



# Enduring Challenges & Empowering Communities



(01)

## SYMPOSIUM - 2025

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**Enduring Challenges  
&  
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## VISION

To lead the Sri Lankan Muslim community as a forum in it's unity, prosperity and growth.

## MISSION

To bring all Sri Lankan Muslim families resident in Qatar under a commom platform and conduct activities of educational, religious, cultural and charitable backgrounds.

## OBJECTIVE

To develop and strengthen cordial ties among families, communities and other associations, thereby deriving greater benefit for the community

## EDUCATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

- Skill Development Programs
- Competitions for Children and Adults
- Hajj and Umrah Pilgrimages
- Seminars and Workshops
- Qur'an and Islam Teachings

## CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

- Scholarships for needy Students
- Assistance to needy families
- Janaza assistance
- Charity bazaars

## SOCIAL AND WELFARE ACTIVITIES

- Sports Events
- Eid Celebrations
- Family Gatherings/Picnics
- Job Bank

## MEMBERSHIP

All Sri Lankan Muslim families resident in Qatar are eligible to apply for membership by filling an application form available with Executive Committee members.





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## Ambassador's Message

It is a great pleasure to convey warm greetings to the Sri Lanka Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) on the occasion of the SLMQ Annual Symposium under the inspiring theme "Enduring Challenges, Empowering Communities."

This theme resonates deeply with the Sri Lankan spirit, a country that has dealt with many challenges with resilience, unity and faith. Whether overcoming natural disasters, global crises or economic hardships, the strength has always come from the people, from communities that stand together, support one another and find hope in collective efforts.

In Qatar, the Sri Lankan community has been a shining example of that spirit. Your solidarity, professionalism and compassion demonstrates the best of our values. Through your various contributions to Qatar, your cultural initiatives and your humanitarian outreach, you continue to uplift not only the expatriate community but also the image of Sri Lanka abroad.

While reflecting on enduring challenges, let us also reaffirm our commitment to empowering communities through education, dialogue and mutual support. Together, we can build bridges between Sri Lanka and Qatar, between generations and between home and abroad.

On behalf of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Doha, I wish to commend SLMQ for providing this platform of unity and inspiration and for continuing to foster togetherness.

May your efforts continue to inspire and strengthen shared bonds and serve as a beacon of hope and empowerment for all Sri Lankans in Qatar.

**Sithara Khan**  
**Ambassador to the State of Qatar**





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## President's Message

*In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful.*

All praise is due to Allah (SWT), Lord of the Worlds. May peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger.

It is with great pleasure and deep gratitude that I welcome all our esteemed members, sponsors, and well-wishers to the 22nd Annual Symposium. This commemorative souvenir highlights SLMQ's contributions to the community over the years and stands as a reflection of your continued effort and strive toward community building.

The theme of this year's Symposium, **"Enduring Challenges and Empowering Communities"** is both timely and meaningful. It reminds us that challenges are a part of our journey—whether they arise from national crises affecting our beloved Sri Lanka or from internal obstacles that test our collective strength and unity.

For SLMQ, this message is personal and profound. For 24 years, our organization has stood firm through difficult times, serving as a pillar of support for our community in Qatar and back home. Our resilience, continuity, and impact are the results of your unwavering trust and the shared vision that binds us together.

As a leading community organization, SLMQ has always been committed to uplifting lives—through education, welfare, charity, social development, and humanitarian work both in Qatar and Sri Lanka.

Today, as we gather for this special occasion, our hearts are heavy. The recent floods and landslides in Sri Lanka have caused widespread devastation, leaving families displaced and struggling. We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters back home and pray for their safety, healing, and recovery.

In response to this crisis, SLMQ has taken a firm decision to allocate a significant portion of our financial resources towards flood-relief and rehabilitation efforts. Every riyal collected from this Symposium will be dedicated to a special relief fund. A task force comprising EXCOM, ADCOM, Founder Members, Past Presidents, and key members will be mobilized to ensure that funds are collected transparently, delivered responsibly, and utilized where they are needed most.

As members, well-wishers, and Sri Lankans, your contribution is invaluable—whether through personal donations, annual subscriptions, volunteer efforts, or by connecting us with potential donors. On behalf of SLMQ, I humbly appeal to your generosity. Together, let us extend a helping hand to those who are suffering and rebuild hope where it has been lost.

I also wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Executive Committee (EXCOM) and the Advisory Committee (ADCOM) for their dedication and tireless efforts throughout the year. Your commitment has made every initiative possible.

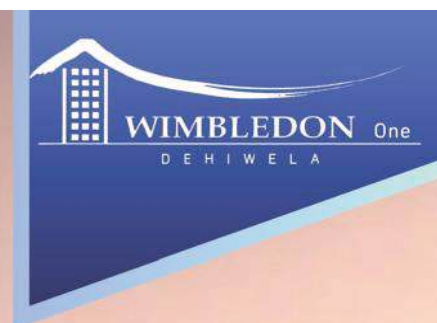
I wish you all a memorable Symposium and leave you with a the following, to think, reflect and ponder...

"The most beloved of people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to others." —Prophet Muhammad

Jazakallahu Khairan

**Minhaj Nazly Yoosoof**  
President





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## General Secretary's Report

Assalamu Alaikum and warm greetings to all.

On the occasion of the 22nd Symposium of the Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ), held under the inspiring theme "Enduring Challenges, Empowering Communities," it is with great honour that I present this General Secretary's Report on behalf of the Executive Committee. This report reflects our collective efforts and commitment to serving the community in alignment with this year's theme.

With the grace and mercy of Almighty Allah, SLMQ has successfully undertaken impactful service, community development, and welfare initiatives across Qatar and Sri Lanka. This report outlines the major programs, events, and projects carried out during the period from the last symposium in October 2024 to November 2025.

### Major Events and Activities in Qatar

SLMQ Islamic Competition 2024 was held on 29 November 2024 and brought together hundreds of young participants aged 3 to 17 for Qur'an Memorization and Islamic Knowledge competitions, nurturing a deeper connection to Islamic teachings among our youth.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024, held together with the Family Gathering on 27 December 2024, combined recreational activities with formal proceedings. Members received a comprehensive overview of SLMQ's projects and achievements in both Qatar and Sri Lanka throughout the year. The

Executive Committee presented the annual financial report, highlighted major milestones and community initiatives, and announced the election of the new Executive Committee for the 2025 term, marking the beginning of another chapter of committed service and leadership.

The 77th Sri Lankan Independence Day Competition, held on 14 February 2025 at Stafford Sri Lankan School Qatar, brought together all Sri Lankan students living in Qatar for a vibrant celebration of their culture, talent, and heritage. Over 650 students participated in categories including Young Writers, Young Speakers, Young Poets, Young Artists, Young Colorists, and Young Masterminds, with the SLMQ Youth Icon Award 2025 presented to outstanding students in the Intermediate and Senior categories in recognition of their exceptional achievements.

To inspire spiritual preparation for Ramadan, a lecture titled "Are You Ready for This Ramadan?" was delivered by Sheikh Hasan Fareed on 30 January 2025. Participants received practical guidance to enrich their spiritual practice during the blessed month.

SLMQ Celebrates Qatar National Sports Day 2025 offered a day of fun, fitness, and family engagement on 11 February 2025. The event featured the SLMQ Futsal Tournament and SLMQ Volleyball Tournament for men, with dedicated categories for Veterans, Youth, and Junior players. Special arrangements were thoughtfully made for ladies and children, including the SLMQ Ladies Cricket Tournament and SLMQ Ladies Badminton

Tournament, organized exclusively for the spouses and daughters of SLMQ members, promoting active participation, enjoyment, and community bonding.

The Annual SLMQ Iftar 2025 brought families together for a night of reflection and togetherness on 7 March 2025. Nearly 100 families attended Time Rako Hotel for Iftar, followed by a heartfelt bayan by Sheikh Abdul Aziz Shakir, reflecting on Ramadan, devotion, and the importance of family and community bonds. The evening continued with Isha and Taraweeh prayers, followed by a communal dinner, fostering spiritual connection and unity among the participants.

SLMQ participated in the Sri Lankan Sinhala and Tamil New Year Festival held on 18th April 2025 at the Doha University Grounds, in collaboration with the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Qatar. As part of the celebrations, SLMQ organized the traditional sack race competitions for both male and female participants, adding excitement and cultural spirit to the event. SLMQ also sponsored gifts for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners, appreciating their enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Women were empowered with practical skills at the Ladies' Skills Development Workshop 2025, held on 25 April 2025 in collaboration with Austin Consulting at the Sports Accelerator, Aspire Zone. The program offered comprehensive training in business skills, first aid, barista techniques, and professional baking, equipping participants with valuable tools for both personal and professional growth.

On 19 and 26 September 2025, SLMQ  
**cont...**





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## General Secretary's Report cont...

successfully conducted the Islamic Day Competition 2025 at FANAR – Sheikh Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Center. The event brought together more than 450 students across five age groups, who showcased their dedication and love for Islam through three key categories: Qur'an Memorization, Du'a Recitation, and Islamic Quiz. The Islamic Day Competition 2025 once again highlighted SLMQ's ongoing efforts to nurture faith, character, and learning among the younger generation.

On Friday, 3 October 2025, SLMQ members gathered for an Environmental Cleanup Drive at the iconic Singing Sand Dunes. The event brought together families, volunteers, and children in a collective effort to preserve one of Qatar's natural landmarks. This initiative was designed not only as a community service activity but also as an opportunity to instill environmental awareness and responsibility among the younger generation.

The Ladies' Wellness & Communication Program 2025 – "Vital Voices" focused on emotional and interpersonal growth on 14 November 2025, held at Al Jazeera Academy, Abu Hamour. Participants benefited from sessions on emotional wellness by Dr. Zara Khan and communication skills by Muna Moiz, enhancing the personal and professional capabilities of Sri Lankan Muslim women in Qatar. The workshop also provided a meaningful platform for sisters to connect, share experiences, and grow together.

### Community Welfare Projects in Sri Lanka & Qatar

With the blessings of Allah and the generous support of our members, SLMQ carried out a range of impactful welfare initiatives in both Qatar and Sri Lanka between October 2024 and November 2025, positively touching the lives of many individuals and communities:

- Support for Gaza Evacuees (Qatar): Tables and chairs were donated to enhance the activity room at the Gazan Evacuees Compound. This initiative provided comfort and created a conducive environment for educational and recreational activities for displaced children, helping

them feel more at home and engaged in learning.

- School Furniture Restoration – Bakinigahawela Muslim Central College: SLMQ restored worn-out desks and chairs at the school, directly improving learning conditions for students. By providing proper seating arrangements, the initiative enhanced students' focus, participation, and overall classroom experience.
- Clinic Renovation – MN/Periyamadhu: The clinic's roof was reconstructed, and seating arrangements were upgraded to ensure safer and more comfortable facilities for expectant mothers. This project contributed significantly to maternal and child healthcare, making the clinic a more reliable resource for the community.
- Waterline Installation – MN/Periyamadhu Maha Vidyalayam: A vital waterline was installed to address long-standing water access challenges. Students and staff now have reliable access to clean water, significantly improving daily operations and hygiene standards at the school.
- Washroom Renovation – MN/Zahira G.M.M.S Alakkaddu: Washrooms at the school were fully renovated in December 2024 to provide better sanitation and hygiene for students. This project directly contributed to a healthier learning environment and supported the well-being of hundreds of children.
- Self-Employment Support (LKR 1,425,000): SLMQ provided financial support to seven deserving individuals, including widows, low-income families, and converts to Islam, enabling them to start or improve small businesses such as tailoring shops, grocery stores, and other micro-enterprises. This initiative promoted self-reliance and economic empowerment within the community.
- Management Service Officers Exam Preparation Seminar 2025: SLMQ sponsored a special seminar for over 120 Tamil-medium applicants preparing for the

Government Management Service Officers examination for entry into the state service. The program provided strategic guidance, exam preparation techniques, and motivational support, helping minority youth enhance their employment prospects and advance their career development.

- Financial Support for the Widows' Sewing Project: Five sewing machines along with essential garment accessories were distributed to widows, empowering them with income-generating skills. This initiative enabled women to support their families financially, while fostering independence and confidence.
- Construction of a Community Well– Radagama, Hettipola: SLMQ funded the construction of a community well serving 40 families. This initiative provided reliable access to clean water, significantly improving living conditions and contributing to the long-term welfare of the village. The project also exemplifies a noble act of Sadaqathul Jariya, offering ongoing benefits to the community.

Through these initiatives, SLMQ has strengthened its commitment to community development, education, health, and empowerment. Each project reflects the organization's dedication to serving those in need, promoting sustainability, and creating lasting positive impact.

These achievements were made possible by the unwavering dedication of our members, volunteers, sponsors, and well-wishers. As we move forward, we remain committed to continuing this journey—overcoming challenges, empowering communities, and inspiring collective action for the betterment of society. May Allah continue to bless our efforts, strengthen our unity, and guide us in serving the community with sincerity, dedication, and excellence.

Jazakum Allahu Khairan.

**Ayoob Fazil**  
General Secretary



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## From Struggles to Strength — A Teacher's Tale

"Ummy, can you tell me a story?"

**That** was her two-year-old pleading as she sat on the staircase. She hesitated. If she paused even for a minute to reply, she would fall behind in her morning rush. With a heavy heart, she smiled through a teardrop. "For sure, I will once I come home," she said, lifting her daughter with one arm while balancing her handbag, book bag, meal, and dress bags in the other. Then came the routine of locking the door and the gate — shouldn't a mother have a few extra hands?

She dropped her little one off at her sister's place, took an auto, and hurried to school. The vice principal was always ready with a red pen to mark latecomers. This was the beginning of every morning for an ordinary teacher. If she gave in to feelings, the day would quickly slip away. A teacher's life was full: managing classes, pouring knowledge into little minds, correcting books, answering section heads' questions, and more. Amid this rush, the words of W. H. Davies often echoed in her mind:

*What is this life, if full of care*

*We have no time to stand and stare*

Yet her heart replied with Robert Frost's

lines:

*And miles to go before I sleep,*

*And miles to go before I sleep*

When the last bell rang, the race began again. Unplanned staff meetings often spoiled the evening schedule. Her sons, back from school, would call her (thankfully they had spare keys), "Mama, there's no gravy left in the curry!" The heat of the cooker had dried it up. "Boil some water and loosen it, my love," she would reply.

This was just a glimpse of the life she lived — truly challenging, wasn't it? With her husband working abroad, both the roles of mother and father rested on her. Yet she didn't let exhaustion or sadness take over. Her inner voice always whispered: "Do not immerse yourself in one aspect of life."

So she decided to face it. She believed deeply in the saying: *If a man is educated one person is educated, If a woman is educated the whole society is educated.*

Amid all the chaos, she pursued higher education, and completed her degree, studied religious knowledge, and began teaching it too. How was it possible? Only through the Almighty's blessings, careful planning, and hard work.

Challenges were never easy, but they were not impossible to overcome. To change a community, one must be equipped with knowledge, wisdom, courage and the ability to manage time and priorities. Dreams turned into reality only when these qualities worked together. She believed that one could be that small dot: the beginning of change in one's own community. When we endure challenges, we gain the strength to empower our communities.

By enduring every hardship with patience and faith, she not only rebuilt her own life but also gained something priceless — financial freedom. With it, she began helping others in need, quietly extending her hand wherever she could. This generosity wasn't limited to money. She shared her wisdom too. She constantly reminded the women around her to stay steadfast, to do sabr, to face life's trials with strength and trust in the Almighty.

In a country like Qatar, where English is the main medium of communication, many women find themselves struggling to express themselves, connect with others, or even work. She saw their silent battles and stepped forward. Using her knowledge, she guided them, teaching language, confidence, and faith; empowering them to stand on their own feet. She

believed that in such a community, education is not just a qualification, it is dignity, identity, and understanding. So she became a bridge, helping others cross from helplessness to hope.

Her hard-earned education became a light for those lost in the darkness of despair. Through counseling and teaching, she helped many women overcome mental stress, and even saved a few on the edge of suicidal thoughts. She reached their hearts through her understanding of both - religion and worldly life, reminding them that knowledge is healing, and faith is strength.

Some of her students had once never been able to read even a single word of Arabic. With her guidance, they learned not only to read and write — but also to teach their own children. That was her greatest victory, seeing her students pass the light forward.

Endurance shaped her. Knowledge strengthened her. Faith guided her. And through her, a community witnessed that when one woman endures with purpose, she empowers generations.

**Written by:**  
**An educator and member of the Sri Lankan community - Umm Maryam**

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## SpeakSpace- When I Turned My Silence into Everyone's Voice

**Silence** used to make me uncomfortable. It sat heavy in classrooms when students hesitated to speak. It lingered between friends when opinions felt too sharp to voice.

I have been on stages for as long as I can remember. I enjoyed it, being in front of an audience and sharing my "voice." But somewhere along the way, I realized what I had was confidence, not connection. I was able to speak, but I wasn't really saying anything that sparked thought, emotion, or change.

I have been told, "You can't talk about that," or "Maybe you shouldn't bring that up." And that's when I decided: If I am not going to get a platform to speak, I am going to make one. And that's how SpeakSpace was born; not from ambition but from rebellion.

SpeakSpace is a student-led initiative made to give young people the one thing every platform takes away: freedom. Freedom to speak about what matters, even when it is uncomfortable. Because the world doesn't change through whispers and untold stories, it changes through courage.

Working on SpeakSpace has not been as glamorous as I imagined. My balloon of delusion soon popped when I was at the receiving end of unanswered emails and endless rejections. But despite every no, I choose to keep going. I keep going because I imagine the first 16-year-old standing on stage, finally heard, finally seen. That possibility turns every obstacle into fuel and every challenge into a reason to push harder. On the flip side of the coin, the SLMQ

community has helped SpeakerSpace in many ways. They connected me to people with valuable knowledge about running initiatives like this, guided me in reaching an audience, and gave me the opportunity to write an essay for their platform. Their support has allowed me to grow, learn, and take the first step toward creating a stage for youth voices.

What I enjoy most about working for my community is seeing how an idea can inspire others even before it comes to life. Building SpeakSpace has shown me that people are curious, hopeful, and ready for something real. This process is not easy. Finding sponsors, getting organizations to believe in a student-led idea, and trying to turn a concept into something tangible has been a challenge. Progress feels slow at times, but I remind myself that a rainbow shows only after the rain.

Empowering youth to speak fearlessly is at the heart of SpeakSpace. This initiative aims to give young people a platform where their ideas, opinions, and stories can be shared without hesitation. By creating a safe, supportive space, I hope to inspire confidence and encourages the next generation to express themselves boldly and authentically.

I have realized that my silence has a purpose. It could grow into a thousand voices, each braver, louder, and freer than mine ever was. I haven't held the stage for others yet, but I am determined to make SpeakSpace a platform for a thousand voices to be heard.

**Written by:**  
**Iqra Ashkaf, Founder, SpeakerSpace**

## Where hearts gather, communities grow

**In** the hustle and bustle of life when time slips through our fingers in silence, there are rare moments which remind us of who we are and who we can become together. For many of us in Qatar, those moments bloom under the efforts of intracommunity initiatives. Like tender threads, their initiatives interlace people, stories, and souls into one vibrant tapestry - one of faith, unity, and hope.

I remember an event which was animated with the laughter of children and the echoes of their eager Qur'an recitations. This was an Islamic competition that was more than just a contest — it was a celebration of young minds discovering their voices. The joy on each child's face, whether holding a winner's certificate or a participation token, reflected a deeper truth: here every effort is valued; every spark is nurtured.

Then came Ramadan, the month of mercy. On a special Iftar evening, the community was gathered under one roof, answering a quiet call for togetherness. A long buffet, full of warmth and consideration, awaits. A sermon enters our hearts, and familiar faces light up the room. Differences melt away in that moment, and bonds are strengthened. For many of us, these moments are rare, when we meet and our paths converge at the thoughtfully planned community event.

Sports Day is a story written with laughter and energy. Children run freely,

their parents join in youthful spirit, and community volunteers guide them with care. From parents to children all of us were part of a community's celebration. Although prizes were shared, the actual reward was the joy etched on each face.

Volunteering at another community event remains one of the most precious chapters in my journey as an expatriate student in Qatar. I was assigned to the colouring competition. Surrounded by little artists from across Sri Lanka who picked their crayons with disciplined hands and bright eyes and called me "teacher". At 18, those words reached deep into my heart. It was a humbling reminder that leadership can bloom in the most unexpected places, and serving our community is a gift in itself. SLMQ honored volunteers with certificates, gift vouchers, snacks, and above all, respect, nurturing not just the participants, but also those who chose to serve by volunteering.

Be it any event, whether religious gathering, cultural celebration, or creative challenge - our community has shown that enduring challenges is easier when hearts unite. They empower children to shine, youth to lead, and communities to thrive. As SLMQ marks 25 years of service, its journey is one that still reminds us that true progress is not measured in by numbers but through the love, faith, and unity that keep a community alive.

**Written by:**  
**Rahna Rilwan**

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## Nourishing Lives, Empowering Women

In today's fast-paced world, one of the greatest challenges our community faces is maintaining a healthy lifestyle amidst the demands of work, family, and social responsibilities. As a Nutrition Coach and educator, I have witnessed how poor health choices, stress, and lack of awareness can quietly affect not only individuals but entire families. Yet, I have also seen how the right guidance, motivation, and faith-driven discipline can transform lives and empower our community from within.

As a certified nutrition coach I have supported and coached more than 500 women across the world—many of them Sri Lankan Muslims living in Qatar—on their journey from “fat to fit.”

My approach is simple but holistic: balanced nutrition, moderate exercise, and a strong sense of self-belief. Many women were struggling with health conditions such as PCOD, thyroid issues, and high blood pressure. Some were trying to conceive, while others simply wanted to regain their energy and confidence. Through personalized meal plans, gentle exercise routines, and emotional encouragement, I have seen remarkable transformations—both physical and spiritual.

What inspires me most is how this work extends beyond individual results. It has created a ripple effect within our community. When one woman regains her health, her family benefits. Children learn the importance of eating well. Husbands become more supportive and

involved. Families grow more positive and disciplined. Slowly, our community becomes stronger, healthier, and more resilient.

The theme “Enduring Challenges, Empowering Communities” deeply resonates with me. For many women, especially expatriates living far from home, the challenges are real—loneliness, limited access to health resources, cultural adjustments, and balancing multiple roles. Yet, by creating awareness, providing guidance, and fostering a sense of sisterhood, we can turn these challenges into opportunities for empowerment.

This Symposium is a reminder of how collective effort brings lasting change. Just as SLMQ has worked to uplift the Sri Lankan Muslim community in Qatar and Sri Lanka, I believe that each of us, in our own way, can contribute to this mission. Whether through education, health, or service. Our combined efforts shape a healthier and more hopeful future.

True empowerment begins when we lift others as we climb. Through nutrition and wellness, I strive to do my part—to help women discover their strength, rebuild their confidence, and embrace a life of balance and gratitude. Together, we can continue to nurture a community that is not only enduring but thriving.

**Written by:**  
**Fathima Hazara Haniffa Inas,**  
**Certified Nutrition Coach**

## When sports meets the community spirit

**Women** in Sports Qatar was founded with the hope of creating a safe, private, and supportive space exclusively for Sri Lankan women living in Qatar. This was going to be a place where we would come together, embrace fitness, and empower one another through sports and the community spirit.

What began simply for playing sports grew into a platform that held deeper importance. It became clear that this was not only about sports, it was something deeply necessary for women helping them both physically and mentally. Women In Sport Qatar grew into a source of strength, healing, and happiness for many.

Living abroad can be challenging. Between work, family, and daily responsibilities, many of us forget to make time for our own well-being, mental and physical. We get lost in the everyday routine and stress. WISQ changed that by creating a platform where women could prioritise their health, release stress, and feel strong and confident, within a ladies only, private and comfortable environment.

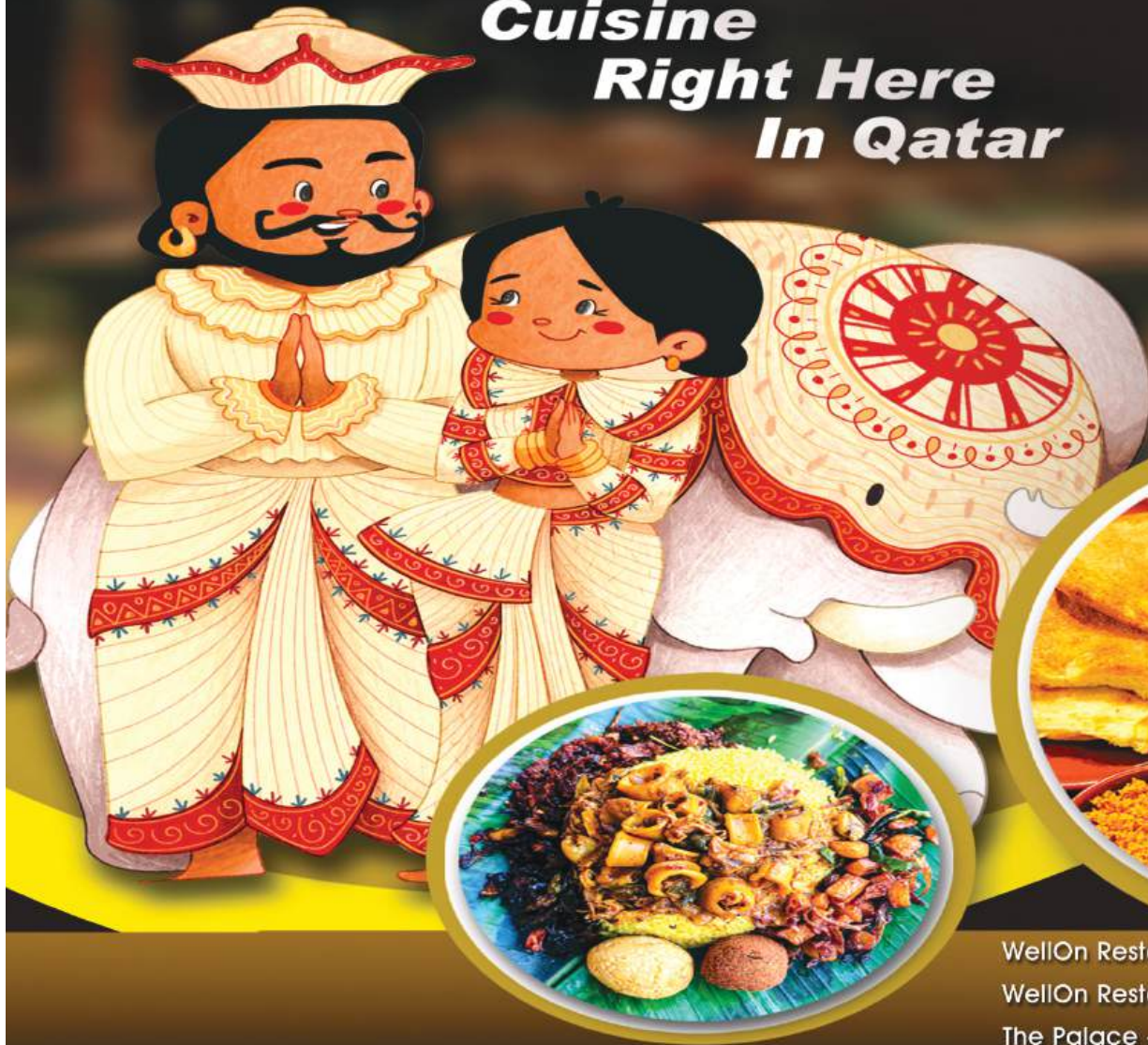
As the variety of sports and events expanded so did the number of women signing up. Apart from pursuing their passion for sports, many relieve stress, lose weight, and nurture their mental well-being. We as a community witnessed the physical, emotional, and

even spiritual upliftment in ourselves and became a source of inspiration for each other. When the members of WISQ share their happiness and success with the team about how much this initiative has helped them, we feel motivated to keep moving forward knowing this has all been worth the time and effort. This has led to expanding the scope of the work to include initiatives beyond fitness such as, fundraising initiatives for Sri Lankan medical projects through the embassy and supporting Sri Lankan families Qatar in difficult circumstances. This journey hasn't been without challenges, doubts and obstacles. The questions kept coming: Can a woman really do this? This won't even last a year. Women can't work together. In spite of all this, a clear vision in the power of unity, incredible team work, and family support have all stood the test of time.

Women in Sports Qatar is not just a fitness platform, it is a movement of empowerment, sisterhood, and service. It shows what we, as Sri Lankan women can achieve when we come together with sincerity, faith, and purpose. When one does something from the heart, purely to benefit others, Allah opens beautiful doors and surrounds us with the right people to make it possible. This is truly the essence of empowering a community.

**Written by**  
**Nuzaila Badurdeen,**  
**Founder, Women in Sports Qatar**

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## A baby, a pandemic, and the kindness of community

**It's** 2020. You are about to give birth to your first child. You have only your husband to support you. You are confined to Qatar in the peak of the pandemic unable to travel to Sri Lanka, where you will receive incomparable care from family.

On the one hand you are planning on welcoming your baby into a bright and positive environment despite what is going on in the world. On the other hand your mind is in turmoil. How will you manage post delivery? Who will bathe your baby? How will you manage to cook? How will you take care of yourself? Silent tears trickle down your face and you hold back the sobs. Feeling alone and scared, you hold onto yourself and try to calm yourself down. Your heart is heavy and you miss your mother.

In this background of worry and uncertainty a friend informs you about a "Meal Train". A group of ladies have come together to support first time mothers with home-cooked meals

and emotional support. The meals are wholesome, catered to postpartum, breastfeeding mothers. Someone would even step up to bathe the newborn on request, or simply share information on how to care for a newborn and the mother. Others step up further, going the extra mile visiting new mothers.

The Meal Train is by the community for the community. By mothers for mothers. It is a testament of the power of empathy and collective effort. It also shows the deep value of volunteerism and how it empowers the community. Here the ladies were volunteering their time and effort. Many women got to see it full circle. Those who prepared meals once for another postpartum mother received meals from that very same mother when she delivered her baby. One day, you will give back to the community what it gave you.

Written by  
Shamlina Mahroof,  
Co-Founder, Meal Train

## Enduring Challenges, and Empowering Communities through Youth Engagement

### Community

engagement in Qatar, where diverse populations coexist alongside the 10% Qatari locals, is a unique blessing and an opportunity to connect, learn, and grow. Having witnessed SLMQ's work in uplifting the Sri Lankan Muslim community in Qatar and reflecting on my own involvement with the Minaretein Center at the Education City Mosque, I'm honored to share insights on empowering youth and communities through meaningful engagement.

The Minaretein Center - the community engagement arm of the College of Islamic Studies at HBKU - serves as a spiritual and educational hub, blending sacred tradition with modern life. Open to residents and visitors from Qatar and beyond, the Center aims to transform, inspire, and connect its visitors. Experience has taught that catering to varied community needs is a formidable challenge.

Our youth engagement efforts encourage strong participation in weekly volunteer activations, Jumu'ah logistics, community iftars, educational workshops, and major gatherings like Eid ul-Fitr and Eid ul-Adha prayers at the Education City Stadium. Youth from all backgrounds unite at faith-based initiatives, building leadership, teamwork, and lasting bonds. These moments reflect the collective spirit we nurture.

Yet, challenges persist. Initial enthusiasm often fades, with youth becoming lethargic, pulled by social media distractions, societal pressures, or the demands of modern life. Sustaining their commitment is no small task. What makes the difference? Consistent, heartfelt encouragement—weekly WhatsApp invites, periodic review of their activities which get their work recognized, and , meeting youth at their level with a sincere "thank you" are small gestures that reignite their passion, keeping them engaged in service.

Looking ahead, we aim to further empower students and youth by creating more opportunities for meaningful involvement, gently expanding our initiatives to inspire sustained participation. In line with Qatar Foundation's broader vision for youth empowerment, we plan to introduce training and educational programs to equip young people with skills and values for leadership and community service, fostering their growth in a supportive, faith-centered environment.

In summary, enduring these challenges while fostering youth engagement has been a fulfilling journey, proving that with empathy, encouragement, and faith-centered opportunities, we can empower communities to thrive.

**Shahran Illiyas, Individual Contributor/  
Volunteer Lead at the Minaretein  
Center, Education City Mosque**



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## Enduring Challenges, Empowering Communities

**“There** *is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.*”- Margaret J. Wheatley  
Challenges are inevitable. They circle tirelessly, colliding with daily activities, and they become more interconnected and complex as time passes. They could become issues that last across generations, which means they require thoughtful, compassionate, and sustainable efforts to be addressed. This would require a community to work together to assist each other endure challenges.

A community is essential for every living being, for it provides support, connection, safety, and growth. Through community activities, we get to envision the power of how unity and cooperation create an astonishing transformation. United as the same blood, our spirit carries us to work together with compassion and purpose to help strengthen ties and grow as a whole in prosperity and security.

In Islam, a community plays a vital role in the bringing up of strong bonds among families. Islam emphasizes and encourages Muslims to support one another, share responsibilities and burdens, and foster a harmonious

community. The religion promotes getting to know each other better and to learn from one another. **The Quran says, “We have made you nations and tribes so you may get to know one another”** (49:13).

As for empowering the Sri Lankan Muslim community in Qatar, SLMQ has played a pivotal role in bringing families together, enhancing well-being, and creating practical support systems, through a host of programs for students, women and families in general.

For those of us at the receiving end of these programs (including myself), these initiatives make it easier to feel welcomed in a new land, surrounded by people who share the same culture, faith, and values. This is crucial because only when individuals feel understood, supported, and valued by others, they become more confident and resilient in facing challenges.

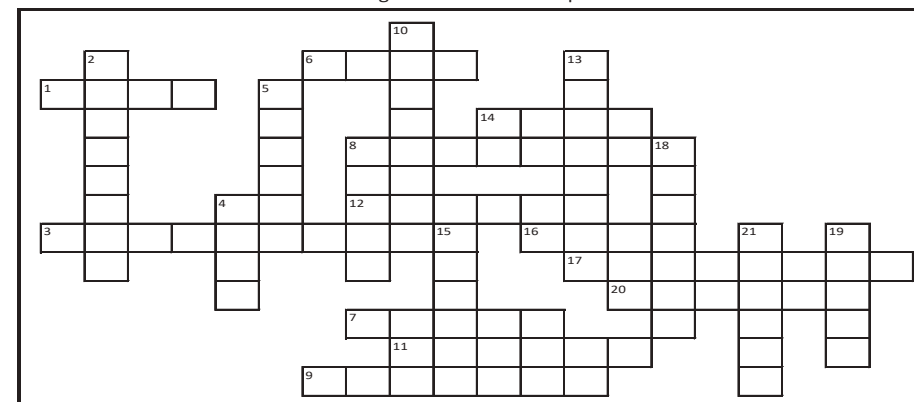
As quoted by Marianne Williamson, *“in every community, there is work to be done. In every nation, there are wounds to heal. In every heart, there is the power to do it.”*

**Written by  
Leena Athiya Dilshad**



### Culture Quest

It's all about Arabian Seas and Sri Lankan shores...  
Hitching two nations in one puzzle...



#### Across

- 1 A traditional Qatari wooden boat.
- 3 The main purpose of every expatriate.
- 6 The emblem on Qatar aircrafts' tailfins and branding.
- 7 Often called the "Holy fruit."
- 8 A scenic promenade with stunning skyline views and calm waters.
- 9 Express gratitude in Arabic.
- 11 UNESCO has added this Qatari city to its Global Creative Cities Network.
- 12 A venue that is a central aspect of Arabic hospitality.
- 14 The continent shared by both Qatar and Sri Lanka.
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_ bashing is a thrilling desert-safari activity.
- 17 A traditional and colorful parade held in Sri Lanka.
- 20 A cultural hub blending traditional Qatari architecture with modern facilities.

#### Down

- 2 A go-to food that's popular across the Middleast.
- 4 Market in Arabic.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ is a sentimental bond every expatriate yearns for.
- 8 The ship of the desert.
- 10 Sri Lankan way of greeting.
- 13 One of Sri Lanka's major exports.
- 15 A common mode of transportation in Sri Lanka.
- 18 The mandatory app used in Qatar during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 19 A key relationship between Qatar and Sri Lanka.
- 21 Middle Eastern expression for 'That's it!'

**By Fathima Hafsa Ayoob**

Ramadan Kareem

Lakbima Grand Restaurant

Sahan A

# Mutton Biryani Sahan

Maasi Sambol | Kaliya | Achchaar  
Watalappam | Soft Drink (Pepsi) 2.25 L

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Sahan B

# Chicken Biryani Sahan

Maasi Sambol | Kaliya | Achchaar  
Watalappam | Soft Drink (Pepsi) 2.25 L

QAR 120

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Lakbima Grand Restaurant

Sahan C

# Chicken & Beef Biryani Sahan

Maasi Sambol | Kaliya | Achchaar  
Watalappam | Soft Drink (Pepsi) 2.25 L

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Lakbima Grand Restaurant

# Thalappakattu Biryani Sahan

Keeri Samba Rice, Beef Kuruma  
Chicken Pallandi, Masi Sambol  
Green Peas, Achchar, Watalappam,  
Soft Drink (Pepsi) 2.25 L

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# Mutton Dum Biryani Sahan

Raita, Maasi Sambol, Achchar,  
Watalappam, Soft Drink (Pepsi) 2.25 L

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Ramadan Kareem

Lakbima Grand Restaurant

# Nasigoreng Mixed Sahan

Nasigoreng Rice, Chicken,  
Beef, Prawn, Cuttle Fish,  
Bulls-Eye, Salad, Watalappam  
and Soft Drink (Pepsi) 2.25 L

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## Enduring Challenges, Empowering Communities: Sri Lankan Muslims in Qatar

The Sri Lankan Muslim expatriate community in Qatar represents a resilient and dynamic group that has steadily grown over the past few decades. Drawn by economic opportunities and the promise of stability, thousands of Sri Lankan Muslims have made Qatar their temporary home, contributing to its development while maintaining strong ties to their heritage.

The Annual SLMQ Symposium is a landmark event that tackles challenges and fosters community empowerment through thoughtfully curated themes. These themes resonate deeply—not only within Qatar and Sri Lanka but also across global communities. Over the years, the Symposium has featured an impressive lineup of speakers, including intellectuals, rights activists, religious scholars and sports figures. From education to empowerment, advocating rights to promoting coexistence, the messages delivered have been profound

and far-reaching. Outside of Qatar SLMQ has long represented the community in Sri Lanka through local activities to enhance livelihood and education.

Empowerment within the expatriate community has taken many forms. Education is a key pillar—many Sri Lankan Muslims in Qatar prioritize schooling for their children, often enrolling them in international schools or community-run institutions that blend Islamic values with academic excellence. Guidance programs for newcomers, vocational training programs and other youth initiatives help Sri Lankan residents improve their soft skills and career prospects. SLMQ has stepped in to assist in these specific areas at various levels over the past two decades. Competitions such as public speaking, essay writing, and art—organized to commemorate Sri Lanka’s Independence Day—serve as meaningful platforms for children to explore and appreciate the rich history and heritage of their motherland.

A challenge for many expatriates is the emotional distance from family and homeland. SLMQ has worked as a platform to counter this, especially during celebratory periods like Ramadan and Eid, which are traditionally celebrated with extended family. Religious events, charity drives, and cultural programs are initiatives that preserve identity but also foster solidarity among diverse subgroups within the Muslim community.

Among SLMQ’s most impactful initiatives within Sri Lanka are programs that help single and widowed women achieve economic independence and live with dignity. Time and time again SLMQ has responded to calamities in Sri Lanka leading relief efforts successfully. From the Tsunami to floods, to racial tensions SLMQ has mobilizing resources and providing aid both independently and in collaboration with partner organizations in Qatar.

Women in the Sri Lankan community in Qatar too are increasingly stepping into leadership roles in recent years — organizing events and participating in community development. Their contributions are vital in shaping a more inclusive and forward-looking expatriate community away from home.

Despite the challenges, Sri Lankan Muslims in Qatar continue to thrive by building networks of support, embracing opportunities, and staying rooted in their values. As Qatar moves forward towards a more diversified and inclusive future, the Sri Lankan Muslim community stands as a testament to the strength of its resilience. Our journey reflects not only the pursuit of economic betterment but also the enduring spirit of a people committed to uplifting themselves and those around them.


**Written by  
Mohammed Lafir Junaideen**

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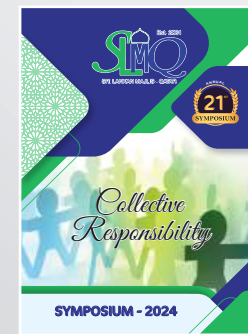


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# Symposium 2024



**SLMQ** proudly hosted its landmark 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium on 25th October 2024 at Time Rako Hotel, Wakrah, bringing together member families, community leaders, professionals, sponsors, and distinguished dignitaries. The event was held under the inspiring theme “Collective Responsibility,” reaffirming SLMQ’s commitment to fostering unity, strengthening communities, and driving meaningful social development.

A key highlight of the evening was the enriching pre-recorded video messages delivered by renowned guest speakers Dr. Zakir Naik and Sheikh Yawar Baig. Their powerful reflections on

the concept of collective responsibility—rooted in Islamic values and cultural perspectives—resonated deeply with the audience, encouraging a renewed sense of shared purpose, compassion, and communal duty.

The Symposium also marked several significant milestones for SLMQ, including the relaunch of the official website, the release of a commemorative souvenir, and a special video presentation showcasing SLMQ’s remarkable journey from 2001 to 2024. These initiatives highlighted the organization’s continued growth and its unwavering dedication to serving the Sri Lankan Muslim community in Qatar.



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# Islamic Competition 2024



On 29th November 2024, the Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) proudly hosted the Islamic Competition 2024—an inspiring and vibrant gathering that united hundreds of young participants between the ages of 3 and 17. The competition featured two key segments: Qur’an Memorization and the Islamic Knowledge Quiz, both designed to nurture a deeper love, understanding, and connection to Islamic teachings among our youth.

The event saw enthusiastic participation across all age groups, with children showcasing impressive dedication, discipline, and

enthusiasm for learning. Their performances reflected not only their hard work but also the strong guidance and encouragement they receive from parents, teachers, and the wider community.

Families and well-wishers filled the venue, transforming it into a warm and spirited environment of support and celebration. The joyful energy, coupled with the admirable efforts of the participants, made the Islamic Competition 2024 a memorable and impactful event—one that continues to reinforce SLMQ’s commitment to uplifting and empowering the next generation.

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# SLMQ Annual General Meeting 2024 & Family Gathering



**Sri Lankan** Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) successfully hosted its much-anticipated Family Gathering and Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024 on December 27, 2024, bringing together members for a memorable day of fellowship, reflection, and renewal.

The event began with a series of engaging family-oriented activities, including fun games for children and interactive sessions that created a lively environment for families to connect, bond, and strengthen community ties.

After the recreational segment, the formal AGM was convened. Members were presented with a comprehensive overview of SLMQ's

projects and achievements during 2024, both in Qatar and Sri Lanka. The Executive Committee also shared the annual financial report and highlighted the major milestones and community initiatives completed throughout the year. Members actively participated in the discussions, reaffirming their dedication to SLMQ's mission and long-term vision.

A key highlight of the AGM was the election of the new Executive Committee for the 2025 term, marking the beginning of another chapter of committed service and leadership.

The event concluded with a warm and enjoyable shared meal, beautifully capturing the spirit of unity, togetherness, and camaraderie that continues to define SLMQ.

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# SLMQ Celebrates Qatar National Sports Day 2025



On February 11, 2025, the Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) proudly celebrated Qatar National Sports Day 2025 with a vibrant and energetic event held at Stafford Sri Lankan School Qatar. The gathering brought together SLMQ members, their families, and invited guests for a fun-filled day dedicated to sportsmanship, wellness, and community togetherness.

With the aim of promoting physical activity and healthy living, the celebration featured the SLMQ Futsal Tournament and SLMQ Volleyball Tournament for men, with dedicated categories for Veterans, Youth, and Junior players. These tournaments created an exciting and competitive atmosphere, offering opportunities for participants of all ages and skill levels to engage in sports.

Special arrangements were thoughtfully made for ladies and children. The SLMQ Ladies Cricket Tournament and SLMQ Ladies Badminton Tournament were organized exclusively for spouses and daughters of SLMQ members, promoting active participation and enjoyment. Additionally, Skipping Rope Races, Relay Races for girls, and a series of entertaining games for young children ensured that the event was truly inclusive and enjoyable for all.

Beyond the athletic activities, the celebration served as a meaningful platform to strengthen unity, teamwork, and community spirit. SLMQ extends its sincere appreciation to all participants, supporters, and sponsors whose enthusiasm and contributions made the Qatar National Sports Day 2025 celebration a memorable success.

# 77<sup>th</sup> Sri Lankan Independence Day Competition



The Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) successfully organized the 77<sup>th</sup> Sri Lankan Independence Day Competition on February 14, 2025, at Stafford Sri Lankan School Qatar, marking yet another vibrant celebration of Sri Lankan culture, talent, and heritage. Supported by the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Qatar, this annual event has evolved into a flagship community occasion, bringing together students and families through meaningful competitions and rich cultural engagement.

This year's competition witnessed an exceptional response, with over 650 registrations from more than 500 Sri Lankan students representing various schools across Qatar. Participants demonstrated their creativity, intellect, and passion across a diverse range of categories, including Young Writers, Young Speakers, Young Poets, Young Artists, Young Colorists, and Young Masterminds. The event served as a platform to celebrate the outstanding artistic and academic abilities of our youth.



A notable highlight of the event was the presentation of the SLMQ Youth Icon Award at the 2025 Independence Day Competition (IDC), recognizing exceptional performers from the Senior and Intermediate categories. This award honors young individuals who exemplify excellence, dedication, and leadership—qualities that serve as an inspiration to their peers and uplift the broader Sri Lankan community.

The 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Competition stands as a proud testament to the unity, strength, and growing potential of our youth as they continue to uphold and celebrate the rich heritage of Sri Lanka in Qatar.

## Ramadan Talk 2025



**SLMQ** conducted a truly inspiring Ramadan Talk on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025, titled “Are You Ready for This Ramadan?” The session, delivered by Sheikh Hasan Fareed (from Sri Lanka), offered valuable guidance on spiritual preparation, self-discipline, and making the most of the blessings of this sacred month. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Sheikh Hasan Fareed and all attendees for their participation in making this event a memorable and enlightening experience.

This talk reflects SLMQ's ongoing commitment to religious activities, aimed at nurturing spiritual growth and strengthening our connection with Allah. The engaging discussion highlighted the importance of sincerity, intention, and consistency in our Ramadan journey. May the insights shared inspire everyone to embrace this Ramadan as a time of meaningful reflection, growth, and transformation.

## The SLMQ Iftar 2025



The SLMQ Iftar 2025 was held on 7 March 2025 at Time Rako Hotel, Wakrah, bringing together nearly 100 families for an evening of spiritual reflection and community togetherness.

The gathering began with the blessed moment of iftar, followed by a heartfelt bayan by As Sheikh Abdul Aziz Shakir, inspiring attendees with reflections on Ramadan, devotion, and the importance of family and community bonds.

Attendees were then able to engage in Isha and Taraweeh prayers in a serene and welcoming environment, continuing the spirit of worship in a communal setting.

The evening concluded with a warm and delightful dinner, fostering fellowship, joy, and the true spirit of unity that defines the holy month of Ramadan. The event was a beautiful celebration of faith, reflection, and togetherness, leaving lasting memories for all who attended.

## Islamic Competition 2025



On the 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2025, SLMQ successfully conducted the Islamic Day Competition 2025 at FANAR – Sheikh Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Islamic Cultural Center. The event brought together more than 450 students across five age groups—from our enthusiastic kids and sub-juniors to our confident juniors, intermediates, and seniors—creating a beautiful celebration of faith, learning, and community spirit. Participants showcased their dedication and love for Islam through three key categories:

- Qur'an Memorization
- Du'a Recitation
- Islamic Quiz

Each competition reflected the students' hard work, commitment, and growing connection to Islamic knowledge. The Islamic Day Competition 2025 once again highlighted SLMQ's continued efforts to nurture faith, character, and learning among the younger generation.



**SRI LANKAN MAJLIS - QATAR**  
(Under the Patronage of the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Qatar)

**Islamic Competition - 2025**  
**AWARD CEREMONY**

**26<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Venue: Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud Cultural Center  
FANAR AUDITORIUM

## SLMQ Ladies' Workshop



The SLMQ successfully conducted the Ladies' Workshop – Empower, Learn & Grow! on 25th April 2025, in collaboration with Austin Consulting. This special sisters-only workshop was designed to equip women with practical, hands-on skills in a supportive and empowering environment.

Participants engaged in a series of enriching sessions, including:

- Start Your Own Business – Practical tools and guidance to begin an entrepreneurial journey
- Basic First Aid – Essential skills for handling kitchen hazards and common home emergencies

- Coffee Skills – Barista techniques and a live coffee-making demonstration
- Professional Baking – Hands-on baking methods and expert tips

Held at Austin Consulting, Sports Accelerator, Aspire Zone, the workshop offered a meaningful platform for learning, networking, and personal growth.

The event was warmly received by participants, reflecting SLMQ's continued commitment to empowering women and creating opportunities for skill development within the community.

## Environmental Cleanup Drive – Singing Sand Dunes



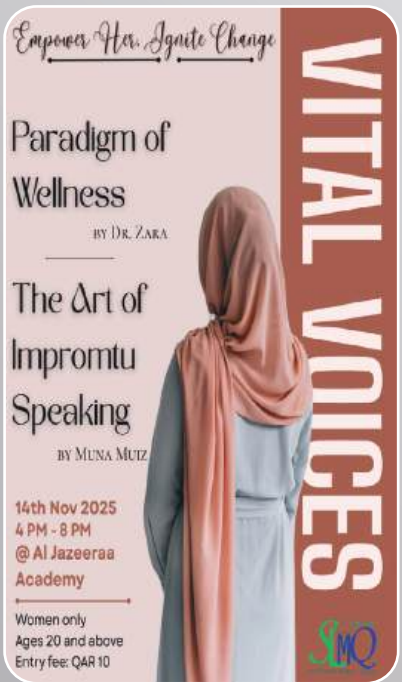
On Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025, the Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) organized an Environmental Cleanup Drive at the iconic Singing Sand Dunes. The event brought together families, volunteers, and children in a collective effort to preserve one of Qatar’s natural landmarks.

This initiative was designed not only as a community service activity but also as an opportunity to instill environmental awareness and responsibility in our younger generation. Participants joined hands to clean the surrounding areas, demonstrating unity, care for nature, and a commitment to maintaining a sustainable and beautiful environment.

The cleanup drive served as a meaningful reminder that protecting the Earth begins with small, consistent actions. By engaging children and families, SLMQ continues to inspire a culture of respect for nature and encourages active involvement in environmental stewardship.

Together, we made a positive impact — one step closer to a cleaner and greener community.

## Vital Voices – Wellness & Communication Workshop



On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025, the Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) organized a transformative Wellness & Communication Workshop for Sri Lankan Muslim Ladies, titled “Vital Voices”, held at Al Jazeera Academy, Abu Hamour.

This inspiring event featured two engaging and empowering sessions:

- “Paradigm of Wellness: A Journey Towards Wholeness”  
A wellbeing session conducted by Dr. Zara Khan, focusing on nurturing inner balance, understanding emotional health, and managing stress with practical strategies for daily life.
- “The Art of Impromptu Speaking”  
A dynamic communication workshop led by Muna Moiz, designed to enhance confidence, clarity, and spontaneity in speaking, helping participants express themselves with poise and purpose.

The workshop provided a meaningful platform for sisters to connect, share experiences, and grow together. Through learning, reflection, and interaction, participants were encouraged to prioritize their wellbeing and embrace the strength of their unique voices.

## SLMQ Funds Rebuilding a Health Clinic in Sri Lanka



In the rural village of Nammuwawa Heelagoma, Nikaweratiya – Sri Lanka, a health clinic serving pregnant women received much-needed support through an important SLMQ community welfare initiative. The clinic's roof had deteriorated significantly over time, creating safety concerns for both patients and healthcare workers.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, SLMQ stepped in to provide the funds required to rebuild the clinic's roof and to upgrade its seating facilities. This intervention ensures that expectant mothers in the area can continue to access safe, reliable, and dignified healthcare services. The newly reconstructed roof now offers protection from the elements while creating a more secure and comfortable environment for both patients and staff.

This project stands as a testament to SLMQ's unwavering commitment to community welfare. By identifying and addressing essential local needs—especially in critical areas such as maternal healthcare—SLMQ strives to make a meaningful, lasting impact in the lives of those who need it most.

## SLMQ funds a waterline project for a School in Sri Lanka



The Sri Lankan Majlis – Qatar (SLMQ) proudly funded a vital waterline project for MN/Periyamadhu Maha Vidyalayam in Mannar, Sri Lanka. This essential initiative was undertaken to address the school's long-standing challenge of limited access to clean and reliable water.

By supporting the installation of a proper waterline system, SLMQ has helped ensure that both students and staff can benefit from a healthier, safer, and more conducive learning environment. Access to clean water is a fundamental necessity—critical not only for daily school operations but also for the overall well-being, hygiene, and dignity of the school community.

This project reflects SLMQ's unwavering commitment to education and community welfare. Through initiatives like this, we continue to support schools in remote areas, empowering students with better facilities and contributing to their long-term growth and development.

## SLMQ Supports Gaza Evacuee Children with Essential Furniture Donation



The Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) extended its support to the children of Gaza evacuees currently residing in the Gazan Evacuees Compound in Qatar. The executive committee visited the compound and donated tables and chairs to enhance the children's activity room in the Volunteer Program Building. Through this donation, the SLMQ has addressed a much-needed requirement, creating a welcoming and functional space for the children to engage in activities, learn, and play.

The newly equipped activity room gives these young minds a sense of normalcy and comfort amidst their traumatic circumstances.

SLMQ remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting communities in need through impactful initiatives that inspire hope and positivity. This gesture reflects the power of community and collective responsibility, underscoring SLMQ's dedication to welfare and education for those in need.

## SLMQ Support School's Restoration Project in Sri Lanka



The SLMQ initiated a restoration project for Bakinigahawela Muslim Central College – Bibile, Monaragala, where it repaired and restored the School tables and chairs for its students. As part of our ongoing commitment to enhancing the learning environment for students, this initiative was a vital step toward providing a comfortable, safe, and conducive space for education.



compassion and commitment that truly bring such transformative projects to life, proving that when we come together, we can create waves of positive change.

### SLMQ Self-Employment Support Project has three main objectives

- To Empower Families: By enabling a stable source of income, we help families achieve financial independence and security.
- To Support Livelihood Development: SLMQ provides not just funds, but a foundation upon which individuals can build and expand their skills and businesses.
- To Provide Meaningful Relief: We aim to offer a hand-up, not a hand-out, to those in our community who are navigating challenging circumstances.

The true success of this project is reflected in the faces and stories of our beneficiaries. Presented below is a summary of the individuals whose dreams are now taking flight, thanks to your support:

- Mrs. Juwairiya K. Warmarani (Thambalagamam, Eastern Province): Widowed mother of four, she is currently facing significant financial challenges. Mrs. Warmarani requested support to improve her tailoring business. SLMQ provided the necessary initial aid to develop her enterprise, aiming to help her generate a sustainable income.
- Mrs. Salma Sadurshiny (Colombo 03): A single mother raising one child, is seeking support to improve her existing tailoring business. SLMQ enabled her with the necessary initial aid to develop her business, aiming to help her generate a regular source of income.
- Mrs. Nusra Nayomi (Colombo 14): she recently became widowed and is currently the sole caretaker

In the spirit of Empowering Communities and fostering resilience with sustainable growth within our community, the Sri Lankan Majilis (SLMQ) is proud to announce the successful implementation of its Self-Employment Support Project.

With a significant investment, this initiative marks a profound commitment to empowering individuals with the tools they need to build a brighter, self-reliant future.

This project was born from a simple yet powerful belief: that meaningful, tailored support can transform a livelihood, uplift a family, and strengthen the very fabric of our society. It is an initiative that moves beyond temporary aid, focusing instead on creating lasting economic opportunities for those facing genuine hardship.

Recognizing that the success of such a venture depends on diligent oversight, SLMQ partnered with the NIDA Foundation to facilitate and monitor the project. Their invaluable on-ground expertise ensured that each beneficiary's proposal was viable, that funds were utilized effectively, and that ongoing mentorship was provided. This careful, partnership-based approach guarantees the long-term sustainability of each small enterprise, turning a one-time grant into a lasting source of income.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering generosity of our members and sponsors. This entire project was funded through your annual subscriptions and voluntary donations and sponsorships. Every contribution, big or small, became a seed planted in the fertile ground of community progress. It is your

## Futures: SLMQ's Self-Employment Support Project

of her four children. Mrs. Nayomi is experiencing severe financial hardship and sought assistance in establishing a reliable source of income. SLMQ supported the start of a small-scale grocery shop, which generates the necessary funds to sustain her family.

- Mrs. Jarmi Vijayalakshmi (Thambalagamam, Eastern Province. A separated individual, she is the primary provider for herself and her three children, generating income through a modest local shop. SLMQ supported Mrs. Vijayalakshmi with financial aid, ensuring financial stability and scalability by improving and enhancing her existing grocery business operations as a sustainable source of revenue.
- Mrs. Fareena Padmini (Kolonnawa): A long-term resident, she is currently widowed and faces the challenging dual responsibility of being the sole provider and primary caregiver for her 14-year-old daughter who has a mental disability, requiring constant attention and specialized care. To support her home-based shop, SLMQ provided support to improve and expand her existing grocery business. This assistance has ensured she can generate a substantial and reliable income stream while continuing to provide essential care for her dependent daughter.
- M. H. M. Irshad (Kolonnawa): He is an Aalim. Despite his religious qualification, Mr. Irshad currently earns a low income, making it challenging to meet his family's financial needs. The primary source of supplementary income for his family has been his wife's small, home-based sewing operation. SLMQ provided financial aid to improve and expand this tailoring business. This essential support has ensured Mr. Irshad's family can generate a sustainable and reliable income.
- Abdullah Sinnathambi (Thambalagamam): His ability to provide for his family was severely impacted when

an accident left him unable to continue his work as a daily wage laborer. To build a sustainable future for Mr. Sinnathambi and his family, SLMQ provided financial aid to improve his grocery business. This support helped him to transform his small home shop into a stable and reliable source of income, ensuring his long-term financial resilience.

Each story is a testament to the potential that exists within our community, waiting only for an opportunity to flourish.

As we celebrate the launch of these new ventures, SLMQ extends its deepest gratitude to every member and the sponsors, and the NIDA Foundation for their pivotal roles in this journey. Together, we are not just funding projects; we are nurturing hope, fostering dignity, and building a more prosperous and self-sufficient community for all.

Let us continue to support one another and write many more success stories in the years to come.



## Financial Support for the Widows' Sewing Project



SLMQ extended financial assistance to the Widows' Sewing Project, coordinated by the NKR Guidance Centre, Madurankuliya. Through this initiative, five second-hand sewing machines, along with essential garment accessories, were provided to support widows in starting their own small income-generating ventures.

This valuable contribution has played a significant role in empowering widows, enabling them to develop important sewing skills and build a sustainable source of livelihood. The support offered has brought renewed hope to several families and strengthened our commitment to uplifting those in need. Your generosity continues to inspire our mission of service and community development.

## SLMQ Funds Washroom Restoration for School in Sri Lanka



The Sri Lanka Majlis – Qatar (SLMQ) successfully completed the washroom restoration project at MN/Zahira G.M.M.S Alakkaddu, Podkerny, Mannar, in December 2024. This initiative was undertaken as part of SLMQ’s ongoing commitment to improving educational infrastructure and promoting the well-being of students in underserved communities.

The project addressed a critical need by renovating the school’s washroom facilities, ensuring improved hygiene, sanitation, and overall safety for both students and staff. The upgraded facilities now offer a clean, safe, and functional environment—an essential foundation for a healthy learning atmosphere.

The restored washrooms are expected to positively influence student attendance, comfort, and confidence, ultimately contributing to enhanced academic performance and a more supportive school experience.

This initiative stands as a meaningful example of SLMQ’s dedication to uplifting communities and creating lasting impact through targeted, welfare-driven projects.

## Management Service Officers - Competitive Examination Preparation Training and Seminar



Open Competitive Examination for Management Service Officer - 2025

### One day Free Guidance Seminar

14.09.2025

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**SLMQ**  
SRI LANKAN MAJLIS - QATAR

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*'Education is the Ability to meet Life's Situations'*

### கிராம சேவகர் பதவிக் கு ஆட்சேர்ப்பு கருத்தரங்கு

14.09.2025

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‘Education is the Ability to meet Life’s Situations’

The Sri Lankan Government annually conducts an open competitive examination to recruit Management Service Officers. Securing a position in the Sri Lankan Government service requires proper guidance and training, as applicants must demonstrate strong language proficiency and Intelligence Quotient (IQ) skills during the rigorous examination.

Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) proudly sponsored a specialized Seminar for the Competitive Examination to Recruit Management Service Officers, held on September 14, 2025. SLMQ supported this initiative to train and guide applicants across the island, helping them to enhance the knowledge and IQ skills required for the competitive exams.

The seminar was specifically designed to fully cover all aspects including the IQ component of the examination, providing participants with essential knowledge, effective techniques, and crucial preparation strategies.

The session was conducted by Mr. Afrose Ahamed, the resource person for this important program. Mr. Ahamed is a highly qualified officer, holding positions in both the Sri Lanka Administrative Service (SLAS) and the Sri Lanka Education

Administrative Service (SLEAS) from the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

The seminar successfully attracted over 120 Tamil-medium applicants from across the island. This strong turnout reflects the high interest among minority students and job seekers in successfully entering the state service. The event was efficiently managed and coordinated by the Naviguys Team in Puttalam. This initiative is expected to significantly benefit young graduates, and job seekers by equipping them with the confidence and skills needed to compete effectively. Ultimately, the program aims to increase minority representation and diversity within the state service, contributing to a more inclusive government workforce.

This successful educational program would not have been possible without the extraordinary support and dedication of our community. SLMQ extends its deepest gratitude to all its members for their generous annual contributions and to the external sponsors whose assistance was invaluable. This financial backing is critical, as it directly enables vital initiatives like this. By investing in education and upskilling, we are actively working to empower communities, increase competitive ability, and foster greater representation within the state service.

## Community Well Project - Radagama, Hettipola

The persistent water shortage in Radagama, Hettipola, is not merely a resource constraint but a deep-rooted socio-economic crisis that severely impacts the well-being and stability of the community. This crisis affects over 40 families, comprising both Sinhala and Tamil residents in the area.

The lack of access to a free, reliable water source translates directly into significant financial hardship for the low-income residents of Radagama, most of whom are dependent on daily wage labor. Water is currently supplied via private tankers and sold at a rate of Rs. 2 per liter. For low-income families, this non-discretionary expenditure severely depletes meager daily earnings. A family's purchase of tanker water, which only lasts four or five days, forces them into a continuous cycle of expense and scarcity.

The absence of local water sources forces residents, primarily women, to undertake arduous and time-consuming daily journeys to fetch water from distant locations. The fetched supply often lasts for only two or three days. The level of scarcity has driven families to desperate conservation measures, such as reusing rice-washing water for clothes washing and other basic tasks.

Women report difficulties maintaining personal hygiene standards, especially when men are not available to assist with fetching water. The crisis significantly disrupts the education of children and dramatically worsens during the dry season. The substantial time and energy dedicated to fetching and conserving water detract from time allocated for education. This makes it very difficult to send children to school and negatively impacts overall educational engagement. During the dry season, local wells completely run dry, escalating distress within the community and

leaving no water for essential needs, including children.

Recognizing the severe nature of the water crisis, Sri Lankan Majles Qatar undertook this critical initiative with serious commitment and focused engagement.

To provide the villagers of Radagama, Hettipola, with a clean, steady, and sustainable water supply, SLMQ partnered with the Nida Foundation to execute the construction of a comprehensive water system.

This project involved the construction of: A Deep Well (Tube Well); To access reliable, subterranean water sources that are resilient to seasonal drought. An Overhead Storage Tank; To ensure continuous, water distribution to the community, providing readily available water. Funding for this vital project was made possible through a combination of resources, including annual contributions from the wider SLMQ membership and generous sponsorship. Critical to the project's success, however, was the leadership and financial backing provided by three senior SLMQ members who contributed a significant and defining portion of the overall project cost.

A Noble Act of Sadaqathul Jariya: This Deep Well Water Project is considered a profound act of Sadaqathul Jariya (perpetual charity). The continuous flow of clean water to the needy families of Radagama offers continuous, long-lasting rewards to everyone involved—the donors, the implementing partners, and the organization—bringing enduring benefit to the families who now depend on it for life and livelihood.

This initiative is a testament to the power of collective charity in transforming lives and providing fundamental human necessities.

## IDC Winning Art & Drawings



- Awards for Young Colorists:**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Athiyya Thameem
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Nasheeth Thameem
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Aadhil Ahamed Mohammed Afham



- Awards for Young Artist - Junior Category:**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Mohamed Hassan Minhaj
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Abdullah Abdul Rahman Lebbe
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Fathima Zainab Minhaj



- Awards for Young Artist - Sub Junior Category:**
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Ahamed Mohamed Ansaf
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Himayatullah Rifsikhan
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Hiba Hajar



## IDC Winning Articles

### Sri Lanka: The Future

In the heart of oceans, the future gleams,  
Sri Lanka rises, chasing brighter dreams.  
With innovation's spark and courage  
untold,  
A land of promise, a story unfolds.

From misty hills to the golden shore,  
New hopes arise, to soar and explore.  
With green technology and hearts that  
strive,  
Sri Lanka thrives, and begins to thrive.

Cities hum with a rhythm of grace,  
A fusion of cultures, a vibrant space.  
The youth, the architects of change,  
Build bridges to worlds that once seemed  
strange.

With wisdom deep as ancient roots,  
The island grows with fresh pursuits.  
Beneath the stars, the future gleams,  
Sri Lanka's path is woven with dreams.

Here, progress blooms, yet stays serene,  
Nature's embrace and vision keen.  
In unity, the future's bright,  
Sri Lanka shines, a guiding light.

**Rakeeb Sohail Rauff**  
Winner of Young Poets Award –  
Intermediate – IDC 2025

### Ode to Sri Lanka

Oh Emerald Isle, where oceans greet,  
A land where heavens and earth meet.  
Crowned with the skies of azure hue,  
Sri Lanka, vibrant, bold and true.

The golden sands that hug your shore,  
Speaks tales of travellers, now and yore.  
Fishermens' nets in the twilight glow,  
Catches the rhythm when the tides flow.

Oh land of spices and fragrant air!  
Cardamom, cinnamon, treasures rare.  
Rich is the soil that gifts the earth,  
Fields of rice and roots of mirth.

Beneath the skies of sapphire blue,  
An island blooms with every hue!  
Sri Lanka, a land of endless charms.  
You hold the world within you arms.

Sigiriya stands a lions roar,  
A tale of kings and ancient lore.  
Sacred temples, their bells resound,  
Echoing prayers, heaven bound.

Oh isle of my dreams, so lush, so free,  
A dance of the ocean, a song of the sea.  
In your arms the world finds peace...  
Sri lanka, may your beauty never cease

**Athika Nifraz**  
Winner of Young Poets Award –  
Senior – IDC 2025

### Why Sri Lanka Stands Out on the Global Stage

Sri Lanka, often called the "Pearl of the Indian Ocean," is a country that shines on the global stage due to its rich cultural heritage, breathtaking natural beauty, and significant contributions to international affairs.

One of the key aspects that make Sri Lanka unique is its cultural heritage. With a history spanning over 2,500 years, the country boasts ancient cities like Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, magnificent temples, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as Sigiriya. These landmarks attract tourists and showcase the island's deep-rooted traditions.

Sri Lanka's natural beauty is another reason for its global recognition. From pristine beaches to lush rainforests and picturesque tea plantations in the central highlands, the country is a biodiversity hotspot. It is also home to wildlife sanctuaries that protect elephants, leopards, and rare bird species.

Economically, Sri Lanka plays a crucial role in global trade due to its strategic location. Its ports serve as major hubs for international shipping. Additionally, the country's tea industry is world-famous, with Ceylon tea being a top export.

Moreover, Sri Lanka actively participates in global initiatives, including peacekeeping missions and environmental conservation efforts. These contributions highlight the nation's commitment to global progress.

In conclusion, Sri Lanka stands out for its rich history, natural wonders, economic significance, and global involvement, making it a remarkable country on the world stage.

**Fathima Aaliyah Mohamed Shafeer**  
Winner of Young Writers –  
Intermediate– IDC 2025

## Founder Members



Mr. Ikram Thowfeek



Mr. Fazlul Haq



Mr. Nazeem Yakooob



Mr. Mohamed Mansoor



Mr. Hilmy Ghaffoor



Mr. Ameerudeen Moulana



Mr. Mohamed Fahmy



Mr. Mustafa Muhajireen



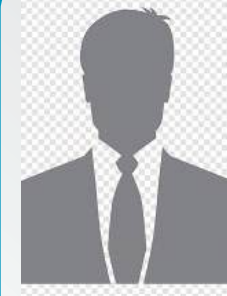
Mr. Mohammed Ziyam



Mr. Arshad Ahmed

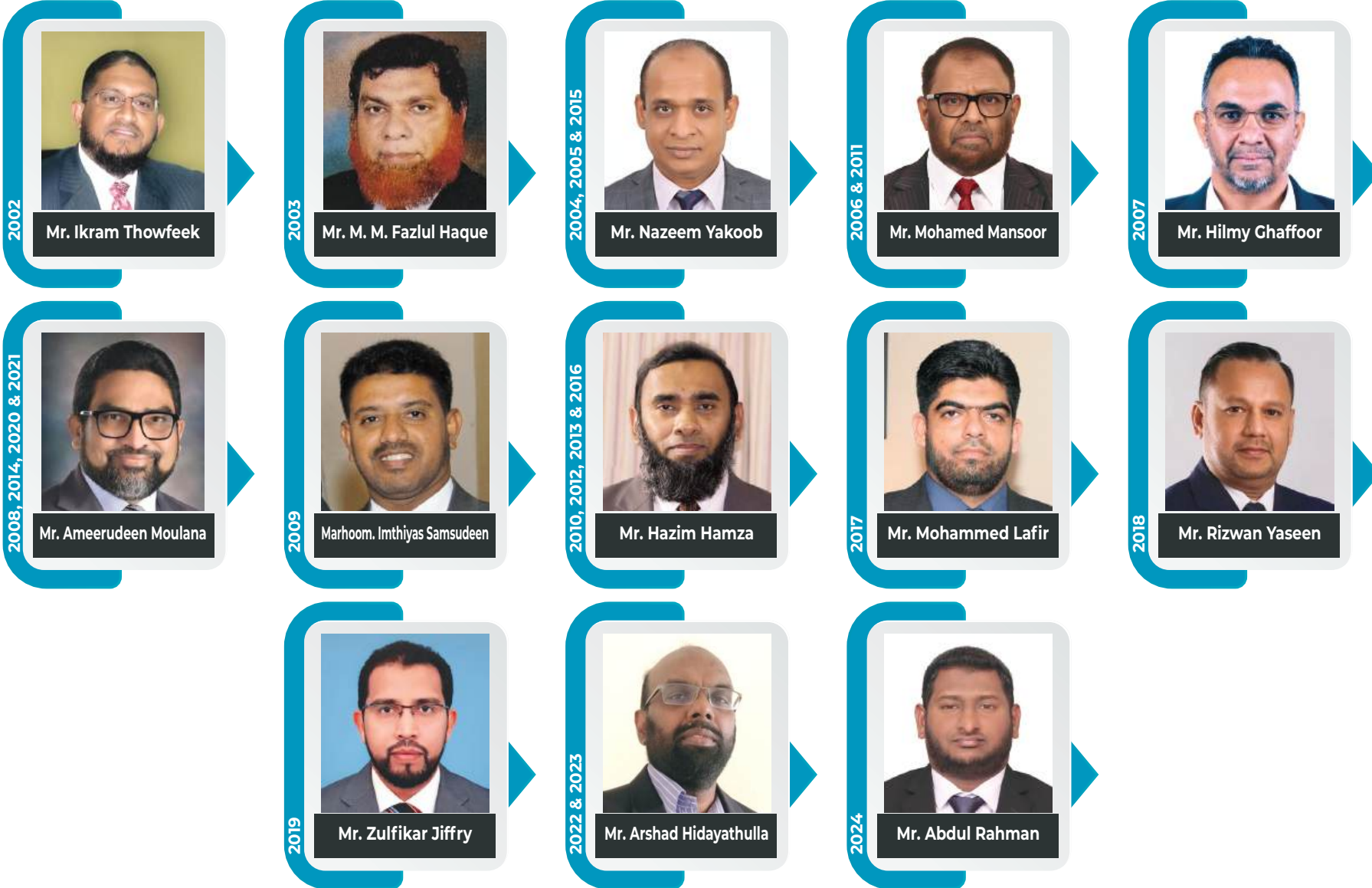


Mr. Akram Iqbal



Mr. Mohamed Shamil

## Past Presidents



## SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE 2025



**From Left Seated:**

Ayoob Fazil  
HH Roshan Sithara Khan Azard  
Nazly Yoosof

**From Left Standing:**

Zahir Osama, Mohamed Rusaiké  
Wazim Akram, Arshad Hidayathulla  
Abdul Rahman, Faheem Raheem  
Mohamed Nifras, Mohamed Nishran

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2025



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HH Roshan Sithara Khan Azard - **Patron**  
Nazly Yoosoof - **President**

**From Left Standing:**

Wazim Akram - **Executive Member**  
Mohamed Rusaikie - **Public Relations Coordinator**  
Faheem Raheem - **Vice President**  
Mohamed Nifras - **Executive Member**  
Mohamed Nishran - **Executive Member**

**Not in the Picture:**

Saliheen Saleem - **Treasurer**  
Mohamed Ashkar - **Projects Coordinator**

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2025



**From Left Seated:**

Ayoob Fazil - **General Secretary**  
HH Roshan Sithara Khan Azard - **Patron**  
Nazly Yoosoof - **President**

**From Left Standing:**

Zahir Osama - **Former General Secretary**  
Arshad Hidayathulla - **Founder Member**  
Abdul Rahman - **Immediate Past President**

**Not in the Picture:**

Mohamed Mansoor - **Founder Member**  
Mohamed Fahmy - **Founder Member**

22<sup>nd</sup>  
Annual  
Symposium



# Appreciation

The Sri Lankan Majlis Qatar (SLMQ) extends its deepest gratitude and appreciation for the unwavering support and partnership provided.

- Her Excellency the Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the State of Qatar, the Patron
- Corporate, Co-Corporate, and Gold Sponsors
- Advertisers, donors, and well-wishers
- The Sri Lankan Embassy, Doha, Qatar
- The Stafford Sri Lanka School, Doha, Qatar
- All Sri Lankan Associations in Qatar
- Mr. Mohamed Rusaike for the souvenir design
- Editorial Team Members Who Collected and Compiled the Articles for the Souvenir
- Members of the SLMQ Advisory, Executive, and Symposium Committee, along with their families
- SLMQ members and their families

Your invaluable contributions have played a key role in the success of our initiatives, and we look forward to your continued support.

*Thank you!*

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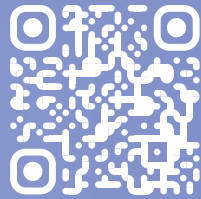




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