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Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN UNANI MEDICINE

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

Department of AYUSH

THE COUNCIL

The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Department of AYUSH. Established in 1978, the CCRUM started functioning from 10 January, 1979, and ever since it has been busy researching into various fundamental and applied aspects of Unani Medicine. Over the years, the CCRUM has emerged as the world-leader in the field.

THE NETWORK

20 research Centres of the Council are functioning in different parts of the Country.

THE AREAS OF ACTIVITY

The Research Programme of the Council has four major components:

* Clinical Research * Drug Standardization * Literary Research * Survey and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Some significant achievements of the Council are as follows:

Developing Research In Unani Medicine

CLINICAL RESEARCH

- Has developed 24 Unani Drugs which are purely natural, standardized and without any side-effects, for successful treatment of leucoderma, sinusitis, viral hepatitis, eczema, malaria, rheumatoid, arthritis and bronchial asthma.
- Has filed patents on seven of these drugs.

DRUG STANDARDIZATION

- Has evolved standards for 222 single and 385 compound Unani drugs.
- Has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for taking up advanced research in the field of drug development

LITERARY RESEARCH

- Has translated from Arabic and Persian into Urdu language 25 Unani Medical Classics mostly manuscripts. And has edited and published these works.

SURVEY & CULTIVATION OF MEDICINAL PLANTS

- Has collected 59462 specimens of 1730 medicinal plants from the wild
- Undertaking successful cultivation of four important medicinal species
- Has gathered and documented 6650 folk medicinal claims

PUBLICATIONS

- Has produced over 1000 research papers and brought out 116 research publications, besides regular publications of a bimonthly CCRUM Newsletter, Quarterly Urdu Journal Jahan-e-Tib and Annual Report.

For further information, please contact

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EVENTS AT IBN SINA ACADEMY
(From April to June 2009)

World Health Day 2009

On the occasion of World Health Day 2009, Ibn Sînâ Academy (Aligarh, India) organized many programs. The 3rd Prof. M. Nasim Ansari Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. D. P. Singh Toor, a noted surgeon from Delhi. He said, "a true population of India, which represent 80% of our population live in villages and urbanized slums adjoining metro cities. These people have no access to everything that can provide good and quality health care. They are left to the mercy of quacks, ill equipped clinics and health centers and always dream of coming at par with the elite class of India. He further stated that health has been a state subjects and it is the state that has failed to live up to the expectation of the common people, but partly the medical profession is also to be blamed. People in India have always regarded doctors as next to God, but the unfortunate part has been that we have started believing that we are God. It is important for the medical profession to find an answer to India's health care. We all realize the importance of good health when we lie on the bed. At that time we want every one around us to be sympathetic, but what about the poor patients, who cannot pay the prescription fees and who has no money to buy the costly medicines. They are left to their fate".

In addition, Dr. M. Ather Ansari, a noted social and community medicine expert delivered a lecture on World Health Day Theme (Saves lives. Make hospitals safe in emergencies). Both the lectures were presided over by Prof. Tariq Mansoor, Chairman Department of Surgery and Prof. Y.V.S. Gahlaut, Former Chairman Department of Surgery, JN Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. Prof. YVS Gahlaut and Prof. Tariq Mansoor also addressed the gathering. Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sînâ Academy, presented the citation of Prof. M. Nasim Ansari Memorial Lecture to Dr. D. P. Singh Toor and other mementos including 'World Health Day Kits' of WHO to Dr. M. Ather Ansari, Prof. YVS Gahlaut and Prof. Tariq Mansoor.

Postal stamps collection show on World Health Day Themes was also arranged, which remained a centre of attraction for all audience. Almost of every theme of World Health Day, has a postal stamp, released from various countries. The message posted by SEARO Regional Director of WHO, on the occasion of current Health Day Theme, was read out by Dr Syed Ziaur Rahman, who also conducted the program. The program ended with snacks and vote of thanks. A large number of teachers including Prof. R. Swarup (Coordinator, Department of DST, UP Govt. of India), Prof. M Khalid A Sherwani (Orthopedics), Dr. Shams Abdul Moiz (Ophthalmology), Prof. Tajuddin (Dean Faculty of Unani Medicine), Dr. Abdul Latif (Chairman, Department of Ilmul Advia), Dr. S. Amjad Ali Rizvi (Surgery), Dr. Pervez Talib (Management Faculty), Dr. Zoya Zaidi (Medical Practitioner), Dr. Rajeev Gulati (Physiology), Dr. Abdur Raheem (Museology), Dr. M. Shahid (Microbiology), etc, attended the program.

Weekly Mock Test for PG Entrance

Mock test to practice for PG (MD/MDS) Entrance test was arranged at every Sunday during April, May and June 2009. Dr. M. Jawed Khan (Life Member, IAMMS and Resident, Dept. of Pharmacology, JN Medical College, Aligarh) in collaboration with 'Target EduCare' (Mumbai) and 'Delhi Academy of Medical Science' (Delhi), conducted these practice sessions for MDS and MD aspirants, respectively.

Releasing Ceremony of a Collection of Poems "Goonj"

Ibn Sina Academy organized a book releasing ceremony on collection of poems by Aziz Bano Daraab Wafa on 19th April 2009. Aziz Bano Wafa was a prominent front row Urdu poetess and was heard with love and affection in all

Mehfil-e Mushaira. After death, her collection of poems entitled "Goonj" is abridged and edited by Mr. S. Moinuddin Alavi at the instigation of her brother Prof. Azizuddin Tariq. Presiding over the function, Prof. Zakia Siddiqi said, when she started annual mushaira at Women's College after discussion with Ali Sardar Jafri, Daraab Wafa used to attend all Mehfil-e Mushaira almost every year from Lucknow. Although, we are known with her Kalaam, but this book is for the next generation, she said.

A large number of dignitaries addressed the function. Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad narrated a write-up of Late Quratul-ain Haider, which she composed on the sad demise of Daraab Wafa. Quratul-ain Haider was an admirer and a close friend of Daraab Wafa. Professor Abul Kalam Qasmi expressed in detail about Daraab Wafa - her life, family and Haveli. Professor Zahida Zaidi spoke about her friendship and some excerpts of all her meetings. Prof Shafey Kidwai told about the poetry, philosophy and life of that great Urdu poetess. Prof AMK Shahryar after releasing the book recited few couplets of her poem in his own style.

Mr. Moinudddin Alavi thanked the family members of Daraab Wafa particularly her brother Professor Azizuddin Tariq, for giving him a chance to edit a collection of her poems in a book form. Professor Azizuddin Tariq touched some personal family life account of Daraab Wafa. He also gifted a book – Kulliyate Azizi of her great grandfather Khwaja Azizuddin Aziz Lucknowi to the Library of Ibn Sina Academy.

Professor Syed Zillur Rahman, founder President, Ibn Sina Academy, welcomed the guests, conducted the programme and thanked the audience. In the programme, Prof. Masoodul Hasan, Prof. Waris Kirmani, Prof. Ather H Siddiqi, Prof. Iftikhar Alam Khan, Prof. S. Sabihuddin Alavi, Prof. Farhatullah Khan, Prof. Abdur Raheem Kidwai, Prof. SN Zeba, Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari, Dr. Tariq Chattari, Dr. Saghir Afraheim, Dr. Shahid Farooq, Dr. Habibur Rahman Chigani, Dr. Anjuman Ara Anjum, Dr. Attia Abid, Mr. Khalid Nadeem, Dr. M. Khalid Faridi, Dr. M. Shahid Siddiqui, Dr. Ata Khursheed, Dr. Abdul Latif, Dr. Parveen Abbasi, Mrs. Shayesta Bedar, Dr. Azhar Jameel, Mr. Meher Ilahi, Dr. Rahat Abrar, Dr. Jameel Akhtar, Ms. Saman Ashraf, Ms. Tabassum Ashraf, Mr. Aftab Alam, Mr. Najmuddin Abbasi Mr. Wahid Hussain Siddiqui, Mr. Zahoor Mohammad, Mr. Abid Ali Abid, Dr. Rizwanur Raza Rizwan, Mr. Javed Jaipuri, Mr. S. Fazal Abbas Naqvi, etc, were present.

Journalism Day Observed

On the eve of Journalism Day, a seminar and a programme to honour few poets of Aligarh city was organized by Shikhar (NGO) on 31.5.2009 at Library Hall of Ibn Sīnā Academy. During the programme, eminent journalists and local poets such as Pradeep Saxena, Ved Prakash Amitabh, Ramgopal Varshney, Jamunaprasad Rahi, Moazzam Ali Khan Moazzam, Babar Ilyas, Harish Betab, Abid Ali Abid, Sudhir Sisodia, Masum Badr, Basirul Hasan Naqvi, Musharraf Husain Mehzar, Zamir Atraulvi, recited their favourite poems under the presidentship of a noted poet Khalid Nadeem Farooqui.

Mr. Harish Betab (PRO, Ibn Sīnā Academy & Secretary General, Ganesh Shankar Journalist Press Club, Aligarh) conducted the whole programme.

Inauguration of several items purchased for the Academy

Dr. Abdul Latif, Chairman, Department of Ilmul Advia, AK Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, inaugurated a water cooler machine with RO facilities. After installation of the machine, he offered a glass of water to the president of the academy, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman. In addition, he viewed other items purchased for the Academy such as LCD projector, scanner and printer on 18th April 2009. The formal programme was attended by Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Treasurer), Mr. Mohd

Nafees (Curator, Museum), Mr. Syed Baqer Hussain (Staff Member) and Mr. M. Ayub (Staff Member).

Visit of prominent personalities

1. Prof. VK Abdul Jalil, Registrar, AMU, Aligarh, 24th April 2009. Dr. Abdur Raheem from Museology Department accompanied him.
2. 'Educational Tour' for Delegates, Subject Refresher Course on Computer Applications, UGC Academic Staff College, AMU, Aligarh, May 2, 2009.
3. Mr. M. Zafar Siddiqui, Angola, Africa, June 27, 2009
4. Ms. Amber Abbas, Dept. of History, University of Texas, Austin, USA. She worked in the library nearly for a month in June 2009.

Amber Abbas is a Ph.D. Candidate in History at the University of Texas at Austin. Her research on Aligarh Muslim University focuses on the mid- 1930s through mid-1950s and focuses on social and institutional change in student life throughout this period. At that time Aligarh was awash in political ferment with different groups advocating different political solutions for India's freedom and an independent Muslim state. Through oral history interviews and archival research, Amber's research focuses on these changes, and the experiences of Muslims (especially Aligarh students and alumni) who chose to stay in India throughout the disruptions of partition and independence. During her four-month stay in Aligarh she conducted research in the Maulana Azad Library and Sir Syed House at Aligarh Muslim University, and used the English and Urdu resources on Aligarh University available at Ibn Sina Academy. As her project continues, Amber seeks former students from the 1940s and 1950s who might be willing to give an interview on these issues and student life at AMU during the Freedom Movement. Amber can be contacted through an enquiry at Ibn-e-Sina Academy or at amberhabbas@yahoo.com

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sīnā Academy, has been awarded with:

1. "Ibn Sina Award" for literary and historical work in the field of Unani Medicine by the All India Unani Tibbi Congress during the annual session at Bhiwandi (Maharashtra) on February 8, 2009.
2. "Maulana Azad National Award" in the field of Unani Medicine, Milli Educational Foundation & All India Urdu Educational Committee, Moradabad, February 24, 2009.
3. Membership, Academic Council, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for a period of two years (2009-2010).
4. Member, Editorial Board, UniMed-Kulliyat, Department of Kulliyat, AK Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh.
5. Member, Coordination Committee, 59th Annual Convocation of AMU, Aligarh, May 23rd 2009.

He has also been invited in the following meetings, conferences and seminars:

1. Chief Guest, Science Club, UP State Council of Science and Technology, Islamabad ka Bhatta, Aligarh, 10th April 2009. Prof. Ram Swarup is the secretary general of the Science Club, CST, UP State.
2. Meeting with Mr. Karim Najafi, Cultural Counsellor, Iran Culture House, Iran Embassy, New Delhi, 27th April 2009.
3. Guest lecture, 2nd Amphictyony of Societies of History of Medicine & Ethics in Medicine, International Hippocratic Foundation of Kos, Kos island, Greece, 30th April - 3rd May, 2009.
4. Guest Lecture, Continuing Medical Education programme, Department of Amraz-e Niswan, AK Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh, May 29th, 2009.
5. Guest Lecture, Subject Refresher Course on Computer Applications, UGC Academic Staff College, AMU, Aligarh, May 2, 2009.

6. Consultative Meeting, Board of Management, Sir Syed Academy, AMU, Aligarh, May 22nd 2009.
7. Consultative Meeting, Coordination Committee, with the Vice Chancellor of AMU to discuss and review various arrangements to be made for Annual Convocation of AMU, Aligarh, May 25th 2009.
8. Interactive and informal discussion, "Campus", a special programme on education, Doordarshan News, Episode recorded on June 11, 2009 infront of Strachey Hall, SS Hall (South), AMU, Aligarh.

Prof. Ather Husain Sidiqui, Vice President, Ibn Sina Academy, has been awarded with 'Life Time Achievement Award' and Dr. B. S. Chauhan Gold Medal by the Helminthological Society of India during the annual conference at Lucknow. The citation which was read is as follows, "The Helminthological Society of India, Lucknow feels pleasure in awarding Dr. B. S. Chauhan Gold Medal to Prof. Athar Husain Siddiqi, former professor and chairman, Department of Zoology and Dean Faculty of Life Sciences, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for his life time achievement in the field of Helminthology.

He was born on Dec. 29, 1931 and spent his early years at Moradabad. He has a brilliant academic record and passed high school in 1946. For further education, he moved to Aligarh and passed intermediate (1948) and B.Sc. (1950). He did his M.Sc. (Parasitology) in 1953 and was awarded a University Gold Medal for standing first in order of merit. He got his PhD degree in Parasitology in 1956. His quest for knowledge let him to Purdue University, West Lafayette, USA where from he obtained second Ph.D. (1958) in Biological Sciences. He is author of a monograph on trematode parasites, one book and has published more than 90 original research papers.
He joined Aligarh Muslim University in 1953 and served as Lecturer till 1961, as Reader 1961-67 and became Professor in 1980. More than 16 students obtained Ph.D. and M.Phil degree in various fields of Parasitology and Biology. As Chairman, Zoology Department, he is credited for introducing Animal physiology (1959), Principles of Parasitology and Endocrinology in the department. In Parasitology section at AMU, Prof. Siddiqi shifted the focus of his research from classical morphological and taxonomic studies to helminth physiology and biochemistry in early sixties, forming the foundation of modern research in Helminthology in India. His work on the hemoglobin of the liver fluke which found place in "Physiology and biochemistry of endoparasites" by Von Brand (1979) Elsevier, North Holland is a testimony to it. His research work has been cited in more than 37 books and monographs.

He has substantially contributed to the field of Helminthology not only in India but also abroad at University of Ife, Nigeria (1965-68), Purdue University USA (1956-57) and University of Al-Fateh (1978-80) Libya. He has attended and chaired several international conferences including 1st commonwealth helminthological conference and International Congress of Parasitology. He has been invited abroad, several times to deliver lectures in various universities".

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari, Secretary General, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, was invited by the Uzbekistan Academy of Science to participate in the 615th Birth Anniversary International Conference on Mirza Ulugh Beg held in Samarqand during June 9-11, 2009. He was the only delegate from India among about 60 participants. A detailed report of the conference is printed in this issue on p 8.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Treasurer, Ibn Sînâ Academy and lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh, has been invited as:

1. Guest speaker, 10th Iranian Congress of Toxicology and Poisoning, 18-20 May 2009 at Imam Khomeini Hall, Faculty of

Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences.
2. Workshop on 'Evaluation of Pesticides Residue in Food', during the 10th Iranian Congress of Toxicology and Poisoning, May 18, 2009.
3. Students' International Conference on Biomedical and Interdisciplinary Research (SICOBAIR) 2009 during 20-22 May, 209 at Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran.

(Detail of the Iran's visit may be seen in the document section)

DOCUMENTATION

English Access Programme at Muslim Social Uplift Society, Sultan Jahan Coaching Centre

Dr. Syed Faiz Zaidi

English Access Programme is a step forward in Muslim Social Uplift Society's (MSUS) endeavor of bailing out, educationally, socially and economically deprived sections of the Muslims society. Undoubtedly, in all the countries around the world, English has occupied the place of common language irrespective of the national language/ local lingo. The programme was conceived keeping in mind the need of hour to supplement and expose students to the nuances of everyday patterns of communication and to develop the ability to identify realistic needs of using English as a lingua Franca.

The wise conceivers of this programme felt that the school children are not exposed to basic language supplements; hence we offered this programme to AMU school children as well as to Madarsa background students from Department of Theology AMU. Our curriculum and learning services were characterized by knowledgeable and enthusiastic teachers specialized in English Language teaching strategies that suit learners' needs.

English Access Programme at MSUS commenced on 11th September 2008 at Sultan Jahan Coaching Centre. Students from AMU Girl's High School and ABK Union School were divided into two separate homogenous batches and one separate batch of Theology students comprising of boys and girls was formed. The programme was divided into three phases, executing three different specialized modules focusing on skills of English language as well as vocabulary and rudiments of grammar. Special emphasis was given on the third module, which comprised Oral communication. The motive was to eradicate tongue tiedness of the students.

The first phase began with the execution of the first module focusing on how to grab the opportunity of expressing oneself in English in everyday situations, through making them aware of introducing self and others, greetings, making request and asking for help in English along with the lessons on the rudiments of grammar. The second phase gave an opportunity to the students to learn the rubrics of Writing and to enhance vocabulary through drills and exercises such as News Paper Hunt Tasks. Third and the final phase focused on advanced Oral communication through extempore speech, Choral speaking, interest talk, Mind Map sessions and Debate.

Apart from the academic and classroom learning, the students got an opportunity to visit the civic education sites of Agra and Fatehpur Sikri in November 2008. ***A visit to Ibn Sinā Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences gave the students an idea of valuing and preserving their rich cultural heritage.***

Students were largely benefited in the interactive sessions with Prof. John C. Miller, Fullbright Fellow, United Sates, Dr. Seema Masood of Adult education, AMU and Dr. Mohsin Raza (Oman). The purpose of holding these Interactive sessions was to motivate and inspire the students to achieve higher goals. Literary competitions such as Essay writing

and Debate were organized to encourage the students to express themselves in written and spoken English. In the end, the valedictory programme was held in April 2009 awarding certificate to the students who were enrolled. The second phase of the programme will commence from August 2009.

International Scientific Conference on Mirza Ulughbeg and his contribution to the development of the world science

S. M. Razaullah Ansari

This conference was sponsored and organised by the Uzbekistan Academy of Science and was dedicated to the 615th Birth Anniversary of Sultan Ulugh Beg and International Year of Astronomy. At the opening Ceremony of the Conference on June 10, the plenary session was presided over by the President of the Academy, Shavkat Salikhov. The welcome addresses were delivered by the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Governor of the Samarqand Region and UNESCO Representative in Uzbekistan, There were three scientific talks by Ashraf Akhmadov (the renowned editor of Zīj-i Ulugh Bég in Russian and Uzbek languages), Fredrique B.-Bressand (France) and Shuhrat Ehgamberdiev (Director of Bīrūnī Observatory in Tashkent).

The conference was excellently organised by Shurat Ehgamberdiev with lots of hard work.

It comprised the following parallel sessions:

- Session I. The scientific school of Ulugh Beg and its role in the development of World Science, with 16 talks.
- Session II. Ulugh Beg and His Epoch, with 16 talks, and
- Session III. Education and Culture in the Epoch of Ulugh Beg, with 24 talks.

For want of space and time, we list in the following a few talks relevant to astronomy only.

A. Akhmadov (Uzbekistan), Zīj-i Ulugh Bég and its role in the development of astronomy in the middle ages.

Shuhrat Ehgamberdiev (Uzbekistan), Understanding the scientific heritage of Ulugh Beg, achievements made and challenges ahead.

S.M.R. Ansari (India), The transmission of Ulugh Beg's school of astronomy to Medieval India and its impact on the development of Indian astronomy.

F. Günergun (Turkey), A 17th century translation of *Zīj-i Ulugh Beg*.

Atila Özüç (Turkey), Manuscripts related to Ulugh Beg from Kandilli observatory collection.

F. Le Guet Tully, Ulugh Beg in the West: ascertained legacy and possible filiations.

Isakhaya Yoichi (Japan), Identification of Chinese and Uighur ages in Zīj-i Ulugh Bég: some consideration on the origin of Chinese calendar and its titles.

O. Turzunov (Uzbekistan), Armillary Sphere of Ulugh Beg's Observatory.

S. Azizov (Uzbekistan), Observatory of Ulugh Beg and its tools.

M. Mamadazimov (Uzbekistan), Lunar calendar in *Zīj-i Gurgani*.

A. Otakhodjaev (Uzbekistan), Astronomical observations of Ulugh Beg and calendar of Central Asia.

At the Concluding Session chaired by Sh. Ehgamberdiev, the opening address was on "Al-Bīrūnī and the sprit of learning" by M. Shamsher 'Alī (President of the Bangladesh Academy of Science) and the participants stressed particularly the study of manuscript sources of Ulugh Beg's school and times. It was finally resolved that the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan may be approached for generous support for research in Uzbek scientific heritage.

Last but not the least, I acknowledge here gratefully the invitation and generous support by the President of Uzbekistan Academy of Science (Tashkent) and also by the Director of Institute of Oriental Studies (Tashkent). I appreciate particularly my dear friend Sh.

Newsletter o

Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (Issue 34)
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My experience and the life at Tehran

Syed Ziaur Rahman

I had been in Tehran (Iran) for almost a month during May 2009. I left Aligarh on May 3rd, 2009. Although, I faced some problem while taking flight from the Delhi airport, otherwise, there was not at all any trouble in Iran and I stayed back very comfortable. I enjoyed the city Tehran and the life of community there. In the Delhi airport, I was first deported back and was not allowed to get immigration! In spite of having boarding pass and a valid visa, they were unnecessarily harassing. It was a slight technical mistake of Iran embassy, that they have wrongly missed one digit in my passport's visa page. My passport number and the number typed in the visa page were not tallying. If they wanted, they could have allowed as my date of birth, photo and other things were same as in the visa page. After so many rounds of talks, letters, applications and my efforts, I got the immigration and reached the security zone for taking the flight. I said, if you don't accept this visa even then you have to 'seal' for immigration because Iran is a country, which issues visa on arrival also. I showed them invitation letters from Tehran Medical Science University, wherein it was also mentioned the same thing that one can receive visa on arrival. They did not know that Iran could also give visa on arrival. After reaching at Tehran airport, no immigration officer said anything and the visa that was stamped on passport was taken as usual. There was no 'issue' of taking visa on arrival. I think all the immigration security staff at Delhi airport should be so skilled, educated and cultured, that they can handle the situation smartly. I talked their officers very confidently and told about my profile and past foreign visits. In any case, I reached Imam Khomeini Airport on 4th of May 2009 by Mahan Airways.

The capital city of Iran - Tehran

Tehran Bozorg (Greater Tehran) is the capital of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the center of Tehran Province as well. Tehran is one of the largest metropolitans of the world, and it is the country's largest economic center and the base for its large and small modern technological and industrial establishments. Located on the slopes of the mountains and at the foot of the magnificent Mount Damavand, it has been the country's capital city for over 200 years now. Nearly 14 Million people live in Tehran in contrast to two hundred thousand in 1920. The first mention of Tehran in an old geographical text is made in the 10th century Massalek-al Mamalek (The Ways of States) by Estakhri. It was just a village before the Safavid era. By the Mongols' invasion and the consequent severe devastation the city of Rey received, most of the Rey's people took refuge to this village. This was a starting point for growth of Tehran, and gradually this village that was famous for its fine fruits and beautiful gardens, underwent new developments. Shah Tahmasb, one of the Safavid kings, chose Tehran as administrative center for the Safavid dynasty, which resulted in constructing many big governmental buildings, castles and gates.

At the time of the Zand dynasty, it was a small town that was significant from a military point of view. The first of the Qajar kings, Agha Mohammed Khan, named Tehran as the country's capital in 1778. Nevertheless, the capital's development started at the time of another Qajar monarch, Fath-Ali Shah. The citadel, which Agha Mohammed Khan had built, was developed to include the new royal buildings.

At the same time, the city's population was redoubled. With the increasing importance of the city, soon gates, squares and mosques were built and it was at the time of Naseruddin Shah that the city's master plan was prepared and modern streets were formed. Later, large central squares like Toopkhaneh (now Imam Khomeini) square and several military buildings were constructed. With the decline of the Qajar dynasty, Tehran soon took the shape of a modern city. The construction of large government buildings, new streets, recreation

centers, urban service establishments, and academic and scientific centers were started, while most of the old gates and buildings were destroyed and the city's old architectural fabric replaced by a modern one.

With an altitude of 1200 meters above sea level, Tehran is a city of all four seasons with hot summers, freezing winters, and brief springs and autumns. Tehran is pleasant, it derives its originality from its dry climate, always cool in the evening, the nearness of the mountains, its numerous parks and gardens where flowers blossom throughout the year, the alleys of chinar trees in the avenues or even smaller streets, the water which runs down from the upper city along deep and wide gutters which look like small rivers during spring.

Dams of Karaj, Latian and Lar supply Tehran's drinking water and parts of the country's electrical power. These dam-lakes and river-sides provide also valuable tourism sites for visiting and enjoying walking and viewing beautiful natural sites as well as practicing various kinds of sports, including water sports. There are dozen of small coffee-houses with zinc roofs nestle among the bushes. Mountain streams run among the tables. But everyone does not sit around a table; many of the customers prefer the ancient-style comfort of low divans covered with old carpets such as in the streets of Darband. Delicious "kababs" are consumed, and hot teas are served from "Samawar".

The Alborz range on the north of Tehran, which hosts the highest peak in the country during winter provides a very suitable climate for ski lovers. In winter, the mountain hotels and ski-clubs at Shemshak, Shahrestanak and Dizine are full several days a week. Some expert skiers consider the snow quality in northern Tehran to be one of the best in the world. The highest peak in the country, Mount Damavand (5,678 m), which is an extinct volcano covered in snow for most of the year with its visibility from Tehran has an attractive appeal for adventurers and climbers.

Anjuman-e Âthâr-wa Mufâkhir-i Farhangi

On May 10, 2009, Dr Mehdi Mohaghegh, President, Anjuman-e Âthâr-wa Mufâkhir-i Farhangi (Society of Cultural Works of the Islamic Republic of Iran), sent me a copy of the national newspaper 'Inquilab', wherein a report of his recent visit to Ibn Sînâ Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Aligarh, India, was published in detail with photographs. He also asked me to attend a function on 15th May 2009. Anjuman-e Âthâr-wa Mufâkhir-i Farhangi, is a national and very reputed organization with multiple aims and objectives. Apart from rich publications on important topics, the society also organizes a function to honour eminent persons in the field of literature. This honour is equivalent to any national award of Iran.

Workshop on 'Evaluation of Pesticides Residue in Food'

Having interest in the interaction of food and drug and in the field of environmental pharmacology, I attended a workshop on 'Evaluation of Pesticides Residue in Food' on May 18, 2009 at Loghman Hakim Poison Centre. The workshop was basically organized by the Iranian Society of Toxicology. They gave lessons how to screen any poison particularly pesticides in food. Pesticides are used in almost every crop and may occur as a part of predecessor of food items. Certain chemical reactions may foretell if there is any pesticides residue in food. They also discussed 'principle of multiresidue analysis and quantitative and qualitative analysis of pesticides residue based on mass spectrometry.

10th Iranian Congress of Toxicology and Poisoning

Next day on 19th May 2009, I was invited as a guest speaker during the 10th Iranian Congress of Toxicology and Poisoning at Imam Khomeini Hall, Faculty of Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences. The congress was actually organized by the Iranian Society

of Toxicology in collaboration with Shaheed Beheshti University of Medical Sciences.

During my lecture on 'Environmental Pharmacology', Prof. M. Abdollahi and Dr. R. Afshari were asked to preside over the session. I was pleased when I saw few of my old acquaintances who specifically came to hear my lecture. Here I would like to mention the name of Dr. Mohsin Raza, an Indian born scientist, but has been working in Iran for the last 6 years. He is a neuroscientist of repute and has been an active member of International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO). He organized 6th IBRO Associate School of Neuroscience and Neuroscience Orientation Summer Program in 2006 at Tarbiat Modarres University. Unfortunately, I could not the avail the opportunity to attend that IBRO School even after my selection and IBRO Fellowship.

In the conference, it was my honour to meet Professor John Hamilton of Australia, a pioneer in the field of Medical education particularly Problem Based Learning.

Dâiratul Ma'ârif-i Islami & Dr. Houshang Alam

On May 25, 2009, I was invited by Prof. Mohammad Bagheri at the Centre of Encyclopaedia Islamica Foundation (Dâiratul Ma'ârif-i Islami). Prof. Mohammad Bagheri is an historian of mathematics and astronomy and is a good friend of both the president and secretary of Ibn Sînâ Academy, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman and Prof. S M Razaullah Ansari, respectively. During our conversation, I asked about the well being of Dr. Houshang Alam. I was then told that he had died 2 years back! I was also informed that day after tomorrow, there would be a formal meeting in memory of Dr. Alam as a part of second death anniv[redacted]

library of Ibn Sînâ Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences. My father always appreciate the works done on Tibb for the Encyclopaedia started with the letter "Alif" – (A). This work is served as a reference for those researchers who are working in depth of the subject. All the voluminous works of Daneshname-ye Jahan-e Islam are sort of an attraction in the library of Ibn Sînâ Academy for Indian authors. The Academy owes the contributions of Dr. Houshang Alam in the field of history of Islam in Iran and pays the sincere tribute to him. May his soul rest in peace. Amen!"

Dr. Gholam Ali Haddad-Adel, Executive Director of Dâiratul Ma'ârif-i Islami and Former.Chairman of the Iranian Parliament & Head of the Iranian Academy of Persian Language and Literature, presided over the ceremony. After the meeting, he conveyed his best wishes to the people of AMU particularly my father. He also presented a personal greeting card for Ibn Sînâ Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences.

Dr. Mohammad Bagheri as Chief Editor

Ibn Sînâ Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences wishes to congratulate Prof. Mohammad Bagheri (Member, Editorial Board, NISA) on being selected as Chief Editor of *Tarikh-e Ilm* (Iranian Journal for the History of Science. The journal is an official publication of the Institute of History of Science, University of Tehran, Iran.

Publications of Ibn Sînâ Academy

In Tehran, I met many people of my interest. Books are the best gift for any academician. At one hand, where many scientists offered me their books and journals, while at another side, I also presented few publications of Ibn Sînâ Academy. The book, "An Introduction to Environmental Pharmacology" was presented to few of the pharmacologists including Prof. Ali Akbar Moghadamnia (of Babol Medical Science University, Babol, Iran), Dr. Shahin Shadnia (of Clinical Toxicology, Faculty of Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Head of Intensive Care Unit of Loghman-Hakim Hospital Poison Center, Head of Drug and Poison Information Center of Loghman-Hakim Hospital Poison Center, General Secretary of Iranian Society of Toxicology), Dr. Kambiz Soltaninejad (Head of Executive Committee of Iranian Society of Toxicology), Prof. Mohammad Abdollahi (Head, Department of Pharmacology, University of Tehran), Dr. Andreas Flueckiger (Specialist in Occupational and General Medicine FMH, Head Corporate Health Protection, F Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, Basel, Switzerland), Prof. A. A. Moosavi-Movahedi (Former vice chancellor and professor of Biophysical Chemistry, Institute of Biochemistry & Biophysics, University of Tehran), Dr. Shams Ardakani (Dean, College of Traditional Iranian Medicine, Tehran University). To few, I presented a copy of the Newsletter of Ibn Sînâ Academy (NISA) and in return some gifted me few samples of artifacts for both the library and museum of Ibn Sînâ Academy.

Other Places where I visited

During my stay at Tehran, I was also invited at the following institutes:

1. College of Traditional Iranian Medicine, Tehran University. Dr. Shams Ardakani, Dean and Director, arranged the visit. He came to Ibn Sînâ Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences during March 2009.
2. Institute for History of Science, Tehran University. Dr. Ahmad Badkubeh Hazaveh, Director, arranged the visit. He introduced me with almost all faculty members and with few students.
3. Institute of Biophysics and Biochemistry (IBB), Tehran University. Prof. Hosein Riazi, Department of Biochemistry, arranged the visit. I met almost every faculty of the IBB including Prof. A. A. Moosavi-Movahedi, former vice chancellor and professor of Biophysical Chemistry.
4. Daro Khane Siesdahabaan, Hafte Tir. Dr. Khairullah Gholami, Head & In charge, arranged the visit.

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Newly unveiled treatises of Ibn al-Jazzār

Lutfallah Gari

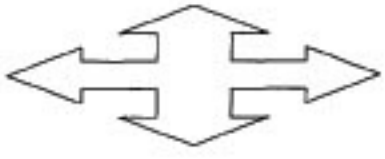
Beit al-Hikma (Fondation nationale pour la traduction l'etalissement des textes et les etudes) in Tunisia has recently acquired soft copies of the following treatises that were written by Ibn al-Jazzār of Kairouan:

1. fī al-su(āl wa asbābihi wa ṭarā)iqi (ilājihi (on coughing, its causes and ways of treating it). The original is in the Bodleian Library, MS. Marsh 215, folios 34b-49b. This treatise was neither mentioned by Sezgin (GAS, III: 304-307, 414) nor by Ullmann (Die Medizin im Islam, pp. 147-149).
2. fī al-ḥaṣā al-mutawallidati fī al-kilā wa al-mathānah (on the stones born in the kidneys and bladder). The original is in the same MS. Marsh 215, fol. 50b-62b. This treatise was mentioned only by Sezgin (GAS, III: 414). On the same page, Sezgin mentions that a treatise on melancholy by Ibn al-Jazzār is preserved in the same composite manuscript. But this treatise was not found in the Bodleian Library.
3. fī al-ṭuḥāl wa (ilalihi wa (ilājihi (on the spleen illnesses and treatment). The original is on the same composite manuscript, fol. 63b-78a. This treatise was neither mentioned by Sezgin nor by Ullmann.
4. Risālah fī al-khawāṣṣ (Treatise on Occult Properties). The original is in a composite manuscript in the Grand Mosque of Ṣan(ā (Yemen), fol. 158a-162a. A microfilm of it is preserved in the Institute of Arabic Manuscripts in Cairo. The Arabic version of this treatise was neither mentioned, as extant, by Sezgin nor by Ullmann (Die Natur- und Geheimwissenschaften im Islam, p. 410). They referred to Moritz Steinschneider who described its Hebrew and Latin translations.

Published Works Ibn al-Jazzār's:

Contrary to what we read in the latest literature, a number of Ibn al-Jazzār's works have been published, some with scholarly editions:

1. Zād al-musāfir wa-qūt al-ḥāḍir (Provisions for the Traveler and the Nourishment of the Settled), Tunis: Beit al-Hikma, 1999, in 2 volumes.
2. Fī funūn al-ṭīb wa al- (iṭr (on the arts of scent and perfume). Tunis: Beit al-Hikma, 2007.
3. Ṭibb al-fuqarā) wa 'l-masākīn (Medicine for the Poor and Destitute), Tehran: University of Tehran; and Kuala Lumpur: IIITC, 1996. Another edition by Beit al-Hikma (Tunis), 2009.
4. Fī al-ma (idah wa amrāḍihā wa mudāwātihā (on the stomach illnesses and treatment), Baghdad: Ministry of Guidance and Media, 1980.
5. Al-I (timād (The reliance, on simple drugs), Beirut: 1998; and an edited publication is in press by Beit al-Hikma (Tunis, expected in October 2009).
6. fī Ṭibb al-mashā)ikh wa ḥifẓ ṣiḥḥatihim (medicine for the elderly /old people; and conserving their health), Tunis: Beit al-Hikma, 2009.



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Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman standing infront of Hippocrate Statue Kos Island, Greece

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman standing infront of Hippocratic Tree Kos Island, Greece

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