

External Liaison Desk Launches internship programme in the Washington DC

The External Liaison Desk of the World Federation has launched a unique opportunity for the youth of our community in the United Kingdom, Europe, United States and Canada to work as an intern in Washington DC. Brother Zahir Janmohamed, World Federation External Liaison lead in Washington DC has been working on this exciting project. He said: "Working in the USA's Capitol is a rewarding, challenging and beneficial experience for students of all disciplines and backgrounds. Summer interns gain an insight into the political process and climate of Washington DC and are often empowered to continue working on civic matters in their community. Elected officials, research institutes and media outlets gain from interacting with Shia Muslim youth because of the unique perspectives, experiences and talents our youth offer."

In order to help more youths from our Shia Ithna-Asheri community find internships, Brother Zahir has been working with elected officials and organisations in Washington DC to help our youth find internships for summer 2004. These internships can be completed at places as diverse as Capitol Hill, National Institute for Health and the Washington Post. For more information, please contact secretariat@world-federation.org

Are you planning to visit East Africa?

If you are a graduate, then you too may wish to contribute to the local communities who you visit, by giving a short talk on your chosen career.

Contact CETAB at cetab@world-federation.org for more information.

Anecdotes for Reflection - Part 1

The Islamic Education Board of the World Federation has launched the book 'Anecdotes for Reflection - Part 1'.

This book, is the first of five parts. This part contains 99 anecdotes on moral issues covering subjects such as sincerity, faith, misfortune, piety, repentance, ignorance, generosity, supplication and patience.

To purchase the book, please contact IEB at ieb@world-federation.org.

UK Professionals visit East Africa

In October 2003, ten professionals from the United Kingdom spent two weeks touring East Africa, providing our community youth there a chance to get first-hand information about career and university choices, gaining work experience, and life in the West.

Under the auspices of the Careers, Education and Training Advisory Board (CETAB) of the World Federation and Africa Federation, the professionals visited four cities running workshops, giving lectures and dispensing advice about career selection and progression. The group consisted of Shabbar Dhalla (Law); Murtaza Kanani (Dentistry); Gulamabbas Mohamed (Computer Science), Sameer Harji (Computer Science with Business & Management); Nadir Rajpal



(Computing & Operational Research); Fatema Datto (Podiatry); Sidika Hudda (Human Psychology); Sukaina Jaffer (Podiatry); Sukaina Manekia (Radiography) and Fatim Kurji (Law).

The trip also benefited the professionals who were able to gain an insight into life and work in East Africa.

Two surveys were conducted to gauge the public's reaction to the sessions that had been organised. In Nairobi, the majority of 14-17 year olds gave the maximum rating for the session, while in Mombasa, respondents absorbed all the information given to them and then requested more! The sessions were thought to be extremely useful. More professionals were encouraged to visit: "We missed this opportunity in our time," said one 'over-35' participant.

A concise summary was provided by one of the participants; "An opportunity to help others and give something back to the community. An experience to visit Africa and a chance to see our community at large. Also I had the opportunity to re-establish links with my extended family and meet relations that I did not know about. I would definitely recommend that this continue in the future with different groups."

If you are interested in the next trip, please contact cetab@world-federation.org



SECRETARIAT

The Secretary General,
Islamic Centre,
Wood Lane, Stanmore,
Middlesex, HA7 4LQ, UK
Tel: + 44 (0)20 8954 9881
Fax: + 44 (0)20 8954 9034

Secretariat@world-federation.org



WF IEB

Islamic Education Board
Dar al Tableegh,
Jackets Lane, Harefield,
Middlesex, UB9 6PZ, UK
Tel: + 44 (0)1923 823 606
Fax: + 44 (0)1923 823 132

ieb@world-federation.org



WF MAB

MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD
106/108 Anderton Park Road,
Moseley, Birmingham,
B13 9DS, UK
Tel: + 44 (0)121 449 2788
Fax: + 44 (0)121 449 5988

mab@world-federation.org



WF ZCSS/CETAB

ZAINABIYA CHILD
SPONSORSHIP SCHEME/
CAREER EDUCATION &
TRAINING ADVISORY BOARD
Islamic Centre,
Wood Lane, Stanmore,
Middlesex, HA7 4LQ, UK
Tel: + 44 (0)20 8954 9881
Fax: + 44 (0)20 8954 9034
zcass@world-federation.org
cetab@world-federation.org



WF SAB

SENIORS ADVISORY BOARD
110-11331 Coppersmith Way,
Richmond, British Columbia,
V7A 5J9, Canada
Fax/Tel: + 44 (0)604 247 1101

sab@world-federation.org

Timeless Words of Wisdom on the timely need to understand the need of the times!

Four years on, one can not help but remember Mulla Asghar's timeless words on the timely need to understand the need of the times to recognize the goals of this community: "Time has come" he said, "that we recognize our goal. What do we need? We need a society where every act of good-will is propelled and driven by the sincere intention to please Allah and none else."



At the same time, demonstrating a commitment to excellence in the Community, he stated that ".....we rise above the mean and the mediocre to that which is high and sublime."

In order to achieve this he boldly opined as early as 1975 that "Unless the youth of this community are prepared and have girdled their loins to serve the community to the best of their abilities, this community left in the hands of the hardcore traditionalists will not be able to take any strides ahead."

Mulla always held tenaciously to his principles, which, on occasion, led to decisions which seemed out of step with prevailing trends. That meant he pleased many and displeased some, or sometimes pleased a few and displeased many. But then who said Mulla was a fair-weather leader who backed down because of public opinion. Though he was always for the unity of the community, he maintained that could not be done at expense of "Compromising on the basic fundamentals....," He said "Weak partners will never make a strong team."

In 1987, he penned a tribute to Mulla Thawara, which rings so true about himself:

-AME SHU" NE AMARI VAAT SHU'. TYAREJ SAMJASHE.

-UTHI CHALYA JAASHU' TAMARI ANJUMAN MA' THI.

What we were and what we said will then be understood

When no longer, we will grace your sittings and assemblies.

Countless minds were set thinking, many lives changed by him. His impact on our society remains nothing short of phenomenal and understood correctly his words continue to shift paradigms.

Azadari in Bam and Baravat, Muharram 1425

The people of Bam and Baravat have been able to undertake Azadari of Imam Hussain (AS) in the semi permanent structures that have been built with the support of the World Federation. The 14 Husainiyyas in Bam and Baravat started being used from 2nd Muharram. The World Federation has met the full cost of these Husainiyyas (USD 125,000).

These areas were struck with an earthquake on Friday 26 December 2003, killing thousands and destroying most of the city of Bam. A delegation from the World Federation visited these areas on 13 January 2004 to assess the needs and requirements following this disaster.



Inshallah with further help from Mumineen all over, we shall now move on to the projects of building a permanent structure for the residents of Bam.

The World Federation thanks and appreciates the efforts of Mumineen who have at such short notice responded to the call and have made it possible for the unfortunate, homeless people of Bam to remember the Shuhada of Kerbala.

You are still not too late to donate towards this noble cause.

Please donate online at www.world-federation.org or contact: secretariat@world-federation.org.

World Federation donates £20,000 towards Jaffery Kindergarten in Nairobi

WF President Ahmed Hassam presided over the opening ceremony of the Jaffery Kindergarten in Nairobi. Chairman of Africa Federation, Zulfikar Khimji, and Chairman of Nairobi Jamaat, Akber Karawalli, were present with other community leaders and members of Nairobi Jamaat. The WF

President complimented the Nairobi Jaffery Education Board and the Nairobi Jamaat for the design of both the Nursery and the larger complex.



The World Federation donated £20,000 to meet the shortfall on this project. Dr. Hassam acknowledged that the community worldwide puts an emphasis on education and it is important to ensure that we provide both religious and secular guidance to our children. He also highlighted the importance of providing for the professional development of our teachers as well, be they teaching at our madaris or schools.



Sponsorship for students at Madrassah Imam Ali AS, Qum

The Islamic Education Board (IEB) of The World Federation's has launched sponsorship of the five of the best students of Madrassah Imam Ali AS at the maximum sum of GBP 5,000 annually for three years. This forms part of the pledge of investing in a sustainable programme of tabligh activities.

The sponsorship is to be administered by the Madrassah. Students who obtain sponsorship will be required to learn English. After their studies, IEB will be given first priority as to the allocation of the Graduate. Further details can be obtained from ieb@world-federation.org

WF PRESIDENT VISITS:

THAILAND

Dr Ahmed Hassam, visited various organisations in Bangkok, Thailand on 2nd and 3rd February 2004. He held several fruitful meetings with the Office Bearers and Trustees of these organisations, amongst which were:

Masjid Al Huda - This mosque, with heavy debts and under order to be demolished by a court order, was rescued by The World Federation following an appeal on its website and mumineen donated generously to save this beautiful mosque. The loans and legal matters having been resolved now have enabled Tableegh work to commence in earnest. Sheikh Gulam Ali Abazar, the resident aalim, welcomed the President and gave him a tour of the mosque.

Imam Bargha, Charoenpass, over a century old is perhaps the oldest timber structured Imambargah in the centre of Bangkok which was in dire need of reconstruction. It has now been rebuilt with modern materials and the World Federation contributed Baht 700,000 towards its cost. Dr. Hassam met the Trustees and several students of the Al Khoe Madressah, which is attached to the Imambargah. A number of students from the Madressah having proceeded to Qum have now returned to propagate the tableegh throughout Thailand.



AUSTRALIA

The President of The World Federation attended the groundbreaking ceremony of The Imam Hasan (A.S) Islamic Centre in Annangrove, Sydney, Australia on the day of Eid e Gadeer 1424 (10 February 2004). The project, initiated in June 2002 by the family of Abdulhusayn (Meghji) Aly and Hamida Aly, had to surpass a number of obstacles to build this Islamic Centre for the propagation of the teachings of Ahlulbayt (A.S). Amongst the obstacles they had to surmount was stiff opposition from the local residents, which was widely covered not only within the mainstream Australian media and television, but also in the broadsheets of the UK press. However, with the strength derived from the nobility of the whole project, Al Haj Abbas Aly persisted and finally was granted permission by the local courts to build the Centre.



IEB signs agreement with Madrasah in Qum

On Saturday 17th January 2004/24th Dhu al Qadah 1424AH, the Chairman of the WF-Islamic Education Board (IEB), Shaikh Safder Jaffer and the Principal of Madrassah Imam Ali (AS), Syed Salman Naqvi, signed a memorandum on educational and cultural co-operation between their respective institutions.

This project aims to establish contacts between Madrassah Imam Ali (AS) and members of the World Federation, and in doing so promote the madrassah amongst community members mainly in India and Pakistan.

The project will provide resident Aalims and Dhakireen who are graduating, and also those who are affiliated to the Madrassah Imam Ali (AS), to serve in various World Federation member communities, ensuring that the community has access to the wealth of knowledge and understanding that they possess.

IEB will also help the madrassah with systems development, management skills and strategic planning. Shaikh Safder Jaffer said "This is a unique



step taken by The World Federation that will help deliver the strategic plan and meet the needs of the community. We are now investing resources and time to develop new mediums and resources that the Ulama & Dhakireen can access to enhance their Islamic education efforts and communication with all parts of the community."

The Madrassah Imam Ali (AS) will help organise and co-ordinate summer short-term courses for youths of World Federation member communities, in addition to medium term courses for the youth. Furthermore, it will strengthen relationship between IEB and other organisations such as the

International Centre of Islamic Studies (ICIS), Qum and others, widening the pool of resources available to all. It will also undertake the groundwork for establishing a state-of-the-art resource centre owned by IEB, which would consolidate resources from all English speaking scholars in Qum.

Spread the Warmth Campaign

This campaign was launched on the occasion of Eid e Mubahila in the name of the Ahlul Bayt who have spread their warmth to the Muslim Ummah through the historic event of Hadith e Kisa, the narration of the blanket.

The Seniors Advisory Board will be holding a number of blanket drives that are region specific.

The purpose of the "Spread the Warmth" Campaign is to raise awareness of the struggles some of our seniors are facing around the world today. There are seniors in our communities who don't even have the basics to survive. For many people buying a coat or warm clothing is a common activity, but in some communities, such as in India, seniors are dying of hypothermia only because they cannot afford to buy warm blankets. Small individual contributions to this Campaign will save the lives of our underprivileged Muslim Shia Ithna-asheri seniors.

The benefits of donating to this campaign go far beyond this world. The Holy Prophet (SAW) said: "He who decreases a grief out of the grieves of this world for his Muslim brother, Allah will decrease for him a grief out of the grieves of the Hereafter."

Region by region, city by city, the SAB will endeavour to "Spread the Warmth" to all of our Muslim Shia Ithna-asheri seniors who are suffering from the cold winter nights. The Campaign will end when blankets have been provided to as many seniors as possible around the world who fall victim to the freezing temperatures typical in their homeland.

Thanks to the generous contribution of a single donor, SAB will be providing Muslim Shia seniors of Bihar, India with warm blankets for the winter. About 90% of these seniors are Sadat. SAB is indeed grateful to the donor. May Allah (SWT) accept this generous deed of the donor. Amen.

If you wish to donate towards this project, you may do so online at www.world-federation.org or please contact sab@world-federation.org.

Report on Online matchmaking sites

Research was carried out by the Women's Desk in preparation for the launch of a matchmaking site for our community is revealing more than a few surprises!

1. Ahmad, a 45 year old religious leader at a mosque in Sacramento, California, admits to having initial concerns about whether online matchmaking was sanctioned under the tenets of Islamic law, which prohibits dating. Considering the matter further he found a burgeoning community of Muslims seeking other Muslims online, with the sole intention of arranging a traditional marriage. He found the Internet being used effectively as matchmaker; testament to this was the fact that he found himself, 15 months later, married to a woman he met on the site!

2. Traditionally, observant Muslims have marriages arranged through relatives or a matchmaker who scours the local community, friends, and neighbours for a suitable and compatible spouse. But in a global age when Muslim families, like so many others, are increasingly dispersed, the nexus of some Islamic communities has dissolved, making it difficult for individuals to find people they know and trust. Especially for second-generation Muslims living in Europe or North America, the local field of prospective spouses is limited. As families begin to extend their search, the Internet has been embraced as the newest tool in the oldest practice of an ancient faith.

3. Ali Rizvi, whose Texas-based ShiaMatch.com caters specifically to Islam's minority group, points out that he launched his site in 1999 with five or six users and has since seen the active membership logs surpass 9,000.

Inshallah, the Women Desk will soon finalise their research and present their findings and plans.

Nisar Sheraly appointed to assess our Educational Institutions

The IEB of The World Federation has appointed Nisar Sheraly to assess the needs of our Madaris and Schools. He shall visit institutions in each region and carry out an independent assessment of the current academic standards and administrative systems.

He will also be involved in collecting data from each of our educational institutions and analysing the needs specific to each region. This includes developing and updating a directory and network of

all our educational institutions, muallims (teachers) and professional religious and secular educators both within and outside the community. Syllabi and other administrative efforts by Madaris will also be collated and audited along with a list of supplementary notes and books.

The following Madaris will be involved in the initial program: Shia Ithna Asheri Madressa - Stanmore, Hujjat Saturday Workshop - Stanmore, Hussaini Madressa in Mombasa, Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam, HUSAYNI MADRASSAH - Toronto, Dar es Salaam Girls, Az-Zahra Madressah -Minnesota, Islamic Education Center of Orlando and Dubai.



Aeinullah Eye Clinic & Zainabiya Health Centre in Lucknow

The Medical Advisory Board of The World Federation has extended its work in curing eye diseases by opening a new eye clinic in Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh, a northern state of India. Following on from its success with clinics built in Patna and Bangalore in India last year, the Aeinullah Eye Clinic in Lucknow aims to continue the work to restore sight to those who cannot see.

It is possible for about 70% of the world's blind population to regain their eyesight, but in India there is a backlog stretching to over three years before simple cataract procedures can be performed.

The World Federation embarked on the Zainabiya medical project in Lucknow to alleviate the suffering of its poor and needy by providing primary health care, medical aid and treatment for eye diseases.

Lucknow has a strong presence of sadaats (direct descendents of the Holy Prophet). It has many hawza-e-ilmiya (universities of Islamic studies) and many of our respected Islamic scholars have graduated from Lucknow.

Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme

The ZCSS of the World Federation was established in 1981 to combat illiteracy from among the shia's of the world.

Currently 400 new students have applied for the sponsorship. Nearly 3000 students are on files who do not have the certainty of a one to one sponsorship, but rely on excess or sporadic funds, through generous donations. There are also 25 new Higher Education applicants.

The Zainabiya Child Sponsorship (ZCSS) has an undulating cycle. ZCSS receives applications for Sponsorships in Stanmore, the members of our community make a contribution, a child receives an education and somewhere along the line everybody is uplifted.

The Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme works. In the 22 years since it was established, ZCSS has witnessed students who have taken this once in a life time opportunity and succeeded to become doctors, engineers, computer programmers and lecturers; others have ventured into trade and business. Some of them have reciprocated by sponsoring other students. At the very least this educational opportunity makes these children literate and better placed someday to catapult their own children to higher education.

Students are being sponsored for a period of 1 to 14 years study - from Kindergarten to Post Graduate studies. You may sponsor for any period of 1 year or more, but preferably for a minimum period of 3 years to allow the student to gain maximum advantage.

The monthly donation GB120 or USD180 or Can. D240 per child per year is more than what will be sent to the sponsored child initially. The rest will be accumulated in the Zainabiya Child Sponsorship Scheme Fund. This fund will cater for administration and emergencies that may arise in the Scheme - like supporting a child when a sponsor parent cannot support any more and before finding a new sponsor parent or when a child suddenly needs major medical care or when the child's parent or bread winner falls ill or dies. It also enables us to increase contributions to the child to meet increases in expenses without having to come to you each time.

To sponsor a child you can apply online at www.world-federation.org. You will find this method very convenient as you can set up your own reminders. Or contact ZCSS with your remittance at ZCSS, The World Federation of KSIMC, Islamic Centre, Wood Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4LQ, United Kingdom. If you would like to have more information, please contact us at zcass@world-federation.org



Thank you for your contribution because you do make a difference.

Ali Asghar Water Appeal raises over £45,000

The Ali Asghar Water Appeal, launched during the holy month of Ramadhan has raised more than £45,000 to date. The idea was conceived and implemented by youth bodies across the world at the beginning of holy month of Ramadhan. This project has not only raised funds but also strengthened community bonds and enabled the youth to network with each other.

The extraordinary success of this project has illustrated that the youth of this community around the world are committed to the cause of alleviating poverty and to contributing towards a higher standard of life for less fortunate brothers and sisters around the world. By doing this in a united manner the youths have shown the heights that can be reached by joining hands together for the pleasure of Allah (SWT).

The appeal brought the youths of the community together, not only by working toward the same goal but by opening the channels of communication between them, giving each other updates on events, problems and solutions through an email group. This allowed them to get to know the workers of the communities, and to hopefully whet their appetite for working within the community in the future. Events across the world were streamlined to occur on the same day, using the same poster designs and a unique logo-all working under the banner of the World Federation.

This appeal was to raise funds to provide clean water facilities in India and East Africa, throughout the Holy month of Ramadhan. The success of the management of this project was owed to its simplicity and the sincerity of the youth, mixed with the requirement of a professional approach including utilising every means of communication available.

The activities ranged from dessert sales, iftar (breaking fast) parties, card sales, Qur'an recitation and foreign coin collections, as well as a number of sponsored events such as fasts, Qur'an recitation, walks, silences and sports events. A 'Night of Endurance' was held which brought together the youth of Stanmore and Hyderi. There were discussion circles, team sports and even hunts for hot water bottles.

The Grand Raffle was a Europe-wide event. Prizes were donated from many Jamaats, from air tickets to Damascus to designer sunglasses. Smaller jamaats like Zurich, Switzerland who have few youths gave their all to the raffle. Paris sold over 500 tickets in advance of receiving the actual

tickets, an incredible achievement! The president of the World Federation, Dr Ahmed Hassam, attended the draw at Dar al Tableegh on December 13th 2003, with the youth representatives from various Jamaats, along with an audience including Secretariat, Office Bearers, Heads of Desks and many core workers of The World Federation.

In the coming months, updates will be provided of the progress of the regions supported through the Appeal.

Allentown hosts 2004 biennial retreat

The Islamic Education and Social Services Council (formerly IEB-Nasimco) wishes to announce that the next biennial retreat will be held in Allentown, Pennsylvania, USA from Friday 3rd September to Monday 6th September 2004. This retreat will be co-sponsored by The World Federation, Africa Federation and Council of European Jamaats. The retreat is geared towards Madrasah teachers and administrators, parents and all those involved in the religious and secular education.

For further enquiries, please email webmaster@naieb.org

Hiridjee Family loan

The Careers, Education and Training Advisory Board (CETAB) of the World Federation, has launched The Hiridjee Family Loan. This loan is available to female students wishing to pursue higher education. There are loans for two students for up to 3 years, up to a maximum of GBP 10,000 per student per year for three consecutive years. There is no restriction as to where the recipient is resident or where she intends to study. The choice of course is also open, and is not restricted to any profession. For further details contact cetab@world-federation.org