

75th Anniversary Convention of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore Indonesia September 24th – 28th 2003

The 75th anniversary Convention of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore Indonesia was held in Yogyakarta Indonesia from September 25th – 28th 2003.

Foreign delegates came from Pakistan, Holland, Trinidad and the USA. The first delegates to arrive in Yogyakarta on the 22nd of September were Dr. Noman and Mrs. Samina Malik. They were warmly received at the airport by the President of the Indonesian Jamaat Prof. Fathurrahman Ahmadi Djajasugita, Mrs. Wiratni Ahmadi, Dr. Iwan Yusuf, Brother

Musleh, Brother Pur and Sister Rukhmani.

The same evening Hazrat Ameer Dr. Abdul Kareem Saeed accompanied by Sister Saffiya Saeed and members of the Muhtamadin, Mr. Zahur-ur-Rahman, Prof. Ejaz Ahmad Sayyal and Mr. Amer Aziz arrived at the Yogyakarta airport and were warmly welcomed by the above members including Dr. Noman Malik and Mrs. Samina Malik.

Maulana Kamal Hydal Missionary of the Trinidad Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore and Mrs. Nariman Hydal arrived the next day. The Presi-

dent of the Hague Jamaat Dr. Hikmat Mahawat Khan and The Secretary Mr. Mohammad Mahawat Khan arrived in Yogyakarta on the morning of the 25th September 2003.

Hotel arrangements for the delegates from Pakistan, Trinidad and USA were made in the Plaza Hotel by the Indonesian Jamaat. The delegates had a very comfortable and pleasant stay. All expenses for the Hotel were borne by the Indonesian Jamaat.

The next day, September 24th the

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Hazrat Ameer Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed with Prof. F. Ahmadi at the Ahmadiyya Convention



Prof. F. Ahmadi Djajasugita, President of the Indonesian Jamaat



Hazrat Ameer Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed presenting the Holy Quran and Religion of Islam to the Rector of the University



Delegates and members of the Indonesian Jamaat with Hazrat Ameer Dr. Abdul Karim Pasha and the President of the Indonesian Jamaat Prof. F. Ahmadi



L to R: Prof. Amir Aziz, Hazrat Ameer, Prof. F. Ahmadi, Dr. Iwan Yusuf, Dr. Noman Malik, Prof. Ejaz Sayal Ahmad and Mr. Zahur-ur-Rahman



Dr. Iwan Yusuf delivering the Lecture at the Symposium



L to R: Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Abdul Karim Pasha, Dr. Noman Malik and the President of the Indonesian Jamaat Prof. F. Ahmadi



Gathering at the Symposium - view of the audience attending the Symposium



L to R: Hazrat Ameer, Mrs. Samina Malik and Dr. Noman Malik



Dr. Hikmat Mahawat Khan with all the Indonesian members

Foreign Delegates accompanied by Prof. Fathurrahman Ahmadi Djajasugita, Dr. Iwan Yusuf, Dr. Musleh, Mrs. Wiratni Ahmadi and other Jamaat members met with the rector of the Gadjah Mada University. This University, which has a large beautiful campus, is the largest University in Indonesia with a student body of fifty five thousand students. Prior to the meeting the foreign delegates and members of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Indonesia welcomed by the head of the Religious Studies Department.

The Rector welcomed all of the delegates and Members of the AAll Indonesia and gave a short overview of the history of the University and its importance for the Indonesian Nation. Dr. Iwan Yusuf and Hazrat Ameer gave brief talks explaining the aims and objective of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. They both emphasized the enlightened, rational and peaceful nature of the Movement.

Hazrat Ameer presented a set of the Holy Quran and the Religion of Islam in Indonesian and English to the rector and also several sets for the University Libraries.

Delegates visit to the Piri Foundation

All of the foreign delegates accompanied by Prof and Mrs. Ahmadi, Dr. Iwan Yusuf and other members of the AAll Indonesia went for a visit to the Piri Foundation, where they saw the excellent education being imparted to the students.

One day International Symposium Civil Society, The Reality of Fathi Islam Victory of Islam September 24th 2003

Next day the 24th of September a symposium which was held in the Convention Center of the Gadjah Mada University. The Symposium was jointly sponsored by the AAll Indonesia and the Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies Graduate Program, Gadjah Mada University.

The Symposium commenced at 8.a.m. and lasted till 4.p.m. It was very well attended by approximately

Sister Samina Malik delivering a speech at the Symposium



Prof. Amer Aziz delivering a speech at the Ahmadiyya Convention

Sister Saffiya Saeed delivering a speech at the Ahmadiyya Convention in Indonesia



four hundred invited guests among whom were University Professors, heads of Islamic Organizations, important Government officials, students and members of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore.

Hazrat Ameer delivered the first speech in which he spoke of the role of the Ahmadiyya Movement in the world. The audience was very impressed with the ideas presented by Hazrat Ameer defining the role of the Ahmadiyya Movement in bringing about a spiritual revolution in the World. He was followed by Maulana Kamal Hydal who gave a penetrating analysis of Salvation in Islam and Dr. Noman Malik who spoke about the role

of Islam in developing a spiritual and harmonious society.

The morning session was followed by a delicious lunch of Indonesian food.

The afternoon session commenced with a speech by Dr. Ahmadi, the President of the Indonesian Jamaat who spoke on Islamic Jihad which was greatly appreciated by the audience. The last speech of the Symposium was given by Mrs. Samina Malik. Her topic was spreading Islam through the Ahmadiyya Movement in the West.

The audience listened to all of the speeches with rapt attention and great interest. It was the consensus of all attendees that the Symposium was a

tremendous success, and that it had greatly helped in removing misconceptions about the Ahmadiyya Movement.

The symposium was followed by a three day jalsa which was held at the Piri institute.

All of the foreign delegates including the local members spoke at the jalsa. The highlight of the jalsa was the bait taken by new members of the movement. They took the *bait* at the hand of Prof. F. Ahmadi.

All the delegates were very impressed by the hospitality shown by the President Prof. F. Ahmadi and all the members of the Indonesian Jamaat.



L to R: Mr. Mohammad Mahawat Khan, Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Hikmat Mahawat Khan, Dr. Noman Malik and Maulana Kamal Hydal



Front Row - L to R: Dr. Wiratini Ahmadi, Sister Safiya Saeed, Sister Samina Malik; Back Row - L to R: Dr. Noman Malik, Mr. Zahur-ur-Rahman, Dr. Iwan Yusuf, Prof. F. Ahmadi, Hazrat Amir, Prof. Amer Aziz and Prof. Ejaz Ahmad



New entrants into the Ahmadiyya Movement taking the Bait at the hand of Prof. Ahmadi, President of the Indonesian Jamaat



Samina Malik with little performers at the Piri Institute Cultural Show

2003 SUMMER IN DARUS-SALAM

by Fatima Zainab Rahman (USA)

The 2003 summer was filled with great enthusiasm and religious spirit in Darus-Salam, Lahore. By the grace of Allah, not only were the annual Tarbiati classes held in July, but proceeding the two week enlightening Course, the 100th martyrdom anniversary of our beloved Sahibzada Abdul Latif Sahib Shaheed was commemorated by a Jalsa. By Allah's grace, over a hundred members of our Jamaat attended the memorial, many of whom endured difficult journeys in the sweltering summer heat of Lahore. The eager willingness of these members made the Memorial all the more special as they illustrated their zeal to also sacrifice for the love and cause of Allah. The day long Jalsa was filled with emotions as various respected speakers remembered the sacrifices and pious life of one of our most endearing saints. Not only were the most respected elders of our Jamaat present, but the enthusiastic spirit of young children and teens filled the atmosphere with a refreshing spirit. Many of the youngest members of our Ahmadiyya Jamaat spoke a few words regarding the life of Sahibzada Sahib, memorializing his sacred existence.

Many of the Jalsa Attendees stayed on for the Tarbiati Course, in order to better themselves spiritually and increase their religious knowledge. Personally, I found it incredibly enlightening that so many young persons were willing to suppress their desires of this world to fulfill their more important soul which is all too often neglected. Most of the attendees stayed in the guest house in Darus-Salam. And although there was a cash prize and a stunningly designed shield for the highest scoring student, the students had a greater motivation which was participating in a spiritually enlightening two weeks and serving Allah. The students were scored on punctuality and attendance of the five daily prayers and classes, homework, how well they did in the quiz, and the final written exam. The lec-

tures were given on a variety of enlightening topics and practical issues by a group of highly respected instructors. The daily topics and lecturers included Mujadadid-e-Azam by Professor Ejaz Ahmad, Differences between the Ahmadies and Qadianies by Professor Amir Aziz, the Religion of Islam by Professor Safia Saeed, the Death of Jesus by Brigadier Muhammad Saeed, the Ahmadiyya Case by Mrs. Sabiha Saeed, the correct Recitation and Pronunciation of the Quran by Qari Ghulam Rasul Sahib, along with a number of other topics and respected guest speakers.

The Tarbiati Course was held under the blessed presence of Hazrat Amir Dr. Abdul Kareem Saeed, our saintly elder Malik Saeed Sahib, and our respected elders Qazi Abdul Ahaad Sahib, and Chaudry Mansur Ahmad. Their regular presence was the foundation for the Course. A daily day in the life of the students began with Fajr prayers which was followed by a morning Dars. Breakfast was then served. The classes began at 9am sharp and a tea break was given around 10:30am. During the break, tea and snacks were provided and students were able to freshen their minds for more engaging and highly fascinating talks. The class session ended with Zuhr prayers and lunch was served afterwards. Although the classes would end in the early afternoon, the students were still marked for their punctuality and attendance during the rest of the day's prayers, which of course were held at our beautiful mosque. After Maghrib Prayers, there would be a daily evening Dars which was given by a variety of people, who were all eloquently spoken and knowledgeable. Isha prayers were followed by dinner, which was served at the guest house.

There were separate classes held for the youngest students. They would attend some of the general classes but would then obediently line up to walk to an adjacent room in the mosque to undergo their religious edu-

cation. The youngest of the students were equally excited about the Course as their older counterparts. And it was very inspiring to see the youngest of our Jamaat so interested in the true aspects of life such as Islam and Ahmadiyyat.

The most inspiring aspect of the Tarbiati Course was the persistent enthusiasm and motivated spirit of the students to re-organize and modernize the library. For more than two weeks, the students literally spent each free second they had between classes and prayers fervidly working in the way of Allah. The process was long as the students recorded each and every book in the library, organized them, re-shelved, and computerized them. The students constantly kept a smile on their faces as they worked, and their cheeriness was reflective of their passion to serve the Jamaat. The project was lead by two incredibly motivated and spirited Ahmadies Miss Faiza Aziz and Mr. Usman Aziz. Both sacrificed countless hours in the library, and were the guiding force behind the work done by the students. The Mubalagheen, under training, played a crucial part in the modernization of the library, as they not only worked the duration of the Course in the library, but also continued for months afterward despite their busy training. Our respected Qazi Abdul Ahaad Sahib was a constant source of unimaginable wisdom throughout the project, and he greeted the students daily with his loving personality.

The summer 2003 in Dars-Salam was one of religious awakening, enthusiasm, and inspiration. We remembered our past saints who have built the foundation for our Jammaat and faith. We experienced the present with our respected elders and knowledgeable instructors. And we saw into the future of our Jammaat through the enthusiasm and interest of our young members who because of their motivation to serve Allah will Inshallah be the guiding lights for the future of our Jammaat.

News from Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Holland

By Mr. Hikmat Mahawat Khan

Dear brother and sisters,

In addition to the regular ULAMON news which we send to you all we would like to inform you about the development and activities of our Jamaat in Holland.

We celebrated this year on 12 October our 27th anniversary with a Seminar with the theme **Islam and the civic society**.

Our aim is every year on the occasion of our anniversary to have a Seminar with theme that interact with Islam and the society where we lived in.

Two years ago we had a three days conference with the theme **Islam in the western society** and last year we had seminar with the theme Islam about acceptance, participation and integration.

Our program set up is to invite press, media, politicians, universities, organizations and other muslims groups besides all our own Ahmadi brothers and sisters in Holland.

Our strategy is comparable with the marketing strategies major corporate companies use for their product namely Branding. We want a breakthrough in Holland for the Lahore Ahmadiyya movement. Therefore we want a campaign of big awareness of the name Lahore Ahmadiyya. At the same time we want that everyone knows where we stand for. And then we will spread all our messages and books.

With the help of Allah we are making good progress. Our last seminar and in the wake of it all media attention is a major breakthrough.

I am honestly touch by the amount of attention and press coverage about Lahore Ahmadiyyat due to the Seminar and my personal interviews with

press and media.

To mention some:

1. We had in the major national newspaper of Holland the same day a coverage of our seminar and about the Lahore Ahmadiyya movement and about misunderstanding in the community about over beliefs. master piece
2. We had an article (mentioning the Lahore Ahmadies) the next day in a newspaper that covers about 3 million readers
3. We had national Radio coverage where there was a live interview where I mention our movement etc.
4. We had an article in a Christian newspaper
5. I was last weekend live on national TV where we mention the Lahore Ahmadies
6. We had an article in a strong Christian newspaper
7. We had 2 articles on Ahmadiyyat in a news paper read mostly by immigrants such as Surinames and Turks and Moroccans. This has a tremendous impact because mostly Sunni muslims can read about us now.
8. We had TV coverage in a local TV mostly viewed by immigrants. the same impact as in the news paper.
9. The international press association AFP is going to produce an article for whole Europe. I have stressed to mention the name Lahore Ahmadiyya movement.

All these attention with every time

the name of Lahore Ahmadies and there effort to propagate Islam give us now a place on the map. These were major breakthroughs since we never were mentioned before. My biggest concern is to keep this and I also pray with you to keep all my brothers and sisters together and work as one big family. I share this success with all my Jamaat members and the other Jamaats as well.

I thank Allah for His help and guidance. Honestly I was very emotional to see how everyone all sudden is interested in the Lahore Ahmadies. Allah rewards good work.

Coming Friday we have the presentation of the book we produced with the title "Islam about acceptance, participation and integration". The Governor of the Queen is going to take book in the press centre of the Parliament of The Netherlands. We have organized a press conference after the hand over of the books. The aim is to inform the media and via the media the society about us.

We hope that we can set a step further. We will keep you informed.

May this good news encourage all my other brothers and sisters all over the world to step up our efforts to propagate Islam with our (Lahore) Ahmadiyya view.

Please give our salaam to the whole Jamaat and may Allah bless you and help you in effort to take this movement further.

Wassalaam
Hikmat Mahawat Khan
President of Ahmadiyya Anjuman
Isha'at Islam (Lahore)
Netherlands (AAIILN).

News from Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore Australia

By Mr. Sadar-ud-Din Sahukhan

As for the Sydney Jammah we held Masih Mahood day, Maulana Muhammad Ali day, Prophet Muhammad day. Then we have our monthly Quran Dars. They are delivered by our President Muhammad Nazeem ud Dean Sahu Khan. Jumma prayers are held at 3 centres. One at Dr. A.H.Sahu Khan's residence in Haberfield NSW, one at Muhammad Jaffrullah Sahu Khan residence in Hinchinbrook in NSW and the other at Muhammad Sadar ud Dean Sahu Khan's residence in Canberra Australia.

We have had regular Arabic

classes. We also had a social gathering with all members and their respective families at a park. The food and refreshments were supplied/donated by Dr. M.A.Sahu Khan and his immediate family.

We also had a Mr. Jason French take the bai't. He is a University student in Brisbane. We also have a brother Muzaffari Falarti. Our general Secretary Muhammad Usman Sahu Khan made time to meet him in Brisbane who is very actively distributing our literature.

Taraweh Prayers are held at Mr. and Mrs Usman Sahu Khan residence.

We have lectures delivered every day in Radio Navtarang during the month of Ramadhan. We are further negotiating to have lectures throughout the year. In addition we are hoping to have articles published in the "Fiji Times" in Sydney. That will be on monthly basis.

Our President also spoke at the Canberra Islamic Centre. About 300 were in attendance. He spoke on women in Islam.

We are also actively distributing our literature.

Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-I-Islam Inc. Trinidad & Tobago Initiatives

By Mr. Roger Bissessar

Within the last two (2) years several key initiatives have been implemented by the *Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at I Islam Incorporated of Trinidad and Tobago* to strategically propagate the beauty and pure teachings of the noble religion of Islam. One such initiative has been the establishment of the *Institute of Imamaat Training* under the guidance of Maulana M.K.Hyda. A class of approximately fifteen (15) students has been trained over the last two (2) years by Maulana Hyda in Islamic History, Proper recitation of Arabic and Tafseer of the Holy Qur'an. Two (2) students of this class created history in Trinidad and Tobago by becoming the first Muslim women marriage officers to be registered in the country.

The Trinidad Anjuman continued its focus on training of youths via an intensive Three (3) day Islamic seminar in 2003 August, a series of breakfast meetings for over one hundred (100) youths, and the annual *Miraj-Un-Nabi* Awards and Recognition function held in 2003 September. A total of forty-

two (42) students received certificates for their success at the Primary, Secondary and Technical/Vocational level. Seven (7) students were awarded certificates for their success at the University level. The Anjuman awarded four scholarships to deserving students at this function.

Two of the youths at the Secondary level were also honoured at a special banquet and honour function in recognition of their achievement of Further Additional National Scholarships. The Anjuman continued the focus of empowerment of youth in accordance with training and guidelines provided by the *Commonwealth Youth Programme* based in the United Kingdom.

At the national level, thirteen (13) new marriage officers were appointed, inclusive of the two women marriage officers. In addition to performing marriages, these new officers will provide counselling services and religious guidance for people in various communities.

Maulana M.K. Hyda continued the

international effort of propagating the peaceful teachings of Islam for elevation of the human spirit and attainment of closeness to Allah. Along with his wife, Mrs. Nareema Hyda, he attended the 75th Anniversary convention of the *Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at I Islam (Lahore) Indonesia*. Fellow foreign delegates included Hazrat Ameer Dr Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha, Sister Samina and Dr Noman Malik of the USA Jamaat and members of the Holland Jamaat. He presented papers at this convention on the theme '**Fath-I-Islam – Victory of Islam.**'

The *Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-I-Islam Incorporated of Trinidad and Tobago* has several exciting initiatives that will be launched in 2004. Some of these include programs via the *Institute of Imamaat Training* and strategic religious, social and educational activities for society. The Trinidad Anjuman continues to work with fellow jamaats and organizations around the globe in promoting spiritual development and peaceful propagation of a winning and progressive Islam.

News of Stichting Ahmadiyya Ishaat Islam Holland

By Mr. A.S. Hoeseni

A. End of 10 years discussion group between Christians and Muslims

Ten years ago a group of Christians under the leadership of a priest approached our organisation to take part in a discussion group. This group came together every month at alternate locations, at our centre and at theirs. On request of the Christian group it was decided to stop these sessions now 'because each group had acquired enough knowledge about each others religion'. From the beginning our group was led by Mr Noer Sardar, our vice-president, and seconded by Mr. R. Niamat. From the beginning till his illness our Imâm Mr. M. Ahmadali was also a permanent member of this group. Later his place was filled up by Mr. Habiboallah. The other members of the group were changing. On special occasions Mr. A.S. Hoeseni joined the group also.

B. Geloven in de buurt

'Geloven in de buurt' or 'Practicing of Faith in the Neighbourhood' is an activity of the organizing committee *Stuurgroep Kleurrijk Kerk in Den Haag*. The objective of this project is to create a dialog between Christians, Muslims, Hindus and adherents of other religions represented in the municipality of The Hague. Some years back these activities started by organizing a series of meetings in the houses of prayers of different religions, i.e. the different Christian groups, Muslims (Lahore Ahmadi's being the only Muslims), Arya Samaj of the Hindus, Jews, Budhists, Humanistic. The attended religion had to elaborate on its own religion. After the talk people could ask questions, not only on the topic presented but on every questions the questioner felt necessary. The largest meeting was held at our centre at Keppelerstraat in The Hague. The mem-

bers of the other religions had requested for a talk for beginners. Mr. A.S. Hoeseni elaborated on Islam on the basis of Maulana Muhammad Ali's booklet *Islam the Religion of Humanity*. After this talk the questions were answered by Mr. A.S. Hoeseni, Mr. N. Sardar and Mr. Keeskamp. On request of the visitors Islamic prayer positions, and also about the garment during Haj was exposed by Mr. H. Ramdjan. At the end all the visitors got free literature, among which was Zahid Aziz's *Introduction to Islam* and copy of *Muslim Prayer Book* by Maulana Muhammad Ali. *Islam the Religion of Humanity* was not offered because the present Dutch translation contains mistakes and is being revised now. Because it was such an interesting gathering with so many interesting questions and answers the meeting was extended by one more hour.

At this moment, the second series of sessions has come to an end. Our organisation was represented by vice president N.Sardar, Mr. R.Niamat, Mr H. Habiboallah and Mrs. R. Shaimahomed. In fact these sessions have come to an end according to schedule.

However, the interest to hear about some points of view of the Muslims was so great that it was decided to continue these meetings from December 2003 on, by adding a third series of sessions. On the basis of the good relations the organizing committee *Stuurgroep Kleurrijk Kerk in Den Haag* and the *Foundation Islam and Dialog* have invited Muslims from different cultural backgrounds to do *iftâr* (breaking of the fasting) in *Ramadhan* and have dinner together, so joined by the group of non Muslims also. The gathering was a very successful one, a reason being the unity among the whole group.

C. Invitation of Christian discussion group to explain Islam

At the beginning of this year our organisation got a request from a Christian group from the province of New Zealand to give them information on Islam. They wanted to know in general about Islam and they had a lot of questions about up to date topics appearing in the media.

Mr A.S. Hoeseni and Mr. N. Sardar visited the group of about 20 learned and very critical Christians. After a talk of Mr. Hoeseni the Christians asked a lot of questions which in our opinion were answered to everyone's satisfaction.

Because we had only two hours before the starting time of their prayer in the church a lot of questions still remained unspoken. At the beginning of next year we will get another invitation to continue.

We donated a lot of books in English and Dutch language to the members and the church library.

D. WorldTour in Our Own City 2003

On 15 June 2003 The Municipality of The Hague for the 15th successive year organised this WorldTour in Own City. Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam again participated. During this Hague activity many people from the Dutch community visit our mosque on their own initiative to get information on the teachings of Islam, and they also ask question about the information they get from the media. Most of the cases we succeeded in removing the wrong picture they had about Islam. But sometimes we don't because there is not much time, as we normally have to handle 300 to 400 visitors in 4 hours. Again, this year the visitors had many questions about for example Islamic praying. We also explained the view of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement to the visitors

and many brochures and booklets were handed out for free. Every year a special topic is chosen for this activity. This year the theme was Jihad. We distributed the booklet with the Dutch translation of Dr. Zahid Aziz's article *Jihad, the situation today and a hundred years ago*. Visitors were handed over a free copy of the Dutch translation of *Anecdotes on the life of the Promised Messiah* by Mr.N.A. Faruqui.

E. Sirat-un Nabi jalsah

On 25 May Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam organised a well attended Sirat-un Nabi gathering with speeches on the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Because this gathering was held close to the date of the decease of the founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement (26 May 1908) there was also a discussion on some aspects of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. From time tot time this series is continued to keep the members informed. These sessions results in lively interaction between speakers and audience. In the past such meetings were organized already. The last one of this year was held on July 20.

F. Municipality of The Hague awarded medal and badge to members of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Community

On the occasion of 130 years Indian immigration to Surinam, mayor Deetman of the municipality of The Hague awarded our vice-president Mr. Noer Sardar and our member Mrs. Sakoemat Hassanmohamed for their service to the community of the municipality of The Hague. The latter was awarded with the Stadsspeld (badge of the city) of The Hague for her support and guidance of the elderly in the home for the elderly Transvaal and her efforts in other rest homes and her participation in various projects in The Hague. Mr. Sardar was awarded with the highest medal of the municipality of The Hague called Stadspenning (medal if the city) of The Hague because of his long lasting service and helpfulness for the Indian

Surinam community in The Hague, his participation in and organising of major festivities and his activities in the neighbourhood organisation Regentes/Valkenbos of the municipality. In his speech the mayor stressed that Mr. Sardar made his contribution to the community from the mosque of Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam. Both persons were nominated by Federation EEKTA, a non Ahmadiyya organisation. Our organisation cooperates with EEKTA in carrying out certain projects.

G. Fancy Fair/Bazar

On Sunday 31 August a fancy fair was organised in the building of Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam at the Kepplerstraat 265 in The Hague. Visitors can see all kinds of thins and to do such as a flee market, selling of toys, plants, flowers, kitchen and other household equipments which are not being used anymore by our members and therefore donated to the organisation, etc. In this fancy fair there was opportunity to get some health treatment by professionals in their own daily profession. Non Muslims from the neighbourhood of the mosque, our own members and members from other jamats participated. Even the youngest members had something to do.

H. Translation of the valuable literature of our Movement in Dutch language

Our late Ameer Dr Saeed Ahmad Khan and the late Maulana Hafiz Sher Muhammad were very eager to have the literature of the jamat published in Dutch language. In fact this initiative was taken as early as 1980. Because things didn't go as planned originally Hafiz Sahib in one of his last visit to the Netherlands on behalf of the Ameer of that time charged some persons who are now board members of Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam to take up the heavy task of translating the valuable literature of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement into Dutch. This had to be done even when a new organisation was needed for this

purpose. So in 1989 we founded Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam.

Since then we have been translating many books of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement using the new books and the revised and reprinted books by AAIIIL-USA, Maulana Tufail Memorial Literary Trust and The Muslim Literary Trust T&T. However, we don't have enough manpower to check these translations to have them printed quickly. That is why we called up members of all the separate jamats to help with the correction of books and articles yet to be published and also revising those already published. Previous to this we had spoken to enthusiastic and promising individuals to help with the corrections, ultimately the attempts were without the expected results, reasons being lack of time and illness. Despite this wide action to get volunteers for this important we were not successful.

Now we have decided to have the correction work partly be done from outside and against payment. Another part will be done by people who are already working for our organisation, i.e. Mr. Reza Ghafoerkhan, Mr. Riaz Ahmadali and Mr. Abdullah Hans Drost. After the correction of the Dutch translation of the Holy Qur'ân more capacity will be available for the correction of books and articles. After the Holy Qur'ân the new Dutch version of Religion of Islam will be printed and other major works. Also because of attention paid to the Ahmadiyya Movement in the Netherlands nowadays and the momentum it has taken in the press because of efforts of sister organisations and ULAMON, priority will be on the books on the Ahmadiyya Movement: The Ahmadiyya Movement of Lahore – A Survey, Ahmadiyyat in the Service of Islam, chapters from Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, Ahmadiyya Case, etc.

During Ramadan 2003 we have printed the booklet *Six Parallel Stages of Physical and Spiritual Perfection in the Light of the Holy Qur'ân* taken from Hazrat Mirza sahibs book *Barahin-i-Ahmadiyya*, part 5, on the basis of the English translation by Mr. Kalamazad

Muhammad. The Dutch translation was done by Reza Ghafoerkhan.

According to the policy of Central Anjuman most of our books already published and yet to be published will be published on our website moslim.org and moslim.nl.

I. Islamic Courses

For several years board members of AAIIIL(USA) and Mr. Nasir Ahmad (former editor of *The Light* and *Paigham-i-Sulh*) and several other persons, have been imposing on Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam to start Islamic courses and education on an stronger and broader basis. Our location in The Hague was thought suitable for this, because we have enough space in our building to start different classes at the same time, because we have a library, etc. The Hague was chosen because this city has got the largest Lahore Ahmadiyya Muslim Population in Europe. USA Jamats idea was to have an international education centre at our mosque building for students from all over Europe and even outside Europe. USA Jamat also promised help in setting up such a centre at our place.

However about two years back, ultimately, four Jamats in the Netherlands saw the necessity of cooperation on different fields. This resulted in the formation of Union of Lahore Ahmadiyya Muslim Organisations (ULAMON). Because the separate organisations have ups and downs from time to time we thought ULAMON a more suitable organisation to carry out this project.

All the four organisation were in fact eager to start such an education centre as soon as possible. In this way the courses can go on independent from the situation of the separate organisation. All the jamat have their input, i.e. managers, teachers, their own location in different cities, etc.

In the first part of 2003 ULAMON started its courses which is being managed by its department called Nederlands Instituut ter Bevordering van Islam Studies NIBIS (Netherlands Institute for the Advancement of Islam Studies). At this moment courses are held in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague.

We have heard that Surinam will carry out the same curriculum and interest for the curriculum was expressed from Trinidad.

J. *Dars-i- Qur'ân* during Ramadhan 2003

During Ramadhan Isha and Tarawih prayers was led by our brother Zafar Iqbal from Frankfurt (Germany). He was accompanied by his wife. On a daily basis he gave half an hours *Dars-i- Qur'ân* on the basis of Bayanul Qur'ân by Maulana Muhammad Ali, either in Urdu or English. This *Dars-i- Qur'ân* was very much appreciated by the people who attended the prayers. After the *Dars* people could ask questions which were answered to satisfaction of the questioners. As brother Iqbal is conversant in Arabic he could answer the questions of some Arab speaking people who attended the prayers.

Also on daily basis the Adhân of Maghrib-prayer was done by him on

the local radio station of The Hague and he gave speeches of about 10 minutes on different interesting topics. On Mondays and Fridays half an hours *Dars* programmes were broadcasted on radio. Although we have these kinds of programs throughout the year and also in every Ramadhan the regular listeners were very much appreciating the simple way in which he could explain things using simple Urdu, Hindi and English words as used by the Urdu and Hindi speaking community of the Hague.

K. ULAMON and AAIIH payed a visit to the mosque of Stichting Ahmadiyya Isha'at-i-Islam

ULAMON took the initiative to visit all sister organisations in Holland, whether belonging to it or not. On November 15 board members and members of these organisations and the representative of AAIIIL for Europe visited our mosque. After Tarawih prayers all the representatives gave inspiring talks to inform the gathering about the turning point in a positive way which the Ahmadiyyat in the Netherlands has come to reach now. Stress was laid on education and the individual responsibility of each and everyone calling themselves Ahmadi muslims. After a welcome of president Mr. A.S. Hoeseni of the Stichting All addressed to all the representatives and members the speakers were Mr. Firoz Nasrullah (president of RIV and ULAMON), Mr. Jakoeb Jagroep (president of AAIIH), Mr. Khan Jahier (president of AAIIA), Mr. A. Santoe (representative AAIIIL) and Mr. H. Mahawat Khan (president AAIIILN).

The Status of Woman in Islam

By Mrs. Samina Malik

Speech delivered at the 75th International Convention
Of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat Islam Indonesia

I have been asked to speak on the *Status of Woman in Islam*. This topic is extremely important these days as Islam is under great scrutiny in the western world due to the current conflicts in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

There is a very negative impression of Islam in the West as a consequence of these conflicts. This negative image is reinforced by most of the media and the Christian evangelical movement.

Perhaps after the subject of *Jihad*, the status of woman in Islam is the most misunderstood and misrepresented subject in the West.

Unfortunately this bad impression is further reinforced by the poor treatment of women in certain Muslim countries due to local cultural practices .

Woman in Islam are thought to be inferior to men in every aspect. In fact, some people in the west think that women, according to Islam, even do not have a soul!

The position of an individual, whether male or female, in a religion will depend on the spiritual status and social and economic rights granted to the individual. No other Religious Book, and no other reformer has done even a fraction of what the Holy Quran and The Prophet Muhammad have done to raise the position of woman.

Spiritual status of woman in Islam

Spiritually, woman is equal to man in Islam. In the Holy Quran they are both created from the same single soul. This corrects the account in the Bible where she is created from Adam's rib as an afterthought. This idea of the equality of the creation of man and woman is expressed in the Holy Quran from the earliest revela-

tions:

Ch.92:1-3

By the night when it draws a veil!
And the day when it shines!

And the creating of the male and female!

Ch 53: 44-46

And that He it is Who causes death and gives life:

And that He creates pairs, the male and the female:

From the small life-germ when it is adapted:

Thus, right from the earliest revelation the male and the female are spoken of in equal terms.

Later revelations develop the same basic idea:

Ch.4:1

O people, keep your duty to your Lord,

who created you from a single being and created its mate of the same (kind),

and spread from these two many men and women...

Another great service which Islam has done for woman is that it has cleared her of the charge that she was responsible for introducing sin into the human race. According to the bible it was woman who listened to the devil and then misled Adam by tempting him.

Islam completely absolves her from this charge by stating in the Holy Quran that it was both Adam and Eve together who were deceived by the devil.

Not only does the Quran establish the equality of the soul of man and woman, but it also states that woman has an equal opportunity to develop spiritually:

Ch: 40-40

Whoever does evil, he is requited only with the like of it;

and who ever does good, whether male or female, and he is a believer, these shall enter the Gardens, to be given therein sustenance without measure.

Ch: 6:97

Whoever does good, whether male or female, and is a believer,

We shall certainly make him live a good life,

and We shall certainly give them their reward for the best of what they did.

Ch 33:35

Surely the men who submit and the women who submit,

and the believing men and the believing women,

and the obeying men and the obeying women and the truthful men and the truthful women,

and the patient men and the patient women, and the humble men and the humble women,

and the charitable men and the charitable women, and the fasting men and the fasting women,

and the men who guard their chastity and the women who guard,

and the men who remember Allah much

and women who remember- Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a mighty reward.

Women were also capable of receiving the highest spiritual gift, that of divine revelation, as in the case of the mother of Moses:

Ch 28:7

And We revealed to Moses' mother, saying: Give him suck;

then when thou fearest for him, cast him into the river and fear not, nor grieve; surely We shall bring him back to thee and make him one of the messengers

And also in the case of Hazrat Mariam:

Ch 3:42

And when the angles said: O Mary, surely Allah has chosen thee and purified thee and chosen thee above the women of the world.

The Wives of the prophet are spoken of in the Holy Quran as being thoroughly purified:

In their status as the mothers of the faithful they serve as spiritual role models to all Muslims.

The fact that a substantial portion of Hadith is transmitted from Hazrat Ayesha, and that she was a leading teacher of Hadith for many years after the Holy Prophet 's death , firmly establishes the high spiritual position of women in the Islamic tradition.

Economic Rights

In addition to the establishment of woman as a spiritual equal of man , Islam also brought about a revolution in the social, legal and economic standing of women. Women in Arabia before Islam had no rights to property. In fact she herself was considered property and was inherited along with other property by men. She had no right to the property of her deceased husband or father.

The birth of a daughter was considered as a disgrace, and among the nobility of the Quaraish female infants were buried alive so that the family would not have to put up with the disgrace of a female child.

The change that Islam brought about in this condition is unparalleled in human history.

The reform introduced by Islam made woman a free person in the fullest sense of the word, and thus half the human race was freed from bondage in a span of twenty three years- a status which woman have only partly achieved only recently in the non-Muslim world - and that to after decades of hard struggle.

To be a fully equal participant in

society, an individual must have economic rights. Islam gives these economic rights to woman in several ways.

In the first place women are given the right to work. A woman can do any work she chooses and is entitled to her earnings:

Ch 4:32

... For men is the benefit of what they earn. And for women is the benefit of what they earn...

In the time of Hazrat Umar he appointed a woman to be the superintendent of the market.

To start a marriage on a healthy, right and balanced footing, the woman was given a dowry to make her a property owner. The dowry could be of any amount.

The Quran speaks of even a heap of gold being given to a woman as dowry:

Ch 4:24

... give them their dowries as appointed...

Also in the marriage relationship she was entitled to support from the husband:

Ch. 34:4

“Man are the maintainers of women because Allah has made some of them to excel others and because they spend out of their property”.

Thus in Islam when a man supports his wife he does not do her any favor for which she should be grateful to him, rather it is a right given to her by God.

Another way that Islam gave woman economic equality is by granting her inheritance rights:

Ch. 4:7

“For man is a share of what the parents and the near relatives leave, and for women a share of what the parents and the near relatives leave”

Social Rights

Besides granting women the same economic rights as men, Islam brought about a great change in the social position of women. Before Islam, loose

sexual relations between the sexes, in which woman was the exploited party, prevailed to an extreme. Men used to openly boast about their sexual exploits, and pre Islamic poetry is filled with these accounts.

Islam corrected this state of affairs by introducing measures to protect the sexual dignity of woman.

The utmost modesty is demanded of both men and women in their sexual relationship:

Ch 24:30-31

Say to the believing men that they lower their gaze and restrain their sexual passions.

That is purer for them. Surely Allah is Aware of what they do.

And say to the believing women that they lower their gaze

and restrain their sexual passions and do not display their adornment except what appears thereof.

And let them wear their head-covering over their bosoms...

Ch:33-59

O Prophet, tell thy wives and thy daughters and the women of believers to let down upon them their overgarments.

This is more proper, so that they may be known, and not be given trouble.

And Allah is ever Forgiving, Merciful.

Thus this object of having a chaste and pure relationship between the sexes is achieved by the above means. Unnecessary mingling of men and women which so often leads to illicit sexual relations is strongly discouraged. Muslim women are required to dress modestly and not to expose their bodily beauty which may be a source of attraction for men.

The holy prophet has said that when a woman attains her majority, it is not proper that any part of body should be seen except her hands and face.

The modesty of dress for Muslim women therefore protects their sexual dignity and prevents them from becoming mere sexual objects. Islam also prohibits the exploitation of women by using woman's beauty to sell products. The shameless manner in which women are used in advertising in selling products in western coun-

tries is abhorrent to Islam.

The above measures together with strong recommendation to be in a married state serve to protect the sexuality of men and women.

Marriage is encouraged and is considered the normal state of social existence of both men and women. By these measures sexual desire is channeled into a useful and beneficial quality.

Ch 24:32

And marry those among you who are single...

The Holy prophet on many occasions praised the virtues of marriage, and said that it was the best way of guarding chastity and keeping the looks down. On one occasion after noticing monkish inclinations in certain young men, he said "I am married. Whoever inclines to any way other than my way, is not of me".

A woman's consent is necessary for marriage. She cannot be married against her will:

Ch 4:19

It is not lawful for you that you should take women as a heritage against their will.

In marriage the woman is described by the Holy Prophet as a ruler of the household of her husband, and in the Holy Quran she is given the same rights and obligations as the man

Ch 2:228

...And women have rights similar to those against them in a just manner...

The man is commanded to provide for the woman. This is therefore not any favour he does for her, rather it is her right to be housed and provided for by him.

The Quran emphasizes that the relationship between men and women is more than simple physical desire. They are supposed to be a source of comfort and protection for each other:

Ch 30:21

And of His signs is this, that He

created mates for you from yourselves that you might find quiet of mind in them, and He put between you love and compassion

Ch 2:187

...they are an apparel for you and you are an apparel to them.

This means that a husband and wife protect, and comfort each other like clothing and the weakness of one is made up by the strength of the other.

Kind treatment of the wife is given great importance, to the extent that the Holy Prophet has said that the best of Muslims is he who treats his wife the best.

Thus this loving relationship develops these good qualities which carry over into every day life and benefits society as a whole.

In fact the prophet is reported as having said that "the man who marries perfects half his religion".

However, we live in an imperfect world, and sometimes unhappy relations may require that a union be ended. In this case Islam gives the woman the right to divorce which in technical terms is called *Khula*.

In the Islamic divorce great stress is laid on the kind treatment of the divorced woman:

Ch. 2:231

...Retain them in kindness or set them free with kindness ...

I will read from Maulana Muhammad Ali's work which discusses polygamy: "... monogamy is the rule in Islam and polygamy only an exception allowed subject to certain conditions. The following two verses are the only authority for the sanction of polygamy, and let us see how far they carry us:

Ch 4:3

"And if you fear that you cannot do justice to orphans, marry such women as seem good to you, two, or three, or four: but if you fear that you will not do justice, then marry only one or what your right hands possess. This is more proper that you may not do injustice".

Ch. 4:127

"And they ask thee a decision about

women. Say: Allah makes known to you His decision concerning them; and that which is recited to you in the Book is concerning widowed women, whom you give not what is appointed for them, while you are not inclined to marry them"

Now the first of these verses allows polygamy on the express condition that "You cannot do justice to orphans", and what is meant is made clear by the second verse, which contains a clear reference to the first verse in the words, "that which is recited to you in the book is concerning widowed women".

The Arabs were guilty of a double injustice to widows: they did not give them and their children a share in the inheritance of their husbands, nor were they inclined to marry widows who had children because the responsibility for the maintenance of the children would in that case devolve upon them.

The Quran remedied both these evils; it gave a share of inheritance to the widow with a share also for the orphans, and it commended the taking of such widows in marriage, and allowed polygamy expressly for this purpose. It should, therefore, be clearly understood that monogamy is the rule in Islam and polygamy is allowed only as a remedial measure, and that, not for the sake of the man, but for the sake of the widow and her children.

This permission was given at a time when the wars, which were forced on the Muslims, had decimated the men, so that many widows and orphans were left for whom it was necessary to provide. A provision was made in the form of polygamy so that the widow should find a home and protector and the orphans should have paternal care and affection."

Therefore, we see that in Islam a woman is a truly free and independent person who is an equal partner with man in the eyes of God and Society. Since her position and rights are specified by the Holy Quran, and embodied in the practice of the Holy Prophet and his companions, these will endure for all times and in all circumstances.

RENOVATION OF BERLIN MOSQUE

By Mrs. Samina Malik

The late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib, had made several appeals for funds for the repair of the Berlin mosque as he was very concerned about the continued damage to the building. However, the needed amount of nearly two and a half million marks seemed an impossible target for the jamaat members to achieve.

In 1995, with the encouragement of the late Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Saeed Ahmad and the Board of Directors of the USA jamaat, I went to Berlin to see if I could obtain funds for the repair project from the German government. Although prospects for funding were bleak due to budgetary constraints caused by the drain on the German economy by the union with East Germany, by the Grace of Almighty Allah, I was able to persuade them to fund the project.

Alhamdulillah, the first and second phases of the repair project of the Berlin Mosque and Mission House have been completed.

The first phase involved the repair of the mission house, the roof of which was in danger of collapse due to damage to the beams by water leakage and dry rot. New beams have been installed and the entire roof has been replaced. The bathroom has been completely renovated. This necessitated replacing the beams in the bathroom floor which had rotted due to water damage. The deteriorating old water pipes have been replaced by new plumbing, and a new heating system has been installed. All the windows which were in a bad condition have been replaced by custom built windows crafted individually according to the original specifications. Painting and plastering of the mission house has also been done to prevent further damage. Temporary repairs to the parapet of the mosque have been made to protect people from falling debris.

In the second phase both the North and South minarets have been restored

to their original height of 30 meters.

Of the total cost, Eight hundred thousand DM have been provided by the German government, fifty thousand DM by the Central Anjuman and seventy thousand DM by the USA jamaat. No funds from the worldwide Ahmadiyya jamaats have been used in the funding for this repair projects.

I am extremely grateful to the German government for its support and funding of this project, and to the USA jamaat for sending me to Germany many times to monitor the progress of the project, and for providing funds to meet the share of the Central Anjuman for obtaining the grants for the funding.

