Obituaries

Esmail Adamali Master

Passed away peacefully 15th June, 2006

When I come to the end of the road
And the sun has set for me.
I want no rites in a gloom filled room
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little bit - but not too long
And not with your head bowed low,
Remember the love that we once shared
Miss me - but let me go.

Zehra Noorani

AZAD would like to convey condolences to Mr. Iqbal Hussain on the demise of His sister Zehra Noorani on 28 November 2006 and to the Khaff family on the demise of Mrs. Shazia Noorani on 24th September 2006.

May Allah grant their souls peace and Jannat.

Iqbal Hussain

Iqbal Hussain is the brother of Mansoor Hussain, a member of the Regional Committee in the USA.

His loss is irreparable for all of us, his family and the entire community. The only consolation is that God gave us a chance to meet such a nice man however short that was. I will not say good bye to you Iqbal because you may not be physically here but your soul will be omnipresent amongst us.

Your Friend, Debi Mukherjee
Shreveport, LA

Important Dates

AGM of Society
3rd June 2007

Eid Function 2007
14th October 2007

Go away for weekends, go away for holidays, book your weddings, book your driving lessons, book your family functions but keep the above Dates FREE for the SOCIETY.

Ashura

The UK organised a national Ashura day on Sunday 28 January 2007. This was the first Ashura day in many years and was a great success. Read all about it and Ashura’s from around the world in the next issue of AZAD.

We’ve moved!

Murtaza and Meftuza Lokat have moved house. Their new address is

Murtaza & Meftuza Lokat
87 Wyngate Drive, Leicester LE3 0UW

Tel: 0116 247 0361

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, please fill in your details and send them in

Umrah trip April 2006

A group of 23 people set off for Umrah on the 14th of April. Prior to going it was very stressful as our visas were not confirmed until just 2 days before our departure! For most of us this was a trip of a lifetime and for some this was the only chance of going. The ages in the group ranged from 12 years to about 70 years, the majority of which were women.

Our trip started in Jordon and to our surprise we got a chance to perform Ziyarat of Shoebalayhi salam. We visited the caves which are mentioned in Surat al-Khaff and now it’s more interesting to recite the verses.

continued on page 5...

Eid function

This year’s Eid function was a joint effort between branches, especially Leicester and Birmingham. This is the first time in a long time that Branches have worked together to organise the function, and the result was good.

continued on page 2...

• Umrah trip 2006
• Letter to Kenya
• Bohra Women take action
• 1986 Bohra Reformist Trust Annual Report and Accounts
• Eid Function
• Sorry we missed you!!


AZAD is a self-financing newsletter. It is published by the Dawoodi Bohra Welfare Society (registered charity no. 275508) Editor: Nabi Kapasi, 25 Acreway Road, Smethwick, West Midlands B67 5RA. Telephone 0121 429 3202 Fax 0121 429 8835 E-mail haki@inspire.eu.com. The views expressed are entirely those of the authors and may not reflect those of the editor or publisher.
Letter to Sheikh Husseinbhai Hebatullah in Kenya

From Jordan we went to Medina Munawara, and despite traveling most of the night everyone was so eager to visit Masjidun Nabawi. When you are younger, let’s hope the next three. But a big thank you to Haki Kapasi Khatijabai Kapasi. Our sincere thanks to all Saifudinbhai and Salmaben Painter and Janatul Baki is out of bounds for women. We also visited all the other masjids or what’s left of them.

The whole trip was very spiritual as well as enjoyable. We completed our Umrah and Ziyarates under the guidance of Saifuddinbhai and Salmaben Painter and Khatijabai Kapasi. Our sincere thanks to all three. But a big thank you to Haki Kapasi who instigated and organized this trip. To everyone who hopes to go for Haj or Umrah, do it now, it’s more enjoyable when you are younger. Let’s hope the next group will be ready soon - InshaAllah.

Afra Sulemanji (13)
Leicester, UK

From Jordon we went on to Mecca, one could sense the excitement of the forthcoming Umrah. The first sight of Kaaba literally takes your breath away. Our Umrah was performed easily with no problems. We also visited Mina, Mount Arafat, Muzdalifah and the Jamarsats.

The whole trip was very spiritual as well as enjoyable. We completed our Umrah and Ziyarates under the guidance of Saifuddinbhai and Salmaben Painter and Khatijabai Kapasi. Our sincere thanks to all three. But a big thank you to Haki Kapasi who instigated and organized this trip. To everyone who hopes to go for Haj or Umrah, do it now, it’s more enjoyable when you are younger. Let’s hope the next group will be ready soon - InshaAllah.

Afra Sulemanji (13)
Leicester, UK

Seyyedah illegally transfer contributions from Tanzania visit

From Tanzania Daima newspaper
Friday, 25th August, 2006

The investigations carried out by the Daily Newspaper “Tanzania Daima” revealed that there are complaints from members of the Bohora community who are not satisfied by the explanations given on their contribution which are eventually transferred out of the country.

The collectors claim that all those who question the legacy on these contributions are sacked from the community or are sidelined. These contributions are transferred out of the country without the Bank’s approval and that the spiritual leader who is treated as a V.I.P is not checked during the departure, hence carries the money with him.

Last week when the spiritual leader arrived at the Mwalimu Nyerere International Airport, he was met by Government officials, religious leaders and the Bohora community. The Vice Chairman of the Bohora Community in Tanzania, Zainudin Adamjee said about 6,000 followers turned up at the airport to welcome him.

The humiliation and pain that he went through at the time was so much that he fell ill that eventually led to his death. I swear to that day that I would never go through the same humiliation my other human being especially from someone who is supposed to look after the community members and not humiliate them or suppress them.

I will return back to the community, the day when you and your associates will resign and step down from office, which is very unlikely, the way things have been going for the past 40 years.

In the name of Allah SWA, I beg you to repent and realise your mistakes and stop doing wrong. Allah SWA will forgive you for your sins. Allah SWA is most forgiving and benificent.

Your brother in Islam.

Arif Mandivwalla
Son of the late Ismail Mandivwalla (Mombasa)
Kenya

The dollar now is equivalent to Shs.1,300. For children who want to see him, their parents must pay Shs.100,000/- each.

In the internet which we have read, most followers blame Mwalimu Nyerere for deporting his spiritual leader and calling him a thief. The followers have openly indicated their hatred to the late Mwalimu Nyerere.

Dr. Burhanuddin is the 52nd leader of the Bohora Community. He was born on 6th March, 1915 at Surat, Gujarat, India. He was appointed by His Holiness to run the community elder who has been ignorant of these facts and so I will not want to show any disrespect to you as a community elder who has been appointed by His Holiness to run the affairs of the Bohora community with harmony and due respect within the Muslim and other communities here in Kenya.

The reason I have taken my stand of not participating in the community affairs has nothing to do with my personal faith and belief in His Holiness, but has everything to do with the people running the local Jamat affairs and abuse of office, namely yourself, your family members and your inner circle associates who believe in undermining, suppressing and extorting money from the poor members of this community.

My late father who gave his entire life to the community was a humble and honest man, but just because he kept in contact with his blood brother who was expelled from the community by you and your associates, my father was also expelled from the community for sometime and was only accepted back in the community after begging for more than six months at your Jamat offices.

The humiliation and pain that he went through at the time was so much that he fell ill that eventually led to his death. I swear to that day that I would never go through the same humiliation my another human being especially from someone who is supposed to look after the community members and not humiliate them or suppress them.

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Bohra women take action

Dahod, Rajessthan, India

The following email article was circulated in September 2006. We are not sure of the date of the events below, but you will recognise the key reformist activists that inspired the action by the women below.

2000 Dawoodi Bohra women against selling of musallah site in Saifee mosque. The Cassandra Kothar’s castle stands on the blind belief of their women followers. And if they start defying its dictates the dooms day for Kothar is not far off. It is heartening to note that more than 2000 Dawoodi Bohra women openly protested against Aamil and Jamaat Committee at Saifee mosque in Dahod.

It all happened with the reopening of Saifee mosque, which was not used for a long time under the pretext of repairing and repainting. The Jamaat Tanzeem Committee headed by Shaikh Najmuddin Gangdwala decided to reopen the mosque for Namaz and tax women worshippers for the musallah site in order to raise funds for repairs. They issued a circular stating that only those women that have paid the annual fee of Rs. 5,200, Rs. 7,200 or Rs. 9,000 would be allowed to pray in the mosque. As the leader of the protesters, Juzar Kasidwala rightly said ‘This means only rich women who can afford this amount can pray in the mosque and the poor can’t. This has never happened before in the Dawoodi Bohra history.’

The Dahod incident is not the first of its kind. Protest demonstrations were earlier held in Rajkot and Madras on the same issue. The only difference this time is that the more than 2000 Dawoodi Bohra women took up the courage to come out in defiance.

As the Committee’s circular created ferment among the locals, a meeting was called in the mosque in the evening where the women who protested against the Committee’s decision were abused and mistreated. This further antagonised the women who wanted a serious and open discussion in Kothar’s scheme of things. They reserve the right to decide and impose their dictates on the community. The women of Dahod were left with no choice but to show their resentment in public and get public support.

The brave women of Dahod, greatly inspired by Maimoona bahan Sanchawala and Zeba Cycelwala, protested. Though many women later withdrew their support as they feared excommunication but the fact is that they confronted the Aamil and Jamaat Committee members to the extent that the police had to interfere, is in itself an achievement.

Reconstruction of old mosques on a grand scale, selling of musallah sites, organising mega shows of Mohrram vaiz etc has become an easy and prospective sources of income for the Kothar which survives on the exploitation of religious sentiments of its blind followers. There is no need for anyone’s permission in order to fulfill one’s religious obligations. The concept of raza had been introduced during the reign of late Sayedna Taher Saifuddin. Unless Dawoodi Bohras learn to live without this nothing can change.

Eid Function

...continued from front page

The Eid function is always a good opportunity to meet up with friends and family and catch up on news.

Approximately 400 people congregated in Rugby to enjoy the day’s events. These included the President, Moiz Rajabali’s welcome speech and the usual talent programme showing the wonderful talents of our young people. Tasleem Husainbhai Tayabali and Taqsi Kapasi organised and hosted a great quiz between the young boys and girls on Islam which was also enjoyed by the whole audience.

Muzhair Tayebjee gave a thought provoking talk on Islam and this was followed by the master of Bingo callers, Intiaz Dangarwalla calling out the legs eleven, two fat ladies and other numbers for the game in which all 400 people took part.

The day was excellently hosted by Maryam Patwa, Nawaz Salemnji and Nazir Salemnji. Meeting everyone, good food and good company made this a most enjoyable day for all.
In memorium

Abbas Dalal

Dearest Dad

I am sat at your computer typing out what I wished I could have told you more often when you were here and that is how very much I love you.

You were always here for me at every stage of my life from the very first moment that you gave me the biggest gift of all, my life. You made that life the best that any son could have possibly asked for, I never wanted for anything and you made every dream come true.

It is so hard to express all of the wonderful things that you did for me in your life and I shall never forget them. Dad, why did you leave me? I can’t tell you how much I miss you, I feel so empty without you.

I know that we didn’t share the same strength in our religious beliefs, but I take great comfort in believing now that Islam taught you, that being that you have moved on to the next stage of your life. I pray that you have gone to a wonderful and beautiful place where never ever again you can feel any pain. Believing that you have gone to this place, makes me believe that you can here what I am saying to you right now and if you can know that I am so proud to be your son and I always will be your son.

Please come and talk to me again, I wished we’d talked more when you were here, but please come and see me just you and me, even if no one else believes that it could be true, when I switch off the lights at night, I just really what you to come and tell me that it’s all going to be all right “why, don’t worry beta dad’s here and I love you, you need to be strong and look after mum”, which I promise you I will. So please please come and see me especially at night when I need you so much.

There were times when I was quite irresponsible, maybe I never really grew up, but that’s because you always saw me through all of the major things in my life, but now I know I have to do all of those things myself and I will, I promise, I will never ever let you down again and I’ll make you proud of me, even though I knew you were.

Remember, Dad how when I was sick or couldn’t sleep as a child you used to come in my room and say a prayer and then put your hand on my head and tell me to go to sleep and it worked it always did, even as an adult if you heard that I was of work with a cold you wanted to come and see me, I know I was your world and there was nothing that you wouldn’t do for me, what will I do without you? You always said your dad is your best friend and you are and I will always love you. You don’t deserve any more pain, you never deserved it in the first place, please be well now and free of pain and know that I am with you as I know that you are with me.

I love you so deeply,
Your ever-loving son
Kaiser

From my mum

To my dearest husband friend and partner Abbas, I do not have words to express how much I miss you, you were my rock. I cannot imagine life without you, but on the other hand I could not bear to see you suffer anymore after this last few months you were so brave only you were strong enough to bear the pain. God bless you and keep you and free you from all your pain and troubles. You will be in mine and Kaiser’s hearts forever.

Love forever
Your ever-loving wife
Sheila

For those of you here today who maybe didn’t know my dad very well, I would like to just say a few words about the kind of man he was. He was born into severe poverty, he couldn’t even afford shoes for his feet.

He came to England in 1952 and worked in the Cadbury’s factory in Birmingham by night and went to university in the day. He gained a degree in Economics and went onto build up his business empire.

He had numerous businesses all of which he made a success of, he showed Indian films in a cinema in Birmingham, had a shop which he and my mum ran together, was involved in the import and export of textiles amongst other things before moving to London.

He met my mum whilst working for the railways in Birmingham and from then on they worked so hard together to build up what they have today. After moving to London he opened a chain of foreign language schools and this is the business for which he will be most remembered.

Unfortunately, one thing my dad always had to fight against was ill health. This is a man who had his first heart attack before I was born in 1969, he then went on to survive four further heart attacks and even a mild stroke and throughout all of this he continued to fight against diabetes.

In 1994 he had heart by pass surgery which helped to give him a better quality of life for the last eleven and half years, and for those years we are truly grateful. I thank all of the doctors and medical professionals who took such good care of him throughout his life and more importantly my dear mother who went through very ounce of pain with him and helped him to have the reasonably long life he had.

He was a real fighter with such strength of character. No sooner had he had a heart attack and he needed to be back at work, even the doctors couldn’t believe he was still here when they would hear about it. He was a medical miracle, the kindest, most giving, generous man you could have ever wished to meet.

Unfortunately, finally he has lost his battle, but please I want every one of us here today to take away with us the memories of a truly amazing, father, husband, cousin, uncle and friend. Goodbye Dad, you will be so very missed.

Social
Sports
Spiritual
Activities
Communication
Fund Raising

- Children
- Madaresa
- Sports
- Address Book
- Website Subs

- Functions
- Functions
- Azad
- Adverts in Azad

Education
- Residential

Residentials for religious/social education

Sorry we missed you!!

On the 17th December 2006 a group of us met in Leicester to attend a workshop entitled ‘Internalised Oppression’. It was hosted by Jack Guillebeau, a renowned personality experienced in dealing with community and interpersonal issues. Although only a small number attended, I think I can say on behalf of all that it was definitely a worthwhile session.

What did we come up with?
- Sports/cricket days, Business seminars
- Creating a ‘perception of ease’ - making people unafraid to take responsibility and providing pathways to allow things to be done easier.
- Increasing motivation
- Taking a leaf - From the book of the Kothar in terms of pride and enthusiasm for their community.
- The personal touch - Making phone calls rather than mail/out-telem.
- Teaching other aspects of religion, not just Namaaz
- Increase internal marketing
- More teaching-practical, intuitive and in English
- More regular religious events
- Madrasa- not only for Namaaz but other aspects of religion and culture
- Other social workshops
- More interaction and responsibility for the youth and children
- A communication chain from children to adults
- Residentials for religious/social education
- A childrens’ phonebook.
- Fundraising- magazines, website subscription, sponsored walks, adverts in Azad, etc.

Next we talked about affirmation. The point being that affirmation is one method of motivating and appreciating efforts of members of the community. We did this with an interactive session where we each in turn had the opportunity to give and receive affirmations (positive comments about character/attributes).

The experience was very difficult, but rewarding nonetheless. In our society where such forms of expression are not practiced most of us found it a struggle to start with and even a little embarrassing.

When the pink in our cheeks had finally ebbed away, we moved onto the practicalities of achieving our collective visions for the community. We split our goals and activities into the categories in the table below.

What we want from you

We need some feedback about our visions and some ideas on how we can put these into action. After some feedback sessions we want to meet again to discuss how we are going to achieve these goals. Any ideas big or small are welcome. If we get enough response we can achieve anything and everything…

The power is yours…

Contacts:
Rizwana Laxmidhar - r laxmidhar@gmail.com
Aquil Rajabali - rajabali@hotmail.com
Maryam Pathwa - maryampathwa@hotmail.co.uk

Social
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Residentials for religious/social education

What did we do?
We had some brainstorming sessions where everyone had to offer their own personal visions for the community in the next 5years. We split into men, women and children so we could have different perspectives (This was not a sexist thing!!).

In 1994 he had heart by pass surgery which helped to give him a better quality of life for the last eleven and half years, and for those years we are truly grateful. I thank all of the doctors and medical professionals who took such good care of him throughout his life and more importantly my dear mother who went through very ounce of pain with him and helped him to have the reasonably long life he had.

He was a real fighter with such strength of character. No sooner had he had a heart attack and he needed to be back at work, even the doctors couldn’t believe he was still here when they would hear about it. He went through. He was a medical miracle, the kindest, most giving, generous man you could have ever wished to meet.

Unfortunately, finally he has lost his battle, but please I want every one of us here today to take away with us the memories of a truly amazing, father, husband, cousin, uncle and friend. Goodbye Dad, you will be so very missed.

The day ran smoothly and eventually we had input from all, as well as the local pizza parlour. How can a Bohra function do without it??

Social
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Spiritual
Activities
Communication
Fund Raising

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Education
- Residential

Residentials for religious/social education
1986 BOHRA REFORMIST TRUST  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006/06</th>
<th>2004/05</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest: Bank</td>
<td>11,531</td>
<td>7,980</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rent of property</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proceeds on sale of books: Kfabus Salaat</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>315</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17,997</td>
<td>9,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and donations</td>
<td>9,950</td>
<td>4,037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance premium on properties payable</td>
<td>5,825</td>
<td>5,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Insurance Premiums Reimbursable by DBWS Branches</td>
<td>(3,825)</td>
<td>(3,825)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing, postage and stationery</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photocopying and sundries</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank charges and legal expenses</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Deficit)/Surplus of income over expenditure</td>
<td>1,062</td>
<td>4,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11,997</td>
<td>9,142</td>
</tr>
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</table>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed assets:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freehold properties:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>456 Shaftmoor Lane, Birmingham</td>
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<td>36,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>197 Martin Street, Leicester</td>
<td>185,341</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>224,197</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments: Barclays Treasury Deposit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current assets:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundry debtor</td>
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<td>1,137</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash at bank:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Postal account</td>
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<td>29,407</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current account</td>
<td>1,109</td>
<td>2,176</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barclays Business Base Rate Account</td>
<td>345,714</td>
<td>309,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliance Leicester Commercial Bank</td>
<td>20,787</td>
<td>15,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>665,775</td>
<td>650,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deduct: Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td>(20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>665,755</td>
<td>650,884</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Represented by following funds:

Expendable Endowment:  
Balance at 01 April 2005 | 112,710 | 108,695 |
Surplus/(Deficit) of income over expenditure for the year | 1,935   | 4,015   |
Balance at 31 March 2006 | 114,645 | 112,710 |

Other Funds - Moneys:  
DBWS | 8,000 | 8,000 |
Regional Committee | 20,787 | 15,079 |
Uganda Muslim Supreme Council | 162,070 | 162,070 |

Permanent Endowment:  
360,273 | 353,025 |
665,775 | 665,775 | 650,884 |

F H Kapasi, a trustee authorised to sign on behalf of all the trustees who have approved the accounts.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
I have examined the above Income and Expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2006 and the above Balance Sheet at 31 March 2006 with books of accounts of 1986 Bohra Reformist Trust and certify them to be in accordance therewith.

E Kapadia
Date: 10/10/06