



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

- The roof repair! We are still short of \$120,000!
- The youth are coming. Stay tuned for the bi-weekly program
- IAS constitution amendments are ready, are you?!

**INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:**

- Boost up sisters 1
- Stop the leak 2
- Mentor your youth 2
- Congratulations 2
- Constitution 3
- From fun to Education 3
- Views 4

# The SaskMuslim Herald

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2011

## Yes, we can stop the leak!

*“Unfortunately, it is not only the roof of your Islamic Center that is leaking; leaks are everywhere in our Ummah”,* said Dr. Munir El-Kassem, a world renowned speaker from London, Ont. in his fund raising speech on June 4th at the Islamic Center. The IAS organized a fund raising dinner to raise money for the roof replacement project in the Center.

*“We urgently need \$200,000 to get this project completed”,* said Amin Elshorbagy, the IAS VP, in his presentation before Dr. El-Kassem’s talk. In spite of the metaphoric leak that was the core of his introduction, Dr. El-Kassem emphasized that Saskatoon Muslims must start first with fixing



**Dr. Munir El-Kassem**

their own local water leak ....**cont. on page 2.**

## Boost up....Sisters!

After many years of service to the IAS behind the scenes, the proposed amendments to the IAS’ constitution offer Muslim women in Saskatoon a new leadership opportunity.

The newly proposed VP-Sisters Affairs will secure a position for a sister to take on a holistic and integrated management approach

to the sisters’ involvement in our Center. The new VP will direct and have an oversight of sisters’ education, religious, social, and sports activities with budgetary authority of a VP.

Some of the important highlights of the new amendments are constituting our new Communications and Outreach committee,

the Strategic Planning committee, and the Takaful Fund committee. *“Constituting these new committees, formalizing the Board accountability and transparency policy, empowering the Board to hire staff, and opening the membership to all Muslims in Saskatoon, in addition to the VP Sisters, modernize, reform, and .....cont. on page 3*

# Stop the leak.....continued from page 1



Fulfill your pledge as soon as possible...If you did not pledge, come forward and donate!

Munir El-Kassem made it clear that we should be worried if we cannot secure our own prayer hall and protect it from damage due to water. *“If it is only money that we need to give to protect the future of our children, then the solution is easy and not costly at all”*, he added.

During the fund raising evening, \$130,000 were pledged, of which \$60,000 were already collected. *“I was a bit worried when I saw the low turn out, but Alhamdulillah, our community is generous”*, said Salah Abou

Gouche, the IAS fund raising Director. The Misbah school promised to make an advance payment of \$60,000 in June and \$40,000 before the end of October. This \$100,000 makes up the School’s share of wear and tear and utilities for almost three coming years.

*“I hope that our community remembers that the Association is still short of \$140,000 to complete the roof replacement project”*, said Javed Iqbal, the IAS treasurer. The IAS Board is calling on everybody to come

forward and donate, and calling on those who pledged money to fulfill their pledges as soon as they can. The contractor will start their work in September Inshaa Allah. The IAS accepts cash or cheques. You can go online and donate by credit cards or through your bank account.

Listen to the motivational talk of Munir El-Kassem on our website:

[www.islamiccenter.sk.ca/video/dr-munir-el-kassem-fund-raising-event](http://www.islamiccenter.sk.ca/video/dr-munir-el-kassem-fund-raising-event)

*“The youth should not wait to be invited to their Center. They should come forward and do things”*, said Ismail Mukhtar

## Mentor your youth, said Mukhtar

The IAS and the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) teamed up once more last May and invited Ismail Mukhtar from Winnipeg, MB, to provide a lecture on connection with the youth. The 45 minutes talk in the IAS Gym that ended with Q/A session was well attended by Muslim youth and parents.

The lecture was not short of examples when Prophet Muhammad and his great companions used to show a lot of respect for the youth by consulting with them and respecting their needs. *“The community here should put more emphasis on activities that attract the youth, such as camps and conferences”*, said Mukhtar. *“But also the youth*

*should not wait to be invited, they should come forward and do things”*, he added.



The Muslim community is looking forward to more like Avicenna & Al-Jazari



## Congratulations!

In an attempt to encourage scholarship within the Muslim community and to revive the “Believer-Scholar” model, the IAS scholarship Review Committee announced the names of the winners of the first IAS scholarship program as follows:

- Sr. Dalal Daoud (Political

studies); the IAS Strategic scholarship winner;

- Br. Mowad Mohamed (Sociology) and Br. Syed Naqvi (Arts and Science); the IAS General Scholarship winners.

The winners were recognized and awarded the scholarships right after the talk of Ismail

Mukhtar, the guest speaker from Winnipeg. The IAS Board of Directors congratulates the three winners, and pray to Allah to make from among them and our other youth scholars like Fatimah Al-Fihri, Avicenna, Al-Jazari, and so many other examples of Believer-Scholar in the Islamic history.

# Constitution.....continued from page 1



move our Association to a new level”, said M. Akbar Khan, the chair of the Constitution Review Committee (CRC). The 7-members CRC worked on the constitution for more than 3 months. “We had the

## New constitution reflects a new reality in our community and the world

IAS President with us as an ex-officio to give the CRC the much needed insights into the management challenges faced by the board”, added Khan.

Limiting the maximum number of consecutive years of tenure to four, the total number of years an individual can serve as a President to four, and eliminating the fund raising and the maintenance positions are also among other many significant amendments. “Let us hope

that this new constitution will be endorsed by our General Body”, said Abu Baker Hassan, the IAS President.

The CRC prepared the first draft, then the IAS Board, in the presence of the CRC chair, discussed it and prepared a revised draft. The revised draft will be discussed in a town hall meeting on **July 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm**. The final draft will be prepared after July meeting to be voted on by the General Body on **September 11<sup>th</sup>**. Don't miss your chance to have a say in our constitution.

*“From fun to education, your Board is working hard to make the Center home for all....Come forward and get engaged”*

## From Fun to Education

This past month, our community, and our children in particular, had so much indoors and outdoors fun, mixed with education. Suhad Bakri, the Principal of the weekend school took the school students to a bowling day full of fun. Hanan Elbardouh, a weekend school teacher and an exemplary volunteer, joined the field trip and helped the Principal with the organization.

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the weekend school celebrated the end of this academic year. The celebration was marked by two large beautiful cakes congratulating the 2011 graduates. The school students presented some excellent shows and songs. Many students were awarded for

their academic and behavioral excellence.

The weekend school Principal seized also this opportunity to



honor Sr. Ayla Raazi for her dedication to the weekend school. You can view the photo galleries of the field trip as well as the weekend school year end ceremony on the Resources page of the IAS website.

### Social

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, over 120 members of the Muslim community attended the IAS barbeque, organized by the social committee, in the Park on Copland Crescent. The event that started after Zuhr prayers was a chance for the community mem-

bers to socialize while enjoying the burgers, and the youth and children played soccer.

### Youth

The IAS youth committee and the MAC-Saskatoon joined forces and came up with a long-term bi-weekly program for the youth. The combined committee elected Sr. Dalal Daoud to be the coordinator of the Program. Saleema Mohamed, the IAS youth Director vowed to provide all logistical, including financial, support for this new program. “Investing in the youth and youth programs is one of the IAS strategies”, said Amin Elshorbagy, the IAS VP. In addition to the biweekly program, both the IAS and MAC are planning to have their own youth activities. “Well, it seems to me that the youth will have a busy and productive year, fingers crossed”, said Saleema.



**The IAS barbeque, May 22, 2011.**





## The Islamic Association of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon) Inc.

222 Copland Crescent  
Saskatoon, SK  
S7H 2Z5  
Canada

Phone: 306-665-6424  
E-mail: [saskmuslim@islamiccenter.sk.ca](mailto:saskmuslim@islamiccenter.sk.ca)  
[www.islamiccenter.sk.ca/newsletter](http://www.islamiccenter.sk.ca/newsletter)

**SaskMuslim: One community, multiple views**

The *SaskMuslim Herald* is a community newsletter run by the Islamic Association of Saskatchewan (Saskatoon) Inc. It aims at providing news, information, and announcements to the Muslim Community in Saskatoon. The *SaskMuslim Herald* may also publish views and opinion articles written by board directors or community members. Unlike the editorial, views and opinion articles may reflect the viewpoints of the writer, and not necessarily those of the IAS board. However, the editorial board reserves the right to reject publishing any item deemed to be problematic. Please submit your article, viewpoint, or news item to: [saskmuslim@islamiccenter.sk.ca](mailto:saskmuslim@islamiccenter.sk.ca)

## What have we learnt? (2) Omar fights corruption.....

A series of political insights into the Islamic history

(By Amin Elshorbagy)

When Abu Bakar was on his death bed, he made his mind to pass on the leadership after him to Omar, but Talha Eben Obaidellah was shocked; “How will you answer to Allah to justify passing on the Khilafah to Omar, knowing how harsh and stern he is”, said Talha to Abu Bakar. Abu Bakar confidently answered “I say, Oh Allah, I passed it on to the best of your servants!” Not surprisingly, this great “harsh” leader started his term with a factual statement that describes his leadership, *إن الله ابتلاكم* Allah has made me a test for you and made you a test for me.

### Demotion of Eiadh Eben Ghanam

Omar was regularly monitoring and evaluating his Governors, when one of them, Eiadh Eben Ghanam, started to relax and delegate too much of his work to his assistants, he was summoned by Omar (R), given sheep and ordered to take care of them as a shepherd for three months! Demoted from a Governor to a shepherd, Eiadh learnt the lesson and turned into one of the best Governors during the time of Omar.

### Combating profiteering

When he noticed growth in the wealth of

some of the Provincial Governors, he took the precautionary measures of confiscating half of the wealth that they made during their term in power. He did not do it just with Governors of questionable ethics, but did it with great Sahaba; Saad Eben Abi Waqqas, Abu Horairah, Amr Eben Al-Aas, and others. Omar (R) went as far as even doing the same thing with the relatives of the Governors. According to Omar, profiteering is not an option; political power and positions is translated into loss and sacrifice of wealth. Early on, Omar realized that the coalition of power and wealth leads to corruption!

### State of Shoora, justice, and equality

Omar was one of the companions who really understood the Shoora as an Islamic obligation; not an option. He used to make the analogy of the number of opinions and the number of threads in a rope; the more the threads, the stronger the rope. The composition of his council of Shoora was quite dynamic. For major and strategic issues, Omar used the tier approach of consulting the public, then consulting the experts and people of opinion. For less impor-

tant issues, he would consult a circle of experts with a considerable number of youth among them. All issues that needed consultation were always presented for consultation, be it political, religious, or administrative.

“Did you enslave people after they have been born free?” said Omar Eben Al-Khattab questioning Amr Eben Al-Aas when an Egyptian layman complained about being ill-treated and beaten by Amr’s son. Omar gave the whip to the Egyptian man to beat Amr’s son, and he did until he felt satisfied! In spite of the many great qualities that Omar had, when his name is mentioned in history it is mentioned with the quality of justice. Omar believed that implementing justice is one of the best practical means of Dawah. It is a fact beyond doubt that Omar established a state of law and justice across a vast area of land that extended from Persia in the East till Egypt in the West and Syria in the North. His son, Abdulrahman, was whipped by Amr Eben Al-Aas for drinking Alcohol, but in private at a home whereas it was supposed to be implemented in public. Believe it or not, Omar ordered that his son be brought to Al-Madinah where he was whipped in public. Omar’s administration was justice and equality in action.

*To be continued.....*