

Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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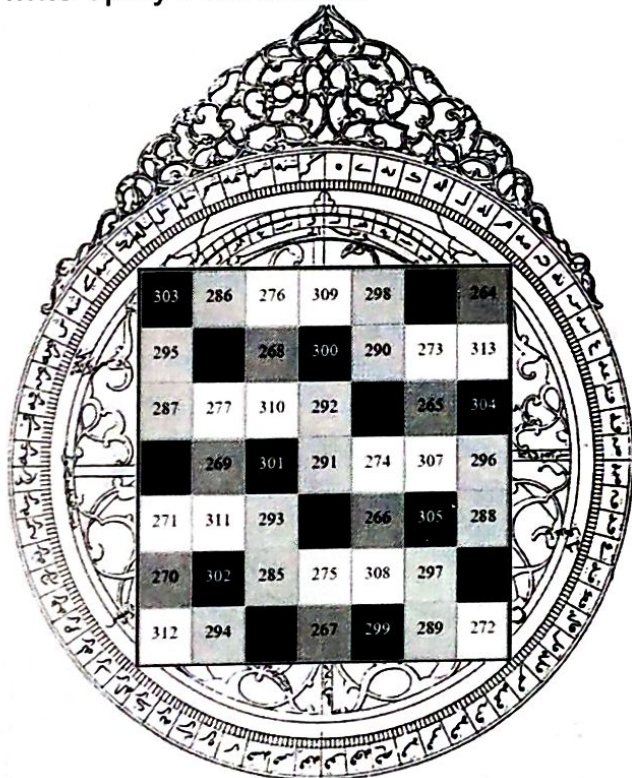
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Happy New Year 2017!

Dear Members, Happy New Year 2017. Thank you for your kind support and suggestion for the improvement of the Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy. (NISA). We will try our best to improve our quality of news coverage and present a better platform for sharing knowledge in the year of 2017. As the New Year renews all the happiness and good tidings, hope the joyful spirit keeps glowing in your heart forever.

Here we are publishing gladly the unique *Pandiagonal Magic Square* for 2017, prepared by Prof. S. R. Sarma with a short write-up by Prof. Sarma.



“We have crafted this pandiagonal magic square of order seven to bring you our warmest greetings and best wishes for the year 2017. In this square, the numbers start at the upper corner in the right and proceed by what are called the ‘knight’s moves’ in chess, or more correctly the ‘horse’s moves’ (*turaga-gati* in Sanskrit). In Sanskrit mythology, the Sun traverses the heavens in a chariot drawn by seven horses. The moves of these seven horses

are represented in seven colours in the magic square. Each horse makes seven steps and then the next horse takes over. The magic square is framed by the outlines of an astrolabe made in 1621—because astrolabes have been our chief preoccupation in the past year. I have been surveying Indian astronomical instruments for many years and have identified some 555+ specimens which are extant in museums and private collections all over the world. Early this year I began preparing an online descriptive catalogue of these specimens. The descriptions of nearly 300 extant astrolabes are already on-line. The celestial globes and other instruments will be added in the coming months. The catalogue can be accessed by visiting my homepage and clicking on “*Catalogue of Indian Astronomical Instruments*” in the menu.

Asiatic Society of Mumbai (established in 1804) awarded Dr. S. R. Sarma, the Mahāmahopādhyāya Dr. P. V. Kane gold medal for the years 2013-2015. The award was given to him for his overall contributions to Indology, including history of science and the online catalogue of Indian astronomical instruments. On behalf of the Ibn Sina Academy, the president Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, and myself, I congratulate Prof. Sarma for this well-known and unique Award. May he remain healthy and academically active in years to come.

(S.M.R. Ansari, Editor)

On 26 November the Asiatic Society of Mumbai (established in 1804) awarded me the Mahāmahopādhyāya Dr. P. V. Kane gold medal for the years 2013-2015. The distinguished art-historian Dr. Devangana Desai received the medal on

my behalf and read my acceptance speech. We feel doubly honoured.

Let this magic square bring you happiness and pleasure on each of the seven days of the week throughout the year. Happy New Year from Sreeramula Rajeswara Sarma
ô Renate Sarma ô Ananda Vardhana Sarmall

10th Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture

The 10th Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture was delivered by Dr. Ather Farouqui, General Secretary, Anjuman Tarraqui Urdu (Hind) on 18th December 2016 at 11:00 am. The lecture was presided by Prof. Masoodul Hasan (Former Head, Dept. of English, AMU, Aligarh).

While welcoming the speaker and guests, Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, briefed that Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture is an annual event of Ibn Sina Academy and many eminent persons had already delivered this series of lecture. First it was delivered by Saiyid Hamid (Delhi) and then Prof. Syed Mushirul Hasan (Delhi), Syed Shahid Mehdi (Delhi), Prof. Irfan Habib (Aligarh), Prof. Sadiqur Rahman Kidwai (Delhi), Dr. Ahmad Abdul Hai (Patna), Mr. Moosa Raza (Villupuram, Tamil Nadu), Muhammad Zakaria Virk (Ontario, Canada) and Dr. (Maulana) Kalbe Sadiq (Lucknow). This year, we were fortunate that Dr. Ather Farouqui had accepted our invitation and came all through Delhi-Aligarh long trip for this Oration.

Dr. Ather Farouqui in his lecture on scope of Urdu in India covered the education system in Urdu language and discussed the scenario of Urdu in India particularly in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. He particularly told about what government is doing and what an Urdu lover can do for the promotion of Urdu language in teaching and learning. More and more of us should send our children to Urdu medium schools

Many scholars from Aligarh and outstation graced the function by their presence. To name a few, who came from outside Aligarh: Dr. Akhlaq Asar (Bhopal), Mr. A. Rahman (Secretary, Alami Urdu Trust, Delhi), Dr. Farooq Urgali (Delhi), Mr. Muzaffar Husain Syed (Delhi) and Ms. Qudsia Farouqui (Delhi).

On the same occasion, Dr. Akhlaq Asar from Bhopal presented five letters of Dr. Mohammad Iqbal written to Sir Ross Masud and five letters of Sir Ross Masud to Iqbal. Prof. Zillur Rahman on behalf of the Academy, thanked Dr. Akhlaq Asar for this prestigious gift.

Exhibition on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

Ibn Sina Academy at Aligarh, which is a sort of archive of Indian civilization, holds collections of eminent personalities including Sir Syed. Around 200 published books by Sir Syed and other scholars on the life and works of Sir Syed are extant in the Library including periodicals like "Special Sir Syed Numbers". The Academy also possesses rare documents, artifacts, photographs, badges, mementoes, invitation cards on programs related to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. In addition, the Academy has 2 shells which were used by Sir Syed as paperweights, all postal stamps and First Day Covers issued on his personality. These postal stamps are not merely a sheet of stamps per se but with original documents related to its issue by Govt. of India. Some rare books and periodicals belong to his own period of life, like the file of Tahzibul Akhlaq 1874 and 1875, Seerat-e Faridia, Musalmano ki Qismat Ka Faislah, Al-Nazar fi Baz Masail al-Ghazali, Muqadma Tafsir Haqqani, etc., are also displayed in the Exhibition.

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan is a personality adored by almost everyone particularly Aligarians. Lots of publications on his personality; comparative studies on his life; critical evaluations of his views on politics, education, social reforms, etc.;

Letters written by him to his friends and for raising college funds, came into limelight since his death. He himself wrote many books and edited journals of repute. Old Boys of AMU spread all over the world celebrate his birthday with pomp and gaiety as "Sir Syed Day" and released "Souvenirs". Similarly lots of seminars/conferences were held on his life and contributions resulting into the publications of these deliberations.

The exhibition as a part of initiative "Sir Syed Bi-Centenary Celebrations" was inaugurated on 23rd December 2016 by Lt. General Zameer Uddin Shah and his wife Ms. Simi Shah in the presence of Prof. Abdur Raheem Kidwai, Chairman, Sir Syed Bi-centennial Celebration, AMU, Aligarh and Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, President of Ibn Sina Academy. Lots of teachers and dignitaries attended the program. The exhibition will continue until 17th October 2017.

Muslim Majlis Mushawarat Meeting

A meeting for the preparation of Annual Meeting of All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat (AIMMM) in Aligarh during 11-12 February 2017 was held at Ibn Sina Academy on 20th December 2016. The meeting was presided over by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman and attended by local members of AIMMM such as Amanullah Khan, Dr. Ubaid Iqbal Asim, Dr. Masood Ahmad and Prof. Humayun Murad.

AIMMM is an apex forum of Muslim organizations and institutions of national eminence along with some well-known personalities, was established at a representative meeting of the community leaders held on 8-9 August, 1964 at Nadwatul-Ulema, Lucknow, inaugurated by Syed Abul Hasan Ali Nadvi and chaired by Dr. Syed Mahmood. Apart from them, Mufti Atiqur Rahman, Maulana Abul Lais Islahi, Qari Mohd. Tayyab, Maulana Kalb-e-Abid, Maulana Minatullah Rahmani, Janab Mohammad Muslim, Maulana Jan Mohammad and Janab Ebrahim Sulaiman

Sait played the key role. Dr. Syed Mahmood was elected as its first President. Mr. M.N. Anwar, MP became its first General Secretary.

Children's Day Celebrated

Children's Day on the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 14th November 2016 was celebrated at Ibn Sina Academy. The function was specifically organized for deprived children. They were told about the life and contribution of 'Chacha Nehru' as first prime minister of India along with other freedom fighters. These children had a good time in the Library of the Academy and read books on "Chacha Nehru" extant at the Library. All children were distributed "goodies" by Ms. Zahra Hashemi.

200th birth anniversary of Mirza Ghalib Celebrated

On the occasion of 200th birth anniversary of Mirza Ghalib (born 27 December 1797), Ghalib Study Centre of Ibn Sina Academy published two books on his poetry. Hindustan, a daily newspaper in its Aligarh Edition covered a featured article on 27.12.2016 on the finest collection of Ghalibiyat at Ibn Sina Academy.

Firaq Gorakhpuri – Shakhs aur Sha'yri

Sun Shine Welfare Society (Lucknow / Aligarh) organized one day Seminar on Firaq Gorakhpuri – Shakhs aur Sha'yri at Ibn Sina Academy on 6th December 2016 in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy, Lucknow, under the presidentship of Professor Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman.

Raghupati Sahay (28 August 1896 – 3 March 1982), better known under his pen name Firaq Gorakhpuri, was a writer, critic, and Urdu poet. Dr. Mohammad Shahabuddin, Mr. Abdur Rahman, Mr. Shahzad Anjum, Mr. Mohammad Alam, Mr. Mohammad Shahid presented their papers. The chief guest of the function was Professor Mohammad Zahid (Dean, Faculty of Arts, AMU,

Aligarh), while Guests of honour were Professor Wahajuddin Ali (Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi), Professor Sagheer Afrahim and Professor Maula Bakhsh (Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh). The programme was conducted by Hamid Raza Siddiqui.

The convener and secretary of the Society Abdul Latif Khan and Noorul Islam, respectively, played significant role in making the program so successful.

Mehfil-e Musalima

Bazm-e Naved Sakhun, a literary organization of Aligarh in collaboration with Ghalib Study Centre of Ibn Sina Academy organized —Bazme Musalima in memory of sacrifices given in Karbala by the family of Iman Hussain. Dr. Ilyas Naved Gunnori played significant role in organizing this event as last year.

Source Avadhnama, Lucknow Edition 2.12.2016.

Workshops on 'Time & Stress Management' and 'Financial Management'

Alif Laam Meem Trust organised two Workshops successively on 'Time & Stress Management' on 15/10/2016 and 'Financial Management' on 16/10/2016. The resource person was an eminent speaker and Lecturer at Islamic On-line University, Mr. Mansour Danish. He explained the tactics of handling life and the ways of time and stress and the financial management. A number of professionals and students from various institutions like AMU, Al-Barkaat, ITM, etc. attended and learnt life skills in this very jocular and interactive workshop. The 4 hour workshop in each day was informative and interesting and the response by the audience was quite good. Ms. S. Sabir, on behalf of Alif Laam Meem Trust, told about the establishment and motives of the trust and informed that Alif Laam Meem will conduct more workshops and lectures on current topics

so that people from all sects of life can learn skills required for living a good life. Mr. Javed Sabir, Mr. Sheeba Sabir, Ms. Sonam Agarwal, Ms. Esha Agrawal, Mr. K.M.N. Mushtaq, Mr. Areeb Akhlaq volunteered the program and their active support made the programme a success.

VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

1. Delegates, Special Winter School, Human Resource Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 13.12.2016.
2. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course on Languages (Arabic, Persian and Urdu), UGC Human Resource Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 14.12.2016.
3. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course on Library and Information Science, UGC Human Resource Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 17.11.2016.
4. Delegates, Orientation Programme (144), UGC Human Resource Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 11.11.2016.
5. Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (IPS and Former IG of Rajasthan), Mr. Ashfaq Hussain (District Magistrate, Dausa, Rajasthan), Ms. Farha Hussain (IRS), 5.9.2016
6. Deborah Schlein, visiting research scholar, Princeton University, USA, 14.11.2016 (Also see her article under the heading documentation)

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, Founder President, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, has been elected as Honorary General Secretary of All India Muslim Educational Conference for 5 years. The Conference is an organization promoting modern, liberal education for the Muslim community in India. It was founded by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, founder of the MAO College / Aligarh Muslim University, in 1886. Prof. Rahman called on the first meeting of the Conference Management Committee at Conference Headquarters,

Sultan Jahan Manzil, Aligarh, on 11.12.2016.

He visited Bhutan to learn Bhutanese Traditional Medicine for 5 days during 21st November 2016. Like, Laddakh, the traditional medicine is also known for its 'Sowa Rigpa' or 'Amchi' system of traditional medicine. In Bhutan, he visited Thimphu, Punakha and Paro and went to various sight-seeing places such as Simtokha Dzong, Memorial Chorten, Budha Point (Kuensel Phodrang), Chimi Lhakhang (Fertility Temple Punakha Dzong), National Museum of Paro, Kyichu Lhakhang, Taksang Monastery (Tiger's Nest Temple).

Prof. Rahman is also invited to attend the following events:

1. Condolence Meeting on sad demise of famous Urdu Writer and Critic Dr. Dr. Khaleeq Anjum, Former Secretary, Anjuman Tarraqui Urdu (Hind), at Anjuman Headquarters, Delhi on 28.10.2016 and at the Dept. of Urdu, AMU, Aligarh on 29.10.2016. The Aligarh meeting was presided over by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman while Delhi meeting was presided over by Sadiqur Rahman Kidwai. Source: Avadhnama, Aligarh edition, 30.10.2016 and Rashtriya Sahara, Delhi edition, 30.10.2016.
2. International Conference on Unani Medicine (ICUM-16), National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, 25-27th October, 2016 (Prof. Mansoor Ahmad Siddiqui, Director NIUM & Organizing Secretary, ICUM-2016). Prof. Rahman was received as guest of honour and was presented "Life-time achievement award".
3. World AIDS Day 2016, at Dept. of Hifzan-e Sehat, AK Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. Prof. Rahman presided over the meeting and released a book "Mahauliyati Sehat" written by Prof. S. S. M. Safdar Ashraf along with Dr. Dr. Rupendra K. Goyal, Chief Medical
4. Officer, Aligarh and Prof. Rupendra J. Kishore, Department of Community Medicine, MAMC, New Delhi. Certificates were also distributed to students participated in various programs organized by the Department and Red Ribbon Club of Aligarh.
4. Valedictory Session of the National Symposium on Usûl-e Tashkhîs (Principles of Diagnosis) during 5.11.2016. Prof. Rahman presided over the session. The conference was organized by Prof. Misbahuddin Siddiqi of the Department of Moalijat, AK Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh.
5. Meeting of Unani Medicine Panel, on 9.11.2016 at NCPUL Headquarters, Farogh-e-Urdu Bhawan, Jasola, New Delhi. The meeting was presided over by Prof. Rahman to review the progress on different approved projects, and to evaluate as well as approve new projects received under the panel.
6. One day seminar with invited talks on History of Unani Medicine at INSA, New Delhi in collaboration with Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh.
7. All India Urdu Conference entitled, "The current situation of Urdu in Uttar Pradesh and our responsibilities", 20th November 2016, Moradabad. Prof. Rahman was Guest of Honour. The conference was organized by the courtesy of Mr. Mukhtar Siddiqui, General Secretary, Millia Educational Foundation, Moradabad.
8. Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programme for Teachers, Department of Saidla, AK Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh, 24-29 November 2016, which was organized by Prof. Tajuddin (Chairman of the Department). On this occasion, Prof. Rahman delivered the lecture on "Manuscripts, classical books and different pharmacopoeias and formularies relevant to Saidla" and presided over the valedictory session.
9. Joint Meeting of the Research Council and Indian National Commission for

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History of Science, 13th October 2016
at Indian National Science Academy,
New Delhi

2. Panel of Jury, Best poster presentation
for ISoP Prize, ISoP 2016, Agra, India
(17-19 October 2016).

Prof. S. M. R. Ansari, Secretary, Ibn Sina Academy, has participated in a very important conference: *Ninth International Conference on Oriental Astronomy (ICOA-9)* held in Pune during 14-18 Nov. 2016. The Conference was organised by Prof. Mayank Vahia (Chairman of LOC) of TIFR (Bombay). The Venue of the Conference was *Indian Institute of Science Education and Research*, Pune. Prof. Ansari was requested to chair Session 10 on Medieval Period. His paper was on Kavasji Dadabhai Naegamvala (1857-1938), a Parsi astrophysicist, who was the founder of the first astrophysicist observatory in India. It may be added that this series of ICOA was founded by well known historian of Korean Astronomy, Prof. IL-Seong Nha of Seoul (Korea). Prof. Ansari is the only Indian who was invited to attend these Conferences, viz., ICOA-3 in Fukuoka (Japan), ICOA-5 in Chiang Mai (Thailand), ICOA-7 in Tokyo, ICOA-8 in Hefei (China). Evidently his papers have been published in the Proceedings of the above-mentioned Conferences. It is a matter of great pleasure that Prof. Ansari's effort to hold one such conference in India materialised by the motivation of Prof. M. Vahia to organise ICOA-9 in India. To note is that Ansari is one of the members of the Executive Committee of ICOA, in which he has been quite active.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Honorary Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy, has been inducted in the:

1. Panel of Jury, Best Researcher of the Year 2015-2016, Sun Pharmaceutical Science Foundation, Gurgaon. He assisted in short listing candidates' applications and would participate in the final round presentation on 21.1.2017 at the Sun Pharmaceutical Headquarters, Gurgaon.

Prof. Mohammad Bagheri, Member Editorial Board of the Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy and a famous Iranian historian of science, has been honoured for 2016 Award for a life devoted to the popularization of science by an organization Cheragh.

Cheragh (Lamp), which is an Iranian organization, has announced that the institution of Award is the initiative of a group of young scholars in Iran dedicated to promoting popular interest in science, and in addition to the lifetime award they also award an annual prize for the best academic figure active in popularization of science and another for the best activity in popularization of science in the period of one year ending in the winter solstice.

The Ibn Sina Academy sends him heartfelt congratulations. According to Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy, "Bagheri fully deserves this award and hopefully it would bring him joy and happiness in pursuit of making available science to many".

Prof. S.M.R. Ansari (Editor) on his personal behalf and on behalf of NISA congratulates Dr. Bagheri for his life time work: the popularisation of science and particularly for the promotion of studies in the Islamic science during the medieval period. He recalls that his terminological dictionaries of mathematical and astronomical sciences in Persian are extremely important for young researchers. Prof. Ansari remembers his decades long association with Dr. Bagheri as members of International Commission of History of Islamic Science. He sends him the best wishes for exemplary active life.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

"Reverberating Echoes: Contemporary Art Inspired by Traditional Islamic Art," organized by the Center for Arts & Religion at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, will be opening on 31 January 2017 and will remain on view up to 26 May 2017

With many connections to Islamic geometry, tilings, tessellations, fractals, modularity, *muqarnas*, polyhedra, and design algorithms, as well as to architectural studies, Persian gardens, and light as a medium, the exhibition in this sense is very unique. The exhibition highlights the work of seven American artists of diverse interests, backgrounds, and training. Inspired by traditional Islamic art, their works echo historic aesthetic concerns, often advancing human knowledge and understanding by experimentation with new technologies. Traditional concerns focused on the spatial dimension and the effects of light on form, the association of Arabic language and script with revelation, and patterns in the plane, exploring the nature of two-dimensional space.

Drawing upon a shared Islamic visual heritage of calligraphy, floral ornament, geometric pattern, architectural forms and figural imagery, contemporary works selected for this exhibition include both traditional media (such as glazed ceramics, woven textiles, works on paper, and carved wood) and new technologies (dye sublimation and 3D-printing, digital imagery, computerized design, and LED projection).

The opening reception on 31 January 5-7pm, will feature music by Dror Sinai. The Doug Adams Gallery is located at 2465 LeConte Avenue. The Doug Adams Gallery, part of the Center for the Arts & Religion (CARE) at the Graduate Theological Union, presents exhibitions that examine themes of religion and spirituality, broadly defined. The

exhibitions and related programming are open, free of charge, to the public as well as to members of the GTU community.

4th Hamdard International Conference on Unani Medicine 2017

The 4th Hamdard International Conference on Unani Medicine will be held at Madinat al-Hikmah, Hamdard University, Karachi, Pakistan, during January 9-11, 2017. Eminent scientists and researchers from different countries are invited to participate in this important international event in the field of Unani (Eastern) Medicine.

Pakistan is a beautiful country, enriched with scenic landscape, full of vitality, cultural diversity and culinary delights. We hope that the magical spirit of coastal Karachi city will be conducive to provide a platform for stimulating exchange of scientific knowledge between scientists in the field of Unani Medicine from all over the world. It is also hoped that this meeting will establish stronger research ties between the scientists, intellectuals and practitioners representing different regions.

The Conference will be held at the main campus of Hamdard University at Madinat al-Hikmah that spreads over plain areas with the picturesque landscape, 27 km from the commercial centre of Karachi and situated between Sindh and Balochistan along the Hub River. Historically this site is the place where Muhammad Bin Qasim entered Sindh, the gateway to Islam in the sub-continent on his way to Daibal.

The aim of the Conference is to bring together leading experts in the field of Unani Medicine all around the world and forge global research collaborations for sustainable and evidence based utilization of Unani Medicine formulations for the common benefit of humanity and its promotion globally. The following themes are intended to be covered:

1. Historical Perspective of Unani Medicine
2. Scientific Validation of Philosophies of Unani Medicine
3. Formulations of Unani Medicine
4. Pharmacological properties of natural resources
5. Medicinal plants cultivation and conservation
6. Standardization and safety of Unani Medicines
7. Clinical trials on Unani Medicine-based formulations
8. Herb and Food Drug interaction.

This international conference is being jointly organized by Hamdard Foundation Pakistan, International Association for Unani Medicine, Pakistan Association for Eastern Medicine and Faculty of Eastern Medicine, Hamdard University, Karachi. It aims to discuss Unani Medicine: Past, Present and Future. The participants will be from Universities, Institutions: Conventional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Health Care Institutions: Primary, secondary and Tertiary, Industries of Unani Medicine and Ministries of Health, Education, Food and Agriculture.

I take this opportunity to invite you to be a Speaker at this event and enrich the participants with your valuable inputs on "Unani Medicine: Past, Present and Future". I look forward to hearing soon from you about your availability as speaker at the Conference latest by November 15th Tuesday, 2016 positively. The lodging and boarding arrangement will be made by the organization committee. With regards,

Prof. Dr. Ghazala H. Rizwani,
Chairperson, Organizing Committee,
4th Hamdard International Conference on
Unani Medicine 2017
Email: paem.info@gmail.com or
FEM.conference@hamdard.edu.pk

Note: The above conference is an initiative of the Chancellor Ms. Sadia Rashid and Vice Chancellor Prof. Hakim Abdul Hannan of Hamdard University.

Indian delegates can contact Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, Vice President, International Association for Unani Medicine, at Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh.

Avicenna Pharmacology Quiz

It is intended to organize Pharmacology Quiz for Undergraduate MBBS / BDS/ BUMS students every year in the end of January with the support of alumni (passed-out PGs from the Dept. of Pharmacology, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh). The Quiz, based on Pharmacology discipline, would help UG students to take interest and to learn more about the subject. There will be three prizes. Initially, the first prize will carry a cash award of INR 4000; the second prize of INR 3000 and the third prize of INR 2000. It is requested to circulate this information for wide publicity among all undergraduate students.

For more information, please contact: Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Coordinator, Dept. of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India.
Email: rahmansz@yahoo.com

FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Alan J. Magill Fellowship

Applications are invited for the Alan J. Magill Fellowship \$50,000 - Open Only To Low/Low-Middle Income Country ASTMH Members.

Alan J. Magill Fellowship was launched and created in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to honour the life, example and legacy of Alan J. Magill, MD, FASTMH, a widely recognized and respected leader in the global tropical medicine community. In keeping with the prominent roles displayed throughout Alan

Magill's life, the Magill Fellowship will provide funding of \$50,000 for a period up to two years to one recipient. It will support mentorship, career and/or leadership development projects for early- to mid-career ASTMH members in low/low-middle income countries focusing on leadership development in tropical medicine. It stipulates that the selected Magill Fellow will work closely with a mentor (ideally an ASTMH member, but not required) who will play a prominent role in developing and executing the Fellow's two-year plan of activities. While the award will recognize achievement in tropical medicine, it is not intended to extend current research or clinical activities. Instead, it is designed to support career-broadening experiences to enhance professional development and leadership opportunities beyond those traditionally available from within the applicant's home organization and in so doing, equip awarders to later assume leadership and roles of mentors for various aspects of tropical medicine.

For further details, review Call for Concept Papers here:

www.astmh.org/ASTMH/media/Documents/ASTMH-Alan-Magill-Fellowship-Application-Guidelines-2017-FINAL.pdf.

Deadline for submission is February 1, 2017 (www.internationalgme.org).

DOCUMENTATION

Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman and Ibn Sina Academy

A feature article by Alim Naqvi, entitled, —Hakim Syed Zillur Rahmarand Ibn Sina Academyll was published in the Avadhnama, Aligarh/Lucknow Edition on 25.12.2016.

Legacy of Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman

Few admirers of the President of Ibn Sina Academy, Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, established an Institute after his name namely "Syed Zillur Rahman

Institute for Research in Unani Medicine" in Kithore (Meerut). The Institute was formally inaugurated on 13.11.2016 in the presence of large number of locals and Unani Physicians of the city including also from Hapur, Meerut and Muzzafarnagar. The Institute is presently having a section on Hifzane Sehat (Community Medicine), Moalijat (Matab Hakim Wajid Mahmudi /OPDs) and a Central library with Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman Corner. Source: Dainik Jagran (Meerut Dehat) dated 14.11.2016.

The Ibn Sina Academy and Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman

I write this letter to express my appreciation and thanks to the Ibn Sina Academy, particularly Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman Saheb. In November 2016, I visited the Academy to learn from Zillur Rahman Saheb and to study the manuscripts in his Academy's collection.

I am a PhD. student studying history of Unani Tibb under the advisor-ship of Professor Michael Cook, at Princeton University in the United States. My research focuses on the Indian reception of the manuscripts of Najib al-Din al-Samarqandi (d. 1222) and his commenters, including Nafis bin 'Iwad al-Kirmanī (fl. 1437) and Muhammad Akbar Arzani (fl. 1700). Much of what I study can be found outside the main text - the *Hâshiya*, or marginal note, the stamps and seals of ownership, and the receipts of manuscript sale, often within the first few pages of the manuscript itself. In addition to these notes, the colophons of these manuscripts can inform me when, where, and sometimes even by whom the copy was transcribed. These notes paint a picture of the ways in which the texts were read and taught, how they were understood, and who was reading them and using them for study.

The development of Unani medicine in India has a long history. By studying these notes, I am better able to understand and

explain development of Unani Tibb through the eyes of its students, teachers, practitioners, and, even, admirers --- all those who in some way or other came into contact with manuscripts and, therefore, influenced Unani Tibb in India.

At Ibn Sina Academy, I studied a number of manuscripts. These included Najib al-Din al-Samarqandi's *Qarabadin*, which is his medical formulary based on the ailments mentioned in his medical encyclopedia, *al-Asbab wa al-'Alamat*; Muhammad Akbar Arzani's *Tibb-i Akbar*, a commentary based on Nafis b. 'Iwad al-Kirmani's commentary on *al-Asbab wa al-'Alamat*; and Hakim Sharif Khan's *Hashiya Sharh Asbab*, or *Fawa'id Sharifia*, and *Kashf al-Ishkalat*, two other supra-commentaries also based on al-Kirmani's *Sharh al-Asbab wa al-'Alamat*.

Access to the manuscripts and the many published works on Unani Tibb is extremely essential for my research. I wish to thank Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman for allowing me to use his collections. Ibn Sina Academy in Aligarh is a wonderful resource for anyone studying history of medicine in the Islamic world, and I was thrilled to be given the chance to work with the manuscripts Zillur Rahman Saheb has, in order to further both my studies and my research.

As a Fulbright-Nehru Researcher for 2016-2017, I live in Delhi, and I am affiliated with Jamia Hamdard. However, I spend much of my research time travelling around to various manuscript collections throughout India to track down the Indian manuscripts of Najib al-Din al-Samarqandi and his commentators. My research grant allows me to carry out this work in India for a total of nine months. So far, through my travels and library visits, I've met a diverse number of people, each with their own understanding of India, Unani medicine, and the ways the two interact in Indian society. Everyone has been extremely welcoming and interested in my

research, and my experiences at Ibn Sina Academy in Aligarh are a microcosm of my experiences in India on the whole. Thank you, Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman and Ibn Sina Academy. I appreciate you opening your doors to this humble research scholar who wants only to learn from the rich cultural history this country has to offer.

Very Sincerely, Deborah Schlein,
Fulbright-Nehru Student Researcher,
2016-2017, Ph.D. Candidate, Near
Eastern Studies, Princeton University,
USA

My Impressions after visiting the Ibn Sina Academy

Today, Tuesday, the 29th of November 2016, I came to Aligarh from Delhi to pay my homage to the great man Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. On top of this or a part of this visit was to pay my appreciation to the Museum of Ibn Sina Academy.

I arrived at the door around 11 am and looked around for any information. I pushed the door and came in. My fate had something else in store for me. I met Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, who was ready to leave the building. He was kind enough to offer me a lift with him; this apparently small gesture was going to change my life for good. He showed his massive collection of books, some of them very rare. If the library didn't blow me away, then the museum could do even better. At Ibn Sina Academy, I have seen none of its kind and unique collection.

I have been very lucky to visit many museums in Europe, Asia and Africa but this private collection topped the list just because it is a one man show. With dedication, hard work and persistence, Professor Zillur Rahman has created this gem for future generations, but it doesn't mean that we should forget the dedication of this renowned scholar yet a simple looking man.

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Vol. 17, No. 1, January – March 2017

I wish, if all of us could do or add something to our community then it will create many Zillur Rahmans in future.

Wishing you all the best,
Zaigham Abbas, Dublin, Ireland

Email from Shireen Hamza

"Dear Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman Sahib, Thank you for allowing me to view the Library of the Ibn Sina Academy last weekend. It is truly astounding, and it is an invaluable resource to historians of medicine. I have every intention of returning in the coming years, when I have defined a dissertation project. It was a great honour and pleasure to meet you, even briefly. My sincere apologies for the inconvenience I caused you due to my miscommunication regarding my accommodations in Aligarh.

I wonder, if it is possible for me to order some of your books, while I am in Lucknow. I am here until August 13. Particularly, I would like a copy of *Âîna- e Tarikh-e Tibb*, if possible, but also your book on Ibn Sina's *Canon and its Commentators*. Please let me know if this will be possible.

My sincere gratitude and best wishes,
Shireen Hamza, Ph.D. Student, History of Science, Harvard University, B.A. Rutgers University

A brief write-up on coins collections preserved at Ibn Sina Academy

Reporter from Aligarh wrote a story on coins collection preserved at Ibn Sina Academy at the juncture when Government of India announced INR 500 and 1000 currency note legally tendered (Demonetization of INR 500 and 1000). It was published in the daily newspaper, *Hindustan* (Aligarh Edition) on 19.12.2016.

New Lights on Block Printing in Medieval Islam

Great efforts were made by scholars who highlighted the history of block printing in

Medieval Islam. But more can be added, depending on any new items which can come up at any time. This humble paper tries to contribute to the subject by presenting the following items:

(1) Correction of misunderstanding Ibn al-Abbār's statement.

(2) Correction of an erroneous statement in *al-Iḥāṭah* by Ibn al-Khaṭīb.

(3) If we exclude the previous statements of Ibn al-Abbār Ibn al-Khaṭīb, we still have clear uncontroversial statements from medieval Islam about block printing. The word *ḥirs* or *ḥarsh* in two poems and explaining its meaning by medieval Arab authors, and the event of printing paper money in Tabriz, Persia in 1294, are examples. Here I present a new statement for the first time, from a *ḥisba* (market inspection) treatise.

(4) Another new statement is presented from a treatise on sleight of hand.

(5) The words *ḥirs* and *ḥarsh* and which one of them is related to amulet block printing.

(6) Two events of paper money in Damascus, one century before the Tabriz event.

(7) Schaefer (2014) presented a metal amulet or Arabic printing block, which is now in Glasgow Museum Resource Centre, as a single artifact on this subject. I add to that three pieces made of steel.

(8) A fine and complete amulet scroll with polychrome block print is kept in the David Collection, which was not mentioned in the Schaefer's (2006) thorough list.

The above full-length paper (in English) appeared in the periodical *Ālam al-Makḥṭūṭāt wa'l Nawādir* (manuscripts and rare world items).

www.islamicmanuscripts.info/reference/articles/Gari-2013-BlockPrinting.pdf

Submitted by Lutfallah GARI, Editor of the periodical.

Email: makhtoot1996@gmail.com.

Catalogue of Indian Astronomical Instruments

I am preparing A Descriptive Catalogue of Indian Astronomical Instruments which are extant in different museums and private collections and making it available on-line. Two series A (Indo-Persian astrolabes by the Lahore Family) and B (Indo-Persian astrolabes by others) are already on-line.

I have now added three series C (Sanskrit astrolabes with multiple plates), D (Sanskrit astrolabes with single plates) and E (astrolabes reworked in Sanskrit). You may access this Catalogue by visiting my homepage at <www.SRSarma.in> and then by clicking on "Catalogue of Indian Astronomical Instruments" in the menu. There you will get an option either to view it on-line or to download a pdf file.

Submitted by: S. R. Sarma (formerly Professor of Sanskrit, Aligarh Muslim University), present address: Höhenstrasse 28, 40227 Düsseldorf Germany.

The editor is very thankful to Prof. Sarma for sending this information. This work is actually a master piece, on which Sarma Saheb has been working since decades. For collecting thorough information about the astrolabes and other instruments of Indian makers, Sarma Saheb has visited all museums and private collections in India, and almost all museums of Europe and America. I congratulate him for completing this unique work. Being associated with him for decades, I know personally, how much energy and time he invested for collecting such a wealth of information, cf. also p.3 in this issue. Last but not the least, I congratulate him personally from the core of my heart and wish him health and happiness (S.M. Razaullah Ansari).

Release of Book

Journey of Faith by Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi, Edited by Professor Akhtarul Wasey and Professor Abdur Raheem Kidwai, was released by Hon'ble Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India at Conference Hall, Vice President's House, Maulana Azad Road, New Delhi, on December 9, 2016.

Large number of teachers and scholars from Aligarh and elsewhere were invited to attend the ceremony. Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman (President, Ibn Sina Academy) and Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy) also attended the function.

Professor Abdur Raheem Kidwai, who is also a member of Executive Committee of Ibn Sina Academy, deserves all appreciation for this noteworthy work on his maternal grandfather Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi. The book is published by Shipra Publications, Delhi, and hence played significant role in its release.

The Museum of Ibn Sina Academy has a special gown worn by Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi when he was conferred D. Litt. by Aligarh Muslim University.

OBITUARY

Professor Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui breathed his last on 28 November 2016 at his residence Ahmad Nagar, Civil Lines, Dodhpur, Aligarh. He is survived by his wife Rashida Begum, two sons Arshad and Asad and a daughter Shaista and was buried in the University Graveyard (Minto-E).

It was a life dedicated to relentless pursuit of knowledge and learning. Professor Siddiqui was born in April 1937, in the district Bijnore in Western U.P. Having enjoyed more than fifty years of professional career, full of academic accomplishments, his researches has changed scholarly perception of medieval

India. An erudite scholar and a versatile scholar who could speak on issues as wide-ranging as the age of classical Islam, early Muslim settlements in Sindh and Gujarat to Aligarh Movement with ease and confidence. Similarly, through his articulation he could engage the learned audience on subjects as diverse as Abul Fazl's idea of sovereignty to Sayyid Ahmad Khan's interpretation of Prophet's biography with equal persuasiveness. His major publications on medieval India are to be found in every library of India as well as Europe and the U.S. Some of his recent publications which embodied his earlier researches as well have become classics of medieval Indian history, almost essential reference works for any professional historian concerned with Islam in medieval South Asia or South Asian Islam as a part of universal history. His proficiency in Indo-Persian sources placed him on surer grounds in any meaningful interpretation of medieval Indian history, were it to be historiography, Sufism, architecture, nature of politics or literary culture, art and aesthetic. His ideas which spanned allusion to the movement of earth in the poems of Amir Khusrau Dehlawi to Ziauddin Barani on experiments of Muhammad bin Tughlaq were well-received in academic circles. More recently he started writing on Mughal nobleman Abdur Rahim Khan-i-Khanan's contribution in the realm of administration, politics, war and literature which he felt had remained neglected so far. His earlier publication on the rise of Afghan power in India entitled *Afghan Despotism in India*, (Aligarh, 1969) became foundational work as soon as it was published by so-called Three Men Publication, then a little known publishers in the Shamsad Market Aligarh, thus defying the so called idea of an international publication. It was only a chance and recognition of his scholarship that he was approached by the publishers like Viva Books and his name for the emerging publication houses like Primus Publishers (Delhi) became a signature, a

logo like the great Sultanate monument Qutb Minar is for our capital city Delhi. A blessed person indeed, he despite his immense scholarly fame led a quiet and peaceful life, totally away from any official hustle and bustle. Until a few days back, he was seen buying essential items for his family's needs from the nearby market which was a routine work for the aging scholar. All of us are going to miss our teacher who was always there to solve any doubts on the issues which we as beginners and novices in medieval Indian history felt from time to time. He was there to discuss with us on anything whether our query was related to the intellectual contribution and identity of great Islamic scholar and polymath Al-Biruni for whom he had immense admiration or Ibn Batuta's visit to India and his perception of India's courtly life and culture. His works will continue to inspire generations of scholars across the globe in future also. His appreciation of Barani's ideas of significance of time in history, calling it catalyst of change, creator of new conditions, that time changes every moment and that with it circumstances also change. (Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui, *Indo-Persian Historiography to the Fourteenth Century*, (Enlarged edition), Primus Books, Delhi, 2014, The first edition entitled *Indo-Persian Historiography up to the Thirteenth Century* was published in 2010) will serve as foundation for further research. May his soul rest in peace.

He was a very good friend of Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman for the last 50 years. They worked together in Delhi before their joining Aligarh Muslim University. After the establishment of Ibn Sina Academy, he presented many books to the Library of the Academy and attended most of the functions here quite regularly (Ed.)

(Inputs provided by Prof. Gulfishan Khan)

NISA is an official quarterly newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences, which is registered under Indian Trusts Act 1882 & designated as "Centre of Excellence" by Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India.

The news items, small notices or short communication on informative researched topics for publication should be sent at least four weeks prior to next issue and whenever possible through e-mail (Microsoft Word), accompanied by a hard copy.

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Copies are free to members of the Academy, also available for \$ 20.00 / Rs. 150/- per annum to non members and institutions

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Print at: Muslim Educational Press, Aligarh, India

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