Aligarh Muslim University Gazette originated as The Aligurh Institute Gazette. Launched by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in 1866, it projected a vision much ahead of its times. Sir Syed is known for his devotion to education, support for intellectual pursuits and commitment to public welfare.

Currently Aligarh Muslim University Gazette is a monthly journal brought out by the Publications Division, A.M.U. in cooperation with all university divisions. The Gazette promotes values and achievements that foster a sense of pride in belonging to the University. The goal is to encourage positive exchange of ideas and information.
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Admission Tests as Scheduled

The AMU will hold admission tests as per schedule. The Executive Council at its meeting on January 17, 2008 unanimously resolved to hold admission tests at centres at Bhopal, Kolkata, Pune and Kozhikode as well as Aligarh. The University released information to major national/regional dailies announcing the course content and schedules for admission tests for the year 2008-09. The minutes of this meeting were approved by the Executive Council on March 08, 2008. A representation by the Staff Association, led to apprehension and it was felt that the matter should be examined once again. Accordingly, a special meeting was finally scheduled on March 31, 2008. It was reported that the last date for submission of application forms for MBBS, BDS, B.Tech. and MBA was over on March 15, 2008 and the Hall Tickets were under preparation. The matter was put to detailed deliberation and members of the council expressed their opinions both for and against the proposal for establishing test centres outside Aligarh. Majority of the members expressed the view that the decision taken on January 17, 2008 should not be reversed. The Ordinance (Academic, amended 2007) Chapter 17, dealing with Examinations of the University, was referred to and it was found that no violation of any kind was rendered by the decision to conduct the admission tests which are different from examinations, at centres outside Aligarh. The Executive Council, with a majority vote, endorsed the decision taken on January 17, 2008.

Another emergency meeting of the Executive Council was held on April 08, 2008 to deliberate upon the issue that opening of new entrance examination centres at places outside Aligarh may disturb the status quo that the University is bound to maintain as per Supreme Court order dated April 24, 2006. The Executive Council sought the opinion of the learned Justice Saghir Ahmad, Retired Judge, Supreme Court and Member of the Executive Council in this regard. The Executive Council appreciated the points raised by Justice Saghir Ahmad and resolved unanimously to seek a clarification from the Supreme Court of India.

A three – member bench of the court comprising Chief Justice K.G. Balakishnan, Justice R.V. Raveendran and Justice Mukundaran Sharma passed the order on April 22, 2008 which clarified that the establishment of admission test centres as mentioned would not be a violation of the Supreme Court order. 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 Professor P.K. Abdul Azis said that he hoped these admission test centres shall attract meritorious students to AMU, ensure wider representation of the states across the country and strengthen the all India character of the University. The B.Tech./B.Arch. (May 17, 2008), MBBS/BDS (May 26, 2008) and Class XI/Diploma (June 2, 2008) entrances will be held at centres at Bhopal, Kozhikode, Kolkata and Pune, apart from Aligarh.

AIU Meet at AMU

The AIU Cultural Committee Meeting is scheduled to be held on May 22, 2008 at 2.30 p.m. at Aligarh Muslim University. The Association of Indian Universities promotes University activities by way of sharing information and cooperation in the field of education, Culture, Sports and allied areas. The membership includes traditional universities, open universities, professional universities, institutes of national importance and deemed-to-be universities. The AIU has a provision of granting Associate Membership to universities of neighbouring countries. The AIU also acts as a liaison between the universities and Central as well as State Governments.
Annual Convocation

The Annual Convocation of the Aligarh Muslim University shall be held on Wednesday, June 18, 2008 at 8.00 am at the Athletic Ground of the University. The Executive Council of the University has unanimously decided to confer honorary degrees on Dr. A.P.J. Abul Kalam, former President of India; Mr. Azim Premji of Wipro, noted Industrialist; Mr. Ratan Tata and Professor M S Swaminathan, an eminent Agricultural Scientist.

Dr. Kalam and Mr. Azim Premji have confirmed their participation on the occasion.

World Summit of AMU Alumni

The Aligarh Muslim University has decided to hold a World Summit of AMU Alumni on October 18-19 2008 in order to articulate and realize the unfinished agenda of its founder, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, one of the most distinguished architects of modern India. Sir Syed was the first to appreciate the spirit of brotherhood of students. He was so overwhelmed by its underlying spirit that he got himself enrolled as a student of Class IX. *Ikhwan*, or the Brotherhood was formed on July 1, 1892, as a result of the efforts of Theodore Morrison. As members of the Brotherhood, former students were expected to donate one percent of their income to the College and to form local societies of Ex-Aligarh students wherever they might be settled. Apart from promoting the College, the Brotherhood was to provide a network for ferreting out job opportunities suitable for Aligarians. The annual dinner at Aligarh was supposed to bind past and present students together. The role of Old Boys in popularizing the Aligarh Movement is immense. They fulfilled Sir Syed’s dream of the alumni spreading throughout the globe. Following the death of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in 1898, some prominent alumni such as Aftab Ahmad Khan, Shoukat Ali Khan, Sir Ziauddin Ahmad and their friends established *Sir Syed Memorial Fund* for the establishment of the Aligarh Muslim University.

The Old Boys Association was formed in 1899 at Aligarh and Sahibzada Aftab Ahmad Khan was its prime organizer. The annual dinners were nostalgic occasions when the Old Boys tried to recapture the days gone by. Subsequently, the Old Boys started taking more serious interest in College affairs. They contributed one percent of their income to the College Fund. The first branch of Aligarh Old Boys Association was thus established in London in 1901. Its formation in London was celebrated over a dinner on April 5, 1902, attended by 207 Old Boys.

The University is a living organism and cannot subsist only on nostalgia and past glory. The AMU community comprising students, teachers, alumni and well wishers have to keep pace with the modern world. All the top universities of the world have gained much from active support from their alumni. AMU, too, wishes to bring its alumni together. The Alumni Summit will provide a platform for technical collaboration in projects, academic collaborations, modernizing laboratories and setting up high quality lecture theatres, digital libraries and an International Hostel for the children of AMU Alumni. The World Summit is scheduled to be held on October 18-19, 2008. All alumni are invited to attend Sir Syed Day. Distinguished Alumni will be the Guests of Honour at Sir Syed Dinner in the various Halls of Residence.

The University also proposes to establish the AMU Alumni Foundation in order to maintain contacts with the alumni and organize events in keeping with their collective interests. Directories of the alumni will be compiled. The Foundation will apprise the alumni of the academic developments in the University and bring them in close contact with the promising students so that the prospects of the bright students improve significantly. The problems confronting the University will be realistically communicated to the alumni and organizing Extension lectures and reciprocal visits will also be important objectives of the Foundation. In most universities, alumni activities are run on trust and goodwill. The University is committed to providing all the necessary facilities to conduct summer courses, coordinate research, students counselling, visits of Professors and to present the alumni as role models.
The first generation of Aligarh Alumni played a very important role in the establishment of the Aligarh Muslim University. Shaikh Mohammad Abdullah established a Girls School in 1906 while Maulana Tufail Ahmad Manglori established the City High School. Another Alumnus Sahibzada Aftab Ahmad Khan established Ahmadi School for the Blind. The Saudi based alumnus Mr. Nadim Tarin’s contribution provided a substantial donation for the construction of a Hall of residence. This World Summit of AMU Alumni will provide an excellent opportunity for socialization and for the renewal of old contacts among Aligarians.

**Hall Functions**

The residential character of AMU is a unique feature. The University offers broad based education comprising cultural, literary and sports activities alongside regular academic programmes. Functions were organized in various Hall of Residence, providing students with opportunities to discover and display talents, to interact on non-academic platforms and to participate in community dinners which symbolize tolerance, unity and commitment to the alma mater. In a number of Halls the functions were held after long gaps.

**Parnassus - 2008**

The Indira Gandhi Residential Hall for Girls organized an Inter-Hall Cultural and Literary Week – Parnassus 2008 from April 02-06, 2008. Professor P.K. Abdul Azis, Vice Chancellor, was the Chief Guest at the Annual Hall Dinner. Mrs. Tarannum Aqeel, Chairperson, Urdu Academy – Sambhal was the Guest of Honour and Mrs. Alka Bansal Presided as the Special Guest of the evening. The program began with Qirat, followed by cultural programs and the welcome address by Senior Hall, Tabinda Iqbal. The Provost, Mrs. Iffat Ara Bano read out the Annual Report. The Vice Chancellor encouraged the students to boost their competitive spirit. Mrs. Tarannum Aqeel an alumnus of AMU spoke nostalgically of her student days. The guests distributed the prizes to the winners of various events and competitions. Dr. Chandni Bi presented the vote of thanks. The event concluded with the AMU Tarana followed by the National Anthem. The wardens Dr. Shuby Abidi and Ms. Aziza Rizvi were present on the occasion.

**Khayaban - 2008**

The annual literary and cultural function of Mohammad Habib Hall, ‘Khayaban-2008’, held from April 10-12, 2008. In his inaugural address Mr. Bhuvnesh Kumar congratulated the organizers of the programme. Professor Nafees Ahmad Khan, Provost, said that Habib Hall has its own historical significance and has always been a centre of literary and cultural activities.

The *naat* competition was presided over by Dr. Siraj Ajmali, whereas Dr. Rizwan ul Raza Rizwan and Mr. Ahmad Mujtaba were the judges. Oration competition was presided over by Professor Asmar Beg, and Dr. Meraj Ajmali and Mr. Zafar Mahfooz were the judges. A quiz competition was also organized. Dr. Arman Rasool Faridi, presented the vote of thanks and Mr. Mohammad Shaad conducted the programme.

The valedictory and prize distribution ceremony of ‘Khayaban-2008’ was held on April 12, 2008. The prizes were given away by the chief guest Professor V.K. Abdul Jaleel, Registrar, AMU and Member Parliament Chaudhry Vijendra Singh. Professor V.K. Abdul Jaleel said that participation of such a large number of students shows their inclination towards literary and cultural activities. Provost of Habib Hall spoke about various activities of the hall. Mr. Abu Harira proposed the vote of thanks. Senior Hall Mohammad Ajmal was present on the occasion.

**Iztirab**

The prize distribution ceremony of Literary and Cultural festival ‘IZTIRAB’ of Nadeem
Tarin Hall was held on April 13-15, 2008. Vice Chancellor Professor P.K. Abdul Azis expressed his satisfaction over the prevailing peaceful atmosphere on the campus. He said that efforts are being made to improve the residential standards.

Guest of honour, Mr. Bhuvnesh Kumar, District Magistrate, Aligarh, said that student life is the most important period in life and it should not be wasted. Professor M.M. Ashhar, Provost, Nadeem Tarin Hall, said that one hundred and fifty residents of Nadeem Tarin Hall have found placements. Professor Ashhar added that Mr. Mohammad Saqib got 20th position in GATE Examination and Mohammad Saima did extremely well in national equestrian events.

The District Magistrate and Vice Chancellor gave away prizes to the winners of Oration, Bait Bazi, Quiz, Skit, Monoacting, Mimicry, Poster making and Solo Singing. Mr. Shafqat Imam, Senior Hall, proposed the vote of thanks. Mr. Arshad Islam conducted the programme.

Magnum Opus

‘Magnum opus’, the annual literary and cultural function of Sir Ziauddin Hall was held on April 18, 2008. The function was inaugurated by Padma Shree Professor S. Zillur Rahman, Director, Ibne-Sina Academy. In his inaugural address Professor Rahman said that AMU students are recognized, apart from their educational ability, by their use of Urdu Language which they acquire from literary and cultural activities held in AMU. He added that not only students but a large number of AMU faculty have brought laurels to their alma mater in the field of literature and culture. Professor Rahman said that following the footsteps of teachers and illustrious alumni the present generation of AMU students should region the lost glory of this prestigious seat of learning. Guest of honour, Professor Emeritus Farhat Ullah Khan said that a man is judged by the way he speaks and these functions provide an opportunity to students to improve their communication skills. Professor Khan exhorted the students to learn more about Sir Syed and his contemporaries.

Professor Iqbal Ali Khan, Dean, Faculty of Law, said that these functions play a very positive role in overall personality development and students should actively participate in such programmes. Dr. Afaq Ahmad, Provost, Sir Ziauddin Hall, welcomed the guests. Dr. Suhail Sabir, President, Literary and Cultural Society, presented the vote of thanks and Mr. Raza Hussain, Literary Secretary conducted the programme. Senior Hall, Mr. Faris Hasan; Cultural Secretary, Mr. Shariq and Food Monitor Mr. S. Aziz Iqbal were present.

The prize distribution ceremony was held on April 21, 2008 and the prizes were given away by the chief guest Mr. Zameer Ullah, City MLA; Professor Firoz Ahmad, Former Provost; Dr. Afaq Ahmad, Provost, S.Z. Hall and Dr. Suhail Sabir, President, Literary and Cultural Society. The programme was conducted by literary secretary Mr. Raza Hussain.

Masood-2008

Ross Masood Hall celebrated Arts and Literary Festival MASOOD-2008 from April 19-21, 2008. Chief Guest, Professor V.K. Abdul Jaleel, Registrar AMU, said that R.M. Hall has preserved its identity in the field of Arts and Literature and the students of this hall are carrying forward the rich legacy of this institution. Dr. Muhajid Beg, was the guest of honour.

Dr. Mohammad Mubin, Provost, R.M. Hall, welcomed the guests and Dr. Waseem Raja, President, Literary and Cultural Society, spoke about the importance of the programme. Mr. Mudassir Ali Fatihi, Arts and Cultural Secretary, proposed the vote of thanks.

Aftab-wa-Mahtab

Aftab Hall organized a two-day literary and cultural festival on April 20-21, 2008. Vice Chancellor Professor P.K. Abdul Azis said that such functions are of paramount importance to the students of residential halls as students get the opportunity to hone their talents. The Vice
Chancellor added that this University has its own traditions and ample opportunities are available to the students to groom their personalities.

Professor Abdul Qayyum, Provost, Aftab Hall, said that students of Aftab Hall are actively participating in literary and cultural activities that enhance standards. Mr. Adil, Literary Secretary, Aftab Hall, conducted the programme and Mr. Mohammad Shamim proposed the vote of thanks. The Vice Chancellor distributed the prizes.

Tarab - 08
Abdullah Hall organized its annual literary and cultural Hall function ‘TARAB – 08’, on April 23, 2008. Vice Chancellor Professor P K Abdul Azis appreciated the performance of the girls in extra curricular activities. He added that girls are outstanding in every sector and they deserve a better position in academic and administrative jobs. He said he looked forward about having a woman Vice Chancellor.

Guest of Honour of the function Professor M. Saleemuddin in his address emphasized the need of Muslims in general and girl students in particular in enhancing women’s participation in social and educational upliftment of society. Professor Saleemuddin said that whole Muslim Community is passing through a turbulent phase, however, this disadvantage can be turned into an opportunity for the better.

Provost Abdullah Hall Professor Bilquis Nasim Waris presented the annual hall report. Vice Chancellor presented the overall winner’s trophy. Fourth grade employees of the Hall were also felicitated on the occasion. Ghazal and University Tarana were presented by the resident members of the Hall.

Infinite - 08
The Sarojini Naidu Hall for Women organized Infinite – 08, the Annual Hall Function, on April 24, 2008. Vice Chancellor Professor P.K. Abdul Azis, was the Chief Guest.

The Programme started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Miss Sanober Jilani. This was followed by the welcome speech by Miss Farah Maqsood, Warden. Miss Ariba Khan, the Senior Hall presented the annual report. The prizes were distributed by the Chief Guest, Vice Chancellor Professor P K Abdul Azis. Dr. Seema Hakim, Provost, presented the vote of thanks. As per the University traditions, the University Tarana followed by the National Anthem marked the end of the programme. Joint Literary Secretary, Miss Afreen Hashmi, conduct the programme.

Shafaq - 08
Shafaq-2008, the annual literary, cultural and sports festival of Hadi Hasan Hall was inaugurated by Registrar Professor V.K. Abdul Jaleel. Speaking on the occasion, Professor Jaleel exhorted the students to take active part in sports activities and make sports a part of their daily routine. Professor Mahmood S. Khan, Provost, Hadi Hasan Hall said that students of other Halls also participate in literary, cultural and sports events of Hadi Hasan Hall resulting in healthy interaction.

Suhail Khan Abid was declared ‘Mr. Shafaq’; Mansoor Beg was declared ‘Mr. Talented’; Noorul Hasan was “Mr. Elegant’ and Dr. Ashwani Rana was ‘Mr. Personality’. Kashif Iqbal and his group bagged the first prize in Skit Competition; Faiz Akram got the first prize in Essay writing; Suhail Khan Abid bagged the first prize in extempore oration; Haseeb Khan was declared winner in the fashion show; Arnu Singh got the first prize in group discussion; Nayyar Rahman was declared winner in Debate competition; first prize in Creative Writing went to Anees Akhtar and Irfan got the first prize in self composed poetry.

President, literary and cultural Society, Dr. Irfan-ul-Haque; Senior Hall, Dr. S. Shahid Ali;
Cultural Secretary, Mohammad Saqib extended their cooperation in making the programme a success.

Sulaiman Hall

Sir Sulaiman Hall organized its Hall Week from May 3-5, 2008. Addressing the function chief guest Mr. Ajay Chaudhry, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Delhi and an alumnus of AMU, said that exemplary services of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, founder of this great seat of learning, in the field of education and in nation building can never be undermined. Mr. Chaudhry added that now it is the responsibility of the Aligarh Community to further the mission of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and take this University to new heights and establish new educational institutions named after the great man. Mr. Chaudhry said that efforts should be made to install a portrait of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in the central hall of Parliament and his name should be actively proposed for the award of Bharat Ratna. He presented mementos to the students. Officiating Vice Chancellor Professor M. Zubair Khan said that students should concentrate on their studies to glorify the name of their patrons and their alma mater.

Senior Hall, Mr. S. Faiz Abbas Rizvi presented the Hall Report. Provost Professor Sayed Ahsan proposed the vote of thanks and Mr. Mahmood conducted the programme. Wardens of the hall Mr. Adam Malik Khan, Dr. Mohsin Khan, Dr. Sattar Hussain; Mr. Braj Bhushan Singh, Mr. Bilal Ahmad Kutty, Dr. Mohammad Aftab Alam, Dr. Mohammad Rehan and Dr. Azhar Ali Khan were present on the occasion.

Aureola-North-2K8

Sir Syed Hall (North) celebrated its Annual festival Aureola-North-2K8 on May 8, 2008. Addressing the function chief guest, Mr. Abu Asim Azmi, a Member of Parliament, said that this University has a special place in the hearts of Indians living in India and abroad. Referring to the secular character of AMU Mr. Azmi said that students of this University have always been with the national mainstream. He exhorted the students to achieve positions of merit so that they may work for the social and economic upliftment of the country. Guest of honour, Mr. Saba Karim, an eminent cricketer, in his address said that he himself did not have the opportunity to study at AMU. However his parents are alumni of this institution. He asked the students to take active part in sports.

Vice Chancellor Professor P.K. Abdul Azis said that his dream is that this University should produce Engineers, Doctors, Economists, Sociologists and Politicians par excellence. Professor Azis added that now, after a substantial gap, Seminars, Workshop and Hall Functions are being organized in the University reflecting a steady comeback to normal track. He appreciated the role of teachers and students in bringing back normalcy in the campus.

Professor Sartaj Tabassum, Provost, S.S. (North), welcomed the guests and spoke about various achievements of the hall. Senior Hall, Mr. Imran Khan presented the annual report and spoke about the historical importance of S.S. Hall. The programme was conducted by Chaudhry Irfan Raza Khan and Mohammad Tanveer Alam proposed the vote of thanks. Mr. Abu Asim Azmi, Mr. Saba Karim and Vice Chancellor Professor P.K. Abdul Azis gave away the prizes.

Professor Iqbal on Editorial Board

Professor Badar Alam Iqbal has been co-opted as a member of Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of Centre for Management Research and Development (CJMR) published from Pune. The Journal publishes articles on all aspects of management.
Professor Kabir-ud-Din Elected VP

Dr. Kabir-ud-Din, Professor, Department of Chemistry, has been elected Vice-President of the ISSST for a period of two years (January 2007 – December 2009). The society is committed to the promotion of the activities in the interdisciplinary areas of surface science and technology and published a prestigious journal (J.Surface Sci. Technol.). Professor Kabir-ud-Din is a Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal. He is also a Committee Member (2007-2009) of the Asian Society for Colloid and Surface Science (Nagoya).

National Bio Sciences Award

Vice Chancellor Professor P K Abdul Azis, 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 at the Conference Hall of Administrative Block, AMU in April 2008. The prize carries a citation and Rs. One Lakh in cash. The Vice Chancellor said that this is a moment of pride for the AMU Community. Dr. Owais should serve as inspiration to the entire campus.

Professor M Saleemuddin, Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Biotechnology Unit congratulated Dr. Owais. He said that Dr. Owais joined the Center in 1988 as a Lecturer. He pointed out that Dr. Mohammad Owais has done pioneering work in the drug delivery system. Dr. Owais has set a trend in the field of Biotechnology and this felicitation will provide 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, has a vision that furthers the dream of the founder Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. He also has the potential to carry forward the legacy of the founder in the right direction.

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

Research Collaboration

Professor R.E.B. Hanna, Veterinary Science Division, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Northern Ireland, U.K.; and Dr Gerard P. Brennan, Division of Molecular Parasitology, School of Biological Sciences, The Queen’s University of Belfast, Northern Ireland, U.K. visited the Department of Zoology, to explore the possibilities of collaborative research links between the Queen’s University and the Section of Parasitology, Department of Zoology, in veterinary parasitology. A.M.U. is recognized for the studies on helminth biochemistry, physiology, immunology and ultrastructural aspects of the flukes.

Vice Chancellor Professor P. K. Abdul Azis, approved the initiation of the process for collaborative research activities so that an MOU can be signed between the two universities. Professor Absar M. Khan, Chairman, Department of Zoology and Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, encouraged the visiting scientists to interact with the staff members of the department.

Professor Hanna and Dr Brennan also delivered lectures on An Overview of Anthelmintic Resistance in Parasites of Veterinary Importance: Research Challenges and Opportunities; and Parasites, Drug Resistance and Recent Advances, respectively. They also conducted a workshop on Molecular Detection of Pathogens in Tissue Sections using in situ Hybridization, which was attended by more than 60 participants including students and staff members.
Indian Ethos in Malfooz Literature

An International Seminar on Reflections of Indian Ethos in Malfooz Literature, was organized (March 13-15, 2008) by the Department of Persian. A number of eminent scholars of various disciplines, from India and abroad, participated and presented research papers. In the inaugural session, Professor Maria Bilquis, Director of the Seminar, explained that Malfooz literature or discourses of the Sufi-saints, is of great historical and cultural significance. This literary genre, though it originated outside India, was cultivated and nurtured on the Indian soil. The earliest example of the record of the oral teachings of the Sufi-saint is Fawaid ul-Faud (Morals of the Heart). This Malfooz text which contains oral teachings of the Chishti saint Hazrat Nizam al-Din Awliya (d.1325), by his disciple and poet Amir Hasan Sijzi Dehlawi (1253-1336) is the earliest example of Malfooz literature produced in India. It is a beautifully written account of the Sufi teachings and is certainly one of the most popular sufi works in India. Janab Nawab Rahmatullah Khan Sherwani, Pro-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, emphasized the continued relevance of Malfoozat for the socio-intellectual rejuvenation and spiritual revitalization of the Indo-Muslim community in modern times.

The keynote address was delivered by Professor Hafiz Mohammad Tahir Ali, (Vishva Bharati, Shantiniketan, West Bengal), a noted scholar on the subject, while the Presidential address was delivered by Vice Chancellor Professor P.K. Abdul Azis. The guests of honour, H.E. Dr. Karim Najafi, the Cultural Counsellor of I.R. Iran, and H.E.M. Afsar Rahbeen, the Cultural Counsellor of Afghanistan also emphasized the importance of the Seminar in promoting the intellectual interactions in strengthening the traditional ties between India and Persian-speaking countries of the Middle East. Professor Abul Kalam Qasmi, Dean, Faculty of Arts, also spoke on the issue. The vote of thanks was proposed by Professor Azarmi Dukht Safavi, a senior Professor of the Department.

One of the highlights of the occasion was the release of a book entitled Persian Literature Produced in Sultanate Period, (ed. Professor Maria Bilquis) by the honourable Vice Chancellor Professor P.K. Abdul Azis, containing selected papers form the proceedings of the International Seminar held in the Department of Persian on the above theme convened by Professor Maria Bilquis, Chairman, Department of Persian, in March 2007.

The Seminar concluded with a Valedictory Session presided over by the distinguished scholars Professor Syed Amir Hasan Abidi, (Professor Emeritus, Delhi University, Delhi), Professor Hafiz Mohammad Tahir Ali, Professor Sharaf-e-Alam, (Ex-Vice Chancellor, MMH Arabic and Persian, University of Bihar, Patna), Professor Sharief Hussain Qasmi, (Delhi University, Delhi). Recognizing the importance of the subject, National organizations namely ICCR and ICHR (New Delhi) provided generous financial assistance. Altogether thirty-one papers in English, Persian and Urdu languages were presented. The Seminar brought together scholars of other disciplines, such as History, Islamic Studies, Arabic and Urdu.
Obituary

It is with profound grief that we convey the sad demise of Dr. Razia Sultan. In her passing away, Women’s College has lost an invaluable teacher. She was born on the October 2, 1959 and died on March 6, 2008. She did her graduation, post graduation and doctorate from AMU. She joined Women’s College as Lecturer in 1997. Dr. Razia Sultan was loved by her students and colleagues for her sincerity and zest for life. She is survived by her husband, two sons and a daughter.

International Workshop and Treatment Camp

Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Dr. Z.A. Dental College, organized an International Workshop and treatment camp of facial cleft patients from March 30 - April 12, 2008. The objective of the workshop was to train the Maxillofacial Surgeons in cleft lip and palate surgery by international faculty, and to treat poor patients of cleft lip and palate. The disease is commonly seen in poor or economically backward families. This class is affected because of lack of expert facilities in rural areas. The disease is thus commonly seen in developing countries and many international charity organizations are actively working in the affected areas to organize and support the treatment. The treatment camp was sponsored by Interplast Germany and local hospitality was provided by the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Aligarh Muslim University. The nine member team comprised Professor Alireza Ghassemi, Dr. Lloyd Nannhekan, Dr. Marcus Gerressen, Dr. Edelgard Fischer, Dr. Peter M. Thamm, Jacob Dinani, Walter Gerhards, Sven Brosda and Thomas Reichel. They were actively involved in the surgery and care of the patients. Investigations, operation theatre and indoor facilities were provided by the Chairman, Department of Jarahat. Dr. Saood Ali Khan, Principal, A.K. Tibbiya College. Faculty members of Department of Oral and Maxillofacial surgery received hands on training of cleft lip and palate surgery.

Sixty-five cases of cleft lip and palate were operated. Those patients who could not receive treatment due to shortage of time have been registered for the next camp tentatively scheduled for early next year. The Interplast Germany has promised to sponsor the annual cleft lip and palate treatment camps. The operation theatre, indoor facilities and local hospitality will be provided by the Aligarh Muslim University.
**ZHCET Newsletter Released**

On April 1, 2008, Vice Chancellor Professor P K Abdul Azis released the Newsletter of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the College Auditorium. The Faculty of Engineering also launched a website [http://www.zhcet.ac.in](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, 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 was his duty to make AMU a world class institution. He appreciated the efforts of Professor Ahtisham A Nizami, Dean of the Faculty and hoped these R & D activities will provide a database of all the teachers and students.

In his welcome address, Dean Professor Ahtisham A Nizami, pointed out that we are determined to take initiatives 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 continue 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.

**Professor Jafri on USEFI Board**

The Government of India has nominated Professor H A S Jafri, former Pro Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University on the Board of Directors of the United States Educational Foundation in India (USEFI) for the year 2008.

**US Counsellor for Cultural Affairs Visits AMU**

Mr. Adnan A Siddiqi, Counsellor for Cultural Affairs, US Embassy, visited Aligarh Muslim University on April 7, 2008. 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 alumnus of this University. He completed his B.Sc., MA, LLB and LLM during 1949 to 1956. Mr. Siddiqi visited his hostel Sir Syed East Room No. 23 where he spent eight years as a student. Mr. Adnan Siddiqi and his father also interacted with the Faculty members of Law and Political Science. They deliberated upon Indo-US relations.

**UP Government Minority Scholarships**

More than two thousand six students of the Aligarh Muslim University have been awarded UP Government Minority Scholarship for the session 2007-2008. Professor Tabassum Shahab, Nodal Officer, Minority Students’ Affairs at AMU said that the complete list is available on
The amount of individual scholarship is mentioned against the name and has been credited to the student’s bank account. He advised the students to check the amount in the bank and communicate about any discrepancy for corrective measures.

**Earning While Learning**

The Career Planning Centre organized an exhibition-cum-sale to promote the *Earning while Learning* scheme of the Career Planning Centre, Women’s College, AMU. This objective has intense motivational value. Items prepared by the students of different courses such as Fashion Garments, Commercial Art, Textile Designing, Interior Decoration were displayed. A large number of teachers and students from Women’s College, Senior Secondary School and AMU Girls High School joined this event to make it a big success. Professor Javed Musarrat acting Registrar, inaugurated the exhibition and appreciated all the projects, especially items of interior decoration. Students talent and interests were evaluated by the Chief Guest and other senior faculty members. The sale ended on April 10, 2008 with the turn over of Rs.6865/- which is definitely a handsome amount for learners and trainers of Professional Skill Training Courses. The event was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Sabra Khatoon, Director, Career Planning Centre.

**Camp for Spastic Children**

The Department of Anaesthesiology organized a free camp for management of spasticity in children of cerebral palsy at Pain OPD of J.N. Medical College Hospital, on April 28, 2008. Professor G.P. Dureja, Director, Delhi Pain Management Centre and Institute of Spasticity and Dr. Mansoor Alam Child Neuro Developmental expert and Chief Consultant Institute of Child Development, New Delhi treated about 80 children.

The camp was organized under the guidance of Professor Usha Singhal, Chief Medical Superintendent J.N. Medical College Hospital; Professor MMH Siddiqui, Chairman Department of Anaesthesiology, Professor S. Bano and all the faculty members of the Department of Anaesthesiology. Dr. Hammad Usmani, Lecturer, Department of Anaesthesiology and Mr. Amir Atiq, physiotherapist at J N Medical College Hospital helped Professor G P Dureja and Dr Mansoor Alam.

Dr. G P Dureja delivered a guest lecture on *Innovative Approach in the Management of Spasticity in Cerebral Palsy*.

**Submission Guidelines and Policy**

*Aligarh Muslim University Gazette* publishes articles, news and information about AMU. Contributions are published on a space-available basis. Matter not run in a particular issue will be retained for later use. Articles on subjects that interest an academic readership may be contributed in about 1500 words. Contributions are edited to suit in-house style.

**DISCLAIMER**

The views expressed in the articles are those of individual authors, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Board of the *Aligarh Muslim University Gazette* or of the University Administration, faculty, staff or students.
Article

Dr. Ambedkar: His Ideals & Contributions

Professor M. Shabbir

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 14\textsuperscript{th} 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 sons 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 the understanding of 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’. He considered the caste system an artificial creation of vested interests. 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 subsequently earned his Ph.D. Then he went to England and joined School of Economic and Political Science, but he could not pursue his studies due to the discontinuation of scholarship. He returned and started teaching at Bombay. After saving some money and acquiring financial support from his friends, he went to England to complete his studies. He did his M.Sc. in 1921 and was awarded a 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 parts 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. He received the Communal Award of 1932 conceding separate electorate to the untouchables. It was opposed by Mahatma Gandhi, and consequently, the Poona Pact came into being providing reservation for the depressed classes. He made comparative studies of different religions. He was impressed by Islam, Sikhism and Buddhism. Later on, he embraced Buddhism with 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 backward classes were possible only by the life long-efforts of Dr. Ambedkar. Dr. Ambedkar also founded the ‘Scheduled Caste Federation’, ‘Samaj Samata Sabha’
and ‘People’s 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 to 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 to build 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 capacity as Law Minister. He was keen to reform law. Out of this spirit, he prepared the 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 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 ensured good governance of a pluralistic civil society. He is acclaimed Masiha of the downtrodden, subjudicated 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 in these words: “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 a 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 nations 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.

**Editor’s Note:** Professor M. Shabbir is Professor of Law and also Incharge, Dr. Ambedkar Chair of Legal Studies and Research, Department of Law, AMU.
**International Congregations**

1. International Colloquium, organized under the aegis of Development Education Research Centre, *Institute of Education, Gordon Square, University of London*: Professor A.R. Kidwai, Director, UGC Academic Staff College, delivered a lecture on *Staff Development Scheme in the Higher Education Sector in India*.

**National Congregations**

1. Twenty-Sixth Annual Conference of the Indian Council of Chemists (2007), Dr. H.S. Gour University, Sagar (M.P.), February 26-28, 2008: Mr. Mudasir Rashid Banday, Research Scholar, Department of Chemistry, presented his paper in Organic Chemistry Section and was conferred with *Young Scientist Award*.


3. Fifty-Second Annual National Conference of Indian Public Health Association, March 5-9, 2008, Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi:
   - Dr. M. Athar Ansari, Department of Community Medicine, presented his paper entitled *Salt Storage practices and Iodine Content of Salt Samples in Rural Areas of Aligarh*.
   - Dr. Saira Mehnaz, Department of Community Medicine, presented her paper entitled *Social Barrier and felt Need of Community Based Perinatal Care*.
   - Dr. Najam Khalique, Department of Community Medicine, attended the conference.


   - Professor Abdul Munir, Department of Geography, participated as a resource person, chaired the session and also was one of the experts on Panel Discussion on ‘Environmental and Sustainable Development with Reference to Kanpur City’.
   - Dr. Nizamuddin Khan, Department of Geography, participated in this conference.
   - Abdul Bari Naik and Salman Sadique, Research Scholars, Department of Geography, jointly received *Young Geographer Award* for their presentation in this conference.

7. Second National Association of Geographers, India (NAGI), Udaipur, Rajasthan, February 29 to March 02, 2008:
   - Professor Ali Mohammad, Department of Geography, participated as one of the experts on Panel Discussion entitled *Global Warming and Environment*.
   - Professor Salahuddin Qureshi and Dr. Jabir Hasan Khan participated.

8. National Conference organized by Third World Centre, J.M.I., New Delhi, March 11-12, 2008: Professor Ali Mohammad, Department of Geography, presented his paper entitled *Inter and Intra Regional Co-operative in Central Asia*. 
New Appointments

I. Members of the University Court
   Professor Mohammad Idrees, Chairman, Department of Chemical Engineering, in capacity as senior-most Chairman.
   Professor Pradeep Kumar Saxena, Chairman, Department of Hindi, in capacity as senior-most Chairman.

II. Chairperson
   Faculty of Social Sciences
   Department of Islamic Studies: Professor Zafarul Islam, w.e.f. 21.04.2008.
   Faculty of Medicine
   Department of Periodontia and Community Dentistry, Dr. Z.A. Ahmad Dental College: Dr. Mohd. Sami Ahmad, w.e.f. 11.04.2008.
   Department of Orthodontics, Dr. Z.A. Ahmad Dental College: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Verma, w.e.f. 11.04.2008.
   Department of Conservative Dentistry/Endodontics, Dr. Z.A. Ahmad Dental College,: Professor Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, w.e.f. 11.04.2008.

III. Member-in-Charge
   Electricity Department: Professor Mohibullah, Department of Electrical Engineering, w.e.f. 19.04.2008.

IV. Director
   Centre for Women’s Studies: Professor Shireen Moosvi, Department of History, w.e.f. 10.04.2008.

V. Liaison Officer
   SC/ST Cell: Dr. Minhaj Ahmad Khan, Deputy Registrar (Development).

Superannuations

Non-Teaching
1. 31.10.2007; Mr. Ishtiaque Ahmad, Security Inspector, Proctor’s Office.
2. 30.11.2007; Mr. Khush Mohd. Khan, UDC (Admin.), Principal’s Office, A.K. Tibbiya College
3. 31.01.2008; Mr. Baitullah Khan, Assistant (Admin.), Proctor’s Office.

Technical
1. 31.12.2007; Mr. Jalaluddin, Senior Lab. Assistant, J.N. Medical College Hospital.
2. 31.12.2007; Mrs. Hemlata Mahesh Lal, Staff Nurse, J.N. Medical College Hospital.
3. 31.01.2008; Mrs. Ram Dulari, Ward Assistant, J.N. Medical College Hospital.
4. 29.02.2008; Mr. Mohd. Asghar Khan, Head Pump Operator, Building Department.
5. 31.03.2008; Mr. Syed Arshad Ali, Head Electrician-cum-Tube Well Operator. Mohd. Habib Hall.

Group IV
1. 31.01.2008; Mr. Raunaq Husain, Reading Room Attendant, Sulaiman Hall.
2. 31.07.2007; Mr. Mohd. Raza, Pump Attendant, Building Department.
3. 30.09.2007; Mr. Akbar Ali, Kitchen Attendant, S.S. Hall (South).
4. 31.10.2007; Mr. Shabbir Ahmad-I, Security Guard, Proctor’s Office.
5. 31.12.2007; Mr. Amar Singh, Chowkidar, Lands, Gardens and Parks.
6. 31.01.2008; Mr. Mohd. Islam, Mali, M.M. Hall.
7. 29.02.2008; Mr. Idrees Khan, Cook, Sir Ziauddin Hall.
8. 31.03.2008; Mr. Kali Charan, Safaiwala, J.N. Medical College Hospital.
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