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In the name of Allah, the most Gracious and the most Merciful



Symposium 2015

18th September 2015
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Ambassador of Sri Lanka

MESSAGE

While invoking the blessings of Allah, I have the pleasure in issuing this message to the members as well as non-members of your organization who are engage in a heavenly mission, which every year reaches its peak in the form of annual general symposiums.

The honour and respect you extended to me by inviting to deliver the key-note address is well taken since I am aware of the track record of the SLMQ in Qatar. The sense of Sri Lankan identity you always displayed through your annual symposium is a matter worthy of high appreciation by the Sri Lankan embassy in Qatar.

Hence, I make no reservations in sending my heartiest congratulation to all of you and I wish your organisation every success in all what you do for the benefit of fellow citizens both here and elsewhere.

Prof.(Dr.)W.M. Karunadasa
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary
10/09/2015



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President's Message



In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious and The Most Merciful

All Praise and Thanks be to Allah, The Lord of the Universe. May Peace and Blessings be upon His Final Prophet and Messenger.

It's an honour and privilege to extend my warm greetings and sincere wishes to all the members on the occasion of the 14th Annual Symposium of the Sri Lankan Majlis – Qatar. Once again, I am delighted to be part of the team who are in the forefront to serve our community and have toiled hard to grow the Majlis from strength to strength despite the various challenges.

Since its inauguration, the Association has thrived on the support of the loyal members. As we move forward to our next year, we hope to re-invigorate our strength and spirit by renewing our commitment and dedication. The challenges we face now are more complex but with our renewed spirit and commitment we shall face it together imbued with our vision for communal harmony and prosperity.

Unlike never before, we believe a new era has dawned to our country with a new president, new prime minister and a unity government. Let's be inspired by the renewed hope given by the new leadership of our country. Let's strengthen our bonds and mend our relations as members of a big family. Let us celebrate and dialogue in friendship, trust and respect and allow our diverse cultures guide us into greater understanding of each other.

The theme chosen for the Symposium is of topical interest. When we speak about Islamic education we are not speaking about education for Muslims. We are speaking about the principles and the framework, the system, the objectives that we are trying to promote and remain faithful when it comes to education. Our primary focus in the near future will be to uplift the standards of education amongst our communities.

On behalf of the SLMQ Executive Committee and entire membership I express my gratitude and appreciation to our patron and ambassador His Excellency Prof. (Dr.) W.M. Karunadasa and embassy staff who have always supported us and being available to us all the times.

Our Thanks are due to Sheikh Muiz Buhary who accepted our invitation despite his busy schedule to travel all the way from Sri Lanka and deliver the keynote address.

I sincerely Thank our main corporate sponsor Ooredoo for their continued support over the past many years, they have become a tower of strength for SLMQ. I also, thank our numerous sponsors and well-wishers who wholeheartedly came forward to extend their support for our cause.

I will conclude by taking this opportunity to thank those who have contributed to the success of tonight's function and to all our activities during the past fourteen years.

As we lift our hearts in gratitude for our past accomplishments, we also raise our hearts in asking the blessings of The Almighty to guide us in the straight path as we continue our journey. May we all find strength in each other as we journey towards fullness of life for us and for the next generations to come.

Nazeem Yakooob
President - SLMQ

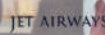
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Summary of the keynote speech by Sheikh Muiz Bukhary

The Concept Of Education In Islam

From the advent of Islam, education has always been given top priority by the Muslims. It is not merely a coincidence that the very first word of the Noble Qur'an that was revealed unto the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) in the cave of Hira was, in fact, "Read".

It is well established that Islam is a knowledge based religion, the Prophet Muhammed (ﷺ) is reported to have said:

"Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim."

Based on this direct command to go out and seek knowledge, Muslims have placed a huge emphasis on the educational system in order to fulfil this obligation placed on their shoulders by their Prophet (ﷺ).

Throughout the annals of Islamic history, education has always been a point of great pride and a field in which Muslims have excelled in. The muslims built great libraries and learning centres in places such as Baghdad, Cordoba, and Cairo which were widely known as the prominent seats of knowledge at that time. They also established the first primary schools for children and universities for higher education.



Al-Azhar in Cairo is the largest Islamic university in the world.

Through such institutions, leaps & bounds were made in areas of scientific and cultural ingenuity. Muslims inherited the knowledge of the nations that came before them, developed it and placed it in the context of a precise moral framework. Erudite muslim scholarship made a vital and positive contribution to the enrichment and advancement of human civilisation in different prominent fields such as Medicine, Mathematics, Astronomy, Agriculture, & Architecture.



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Summary of the keynote speech by Sheikh Muiz Bukhary

Similarly, Islam and muslims are and have always been open to creativity and ingenuity by being strong advocates for modern inventions that are beneficial to mankind. For in reality, technology, machines, instruments and devices have no religious background. They can be used for either good or bad objectives, and the way they are used can affect an individual as well as the ones around him. Even something so simple as a glass can be filled with either a nourishing drink or with lethal poison. Likewise an invention like the television or the world wide web can provide education or immorality.

It is up to the consumer to decide which path he or she wishes to take, and a Muslim is commanded to make good use of all the means and tools at his disposal while being prohibited from causing harm to himself or others. Failure to use the proper means toward benefit is, in effect, a deprecation of Islamic teachings.

To add to the above, throughout Islamic history, women were not seen as weak or incapable of attaining knowledge nor of being able to teach others themselves.

The precedent for this was set by the Prophet's own beloved wife, Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her), who was one of the leading scholars of her time and was also looked up as a teacher by many an individual after the demise of the Prophet (peace & blessings of Allah be upon him).

Women throughout the Muslim world were able to attend lectures in mosques, attend circles of knowledge, and in many cases were teachers themselves.

For example, the 12th century scholar Ibn 'Asakir (most famous for his book on the history of Damascus, *Tarikh Dimashq*) traveled extensively in the search for knowledge and studied under 80 different female teachers.

Women also played a major role as supporters of education:

- The first formal madrasa of the Muslim world, the University of al-Karaouine in Fes was established in 859 by a wealthy merchant by the name of Fatima al-Fihri.
- The Abbasid caliph Harun Al-Rashid's wife, Zubayda, personally funded many construction projects for mosques, roads, and wells in Hijaz, which greatly benefitted the many students who came in from all parts of the world at that time.

Rather than being portrayed as how modern day media depicts Islam's treatment of women, they were empowered and played an active role in public life, particularly in the field of education.

So as a conclusion, a fleeting look at the golden legacy left behind by the muslims, clearly points out to the high priority given to the concept of education by Islam and the fact that as a complete religion, it produced some of the greatest scholars and intellectuals, whose contributions continue to spread it's beautiful message and knowledge to the masses up to this day.

-Sheikh Muiz Bukhary

Introduction to SLMQ



VISION

To lead the Sri Lankan Muslim community as a forum in it's unity, prosperity and growth.

MISSION

To bring all Sri Lankan Muslim families resident in Qatar under a common platform and conduct activities of educational, religious, cultural and charitable backgrounds.

OBJECTIVES

To develop and strengthen cordial ties among families, communities and other associations, thereby deriving greater benefit for the community

Educational and religious activities

- Skill Development Programs
- Seminars and Workshops
- Competitions for Children and Adults
- Quran and Islam Teachings
- Hajj and Umrah Pilgrimages

Charitable activities

- Scholarships for needy Students
- Janaza assistance
- Assistance to needy families
- Charity bazaars

Social and Welfare activities

- Sports Events
- Eid Celebrations
- Family Gatherings/Picnics
- Job Bank

Membership

All Sri Lankan Muslim families resident in Qatar are eligible to apply for membership by filling an application form available with Executive Committee members.

Everyone else can obtain membership of SLMQ Bachelor Wing (B'Wing)

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Introduction to SLMQ



مقدمة في SLMQ

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الحضارة المدن العربية

التعاليم الدينية الإسلامية في القرآن و الحياة الاجتماعية الإسلامية با الشريعة الإسلامية. العرب، وتحويلها مرة واحدة للإسلام، توجه على فورة التوسعية التي ابتلعت في نهاية المطاف مصر، سوريا، بلاد فارس والعراق وأخيرا في 177 م، أسبانيا. وتقريبا كان جميع البلدان حسب حضاراتهم قبل الاسلام. وقد تطورت فارس البرنامج النصي الفارسي، وكان الدين الزرادشتي ولكنها جميعا اعتنق الإسلام وقبلت اللغة العربية. في نهاية القرن الثامن، الإمبراطورية الإسلامية قد امتدت من بلاد فارس إلى إسبانيا، وشملت أجزاء من شمال أفريقيا كما ذلك. كان هناك اثنين من المراكز السياسية. أولا، دمشق، وبعد ذلك بغداد.

فيما بين القرنين الثامن والثاني عشرة، طور العربي حضارة الإسلامية الكبرى، رائعة فكريا، الغنية والمغامرة. تطورت هذه الحضارة الإسلامية وحضارة المدن جيدا قبل أوروبا، التي حصلت على هناك بعد عدة قرون. القاهرة في مصر ودمشق في سوريا وبغداد في العراق كانت مدن متقدمة جدا مع الشوارع المرصوفة، أرضيات من البلاط والحمامات العامة والمكتبات والمكتبات والجامعات. وضعت هناك الفن الإسلامي متميزة والهندسة المعمارية، الذي يظهر حتى في اليوم. كان هناك علماء عظيم، اشتهر منهم هو ابن سينا، من أصل فارسي. واستخدمت كتاباته الطبية في كليات الطب في فرنسا واسبانيا وإيطاليا في وقت متأخر من 1650.

يدين أوروبا الغربية بالكثير من معرفتها الرياضيات والطب والفلك والفلسفة إلى كتابات عربية. هذه الكتابات محفوظة الفكر اليوناني أيضا. الكتاب العرب يعمل بها أيضا بوصفها سلوك لنقل الأفكار من الهند والصين. العلماء العربية وضعت انه أقدم الجداول المثلثة المعروفة، عرض الأرقام الهندية، الأرقام العربية المعروفة، والجداول الفلكية المترجمة. أنشأوا المراصد لدراسة السماوات. في مجال البصريات والفيزياء، وشرحوا ظواهر مثل انكسار الضوء، ومبدأ الجاذبية. انهم قطعت خطوات كبيرة في مجال الكيمياء. اكتشفوا البوتاس والكحول وتترات الفضة وحامض النتريك، وحمض الكبريتيك وكلوريد الزئبق. انها نشأت عمليات مثل التقطير والتسامي.

أنشأ العلماء العربية التقدم الهام في مجال الطب. العديد من الأدوية المستخدمة حاليا هي من أصل عربي. أسسوا المستشفيات بنظام المعتقلين. اكتشف أسباب بعض الأمراض وضعت التشخيص الصحيح منها، اقترح مفاهيم جديدة للنظافة، للاستفادة من المخدر في الجراحة مع الأدوات الجراحية محدثات وقدم علم التشريح في علم التشريح. انهم عززت تربية العلمية من الخيول والابقار، وتحسينها علم الملاحة. كما أنها وضعت على درجة عالية من الكمال في فن المنسوجات والسيراميك والمعادن. (وقد اتخذت معظم هذه المعلومات من المراجع في الموسوعة البريطانية قد نشرت في 1995، 15).

وقد أعجب العلماء المسيحي بدرجة كبيرة في منحة العربية. وكان هناك تفاعل ثقافي كبير بين المجموعتين، مع الكثير من ذلك يحدث في حذاء البحر الأبيض المتوسط، وخاصة إسبانيا وجزيرة صقلية. وليس من المعروف عموما أن الثقافة العربية أثرت الثقافة الفرنسية. هناك كلمات من أصل عربي في اللغة الفرنسية. الأهم من ذلك، أدلى الترجمات اللاتينية ضخمة في القرناني عشر، من الكتابات العربية الكبرى. هذه درست تباعا في المراكز الفكرية الناشئة الكبرى في أوروبا مثل إيطاليا وفرنسا وإنجلترا والمانيا في وقت لاحق. كما تجدر الإشارة أنه خلال هذا الوقت، أصبحت العربية، ليست مجرد لغة دينية، ولكن أيضا اللغة الدولية الرئيسية في المنطقة. كان أيضا اللغة الرئيسية للمنح الدراسية.

The Muslims and Sri Lanka by Kamalika Pieris

The Tamil Politicians of Sri Lanka, throughout history, have attempted to categorize the Sri Lankan Muslims as belonging to the Tamil race. This has been mainly for selfish reasons in a bid to eliminate the minority Muslim community from having its own unique identity. The Government of Sri Lanka, however, treats the Muslims as of Arab origin and as a distinct ethnic group from the Tamils.

Fr. S.G. Perera in his book -History of Ceylon for Schools- Vol. I. The Portuguese and Dutch Periods, (1505-1796), Colombo (1955), The Associated Newspapers of Ceylon Ltd., p 16, writes The first mention of Arabs in Ceylon appears to be in the Mahavamsa (Ancient Sri Lankan history) account of the reign of the King Pandukabhaya, where it is stated that this king set apart land for the Yonas (Muslims) at Anuradhapura

With the decline of the Roman Empire in the 3rd century A.D., Roman trade also died out and the Arabs and Persians filled up the vacuum; engaging in a rapidly growing inter-coastal trade. After the conquest of Persia (Iran), Syria and Egypt, the Arabs controlled all the important ports and trading stations between East and West. It is estimated that the Arabs had settled in Sri Lanka and Sumatra by the 1st century A.D. K.M. De Silvas, Historical Survey, Sri Lanka - A Survey, London (1977), C. Hurst & Co. Ltd., p 50, states by about the 8th century A.D., the Arabs had formed colonies at the important ports of India, Ceylon and the East Indies. The presence of the Arabs at the ports of Ceylon is attested to by at least three inscriptions discovered at Colombo, Trincomalee and the island of Puliantivu (Present Batticaloa)

The manner in which Islam developed in Sri Lanka is very closely similar to that on the Malabar coast of India. Tradition has recorded that Arabs who had settled down on the Malabar Coast used to travel from the port of Cranganore to Sri Lanka on pilgrimage to pay homage to what they believed to be the foot-print of Adam on the top of a mountain, which, until today, is called Adams Peak.

Ibn Batuta, the famous 14th century Arab traveler, has recorded many facets about early Arab influence in Sri Lanka in his travelogues. Before the end of the 7th century, a colony of Muslim merchants had established themselves in Ceylon. Fascinated by the scenic splendour and captivated by the traditions associated with Adams Peak, Muslim merchants arrived in large numbers and some of them decided to settle in the island encouraged by the cordial treatment they received by the local rulers. Most of them lived along the coastal areas in peace and prosperity, maintaining contacts, both cultural and commercial, with Baghdad and other Islamic cities.

Cont'd.....

According to Tikiri Abeyasinghe in his Portuguese Rule in Ceylon, 1594-1612, Colombo (1966), Lake House Investments Ltd., p 192, tradition has it that the first Mohammadans of Ceylon were a portion of those Arabs of the House of Hashim, who were driven from Arabia in the early part of the 8th. century by the tyranny of the Caliph, Abdel Malik bin Marwan, and who proceeding from the Euphrates southwards made settlements in the southern parts of the peninsula of India, on the island of Ceylon and Malacca. The division of them which came to Ceylon formed eight considerable settlements along the North-East, North and Western coast of that island; viz., one at Trincomalee, one at Jaffna, one at Colombo, one at barbareen, and one at Point de Galle.....

It is perhaps reasonable, therefore, to assume that the Arabs, professing the religion of Islam, arrived in Sri Lanka around the 7th /8th century A.D. even though there was a settled community of Arabs in Ceylon in pre-Islamic times. The circumstances that helped the growth of Muslim settlements were varied. Trade was thus wide open to the Muslims. The Sinhalese Kings considered the Muslim settlements favorably on account of the revenue that they brought them through their contacts overseas both in trade and in politics. The religious tolerance of the local population was also another vital factor in the development of Muslim settlements in Ceylon.

The Muslims relationship with the Sinhalese kings grew stronger and in the 14th century they even fought with them against the expanding Tamil kingdom and its maritime influence. By the beginning of the 16th century, the Muslims of Sri Lanka, the descendants of the original Arab traders, had settled down comfortably in the island. They were very successful in trade and commerce and integrated socially with the customs of the local people. They had become an inseparable, and even more, an indispensable part of the society. This period was one of ascendancy in peace and prosperity for the Sri Lankan Muslims.



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Al Huda Foundation

(An Affiliate of Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar)

Doha

State of Qatar

Email – alhudafund@gmail.com

Website – <https://sites.google.com/site/alhudafund/>

Message from Al Huda Foundation

Al Huda Foundation ("The Foundation") was established in November 2006 by a group of Sri Lankan professionals living in the State of Qatar. It was formed with the primary objective to persistently pursue to uplift the education of needy Muslim students in Sri Lanka. The Foundation is dedicated and determined to help these needy and talented students by providing them with much-needed financial assistance to continue their higher education. Initially commencing with a handful of members, *Alhamdulillah* the Foundation has grown steadily in size and content during the past six years with current membership strength of over 100 active members.

Primary Objective

To provide financial assistance to needy candidates who are identified by the members eligible for assistance to continue their higher education.

Progress update

The Foundation currently provides scholarship for more than 85 students across major education streams including commerce & finance, medicine, islamic studies, engineering and arts. By the grace of Allah, as of now 40 students have benefited from the scholarship and have successfully completed their higher education and are self sufficient now, helping the Sri Lankan society at large.

In 2013, The Foundation has joined hands with SLMQ to commence scholarships for vocational training programs for needy Sri Lankan youths. We continue, together with SLMQ, to explore more diversified opportunities to educate and uplift the Sri Lankan community.

Finally, we would like to thank the President, the Executive Committee and the Members of the SLMQ for their continuous support in our activities. We wish the SLMQ Symposium 2013 to be a grand success.

For more information please visit our website: <https://sites.google.com/site/alhudafund/>

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General Secretary's Report



In the name of Almighty Allah, The Most Merciful and The Most Beneficent

On the occasion of 14th Annual Symposium of the SLMQ, it is with great pleasure, I proudly submit the General Secretary's report on behalf of the Executive Committee.

SLMQ is one of the leading Community Associations in Qatar taking greater efforts to organize community programs for the betterment of Sri Lankan community.

Alhamdulillah, I am pleased to list the following programs that were well accepted and appreciated by the community.

Celebrating Qatar National Sports Day 2014

In order to mark the annual Qatar National Sports Day, Sri Lankan Majilis Qatar (SLMQ) organized its Annual 7 a side soft ball cricket tournament on the 11th of February 2014 at Old Ideal Indian School Cricket Ground. 16 teams representing various Sri Lankan Associations and OBA's battled for the trophy. Captain Khalifa Mubarak Al Kaabi of Community Police Unit, Ministry of Interior (MOI) attended as the chief guest and distributed the trophies and certificates. Officials of the Sri Lankan embassy, Qatar also participated and graced the tournament.

Celebrating 67th Independence Day of Sri Lanka

In commemoration of 67th Independence day of Sri Lanka, SLMQ in association with the Sri Lankan Embassy in Qatar conducted the annual Independence day competitions for the Sri Lankan school children at the embassy premises on the 13th of February 2015. His Excellency Mr. Jayantha Palipane, the ambassador graced the occasion as the chief guest and distributed the certificates and awards to winners.

Blood Donation Campaign 2014

SLMQ in association with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and Stafford Sri Lankan School and with the help of well wishers held a Blood Donation Camp on Friday 28th of March 2014 at the Sri Lankan School premises. More than 100 donors participated in this meritorious act.

Youth Career Guidance Program 2014

SLMQ in association with its Bachelors Wing, organized a Career Guidance program specially targeting the Sri Lankan youth who intend to advance their career in Doha. The program well attended and was held on the 20th of March 2014 at FANAR.

Annual Ifthar Program 2014

Sri Lankan Community Ifthar was held on the 04th of July 2014 at Al Arabi Stadium. The keynote speech was delivered by Shaik A.C. Agar Mohammed under the title "Unity & Co - Existence". Nearly 2,000 participants attended this annual event hosted by SLMQ in association with RAF and Ministry of Interior (MOI).

Annual Eid Prayer & Eid Family Get Together 2014

SLMQ organized its Annual Eid Al Adha Prayer at the Sri Lankan embassy premises followed by a full day Eid Family get together at Tariq Bin Ziad International School.

Cont...

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General Secretary's Report

Cont'd...

Community Football Tournament 2014

On the invitation of the Qatar Football Association (QFA), SLMQ provided all assistance and encouragement to the Sri Lankan community football team. More than 12 countries were participated in this tournament and the Sri Lankan Community Team had won the Title. This tournament was held in Oct 2014.

Annual Symposium 2014

SLMQ's annual signature event, The Symposium themed "Peace & Co-Existence" was held on Friday, 20th June 2014 at CNA-Q Auditorium. The chief guest was His Excellency Mr. Jayantha Palipana, the Sri Lankan Ambassador. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Jehan Perera, on The Importance of Peaceful Engagement-The Muslim Example.

Sri Lankan students who excelled in their studies and outstanding individuals who had contributed to the well being of the community were recognized at this event. Ooredoo was the Principal Sponsor for this main event.

Free Medical Camp 2014

Considering the difficulties of our fellow Sri Lankans, especially the low income earning employees, SLMQ in association with Atlas Polyclinic organized a free Medical Camp for all Sri Lankans on the 31st of October 2014 at the Atlas Poly Clinic, West End Park, Industrial Area. More than 20 doctors, specialists and medical staff rendered there valuable voluntary services. Hundreds of workers benefitted from this free medical camp. In addition to Sri Lankans, many other communities presenting India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh nationals were also benefitted from this free medical camp.

Annual Cookery Competition 2014

Under the theme of 'Kitchen Queen' SLMQ organized its most awaited annual cookery competition on the 07th of November 2014 at Tariq Bin Ziad Independence School for Boys and most of the SLMQ Families participated enthusiastically. Hundreds of entries were received under various categories. The winners were judged by professional chefs and were awarded with gifts and certificates.

SLMQ Family Gathering (Farm Garden – UmmSalal)

A family fun day was hosted at the UmmSalal farm house. Hundreds of families participated and enjoyed the day. Kids loved the event and had lot for them to do.

SLMQ is always in the frontline in community services along with various associations. We thank all the members and the community at large for participating and all well wishers for their continuous support to make all SLMQ events a success.

We are indeed thankful to Almighty Allah for His mercy on us to do our service to community and I take this opportunity to welcome you all for our 14th Annual Symposium.

Abdul Wahab

General Secretary - SLMQ



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Symposium 2014



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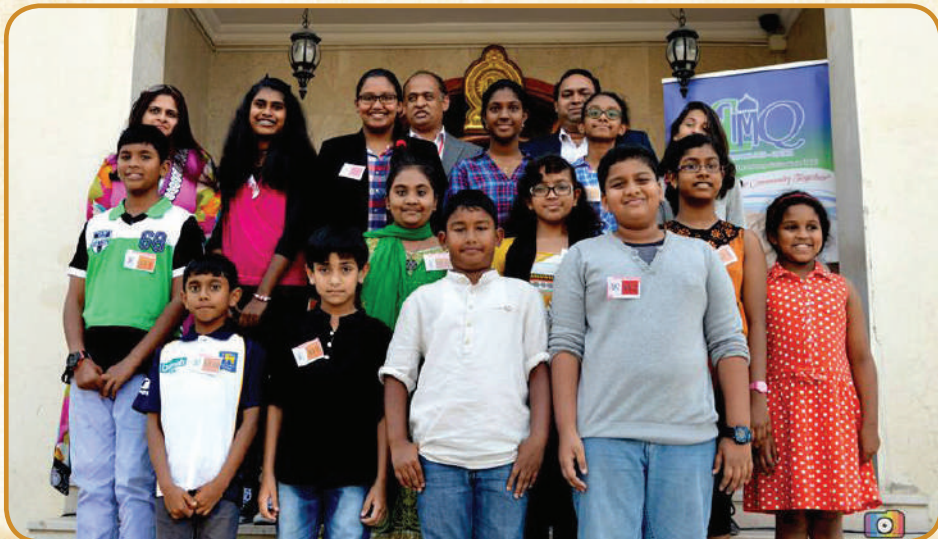
67th Independence Day of Sri Lanka

67th
Sri Lankan Independence Day Celebrations
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Colouring | Drawing | Speech | Essay-writing
for Sri Lankan children living in Qatar

Date of Competitions : Friday 13 February 2015
Time : 1:00 p.m onwards
Venue : Sri Lankan Embassy Premises

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Annual Ifthar

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Cordially invites you with the family to the

14th Annual Ifthar 2014

الإفطار السنوي
Date : Wednesday, 16th July 2014
Time : 5:45 pm
Venue : Al-Arabi Stadium, Al-Hail

5:45 - 6:20 Registration
6:20 - 7:00 Ifthar & Maghrib Prayer
7:10 - 7:30 Welcome Speech and Hymn (Tamil)
8:00 - 8:45 Insha & Thursday Prayer and Dua
9:00 - 9:30 Dinner (Salat)

Sri Lankan Media Qatar - SLMQ
www.slmq.org



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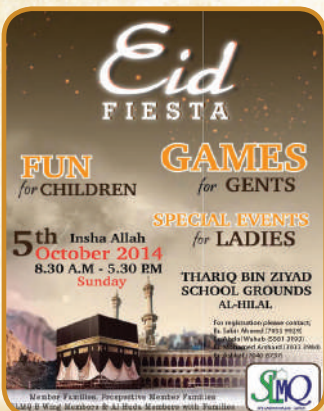
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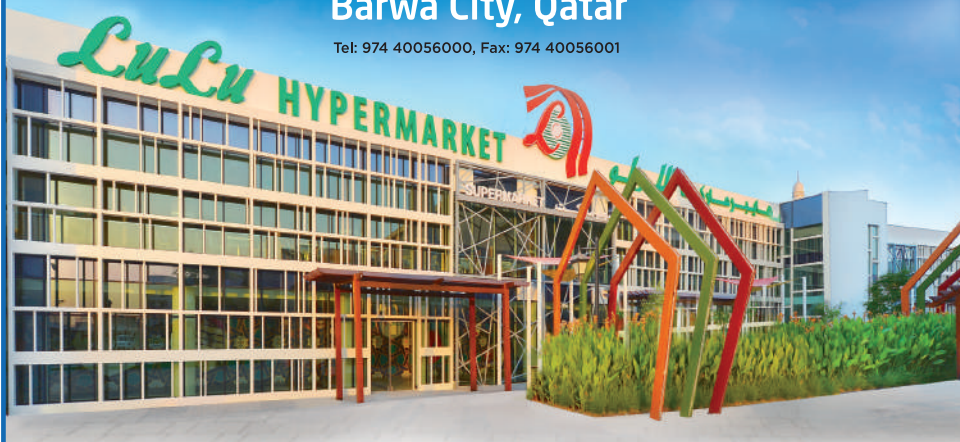


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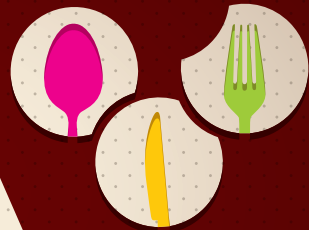
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Community Football



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ASIAN COMMUNITIES TOURNAMENT 2015

SR LANKA **CHINA**

VS

MATCH 2 | POOL B

Friday 6th of March 2015
QFA Technical Grounds

7:45 PM



ASIAN COMMUNITIES TOURNAMENT 2015

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Career Guidance



Symposium Committee – 2015





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- **Sheikh Muiz Bukhary - Keynote Speaker**
- **Sh. Thani Bin Abdullah Foundation for Humanitarian Services (RAF)**
- **Abdulla Bin Zaid Al-Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre (FANAR)**
- **Al Huda Foundation, An Affiliate of SLMQ**
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- **Executive Committee and the Members of SLMQ**



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Our sponsorship of SLMQ is great opportunity to enable people to connect with one another, and we hope to help continue SLMQ's strong tradition of charitable, social, cultural, educational and religious events for Sri Lankan expats in Qatar.

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