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Symposium 2016

27th May 2016
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MESSAGE

Sri Lanka Majlis (SLMQ) is one of the few organizations which is under the patronage of Sri Lankan Embassy. It interacts with the Sri Lankan Muslim community in Qatar. Their contribution towards the welfare and advancement of Sri Lankan Muslim community both here and in Sri Lanka seems to be satisfactory. Its performance during the current year in the sphere of arts, culture, sports, language and education are monumental events that all the members could be proud of.

SLMQ – being a member of Sri Lanka Coordinating Committee (SLCC), maintains a discrete balance between and among the communities, exhibiting the members 'will' for peaceful co-existence with all irrespective of ethnicity, race, cast and creed.

At the eve of 15th Anniversary of SLMQ, I take this opportunity to convey my heartiest congratulations and best wishes for all those members who made dedicated commitments to foster "friendship with all and enmity with none". May Almighty God Allah Bless upon all of you.

Prof. (Dr.) W.M. Karunadasa
HE the Ambassador
23/05/2016



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President's Message



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

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

It is with great enthusiasm and delight I extend a warm and sincere greetings to all of you on the occasion of the 15th Annual Symposium of Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, it is worth pondering back on our journey that has been carved by many successes and challenges. With the help of Almighty Allah, the support of loyal members and dedicated members of Executive Committee, the SLMQ stands today as a valuable and leading Organization in Qatar. Our achievements are evident to show the value and benefit to the Sri Lankan Community living in Qatar and in Sri Lanka. With the help of Almighty Allah we have and will continue to strive to serve the different segments of the Community in line with our core objectives. This year, we launched a new initiative with the objective of developing our youth; The Young Muslim Writers Award 2016. Our intention is to expand this concept to develop Young Speakers in future.

We will continue to support the needy and provide Educational, Islamic and professional programs for the benefit our members and further strengthen the good relationships with all other sister Organizations. The theme chosen for this year is "Enriching Lives", which is in line with one of SLMQ's core objectives. The various programs and projects have been tailor-made to enrich the lives of our Sri Lankan brothers and sisters.

On behalf of the Executive Committee I thank H.E Prof (Dr.) W.M. Karunadasa who has been a source of inspiration and motivation for all our activities. My sincere appreciation to all the Embassy staff.

I also thank our Guest Speaker Sheikh Mirza Yawar Baig who accepted our invitation and delivering a highly thought provoking keynote address.

I would also like to thank our Corporate Sponsor Ooredoo Qatar who has become a pillar of strength and has been supporting our cause since 2006. I also thank all our sponsors and well-wishers for their continued support and confidence placed in SLMQ.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for all our members for their loyalty and support throughout our journey.

Last but not the least; I thank each and every one who helped to make this evening a success, and all those who have been with SLMQ for the last fifteen years. As we have been looking back at our past achievements lets look forward for a successful and productive future where we together can enrich the lives of many more.

May Almighty Allah keep all of us in the right path, guide everyone to serve the Humanity and grant strength to be of service to the Communities in the future.

M. Hazim Hamza
President, SLMQ



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Report from the General Secretary



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

All praise and thanks belong to almighty Allah alone, the one all high, the one all merciful. Blessings and peace be upon prophet Muhammad (SAW), the last messenger of Allah.

It is with great pleasure that I present this report on behalf of the Executive Committee for the Annual Symposium 2016.

It is with great pride that we entered the 15th year of SLMQ. The chosen theme for the year “Enriching Lives” has indeed become a real need for the community in Qatar as well as in Sri Lanka. With the Sri Lankan community in Qatar is ever growing and the need to cater to the increasing families has also become essential.

The symposium was moved to the month of May in 2012 and continued until last year and due to various reasons, it was postponed to September and with much effort, we have again moved this Marquee event of SLMQ to the month of May.

Since the last Symposium, SLMQ has conducted many of its annual calendar events through the past few months. The calendar of events of the new Executive Committee started with a series of Islamic Lectures by Ash Sheikh Mufti Yoosuf Haneefa in the month of January. The Qatar National Sports Day was celebrated with a new concept of family sports day at Mebaireek Family Park which was a grand success with record number of families participating in the event.

The Competitions to mark the Independence Day of Sri Lanka was also held in February with more than 170 children participating in the competition.

For the first time, SLMQ organized a three day workshop on “Zakat and its Principles”. The workshop was conducted by Imam Mohamed Abid Khan, who is the head of the National Zakat Fund in the UK. The workshop was open to all communities.

For the first time, SLMQ joined hands with the Sri Lanka Muslim Professionals’ Forum – Qatar (SLMP-Q) to host the Young Muslim Writers Awards, where the best performers are honored at this Symposium to encourage young writers from among the community to emerge. Some write ups of the winners are also published in this souvenir.

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Report from the General Secretary

For the first time in Qatar, SLMQ organized a “Ramadan Bazaar” for families on 13th May 2016 with a great number of families participating with enthusiasm.

During the period, we have endured to complete several projects back in Sri Lanka as well, below are some of these projects completed.

SLMQ contributed for the completion work of a Building Block at CSM School for Special Needs situated in Akurana, Sri Lanka.

SLMQ awarded five scholarships for a period of one year for selected deserving students continuing studies at Al Khaira Foundation – Mawanella.

A Project with Muslim Aid is under process to help deserving women who are single/widowed breadwinners of the family in the Colombo district and provide aid to increase their own earning capability. There will be 25 families benefitting from this project enabling them a permanent source of income.

As you all can witness, a number of activities have been initiated for the first time this year and we are indeed grateful to Almighty Allah for the success of these programs and make supplications to the almighty Allah grant the same success and more in future as well.

I warmly welcome all our members and invited guests and value your esteemed presence this evening for the 15th Annual Symposium of SLMQ.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who contributed to make the SLMQ programs during this period, an eventful and successful one.

Mohammed Lafir

General Secretary

Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar

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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)

For further information please contact us at:

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Executive Committee



Sitting from left: Sahal Alavi (Public Relations Coordinator), Mohammed Lafir (General Secretary), H.E. Prof (Dr) W.M. Karunadasa (Ambassador of Sri Lanka & Patron), Hazim Hamza (President), Riza Mohamed (Treasurer)

Standing from Left: Kamil Aarif (Projects Coordinator), Mohamed Aroos, Ahamed Rila, Shahard Nazir

Absent : Mohamed Najad (Vice President), Mushtaq Rasheed, Mohamed Mafais.

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Symposium 2015



The Annual Symposium 2015 was held on Friday, the 18th of September 2015 at Al Ghazal Club. The keynote speaker was Sheikh Muiz Bukhary. The theme for the 2015 Symposium was "Concept of Education in Islam". The souvenir was released by the chief guest H.E. prof. (Dr.) W.M. Karunadasa, the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the State of Qatar.

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Independence Day Competitions - 2016



SLMQ conducted its Independence Day Competitions among Sri Lankan children living in Qatar for the thirteenth consecutive year on Friday, 12 February 2016 from 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. at the Sri Lanka Embassy premises.

The competition included Public Speaking, Essay Writing, Drawing and Colouring. For the first time The Creative Work category was introduced this year and held in four age categories Sub Junior, Junior, Intermediate and seniors.

The prizes and certificates were awarded to the winners by the Principal of Sri Lankan School in Qatar and the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the State of Qatar, H.E. (Dr.) W.M. Karunadasa.

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Qatar National Sports Day - 2016



SLMQ hosted a full day event to mark the Qatar National Sports Day at Al Mebaireek Family Park for its member families on Tuesday, 09 February 2016 from 9.00 a.m to 5.00 p.m.

The event included separate sports activities for Ladies, Gents and children. The gents' sport activities included Soccer, Elle (the Sri Lankan version of Baseball type sport), Basket Ball, Volley Ball and other traditional sports of Sri Lanka.

The Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the State of Qatar Prof. (Dr) W.M. Karunadasa graced the occasion as the chief guest.

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Enriching Lives

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ

A'al Imran 3: 110. You [Muslims] are the best of peoples ever raised up for mankind; you enjoin Al-Ma'ruf (all that is good) and forbid Al-Munkar (all that is evil), and you believe in Allah.

Allah ﷻ sent the Muslims to enrich lives, to bring comfort to those in need, to stand for good and against evil, to help the poor and needy and to spread good all around them, wherever they may be.

By recognizing that you did not come into this world by your own choice. Your parents did not choose for you to be born. You were sent and you were sent with a purpose. When you discover that purpose then you enter a state of grace. A fish out of water is the clumsiest, most awkward creature in the world. It can't move, it flops desperately, it gasps for breath. But the same fish when it is put back into the lake, disappears like a flash - the epitome of grace, speed and beauty. When we are in our appointed task we are like a fish in the water. The world conspires to help us to succeed. But first we must recognize our purpose and then we need to consciously accept it.

We are never compelled to make one choice or another. But the doors that open, the vista that unfolds before our eyes and the road that beckons ahead all depend on the choice that we make. Choices are not always easy. As a matter of fact, all the important ones are difficult. The most difficult thing is to choose between two apparently good alternatives. But the choice must be made. Everything else depends on that. We sometimes mistake success for ease and complain about difficulty. We forget that difficulties come to test us so that our rank may be increased once we surmount the difficulty. Success goes to those who can overcome. Those who fail, are relegated to the garbage pile of the detritus of history. Without the challenge of Goliath, David would have remained a shepherd boy. But when he stood up against the might of Goliath and his army, Allah guided his arm which swirled the sling about his head and the stone met its mark. That was the destiny of David. Similarly, our destiny waits for us to stand up and say, "I am ready." Then the challenge stands forth. Faith is to remember all this and to take the first step.

In the beautiful words of Barbara Winters: "When you come to the end of the light of all that you know and are about to step off into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing that one of two things will happen; there will be something firm to stand on, or you will be taught how to fly."

I have formulated 6 rules which I call David's rules. These are for anyone facing the big one – the big apparently insurmountable challenge which the whole world tells you to run away from. But you are among those who are uniquely deaf to the advice of those who are too frightened to think straight. You are among those to whom personal safety is not Goal # 1 in life. You are among those who recognize that everything has a price and that if you want to achieve great things, you have to be prepared to pay the price they demand. It's not that you don't recognize the danger. To recognize danger is a sign of intelligence and you are no fool. It is that you are willing to take the risk for the reward. So you ignore the advice and step forward.

Cont....



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David's Rules

Rule # 1 – Take the first step forward

Unless you take the first step forward, nothing will happen.

Once you take the first step, the universe conspires to make you succeed.

It is safer to stay in the ranks and do nothing but it is only the General who gets to call the shots.
And Generals don't stand in the ranks.

The choice is yours and every choice has a price. You pay, you get.

Rule # 2 – Confound Goliath

Goliath does not make the rules so that you can win.

If you play by Goliath's rules, Goliath will win every time.

Understand the rules – then break them.

Make your own rules & play by them.

Rule # 3 – Only effort produces results

Talent is what you are given; what you are born with.

Effort is what you make. Effort supports talent. The best talent is nothing without effort.

In the end it is the effort that brings the results, not the talent if there is no effort.

So don't ask, "What talent do I have?" Ask, "What effort am I making?"

David made effort using his unique talent. The rest is history.

Rule # 4 – Strength always overcomes weakness

Play to your strength because you can do that best.

David was a shepherd so he used a slingshot.

Don't be overawed by competition, because the winning post is only at the end of the race.

In the end, it is not the weapon but whether it scored, that counts.

Rule # 5 – Never compromise your legacy

Stay focused no matter what the distractions.

Remember, winning is all that counts.....and how you win is a part of that.

Winning without honor is to lose in the worst way.

Nobility is a factor of 'How' not of 'What'. Glory is only for the noble.

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Rule # 6 – Thank People

Be thankful to all those who helped you.

It is true that you owe your success to your own effort but some of it was made standing on the shoulders of others. And even if you forget that, they won't.

Thanks builds bridges; for you never know when you will need one to cross.

Thank people because every ending is a new beginning.

I believe very passionately and firmly in the fact that in the end, it is quality that scores over everything else. I know that every leader worth the name shares this belief with me. I have met many along the way who cut corners, pretended to be what they were not and compromised quality for short term gain. Most of them no longer exist. Those who do, live with a reputation that constantly sabotages their effort.

I believe that all that we do or choose not to do defines our brand and reflects our character. Therefore, all initiatives and effort must be measured against this standard to see if it stands up to the mark. Compromising standards and values for gains is a very expensive bargain and adds no value at all. Indeed, the most profitable way to win is to work to the highest standards and become the standard bearer in society against which others measure themselves.

Enriching the lives of others fulfills the purpose of our creation and is the means by which we can construct our Aakhira. Enriching lives is to make long term investments in our future, the everlasting future that begins with our death. Enriching lives is the best ROI that we can possibly get on our wealth, time and effort, guaranteed by the One to Whom is our return.

Mirza Yawar Baig

المؤسسة القطرية للإعلام

Qatar Media Corporation



Young Muslim Writers Awards



For the first time in Qatar, SLMQ joined hands with SLMP-Q to conduct the Young Muslim Writers Awards. The young children aged between 9 and 18 were categorized into three age groups and submissions were received in Poetry, Narrative writing and fiction. The award winning narrative writing and poetry feature in this souvenir.

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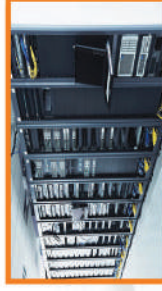
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Reema Rauf

Year Five

Stafford Sri Lankan School

Winner: Narrative Writing (9-11 age group)

Title: Kindness



Kindness and helpfulness begins with me

Once upon a time there lived a small girl named Amelia. She was all alone. Her parents were dead and she had nowhere to live. The dress she was wearing was all what she had, she trusted that god would take care for her. One day a kind stranger gave her a piece of bread, she carefully put it in her coat pocket and she said to herself "I must save this bread, I might need it later, and I'll be hungry for sure".

When she passed by she saw a poor man who was much poorer than she was, lying on the street, and was terribly hungry than she was. He said to her "Please miss, do you have some food to share with me?", although Amelia was hungry she took the piece of bread which she had in her coat pocket and gave it to the poor man to eat and feed his stomach, she said "May god bless that bread and the man who is eating it". She walked away as the poor man ate each crumb of the bread very greedily.

It was getting late and when Amelia passed by the bush she heard a child's cry. "I am so cold, if only I had something to cover my head". Then Amelia agreed that it was too cold and she said "Here you can have my scarf", she removed the scarf she was wearing and she tucked it tightly around the young boy's ears. "How's that?" she asked. "Thank you miss, I much warmer now". Amelia laughed and said "May god bless the scarf and keep you warm".

As the night grew colder, Amelia shivered and pulled her coat tightly. "Help me," a young girl's voice pleaded. "I am freezing and I have nothing to cover myself to keep me warm." Amelia knew what she should do, she removed her coat and she gripped it to the girl's hand. The young girl curled up in the warm coat and said, "Thank you, miss. Thank you." "May god bless that coat and keep the cold away from reaching you", said Amelia and she walked away.

Further down the street, she met a little girl smaller than her, and started to cry. "Why are you naked?" she asked the girl. "Someone stole my clothes and now I have nothing to wear, I forgot my way home, I am scared I'll freeze to death". Amelia removed her dress the last article she had and she put it over the head of the other girl. "Oh, Thank You miss. God bless you." Said the girl, she reached up to Amelia's cheek and kissed her. "May god bless that dress and keep you warm", said Amelia and she walked away.

As Amelia walked on into the darkness, she thought of how fortunate she was to be able to help others. She didn't consider her own nakedness and need.

Suddenly, the sky lit up with falling stars which landed around her. She spun around, delighted in the spectacle of the light show. When it was over, she looked down and discovered she was fully clothed in a fine linen dress and a woolen coat. Her head was covered in the warmest of scarves. But that's not all the magic that occurred. Do you want to know what else happened? When Amelia looked down, the ground was covered in stars! The stars twisted into golden coins. Amelia gathered them into her pockets, thanking the good god for providing her, just as he trusted he would.

What do you think Amelia did with all that money? She gave a lot of it away to those who needed it, and each time she gave the money away, more golden coins were on her way. With no trouble and worriedness Amelia lived happily ever after

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Sahiba Lafir

Year Five

Cambridge School Doha

Winner: Poetry (9-11 age group)

Title: I Wonder Who?



I Wonder Who?

I Wonder who made the grass so green.
And made the wind could never be seen?
And who taught the birds to fly so high?
And who told the trees to take a long rest?

Or when the moon is not quite round,
Who has the missing bit already found?
Who lights the Stars when they blow out?
And made the lightning flash about?

Who made the sun so yellow?
And made some rivers so shallow?
Or who can make a tree trunk hollow?
And who gave the bees a Queen they follow?

Who made lovely flowers?
And made the sky taller than towers?
Who performs this great power?
Such as making butterflies flutter

Who bestowed us many blessings?
And who gave us so many glad tidings?
Who made the whale so pulling?
And still who prevented us from being greedy?

And I wonder who holds the sky.
And made the beautiful kites fly high
I think, I think ... Oh! I know the answer,
It is My Lord Allah. The Greatest Ever.

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Scars

Chapter one:

Blood drips from my hand on the rough sand and stones of the vast barren plain. The sun glares down on me. My feet are red and swollen from walking the whole day. I hasten my pace wanting to cover more distance but I fall down after a few more steps, completely drained out of energy. I know it is pointless to try and continue or find a nice shady spot to rest. All I can see for a quarter mile radius is the same empty, barren stretch of land.

I have no water to make wudoo - let alone drink – so I make Tayamum, lay my tattered cloak on the ground and pray. The second my forehead touches the ground, hope comes flooding back to me, the future looks brighter and the path in front of me not as arduous. I finish praying, let out a huge sigh and cry myself to sleep.

Somewhere very far away lies the rest of my family—God knows in what condition.

Chapter two:

I wake up when the sun is setting. It is beautiful. Just plain beautiful. It leaves behind streaks of colours I do not know the name of. Along with the beauty comes the pain. Memories come flooding back to me; eating away at the little bit of sanity I have left.

I remember, I cry, I sleep, and I recover. I remember, I cry, I sleep and I recover. The pattern is never ending – and excruciating. I am a broken glass shattered into a million pieces. Hope glues me back together but eventually I break again. Each time it takes longer to recover than the last and the supply of hope is running shorter. Ultimately I will be broken beyond repair and there will be nothing left to glue me back with.

I examine my wounds; my hand is healing but my legs are in no condition to walk. Before nightfall I have to reach a place where my nightmares can't haunt me, where my efforts can't drain me and my memories can't hurt

me. For now that place only exists in my dreams.

Chapter three:

I have been walking for four hours straight now. The moon gives off a silvery light that reflects in an unearthly way off the rocks. It is ghostly-quiet save the occasional scurrying of the desert rats and my unstable footsteps echoing off the hard rock bed.

I fall and I stumble but I don't give up. I've been in pain for so long my body doesn't know what it feels like not to be in pain. I hear my mum's voice in my head telling me to keep it together and be strong. I hear my brother, Zain, teasing me about the slow progress I was making. My dad quoting stuff like "no pain, no gain" and "never give up". Strangely enough, their voices fill me with longing and love not pain and misery.

My legs feel as if they've been dismembered - more like I don't feel them at all. I channel all my emotions into my effort. All the pain, fury and misery I was feeling. I choke back the hate though, I try to ignore it as the Prophet (S.A.W.) said: "Do not be envious of one another; do not artificially raise prices among one another, do not hate another; do not turn one's back on each other and do not undercut one another in business transactions....."

It works. I find that I'm able to walk a bit. In the distance I see a light, unmistakably coming from a house. I break into a run despite the agonising pain of my legs, the tormenting weight of my backpack and the unlikelihood of the situation.

Chapter four:

The house is grey and shabby, and looks inhabited but I can hear the melodious voice of someone reciting the Quran and of course I can see the light shining from a room. Immediately I pray Sajadah shukoor right there on the doorstep.



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I raise my hand to knock but I'm shocked by the condition of my hands. They are red and bleeding. Scars cover every inch of my skin. I don't look like I have escaped from the bombs, I look like I'm a survivor. The bombs. I think of my family back in Syria. I have no clue if they are alive or dead. That realisation hits me with so much alarm that I'm unprepared. I can't take it. I collapse on to me knees; sobbing.

Chapter five:

When I wake up I'm on a mattress on the floor and a woman with a face so vague yet so strikingly familiar greets with a smile. It is a smile that evokes some of my happiest memories and in spite of the fact that I barely know her, I smile back. She flashes me a message in sign language and I can see traces of sorrow in her eyes. I become lost in a distant memory. Four, long years ago we were paired with a school for deaf and I had learnt sign language there. It was one of the most valuable memories I've ever had.

I recognise the woman's message as "What is your name?"

I sign back with shaking hands: "Sumayya."

I see something light up in her face. A sparkle replaces the sorrow I had seen earlier. Pleased that I understand her, she begins to tell me her story.

Chapter six:

"My name is Ruqqayah. I am 41 years old. My husband abandoned me here once found out I was deaf. That was 20 years ago," A tear trickles down her cheek, landing on my palm." For the first few months I had scarcely enough to eat. Sometimes I went days without anything to eat. I had no children at all to help me. I think I started to go insane. Then one day I found a copy of the Quran in my clothes trunk. I was mesmerised by the holy words. I re-found my faith. I became able enough to manage on my own in this barren land. I learnt about medicines and herbs from travellers. I learnt ways of extracting water. Sometimes I still make a one-week trip to the distant villages and trade in the market to earn some money. I may be poor and isolated but I am happy and I thank Allah (S.W.T.) whole-heartedly."

Now it is my turn to drench the pillow. Compared to her, my sufferings seem miniscule and I am ashamed. Through my blurry vision I see Ruqqayah asking me for my story. While she tends to my wounds I tell her.

Chapter 7:

I'm exhausted from all the signing when I'm finished. Seeing my tiredness Ruqqayah plants a kiss on forehead and tucks me in. My hands are still scarred and my legs are still bleeding but I feel.....

.....happy. With a smile that removes all trace of war from my face, I doze off.

We spent many days together after that, Ruqqayah and I (she insisted on me calling her by her name, though I was 26 years younger than her). Now as we watch the sun setting over the horizon together, I look at the faint scars on my hands and legs. It's like what they say: the scars of war will always stay. I finally understand that now I have experienced it first-hand. The loss of my family and the marks on my skin will stay with me forever but it was kindness that healed me. Ruqqayah's kindness to me healed me. My kindness to her consoled her.

Mark Twain once said: "Kindness is the language in which the blind can see and the deaf can hear by"

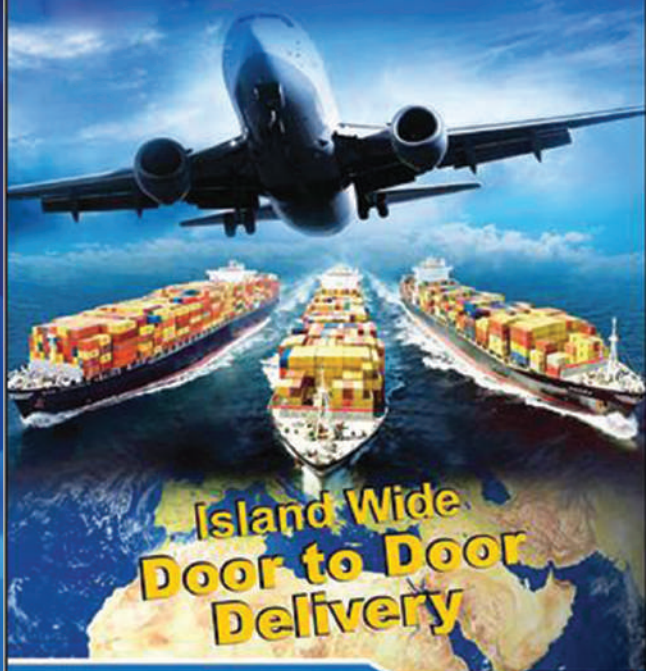
"And the language in which the wounded can be healed with", I whisper to the bright hues settling across the horizon.

Epilogue:

The war is over now. We have won. We stood out in the end as we had faith in Allah (S.W.T.). As I stand looking at the brand new mirror in Ruqqayah's house I notice the slightest hint of a scar and I smile, remembering. Ruqqayah comes up and ties my hair and helps me to get ready for school. I give her a kiss on the forehead and leave the house. You can barely recognise it as the lone, deserted place I had stumbled upon three years ago. The walls have been repainted and the run-down parts of the house have been replaced. Most importantly it is a part of a neighbourhood.

I walk on the rough asphalt surface of the road on my way to collect my friends. We walk together to school in silence because today is the day our exam results finally come out. I know we all did well but deep down I am worried about my performance. I would be letting Ruqqayah and my family down. A tear trickles down my cheek as I whisper "I love you, wherever you are."

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Fathimah Khadijah Hafil

Year Seven

Newton British Academy

Winner: Poetry (12-15 age group)

Title: The Flame



Kindness The Flame

There is a sickening crash,
And her hand,
Holding me,
Goes limp,
And she falls,
And just like that,
She's gone.
Gone, gone, gone
All gone,
My hopes and dreams,
Gone,
My lifeline to the world,
Gone,
All gone.
I just want to,
Drop down beside her,
And forget,
Everything,
And forget,
Everything,
Because she's gone.
Instead,
I drop down beside her,
And scream her name,
Over and over,
Again,
Scream her name,
But she's gone.
I put my ear,
To her heart,
And strain my ears,
To find any sign,
Of life,
Of that pleasant life she lived,
But she's gone.
Tears stream down my face,
As I remember,
As I remember,
As I remember,
Every single little thing,
As I remember,
Though she's gone.
In the distance,
I hear,
Voices screaming,
Sirens wailing,

But it doesn't matter,
It doesn't matter,
She's gone.
I feel myself being lifted up,
And embraced,
And told,
Over and Over,
Again,
I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry,
She's gone.
I shout,
And I scream,
And I cry,
And I sob,
And I hide,
But it doesn't work ,
She's gone.
I come out,
of her room,
I come back,
to reality,
I return,
To blindness,
Because she's gone
Someone comes up to me,
And takes my hand,
And immediately,
My blood starts
Circulating again
And my brain starts
Working again
Because it is a touch,
That bears,
The flame,
That warms,
The cold chill,
Coursing
Through my veins.
Because it is a touch
Which reclaims,
Control
Makes me regain
Posture and sense
Because it is a touch
Of kindness



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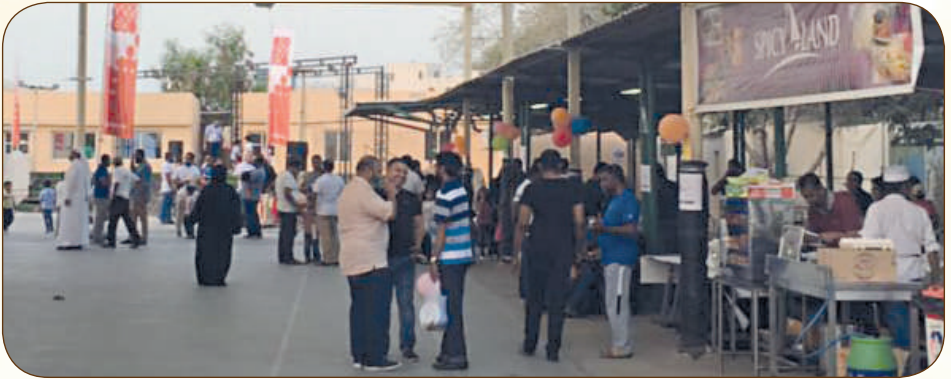
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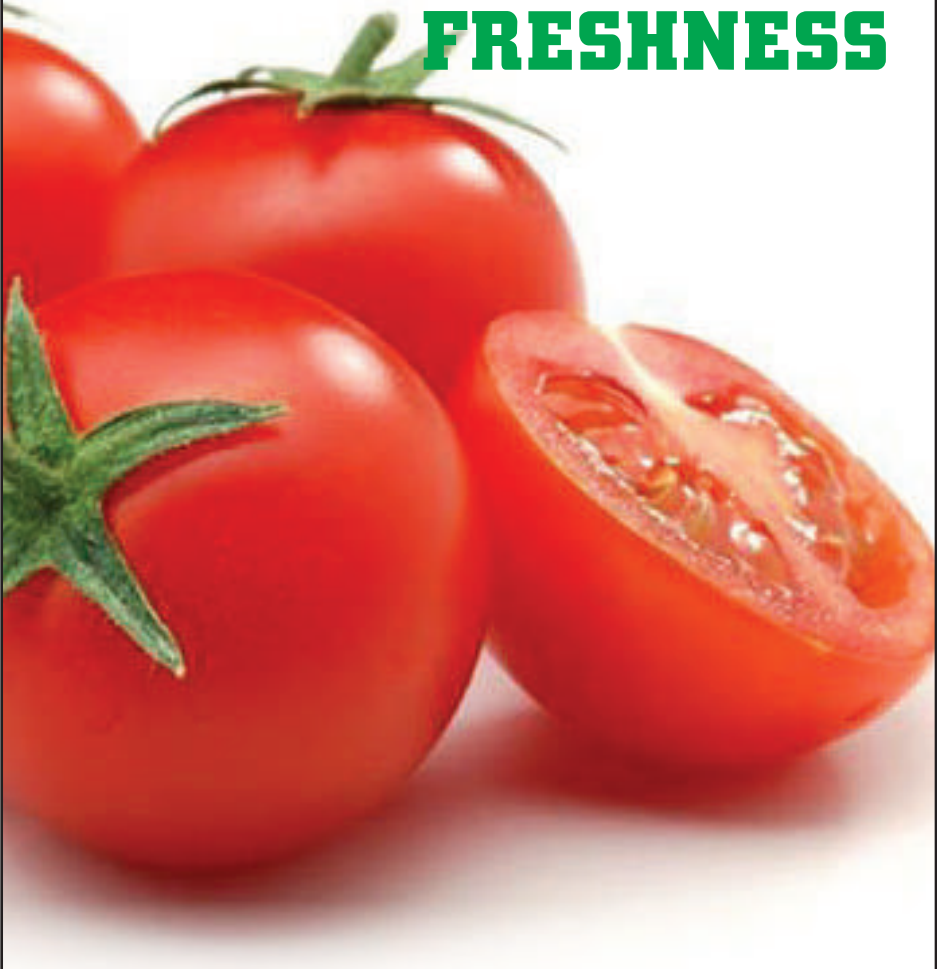
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Ramadan Bazaar - 2016



SLMQ hosted a Ramadaan Bazaar at Sri Lankan School premises on 13 May 2016. This was the first time experience for the members and the Sri Lankan community and was well received by the participants. The event was full of quality shopping, entertainment and enjoyment for the whole family.

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Islamic Lecture Series by Ash Sheikh Mufti Yousuf Haniffa



SLMQ conducted a series of lectures aimed at the Sri Lankan community in Qatar on 28, 29 and 30 of January 2016.

On Thursday, 28 January 2016, a lecture titled “Surah Al Hujarath - Lessons for our Lives” was delivered at Al Attiyyah Masjid after Isha Prayer.

On Friday, 29 January 2016, a lecture titled “Islamic Family – Secrets for Success” was conducted for the members of Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar and their families at Tariq Bin Ziyad Independent Secondary School for Boys.

The third lecture was held at At Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre (FANAR) Auditorium on Saturday, 30 January 2016 after Isha Prayer titled “Work: Faith: Balance - In a busy modern lifestyle”.

From a well-wisher

الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّهَارِ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً
فَلَهُمْ أَجْرُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ وَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ
يَحْزَنُونَ ﴿٢٧٤﴾

(سورة البقرة)

**Those who (in charity) spend of their goods
by night and by day in secret and in pub-
lic have their reward with their Lord: on them
shall be no fear nor shall they grieve
(Surah Baqarah, Verse 274)**

Projects in Sri Lanka

With the help of Almighty and the support of the members, SLMQ initiated several projects in Sri Lanka.

SLMQ contributed for the completion work of a Building Block at CSM School for Special Needs situated in Akurana, Sri Lanka.

SLMQ awarded five scholarships for a period of one year for selected deserving students continuing studies at Al Khaira Foundation – Mawanella.

A Project with Muslim Aid has been initiated to help deserving women who are widowed breadwinners of the family in the Colombo district and provide aid to increase their own earning capability under the theme “Enriching Lives”.

A project proposal from Dharul Hasanath – A Home for the Orphans in Hemmathagama for the construction of their dining and kitchen is under review for consideration.



Ummrah

An Umrah pilgrimage was organized by SLMQ on 08 April 2016. There were a number of families participated in the pilgrimage. The group returned to Doha on 16 April.

Zakath

A Zakat workshop titled “Zakat and its Principles – Inner and Outer Dimensions” was hosted by SLMQ on 31 March, 01 and 02 April 2016 at Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Centre (FANAR) Auditorium. The course was conducted by the head of National Zakat Fund in UK, Imam Abid Khan.



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