



SENIOR CITIZENS FORUM

(Registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860)

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News Letter – November 2008

EID DINNER AT HIGHWAY



Mr. Haider Alibhai and Mr. Rafiq addressing the seniors

As announced earlier, the SCF arranged Eid dinner on Saturday the 11th October, 2008 at an open air garden restaurant on highway to



Female seniors enjoying dinner

Hyderabad. A visit was also made to Wadi Al-Husain (graveyard) on the highway. Transport was arranged from Bhojani Hall in Soldier Bazaar and Mehfil-e-Murtaza in PECHS. Fateha and Sura-e-Yaseen were recited for the departed souls of marhoomin buried in this graveyard.

Mr. Mohammad Rafiq Allarakhia of Senior Citizens Association in Birmingham was invited as honourable guest to this event. Mr. Haiderali Allibhai, president of SCF introduced him. Mr. Mohammad Rafiq also addressed the gathering. He said he is much impressed of the activities of SCF in Karachi which helps to keep old age people busy and happy in attending such programs. He thanked the SCF for honoring him. He said the Senior Citizens Association of Birmingham has donated six wells for poor people in Pahelwan Goth the opening ceremony for which will be held the next day (Sunday) and requested all senior citizens to attend the same.

Mr. Ali Raza T. Lakhani secretary SCF said that it is nice that senior citizens residing in Europe and Americas visit Pakistan and mix up with the seniors here. He suggested that the senior citizens should arrange an international

conference so that the seniors settled all over the world can come nearer to each other and develop fraternity.

Syed Mohammed Alam Zaidi (Shahji) who inspired the idea of setting up a grand graveyard on most modern pattern also addressed the gathering. He said he purchased the land and then invited his friend to participate in this



Male members taking dinner

venture. With his continuous efforts a beautiful graveyard came into existence. The graves are systematically arranged and serially numbered. There are several blocks each named after the martyrs of Karbala. The seniors offered Fateha for the Marhoomin. Namaz-e-Maghrabain was offered in the mosque well constructed at the entrance of the graveyard.

The seniors then went to the garden restaurant to have delicious dinner arranged for them. They had nice time of fraternity while enjoying the meal.

VISITING LONELY SENIORS



A team consisting of Mrs. Shehnaz Mohammad Ali, Mrs. Masooma Electricwala, Mrs. Gulshan Pirbhai and Mrs. Nargis Abdullah visited the old aged ladies residing lonely in Soldier Bazaar area on Sunday the 26th October, 2008. They stayed for some time with each of twelve aged ladies and talked to them sympathetically. They were also given Eid gifts which they enjoyed. Such lonely persons get

great encouragement if they are visited frequently. This will kill the boredom of loneliness.

We invite male and female volunteers to help us in visiting more lonely people. Visiting the elderly people periodically will provide solace to them and help them to overcome the sickness.

ONE DISH PARTY



The female members of SCF arranged One Dish Party at SCF Centre (Mehfil-e-Murtaza) on Monday the 20th October, 2008. The participants started coming in from 5:00 p.m. bringing the food cooked by them at home. By 5:30 the hall was full of members and the dishes brought by them. Some cooked Aloo Cholay, some Dahi Baray, some

Pakora and others brought various dishes including a Gujrati dish "Dhokra". All the participants enjoyed the food and praised each others' cooking. The program was much liked by female seniors who requested to have such get together every month. Mrs. Shehnaz provided much motivation to make this program successful.

DEATH OF A MEMBER

We regret to announce the death of our member Mrs. Nilofar (Alias Shehzadi). Mrs. Gulshan Pirbhai and Mrs.

Shahnaz Mohammad Ali visited Mrs. Nilofar's mother Mrs. Sherbano Yousuf Ali to condole the sad and untimely

death. We pray Allah for late Nilofar's eternal peace and grant her place near Masoomin (A.S.)

TUBE WELLS DONATED TO POOR MOMENEEN



Some of Managing Committee members of SCF visited the Pehelwan Goth (village) in Gulistan-e-Jauhar where people of our faith and belonging to Bangash tribe (originating from Kohat) are living in miserable conditions without having civic facilities. They face

much difficulty in getting drinking water. The visit was planned on 12th October, 2008 by arranging transport from Mehfil-e-Murtaza to witness the ceremony of handing over the tube wells to six houses each measuring around 60 Sq yards. The cost of these wells is donated by the philanthropists of our community in Birmingham U.K. They also visited a Madressa for girls for 5 years and above. This madressa is run for last 10 years.

The Ghusal Khana (for ritual bath to dead bodies) was also visited and suggestions were given to make some changes.

OBITUARY

Following seniors of our community expired during the month of October, 2008. We request the readers to recite Sura-e-Fateha for the departed souls of these seniors.

DATE	NAME OF DECEASED	AGE	DATE	NAME OF DECEASED	AGE
2nd Oct	Masooma Bai D/o. Ghulam Hussain Nagji W/o. Fida Hussain Rawalya	67 Years	18th Oct	Nisar Hussain S/o. Ahmed Ali Fida Hussain Gadagwala	64 Years
2nd Oct	Khairunisa Bai D/o. Ghulam Hussain Ladhiwala W/o. Ghulam Abbas Mewawala	70 Years	18th Oct	Qadir Bux S/o. Mohib Ali Alwani	82 Years
2nd Oct	Zahra Banu D/o. Mohammad Hussain Jeraj Kanani W/o. Abid Ali Hemani	60 Years	19th Oct	Akber Ali S/o. Mohammad Dharsi	75 Years
6th Oct	Zarina Bai D/o. Khan Mohammad Ladiwala W/o. Ghulam Hyder Daya	73 Years	19th Oct	Akber Hussain AVD S/o. Abdul Hussain Dayabhai	72 Years
9th Oct	Ansar Hussain S/o. Haji Masoom Ali Sabir	63 Years	21st Oct	Fatima Bai D/o. Ali Hussain Kaparia	56 Years
16th Oct	Yousuf Ali S/o. Mohammad Ali Ratnani	63 Years	23rd Oct	Rukhya Bai D/o. Wali Mohammad Haryani W/o. Pyar Ali Rawjani	80 Years
17th Oct	Shirin Bai D/o. Karam Ali Adat W/o. Ibrahim Noor Mohammad Lalji	80 Years	25th Oct	Khadim Hussain S/o. Yousuf Ali Jeraj Khoja	57 Years

TIFFIN PROJECT – UPDATE REPORT-VIII

A survey was conducted of deserving seniors in Kharadar and Soldier Bazaar area by the team of KSI Senior Citizen Forum on Sunday the 5th October, 2008 for providing free meals under the Tiffin Project.

A lady in her late sixties lives lonely in Nayabad. Her husband died about 25 years ago. The one room flat belongs to her brother who has given her for use without rent. However, she has to pay maintenance charge Rs. 200 and Rs. 800 for utility bills. She gets ration worth Rs. 1,000 per month from a charitable trust. She has no source of income.

Another lady (65) in the same building, has a widowed daughter (55) having two

kids (son 13 + daughter 9). She has three sons all married but none supports her. However, a sister in law helps occasionally. She gets free ration worth Rs. 1,000 pm and pays rent and maintenance charges Rs. 600 plus Rs. 1,000 pm for utility bills.

A lady (60) stays alone on second floor of an old building in Kharadar. Her husband died 28 years before. She has only one married daughter who helps her occasionally.

An old man (72) lives on second floor of a building in Soldier Bazaar. He retired from banking job in 1996 and gets pension @ Rs. 6,000 pm. He has one married son who has gone to Dubai in search of job. His wife and kids, live

with this old man. He pays Rent Rs. 6,000 pm and Rs. 1,300 pm for utility bills. His married daughter in USA sometime sends financial help.

A widow (67) lives on second floor a Trust building in Soldier Bazaar. Her widowed daughter (40 +) also lives with her. She earns petty amount as unqualified nurse. The old lady has two sons who do not provide any support to her. She receives free ration worth Rs. 800 pm plus Rs. 1,000/= from a Trust. She pays Rs. 1,700 pm for rent and utilities.

The above deserving seniors were taken on the register for supply of daily free meals.

VISIT TO ARTS COUNCIL

The Arts Council of Pakistan arranges cultural and recreation program for its members every month. Mr. Ali Raza T. Lakhani is its member and has made arrangement with Arts Council to give benefit of such programs to members of Senior Citizens Forum. On 17th

October, 2008 a cultural program in Gujrati language was arranged at the Arts Council. The members of SCF were informed of this program through announcement on notice board of Mehfil-e-Murtaza with request to participate in this program. About 30

members showed their willingness to attend the program and hence transport in air conditioned coach was arranged from Mehfil-e-Murtaza to the venue of program.



Mr. Ali Raza Lakhani presiding at Gujarati Cultural Program

The seniors were given warm welcome upon their arrival and Mr. Ali Raza T. Lakhani was requested to preside and give away prizes. He was requested to address the gathering in Gujarati language. In his speech Mr. Ali Raza T. Lakhani eulogized the rich literature of Gujarati language. He also explained the culture and traditions of Gujarati people of several communities namely Meamons, Khojas, Bohris, Ismailis, Qureshis, Syeds, Parsis

and Hindus. They live in harmony and show respect to each other's beliefs.

Mr. Ali Raza T. Lakhani also enlightened the difficulties and problems faced by old age people in Pakistan and lamented that the government nor the NGOs help the seniors to overcome their miseries. He said KHI SCF was set up to provide recreation and outing programs to keep the seniors busy and happy. He also explained working of SCF's projects namely, supply of daily free meals to deserving elders, visiting lonely seniors and setting up Seniors' Day Care Centre. After attending the program the seniors were taken to nearby restaurant to have bar-b-que dinner.

PROGRAMS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2008

SEA CRUISE AND OUTING

The SCF will arrange outing and sea cruise on Sunday the 23rd November, 2008. The bus will depart from Mehfil-e-Murtaza at 11:00 a.m. and from Bhojani Hall at 11:30 a.m. The members

desiring to participate should register their names with Mr. Tauqir Abbas (0322-2777345) and pay participation fee Rs.350/- for cost of transport, boat ride, lunch and refreshments. Only first

forty members registered will be taken. Members are requested to pay the fee in advance as no member will be admitted at last moment.

THINK ABOUT IT!! By Hasina Yousuf

The sun travels daily at a regular speed of 720,000 km/hr towards a destination, in a defined course, heading towards a star called "Vega".... do you think when these two meet, they'll hug each other? I don't think so.. scientists say that there's quite a possibility these two may CRASH! causing a disaster for mankind.. This is one of the discoveries of the 18th century... what a great discovery, isn't it? Why didn't we say it was great when Quran announced it 1,400 years ago? Oh? Where? It's right there in Sura-e-Yaseen, Ayat number 38.. We recite Yaseen Sharif daily, don't we? but just for our health, our well being, prosperity, etc. at death bed too... but if it could talk like us it would complain, about how we never bother to ponder, never actually listen to it, almost never think that it's quite high time when

there should be a proper recitation of Quran with Makharij and proper tajweed, proper recitation of Hdi the Kisa.. I am sorry to say it's pathetic how we learnt it and how we are passing it on to the new generation.. it's sad how one sits back in mehfls in Karachi and listen to blunders made by some persons reciting hadithe kisa, or Dua' e Nudba, or even the ziarat after mujlis.. I think it's time our youngsters start concentrating more on correct recitation.

Of course we can inwardly defend ourselves in many ways, like Allah sees what is in the heart, but wouldn't the effort to improve be counted as Ibaadat?

On the day of resurrection, three things will complain to God against us... the

musjid which was made with much effort, but nobody went to pray in it, the Aalam-e-Deen, who went at such lengths to learn about religion, but no one bothered to ask his questions, and Q U R A N !! .. " It was kept on the shelves and never recited ?"... could be... but could be worse... "It was recited with such mistakes that change meanings.. It will complain that people were too lazy to make the effort to recite me well, so they just preferred reading my "t r a n s l a t i o n".... is it enough? Just to know the translation? really my friend, if every breath of mine is a gift of God, why can't I use some of these breaths for reciting His words as they should be recited?? .. Why can't I make some of my breaths so valuable that they can give me access to Jannah (paradise). Maybe! I may be wrong, But think about it!!!