

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

O my Lord! Grant me that I may be grateful for Thy favour which Thou hast bestowed upon me, and upon both my parents and that I may work righteousness such as Thou mayest approve; and be gracious to me in my issue, Truly have I turned to Thee and truly do I blow to (to Thee) in Islam

AZAD

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Reformists Visit Syria for Ziyarat



When Sharfun called my mum about the trip to Syria, without hesitation my mum committed that she and I would join the group. Later on I convinced my brother and his wife and my other friends to join us. Lady Zainab had called and who were we to refuse. We are all ever thankful we heeded this message, otherwise we would have lost out on one of the most precious experiences of a lifetime.

The trip was incredibly well organized all the way from our arrival at the Damascus Airport, where we were welcomed by our tour guide to each and every little detail around accommodation, food, wheel chair arrangements for the elderly and the very informative and insightful commentary from our group leader, Mohammedbhai Raman. *Continued on page 3*



Eid Function 2009

Held a week later than Eid itself, anticipation for the annual event was very high

The appointed hosts for this year's Eid function were Leicester Branch. There was a shared excitement from the guests, gathered at the spacious venue in Loughborough packed with inflatable attractions which put a smile on everyone's

face! The bucking bronco was a particular favourite, a skill some mastered and others... well...couldn't get a 'hold' of. The gossiping ladies and the mingling men were pulled away in order to begin the show.

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Eid Function 2009

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The curtains parted for Imran Kapasi and Nisrin Hathiari, our hosts, to introduce the Leicester President Faisal Tayabjee who welcomed us, followed by an original production from Bradford - and a very well done to a super talented cast. With a quick swap in hosts, Bohra's version of Ant and Dec - Azeem and Nawaz Sulemanji took centre stage and had the pleasure of hosting our very first 'Bohra's got Talent'.

The professional looking judges took their seats and the performers nervously awaited their comments. We got humour from the 'Boogie Woogie Bohra's' and the very catchy 'my momma said' chant. And we got a whole range of talent - from tabla players to break dancing - and even a world record for eating Gulab Jambos - to name but three. A huge congratulations to all of the participants of the talent contest, they all

failed to disappoint. The winner being Noreen Kirefu from London with her angelic voice!

Bringing the event to a close, were some truly inspirational speeches including from our Society's President Fazleabbas Kinhabwalla who reflected on many aspects of life and community. Commander Mansoor Ali from Udaipur passionately reminded us that we must not get caught up in our own individual jamaats but look forward as a wider community and promote our reformist movement globally.

With hungry bellies to fill, the Biryani was stacked high on plates, and was well worth the wait. With the day coming to a close, goodbyes were announced and everyone made their way home from a fun-filled, action packed day!! Good job to everyone who helped make the day such a success!

Yasmin Lokat, Telford

The Result of 10th General Election of Dawoodi Bohra Jamaat (Regd.) - Udaipur

The Dawoodi Bohra Reform Movement known for its prime objective management answerability toward their people. Hence democratic concept adopted to select their favorite people. On account of that 10th General Election performed on 18th October 2009 under the convenership of Mr. Mushtaq Hussain K.R. with District Collectorate team.

30 Contestants take part in the Battle of vote for Jamat general council out of which 21 Members elected. The Election held at Bohra Youth Public School, Udaipur .

The List of the Elected Candidates in winning order is as under:

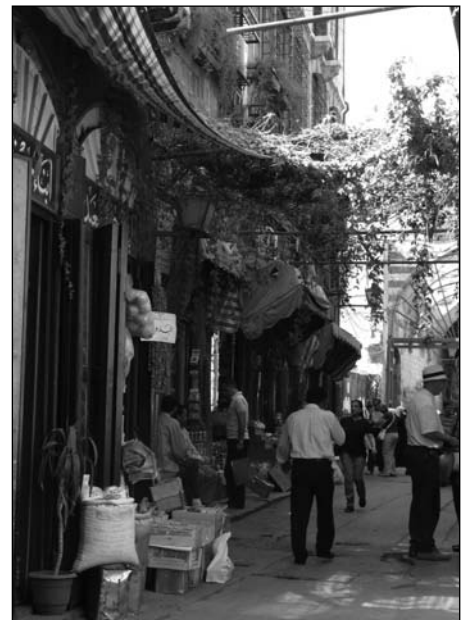
- 1 Mr. Abid Ali Adeeb
- 2 Mr. Anees Meeyaji
- 3 Mr. Qamruddin Mandi wala
- 4 Mr. Abde Ali Lohawala
- 5 Mr. Sarfaraz Raj
- 6 Dr. Ishaq Hussain Shah
- 7 Mr. Shabbir Hussain Nasir
- 8 Mr. Abbas Ali Master
- 9 Mr. Yusuf Ali R.G
- 10 Mr. Gulam Hussain Kathawala
- 11 Dr. Rehana Banu

- 12 Mrs. Rashida Hakim
- 13 Mr. Fida Hussain Bag (Pan) wala
- 14 Mr. Hussain Udaipuri
- 15 Mr. Dilawar Ali
- 16 Dr. Farida Habib
- 17 Mr. Akbar Ali Mandi
- 18 Mr. Moiz Ali Mediawala
- 19 Mrs. Rehana Germenwala
- 20 Mrs. Farida Motagam
- 21 Mr. Mansoor Ali Batliwala

Now these Candidates as per the Jamaat Constitution will nominate 11 other members to form a General Council of 32. Then on 25th Oct. 2009 the General Council of 32 will select the New Cabinet Members for the term of next Three Years including:

- 1 One Chairman
- 2 Two Vice Chairmen
- 3 One Secretary
- 4 Two Joint Secretaries
- 5 One Treasurer
- 6 One Accountant
- 7 Three general members

This election process has been adopted by the Dawoodi Bohra Jamaat from since the early 70's.



Reformist Roads to Damascus

Reformist from Kenya, Canada and UK went on a trip to Syria for ziyarat thanks to the hard work of Saifudin and Salam Painter and Sharfun Tayebjee in the UK. Here are the accounts from the travellers from different countries.

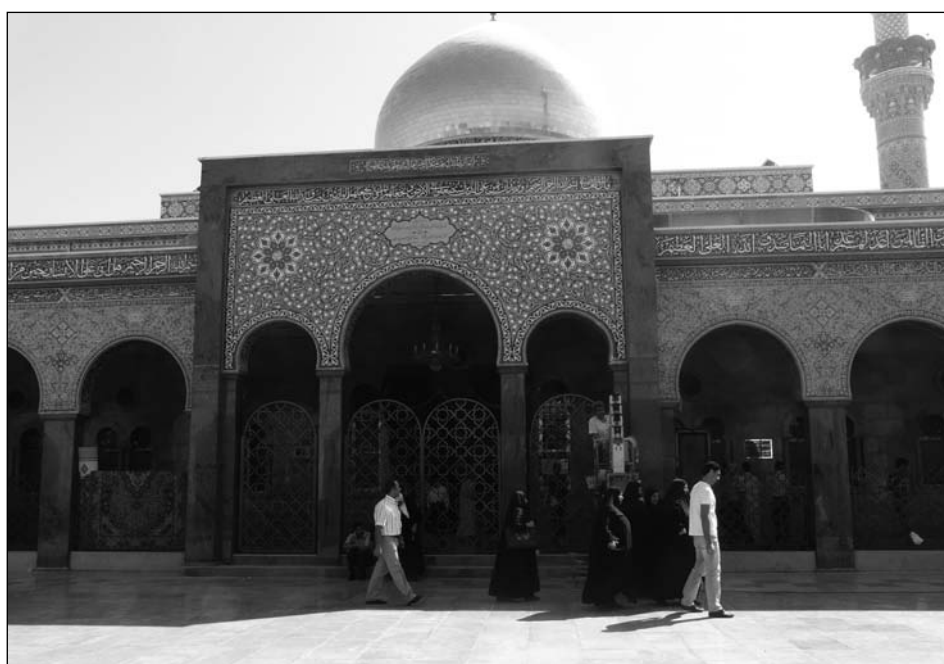
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With such comfortable arrangements, we could focus on the ziyarats and gain the full spiritual benefits of being in such a significant place in the history of our religion.

It was moving to actually stand on the soils of lands we had heard about all our lives at majlises and waizes. To be there was to experience first hand what the family of the Prophet (PBUH) would have endured with the intense heat of the dessert and the cruel tyranny of Yazid. While we had heard of the place called Sham, we were surprised to learn of the number of prominent religious figures who are enshrined in this area. This included Nabi Habil (SWAS) as well as Bilal, the first Muezzin during the time of the Prophet. The Shrines themselves were a beautiful sight to behold and admired, with intricate calligraphy, dazzling mirror works and fantastic chandeliers. Of these Lady Zainab's shrine was the most compelling, drawing us to pay salaams as often as we could. Luckily our hotel was walking distance so we were blessed to be able to say namaaz at the haram and have our majlis there as well to remember the events of Karbala.

In a week, we squeezed in a coach trip to Raqqah, Salamiya and Aleppo to pay our respect at various shrines. In Salamiya, there was a ziyarat of the 3 mastoor Imams and a Bohra mosque. Wherever we stopped we joined in for the prayers and felt the common bonding of muslim brotherhood as we stood shoulder to shoulder with locals as well as travelers from far and wide.

I cannot think of anything that went wrong or needed a major improvement in this trip, other than spend more time! Being with other reformists from the UK and Canada was heart warming and a reminder that we are after all part of the same community. The generosity, kindness and camaraderie we shared with our fellow travelers made this a most memorable trip and the last day,



when we said good bye to each other was indeed a sad one.

My sincere appreciation to Sharfun and her team for organizing this programme so well. May Allah (s.w.t) bless them abundantly.

We now look forward to the next trip to Karbala Shariff.

Rehana Tayebjee, Kenya



Sunday morning still getting ready to go, not finished packing. Last minute cooking, cleaning and worrying about work, Abbas and the kids.

Still stressed, excitement has not had a chance to kick in, off we head to Heathrow, a bit nervous, not knowing what to expect.

Some old travelling companions and some new started to gather, all ready for new adventures.

We arrived in Damascus at about 7pm, after an unforgettable plane journey thanks to Gulshanben. When we arrived at the hotel we were greeted by the entourage from Canada and Kenya. After a good night sleep and a good buffet breakfast, everybody was ready to go for ziarat.

The morning started with a lecture and majlis of the Ahlebait. We were fortunate enough to have Mr Shams (a historical scholar) joining us.

Off we went to do Bibi Zainab's ziarat. The roza was about 5 to 10 minutes walk from the hotel. As we entered the beautiful site in front of us an unbelievable feeling with Goosebumps, emotions and sadness. Entering Bibi Zainab's roza was a different battle altogether, which I had almost forgotten about. Here you needed wrestling skills to get through the crowd. We spent the whole morning there and after Zohr namaz, we headed off to yet another experience. It didn't take long for everyone to take out all those "dubbas" of nasta" as soon as the coach took off. We arrived at something that looked like a market place, but it wasn't just any market place, it was here where Yazid paraded Bibi Zainab and all her companions. As we walked through this bazaar, people looking at us, you can't even imagine what Bibi Zainab and the qafala might just have gone through. As we reached the Ummayd mosque where Yayha Nabi is buried (John the Baptist). It is also said that Sura Maryam was revealed here.

On our way to Rukayya Alahi Salaam we stopped at a mausoleum where Imam Zainul Abedeen prayed Namaaz and Imam Husain's head was kept. We arrived at Rukayya Alahi Salaam Roza (Imam Husain's

four year old daughter also known as Sakina). We had a lecture by Sham Bhai, did Ziarat and then headed back. Everybody was shattered as it was between 32- 34 degrees. After Magrib Namaaz, there was dinner with a wide variety of fresh salads, houmus, olives etc for starters, then main course again a few choices but like most of us I also went straight from the starters to the delicious desserts.

Tuesday again woken up by the Azaan, I decided to go to Bibi Zainab's roza for fajr namaz, at first I was a bit apprehensive to walk by myself at 5 AM not knowing the area but as I took courage I felt very safe. For me doing Fajar Namaaz at Bibi Zainab Roza and seeing the sunrise was an amazing feeling. We all gathered for breakfast and by coach again we went off to do the Ziaaraats.

- Hujr Bin Adi
- Sakina Binte Husain
- Bibi Kulsum
- Asma Binte Umehs
- Bibi Umme Habiba
- Umme Salma
- Bibi Fizza
- Bibi Fatema Sugra
- Abdulla Ibne Imam Jafar Saddique
- Mehmuna Binte Imam Hassan
- Hamida Binte Musleem Bin Aquil
- Bilal

A busy day of Ziarats with a lot of history to take in. In the evening after Magrib Namaaz and dinner we gathered in the V.I.P lounge at Bibi Zainab's Roza for Majalis and to say farwell to Mr Shams.

Wednesday started early as we were heading to Alepo. We left at 7.30am for a 6-7 hour journey. After a break for chai and nasta we arrived in Samiya, Bohra masjid for ziarat of Imam Ismaels sons Ahmed ul mastoor and Husain ul mastoor. Abdulla il Mastoor is buried in Cairo. We prayed zohar namaaz and set off to Raqqa which has a beautiful mosque that is built on the battlefield of Saffin. A beautiful atmosphere of serenity is felt here which held you back from leaving the mosque. The ziarat of Ammar bin Yasir and Ouweis Qarni is here. We arrived in Alepo at 8pm, everybody was very tierd and hungry.

Thursday morning everybody had stomach upsets and Immodium was on the menu.



Our journey to Hallam started at 10am, this is the site of Mashhad e Husain (Imam Husain's head was kept here). Walking into this masjid gave you a feeling of peace yet sadness. The next ziarat was of Moshin e Asgar and Imam Zacheriya. Only some of Imam Zacheriya's organs were found and now kept in the tomb.

Alepo is the 2nd largest city after Damascus and one of the main producers of cotton. On Friday we travelled into the mountains to do the ziarat of Habil alehi salaam. Half an hour's drive on the border of Israel and Lebnon lay the tomb of Habil alehi salaam - 18 feet long.



In the evening we went to have dinner at Damagate , the largest restaurant in the world which seats more the 6000 guests. The week went quickly and now coming to an end. Time to say goodbye and thank you's. Not to forget exchange of emails of campanians travelling to different parts of the world.

All excited with a bit of sadness we leave for the airport. At Heathrow with tears and hugs we depart having made lots of new friends. All thanks to the hard work of Sarfunben, Saifu uncle and Salama aunty Painter's in making this trip possible.

Jumana Vanat, England

On one of my weekly calls home, my mother casually informed me that she and my sister, Rehana were planning to join the UK trip on a ziarat to Damascus. Picturing them enjoying such an adventure to the place known to be the home of oldest civilization in the world, I was not going to be left out a family reunion, so “count me in”, said I! Damascus had never been in my list of destinations, so my expectations were low and knowledge about Syria was vague and CNN based. My thoughts were focussed on a week’s vacation and the opportunity to meet up with siblings, aunts, cousins and friends. Not only were those expectations fulfilled, but in addition I learnt so much about Syria and the Middle East that on my way back I was busy envisioning my next trip in that region.

Soon after landing all my worries about the dubious looking piece of paper I was carrying in lieu of a visa dissipated, when I met Fatina holding up a flag with my name. She smiled a big welcome and efficiently worked through immigration as they stamped away in triplicates and quadriplets and delivered me to the Safir hotel, pointing out the Sayedda Zaineba mosque standing two minutes away from the hotel. At 10pm, the streets were buzzing with shoppers and street vendors, with aromas of shawarma and attar perfuming the warm night. My tired spirits were lifted with the energy and warmth around me. Mohammedbhai, waiting for me just as he had promised in his email, got me checked in with assurances that he would help me plan some things to do next day until the rest of the travellers arrived in the evening. Before I knew it, morning had sprung and I was ready for the adventure.

Next morning, I found myself on my way to the ancient city of Palmyra, or Tadmor to the locals. Though my driver only spoke Arabic, he managed to convey a lot about the surroundings through nods, smiles, hand waves interspersed with a word of English here and there. Thus the hours passed quite well. I had never imagined I would be on a road where signs to pointing the way to Baghdad and Beirut were prominent, not to mention trucks on their way to Turkey, Chinese made cars, Iranian Khodros and Bedouin tents showing up every now and then. It felt as if I had stepped into a CNN set! The ancient ruins of temples dating back to Roman times at Palmyra did not disappoint. This time I had an English

speaking guide, who educated me on the type of columns (I can now tell Dorian from Corinthian!), pointed out how the Ottomans had looted bronze fixtures and painted the picture of what the city would have looked like in its days of glory as a major stopping place along the silk route. He even recited some poetry from the famous Poet Al-Muttanabi, who was given a special mention in my guide book! I returned to the hotel to meet family members from Nairobi and the rest of the Canadians in great excitement and anticipation of the week ahead.

The week was a whirlwind of ziarats starting with that of Lady Zainab in the neighbourhood. Every experience filled me with awe and wonder. Being amongst people from so far away yet with the same purpose, feeling the presence of one of the bravest women of our religion, staring at the intricate artistic and architectural details of the mosques with the perfect backdrop of marsyas in Persian and Arabic as well as Azans at prayer time was indeed overwhelming. We walked the path that Lady Zainab and her family, that remained after the battle in Karbala, would have taken on reaching Damascus to face their fate at the cruel and irreverent tyrant Yazid. In the same area we toured the place where the Nabi Yahya (John the Bapstist) would have been baptized.

Our journeys took us to the northern part of Syria to Ar-Raqqah, the site of the battle of Siffin on the banks of the Euphrates, then on to Aleppo (or Halab) to visit the great mosque there with the shrine of Nabi Zacharia. Crossing the Euphrates was pretty exciting having heard about it at Moharurm waiz each year. We were moved as the events of Karbala really came to life, as never before, especially when we stopped at

place in Raqqa where there is a rock. Legend says that Iman Hussein’s what was placed on this rock on its way to Damascus and there was a miracle when it actually bled and left a stain on the rock.

We made a fascinating stop in Salamiya to pay respects at a Bohra mosque with shrines built for the 3 Mastoor (in hiding) Imams (Imam Abdulla Mastoor, Imam Ahmed Mastoor, Hussein Mastoor). We also paid our respects to the shrine of Nabi Habil (son of Nabi Adam). This was close to the border of the Golan heights. Being a Friday and a holiday in Syria, the place was filled with local families who came to pay their respects as well as spend a day picknicking in the mountainous terrain.

Being with fellow reformists was ever so enjoyable. We shared ideas, jokes, food, medicines and prayers as one family. The wealth of our heritage that connects us would make any modern day electronic networks envious. We do not need a Facebook or LinkedIn to keep in touch or introduce each other. When we meet we are brothers and sisters united without any questions asked. Let us continue to harvest this and meet more often through such trips as well as conferences, so that our brotherhood continues and gets passed to the next generation.

From all the Canadians, a big thanks to Sharfun for all her efforts in this, to Kaizer as well, to Mohammedbhai Ramzan for his never ending patience, to my mum for inspiring us to join and to all the fellow travellers for your kindness and generosity throughout the trip.

Narai Haideri – Ya-Ali!

Lubaina Fidaali, Canada



Ramzan around England

How did Ramzan go for you? It seems like a long time ago but read on and find out how the various centres in England celebrated this holy month.

Ramzaan as always, is a time where we can not only re-connect with our faith but also come together as families and as a community. Leicester branch this year proved just that amid a time where there were building works in place, limited bathroom and heating facilities – causing most concerns for our elderly and young children. A weekday usually proves difficult for anyone to attend due to work/other daytime commitments at anytime in the year, let alone during Ramzaan but still it was inspiring to see a dedicated group of individuals and families including children who attended all 30 days bringing tasty snacks to share after Maghrib Namaaz. More-so the night of Laila-tul-Qadar was still celebrated with full attendance even though a ring system had been circulated to inform that there were limited bathroom facilities for ladies. It was heartening to see members of Leicester branch attending to share such a holy night with the other members of the community in such conditions where it may have been much easier to pray in the comfort of their own home. Insha-Allah this community spirit continues to next year where we can look forward to celebrating Ramzaan in our newly renovated Husaini Manzil.

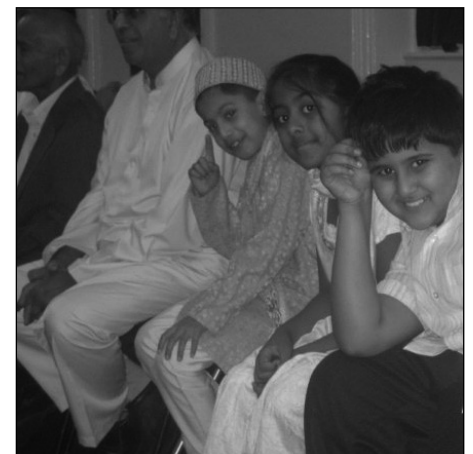
Zahera Kapasi, Leicester



Ramadan in Bradford

Ramadan was a good opportunity for all the families in Bradford to get together and share the spirit of this holy month. This year we all gathered together on some occasions at the Clayton Village Hall where we prayed Namaaz and broke our fasts together with a big feast (usually a curry from Iqbal's)! Also this year felt more special because many of the younger children in our jumaat kept many of the fasts.

On the day of Eid-ul-fitr, we had a big gathering at our hall in the evening, with almost 48 people attending to celebrate the end of Ramadan.



After the pass-the-parcel party games enjoyed by all, we had a buffet style dinner and to end the evening we had a raffle and an auction of several items donated to us by a number of businesses in Bradford and also by members of the Bradford jumaat. The money raised was contributed to both the Bradford jumaat and several charities. As a treat to finish the celebration, we had a chocolate fountain. Overall, this was a fantastic event enjoyed by everyone. Insha-Allah we hope to have more gatherings in the coming future and now look forward to Eid-ul-Adha and the month of Muharram.

Sana Husenbhai, Bradford



Ramadhan in Birmingham

Ramadan has always been a demanding month. But for me, this year seemed even harder because of the long daylight hours. Not to mention the fact that it was the school holidays so not eating food seemed like an even bigger sacrifice!

However, every Friday, Saturday and Sunday the Birmingham Jamaat gathered to break our fast together with delicious and scrumptious foods that definitely made fasting worthwhile!

Lailatul-Qadr was again a great success praying with the community and with all the masallahs full it was indeed as the name translates 'The Night of Power' and of course followed by an awesome and delicious breakfast! Mmm...

As well as this, we were joined by Clare Edwards, an award winning festival organiser, was curious to find out what fasting felt like. We proudly invited her to share iftari and prayers with the jamaat. Clare has written a blog about her experiences too for the BBC, which you can enjoy reading on the BBC website: www.bbc.co.uk/.../clare_edwards_blog_2009_feature

We were also joined by Joanna Ryam, a trained interfaith minister from London.

This special and rewarding month finished on a great high, with early morning prayers and a thoroughly enjoyed after party and let's not forget food!!

Overall Ramadan was made very valuable because of the high spirits and upbeat, cheery moods of Birmingham Jamaat!

Naseema Rajabali, Birmingham

Ramadhan in London

This social gathering of London was held on all Sundays during Ramadhan. In general the events were very successful with attendance growing throughout the month. A few catering difficulties were overcome

with bring your own dish and pizza orders! Which was well received by the youngsters. Thanks to the local vicar of Croxley green who let us hire his church hall for the night, Lailatul Qadr was celebrated successfully in London after a number of years and on the whole a very good night of prayers led by Hamidbhai and attended by young and old and finished off by sehri of kheema paratha, croissants etc.

A tremendous turnout saw a very successful Eid Namaaz held in Watford at a fraction of the normal cost. Prayers were led again by Hamidbhai.

A huge thanks of appreciation to all Londoners who made the functions a success by their attendance....

Abbas Vanat, Watford

My Personal Ramazan

Ramadan is always a great time of reflection for myself - it is easy to get 'lost' in the everyday activities of the busy lives we lead.

Ramadan provides us with a period in the year which makes it easy for one to peer inside and take a look at the mirror in their mind to see what kind of person is looking back at them. This enables us all the opportunity to improve ourselves and it is those amongst us who grasp that opportunity with both hands who in my opinion truly understand the purpose of Ramadan.

Hanif Lokat, Leicester

A Little Rap for Thought

Last year DBWS/DBRJ UK agreed to increase its membership fee from £5 a year to £35 after 35 years of having the same membership fee! Murtaza Rajabali was moved to write and perform a little rap to celebrate the news and here it is.

My Mamma said
There's an increase in a fee
5 to 6 times 5 is the plea
Is this a conspiracy
To collect our currency

For a future we long to see,
6x5 is all we see

My Mamma said
5 it was for an age
As if in a cage
Now with the uppage
We're all in a rage

For a future we crave to see,
6x5 is all we see

My Mamma said
5 is monopoly money
Won't even buy any honey
6x5 seems a heavy levy
Just ask your mummy, for the penny

For a future we yearn to see,
6x5 is all we see

My Mamma said
6x5 is too much
N all in a credit crunch
Now let's not get in a bunch
To give the scheme a punch

For a future we desire to see,
6x5 is all we see

My Mamma said
Now hold onto your moochi
Cause I know you're wearing Gucci
Now don't leave it till pachi
N do what is sachi

For a future we need to see,
6x5 is all we see

My Mamma said
Lets all be clear
N be not so quick to smear
Watch as we steer
To a goal quite near

For a future we long to see,
6x5 is all we see

Murtaza Rajabali, Birmingham

DBWS Sports Day 2009

My newly acclaimed husband asked me if I wanted to 'partner' him in the badminton mixed doubles at this year Sports Day. I was a bit nervous about competing, as I hadn't hit a shuttlecock for over 10 years, but with enough time to fit in a few practice sessions, I thought why not! Then it dawned on me that my ever eager husband was planning a day of sporting activity, hours before we were due to fly out to Africa. When I asked him if he had lost his marbles he replied enthusiastically "Well I can't miss Sports Day!"



This year's Sports Day was held in Leicester and organised by Aquil Rajabali, Kuresh Lokat, Amir Kapasi, Rahim Sulemanji and of course Rizvan Sadikot. Our day started particularly early and then we arrived to a busy, bustling sports hall – where the games had already begun. There was a great buzz about the place and it was warming to see so many familiar faces, all eagerly waiting to compete against friends and family and get involved in a bit of healthy competition.



I had decided to not take it **TOO** seriously, but this was short lived as I stepped onto the court for my 3 rounds of ladies doubles – where I faced some serious opposition which included a rather spirited mother-in-law!

During a quick lunch break, mums and dads scurried to see what their beloved mini-me's were getting up to with the children's activities organised by Afroze Rajabali and Huma Kapasi, who all looked content and smiley with their triathlon games faces!

We were on to mixed doubles – where we met with the renowned badminton duo – Anika and Fazelabbas Kinkhabwalla. I was given some inside information – 'Watch out for the drop shots!' – I watched each and everyone but failed to return any.



As the badminton tournament drew to a close and the footballers testosterone faded, scores were totted up and we all took our seats to watch the pre-dominantly male volleyball tournament (Jo Lokat was brave enough to join the Leicester team and display great 'girl power'). Unfortunately we couldn't stay to watch the final between infamous Peterborough and Nottingham Tajbhais

We bid 'Bon Voyage' to all our friends and family in what was the largest send off I've ever had! We were sad that that we couldn't be there for the yummy food and prize giving – but over the 'honey MOON' that we attended the day

The Sports Day was an enormous success and the perfect start to our 3 week Honeymoon in Africa

Zuleka Rajabali, Birmingham





Sports Day Results

Under 16 5-a-sides Football

Winners

Kaif Rajabali
Aqeel Kapasi
Wasim Vanat
Ali Vanat
Rowan Mankoo

Runners-up

Husein Vanparekh
Arif Dungarwalla
Yasmin Dungarwalla
Amal Dungarwalla
Ruhi Tayabali

Under 16s Badminton Singles

Winner

Aqeel Kapasi

Runner up

Kaif Rajabali

Adult Badminton Results

Mens Singles

Winner

Adam Tajbhai

Womens Singles Winner

Nisreen Kaderbhai

Mens Doubles Winner

Fazleabbas Kinkhabwalla
Saleem Bagasrawalla

Womens Doubles Winners

Zebun Rajabali
Nasreen Rajabali

Mixed Doubles Winners

Fazleabbas Kinkhabwalla
Anika Kinkhabwalla

Runner up

Ali Ayub

Runner up

Sabina Tajbhai

Runner up

Ali Ayub

Mohammed Kapasi

Runner up

Sabina Tajbhai

Hanifa Dungarwalla

Runner up

Mohammed Kapasi

Hamida Kapasi

Adult Volleyball

Winner

Peterborough A
Asgar Tayabali
Asgar Dungarwalla
Asgar Vanparekh
Akbar Tajbhai
Ashiq Kapasi
Arif Kapasi
Husein Vanparekh

Runner Up

Nottingham
Abid Valiji
Shafiq Tajbhau
Hassan Tajbhai
Irfan Tajbhai
Adam Tajbhai
Imran Tajbhai

Adult 5-a-side Football

Winners

Rahim Sulemanji
Zabir Kapasi
Amir Kapasi
Kaiser Vanat
Yaseen Tayabjee

Runners up

Imtiaz Sulemanji
Kuresh Lokat
Mohamed Kapasi
Habil Kapasi
Ali Sadikot

Women Sports Personality of the day

Zebun Rajabali

Zehrabhen Cyclewala Agitates in Surat Appeal to debar the Amil Mustafa from Services

Zehra Cyclewala has a house, agricultural land from her forefathers' time. Also her orthodox brother stays in the same Bhadrewadi village. Zehra often visit Bhadrewadi. She had visited Bhadrewadi on October 18, 2008, and after six months the local Amil Mulla Mustafa boycotted her brother Tamim. Zehra lodged a police complaint and had the Amil, Mulla Mustafa Taher Ali Raseed and Jamat members responsible for the act of social boycott, arrested. They were released on Rs 5000 each personal bond.

Sayedna Saheb had come to Surat on August 1 for Zikra and so Zehra decided to organise a protest demonstration against the Amil Mulla Mustafa Raseed with active participation of Surat Shahar Zilla Mahila Sangh and NFIW and reformist Bohras from other cities. It was decided to hold a day's demonstration from 10 am to 6 pm. But

Sayedna Saheb's money-power played a role and at the last moment the police cancelled the programme by giving an excuse of imposition of 144 to avoid clashes.

Zehra has demanded a copy of this order, which Surat police has not yet given. So, it was decided to hold a demonstration in front of the office of the Surat's Collector. On one side Sayedna Saheb was holding his Zikra, on the other side entire media was busy covering this demonstration. The police and the Collector expected the fanatics to create law and order situation but nothing as such happened and instead, many Bohras phoned and messaged Zehra congratulating her for her bold opposition.

Most notable was the participation of some Bohra men and women of Sami and Bhadrewadi village who had come to support Tamim and needlessly were

boycotted by the Amil. These Bohras openly participated in demonstration against the Amil. It was a four-hour peaceful demonstration without any slogan shouting. After which Zehra, Jaya ben Joshi and Zarina Banu from Udaipur handed over a memorandum to the Collector with a request to send a copy of the same to the Chief Minister to book Amil Mulla Mustafa under criminal act of "Betrayal of the State" and to Sayedna Saheb, who was present in Surat, to debar the Amil from his services.

Thereafter, members of Surat Zilla Mahila Sangh, Zehrabhen and member of NFIW, Jaya ben Joshi told the Collector that if no positive action in this matter within 7 days they would launch city-wide and country-wide agitations.

Courtesy: Bohra Chronicle

High Court Disposes of Community Excommunication Case

The Gujarat High Court has disposed off the case of 'ex-communication' of four families of the Sathwara (Kadia) community from Mehsana district. Justice R. R. Tripathi disposed off the matter recently after the respondent community leaders took an undertaking that the petitioners will be personally invited to all community functions and accorded the same treatment as other community members. According to Dr R R Shukla, chairman of the Ahmedabad-based NGO, Yogkshem Foundation, that had helped the petitioners (13 members of four families) take the matter to the High Court, the issue dates back to a case in the 1980s.

A criminal court had convicted certain members of the Sathwara community on the basis of a complaint by a member of one of the petitioner families of Linch village in Mehsana district.

"Subsequently, those convicted by the court took charge of the Shri Dandhavya Pargana Sathwara, Kadia Kelavani

Mandal, which is the Sathwara Community organisation. They started boycotting the petitioner families by discontinuing social relations with them," said Dr Shukla.

He added: "Following this, the petitioner families could not marry off their sons and daughters. The elder daughter of one of the petitioners is 28 years of age and unmarried. This is in stark contrast to the average age in the community to marry off a girl - 19 years. So, they moved court to cancel their excommunication by the community leaders."

Dharmesh Bhatt, the counsel of the petitioners, said: "The respondents filed an undertaking in the court stating that they will send personal invitation to all the petitioners for all community functions. They also stated that the petitioners would be accorded similar treatment given to other members of the community. Following this, the court disposed off the petition."

Courtesy: Indian Express, Parimal Dabhi

All Together Now...

A few families are getting together and thinking about organising a "summu" mishaq for the early part of next year. Our thinking is that rather than individual mishaqs it would be great if groups of young people, ready to take mishaq, were to do this together. This is an old tradition in our community with many advantages. It can encourage closer community ties between the youngsters and more people can take part in the celebrations. It reduces costs for the families, less travelling for the guests and frees up more time in the calendar.

If you are interested in joining in please contact Jumana Vanat
07944 246472

We look forward to hearing from you on this exciting new venture.

Jumana Vanat, Watford

Dr. Arastu Yar Jung and the Hyderabad Revolt

Dr. Arastu Yar Jung (born Abdul Husain June 10, 1858) came from a humble upbringing in Hyderabad. He finished medical school and began practicing in what is today the "Old City" of Hyderabad. He started to make a name for himself when he was appointed the First Superintendent of the Osmania General Hospital. Dr. Arastu Yar Jung was eventually appointed as the First Surgeon to the then reigning Nizam Mahbub Ali Khan, Asaf Jah VI. The Nizam was so pleased with Dr. Abdul Husain's work that he conferred him his title; thus changing from Dr. Abdul Husain to Arastu Yar Jung. Dr. Arastu Yar Jung was known not just as a great doctor but also as a keen community member and philanthropist. Here is a short list of the achievements to his name:

- Helping local people when Hyderabad was greatly affected by the bubonic plague, often inviting whole families to live in his own home, providing food and shelter.
- As a member of the Dawoodi Bohra organisation, he was an active contributor to the jamaat
- He was responsible for the finance and construction of a Mosque in the Husaini Alam district which was approved by the then Seyedna Taher Saifuddin
- He financed the education of community members - establishing educational trusts that allowed youngsters to pursue higher education.



Dr. Arastu Yar Jung encouraged all of his sons to pursue higher education, even sending some abroad to Great Britain and United States, as many noblemen also began doing at the time. Similarly, his daughters were married into families where education was also highly valued. This helped ensure that his values and good will were passed down. Like Arastu Yar Jung, his children were deeply committed to succeeding in education and contributing immensely to the local community.

Like families of many Hyderabad noblemen, many of Dr. Arastu Yar Jung's descendants immigrated to the United States and United Kingdom, throughout the 20th century, for

the pursuit of higher education opportunities. Today his descendants are scattered around the world, many identifiable by the surname Arastu, with a majority residing in the United States, Canada, India, Pakistan, United Kingdom, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates - numbering close to one thousand, and spanning six generations.



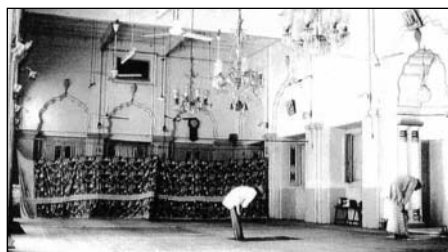
The mosque built by Dr. Arastu Yar Jung, which had approval of both Seyedna Taher Saifuddin and Seyedna Burhanuddin, has caused a dispute and below is a letter received by AZAD from Arastu Yar Jung's son, Dr. F. Arastu, regarding the mosque.

Letter from Dr. F. Arastu, son of Arastu Yar Jung dated 28.09.09:

I just received the photographs of the 97 year old mosque in Hyderabad built by the Dawoodi Bohra community by the Dr. Arastu Yar Jung.

A few years ago when Seyedna Burhanuddin Saheb visited Hyderabad, the jamaat members approached him and asked him to demolish the mosque and rebuild a larger, several-story mosque. Seyedna Badruddin Saheb said that this mosque was beautiful and that it was not to be demolished but left as it was. This year, jamaat members began demolishing the mosque and, when people asked them what they are doing, the jamaat members said they were redeveloping it. Although Seyedna Badruddin Saheb had not given permission for its demolition a few years ago, those Jamaat members, engaged in demolishing the mosque, said to the people, "Seyedna Badruddin is too old to remember". It seems the people have ignored the Seyedna's wishes and have gone against his order. I have been told that the mosque has now been demolished.

Faisal Vanat, Birmingham



Obituaries

Our beloved Jasdán Kaka



Our beloved, eternally youthful, humorous, kind, gentle and generous elder, Ebrahim Jasdánwala of Bradford (originally Masindi, Uganada) passed away in Bradford in November. He was hoping to make it to his 100th birthday, but it seemed Allah wanted to call him to His side. We will miss him, his jokes and speeches, his energy, his dapper clothes, and, of course, his famous white shoes. Taslim pays a tribute to him.

*We all miss and remember Kaka
Or we can cherish his memory and pray for him,
We can all cry and close our mind let it be
empty and turn you all
back as what we learnt and gained from his
lecture during the majlis in month of mohram
and the special nights.
Or you can do what he would want from you
all is to: - smile, open your eyes,
love one another and be happy.*

*While Kaka was in hospital he wanted to try to
say many things but this is what he wanted to say:-
When I am gone, release me, let me go
I have so many things to see and do
You must not tie yourself to me with tears
Be happy that I have had so many years with you all*

*I gave you my love, you can only guess
How much you gave me in happiness
I thank you for the love each have shown
But now it is time I travelled alone*

*So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must
Then let your grief be comforted by trust
It is only for a while that we must part
So bless the memories in your heart*

*I will not be far away, for life goes on
So if you need me, call and I will come
Though you cannot see or touch me, I will be near
And if you listen with your heart, you will hear
All of my love around you soft and clear*

*Then, when you must come this way alone
I will greet you with a smile and a
"Welcome Home"*

We continue to pray for him and may Allah rest his soul in peace and secure a place for him in Jannat and give strength to all his family members as they come to terms with their loss.

Taslim Talib Huseinbhai, Bradford

Whispers...

by Afroze Rajabali, Birmingham

So it's time to take your dose of the goings on in our community... Ready- Steady - GO!

Marathon Man

Like the legend Dustin Hoffman and the man in the Mars bar adverts, we have our very own Mars Bar Marathon men who proudly exposed their legs and ran!

Murtaza Rajabali from Birmingham ran the 13.1 miles in the EDF World Marathon in... wait for it ...2 hours 12 mins ..WOW! His dedication to training and perseverance to get to the finish line leaves his whole family in awe of his efforts!

A regular star on this back page is **Arif Rampuri** who completed a 10K run in 51 minutes and raised £641 for charity! Well done!

The Results are in and the Lips Trembled!

So the dark cloud slowly crept up on all our bright stars who took their GCSE'S and A-Level finals this year. Luckily in August, the clouds separated and the sun shone, as brown enveloped were torn apart and results lept out. Congratulations to all of you who have planted the successful seeds of your future!

She's Flown the Nest... Bye Bye Birdy!

Newly 'Doctored' **Dr Aalifya Hathiari** has moved to Bromley, Kent from Leicester adorned in a white coat and stethoscope. We wish her well in her career and her fun times in London!

Babies, Mini-me's and Almost Theres...

Oh theres more! The choir of babies and children is still singing... Bravo!

Abid and **Zeba Lokat**, Leicester had baby girl Anisa delivered by the trusty stork. Welcome to the world little one.

Zoeb and **Naz Kapadia**, Leciester, were blessed with another little girl, **Ruhi**, in September.

They're One already! Yikes!

Aadil Kapasi from Leicester, **Ayman Sulemanji** Leicester, **Hassan Marzaban** from London, **Zayn Vas** from London and **Unays Sidat** from Leicester!

With some of the newest generation already clinching their first year we'll be sending them off to University soon! Happy Birthday little ones!

Home Comforts

Asif and **Nisreen Sadikot** have crossed the border from Manchester into more Southern waters of England, Northampton. We wish you all the best in your new home.

Birthdays!

During 2009, Rowan, Saleem Bagasrawalla and Mohmed Bagasrawalla celebrated their 10th, 30th and 70th birthdays respectively, Birmingham and to Saleems grandmother, Mrs Rubabai Isaji who will be celebrating her 90th Birthday, Inshallah, on the 1st of January 2010.

Growing old...

Congratulations to Faisal Vanat and Bushra Vanat for graduating your degree and LPC respectively from Maa, Dad, Mum and family, Birmingham.

Congratulations to Sana Husenbhai, Bradford, on her Misaq from Abu Phua, Banu Gigi and Family

She said YES!

Mubarak, Congratulations, Bravo and everything else thats good to our MISS Bushra Vanat, Birmingham on her delightful engagement to Malek Hamdani, Canada. Hopefully that big tissue box delivery will get here before 2010 and in advance we thank you for the right to shop! Your future awaits... All our love... Moiz Mamu, Phoophi, Aquil, Zuleka Bhabi and ME! (Afroze) and the rest of our clan xxx

They got Confirmed on their Confirmations... Misaq!

Imran Kapasi, Afra Sulemanji, Sana Husenbhai, Amal and Nazia Dunganwalla Welcome to the world of responsibility, accountability and adulthood! Sounds fun doesn't it!

Thanks!

Thank you for the new DBWS calendar. As always the calendar was an excellent effort. Nargis and I offer our great appreciation to those who took part, as they do every year, in preparing, printing, proof reading, distribution etc of the calendar. I am sure that all the recipients of the calendar do applaud this great annual effort.

Carry on with this good work. Kind regards from **Elyas Sardharwala**

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For UK local and national news visit www.dawoodi-bohras.org.uk and to add yourself to the address book. The address book is international so, even if you live outside of the UK, please fill in your details and send them in.



Visit the Dawoodi Bohra Reformist website for news and views on Reformist activities: <http://www.dawoodi-bohras.com> and friends: <http://www.dawoodi-bohras.org.uk/friends>

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