

# THE MEMON



THE CHARISMATIC  
**Newsad  
Gani**



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# HOMECOMING

*The year was 1976.*

*A 13 year old boy from a small town in Malawi was thrust into the cold and detached environment of London. Everyone at school, the city and most of the world spoke the same language, yet there was no sense of belonging.*

*I yearned to go home, to the camaraderie, warmth and brotherhood of the Memon Community. I sensed that our people were different. We were a united, helpful and benevolent tribe that were compassionate towards our fellow human beings. Philanthropy was in our Blood and although we had very little of our own, we were keen to share with our brothers and sisters, regardless of color or creed. It instilled in me a sense of pride to belong to this community.*

*As I grew up, I always treasured the 'specialness' of being different and mastered the art of giving. When I became a man of means I wanted to give back to this wonderful community. But I did not want to stop there. There were others like me who wanted to make a difference in their towns, countries and the world.*

*An idea was conceived, a movement was launched and an organisation was born. The World Memon Organisation welcomed us into her fold, we stood United under its banner and did what our People do best.*

*We Served Mankind...*

*The year was 2001.*

*I was Home!*

**Mr. Nowsad Abdul Gani**  
**Deputy President WMO**

WMO MIDDLE EAST CHAPTER

*The Human Connection*



**The Middle East chapter has always been one of the brightest stars on the WMO galaxy.**

The chapter has consistently performed brilliantly under the able leadership of its VP, Mr. Iqbal Dawood and ASG, Mr. Ahmed Shaikhani. The management committee along with the long list of Trustees and Patrons are an outstanding support system for the Chapter. The extremely active ladies and youth wing are just another feather in the already crowded cap of the Middle East chapter.

Dubai has become the melting pot of the World and it's no different for the Memon Community. With strong representations from UK, Africa, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka along with a host of other countries, the Middle East chapter is a wonderful amalgamation of nationalities, united under the banner of WMO, working in harmony towards the worthy cause of Serving Mankind.

Whether it is the collection of funds for humanitarian causes across the globe, enrolling members into its already impressive fold or organising world class events like the WMO AGM, the Middle East chapter has duly delivered on all fronts.

2016 has begun on a strong note with the chapter buzzing with activity.

**The Executive Committee Meeting**

The meeting was held at the Shaikhani Group Office on January 07, 2016.

The honourable president Mr Suliman Noor Mahomed along with prominent EXco members Mr. Shoaib Ismail, Mr. Nowsad Gani, Mr. Ashraf Sattar, Mr. Haroon Karim, Mr. Mahmood Shiakhani and WMO COO Mr. Shahid Sanghani participated in the meeting. A detailed discussion



was carried out on the WMO performance of the previous year and a strategy was put in place to deliver even stronger results in 2016.

**Gala Dinner**

A gala dinner was held in honour of the president Mr Suliman Noor Mahomed at Mr. Iqbal Dawood's Residence.



The Middle East Chapter has always been on the forefront of social networking. The dinner was yet another opportunity to connect with the community and strengthen ties with existing members. Around a hundred and twenty guests witnessed another stellar oration from Mr. Solly Noor emphasising the need for greater engagement and dedication towards uplifting humanity under the banner of WMO. The speech made a great impact and many new members were encouraged to join the organisation.

**Breakfast Session**

Every month, a breakfast session is held on a Friday to cement the bond between existing members.

January 22, 2016 marked another breakfast meeting at barbecue delight downtown



**Mr Ahmed Shaikhani's Meeting with the President of Mexico**

His Excellency President of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto met Ahmed Shaikhani (Director, Shaikhani Group & Director, Pakistan Business Council) to discuss the investment opportunities in Mexico at the UAE-Mexico Business Forum on January 19, 2016.



WMO MIDDLE EAST CHAPTER

*The Human Connection*



**SOCIAL NETWORKING**  
Family Picnic, courtesy Ladies Wing.



**Serving Mankind**

**RAMADAN IFTAR CAMP**

WMO Middle East embodies the spirit of Giving in the holy month of Ramadan by providing meals to thousands of labourers and under privileged members of the Muslim community, stationed in Dubai.



A massive tent was setup at the Dubai Investment Park with the requisite permissions from local authorities .This noble endeavors continued thorough out the month of Ramadan where eventually 40,000 meals were served.



**SPORTS EVENTS**  
by the Youth Wing of Middle East Chapter.



May Allah SWT accept our efforts and reward those who contributed towards this worthy cause.

**WELFARE ACTIVITIES**

A number of local issues have been addressed by the Middle East chapter to uplift humanity.

**HOUSING**

Financial assistance in the form of Rents, Loans and Legal recourse has been provided to the afflicted members of our community. This initiative is essentially for providing homes to the less fortunate members of the local Memon community. More than AED 100,000 have been disbursed to uphold this worthy cause.

**EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS**



Scholarship and financial aid has been provided to students of our community to complete their education. AED 43,343 has been disbursed so that children from the Memon Community can pursue their studies, unhindered. Collaborating with Skyline University to provide Scholarships was an important milestone in our journey towards fulfilling this noble cause.



**MIDDLE EAST BUSINESS CONNECT**  
Pakistan Business Council Program.



## The Charismatic Newsad Gani

Mr. Newsad Abdul Gani always stands out in a crowd. His towering height, rugged good looks and suave demeanour make a lot of heads turn. Perched on the pinnacle of success, this real estate mogul and dashing lawyer casts a long shadow in a dapper 'bandh gala' in his palatial London home.

He shared with us, some of the stories of his past that shed light on what makes him the man he is today.

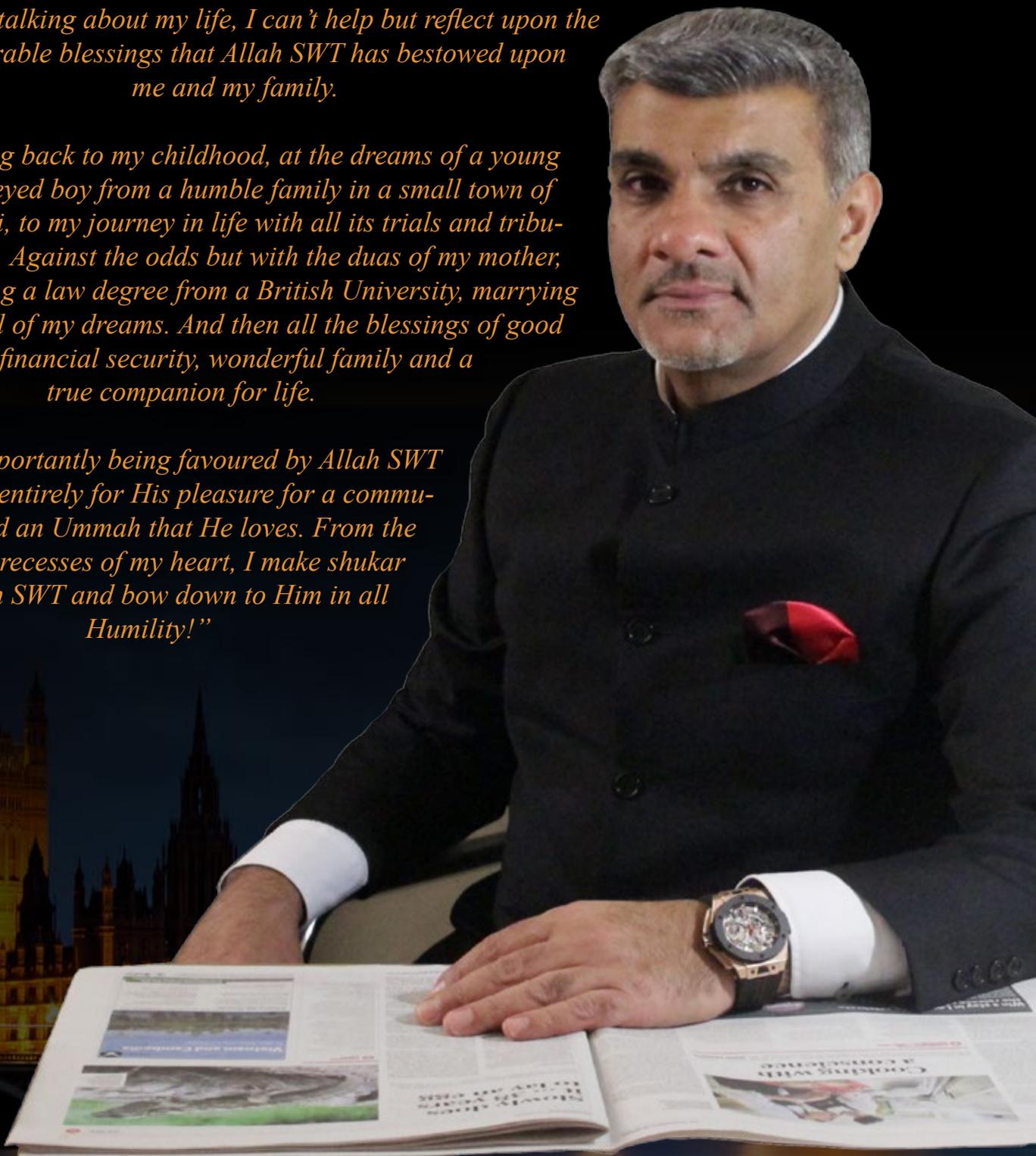
He unfolded many interesting pages from his childhood and spoke about the journey ever since.

His humility and trust in the Almighty are his greatest strengths. Mr. Newsad Gani epitomises the ideal community man and is the perfect brand ambassador for the Memon Community across the globe. He emphasises the need to give back to society as he unravels the saga of his **Evolution, Hope, Love and Faith!**

*“Whilst talking about my life, I can’t help but reflect upon the innumerable blessings that Allah SWT has bestowed upon me and my family.*

*Looking back to my childhood, at the dreams of a young wide eyed boy from a humble family in a small town of Malawi, to my journey in life with all its trials and tribulations. Against the odds but with the duas of my mother, acquiring a law degree from a British University, marrying the girl of my dreams. And then all the blessings of good health, financial security, wonderful family and a true companion for life.*

*More importantly being favoured by Allah SWT to work entirely for His pleasure for a community and an Ummah that He loves. From the deepest recesses of my heart, I make shukar to Allah SWT and bow down to Him in all Humility!”*



## The Early Years in Malawi

This story begins at the place of my birth. A small town called Zomba in Malawi, Central Africa.

A town with a population of hardly a thousand Indians, mostly Memons, all immigrants from the villages of Khatiawad.

*I was born the youngest of five brothers and one sister in the humblest of families, where my father struggled to make ends meet as a motor mechanic. My mother would make samosa's every day to sell to the Africans in the marketplace, just to bring food to the table.*

And yet, despite these struggles, I reminisce on those early years as being the happiest of my life!

I will always cherish my childhood days in Malawi. We did not have material wealth but we had each other. There was a sense of security and belonging within the Memon Community where the young were nurtured and we grew in strength.

**A blessing has been eloquently described as a circle of light drawn around a person to protect, heal and strengthen. We all lay deep inside that circle of light and our community was indeed blessed!**

I always hoped and prayed as I grew older that I could expand the circle just a little bit, and encompass the world.

Perhaps it is this atmosphere of growing up in a close knit community, where everybody knew each other, had time for one another and help was always at hand, that has left a lasting impression on me. And perhaps it is this that has carried me to passionately believing in a sense of duty to my fellow being!



# A British Education

Upon reaching the tender age of 13, and undergoing primary school and Madressa in Zomba, my family had to uproot to the United Kingdom.

A direct contrast to my early years, London in the mid-1970's was a city with a population of some 8 million people. Vibrant, impersonal, culturally opposite to my early life with no sense of community. I had been thrown in at the deep-end!

I quickly had to adjust to life in the big city. At that very impressionable age, not only was I dealing with the usual teenage issues but adjusting to a lifestyle, which was in essence completely opposite to my upbringing

With a sub-standard knowledge of the English language and no friends or companions, I was admitted to a majority white and working class school in South London. The indigenous population in those days was not only hostile to immigrants but racism was also rife! With the language and cultural handicap, I either had to sink or swim in educational attainment.

*Reflecting back on those years, I would classify this period as probably the most challenging of my life!*

As my parents were of humble means, I also started working part-time in a supermarket after school every day and on weekends.

I believe that all these factors probably toughened me up. I skipped adolescence and matured well beyond my years!

However, I was now determined to make the best of the situation and work as hard as possible in order to succeed in life! My life literally was dedicated to studies and work, with little interaction with our Memon community.

Gradually I had now adjusted to life in the UK, and with hard work began to see results of this in my studies, attaining good grades at 'O' and 'A' levels.

I missed Malawi terribly and yearned to go home, I started planning for this eventuality and decided that I would pursue a career in Law. Hoping that this would eventually give me the grounding in life and provide a stepping-stone into business!

I was offered a place at the University of Newcastle to read Law. This was a great sense of pride for my parents and family as I was the first member of the family to attend university. My parents had by this time returned to Malawi as they had found it difficult to settle in the UK.

*I went on to finish my Law degree and graduated in 1984.*

I returned to Malawi as a Law graduate, for the summer break, to my jubilant family. This perhaps was the most important milestone in my life and with the grace of almighty Allah the beginning of a chapter in my life that would eventually lead to where I am today!

# A Family Man

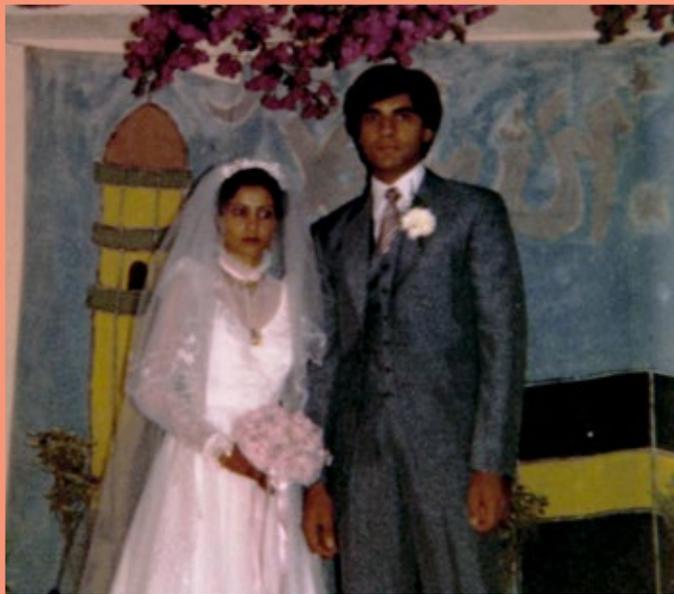


**The most important mainstay of my visit to Malawi was reuniting with my childhood sweetheart, Rukshana whom I had been in primary school with and always had a soft spot for. Meeting her again as a fully blossomed young lady and the challenge of winning her heart was as exciting as all the other challenges of my life! With a great deal of charm, she finally succumbed to my advances and agreed to marry me.**

Allah SWT went on to bless us with 3 more children, Nazia, Muhammed Sufiyan and Arshad.

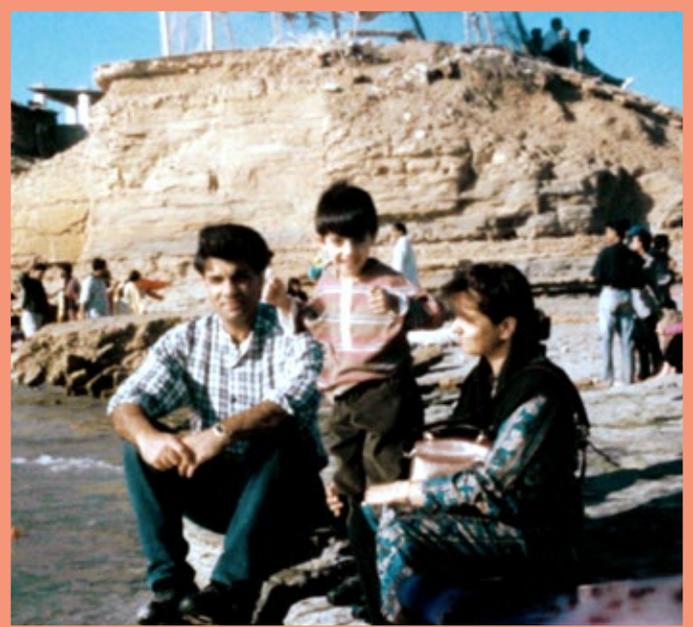


The struggles of a career in Law continued and Alhamdulillah by 1992 I had established my own practice specialising in Property Law.



Alas, the dream of staying in Malawi was not to be and we returned to London to enable me to commence my Articles and a career in Law.

Two years later, I qualified as a Solicitor with a lot of sacrifice and support from my loving wife! I will never forget the birth of our first daughter Afshan. It so happened that I had to undertake my solicitor's final examination on the day Afshan was born! I dropped Rukshana off to hospital in the morning and went to the examination Hall. By the time I returned in the afternoon she had been born!



## The Community Man

During the early 1990's, I began to appreciate all the blessings that Allah SWT had bestowed upon me and felt that I was ready to do my bit for my community, religion and generally mankind!

The sense of community and belonging which I had witnessed as a young boy back home and the sense of camaraderie that I had experienced within our Memon community, inspired me to seek some sort of role in social work. I started this by joining the Memon Association UK.

### MEMON ASSOCIATION UK

The Association at that time under the inspirational leadership of Sir Iqbal Sacranie, had made some great strides. Having purchased an old warehouse in Balham, South London and persevering to rebuild this into a purpose build centre, I felt that this was a perfect time for me to join and see through this project.

I joined as a Committee Member and quickly rose in rank to the Associations General Secretary, Vice-President and finally its President. With the grace of Almighty Allah, I was part of the redevelopment of the Centre, its completion and the official opening by HRH Prince Charles.



THE PRINCE AND I

### WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION

The first ever convention of worldwide Memons took place in Dubai in 2001, and I feel fortunate to have been part of the UK delegation. I will always regard this convention as a milestone in my life as not only did it make me realise the suffering of my fellow Memons in places like India and Pakistan, but the sheer scale of opportunity to meet and learn from some of the greatest pillars of the Memon community worldwide! The World Memon Organisation gave us the perfect platform to unite under its umbrella and do what we do best, which is to serve mankind. To this day, I am thankful to Allah SWT for this opportunity as through WMO I have made global lifelong friends that I would not otherwise have.



MOTIVATING THE YOUTH AT THE IYC

Alhamdulillah, I subsequently became one of the founding Trustees of the WMO and amongst the youngest. I also had the wonderful opportunity to be the VP of Europe chapter for a period of 4 years. I continue to Serve Mankind under the banner of this wonderful organisation as its Deputy President.



AT THE MEMON MEDICAL INSTITUTE OF KARACHI



GUEST OF HONOUR AT THE MEMON PREMIER LEAGUE

### A MAN OF FAITH

My involvement in social work also extended to the betterment of Muslims in general and at this time Allah SWT also granted me the opportunity to involve myself in the affairs of our local Masjids and Muslim charities.

I was elected on to the boards of institutions such as Croydon Mosque, the Halal Food Authority, Al-Khair school and also on the advisory boards of a number of other charities. Alhamdulillah, I was also given the opportunity by Allah SWT to establish new Masjids such as the Norbury Islamic Academy and the Mitcham Islamic Centre. These two establishments being entirely funded by my business and to date I remain, Alhamdulillah, the sole custodian.



NORBURY ISLAMIC ACADEMY EIDGAH

# Lessons for Life

My advice to any youngster that should be learnt from my life, it would be to get yourself an education!

***My life is the classic example to prove that education is the most powerful weapon to change your world. It opens the doors of opportunity and is a stepping stone to success.***

I try and serve as a strong advocate for the cause of education around the world.

*The Holy Quran Says.*

//

***The likeness of those who spend their wealth in the Way of Allah, is as the likeness of a grain (of corn); it grows seven ears, and each ear has a hundred grains. Allah gives manifold increase to whom He pleases. And Allah is All-Sufficient for His creatures' needs, All-Knower.***

//

(2: 261)

It is said that Allah SWT rewards a person more than 70 times spent in his path in this world and Alhamdulillah, I consider myself as living proof of this!

I have learnt from experience that we truly reap what we sow. I strongly believe that whatever little that we do, so long as the intention is solely for the pleasure of Allah SWT, then one shall without doubt reap the benefit. I have always believed on this premise and Alhamdulillah in this way any criticisms and envy have no affect!

***My secret is to constantly remember where I came from, and this is something that Rukshana and I have always attempted to instil in our children. "No matter how successful one is, one must never forget one's roots". This I believe is being Humble and pleasing to Allah SWT.***





## Our Dear Friend, NEWSAD

*"I met Newsad Gani at the inception of the World Memon Organisation in Dubai, 14 years ago and we have remained close friends ever since.*

*Newsad bha is a caring, loving, humble and God fearing individual. He is a perfectionist in whatever he does or participates in. He is willing, no matter how difficult the task or challenge.*

*An individual of the highest caliber and a leader of note .*

*A TRUE ROLE MODEL IN OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND A SOURCE OF GREAT PRIDE FOR ALL OF US."*

**Mr. Solly Noor**  
President WMO

*Newsad Gani is a close friend. We have worked and served together in a number of charitable organisations.*

*I recall when the Memon Centre was being built in London. I was then President of Memon Association UK and Newsad Gani was vice President. Besides raising funds, the construction of Memon Centre too, was a daunting task. Newsad bha played a vital role in providing legal expertise and effectively dealt with the contractors to expedite the work.*

*Newsad is a humble and dedicated humanitarian who is always eager to selflessly work for the greater good of Humanity.*

**Mr. Haroon Karim**  
Chairman, Board of Trustees WMO

*I have had the immense pleasure to know Newsad from his very young age in Zomba Malawi where we were born.*

*Newsad was a young bright student and his parents made the right decision to send him to UK for further studies.*

*It was I believe more than 20 years ago that I approached Newsad as a newly qualified lawyer to take part in community work especially Memon Association UK and then of course WMO.*

*Newsad Alhamdulillah since joining the community and Islamic organisations has given fullest support and shown his true commitment to serving community, humanity and above all his Deen. Almighty has blessed him with a wonderful heart. Cannot ever recall him declining to support any good cause. There is always a listening ear to hear concerns and problems of the community.*

*Newsad and his family make us all proud to be Memon. We can be sure of his support at all times. We are delighted that he is now serving the community at the highest levels. In-shallah he is there to make a difference and our prayers and support is there at all times.*

**Sir Iqbal Sacranie OBE**

*Newsad is very committed to "Serving Mankind" and a source of great inspiration to our community. A case in point is his recent steadfast support towards the refugees crisis in Syria. He is very insightful and his legal expertise are a big asset to WMO.*

**Mr. Yunus Suleman**  
Trustee & Treasurer WMO

*During the 30 years I have known Newsad bha he has been a sincere, dedicated, dignified and entrusted social worker not only for the benefit of Memon community in the UK and worldwide [since 2001] but on Islamic causes. He is undoubtedly a quintessential member of whom we are immensely proud and thank Allah SWT for blessing us with such persons in our community".*

**Mr. Bashir Sattar**  
Founding Trustee & Deputy Secretary, WMO  
Trustee - Memon Association UK.



*I listened with rapt attention as this fascinating story unfolded. I attempted to piece together Mr. Nowsad Gani's incredible life.*

**A child who stood tall in adversity. A man who conquered the skies. A loving husband who cherished his wife since eternity. A caring father who leaves behind a legacy of character and faith.**

**A firm believer who submitted himself to the Will of Allah. Built mosques with minarets that propelled towards the skies but bowed down humbly on its floor. An ocean of giving from wherever you approach him.**

**A great inspiration and source of pride for the Global Memon Community, the eternal community man, our Deputy President of The World Memon Organisation.**

**A handsome face, a beautiful mind and a glorious heart, the CHARISMATIC - Nowsad Gani.**



# Refugee Aid to Syria

## SHIPPING HOPE

The World Memon Organisation is despatching aid to refugee camps in Turkey and Syria. Mr. Khalid Jussab is once again at the helm of the organisation's humanitarian endeavour towards the Refugee Crisis in Europe.

Containers are being packed with medical equipment, medicines, blankets, tinned food and various items of warm clothing which will be shipped to Turkey from the United Kingdom.



Khalid Jussab and his team will leave for Turkey in the coming weeks to receive and unload the containers. Bulk of the material aid will be forwarded on to Syria through independent volunteers working on the ground in the war torn country.

Team WMO will concentrate on delivering the rest of the aid in the refugee camps within Turkey near the Syria border. Providing regular meals to our brothers and



sisters at these camps will be a top priority for the organisation.

We are grateful for the overwhelming response from the Memon and Muslim community of the United Kingdom towards this noble cause. Most of the items filling up the containers have been generously donated by the compassionate members of our community. We have been offered up to 20 containers of food items from various business houses in the UK. Oadby Masjid of Leicester are earnestly collecting funds for local food distribution at the camps.

**It is indeed heartening for us to watch the community unite for a common cause and uplift our fellow human beings in their time of dire need.**

May Allah SWT accept our endeavours and reward their generosity.

## Water is Life Life is Precious

The World Memon Organisation, KZN Natal Durban of Africa Chapter has donated 400 cases of bottled water to bring some relief to the drought affected regions of South Africa. Due to the scorching summer and lack of rains, many areas of South Africa are severely affected.



**WMO Ladies Wing** and Jama'atun Nisaa jointly supported a project initiated by the Al Ansaar foundation to raise funds for water to be distributed to the afflicted residents of those regions.



The funds were raised in 24 hours and the bottled water was promptly delivered the following morning.

***May Allah Swt accept their kind endeavours.***

***We pray the Weather Gods smile soon on South Africa and bless the region with bountiful rains. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been affected.***



# The Driving Force behind WMO MPL - India



***"There ain't no Power, like the Power of Youth!"***

WMO Memon Premier League - India is the brainchild of **Mr. Mateen Ali Mohammed Mojawala**.

An accomplished Electronic Engineer from Mumbai University, this dynamic, young Memon lad is very passionate about cricket. Mateen has represented his school and university at various cricket tournaments and is currently a registered player under the Mumbai Cricket Association.

Apart from business commitments, he devotes a lot of time towards sports and social activities. He has always nurtured a dream to create a platform for young memon cricketers to showcase their talent. During his visit to Sri Lanka in August 2015, he was inspired by the spectacular WMO MPL. On his return, he formed a team of dedicated members to host a cricket tournament on similar lines in India. With steadfast support from **Mr. Hamid Nathani** (VP-WMO India Chapter) and the youth wing, the dream has finally become a reality for Mateen.

Mateen has a vision to forge the Memon Premier League - India into an annual sports event and shape it even bigger and better in the years to come. MPL- India will serve as the ideal platform to bring all the Memon youngsters together and bridge a network for the youth, across state lines in India.

***Let the games begin!***



## 24, 25, 26 & 27 MARCH 2016

VENUE: Air India Sports Club, Mumbai  
[www.mplt20india.in](http://www.mplt20india.in)

 MemonPremierLeagueIndia

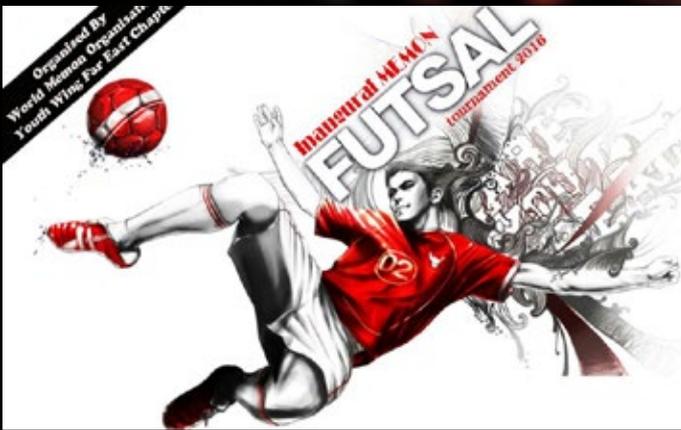
# FUTSAL FRENZY

The inaugural Memon Futsal Tournament organised by the Sports Wing of the Far East Chapter was held on the 7th of February 2016 at Futsal World in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Being the first tournament of its kind, it was a grand success with over 90 participants. Spectators turned out in hordes, the atmosphere was electric and the games were hugely entertaining as most went down to the wire. The tournament comprised of both Senior as well as Junior Teams .Futsal frenzy kicked off at 10.30 am and concluded late in the day with the awards ceremony

## WINNERS

SENIOR		JUNIOR
Futsal Amigos led by Aabid Akram	<b>CHAMPIONS</b>	7 Buddies led by Shuaib
7 Containers led by Yahiya Nagariya	<b>RUNNERS UP</b>	United Juniors
Amr Khalid	<b>MOST VALUABLE PLAYER</b>	Shuaib
Suhail Gadit	<b>BEST GOAL KEEPER</b>	Afthab

Full Report --> <http://j.mp/FutsalFrenzy>



## For the Love of Green

**Mrs. Aisha Anwar and WMO Pakistan Painted the Town GREEN.**

A Gardening event was arranged to spread the message of keeping our surroundings green. The occasion also aimed at enrolling new members into the Ladies wing.

The event took place at **Zeba Dawood** gardens. **Ms. Nasreen**, who is an accomplished gardener, began the proceedings by demonstrating the art of preparing soil vegetables and emphasized on their post-care treatment.

**Mrs. Munira**, another green thumb, also graced the event and expanded upon the topic of sowing different seeds to get desired and varied results

The presence of **Mrs. Bilquis**, a 25 year veteran in the art of Decoration turned the occasion into a celebration.

The event was a grand success. Two new members joined the Ladies Wing, many more invoked interest and all of them went home with newfound love for Green.

Full Report --> <http://j.mp/GardeningEvent>



# The *Anomaly* of *Matrimony*

This story has been inspired by true events.

At the request of the married, their names have been left out. Out of respect for the divorced, the rest has been told exactly as it occurred.

A gentleman approached my mother to get his son married. My mother is very passionate about community work and she goes to great lengths to keep others happy.

Matrimony, being her favourite pursuit, the gentleman was shown unending pictures of eligible girls for his son. A few private meetings were also arranged where both the son and father met prospective brides and their families. It seemed the pair were rather selective so the search was exhaustive and many weeks were spent in their endeavours to find a suitable match.

Finally a girl was zeroed down and a wedding date was fixed. It seemed like an intimate gathering and very few, selective guests were invited to grace the ceremony. Having met the gentleman and his son on multiple occasions, I received a personal invitation too. When I read the invite I was shocked beyond words.

## The father was getting married!!

Although I credit my mother for playing a catalyst in the noble work of uniting two people in the bond of holy matrimony, this one involved a hefty alimony.

This incident goes to show that the matrimony department is doing a splendid job and all age groups are being catered to. Just a word of caution for the mothers and wives of the 'prospective' grooms. Keep your husbands away!! It seems everybody is finding a perfect match and nobody is returning empty handed once you approach the matrimony division.

God bless the Ladies Wing of WMO!

