



# THE ALIG

## AMU Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 6

March 31, 2008

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*"Ignorance is the mother of poverty."*

- *Sir Syed*

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Greetings!

Welcome to Sixth issue of eNewsletter, "The Alig".

One of the activities that traditionally takes place each summer in USA is the annual convention of the Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations, when many alumni from across US and Canada get together to partake in the annual reunion event. The convention has engaged many constituencies, particularly alumni, to enhance their understanding of how they can strengthen AMU and contribute to the educational revitalization of the university. We are fortunate to have broad support of alumni and friends. Ever since AMU Network was launched ten years ago, and with the addition of eNewsletter, "The Alig", steady progress has been made toward fulfilling the goal of bringing the Alig community (alumni and well-wishers) on one platform.

We are also obligated to represent our alma mater in a way that strengthens its position among other institutions of higher learning, and we must be good ambassadors of AMU's reputation wherever we live. Our responsibility also lies in supporting alumni events and the committees that lead them and provide financial support for the educational projects. By serving as role models and mentors to current students of AMU, we can lead by example and motivate other alumni to follow.

We want to encourage all of you to strengthen your bond with your alma mater as it moves forward to achieve excellence in education. This relationship can prosper through involvement in alumni association activities or simply by making a donation to any of a number of endeavors.

Please contact us to find out how you can get involved. We look forward to hearing from you.

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*Enjoy the current issue of THE ALIG.*

Sincerely,

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## **AMU NEWS**

### **SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF LOW BACK ACHE AND SCIATICA AT JNMC**

**ALIGARH, March 19:** The Pain unit of the department of Anesthesiology at J. N. Medical College hospital is successfully doing ozone discectomy for patients with low back ache and sciatica. The procedure is done percutaneously without undergoing any surgical intervention. The ozone gas is formed with the help of a machine known as medical ozone generator. This machine has been recently installed in Pain Clinic.

Disc herniation is one of the most common causes of back pain in India. When injected, Ozone dissolves in the disc water, this results in net decrease in the disc volume and pressure. It also reduces the production of pain causing substances which result from damaged or injured tissue and released chemicals that oppose inflammation. Besides, it has an anti-inflammatory action due to inhibitions of formation of inflammation producing substances. All these leads to decompression of nerve roots and decreased inflammation of nerve roots. This technique of ozone discectomy is safer, cheaper, and easier than treatments currently in use. Dr. Hammad Usmani, lecturer department of Anaesthesiology, has learnt this technique from Dr. G P Dureja who is presently the Director of Delhi Pain Management Centre and former incharge of Pain Clinic, AIIMS, New Delhi. The introduction of the therapy would be a blessing in India where about 35 per cent people suffer from chronic back pain.

Till now ten patients of low back ache and sciatica have been

treated with this technique. Out of these eight patients had significant relief of pain. At present, The Pain Clinic is focusing on low back pain, but the therapy has several other applications i.e., cervical spodylitis, myofascial pain and osteoarthritis, said Dr. Hammad.

(Dr. Rahat Abrar)

Public Relations Officer

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### **PROF. A. R. KIDWAI DELIVERED LECTUR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

**ALIGARH, March 28:** Professor A R Kidwai, Director, UGC Academic Staff College; Professor, Department of English, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh was invited to deliver his lecture on the Staff Development Scheme in the Higher Education Sector India at the International Colloquium organized under the aegis of Development Education Research Centre, Institute of Education, Gordon Square, at the University of London.

Among those present in the Colloquium were educationists and academic developers from British Universities, Higher Academy and Higher Education Funding Council of England. The Colloquium proposed to carry out a project on Comparative Transnational Study of Staff and Educational Development. The Colloquium discussed also the rubric of the professional development of both teachers and students in an increasingly global context. Professor Kidwai's presentation provided a stimulus for discussion on the reconstructed professional framework based upon redeveloped values.

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### **AMU COURT MEMBERS**

**ALIGARH, March 28:** Following ten donors have been declared elected as Member of the Aligarh Muslim University Court for a period of three years. Professor Rahimullah Khan was the Chief Election Officer.

Mr. S M Sibtain Naqvi (Aligarh), Mr. Khursheed Ahmad Khan (Aligarh), Dr. Shahid Qamar (Aligarh), Mr. Mohd. Sulaiman (Lucknow), Mr. Khalid Masood (Lucknow), Mr. Ahmad Rashid Sherwani (New Delhi), Mr. Ahmad Omar Farooq (Aligarh), Mr. Khawaja Mohd. Haleem (Aligarh), Mr. Asad Yar Khan (Aligarh), Dr. Mairaj Uddin Ahmad (Meerut)

**Dr. Rahat Abrar**

***Public Relations Officer***

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### **PROF. SHABAHAT HUSSAIN CHIEF GUEST LIBRARY SCIENCE WORKSHOP**

**Srinagar, March 17:** A three-day workshop on 'Open Access Repositories and Greenstone Software' was inaugurated in the Library Science department of Kashmir University Monday.

The inaugural function was presided over by the vice-chancellor KU, Prof Riyaz Punjabi. Prof Shabhat Hussain, a guest from Aligarh Muslim University who specially visited the valley to attend the seminar was chief guest on the occasion.

In his presidential address, the VC said that open access system utilizes new technology and "it is time for us to adhere to this new technology in order to keep pace with the changing times."

"Open access repositories is something close to my heart," he said. He advised the management of the department to look for possibilities to help affiliated colleges of the University to benefit from the new concept. The VC showed an urge for the formation of a committee, which would carry forward this work. "The open access movement attempts to reassert control over publicly funded research in order to make research output transparent and freely accessible," he added.

In his address Prof Shabhat said that repositories were being established world over as free access to knowledge. "Open access repositories are being developed in the world and it is

high time that the concept be seriously taken up," he said.

Prof Riyaz Rufai, Librarian, Prof Muhammad Aslam, HoD MERC, besides students, scholars and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion. The workshop will continue for two days and noted scholars from the field will read out their papers on the subject.

Source

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### **NATIONAL BIO SCIENCES AWARD FOR AMU TEACHER**

**ALIGARH, March 31:** Dr. Mohammad Owais, Interdisciplinary Biotechnology Unit at the Aligarh Muslim University has been honored with the National Bio Sciences Award for Career Development to recognize outstanding contributions of Young Scientists below 45 years of age in basic and applied research in the areas of Bio Sciences and Biotechnology, Bio Chemical & Environmental Sciences with potential for application / product and technology development.

He was awarded carrying a cash prize of Rs. One lakh and a trophy along with a citation and a project research grant of Rs. Nine lakhs for three years for career development was presented by Union Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Mr. Kapil Sibal held in New Delhi.

Dr. Mohammad Owais has made pioneering work in development of nano-particles based delivery systems such as virosomes of gene packing, liposomes and micro spheres of vaccine development, gene therapy vectors and drug delivery systems.

Dr. Owais developed liposome based antigen delivery vehicles, which can elicit strong immune response against model anti genes in animals.

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**TWO AMU STUDENTS SFI CTFD FOR KHIIRANA**

## **EXCHANGE PROGRAMME IN LIFE SCIENCES**

Ms. Nuzhat Ahsan and Ms. Taran Khanam (M.Sc. I Year, Biotechnology) of the Aligarh Muslim University have been selected under the Khurana Exchange Program in Life Sciences to carry out research for 10 to 12 weeks at one of the top US Universities, University of Wisconsin (UW), Madison starting in May 2008.

The University of Wisconsin has recently launched an exchange program between the UW and several leading Institutions in India.

A US delegation visited several institutions in India in January 2008. They called on the AMU Vice-Chancellor, Professor P K Abdul Azis on January 8, 2008 and met the several faculty members. During the meeting, Dr. Masood Akhtar, an AMU alumnus pledged his financial support for this programme with the condition that if the AMU students were selected by the US expert committee. All expenses for these students will now be cost shared by Dr. Akhtar and University of Wisconsin.

AMU submitted six nominations from different AMU Departments to the US Committee in February 2008. A rigorous selection criteria was followed by each Department spearheaded by Professor M Saleemuddin to select the best candidate from each Department Dr. Mohammad Masroor Akhtar Khan, Reader, department of Botany coordinated the visiting US delegation at AMU.

AMU Vice Chancellor, Professor P K Abdul Azis congratulated these two girl students for their great achievement. He also thanked Dr. Akhtar for his generous financial support.

Dr. Rahat Abrar  
PRO, AMU, Aligarh

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## **TCS SELECTS 99 B.TECH./MCA STUDENTS**

TCS has selected 99 students (2009 Passout) from MCA/B.Tech. streams during its Campus Recruitment Drive held during 27th March - 30th March 2008 at AMU. The consistent efforts made by Prof. M.T. Ahmed (Principal, ZHCET, AMU) and Dr. Atif Iqbal (TPO, ZHCET, AMU) in making all these events a grand success are praiseworthy. They have the vision to ensure 100% placement to all the students and work hard to make the dream true.

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## **SOUVENIR "THE AMU" PUBLISHED IN HINDI**

**ALIGARH, March 27:** Students should engage themselves in other creative works beside their studies said Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis, Vice- Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University on the occasion of release of a souvenir "The AMU" which was published by the Millat Bedari Muhim Committee (MBMC), Aligarh on 110th Death Anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. Prof. Azis congratulated research Scholars for bringing out such a comprehensive souvenir on the life and work of the founder of AMU.

The souvenir contains highly in depth articles on multi-faceted personality of Sir Syed.

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## **AMUAAs NEWS & EVENTS**

### **APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND SPORTS AWARDS**

To enhance youth participation, the Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations has established two annual awards for best high school graduates. The **Sir Ziauddin Ahmed** and **Shaikh Abdullah (Papa Mian) Awards** will be presented at the VII annual convention in July 2008. Students graduating from high school in 2008 are invited to apply for these awards.

The **Zafar Iqbal Award** for Excellence in Sports is instituted by the Federation to encourage the youth to excel in sports as well as in academics. The award will be presented at the 7th annual convention in July 2008. Students (12-18 years of age) are invited to apply for this award.

Details of the awards and award guidelines are available on Federations website.

**[Click here for details](#)**

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### **NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

The Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations has instituted the **Dr. Zakir Husain Award** to recognize the social services of an Individual

or organization towards the upliftment of the poor and the oppressed/underprivileged members of the society in India. The Dr. Zakir Husain Award will be presented at the VII annual convention in July 2008. Nominations are invited for this award

Details of the awards and award guidelines are available on Federations website.

**[Click here for details](#)**

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## **SIR SYED UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY (SSUET) A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

### **Chancellor says varsity aims at keeping Aligarh spirit alive**

KARACHI: Addressing the convocation, SSUET Chancellor ZA Nizami pointed out that the first Engineering University in private sector, Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology, sponsored by Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys' Association of Pakistan in 1994, is not like other universities.

He said it aimed at keeping Aligarh spirit alive, besides following the vision of great reformer and educationist Sir Syed Ahmed Khan without whose genius and epoch making revolutionary contribution, it would have been difficult to imagine the fate of the Muslims of the sub-continent.

"The prime moving force for us has been the unique example set by him. Inspiration from his ideas, his tireless efforts to promote education and awakening, and his conviction to succeed have motivated and sustained us all these years," Nizami said adding that it had been on the basis of his inspiration that we started with our own limited means and have continued without asking for any financial help from the government and particularly referred to the tremendous progress made over the years, both in terms of quantity as well as quality.

Referring to convocation itself, the chancellor pointed out that today's auspicious occasion is the most important event in the university calendar. It is a cherished moment for all the

graduating students, their parents and guardians and all of us at this University, an event whose sweet memories will continue long after today.

Its degree programmes are accredited by Pakistan Engineering Council and Higher Education Commission. Internationally, it has won recognition with full membership of Association of Commonwealth Universities and the UNESCO sponsored International Association of Universities.

The association, he informed, has over 600 universities from 160 countries as its members and the President of the Association, Engineer Ghulam Muhammad Bhai had also paid a visit to this University.

ZA Nizami said the admissions to the University are allowed strictly on merit, based on academic record, aptitude test and interview. The University grants scholarships and other financial assistance to the deserving students. The amount of scholarships available has been increasing every year.

"Our graduates continue to do well in their careers and are considered among the best produced by the universities in Pakistan. One of our graduates of 2006, Muneeb Ali was selected for the second prize of Pakistan Engineering Council, Graduate Engineer of the year award 2006 while many of our graduates and faculty members have been accepted for PhD degrees in the well-known universities of USA, UK, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.

In his welcome address, Vice-Chancellor, Prof Dr Sayed Nazir Ahmed said the university, established in 1994, is reflecting the wisdom, vision and mission of one of the greatest leader and educationist of the Muslim world Sir Syed Ahmed Khan who could foresee the miseries of ignorance, illiteracy and non-appreciation of the demands of the modern world of Science and Technology.

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## **ALUM NEWS**

**VICE PRESIDENT RELEASES POSTAGE STAMP ON  
'ASRAR-III -HAG 'MA.IAA7'**



**NEW DELHI, MARCH 28:**

The Vice President of India Mr. Mohd. Hamid Ansari released a commemorative postage stamp and the first day cover on noted Urdu poet Asrar-Ul-Haq 'Majaaz' at a

function here today. He presented one set each of these to Mrs. Hamida Salim, sister of Majaaz and to the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University respectively.

Addressing on the occasion the Vice President said that every youth of his age might have surely read and recited the lyrics of Majaaz and people in the every part of the world do recite his lyrics. He was a revolutionary poet and his writings have influence of Saaz and revolution. He had an impact on an entire generation of people and his lyrics were full of romance and revolution. The Vice President lauded the effort of Department of Posts to honour Majaaz by bringing out a commemorative postage stamp as well as the first day cover on him.

In his address, the Minister of State for Communication and IT Dr. Shakeel Ahmed said that it is the fundamental responsibility of Department of Posts to honor illustrious personalities of the country and very soon more such commemorative postage stamps will be released.

Mrs. Hamida Saleem, sister of Majaaz in her speech threw light on some interesting aspects of Majaaz personality. Noted film lyricist Shri Javed Akhter, who is nephew of Majaaz, also shared his experiences.

Smt. Gursharan Kaur, wife of the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Smt. Mohsina Kidwai, MP and former Union Minister, Smt. Shabana Azmi, former MP, Mr. I.M.G. Khan, Secretary (Posts), Mrs. K. Noorjeharn, Member (Operations & Marketing), Postal Services Board graced the occasion. A good gathering of eminent literary personalities, academicians, poets and other dignitaries is expected during the stamp release function.

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### **PROF. KABIR AHMAD JAISI RECEIVED JAIZA SAADI AWARD FROM IRAN**

Prof. Kabir Ahmad Jaisi had received "Jaiza Saadi", an award given by Govt. of Iran. Prof. Kabir Ahmad Jaisi had served in the department of Islamic Studies, AMU Aligarh. He had also served as Editor of "Tahzeebul Akhlaq", the monthly journal started by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

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### **S.K. VARSHNEY APPOINTED AS COUNSELOR IN INDIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW**

Mr. S.K. Varshney (M.Sc. Geology 1984) director in the department of Science and Technology in New Delhi has been appointed as Counselor (Science) to work at the Embassy of India in Moscow for a period of 3 years. He will be taking up his new assignment in next couple of weeks. Mr. Varshney said, "It would be my pleasure if I could bring Russian scientific, engineering and medical institutes in collaboration with my alma matter."

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### **LAUNCH OF SALEEM KIDWAI'S VOLUME ON US POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH ASIA : FOCUS ON 60 YEARS**

Dr. Jane Schukoske, the Executive Director of The United States Educational Foundation in India released a volume entitled US Policy towards South Asia: Focus on 60 years edited by Saleem Kidwai at a function held at School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi on March 25, 2008. The programme was presided over by the Prof Puspesh Pant, the dean of SISans was attended by a good number of scholars, diplomats and media people. Besides the chief guest Prof Aftab Kamal Pasha of West Asian Studies centre and Professor Partha Ghosh of South asian studies also spoke on the occasion. The volume is dedicated to the memory of Prof Venkataramani who was the doyen of American Studies in India and the first Dean of School of International studies of JNU. The volume comprising 13 contributions from experts in the field addresses and analyses key factors in the South asian region that affects US interests and suggests measures for the US policy makers to improve its ability to advance and defend US interests. It takes into account US security interests in the region. The special stress of the volume is on

the issues which have involved India and Pakistan. The central objective that underlines the endeavour of the contributors is to suggest a policy framework for enabling the US to face the challenges posed. The contributions provide valuable input for policy formulations. The book is published by Academic Excellence,(Publishers and Distributors), 42 Ekta Apartments,Geeta Colony, Delhi 110031  
www.indinacademicpublisher.com

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### PROF. ARZOO RECEIVED AWARD FROM UP URDU ACADEMY



**Prof. Mukhtar Uddin "Arzoo"** has been awarded a life time achievement award of Rs 1 lakh and eleven thousand for 2007 by the Urdu Academy, Uttar Pradesh. Prof. Arzoo, noted Arabic Scholar and former Dean, faculty of Arts has been awarded the Sir Syed Lifetime Achievements Award by the AMU Alumni Association of New York on the occasion of Sir Syed 2007.

## 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.

**DONATE**

**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**

- **A dollar-a-day turns Ena's fortune (Can we do the same?)**

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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 if 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.

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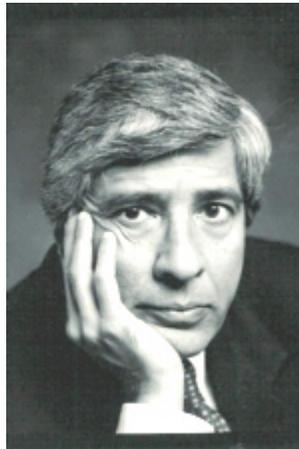
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## FEATURE ARTICLE

### PROF. SALMAN AKHTAR: A DISTINGUISHED ALIGARIAN, AND A GUARDIAN OF FAMILY TRADITION AND LEGACY

**Syed M. Naseem, Ph. D.  
Washington DC**



**Salman Akhtar** was born in 1946. He is the son of famous Alig family, Urdu poet, and writer Jan Nisar and Safia Akhtar, nephew of Majaz and Hamida Salim and Javed Akhtar (lyricist) is his elder brother. His early education was in Lucknow and became part of Aligarh fraternity in 1959, completed his M.B.B.S. from AMU and M. D. from Chandigarh. During his studentship at AMU, he was actively involved in Drama Club and other cultural activities of the University one of the most hilarious performances was in "Kafan Chhor" played along with Azizuddin, son of Dr. Moizuddin C.M.O. AMU. Salman (known to many of us as

Ovais) was very popular among teachers for his witty comments and use of literary language in class. I have a rare photograph of Salman (the class of 1960) with Prof. Asadur Rhaman sahib (New York) who was our English teacher. His adoration for Aligarh is splendidly expressed in couplet from his second Urdu collection "Dusra Ghar":

*Mut (Don't) Aligarh ki taraf tirchhi nazar se dekho  
Dafen (burried) iss dasht mein hein ab bhi khazane kiya kiya*

He is an eminent psychoanalyst who holds a professorship at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia also at Harvard University (Boston). He became Professor at a very young age and is considered top five in the world in his field of psychiatry and treatment. He authored or edited 31 text books and more than 250 scientific publications and presentations on diverse topics in his subject. He is highly sought public speaker and has addressed audience at all Ivy League institutions in USA, and other major universities all over the world including India. He was also invited to speak in the United Nations. He is the Editor for the International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies. He has served on the Editorial Boards of the International Journal of Psychoanalysis and Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association. He is a Film Review Editor for the International Journal of Psychoanalysis, and Scholar-in Residence at the Interact Theatre Company in Philadelphia.

Salman Akhtar is also a poet and has published 6 books of poetry in English and Urdu both. Salman is well aware and knowledgeable about Indian Cinema. In a lecture at Indian Embassy (Washington D.C.), he enlightened the audience with the history and evolution of Indian cinemas, particularly explored the political and social influence on growth and development of Bollywood. According to him Hindi films in many ways displays true Indian society and psychological dilemmas at any given period. He also wrote a play *Parindey* (Birds), for BBC Urdu program.

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**OPINION**

## **ONLY SOPS WONT DO**

**Mujibur Rehman**  
**Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi**

Two budgets have been presented since the tabling of the Sachar report in Parliament, and there has been a good deal of deliberation over Muslim backwardness by political parties, civil society, academics and the media. The UPA government has selectively endorsed the Sachar recommendations, while some are still under consideration. For instance, the suggestion to set up an equal opportunity commission on the model of the UK Race Relations Act, 1976, or to set up a national data bank are yet to be taken up. Both measures have the potential to serve Indian citizens across communities, castes and regions. A growing consensus is, however, emerging on the urgency to address issues of Muslim backwardness. This is apparent in the policy initiatives of organisations such as the United Nations, the Department for International Development and the Confederation of Indian Industries. Some state governments have also attempted to extend reservation to Dalit Muslims.

But the approach to the Sachar report in the past two budgets is identical: it is about raising the allocation of funds. The corpus for National Minority Development Financial Corporation has been hiked to Rs 75 crore this year from Rs 63 crore in 2007-2008 and Rs 16.5 crore the year before. The allocation for the ministry of minority affairs was raised from Rs 500 crore in 2007-08 to Rs 1,000 crore this year. In addition, an allocation of a multi-sector development programme in districts with high concentration of Muslims was taken up in last year's budget. Furthermore, the eleventh draft five year Plan expressed its commitment to further minority programmes and sought to cover more Muslim students in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan with an allocation of Rs 13,100 crore in this year's budget.

There is also provision for scholarships to needy minority students amounting to Rs 1,900 crore. While each of these initiatives signal good intentions, their implementation remains a matter of grave concern. Without some evaluation

mechanism and a strategy to monitor their implementation, these programmes - like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme - might not reach their intended target. More importantly, separate initiatives are needed for Muslim girls, who have been dual victims of India's flawed development strategy and regressive interpretations of Islam. In this context, establishment of a national data bank and an independent assessment and monitoring authority becomes vital. Some people like Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi have argued that separate policy intervention for minorities is communal budgeting. In fact, Gujarat does not have separate policy initiative for minorities. This view reflects a flawed understanding of development strategy for a pluralistic society. Minority rights are now a universal language because there is an inherent danger of the numerical majority in forcing minorities to stay backward.

The Sachar report presents robust evidence of such trends for Indian Muslims. Minority rights in its expanded shape - defined not just by religious category - have the potential to serve India's diverse population. A separate plan for minorities could very well remain distinct at the policy level but could certainly promote togetherness at the national level. Another finding of the Sachar report is the absence of proactive civil society groups with a focus on Muslim advancement that could play a role in the implementation and monitoring processes of various Muslim-oriented programmes. This challenge could be addressed by encouraging Muslims to set up civil society groups and offering select masjid committees to take over this role until a full-fledged civil society group emerges in the locality. But this decision needs to be carefully made so that such initiatives do not result in empowering the Muslim clergy known for regressive interpretations of Islam. The intervention needs to have enough space for education of Muslim girls, without which addressing Muslim backwardness would be entirely impossible. The budget response to the Sachar report has not been encouraging. The please-all character of the budget has laid stress on symbolic gestures aimed at elections.

**Source: Times of India**

**SEE ALSO:**

[Degrees of change](#)

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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

**July 25-27, 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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**Empowerment of Marginalized Groups, State, Law & Civil Society: Predicaments & Premonitions**

**26th - 27th April 2008**

**Under**  
**The Aegis of Dr. Ambedkar Chair of Legal Studies & Research, Department of Law,**  
**A.M.U., Aligarh - 202 002**

**Shabbir Mohammad**  
**Programe Director**  
Email: [mshabbir100@hotmail.com](mailto:mshabbir100@hotmail.com)

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## **World Summit of AMU Alumni at Aligarh**

**October 18 & 19, 2008**

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

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## **BOOK REVIEWS**

### **CONTEMPORARY RELEVANCE OF PROPHET MOHAMMAD (PBUH) EXEMPLARY MODEL**

**Author: Prof. Saud Alam Qasmi  
Chairman, Dept. of Sunni Theology, A.M.U., Aligarh**

**Reviewed by: Dr. Mohd. Abdus Salam**

Contemporary relevance of Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) exemplary model is one of the finest books written in Urdu on the life, conduct and model of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The book becomes extremely significant as the writer has beautifully and quite logically discussed the contemporary relevance of the model developed by the Holy Prophet. The book contains a foreword written by the author himself and eleven chapters dealing with very pertinent and burning issues confronting Islam in our times.

The titles of the chapters speak volume about their contemporary relevance. These chapters deal with issues like Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and service to mankind, education and morality in the light of exemplary conduct of the Holy Prophet, immigration to Ethiopia: a model for Muslim minority, Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and preservation of environment, Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and global peace. The beauty and perfection of the model, salvation lies in faith in Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), Prophet Mohammad and western aggression etc.

The writer establishes his perspicacity in comparative religions by delving deep into the life and conduct of the Holy Prophet in the light of various religious texts. The striking feature of the book is that the author has avoided the usual and conventional historical approach to study the various tacits of the Holy Prophet's life. In fact he has dealt with those aspects of Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) life that have their contemporary relevance, for the Muslim across the globe. For example the author has beautifully illustrated the significance

of social and humanitarian work in the light of Prophet Muhammad's model of social and humanitarian contributions. He underlines the Prophet's saying that service to mankind is service to God. The underlying message is that the Muslims should come forward to help others and engage themselves in social services. This will create acceptability and respectability for the community in the hostile environment of today's world. He asserts quite logically and with amazing historical evidence that social and humanitarian services were not an endeavor at individual level but the Holy Prophet made it a quite organized and extremely professional collective work.

The author has also discussed the importance of education and morality in the light of Prophet Mohammad's model. The educational and ethical revolution in a very stagnant society of Arabia was the greatest contribution of the Holy Prophet. The chapter on education and morality is intellectually stimulating. The importance of education has been highlighted to convince the Muslim Umma that it becomes obligatory upon them to strive for acquiring education and morally elevating themselves.

The immigration/exodus of Muslims to Ethiopia on the instructions of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) has been taken as a model to guide Muslims to live peacefully in a pluralistic society. The exodus preaches tolerance, perseverance, tact fullness, wisdom and peaceful coexistence. The various events relating to immigration have been selectively dealt with to show path to Muslims living as a minority in a pluralistic society. The author argues that the Muslims living in a foreign and pluralistic society should respect the religious sentiments of others, be loyal to the country they live in should desist from disruptive activities and should abide by the Law of the land.

The importance of commitment of preservation of environment and ecological balance has been emphasized in the light of Prophet Mohammad's model. The chapter dealing with the environment and the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) discusses the issues like clean environment, sustainable development, living in perfect harmony with nature etc.

Town planning and Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) highlight the utmost care and meticulous planning by Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) for the development of the city of Medina. The geo-political or strategic importance of Medina at that time and subsequent planning by the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) made the city of Medina as one of the greatest and strongest cities of its time. The Prophet's endeavor to make Medina a self-reliant and self-sufficient city has been highlighted in the

chapter.

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## **ROLE OF MUSLIMS IN THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT OF INDIA**

**Edited by: Prof. Abdul Ali and Prof. Zafarul Islam Dept. of Islamic Studies, A.M.U, Aligarh**

The work, edited by Prof..Abdul Ali and Prof. Zafarul Islam, is a collection of English articles presented at a two- day national seminar on the Role of Muslim in the Freedom Movement of India held on 18-19, March, 2005 under the auspices of the Dept. of Islamic Studies, A.M.U.Aligarh. The volume, in addition to the inaugural address of Janab Nasim Ahmad, former Vice-Chancellor of A.M.U., contains 13 articles which throw ample light on the services and sacrifices of the Muslims of different sections which are generally overlooked by historians and modern media. The work gives main focus on the role of Shah Abdul Aziz Dehlawi and his followers, Tipu Sultan, Sayyed Ahmad Shaheed Bareilvi, Shaikhul Hind Maulana Mahmudul Hasan, Maulana Hasrat Mohani, Maulana Barkatullah Bhopali, Maulana Liyaqat Ali Allahabadi in the freedom movement A special feature of this work is a detailed study of the contribution of *fatawa* of the contemporary *ulama* to building up the mind of Muslim masses for sacrifices for the cause of the freedom movement and to developing the sense of unity and cooperation among Indians to achieve the lofty goal of freedom of their homeland. The work also contains a select bibliography books and articles published in Urdu and English on the role of Muslims in the freedom movement.

The book was released by the renowned scholar and the chief guest Maulana Atiqur Rahman Sanbhali ( residing in London) on the occasion of the Extension Lecture delivered by Prof. Sayyed Salman Nadwi (former Chairman, Dept. of Islamic Studies, University of Durban, South Africa) in the Dept. of Islamic Studies (A.M.U. Aligarh) on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2008.

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**OBITUARY**

### **MRS. SARWAT AZIZ ANSARI**

**CLEVELAND, OH, March 16:** Senior Alig, Mrs. Sarwat Aziz Ansari passed away on March 16 Cleveland Ohio US. She was 59. She was wife of Mr. Ahmad Saeed Ansari and daughter of Mr. Azizul Hasan was an English teacher and headmaster at Minto Circle. She did her high school and B. Sc. from AMU in 1968.

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### **MRS. AMNA TALAT AHMAD**

Senior Alig Mrs. Amna Talat Ahmad passed away recently. She was the wife of Prof. Mushir Ahmad of University Polytechnic and daughter-in-law of Dr. Moizuddin who served as university CMO for a long time. Her father Shekh Anwaruzzaman was also a prominent Alig.

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### **MR. SIRAJ HUDA**

**March 24, 2008:** Mr. Siraj Huda, a prominent Alig who has been living in Canada for the past 45 years, passed away while on a trip to Istanbul, Turkey. He is survived by his wife Niloufer, their son Faisal and two daughters Saira and Sophie. He graduated from Engg faculty in 1959 and served in different positions in India. He migrated to Canada in 1965.

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### **MR. ZOHEB ASIF KHAN ZOHEB**

Mr. Zoheb Asif Khan Zoheb died as a result of cardiac failure while commuting in a Mumbai sub-urban train. Zoheb was in MBA class of 1993-95. He is survived by an expecting wife, two sisters and parents.

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### **PROF. B.D. BHARDWAJ**

Prof. B.D. Bhardwaj, Retired Professor, Deptt. of Geology on 27th March 2008. May his soul rest in peace all the faculty

members; students and alumni join the family in this hour of grief.

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### MR. JAUHAR ABDULLAH

**PATNA, March 19:** Delhi-based journalist Jauhar Abdullah (B.A.'91) was killed in Bihar when the car he was traveling in collided with a truck, the police said here Wednesday. Superintendent of Police Vinit Vinayak said the accident occurred on the national highway near Mansi in Khagaria district. The driver of the car was also seriously injured. Abdullah was on his way to his native village to attend his father's funeral, Vinayak said. "He died on the spot while his driver was seriously injured," he said. Vinayak said Abdullah was associated with a Delhi-based electronic news channel.

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### DR. J.N. PRASAD

A very senior professor of Physiology, Dr. J.N. Prasad died on 30th Mar 2008 in Lucknow. He is survived by a son and a daughter Dr. Raka Prasad.

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## MAIL BOX

March 6, 1008

Dear Editor: ASAK

It was good reading the latest issue of your newsletter. I must congratulate you on bringing out well designed and researched issue after issue. Keep up the good work.

Do let me know if I could be of any help any time in this endeavor of yours.

Thanks & Regards,

Mumtaz Ansari  
Dubai, UAE

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March 19, 2008

Dear Editor, As-Salaam Alaykum

Many thanks for sending the ALIG. In a short period of 4-5 months, it has become an important source of information concerning activities of AMU and AMU alumni associations around the globe. This is due to dedication of your team. You all deserve a big applause and thanks.

It will be our pleasure to send information about the activities of our association in Metropolitan Washington area periodically.

Do you have any plan to have an Urdu section in the newsletter?

With best regards,

Zafar Iqbal, Ph.D.  
Washington , DC

Editor's Note: We don't have any plan to launch a Urdu section in the near future.

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March 19, 2008

Dear Editor,

ASAK,

First of all kudos to you and your team for such an innovative and good work. The Alig Newsletter is a treat to read.

I liked the articles that were published in terms of AMU News, a glossary of events and also the excerpts from Times Of India article of Shashi Tharoor. (Ref. NL Wed 19th March 2008). It's great to see all the campus news. I wonder about it's popularity around the campus.

One thing in particular that needs to be addressed at AMU is the exposure of AMU students to the outside world, the existing challenges, industry focus and trends. It's heartening to see University changing it's attitude towards media

companies and the careers of it's student post campus, but more needs to be done in grooming our boys for the industry or whichever field they choose. With more and more companies heading towards AMU.more needs to done.

I think your newsletter could be a wonderful ground for starting of ideas and featured articles on the same.

Best Regards & Wishes.

Thanks,

Ahmad Shajee Alvi  
B.SC, MCA (1994-2003)  
New Delhi

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March 19, 2008

Sir,

I must thank you for sending me the newsletter. As an old and rather marginal Alig I am very proud of the development of the AMU and the plans to have an IIT at Aligarh. It is truly exciting. The achievements of Aligs in various academic fields deserve commendation.

I only hope and pray that the politics of both the AMU students and the AMU teachers would not retard the progress, which, to tell the truth, has been much slower than elsewhere. Muslims everywhere are still very backward in education vis a vis the others.

Now something personal. Could someone please tell me something about Dr. Masood Anwar Alvi of the Arabic Department? Is he still there? His name does not appear in the faculty list of an AMU site that I visited on the internet. I shall be grateful if someone could mail me his e-mail address.

Sincerely,

Tariq Mahmud  
[tmk1939@hotmail.com](mailto:tmk1939@hotmail.com)

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March 20, 2008

Dear Editor, yesterday my friend Dr. Masroor Ali, along with his email attached a copy of your newsletter The Alig (vol.1, Issue 5). I was amazed to read the same. I must congratulate you and your team for doing such a wonderful and selfless work.

Iftikhar Alam Khan

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March 20, 2008

Dear Sir,

It is really a pleasant surprise to receive your newsletter. I personally feel that many things, which we even after living in the campus do not come to know, are brought to our notice through it. It is really a good attempt and I wish it should be circulated among all the teachers and old boys of the university.

Dr. Nawab Ali Khan  
Elected Member, A.M.U. Court  
Reader, Department Of Commerce  
A.M.U., Aligarh

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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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**AMU Alumni Association**  
**Tel: (650) 212-ALIG**

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