



Al-Ittihaad UNITY



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13 YEAR OLD SAFVAN An amazing story

When Safvan was 2 years old, he fell down a ladder, at that time he was hearing and speaking and was admitted into hospital for nearly a month. He was diagnosed with having meningitis of the brain, this was treated upon but later on in life this resulted in Safvan losing his hearing and speech.



Safvan's family was desperate to do as much as they could to help him regain his hearing and speech again, the only available method was an implant of a machine which was to be imported from Australia, it would be the first implant of its kind. Total cost of the operation and machine was £7,000.

The family set out to raise as much as possible by selling their ornaments and borrowing as much money as possible, they were £1,500 short of their target. When the MWI heard of Safvan's story, we requested a family in Blackburn who happily donated the remainder £1,500. Safvan had the operation and the machine has been implanted.

It is very pleasing to report that Safvan has regained 40% hearing and with regular speech therapy this will increase I.A. You can see Safvan after the implant by going onto our website www.mwinstitute.co.uk and clicking on 'Safvan-an amazing story' on our homepage.

INDIA: An eye-witness account

Chairman of the Muslim Welfare Institute, Moulana Yusuf Hajat visited MWI projects in India in February, following is a brief summary of Moulana's visit: By the grace of The Almighty, I was fortunate to see personally some of the projects currently being delivered by the Muslim Welfare Institute in India. Following is a brief encounter of my experience:

DAY 1: On Friday 17th Feb, I arrived at Ahmedabad by train at around 4pm. I joined up with my colleagues who had already arrived before me outside the Al Amin hospital in Gomtipur. At this hospital, the MWI has set up an ophthalmic dept, physio dept and a dental surgery. This is one of the four hospitals run and managed by our partners in Ahmedabad, whose main key areas of work is providing quality education & health facilities. From here we left to go to one of the first housing projects which MWI carried out, namely the Ahmed Latif Colony housing project in Della, approx 55 kms from Ahmedabad. A journey that should have taken around 45 minutes but due to traffic congestion, took over 2 hours. Due to the



fact that the brother who had donated to this housing project for the Sadaqah Jariya (continuous reward) of his late father in whose name this housing colony is built was accompanying us, this visit was a very moving and an emotional experience. As we finished visiting some of the homes, the senior members & the local Imam had gathered in the Masjid whom we met and discussed the affairs of the community and now that the community had expanded, provisions for additional Madrasah and school space was needed as the present facilities were not adequate and did not fulfil their needs.

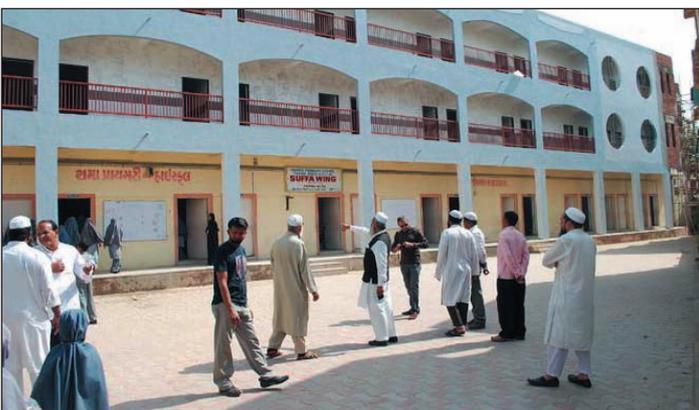
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INDIA - An eye-witness account continued

DAY 2: Early morning we left to visit the Shifa hospital located in the heart of Ahmedabad. This is another hospital successfully managed by our partners. During the visit, it was very pleasing to see how efficiently the hospital was running, also the hospital was well equipped & maintained.



From here we visited the recently built Nutan Bharti School which was presently in full swing. Then we moved on to another school, namely Shama school. Today was the school's annual graduation & prize giving day and it was very pleasing & inspiring to observe the children acting out role plays in colourful clothing and listening to their recitations and eloquent speeches. The efforts of both the staff and students were clearly transparent. This function finished late afternoon. We also visited the newly built wing of Shama School. Once the internal work is complete, it would cater for additional students.



From here we moved on to the offices of our partner organisation where we met up with poor patients for whom medical assistance had been provided by the MWI. At this point, after listening to the plight and heart breaking stories of these poor people, I would like to mention how fortunate we are in this country with the NHS system. The medical bills in these developing countries run into tens of thousands of pounds. Following this, a series of meetings were held with our partners in which, present and further long term and short term

projects were discussed. In the evening we went to the site wherein the following morning 131 weddings were going to take place. Although it was late into the night, the atmosphere was electric with volunteers engaged in various setup activities.

DAY 3: This was the highlight of the trip. Today, 131 couples from various rural areas of Ahmedabad, who due to poverty and high wedding costs could not afford to get married, were tying the knot. Our partners had made tremendous arrangements for the wedding ceremony of these 131 couples out of which 50 were financed by Masjid-e-Anisul Islam of Blackburn.

At this stage, the Imam of Masjid-e-Anisul Islam Moulana Shoayb joined up with us together with the secretary of the Northwest Relief Trust Haji Yakub Bhai Jinga of Preston. Many dignitaries attended on this occasion including the minister of transport, MP's, mayors, senior ulama and guests. The chief guest on the day was Hazrat Moulana Abdullah Sahib Kapodravi, former Principal of Falah-e-Darayn Tadkeswar, a renowned educationalist, thinker and speaker. He was joined with his son Moulana Ismail of Bolton.



The joyful & tranquil atmosphere at this open air wedding ceremony was one that could only be felt and not put in words. Arrangement of various necessary household items were made for these newlywed couples in order for them to start their new life journey. On completion of this wedding ceremony, the final leg of my journey was spent in visiting the various Masajid the MWI had constructed or were under construction in rural deprived areas in and around Ahmedabad.

This short journey of mine as always left both a feeling of joy upon seeing for myself the difference your support is making to thousands of peoples lives on a daily basis and also at the same time it was heartbreaking to witness the poverty and hardship the people were going through. Let us continue to support and bring happiness to our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate than us.

BANGLADESH

A delegation of the MWI arrived in Bangladesh on Monday 20th February, a brief summary of their visit is presented below:

EDUCATION CLASSES (Maktabs)

The MWI is running 125 Education Classes (Maktabs) in various parts of Bangladesh, on Tuesday 21st February our hosts had gathered a number of the children who attend these classes from the nearby villages, some children recited the Holy Quraan and others had prepared speeches etc. All the children performed very well. We spent most of the day with the children and also had the opportunity to visit Masjid-e-Hafsa (R.A.) which was constructed by the MWI in 2011.



WHEELCHAIR DISTRIBUTION

On Thursday 23rd February, we had the opportunity to distribute wheelchairs to disabled poor people. The level of poverty in many parts of Bangladesh is such that families just about get through their day with whatever little amount of provisions they can get hold off. When a family member becomes disabled, they do not have the £50 to purchase a wheelchair, the delight on the faces of these poor disabled people brings one very close to tears.



GROUP WEDDINGS

The following day was Wednesday 22nd February and after a long drive from Dhaka, we arrived at Tarail where there were scenes of happiness and joy. Financed by the brothers & sisters associated with Masjid-e-Anisul Islam of Blackburn, 40 couples got married. Each bride was gifted with basic essentials to help her start a happy married life. Nikah ceremony was performed by Moulana Shoayb, the Imam of Masjid-e-Anisul Islam. It really was a very touching & moving occasion.



DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTNERS

The purpose of the visit was to assess the projects and also see at first hand the effect the projects were having on the people.

Our partners were full of praise for the brothers and sisters of the UK for their donations for their brothers and sisters of Bangladesh.

During the visit we saw what great differences can be made to the lives of people for small amounts of money. We discussed future projects with our partners and are looking forward to the generous support of our donors in the future.

May The Almighty accept all our efforts and reward us all with the best of both worlds, Ameen.

ALBANIA 'VISIT BY UWT'

Two representatives of the Ummah Welfare Trust (UWT) carried out a field visit of Albania in February, the UWT is sponsoring 280 orphans in Albania and the feedback provided by the UWT reps. has been very positive.



'MASJID RENOVATION'

We are in the process of providing carpets to a Masjid in Shkodra which was recently extended.



BANGLADESH 'WINTER PACKS'

The winter season this year was very severe in Bangladesh, we took the opportunity to distribute 1500 winter packs to needy families in many areas.



'HANDPUMPS'

Many donors have donated towards the installation of hand pumps, we are in the process of installing another 40 hand pumps in areas where there is great need, cost per hand pump is £125.



INDIA 'MASJID-E-FATIMAH (R.A.)'

A family from Leicester have donated £11,000 towards the construction of Masjid-e-Fatimah (R.A.) in Rajasthan, this will be the third Masjid to be constructed in India this year.



'DIALYSIS SERVICES'

It is very pleasing to report that Tayyabah Masjid of Bolton has donated £5,500 for providing dialysis services to needy patients at the Haji Ismail Dialysis Centre in Ahmedabad.



LAUNCH OF RAMADHAN 2012 APPEAL

NEXT EDITION OF 'UNITY' FRIDAY 1ST JUNE 2012

I.A. the next edition of UNITY will be distributed on Friday 1st June, this will be approx. 7 weeks before Ramadhan and will contain our Ramadhan Iftaar & Eid-ul-Fitr Gift Pack appeals for the three countries we are working in, we had a wonderful response to our appeals last year and look forward to your generous support once again.



For the latest updates on all projects go to www.mwinstitute.co.uk