



Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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36th Guest Lecture

Dr. Víctor Pallejà De Bustinza from Spain addressed Ibn Sina Academy and briefed about the European Research Council (ERC) Project on "Philosophy on the Border of Civilizations and Intellectual Endeavours: Towards a Critical Edition of the Metaphysics (*Ilâhiyyât of Kitâb al-Shifâ'*) of Ibn Sînâ" on 9.1.2016. His lecture was all about the PhiBor project and the importance of Indian libraries and cultural institutions to promote studies and research on Ibn Sina (Avicenna).

37th Guest Lecture

The 37th Guest Lecture at Ibn Sina Academy was delivered on 19th February 2016 by Professor Arif Naushahi, from Islamabad (Pakistan). He is a celebrated scholar of Persian language and Manuscriptology. The lecture was presided over by Dr. Iqtedar Hussain Farooqui, Ex- Deputy Director, National Botanical Research Institute (Lucknow). Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman briefed on the Academy's activities and introduced the scholar. Thereafter *Lazzat-e Abla Pai*, a travelogue authored by the Vice-president of Ibn Sina Academy Prof. Ather H. Siddiqi and published by Ibn Sina Academy was released. A large number of teachers and students attended the programme.

Assessment Meeting 2015-2016

An assessment meeting on the works and progress at Ibn Sina Academy was arranged on 31.1.2016. The meeting was presided over by the president of the Academy, Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman. At the same meeting, the newly nominated executive member of Ibn Sina Academy, Prof. (Dr.) R. Swarup, read the report and thanked the Academy to give him a chance to serve the Academy. He said, the Academy is playing very important role not only in fulfilling the national goal in preserving Indian heritage but also

accomplishing the aims of International Organisation such as UNESCO and WHO.

Urdu Science Congress is a concept, the first of its kind that originated in India. It is the only platform in India where Urdu Science writers interact for the cause of Science in Urdu. It helps to create scientific temper in the Urdu speaking society in our country. The very First National Urdu Science Congress was organized by the *Anjuman Farogh-e-Science* at Zakir Husain Delhi College, (Delhi), during 20-21 March 2015. *Anjuman Farogh-e-Science* is a registered non-governmental organization (NGO), established in 1992 through the efforts of Dr. M. Aslam Parvaiz, former Principal of Zakir Husain Delhi College and now the Vice Chancellor of Maulana Azad Urdu University, Hyderabad. Since, 1994, the *Anjuman* has been regularly publishing a popular monthly magazine, *Urdu Science Mahnamah*, edited by Dr. Parvaiz. It has also organised science popularization conferences in Urdu and also an award giving function, thereby recognizing school students with highest scores in science subjects.

Second All India Urdu Science Congress

The second National Urdu Science Congress was held in Aligarh during 20-21 February 2016 under the aegis of *Anjuman Farogh-e-Science* (Organisation for Science Promotion), Aligarh Chapter. The inaugural function was held at the Polytechnic Auditorium of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). The aim of such type of Urdu Science Congress was to foster communication between scientists, scholars of Arabic Urdu and Persian languages; educators; writers; poets; historians; science reporters and

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researchers interested in presenting their works in Urdu language.

While presiding over the inaugural function, Lt. Gen. Zameer Uddin Shah (Retd.), Vice Chancellor of AMU said that the present scenario of the Muslims of this country is such that they do not possess a suitable inclination towards scientific approach in general. Unless this condition is put in check, the backwardness of the Muslim society will continue as it is. He also stressed on Urdu playing a pivotal role in rectifying this scenario and directed the teachers and other academicians to produce more scientific literature in Urdu language. .

Dr. Iqtedar Hussain Farooqui, Ex- Deputy Director; National Botanical Research Institute (Lucknow), Dr. Mohammad Aslam Pervaiz, Vice Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (Hyderabad), *Padma Shri* Hakeem Syed Zillur Rahman, Founder; Ibn Sina Academy (Aligarh) and over 50 delegates from all across the country attended the inaugural function.

The welcome address was given by Prof. Zafar Ahsan, President *Anjuman Farogh-e-Science* and introductory remarks presented by Dr. Abdul Moiz Shams, Secretary *Anjuman Farogh-e-Science*, both of Aligarh Chapter. Dr. Iqtedar Hussain Farooqui was impressed that *Anjuman Farogh-e-Science* managed to hold an Urdu-centric science congress. He congratulated the organizers and stressed that such efforts should be encouraged. He urged the audience to take keen interest in reading and writing about scientific discoveries and innovations in Urdu.

Dr. Mohammad Aslam Pervaiz presented a paper titled "Why Science?" wherein he explained the need to form *Anjuman Farogh-e-Science* and publish "Science" a monthly Urdu Magazine which is in its 24th year of publication. In his paper, he

explained also that human beings have an innate ability to learn, provided they have a will to do so. He gave examples of successful communities which have toiled in pursuit of knowledge.

Dr. Abid Moiz, noted science writer and nutritionist who came from Hyderabad, presented an info-graphic analysis of science writers in Urdu language. His demographical expression raised some thought provoking questions on the absence of writers belonging to the young generation.

A few Urdu books were also released during the Inaugural Ceremony by the distinguished guests. They comprised a *Souvenir* Magazine, a directory of Urdu Science Writers and "Aab-e-Hayat" by Dr. Abdul Moiz Shams. This is a book explaining prevention of polio and other diseases and that can be overcome by means of vaccination. The vote of thanks was moved by Dr. Asad Faisal Farooqui, convener of the Urdu Science Congress.

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman after the inaugural function delivered a keynote lecture on the importance of Urdu as a medium of dissemination of science among general population. Papers presented by various delegates were read in the afternoon and evening sessions. The Department of Mathematics played host to the paper presentations on both days.

During two days, some very interesting and informative papers were presented by delegates including Dr. Shamsul Islam Farooqui (a scientist from Delhi), Dr. Rehan Ansari (Physician and Journalist from Bhiwandi), Dr. Mohammad Ahsan (Regional Director MANUU from Bhopal), Prof. Zafar Ahsan (Mathematician from AMU), Prof. Masood Ahmad (Biochemistry Professor from AMU), Prof. M. M. Shaikh (Academician from Aurangabad), Prof. H. S. A. Yahya (Professor of Wild Life Sciences from AMU), Prof. Rashid Hayat (Engineer from Aligarh), Prof. Syed Iqbal

Ali (Principal Boys Polytechnic from AMU), Dr. Abdul Moiz Shams (Ophthalmologist and science writer from Aligarh), Prof. Ahmad Sajjad (Senior Academician and founder "*Markaz-e-Adab-o-Science*" from Ranchi) and Shaheen Nazar (Journalist), Mr. Shahid Rasheed (from Warood), Mr. S. S. Ali (from Akola), Prof. S.M.R. Ansari (formerly at Physics Dept. of AMU) and academician from Noida and others.

The Valedictory Function of the Congress was hosted by Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman of the Ibn Sina Academy. Dr. Khwaja Mohammad Ikram; Ex Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) was present as the Guest of Honor. In his address, he praised the efforts of the organizing team and highlighted the necessity of holding such conferences and lectures in the future. He also stressed on letting the government agencies sponsor and promote such efforts in the future. The valedictory was presided by Prof. Rashid Hayat of the Engineering Faculty and was convened by Dr. Mohammad Khalid Saifullah of the Department of Urdu, AMU.

Dr. Rehan Ansari presented a resolution on behalf of all present delegates. It was also announced that the next congress will be held in the city of Hyderabad.

"Harf Harf Kiran" releasing ceremony

A glittering function was organized under the aegis of Ghalib Study Centre of Ibn Sina Academy to release the poetry book, "*Harf Harf Kiran*" composed by Ms. Sabiha Sumbul on 9th January 2016. Prof. Akhtarul Wasey (from Delhi) was the chief guest, while Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman presided over the function.

Poets such as Irfan Azmi, Jamuna Prasad Rahi, Er. Khalid Faridi, Anis Faizi, Dr. Mujeeb Shahzar, Rashid Anwar Rashid, Zafar Hadi, Babar Ilyas, Zamir Atraulvi, Nasir Shakeb, Abida Kahkashan, Asif Izhar, Iffat Siddiqui, Kalim Samar Badaunvi, Owais Jamal Shamsi, Danish

Marahravi, Jawed Akhtar Warsi, Salim Shuja Firozabadi, Hadi Javed Firozabadi, Aslam Adeeb Firozabadi, Ahmad Riaz, Kalim Noori Firozabadi, Harish Betab, and others recited their latest poems.

Prof. Fasih Ahmad Siddiqi, Prof. S. M. Razullah Ansari, Dr. Víctor Pallejà De Bustinza (Spain), Prof. Kamal H. Rizvi, Prof. Anis Ahmad Ansari, Prof. Saghir Afrahim, Prof. Tariq Chattari, Er. Firoz Ahmad, Wajahatullah Advocate, Ms. Rashida Khalil, Ms. Suhail Moin, Ms. Farhan Siddiqi, Dr. Abdul Latif, Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman and many others attended the function. The programme was followed by delicious dinner.

One day short course on petroleum geology

A one day short course on petroleum geology for master students (MSc Geology) was organized on Sunday 27th March 2016 at Ibn Sina Academy.

The objective of the course was to provide the students a real time and unique opportunity to learn about the various techniques and basic information on petroleum geology. This will definitely help them in their future. The course provided the key information regarding the type of lithology (reservoir for oil/gas and source rocks), the porosity, and type of fluid and oil/gas saturation. These information's plays a key role in the economics of the oil/gas project.

Interpretation of Wireline log data requires high skills. The acquisition of Wireline interpretation skills helps the students in many folds. First and foremost it is obligatory for a geologist seeking an employment in oil and gas industry, to learn about the Wireline data acquisition and interpretation basics. Secondly various competitive exams like NET-JRF, GATE asks one to four questions from the Wireline log interpretation part. Students were given directly the Wireline logs data and interpretation of the data was done

along with the theory. Type of tool, current oil and gas industry trends for logs were explained to the students.

Out of 20 students selected for the participation of course, 16 participated along with one Alumni, currently working for ONGC. The presenter of the course Mr. Fishan Ur Rehan was also an Alumni of Geology Department of AMU and currently working for TOTAL Oil, located in Paris (France).

VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

1. Dr. Víctor Pallejà De Bustinza, PhiBor, Spain, 8-15 January 2016.
2. Mr. Ameer Ahamed, Chairman, Manappat Group and Manappat Foundation, Muscat, Oman, 14.2.2016.
3. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in History, UGC Human Resource Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 6.2.2016.
4. Delegates, Orientation Programme (141), UGC Human Resource Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 6.2.2016.
5. 20 School Students Delegation (Super-20), AMU-ABK High School, 28.2.2016 (also see page 9)

MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, former Dean, Faculty of Unani Medicine, Aligarh Muslim University and Founder President, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, was invited to participate:

1. Joint Meeting of the Markazi Amla and Markazi Majlis of the All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat at Headquarters, Abul Fazal Enclave, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi, 31.1.2016.
2. Chief Guest, Seminar on Sufism and Mushaira at Dargah Hazrat Khwaja Khanon, Gwalior 10.2.2016. Khwaja Rashiduddin Khanoni, Sajjada Nashin, presided over the function. Dr. S. Tasawwer Hussain and Er. Khalid

Faridi, Incharge, Ghalib Study Centre of Ibn Sina Academy also attended the Mushaira and presented poetry.

3. Meeting of Task Force for TKDL Project of CSIR-TKDL Unit "Traditional Knowledge Digital Library – Enhanced TKDL – 2020", at CSIR-TKDL Unit, New Delhi, 11.2.2016. The main agenda of the meeting was "analysis and monitoring of patent applications in international patent offices for preventing misappropriation of India's traditional knowledge".
4. Chief Guest, Education and Health Conference on Effective and Safe Health, organized by UP Coordination Committee under the leadership of Dr. Masood Ahmad at Muktakash, Agriculture and Industrial Exhibition, Aligarh, 14.2.2016.
5. Chief Guest, Two Days National Seminar on "Sitara-e Sahafat Ishtiaq Arif - Hayat wa Khidmat", Mulla Ramozi Sanskriti Bhawan, Balganga, Bhopal, 20-21 February 2016. Mr. Ishtiaq Arif was the Chief Editor, Aftab-e-Jadid of Bhopal. The seminar was organized by the efforts of Dr. Shams Arif under the aegis of 'Amreen Zareen Mahila Shiksha Kalyan Samiti (Regd)' in collaboration with Urdu Academy of Madhya Pradesh and National Council for Promotion of Urdu Languages, Govt. of India.

Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman also visited Iqbal Library, Iqbal Maidan, Bhopal on 23rd February 2016. He met Mr. Rashid Anjum, Mr. Kalim Akhtar, Mr. Shahnawaz, Mr. Rafi Shabbir and other Urdu writers and friends.

6. Chief Guest, National Seminar on "Contribution of Faqeeh-e-Azam-e-Hind Mufti Abdul Rasheed Khan", Umme Salma Girls College of Arts and Science, Nagpur, 25.2.2016. Mufti Mohammad Abdul Rasheed Khan was the founder of Jamia Arabia Rasheedia and Umme Salma Girls College of Arts and Science, Nagpur.

7. Presided over Ajmal Khan Day on 24.2.2016, organized by Unani Medical Association, Nagpur. Mufti Abdur Rasheed, Hakim Shakir Hussain Abbasi and a large number of Unani practitioners attended the function. During the event, Hakim Shakir Hussain Abbasi presented books and files of Al-Hakim Monthly journal, Lahore. In Nagpur, Prof. Rahman also visited the Hijamah Centre of Dr. Bakhtiyar and Dr. Mohammad Zakir.
8. Executive Board Meeting (Majlis-e Intezamia), Nadwatul Ulema, Lucknow, 27.3.2016.

Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman has been nominated as one of the Advisory committee members of CSIR-Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Unit.

Traditional Knowledge Digital Library is a prestigious and pioneering initiative of India which has given Global Leadership position to India in the area of protection of traditional knowledge.

The proposed functions of TKDL Advisory committee are mentioned here under:-

1. To provide policy framework and guidelines for the activities of the unit;
2. To give direction to the programmes/ activities of the unit;
3. To review the progress of work and suggest necessary changes in thrust and orientation;
4. To perform the role of Research Council of the Laboratory in relation to the unit;
5. To involve Associates (outstanding experts) from the institutions outside the CSIR system in the activities of the unit; and
6. Any other matter referred by the Director General, CSIR

Guest Speaker on Ross Day

Sir Ross Masood Hall Resident students of Aligarh Muslim University celebrated the 'Ross Day', 127th Birth Anniversary of

Sir Ross Masood at the Hall premises on 15.2.2015.

Professor (Hakim) Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicines and Sciences, attended the function as the Chief Guest and highlighted the achievements of Sir Ross Masood. During his address, Prof Rahman emphasized Sir Ross Masood's love for sciences. He pointed out that the construction of most of the scientific laboratories in the campus was done in Sir Ross Masood's tenure as the AMU Vice Chancellor. We may recall here that Prof. Zillur Rahman is the author of the biography of Sir Ross Masood. It is published by the Urdu Academy, Delhi.

While suggesting students to settle early in life, Dr. Shamshad Husain, Provost, Sir Ross Masood Hall urged them to follow the legitimate paths in achieving their goals.

Mr. Mohd. Azeem Khan, Senior Food and Mr. Mohd Asif Hafeez, Senior House D-Block delivered the welcome address for the guests. Mr. Parvez Alam, Senior Hall proposed the vote of thanks. Large number of resident students, wardens and other teachers attended the programme.

Prof. S.M. Razaullah Ansari (General Secretary of Ibn Sina Academy) participated very actively in the preparation of the ordinances of the recently founded International Society of Ibn al-Haytham, at Paris. Cf. Also the Report on pp. 11 in this issue. Further, the talk of Prof. Ansari at the UNESCO-sponsored Conference on Ibn al-Haytham (Paris, in Sept. 2015): "The Scientific Method in the Works of Ibn al-Haytham" has been selected for publication in the UNESCO magazine *Wide Angle*; see the link: <<https://en.unesco.org/news/sm-razaullah-ansari-ibn-al-haytham-s-scientific-method>>.

Noteworthy is that recently Prof. Ansari's invited article: "Survey of Zijes written in the Subcontinent" has been published in the *Indian J. of History of Science*, Jubilee Volume 50, No, 4 (2015), pp.575-601.

Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman, Honorary treasurer, IAMMS and Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh, attended and participated in the following events as guest:

Guest Lecture

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman delivered an invited guest lecture on "Professionalism in thesis writing" at Department of Ilmul Advia, AKTC, AMU, Aligarh under the UGC-DRS Programme under SAP-II.

Dr. Rahman expressed his experience while pursuing PhD from Australia and elaborated the significance of thesis work, level of research work expected in Master's and / or PhD thesis, mandatory chapters and sections, how to focus on each chapter of the thesis, common problems faced by the candidate, how to defend your thesis and what examiners look for in the thesis. He also explained what candidates should expect from their supervisors, importance of ITs such as knowledge of MS Words especially while making leveling for the list of contents, plagiarism-checker software and bibliography making software such as i-authenticate, EndNote, respectively.

Dr. Abdur Rauf, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Ilmul Advia, while introducing the speaker, said that Dr. Rahman is the only PhD holder in the Medical College from abroad. He did PhD in Pharmacology from School of Medicine, University of Western Sydney, Australia. He is the Fellow of CMCL-FAIMER, International Medical Sciences Academy and National Academy of Medical Science.

Large number of PG scholars and teachers interacted and participated in the post-lecture discussion.

Online GATE classes introduced at RCA

Aligarh Muslim University Pro Vice Chancellor, Brigadier S Ahmad Ali (retd.) recently inaugurated an online class for the benefit of engineering students at the University's Residential Coaching Academy (RCA).

While delivering the presidential remarks after clicking the satellite classes through VSAT, Pro Vice-chancellor emphasized on the importance of competitive examinations like GATE, IES and Civil Services. He stated that there are many advantages of getting quality education at minimal cost through VSAT. The Pro Vice-Chancellor thanked Mr. Qaiser Hafeez, Managing Director, 'Engineers Zone', New Delhi, for having MoU with AMU. Meanwhile, Mr. Hafeez promised to provide full cooperation with University administration particularly RCA.

Professor Atif Iqbal, Deputy Director, RCA, briefed about the MoU and the importance of GATE and Engineering Services. Dr. Md Kalimuddin Ahmad, Director, RCA, requested all students to benefit from these online classes and work hard to get good score in competitive examinations. Assistant Directors, Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman and Dr. Asif Khan conducted the programme and delivered the vote of thanks respectively.

New Building of RCA Inaugurated

The Vice Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University Lt. Gen. Zameer Uddin Shah (Retd.) inaugurated the new building of the Residential Coaching Academy (RCA). The Vice Chancellor also unveiled the commemorative stone on this occasion.

Brig. S. Ahmad Ali, Pro-Vice Chancellor, AMU and Mr. Mohd. Ahsan Reza, IPS, Special Secretary (Home), Government of Andhra Pradesh and an alumnus of AMU graced the programme as guests of honour.

Addressing on the occasion, Lt. Gen. Shah exhorted the students to work hard and achieve success in competitive examinations. Emphasized the importance of communicative skill in English, he urged them to excel in interactive language and learn the nuances of personality development as it counted most in interviews. Pro-Vice Chancellor Brig. S. Ahmad Ali said that University had spent about 12 Crore in the construction of RCA building and it should justify the cost by producing 12 IAS officers. Mr. Mohd. Ahsan Reza urged the students to prepare hard for Defense Services. He requested the Vice Chancellor to provide hostel facilities to students in the vicinity of the RCA.

Dr. Mohd. Kalimuddin Ahmad, Director, RCA said that the university has produced a number of doctors, engineers and PhDs but it is the need of the hour to produce civil servants, judges and army officers for country's service. He said that RCA's main concern was to select good students and prepare them for coveted competitive examinations. He said that recently a Super 50 Programme has been undertaken by the RCA for civil services. Assistant Directors Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman conducted the programme and Dr. Asif Khan moved a vote of thanks, respectively.

World Down Syndrome's Day

"Live, Laugh, Love" a beautiful message given by an NGO 'The Wings of Desire' Team for children suffering from Down's Syndrome at the local orphanage (situated at Jamalpur) on World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), which is observed every year on 21 March. Nobody care for their tears, nobody can understand their agony unless they spend some time with them. The team of WoD spent quality of time and shared joy and love with the children in the evening of 21st March. Mr. Sameer Sherwani (President WoD), Mr. Ayush

Gupta (President, IT of WoD), Mr. Taufeeq (Manager, WoD), Mr. Saleem Usmani (Treasurer, WoD), Mr. Abdul Amir (Volunteer), Ms. Swati Dixit (Spokesperson, WoD) were specifically present on the occasion. Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Medical Advisor, WoD) sent his good wishes for the children on the occasion but could not attend the function because of prior engagements.

Dr. Anwar Shahzad, life member of Ibn Sina Academy and Assistant Professor at Department of Botany, AMU, Aligarh, had bagged the prestigious "Marie Curie Research Award 2015" in Plant Biotechnology. He has also been elected as "Fellow, Directorate of Plant Biotechnology, International Agency for Standards and Ratings (lifetime membership) for outstanding scientific contribution.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

9th Prof. Nasim Ansari Oration on the occasion of World Health Day at Ibn Sina Academy

The Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Aligarh, was established in 2000, for the promotion of research and publications on medieval physicians and scientists along with history of medieval medicine and sciences. In this direction, the Academy also organizes guest lectures for the benefit of researchers and scholars. Every year on World Health Day (7th April), "Prof. Nasim Ansari Oration" is delivered by many eminent scholars.

This year, the Academy decided that in view of the scholarship and eminence, Prof. Dipti Tripathi of Delhi University could be requested to deliver the "9th Prof. Nasim Ansari Oration" on any topic of her choice in the area of Indian heritage and manuscripts. The President of the Academy then extended invitation to her

on behalf of the Executive Committee to deliver the lecture on 7th April 2016, which she so kindly accepted. Now, she will speak on 'Indian culture, knowledge systems and manuscripts' on 7th April at 11:30 am.

For details, please contact: Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh. Tel. 09358259740 (M).

35th Scientific Instruments Symposium of SIC of IUHPST

The 35th Scientific Instruments Symposium of SIC (Scientific Instruments Commission, IUHPST) will be held in Istanbul on 26-30 September 2016. The hosting institution is the Department of the History of Science, Istanbul University.

The Scientific Committee cordially invites delegates to join the 2016 symposium which seeks to offer new perspectives around the theme "Instruments between East and West".

For more details, contact: Prof. Feza Günergun (on behalf of the Local Organising Committee), Head, Department of the History of Science, Istanbul University.

Website: <http://www.sic2016.org/>

25th International Congress of History of Science, and Technology

International Union of History and Philosophy of Science of Science and Technology will be holding its 25th International Congress of History of Science, and Technology in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23–29 July 2017.

The theme is Science, Technology and Medicine between the Global to the Local. The other details could be found from the website: www.ichst2017.schc.org.br/.

Commission on Islamic Science is planning a session with three 90-minute blocks, as follows:

1). The local and the global in Islamic science and technology, 2). Medicine in the context of Islamic lands, and 3. Mathematics, physics and the heavens in Islamic lands. The organizers for these three sessions are Professors Miquel Forcada, Lutfullah Gari and Robert Morrison.

Abstract from members of CHOSTIS are requested to submit the Organizing Committee by April 30, 2016. CHOSTIS will also be participating in a joint session with the Commission for the History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy (CHAMA) and Prof. Emilia Calvo has agreed to cooperate in organizing this with Prof. Josep Casulleras.

Submitted by: J. Lennart Berggren, Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics, Simon Fraser University University, Dr. Burnaby, Canada

DOCUMENTATION

Periodicals of Ibn Sina Academy

Ibn Sina Academy is engaged in various literary and social activities. Broadly, it is providing access to reading reference books / periodicals on focused areas (cf. Library); platform for books launching and other academic programs (cf. Conference Room); providing access to rare artifacts /collections (cf. Museum); publishing range of reference books on history of medicine, science, biographies, travelogues, etc.; periodicals such as quarterly 'Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)', quarterly journal, 'International Archive of BioMedical & Clinical Research' (<http://iabcr.org/>) and bimonthly journal, 'International Journal of Medical Research Professional' (<http://ijmrp.com/>). NISA is being published successfully and regularly for the last 15 years while journals IJMRP and IABCR started last year.

Donation to Ibn Sina Academy

The UGC Human Resource Development Centre, Aligarh Muslim University recently

concluded the four-weeks Orientation Programme 141, which was attended by 53 University and College teachers from various states including Assam, Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The University Grants Commission sponsored the Programme.

While addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest at the Valedictory function, AMU Vice Chancellor, Lt General Zameer Uddin Shah (retd) said that 'teachers can take a lead in development by being agents of change'. He urged the participants of the programme to embrace new technology and be sincere in their scholarship to become inspiring teachers. The Vice Chancellor asked the participants to carry a book with them wherever they go and embrace information technology by using laptop computers and smart phones to help make their scholarship, teaching and research better. On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor also felicitated participants, who had made the maximum use of the Centre Library. He gave prizes to Ms. Bandana Kalita, Assam; Dr. Reshma Parveen, Rampur; Mr. Mohd Aynul Hoque, West Bengal and Mr. Syed Nasrullah Bakhtyary, Chennai.

Mrs. Sabiha Simi Shah also graced the occasion by distributing the certificates to all the graduating participants. She congratulated the participants and wished them a bright future.

Professor Abdur Raheem Kidwai, Director UGC Human Resource Development Centre said that the Orientation Programme was replete with sessions on topics relevant to building societal linkages with higher education. He added that today higher education is challenged with issues of quality but AMU has withstood the test of time and been ranked high by reputed ranking agencies as one of the Higher Educational Institutionst of Asia. He also talked about lessons of

social cohesion and said that Indian plurality constituted the most vital aspect of the course.

Dr. Faiza Abbasi, Assistant Director, UGC HRD Centre, said that eminent resource persons engaged sessions and interaction with them was encouraged. She added that the participants were taken to home visits and other educational visits. Dr. Abbasi informed that a unique feature of these courses was that the optional classes were organized in Persian Language on demand of the participants.

Mr Manash Pratim Saha, Golaghat, Assam and Dr. Vipin Pratap Singh, DU, Delhi gave feedback opinions on behalf of the batch. They said that they were very much impressed by the warm hospitality of the staff at the UGC HRDC and expressed their satisfaction over the delivery of the course. The participants also presented souvenirs to those present on the dais.

Dr Zarina Arif, Department of Biochemistry and Mr Mohd Imran, Z H College of engineering and Technology welcomed the guests. The participants also raised an amount of Rs 12500 and presented as donation to the Ibn Sina Academy. Mr S M Abu Hanifa, Goalpara, Assam donated Rs 1000 to Aligarh Orphanage.

It's so touching that the participants of the UGC Human Resource Development Centre of AMU, in its concluding session of the four-weeks Orientation Programme, attended by 53 University and College teachers from various Indian states, raised an amount of INR 12,500 and presented as donation to the "Ibn Sina Academy".

School Students Delegation (Super-20), AMU-ABK High School visits Ibn Sina Academy

"I made a visit to the Academy along with my SUPER-20 group. They were stunned to see the marvelous collection and a

good maintenance. Today, in the morning assembly one of the wizard from the group shared the experience of his visit. We look forward to make a visit once again with another group of students in the forthcoming academic session. Thanks for your kind cooperation, Tabrez Alam”, dated 1st March 2016.

“I, on behalf of AMU-ABK High School want to share with you that we have formed a group of top 20 students (SUPER-20) from classes IX & X on the basis of Mathematics Quiz, English, General Knowledge and Current Affairs Test held at our school. A counselling session was organized by the experts from Training and Placement Office (TPO) and Residential Coaching Academy (RCA), AMU, Aligarh on 24th February 2016 to encourage them for preparation for Civil Services, Judiciary Services and Defense Services. To further motivate them, we want that these students should have a visit of your esteemed Academy. So, please give your consent in this regard and fix a date and time before 1st March 2016 as this day is the last working day for class X. Thanks in anticipation, Looking forward to your response, Tabrez Alam, Coordinator, SUPER-20, AMU ABK High School, Aligarh”, dated, 26th February 2016.

Letter of Gratitude by Prof. Amos Bertolacci

“Dear Prof. Zillur Rahman, I take the liberty of writing directly to you, after having corresponded through email, as director of the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine and Sciences, in my capacity of coordinator of the project “Philosophy on the Border of Civilization and Intellectual Endeavors: Towards a Critical Edition of the Metaphysics (Ilahiyat of ‘Kitab al-Shifa’) of Avicenna (Ibn Sina)” (Grant agreement 339621), acronym: PhiBor, <http://www.avicennaproject.eu>), funded by the European Research Council. In the framework of this project, Dr. Victor Palleja deus Bustinza – whom

you recently met – is charged with bibliographical research regarding manuscripts.

The purpose of this letter is just to thank you sincerely for the kind help you have provided to Dr. Palleja since his first arrival at Aligarh, by granting him access to the Academy and allowing him to give a presentation of the aims and on-going results of the project in a public meeting: your interest in our research has been of great encouragement for Dr. Palleja, and your courteous assistance of profound impact on the research he is planning to do in Aligarh. For this, please do accept my most heartfelt thanks and expression of gratitude.

The travel to India of Dr. Palleja is aimed at showing the tremendous importance of the manuscripts preserved in Indian libraries – and, more in general, of the Indian cultural heritage and the academic institutions studying and preserving it – for the advancement of our current understanding of prime exponents of Arabic and Islamic philosophy and science like Ibn Sina. In this regard, your kind cooperation is not only delightful in itself, but also very effective – and very much appreciated – for the progress of the project, and I will be happy to acknowledge it in the project website and in all the advertising means at my disposal. Grateful in advance for your consideration, I remain, sincerely yours, Amos Bertolacci (Principal Investigator, PhiBor, Pisa, Italy, dated 11.1.2016).

Ibn Sina Academy (India) is listed among the “partners for manuscripts and codicology search” of the Philosophy on the Border of Civilizations and Intellectual Endeavours: Towards a Critical Edition of *Ilâhiyyât of Kitâb al-Šifâ* of Ibn Sînâ, (<http://www.avicennaproject.eu/index.php?id=30>)

Prof. Zahid Husain Khan elected as a Vice-President of "Ibn al-Haytham LHiSA International Society, Paris (France)

As part of the UNESCO's Ibn al-Haytham campaign of the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies (IYL 2015), Ibn al-Haytham International Working Group (IWG) was constituted, with Professor Azzedine Boudrioua of LPL University of Paris as its Coordinator. During the International conference organized by UNESCO and Ibn al-Haytham IWG on the heritage of the Islamic civilization and the work of Ibn al-Haytham in the field of optics, a meeting of the founders of the Association "Ibn al-Haytham LHiSA International Society" took place on September 15, 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in which it was decided to frame the Statutes of the Society and get it formally registered. In accordance of the Statutes, election of the Executive Committee of the Society was held and following office bearers were elected for a period of four years:

Honorary Chairman: Roshdi Rashed, CNRS (France); President: Azzedine Boudrioua, LPL University Paris 13 (France); Vice Presidents: Mohammad Dhafer Al-Amri, National Center for Applied Physics (NCAP), King Abdul-Aziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) (Saudi Arabia), Zahid Husain Khan, FTK Center for IT, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi (India), Charles Falco, College of Optical Sciences, University of Arizona (USA) and Mourad Zghal, Tunisian Optical Society (Tunisia); Treasurer: Marie Abboud, Physics Department, Saint Joseph University (Lebanon); General Secretary: Nurdogan Can, Physics Department, Jazan University (Saudi Arabia); Assistant Secretary: Vasudevan Lakshminarayanan, Physics and Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Waterloo (Canada)

The Society has formally been registered

in France on 22 January 2016. The principal aim of the Society is to bring together scientists, working in the fields of optics and optoelectronics, history and philosophy of science, with a particular focus on the contribution of Arab-Islamic scholars to science and technology of light and to promote the progress of these studies undertaken for promoting human knowledge. For this purpose, the Society will organize an International Conference held in one of the countries represented by the members of the Society. The Society will also encourage the holding of technical meetings, seminars, training courses and all scientific events in accordance with its objectives, particularly those organized by the members of the Society. A particular attention will be brought to support the students and educationists. Also, the Society will endeavor to strengthen or to develop the connections and cooperation with other scientific associations and national or international organizations involved in similar fields of research and having similar interests.

UGC-HRD Centre Organises cultural evening in honour of Fulbright Scholar working at Ibn Sina Academy

The Aligarh Muslim University UGC Human Resource Development Centre recently organized a literary and cultural evening, which was attended by AMU teachers and scholars.

Professor Seemin Hassan, Chairperson, Department of English and Prof Samina Khan recited their poems during the event. Prof Khan also expressed hopes that there will be more such cultural programmes in future.

Prof Ranu Uniyal, Director, Centre for Women's Studies, University of Lucknow emphasized the importance of poetry in the modern world. She said that poets cannot remain indifferent to things that are happening around them. She also read poems from her published collection

'Across the Divide', and her forthcoming anthology 'Saeeda ke Ghar'.

Fulbright scholar, Ms. Kathleen Longwaters, University of Texas, USA read some of her published poems on life and human mortality while Prof Sami Rafiq, Department of English and Dr Fatima Khan, from JNMC, AMU enthralled the audience with their poems.

Dr Faiza Abbasi felicitated the invited guests on behalf of the MHRD, UGC, AMU. While conducting the programme, Dr Akbar Joseph, on behalf of the organizers, paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 68th year of martyrdom and prayed for peace and national solidarity.

Dr Aysha Munira sang a motivational Nazm (poem) of Faiz Ahmad Faiz and later recited its English translation in the conclusion of the programme.

AMU Research Scholar discuss deadly fevers in the light of Vedas

Mr. Tahasin Mondal, a Research Scholar at the Department of Sanskrit, Aligarh Muslim University has been awarded the Certificate of Outstanding Research Paper at the 19th India Conference of Wider Association for Vedic Studies (WAVES) held at Delhi Sanskrit Academy. The certificate was awarded for his research paper titled 'Malaria, Dengue and other associated fevers in the light of Atharva Veda- A study in medicine', which he presented at the Conference.

In his paper he mentioned that the ancient sages, without having any recourse to lab or any other modern technology, had prescribed the causes and remedies of fevers thousands of years ago, the information related to which had been discovered by the western scientists only in the past 250 years. Mondal said that the scientists, with the help of labs and other advanced technologies, had ascertained the fevers like Malaria and Dengue only recently. He pointed out that in the field of

Ayurveda and medical science, Atharvaveda is the ultimate source of remedies.

Mondal mentioned that there is a description of some kind of fevers in Veda, some of which carry resemblance with dengue. Therefore he felt the need to come forward and carry out research in this context. Tahasin Mondal has been doing his research under the supervision of Professor Rani Majumdar at the Department of Sanskrit, AMU.

Choking dissent

By Arshia Malik

The following article related to the recent issue at JNU was published on February 12, 2016 in the Times of India Blogs: (<http://blogs.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/stopping-out/choking-dissent-2/>). The same is being reproduced here because of author's count on "Ibn Sina Academy" among other great centres of learning....Editor

I recall when the Valley erupted (Disturbances in Kashmir Valley) in 1990 and my education was disrupted in what someone years later would call my 'chequered' past. The almost-given-up studies, the near attempts to drop out, the frustration of having exams cancelled or postponed amidst punctuated gunfire, and the piling bodies, the various efforts for distance education while I tried to earn my keep in a dysfunctional family, the inch-by-inch painstakingly earned graduation degree in a 'dumbed down' pathetic excuse of an educational system in Kashmir, the stretched out post-graduation degree which gave me a glimpse of those classrooms of the only University in Kashmir at that time – the hallowed ground – the likes of me could only watch from a distance respectfully but not be a part of. Thankfully due to the Internet, I am able to attend universities online and that too world class ones like Yale and Stanford and able to get the 'feel' of real university education.

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I often pore over encyclopaedia entries of great centres of learning like Plato's academy, the University at Alexandria, Ibn Sina's academy, Aligarh Muslim University, JNU, Oxford and Cambridge. The researcher in me yearns for a classroom where I could learn, relearn, unlearn.

I have never forgiven the Islamist movement in my native state of disrupting our lives with their theocratic agenda and for eternally displacing our futures and our lives. Imagine my wrath on learning that those 'heading' the movement had their own daughters and sons studying abroad in state-of-the-art facilities. 26 years later, they did not care two hoots about the constant disruption to the academic lives of the current generation as they continued with their 'hartal-timetable'.

So when I see those very Islamist elements having hijacked the Left/Ambedkarite movement and using it as a shield to further their own agenda, I am flummoxed. For those of us who never had the chance to study those prestigious institutes, the atmosphere of freedom of speech and dissent, to having had your doubts answered or at best allowed to express them – this was a betrayal. I laugh derisively and with contempt as they advocate 'freedom of speech' from those very platforms that were denied to us, often using the fear of the gun and intimidation. I so want to get up on that very platform in JNU and shout – what about us?

What about us? Choked into silence, coerced into toeing a dominant narrative, fighting everyday for the 'other' they have made us into when we look for accommodation in cities to study, work and live peaceful secular lives, we are forced to doubly display our 'nationalism' even while those policing us display all sorts of anti-nationalism activities. We can't voice our outrage at Muzaffarnagar and Gujarat without being dubbed as Pakistani agents, the spectre of Babri Masjid still haunts us every time there is a revival of 'mandir banayege' and we have to mentally

make back up plans and watch our neighbours.

If 50 students in an institution, held in high esteem internationally, can do this to so many humanists who outnumber them a billion times, it is nothing short of what the Nazis did in Germany. Hitler's Nazi party was actually National Socialist German Workers' Party – the party thugs convinced an entire nation that the Jews were responsible for their woes. Will those 50 students allow dissent in the university of their origin, will they allow a single person who doesn't want 'azaadi' or merger with Pakistan stand up without the fear of being killed or their family intimidated/coerced into silence get up and say – we have a right to our opinion too, at least hear us out, the way, the organizer of the JNU 'cultural event' was pleading with a news anchor?

I remember so many cultural events that were cancelled or were withdrawn because of intimidation. Girl bands facing 'fatwas', art exhibitions declared un-Islamic, private galleries attacked by hoodlums, book festivals where world renowned authors were invited marred by controversy and smear-campaigns against those who want to exercise that very freedom of speech that is being spoken about. If this isn't selective condemnation and selective propagation of victim-hood, then what is?

I start another year with a dream to make it to a real University classroom someday, try my best to get dropouts, children from economically weaker sections channel their thirst for learning through the open school and university systems, spread awareness to adults who missed out their education about literacy programmes (what we popularly call 'night classes') run by various NGOs.

I hope the ones who stood shouting the slogans realize what they so freely exercise is denied out rightly and unashamedly to others.

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Please send all newsletter correspondence to:

Editor, NISA

Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, Tijara House,
Dodhpur, Aligarh-202002 INDIA

E-mail: ibnsinaacademy@gmail.com, website: <http://www.ibnsinaacademy.org>

Phone: +91-5713290275

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Professor Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, Publication
Division, IAMMS, Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh-202002
India. E-mail: rahmansz@yahoo.com

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The admission fee of Rs. 50/- shall be chargeable at the initial admittance to the academy. All the payment be made either in cash, or through demand draft in favour of "Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences" and should be sent along with this form completely filled-in and mailed to the treasurer. Please add Rs. 50/- for outstation cheques.

Treasurer, IAMMS, Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh-202002 (UP), India)



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