

JAUHAR

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At home, in India

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon conferred Honoris Causa by Jamia; describes his India connection; urges students to think as global citizens

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◆9 Faculties ◆37 Departments ◆27 Centres of Excellence and Research ◆231 Courses ◆642 Faculty Members
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From the Vice-Chancellor

Another three months have whizzed past, in what has been an academically and administratively busy period for the entire University. The second semester exams are over and the students have left for summer vacations, but the preceding months have seen a whirl of activity, what with extra classes, extended library hours, end semester examinations etc. The University is now busy with the entrance examinations for the coming academic session. Roughly 110,000 students will appear for about 5,000 seats in various courses, ranging from undergraduate to postgraduate and Ph.D. The University has added a number of new courses, such as M.Tech. in Nanotechnology, BA Hons. in Turkish Language and Literature, PG Diploma in Acting, among others.

We had the pleasure of hosting the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon and honouring him with an Honoris Causa. The Secretary General began his career in the South Korean Foreign Services, with New Delhi as his first posting. Addressing the distinguished gathering of diplomats, eminent personalities, academics, journalists and senior faculty, he said, "While I have always been a student of India, I now have a degree to show for it."

On my part, I travelled to Saudi Arabia and had the honour of meeting His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, the Defence Minister of the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His Excellency emphasised the Kingdom's deepening relations with India and desired that Jamia Millia Islamia associate with some of the leading Universities in the Kingdom. Consequently, we have signed Memorandums of Understanding with King Abdul Aziz Foundation, King Saud University, Riyadh, and Imam Mohammed Islamic University, Riyadh, with the intention of exchanging faculty and students between us. The Government of Saudi Arabia has also asked us to be the nodal University for carrying out research on, and cataloging experiences of the Haj travel by pilgrims from South Asia.

All in all, it has been an academically engaging and vibrant period for us at the University.

Najeeb Jung
Vice-Chancellor



A unique

symbiosis



Where the mantra is compassion: Jamia students at the Cheshire Home near Jamia, as part of NSS activities

The circumstances in which an institution is born determines its DNA, in terms of values, ethics and work culture. The first image of Jamia Millia Islamia that's etched in our minds is that of a series of tents outside Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) in 1920, when a group of students and teachers broke away from the parent institution on the issue of continued British patronage to AMU, during the heady days of the Non-cooperation Movement. Nudged on by Maulana Mohamed Ali Jauhar and Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Zakir Husain and like-minded students and teachers had started Jamia from those tents, depending on the supportive population of Aligarh even for basic necessities like food.

The second image is that of a few selfless individuals at Jamia, which had shifted to Delhi, foregoing their salary and other material comforts, and still continuing to teach students, motivated by a utopian vision of education. For this group of edu-

cationists, education was not for the sake of getting better jobs, but for enabling an individual to serve society better. As Dr. Zakir Husain said in his welcome address to the All India Educational Conference in New Delhi in 1934, "We shall have to set about the difficult task of changing our educational institutions of mere book learning into centres of cooperative activity, where a sense of social and political responsibility could be engendered into the young generations of our country..."

Both these experiences have instilled in Jamia a deep sense of commitment to serve the community. Its unique pedagogy has historically involved:

- A great emphasis on 'handwork' (every student had to work on farm, poultry, carpentry, etc);
- Education outside the classroom (each student was required to attend a 10-day camp at Suraj Kund);
- Respect for all classes of workers (during the Qaumi Hafta, commemorated each April to

mark the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, the support staff was given leave and students had to clean the campus and cook for all workers); and

- Involvement with the community (the annual Talimi Mela was a major event each year, for the Jamia fraternity to reach out to the community around it).

Essentially, the founding fathers of Jamia envisioned an educational institution growing along with the community, not in isolation, and thus took concrete steps to ensure that their vision got implemented on a day-to-day basis.

The witnesses

A.R. Kidwai, son of Dr. Zakir Husain's colleague Shafiqur Rehman Kidwai, who joined Jamia in 1941 as a student of class I, and Jamia hostel the next year, testifies to this. He describes how his father took part in, and was arrested during the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930, because of which the grant that Jamia was receiving from Hyderabad was stopped. After his release, Jamia took a number of initiatives not only to make the institution financially independent, but also to spread education to the community around it, through the Talim-e-Baalighan, Talim-e-Tarakki and the Balak Mata Centres.

Ghulam Haider, who joined Jamia as a student of class IV in 1944, and who has written *Naqoosh-e-Jamia: Jamia ki Kahaani, Jamia Waalon ki Zubaani*, explains the unique symbiosis of Jamia with the community around it in the same perspective. He says that the impact of activities that Jamia had in the community around it was such that in 1946, at the height of communal violence in the city, Jamia had gathered 10,000 people to mark its silver jubilee year, and the event passed without any untoward happening (also read *Reminiscences*, pg 22: *Chronicler of Jamia*).

The departures

And this template continues to this day, despite the fact that after Independence, Jamia had to accept Government funding to survive, and years later, received the 'central university' status. As Kidwai says, "Though the profile has changed, it is serving the needs of today's society well. Stagnation also stifles an institution." And Haider also feels that wisdom lay in accepting the changed realities.

One of the changed realities is that even as Jamia has grown immensely in stature, the community around it has also grown by leaps and bounds. What

constituted sparsely-populated villages and agricultural land along the Yamuna river, where Kidwai and Haider used to go swimming and to catch fish, is an enormous urban jungle today. The last few decades have seen unprecedented migration to Jamia's surroundings. In fact, Prof. I.H.A. Faruqi, teaching at the Centre for Study of Comparative Religions and Civilisation, who also did his schooling from Jamia, claims the University has acted as a magnet, with its high educational standards.

The continuities

Despite the changing profile, Jamia's links to the community remain, as a large number of people of the University fraternity prefer to reside in the vicinity. Both Kidwai and Haider can be reached on foot; and Jamia's oldest surviving member, Mohammad Tayyab, 100, lives next-door to Kidwai. And yes, there are a large number of students who come from all over India and take up rooms here.

Saima Azhar, a student of Diploma in Electronics at Jamia Polytechnic, stays at Batla House with her mother and two brothers. She feels comfortable about the fact that her residence is close to the University. Her classmate Shoomila Shiri, who hails from Bareilly, stays in Nur Nagar. "Many of my relatives stay in Ghaffar Manzil. They have studied at Jamia and told me about professional courses here."

Despite the transformation both Jamia and the community have undergone, the sense of service to the community remains ingrained. While new faculties and departments have opened up, they strive, within their means, to make a difference to the society. Here are a few initiatives:

Department of Adult and Continuing Education and Extension:

Prof. Shagufta Jamal, Head of Department, says that the Department works on a three-fold mandate: Teaching, research and work in the community. Earlier, its focus was on adult literacy and population education; it provided continuing education courses to people from poor socio-economic backgrounds around Jamia. But as Satish Kumar Bhati, senior faculty, says, "According to our own survey in 1988, 79 percent literacy had been achieved. At 80 percent a place is declared literate." Now the focus of the Department has shifted to providing courses which enhance employability of the population around Jamia.

The Department offers a large number of popular programmes: Wireman, TV repair, motor winding, mobile repair and computer courses. After Jamia's



certification they have got jobs in the Gulf countries too. The Department follows a syllabus prescribed by Shramik Vidyapeeth or else, what is prescribed by the syllabus committee of the University.

Extension education is an important activity of the Department. Every year it organises 60-80 lectures on legal issues, issues such as right to education, women's role in Islam, right to property, oral health and reproductive health.

Describing the transformation that their intervention has brought about, Bhati says: "In 1997 when we started a beautician's course, there were apprehensions as to whether to start or not. Now there is not a single street around Jamia where you won't find a parlour being run by our students."

Outreach Programme: The Outreach Programme of the University, besides organising other programmes, also seeks to alleviate the plight of the poor by creating awareness. One of its activities is essentially aimed at women who are caught in the ₹ 20-a-day grind. Among them is Chand Bibi, a resident of Joga Bai in the vicinity of Jamia, who has to fend for a household of three daughters, three sons and a daughter-in-law. To make ends meet, she and her daughters take up home-based work of placing sequins on clothes, for which payment is abysmal.

The Outreach Programme seeks to address the issue of lack of social security for these women, by creating awareness among them about the Government schemes available. To achieve this, it has roped in women's organisations like the Muslim Women's Forum and Janwadi Mahila Samiti, and Government and private organisations like the Government Handicraft Department, NABARD and FabIndia, among others. Acting as a link between the workers and the Government and other organisations, it is helping them avail of the various schemes on offer. Perhaps the most important initiative it has undertaken is the issuance of identity cards to home-based workers, which enables them to be recognised as craftswomen and access social security schemes and bank loans.

Dr. Simi Malhotra, Coordinator of the Outreach Programme, says that on its part, the Programme is also trying to ensure that the University can act as a nodal organisation, which can provide an interface between Government agencies and the community around Jamia.

Balak Mata Centre: Running from a Mughal-era structure near Jama Masjid in Old Delhi is the Balak



Mata Centre. It started in the late 1930s under the aegis of the founding fathers of Jamia, Dr. Zakir Husain, M. Mujeeb, Abid Hussain and S.R. Kidwai, who felt it was necessary to bring women and girls out of homes and provide them education.

There are three branches of the Centre (in Matia Mahal near Jama Masjid, Sadar Bazar and Pul Bangash) running today, providing schooling to girl children till class V, and skill-based programmes in computers, tailoring and beauty therapy to women.

Yasmeen Parveen, Director of the Centre, says that her team has to make a great effort to convince people to let women and girl children come out of homes. "Even today the situation is that they don't want to come out of their homes. We have had to do a door-to-door survey to identify the needy women and children."

With the compassion which has characterised Jamia all along, Yasmeen and her team also keep a tab of students' needs. In fact, Yasmeen and her colleagues say that there are instances when a child does not get her first meal even when she goes back home. In such situations, the teachers have often pooled in to help. The Centre, through its skilling programmes, has helped girls gain employment in the vicinity. Yasmeen says that even their marriage prospects improve after having done such courses.



Tools of empowerment: (Facing page) Primary school students at the Balak Mata Centre in Matia Mahal, Delhi; (left) a young woman learning tailoring at the Centre

get bytes and feedback. G.R. Syed, who's in charge of the programmes, says that there have been several occasions when Jamia Radio has taken the grievances of people to the concerned authorities and had these resolved. One such case pertained to the local Jachha Bachha Kendra (Mother and Child Centre), which was in a pitiable state. "The instruments were rusted. And there was no doctor. Within 15 days of the broadcast of this programme, there was a dramatic improvement."

This does not mean there's no entertainment. In fact, local talent is also promoted. Syed recounts an experience when he overheard someone singing a folk song in a *jhuggi*, when he was passing by the Shaheen Bagh area. He parked his scooter and entered the *jhuggi* unannounced, and saw that a woman was singing, her husband was playing 'tabla' on his cheeks and two children were beating 'drums' on the metal plates. He invited the family to the studio the next day, and had their songs recorded.

National Service Scheme: This is yet another activity at Jamia that helps the nearby community in numerous ways. Blood donation is among the most important activities the NSS organises, and Programme Officer Abid Husain, who has been working with NSS for over a decade now, says he has become a kind of mobile-referral for blood requirement all over Delhi. Proof of this comes even as this correspondent is talking to him. There's a requirement for B- blood, and Husain interrupts the interview to arrange for a donor. There are other health initiatives, like the Health Mela, with free eye, heart, HIV and dental check-ups; HIV/AIDS awareness drives; and reproductive health camps.

Jamia Radio: Making use of communication technology and the expertise of its famed Mass Community Research Centre (MCRC), Jamia Radio reaches out to people in a radius of 10 kms. The programmes, including *Ye Janna Zaroori Hai* (on health and hygiene) and *Khawateen Zindagi Ki Nai Raahon Mein* (on gender issues), take up problems that the community faces. To popularise these programmes, Jamia Radio originally organised *nukkad nataks* (street plays), and kushti, kabaddi and kite flying tournaments. Jamia Radio ropes in students of MCRC to do research on community needs and

Department of Social Work: The University's involvement with community concerns is not restricted to the localities around, or even to Delhi. Over the last eight years, the Social Work Department of Jamia has been actively involved in the polio campaign in 12 districts of Western Uttar Pradesh, after UNICEF had approached it for support. The reason was that the UN agency thought that the Department would be able to create awareness about this subject in the Muslim population in an appropriate manner.

And sure enough, the Department galvanised support for the vaccine through a network of mosques and madrasahs, flashing messages of influential persons of the community through audio-visual messages. Prof. Zubair Meenai of the Department personally supervised this work. The approach proved highly effective, and polio has been eradicated. Now, UNICEF has sought the Department's support to replicate the same model for its campaign on child rights. Not only that, several other countries, like Sri Lanka and Nigeria, have appreciated the model and are seeking to replicate it.

The Department has also reached out to regions afflicted by disasters: Bihar during the floods and Gujarat and Kashmir following the 2001 and 2005 earthquakes, respectively. ♦



‘Be a global citizen’

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon conferred Honoris Causa by Jamia



Degree of devotion: UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon with Jamia Vice-Chancellor Najeeb Jung

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called upon India’s youth to “have a big dream” and to “look beyond your country” to become “a global citizen”. Ban was conferred an honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) by Jamia Millia Islamia for his contribution to development and world peace, at a special convocation

held on the Jamia campus in New Delhi on April 27. He was given the degree at an impressive ceremony by Chancellor Lt. Gen. M.A. Zaki and Vice Chancellor Najeeb Jung. The event was attended by his wife, the academic community and diplomats.

“We hear of Generation X... Generation Y. I call today’s youth ‘Generation UN’ — a generation that is global... that understands our common bonds... a generation fluent in networks,” said Ban. The eighth secretary-general of the United Nations said that it was time for a new generation of Indians to write a new and dramatic chapter in their nation’s history.

“The main thread in that story will be India’s role in a wider world. India as a global power, and yourselves as a global citizen,” he said. “The story of India’s rise is your story.”

Recalling his long association with India, Ban told the select gathering at the 92-year-old University that his bonds with India run deep. “My journey in the foreign service started right here... exactly 40 years ago, on my first diplomatic posting. It was one of the best things that happened to me,” said Ban to a packed MA Ansari Auditorium. Sharing his personal history with the audience, Ban said his son was born in India and years later his daughter married an Indian man. “The couple produced what I consider to be the world’s finest joint venture between our two countries — my grandson, Jai,” he said, adding, “When I am in India, I am at home.” ♦

The arc of crisis

Former External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh urges caution in foreign policy matters

Jaswant Singh, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (Darjeeling) and former Union Finance and External Affairs Minister, delivered the Third Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew Annual Lecture on ‘Engaging the World: India and the Challenges of Our

Times’ in February-end. The lecture was organised by the Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia.

While he expressed his dissatisfaction with the “growing demand for good governance and shrinking supply”, he added, “Un-

like domestic policy, where, if you make mistakes you can correct the errors, errors of foreign policy live with us for centuries.” He cited the examples of the China-Tibet issue and Jammu & Kashmir. “We gave to foreign policy moral context but are unable to

Lt. Gen. Zaki, the Chancellor

As Vice-Chancellor of Jamia during 1997-1999, he helped restore discipline at the University

The Anjuman of Jamia Millia Islamia unanimously elected Lt. Gen. (Retd.) M.A. Zaki as the Amir-e-Jamia (Chancellor of Jamia). Lt. Gen. Zaki had a brilliant career in the armed forces spanning four decades, culminating with his being appointed as the Advisor to the Governor, Jammu and Kashmir. He was Jamia's Vice-Chancellor from 1997-99.

A soldier joining an education institution was a challenge no doubt, but, says Lt. Gen. Zaki, "The Army trains us to understand the population, and to be firm, to catch the bull by the horn. It was a challenge for me to be in the academic world. Yet, I must say, the help which I got from all quarters made me realise that it is not a difficult task. The academic staff was helpful and the students were keen to learn. There were only a few vested interests." And as a person who received a bullet wound in head while taking on terrorists in Kashmir in the 1990s, he certainly knew what it meant to tackle a challenge.

Jamia was experiencing law and order issues during his tenure as Vice-Chancellor, which disrupted the academic year of the University. How did a soldier enforce discipline in a civilian world where freedom of opinion is much cherished? Lt. Gen. Zaki says, "People must voice opinion, but they must accept a leader's diktat. A leader listens to everyone, but he has a vision of the institution in mind, and he has to work to achieve that."

He ensured that examinations were held, so that students would not lose a year. He convinced the student union that it was in their interest to hold examinations. Teaching started in earnest once again. He also dealt firmly with the land mafia, through legal means. "The courts were also of great help to us. In one judgement, the judge remarked that we must assist the efforts made by the Vice-Chancellor."

There were pressures, but these didn't bother him at all. He says, "It was a wonderful period of my life. I used to visit students each Tuesday. That interaction gave me a lot of inputs which were not forthcoming otherwise."

Back as Chancellor, he is happy at the progress Jamia has made, and the world-class status it enjoys. To students he has one message: "They must be disciplined to acquire the benefits of university education. It does not have to be imposed from outside."

His own disciplined life includes saying a firm 'No' to a mobile, an e-mail account and Facebook, though his wife is an avid Facebook user. ♦



An officer and an educationist: Lt. Gen. Zaki



Cassandra's alarm: Parliamentarian Jaswant Singh

balance it with strategic demands," he observed.

In particular, he warned of the "arc of crisis" extending from Syria to Pakistan, and warned that if this region is not handled carefully, it would turn into an "arc of fire".

On the current standoff between Iran and the Western powers, he said he realised the difficulties this situation poses for India. "Our relations with Iran are

not just about oil, not just about Sufism. Our history connects us... But we have relations with Israel too." The leadership must be ready to respond to the complexity of the situation, he said, adding that moral dogoodism will not serve the purpose anymore.

Chairing the session was former Lok Sabha Speaker P.A. Sangma, who expressed his dismay at the lack of leadership in India today.



Shared future of India, Pakistan

Vice Chancellor Najeeb Jung delivers a lecture in the Distinguished Speaker Series in Islamabad

Najeeb Jung, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, travelled to Islamabad in February to deliver a lecture on ‘India’s Search for Balance and the Prospects of a Shared Future in the Knowledge Economy between India and Pakistan’ under the Distinguished Speaker Series instituted by the Islamabad-based Jinnah Institute (JI) and the Melbourne-based Australia India Institute (AII), in collaboration with the Academy of International Studies (AIS), Jamia Millia Islamia.

JI and AII have been organising various track-two dialogues between India and Pakistan, called Chaophraya Dialogue, for the last many years. This initiative has brought together highly-placed Indians and Pakistanis at an unofficial level, to deliberate on ways to improve India-Pakistan relations. The previous two speakers from India were author-politician Shashi Tharoor and politician Mani Shankar Aiyar.

Jung delivered his keynote address at the Jinnah Institute on the February 23 and addressed students and faculty from the Department of Defense and Strategic Studies at Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, on February 24.



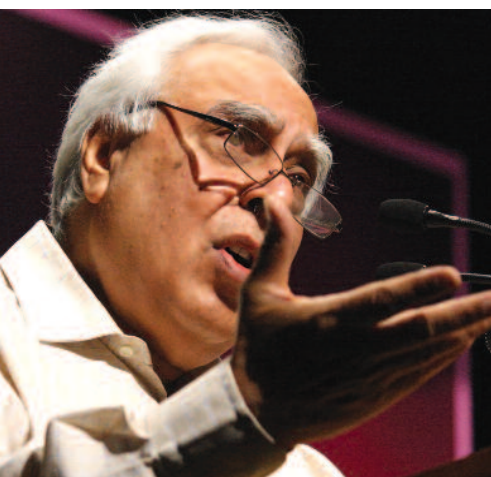
Photograph courtesy: JINNAH INSTITUTE

Let knowledge bridge the gap: Najeeb Jung (extreme right) speaking at the Jinnah Institute

Describing India’s growth story, he emphasised that the future of India is linked to the future of Pakistan. “A shared future of prosperity can lie ahead of us if we choose to grasp it,” he said. In particular, he made a case for a shared future in the knowledge economy. “If knowledge is the currency of power, let us collaborate in stockpiling it,” he said, adding that there is a pressing need for a more expansive exchange of students, academics, journalists and civil servants. “The Jamia Millia Islamia and universities in Pakistan can get together to create an exchange programme that can serve as a model for other universities to follow.” ♦

A politician, a poet

For a change, Kapil Sibal donned a different hat at Jamia, and read verses from his new book



Union Minister for Human Resources Development & Communications and IT Kapil Sibal read from his second book of poems *My World Within*. His first book of poems, titled *I Witness: Partial Observation*, was released in 2008.

With Jamia students and faculty as his audience, Sibal had rhyming lines for

perhaps every subject under the sun: From career anxiety to nanotechnology, teenage romance and the

BJP. On the occasion, the Jamia faculty read out the Urdu translation of the following poem:

Demons of the Past

*Your scars look fresh
when will they heal?
Your flow of blood
for years congealed.
Why have you let
your spirit wave?
It's time to look
at life again.*

*Gather your strength,
Open your eyes,
Walk away from
those broken ties.
Memories laden,
a painful past,
with prejudices
that are iron cast... ♦*

In defence of State

Social analyst Andre Beteille expresses unhappiness with the current antagonistic relations between the State and Civil Society

“I feel uneasy about the consistently adversarial attitude people adopt towards the State. Yes, it is a weak, inefficient and corrupt State. But I would rather be under this State than I would be under the State in China, which is doing better than us. I feel that Civil Society can work efficiently only within the framework of a Constitutional State.” Sociologist Prof. Andre Beteille expressed these thoughts while speaking on the theme ‘State



Much to be happy about: Andre Beteille

– Civil Society Relations’ at Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Jamia Millia Islamia, in March end. He was delivering the lecture under the M.K. Gandhi Chair Lecture Series.

“The task of State is very difficult one in the kind of country we live in, where we allow freedom of expression and plurality of parties. In such a large

country, we cannot celebrate dissent and (at the same time) feel terribly upset when there is disorder.” He said it was a mistake to believe that nothing had been achieved in terms of removing inequalities and poverty, and that Indians should not be denigrating all that had been achieved.

“Working of a society is not governed only by good laws but also good customs. Nothing is easier than enacting good laws but nothing is more difficult than changing oppressive customs,” he said. He

said it was a mistake – first made by Nehru and Ambedkar – to place too much trust in the State and expect it to eradicate these customs on its own.

He expressed his displeasure with the “promiscuous” use of words, and wondered whether people actually understood what ‘civil society’ actually meant. ♦

Concerning the Cloud

National Conference on ‘Emerging Trends in Open Source Applications and Cloud Computing’ saw 87 participants from 20 universities and colleges

A National Conference on ‘Emerging Trends in Open Source Applications and Cloud Computing (OSACC – 2012)’ was held at the FTK-Centre for Information Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia, on March 15.

Eighty-seven participants from 20 universities and colleges participated in the conference. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. Nupur Prakash, Principal, In-

dira Gandhi Institute of Technology, New Delhi. The inaugural session was presided over by T.A. Khan, Deputy Director General, National Informatics Centre, Ministry of Communications & IT.

The conference provided researchers, academicians, corporates and students an opportunity to interact with ICT experts and practitioners in the field of Cloud Computing and Open Source Applications.

Prof. S.I. Ahson, former Pro-VC, Patna University, gave a talk on ‘Identity Management and Access Control in Cloud’. Prof. Uma Kanjilal from IGNOU, New Delhi, delivered a lecture on ‘E-Portfolio and Web Hosting Management System’. Dr. S. Kazim Naqvi, FTK-CIT, JMI, spoke on ‘Challenges and Opportunities in Development and implementation of Educational Resource Planning Software for Education’.



The battle for knowledge

Anil Sadgopal criticises NCERT for losing a historic opportunity

Dr. K.R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies and the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Jamia Millia Islamia, organised the Nai Talim Lecture Series — ‘The Transformative Vision of Nai Talim — Engagement with Battle for Knowledge from Colonialism to Neo-Liberalism’ — from March 19 to 21. The lectures were delivered by eminent educationist, Jannalal Bajaj Award recipient Prof. Anil Sadgopal.

The first lecture focused on a historical overview of the education policy and the agenda, as advanced by the colonial rulers. It examined the impact of Ambedkar’s historic challenge to the “casteist framework” of Indian society and the ways in which it pre-determined the character of knowledge in education system.

In another lecture, he critically examined how NCERT lost a historic opportunity, while undertaking an exercise in constructing the National Curriculum Framework-2005 (NCF-2005), to create a unique curricular space for the children of the vast productive sections of society and to transform the Brahminical-cum-colonial relationship of school with the society and State.

He dwelt upon various sources of disparity in the Indian education system, viz. class, caste, language, region and how these pervade all aspects of education — from policymaking, budget allocation and governance to curriculum pedagogy and teacher education.

Interpretations of Facebook, Twitter

A research seminar on ‘The Cyberian Turn in Culture’

The Cyber society is like a sea. Only those with expertise can navigate it. There is no choice. There are millions who can’t swim — 95 percent of the population is yet to grow fins. Satadru Chatterjee, a Ph.D scholar at the Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia, expressed these thoughts about the new cyber culture gaining ground today. He was speaking at a one-day event on ‘Cyberian Turn in Culture’, organised by the Outreach Programme of Jamia on April 16.

It was interesting to listen to interpretations of conversations on Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites in terms of “bourgeoisie society”, “material identities”, “alternate identities”, etc. The issue of its benefits and drawbacks was discussed in great detail. Aruni Mahapatra, an M.Phil scholar from the University of Delhi, interpreted Internet as “a promise of liberation from despotism”. Sapna Dudeja Taluja of the Department of English at Jamia said, “No technology is totally benign or evil. Cyber space is the new public space. It provides new, creative ways of resistance.” MCRC student Uzma Falak described how social networking sites had helped Kashmiri youth connect with each other. And Mohammad Reyaz from the Academy of International Studies, Jamia, demonstrated how digital media reinforces print media. ♦



Twitter worry: Scholars discussing the might of new media.

Status of social work

Conference on Professional Social Work at Crossroads

The Department of Social Work, Jamia Millia Islamia, organised a National Conference on ‘Profession of Social Work at crossroads’, on February 23-24.

The speakers delineated the present status of social work profession and the significant micro- and macro-level challenges of contemporary social work practice. The participating students, scholars and academics alike, pointed out the pressing need for standards and quality assurance in social work education and practice.

The Guest of Honour was Prof. Shanti Kunduka from Washington University. The inaugural address was by Dr. Mihir Shah, Member, Planning Commission, Government of India. ♦

Let the word spread

Jamia Millia Islamia makes waves at the World Book Fair



When books help forge cultural links: A discussion initiated by the India Arab Cultural Centre at the World Book Fair

The India Arab Cultural Centre of Jamia Millia Islamia, in collaboration with Shiekh Zayed Book Award, Abu Dhabi, organised a cultural and literary interaction between India and the Arab World on the sidelines of the World Book Fair in New Delhi in February. Scholars, writers and poets from India and the Arab World participated in the event in large numbers. Prof. Zikrur Rahman, Director, India Arab Cultural Centre, briefed the audience on Indo-Arab literary and cultural linkages and their importance.

Earlier, Jawhar Sircar, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, released a series of Arabic, Urdu and Hindi translations of famous works of Indian and Arab authors in Jamia. The books included *Wings of Fire* by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (Arabic); *The Idea of India* by Sunil Khilnani (Arabic); *The Shades of Swords* by M.J. Akbar (Arabic); and *Nehru: The Invention of India* by Shashi Tharoor (Arabic). ♦

EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHY AT MCRC



Getting photo-sensitive: Visitors at an exhibition of photography organised by students of MCRC at the Zakir Husain Art Gallery in Jamia Millia Islamia.

Tughlaq, a historical tale

The Drama Club of Jamia Millia Islamia recently presented Girish Karnad's *Tughlaq*.

The play portrays the restless and unending quest of a discon-



A misunderstood monarch: *Tughlaq*

tented king to come into the good books of his subjects. In its canvas and treatment, *Tughlaq* is not only grand, it's contemporary too. It is a tale of the crumbling to ashes of the dreams and aspirations of an over-ambitious yet considerably virtuous king.

The character of *Tughlaq* was played by Shakeel Ahmad Khan.

S.A. Rahim Memorial Football Tournament

Jamia Millia Islamia organised the S.A. Rahim Memorial Football tournament 2012 in February, in the memory of the legendary coach, under whose guidance India won the 1951 and 1962 Asian Games gold medal, and stood fourth at 1956 Olympics.

Sixteen teams from various colleges and universities from Delhi and around participated. Moti Lal Nehru College, New Delhi, emerged victorious.

Olympian T. Balaram was the guest of honour on the occasion.



For the Hindi heartland

While the MCRC is popular across the country, very few know that Jamia's Hindi Department also offers a degree in mass media writing and a diploma in TV journalism



All about 'Inverted Pyramid': (Above) A media class in progress at the Department of Hindi in Jamia; (facing page) students learning camera handling from an industry expert

In 1983, when the now-acclaimed Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC) had already commenced its courses, the idea of providing job-oriented courses to students was gaining ground in the Hindi Department of the University too. Which is why a few reputed names in Hindi journalism and literature, including Ashok Chakradhar and Asghar Wajahat, came together to

prepare the syllabus for an optional paper on *Rachanatmak Lekhan* (Creative Writing) in the MA Hindi course. It pertained to writing for TV and radio.

Seeing the interest of students, the faculty considered launching a diploma too. Thus the Department started a Diploma in Mass Media and Creative Writing in 1994, with Ashok Chakradhar

as the head. It was initially a two-year course. The purpose of the diploma, according to Prof. Abdul Bismillah, Head of the Hindi Department, was to hone the writing skills for print, radio and TV, rather than focusing on technical aspects like camera and other equipment. “We focused on writing. Our aim was not making a movie.” This course has now been renamed PG Diploma in Journalism.

It was also the time when a number of TV channels opened up and the nature of news delivery changed. Thus the need arose for a dedicated course in TV journalism too. The Department started a PG Diploma in TV Journalism in three languages – Hindi, English and Urdu.

Says Prof. Bismillah, “For this course, we initially took the help of MCRC, and of the Departments of English and Urdu too. We got a sanction for all the necessary equipment, including cameras and editing tables. We designed the course with the help of internal faculty, and incorporated elements like news-room, talk shows, interviewing skills, lighting, camera, etc. People like Rahul Dev and Pankaj Pachauri also helped a great deal.”

The Department later confined the TV journalism course to Hindi alone, and dropped the English and Urdu components.

Both the courses are self-financing, enabling the Department to invite guest faculty on a regular basis. In fact, some of those visiting Jamia as guest faculty are students from the early batches, who now work with leading news channels. Among the regular guest faculty is Sayeed Ansari, who completed the Hindi Department’s PG Diploma course in Journalism.

Mahima Pal, pursuing Diploma in TV Journalism, says that not only has she got good exposure to camera handling, she understands the functioning of a news channel too, thanks to a visit to Doordarshan that the Department arranged.

Manoj Vasisht did BA Tourism from IGNOU before turning to the media. The fact that Jamia is a university weighed heavily in its favour at the time of deciding on the institute. “Private institutes charge exorbitantly and still there is the issue of recognition



to those courses. Jamia is a Government institution and hence carries credibility.” He is confident that the course will enable him to find a good job in the production field, despite the fact that the Department does not assure placement.

“A number of well-known TV journalists have passed out from here. The Department moulds us well to survive in the field,” says Vasisht, who is also a drama artist with AIR. And Ishfaq Ahmed from Patna College, who came to Delhi especially for this course, says, “I have learnt in one year what I could not learn in three years of graduation.” As part of the course, he has made a documentary on the worsening condition of Yamuna, just as Vasisht made a documentary on the recently-concluded municipal elections.

The third course that the Department launched was BA Honours in Mass Media Writing, Hindi. As Prof. Bismillah points out, this course focuses on writing skills, not on technical aspects.

The Department does not assure placement for any of its courses, but on the strength of its faculty, with names such as Asghar Wajahat and Prof. Abdul Bismillah, its rigour of curriculum, and the skills that it imparts, it still sees a large number of applications each year, for 40 seats each in the three courses. ♦

HINDI BONANZA

PG Diploma in Journalism	40 seats
PG Diploma in TV Journalism	40 seats
BA (Hons)	
Mass Media Writing (Hindi)	40 seats



A stint in Turkey

Two students of Jamia get an opportunity to work with Zaman Network for a year

Nasir Lone and Zayed Masroor, final-year students of Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC), have won a one-year scholarship to the Zaman Group of Turkey. They will be learning Turkish in the first four months, and will thereafter work with Zaman publications.

Lone, a graduate in commerce from Zakir Husain College, Delhi, first developed interest in media when he accompanied his uncle to Kashmir for a documentary in the aftermath of the 2005 earthquake.

For a taste of foreign media:
Zayed Masroor (left)
and Nasir Lone

That experience made him realise where his interest lay, and so, pushing aside his plans of doing an MBA, he set his sights on the media.

His interest, however, is in print media and photography, and he would like to go back to Kashmir and work for the growth of newspapers in the state, which, he feels, are currently not visible at the national level.

But for now, he is excited about the opportunity to travel to a foreign land and explore an unknown territory, and plans to write a travelogue on his journey. On the other hand, his peer Zayed is not a travel enthusiast. "I am not treating it as a one-year holiday." A graduate in

English from Aligarh Muslim University, he intends to spend most of the time at the desk, learning the 'hows' of newspaper publishing, for, like Lone, he too is interested in print media. However, he admits that the time he has spent at MCRC has got him interested in the electronic media too, and he might end up opening up a production company or making films.

In the short term, though, both believe that the Zaman Group might be planning to open an India bureau, and the scholarship they have got might be an initiation into a job with its India bureau. ♦



BECIL scholarship to 9 MCRC students

Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited gives ₹ 24,000 each to the students

Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL), a Government of India undertaking, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility, has sanctioned nine scholarships of ₹24,000 each to nine students of the Mass Communi-

cation Research Centre (MCRC), Jamia Millia Islamia.

All the students belong to the weaker sections of society (SC/ST/OBC categories). Eight students are doing their PG Diploma in Broadcast Technology, while one is doing a PG Diploma in Still Photography.

Legal lords

Three Jamia students get selected to the judicial services of Haryana, West Bengal

Iram Hassan topped the district (Hapur) in class X and XII UP Board exams. Seeing the potential in her, her father, who drives trucks, took a brave decision of relocating the entire family to Delhi. It proved a wise decision. Iram, a student of BA-LLB at the Faculty of Law in Jamia, has got selected to the Haryana Judicial Services in the first attempt, securing 19th position. She's the youngest candidate to be selected. Recently, she also bagged the Runners-up Trophy in the All India Legal Quest Competition 2012, organised by Amity University in February 2012.

Like Iram, Tarannum Khan too has cleared the entrance examination for Haryana Judicial Services. She hails from Mewat, where the literacy levels of girls is very low, but is fortunate enough to belong to a family of judges. So, after a Bachelor of Law and Master of Law from MDU, Rohtak, she cleared the NET with JRF, and enrolled herself for a Ph.D with Jamia. She has also taught as a guest faculty at Jamia and as a regular faculty at the University of Delhi. The course work of Ph.D is over and she can complete it at a later stage. But for now, she is excited about hearing cases. "We need females in that seat," she feels.

Richa Gupta did her BA-LLB from Jamia in 2010, and took a break of one year to prepare for the West Bengal judicial exams, which, like other state judicial entrance exams, is a three-tier process, with preliminary, main and interview stages. In the prelims stage, she cracked English,



New gender equations:
(Clockwise from top left) Tarannum Khan, Iram Hassan and Richa Gupta.

basic maths, GK, current affairs and logical reasoning questions. In the mains, the syllabus comprised all the 13 papers from the LLB course, besides essays and comprehension in English and Hindi. The interview, that lasted 30 minutes, revolved around personal background, aspirations, knowledge of Bengali, and current affairs. Their struggles have led them to the magistrate's chamber. ♦

Success in IIT-JEE

Eight students from Jamia Senior Secondary School have cracked the IIT Entrance Test, 2011-12. Abdullah Hasan has secured 80th rank. The others are: Mohd. Zubair Khan, Faizan Ayubi, Mohd. Akhtar, Faizy Rahman, Haris Ansar Khan, Meraj Ahmad and Mohd. Adnan.

Meanwhile, in the class XII CBSE exams, Ayush Sharma scored 94.2 percent in the science stream.

Folk influences



Moeen Fatma, an alumna of the Department of Painting, Faculty of Fine Arts, exhibiting her work on campus



Creative callings

Three students of Jamia follow an alternative interest in life to the fullest



Photograph courtesy: NAMAN GUPTA

Enrichment outside classroom: (from Left) R. Nithya; Momin Khan and Saurabh Roy Chowdhury

Even as R. Nithya was burning the proverbial mid-night oil for her MA final exams, she was also busy with the publicity of her first book – *Treadmills and Push Up Bras*. What made this Political Science student depart from her academic interests and pen a novel, that too under a rather bold title? Nithya says, “When I was in school I was in the habit of writing short stories and books but never managed to complete any story. I have been interested in relationships and teenage romance, but now that I am getting interested in more serious issues, I wanted to pen a novel on my childhood fantasies before I move on in life.”

It has not been a cakewalk. The memories of meeting agents to find a publisher, facing a few rejections and going through the numerous stages of corrections will always remain with her.

Momin Khan, a student of English Hons., has carried his school-time interest in theatre with him to Jamia. “My father wanted me to do engineering, but I was interested in creative pursuits. In Jamia, I got selected during an audition, and played the character of a Kaurava prince Yuyutsu in a play titled *Madanta* (the 18th Day of the Mahabharata war).” The second play, in which he played a comic role, was *Lahore* (written by Asghar Wajahat). This production of

Jamia has also been staged in Jhansi and Tirupati. And in the latest production of Jamia’s theatre team, *Tughlaq*, Momin played the role of Aziz, a trickster. While keen to play interesting roles like Antony in Julius Caesar, Momin is clear that financial security also matters. This is the reason why, after graduation, he will go the MCRC way, and not the NSD way.

Saurabh Roy Chowdhury, a final year Law Faculty student, hits a different note when he is not occupied with legal tomes. He is part of a music band, Dementia India, to which he lends his voice. He got interested in singing during his schooling at Don Bosco, where carol singing was a regular feature. “I made it to the school choir for 10 years. That was the only ‘formal’ training I got in music.”

Though not bound by any specific genre, Saurabh says his heart is into ‘progressive rock & metal’. His interest finally led him to team up with three music enthusiasts from his own locality in Delhi.

The group has competed in a number of events; securing second position at the Pulse festival of AIIMS, New Delhi, winning at IIFT, New Delhi, and emerging runners-up at IIT Kanpur, besides doing several professional shows. Now, they are recording their debut album in their own new recording studio, which they financed through their prize money. ♦

Mother courage

Encouraged by their families, 32 girl students enter the 300-year-old male bastion called the Anglo Arabic Senior Secondary School in the Walled City of Delhi

Darakshan Fatima, a resident of the Walled City in Delhi, has created history. She is the first girl to secure admission to the 300-year-old Anglo Arabic Senior Secondary School and will pursue the commerce stream. Along with her are 31 other girl students who have taken admission there, including her younger sister Gulafshan Fatima, who will study in class VI.

The reason why Darakshan has decided to change school is that her own school – Rabee Girl’s Public School – does not offer the commerce stream in class XI. The brave girl, who has lost her father, says it was her mother who insisted on the change in school, despite neighbours and relatives warning that the ambience was not right for girls. “My mother just saw my future and went ahead.” And the confident girl shows no sign of nervousness about studying in the male-dominated school. “If I do my best, nobody will have the courage to harass me in any way.” The younger sister, though quieter, shows equal determination.

Like Darakshan, Sumaiyya has changed her school because it did not offer science, while Priyana Khan has sought admission to the school because her’s is Hindi medium. “My father was not ready, but I made him agree.” On the other hand, Nagma, who dropped out of school six years ago because of her father’s ill health, has now taken admission in class VIII, encouraged by her father.

Enabling this historic change is Jamia Vice-Chancellor Najeeb Jung, who is the chairman of the school and the President of the Delhi Education Society. Jung felicitated the new joinees at Jamia on June 1, giving them a pep talk. “You have all created history now. Of course, the first reaction will be strange, and you will have to face criticism too. So it will require a lot of courage.”

Of course, it’s not just a matter of opening up the gates to girls for glory. The move has been met with resistance from the school staff. And it was only recently that the Delhi High Court ruled in favour of granting admission to girls.

A major challenge the school is bracing for is ensuring a safe environment for the girls. Faiza Nissar Ali, the first lady teacher of the school, recalls how, when she was asked to prepare a feasibility report on admitting girls, she spent quite a few sleepless nights. “I talked to psychologists and educationists, and mentioned the situation as it exists today. I have been frank; only if certain problem areas are removed should girls be admitted,” says Faiza, who is also pursuing her PhD on the capital markets. However, she adds that co-education must be promoted, for where do you find all-girls offices, or all-girl families? The school has been counselling boys, and once the session starts, counselling of male staff will also take place. Separate toilets are being constructed, and due thought has been given to the appropriateness of their location.

Jung is equally firm on giving the girls a comfortable atmosphere. Addressing the school authorities present at the felicitation function, he minced no words and said, “Under no circumstances should there be any kind of misbehaviour with any girl, from anyone. Anyone found misbehaving will be rusticated.” ♦

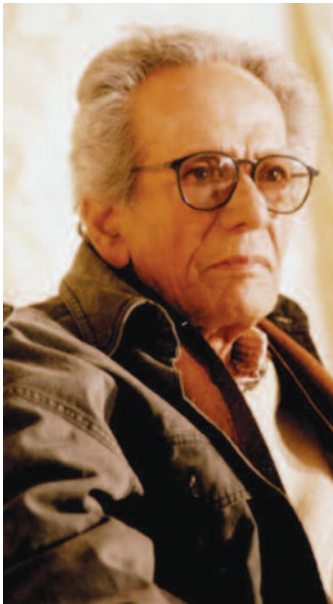
Alien to fear: Darakshan Fatima with her younger sister Gulafshan





A professor, a kite seller

Habib Tanvir first staged his *Agra Bazaar* in Jamia in 1954, and cast professors alongside local villagers in the play



Photograph courtesy: habibtanvir.org

A town comes alive on stage: Habib Tanvir (Left) and his production *Agra Bazaar*

In 2006, when Habib Tanvir was conferred a D.Litt by Jamia Millia Islamia, an open-air theatre nestled in the Fine Arts Faculty was named after him, and became the Habib Tanvir Open Air Theatre. It was not a case of perfunctory naming of a structure in someone's honour, as is the case with Indian roads. That theatre has a deep significance to Tanvir's career. It was here that he first staged his famous *Agra Bazaar*, with cast drawn from Jamia staff and students, as well as local villagers.

The play centres on the life of Nazir Akbarabadi of Agra, who is labeled as a "proletarian poet" for the poetry he wrote for the common man— kite sellers, cucumber sellers, book sellers, etc. It depicts the decadent times of colonial rule, when business was slow and nothing would sell. In order to attract customers, vendors started approaching Nazir to pen couplets praising their shop or product, and Nazir readily obliged, hardly caring for his reputation among intellectuals. While much of the poetry was lost, some poems, recovered from his granddaughter, were published in book form. In

the play, Nazir never appears on stage. It is only through his poetry that one can draw a character sketch of the poet.

Tanvir also provided a vivid sketch of life in Agra in his play, as he recreated an entire market on stage. To give depth to the stage, the partition between the stage and the rear side had been thrown open, giving the entire stage the feel of a big street. Today, of course, the temporary partition has been replaced by a permanent wall, and part of what used to be the stage has been taken over by the studios of the Fine Arts Faculty. Ghazanfar H. Zaidi, a senior faculty member in Fine Arts today, was seven then, and had taken admission in class I in Jamia School. Memories of that play, which he watched sitting on the ground, are etched on his mind. He recalls the stage being simple, but having been brought to life with the force of the performances.

Pointing out where he would have sat that day 58 years ago, Zaidi recalls, "As the play started, two brothers, Ashfaq Mohammad Khan and Ishtiaq Mohammad Khan, came from behind the audi-

ence, singing Nazir's poetry. There were 80 people on the stage, which included those playing a goat, a monkey and a bear too."

Only a few among those who were present on the stage that day have survived to tell the tale. One such person is Noman Latif, an octogenarian living in Ghaffar Manzil in the vicinity of Jamia. He had played the role of a 'ladoo seller' in that production.

Latif had taken admission in Jamia in class V in 1945, and remembers having given *salaami* to Pandit Nehru, Maulana Azad, Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Liaqat Ali as part of the scout team during the 1946 silver jubilee celebrations.

While he can't remember the lines of the play, he does remember the perfectionism of Tanvir. "He used to be concerned even about the number of steps we needed to take. If he said two-and-a-half steps, it had to be two-and-a-half, and not three." And Tanvir subjected the principal of Jamia College, Zia-ul Hassan Faruqi, playing the role of a book seller, to the same drill that he had for the local potter, who was also acting in the play.

Yes, egalitarian as Jamia was, Tanvir gave egalitarianism in the institution a new dimension altogether in his play. Jamia professors were found selling their goods alongside people from nearby villages. The villagers found their way into Tanvir's play during rehearsals, which they used to watch with great eagerness during evenings, means of entertainment being limited. Tanvir observed that some of the villagers were more suited for the stage than the audience, and asked them to join him.

One person who refused despite Tanvir's repeated requests was Mohammad Asadullah, who had joined Jamia Maktaba in 1951, after having completed schooling from Vidarbha, Maharashtra.

Tanvir gave egalitarianism in the institution a new dimension altogether in his play. Jamia professors were found selling their goods alongside people from nearby villages.



The links between past and present: Noman Latif (left) and Mohammad Asadullah

"I refused, perhaps due to shyness. I could not muster enough confidence, though I used to visit the rehearsals daily," says Asadullah, who, despite his age, has walked with his characteristic quick gait from Maktaba to the Fine Arts Faculty for this interview. On any working day, you can find him immersed in files in the Maktaba office, working assiduously, tallying figures or addresses. He remembers, "On the stage, there was no 'professor' or a 'villager'. They were all equal, all under his direction. It was not that he was harsh, but he persisted till the best came out of each actor. He could not be ruthless but he knew how to get what he wanted out of them." Asadullah finally acted in the play in 1959, as a *taskaranavees* (story teller).

Tanvir went to England in 1955 to study theatre and direction, and upon his return in 1958, produced *Mitti ki Gaadi*, in Chhattisgarhi. The use of Chhattisgarhi folk idiom became the hallmark of many of his plays thereafter.

While much of Tanvir's later work is documented, what remains of *Agra Bazaar* are memories. The cast and the audience don't remember any photographs having been taken that day, there's no trace of costumes (these would have been used in later productions of the play), and the names of those who acted that day have perhaps been lost forever. What would have been a mundane viewing of rehearsals and a final act assumes historical significance after a lapse of six decades. Which is why archiving and documentation are so critical. ♦



Chronicler of Jamia

Ghulam Haider's attachment with his alma mater led to his embarking on a unique project of recording the experiences and emotions of the Jamia fraternity

In the writing of history, there's a never-ending debate on whether the observer should be detached from the events being described for the sake of objectivity, or whether he should have been a part of the events, to give the readers a "feel" of what happened. Distance has its merit, but first-hand impressions carry immense value to generations which arrive later, as can be inferred from the case of Ghulam Haider.

Haider was in class IV when he joined Jamia school in 1944. For his age, he has vivid memories of his early years in Jamia. "Those were egalitarian times. Pt. Nehru and Gandhiji used to drop by as if they were local MPs. Once we were playing hockey and Nehru just approached me and asked me to escort him to Dr. Zakir Husain's residence."

The months of Partition presented a strange mix

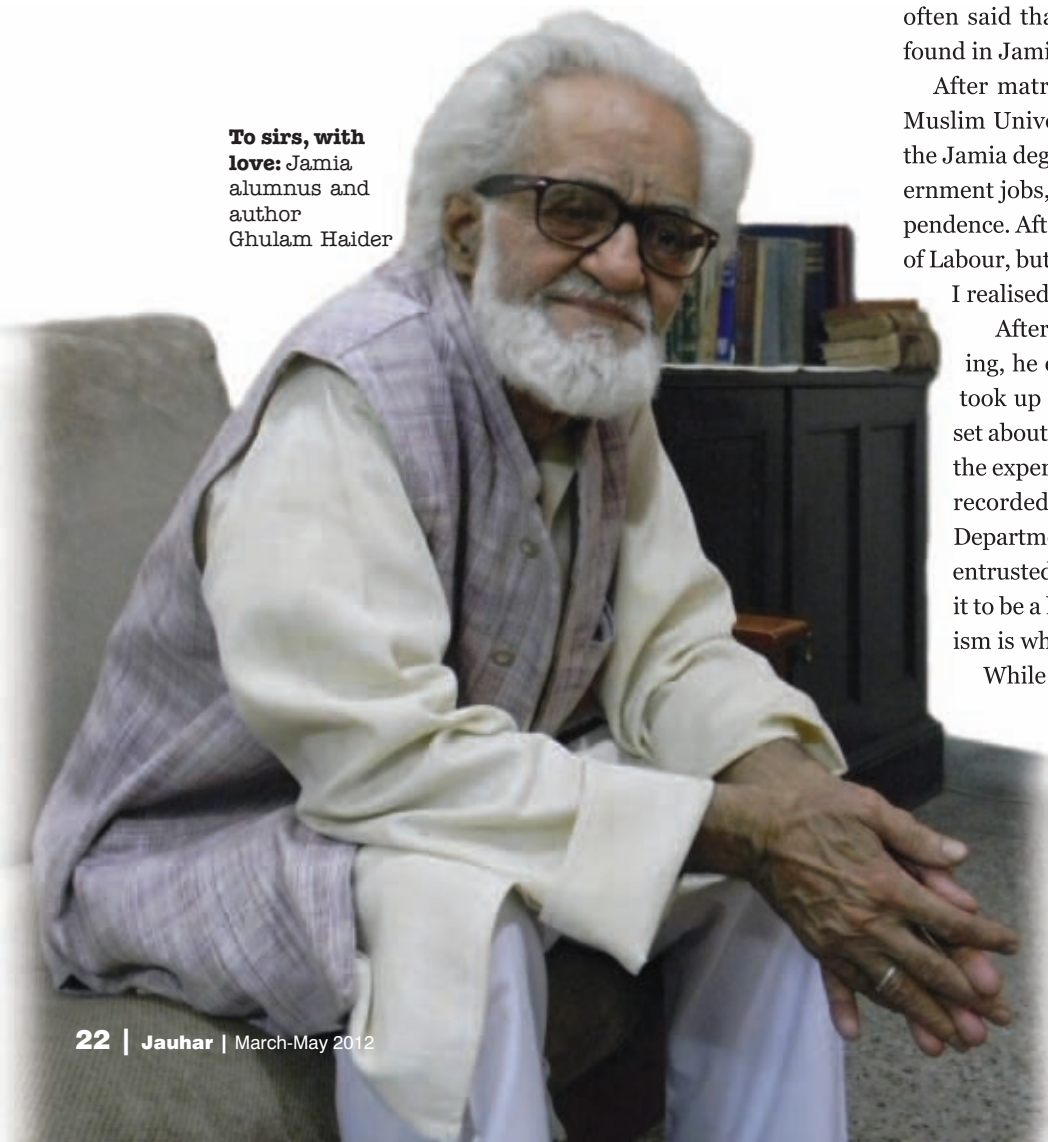
of hope and despair, remembers Haider, whose elder brother was involved in relief work at Old Fort. "While there was never any surety that we will live to see the next day, Dr. Zakir Husain, M. Mujeeb and others went out of way to see that the scars that the Hindu families had carried with them from Pakistan be removed. 'They have seen the ugly face of Islam, now let them see the good face too', was the reasoning they gave. Jamia adopted orphaned children, but refused to give their shelter the name of *yateem khana* (orphanage). Jamia saw to it that those children would never have to beg. And teachers coming from Pakistan were given three-month refresher training to enhance their employment opportunities. Such was the impact of Jamia's gesture that a Sikh child, whose hand had been amputated and who should have been the bitterest man, often said that if there's humanity left, it's to be found in Jamia."

After matriculation, Haider moved to Aligarh Muslim University for his higher studies because the Jamia degree was then not recognised for Government jobs, even though India had gained Independence. After college, he got a job in the Ministry of Labour, but, as he says, "Two years down the line I realised I was not meant for this job."

After years of mulling over alternate calling, he opted for premature retirement, and took up a project which was to his heart. He set about writing the history of Jamia, through the experiences of people associated with it. "I recorded experiences not just of Deans and Department heads, but also of cooks and those entrusted with cleaning. Because I didn't want it to be a lop-sided view." After all, egalitarianism is what has defined Jamia all along.

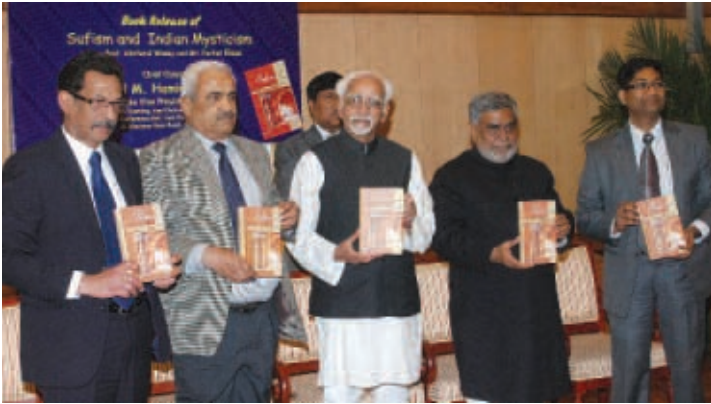
While the experiences now form part of his Urdu book *Naqoosh-e-Jamia: Jamia ki Kahaani, Jamia Waalon ki Zubaani*, the cassettes are now with Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC) – Haider had handed over the cassettes to the centre for use of future generations. ♦

To sirs, with love: Jamia alumnus and author Ghulam Haider





A new take on Sufis



Hamid Ansari (centre) with Akhtarul Wasey (second from right)

Vice President of India M. Hamid Ansari released a book entitled *Sufism and Indian Mysticism*, edited by Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, Professor and Head, Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, and Vice-Chairman, Urdu Academy, Delhi, and Farhat Ehsas (Farhatullah Khan), at a function held in New Delhi.

Ansari applauded the editors of the book for bringing out the views of renowned scholars and experts on different aspects of Islamic Sufism and Indian Mysticism.

This volume, with 29 well-researched papers, seeks to present a wide spectrum of perspectives and in-depth studies on different aspects of Islamic Sufism and Indian mysticism, and their interface that has manifested itself through the history of Islam’s interaction within India, spread over a time-frame of more than a millennium. ♦

Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Chair

Prof. Abad Ahmad, retired Professor of the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, and a renowned academic in the field of Applied Behavioural Science, Organisational Change and Strategic Management, has joined Jamia as the Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Chair at the Centre for Management Studies.

Prof. Ahmad obtained his MBA degree from the University of Western Ontario, Canada, where he was a Commonwealth Fellow. He participated in the International Management Education Programmes of Harvard Business School, and Graduate School of Business at Stanford University, the US. He was instrumental in designing and launching the first full-fledged University based full-time MBA Course at the University of Delhi in the year 1967. He was also a visiting Professor at the Indiana University and the University of California, Los Angeles. Among his well-known books are: *Management and Organization Development* and *Designing and Developing Organizations for Tomorrow*. ♦

Sir Sayeed Ahamed Khan Memorial Award 2012

Munshi Ghulam Mostafa Sanskriti Sangha conferred the ‘Sir Sayeed Ahamed Khan Memorial Award 2012’ on Qazi Mohammed Usmaan, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, at a function held at Munshi Ghulam Mostafa Sanskriti Sansad in Burdwan, West Bengal, in February, 2012.



Qazi Usmaan receiving the honour

Munshi Ghulam Mostafa Sanskriti Sangha is an organisation established for the promotion of Indian culture and tradition among the youth in India.

On Tipu Sultan

Dr. Syed Mohd. Amir, an archivist at the Premchand Archives in Jamia, has got his article ‘Tipu Sultan: An Outstanding Strategist and Tactician of 18th Century’, published in the *Military History Journal*, Vol 15, No 4, December 2011.



Dr Syed Mohd. Amir

Hindi Award

Prof. Durga Prasad Gupta of Department of Hindi, Jamia, has been awarded the Dr. Ramvilas Sharma Alochana Award for the year 2011, for his significant contribution to the field of Hindi Literature. The award has been instituted by Kedar Shodh Peeth Nyas. He has been working in the areas of Hindi Criticism and Poetry for the last three decades.

Academic Staff College



This quiet double-storey building, adjacent to the Faculty of Education, was constructed in 1951-52, along with four other buildings of similar design. Two buildings, which housed a number of departments of 'Jamia College' and occupied the area on both sides of Mirza Ghalib statue on the main campus, were demolished a few years ago. The third building houses the office of the Faculty of Fine Arts. The fourth building, shown here, was originally the girls' hostel. Subsequently, for many years, it housed the Faculty of Law, before being converted into the UGC Academic Staff College. A striking feature of all the four buildings is the structure of pillars and windows, with triangular projections pointing towards the top.



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