

# THE ALIG

## AMU Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 12

September 8, 2008

### In This Issue

[AMU News](#)

[AMUAs News & Events](#)

[Alum News](#)

[AEEF News](#)

[Feature Article](#)

[Opinion](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Book Reviews](#)

[Obituary](#)

[Mail Box](#)

### Sir Syed Speaks to you

*"We believe that the righteous and pious people, to whatever religion or community they might belong, deserve our respect in the same way as the righteous people of our own religion."*

- Sir Syed

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[FAMUAA](#)

[AMU Network](#)

Greetings!

### World Alumni Summit 2008 - Message from Organising Secretary

September 5, 2008

Dear Aligs: ASAK

I am sure your getting ready for the participation in the World Alumni Summit. From our side, here is an update and request.

One of your own accomplished alumni **Janab Hamid Ansari Saheb** (Former Vice Chancellor of AMU and Current **Vice President of India**) shall inaugurate the event. Chairmen of various departments met with the Vice-Chancellor and they have informed about the enthusiasm among the students of their faculty. They are all eagerly looking forward to receive their own seniors who have reached at important positions and scaled such heights. Your presence in the summit can only motivate the younger generation. Seeing means believing and they need to see you here. Please register at the earliest.

I am sure a sum of rupees 3000 per participant from India is not at all coming in your way to register or encourage other to. No registration fees is payable by an NRI alumnus as he / she will be spending huge money on travel etc.

A large number of your own seniors from all walks of life and belonging to all discipline have promised to participate in the summit. There will certainly be one or more of your Faculty / Hostel / Hall / or known to you in one way or other.

I am sure you would like to cherish old time memories apart

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2008](#)

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from making meaningful contribution in the summit.

Kindly invite as many Aligs as you can and make the summit a great success. Together only we can. Looking forward to your help in popularising the event and the pleasure of seeing you all here in your own alma mater which desperately needs you.

Best wishes and kind regards

Prof. Javaid Akhter  
Organising Secretary  
AMU World Alumni Summit 2008

Tel: 0091 571 2700920 (extension 1227)  
0091 9412333586 (24 hours)

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## AMU NEWS

**GOVERNOR OF UP, MR. TV RAJESHWAR WILL BE THE CHIEF  
GUEST AT SIR SYED DAY**

**ALIGARH, September 2:** The Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. TV Rajeshwar will be the Chief Guest of the Sir Syed Day Celebration on 17th October 2008 at the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

Professor P K Abul Azis, Vice Chancellor visited Raj Bhavan and invited the UP Governor to be the Chief Guest at the commemorative function of Sir Syed Day celebrations.

The Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. T V Rajeshwar will also inaugurate the newly constructed Dr B R Ambedkar Hall of

Residence for boys.

Mr. Rajeshwar will also attend the World Summit of AMU Alumni on 18th October 2008. The Vice President of India, Mr. M Hamid Ansari will be the Chief Guest. A large number of AMU Alumni from all over the world will be attending the two-day summit organized for the first time at Aligarh Muslim University.

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### **SIX MEMBER COMMITTEE SUBMITTED ITS REPORT TO VC**

**ALIGARH, June 25-** A six member committee constituted by the Executive Council today submitted its report to the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, Professor P.K. Abdul Azis.

The committee endorsed the proposal for the establishment of "Sir Syed International Centre for Advanced Study and Research at AMU.

The main objective of this proposed centre would be to promote creative thought in areas which have deeply human significance and to provide an environment suitable for academic research in all those aspects which were dear to the founder of the university, Sir Syed. To undertake, organize, guide and promote advanced research in selected subjects in Humanities. Social Sciences, Historical Studies, Theology, Indian Composite Culture, Evolution of Muslim Culture and Civilization, contribution of Muslims to national Freedom Movement, Secularism and Patriotism ,Comparative religion, Comparative languages and Literatures, Science and technology, Linguistic conflict in Modern Indian Languages, Contribution of Urdu literature to national resurgence and such other areas as the centre may, from time to time, decide.

The report highlighted the objectives of the Centre and mentioned that the Sir Syed International Centre would invite scholars from India and abroad to deliver lectures or conduct research and to collaborate with other academic institutions/bodies for the dissemination of knowledge and promotion of the objectives of the Centre. It is also suggested to institute fellowships and scholarships and such awards as may be decided by the Centre.

To meet the requirements and objectives of the proposed centre, it is envisaged that total amount of Rupees One crores in recurring and non-recurring is needed.

A six member committee was constituted by the Executive Council at its meeting held on October 4, 2005 under the convener ship of Prof Saiyed Jafar Reza. The other members were Prof. SAH Abidi, Mr Waseem Ahmad, Ex. M.P., Prof A. R. Khan, Prof Shan Mohammed and Dr. Sayed Mohammed Ahmad to examine the feasibility of the proposal for establishment of the proposal for establishment of an 'advanced Research Centre' named after Sir

Syed Ahmad Khan on the pattern of the Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.

Professor Saiyed Jafar Reza, Professor Shan Mohammad and Dr. Sayed Mohammad Ahmad today presented the report. University Registrar, Professor V.K. Abdul Jalil was also present. AMU Vice Chancellor, Prof Azis appreciated the efforts of the Committee and assured that the University administration would take appropriate action.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **PROF. SHAN MOHAMMED APPOINTED AS DIRECTOR OF THE SIR SYED ACADEMY**

ALIGARH, June 26- Professor Shan Mohammed, D.Litt, an eminent scholar on the life and works of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan has been appointed as Hony. Director of the Sir Syed Academy with immediate effect for a period of two years or till further orders on usual terms and conditions.

Professor Shan Mohammed had served the University as Chairman, Department of Political science, Principal, Women's College and Director, Sir Syed Academy.

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### **BURQA CLAD SUMIYA SCURED 12 MBBS MEDALS IN AMU**

**Rahat Abrar, Ph.D.  
PRO, AMU, Aligarh**

Two sparkling eyes popping out of traditional Muslim attire burqa (veil) got the attention of the former first citizen of India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Wipro Chief Mr Azim Premji and the audience as Sumaiya, a girl student with hijab got as many as 12 medals in the prestigious course MBBS at the 58th Annual convocation at the Aligarh Muslim University. Her magnificent feat indicates that Muslim girls are also advancing in the field of education. A female can pursue the studies of MBBS by wearing traditional Hijab (Burqa). Dr. Sumaiya says that hijab has never come on her way. Her homely atmosphere is religious, hence she adopted that. She had taken admission in class VIth in the AMU Girls High School. She was married to a doctor when she was doing MBBS and when she was preparing for final

year examinations, she gave birth to a child .Despite her responsibilities in the family, she remained busy with her studies and the end result is that she got the highest number of Medals. She got the medals in the convocation in which Former President of India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has delivered the convocation address. The Aligarh Muslim University honored Dr Kalam and Wipro Chairman, Mr. Azim Premji with conferring D.Sc. (honoris causa).

This year 192 students were decorated with gold and silver medals for their academic performance. Female students performed much better as compared to their fellow boys' students. This convocation also signifies that education of girls is an important element within Muslim community and daughters of Muslims are craving for acquiring their status in the society with full energies and confidence. Eleven medals were awarded in the faculty of Science and all were bagged by girls.

In the Life Sciences faculty, no boys could register his name for medal. At the M.Sc and P.G. courses in the Life Science faculty, Kavita Parihar secured highest marks and got medal. At the graduate level, Atiyatul Qadeer, another girl from the same faculty topped the merit in all the courses.

In the Medicine faculty, girls bagged 22 out of total 24 medals. Dr. Sumaiya received the highest number of medals and beat all university records.

The first Annual Convocation of the Aligarh Muslim University was held on 28th December, 1922, degrees were conferred upon 75 graduates who had passed their examinations. The first Convocation address was delivered by Sultan Jahan Begum, ruler of Bhopal. She was elected the first Chancellor of the University in 1920, after receiving its charter as a University.

In the Commerce faculty, girls secured four out of five medals. In this faculty, a girl student Mariyam Mahtab got maximum marks in PG courses.

In the faculty of Engineering & Technology also Priya Agrawal received highest marks in all the branches and thus received university medal.

In the faculty of Law also Astha Singh bagged single medal by securing maximum marks in BA LLB examination. These medals signify the secular character of the Aligarh Muslim University. This year 51 non-Muslims received medals out of total 192 medals.

In the faculty of Science, Nida Khan received maximum marks while eleven medals out of eighteen were bagged by girls

In the social Science faculty, 21 medals were bagged by girls out of 28 medals. At the same time Syeda Naghba Tarannum in the Master and PG courses and Sadia Fatima in graduation received maximum marks. Two medals of theology faculty also went to girls. A single medal of the Unani Medicine faculty also went to Bushra Shahid. A total of 5482 degrees were awarded this year, out of which 2926 were under graduate, 1417 post graduates and 239 Ph.D. holders. Fifty five gold and one hundred forty two silver medals were given away at the Annual Convocation.

While presenting the annual report, AMU Vice Chancellor, Professor P.K.Abdul Azis said, "I have declared 2008 as a year for academic rejuvenation of the University. The goals set are clear". He further said some inspiring words, "I am dreaming the dawn of a new era for the AMU".

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## **AMU INTENDS TO CONSTRUCT TWO NEW HOSTELS**

**ALIGARH, July 8:** "The Aligarh Muslim University intends to construct two new hostels for students and it urged the Ministry of Human Resources to provide a grant of 48 crores", disclosed Professor P K Abdul Azis, Vice Chancellor who met Mr. Arjun Singh, Minister for Human Resource Development and other senior officials of the Ministry in Delhi.

The Vice Chancellor Professor P K Abdul Azis submitted a detailed development plan to the Minister. He also submitted a proposal for restoring and protecting "Heritage Buildings" of the University and for which 100 crore grant is sought.

Professor P K Abdul Azis also urged the Minister to provide the University with the list of visitor's nominees as early as possible so that the selection committees for teaching post could be held. The term of the Visitor's nominees has been expired six month ago and the University sent many reminders but in vain. The Secretary of the Ministry Mr. R P Agarwal informed the VC that the Ministry has already put the file before the Visitor and the Visitor's approval is awaited. The Minister of Human Resources Development Mr. Arjun Singh assured the VC to expedite the matter relating to the

appointment of the Visitor's Nominee.

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### **AMU FELICITATES MERITORIOUS STUDENTS**

Aligarh: The Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) City Girls High School organized a program for the disbursement of merit scholarships to students who secured high percentage of marks in the 2007-08 academic session.

Prof. V.K. Abdul Jaleel, Registrar of the varsity and the manager of the University Schools, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Prof. Jaleel awarded students for their creative work. He boosted up the moral of students and teachers as well in his speech.

Prof. Jaleel said, "I am satisfied with the working of the Principal and staff members. The standard of the school is better than ever before."

He also encouraged students and teachers of the school to work towards maintaining high standards in both education and extra-curricular activities.

He also recognized some students who stood winners in the other function of the University as he was present in those programs.

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## **AMUAA's NEWS & EVENTS**

### **AMUOBA ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHTED AT GENERAL BODY MEETING**

**KARACHI, Sept 1 (APP):** General Secretary, Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys Association, Engr Zakir Ali Khan has said that despite all odds and difficulties, Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology (SSUET), a unique institution of AMUOBA is traversing the stages of development.

Presenting his report at the Annual General Body meeting of AMUOBA for the year 2007-08 held under the chairmanship of Z.A. Nizami, the President, Zakir Ali Khan lamented that certain members are involved in inimical propaganda and it warrants that

necessary statistics and details should be presented for information of everyone.

He said that during the last one year, not only the number of male and female students has increased but there had been a significant increase in the number of highly qualified teachers as well while new technologies introduced and MS and Ph.D facilities in new subjects started.

He informed that SSUET has concluded agreements with foreign universities among which University of Hertford Shire, Conventory University and London Metropolitan University, all in UK, were on the top.

He said a major source of delight was that after detail reviews the Higher Education Commission awarded top grade to the University after it was satisfied with its academic standards, financial stability, discipline etc.

Zakir Ali Khan said that as against 1164 students who obtained admission in the university in 2006-2007, 1292 students were given admission in 2007-2008 while number of teachers rose from 203 in 2006- 07 to 240 in 2007-08 and Ph.Ds from 13 to 15.

He said the University's 11th convocation was held on March 29, 2008 in which Chancellor Z.A. Nizami presented degrees to 983 MS and BS students besides presenting medals to various position holders.

During 2007, he said the medals given included 6 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze and as many medals during 2008.

He pointed out that University's budget showed a significant increase from Rs 470 million in 2007-08 to Rs 520 million in 2008-09 while amount for scholarships raised from over Rs 19 million to over Rs 27 million. He said no other institution extends such financial help to students anywhere in Pakistan.

He referred to working of career planning and placement bureau and said this keeps liaison with multi-national companies and various organizations and thousands of students have benefitted with its services.

Zakir Ali Khan informed that in the budget 2007-08, Rs 10 million had been earmarked for development works of IT park while Rs 6 million kept aside in the budget 2008-09 for the purpose.

He dilated upon Association's literacy activities which includes the publication of journal Tehzibul Ikhlāq, publication of a number of books holding of Eid Milad function Sir Sved Dav mushairas

participation in debates and sports outside Karachi.

He also informed the General Body about Sir Syed Tower project of AMUOBA and said tenders have been invited, and a committee formed for their evaluation. He said the lowest tender is for Rs 760 million which does not include the cost of electricity.

Zakir Ali Khan said Aligarh Institute of technology is also continuously heading towards progress and the number of students have increased from 1330 in 2006-07 to 1389 in 2007-08.

[Source](#)

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## ALUM NEWS

### MR. JAYVEER SINGH

Mr. Jayveer Singh, student of M.A. Modern History, IV Semester, has secured first All India Rank in the Flight Officer (Pilot) of Indian Air Force in its short service commission.

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### TRIBUTE TO 108-YEAR-OLD ALIGARH STUDENT

KARACHI: The Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology (SSUET) Chancellor Z.A. Nizami, along with a delegation of the Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys Association (AMUOBA) met Nisar Ahmed Khan, a 108-year-old ex student of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). The delegation announced that the AMUOBA, in collaboration with the SSUET, will be honoring the legendary Aligarhian on his birthday on September 29.

Nisar Ahmed Khan was born in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh in 1901 and completed his Bachelors in Science from the AMU in 1927. He then went to the US for further education and before Pakistan had come into being, was appointed as the Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Director, with a posting in Rampur.

Khan is the oldest living student of AMU who participated in

the silver jubilee celebrations of the university in 1925 and had the opportunity to meet many influential leaders, including Maulana Mohammed Ali Jauhar, Maharaja Mahmoodabad and Nawab Muzammal Khan. Post partition, he served in several positions in the agriculture department of Dhaka.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **PROF. MUZAFFAR MIR OF SKIMS HONOURED IN US**

**Srinagar, July 20:** Research work being carried out at the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura is being recognized and appreciated at the international level. Dr M Muzaffar Mir, Head, Department of Clinical Biochemistry has been chosen as the recipient of an 'International Research Grant' of 60 thousand US dollars in recognition of his research work being carried out at SKIMS in the fields of 'Cancer biology and cell cycle regulation.'

Dr. Mir's research paper entitled "Combined impact of polymorphism of folate metabolism genes; glutamate carboxypeptidase, methylene tetrahydrofolate reductase and methionine synthase reductase on breast cancer susceptibility in Kashmiri women" has been judged as one of the ten 10 papers being presented at American Association of Clinical chemistry (AACC) annual meeting to be held in last week of July, 2008 at the Washington Convention Center. Ten such grants have been sanctioned worldwide and Dr Mir is the only scientist from India to receive this grant. He completed his Maters in Biochemistry from the University of Kashmir as a student of first batch in 1983 and did his M Phil and PhD in Biochemistry from the faculty of Medicine, AMU Aligarh in 1989.

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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](http://www.aeeff.org) 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.

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EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND (AEEF)  
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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.

A rectangular button with a dark red background and a white border. The word "DONATE" is written in white, uppercase letters in the center of the button.

**[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:** [AEFFund@yahoo.com](mailto:AEFFund@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 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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**Do not underestimate the power of numbers. Please click on the link above to see the revenues generated so far.**

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

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

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## **FEATURE ARTICLE**

**AMU**

**CENTRAL**

**CANTEEN**

**Zaigham**

**Murtaza**

University canteens have always been a place for fun in every campus. But at AMU, in this beloved hang-out for college goers, one can experience every shade and colour of life. This humble canteen is always ready to welcome everyone with open arms.

IN ALIGARH Muslim University and not with me surely you are

missing something. Life has different shades and colours in my company. The iridescence of love, the shadows of sorrow, the blunders of a carefree life and illusions about the future - one can experience every single aspect of his existence. Some love, some ignore but no one hates me.

Philosophers say that 'Beauty never lasts long', whereas my perception is, 'Beauty is forever'. I am an exemplary figure to prove that age erodes neither your qualities nor your beauty. If you are humble enough you will not only be admired by all but every one will love you and I can assure that I am the humblest; always ready to welcome everyone with open arms. Since my existence I have not only been the centre of attraction but any beauty queen can feel jealous of my ever-growing list of admirers. Whether she be Cinderella, Mona Lisa, Cleopatra or even Mumtaz or Aishwarya, all pale when compared with me.

My affair with Ashfaq is a decade old but this doesn't effects my relations with Nusrat, Qasam, Mansoor, Yasser, Anas, or Jawed. For Nusrat, I am a best friend who gives him relief from his depression; for Mansoor, Qasam and Jawed, I am a best friend to enjoy a 'time pass' with and for Anas and Aqeel, I am the one to understand their thoughts. Even Nasser, a dishwasher, spares some moments to share along with his friends. I love his childish games. He may not have gone to school for one but with me he tries to learn the lessons of life.

I have space for everyone in my heart. Just come to me and feel the difference in your life. No depression, no tensions, just the funny emotions; inspiring everyone to lead a happy life.

I was not always as I am today. In my early days at Aligarh, I was thought to be a part of the elite section. With time, I changed my nature and attitude. Now I find that I have some better reasons to survive. For years I have been witnessing severe changes around myself but I stood tall, infallible and I will survive in times to come.

I am the old Picture gallery now known as your beloved AMU Central Canteen.

[Source](#)

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## OPINION

### MUSLIMS MUST FOCUS ON SCHOOL EDUCATION

**M. Hanif Lakdawala**

If Muslims wait another five or 10 years, they are going to

lose millions of children.

Sixty years after independence, with 40 per cent of its population under 18, the community is now confronting the perils of its failure to educate Muslims, notably the poor.

If Muslims continue their apathy for another five or 10 years, they are going to lose millions of children to illiteracy. No doubt more Muslim children are in school than ever before, but the quality of Muslim managed schools has sunk to extremely low levels, as government schools have become reserves of children at the very bottom of the social ladder.

The children in Muslim managed schools come from the poorest of families, who can't afford to send them their young ones to other schools.

Indian Muslim community is now confronting the perils of its failure to educate Muslims, notably the poor. Muslims in India have a long legacy of weak schooling, even as they have promoted higher education.

A cursory look at the Muslim managed schools reveals that while more children were sitting in class, vast numbers of them could not read, write or perform basic arithmetic, to say nothing of those who were not in school at all.

Education experts debate the reasons for failure. Some point out that children of illiterate parents are less likely to get help at home; the Trends Research and Analysis Centre (TRAC) survey shows that the child of a literate woman performs better at school. Others blame longstanding neglect, insufficient public financing and accountability, and a lack of motivation among some teachers, to pay special attention to poor children from lower castes.

Education is a long-term investment. Muslim community has neglected it, quite criminally, for an enormously long period of time.

Education in modern India has become a crucial marker of inequality. Among the poorest 20 per cent of the Muslim population, half are illiterate, and less than 2 per cent graduate from high school, according to Census data. By contrast, among the richest 20 per cent of the Muslim

population, nearly half are high school graduates and only 2 per cent are illiterate. Just as important, at a time when only one in 10 college-age Indians actually go to college, higher education has become the most effective way to scale the golden ladder of the new economy.

What are the remedies? we at the mohalla level of our Muslim community should:

1. Increase Enrolment: Recruit unemployed Muslims and pay them to recruit children who have never been to school.

2. Mohalla education committee: Identify Muslim majority localities and form Mohalla education committee with a brief to keep the school and its principal accountable to the community.

3. Raise finance locally and spend it on local schools. TRAC survey reveals that the participation of parents and local Muslims in enhancing the facilities in local schools is very dismal. Unless and until local Muslims get involved in providing the basic infrastructure and monitor the quality of education imparted to children in schools, the level of education cannot be ensured.

4. Making school committees accountable using RTI: School committee is a statutory body. TRAC survey reveals that with few exceptions, school committees are not justifying their role. Using Right to Information, local Muslims must build pressure on school committees so that they are more proactive and take care of infrastructure and quality of education issues.

5. Feedback on teachers' performance through strengthening parents' teachers association: One of the major issues is the laidback attitude of the teachers since they are permanent employees they take everything for granted. Only local Muslims, by strengthening the parents' teacher association and making it proactive, can apply pressure on teachers to perform on quality education parameters.

More serious issues like absent or corrupt teachers, low quality of instruction, building repairs and new construction required, cannot be handled directly by children. So parents' teachers association should interact with children

directly and launch their school-improving activities.

6. Removing the apathy of Muslim parents: The reason for parents' apathy is not only the intense pressure of poverty, which is serious enough, but people's firm belief that schools and education is the business of the government. If a child failed in a class, the parents would simply assume that the child 'did not have brains', cuff him over the head and send him to work. Local Muslims should conduct parent workshop to keep them informed on various issues and also educate them.

7. Organizing children forums fortnightly: It's always better to hear from children to know more about their problems both at home and schools. Children forums can be used for mobilising parents, obtain information about what was going on in school and homes and so on.

8. Making school worth going to: TRAC survey reveals that the most important reason why dropouts happen - more important than even poverty - that school is simply not worth the trouble.

Parents today are aware of the importance of education as never before. Even the poorest parents send their children to school if the state provides free education. Often in the process, the family has to lose vital income. But if this parent finds that after four years of schooling, the child can't even write his name, then he has every reason to withdraw the child from school and put him to more remunerative work. On their part, children too are not keen to go to school if the school is shoddy or is not run efficiently.

9. Ensuring the participation of children in making their classroom and school worth going daily: To improve the condition of classrooms, the school and the quality of education, the children need to be first motivated to do voluntary work. The duty of cleaning the school compound should be assigned to students. Children should be motivated to plant saplings around the schools and also start kitchen gardens. The funds generated should be reserved for school improvement. Working with limited funds, children should be coached to make simple educational aids and decorate each classroom so that the atmosphere changes from dreary to colorful and inspiring

[Source](#)

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Aligarh Medical Association of UK

**Host:** Aligarh Medical Association of UK (AMAUK)

**What:** Reunion-2008

**When:** Saturday, October 11, 2008

**Where:** Perton Community Centre, Church Road, Perton,  
Wolverhampton WV6 7PD

[Email](#)

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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.**

[Click Here For More Details](#)

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## BOOK REVIEWS

**NEW BOOK "SIR SYED'S VISION OF INDIA AND ITS  
PEOPLES"  
AUTHORED**

**Author:**  
Professor Shan Mohammad

ALIGARH, July 9: The Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, Professor P K Abdul Azis today released a book "Sir Syed's Vision of India and its Peoples" authored by noted scholar Professor Shan Mohammad, Director, Sir Syed Academy.

This book highlights Sir Syed's ideas about India - its greenery, mountains, rivers and its people, their glorious past, architectures, agriculture, economy and medieval system of education.

The contents of the book deal with the Revolt of 1857 as Sir Syed viewed it, Sir Syed and the Post Revolt era, Sir Syed and England, Sir Syed on education, Sir Syed: Socio-Religious Reforms, Sir Syed on Indian Villages, Agriculture and Economy, Sir Syed's India-Hindus and Muslims and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: Where Does he Stand in History. Professor Shan Mohammad has done pioneering researches on the Aligarh Movement and Indian Muslims. He has authored more than thirty books in English and Urdu.

Professor Shan Mohammad, latest book 'Sir Syed's vision of India and its People' is published by Zenith Books International, Delhi.

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## **OBITUARY**

### **MOHAMMAD HASAN ABBASI**

Mr. Mohammad Hasan Abbasi expired at Karachi. Inna lillahe wa Inna lillahe Rajeoon. Mr. Abbasi remained a student at Aligarh Muslim University from 1938 to 1943. He was an artist who played leading roles in stage dramas, a singer and an outstanding sportsman. He was captain of AMU hockey team who were the best among Indian universities at that time. It was the era when colours in only three fields, namely cricket, football and hockey were used to be awarded to the outstanding players. It was a rare case that Mr. Abbasi was awarded colours of both football and hockey in the same year. After graduation, Mr. Abbasi shifted to Bombay where he acted in a film MAAN "BAAP KI LAAJ" against Swaran Lata. Later he migrated to Pakistan. He had retired as Controller of Customs at Karachi airport.

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### **AMRENDRA KUMAR (LALA)**

Er. Amrendra Kumar popularly known as Lala passed away on 20th July, 2008 in Delhi.

He was working in VOLTAS India and has completed his B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from AMU in 2007. He hailed from Danbhad, Jharkhand.

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### **MAQSOOD AGHA**

Maqsood Agha who was in charge of the Mass Spectrometry Lab in the Department of Chemistry died on July 5th as a result of Cancer of jaws, neck and sinus.

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#### **MAIL BOX**

#### **The Mission of the AMU Alumni Summit at Aligarh**

The AMU Alumni Center of Aligarh Muslim University should be a human network that must promote the welfare of AMU, broaden and sustain friendships among its alumni, and stimulate alumni interest in the University.

The Alumni Center should be the governing body of all Alumni Associations in the world. The AMU Center if established in Oct, 2008 must consist of approximately 150 members reflecting the domestic, national and international geographic distribution of the all alumni. The governing body of the Center should also include student representatives, from each Faculty and Hall of Residence of the University. The full governing body of the Center should meet once a year during Sir Syed Day celebration, and also through internet, to establish policy, re-acquaints members with the University and its programs, and advise the University on alumni affairs.

The Executive Committee of the Alumni Center of several

members should be elected and nominated from the pool of Alumni Associations scattered all over the world. Like the Alumni Center, the Executive members reflect the geographic distribution of all alumni. The Executive Committee holds regular half yearly meetings through internet and conference calls and makes operational decisions, carries out the policies of the Center, and receives Committee reports and reports from the professional staff.

The work of the Center should be accomplished by standing committees and ad hoc committees appointed as necessary. The committees are comprised of members of Executive Committee and Alumni Associations at large. The committees include Chapter Development, Community Service Internship Program, Membership Development, and Student Services.

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**  
**Tel: (650) 212-ALIG**

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