



# Al-Ittihaad UNITY



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## VISIT TO ALBANIA, BANGLADESH & INDIA - 2011

### ALBANIA

Our Outreach Worker arrived in Albania on Saturday 12th February and spent one week assessing the projects of the MWI.

#### Darul Uloom – Belesh

Our first residential Madrasah situated at Belesh near Elbasan has 7 full time students and 6 part time students. The students are taught a 2 year course which gives them enough knowledge to be able to teach children and perform Imamat duties in their localities.

#### Dar-e-Arqam - Tirana

Dar-e-Arqam is our head office based in Tirana, as well as managing all our administration work from here Dar-e-Arqam provides the facilities for 250 of our orphans to attend Education Classes on a weekly basis. The premises are also utilised for Tabligh Jamats and small gatherings.

#### Islamic Awareness Programmes

During his visit, our Outreach Worker visited a number of Education Classes being supervised by the MWI. It is very pleasing to report that these classes have increased over the years and at present approx. 600 Albanian children are benefitting from them. The recitation of the Qur`an of some of the children was very impressive indeed.

### Orphans Sponsorship

The MWI is sponsoring over 350 orphans in Albania. All of these orphans attend our Education Classes. The effort of the teachers was visible upon listening to a number of orphans reciting the Qur`an and answering questions on Islamic Teachings. 280 of these orphans are financed by Ummah Welfare Trust for which we are very grateful to them.

### Jameah Riyadhul Uloom - Durres

Named after the famous Jameah Riyadhul Uloom of Leicester run under the auspices of Shaikh Mohammad Salim Dhorat Saheb, Jameah Riyadhul Uloom situated at Durres near the famous port city of Durres is our latest residential Madrasah to be opened in Albania. At present, 6 full time students reside there and 13 part time students attend on a regular basis. The Madrasah is managed by our Albanian graduate of Jameah Riyadhul Uloom Leicester, Moulana Rajab Milaci. The fruits of the seeds sown in Leicester are clearly visible in Albania. A special thanks to all brother & sisters for taking part in our Albania Projects, we look forward to your continuous support in the years to come, I.A.





## BANGLADESH

3 representatives of the MWI accompanied by Moulana Yusuf Patel of Blackburn arrived in Dhaka on Sunday 27th February.

### Friends of Zayd (R.A.) Orphanage

We arrived at our orphanage located at Begumpur in Gazipur on Sunday 27th Feb, work was in progress for the construction of a first floor which should be fully operational by Ramadhan I.A., we met with our 20 orphans and it was pleasing to see their progress in both Islamic and secular subjects.

### Masjid-e-Hafsah (R.A.)

The opening of Masjid-e-Hafsah (R.A.) at Gazipur took place with Maghrib Salaah on the same day, there were a lot of happy faces, many of the elders gave plenty of duas to the donors and to MWI.

### Education Programmes - Gazipur

The MWI has 25 Education Classes taking place in the Gazipur District and the teachers had gathered at the orphanage to welcome us, it was a good opportunity to catch up on the progress and give them further guidance.

### Masjid-e-Ibrahim (A.S.)

We left Dhaka at 9:30am on Monday 28th Feb for a 5-hour drive to Kishoreganj District. En route, we stopped by Masjid-e-Ibrahim (A.S.) which was constructed by the MWI during 2010, a nice small Masjid constructed at a location where the majority of the local population are not Muslims, a sad sight indeed in an Islamic country like Bangladesh. We prayed that this Masjid becomes a means of guidance for the locality.

### Masjid-e-Mohammadi

As we entered Kishoreganj, we were very warmly received by hundreds of people in a locality where we laid the foundation stone of a new Masjid financed by a family of Bolton UK. The village leaders were full of praise for the donors, completion is expected by Ramadhan I.A.

### Rashidnagar Housing Project

The Ummah Welfare Trust (UWT) had carried out a housing project nearby named Rashid Nagor together with the construction of a Masjid, our hosts explained that these were those families who had lost everything at the time of Cyclone Sidr and the UWT had made provisions for their shelter, it was a very emotional visit which easily brings one close to tears.

### Tube wells / Hand Pumps

Many areas of Bangladesh are without clean running water, over the years the MWI has made provisions for the installation of a number of Tube Wells, during our visit it was pleasing to see a number of these being utilised by the locals.



### Education Programmes - Kishoreganj

Kishoreganj District is home to 100 Education Classes financed by the MWI, we arrived at the local Darul Uloom late in the evening and spent approximately 2 hours with the Teachers. The Project Co-ordinator gave a very touching update of the progress and we were really moved by the reports from some individuals, approximately 5000 children and 2000 adults benefit from these Classes. It had been a very long day as we returned back to Dhaka way after mid-night.



## BANGLADESH Continued

### Group Weddings Programme - Netrokona

Tuesday 1st March was a day of happiness for 25 couples in Netrokona, a 6 hour drive from Dhaka. We arrived at 3pm to witness an atmosphere of joy. 25 couples were married on the day, financed by the brothers and sisters of Blackburn through Masjid-e-Anisul Islam. Our hosts explained that the level of poverty amongst the people was to such an extent that the families did not have the means to get their daughters married. There were so many duas that day for the people of Blackburn.

### Cataract Operations Programme - Dhaka

After enjoying a very spiritual breakfast in the company of a pious scholar who was a student of Moulana Husain Ahmed Madani, we arrived at the Dhaka Eye Hospital at 9:00a.m. on Wednesday 2nd March and met with a number of patients who were about to have cataract operations. Words will do no justice to the emotions expressed by an elderly patient who burst out in tears thanking the Muslims of the UK who had financed the operations.

Our 4-day visit to Bangladesh came to an end with lengthy discussions with our partners the Islahul Muslimeen Parishad Bangladesh (IMPB) at their offices.

### Kolkatta

We touched down at Kolkatta airport at 5:00pm on Wednesday 2nd March and during a brief 4 hour transit had the opportunity to listen to the plight of the Muslims of West Bengal from representatives of Rashikpur and Sundurban who had travelled many hours to meet with us.

We got an update of the first Masjid being constructed by MWI at Rashikpur from their representatives. It was pleasing to hear that the locals were playing a major part in the construction of the Masjid.



## INDIA

### Ameen Hospital

Our first stop on Thursday 3rd March was the Al Ameen Hospital in Gomtipur Ahmedabad where 150 people had gathered for cataract operations financed by Masjid-e-Anisul Islam of Blackburn. Once again, the patients were full of praise and duas for the donors.

### Shama School

750 children were anxiously waiting for us at the Shama school in Danilimda which was our next stop, students of Tauheedul Islam Girls High School in Blackburn raise funds every year to support needy students at Shama.

### Haji Ismail Hospital

We then moved on to the Haji Ismail Hospital in Behrampura which has 18 dialysis machines and although it was sad to see so many patients with kidney failure, it was pleasing to see that the hospital was providing such a vital life saving service to its patients, many of whom had travelled distances to access the facilities.



### Maryam Hospital

The last stop on this hectic morning was the Maryam Hospital at Jamalpur, many patients were being treated for various illnesses, the value of the good health we have can only truly be realised when one sees the conditions of those who are not so fortunate.





### Orphans Visits

After taking a break during the mid-day heat of Ahmedabad where temperatures were rising to 35 degrees, none of us were prepared for what was to hit us next. Our hosts took us to visit the homes of a few of the orphans from the 150 that we are sponsoring, it was difficult to comprehend how mothers were living with their children in houses comprising of one room and a small kitchen/ bathroom area, it was very emotional to hear the stories of some of the widows, these were those families who were left homeless after the 2002 communal riots where the bread winner of the house had become the victim.

### Masjid-e-Mohammadi

Our final programme of the day was the opening of Masjid-e-Mohammadi at Danilimda in Ahmedabad which was financed by a family of the UK. The locals expressed their gratitude to the donors.

### Nutan Bharti School

The students at the newly constructed Nutan Bharti School at Bapunagar were awaiting us, this was our first stop on Saturday 5th March, schools function on Saturdays as well in India and we took a whistle stop tour of the school which had been reconstructed due to the old building being in a derelict state.

### Fatehwadi School

Our next stop was the school at Fatehwadi, much smaller in size and numbers to the previous 2 schools we visited but none the less just as important for the education of the younger ones.

### Masjid-e-Yusuf (A.S.)

The last leg of the journey to see the construction of Masjid-e-Yusuf (A.S.) at Millat Nagar at Shah-e-Alam in Ahmedabad had to be undertaken by Rickshaw as there was no access for cars. The area was heavily congested with rows upon rows of mud huts and it was beyond imagination to see hundreds of families living in such miserable conditions.

### Masjid-e-Ayesha (R.A.)

Similar was the surrounding in the Chandola Tallaw area of Ahmedabad where the construction of Masjid-e-Ayesha (R.A.) was taking place, both of these Masjids were financed by 2 families of Blackburn for the Iyialis Thawab of their deceased family members.

### Group Weddings

Sunday 6th March will be a day remembered by the people of Gomitpur Ahmedabad for a very long time to come as that was the day when 151 couples got married, as we approached the venue the scenes were amazing. 30 of these weddings were financed by Masjid-e-Anisul Islam, 10 by Adnan Charitable Trust and 10 by MWI.



**We take this opportunity to thank all brothers & sisters for their valuable support to the MWI and look forward to your continuous support in the years to come I.A**

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For all the latest information and photos, please visit our website [www.mwinstitute.co.uk](http://www.mwinstitute.co.uk)  
As we approach the Holy Month of Ramadhan, we intend to start our campaign for Iftaar and Eid-ul-Fitr Programmes at the end of June I.A., our website will have all the details and the next edition of UNITY will be published on Friday 1st July I.A