitation. An educated woman will delay marriage. She would get her child immunized and help in eliminating gender discrimination. This will automatically lead to lower population growth, lower infant mortality, higher standard of living and ultimately to a progressive state.

lets join together to improve our present for getting tension free and pleasant tomorrow.

Top 20 Job Sites

- *www.naukri.com* <http://www.naukri.com/>
- *www.monsterindia.com* <http://www.monsterindia.com/>
- *www.clickjobs.com* <http://www.clickjobs.com/>
- *www.timesjobs.com* <http://www.timesjobs.com/>
- *www.jobstreet.com* <http://www.jobstreet.com/>
- *in.jobs.yahoo.com* <http://in.jobs.yahoo.com/>
- *www.cybermediadice.com*
- <http://www.cybermediadice.com/>
- *www.naukrihub.com* <http://www.naukrihub.com/>
- *www.bixee.com* <http://www.bixee.com/>
- *jobsearch.rediff.com* <http://jobsearch.rediff.com/>
- *www.india.jobs.com* <http://www.india.jobs.com/>
- *www.jobsahead.com* <http://www.jobsahead.com/>
- *india.recruit.net* <http://india.recruit.net/>
- *www.placementindia.com*
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Har Mirch

Seraj Akram



-Hamlog mante to ek mazhab hain lekin na jane kin kin namo se apne beech ekhtalaaf ki deewar hayel kiye hue hain. Kya sirf Islam ka nam hi kaafi nahi hame muttahir rakhne ke liye?

Yah aksar suna gaya he ke dushman-e-deen aapas ke ekhtalaaf ko badhane me madad karte hain jiski wajah se qaum ki asal taqat aapas me hi ladne me sarf ho jati he. Ladaane wala jitna zaheen he kya ham utne hi ahmaq nahin? Hamlog khud apne ekhtalaaf ko kam se kam karne ke liye kya koshis kar rahe hain. Kya kabhi hamne apne maslak, zaban, halqa, rang aur nasl ke ekhtalaaf ko Islam ke nam par qurban karne ki koshis kiya? Agar ham khud hi dusron ke hathon khelna pasand karengay to dusre ka kya jaata he us se maza lene me.

Yoon Na Mil Mujh se...

**Yoon Na Mil Mujh SaY khafa ho Jaise
Sath Chal Maoj-e-saba ho Jaise**

**log Yoon dekh ke Hans Dete Hain
Tu Mujhe Bhool Gaya Ho Jaise**

**ishq ko shirk ki Had Tak Na Barha
Yoon Na Mil Humse khuda Ho Jaise**

**Maut Bhi Aayi To iss Naz ke Sath
Mujh Pe Ehsaan kiya Ho Jaise**

**Aise Anjaan Bane Baithe Ho
Tum ko kuch pata Bhi Na Ho jaise**

**HichkiYan Raat Ko Aati Hi Rahien
Tu Ne Phir Yaad kiya Ho jaise**

**Zindagi Beet Rahi Hai Yoon Hi
Ek Be-jurm Saza Ho Jaise!!!!!!**

Continued...Views on News

dispute between the West and Iran over the latter's nuclear program must be resolved through diplomatic channels, and added that economic sanctions would also have an impact on the entire region. "Don't leave the negotiations table until the end of the process," he said. In the past, Turkey has offered to mediate in talks, but the Iranians objected.

However, Israel is concerned about Turkey's rapprochement with Iran. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, "There are three strong countries in the Middle East that are not Arab," he said. "Israel has always been rooted in the West. Iran was once Western but is currently the leader of radical Islam. The third is Turkey, which used to be close to the West but in recent years has begun to look eastward, towards Iran, and that is why its systematic glide east should worry us."

U.S. plans for possible delay in Iraq withdrawal

The U.S. military has prepared contingency plans to delay the planned withdrawal of all combat forces in Iraq, citing the prospects for political instability and increased violence as Iraqis hold national elections next month. Under a deadline set by President Obama, all combat forces are slated to withdraw from Iraq by the end of August, and there remains heavy political pressure in Washington and Baghdad to stick to that schedule. But Army

Gen. Ray Odierno, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, said Monday that he had briefed officials in Washington in the past week about possible contingency plans. Odierno declined to describe the plans in detail and said he was optimistic they would not be necessary. But he said he was prepared to make the changes "if we run into problems" in the coming months. Under Obama's plan, about 50,000 troops will remain in the country through 2011 to train Iraqi forces, perform counterterrorism operations and help with civilian projects. The United States has signed a legal agreement with the Iraqi government to withdraw all forces by the end of 2011. U.S. commanders have already reduced the presence in Iraq to about 96,000 military personnel, Odierno said - the first time since the 2003 invasion that fewer than 100,000 U.S. troops have been in the country. The U.S. military presence reached a peak of 166,000 troops in October 2007. "Right now, our plan is to be at 50,000 by the 1st of September," he said. "And if you ask me today, I'm fully committed and I believe that's the right course of action."

Pakistan received \$18 billion for siding with America's war against Islam

Pakistan received nearly \$18 billion as aid from the United States, including \$11.5 billion as military assistance, according to Congressional documents. A Congressional compilation of the US aid to Pakistan says

Islamabad has received \$6 billion in civilian aid after the September 11 attack in New York. The Obama Administration, in its latest annual budget, has proposed \$1.6 billion in military assistance and about \$1.4 billion as civilian assistance to Pakistan. This takes the total US aid to Pakistan to more than \$20.7 billion post 9/11, according to the data compiled from information received from the Departments of Defence, State and Agriculture and US Agency for International Development. Of the military assistance, the maximum amount \$7.345 billion has gone to Pakistan as Coalition Support Fund (CSF), which many do not consider as foreign assistance as this is reimbursement that Pakistan receives for its support of the US military operations in Afghanistan. This is followed by \$2.164 billion as Foreign Military Assistance. After coming to power, the Obama Administration has so far provided \$1.1 billion (\$400 million in 2009 and \$700 million in 2010) for Pakistan Counterinsurgency Fund/Counterinsurgency Capability Fund. For the year 2011, Obama has proposed to the US Congress \$1.2 billion for Pakistan under this category. Non-military assistance to Pakistan has increased considerably under the Obama Administration, which is mainly attributable to the Kerry-Lugar-Berman bill, which grants \$7.5 billion to Pakistan in five years beginning 2009.

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

S.	Location	Name	Native of	e-mail id
1	Gaya	Md. Zubair Haider	Gaya	zbrhaider@gmail.com
2	Pune	Md.muzzammil quamer	Patna	muzzammilmba@gmail.com
3	Pune	Md. Muzzammil Quamer	Patna	muzzammilmba@gmail.com
4	Pune	Ajaz Rahman Khan	Jamshedpur	aijazrahmankhan@yahoo.com
5	Doha	Syed Badrul Rahman	Patna	syedrahman75@gmail.com
6	Saudi Arabia	Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Ansari	Gopalganj	khurshid_ansari2000@yahoo.com
7	Riyadh	Md. Afaque Haider Khan	Siwan	rsaafaque@yahoo.com
8	Riyadh	Khurshid Alam	Madhubani	khurshidalam236@yahoo.co.in
9	Riyadh	Faiz Akram	Samastipur	faizakram20@gmail.com
10	Riyadh	Sultan Ahmad		ahmad_1981_4u@yahoo.co.in
11	Al-Khobar	Ghulam Jafar (Nazmi)	Samastipur	jafar.nazami@gmail.com
12	Dubai	Mohammad Aamir Rizwan	Dhanbad	riz.aamir@gmail.com
13	Dubai	Ibrar Ahmad Khan	Jamshedpur	ibrarkhan301@yahoo.co.in
14	UAE	Rizwan	Banka	rizwanbz@yahoo.com
15	New Delhi	Mohd Imran	Patna	imran_bihari82@yahoo.com
16	New Delhi	Mohammad Shah Anwarullah Sulaiman	Madhepura	smartanno@gmail.com
17	New Delhi	Sadre Alam	Darbhangha	sadre_alam2004@yahoo.com
18	New Delhi	Perwaiz Alam		perwaiz4u2002@yahoo.com
19	New Delhi	Iftekharul Haque	Darbhangha	if.haque@gmail.com
20	New Delhi	Faraz Masood		faraz.masood@rediffmail.com
21	Bengaluru	Khalid Razi	Muzaffarpur	smkhalidrazi@gmail.com
22	Bengaluru	Irfan Khan	Saran	k.irfan87@yahoo.com
23		Sahil	West Champaran	ashfaqueash@gmail.com
24		Neshat Karim Shaukat		neshatkarim2002@yahoo.co.in
25		Tanvir Yushay Feroz	Patna	tanvirq8@gmail.com

On behalf of Bihar Anjuman Community I request the conveners of the respective chapters to facilitate these new members of BA family.

حضرت انسؓ کہتے ہیں، مجھ سے حضور ﷺ نے کہا: ”اے میرے پیارے بیٹے، اگر تو اس طرح زندگی گزار سکے کہ تیرے دل میں کسی کی بدخواہی نہ ہو تو ایسی زندگی بسر کر۔“
پھر فرمایا ”اور یہی میرا طریقہ ہے (کہ میرے دل میں کسی کے لئے کھوٹ نہیں) اور جس نے میری سنت (طریقہ) سے محبت کی تو بلاشبہ اس نے مجھ سے محبت کی اور جس نے مجھ سے محبت کی، وہ جنت میں میرے ساتھ رہے گا۔“ (مسلم)

To succeed set priorities
You can think of many things that you want to change or Achieve. The problem is, when you set out to do too many Things at once, nothing gets the full attention it needs - and, In the end, very little is accomplished.

Prayers in Islam, Part-5

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

..... Continued from previous issue.

In Mar 2010 issue we have discussed about good tidings for those who are punctual in perfuming 5-time prayers and also discussed that such self-punctuality is not enough but we have been made responsible to invite our near and dear (children, wives, brothers and sisters, neighbours, etc) for the same. Here is also good news for them of warding off their small evils by performing 5-time prayers, in addition to that the prayer will work as a shield against evils and against fire of Hell. On the contrary there is severe bad news for those who neglect 5-time prayers.

We not only, by saying prayers, get plenty of rewards, but also it helps us refrain from indecencies and evil deeds. The Quran says in Surah (Ankabut): "Establish regular prayer. For prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds".

Allah has created mankind in between virtue and evil. Only the prophets are innocent. A man can do mistakes and errors. That is why the door of Taubah

If you are a parent

-Azim H Premji

If you are a parent, I suppose you have many aspirations for your child that include him or her becoming a doctor, an engineer, scientist or another kind of successful professional. I believe that these aspirations are driven by your thinking about your child's future, and her centrality in your life. Since good education is often the passport to a good future, I presume it leads you to getting your child admitted to a good school. Then you encourage your child to study hard to do well in school exams. To bolster this, you send him or her to tuition classes. This would have primed your child for board exams and entrance exams, thereby leading to admission into a good professional course. Doing well at college increases the probability of landing a good job. And a good job means that the child's future is ensured.

I am neither a psychologist nor an educationist, and what I will now state may seem counterintuitive. I think that these aspirations and actions might be doing more harm than good to your child. To understand

(repentance) is open. It is Salah that also washes out the minor mistakes a man commits. The Hadith related by Imam Ahmed رحمه الله عليه "says authority of Abu Zer" In winter, the prophet came out. It was the season of autumn. He caught two branches of a tree with his hands and leaves started coming down. The prophet said, O Abu Zer! He replied Yes our prophet. He said if a Muslim prays, his small sins fall off similar to the leaves dropped from the tree

In nutshell, those, who don't perform Salah, are similar to unbelievers according to some of the best companions of the prophet and scholars. In view of this some scholars are of the view that Zabiha slaughtering (of such Muslims is) invalid and their Nikah gets nullified too will be put behind the bar till they repent and start praying. According to three schools of thought (Shafai Malki and Hambali), the ruler of Islam has the right to prosecute them will be resurrected with those who claimed themselves to be Allah like Pharaoh etc will not have any promise from Allah and His prophet earn sins and don't get forgiveness for their mistakes. Instead, their sins get accumulated

why, we need to re-examine some of our fundamental assumptions. In the first place, I have seen time and again that living for some distant future goal also means you do not live in the present. The distant goal will always translate into an external measure of success, such as exams. And most exam-focused children start forgetting what it means to be a child – to be curious, mischievous, exploring, falling, getting up, relating, discovering, inventing, doing, playing. Childhood is very precious; precious enough not to be wasted by the artificial pressures of contrived competition, by too many hours of book-ish study, and by school report cards that simplistically wrap up an entire human being in numbers. The second assumption is that education is merely a ticket to socio-economic success. Given the state of our country, this reality cannot be ignored. But restricting education to only this aspect is, I think, a very limiting notion of the aim of good education. The primary purpose of a school is to guide the child in her discovery of herself and her world, and to identify and nurture the child's talents. Just as every seed contains the future tree, each child is born with infinite potential. Imagine a school which sees children as seeds

will not get any acceptance of their supererogatory actions are subject to punishment

On the contrary, those who perform Salah are free from the above shortcomings. Allah Almighty says in (Surah) Maida

O Ye who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians for your friends & protectors. They are but "friends & protectors to each others (Your) real friends are no less than Allah, His Apostles, and the Believers - those who establish regular prayers and regular charity and they bow down humbly in (worship)

According to these Suras holy friendship is permissible with believers only and with those Muslims who say Salah, pay Zakat and display submissiveness and humbleness in their worships. We can't derive from these verses that we are not supposed to have good relation with non-believers. They are our friends as long as they respect our religion This relationship and friendship can be regarded as philanthropic not spiritual or religious

.to be continued

to be nurtured – here the teacher is a gardener who helps to bring out the potential already present in the child. This is very different from the current view which sees the child as clay to be molded – where the teacher and parents are potters deciding what shape the clay should take. There is an old (and forgotten) Chinese saying, "Give a seed to a potter, and you will get a bonsai." Even in a commercial organization, to make profits we do not have to chase profits. Rather, we need to build an institution that gives every employee an opportunity to do meaningful and fulfilling work. We need to create an organization driven by values of innovation, integrity, customer centricity and care. And as you practice these values everyday and moment, you will see that the profits take care of themselves. Similarly, dear parent, this is my request to you. Do not give up your child's present to secure his or her future. Give your child the freedom to explore life truly and with abandon. In doing this, you will see your child flower into a creative and sensitive human being. And when this happens, everything else – money, social success, security – will fall into place automatically. Let your child be a child.

Western scholars and the study of Islam

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

Nowadays the market is flooded with the books and magazines on Islam written by the western scholars. The western scholars, in the aftermath of attack on USA, put forward new theories and approaches to the study of Islam. However, careful analysis of their writings brings out the discrepancies inherent in their approaches and theories towards Islam.

Western scholars try to define aims and objectives of Islam in ambiguous terminologies. Notwithstanding the basic tenants of Islam, they study Islam as means of materialistic development of individual society and nation. Their studies are confined to the controversial issues, say of terrorism, homosexuality, freedom of gay and lesbian culture, feminism etc, to question the humanistic approaches of Islam.

Islam, in fact, is a religion for those who are ready to embrace it, not for those who do not want to accept it. Based on this concept of acceptance the Sharia of Islam becomes law for them. Therefore, Sharia, drafted to govern our lives, has to do with the very existence of Islamic politics, economics, culture and society. Here we find different approaches that the western scholars adopt to impose multi-dimensional aspect of society as a culture and study the relationship of

culture with Islam. Given their knowledge of European religion, which completely subjugates the religion to individual and culture, they try to project Islam in the same manner. That is why they are far away from the real essence of Islam.

Even the universal sharia of Islam coexists with the rapid transformations world is witnessing. Or we have alternate option of ijtehad? Here the western scholars again adopt wrong approaches to the concept of ijtehad. They seemingly do so because they are obliged to deal with the problems, somehow relating to Islam, to fulfill the western political demands. Their altered approaches towards terrorism as a product of Islam and not as the outcome of political and cultural tyranny spill the beans over their intention. Their analysis of Islam is based on western culture and experiences, not on Islamic tenets and morality. They want to rationalize basic faith of Islam just for the sake of making western way of life acceptable in the Islamic Sharia. They treat Islam as a culture rather than religion. Their such approach causes misunderstanding between the west and the Muslim world. Therefore, before indulging into their writings, we should try to uncover their identity and the hidden motives bringing the World of Islam and West into Clashes. (The Theory of Samuel Huntington of clashes of

civilization is an example).

One of the biggest drawbacks in their approaches is their deliberate negligence to accept the big gap in the nature and development of the western and Islamic society. The present stage of the western society is the result of the development of more than 500 years. In the meantime western society made remarkable developments compared to the stagnant world of Islam under the bloody clutches of the colonial governance of the west. The challenges of the western and Islamic society are different. So, to judge these societies on a single parameter would be an exaggeration, which will eventually lead to form a misconception about Islam. And looking at the attitude of the western scholars towards, Islam one can realize that they are not supportive. They expect the believers of Islam to act at their beck and call assuming their orders as the divine words.

Therefore, the works of western scholars may be used as reference for other communities, but it will be of little value for the followers of Islam. For, if they really want to play a positive role in the reconstruction of Islamic society in the 21st century, they are required to change their Oriental mentality.

رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا: ”تم قیامت کے دن بدترین آدمی اس شخص کو پاؤ گے جو دنیا میں دو چہرے رکھتا تھا، کچھ لوگوں سے ایک چہرے کے ساتھ ملتا تھا اور دوسرے لوگوں سے دوسرے چہرے کے ساتھ۔“ (مشق علیہ ابن ابی ہریرہ)

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

[Http://www.biharanjuman.org/hadith/Seerah.html](http://www.biharanjuman.org/hadith/Seerah.html)

نبی ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ: ”مومن کی حالت بھی عجب ہوتی ہے، وہ جس حال میں بھی ہوتا ہے، اس سے خیر اور بھلائی ہی سمیٹتا ہے اور یہ مومن کے سوا کسی کو نصیب نہیں۔ اگر وہ تنگ دستی، بیماری اور دکھ کی حالت میں ہوتا ہے تو صبر کرتا ہے، اور کشادگی کی حالت میں ہوتا ہے تو شکر کرتا ہے، اور یہ دونوں حالتیں اس کے لئے بھلائی کا سبب بنتی ہیں۔“ (مسلم صہیب)

Alarm

How to stop misuse of
Wakf property?
Don't ignore, think about it.
It can change life of thousand
of people.

Views on News

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

UK: Muslim women who refused to take full-body scan are barred from flying

Two Muslim women have become the first passengers to refuse to subject themselves to controversial 'naked' full body airport scans. The pair - who security officials insist were selected at random - opted to miss their flight to Pakistan and forfeit tickets worth £400 each rather than be screened. One of the women refused to go through the full-body scanner at Manchester Airport on religious grounds while her companion also declined for 'medical reasons'. The women were travelling together to Islamabad when they were selected to pass through the controversial security screen after checking-in at Terminal Two at the airport. An estimated 15,000 people have already passed through the scanners, with the pair the first passengers to refuse a scan.

Dutch anti-Islam leader is major winner in polls

Dutch anti-Islamist leader Geert Wilders scored major gains in local authority polls Thursday, making him a serious challenger for power in a June national election, preliminary results showed. In the first test of public opinion since the collapse of Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende's coalition government last month, Wilders's Freedom Party (PVV) led in the city of Almere and was second in The Hague. The results came on top of an opinion poll showing that the PVV, which campaigns against Muslim immigration as its main platform, would win the most seats - 27 in the 150-member Dutch parliament - in the June 9 election. The popularity of Wilders, who compares Islam to fascism and the Koran to Adolf Hitler's book "Mein Kampf," has dented the image of the Netherlands as a country that has often portrayed itself in the past as a bastion of tolerance. The PVV has been pitching its policies to a nation of 16 million that is turning increasingly inward as the economy struggles and social tensions rise. There are nearly 1 million Muslims in the Netherlands. "The leftist elite still believes in multi-culturalism, coddling criminals, a European super-state and high taxes," Wilders told cheering supporters at a rally in Almere after polling ended Wednesday. "But the rest of the Netherlands thinks differently. That silent majority now has a voice," he said.

U.S. Wages Food War Against Somalia

While nearly half the population of Somalia teeters at the edge of starvation, the U.S. is preventing the United Nations from delivering desperately needed food. According to documents obtained by the New York Times, the Americans demand that aid agencies guarantee that no fees are paid "at roadblocks, ports, warehouses, airfields or

other transit points" controlled by Shabab resistance fighters. Since the Shabab and other militias control more than half of the area in conflict, United Nations compliance with U.S. conditions would mean starvation for about three million people. Indeed, if international aid were restricted to areas controlled by the U.S.-backed puppet regime, only a few neighbourhoods in Mogadishu, the capital, would be fed. As the Americans' Somali puppets' position becomes more untenable, the U.S. squeezes the UN's food delivery system, in effect punishing the entire Somali people. U.S. food relief to the UN's Somali operations in 2009 was only half that of 2008. In 2007, United Nations officials declared Somalia the "worst humanitarian crisis in Africa...worse than Darfur," as a result of the U.S.-backed Ethiopian invasion in late 2006. Thus, the United States has been waging continuous war against the people of Somalia, directly or by proxy, for over three years under the guise of the "war on terror."

Astonishing number of birth defects reported in Fallujah

Doctors are investigating reports of a very high rate of birth defects in a city of Iraq that was often the scene of heavy fighting involving U.S. troops. The BBC reported the residents of Fallujah are seeing birth defects, including heart problems, at a rate of 95 in every 1,000 births. The report said that represented 13 times the number of similar birth defects in Europe. A doctor told the BBC she is seeing two or three cases every day of birth defects, including paralysis, brain damage and cardiac problems. Data indicate prior to 2003, doctors would have seen perhaps one such case every two months. Local officials have advised woman in Fallujah not to have children, the BBC said. Residents link the timing of the surge in defects with about a year after a U.S. military-led offensive in Fallujah in 2004 and suggest armaments used in the fight may be to blame for their children's problems. Military officials told the BBC they had received no official reports of an increase in birth defects in the area but that exploded ordnance is a "recognized hazard." One researcher said she had seen "footage of babies with an eye in the middle of the forehead, the nose on the forehead."

That was a war council in Damascus

The three-party meeting that took place in Damascus on Friday gathering the Syrian president Bashar al Assad, the Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the Hizbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah was a war council to devise counterattack plans and assign tasks in the event of an Israeli offensive on one or all parties, wrote Abdelbari Atwan,

the editor-in-chief of the pan-Arab newspaper Al Quds al Arabi. "The timing of the meeting, the way it was undertaken and the ensuing press conference that was held at its conclusion, all point to a strategic coalition being reinforced. This is the build-up of a new front that will spearhead the confrontation with the US-Israeli alliance and whichever Arab countries that may, expressly or implicitly, be affiliated with it." The Iranian president said he expects war to break out somewhere between spring and summer of this year.

Ensure Pakistan does not use military aid against us: India

Raising concern over the reported decision of the United States to supply sophisticated arms to Pakistan, New Delhi on Thursday said Washington should ensure that the military aid was not used against India. Defence Minister A.K. Antony expressed concern over the move to supply a whole array of sophisticated laser guided bomb kits, surveillance drones and latest-model F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan. In a statement here, Mr. Antony said: "Given our bitter past experience of how Islamabad used such aid against India, Washington should ensure that the latest tranche of military aid is used only for the purpose of countering al-Qaeda and Taliban terrorists and not against India." Pentagon also decided to refurbish and expand the F-16 fighter jets Pakistan has been using since the 1980s. It also has got Cobra attack helicopters and C 130 transport aircraft from the U.S. Last week the Wall Street Journal reported that the Obama administration was expanding weapon sales to India and Pakistan "in a bid to forge closer ties with each country, while creating new opportunities for American defence firms." It said that while India paid for its own weapons, Islamabad used American grants to fund most of its arms purchases. During the visit of U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates to Pakistan, there were reports of Pentagon willing to offer surveillance drones to Islamabad, now used in the frontier areas. The U.S. annual military aid to Pakistan is now around \$3 billion.

Turkey warns Israel against striking Iran

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned of an Israeli strike in Iran, saying it would lead to a "disaster in the entire region." In an interview to Spanish newspaper El Pais published on Monday, the Turkish PM responded to a question on the results of a pre-emptive Israeli strike in the Islamic Republic saying, "this would have unforeseeable consequences that I would not even want to imagine." He stressed that the

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