

ANNUAL REPORT 1993/1994

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MALDIVIAN STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (UK)

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**Maldivian Students' Association (UK)
9 Rosemont Avenue
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Annual Report: 1993/1994 Session**

Introduction

The most historic session of this Association EVER! Imprints of pride, power and determination is still clearly visible in the horizon and it was a pleasure for me personally, to have been guiding this association on its first path of success and recognition. Maldivian Students' Association (UK) is no longer just an Association; It is a highly respected, well known and a fully recognised student body. I sincerely appreciate the strength and support of my fellow members of the Central Committee for their cooperation and support in carrying out the duties of my position in a well planned manner for the benefit of our association. As I promised in my succession speech in the last AGM, my session as the Chairperson of this association has been a package full of surprises. It might seem like I'm blowing my own horn but I guess some credit has to be granted whilst referring to the state of where I picked it from. Members had lost their confidence in the association and everyone thought of it as a joke, I know I did. Fortunately, it has never been in my character to run away and hide, instead I find it a thrilling challenge to face problems and prove people wrong. My reason for standing up for the chair.

Annual General Meeting - 19th December 1993

The new Central Committee was elected. Two members, Thoriq Ibrahim and myself were standing up for the Chairman's" post and after a record breaking two consecutive ties, it was resolved by a toss in my favour in view of clause 6.2 of the Constitution. All the great achievements of this session reflects the strength of determination of the members who stood up for the CC posts at the last general election. After a breathtaking election, the following were appointed as the Central Committee of the association for the session 1993-1994.

Ahmed Shafeeq Ibrahim Moosa University of Glasgow Chairman

Thoriq Ibrahim University of Loughborough Vice-chairperson

Ali Niyaz University College of London Secretary

Mohamed Shareef University of Brighton Treasurer

Ahmed Riza University of Leeds Student Advisor

In the second half of the AGM, as the Chairperson, my message to the members was in a friendly tone and was a plea to keep faith in me and my fellow CC members. Some solid decisions were made in this half, such as the agreement of drafting and sending a letter to Ministry of Planning, Environment and Human Resources regarding the shocking letters received by students under the World Bank Training Scheme. Also, it

was decided that 90% of the \$1000.00 received from the Ministry of Education should be spent in aid to educational establishments in Maldives.

Personally, I believe in recreation as a tool to refresh minds and I promised the members that my session as the Chairperson will not be disappointing in any way. It was my main objective; To organise events that are beneficial to all members in every way and firmly achieve the objectives of our association.

Launching of an MSA(UK) Pools and Bowling Championship

After a discussion with the members of the CC, it was decided to launch an MSA(UK) Pools and Bowling Championship each year and the first was held on the 20th of December in London. Winners to be treated in the AGM at the end of each session. A total of 22 members participated in the championship. Miss Khadeeja Mohamed(kadda) and Ahmed Mohamed(Andey) won Pools and Bowling Championships respectively. This activity was highly welcomed by the enthusiastic members and was well worth the try.

Night out in "mad" London

A night out in London was arranged merely as a fun event. 8 members went to the Wag and had a great night out. Some were dancing their heads off while other try to be on the seen for girls looking for someone to offer them a light or a cigarette if possible.

January 1994

Bank Account in UK

In the past this task deemed to have been carried out as non of the attempts were successful. However, a treasurers account was opened for the association at a Bank of Scotland Branch in Scotland. A cheque book was issued and available funds were deposited to the account.

Introduction, Subscription and Logo Competition

During January this year, introductory letters and application forms was sent out to freshers and subscription reminders to old members were sent out, both containing a leaflet for a Logo competition as the association needed to adopt a logo. In discussions with the Marketing Executive of Kandooma Tourist Office, it was agreed tat KTR would sponsor the competition and the winner will get an all expenses paid weekend in this diving oriented beautiful island. It was of a great disappoint for me personally that the responses to the competition and the introductions were extremely poor. However, it did not effect my determination to change things rapidly for the better.

Letter to MPHRE

It was decided that a letter should be send to the ministry concerned regarding complaints of students funded by the World Bank Project. A letter was drafted and sent to those concerned for approval.

SKI Trip In Association with Malaysian Students' Association

A ski trip was organised in Association with the Malaysian Students' Association but unfortunately only a few members could take the time off during that weekend and hence the trip had to be cancelled.

February 1994

MSA Mailing List

As a mean to solve the problem of communication between the members, an independent electronic mailing system was created and a total of 32 members were subscribed in the list. When message is sent to our main source address in Leeds (che5ari@uk.ac.leeds.sgi), the mail is set to be distributed to all subscribing members. This creation was accepted very positively by all members in the list and many discussions were carried out between the members and is still actively under operation. The list was further extended to include some of the Maldivian students in North America to strengthen the relationship between the two student communities.

A separate list was created for the day-to-day communication of the CC members all of whom had own mailing addresses. This enabled us to be in touch with each other on a daily basis and made things a lot easier for all of us. If the members had any complaint they could get in touch with the CC members via che5ari@uk.ac.leeds.cif. This way, the problems that existed previously was easily tackled and we stayed in touch throughout the whole time and still are.

International Cultural Evening Cultural

Sheffield University Students' Union

February 12th

This traditional event that has been the centre of such events in Sheffield for more than 22 years took place with a brighter dimension altogether this time as an Unknown form of music was introduced this year that caught the ears by surprise and eyes by excitement. The booklet reads: Maldivian dancers and Drummers "Energetic and exciting these members of the Maldivian Students' Association of the UK will perform the Boduberu a traditional Maldivian dance which is fuelled by the beat of the drum."

More than 24 members of the Association took part in this event for which a formal invitation was sent to us from Sheffield University Union to participate in the event. An all expenses paid trip to Sheffield to perform our nations' pride was an offer we couldn't refuse. The SUSU paid for travelling, accommodation and food during our two day visit to perform in this great historic event. Major international groups took part in the event but in front of a crowd of over 1500, we the natural born dancers and drummers were every bit the talk of the night. Some of our members were so energetic, so hyped up that they forgot where they were and took their clothes off which was the best act of all. The reception we had was well deserved after all the hard work on the first day of Ramad'an, though I wasn't fasting as usual. Compare to the lack of practice and preparation, we performed so well that we all were pretty chuffed afterwards. And in this opportunity, I'd like to thank Mohamed Nabeel Abdulla for all the hard work he did to ensure that we were there. Thank you Nabeel! We couldn't have Ben there if it wasn't for you!

March April

EGM and Easter Get-together

During ester holidays, we organised a get-together in Coventry in conjunction with brothers in Coventry. It was held from 31st March - 5th April during which an Emergency General Meeting was held. The EGM held on the 1st of April had an attendance of 25 members, this meeting was held to discuss the possibility of organising a fund raising event Thaana '94 for Education in Mal'e during the holidays and to discuss financial and other matters related to the association. Logo competition results were finalised and a logo was adopted. Possibility of publishing Malas magazine was also discussed.

Sports day

A recreation day was also organised during this get-together at the Cable and Wireless College. Football, weight lifting, Badminton, swimming, pools and even Billiard games were organised and all members had a good time.

Check out the night life of Coventry

Also, a night out in Coventry was organised during this get together and we all went to a club for a bit of fun and dance. Though the place looked dodgy, we did have a good time. The place was semi-occupied by bunch of Paki', as they'd say.

In general, the get-together was more than a success as we all had a really good time, I would have thought.

Summer Holiday (June-September)

Project Thaana '94 for Education

On 7th April this year, a meeting of the members of Annehvath'aru Fani, a contemporary music band formed by myself, Shah Mahir, Yasir Jameel, Faris Maumoon and Ahmed Nasheed was held in London to discuss the possibility of organising a music show. I was delighted with the interest all of us had in implementing this project. In this meeting, it was decided that the project will be launched in late July or early August and preparations and administrative works to proceed right away. The following tasks were assigned to the band members appointed as the organising committee for the project.

Advertising - Yasir Jameel and Faris Maumoon

Finance and Management - Myself

Music and Instrumentation - Ahmed Nasheed and Shah Mahir

A few practice sessions were also held in London during this period and a selection of songs were made. Yasir went to Mal'e earlier in April and carried on with most of the legal work and once. By early July most of us were home and work began on the actual preparations for the show. To allow the band to practice more, the following were appointed to the organising committee:

Finance - Mohamed Shareef

Administration - Ali Niyaz

Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the help and support of the following members of the association in making this event a great success.

Zaha Waheed

Shazneen Ali

Fathimath Nasheedha

Amjad Abdullah

Abdulla Thawfeeq

Mohamed Nabeel Abdullah

Ahmed Mohamed

Also, my deepest gratitude to Mr. Benhaa Habeeb for providing us with all the technical support, Mr. Ibrahim Wafir of Kaddoma Tourist Resort for letting us use his office, Mr., Soleh and Dr. Latheef of Min. Of Education for their cooperation. I would also like to include in this list, Mr. Qasim Ibrahim and Wahid'din for their generous donations to the project.

My appreciation also goes to O Atoll, particularly, Nashid and Mohoj for their assistance and participation in the event.

Finally, I'd like to thank Yasir Jameel for his endless efforts and hard work in organising this event.

The show was one of its kind and our objectives were achieved. A total of approximately Mrf 70,000 was raised as will be utilised in further improving the education system in the islands as initiated. It was decided by the Central Committee to hold discussions amongst the members on how and whom the money should be donated.

Bank Account in Maldives

An account for the association was opened on 17th August, to maintain the funds of Thaana Project and other future event that will hopefully be organised by the association.

Letter to MPHRE

The letter referred earlier, was sent to the Ministry on 30th August.

Central Committee

Members of the Central Committee kept in close touch during the whole session through mail, phone and email. A separate email list was made for the purpose of day-

to-day of the Association. A number of meetings were held.

Central Committee Meetings

A number of meetings were held, and listed below are the main ones.

A meeting was held on 20th December 1993 in London, to organise the MSA(UK) Pools and 10-Pin Bowling Championship.

Second meeting was held in Sheffield to finalise the draft of the letter to be sent to MPHRE.

Another meeting was held in Coventry during Easter holiday to settle expenses of Easter get-together, Sheffield trip, also to discuss the publication of Malas. In this meeting it was also decided to set-up a commemorative board at Rosemont Av., London and a bibliographic/thesis database.

All members attended the above meetings.

Also, in Mal'e, a number of meetings were held during the implementation of Thaana Project. These were attended by myself, the treasurer and the Secretary.

Honorary Membership

The Central Committee decided by a majority, to award both Mr. Benhaa Habib and Mr. Ibrahim Wafir, Honorary Memberships in recognition for their contribution and support for Thaana Project.

Fellowships

It was also decided by a majority, that fellowships be granted to the following in recognition for their support and effort in making the Thaana Project a success.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.Yasir Jameel | 2.Mohamed Shareef -Sharippe' |
| 3.Ali Niyaz | 4.Zaha Waheed |
| 5.Ahmed Mohamed | 6.Ahmed Nasheed |
| 7.Mohoj(O degree) | 8.Nashid(O degree) |
| 9.Ibrahim Amir (Naibuge) | 10.Shah Mahir |
| 11.Faris Maumoon | 12.Abdulla Shifau |
| 13.Shazneen Ali | 14.Burumaa Qasim |
| 15.Wahid'din | 16.Soleh / Education Ministry |
| 17.Dr.Latheef | 18.Amjad Abdullah |

Conclusion

I would like to thank all those who believed in me and to those who didn't, I'd like to say, please do not to judge a person by the way he or she looks but by the way he or she thinks. I hope very much that the achievements of this association during my term as the Chairperson has restored everyone faith and belief in the association. The magnitude of the actual output of this association can be further broadened if we can all stick together. Let us not forget that it is an obligation for all of us as Maldivians to ensure that we do everything in our power to help our tiny nation. I hope that the commencing session will be even more prosperous. I was determined to make a difference and I'm delighted and honoured to have achieved just that.

Ahmed Shafeeq Ibrahim Moosa (Sappe')

University of Glasgow

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