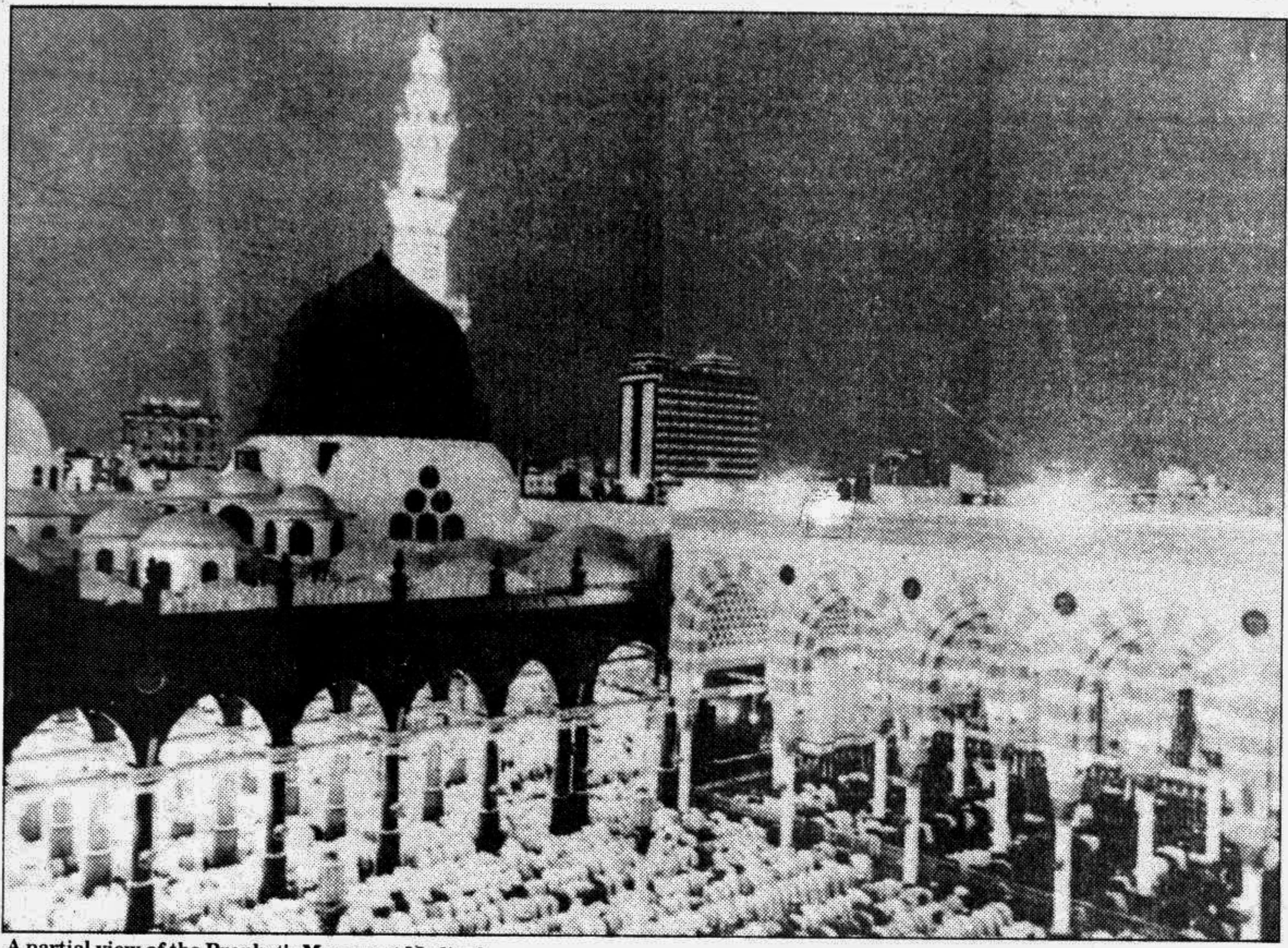
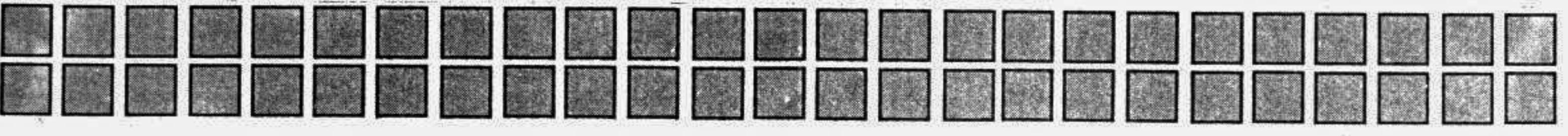


## FOCUS



A partial view of the Prophet's Mosque at Madinah



## Muhammad (SM) — the Beacon-light for Mankind

by Abu Imran

PROPHEt Muhammad (PBUH) was sent as the last in the chain of prophets as the beacon-light for mankind in the dangerous sea of life. He came as the messenger of peace for the whole of mankind. And the religion or the way of life encompassing all aspects of life whether political, social or moral, was perfected by him (PBUH) and given the approved name — Islam. The two prominent meanings of Islam are — surrender and peace. It is exemplified as peace through surrender to the will of Allah. Again the prophet (PBUH) was given the book of guidance in the form of the Holy Quran revealed to him (PBUH) through the arch Angel Gibraeil in phases. The Holy Quran and the practices of the prophet (PBUH) became the guidelines for the faithfuls to follow. And in that lies their salvation both in here and in the here-after.

The prophet (PBUH) himself demonstrated the ideal way of life which if followed in right earnest will ensure personal, local, community, regional and international peace, and war or disturbance will be a remote consideration. This is because all his (PBUH) principles and practices are divinely guided, based on justice and fairplay and hence infallible. The historic Farewell address at the last Hajj known as Hajjatul-wida of the holy prophet is a well documented evidence pertaining to the rights, duties, obligations of men, women, children and slaves and some other aspects of life worth quoting.

He said : "O people listen to my words with understanding for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be among you in this place."

"Your lives and properties are sacred and inviolable unto each other, until you appear before your Lord, even as this day and this month are sacred for all and remember you will have to appear before your Lord, who will demand from you an account of all your acts."

The Lord hath prescribed to every man his share of inheritance; no testament to the prejudice of heirs lawful."

The child belongeth to the parent, and the violator of

wedlock shall be stoned." "Whoever falsely claimeth another for his father or his master, the curse of god of the angels and of all mankind shall be upon him."

"O people, ye have rights over your wives and your wives have rights over you, it is their duty not to break their wifely faith, nor commit any act of manifest indecency. If they do so, ye have authority to confine them to separate rooms and to punish them, but not severely. But if they refrain, clothe them and feed them properly. Treat your women with loving kindness, for they are with you as prisoners and captives. They have no power over anything that concerneth them. Lo! ye have taken them on the security of Allah and made their persons lawful to you by the words of Allah."

"Be faithful to the trust imposed on you, and shun transgression."

"Usury is forbidden, debtor shall return only the principle; and the beginning will be made with the loans of my uncle Abbas, son of Abdul Muttalib."

Henceforth, the vengeance for blood practised in the time of ignorance is forbidden and feud of blood abolished, beginning with the murder of my cousin Rabia bin Harith Ibn Abdul Muttalib."

"And your slaves? See that ye feed them with such food as ye yourselves eat, and clothe them with the staff ye yourselves wear; and if they commit a fault which ye are not ready to forgive, then part with them, for they are servants of your Lord, and must not be ill-treated. The slaves who say their prayers are your brothers."

"O people! Listen to my words and understand them. Know that all Muslims are brothers one to another; ye are one fraternity. Nothing belonging to one of you is lawful to his brother unless given out of free goodwill. Guard yourselves from committing injustice."

"Let him that is present tell it to him who is absent."

"Haply he who shall be told will remember better than he who hath heard."

At the end of his discourse the Holy Prophet, moved by the sight of devotion of that multitude, most of whom had been

the enemies of Islam not too long ago, exclaimed :

"O Lord, I have delivered my message, and accomplished my work."

The voices of the hosts below affirmed :

"Aye, that thou hast."

He said : "O Lord, I beseech Thee, be Thou witness to it!"

Had man ever such fullness of success? Was man ever more humble in his hour of triumph? (Ref-Islam) and its holy prophet as judged by the non-Muslim world, Adhuniq Prokashani, 1982, Dhaka pages 141-143.

The greatness and completeness of the mission of Muhammad (PBUH) was such that even non-Muslim scholars/statesmen spoke highly of him. The men of letters and high standing who paid tributes to him are to too large to be accommodated here. Hence only the comments of a few are given below.

"I believe that if a man like Muhammad were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it its much-needed peace and happiness. I have prophesied, about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be accepted to the Europe of today. If any religion has the chance of ruling over England nay Europe within next hundred years it can only be Islam. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess the assimilating capacity to the changing phase of existence which can make its appeal to every age." (Ref. George Bernard Shaw on Islam, ibid. page-18).

In "Muhammad" Mr. Washington Irving writes, "Allah," says historian Abul Feda' had endowed him with every gift necessary to accomplish an adorn of honest man, he was so pure and sincere, so free from evil that he was commonly known by the name of "Al-Ameen" (trustworthy), the faithful. The great confidence reposed in his judgement and polity caused him to be frequently referred to as the arbiter in disputes between his townsmen." (Ref. Mr. Irving, ibid. page-19).

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Mr. William Muir in his "Life of Muhammad" testifies about the magnanimity of the prophet in these words. "The magnanimity with which Muhammad treated people who hated and rejected him is worthy of all admiration." (Ref. Mr. William, ibid. page-30).

The above discussions amply testify the universality of the mission of the kind prophet (PBUH) and that salvation both in here and in the here after lies in following the same (Islam). But it's an irony that the faithfuls generally limit their activities to discussion of the life of the holy prophet during his birth anniversaries like the 12th Rabul Awwal sans observance of his principles and practices. And hence there is the rot in Muslim societies. Remedy lies in following the principles and practices of the holy prophet (PBUH) which will ensure PEACE.

the hour of peril gave vigour to his nerve and soul. The fifth gift was his mystic vision which was a sort of search-light for scanning the darksome horizon of life. The sixth gift of Muhammad to us was his charity which made him the friend of the poor and the lowly and made him minister unto them even bidding his last farewell to the assembled friends and kith and kin whom he loved so well and which made him liberate slaves and treat even his deadly enemies with clemency. And the last and the most significant gift of Muhammad to all humanity has been the gift of his message of the unique unity of the God-head which came as the richest gift from the innermost parts of his inspired soul." (Ref. Principal D. N. Sen of Patna (India), ibid. page-18-19).

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