



# THE ALIG

## AMU Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 10

June 9, 2008

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### Sir Syed Speaks to you

*"What we are not ashamed to do before God, we should not fear to do before our fellow men."*

- Sir Syed

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### Greetings!

The first issue of "The Alig" newsletter was published by the AMU alumni association of Northern California ([www.amualumni.org](http://www.amualumni.org)) on the occasion of Sir Syed Day in 1998. The association continued to publish the newsletter for few years on special occasions. Due to printing cost and logistics associated with distribution, the publication was temporarily stopped until the time when sufficient resources become available. Now the easy availability of user-friendly software and service providers made it possible for us to revive the publication as eNewsletter. Our distribution has also increased by few orders of magnitude.

As a good will gesture to our fellow alumni associations, we have decided to cover the news of all associations worldwide. AMU's stature is elevated in large part due to the success of its alumni, and we are providing a forum to publicize that success. Our mission is to help our fellow alumni to network with each other, find jobs, develop professionally and have a positive impact on the society they live-in. We sincerely believe that alumni should remain engaged and interested in their alma mater through advocacy of their mother institution and promoting success stories. And, of course, giving back to AMU should be the part of the responsibility as well, whether through donations of money or time. It all counts towards making AMU a better place for education of our future generations.

Once again, we thank you all for becoming an active participant in our efforts.

**Editorial Team**

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## AMU NEWS

### PROF. ZAFARUL ISLAM APPOINTED THE MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD OF JIHAT AL-ISLAM

**ALIGARH, May 30:** Professor Zafarul Islam, Chairman, Department of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University has been appointed the member of the International Advisory Board of Jihat Al-Islam, Journal of Islamic Studies, a publication of the Faculty of Islamic Studies, University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan.

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### DR. ARSHAD HAFEEZ KHAN ELECTED SECRETARY-CUM-TREASURER OF THE UP CHAPTER OF ASSOCIATION OF PLASTIC SURGEONS

**ALIGARH, May 29:** Dr. Arshad Hafeez Khan, Reader at the Department of Plastic Surgery, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University has been elected Secretary-cum-Treasurer of the UP Chapter of Association of Plastic Surgeons of India. The announcement was made in the 16th Annual Conference of UP Chapter held at AMU. Earlier he served as its Executive Member for two years. His active involvement in the APSI always applauded and widely appreciated.

Dr. Arshad Hafeez Khan has widely acclaimed in the management of face and hand injuries, burns, cancers of the skin and oral cavity congenital ailments like cleft lip/plate and hypospadias and cosmetic surgery.

Dr. Khan has attended 36 Conferences and Workshops and presented 25 papers. His research work published in various national and international journals of repute.

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### DR. AFZAL ANEES CONFERRED FELLOWSHIP (FIAGES) OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF GASTROINTESTINAL-ENDO SURGEON

**ALIGARH, May 27:** Dr. Afzal Anees, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Surgery, J N Medical College AMU Aligarh has brought laurel to the Aligarh Muslim University as he has been conferred fellowship (FIAGES) of Indian Association of

Gastrontestinal-endo Surgeon in its convocation at Jaipur recently. He is also selected as the best young surgical teacher for the year 2008 by the Association Surgeon of India, UP Chapter. Dr. Anees said that credit goes to Padmashree Dr. P K Chowbey under whom he received the formal training of laparoscopy at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital seven years ago.

Dr. Anees has done hundreds of laparoscopic surgeries including lap cholecystectomy, appendectomy, and diagnostic laparoscopy with best results. Now he has started laparoscopic hernia repair which is first of its kind at Aligarh. This will provide another alternative for hernia repair apart from open repair. In due course of time lap hernia repair will become the choice in uncomplicated cases in our institution. He has incorporated staplers for anastomosis of gastrointestinal tract after major and difficult surgeries like cancer surgeries of stomach, esophagus, colo-rectum and inflammatory bowel diseases. By this he has tried to ease the suffering of patients from Aligarh and surrounding districts from facing the brunt of long waiting list and exorbitant cost at higher centers for these surgeries. He has a credit of starting the minimal invasive procedure for Hemorrhoids (Piles) in this city of Aligarh. This procedure helps the patient for early recovery with almost no pain and no soiling of clothes. The patient may join his work from next day or two. He is also doing upper and lower diagnostic endoscopies and some therapeutic procedures which are very helpful for the poor patients, not able to afford in private and corporate hospitals.

According to Dr. Afzal Anees surgery is the skill and learning will continue life long. He is indebted and thankful to all his teachers and mentors including teachers from SGPGIMS, Lucknow and IMS, BHU where he spent some time as an observer for learning major gastrointestinal Surgeries and endoscopies respectively. He thanked to the unit incharge Prof. M A Khan and Chairman, Department of Surgery, Prof. Tariq Mansoor for providing all possible helps and facilities for betterment in the patient care.

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**FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTER-UNIVERSITY AND NATIONAL CULTURAL BOARD OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES**

**Aligarh, May 22:** Fifth Annual Meeting of the Inter-University and National Cultural Board of the Association of Indian Universities today concluded at the Aligarh Muslim University

The meeting was presided over by the AMU Vice Chancellor, Professor P K Abdul Azis.

A large number of delegates from Indian Universities participated in the two-day deliberations. The Secretary General of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), Professor Dayanand Dongoankar expressed the importance of the AIU Youth Programme which plays a pivotal role towards making the holistic personality of youth. He said that AIU holds Inter-University Youth Festivals at the zonal and national levels comprising 27 competitive cultural events in the domain of music, dance, theater, literary activities and fine arts.

These meets also provide the youth an opportunity for a healthy interaction thereby instilling them an awareness of our historical and cultural heritage. In his presidential address, Professor P K Abdul Azis said that AMU has rich cultural values and we have a good infrastructure to hold the South Asian Universities Youth Festival (SAUFEST) in 2009. He said that AIU has discussed its cultural agenda at AMU. He pointed out that cultural activities unite us and create great understanding. We have to prepare our youth to face the challenges of the new world order.

AMU has submitted a proposal to hold the South Asian Universities Youth festival in February 2009. The Inter-University National Cultural Board has decided that national Youth Festival will be held at Vidya Sagar University, Midnapur (West Bengal) and the Regional Youth Festival will be held at different parts of the country. University of Calicut has been chosen for South Zone while Ranchi University has selected for East Zone.

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### **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS AT AHMADI SCHOOL FOR THE BLINDS**

**ALIGARH, May 20:** The Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, Professor P K Abdul Azis today inaugurated a computer lab at Ahmadi School for the Blinds.

This computer lab is designed on latest Assistive Technologies for the visually challenged students. Assistive Technology are the new age devices and software that provide support to the disabled to overcome their disability and perform their tasks in a normal environment efficiently to compete on a level playing field with their non-disabled peers.

This technology will provide the teachers to communicate with skills like sign language, finger spelling, Braille script, etc. Teachers will be able to include the disabled students in classroom activities and be sensitized to accommodate a congenial environment for them.

The Ahmadi School for the Blind has also been provided Prisma Potable Video Magnifier for low vision students and victor stream reader for reading daisy books, plays talking books, read textiles and records voice, notes and lectures.

Large print keyboards have been designed specially for those with conditions that cause visual impairment or low vision.

While addressing the students and staff of the Blind, AMU Vice Chancellor Professor Azis said that this facility with a cost of rupees ten lakhs is a vision and new hope of life for the visually challenged students. He said today is the important day for the Blind School and hoped that students and teachers will be benefitted to this new teaching and learning devices.

Prof. Nabi Ahmad, Coordinator, Disability Unit of the University and Dr. Masood Ashraf, Principal of the Blind School also addressed the inaugural ceremony.

Prof. M Saleemuddin, former Vice Chancellor and Mrs. Yasmeen Jalal beg, Finance Officer incharge were also present.

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### **ENTRANCE TEST RESULTS**

ALIGARH: The Aligarh Muslim University has announced Entrance Test results for various courses.

The results are available of the following website.

[Entrance Test Results](#)

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## **AMUAAs NEWS & EVENTS**

**INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI FOUNDATION**

**ALIGARH, June 4:** The Aligarh Muslim University community will establish an International Alumni Foundation with a corpus fund of 100 crores. The aim of the foundation would be to channelize its resources for the growth and expansion of the Alma mater said Professor P K Abdul Azis, Vice Chancellor.

In the first meeting of the Organizing Committee held to discuss the proposed World Summit of AMU Alumni slated for October 18-19, 2008, he said that the Summit will provide an occasion for a memorable reunion of AMU Alumni spread all over the world.

The Summit will facilitate in establishing a permanent Alumni Foundation as a perpetual facility for the old boys and old girls to keep linked with their alma mater.

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## **SSUET AND UK'S HERTFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY SIGN MOU**

**KARACHI:** The UK's Hertfordshire University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology at a ceremony held at SSUET on Tuesday. The MoU was signed by SSUET's Vice-Chancellor Zakir Ali Khan and Prof Dr Naj Kadim on behalf of Hertfordshire University. It was signed for the development of academic cooperation in international education in areas of mutual interest and expertise. Khan said that the collaboration will enhance the intellectual life and cultural development at both institutions, and will increase international cooperation.

"The two universities will promote and explore appropriate joint research projects and joint courses of study, invite each other's academic staff to participate in collaborative activities of research projects, conferences and seminars, joint publications, collaborate on the development of suitable training, development and exchange programs for academic staff," he added.

The MoU provides that two educational institutions agree to: Explore the opportunities for delivery of academic programmes in partnership that lead to undergraduate and postgraduate

degrees.

Explore mutual recognition of programmes offered by each of the partner universities, and the opportunity for the establishment of an agreement relation to undergraduate degrees, and similar progression agreements in relation to postgraduate programmes.

Exchange detailed programme materials in order to determine the nature of recognition and equivalences to be agreed, Explore the opportunities for the provision by staff training programme and to include split PhD programmes post-doctoral study and staff exchange.

[Source Link](#)

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## ALUM NEWS

**DR. SHAHID JAMEEL ON THE FRONT OF "THE TELEGRAPH",  
CALCUTTA**

**Razi Raziuddin**

**Washington DC**



Dr. Shahid Jameel, a prominent Indian virologist and an AMU alumnus, is in the national news due to his landmark research break-thru in understanding the nature of the infection of HIV virus, causing the AIDS disease. Dr. Jameel is the head of Virology at the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi, and a son of Professor Majid Siddiqui, ex-Chairman, Biochemistry dept, AMU.

It is a moment of great pride for all Aligs. Our heartiest congratulations!

[Click to read article](#)

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**AHMAD RAIS SIDDIQI PROMOTED AS CHIEF ENGINEER**

Mr. Ahmad Rais Siddiqi has been promoted as Chief Engineer

(NBD), NTPC Ltd and retained at New Delhi. Mr. Siddiqi studied at AMU from Minto Circle to ZHCET. He obtained B.E. (Mechanical) in 1979.

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## AEEF NEWS

The Aligarh Education Endowment Fund (AEEF) has been established for the enhancement and modernization of education, and improvement of educational opportunities for the underprivileged sections of the Indian society. This should result, in the long run, in economically uplifting these groups and helping them to become productive members of the Indian society.

Over the last decade, India has undergone tremendous economic growth, fueled by the Information Technology revolution supported by its large pool of college graduates. Unfortunately, a large section of the Indian society has been left behind primarily because of lack of educational opportunities, especially in Science and Technology. The digital divide is continuing to widen for this section of the society. A glaring example of a component of this underprivileged section of the society is the Muslim community. The fact that Muslims are educationally the most backward community in India was acknowledged for the first time by the government in 1986, vide Program of Action - New Education Policy and again in 2006 through Sachar Committee (appointed by the Prime Minister of India) report. Unless major efforts are undertaken to boost the educational standards, the economic backwardness of this underprivileged group would become a drag on the economic growth of the country. Moreover, for its own prosperity as well as to play its positive role fully in this globalizing economy India needs to tap every ounce of its manpower talent.

The AEEF is being organized as a non-profit, secular, non-partisan, and non-political organization, under Section 501(c) (3) of IRS, to serve the educational needs of the underprivileged communities in India. The AEEF will fund a broad variety of educational projects, ranging from high school to post-graduate levels, including areas such as Information Technology, Biotechnology, Medicine, Management and Business Administration, Mass Communication, Basic Sciences, Social Sciences, and Law with emphasis on areas, which will accelerate the flow of the young generation into the

economic mainstream.

Individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations are requested to donate generously to this humanitarian, educational cause.

Visit us at : [AEEF](#) or call (650) 969-AEEF

#### **Tax Exempt Status**

Aligarh Education Endowment Fund (AEEF) was granted a tax-exempt status, 501(c) (3) designation, by the United States IRS in 2005, Tax ID # 20-1000034. Donations to AEEF are tax deductible in USA as allowed under the law.

#### **Donations**

Your support of AEEF is crucial to its efforts to serve the educational needs of the underprivileged communities in India. Make a pledge to donate today. Together we can make a difference.

#### **How to Give?**

There Are Many Ways You Can Help.

There are many quick and easy ways to make a gift to AEEF.

AEEF accepts gifts by checks, credit cards, stocks, and electronic fund transfers.

Many of these gifts offer tax advantages to the donor.

#### **Checks**

Please make your check payable to "AEEF" and mail to:

**ALIGARH  
EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND (AEEF)  
849 Independence Avenue, Suite A  
Mountain View, CA 94043, USA  
Credit Cards**

Giving online using your credit card is fast, easy and secure. You can donate online using your credit card (one time or on ongoing basis) by clicking on the link below.

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[Click on link to Donate Online](#)

### **Electronic Fund Transfers (EFTs)**

EFT's offer a fast, convenient way to contribute to AEEF on an ongoing basis. With your permission, AEEF will automatically withdraw an amount you specify from your checking account around the 1st of each month.

Your monthly bank statement will provide you with a record of each transaction and, for tax purposes; you will also receive a receipt from the AEEF each January showing your entire year's contribution.

You may cancel or change your EFT authorization at any time simply by contacting us.

#### **To begin an EFT, please contact us:**

**Email:** [AEEFund@yahoo.com](mailto:AEEFund@yahoo.com)

**Tel:** (650) 969-AEEF

### **Gifts of Stocks**

These gifts can be donated via registered mail or electronic transfer to AEEF. A letter of intent stating the purpose of your gift, the number of shares and the name of the stock are required.

Please contact us to receive a copy of letter of intent that you can fill and fax or mail to AEEF office.

### **Matching Gifts**

Many employers in USA sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees. To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, please check with the HR department.

If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your gift. We will do the rest. The impact of your gift to our school may be doubled or possibly tripled! Some companies match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses.

**Thanks for your support.**

SEE ALSO:

**[Giving Back: Aligarh Endowment \(Silconeer\)](#)**

## **Aligs meet in US, launch Aligarh Education Endowment Fund**

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What if Aligarh Education Endowment Fund (AEEF) earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

[www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting AEEF.

Just go to [www.GoodSearch.com](http://www.GoodSearch.com) and be sure to enter [Aligarh Education Endowment Fund] as the charity you want to support. The more people who use this site, the more money will go to support educational projects. So please spread the word to your friends and family. Please download the Good Search Toolbar on your computer and encourage the family members use it is they would use any other search engine.

So start raising money for Aligarh Education Endowment Fund right now just by searching the Internet or shopping online with GoodSearch - powered by Yahoo! To search Click on the link below.

## **Goodsearch**

**Do not underestimate the power of numbers. Please click on the link above to see the revenues generated so far.**

Here's an example of how much AEEF can earn:  
5,000 People doing 4 searches/day for one year can raise \$73,000\*. We already have over 5000 people who are receiving this Newsletter. The more people use GoodSearch, the more money will be directed towards AEEF. The sky is the limit!

**\*Revenues generated through online shopping are**

**additional.**

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## **FEATURE ARTICLE**

### **PORTRAIT UNVEILING OF JUSTICE MAHMOOD**

**Speech By Mr. K. L. Misra**

**Advocate-General U.P.**

**Delivered on November 27, 1966, on the occasion of the unveiling ceremony of the Portrait of Justice Mahmood**

My Lord the Chief justice of India

It was about the middle of the 19th century that Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, a person of broad and prophetic vision, like many others in India at that time, realized that the basic necessity for the advancement of this country was education. He gave his life to the starting of an institution, which is today the Aligarh Muslim University. It was a time when the introduction of separate electorates in India had not yet created a conflict between the Hindu and Muslim communities. I am only mentioning the father of Justice Mahmood because the wide sympathy and understanding of men, which Justice Mahmood had, appears to have been inherited from his father. Even what the father did would have been sufficient to confer immortality on any person. But Mahmood was to attain a greater immortality.

My Lord, during the early education of Justice Mahmood-I have tried to look into it-there is not visible that promise which is usually found in the early years of great and brilliant men. In fact, I have always felt that though Mahmood has shown to us an example to be followed ever after wards, his studies, his academic career, his surroundings-none of these appears to furnish a clue to what he actually turned out to be when he became a Judge of this Court. His career is now well known and does not need recounting. The moment he stepped into judicial service he started obtaining recognition. I do not think it has ever happened in the history of India that a mere Judge of the district court, because of his judgment having been noticed by the Privy Council, has immediately been considered eminently fit to be made a Judge of the High Court. And those were the days, My Lord, when an Indian could aspire to a very limited elevation in any service in India. All the posts at the top were occupied by foreigners. In this Province, as it was then, it was a great ambition for an Indian to become a Deputy Collector. Everything is thrown open to

us now. It is impossible today to realize that the merit of Mahmood must have been so absolutely extraordinary that it made the Judges of the Privy Council, when they came across one of his judgments, as District Judge of Rae Bareilly, feel that they had come across a person whose talents were being wasted in the subordinate Judiciary.

Mahmood was then just about 32. In fact, his career as a permanent Judge in this Court started at the age of 36 and ended at the age of 44, and, in this short span of eight years, he has contributed to the legal literature of the world-judgments, scores and scores of them-when even one such judgment was sufficient to confer immortality upon any Judge anywhere in the world. It is impossible to explain how he was able to do it. The usual definition of 'genius' as a person having an infinite capacity for taking pains is impossible as an explanation for Mahmood.

His genius--I may still use that language--did not consist in an infinite capacity to take pains. It was the brilliance of a nightingale's song. It came naturally to him. It is impossible to explain how it all came. It is true that when he had gone to England, he had devoted himself to the study of things oriental; and it may be that in those days he imbibed the subtle principles of Hindu and Muslim laws, which enabled him, sitting afterwards in the High Court, to make pronouncements on those laws, which are even today a beacon light to us. You see in his judgments all the knowledge of the world and of literature of philosophy, of economics and of abstruse sciences, of languages and of the deep sources of law, not merely Indian but from almost every country of the world.

[Click here to read full speech](#)

## OPINION

### MUSHTAQ AHMAD YUSUFI

**Asif Farrukhi and Sehba Sarwar**



It's a little before dinnertime and Mushtaq Ahmad Yusufi, the deacon of Urdu satire and humour writing, is sitting relaxed in an armchair. 'No!' he says politely and firmly the moment the word interview is spoken in his presence. He is emphatic in his answer. 'If you want to write something then go ahead and write what you want. I will endorse it!' he says with a smile, leaving you to decide if he is serious or if this is meant to be tongue in cheek. At a similar occasion, he recounted his

encounter with a rather determined woman who was seeking him out. 'I do not preside over book launchings, nor do I write forewords and blurbs!' Yusufi sahib told her. The lady shot back, 'Agar yeh bhi nahin, to phir aap kis kaam kay hain!'

His admirers will never agree with this as Yusufi sahib has a large following, and his fervent admirers are known to have entire sentences and passages from his work stored in their memory, ready to function as quotable quotes. Known for his chiseled and polished prose, Yusufi is a peerless stylist. He is notorious for being a perfectionist and takes years before he publishes anything. His output comes to be about an average of one book per decade. However, since the publication of Aab-i-Goum in 1990, he has he has broken his own record of silence and his admirers have been waiting patiently for the next book.

Not to say that Yusufi sahib has not been writing these days. He simply takes his time. 'I am putting together a book of essays,' he says confirming the status of his work in progress. These pieces were written for various public occasions but are being extensively revised for publication. He further confirms that before this he had been working on book for many years and has till now made a clean copy of about 350 pages. But the end of the book is not in sight. He has about 400 pages or more in first draft. He says that he put this aside - temporarily one hopes. 'I was advised to make two volumes out of it' he

says when he is asked as to why he does not publish the work he has completed so far. 'I am reluctant to do so as the continuity of the narrative will be lost,' he says tantalisingly and then offers another detail: 'It is the story of Ibrahim, a fisherman who used to work near Karachi's Boat Basin and became my friend.' The book clearly promises to be another surprise from this magician amongst writers.

Yusufi sahib maintains a strong self-discipline in writing and spends regular hours at work. He does not like to watch his video-recordings, nor does he like to read his own work. Once, when he was proofreading a book of his, he came up with a description of a writer's hell: 'I can think of a writer's hell as a place where the writer is eternally condemned to read nothing but his own writing!' For Yusufi sahib this is the ultimate punishment for a writer.

**Source:** Adopted from Dawn

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Aligarh Alumni Association Events in USA

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**Host:** Aligarh Alumni Association of Washington, DC  
**What:** Summer Picnic  
**When:** Saturday, June 21, 2008 at 12-5.30 PM  
**Where:** Black Hill Regional Park, 20930 Lake Ridge Drive, Boyd, MD 20841  
**Phone:** (410) 489-9948

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**Host:** Aligarh Alumni Association of New England  
**What:** Summer Picnic  
**Where:** Hopkinton State Park, 71 Cedar Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748 US  
**When:** Sunday, June 15, 9:00AM  
**Phone:** (781) 223-5086, (781) 883-5311  
**Email:**

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**Annual Convocation of Aligarh Muslim University**

**Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 8:00AM**

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**VII Annual Convention of the Federation of Aligarh  
Alumni Associations**

**August 8-10, 2008**

**Cleveland, Ohio, USA**

[Click here for more details](#)

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**Sir Syed Day 2008 - Mushaira Schedule for USA**

**October 10 - November 28**

**Please click on Federation's website below for  
Mushaira details in your city.**

[Mushaira Schedule 2008](#)

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**World Summit of AMU Alumni at Aligarh**

**October 18 & 19, 2008**

**Please save the Date and mark your calendar.  
More details will follow.**

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**BOOK REVIEWS**

**SIR SYED AHMAD KHAN: VISION AND MISSION**

**Editor: Shahabuddin Iraqi**

ALIGARH, May 24, Hon'ble Vice-President of India, Mr. M

Hamid Ansari released the volume entitled on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Vision and Mission, edited by Prof. Shahabuddin Iraqi, Coordinator and Chairman, Center of Advanced Study, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, in a distinguished gathering at the Vice-President House, New Delhi.

The Vice-President of India, Mr. M Hamid Ansari said that Muslims of India are faced with six major challenges in the first decade of the 21st century - of learning from Sir Syed's dedication and experience, of accepting that ignorance is not bliss, relevant education is pre-requisite of participation in this exciting venture, of finding that mediocrity means irrelevance and failure means marginalization. He emphasized that Sir Syed's mission has been not carried out properly, for which Muslims are backward in all walks of life. This is also evident from Sachhar Committee Report. He praised the efforts of Prof. S. Iraqi in this context for publishing the volume on Sir Syed, which is commendable.

Noted historian and Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof. Mushir-ul Hasan, also appreciated the publication of the volume by Prof. S Iraqi and described the achievements of Sir Syed and Aligarh Movement.

Earlier, Prof. S Shahabuddin Iraqi in his welcome address informed that the volume contains a selection of papers presented at the International Seminar on the same topic, organized by the CAS, Department of History, AMU, Aligarh on 5-7 November, 2006. The volume is an assortment of articles aimed at highlighting the contribution of Sir Syed and the achievements of Aligarh Movement. The book running into 300 pages carries articles on various stands of Sir Syed's thoughts by Prof. Mushir-ul Hasan, Prof. B. Sheikh Ali, Former vice-chancellor of Goa University, Prof. S M Azizuddin (Jamia Millia) Prof. Z U Malik (AMU), Dr. Iqbal Sabir, Dr. Hasan Imam and Dr. Shafay Kidwai etc.

Mr. Vivek Bansal, General Secretary, All India Congress Committee, MLC, Uttar Pradesh & Alumnus of History Department, AMU, in his speech he laid emphasis on applying Sir Syed's views, particularly regarding education, in present days' problems. He also graciously delivered vote of thanks. Mr. Bansal expressed his deep sense of gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-President of India for sparing his precious time for this function and highly praised Prof. Shahabuddin Iraqi's efforts in bringing out this volume and thanked to all distinguished guests.

## **OBITUARY**

### **PROFESSOR ZAHIRUDDIN MALIK**

**Dr. Gulfishan Khan  
Reader in History  
AMU Aligarh**

Professor ZahirUddin Malik breathed his last at his residence in Sir Syed Nagar Aligarh on June 1. He is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter. All his family members were beside him to see their beloved father and a dedicated husband in the last stages of his illness. He was suffering from lung cancer, which was discovered only last year. But Professor Malik in his usual characteristic manner faced his illness with courage and patience. Professor Malik was an alumnus of the Aligarh Muslim University from where he obtained his B. A., M. A. and Doctorate. He was born in Nehtaur, district of Bijnore in a distinguished family. He served the department of History for more than forty years with distinction. His area of specialization was Eighteenth century Indian history and his major work Reign of Muhammad Shah is the magnum opus of the author wherein he changed the hitherto perceived notions that the first half of the eighteenth century was a period of cultural decadence and political decline. In his biography of Muhammad Shah he showed that the period in Indian history witnessed socio-economic prosperity and cultural efflorescence. In 2001 he published another significant work Agrarian System in medieval India a micro study of Land Revenue arrangement in Sarkar Shahabad (Bihar), 1734- 1790 published from the Center of Advanced Study department of history. His other work a biography of an important Turani noble entitled "A Mughal statesman of Eighteenth century Khan i- Dauran, Mir Bakhshi of Muhammad Shah 1719-1739, illuminates life of Mughal nobility in what is considered an age of decline in graphic details. He remained actively engaged in his research after his retirement in 1984 and took a lively interest in the academic concerns of the members of the department and over all issues related to the University community his alma mater. Recently he participated in an international Seminar organized by the History department on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan the founder of the University and contributed a paper on the political ideas of Sayyid Ahmad Khan. The paper Sir Syed Ahmad Khan on the response of Indian Muslims to the Turko-Russian war would remain a masterpiece essay of the author no more with us now. Similarly his contribution "Some Muslim Patron saints of Hindu chiefs" in North India and the impact of

their interactions published from the department in the same year is an example of his broad vision and liberal approach to his subject. In his death we have lost a benevolent teacher a generous guide and a thoughtful advisor.  
May his soul rest in peace. Amen.

Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajioon.

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**MAIL BOX**

May 18, 2008

Dear Alig

Congratulations for continuing to bring out "**The Alig**".

I was happy to note that our alma mater is now taking interest in the educational system of Madrasas. The term needs to be defined properly as many Maktab are also counted as Madrasas, thus exaggerating the latter's numbers. Sachar committee report indicates that only about three to four percent Muslim children go to Madrasas .For Maktab type "schools", Jamia has some experience of organising trainings in pedagogy. This was initiated during my tenure as VC at the suggestion of Janab Syed Hamid. The molvi teachers were very receptive and happy with the experience. Prof Akhtar Siddiqi, Dean, Faculty of Education, Jamia could be contacted to share the experience.

Under the auspices of Jamia Hamdard, after wide consultations, a syllabus was prepared for the Madrasas of UP. It will be useful to take this exercise also into account.

Sincerely

Syed Shahid Mahdi

New Delhi

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We invite readers to share their thoughts with us by expressing their opinion on newsworthy topics to "The Alig". We reserve the right to condense and/or edit them for clarity and space. We don't use anonymous letters. Because of the heavy volume of mail received at The Alig, we request writers to limit to one letter per issue. No attachments please.

We hope you enjoyed the newsletter and encourage you to share it with your friends.

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**Sincerely,**

**AMU Alumni Association**  
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