



# DAANA NEWSLETTER



May 2021 | Volume 1, Issue 5

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## Omar Bin Mahfooz ('93)

*Interview & compilation by M. Taruj Ali ('90)*



Dr. Omar Bin Mahfooz was born and raised in Saudi Arabia. He went to Hyderabad after high school to attend medical school at DCMS. After MBBS he came back to Saudi Arabia and then returned to India to complete MD, Internal Medicine from Khammam.

He currently resides in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia with his wife & two sons. He's the Medical Director of Al-Salam Dialysis Center, a charitable clinic in Jeddah. Dr. Omar has been involved in various charitable efforts through the years & has travelled to Bangladesh multiple times to help Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar.



When the deadly second wave of the COVID pandemic hit Hyderabad and other parts of India, Dr. Omar felt the urgent need to help the underprivileged back home. With the help of a philanthropic family in Jeddah, the Tahir family and other contacts, Dr. Omar

collected funds to help those affected by the pandemic in Hyderabad.

After reviewing several options, he decided to pursue a COVID Isolation and Rehabilitation Center in Bahadurpura, with the collaboration of Deccan Alumni Association. The funds raised through his charitable efforts provided all the equipment for this 20-bed facility, including hospital beds, PPE, medical equipment, monitors as well as medications.

The Quli Qutub Shah Polytechnic College - Deccan Alumni Association COVID Isolation and Rehabilitation Center was formally inaugurated by Janab Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi, MP & Chairman DET on Friday, May 28th 2021. The center is staffed 24/7 by qualified physicians, nurses and medical professionals from Deccan Alumni Association. The isolation center has ten beds for male patients and ten beds for female patients. Oxygen concentrators, all medications, ambulance service and meals are provided free of cost. The daily expenses are covered by DAANA/DAA/DAAME and DAAE. The Isolation center also provides telemedicine consult service from International consulting physicians.

Dr. Omar has also been closely involved with Masjid Baqi in Banjara Hills. During this pandemic the mosque has provided Ghusl & burial services for COVID victims. They also aim to provide free ambulance services soon.

Dr. Omar would like to see more DCMS physicians get actively involved in charitable work. He fondly remembers his late father's words when he got admission in DCMS, he had said, "Omar, after you become a doctor, I want you to always help the poor and needy." He would like to keep his father's dream alive through his charitable efforts.

**DAA ISOLATION & REHABILITATION CENTRE**  
A Setup By Deccan Alumni Association

( SPONSORED BY DAANA, DAAME & DAAE & MAHFI )

24/7 AMBULANCE

OXYGEN CYLINDER

Philippe Resperonics EV 5 L

FOR ASYMPTOMATIC, MILD TO MODERATE COVID PATIENTS ( OXYGEN CENTER )  
W.E.F 28/5/21@

**QULI QUTUB SHAH GOVERNMENT POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE**  
Chandulal Baradari, Ramnaspura, Bhadurpura ( Near Zoo Park )  
Hyderabad- Telangana- 500064

**CONTACT: 7330867222**

- FOR COVID ASYMPTOMATIC AND MILD SYMPTOMATIC ONLY
- RT -PCR / HRCT CHEST REPORT MANDATORY
- ADMISSION BY PRIOR APPOINTMENT ONLY
- 24X7 MEDICAL TEAM SUPERVISION
- 24/7 AMBULANCE SERVICES AVAILABLE ON SITE

### Contact info:

[daananewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:daananewsletter@gmail.com)

**DAANA Vimeo channel**

\*New section with contributions from current DCMS students!

## GREAT NEWS !!!

### QQS Polytechnic College - Deccan Alumni Association COVID Isolation & Treatment Center

The Deccan Medical College alumni groups have been trying to get a building of their own to start an isolation center. The government allotted us a building on the campus of Quli Qutub Shah Polytechnic college in Bahadurpura, near the Zoo.

This will be a **FREE** facility for mild to moderately sick COVID patients, we will have 20 beds to start with, oxygen is provided via cylinders and concentrators (acquired from UK). Patients will be triaged before being admitted and anyone who decompensates will be transferred to nearby Govt or Private hospital. Drugs and labs may be charged at cost price but provided free to those who cannot pay. Post COVID Rehab is also being discussed. The govt also appointed a liaison doctor and zonal officer to monitor our operations. And this will be a vaccination site as well.

This was made possible by the tireless efforts and generous donations of our alumni & excellent collaborative effort from all the Alumni associations to make this happen!

**DAAME** donated the hospital beds and equipment as well as medications. They also helped develop the protocols and operations manuals.

**DAANA/DAAE** helped with logistics and donated the oxygen concentrators.

**DAA** worked tirelessly on the ground to do all the research, permits, preparations to make things happen and will be providing the staff and personnel.

All organizations together (DAANA/DAAE/DAAME/DAA) will bear the cost of daily operations, salaries and expenses. We will also be providing Teleconsultation service as and when required.

Numerous volunteers worked tirelessly behind the scenes and continue to work round the clock.

The building was refurbished speedily, equipment & beds installed & inaugurated **May 28th, 2021 (Friday)** by **Janab Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi Sahab**.

Please pray for its success and contribute in any way you can. May the Almighty reward all those who contributed financially, logistically, intellectually and spiritually to make this happen. May this benefit those who need the most help and may this be the beginning of bigger collaborative efforts in the future. Ameen.

“If you want to go fast, go alone but if you want to go far, go together”

~ **Board Members of DAA, DAANA, DAAE & DAAME.**

**DAA ISOLATION & REHABILITATION CENTRE**  
A Setup By Deccan Alumni Association  
( SPONSORED BY DAANA, DAAME, DAAE, MAHIM & MASJID-E-BAQI )





**HELPLINE: 7330867222**

FOR ASYMPTOMATIC, MILD TO MODERATE COVID PATIENTS ( OXYGEN CENTER )



### Inauguration video

**Dr. Naseem Majid**  
M.B.B.S MDHM

DECCAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Abu Aimal



MS ANNUAL CHALLENGE AMBITION'S OPEN 40% Concession During Lockdown 9248008022

Dr Naseem Majid, explaining about DCMS Alumni Associations & update on isolation center to Azad reporter Abu Aimal



Unity & Solidarity #DAANAstrong

Thanks to Dr. Ahmed, Dr. Ateeq & Dr. Ilyas for this impromptu event - a great gathering for the Memorial Day weekend!

Sharif Zahoouruddin ('96) entertaining guests with ghazals

GRADUATION SEASON

Congrats to all the brave, strong & hardworking students for getting through the toughest & weirdest school year in decades! With hope in their hearts and smiles on their faces, we wish you all the best for the future !!!



Sharif Zahoouruddin ('96) & high school grad Esha



Shahnoor Khan ('88) & family

Thought for the Month

by Khaja Yaminuddin ('99) diabetespdfmail@gmail.com YOUTUBE : DISTRACTIONS



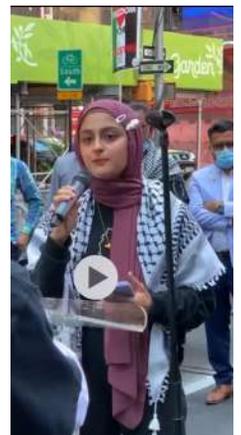
Dr.Yaminuddin @yaminhyd

In the post Vaccine World, most people will try to revert to their usual behaviours. \*Don't throw away that mask too soon\*... KY #THINKABOUTIT

Alumni Activism



Qutub Khan ('92) & Taruj Ali ('90) flanked by other activists



Daughter of Dr Asra ('86)

**IN MEMORIAM***Heartachingly compiled by Qutub Khan ('92)*

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

The global DCMS Alumni community, mourns the loss of our brave friends, colleagues & fellow practitioners who gave up their lives serving their communities. This includes some of our faculty members, teachers & professors whose shared knowledge & experiences, shaped our present lives and shall continue to do so for our future generations. Our deepest condolences to all those who have lost loved ones. We share your grief & are here to support you in any way possible. May the departed souls Rest in Peace. Aameen.

**DCMS ALUMNI who sacrificed their lives as Frontline Workers**

1. Dr. Sadiq Jehan ('84 batch)
2. Dr. Hishamuddin ('84 batch)
3. Dr. Azeemunnisa ('86 batch)
4. Dr. Srilaxmi ('88 batch)
5. Dr. Misba Fatima ('89 batch)
6. Dr. Mohammed Imran ('95 batch)
7. Dr. Faisal Ansari ('99 batch)

**DCMS PROFESSORS & TEACHERS**

1. Dr. Azhar Hussain (Surgery)
2. Dr. Hishamuddin (Medicine)
3. Dr. Najmul Hassan (Medicine)
4. Dr. Rafia Mohajir (ObGyn)
5. Dr. Rangachary (Orthopaedics)
6. Dr. Sadiq Hassan (Anatomy)

**ALUMNI who lost close FAMILY MEMBERS**

1. Dr. Deeba ('84) - mother
2. Dr. Khaja Sayeeduddin ('84) - wife
3. Dr. Yahya ('84) - mother
4. Dr. Azhar ('85) - father
5. Dr. Rahat ('85) & Dr. Hidayat ('90) - both parents
6. Dr. Taqi ('85) - father
7. Dr. Khalida Iffat ('86) - father
8. Dr. Yousuf Begum ('86) - mother, elder brother & elder sister
9. Dr. Habeebunnisa ('86) - brother-in-law
10. Dr. Vajiha ('88) - brother
11. Dr. Iqbal Kapadia ('88) - brother
12. Dr. Sameena Yasmeen ('88) - husband
13. Dr. Safina Mustafa ('88) - husband
14. Dr. Hyder's ('88) & Dr. Himayath Saif ('91) - mother
15. Dr. Misba ('89) - mother
16. Dr. Raisa Faheem ('89) - brother-in-law
17. Dr. Moiz ('89) - father
18. Dr. Bibi Ayesha ('90) - father
19. Dr. MA Moqsith ('90) & Dr. Muqeeth ('93) - both parents
20. Dr. Ashraf Fatima ('91) - mother
21. Dr. Khaja Daulat Khan & Atika's ('92) - father
22. Dr. Qudisia ('92) - father
23. Dr. Sameena ('92) - both parents
24. Dr. Rashad Khazi Syed ('92) - father-in-law
25. Dr. Umrana ('92) - father
26. Dr. Iftekhar ('92) - mother
27. Dr. Mustafa Afzal ('92) - mother
28. Dr. Zahid Shuttari ('93) - father
29. Dr. Zubair ('93) - father

## IN MEMORIAM

### ALUMNI who lost close FAMILY MEMBERS

30. Dr. Sohail ('94)	- father
31. Dr. Aijaz ('94)	- father
32. Dr. Naseem ('94)	- mother
33. Dr. Ehtaisham Azmi ('94)	- mother-in-law
34. Dr. Naushad ('94)	- mother
35. Dr. Faiq Hasan ('94)	- both parents
36. Dr. Faseeha Hashmi ('98)	- motherly aunt
37. Dr. Ayesha Fatima ('98)	- brother & cousins
38. Dr. Arshia ('96)	- mother-in-law
39. Dr. Najib ('96)	- father
40. Dr. Shaikh Sameer ('97)	- mother
41. Dr. Rauf ('97)	- father
42. Dr. Nomaan ('99)	- father
43. Dr. Sohaib Khaleel (2008)	- father
44. Dr. Zainab Fatima (2009)	- father
45. Dr. Farheen Sultana (2009)	- father
46. Dr. Farhana (2011)	- mother
47. Dr. Dania Minhajuddin (2012)	- mother



### DUA

by Mahad Mohammed Mirza  
(Yr 1 at FIITJEE)  
S/o Shahbaz Mirza ('92)  
& Faiza Waliullah ('92)



### IN FOND REMEMBRANCE

of Dr. Sri Laxmi from 88 batch

I always imagine Sri Laxmi as happy, down-to-earth & good person. She was married to my classmate from middle school as well as in medical college - Dr. Sujan Reddy. Too sad to hear the news. Unable to contact my friend, which is understandable. Really devastated. May her Soul Rest In Peace - Raza Khan ('84)



### Rohingyan Reflections on the Modern World (Part I)

by **Amal Ali (16yr Gr11)**  
d/o **Taruj Ali '90**

In the music world, most remember August of 2017 to be the month that *Havana* (by Camila Cabello featuring Young Thug) was released. If you're like me, you remember it as the month where Taylor Swift erased everything from her social media accounts mysteriously before announcing the release date of her highly anticipated sixth studio album, *reputation*.

Many of us in the U.S. remember what happened in Charlottesville, VA, where violence erupted at a "Unite the Right" rally during the hot summer days of August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, eliciting a highly criticized response from President Donald Trump. Also that month, North America experienced a total solar eclipse, receiving widespread media coverage; and Hurricane Harvey hit Texas causing considerable destruction.

But far away from the world of pop music sensations, turmoil in American politics & natural phenomenons, one of the world's worst cases of ethnic cleansing was occurring in the little state of [Rakhine](#) in Myanmar to the Rohingya Muslims.

December 2019, I had the privilege of traveling to and volunteering at the camps with the [Deccan Alumni Association of North America](#) (DAANA), my father's medical college alumni group. It was his second time lending his skills as a pulmonologist in the refugee camps and local hospital and my first. Throughout our time in the camps and at the clinic, we heard several heartbreaking stories about the lives the Rohingyans lived before the massacre, and how quickly and brutally everything was taken away. I can't get the stories told to me and what I witnessed in the Rohingya refugee camps of Bangladesh out of my head.

One such story was related to me by Hasina, a refugee I had the honor of interviewing; she had lived in a relatively comfortable family on a farm before the genocide took her everything away from her. "My house was burned down by the military," Hasina said.\* "We had to flee overnight through forests and hills and then cross the river to Bangladesh on a boat." Several atrocities were committed by Myanmar's army during her flight, but the details of these occurrences are much too painful for Hasina, and many many refugees like her, to revisit.

“I miss my home,” Hasina told me when I asked what she missed the most about her life before. I asked what she wished would change in the camps. She said, “The military is very oppressive to women. I am happy here with what I have, but I am vulnerable.”

### Why Are Rohingya Muslims Targets?

The displacement and genocide of Rohingya Muslims represents the culmination of a long history of racial discrimination and persecution based on culture and religion in Myanmar; a timeline that started in the 1940s when Myanmar (known as Burma at the time) gained its independence and denied citizenship and legal status to the Rohingyas.

Myanmar has always had a dominant Buddhist population, making the Rohingyas an ethnic, religious and linguistic minority group in the country, as they are Sunni Muslims. However, the minority group traces back its origins in the country all the way to settlement in the Arakan kingdom in the 15th century, making them a thoroughly well-established population in Myanmar.

In the late 1980s when Burma was officially renamed Myanmar, Rohingyas were again [denied their citizenship](#) and were not recognized as an ethnic minority. As a matter of fact in 2014 they were completely excluded from Myanmar’s national census, signifying the increasing efforts of the country’s government to “erase” the population.



In August of 2017, a militant wing named the [Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army \(ARSA\)](#) attacked some military and police outposts, resulting in the death of 70 people. This began a brutal crackdown on the Rohingyas by the Myanmar army; 7,000 were massacred in that month alone, after which 700,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh. Thousands more escaped to Indonesia, India and Malaysia.

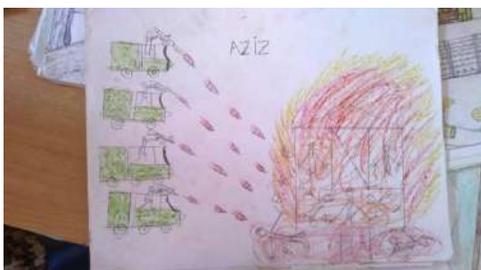
Since then, the population of the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh has increased to over a million people. [The United Nations](#) and several charities, including DAANA, have devoted lots of time and money to the wellbeing of these refugees.

### Those Who Suffer the Most

Immediately after and during the massacre, Myanmar’s army committed crimes too horrifying to describe, against Rohingya women. Such crimes are incredibly sensitive subjects for many refugees, but some yearn for their stories to be heard. On our last day in Bangladesh, my father and I spoke to Ayaz Mahamud, who is a social worker with [Terre Des Hommes](#) and is dedicated to assisting rape and sexual assault victims in the camps. He told us the stories of two women in the camps, whose stories represented the thousands of women assaulted by the military.

“A lot of these women suffer from mental illnesses because of what they’ve been through, like post traumatic stress disorder and eating disorders,” Ayaz said. “Many of them cannot sleep at night either because they hear the sounds of bullets whenever they close their eyes.”

After the massacre, many children had been so traumatized that they seemed to develop undiagnosed mental disabilities very similar to autism. Ayaz told us that when he went to the schools and asked some of the Rohingya children to draw for them, they would draw horrifying scenes from the massacre depicting weapons, death and destruction. It was the only world that they knew. Many children also drew their family relatives, who passed away in the genocide.



*A Rohingya refugee child's drawing of the genocide. Image source: Amal Ali*

Earlier, before we met Ayaz, we had travelled into the camps, which was where we had the privilege of meeting Hasina. While in her home, I tried to speak with the large group of children who had huddled behind the window to listen. Through their broken English, there was one phrase in particular that we could decipher, and it was thoroughly chilling to hear: “I will kill you,” many children said with a laugh. I realized that perhaps this was a phrase they heard from the military when they were fleeing, and it was some of the only English they could remember. It was obvious that the children did not know the meaning of what they were saying, and it truly broke my heart once I connected it to what they had been through.

Ayaz told us about another incredible woman, [Mumtaz](#), whose story of her flight from Myanmar reveals the true nature of the massacre. “She heard gunshots in the night and immediately started to run with her children and husband,” Ayaz recalls. “She tried to cross the river, but it was too difficult to do with four children. Where she was stopped is now the site of a mass grave that the military started digging that night.” We even went to a section of this river one day during our time in the refugee camps and tried to imagine what had happened on this body of water three years ago. It was simply chilling.

**The more I hear the stories, the more livid I become that Myanmar’s State Counselor [Aung San Suu Kyi](#) still continues to deny that a genocide even occurred in the first place at the International Court of Justice. Her Nobel Peace Prize, awarded to her in 1991, needs to be revoked.**



*Rohingyas crossing the Naf river between Myanmar and Bangladesh.  
Image source: Twitter*

The details Ayaz shared with us about what happened afterwards are nearly too horrendous to share. Babies snatched from mothers and thrown into rivers, one of them being Mumtaz’s son. Homes being set on fire and military officials throwing people into the fires. Men being lined up on their knees and shot dead, one by one. And women stripped of their valuables and then assaulted and raped while their family members were forced to watch.

... to be continued

### **Editors’ message:**

We present to you, the May 2021 DAANA Newsletter (delayed few days due to late news of Treatment Center Opening), with mixed feelings. While the past few months brought immense personal & professional losses & grief to the alumni community, it also gave our budding alumni associations (DAA, DAANA, DAAE, DAAME) the greatest opportunity to rise to the challenge of serving our community back home, in their greatest hour of need! We are pleased to report that, for a young, budding alumni community as ours, we have managed to take many first steps in establishing a set up, of service & giving back, for years to come. This is in keeping with the spirit of the charters of our Alumni associations as well as the Oath of our noble profession and our religious & cultural ethics of caring for those in need & charity. We hope that we all will continue to contribute our time, skill and efforts as our lives allow.

At this point, it gives us great pleasure in announcing additions to our newsletter’s editorial team : **Alumnus Dr Hema Malini (’89)** will join us in collecting, editing & arranging contributions from the alumni community as we have been doing in the past. She has been our featured alumnus in the past & is interested in photography & poetry.

**We also wish to extend a warm welcome to Hunaina Manfusa (2017 batch/ 3rd yr DCMS) as the Student Editor, Co-ordinator & correspondent and perhaps the youngest member of our community!** She has an interest in literature, essay writing & poetry. This dynamic youngster has started assembling a team of students, from across the DCMS batches, to coordinate contributions & hopes to be a conduit between the alumni & student communities in the future.

**With this issue, we also present the STUDENT SECTION organized from some of the student body input so far.** Hopefully this channel will prove useful to the alumni in keeping abreast of DCMS news & resourceful to the students in future mentorship & career opportunities.

We thank all the contributors for taking time out, despite their busy schedules & during these stressful times, to share their thoughts & feelings. Please continue to send your (& family) contributions, suggestions & feedback to [daananewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:daananewsletter@gmail.com). Thank you & don’t forget to [click the links in RED](#).





# STUDENT SECTION

Contributions by current students of Deccan College of Medical Sciences

Student editor/ correspondent : Hunaina Manfusa (2017 batch/ 3rd year DCMS)

## THE FIGHT WITHIN ME

by Hunaina Manfusa (2017 batch)

Light shining brightly,  
Enlightens the whole room.  
But,  
Fear holds me tightly,  
Adding anxiety to my doom.  
The moon tries,  
The stars too.  
But,  
Darkness within me smiles,  
That I try to shoo.  
Locked up in my cage,  
I fight but surrender.  
Written up is another page,  
My faults, my accomplishments, my splendour.  
Motivation pulls me,  
On this land.  
I stand free,  
Together with others.  
Hand in hand.  
Prayers have been answered,  
Darkness retracing back.  
All that fear is blurred,  
It is time to counterattack.  
No more am I that coward,  
No more am I scared.  
With a smile plastered,  
For the worst... I am prepared!



## REMINDER

by Abdul Huq (2017 batch)

"Where of one cannot speak, there  
of one should remain silent" ~  
*Ludwig Wittgenstein*



It has been mentioned that once an eminent scholar on Islam, quite famous among non-Muslims, visited Europe. He happened to be in a restaurant, when a Priest approached him and said, "You claim that your book is the clarification and explanation for everything. So where has the description of how to make a salad been mentioned in your book? Has it been mentioned in the Quran on how to make a salad?"

The Sheikh responded, "This is mentioned in the Quran".

He then called the owner of the restaurant and asked him, "How do you make this salad?" And so the owner answered.

The Sheikh said, "This is what has been mentioned in the Quran"...

**"So ask those who possess knowledge if you know not" (16:43)**

And the man was silenced.

Who's an expert in preparing foods, a chef, likewise who's an expert in medicine a doctor and the list goes on.

Not long ago a self proclaimed baba, who went on to promote his products by discrediting modern day medical practice, has faced a severe backlash. And in my experience, I have heard many scholars discrediting medical practice without any knowledge about the subject. It is high time that we re-inculcate the teachings of Qur'an in our life and correct people representing the faith, even if they happen to be people of great authority (in their own field). And Allah knows best.



ART by  
Amina Amtul  
Muhaimin  
(2018 batch)