

# THE MEMON

A black and white portrait of a man, identified as Salman Iqbal, wearing glasses and a pinstriped suit jacket over a light-colored shirt. He is resting his chin on his hand, looking thoughtfully to the side. The image is framed by a red border.

SALMAN  
IQBAL

# THE MEMON



## INSIDE

Mr Salman Iqbal	03
Living the Dream	05
The Salman Iqbal Story	07
WMO Food Program	24
A Thank You Note from Care4Calais	27
Rozgar Scheme	28
The Battle Against Forced Cremation	30
Feeding the Nation	32
Booysens Fire	33
Wheel Chair Campaign	34
Strong Women Empower Women	35
Mulakaat 2021	37
Manora Housing Project	41
Dhoraji	41
A List of 100 Business Captains	42
Far East Chapter Stationery Drive	42
A Welcome Reception for Salman Iqbal	43
Altaf Muhammad Hosts Salman Iqbal	44
Ayesha Dedhi	45
Empowering Through Inclusion Project	46
Tribute to Mr. Solly Noor	48
SNIPPETS: President's Award	50
SNIPPETS: Bushra Amiwala	50
SNIPPETS: Middle East Knee Camp	50
Office Bearers 2020 - 2023	51
Advisor Appointments	62

*Visionary, Media Mogul, Business Tycoon, Most Influential Muslim are just some of the enviable titles that Salman Iqbal holds in his endless repertoire.*

*But then we have already read extensively about the young media maven, the doyen of the Pakistan film industry, the astute businessman, the influencer, the cricket connoisseur and the game changer.*

*But did you know he was a shy, introvert child who stammered with his words. That he cycled for miles under the scorching desert sun to reach his favorite cricket grounds. How cricket changed his life. The friendships that he made for life, the men who were a profound influence in his formative years, the iconic city that summoned the many turning points in his life, the banker who accidentally entered the world of media and the lady he considers his lucky charm.*

*We present to you the friend you can trust your life with, the father who dotes on his every child, the boss you would give your right arm to work with, the son on whom his father can always lean on. The man who treasures loyalty, the business magnate whose word is his bond, the avid cricketer who brought the game back to his beloved Karachi.*

*The man with the Midas touch and a heart of gold.*

*We present to you the caring, the trusting, the motivational, the inspirational..... the exceptional Salman Iqbal.*

## CONNECT



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## *Mr. Salman Iqbal*

**CEO - ARY Group**  
**Founder - ARY Digital Network**  
**Chairman - ARY Laguna**  
**Team Owner - Karachi Kings**

Mr. Salman Iqbal is the Founder & CEO of the ARY Digital Network, the largest Pakistani TV Network in the world, broadcasting 12 television channels into 120 countries worldwide.

Under Salman's leadership, the ARY Digital Network was launched and has since grown into a 1.5 billion dollar conglomerate.

Along with the success of the ARY Digital Network, Salman has several other notches on his belt, which include reviving Pakistan's flailing Film industry, to catapulting the Pakistan Super League (PSL) to the highest pinnacles of success.

## ARY DIGITAL NETWORK

Salman Iqbal took over the reins of ARY Digital Network with the acquisition of The Pakistani Channel in London in early 2001, transitioning from the family's gold business and in less than 3 years, he was able to turn the 12 hour channel from UK into a global network of 11 channels - broadcasting into Pakistan, India, North America, UK/Europe and the Middle East.

ARY Digital Network's Flagship entertainment channel - ARY Digital, is officially Pakistan's number one channel now for over a decade and a half. ARY Digital has been credited with putting Pakistan on the World map in the arena of media and entertainment.

## ARY FILMS

To compliment the success ARY Digital in the television domain, Salman led ARY Films, began an aggressive foray into production, marketing and global distribution of 'Made in Pakistan' films.

Encouraging new talent and mentoring upcoming directors and stars ARY Films have delivered the biggest box office hits including Punjab Nahin Jaongi, JPNA 1, 2 and many more.

## KARACHI KINGS

In 2015, Salman Iqbal's passion for the game, compelled him to acquire the most prolific franchise cricket team of the Pakistan Super League - "Karachi Kings"

Karachi Kings are the 2020 reigning champions of the Pakistan Super League.

## ARY LAGUNA DHA CITY

In November of 2020, Salman Iqbal announced and launched ARY Laguna, a joint venture of the ARY group and DHA City. It presents the first ever man-made beach living.

ARY and DHA City are well-known for their contributions to the urbanization of Pakistan. With ARY Laguna DHA City, both factions have amalgamated their resources to build a beachside township, a never before seen phenomenon in the country or the region.

## PHILANTHROPY

Salman Iqbal dedicates a sizeable amount of his time and resources towards innumerable social causes. He is the director in the Ehsan's Trust and Khawaja Ghareeb Nawaz Trust. He is credited with initiating the broadcasting and fundraising of live telethons for charitable organizations.

Salman has worked with and raised record funds for a number of charities and humanitarian organizations including the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust, Sahara trust, Hope Not Out, UNICEF and WWF.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Salman Iqbal's efforts have been widely recognized and acknowledged. He has won several accolades and awards for his professional accomplishments and humanitarian services.

In 2005, he was awarded the Sitara-e-Isar by then President of Pakistan, General Pervaiz Musharraf, for his active involvement and contributions towards the 2005 earthquake disaster relief in the Northern Areas of Pakistan.

In 2007, he was selected for the acclaimed Young Global Leaders Award by the World Economic Forum.

In 2007, he also featured in the prestigious Muslim Power 100, a list of the most accomplished, young Muslims who are recognized for their invaluable contributions to British Society.

2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 - Nominated as One of the 500 Most Influential Muslims in the World, on the distinguished "The Muslim 500". It ranks the most influential Muslims across the globe.



# LIVING THE DREAM

I have been an avid cricketer from a very young age. When I was 9 or 10 years old, I used to play cricket alone in my room, bouncing the ball off the walls. When I threw the ball towards the wall, I started making a peculiar roaring sound

Unfortunately my father noticed my odd behavior and got disturbed. He was perturbed that something had happened to his son since he constantly plays alone in the room and makes that godforsaken noise, so one day my elder sister sat me down and asked me point blank as to why do I do this and that Abu is getting very worried.

I stubbornly refused to answer.

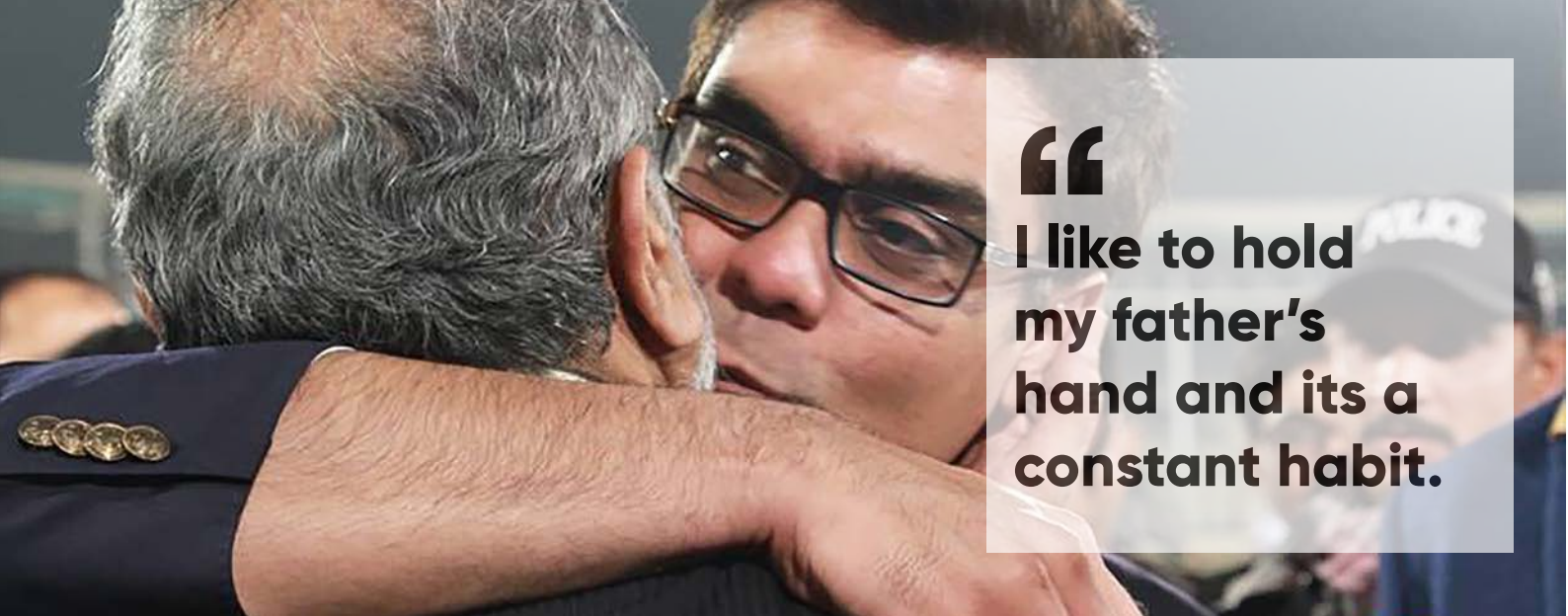
**Upon her persistence I told her that I make that sound because I imagine myself in a packed stadium, I have taken a prized wicket and the entire stadium has come alive. My wicket taking delivery has been greeted with thunderous applause and the passionate fans are chanting my name.**

My sister looked at me with disbelief, thought I had gone soft in the head but was grateful that it wasn't anything of immediate concern.

Then came the day when I bought the **Karachi Kings**

cricket team in the **Pakistan Super League (PSL)**. I distinctly recall the time, Karachi was reeling under severe political turmoil, the city was thrust in a horrific vortex of violence and there was blood bath. The **National Stadium in Karachi** had been shut down





“

**I like to hold my father's hand and its a constant habit.**

“  
**They were thanking me for bringing cricket back into their lives. This was a city in celebration, this was the city of lights, this was the Karachi that had come alive, this was my Karachi, yeh hai Karachi!!**

for over 10 years, I had to pull many strings and we requested for it to be kept open for the **Karachi Kings inauguration** – it was the consummate launch ceremony.

The day arrived, the inaugural ceremony of Karachi Kings was about to commence, my father and I received a flurry of calls to rush to the stadium as a sizeable crowd had gathered. We reached the National Stadium and I got out of my car, took my father's hand and walked into the tunnel, leading into the ground. While walking hand in hand, both of us were having a casual chit chat.

**I like to hold my father's hand and its a constant habit. Its the Prophet's sunnah which I follow very ardently, one is not to walk in front of your father and the other is not to be seated before your father, both amount to pride so I practice these invaluable sunnahs and always hold my father's hand while I follow him humbly, at his side, just a step behind.**

So while talking to each other we stepped out of the tunnel, into the colossal National Stadium which was filled to the brim. A capacity crowd of thousands of rambunctious fans had laid siege of the stadium. Mind you, it wasn't even a match.

**The crowd was chanting "Salman, Salman!!"**

I asked my father in disbelief, "What are they saying?" and he replied that they are shouting your name.

This was 6 years ago when I was 40 and I was conjuring up this dream since I was 10. So three decades later, I wasn't playing a match, bowling a single ball but the dream that I envisioned as a child had finally come true in that moment.

I took a lap of the stadium with my father by my side, soaked in the adulation, absorbed the electric atmosphere and expressed our love and gratitude to Karachiites for coming out in full force to support their team under difficult circumstances.

**They were thanking me for bringing cricket back into their lives. This was a city in celebration, this was the city of lights, this was a city now abuzz, this was the Karachi that had come alive, this was my Karachi, yeh hai Karachi!!**

**At that moment, I revisited my childhood, became that 10 year old boy who used to bowl balls against the wall...**

**I didn't have to make any noise because the deafening Karachi crowd was playing its part. I was happiness personified, I was blessed, I was home...**

**.... I was living the dream!!**



# The Salman Iqbal Story

## Early Life



**Tell us a bit about your childhood, and what kind of a child were you?**

My childhood was completely different from the childhood which kids have today. No gadgets, no phones and although my childhood and school years were mostly spent in the hot Dubai weather, we always remained outdoors. I was an extremely shy kid because I had a stammering problem. Hence to avoid people from finding out about my speech impairment, I usually kept

quiet and to myself and started devoting more time in sports where my playing did all the talking.

During Middle School I started playing cricket. I soon started developing my skills and excelled at it. I was one of the star players in my school's cricket team, I played for Lahore Gymkhana, for UAE and even toured England and

South Africa, all at the tender age of 12 and 13.

Thanks to the exposure and popularity cricket gave me, when I was 18 or 19, slowly and gradually my stammer disappeared and I developed confidence to interact and engage with others. From being this shy, introvert kid I turned into an outgoing extrovert young adult.



**“ My deep connect with Haji Saab was much more than the uncle-nephew relationship, rather it was a father - son bond!**

## How was it growing up the legendary ARY family?

We grew up in a joint family, with my uncles, aunts and cousins, all extremely close knit. Though we were quite well-off, there were strict rules in our family that all children had to adhere to. We were brought up grounded with extreme humility and not exposed to the wealth associated with the family.

We were not allowed to use chauffeurs and family cars for our leisure, we were not allowed to spend on anything extravagant and we used to get a limited amount as pocket money.

I honestly, did not have any idea about my family's affluence till the time I got back from the US and joined the family business! Upon going through the balance sheets and the business financials it dawned upon me, how wealthy Haji Saab and my father really were.

## Tell us about Haji Saab ARY, your relationship with him, the life lessons you learnt and the values you imbibed.

In memoni there is a term "Gur Sutti" which means that when a baby is born, we give them honey or gur, at my birth, this ritual was performed by the Late Haji Saab.

In our family, Haji Saab had a



really strong persona, despite being the second oldest in the family.

His formidable personality came from the fact that he had command over everything. You could sit with him and have extended discussions about anything and everything under the sun.

Being the first son in the family, Haji Saab was extremely fond of me, and kept me with him at all times. He loved getting my photographs taken, and you could frequently observe that in all my childhood pictures, I am somehow mimicking Haji Saab; the way he dressed up in a suit, the way he would hold a phone or a pen.

My deep connect with Haji Saab was much more than the uncle-nephew relationship, rather it was a father - son bond! My father Haji Iqbal travelled a lot for business and his trips used to last for weeks or months, so in his absence, Haji Saab was the father figure in our house and this was for at least 16 or 17 years of my life. We were accustomed to having Haji

Saab in the house as the father figure and we used to fondly call him "Baba". I called my father "Abu".

Baba had a great impact on my life, on my upbringing in the formative years and I really hope that I can emulate the values which he has instilled in me and pass them on to my future generations.

## Take us through your schooling and college years.

My schooling was in Dubai and I went to the University of Houston for my undergrad where I did my Bachelors (double majors) in Finance and Economics. University life was a great learning experience! I used to live in a two-bedroom apartment which I shared with 5 friends.

The University campus was huge and the distance from one class to another was around 11 kilometres and for that we had to take the campus shuttle. Since the city of Houston was humongous and commuting was an issue,



I used to pester my father to buy me a car. At that same time, our close family friend's sons were studying in Boston. Now, compared to Houston, Boston is relatively smaller, so his sons used to get around on bicycles. Hence my requests for the car was always declined by my father and he used to reprimand me by saying that why do I need a car when Hussain uncle's sons are perfectly fine getting around on bicycles. Since my father had never been to Houston, he had absolutely no idea of how big the campus or the city was compared to Boston. Eventually, when he visited me, he realised the ground realities and finally bought me a car.

### The bicycle Irony:

Even today, when I sit around with my friends, reminiscing the university days and they share stories about being able to afford only a bicycle during the college days to

get from point A to point B.

I wholeheartedly concur, "Meri bhi zindagi ki shuruwat cycle say he hui thi!"

The irony being that despite my family's considerable monetary resources that could have afforded me the simple luxury of owning a car, I yet had to bike it out.



So that line famously sums up my "privileged" growing up years in the ARY family!

### What was your first job?

To cover my living expenses, during my college years I had to do several odd jobs and my first job was at a

gas station, the next was as a pizza delivery boy at a place called Joker's Pizza, my third job was cleaning cars in Houston and my fourth job was as a bouncer. My first real job was when I set up the whole exchange division of ARY which still exists.

### The Turning Point and My Lucky Charm

The birth of my first-born child Sumaiya changed my life completely and in a very positive way Alhamdulillah! She's my lucky charm and was bestowed upon me as a gift by Allah SWT and I am extremely grateful for her. She is a child with special needs and has recently turned 21. Her birth changed me as a person, I got a completely different perspective about life, my career took a different path, I started television and I have never looked back since. She is truly Allah's blessing for me.



“  
She's my  
lucky charm.”

WITH MY FIRST BORN SUMAIYA

## ARY Conglomerate



### How did the ARY brand come about?

Our business was initially known as Abdul Razzak Yaqoob Traders and all four brothers were involved in it. While the Late Haji Saab was the financial genius behind it and had scaled the business to great heights my father – Haji Iqbal was the creative mind behind it and was involved in the marketing.

It was my father who turned the trade name of “Abdul Razzak Yaqoob Traders” into ARY and built this name into a brand. He also launched the ARY Gold Bars, the ARY Gold Rainbow Hearts etc. Everything related to marketing was my father, and everything related to finance was Late Haji Saab.

I saw my father sponsoring events, doing ad shoots etc. The business acumen which Late Haji Saab possessed, coupled with the marketing mind set of my father, along with the execution abilities of my other uncles have made the business what it is today.



**ARY has been a game changer in the media landscape. Please tell us about it's birth and considering that you come from a conservative Memon family, how**

### did you end up in Media?

Post Sumaiya's birth I had moved to London in 1999 early 2000s for her check-ups and coincidentally, At that time, my father had invested some money in a small 8-hour TV station in London called The Pakistani Channel (TPC). Since I was there, my father asked me to divest our investment in TPC. Upon meeting the station owner, I found out that the channel was closing down and I immediately informed my father about the development. My father flew down to London and started negotiating with the station owner. After a couple of days, I received an ecstatic telephone call from him, informing me that he had purchased a television channel. I laughingly asked him whether it was CNN or BBC to which he calmly replied – “It is TPC”.

That is how TPC became part of the ARY business portfolio and my family, taking advantage of my presence in



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**The business acumen which Late Haji Saab possessed, coupled with the marketing mind set of my father, along with the execution abilities of my other uncles have made the business what it is today.**

London gave me the reins to handle this new venture. ARY Digital was born.

## An uphill battle:

Since my uncles had conferred the responsibility of running this channel on to me, I abided by their decision. However, running a channel without a background in anything remotely related to media was a huge challenge. I was supposed to be the numbers guy, my education was in finance! I was happy dealing with banks and money markets! I had almost acquired a license to open a bank in London! This television mumbo-jumbo was something which I had never done or heard before.

And once I took over this responsibility, I had to leave my day job as Head of Treasury of the ARY Group. With a heavy heart, I entered the World of media and spearheaded ARY Digital. Initially, during the first 6 years, I hated it! We were bleeding money. Television was never a part of my career plans; it was not something which I had aspired to do! I had to learn everything from scratch but being a man that doesn't quit, I put all my effort, time and money into it.

Alhamdulillah, we are now one of the largest television networks in Asia and the largest Urdu speaking network in the world.

## Take us through the spectacular rise of the ARY Digital?



EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS IN HAITI

## How did you turn it all around?

When ARY started, it was one hybrid channel covering everything; from Quran recitation, to dramas to music and the news. Our vision for ARY Digital was to make it a truly global Pakistani urdu channel and no matter where in the world, if there be 2 Urdu speaking people, ARY should be broadcasting on their televisions. With this vision and a lot of hard work we grew exponentially and moved our headquarters from London to Dubai in 2003 and then to Karachi in 2007. By that time, we had grown to 126 countries, we were on 15 satellites and had 12 TV stations.



WITH FORMER UK PRIME MINISTER - TONY BLAIR

## A heartening moment beyond borders

In January 2010, a devastating earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 destroyed the capital Port-au-Prince of Haiti and other cities nearby. Though the earthquake had lasted for a mere 30 seconds, the landscape, and the lives of the two million people inhabiting the small country changed completely. Being termed as the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti went into a state of emergency as its contact with rest of the world was cut off. Appeals for Humanitarian aid were issued by many aid organisations in the UN. Many countries responded to the appeals and launched fund raising efforts. In Pakistan, the ARY network launched a fund-raising campaign for Haiti and I personally joined the team of Doctors Beyond Borders for the earthquake relief efforts in Haiti. Being on ground zero, I witnessed the catastrophic effects of the earthquake which had paralysed the entire country. Hundreds of people had died, thousands were injured,



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**We strongly believe that our word is our bond.**”

and millions of people were rendered homeless without any access to food, water or medical supplies.

While assisting with the relief efforts there, I came across 2 Urdu speaking families, who invited me to have lunch with them. While having lunch at their house, I just glanced at the TV there and saw that it was showing ARY Digital. That was the moment when I honestly felt that all my hard work and effort had paid off. My channel had lived up to its vision and reached a country where there were very few Urdu speaking families. We had brought messages of Pakistan to Haiti through ARY. We were the ambassadors of Pakistan! This was such a heartening moment for me and from the dinner table, I called my team in Pakistan and told them we had done our job!

## **Transitioning to ARY Group**

During Haji Saab's lifetime around 2013 and 2014, the family made me the Group CEO for ARY. Since ARY Digital had stabilised and things were now running smoothly, I took over the reins of the

ARY Group with the Late Haji Saab's blessings. I believe I have imbibed a lot of Haji Saab's personality and I have learnt a lot from him. The work ethics which have been ingrained in me by him have enabled me to work quite aggressively and diligently, to look for solutions rather than sit on problems. To excel in my work rather than to accept mediocrity.

## **What are the important business ethics of the ARY conglomerate? What have success and failure taught you?**

Our whole business is based on the foundation of honouring our commitments. If there is one value which has been drilled into me by my elders, it is to never ever go back on my word or my commitment. There have been instances where we have lost considerable sums of money just because we had made a commitment earlier and could not go back on it. Thus, any commitment by my group or by the

members of my group will be honoured because we strongly believe that our word is our bond.

Another core learning is to never ever leave friends behind. Especially in their time of need. Hence honouring the bond of friendship is also very dear to me because if you are friends with someone then you need to accept that person with all their flaws and stick with them through thick and thin

Another very important lesson I have learnt is that whenever you rise in the ranks you should never forget the people around you in every step of the way because when and if there is a reversal of fortune, you come back down with a thud and bump into them again. Life is such that when you are successful, people gravitate towards you. At that point you don't need friends because everyone is your friend. But when you have hit rock bottom and I know what it feels like when you are there, it is at that time when you need your friends the most! That is the time you realise who your true friends are and who really is in your corner.

## **The ARY work-family has expanded to almost 5000. When you are hiring, what are the key traits that you look for? What does it take to impress Salman Iqbal?**

The length of your tenure at the previous company! I like people who have stuck by their employers through thick or thin. For me loyalty is the most important factor. When I am hiring someone, I am partnering with them. I want to build lasting partnerships! Today the ARY group is almost 20 years old and the people in the top management and the middle management within the Group have been with us for at least 10 to 15 years and some even longer.

## **News channel owners are also known as kingmakers, how do you view this title and is it true or a misconception?**

Honestly, I hate this title! The only Kingmaker in the world is Allah SWT, He is the only one who can make Kings and make Kings into Paupers. Our job in the media is just to relay the information and that perhaps puts us in an advantageous position since we get the information before the World gets it.

Apart from being called Kingmaker, we have also been branded as "media walay" we are not "media walay"! This is also a business and we are businessmen through and through. When we got into media, we analysed it through the lens of a businessman at that time and saw potential. Now look at the media industry, it has become one of the pillars of the Pakistan economy, not just Pakistan, the media is one of the pillars of the economy of most countries across the globe.

## **How do you run such a vast media empire and deal with the stress that comes with the job?**

A wise person once said "Stress lenay ka nahi, denay ka" so I have adopted this mantra. I do have a very stressful life, but I delegate. I have a great team who manages everything for me and does a amazing job at that! Though I remain busy from morning till evening with work, I have never ever allowed myself to get stressed by anything. I believe that the ability to not take any stress is a blessing on me from Allah SWT. Though I do give stress to other people but then hey that's part of the job.

## **With such an explosion in media how do you keep up with the ever-changing digital world and evolving**

## **content.**

I have a proficient team which is quite hands on and I am very hands on with my team. Within my Group, I have built a very strong R&D team of around 35 to 40 people and their only job is to focus on Research and Development.

The main function of the Research team is to identify new technologies / equipment out there, what new fad is picking up, what is trending on social media, and once that research is complete they give it to me and I review it and pick out interesting bits and forward that to the development team who then start thinking about what could be done and how that idea can be further developed and implemented or how the new technology can be procured. We always try to be one step ahead of everyone, we mostly know and can predict what is going to happen in our field and are ready to adapt to change.

## **Your greatest achievement.**

I believe, despite having accumulated sizeable wealth, recognition, fame and success Alhamdulillah I feel I still haven't achieved much yet. However, I do believe that Inshallah what I achieve in my tenure as a President of WMO will be my greatest achievement. I grew up in the shadow of greatness of my uncle Late Haji Saab, and he was really driven by his passion to do good for the community and that is

why he laid the foundation of WMO. Hence, living up to his legacy in WMO and realising the dream which he had envisioned for Memons around the World, would be my greatest achievement.

## **If not media, what would have been an alternate career option for Mr. Salman Iqbal?**

Banking and Finance! Had television not happened to me I would still have had a budding career in banking and finance and might have opened my own bank in London!



**“ARY Laguna” is a testament to the fact that Salman Iqbal dreams big, what motivated you to enter the real estate market in Pakistan with such a massive project? Any other extraordinary project such as the ARY Laguna being planned in another**

## **city of the World?**

It's not our first time in real estate, in fact we have been quite active in the real estate sector in Pakistan. We have been a part of many construction projects in Pakistan and the UAE as well. However, in Pakistan we never did it under the brand name of ARY, so in that regard it was the first time that ARY launched its real estate arm in Pakistan and offered something really unique for the end consumers. The uniqueness came from the fact that ARY is the only company in Pakistan which managed to procure the Crystal Lagoons Technology. This is a Chilean patented technology and is manufactured in the US. We managed to negotiate and convince them to build a project in Pakistan. This is a feather in ARY's cap that we signed them on and then launched the “ARY Laguna”

Initially, we have launched ARY Laguna in Karachi and Gujranwala and we are planning to go to Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar. Our target market is just Pakistan for the time being as Pakistan itself is a huge market with great potential, so we want to see how this project fares here and then we will see if and how we can replicate it in other global locations. It is a mammoth project which has received encouraging feedback and an overwhelming response.

**You've seen Prime Ministers, you've seen governments**

**at work, at the state level, at the international level. Pakistan is at an exciting time, at an exciting place. What are your views about the current state of the country?**

2020 for many countries has been nothing short of an economic debacle except for Pakistan. Due to Covid-19 most of the countries were shut. The plan that the honourable Prime Minister Mr. Imran Khan had for tackling the Covid-19 crisis despite its vocal criticism has worked.

Its not that we don't have any Covid-19 cases in Pakistan but if we look at the bigger picture, the number of cases is less compared to other countries. Our markets were and are still open, our country is open, and all the business sectors in this country are right now up and running and Alhamdulillah, we as a country have managed the situation quite well and are in fact better off than many other countries.



## Media



### The films being produced by your production house have been highest grossers...what's the secret of your success.

The secret of our success is that we are driven by the love for our people and our country. In the olden days, the Pakistan film industry was a giant but then it saw a downturn and it eventually shutdown for around 25 years. I had a dream of restarting and reviving the Pakistani film industry. Driven by this goal, we rolled the dice and invested into the Pakistani film industry and by the grace of Allah with our decisions and strategy we are now an integral part of the film industry. The All-time highest grossing films of Pakistan are all from the ARY stable. We are now beating our own records at the box office. Our first movie did a business of PKR. 250 million, then we did 500 million and now we are up to a Billion!!

### What's your favourite movie and TV series from the ones you have

### produced?

Mere pass tum ho for sure and Jawani Phir Nahin Aani part 1.

### How involved do you get in the process of movie making? Are you a part of the creative process?

I am involved initially when reviewing the script and this process is known as a one liner. Once that is done the movie is then taken forward to the production houses. For the one liner we have a panel which votes for a script. Like for example there was this movie "Punjab Nahi Jaaongi" it was our second biggest blockbuster but

me to give it a shot. After a serious debate, I gave my go ahead and it turned out to be the biggest block buster of that time. Hence, in the process of filmmaking you must sometimes go with your gut feeling, take brave decisions and go against the tide.

### Dobara Phir Say - perfect balance between creativity and producer's acumen

The movie under the banner of ARY films "Dobara Phir Say", was shot in New York by Mehreen Jabbar. She's an amazing director with lots of hits under her belt! While discussing the script with her, there was one scene in the movie, the focal point



when the script came to us the complete panel had given it a thumbs down and we shelved the project. But Humayun Saeed, the main lead in the film came to my house at night and convinced

where the couple meets for the first time. Mehreen wanted to shoot that scene underground in the NY Subway. However, I told her that in this scene, the audience will only be able to



WITH CELEBRATED ACTOR JAVED SHEIKH

see the dreary NY subway, so why not shoot this scene on the New York – New Jersey Ferry which would also give us a fantastic view of the New York skyline! She agreed to it and that scene stood out in the film. These are the times when I have to intervene in the creative process and think from the audience's perspective. Of course being an astute producer, I cut the cost to a tenth of what was needed to shoot on the subway and we also captured New York in all its glory.

**How do you maintain the thin line between encroaching on the creative freedom of the director and imposing your ideas as a producer? Does this limit you to work only with people on the same wavelength?**

Basically, I give a lot of creative freedom, but sometimes I do have to impose and draw some lines because I am not only the producer, but I am also

the financier. However, this definitely does not limit me to work with certain people only, I am always open to new and fresh ideas. I have produced movies with almost every producer and every director in this country.

**Your Advice to new producers or production house owners, aspirants.**

Know your market first before you produce a movie and it's imperative that you do! You cannot impose a Bollywood or a Hollywood idea on the Pakistani market! You need to research your market first and understand their needs and wants!

**What's the way forward for Pakistani movies... will they ever become global or even come close to Bollywood?**

We are global! Pakistani movies have sometimes grossed even more than Bollywood movies in the UK and US. In UK, if a Bollywood Amir Khan starrer is opening on 112 screens than Pakistani

movies are opening on 60-70 screens, which is an achievement in itself!

**Web-series are now replacing traditional television channels - being in the media industry do how are you adapting to this new digital revolution? Does ARY have any plans of entering the digital media industry? Can we expect an ARY platform rivalling Netflix in Pakistan?**

Television is still very strong in Pakistan as well as globally. Web series are of course taking over, but I would not say that they have completely taken over and replaced television as a medium. I believe we haven't missed the boat. There is work going on for a digital platform, but it's too soon for me to disclose anything yet – there are somethings known as business secrets!



## Cricket



### Cricket, myself and Late Haji Saab:

My love for cricket comes from my family. I have seen my uncle Late Haji Saab passionately following cricket. I remember at that time, international cricket was only available on Doordarshan channel. So, to get that channel, we had installed a huge dish antenna at our place in Dubai. Late Haji Saab used to watch every single match which came on television and I used to sit next to him, glue eyed through every broadcast. There were times when the Dish Antenna would move, and we would lose picture. Only the commentary could be heard, but Haji Saab's passion for the sport was such that he would continue to sit in front of the TV and listen intently for the entire duration of the match. When there were no matches coming on the television he would switch on the radio and listen to the cricket commentary for hours. His passion for the game remains

unmatched.

When I bought my cricket team, Karachi Kings, the first thought that flashed across my mind was had Haji Saab been alive, he would have been ecstatic, and he would have been my tallest pillar of support in this whole venture.

Haji Saab was extremely cricket savvy and knew of all the cricket players, so whenever I go for my team selection in the drafting, I just think that had Haji Saab been here by my side today he would have been so incisive and helpful in the team selection. His keen

I was on a family vacation in London and the Pakistan Super League (PSL) bidding process was due to start in Pakistan so I had asked Tariq Wasi (Current CEO Karachi Kings), to place a bid for Karachi. He requested me to be available in person as my good friend Mr. Arif Habib was another contender for Karachi and was personally attending the bidding process. But I wasn't convinced.

As I was having this conversation, my father walked in and at the spur of the moment just said "Don't let Karachi go". Despite my reluctance, he asked me to



insight, knowledge of the game and critical analysis of each player, would have been an invaluable asset. His advice would be key in picking the right players and would have really taken me a long way in getting the winning combination for the Karachi Kings.

I think my love for cricket is one of the prized sentiments which I have inherited from him and I will always treasure it.

### How did Karachi Kings come about?

catch a flight to Lahore where the bidding was about to take place in 48 hrs and I had to concede to his demands. I couldn't get a direct flight to Lahore since seats were sold out so I had to fly via London to Paris to Doha to Karachi and then from Karachi to Lahore just to bid for the Karachi team.

Alhamdulillah, I placed my bid and was announced the highest bidder. Karachi Kings became the most expensive PSL team at that time (worth USD 26 million).

**“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair.”**

The great Nelson Mandela had famously quoted the above lines and Rugby was his preferred sport to bring about a change in South Africa. Do you believe cricket has done the same for Pakistan? Are you planning to venture into other sports?

Not cricket, but PSL has done this for Pakistan. Prior to PSL,

the past 10 years or so there was a cricket embargo on Pakistan as no one wanted to come and play here due to security concerns. Our own home grounds had shifted to Sharjah and Dubai. Through the initiation of PSL, our focus was to bring cricket back to Pakistan. As cricket has been missing since a decade, our youngsters had started to drift away from the sport, they had moved onto other sports like football which was frequently broadcasted across Pakistan TV channels. Hence through PSL, our youngsters are passionate once again for the gentlemen’s game. PSL has revived their love for cricket.

### **Pakistan Sports Revolution:**

Pakistan is a country where 60% of the population is below the age of 25. These youngsters need avenues to burn their energy in a constructive way so why not sports.

With this thought in mind, I started focusing on other sporting avenues as well. I am building gyms across Pakistan; my first gym Brave is in Lahore and another one is in Karachi where we host UFC fights. I am working with the Boxing Federation of Pakistan and partnering with international boxing sensation Aamir Khan to develop something in the field of boxing. I am meeting with the Hockey Federation of Pakistan and have plans to boost hockey. I have plans to venture into golf as well and now we are sending the 16-year-old kid who won the golf open in Karachi to participate in the Qatar Open. We have plans for tennis and we are working hard to bring more and more youngsters into sports.

My grand plan and the ultimate goal is to have a complete sports revolution in Pakistan.

**“My grand plan and the ultimate goal is to have a complete sports revolution in Pakistan.”**



## World Memon Organisation



### Now that you are the WMO President, how do you plan to take it to greater heights.

I have big shoes to fill as I take over the reins of the World Memon Organisation so I begin with sharing my core belief with you that the measure of a leader is not the number of people who serve him but the number of people he serves.

My uncle, the legendary Haji Abdul Razzak Yaqoob (ARY) or Haji Saab as he was fondly called, was my role model. Haji Saab was the founder President of the World Memon Organisation. He was a businessman par excellence, a great visionary, an ardent educationist and a deep sympathizer of an ailing humanity and above all he was a community man.

And it is my firm belief that as one of the heirs of the sublime ARY legacy, I must fulfil the dreams envisioned by Haji Saab, the founding fathers of WMO and my predecessors – our luminaries Mr. Sattar Dada and the distinguished Solly Noor. I have with me an amazing team of people

with special skill sets that will help fulfil the dreams of these great men, humble men, most importantly – community men – the first among equals and the last word in generosity.

A dream that all our future generations are educated and self-reliant. A dream that all my brothers and sisters have a roof over their head. A dream that effective health care remains firmly within the frail grasp of penury. A dream that all Memons will be transformed from Zakat receivers to Zakat donors. A dream that we all stand united in heart and mind. A dream that one day our brethren will rise up and live up to the true meaning of our creed – to unite, uphold and uplift Mankind.

That I believe will be our finest hour!!

### We are a highly patriarchal community, so do you think this is the time for change? Is there room for female leadership at the top?

We must give the ladies their rightful place in the upper echelons of WMO where they can play the vital role of decision makers. Women around the World have overcome all odds, broken the glass ceiling and are leading their nations to glory like the great Benazir Bhutto, Indira Gandhi, current New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel, Margaret Thatcher and

Theresa May. WMO must follow suit

We cannot disregard the importance of the role of women in WMO One of the main areas where I intend to focus the most during my tenure is women empowerment.

I firmly believe that knowledge comes not from the father but the mother, because it is the mother with whom the child spends most of his time. Whenever we praise a person, we always say that his/her mother must be good. No one says his father must be good. Even if you look globally, all the countries are known as motherland no county is known as fatherland! This is the power of women and this is the power which we have to unleash and develop in this organisation.

### What is your vision for WMO?

I believe that education is the bedrock on which communities and nations rise and stand. It is the birth right of every child. It is my firm belief that Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the World and my endeavour is that all future generations are educated and self-reliant.

I firmly believe in the age old adage – “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day but teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”

My endeavour is courtesy the Memon Industrial and Technical Institute of Karachi, our various empowerment initiatives and through our job portals and fairs, every Memon can earn a livelihood,

provide their children with an education and live with dignity.

I firmly believe that a simple, decent shelter is a basic human right and a primary need for all, as its our endeavour to build a Habitat for Humanity. My hope is that one day all my brothers and sisters will have a roof over their heads.

I strongly believe that effective health care must remain firmly within the frail grasp of penury and it is my endeavour that we establish ourselves as Caretakers of Humanity over the next decade.

It is my belief that WMO will soon evolve from an organization that uplifts the Memon Community to an institution that cares for all Mankind.

## **What is the Legacy you want to leave behind in WMO?**

I want to leave behind an organisation which is governed by the principles of meritocracy, where our actions speak louder than our words. Each volunteer, member, office bearer must put their best foot forward and do their utmost for the organisation. This is no longer

an organisation where your face will adorn the front covers, but it will be your deeds that will leave an indelible mark on people.

I promise to lead by example and will hold myself and my team accountable if they fail to fulfil their responsibilities. The time has come to end the petty politics. We are here to serve our people and we must work in unity to achieve our supreme objective of Serving Mankind.

That is the legacy which I want to leave behind – to strengthen the very foundation of WMO by living the values echoed by our logo and unite to further our cause to serve not only the Memon Community but humanity!

## **It is said that the Youth of Today are the leaders of tomorrow, as president of WMO what are your plans for the Memon youth? How do you plan on building a future leadership pipeline for WMO?**

Definitely! I firmly believe the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. We need to groom the next generation leaders who can bear the WMO cross and take this organization to greater heights. For this very purpose I believe that the Global Youth Wing has a critical role to play. GYW is also something which is really close to my heart.

Personally, I look at it as a feeder school for top management roles in WMO as I believe the skills which they develop by being part of the GYW structure are remarkable. The GYW moulds an individual to take on leadership roles within the organisation and develops their understanding regarding the WMO.

I want the GYW to strengthen the youth, give them the courage to dream, to fly and to do good things for the community. I want our youth to be proud to be called Memon. I want them to be ambassadors of our community and the WMO wherever they go. They are our torch bearers and once they realise their collective potential, I am certain the value which they bring to the organisation will make us grow exponentially!



**“I believe that education is the bedrock on which communities and nations rise and stand. It is the birth right of every child.**



## Rapid Fire WITH REEDA

**What is your favourite holiday destination?**

*New York*

**What is your favourite cuisine?**

*Nihari/Sushi*

**Hobbies other than cricket.**

*Reading and listening to music*

**You seem to be an adventurer at heart, what's the greatest adventure you have**

**embarked on other than the one you are living out.**

*When I started the first Urdu channel in the world*

**The most iconic man or woman you have met who has left an indelible mark on you. Your inspiration.**

*My uncle - Haji Abdul Razzak Yaqoob*

**The person on top of your wish list that you want to meet next.**

*Bono from the band U2*

**Strangest rumour you heard about yourself.**

*That I was dead at the age of 13, my friends in school spread that rumour*

**Three things which**

**we don't know about Salman Iqbal.**

*Let it be that way :)*

**What would be the title of your autobiography?**

*Should we die to make a life?*

**Karachi or Dubai?**

*Karachi*

**All time favourite movie?**

*God father*

**What is the best piece of advice you have ever received and who gave it to you?**

*Jannat janay kay liye marna farz hai - From my father Muhammad Iqbal - If you want to enter heaven, you must first experience death.*

**A superpower you would want**

*To fly*



**With Mr. Bill Gates**

*Next on the wish list is Bono of the acclaimed U2 band*

**3 words that describe you**

*I am blessed*

**What is the first thing you notice about someone when you first meet them?**

*The way they talk*

**What's your guilty pleasure**

*Chocolate*

**What's your biggest regret**

*None*

**What is the one piece of advice you would have given to your teenage self**

*Always listen to your parents*

**If you could switch lives with one person for a day who would that be?**

*Myself at the age 18. Plus, a day is very less :)*

**Describe yourself in a hashtag**

*#SavetheWorld*

**Do you like surprises**

*Not at all*

**What is the one thing that you had to learn the hard way**

*Life*

**What is your go to for having a good laugh?**

*My childhood friends and my children*

**Your new year resolution**

*I don't believe in yearly resolutions! I believe in weekly*

**Someone/  
something you can  
never live without**

*My family*

**Qualities which  
impress you in a  
person**

*Their loyalty*

**What is your Worst  
habit?**

*Smoking*

**What is something  
you have learnt to  
love with age?**

*My lifestyle*

**What would you  
want the last  
question of this  
interview to be?!**

*Why are there so  
many questions in this  
interview!!! :)*



“

with my father Muhammad Iqbal

**Jannat janay kay liye  
marna farz hai**

# WMO FOOD PROGRAM

## A CORONA PANDEMIC SUPPORT DRIVE



**WORLD FOOD PROGRAM**  
A CORONA PANDEMIC SUPPORT DRIVE

**FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

**WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION**  
UNITE UPHOLD UPLIFT  
SERVING MANKIND

**WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**  
3 Weir Road, London, SW12 0LT, England.  
Company Number 04984474 - Registered Charity Number 1101413

**FOOD PARCEL COLLECTION POINTS**  
(EVERY SUNDAY 1PM - 3PM)

<b>Memon Centre</b> 3 Weir Road London SW12 0LT	<b>Eton Mosque Community Centre</b> 4 Eton Road Ilford IG1 2UE
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### THE INITIATIVE

The **COVID-19** pandemic marks an unprecedented time in modern history that will require the best of humanity to overcome.

**WMO has always answered the call of the unfortunate victims of a humanitarian crisis or a natural calamity in any part of the World. The organisation has been on the forefront and has contributed in every possible way to alleviate the pain and misery of those who seek refuge under these tragic circumstances.**

The coronavirus outbreak has upended the lives of millions in the **United Kingdom**, with no clear end in sight. The pandemic has plunged the entire nation into a health crisis. The number of unemployed across Great Britain has hit an all time high. The numbers are staggering. Many are unsure when they will see their next pay check.

**As the UK once again goes into another lockdown with the emergence of yet another strain of Covid-19, uncertainty looms large. Under the WMO Food Program, the organization will distribute food packs containing essential food items to underprivileged families, the homeless, the needy and the less-fortunate across the nation.**

**WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION EUROPE CHAPTER**

**WORLD FOOD PROGRAM**  
A CORONA PANDEMIC SUPPORT DRIVE

**AN APPEAL FOR HUMANITY**

The coronavirus crisis has upended the lives of millions in the United Kingdom, with no clear end in sight. The pandemic has plunged the entire nation into a health crisis. The number of unemployed across Great Britain has hit an all time high. The numbers are staggering. Many are unsure when they will see their next paycheck.

Please step up to the plate for Humanity and donate generously towards the benevolent cause.

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR BACS TRANSFER IN POUNDS STERLING INTO THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT:**

**World Memon Organisation Charitable Foundation**  
Account No: 19103231  
Sort Code: 60-95-49  
IBAN: GB05 HBZU 7006 7219 1032 31

**£15**

1kg Rice • 1ltr Oil • 500g Pasta • 1kg Sugar • 80 Tea Bags • Jar of Coffee • Biscuits • Diluted Juice • Tins x 4: Baked Beans, Tomatoes, Chickpeas, Sweetcorn, Kidney Beans, Sardines, Tuna • Jam • Long Life Milk • Cereal • Porridge

### APPEAL

Each food pack will cost **£15** and we appeal to our brothers and sisters across the globe to donate towards this pertinent cause. Today, the World needs your generosity and compassion like never before. Time to step up to the plate for Humanity.

### THE RESPONSE

The Food Program has received an overwhelming response from the WMO family.

Most trustees, patrons, life members and even the youth wing members contributed towards the pertinent cause of distributing food packs to underprivileged families and the less-fortunate during these difficult times in the UK.

In an overnight crowd funding for the cause initiated by **Mr. Mahmood Shaikhani** (Deputy President of WMO), almost **2000** food packs at £15 a piece were pledged by members of WMO.







The most generous benefactor for the WMO Food Program was the former President of WMO – **Mr. Solly Noor**. He committed to match one for one, each pack donated towards the cause would be matched by Mr. Solly Noor and his family. Mr. Solly Noor has always led by example and we will strive to carry forward his philanthropic legacy under the WMO banner in the years to come.



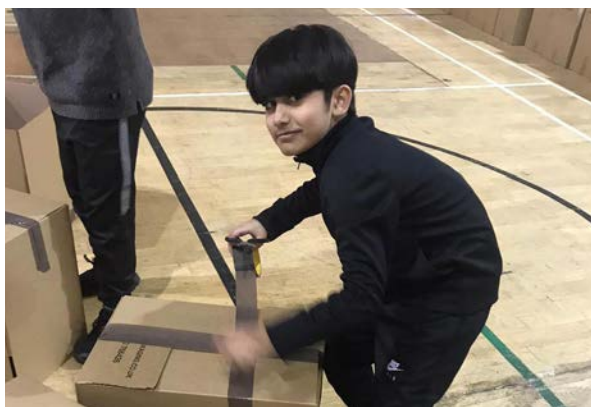
We are grateful to all our donors. May Allah SWT reward you for your generosity. We look forward to your steadfast support as we continue our journey of changing lives across the globe.

## THE PROCESS

On the 30th of January, WMO members came together at the **Memon Centre** in Balham, London to pack the food parcels and organize the food distribution drive



Mr. Mahmood Shaikhani led from the front, ably assisted by **Mr. Imran Panaawala (VP - WMO Europe Chapter)**, **Mr. Wasim Adil (Regional Secretary General)** and **Mr. Shahzad Iqbal (Treasurer - WMO Europe Chapter)**. It was heartening to watch the children too assist in the packing as the back breaking endeavour went late into the wee hours of the morning. We would like to thank the children for their unabated enthusiasm towards the program and for doing their bit to Serve Humanity at such a tender age. You make us proud.



We are grateful to **Mr. Shabbir Wali Mohammad (President - Memon Association UK)** for allowing us to use the Memon Centre for storing and packing the food parcels and we are indebted to **Farhan Farooq** and **Arif Mundiya** for being our pillars of support.

WMO Europe Chapter will begin the distribution drive in the coming weeks. We would like to thank all our donors who supported the worthy cause. May the Almighty reward your generosity.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION DRIVE

Under the WMO Food Program, the food packs were delivered to local charities in the UK for further distribution to the less-fortunate, the homeless, the needy and the underprivileged. A few local charities including **Care4Calais** also provided food packs to refugees.



As a responsible organization with the highest regard for safety and compliance, we strictly adhered to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) during the pandemic, encouraging social distancing and avoiding gatherings that break the lockdown protocols. Hence delivering the food parcels to local charities was the most efficient, effective and prudent form of distribution.

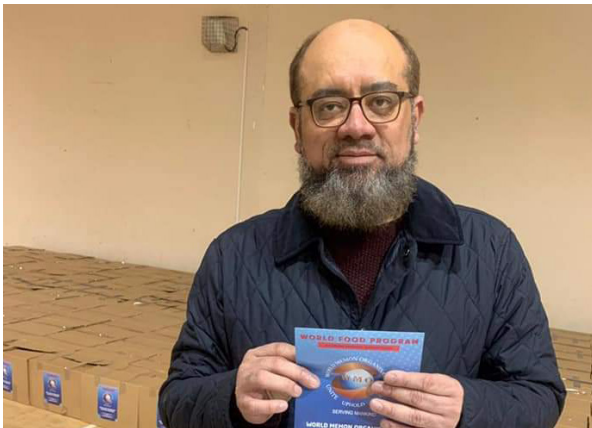
Along with the top brass of the WMO Europe Chapter, even



the ladies wing joined in with the children to move the food packets to the vans that were parked outside the Memon Centre in Balham. The vans duly transported the food packs to the local charities. The Memon Centre has served as the storage and packing zone for the parcels, thanks to the ardent support of Mr. Shabbir Wali Mohammad (President - Memon Association UK).



**The WMO Food Program is yet another global initiative that firmly underlines the evolution of WMO from an organization that was founded to uplift the Memon Community to an institution that Serves all Mankind.**



**Mr. Mahmood Shaikhani - Deputy President (WMO) eloquently articulated the sentiment as he delivered the address to the ARY network. The World Memon Organisation transcends countries, boundaries, religion, community, caste, colour, race and creed.**

**We Serve Humanity.**



# *A Thank You Note from*

**CARE4  
CALAIS**



When we distribute food in France, Belgium and the U.K., it's important that we are giving people food that they can prepare easily, that suits their tastes and will keep for a longer time. Thankfully, we've had a lot of support from our supporters and other charitable organisations who have helped us out!

In the last couple of weeks, the World Memon Organisation have donated 200 large food boxes to us for distribution, containing long lasting foods, such as tinned beans, rice, milk, cereals and biscuits. Our Care4Calais volunteers around London have been giving out the boxes to residents who desperately need more food support. The World Memon Organisation are a non-profit organisation supporting vulnerable communities all around the world promoting unity, and improving welfare and wellbeing.

M, who recently received his box, has just moved into a North London shared accommodation, and said, "We are so grateful for your help. We appreciate the boxes at this time when there is not much support. Thank you for sharing with us".

These boxes have not only helped residents in accommodations who do not have enough food - it gives them hope and the belief that someone does care about them.

We send our gratitude to all those who donate to support our work - and to The World Memon Food Organisation for your help and your work reaching the most vulnerable people. We hope to work with them more in the future.

# WMO ROZGAR SCHEME

## DELIVERING DIGNITY OF LIFE



The Rozgar initiative undertaken by **WMO Pakistan Chapter** firmly underlines our belief - **"give a man a fish and you feed him for a day ; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime"**

**For over a decade now, the Rozgar Scheme has been achieving its objective of enabling the recipients to earn a livelihood, sustain their families, provide their children with an education thus ensuring a life with dignity.**

Over the years, hundreds of **auto rickshaws** and thousands of **sewing machines** have been distributed under the Rozgar Scheme to the marginalized Memon families of Pakistan.

This year WMO aims to deliver **250** vehicles including auto rickshaws, motorcycles and motorcycle

loaders to deserving families at an average cost of a **\$1000** (thousand dollars) per vehicle. But with a slight modification to the scheme of things.

**This will be a Lillah project.**

WMO expects the program to not only earn a livelihood for the recipients but we expect the donee to give back a fraction of his earnings to WMO. The funds received would be once again utilized to donate vehicles to other underprivileged members of the community thus making the program self sustaining and giving it the ability to reach out to a larger strata of the marginalized in Pakistan. More importantly the recipients would eventually become proud donors and the program would achieve the prime objective of delivering dignity of life.



## WMO ROZGAR SCHEME

A Micro Finance Initiative

### DELIVERING DIGNITY OF LIFE

The Rozgar initiative undertaken by WMO Pakistan Chapter firmly underlines our belief - *"give a man a fish and you feed him for a day ; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime"*

The program achieves the objective of enabling the recipients to earn a livelihood, sustain their families, provide their children with an education and live with dignity.

**AVERAGE COST PER FAMILY**  
**USD 1000**  
**DONATE GENEROUSLY**



PLEASE MAKE YOUR TRANSFER INTO THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT:

ACCOUNT TITLE: World Memon Organisation  
BANK: Summit Bank  
BRANCH: Jamshed Quarter Branch, Karachi  
Account No: 010 239 20311714 108781  
IBAN No: PK55SUMB0239027140108781  
SWIFT Code: SUMBPKKA  
CURRENCY: Pakistan Rupees



FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO DONATE TO THE FUND, CONTACT:

H M Shahzad, *Regional Vice President - WMO PC*  
Contact No.: +92 321 2220084  
Altaf Habib Jangda, *Regional Assistant Secretary - WMO PC*  
Contact No.: +92 300 8215786  
Arsalan Arif Nara, *Regional Treasurer - WMO PC*  
Contact No.: +92 334 3031122

Laura Hillenbrand, the acclaimed American author famously quoted:

***“Dignity is as essential to human life as water, food and oxygen”.***

We couldn't agree more.

## **APPEAL**

We appeal to our brothers and sisters across the globe to donate towards this pertinent cause. The prevailing pandemic has thrust the poor deeper into poverty. Today, the World needs your generosity and compassion like never before. Time to step up to the plate for Humanity.

## **RESPONSE**

The Rozgar Scheme enabling the marginalized Memons of Pakistan to get back on their feet has received an overwhelming response from members of the World Memon Organisation.

The Lillah project achieved its **\$ 250,000** thousand target in an overnight round of crowd funding thanks to a fervent and heartfelt appeal made by the **President of WMO - Mr. Salman Iqbal**.

Leading from the front, the WMO President, the **WMO Deputy President - Mr. Mahmood Shaikhani** and **Chief Advisor to the WMO President - Mr. Ashraf Machiyara** contributed the bulk of the funds towards this micro finance initiative.

The largest contribution of a **\$ 100,000** (hundred thousand dollars) came from the magnanimous **Arif Habib**. The doyen of the Pakistan Financial industry is a distinguished WMO trustee whose unparalleled generosity is legendary.

We are eternally thankful to our donors. May Allah SWT reward you in abundance for your generosity towards this noble endeavor. We look forward to your steadfast support as we continue our journey of changing lives across the globe.

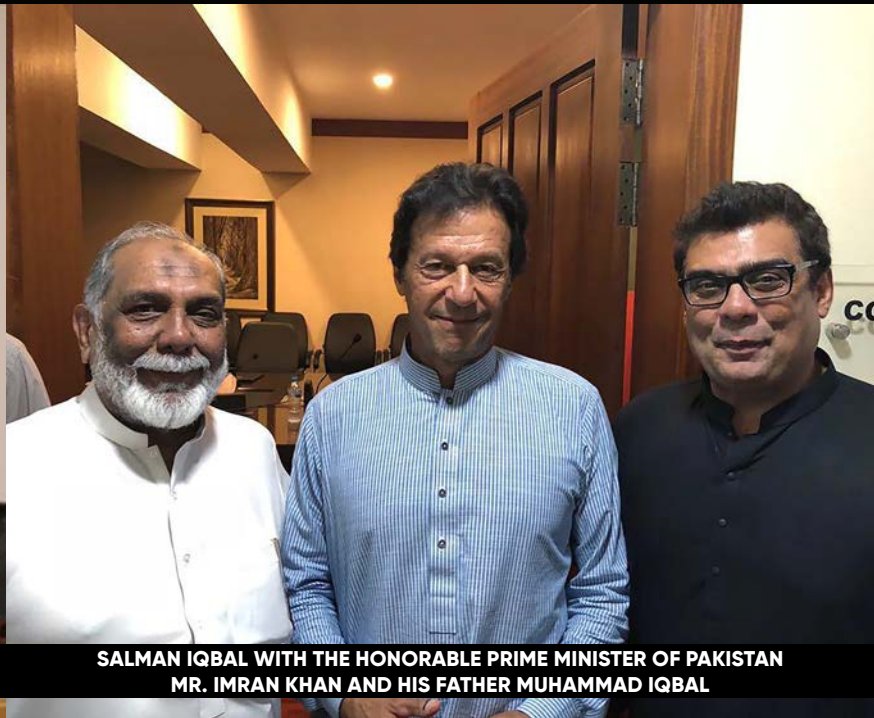


**MR ARIF HABIB**

# THE BATTLE AGAINST FORCED CREMATION IN SRI LANKA



SIR IQBAL SACRANIE



SALMAN IQBAL WITH THE HONORABLE PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN MR. IMRAN KHAN AND HIS FATHER MUHAMMAD IQBAL

**W**omen say there is no greater pain than to bear a child. We say there is no greater pain than to bury one. And then there is the mother of the 20 day old Shaykh who went through the tumultuous cycle of child birth and child loss in a blink of an eye. And she couldn't even bury her child!

**Shaykh was the latest and youngest victim of Covid-19, cremated against his family's wishes, courtesy the Sri Lankan government's inhumane policy of forced cremation of all people who succumb to the virus, irrespective of their religious beliefs.**

**Sir Iqbal Sacranie, former Senior Vice President of the World Memon Organisation** has launched a tireless crusade against the forced cremation of Muslims, who have succumbed to the Corona outbreak in Sri Lanka.

It is a blatant violation of the religious freedom, beliefs and human rights of the minority Muslim community in Sri Lanka, as Islam stipulates that the dead must be buried.

In an articulate interview to the **ARY channel**, Sir Iqbal expressed his views and demanded an immediate reversal of this horrific cremation policy that is causing abject distress to the minority Muslim community in Sri Lanka.

Sir Iqbal was also the founding Secretary General of the **Muslim Council of Britain (MCB)**, an organization that has pursued this pertinent matter with unabated dedication and passion.

A taskforce set up by the MCB had written to the **Sri Lankan high commissioner** in the UK demanding an immediate reversal of the unjust cremation policy. This was followed by mounting a legal challenge against the policy and bringing this pertinent matter to the urgent attention of the **United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC)** for a swift resolution.

The Muslim Council of Britain also called upon the UN to halt forced cremations in Sri Lanka and submitted

a formal complaint to the UNHRC, urgently requesting the suspension of the policy. Sir Iqbal is spearheading the initiative and garnering support from several heads of states and Governments across the globe who are standing steadfast with the crusader.

As the Muslim World comes together and stands in solidarity with our brethren in Sri Lanka, the World Memon Organisation applauds our stalwarts – Sir Iqbal Sacranie and **President Salman Iqbal** for their tireless endeavours against the unprecedented injustices being inflicted on our brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka.

At length, on the 10th of February, **Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa** announced in parliament that permission will be granted for the burial of COVID-19 victims. Once it is gazetted it will officially reverse the dreaded policy which has been implemented in Sri Lanka since March last year.

After months of relentless pressure by human right organizations, United Nations experts, medical professionals in Sri Lanka, Muslim leaders and community organisations from across the globe, the Sri Lankan government has finally conceded.

It also brought our crusader at the doorstep of a resolute victory. When asked for his comments on the heartening news, Sir Iqbal stated “Praise be to Allah – wonderful news. Let’s continue to pray that the Sri Lankan government formalises the change of policy which will bring huge relief to Muslims and other faith communities in Sri Lanka. Finally, they can bury their loved ones when they die according to the practice of their Deen.”

He continued, “I am immensely appreciative of the kind messages and duas received from so many but it must be made clear that it was the collective efforts of many individuals and organisations across the globe who supported the campaign wholeheartedly that has yielded positive results.

“I am particularly very pleased that every Memon I approached in different countries gave unequivocal support and undertaking to carry out the lobbying in their countries. I must record my deep appreciation for a number of individuals including our WMO President **Salman Iqbal** for his fullest, unconditional support. **Chairman of the WMO Board of Trustees – Mr. Ashraf Sattar**, the **Sri Lankan contingent of Ilyas Admani, Shiraz Yunus, Rafik Kassim** and **Hanif Yusuf** for their

remarkable persistence.

**Mr. Satar Dada** and **Gulaam Abdoola** from Botswana. **Mr. Solly Noor, Haroon Kalla, Adil Assamo** and **Feizul Ayub** from South Africa for effective lobbying with their governments. **Mr. Shoaib Kothawalla** from the US who galvanised support in his neck of the woods. **Dr Shiraz Suleman** and **Senator Ravalia** from Canada for raising the issue in the Canadian Parliament. Dr Ashfaqe Tayob and Khalid Dawood of Portugal for taking up this pertinent matter with the UN. **Mr. Iqbal Yusuf Japanwalla** from Japan, **Farouk Valimahomed** & the entire MCB team from UK, along with many other Muslims and non Muslims who assured me of their unconditional support and guidance.

Many worked relentlessly behind the scene. May Almighty Allah reward each one of them abundantly for their efforts to help bring relief to the Ummah in Sri Lanka.”

We appreciate the statement from the Premier of Sri Lanka and await its implementation. Until then WMO continues to stand firm, shoulder to shoulder with Sir Iqbal Sacranie and our Muslim brethren in Sri Lanka.

On the 23rd of February, the honourable **Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan** visited Sri Lanka amidst protests by Muslims who vehemently demanded burial rights. **Prime Minister Imran Khan** raised the pertinent matter with his counterpart in Sri Lanka and within **48** hours the policy was gazetted.

**On the 25th of February the Minister of Health issued the Extraordinary Gazette Notification amending the regulations of the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance to allow burial of those that succumbed to the virus.**

**Mr. Salman Iqbal - President of the World Memon Organisation** played a pivotal role and emphasised to Mr. Imran Khan that this important matter be raised on his official visit to Sri Lanka. A gesture testament to the good will and camaraderie shared between the two leaders.

It is a moment of great pride for the World Memon Organisation as our leaders have been on the frontline in this battle against forced cremations in Sri Lanka.

**Sir Iqbal Sacranie and Mr. Salman Iqbal – take a bow.**

# FEEDING THE NATION

WMO AFRICA CHAPTER PARTNERED WITH  
NATAL MEMON JAMAAT & JAMA'ATUN NISAA

FEEDING THE VULNERABLE & NEEDY

21 February 2021 @Ahmediya Masjied, Mayville KZN



"You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works", a famous religious leader once quoted.

WMO Africa Chapter plans to answer the prayers of thousands in the coming weeks by literally bringing food on the table for **25,000** individuals across **South Africa**. The need for an extensive feeding scheme is even greater this year as the rainbow nation is reeling under another fatal strain of the Corona virus.

The feeding initiative unfolded in **KwaZulu-Natal** wherein the Africa Chapter partnered with **Natal Memon Jamaat (NMJ)** and **Jama'atun Nisaa** to feed the vulnerable and needy from deghs (large metal utensils) of Akhni (a Memon delicacy of meat and rice), generously donated by its members.

On the 21st of February, the distribution drive was initiated at the Ahmediya Masjied, Mayville. It was a coordinated effort between Mr. Cassim Malani and NMJ, as the food was distributed to the gathering after the noon Zohr salaah.

With more than **600** people being fed including **400** Muslims, we pray that the Almighty accept our humble endeavors and reward the donors for their kindness as our beloved Prophet (SAW) always maintained: "The best of all charities is to feed the hungry"





# BOOYSENS IS BURNING

A devastating fire at the **BooySENS** informal settlement has left its residents homeless and destitute. The densely populated region of **Johannesburg** city went up in flames on Friday, the 22nd of January, with more than **750** shacks being razed to the ground.

Most residents belong to the poorest strata of society and have lost everything in the fire. The **World Memon Organisation Africa Chapter** has partnered with **Islamic Relief** to provide a swift and coordinated response to bring relief to the stranded residents.

We are thankful to our donors for their generosity as a sizeable sum of **R345,000** (three hundred and forty-five thousand rands) was promptly collected by WMO Africa Chapter towards the pertinent cause. May the Almighty reward your kindness.

**We appeal to our brothers and sisters to come forward and donate towards the victims of this horrific catastrophe. More than 2000 displaced and deprived people, including children are waiting for their next meal and the only prized possession they own is the single pair of clothes left on their back.**

May the Almighty ease their suffering and bring them solace during their most vulnerable time.





**The World Memon Organisation Africa Chapter** continues delivering wheelchairs to the aged, infirm and children with special needs. The wheelchair project has been a noteworthy endeavour of Africa Chapter for over a decade now.

The worthy initiative has always found ardent support in **Mr. Yousuf Kamdar** of the acclaimed Kamdar group, **Mr and Mrs A K Ismail** and the benevolent ladies of **Jama'atun nisaa** who have championed the cause with other distinguished members of WMO Africa Chapter.

The distribution of wheelchairs and walkers was orchestrated in various cities including **Pretoria** and **Durban**. The recipients were of all ages, colour, race and religion. We are grateful to the **Lajpal Foundation** for collaborating with us on this thoughtful initiative and joining us in the handover ceremony.

The most noteworthy donations are the **specialized and modified wheelchairs for children with special and complex needs**. Over the years, a sizeable number of wheelchairs have been delivered to children with disabilities from disadvantaged families.

These wheelchairs enable the children to move freely and escape the confined spaces of their homes and schools. They provide them the freedom to absorb the beautiful sights and sounds

of mother nature, breathe in the fresh air, enjoy their day in the sun and spend quality time in an environment more conducive for their emotional and physical well being.

**As the WMO Africa Chapter continue their noble endeavours to Serve Mankind, we pray that the Almighty accept their humble efforts and reward everyone who are working together to bring a smile on the faces of these little angels by giving them wings.**





# STRONG WOMEN EMPOWER WOMEN



**E**mpowerment of women belonging to the marginalised sections of society has been one of the most essential humanitarian services provided by WMO over the years. Thousands of women in India and Pakistan have been nurtured and trained to cultivate special skill sets that enable them to earn a livelihood, provide for their families, afford an education for their children and ensure a life of dignity.

On the 14th of February, the ladies wing of **WMO North India Chapter** initiated another important endeavour to empower women by organising an exhibition cum fun-fair wherein enterprising ladies belonging to all segments of society could

display their wares. From clothes, cakes, cosmetics to purses, perfumes and hairpins, all items were neatly displayed on around 50 stalls at the Maa Hoor Bai Hall in Central **Mumbai**.

It has been a blessing that the Covid-19 numbers are witnessing a steep decline in Mumbai and the city is returning to normalcy. Being a Sunday, families arrived in full-strength and the stalls emptied in a couple of hours with all items being whisked away by the eager crowd of women and children. The exhibition was a roaring success with the women entrepreneurs receiving a platform to not only sell their items but connect with suppliers and stockists who invoked interest in their goods and placed much larger orders.

We are grateful to **Mrs. Nazia Yusuf** (Chairperson of Maa Hoor Bai Foundation Ladies Wing ) and **Mrs. Razia Chashmawala** (Co Chairperson - WMO NIC Ladies Wing) who were the driving force behind the thoughtful initiative. These distinguished ladies are the perfect epitome of strong women truly empowering other women.

*“Feeling entitled to make your own decisions creates a sense of empowerment,”* states Mrs. Nazia Yusuf, *“this exhibition has encouraged the ladies, it’s commercial success has boosted their confidence and endorsed their decision making abilities.”*

*“Empowerment includes the action of raising the status of women through education, literacy and training. Women empowerment is all about equipping and allowing women to make life-determining decisions,”* emphasises Mrs Raziya Chashmawala

*“There is no greater force than a woman determined to rise. As we all rise by lifting others through these entrepreneurial initiatives,”* concludes Mrs.Chashmawala, fondly and aptly called Mother Teresa of the Indian Memon Community





# World Memon Organization India

## MULAKAAT 2021

### CITY CHAIRMAN ANNUAL MEET

2021

MULAKAAT 2021  
LETS MEET & INTERACT TO BRING A CHANGE



## Team WMO NIC & GYW NIC Youth Rises Like A Pheonix!

January 10th 2021, Mumbai. World Memon Organisation North India Chapter, one of the leading NGO's of India hosted Mulakaat 2021 at Haj House Mumbai which was met with tremendous success. With a new committee formed, a new change awaited for the Memon Community and hence new initiatives were launched which will directly impact the lives of every Memon. The idea of getting the entire Memon community on one platform was to discuss the work done during the lockdown and also to talk about the vision and mission of various other initiatives by the the youth of GYW NIC for the betterment of the community. This event was successfully managed by the RMC Team, GYW NIC Leadership, Azeem Gaziani, Salim Bandukia and Junaid Roghatiya.

The event started with city chairman's meeting and it focused on education, construction of schools and housing colonies.

Key Highlights of the city Chairman Meeting:

1. Amounts were sanctioned towards Microfinance Applications for Education loan ( MBBS Studies), Auto Loan & Four Wheeler Loan Respectively.
2. Disbursement towards Housing Applications were done.
3. Two applications under Project Farishtey.
4. World Memon Organization's Calendar was launched by the Special Guest Haji Afzal Patca and Members present ( This Calendar was made by WMO Nanded Youth Wing).
5. There were three housing proposal received from Dhulia, Jasdan & Yawal. It was decided to take Dhulia & Jasdan application the Legacy project of WMO Aashiyana and Yawal application under individual application.
6. Newly appointed City Chairmans's introduced themselves and the already on duty City Chairman's gave a brief description of the work done by them till date.



Various initiatives were launched keeping in mind the necessities of today's generation. These initiatives have been designed keeping in mind the problems that we're facing today and a way out to them.



**RAPID ACTION TEAM** – With an aim of empowering our youth to become leaders, we will be forming Rapid Action Leadership Team in every city/ town/ village of every chapter. These teams will be lead by the RYE's of every chapter. Each RYE will handle a cluster of Rapid Action Leadership Teams. The objective of forming this team is that we don't want our Youth to remain volunteers because our youth is capable of handling much bigger roles and bigger responsibilities and we will empower them for that. A huge percentage of Memon Youth has been trained and transformed into leaders of tomorrow in every WMO Chapter, InshaAllah!



**PROJECT GENESIS** - Return of Entrepreneurship in the community which is the essence or identity of being a MEMON.

**WMO INVESTOR NETWORK** will be created which will lead **WMO INVESTOR MEET** and in order to support upcoming business leaders, **MEMON INCUBATION CENTER** will be setup across India and will be managed by a committee of eleven members pan India.



**Inspirational Music Video for Memon Startup Fund:** An inspirational music video was shot in Vadodara with the help of Memon Youth. The song was created by Rodney and the lyrics were written by Vasim Kapadia. The video was launched and was a huge success and is on the path of being the most watched video by the community.

**WE THE MEMON- EPISODE 1 LAUNCH:** The Promo of Memon community's first non fiction web series, We the Memons was launched. We the Memon is a one of its kind non-fiction web series which focuses on the life of Memon Leaders and Icons during their youth days. This show will motivate the youth of today to become leaders of tomorrow. The first episode featured Memon Icon, Dr. Nasir Fulara.





**MEMON STARTUP FUND** - To promote Entrepreneurs, by providing them the funds and investments required to set up their Business. Investors from around the world will be a part of this initiative, the idea is to help Memon Youth become successful Businessmen. This event will be conducted this year.



**WMO INVESTMENT FORUM** – This is a platform for traditional business owners to get an investment to expand their businesses and shops. In Memon Investment Forum, you will get an opportunity to boost your existing business or start a new one. Community members can now apply for the same.

**ONLINE SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR MEMON YOUTH** – This concept focuses on online skill training for Memon Youth with the help of webinars. This organisation will have its regional centres that will identify the need for skill-based training in its region and implement it accordingly.



**WE THE MEMON Magazine** – The Magazine by the MEMONS and for the MEMONS. The idea is to connect the community on a digital platform and to publish the work done in various parts of the country. People can share their views and express their thoughts through this medium. We aim it to be user-centric and relatable. The entire community’s youth are its editor.



**HALAL RIZQ 2021** – A unique, one of it’s kind of series of a webinar that will cover all the aspects of earning Rizq, the Halal way.

Mr. Vasim Kapadia (Chairman, Youth and Sports Development Working Committee and RYVC, Global Youth Wing, NIC) under the guided Leadership of Mr. Ehsan Gadawala,(VP WMO NIC) presented his vision to make the Youth members of today, Leaders of tomorrow. He gave a lot of importance to the participation of the youths as future leaders and was against the notion of them working as volunteers. He especially appealed the ladies to join the youth team because the community needs ladies leaders too. A lot of the focus of the event was on mentoring youths to bring out the best in



themselves and motivate them to be involved in community work. Because at the end of the day we all have to give back what we receive, Right?

The current youth leadership at NIC feels that every voice should be heard and every idea should be taken into consideration. No wonder the youth present there could relate to the current youth leadership and wished to join the organisation. The vision of the new approach which Team NIC will adopt for marketing was shared too along with the structure of the new working committee for which the recruitments will start soon.

Mulakaat 2021 was just the beginning of a New Era of service to mankind by the WMO NIC and will be remembered as an event that marked a fresh start to many new Ideas and Initiatives to become an empowered community.

*By Alvira Diwan and Vaseem Kapadia*







January 24th, 2021 marked the handover ceremony of Memon Tower, a housing project constructed in Manora by the honourable Bilal Thekiya (RMC Member WMO - North India Chapter). Manora is a town situated in the state of Maharashtra in Central India with a sizeable Memon population. The ceremony was well attended by several prominent members of the Indian Memon Community. Memon Tower will be home to several marginalised families of the Indian Memon Community.

WMO firmly believes that a simple, decent shelter is a basic human right and a primary need for all, as we continue our endeavors to build a Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Thekiya has been the driving force behind delivering several housing projects aptly named "Ashiyaana". The Ashiyaanas were amongst the first WMO legacy projects constructed by the North India Chapter.

The word 'Ashiyaana' means a nest. A most enduring legacy - a roof over the heads of underprivileged families of the Memon Community - a nest for all to come home to.



Dhoraji is a town in Gujarat famous for its architectural splendour which is on ample display in its temples and forts. The town is also home to a sizeable Memon population.

On the very apt date of 14th of February, a mass marriage ceremony for 25 couples was arranged by WMO North India Chapter in Dhoraji.

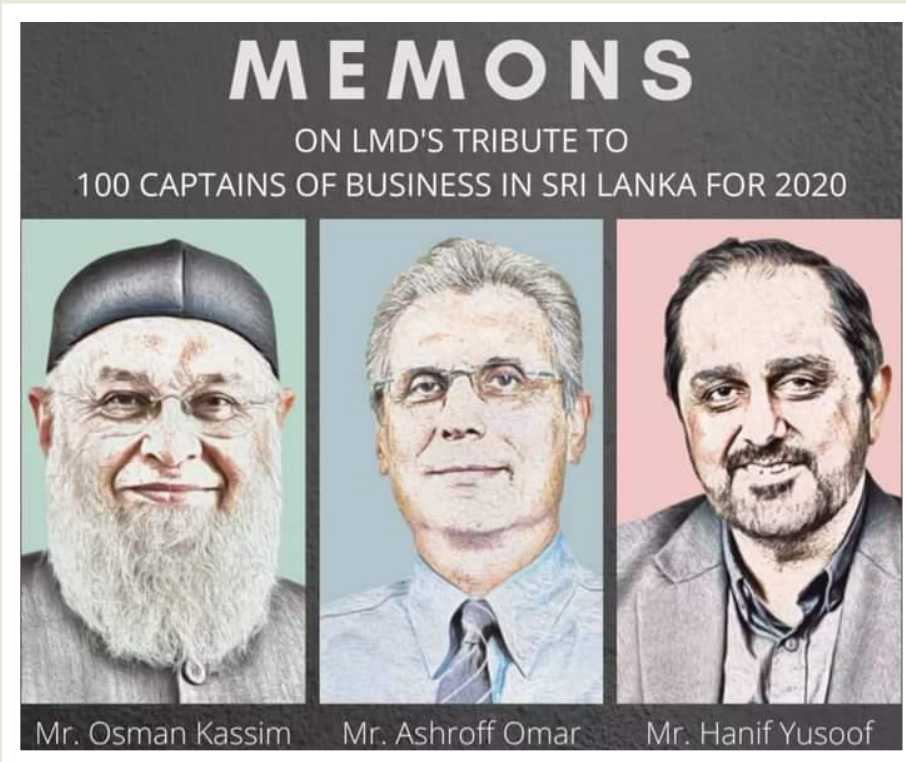
Several cataract operations were also conducted and the gift of sight was accorded to 300 underprivileged members of the community.

We are grateful to our team in Dhoraji for their dedication and passion towards these worthy causes as WMO North India Chapter continues its journey of changing lives across the length and breadth of the largest democracy in the World.



The World Memon Organisation takes great pride in these distinguished gentlemen of the Sri Lankan Memon Community who have featured in the prestigious LMD's - "A List of 100 Business Captains of Sri Lanka" for the year 2020.

We congratulate Mr. Osman Kassim, Mr. Ashroff Omar & Mr. Hanif Yusoof for receiving their rightful place in the highest echelons of the Sri Lankan Business Community.



We express our heartfelt gratitude to you for being the pillars and the finest Ambassadors of the global Memon community.

The World Memon Organisation Far East Chapter initiated a Stationery Distribution Drive wherein 250 deserving children were provided a stationery pack worth 2,750 Sri Lankan Rupees.

The children were underprivileged students of Hameed Al Husseinie College, Colombo which was founded in 1884 as the first Muslim School of Sri Lanka.



The distribution drive was conducted on the college premises, in the presence of WMO members, the honourable principal and office bearers of the School Development Committee.

We are thankful to our donors for their generosity towards this noble cause. WMO firmly believes that education is the bedrock on which communities and nations rise and stand as we undertake another important endeavour to endorse our belief.



## AN EVENING OF CAMARADERIE FRIENDSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

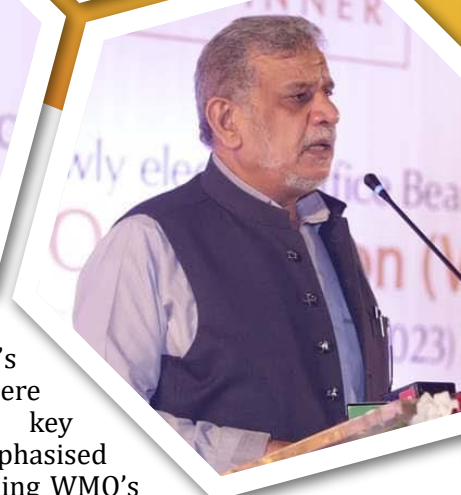
On the crisp winter evening of 15th January 2021, three gentlemen; **Zikar Mehanti, Shafi Jhakvani, and Asif Abdul Karim** hosted a grand dinner honoring the newly elected President of WMO - **Mr. Salman Iqbal, Mr. Ahmed Shaikhani** - VP Middle East Chapter, **Mr. HM Shahzad** - VP Pakistan Chapter, **Mr. Altaf Habib Jangda** - RSG Pakistan Chapter and the members of the newly formed RMC of Pakistan Chapter.

Apart from the esteemed members of the WMO RMC, the guest list also included the names of several heavyweights of the business community; namely **Mr Arif Habib** (Chairman Arif Habib Group), **Mr Shariq Vohra** (President Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry), **Mr Hanif Lakhani** (Vice President Federation of Chamber of Commerce and industry Pakistan), **Mohsin Sheikhandi** (Patron in Chief ABAD), **Fayyaz Ilyas** (President ABAD) along with members of the real estate community.

**Mr Hanif Motlani** (President APMF), in his speech congratulated the newly elected body and ensured the WMO President of his continued support towards the various causes running under the umbrella of WMO.

While acknowledging the untiring efforts of WMO, the articulate **Mr Arif Habib** spoke candidly and stressed upon the importance of education, suggesting that this should be one key focus area. Additionally, he also proposed that Memon owned businesses should prefer employing Memon talent and this practice should be propagated and promoted by all the Memon businesses operating globally. Assuring the WMO President of his continued support, Habib once again congratulated the entire newly elected body.

A brief address by **Altaf Jangda** was followed by **Mr HM**



**Shahzad's** speech where he highlighted MITI's key contributions and emphasised that MITI is indeed fulfilling WMO's promise of serving humanity by offering free vocational training in up to 63 trades. Hence MITI is creating small scale entrepreneurs who are equipped with skills making them self sufficient and enabling them to become the breadwinners of their families.

Finally, it was **Mr Salman Iqbal's** turn to take the stage. He spoke eloquently and expressed his keen desire to emulate the message borne by the WMO logo of; Uniting, uplifting and upholding the Memon community around the world. Being tasked to carry on Haji Saab ARY's legacy within the WMO, Salman went on to identify the four critical areas of focus which are Education, Health, Communications and Women Empowerment. Profusely, thanking everyone for their support Salman, walking in the shadows of Late Haji Saab ARY ended his speech with a clear vision for the organization; which is to take it to new heights by working together beyond borders so that no underprivileged person of the community anywhere in the world is left helpless.

The evening ended on this heartening note, followed by a sumptuous dinner.

*By Reeda Sheikhandi*



## MR. ALTAF MUHAMMAD HOSTS WMO PRESIDENT SALMAN IQBAL

On the 9th of February, the distinguished Regional Treasurer of the Middle East Chapter - Mr. Altaf Muhammad of the Shaikha conglomerate hosted a grand dinner reception in honour of **Mr. Salman Iqbal** - President (World Memon Organisation) at the opulent setting of the Marriott, Karachi.

Prominent memon personalities from all walks of life attended this glittering event. Mr Muhammad kicked off the event with his short welcome note where he shared his vision and expressed his dedication to work under the banner of WMO. **Mr Hanif Motlani**, the President of APMF also expressed his views and congratulated Salman Iqbal on his presidency. Additionally, he also expressed a keen desire for both the organisations to work together in Pakistan so that a broader population of Memons can be catered to.

**Mr Arif Jeewa**, added to what Mr Motlani said and insisted that now the Memons should unite and work on legacy projects which will cater to not only the Memons but also the entire humanity! Representative of Karachi's business community and Karachi Chamber of Commerce **Mr. Shariq Vohra** highlighted the role of the memon business community and ardently expressed his admiration towards the community for being humble despite reaching the pinnacle of successes.

**Mr. Ahmad Shaikhani**, Vice President of the Middle East Chapter also welcomed the newly elected president and pledged his support to the cause of education in Pakistan.

The man behind MITI - **Mr HM Shahzad** now also the Vice President for the WMO Pakistan Chapter then took to the stage and highlighted all the projects being conducted by the Pakistan Chapter plus also shed some light on the new projects which are in the pipeline. He highlighted the importance of technical education and



emphasised that MITI is testament to the evolution of WMO, from an organization which was founded to uplift the Memon Community to an institution that Serves Humanity. The fact that Memons constitute only a tiny percentage of the students attending MITI, underline that sentiment.

It was the speech by **Mr Shoaib Ismail Mangroria**, which left the audience teary eyed when he expressed the passion of Haji Saab towards the cause of WMO and his dedication towards strengthening the organisation and increasing its global footprint. He expressed his whole hearted support to Salman for his presidential tenure!

Finally, it was Mr Salman who took the stage and acknowledged that he had big shoes to fill by living upto the legacy left by the late Haji Saab. He identified the four critical areas of focus which are Education, Health, Communications and Women Empowerment and said that maximum work would be done in these segments. Profusely, thanking everyone for their support Salman, walking in the shadows of Late Haji Saab ARY ended his speech with a clear vision for the organization; which is to take it to new heights by working together.

The evening ended on this heartening note, followed by a sumptuous dinner.



## MS. AYESHA DHEDHI

**INNOVATION IS GREAT**  
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

**Opportunities for British Firms in Infrastructure Development in Pakistan**  
Virtual Session

The UK Government's Department for International Trade (DIT) is hosting a panel discussion on infrastructure development in Pakistan, and opportunities for British companies in this exciting market.

Date: Wednesday, 10 Feb 2021  
Time: 1430 PST / 0930 GMT

Please use the MS Teams link below to join the webinar.  
[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

This session will allow you to explore the Pakistan market, learn from the experience of firms who have worked in Pakistan, and ask meaningful questions about both the prospects and challenges of operating here.

**Speakers**

 <b>Mike Nithavrianakis</b> Deputy High Commissioner, Karachi and Director for Trade, Pakistan Host and Moderator for the session	 <b>Ayesha Dhedhi</b> CEO Creek Developers Private Limited
 <b>Dr Tahir Masood</b> Managing Director NESPAK	 <b>Richard Cantlay</b> Global Head of Healthcare Buildings Mott MacDonald
 <b>Maheen Rahman</b> CEO InfraZamin Pakistan	 <b>Mark Gill</b> Project Principal Hydro Team Mott MacDonald

Department for International Trade | Pakistan Britain Business Council

The Department for International Trade (DIT) helps businesses export, drives inward and outward investment, negotiates market access and trade deals, and champions free trade.

Our young, dynamic memon leader Ms. Ayesha Dhedhi recently participated in a highly prestigious panel discussion organised by the UK Government's Department for International Trade (DIT). This panel discussion focused on infrastructure development in Pakistan along with identifying opportunities for British companies to venture into the exciting Pakistani market.

Being one of the two females on this panel, Ms Dhedhi exuded an aura of confidence and spoke with remarkable passion, demonstrating her profound knowledge and keen acumen while thoughtfully answering the most challenging questions thrown her way. Being the youngest in the panel, Ayesha's acute insight and expertise on the construction sector in Pakistan was greatly appreciated by her fellow Panelists and the audience at large.

Shadowing in the footsteps of her visionary father Mr. Aqeel Karim Dhedhi - a prolific businessman, a notable philanthropist and pioneer of the AKD conglomerate, Ayesha is slowly but surely carving a special niche for herself in the construction sector. As CEO of the Creek Developers, Ms. Dhedhi has proved her mettle time and again by winning several prestigious awards for her company not only locally but also globally!

We at WMO are proud to have such an inspirational young memon woman within our ranks and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

**By Reeda Sheikhani**



## EMPOWERING THROUGH INCLUSION PROJECT

WMO strongly believes that if enough love, care, therapy, training and tenderness is extended to children with special needs, it will enable them to grow up as normal adults with the dignity and respect they deserve in a World that once thought they were different.

As a distinguished humanitarian once lovingly quipped, "They are different because they are special!"

We at WMO couldn't agree more.

**The Empowering Through Inclusion** project supports children with special needs and is a joint collaboration between **WMO Pakistan Chapter** and **WMO North America Chapter**.

"Special needs" is an umbrella underneath which a staggering array of diagnoses can be placed. These differently abled children may have mild learning disabilities or profound cognitive impairments;

food allergies or terminal illnesses; developmental delays that catch up quickly or remain entrenched; occasional panic attacks or serious psychiatric problems.

*The project was initiated on the earnest conviction that most of the children can become an active part of society and reach their full potential when given a chance hence it was aptly named "Empowering Through Inclusion". Each year WMO strives hard to achieve that objective.*

The greatest hurdle that the project faced was the crippling attitude of the families, including the parents towards the children. They were already reeling under the burden of financial constraints and had to additionally support and care for a handicapped child. The innocent children bore the brunt and were often subjected to violent physical abuse - some were even tied up and locked away.

After lengthy discussions and parent counselling - the

first challenge had been overcome. Parents finally understood that their children needed their constant love, support and encouragement if they were to survive in society.

The next step was to create a team of **specialty trained teachers and professionals** that were well equipped to impart lessons and cultivate skills that help the children to overcome their challenges. Special training sessions were organized at various centres in Karachi to assist the teachers in creating an environment more conducive to the child's mental, emotional, psychological and physical needs.

WMO is supporting 60 students by enrolling them in special schools and is providing specific therapies in accordance to their needs at Liyaqat National Hospital. Keeping in line with inclusivity, 3 children were also admitted into normal schools. Their activities and growth are being monitored on a regular basis. Diagnostic tests are methodically conducted to get to the root of the problem. Assessments and evaluations are carried out systematically.

In many instances, wheelchairs, walkers, hearing aids, special shoes and customized beds are tailored as per the needs of the children. Food supplements, physiotherapy and free medications too are provided in rare cases.

Vocational training is given to the children when they grow older so that they are gainfully employed and can match steps with the World.

**The World Memon Organisation stands firm in our support to children with special needs. If we can bring a smile on the faces of these little angels, if we can play a small role in making their lives a bit better, if we can provide them with a brighter future, if we can care for them, enough to help them learn, grow and live their lives to the fullest; then we can proudly say that we have made a DIFFERENCE.**

The "Empowering Through Inclusion" project has given us hope and hope springs eternal!





# A Tribute

*I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Solly Noor in the year 2013. It was the 11th WMO AGM hosted by the Middle East Chapter in the vibrant city of Dubai. As Chairman of Board of Trustees, he was kind enough to allow me to sit through the Trustee meeting, although I wasn't one. This was the beginning of a great many kindnesses, he has graciously extended to me over the years. **Our first interaction was brief but he left a lasting impression on me.***

The first thing that strikes you about Solly Noor is his exceptional command over the language. The power of the spoken word is undeniable and I had the good fortune to witness an articulate speech by the then WMO President, Mr. Satar Dada in Sri Lanka earlier that year, followed by an eloquent one by Sir Iqbal Sacranie but it was quite apparent that the **orator-in-chief** of the organisation was undoubtedly Solly Noor. It wasn't just his command over English, he held sway over all proceedings, the discussions, the meetings, even his colleagues and most of the members were under his spell. He had all the answers, as well as the last word!

The second time I met Mr. Solly Noor, it was in my neck of the woods - Mumbai in early 2014. I also had the good fortune to host his wonderful wife, Zohra Noor. A decision had to be made in regards to the leadership of the India Chapter and as usual the responsibility was placed squarely upon his shoulders to make the final call. There were many strong contenders for the top post and I remember one such Indian gentleman who arrived with a large, vocal group of supporters to stake his claim.

I vividly recall the scene. The lone Solly Noor in a tiny conference room, filled with a boisterous,



agitated mob clamouring for their man. As usual Mr. Solly Noor was a picture of calm, very relaxed and in supreme command, facing one onslaught after another, he listened patiently to each member of the contingent and all their arguments. I slipped out of the room for a few minutes to get some air as the atmosphere inside was getting heated and claustrophobic. When I returned, the silence was deafening.

The Indian gentleman had dropped his claim for the top post and his bunch of overzealous supporters had gone silent. They were profusely apologising to Solly Noor for raising the decibels and for taking up his precious time.

**I never asked him how he did it but only he could have done it!**

We met for the third time in South Africa during the latter half of 2014. Solly Noor had been unanimously elected President of the World Memon Organisation and he hosted us in Cape Town. We were spoilt rotten. Walking across the majestic Table Mountain, strolling through the scenic vineyards, whale-watching in the placid waters of Hermanus and savouring gourmet meals at the Waterfront, overlooking the pristine Cape Town harbour. We took in all the glorious sights and sounds that the Mother city had to offer. Solly & Zohra Noor, their daughters Farzana & Tasneem and son-in-law Zuneid were the most gracious hosts.

Capetown also marked the beginning of my friendship with his daughter Farzana - clearly a chip of the old block.

Solly Noor's leadership has transformed WMO. I expected nothing less but it is not his formidable personality, his astute decision making abilities or his visionary ideas that have impacted me most. It is his enduring legacy, the values that Solly and Zohra Noor have inculcated in their children and grandchildren, that have left an indelible mark on me. When I met Farzana and her children, it was quite evident that they were worthy heirs of the sublime Noor legacy. They have inherited

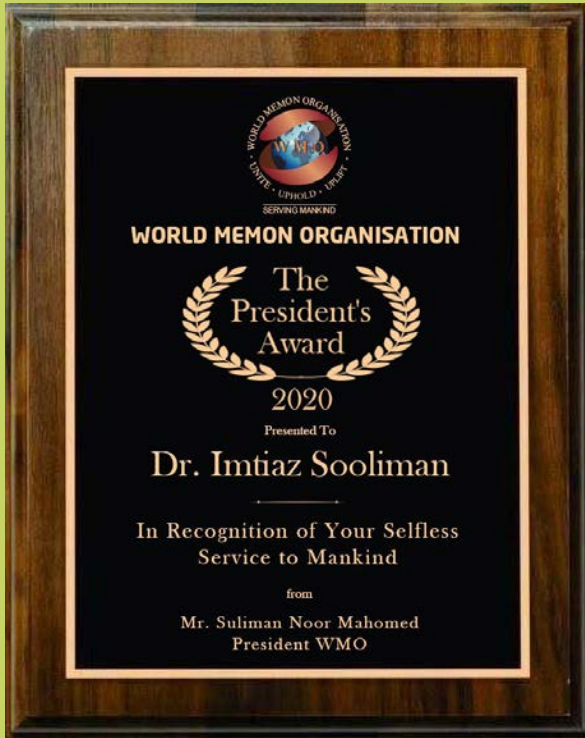
his generous heart and kind soul. ***They exude the same warmth and the rare ability that their patriarch possesses of making others feel special and cared for in his towering presence.***

I was touched when he remembered and invited us to join him in celebrating my better half's birthday. I was humbled when he coaxed the gathering to deliver a standing ovation for my endeavours towards WMO and I was very moved when he called me every single day of the week when my father underwent a heart surgery. Our friendship has evolved over time and we now share a special bond. I have always been in awe of the mighty Solly Noor who displays exceptional strength in the face of adversity but it is his kindness that wins you over. The small gestures like a thoughtful message on your birthday, his affectionate words that comfort you during difficult times and his reassuring embrace that I will always be there for you, son. Just his presence in my life, makes me feel blessed.

He is a very special man and as Farzana and her children continue his precious legacy, the name Solly Noor will prevail, long after he is gone. The key to immortality is living a life worth remembering. I will always remember him. ***I will always remember his kindness.***

**Mohamed Zubair Chashmawala**  
*Editor in Chief (The Memon)*

## President Award



On the 17th of December 2020, outgoing President of the World Memon Organisation – Mr. Solly Noor presented the President's Award to Dr. Imtiaz Sooliman for his Selfless Service to Mankind.

Dr. Sooliman is the founder of The Gift of the Givers – the largest disaster response non-

governmental organisation on the African continent. The essence of the organization is to deliver hope and restore dignity to the most vulnerable across the globe.

## Health Care Initiatives by Middle East Chapter



On Friday, January 22nd, 2021, WMO Middle East Chapter, under the guidance of Mr. Ahmed Shaikhani (VP – WMO Middle East Chapter), in consultation with well known Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Azam Badar and in collaboration with Prime Hospital Dubai, organized a Free Knee Consultation clinic.

The health care initiative was availed by several WMO members. Dr. Badar gave invaluable advice and suggested remedial treatments to overcome issues related to knee pain. The chapter received heartfelt notes from the grateful patients seen by the good doctor.

Mr. Haroon Mohamed, Regional Secretary General of the Middle East chapter informed community members that this would be the first of many health care initiatives undertaken by the Chapter.

## Bushra Amiwala



Bushra Amiwala is the youngest Muslim elected to public office in the US. She ran for the Skokie School District 73.5 Board of Education and won, making her the youngest elected Muslim government official in the US at the age of 21.

This young and vibrant Memon makes us all proud and we at WMO wish her even greater success in the coming years.

# WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION

## OFFICE BEARERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2020 - 2023



Mr Salman Iqbal  
**PRESIDENT**



Mr Mahmood Shaikhani  
**DEPUTY PRESIDENT**



Mr Bashir Sattar  
**SECRETARY GENERAL**



Mr Zubair Chashmawala  
**DEPUTY  
SECRETARY GENERAL**



Mr Suhail Khandwani  
**TREASURER**



Mr Shahid Sangani  
**DEPUTY TREASURER**



Ms Shabana Abdul Razzak  
**CHAIRPERSON  
LADIES WING**

# WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION

## OFFICE BEARERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2020 - 2023



Mr Ashraf Sattar  
**CHAIRMAN**



Mr Ismail Gadit  
**DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**



Mr Shoaib Ismail Mangroria  
**SECRETARY**



Dr Shiraaz Suleman  
**ASSISTANT SECRETARY**



## MISSION STATEMENT

*In the name of Allah the most beneficent the most merciful*

*The founding fathers formed the WMO in 2002 to unite Memon's globally onto a single platform. Rich or poor, the WMO will only have reached the heights of this fundamental vision when Memon's everywhere are known to - and represented by the WMO.*

*Through this unity it was their vision to combine the knowledge, prosperity and philanthropy that prevails within Memon's to embark on this journey to deliver mega projects to uplift Memon's and humanity generally. To give Memon's a sense of belonging and purpose and the ability to reach out when there is genuine need.*

*The barakah that our founding fathers generated through this vision is stark and so clearly visible to us all. That in itself is a huge inspiration to us all - Subhanallah.*

*The past 18 years have produced much good work. We honour and salute our past and out-going board members. They are indeed our Ambassadors and will always have a role to play.*

*However, much is to be done to realise the founding vision.*

*The Memon community is quite unique in many ways, not least through its jamaat structure which prevails in almost all countries where Memon's live. Harnessing these Jamaats to drive our unity and local projects is an important aspect to realising the vision.*

*In the forthcoming term the objective of this panel of WMO members will aim to deliver the fundamental vision of its founding fathers...UNITY.*

*As part of its drive on unity, this panel will also focus on driving global awareness of the WMO by reaching out to Memon's everywhere. This panel will focus on delivering initiatives for eradicating poverty, creating jobs and employment, providing healthcare to those unable to afford, providing housing to the homeless and creating a system of care and welfare for those most in need.*

*This panel will aim to raise the bar on its connectivity with governmental and non-governmental organisations and institutions including establishing the WMO as a recognised NGO with the United Nations.*

*Our youth - our future. This panel will continue to nurture its youth by ensuring the defined strategy for succession planning continues. With exceptionally talented youth disenfranchised for generations from the local Jamaat structures, this panel will aim to introduce thinking and strategy for youth participation from grass roots level to the main board of the WMO. The focus on introducing technology within the WMO will prevail.*

*Finally, the preservation of our identity as Memon's as part of our beautiful deen is fundamental. This panel will aim to focus to develop strategy that preserves our language as well as understanding and recognising the legacy of the illustrious personalities who are remembered for their contribution to the cause of humanity until this day.*



# MAHMOOD ABUBAKER SHAIKHANI

Deputy President  
World Memon Organisation

## Qualification

*MBA in Business  
Management*

## Profile

*Mr Mahmood Shaikhani is the Managing Director of Shaikhani Group and has been instrumental in managing the operations of Shaikhani Group across 90 countries. He has been leading the group's successful journey as the group marks its 30th year celebrations worldwide. Mr Shaikhani has demonstrated his entrepreneurial acumen in an array of industries including Trade, Retail, Manufacturing, Real estate, IT and Automobile industry.*

*A graduate in Business Administration from London Metropolitan University, Mr Shaikhani possesses a sharp understanding of global markets and has in depth insights into the functioning of economies, international legalities and legislation. He has proven his mettle in quality control, operations management and strategic planning. He is also credited with introducing policies and procedures that have resulted in enhancing the Group's international standing.*

*Mr Shaikhani is actively involved as a member of the executive committee in various organizations such as: The Pakistan Business Council Dubai, The Pakistan Association Dubai, The CEO Club, The Dubai Chamber, and The International Chamber of Commerce.*

*Mr Shaikhani actively supports and heads several international and local welfare organizations such as WMO (Trustee & Deputy Secretary General), The Shaikhani Foundation, The Rabia Charitable Foundation (Chairman) and The All Pakistan Memon Federation (APMF) as the Vice Chairman of the Supreme Council.*



## BASHIR SATTAR

Secretary General  
World Memon Organisation

### Qualification

*Pre Med Bsc Physiol*

### Profile

*An entrepreneur with a solid background in strategic management in a career stretching over 4 decades, Bashir was destined for a career in medicine at the University of London until he changed direction after he developed an insatiable interest in Consumer electronics. He was responsible for creating a successful retailing brand and now enjoys sourcing and manufacturing consumer products from his office in China.*

*Bashir has had a consistent and notable presence in the charitable sector for over 4 decades. Apart from his roles within the WMO Bashir has served several positions including; President of one of the largest mosques in North London, serving Trustee and former President of the Memon Association UK & Managing Director of Peace TV responsible for launching the channel in the UK, Europe and US.*

*Bashir has been spearheading the nurturing of young Memon talent for future leadership roles. He successfully delivered the Flagship WMO B2B Conference held in Karachi 2018, the WMO Memon Connect App an online connectivity platform as well as the latest WMO Virtual Meeting App and many other projects worldwide as part of his Global Youth Wing efforts.*

*Bashir's vision for the WMO is to transform the WMO into an efficient, transparent, accountable humanitarian organisation run by professionals and entrepreneurs who deliver aid to those most in need, eradicating illiteracy, poverty and establish landmark projects as part of the vision of its founding fathers. Bashir was recognised and awarded for his services to the community by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2001.*



# MOHAMED ZUBAIR CHASHMAWALA

Deputy Secretary General  
World Memon Organisation

## Qualification

Optometrist D.Opt

## Profile

*A qualified optometrist, he completed his education from the prestigious Cambridge division of the St. Mary's School in Mumbai and later enrolled in the historic St. Xavier's college in the science division, followed by the School of Optometry.*

*Always an honors student with a keen interest in sports and dramatics, he has represented his school in athletics, football and basketball. He has completed his course in elocution from the Trinity College of Music, London and has taken the stage on several occasions to represent his alma mater.*

*His family is steeped in philanthropy with his mother Raziya Chashmawala being a founder member of the World Memon Organisation, continuing to serve humanity under the WMO banner as the Co-Chairman of the Ladies Wing in India. She served as the inspiration for him to join the organization in 2011 as a patron member. He was appointed as the youth wing chairman of India for a couple of years, later as the acting VP, followed by being Chairman of Marketing and Communications Committee since 2014.*

*In his 6 tenure as the head of the Marketing Committee, he has also served as Editor in Chief of The Memon magazine bringing out 31 editions to date, featuring prominent Memon personalities and highlighting the extensive humanitarian endeavours undertaken by the organisation across the globe.*

*It was his endeavor to establish WMO as a global brand hence his team established a strategic social media network, along with creating the website and App to expand the global footprint of WMO. Today the membership of the organization spreads from the Sea of Japan in the East to the Hudson Bay in the West.*



# SUHAIL YACOOB KHANDWANI

Treasurer  
World Memon Organisation

## Qualification

Commerce

## Profile

*Mr. Suhail Khandwani is a name to reckon within the Indian social circuit. He belongs to the illustrious family of Khandwani where mutual trust and faith runs in the blood. Theirs is the saga of an Indian family that introduced hajj voyages by sea for all, between Mumbai and Jeddah (Khandwani Steam Navigation Company) and took the first car to the desert kingdom.*

*Mr. Suhail Khandwani wears multi faceted hats, A member of the Maharashtra Chambers of Housing Industry (MCHI) and Practicing Engineers Architects & Town Planners Associates [PEATA], he is also part of Bombay Management Association (BMA), Property Owners Association [POA], The Federation of Accommodation Industry of India FOAII as well as National Real Estate Development Council INAREDCO] He is the Patron of World Memon Organization [a worldwide central organization representing the entire Memon Community], Vice President of All India Memon Jamat Federation, President of Khandwani jamat, Vice President of Memon Chamber of Commerce, Co-Founder of Revolutionary Socio-Commercial Initiative "Memon ID". Memon ID is an entity with the sole purpose of providing a platform to the community and its leaders to take better decisions in their charitable & social activities. The platform provides accelerated information of community as a whole by conducting an online community census & Issuing Identity cards thus creating a database & poll of information which helps the Jamaat track the progress of members of the jamaat and help everyone avail the benefits within the community. Memon ID is globally a virtual platform for its registered members to use more than 30 community services related to their wellbeing, prosperity, and a great future.*

*Managing Trustee of iconic religious places of India I.e. Mahim Dargah & Hali Ali Dargah, Managing Trustee of Al Barakat Malik Muhammad Islam English School which has over 3,000 students and General Council Member of many social and academic institutions one of which is the illustrious Anjuman-I-Islam a group with more than 95 institutions catering to various faculties, Patron of Association of Muslim Professionals [AMP], which works among students and youngsters of the society in guiding them towards better careers and helps them in respectable living, he is also a patron of, Muslim Seva Sangh [MSS], which has 1 million members across the country, he is on the National Advisory board of All India Entrepreneurs Chamber of Commerce Industry&Agriculture, All India Labors Employees Union, Union of All India Maritime Seafarers & Ports and human rights, anti-corruption anti-crime organization.*

*An astute businessman with a discerning understanding of technology, in Real estate/ hospitality/ Health & Wellness, Enriching a legacy of 50 years through constant innovation, a discerning taste in design and a keen eye for bringing dreams to Life, he has taken the iconic Khandwani Group to incredible new heights and avenues. He pilots a strong core team with multifaceted professionals across functions that form the foundation for a group with a Leading edge.*

*He has actively participated in relief work and various activities promoting inter-religious dialogues to strengthen inter-religious bonds thereby installing peace and harmony in the society.*

*His objective is to create a model community which is socially proactive and contributes wholeheartedly to the progress of the society and growth of the country.*

*My vision for World Memon Organization is to strengthen leadership and empower youths in our community for overall development through various initiatives providing support digitally.*

*Apart from my two decades of experience in working in with more than fifty organizations involved in social / charitable initiatives. I would like to bring to World Memon Organization with me the digital revolution through one of my Revolutionary initiative called "Memon ID", Memon ID established as an independent entity with the sole purpose of providing a platform to the community and its leaders to take better decisions in their charitable & social activities.*

*My vision for WMO is to bridge the gap of grassroots connect and latest technology which is the need of the hour.*





# SHAHID MOHAMED SANGANI

Deputy Treasurer  
World Memon Organisation

## Qualification

*Attorney at Law*

## Profile

*Qualified as an Attorney at Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka, but nevertheless I have never practiced law as a profession. I have been involved in the family business since graduation and have over 30 years' extensive experience in garments manufacturing and sourcing. I have lived in Hong Kong for almost 18 months, setting up a sourcing office before having to return to Sri Lanka due to family commitments.*

*Having managed the Sri Lankan Operation of a Listed Investment Banking in Malaysia for 2 years and served as a Director of Vidullanka PLC, a listed Renewable Energy Company in Sri Lanka*

*I serve on several boards as Shareholder, Investor and Independent director*

*Married with 5 children and Rugby is my first passion. I am an Asian Rugby qualified Judicial Officer who founded and still manages "Super16 Junior Rugby Carnival" - the biggest such event in Sri Lanka for Under 10 & 12 Olds for the past 10 years.*

*I have been part of WMO since the inaugural meeting in 2001 and was briefly appointed as the Regional Secretary General for Far East Chapter in the first committee. Since then I have always been very passionate about the work WMO can do for uplift of the Global Memon Community. As a COO of WMO for over 7 years I have a unique understanding of the inner workings of WMO and the challenges it faces to take it to the next level.*

*I have always maintained that WMO has to be more than a collector/distributor of Zakat and can play a much bigger and wider role for the betterment of the community*



# SHABANA ABDUL RAZZAK

Chairperson - International Ladies Wing  
World Memon Organisation

## Qualification

*BSc Marketing*

## Profile

*Born in the fourth generation of leading gold trader's family, she had a natural inclination towards the myriads of facets of the jewelry industry. She grew up amidst the electrifying times when Dubai was developing from a small town into a highly diversified economy and getting established as a 'City of gold and diamonds'.*

*Shabana did her BSc in Marketing from South Eastern University.*

*Her deep interest in the jewelry industry took her to various workshops and courses. She is a certified grader of diamonds, colored stone and pearls from IGI.*

*After completing her education, she was formally inducted into the Corporate world under the guidance of her father Late Haji Abdul Razzak. She was given the charge of the Group's Retail business.*

*With her remarkable understanding of gems and jewelry coupled with a passion to succeed, Shabana took the group's Retail business to new heights.*

*Shabana has been connected with the WORLD MEMON ORGANIZATION since its inception. With her far-sighted approach, she introduced the 'Ladies Wing' within the organization. Her untiring efforts through this venture have brought forward many women with positive contributions towards the society.*



## ASHRAF SATTAR

Chairman - Board of Trustees

### Qualification

*Bachelor of Science and Advance Management Program from Harvard Business School - USA*

### Profile

*Mr. Ashraf Sattar is the Group Chairman of Timex Garments (Private) Limited. A family owned Apparel Company which was established in 1967 in Colombo. With a core business of designing, manufacturing and exporting of high fashion garments to international markets. Today the group employs 10,000 people and operates design centers, manufacturing facilities, retail subsidiaries (Avirate) and has established sourcing & buying offices across the globe.*

*Traditionally specialized in women's wear; the company has diversified into lingerie, menswear and kids wear with 10 manufacturing facilities in Sri Lanka and 1 in Bangladesh. In addition, the Group has a Joint Venture with Wacoal Japan for manufacturing intimate wear for International Clients and a Digital Printing plant for fabrics in collaboration with an acclaimed Korean group.*

*The conglomerate has recently ventured into Hospitality with a 4 Star Resort - Ranna 212 Resort in Tangalle, Sri Lanka.*

*My vision is to continue the good work done by me as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees and I hope that in the next few years WMO can become a valued global brand whereby more philanthropists, respected members of the community and youngsters will be attracted towards the organization. The dream is to eradicate poverty, provide an education to every child, build a roof over the head for every family and ensure that health care remains firmly within the frail grasp of penury. The goal is that the World Memon Organisation becomes the change that we want to see in the World.*

*Insha Allah we hope to pursue our vision, fulfill the dreams and accomplish the goals set by our founder to achieve in the coming years.*



# ISMAIL GADIT

Deputy Chairman - Board of Trustees

## Qualification

MBA, BCom

## Profile

*Mr. Ismail is the Managing Director of Al-Dar Holding, a group with a diversified portfolio of businesses in textile and apparel trading, manufacturing, healthcare, real estate development and financial investments. Al-Dar Holding is a legacy established by his father in 1900. He has been based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates since 1970. He is a member of the Dubai Customs Consultative Council, an Executive Member of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry Textile Committee and continues to serve as Honorary Secretary General of Dubai Textile Merchants Association (Texmas).*

*Mr. Ismail has a firm commitment towards community and social activities for the betterment of society, furthering opportunities for education, and increasing access to healthcare. He is a Trustee of the Abdul Karim Gadit Foundation, Trustee of the Memon Health & Education Foundation (MMI Hospital), Trustee of the World Memon Organization (WMO) and Trustee of the Usman Memorial Hospital Foundation. He is also associated with The Citizens Foundation (TCF).*

*Mr. Ismail Gadit has been rewarded for Recognition of Contribution Towards the Development of the Dubai Economy from the Department of Economic Development, Government of Dubai. Furthermore, he is a recipient of the Commercial Commitment Award for 25 years of dedicated commitment to Dubai from the Government of Dubai.*

*Mr. Ismail Gadit completed his undergraduate studies at the Government College of Commerce and Economics with a Bachelor of Commerce (B. Com) in Karachi and attended the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) at Karachi University to pursue his Master's in Business Administration.*

*Mr. Ismail has authored his autobiography, Miji Kahani: Reflections of My Life, a combination of his personal experiences and his family history.*

*My goal as Deputy Chairman, Board of Trustees in the World Memon Organization is to further the organizations core mandate of helping our community and all mankind while generating an atmosphere of transparency and inclusiveness. It is vitally important to the Memon Community to encourage the next generation to take on the mantle and play a bigger role to achieve this objective, for the betterment of the less privileged. We must take the steps now to develop WMO into an organization that will outlive its original founders and continue on its mission for posterity.*



# SHOAIB ISMAIL MANGRORIA

Secretary - Board of Trustees

## Qualification

Graduate in Science,  
Post-Graduate Studies in  
Polymer Sciences

## Profile

*Director and CEO of Premier Cables (Private) Limited, I am actively involved in the strategic leadership of the business and family. To take lead on all the technical matters from concept to reality including core decisions on innovations in products and operations.*

*I am an active member of various National and International Business Forums like Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Wire Association International (WAI, USA) and International Wire and Machinery Association (IWMA, UK).*

*It is my perspective that WMO is a Blessing from Almighty Allah. Never before in the nearly 500 years old history, has the community been able to reach out to so many Memons living across the world and bring them all on a single platform. It is, indeed, a remarkable achievement for WMO. Not only individuals, but other business, social and non-profit organizations along with education and healthcare institutions can all come together on this platform. I would like to continue to work for the Mission of WMO, especially in the fields of Education, Healthcare and Housing.*

*I have the vision that since the Memon Community has been blessed with so many generous philanthropists and talented workers, the Community can soon rise to the stage where Education, Healthcare and Housing are no longer a problem - everyone will have access to almost free education and free healthcare and there will be no problem with housing issues. I do believe that Education is the key to prosperity and no child should be left without basic education. My dream is to establish a Memon University under the aegis of the World Memon Organization.*

*The WMO is still in its infancy but I am optimistic that WMO can do wonderful things for the global Memon Community and take it to a new level, Insha Allah.*



## DR SHIRAZ SULEMAN

Assistant Secretary - Board of Trustees

### Qualification

MD, FRCSC, FACOG, FCOG

### Profile

*I am a Specialist Physician, Investor and Philanthropist.*

*I grew up in a family of businesspeople. The business knowledge that I obtained from my parents has made my career in medicine much more successful.*

*I am also the director of Hasfaan holdings and Renovalue investments, that have holdings in the stock market and real estate. I am a strong disciple of Warren Buffett and firmly believe his wisdom could benefit our community enormously. I like playing the long game and prefer longterm solutions rather than short term quick fixes.*

*I am currently completing a book on my life's journey and hope it can serve as inspiration for youth and my descendants. It especially deals with the urgent challenges that lie ahead for Muslims because of growing Islamophobia and how we can take steps to prevent further tragedies.*

*Charity and upliftment of our community is the very essence of who I am. I have a strong desire to elevate the status of our people and to take advantage of their amazing talents. A large part of our community whilst demonstrating excellent business and financial skills are not taking advantages of the opportunities that are coming up in the 'connected world' because of limited access or lack of education. My dream is to make education a priority so people can uplift their families and communities themselves without becoming dependent on handouts.*

*As an educated professional and physician I have seen first hand how education can elevate families and communities. I have witnessed how limited resources can affect the lives and health of the women in our communities. It is my deep desire to see us empower women leaders and to make them mentors for the youth and future generations.*

*My slogan is:- "BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND"*

*At the end I want us to be a successful, giving community with a strong foundation built on Education, Integrity, Hard work, Leadership and Equality for all.*

*Today we are standing on the shoulders of giants that founded this organization and I want to be able to help accomplish their goals and dreams and leave a lasting legacy for our children and beyond.*

*A successful Charitable Organization has to be run like any successful business. We can serve much more people if we manage and direct the funds appropriately. Similarly the donors have to see a return of investment and obtain good value for their donations as encouragement and incentive for others to donate. As Memons with a strong business heritage I think we can achieve this goal and be a beacon for charitable causes all around the globe.*

# WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION

Congratulations to Mr. Ashraf Machiyara  
for his appointment as Chief Advisor to WMO President



**Mr. Ashraf Machiyara  
CHIEF ADVISOR  
TO THE WMO PRESIDENT**

Mr. Ashraf Kassim Machiyara is the Chairman and Director of the mammoth Machiyara conglomerate, comprising of a diversified group of companies that include real estate, textiles, telecommunications and information & technology.

Ashraf Machiyara has cemented his place in the upper echelons of the Pakistan business community, courtesy his visionary outlook and sharp intellect. The honourable recipient of several national and international business awards, Mr. Machiyara has achieved many a milestones in his long and stellar career.

A prominent philanthropist, Mr. Machiyara's generosity remains unmatched as he runs over 50 free clinics and health centers under the family's Zubeida Machiyara Trust. He is an esteemed trustee of the World Memon Organisation and has contributed towards several charitable projects to uplift the Memon Community in Pakistan and serve Humanity across the globe.

It is an honour and privilege to welcome Ashraf Machiyara on board as Chief Advisor to the WMO President. We seek his experience, expertise and support to guide and mentor the newly elected team of WMO Office Bearers.

[www.wmoworld.org](http://www.wmoworld.org)

# WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION

Congratulations to Mr. Satar Dada  
on becoming the Advisor to WMO (Africa Chapter)



**Mr. Satar Dada  
ADVISOR TO WMO  
(AFRICA CHAPTER)**

It is an honour and privilege to welcome Satar bha on board as Advisor to WMO (Africa Chapter). We seek your experience, expertise & support to guide and mentor our newly elected team of Office Bearers from Africa Chapter.

On behalf of me and my team, our heartfelt gratitude to you for accepting this vital position. You are one of the tallest pillars of the Africa Chapter. Your leadership and generosity remain unmatched.

One of the key objectives of the newly elected team of office bearers under my Presidency is to develop stronger communication and enhance coordination of efforts with all chapters for improved and effective administration and project delivery.

The role of Advisor is a significant appointment for the WMO. The role includes providing chapter specific advice, guidance and solutions to ensure the above objectives are met.

The WMO OB's greatly value the knowledge, experience and dedication you bring to the team.

The accomplishment of the WMO goal to be the main representative and welfare body serving the global memon community will be enhanced by your involvement and efforts inshallah.

May Allah SWT reward you in abundance for your endeavors towards this noble, humanitarian cause.

Aameen.

MR. SALMAN IQBAL  
PRESIDENT - WMO

# WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION

Congratulations to Mr. Haroon Karim  
on becoming the Advisor to WMO (India Chapter)



Mr. Haroon Karim  
**ADVISOR TO WMO  
(INDIA CHAPTER)**

It is an honour and privilege to welcome Mr. Haroon Karim on board as Advisor to WMO - India Chapter. We seek your experience, expertise & support to guide and mentor our newly elected team of Office Bearers from India.

On behalf of me and my team, our heartfelt gratitude to you for accepting this vital position.

Since the past 6 years, you have been physically present at every endeavour, at every event and have guided both North and South India Chapters every step of the way. Those late night flights from London to Mumbai, the overnight train journeys to the hinterlands of India, you have stood firm, shoulder to shoulder with the regional team and fueled both chapters to unimaginable heights.

One of the key objectives of the newly elected team of office bearers under my Presidency is to develop stronger communication and enhance coordination of efforts with the Indian chapters for improved and effective administration and project delivery.

I don't think there is anyone more deserving than you to fill this significant position and ensure that the above objectives are met.

The WMO OB's greatly value the knowledge, experience and dedication you bring to the team.

The accomplishment of the WMO goal to be the main representative and welfare body serving the global memon community will be enhanced by your involvement and efforts inshallah.

May Allah SWT reward you in abundance for your endeavors towards this noble cause.

Aameen.

MR. SALMAN IQBAL  
PRESIDENT - WMO

# WORLD MEMON ORGANISATION

Congratulations to Mr. Iqbal Dawood  
on becoming the Advisor to WMO (Middle East Chapter)



Mr. Iqbal Dawood  
**ADVISOR TO WMO  
(MIDDLE EAST CHAPTER)**

It is an honour and privilege to welcome Mr. Iqbal Dawood on board as Advisor to WMO - Middle East Chapter. We seek your experience, expertise & support to guide and mentor our newly elected team of Office Bearers from the Middle East.

On behalf of me and my team, our heartfelt gratitude to you for accepting this vital position.

You have been one of the tallest pillars of the Middle East Chapter with your past term as Regional Vice President laying the cornerstone of a strong, vibrant and important Chapter of WMO.

One of the key objectives of the newly elected team of office bearers under my Presidency is to develop stronger communication and enhance coordination of efforts with the chapters for improved and effective administration and project delivery.

The role of Advisor is a significant appointment for the WMO. The role includes providing chapter specific advice, guidance and solutions to ensure the above objectives are met.

The WMO OB's greatly value the knowledge, experience and dedication you bring to the team.

The accomplishment of the WMO goal to be the main representative and welfare body serving the global memon community will be enhanced by your involvement and efforts inshallah.

May Allah SWT reward you in abundance for your endeavors towards this noble cause.

Aameen.

MR. SALMAN IQBAL  
PRESIDENT - WMO