



THE ALIG

AMU Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 7

April 14, 2008

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Sir Syed Speaks to you

"India is like a bride which has got two beautiful and lustrous eyes-Hindus and Musalmans."

- Sir Syed

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Greetings!

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that the Aligarh Muslim University, which symbolizes the dream of its founder, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, is today widely regarded as an icon of modern education and learning in the country. It has been now playing a vital role in helping students from all sections of society in acquiring state of art education, irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

AMU is today ranked among the top ten Indian Universities in relation to alumni working around the world. Our old boys have spread far and wide, both in India and abroad. I know of no other University whose students - both men and women - have such a strong sentimental attachment with their alma mater.

I am proud of the fact that AMU Alumni have been rendering a yeoman service to humanity by spreading the message of "free enquiry, large hearted tolerance and pure morality" given to us by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, our beloved founder.

It gives me immense pleasure to inform you that this University is holding World Summit of AMU Alumni on October 18-19, 2008. The idea behind this historic meet is to provide a platform for a memorable reunion with thousands of our alumni spread all over the globe and to establish a permanent AMU Alumni Foundation as a perpetual facility for the old boys to maintain links with their alma mater. It would enable them to participate in its continued growth and alorv.

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I cordially invite every alumnus to join this global meet.

Welcoming you in advance,

Yours sincerely,

Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis
Vice Chancellor
Aligarh Muslim University
Aligarh

[Brochure on World Summit of AMU Alumni](#)

AMU NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY RELEASED

ALIGARH, April 1: The Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University Professor P K Abdul Azis today released the Newsletter of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the College Auditorium.

On this occasion the Faculty of Engineering has also launched a website <http://www.zhcet.ac.in> of Mitechsoft learning cube and Mitechsoft Webcube and MIT AMU Open Courseware Mirror for the teachers and students to improve the academic, administration and professional profile.

Addressing the function, AMU Vice Chancellor, Professor Azis said that the world today is much more competitive than ever before. Innovation in research in cutting edge areas of Science and Technology is essential to attain positions of academic excellence.

He said that this is an appropriate time for AMU to respond to the changing scenario and be part of the current technological revolution.

AMU Vice Chancellor said that it is my duty to make AMU a world class institution which will only be possible with active participation of the entire faculty and urged that "let us all

partners in this noble effort and make AMU a citadel of excellence".

He appreciated the efforts of Professor Ahtisham A Nizami, Dean of the Faculty for a Research, Development and Consultancy Cell and hoped this R & D activities will provide a database of all the teachers and students, pertaining to academic qualifications, research and development activities, awards and honours, publications and conferences, etc.

In his welcome address, Professor Ahtisham A Nizami, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology at AMU pointed out that we are determined to take initiatives as mentor institution to improve the standard and quality of technical education through improvement of the qualifications, competence and capabilities of the faculty.

He mentioned that the Zakir Husain College of Engineering and Technology is one of the seven institutions, identified by the Government of India and is in the process of upgradation to IIT level.

Professor Nizami said that the teachers and students of the faculty continued to make steady progress in teaching, research and development activities. All results were declared on time. This year the job placement of engineering students was 100%. Mr. Abdul Qadeer, Coordinator R & D presented a brief report of the Faculty.

VIST OF ADNAN SIDDIQI COUNSELLOR FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS, US EMBASSY

ALIGARH, April 7: Mr. Adnan A Siddiqi, Counsellor for Cultural Affairs, US Embassy, paid a visit to the Aligarh Muslim University. He is also Chairman of the US Educational Foundation in India.

He met the Vice Chancellor, Professor P K Abdul Azis alongwith his father, Mr. Anis Siddiqi an alumnus of AMU. Mr. Adnan said that the United States Educational Foundation in India (USEFI) is accepting applications and proposals for The Fulbright Fellowship for the academic year 2009-2010

USEFI's fellowship competitions are open to all Indian students, academics, teachers and professionals in all sectors.

He pointed out that Fulbright Fellowships are available for research, teaching and professional development in the United States in a wide range of disciplines.

Mr. Adnan Siddiqi's father Mr. Anis Siddiqi is an old boy of this University and did his B.Sc., MA, LLB and LLM during 1949 to 1956. He also visited his hostel Sir Syed East Room No. 23 in which he spent his eight years as a student.

Mr. Adnan Siddiqi and his father also interacted with the Faculty members of Law and Political Science on Indo-US relations.

AMU FELICITATED DR. M. OWAIS

ALIGARH, April 8: The Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, Professor P K Abdul Azis today felicitated Dr. Mohammad Owais, Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Biotechnology Unit for the "National Bio Sciences Award for Career Development" bestowed upon him by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India here at Conference Hall of Administrative Block.

Addressing the felicitation ceremony, AMU Vice Chancellor said that this is a moment for jubilation to the entire AMU Community that Dr. Owais got the young Scientist Award with a cash prize of Rs. One Lakh and a citation. This is a shining example that should create a wave of inspiration in all over the campus.

Earlier, Professor M Saleemuddin, Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Unit at AMU congratulated Dr. Owais. He said that Dr. Owais joined the Center in 1988 as a Lecturer.

He pointed out that Dr. Mohammad Owais has made pioneering work in drug delivery system. Dr. Owais has set a trend in the field of Biotechnology and this felicitation would create a great encouragement to the young workers.

Dr. Mohammad Owais said that we are indeed fortunate to have a great leader and an eminent Scientist of international repute as our Vice Chancellor, Professor P K Abdul Azis, who is not only having matching vision at par to that of the founder of our University, the legendary Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, but also has the potential to carry forward the legacy of the founder in the right direction.

Dr. Owais thanked to his wife, fellow colleagues, Dr. R H Khan and Dr. A U Khan, his mentor Dr. C M Gupta and above all the Coordinator of Biotechnology Unit, Professor M Saleemudin who is the real man behind this progress.

He hoped that every faculty member will be recognized for his or her distinguished contribution to AMU.

Professor M Irfan, Controller of Exams conducted the programme and Professor Javed Musarrat proposed a vote of thanks.

SEERAT COMMITTEE'S WEEK LONG COMPETITION

ALIGARH, April 10: The Seerat Committee of the Aligarh Muslim University organized a week long competitions in Naat Khwani, Naat Goi, Essays competition and Speech competitions at the various levels.

This year the Sir Syed Memorial Trophy will be presented to Sir Syed Hall (North), while Shibli Trophy to City High School and S T High School and Hali Trophy to Madarsa Tameer-e-Millat. These trophies will be presented by the AMU Vice Chancellor, Professor P K Abdul Azis on April 12, 2008 at Kennedy Auditorium.

The Convener of the Seerat Committee Professor Mohibullah said that more than three hundred students participated in all the events. Professor Jawed Musarrat gave away the prizes in the valedictory function held at Stretchy Hall of the University.

All India Naatia Mushaira will be held on April 12, 2008 at 9 pm in the Kennedy Hall Auditorium. The AMU Vice Chancellor, Professor P K Abdul Azis will preside. Some prominent Urdu poets from all over India will recite their poems.

A THREE-DAY NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES OF PAINTING

ALIGARH, April 10: The Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University today inaugurated a three-day National Workshop on "Different Techniques of Paintings" organized by the Department of Fine Arts.

Professor Azis said that painting reflects development of human civilization. He announced that an animation course would be started in the University with a support of Australian organization. He said that the General Education Center will also start a Cartoon Club.

While welcoming the delegates, Dr. Madhu Rani, Chairperson of the Department of Fine Arts said that this Department has been organizing sole and group shows, extension lectures, demonstration by artists and also the regional and state art exhibitions sponsored by Lalit Kala Academy time to time. The final year students also have the opportunity to hold an exhibition in the Department to encourage their creative talents.

She said that the present three day National Workshop would provide an opportunity to teachers and students in various specialized areas of paintings encompassing both traditional and modern methods and techniques of art.

Delivering the key note address, emeritus fellow in History, Professor S P Verma said that Ajanta wall-paintings are the first example of use of a plaster coating introduced on a large scale. The oldest Egyptian and Mesopotamian wall-painting refer to the buon fresco since the painter did the work on wet plaster.

He said that the wall paintings in the Mughal buildings were executed on pure lime plaster and are good example of what the Italian called fresco secco.

The paintings in 'oil' were introduced in India much earlier during 16th to 17th centuries AD. However, the royal patron, the Mughal Emperor Jahangir showed his disapproval to this

medium.

A large number of resource persons from all parts of the country are participating in the three day workshop.

Dr. Badar Jahan, Coordinator of the Workshop conducted the proceedings of the inaugural session and Dr. Rehana Khusroo thanked the delegates.

ALL INDIA INDIAN MEDICINE CONFERENCE CONCLUDED AT AMU

Aligarh, April 15: A 2-Day All India Indian Medicine Conference concluded on 14th April at Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College in Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). Proposal forwarded by All India Unani Tibbi Congress was passed during the conference. In the proposal, the government has been demanded to prepare strategy for ensuring representation of Unani and other alternate systems of treatment at all levels in order to maintain balance among recognized Indian systems of medicine.

Speaking at the conference, Prof Mehdi Hasan, Senior INA scientist, said a seminar should be organized on the topic of 'World Environment and the Role of Tibb-e-Unani' so that the role of Unani system of medicine could be highlighted. He said Unani Tibb has succeeded in maintaining health in all parts of globe for 200 years and this fact is recognized even today.

The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Mohammad Khalid Siddiqui, director, CCRUM. Large number of delegates from every part of the country participated in the conference. A record number of 99 papers were read in the conference. Senior INA scientist Prof Mehdi Hasan chaired the conference.

Source

SIEMENS SELECTED 26 FROM ZHCET

ALIGARH, April 15: Siemens visited the campus on 15th April for recruitment of Electrical Engineering students (2008 pass out batch) from ZHCET. The process of recruitment

started on 15th evening with written test and it concluded on 16th evening with subsequent selection of 26 candidates. This is the highest number recruited by any core co. from one institute. Siemens starts their campus hiring process from our college only. Last year this number was 21.

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 August 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 August 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](#)

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 August 2008. Nominations are invited for this award

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

[Click here for details](#)

ALUM NEWS

DR. ABDULLAH A. ABDULLAH: A DISTINGUISHED ALIGARIAN

Syed M. Naseem, Ph.D.



Dr. A. Abdullah of Washington DC is a well-known Aligarian. He is founding member of Aligarh Alumni Association, Washington DC and Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations in USA. He is a native of Azamgarh, joined AMU in 1955, obtained his B. S. and M. S. degrees in Statistics from Aligarh Muslim University in 1961, and served AMU for six years as a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He was a

member and later captain of AMU volley ball team. He came to USA in 1967, completed his Ph. D. from George Washington University. He initially worked for NASA and later joined G. E., and for the last couple of decades he is managing his own company. He is well recognized for his role in expansion and advancement of Urdu language in USA. He has already published a collection of his Urdu poems: wrote many articles, and was invited guest (in USA and abroad), for speeches and interviews on various topics mostly related to the growth of Urdu language in west.

The seminal role of Aligarians in organizing Mushaira in Northern America was initiated as early as in 1960s in Canada. Dr. Abdullah efforts made the event as an integral part of Sir Syed Day program. Furthermore he systematized Mushaira in a manner that now it becomes an appealing and exciting occasion in the cultural life of Urdu lovers in North America. He organized first Mushaira in Washington, D.C. under the auspicious of AMU Alumni Association in 1975. Today Muchairas are largely held in every metropolitan city in

United States and Canada. Poets from all over the world join the events. Dr. Abdullah like Dr. Abidullah Ghazi (Chicago) is one of the most communicative and vibrant Master of ceremony (Nizamat) of Mushairas and conducts Mushaira in his inimitable style.

The Mushaira organized by The Federation of Aligarh Alumni Association and manage by Dr. Abdullah, in observance of Sir Syed Day as his birth celebration is always a resounding success everywhere, obviously we believe that what we have inherited must be valued and should be protected by organizing such events. Just when we start getting concerned about the fading standards of Urdu language in sub-continent, there is an event that rejuvenates and fortifies our zeal about the survival of the language in the western world. There is definitely something magical about Urdu poetry and Dr. Abdullah has played a pivotal role in upholding the nostalgic thrill of Mushaira and kept the institution alive in west.

PROF. RAIS AKHTAR: SCIENTIST ON THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Prof. Rais Akhtar formerly Professor of Geography and Dean College Development Council, University of Kashmir, and presently National Fellow, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, is one of the scientists on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which is the joint winner of Nobel Peace Prize(2007). Prof. Rais received the Memento from the United Nations' agency in Geneva recently. He obtained M. Phil (1971) and Ph.D. (1976) in Geography from AMU. Prof. Akhtar also received prestigious international fellowships including Leverhulme overseas visiting fellow (university of Liverpool), Henry Chapman fellowship (university of London), and visiting fellowship (university of Sussex).

NAJAM ANSARI PROUD FATHER

By the grace of Allah, Najam Ansari (MCA'95, webmaster of amudirectory.com) has been blessed with a baby girl "Asma".

Congratulations to Najam and his family from all of us. -Editor

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.

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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

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

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 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 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.

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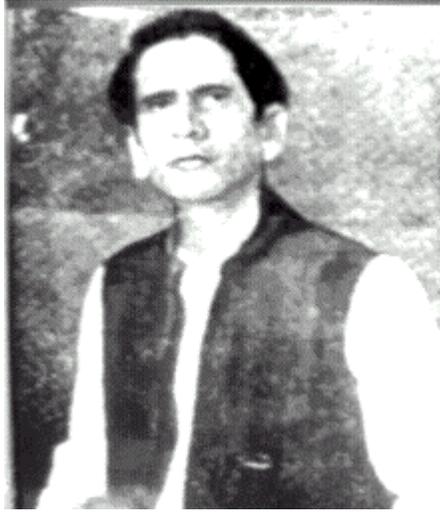
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FEATURE ARTICLE

MAJAZ: POET OF MADANPURA'S MILL WORKERS

Taran N. Khan



Young Asrar ul Haq Majaaz's Urdu verses made him such a heartthrob on the Aligarh Muslim University campus that groups of girls drew lots to decide who would marry him.

Some of them slept with his name under their pillows. Those who had no hope of a union with the brilliant poet vowed to at least name their

sons Majaaz. It is not known how many finally did follow through on their vows, but history hasn't managed to produce another poet like Majaaz (1911-1955).

That is probably what motivated the Department of Posts to issue a commemorative stamp in his honour recently, an event that passed by without so much as a ripple in Mumbai - which is ironic since the city can lay claim to at least some of his angst, and hence his verses.

It is a little known fact that Majaaz spent part of his life in Bombay, reciting verses for its mill workers in Madanpura. Somewhere along the way, he is supposed to have penned these lines, from a poem titled 'Awara':

*Shahar ki raat aur main nashaad-o-nakaara phirun
Jagmagaati-jaagti sadkon pe awara phirun
Ghair ki basti mein kabtak dar-ba-dar maara phirun
Aye gham-e-dil kya karun, Aye vahshat-e-dil kya karun*

(Through the city night, I walk grief-struck and aimless / On these bright, wide-awake roads I stroll without a home / How many doors do I knock on in this city of strangers? / O my heart's grief, what shall I do? O my heart's turmoil, what shall I do?)

This could be the unofficial anthem of the much-reviled

'outsiders' of Mumbai. "It was only after I stepped into Mumbai city that I truly understood the poem 'Awara', wrote Marathi writer Madhav Maholkar.

The connection between the poem and the city was further strengthened by Shammi Kapoor walking the streets of Bombay, singing these verses in the mellow voice of Talat Mehmood, in the film Thokar.

There is more than a touch of cinematic tragedy to Majaaz's brief life. Born into an affluent family in Rudauli, Barabanki, his first collection of poems, Aahang (1938), established him as a rising star in literary circles.

His verses fused the romantic tradition of Urdu poetry with the revolutionary impulse of the times. He saw women not as objects of romantic fantasy but as a hamsafar, an equal traveler on the road:

*Tere maathe pe yeh anchal bahut hi khoob hai lekin
Tu is aanchal se ek parcham bana leti to achchha tha.*

(The veil on your forehead is very beautiful but / It would be better if you turned this veil into a flag).

These ideas eventually coalesced into the Progressive Writers Movement which reached its zenith in Bombay. Through the 1940s, the streets of the city were thick with idealistic poets. Some came to work for the communist party. Others were drawn by the talkies.

Unlike his compatriots, though, Majaaz never made Mumbai his home. But drawn by the presence of friends as well as employment prospects, he visited the city intermittently.

During the day, he would do the rounds of the film studios, chafing at being treated as an unknown. In the evenings, he would delight the audience at the mazdoor mushairas in Madanpura.

Maholkar quotes an incident from Josh Malihabadi's autobiography to show how Majaaz never really took to the ways of Bombay's film circles. Majaaz and Sahir (Ludhianvi) went to see a producer for work on a film called Hoor-E-Arab

(The Arabian Beauty).

It was a hot summer afternoon and the poets were kept waiting outside the producer's air-conditioned cabin while his paramour went in. Majaaz was extremely upset by this treatment. An acquaintance appeared and asked why it was taking so long to see the director. "Because," Majaaz retorted, "the hoor is inside, and we are out here, sweltering in the sands of Arabia."

During his Bombay visits, Majaaz often stayed in the Party commune on Walkeshwar Road. SM Mehdi, a party worker and commune resident, recalls that one day Majaaz approached them with a complaint: someone had stolen the Rs500 he had received as payment for some writing work.

The embarrassed hosts made enquiries. It turned out that Majaaz had spent the previous evening at the local bar. He had, in a characteristic gesture, given the money as a tip to the bearer and then forgotten all about it.

This was 1946-47. By then, Majaaz's life had moved through a downward spiral, brought on by a doomed romance, alcoholism and depression. It was also the time when the dream of independence had soured in the violence of Partition.

"Once", says Mehdi, "while we were at the party office, a riot broke out on the street. Majaaz, looking out from the roof, saw a Pathan being knifed to death by a mob. The sight made him hysterical with grief. We just couldn't calm him down.

Finally, we started reciting verses." As the young poets worked their way through couplets, their neighbour came running up. "Are you crazy", he shouted, "Reading Urdu words when there is a mob outside? Do you want everyone to know there are Muslims in the Party office?"

Majaaz died at the age of 44 in Lucknow, after a group of friends left him alone in a tavern on a freezing winter night. At the end of a tumultuous life, he left only three volumes of poetry: Aahang (1938), Shab-e-Taab (1945) and Saaz-e-Nau (1945). But his influence is far wider than is suggested by this

slim legacy, and his voice has found resonance across the years.

In the recent film, *Khoya Khoya Chand*, lyricist Swanand Kirkire pays him oblique tribute by paraphrasing verses from 'Awara'. Ironically, the poem that has come to represent Majaaz's vision of Bombay was apparently written before he visited the city. Nevertheless, it speaks of a city of light, lost dreams, and a restless spirit.

Even if it was written in Lucknow, the image has enough of Mumbai to be claimed by the city as its own.

Article Source

OPINION

DR. AMBEDKAR: HIS IDEALS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Prof. M. Shabbir

Department of Law, AMU, Aligarh

In our contemporary era, Dr. Ambedkar's life, mission and eminence have become the source of inspiration to the down-trodden and oppressed segments of Indian society. He belonged to an 'untouchable' caste of Maharashtra known as **Mahars**. He was born on 14th April, 1891 at Mhow in Madhya Pradesh. His father was a Head Master in a Military School. His actual name was Bhima Rao. His surname was Sakpal, but he replaced it with Ambedkar, a Sanskritised version imitating the Maharashtrian names. Dr. Ambedkar was a common man of the soil. Today he is remembered as one of the noblest son of India. He became a Chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee and is respected as a Founding Father of the Indian Constitution. He was a champion of human rights, emancipator of the oppressed, and a protagonist of social justice. He devoted his entire life not only for the liberation of suppressed class in India, but struggled hard for the eradication of the old social values based on caste. He worked as a mission to develop mutual human understanding and balanced social order, by attacking the old and conservative ideas that had ever been a source of social friction and hatred.

His towering personality did illuminate, influence and mould politics in contemporary India.

Dr. Ambedkar was a multi-faceted and multi-dimensional personality. He had set for himself the goal of uplifting and emancipating the millions of oppressed humanity from the poverty, ignorance, slavery and humiliation. He was prominent social thinker whose ideas on socio-political history of India contributed to understand the society and polity. His findings are relevant and they speak volumes for his profound intellectual capacity. To him, Indian social and political history is nothing but a 'glorification of upper caste and degeneration of the lower caste'. About caste system, he considered it as an artificial creation of the vested interest. He fought for a just and egalitarian society. His philosophy was pragmatic and programmatic. His life was a saga of great scholastic attainments.

After graduation in 1912, he went to USA on Baroda State scholarship. He joined Columbia University from where he secured M.A. in economics and Ph.D. subsequently. Then he went to England and joined School of Economic and Political Science, but he could not pursue his studies due to non-continuation of scholarship. He returned and started teaching at Bombay. After saving some money and financial support from his friends, he went to England to complete his studies. He did his M.Sc. in 1921 and was awarded the D.Sc. in 1923. In the same year he was called to the Bar. In the year 1924, he started a new career for himself by starting legal practice at Bombay High Court. He published '**Mook Nayak**', '**Bahiskrit Bharat**' and '**Samta**'. Inter-caste marriages and inter-caste dinners form important part of the programme launched by his organization: '**Samaj Samta Dal**'. He inspired his followers by his key slogan: "educate, organize and agitate".

His convincing advocacy got the approval in Round Table Conference, London, resultantly the communal award of 1932 conceding separate electorate to the untouchables materialized. It was opposed by Mahatma Gandhi, consequent upon, the Poona Pact came into being providing reservation in favour of the depressed classes. He made comparative study of different religions. He was impressed by Islam, Sikhism and Buddhism. Later on, he embraced Buddhism with his more

than three lacs followers in 1956.

Dr. Ambedkar resorted to legal measures for the abolition of untouchability and protection of political, social and economic interests of the depressed classes. Various provisions were incorporated in the Constitution of India for the welfare of the depressed classes under the Articles 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 31, 31-B, 38, 46, 164, 244A, 320 330, 331, 334, 335, 339, 340, 341 and 342. No one can deny that the constitutional protections, various policies, programmes and schemes for the welfare of the backwards were possible only by the life long-efforts of DR. Ambedkar. Dr. Ambedkar also founded the '**Scheduled Caste Federation**', '**Samaj Samata Sabha**' and '**People Education Society**' for the upliftment of the depressed classes. He also championed the cause of weaker sections through papers like '**Mook Naya**', '**Janata**' and '**Samata**'. He thus emerged as a dedicated fighter for the cause of oppressed and weaker sections. He fought against rampant discrimination, rigid caste system and Hindu social order for giving rightful place to the down-trodden. His struggle for social justice, social change and social equality is unparalleled in recent Indian history. He got success in achieving constitutional, social, political, economic, educational and legal rights for the oppressed sections.

Dr. Ambedkar as a jurist, legal philosopher and ardent believer in law as an instrument of justice (social, economic, political and legal) devoted himself in bringing overall change while taking into account the principle of justice, modernity of outlook, forward looking approach and welfare of society in general and of the weaker sections in particular. As a law giver, he was called the '**Modern Manu**'. He dreamt of creating a casteless, classless and egalitarian society. He encouraged inter caste marriage and inter-dinning. His vision was of building a democratic polity wedded to the principles of social, economic and political justice, sharing the essence of equality, liberty and fraternity.

He joined Nehru's Cabinet in the capacity of Law Minister. He was keen to reform law. Out of this spirit, he prepared Hindu Code Bill. He devoted his capabilities as a pragmatic researcher in structuring the Hindu Code Bill, but its contents were opposed in the Parliament when it was tabled. This move shocked Dr. Ambedkar and ultimately he resigned as a Law

Minister in reaction. In capacity of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution of India, he worked hard for collecting the Constitutional material by going through important Constitutions of the world. He introduced numerous principles which ensure good governance of a pluralistic civil society. He is acclaimed Masiha of the downtrodden, subjugated and oppressed segments of Indian population.

He is recognized as a jurist, philosopher, law maker, social reformer, constitution maker, champion of Human Rights, fighter for the cause of justice and emancipator of depressed classes. Dr. Ambedkar said that his social philosophy is enshrined in: "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity". His message to the downtrodden is: "You must have firm belief in the sacredness of your mission. Noble is your aim and sublime and glorious is your mission. Blessed are those who are awakened to their duty to those among whom they are born". He showed an enlightened path to them: "Educate, agitate and organize". The life of Dr. Ambedkar is a heroic tale of great struggles and achievements. Noble Laureate Gunner Myrdal appreciates Dr. Ambedkar like this: "All over the world the memory of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar will live forever as a truly great Indian in generation which laid down the direction of Independent India". Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India had rightly observed: "Dr. Ambedkar is the brightest Gem of my cabinet". A great emancipator, he was true democrat, a great patriot, thinker, philosopher, revolutionist, dynamic leader and the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. Above all, he was a great humanist who fought throughout his life for the cause of poor, oppressed and exploited people of India. His matchless services to the nation were honoured and recognized with the greatest civilian award: "Bharat Ratna" in 1991.

Recognizing his services to society and nation in promoting the cause of humanity and human rights, Government of India honoured him posthumously by conferring the highest civilian award: '**Bharat Ratna**'. Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, government of India, New Delhi, came into being for conducting valuable research promoting the humanistic ideology of Dr. Ambedkar through 'Dr. Ambedkar Chairs' created in various leading Universities/

Institutions of India including the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. Dr. Ambedkar gave impetus to the concept of 'Social Justice' in the process of championing the cause of human rights, being the messiah of oppressed people, buttressing the necessity of casteless society giving the vision of egalitarianism for which our Constitution stands stoutly. Thus, we pay tribute and homage remembering Dr. Ambedkar and his ideals and contributions on the eve of his 117th birth anniversary.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

An evening with Prof. Javed Akhter, Dean and Chairman, Faculty of Management, Aligarh Muslim University

Date: Wednesday 23 April 2008

Time: 6.30 PM

Venue: Indian Muslim Federation (U.K), Trinity Close, Leytonstone, London E11 4RP (nearest tube station Leytonstone or surface rail Leytonstone High Road)

Please confirm attendance on amualumniuk@hotmail.com

VII Annual Convention of the Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations

August 8-10, 2008

Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Click here for more details

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

World Summit of AMU Alumni at Aligarh

October 18 & 19, 2008

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

BOOK REVIEWS

PROFESSOR ASLOOB ANSARI'S BOOK - DR. IQBAL'S VISION

ALIGARH, April 12: Professor Asloob Ahmad Ansari, a distinguished Urdu and English critic and illustrious literary figure of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has recently published a new 246 pages book, Iqbal the Visionary (2008). Divided into fifteen chapters, this ground-breaking work brings into sharp focus Iqbal's seminal concepts of God, Perfect Man, Self, Will, Vision; his mythic configurations and poetics and his stance on Existentialism, Time and Space and the West. Contained also in the book is Professor Ansari's masterly critique of several poems of Iqbal. This work would be read with great profit by the students of both Urdu and comparative literature in view of its insightful and in-depth coverage of relevant material.

Born in 1925, Asloob Ahmad Ansari was educated in Delhi, Aligarh and Oxford. His first book on the major British Poet, William Blake, Arrows of Intellect was published in 1965, and reprinted in America in 1970, his second book, William Blake's Minor Prophecies was published in 2001 in Wales (UK), New York (USA) and Ontario (Canada) simultaneously. Earlier in 1969, he contributed, "Blake and the Kabala" to William Blake, Essays for S. Foster Damon (Brown University Press, America). He was cited in Shakespeare's Poetics (Cambridge) and The Watchmen of Eternity (London, Boston). Several of his articles on Shakespeare were abstracted and commented on in Year's Work in English, London.

He has published three books on Ghalib, six on Iqbal, one on Rasheed Ahmad Siddiqui, a collection of sketches of well known personages and Fifteen Urdu Novels. He also collected

and published critical essays by several hands on Urdu Ghazal criticism in two volumes. He was founder-editor of the Aligarh Journal of English Studies (1976-1987), The Aligarh Critical Miscellany (1988-2001) and Naqd-o-Nazar (1979-2001). He has received a large number of prestigious literary awards, including Sahitya Akademy Award, Ghalib Award and Pakistan Allama Iqbal Award, and on him was also conferred D.Lit. Degree Honors Causa by University of Gorakhpur in 2006.

OBITUARY

MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL DAR

Srinagar (PTI): Former Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Mohammad Maqbool Dar, passed away in a local hospital here on wednesday night. He was 65.

He is survived by two wives and five children. One of his daughters was to be married on Thursday, family sources said.

Dar, who had suffered head injuries after he slipped in the bathroom on April 13, passed away in Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences at Soura late Thursday night, doctors told PTI.

Dar was inducted as MoS Home in union council of ministers in H D Devegowda's JD (S)-led government in 1996.

The former minister was also suffering from various ailments including diabetes.

Born on November 10, 1943 in an agriculturist family in Shangus area of Anantnag district, Dar joined politics in 1971 after obtaining a law degree from Aligarh Muslim University.

He joined Congress in 1975 and unsuccessfully contested assembly elections in 1977 but later won in 1983. However, he lost in 1987 after he contested as an independent.

Dar contested parliamentary elections in 1996 on Janata Dal ticket and was appointed MoS Home.

Source

DR. AKRAM SHAMSI

Dr. Akram Shamsi is no more with us. He left for his final destination today in Kualalumpur, Malaysia while praying Juma prayer. The cause could be whatever but it is a fact that

he has left his memories with us.

Dr. Akram Shamsi studied at AMU Law College and served there as Lecturer till he left for Nigeria in 1978. In 1991 he was shifted from Zarea Nigeria to Kuala Lumpur Malaysia. He was a Professor of Law at International Islamic University till today.

He is survived by his wife Najma and children Dr. Uzma, Asma, Haris and Yasir.

His family can be contacted at najmarafi@hotmail.com

MAIL BOX

April 4, 2008

Dear Editor, As-Salaam Alaykum

While going through the last issue of "The Alig", I felt being at Aligarh only. I must congratulate you on bringing out well done issue. Do let me know if I could be of any use, in this endeavor of yours. I think that the forthcoming issues may also take up issues like exposure/ employment/scholarships for AMU students and industry focus and trends etc. This will possibly enhance interest and acceptability of your effort on Campus.

With regards

Prof. Imran Saleem
Dean & Head
Department of Management
Faculty of Management & Information Technology
Jamia Hamdard
New Delhi-62

April 4, 2008

Dear Editor: ASAK

I do not have words to express my pleasure after going through the latest issue of your marvelous effort in bringing out such a newsletter "THE ALIG". From the first issue till this one it is on course of improvement. AMU is on the threshold of

transformation into a happening university under the able guidance of the present Vice Chancellor. Your newsletter amply proves it. People know about the events through these efforts of yours. Vice Chancellor Prof.P.K.Abdul Azis wants this University to be recognized as an institution of excellence and I am sure if faculty supports him he would be able to achieve it. Students of the University in general are appreciating his every move and it is hoped that such an atmosphere would continue in the years to come.

Dr. Suhail Sabir
Department Of Chemistry
AMU Aligarh

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
Tel: (650) 212-ALIG

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