AMU Murshidabad Centre Organizes a One-Day Seminar on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

A one-day seminar on "Sir Syed' Contributions in Building-Up Indian Civil Society" was organized by Aligarh Muslim University Murshidabad Centre on October 08, 2017 (Sunday) at Rabindra Sadan, Berhampore as a part of Sir Syed Bicentenary Celebrations – 2017. The seminar was attended by a galaxy of dignitaries from academia, politics, and administration along with a large number of students and faculty members.

Dr. Abhijit Mukherjee, the Chief Guest of the inaugural session said that it is high time that people coming from different backgrounds should join hands together for the development of Murshidabad Centre. He further said that the Centre was established with an aim of bringing about an educational revolution in the region. But due to different reasons that is still a distant dream for local people. He urged the government as well as the local alumni to come together for the development of the Centre.

Director of the Centre, Dr. Badaruddoza delivered the welcome speech. He said, "It is a turning point in the history of Murshidabad Centre that for the first time the Centre is organizing a function on such a large scale at Rabindra Sadan, Berhampore - the district headquarters of Murshidabad District." He strongly emphasized that the issues which are hampering the growth and development of the Centre are not just about inadequate funding by the government but there are other factors also that need to be considered. He said, "The people of West Bengal have to come forward to help in creating infrastructure at the Centre. The students of the Centre are in dire need of a permanent hostel and it is the duty of all concerned people to donate generously for this cause." He exalted that "Only living persons have their voice, and the people of West Bengal should reflect the vibrancy of their culture and history through their positive contributions for the Centre."

Dr. Mukherjee also released a magazine titled: "Sir Syed – An Architect of Modern India" to commemorate Sir Syed's 200th Birth Anniversary. This bi-lingual magazine carries articles from all over India, highlighting various aspects of the life and struggles of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

Dr. Shakeel Samdani, Professor in the Department of Law, Aligarh Muslim University also addressed the audience. He congratulated the administration of the Centre for successfully organizing the Sir Syed Bicentenary Program in one of the remotest parts of India. He desired that one day Murshidabad district would be renowned throughout the world because of AMU Murshidabad Centre. Talking about Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, he said, "Sir Syed was a fine historian, writer, academician, and administrator. Sir Syed didn't establish AMU for Muslims
only but he established an institution that is open to all communities. To provide quality education, Sir Syed hired best among the best teachers from abroad."

Mr. Badaruddoza Khan, Member of Parliament from Murshidabad, said that Sir Syed was ahead of his time. He envisioned about an institution that not only played a pivotal role in independence movement but later on contributed immensely in nation-building. He said, "What Sir Syed thought 200 years ago, is now a reality. AMU has spread its mandate in different parts of the country and is working in the direction of eradication of illiteracy."

Ex-parliamentarian, Mr. Moinul Hasan recalled the events that preceded the establishment of Murshidabad Centre. He said that it was because of keen interest of Ex-President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and the then Vice-Chancellor of AMU, Prof. P. K. Abdul Aziz the proposal for the establishment of off-campuses of AMU became a reality with the inauguration of two Centres at – Murshidabad in West Bengal and Malappuram in Kerala.

Ex-MLA from Jangipur, Mr. Md Sohrab, said that the role played by Sir Syed in the upliftment of Muslims of Indian sub-continent will always be remembered in golden words. He expressed his desire to see the transformation of Murshidabad Centre into a full-fledged university in near future.

Director of Management Development Institute, Murshidabad (MDIM), Prof. Gurudas Gupta, exalted the community leaders to think about the future of coming generations. He said there cannot be a better homage to Sir Syed on his 200th Bicentenary than to implement his vision completely. He asked the students not to worry about the financial crisis being faced by the Centre instead he urged them to develop themselves intellectually to get out of their problems. He further said that everyone should have a passion and be motivated for contributing towards the dreams of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

Mr. Ghulam Murtuza, President AMU Alumni Welfare Association recalled that Mahatma Gandhi considered Sir Syed as the ‘Prophet of Education'. He said Sir Syed's contributions are highly commendable.

AMU Alumni Welfare Association also presented several awards to eminent personalities on this occasion. The recipients were Mr. Nilendu Sekhar Saha, Chief Officer of Gorabazar Sahid Khudiram Pathagar (NGO); Dr. Zubayer Ahmed, Senior Scientist associated with Cyclotron Centre, Department of Atomic Energy, Kolkata; Dr. Nimai Chandra Kundu, a noted eye surgeon and AMU Alumnus; Dr Abdus Sattar, Associate Professor of Physics at SKM University,
Dumka; Mr. Najar Hossain, Head Master at Malda; Mr. Goutom Bhattacharya, highly acclaimed classical music artist; and Dr. Badaruddoza, Director, AMU Murshidabad Centre.

The morning session started with the recitation of a few verses of Holy Quran by Hafiz Mohammad Jahangir, BALLB 2nd year student. Ms. Rukaiyya Saleem presented a ghazal on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. The Program was conducted by Dr. Syed Atif Jilani, Assistant Professor in the Department of Business Administration.

In the afternoon, a cultural program was organized by the students of the Centre in collaboration with AMU Alumni Welfare Association, Berhampore. Kisabatool (B. Ed. 1st year) and Disha Gupta (BALLB 1st year) presented self-composed poetries, Hafsa Khatoon (B. Ed. 2nd year) and Mr. Salman Shaukat (MBA 2nd year) presented songs, Haroon Rasheed (BALLB 1st year) and Sarfaraz (BALLB 1st year) presented ghazals, Rabindra sangeet was presented by B. Ed. students, Rehan and Shaista (BALLB 1st year students) presented duet song while selected Dubs were shown by Aaman Siddiq (BALLB 2nd year). A team of Abid Iftekhar, Samad Qadri and Aaman Siddiq performed mimicry. Fazlur Rahman and Salman Shaukat (MBA 2nd year) students conducted the program.

The official logo of Law Society of Murshidabad Centre was launched by Dr. Badaruddoza (Director) followed by a presentation on the objectives of the society by Imran Idreesi (BALLB 5th year) student. Mr. Syed Asif Abbas Meerza, a descendant of the Nawab family of Murshidabad, presented a research paper entitled "Murshidabad and Urdu". The cultural program concluded with a mesmerizing performance by the team of singer Ms. Oishi Bhattacharya.