



# THE ALIG

## AMU Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 8

April 28, 2008

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### Sir Syed Speaks to you

*"When a nation becomes devoid of arts and learning, it invites poverty. And when poverty comes it brings in its wake thousands of crimes."*

- Sir Syed

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### Greetings!

On behalf of the Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations, we invite you to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention which will take place in Cleveland, OH on August 8-10, 2008.

We are extending invitation to all AAAs, Aligs, and well wishers to participate in the convention. We are happy to inform you that many AAAs and quite a few Aligs and well wishers have already accepted our invitation.

We have invited Prof. P.K. Abul Azis, Vice Chancellor of AMU to be the chief guest and keynote speaker. Singer Alamgeer would provide entertainment after the Banquet dinner.

All of the convention details including registration information will be posted on Federation's Website.

We hope that you will join us in Cleveland to enjoy both the convention and the reunion with the fellow alumni. Please call the hotel directly to make the reservations at group discount rates.

Please help us to make 2008 convention to be the most successful.

Looking forward to welcoming you in Cleveland.

Sincerely,

Qamar Khan

President

Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations

Tel: 216-464-8318

Cell: 216-287-4212

[Email](#)

[Website](#)

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## AMU NEWS

### DR. SANAULLAH PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NARRATOLOGY IN HUMANITIES

**ALIGARH, April 17:** Dr. Mohd. Sanaullah, Reader Department of Arabic at the Aligarh Muslim University participated in the first International Conference on Narratology in Humanities at the Suez Canal University of Ismailia, Egypt.

His paper on 'Modern Narratology and the Syncretistic Pedagogy' was declared to be among the best five papers.

Dr. Sanaullah also visited the University of Cairo, Al-Azhar University, the American University of Cairo. He also visited several Syrian Universities.

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### AMU DIGITIZES ITS ADMISSION PROCESS, TO MAKE HISTORY BY HOLDING TESTS OUTSIDE

**Aligarh:** First time in its history, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) is going to hold its entrance tests at some outside centres beside Aligarh, and also first time it has digitized its whole admission process.

Addressing a press conference in Aligarh on 24th April, AMU Vice-Chancellor Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis said the university administration was taking all steps to conduct the admission tests in the best tradition of AMU. The university authorities are also approaching Chief Secretary of states where tests are to be held to provide all security arrangements to conduct the admission tests at various centres.

For the first time, AMU has put all application forms on the web. The university has also made arrangements for helpline mobile phone and the helpdesk with a view to provide better

online services to the candidates.

Talking to reporters, the vice-chancellor expressed his happiness that the Supreme Court of India has allowed the application filed by AMU and has permitted to hold entrance tests at Bhopal, Kozhikode, Kolkata and Pune apart from Aligarh itself. The Apex Court on 22nd April had given its nod to the entrance test centres.

Prof Azis pointed out that the Executive Council of the university, at its special meeting held on 8th April 2008, unanimously resolved to approach the Supreme Court for a directive on the question "whether opening a new admission test centres will violate the status quo of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India" before holding the entrance tests at the above mentioned centres for admission to MBBS/BDS, B.Tech./ B.Arch. and Class XI/ Diploma in Engineering courses.

A three-member bench of the court comprising Chief Justice K.G. Balakishnan, Justice R.V. Raveendran and Justice Mukundaran Sharma gave the order. The order clarified that the starting of admission test centres as mentioned would not be a violation of the Supreme Court order of status quo. AMU was represented by Soli J. Sorabji, senior advocate, and Eijaz Maqbool, an AMU alumnus. Gopal Subramaniam, Additional Solicitor General of India, was also present on behalf of Government of India.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. P.K. Azis hoped these admission test centres shall attract the meritorious students to AMU, ensure wider representation of the states across the country and strengthen the all India character of the university.

### [Source Link](#)

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## **AMU VC IN CIVIL SOCIETY DELEGATION IN SAUDI ARABIA**

**IEDDAH 28 April 2008 - A high-level civil society**

delegation from India is currently on a visit to Saudi Arabia. The delegation is sponsored by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and is led by its vice president, Syed Shahid Mahdi.

The delegation includes P.K. Abdul Aziz, vice chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University; Anwar Moazzam, Islamic scholar, academic, writer and director, Urdu Documentation Center, Hyderabad; A.C. Patankar, adviser, Confederation of Indian Industry; Rakhshanda Jalil, coordinator, media and culture, Jamia Milia Islamia; and Mita Vasisht, actress.

During the visit, the delegation will interact with the Saudi civil society. The delegation is also expected to call on Deputy Minister of Information and Culture Abu Baker Bagader and is scheduled to visit the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dar Al-Hekma women's college, Islamic Development Bank, NCB and International Medical Center.

Saudi-India Friendship Society will be hosting a reception in honor of the delegation. The delegation will also participate in a panel discussion on Wednesday where some prominent Saudi personalities will speak.

[Source Link](#)

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### **SIR ZIAUDDIN HALL ORGANIZES LITERARY&CULTURAL FEST "MAGNUM OPUS 08"**

The residents of Sir Ziauddin Hall named after a great visionary, Mathematician of international repute, former Vice Chancellor and biggest contributor to AMU after Sir Syed Ahmad Khan Sir Ziauddin organized their Annual Literary & Cultural Festival "MAGNUM OPUS 08" with great enthusiasm during April 18-20. The program was inaugurated by Padm Shri Prof. Zillur-Rehman President of IBN-E-SINA academy. He was also the chief guest of the evening. Prof. Farhatullah Khan and Prof. Iqbal Ali Khan, Dean F/O Law were the guest of Honor. Mr. Raza Hussain MBA Final year student and secretary literary club of the Hall conducted the proceedings. Dr. Afaq Ahmad Provost of the Hall welcomed the guests and Dr. Suhail Sabir President of the Literary and Cultural Society proposed the vote of thanks. Program continued the next day and students from most of the Halls of residence attended and participated in large number and enjoyed the evening. The valedictory function was held on 20th April. Local MLA Haji Zamirullah was the chief guest on this occasion. Former Provost Prof. Firoz Ahmad was the guest of Honor. Prizes were distributed to the winners of different events.

Such functions bring out the hidden talents in the students and help develop their personalities which have been a Hall mark of this great

institution. Vice Chancellor Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis is continuously encouraging the students to participate in such events. Practically every Hall of residence is organizing such events these days.

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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 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](#)

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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 August 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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## ALUM NEWS

### DR. ZIAUR RAHMAN TO ATTEND THE WORLD HEALTH PROFESSIONS CONFERENCE IN GENEVA



Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, JN Medical College, AMU, Aligarh, is visiting Geneva (Switzerland) to attend the World Health Professions Conference on Regulation from 17-18 May 2008 as an invited guest. In addition, he is also invited as a part of international delegation to 61<sup>st</sup> World Health Assembly of WHO by Global Health Council (USA) from 19-24 May 2008. World Health Assembly is held every year at WHO Headquarter at Geneva. During his stay at Geneva, he will also present his innovative paper on Ecopharmacovigilance at the University Hospital, University of Geneva during the Geneva Forum: Towards Access to Health 2008 from 25-29 May 2008.

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### ZAFAR IQBAL IN SELECTION PANEL



Indian Olympic Association president

Suresh Kalmadi named a five-man selection committee to pick hockey teams for international commitments.

The selection panel, comprising former star players, will be headed by Aslam Sher Khan and include ex-captains Ashok Kumar, Ajitpal Singh, Dhanraj Pillay and **Zafar Iqbal**.

Zafar Iqbal, the mercurial left-winger and Olympic gold medalist, known for his searing runs during his playing days

had done his civil engineering from Aligarh Muslim University in 1978.

Zafar Iqbal represented India in field hockey from 1977 to 1986. From 1982 to 1984, he was also India's skipper, leading the national team in the 1982 Asian Games (New Delhi), 1982 Champions Trophy (Amsterdam), 1983 Champions Trophy (Karachi) and 1984 Olympic Games (Los Angeles).

From early 1993 to October 1994, Zafar was the national hockey coach. New players like Rajnish Mishra, Anil Aldrin, Dilip Tirkey and Sabu Varkey were discovered during his reign.

Zafar Iqbal who has received many awards, including prestigious Arjun Award currently works in Indian Airlines.

The Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations has established an award for best sports person of the year (12-18 years of age) from the Children of AMU Alumni or members of the Alumni Associations in North America. The award is to be given at the annual convention of the federation.

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### **DOUBLE HONOR FOR PROF. BADAR ALAM IQBAL**

The UP Government has appointed Prof. Badar Alam Iqbal, Chairman, Department of Commerce, AMU as NODAI Officer for Aligarh City to hold CPMT-2008 examination and the Vice-Chancellor of Kashmir University has appointed him as a subject expert to research and development Committee of Kashmir University.

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### **S. K. VARSHNEY JOINED INDIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW**

S. K. Varshney (M.Sc. 1984) has joined Embassy of India in Moscow (Russia) as Counselor (Science & Technology). He will be responsible for scientific, engineering and medical cooperation between two countries.

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### **DR. ANWAR JAHAN ZUBERI NOMINATED BY MHRD ON USEFI'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dr. Anwar Jahan Zuberi, Vice Chancellor, Calicut University has also been nominated by MHRD on USEFI's Board of

Directors. Dr. Zuberi, the first woman VC of Calicut University, was Professor of Education at AMU.

This year USEFI has two AMU alums. In the previous year, we had another AMU alum Mr. Virendra Sam Singh (ex-DuPont) on USEFI's Board.

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### **DR. JAMSHED A. SIDDIQUI JOINED THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE**

Dr. Jamshed A. Siddiqui (AMU:1983-92) joined the University of Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia as Country Director - India & Chief Representative - South Asia. He will be based in Delhi. Before joining his current position Dr. Siddiqui worked as Deputy Director at the U.S. Educational Foundation in India (USEFI).

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## **AEEF NEWS**

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

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

country. Moreover, for its own prosperity as well as to play its positive role fully in this globalizing economy India needs to tap every ounce of its manpower talent.

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

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

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

#### **Tax Exempt Status**

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

#### **Donations**

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

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

There Are Many Ways You Can Help.

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

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

Many of these gifts offer tax advantages to the donor.

#### **Checks**

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

**AI T G A D H**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

### TRADITION OF SARTORIAL EXCELLENCE

ANUJ KUMAR



THERE is one register where both Satpal Maharaj and Mufti Mohammed Sayeed figure on the same page. This is the measurement register of the Mehedi brothers, the tailor duo to whom most politicians virtually line up to get their *sherwanis* stitched.

Manmohan Singh, V.P. Singh, Arjun Singh, Babu Parmanand, Syed Sibte Razi, E. Ahmed and Azam Khan... the list is quite big. The brothers are also proud of the family's association with the first citizens of the country. "From Zakir Hussain to Shankar Dayal Sharma, we have stitched *sherwanis* for all the Presidents of India," claims Anwar Mehedi, taking out the certificates which different Presidents have bestowed upon them. "After Shankar Dayal Sharma, those who took the highest office hardly wore *sherwanis*, but there is no dearth of work. Chief Ministers, Governors, ministers, all keep us busy," adds Anwar.

No, the Mehedis do not work out of a designer hub in a metro. Their humble little shop is located in Aligarh, a small town in western Uttar Pradesh, known for its "four Ms", as Akhtar Mehedi, the younger of the two brothers puts it. "Aligarh has been famous for the Muslim University, mosquitoes, *mathris* and Mehedi Hasan, our father, who set up the shop in 1947."

**How it all began**

Chronicling their rise, Akhtar says when Zakir Hussain was the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University before moving to Delhi, "Our father's work caught his fancy. When he became the Vice President he said only Mehedi Hasan would stitch his *sherwani*. In the 17 years of his political life, father stitched 175 *sherwanis* for him. The word spread and soon it became a tradition. The *sherwanis* of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad, V.V. Giri and Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy were stitched at our shop in Aligarh," says Akhtar with a tinge of pride in his eyes.

As for Manmohan Singh, Akhtar says they stitched his *sherwani* when he came to Aligarh for the university convocation before becoming the Prime Minister. "He doesn't wear *sherwanis* unlike V.P. Singh who has always been fond of *sherwanis*."

The Mehedis have clients residing in other countries as well. It is interesting to see their measurement register, where pages are devoted to countries followed by Indian cities and the political clients. For instance, the U.K. page opens with the measurements of Pervaiz Alam and Satish Jacob. "Once we have the measurement, the client doesn't need to come to us again. Just a phone call will do."

Talking of their unique selling point, Anwar relates, "We make *sherwanis* not just in accordance to measurements. For us, body structure is the key. Some people have broad shoulders, others have drooping ones. The structure of the back is also taken into account. Then fall is something that makes our *sherwani* unique." The politician who has troubled him the most, in the sartorial sense, is Satpal Maharaj. "His structure is very complex, but the *sherwani* looks good on him because it hides his size," smiles Anwar.

### **Then and now**

Once an outfit of the nobles, the *sherwani* is a dress that looks good on both the fat and the thin. However, these days it has been reduced to an "occasion" wear. "It's true. There was a time when students used to attend classes in *sherwani* and people didn't mind cycling in *sherwanis*. These days, however, people don't want to feel restricted so they wear it only on select occasions. But the good thing is that it's no longer a predominantly Muslim outfit. There is demand from people of all communities." In a communally sensitive city, Anwar says 40 per cent of their business comes from non-Muslim families.

Akhtar has his own way of underlining their supremacy. "Once a popular Karachi tailor, in jealousy, tried to outdo us. One of our clients challenged him to make a new *sherwani*, which would have the same fit like the one stitched by us. He opened the *sherwani*, to see how we had stitched it. But the poor man failed to put it back into the original shape. forget

about stitching the new one. Our *sherwanis* take the body's shape and still remain airy. We don't call our clients for trial." As for competition from the designers in Delhi, Anwar quips, "They don't make *sherwanis*. They are just making *kurtas* with collars!"

An engineering graduate, Anwar says he shifted back to tailoring because there is greater respect in this profession. It seems strange, for Anwar had even taught at the Aligarh Muslim University Polytechnic for two years. "There are so many engineers but there is no tailor like me. So I should pursue what I can do best."

[Source Link](#)

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## OPINION

### THE HORRIBLE MUSLIM QUESTION

**Anand K. Sahay**

There is an odd poignancy about the state of our Muslims; the ironies of their existence as a religious community can hardly fail to startle a dispassionate observer. Dispelling myths and prejudices, the Sachar Committee has lately informed us that the Muslim community in India is barely distinguishable from the Dalits on most counts of social, economic and educational deprivation. For some years, another crushing reality has been imposed on it, one that imprisons the mind and induces a social psychology of diffidence and fear. From every conceivable forum - whether it is the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, comprising chiefly the ulema or religious scholars, or the countless organisations of Muslims across the country that campaign on secular issues of work, employment, education, health and Muslim women's rights - Indian Muslims find themselves obliged to proclaim that they are against terrorism. All of a sudden, they find they have been put in the dock as a collective. This is partly the result of the lingering socio-political prejudices of the majority rooted in the Partition era, but in the main this state of affairs can be traced to the aggressive majoritarianism prevalent in certain organs of the State, in particular the police and the home department of state governments across the country, irrespective of the party in power.

The shame is that the Indian Muslim has been pushed on the defensive 60 long years after Independence. When the country was partitioned in 1947, very few Muslims chose to go to Pakistan. They proved through that action that they were as much sons and daughters of the soil as anyone else (though the Jana Sangh, the earlier avatar of the BJP, ran a campaign in the 1960s demanding that the Muslims "Indianise" themselves). As a community, the Indian Muslim has been pushed on the defensive for no concrete reason. Most of them live the life of the wretched Indian poor. Their political behaviour is little different from that of other Indians. Election studies tell us their voting is as divided as that of any other community. In that sense, it is hard to maintain that they are even a "community", the difference only being that most Muslims might choose to vote away from the Hindutva parties. But, frankly, so do most Hindus or the BJP would have been a runaway electoral success. Yet, for all the 'normal' behaviour the Muslims of India exhibit in every facet of everyday existence, there has now come to be in our midst 'the Muslim question', sprung from nowhere and sprung God knows why....

The question of terrorism is often mentioned among non-Muslims as half-hearted justification. But no one can point to a single case when an Indian Muslim joined the Taliban jihad in Afghanistan even as hundreds of Muslims (some say thousands) languish in jails across India on terrorism-related charges without trial. The conviction rate is laughable in cases of a trial concluding. There are cases of women, on point of threatened assault, forced to falsely implicate men of the family. Haseena Khan, who for 20 years has been running 'Awaz-e- Niswan' in Mumbai, a Muslim women's organisation with a feminist outlook that takes a contra-Sharia view on matters relating to gender-justice, says the threat of being searched, beaten, locked up on terrorism charges is the new equivalent of the old-fashioned communal riot. The riot was at least open as far as the judicial process went, she says. Terrorism charges are not, and Muslims across India are gripped by fear of it. This is a view shared by others - for instance, Wasim Ahmad, a former Congress MP and member of the Aligarh Muslim University court, and Mohammed Adeeb, a member of the executive of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. A couple of months ago, thousands of Muslims

ulema from across the country gathered at Darul Uloom at Deoband near Saharanpur in UP to denounce terrorism. For Adeeb, the fear of physical and economic insecurity - and riots and foisting of terrorism cases both fall in this category - are uppermost in every Muslim's mind these days.

As a result of prejudice, it is widely believed that all that Muslims care for are their personal laws and their rights as a religious entity. The experience of Sanchetna, run by Haneef Lakdawala in Ahmedabad, is an eye-opener. For six years between 1993 and 1999 (ie. shortly after the devastation of Babri Masjid and the riots that followed in many places), he surveyed 8,000 Muslim men and women in all regions of Gujarat. He himself was surprised by the result. Rather than Babri Masjid, Muslim personal law, or the status of Urdu, the areas of top priority for his respondents were: quality education, lack of employment, lack of social reforms within the community, and strained relations with the Hindu majority. I asked Lakdawala what the Gujarat Muslims might say after the pogrom of 2002. He said they might add "insecurity" to their list of concerns that grip them.... In terms of access to politics and share in governance, the Indian Muslim is indeed worse off than the Dalits. The Dalits (at least a fair proportion among them), on account of reservations, can get to schools, find jobs, and get elected to legislatures on specified quotas. The Muslims are less fortunate in this respect.

Just about one percent of Muslims in India come from traditionally Dalit occupations, suggesting they may have converted from the Dalit castes (most appear to be from what are now called Most Backward Castes among the OBCs). And yet nearly all Muslims labour under the same disadvantages as the Dalits. The Sachar Committee data suggests this is as true of Left-run West Bengal, or Bihar and Uttar Pradesh run for decades by socialism-parroting OBC leaders who rely so desperately on Muslim votes, not to mention other states. The net result is that the Muslims are in the dock. But so is the country.

[Source Link](#)

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

## Aligarh Alumni Association Events in USA

**Host:** AMUAA Greater Chicago  
**What:** Musical Evening with Alamgir  
**Where:** College of Lake County, Building C Auditorium,  
19351 West Washington Street, Grayslake, IL 60030  
**When:** Saturday, May 10, 2008 at 7:30 PM  
**Phone:** (608) 270-0246  
**Email**

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**Host:** AMU Alumni Association of Michigan  
**What:** Ghazal Ki Ek Shaam- Mirza Ghalib ke Naam  
**When:** Sunday, June 1, 2008 at 4.00 PM Sharp  
**Where:** Kresge Auditorium-Madonna University 36600  
Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Michigan 48150  
**Phone:**(248) 885-0767  
**Email**

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

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## Annual Convocation of Aligarh Muslim University

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

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

**August 8-10, 2008**

**Cleveland, Ohio, USA**

[Click here for more details](#)

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

**October 10 - November 28**

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

[Mushaira Schedule 2008](#)

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**World Summit of AMU Alumni at Aligarh**

**October 18 & 19, 2008**

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

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## **BOOK REVIEWS**

**Musalman Khawatin Ki Ilmi Khidmat ('The Intellectual  
Contributions of Muslim Women')**

**Author: Allama Syed Ghulam Mustafa Bukhari Aqeel**

**Publisher: Farid Book Depot, New Delhi**

**pp: 189**

**Reviewed by: Yoginder Sikand**

One indicator of the development of a society is its female literacy rate and, related to this, the number of its female scholars. On both these fronts, India's Muslims are among the lowest of all the communities in the country. This unfortunate fact provides a basis for negative stereotyping of the community, particularly in matters related to inter-gender relations.

This, however, is ironical, given that Islam is one of the few religions to have declared education to be a duty binding on all its followers, men as well as women. The irony is further heightened by the fact that early Islamic history provides examples of numerous Muslim women scholars who made valuable contributions to the intellectual life of their communities.

That little known story is precisely what this book (in Urdu) is all about. It contains vignettes about scores of early Muslim women scholars, who could serve as major sources of inspiration to Muslims, including Muslim women, today if only they were more widely known, a task that the Maulana takes upon himself.

[Source Link](#)

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## **OBITUARY**

### **MUSHTAQ AHMAD KHAN "KHILLU"**

The former president of AMU student's union and present honorary Joint Secretary of the parent body of AMU Old Boy's Association , Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Khan (Khillu), passed away at Holy Family, New Delhi on April 28th. His death after a brief illness has completely shattered the Alig community. His wife died last year. He is survived by a son and three daughters.

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## **MAIL BOX**

I have had an opportunity to review several issues of "The Alig" AMU Alumni Newsletter. It not only reports items of high literary value, but concurrently and plentifully presents feeling of friendship and mutual support between Aligs. It is an outlet for sharing the memories, feelings, and sentiments associated with our lives in Aligarh, which helps capture the essence and sprit of the Aligarh Movement. Newsletter also encompasses wide variety of AMU's interests, its alumni contributions and serves as a linkage between AMU and its global fraternity. The publication of such Newsletter represents a most fitting tribute to the Aligarh Muslim University by portraying its current and past accomplishments.

The editorial Board should be congratulated for publishing a truly

remarkable Newsletter which depicts devotion and obligation for the Alma Mater.

Syed M. Naseem, Ph.D.  
Washington DC

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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**  
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