

JAUHAR

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LIFE ON THE MARGINS

Jamia highlights the travails of people in strife-torn regions of India, through a series of seminars and exhibitions on human rights

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ABOUT THE COVER PHOTOGRAPH

The cover photograph by Kausiki Sarma features Ms Chalailiu, Jalukie, Peren district, Nagaland. In the year 1995, her 12-year-old son Kephudaubo was shot dead inside a stationary bus during an army raid, even as he was watching a film.

The photograph was taken during a year-long study on the Impact of Armed Conflict in Assam and Nagaland, conducted by the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research in 2009-10, supported by the Heinrich Boll Foundation. This, and other photographs were taken during the making of the documentary film, *A Measure of Impunity*. The photographs were part of the exhibition on North-east, held at Jamia Millia Islamia last year.

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Maulana Mohamed Ali 'Jauhar'
Founder, Jamia Millia Islamia

From the Vice-Chancellor

So much happens every semester that I find it difficult to mention all activities in this brief space. Jamia held its Annual Convocation conferring Honoris Causa on noted Cardiologist Dr Ashok Seth. In the same week, the University observed its 92nd Foundation Day, which saw performances by Ustad Zila Khan and a unique performance of Whirling Dervishes from Turkey.


We announced the admission process for courses under META University, as also credit transfer at post-graduate level. During a visit to York University, Toronto, Jamia signed a MoU with that University for academic exchange programmes. Continuing with its new initiatives, Jamia look a major leap in the area of Nanotechnology, developing a unique facility on the synthesis of Single Wall Carbon Nanotube. The facility would fabricate emerging nanoscale electronic devices and circuits in its labs.

At the personal initiative of Mrs Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the UPA, the University was granted ₹ 26 crore for building a new hostel for girls and we remain grateful for this. The new hostel will be able to accommodate 400 girl students.

Staying with our commitment towards social sensitivity and awareness, the University organised a memorial on the 10th Anniversary of the Gujarat riots with noted social activist Teesta Setalvad. This involved a photo exhibition and lectures from noted personalities such as Dr Romila Thapar, Dipankar Gupta, Subhashini Ali, Shiv Visvanathan and others.

Jamia students continued to win laurels such as winning the Delhi Heritage Quiz 2012. Students of the AJK Mass Communication Research Centre screened their films at a special session at the International Film Festival in Goa.

The University continues in its commitment to maintain this tempo in the next semester.


Najeeb Jung
Vice-Chancellor



THE PEACE PLANK

Year 2012 sees Jamia raising the banner of peace, justice and human rights for affected communities across the country

Can a university be a ground for the change that we desire in our society? Can it aspire to be a harbinger of peace and justice? Well, the answer ought to be in the affirmative, considering that universities are where the youth is getting trained to take over responsibilities of society in various roles and capacities. Proper sensitisation of students at this stage will enable them to analyse the problems in all its dimensions before coming to conclusions, when they take over the reins. This perhaps would have been the thought process as Jamia, in its current academic year, set about sensitising its students to human rights issues across the country.

“We believe that violation of human rights is a combination of lack of respect for law and Constitution, and the prevalence of communalism, casteism and regionalism. And universities like

Jamia must sensitise their students to be at the forefront in understanding and helping resolve these issues,” Najeeb Jung, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, said, as he led a march for human rights in the North-east on October 3. The march had been jointly organised by Jamia’s Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research and Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women’s Studies to bring to light the worsening human rights condition in the region.

Jung’s faith in the power of peace initiatives was well placed. The peace march, an extension of Gandhi Jayanti, set the ambience for a three-day workshop on ‘Human Rights in the North-east of India’ jointly organised by the two centres. Partic-

My wish for the country: Students of Jamia tying strips of paper with their wishes scribbled on them, at the event Memorial to a Genocide: Gulberg Gujarat 2002-2012

ipants through the three days, both students and faculty, were from myriad disciplines as dispersed as Law, Geography, Physics and Computer Science.

Sanjoy Hazarika, Director, Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, said the objective was to involve students from Jamia because people still don’t know about issues. “While the peace march is intended as a visual expression, the workshop is intended to familiarise participants with the complexities of the region,” he said. Bulbul Dhar-James, Director, Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women’s Studies, said they were expecting sensitivity and solutions from participants not just from the North-east but other parts of India too, “because we want to do away with the sense of exclusion”.

The sanctity of life

The peace march ended at the MF Husain Art Gallery, where an exhibition of photographs by women photographers from the North-east was showcased as a visual projection of the situation. The following interactive sessions of the workshop focussed on poverty, migrants, laws and lawlessness and vulnerability of women in conflict zones. Role-play as a tool for conflict transformation by specialist in development theatre Jaya Iyer was illustrative of the situation of conflict.

Chamal Lal, former DGP, Nagaland, and former Special Rapporteur, National Human Rights Commission, said that human rights had come into public consciousness in a very negative manner and even the general public believed that in the context of terrorism it was very difficult to maintain human rights. “There has to be some sanctity to the dignity of a human being. There are ways to deal with criminals but they can’t be deprived of human dignity. Human rights is the essence of rule of law and rule of law is the essence of democracy,” he said.

The workshop was part of a larger plan of Jamia to bring to light the conflicts and human rights situation in a number of regions across the country. Ever since the academic session commenced in July 2012, there have been major seminars on the state of Assam, the Maoist-affected regions, and recently, in association with activist Teesta Setalvad’s Citizens for Justice and Peace, a hair-raising exhibition recounting the lives of survivors of the Gujarat carnage of 2002, accompanied by a seminar.

Not to forget

Setalvad’s Citizens for Justice and Peace collaborated with Jamia in organising a series of

programmes around ‘Memorial to a Genocide: Gulberg Gujarat 2002-2012’ on Jamia campus, which included a photo retrospective, statistics, missing person’s wall and a seminar on the theme ‘In Pursuit of Justice: Media and the Law’.

Memorials are constructed after wars, usually by victors, so why a memorial reminding everyone of a genocide? Setalvad explained that the exhibition encapsulated 10 years of resistance and was a way of sustaining the struggle. Besides, it was also a way of not letting the society forget.

The exhibition had photographs depicting the life of survivors in difficult conditions, but more chillingly, it had a missing persons’ wall, in which details of hundreds of persons (with or without their photograph) were posted on a huge wall of the MF Husain Art Gallery, signifying the extent of loss.

The event commenced with the gathering lighting candles outside the gallery. Students also wrote their wish for a peaceful world on strips of paper and tied it to a string.

Historian Romila Thapar, who inaugurated the exhibition, said that there was an increasing focus on community identity and *asmita* rather than Indianness among the countrymen. She urged that secularism should not only mean co-existence of all religions, but that today we should return to the original meaning, wherein human rights of all communities are respected by the State.

Other speakers on the occasion said that “memory is a moral responsibility” and that “Gujarat-2002 is a tragedy that must never be forgotten”.

Historian Mukul Kesavan discussed something akin to this theme — forgiveness. He said that as time stretched and nothing happened, the middle class started believing it was time to move on, time for healing.

“The precedent of the South African process was bizarrely used to argue that we need healing, without going through the justice process,” he said, and clarified that the South African example was irrelevant because the healing process there happened after transition to majority rule, and once the victims were in power, in a position of strength.

A major initiative that the University is planning is to set up a Human Rights Cell, on the line of what Simon Wiesenthal did at the end of World War II.

He asserted that victims are the only people who are entitled to forgive, and that unearned forgiveness betrays victims. "It subverts everybody who has struggled for justice."

Noted activist Harsh Mander also dwelt upon the importance of justice. He said, "Contrary to what a lot of people believe, justice is of great value to survivors. Many do compromise, but many others have fought despite great hardships. What motivates them? One answer is: just the sense of betrayal. But most importantly, they see it as their duty to their children, thinking, 'if we don't resist, our children will see what we have seen.'"

In order that ordinary citizens get justice, he suggested the introduction of the notion of dereliction of duty as a serious crime, calling for five years of punishment.

Women in the front seat

In a separate talk, organised jointly by the Outreach Programme and Jamia Discussion Forum, former MP Subhashini Ali spoke on 'Communal Riots and Women'. She described the varying roles played by women in Gujarat in the last 10 years, from common women victims, who, despite their backwardness, persevered in the face of all kinds of threats and allurances to give evidence; to gutsy women like Teesta Setalvad and Mallika Sarabhai who have shown the courage to take on the Modi administration and who have not let the country forget the atrocities; to Jyotsna Yagnik, the judge who delivered the verdict on the Naroda Patiya killings, showing great sagacity in analysing the case threadbare; to Maya Kodnani, who despite being a gynaecologist, incited violence. She expressed sadness that the result of communal violence is that struggle for women's rights takes a back seat, as other issues become more important for a family and community.

Food for peace thought

The Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace & Conflict Resolution, Jamia, organised a national conference on the theme 'Central India: Towards Conflict Resolution' in September end. The conference aimed at arriving at peace strategies for tackling the Maoist problem in Central India.

Swami Agnivesh highlighted the problems being faced in the peace process in which he is a significant participant. It emerged that the State is also reluctant to go down the peace route.

Dr Binayak Sen, noted human rights defender, educated the audience on the "silent famine" that is

underway in India in terms of nutrition deficit for most of the people, in particular tribal communities.

Nitin Pai from the conservative think tank Takshashila Institution, gave out the structural and governance shortfalls that need to be tackled, if normalcy is to return. Gautam Navlakha was frank in his view that State suppression had led to the problem in the first place. Therefore, if the problem is to be resolved, the first step would be to reverse the suppressive template.

Prof Haragopal, a negotiator who was active in arranging the release of kidnapped deputy collector of Sukma district, stressed that the neoliberal



The power of symbolism: Jamia Vice-Chancellor Najeeb Jung and historian Romila Thapar lighting candles at the exhibition on Gujarat

economic paradigm had exacerbated the problem. He was of the view that the Maoists were amenable to talks. The State should therefore be responsive and alleviate the condition of the tribals.

Fact-finding

A major initiative that Jamia is planning is to set up a Human Rights Cell, on the lines of what Simon Wiesenthal did at the end of World War II, to document the Holocaust atrocities and bring culprits to book. On similar lines, the Cell being planned at Jamia will research, compile and document all acts of human rights violation and atrocities in any part of the country, and the data thus created can be used by organisations to take up the fight for justice.

The Jamia Teachers' Solidarity Association has already compiled a report dealing with innocent people who were jailed on charges of sedition and terrorism only to be released by the courts for lack of evidence.

A cardiologist, a Doctor of Letters

Chief of Cardiology, Fortis Group of Hospitals, awarded DLitt at Jamia's annual convocation

Dr Ashok Seth, Chairman of Cardiovascular Sciences, Chief of Cardiology and Chairman of Cardiology Council at the Fortis Group of Hospitals, was conferred Doctor of Letters (Honoris Causa) by Jamia Millia Islamia on November 22.

Dr Seth has contributed significantly to the growth of interventional cardiology in India. He was involved in the establishment of Escorts Heart Institute, where he served from 1988 to 2004. Dr Seth has performed one of the highest number of angiographies and angioplasties in the world, and finds mention in the *Limca Book of Records*. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2003.

Lt Gen (Retd) MA Zaki, Chancellor of Jamia, conferred the Doctor of Letters upon him. Addressing the graduating students of Jamia, Dr Seth said, "Science and technology have mesmerised us. We think we are rational, whereas we can't create a single human cell... There is a need to combine spirituality and science. We need to live for humanity."

Vice-Chancellor Najeeb Jung described Jamia's endeavours on three fronts in the last few years: 1) diversifying its disciplinary infrastructure; 2) expanding its student facilities; and 3) building its profile both in the Indian public sphere and abroad.



'Heart'ening news: Dr Seth receiving the *Honoris Causa* from Jamia Chancellor Lt Gen Zaki

The University awarded 4,179 degrees and diplomas for the academic year 2010-11. It awarded PhD degrees to 204 research scholars, and 147 gold medals to toppers of various courses.

The video proceedings of the programme were webcast live on the Jamia website, www.jmi.ac.in, for the first time.

Jamia's credit transfer system at PG level

Jamia Millia Islamia has introduced a Credit Transfer System at the post-graduate level across faculties, departments and centres.

The Credit Transfer System allows the students to opt for courses at the post-graduate level cutting across disciplines and faculties, which will bring greater diversity and flexibility in the academic programmes of the University. Jamia is one of the few institutions in the country to have introduced a Credit Transfer System at the post-graduate level.

For instance, a student doing MA in any department of the Faculty of Humanities & Languages can now choose courses in other departments of

the Faculty of Humanities & Languages, Faculty of Social Sciences as well as various centres such as Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies, Centre for Dalit & Minorities, Centre for Peace & Conflict Resolution, Centre for Culture, Media and Governance, Centre for Study of Comparative Religion and Civilization, etc.

The idea is to promote interdisciplinary study by giving students a wider choice of subjects. This will enable them not only to acquire holistic knowledge and a better understanding of the social universe around them, but also help them evolve as better citizens.

Needed, new ideas at 92

As Jamia Millia Islamia turns 92, Vice-Chancellor Najeeb Jung calls for a revolution in its teaching-learning systems



Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, commenced its 92nd Foundation Day celebrations on October 29, with IM Kadri, a renowned architect and an alumnus of Jamia Millia Islamia, and Najeeb Jung, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia, reviewing a Guard of Honour by NCC Cadets of the University, followed by a flag-hoisting ceremony and the rendition of Jamia's anthem.

Kadri, who studied at Jamia's school for four

years till 1940, and was returning to the place after 72 years, said, "It was a different Jamia then." He referred to the few buildings that Jamia had then, and the surrounding fields where students used to play. (Also see *Reminiscences on page 22*)

Remembering the origins of Jamia, Vice-Chancellor Najeeb Jung said that at the back of mind of the founding fathers of Jamia would have been the thought of a revolution, but wondered, "Have we been able to create a revolution?" He reminded the gathering that revolutions are created by the spirit of the people, not through grants to build more buildings and labs. He wished for a day when Jamia would be able to recreate the spirit of 1920. Ruing the lack of ideas and intellectual leadership among Muslims today, he urged the students of Jamia to break free of limitations and create their own paths, guided by mind and heart, not by others.

As is the practice in Jamia, the responsibility of conducting the celebrations was that of students of Jamia Middle School, and they conducted the event in chaste Urdu.

The Foundation Day celebration also saw a Sufiana Kalam performance by Ustad Zila Khan on the evening of October 29.

The Foundation Day celebrations came to an end on October 30 with a performance by a visiting group of Whirling Dervishes from Turkey called 'Konya Turkish Tasawwuf Music Ensemble'. 🕉



The path ahead: (Above) IM Kadri receiving the Guard of Honour on the Foundation Day; (top) Whirling Dervishes from Turkey performing on the occasion.

'Muslims have realised their political power'

Vice-Chancellor Najeeb Jung traces the origins of 'minority' sentiment among Muslims

Who are Indian Muslims? At what point in the last 1,000 years did India's Muslims become a minority? Did they perceive themselves as a minority throughout history in India or did this change come about through time and circumstances? These questions were sought to be answered by Najeeb Jung, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, at Jamia on October 30. Jung was delivering a lecture on 'Evolution of Muslims in India' under the Prof Mohd Mujeeb Memorial Lecture 2012, organised by Dr Zakir Husain Institute of Islamic Studies, Jamia. Eminent journalist and former MP Kuldeep Nayar presided over the programme.

Jung said, "The times of Muslim rule are best reflected by the writings of poets of the time rather than historians themselves." He drew upon the poets Amir Khusrau, Mirza Ghalib, Akbar Allahabadi and Mohd Iqbal to depict the Muslim thought process, and how there was a shift from Khusrau's times of *Nuh Sipahr*, when Muslims enjoyed India, fought for it and died for it during the repeated Mongol invasions; to the times of Ghalib, when there was a sense of loss at the end of an age after 1857; to Akbar Allahabadi, when there was the drifting apart of Hindus and Muslims after the Khilafat Movement; to the final phase of Muslim evolution before Partition, as represented by Iqbal.

He quoted the famous speech of Maulana Azad at Jama Masjid on October 28, 1947, to highlight the fact that though Muslims had won a homeland, they had got nothing: "When the bitter political games of the last seven years were at peak, I tried to wake you at every danger signal. You not only ignored my call but revived all the past traditions of neglect and denial."

Recalling the difficulties that the Muslims who were left behind had to face, Jung took the gathering through post-Independence history — the staunch secular attitude of Nehru in the face of the rightist leanings of his colleagues, the rise of Hindu fundamentalism, and the violence following Babri Masjid's demolition, the Mumbai blasts and Gujarat carnage. But he added, "Despite a spate of Je-



National concerns: Journalist-activist Kuldeep Nayar with Najeeb Jung at the talk on 'Evolution of Muslims in India'

hadi attacks in various parts of India and attempts to disturb peace, there has been relative calm in the last eight years."

He expressed satisfaction that the Government of India is making the right noises about the living standard of Muslims and committees appointed by the Government are suggesting means to address their weak condition. He added, "The Muslims themselves have realised their political power. In almost one-third of the seats in the lower house of Parliament, Muslim vote can make the difference between winning and losing. The Muslims have gradually understood the value of tactical voting."

In his remarks, Nayar said that India has managed diversity of faiths so well because of a sense of accommodation, but that is what is lessening today, adding, "We are not tolerating much today." He reminded the Muslim community, "You are as much an Indian, as much a part of this country. The Constitution gives you all rights. Ask for your rights."

A book comprising the Urdu translation of the English writings of Najeeb Jung, titled *Fikr-o-Aaghai* (Thoughts and Vision), edited and compiled by Prof Akhtarul Wasey, Director, Dr Zakir Husain Institute of Islamic Studies and published by Maktaba Jamia, was also released by Nayar. 🕉

Space for students

Meira Kumar inaugurates a girls' hostel, as Jamia receives grant of ₹ 26 crore to build another

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has sanctioned a sum of ₹26 crore to Jamia Millia Islamia under the General Development Scheme (under the XIIth Plan) for the purpose of building a girls' hostel on the campus.

This is by far one of the biggest grants that the University has received from the UGC for expanding living facilities for students on campus.

Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, United Progressive Alliance, intervened and ensured that this money is sanctioned to the University at the earliest.

Under the current admission policy, 10 percent of the total number of seats in each course are reserved for women applicants who are Muslims, which means a higher enrolment of girl students in the University. Additional hostel facilities for girl students will ensure that girl students coming from different parts of the country to study at Jamia will be able to find residential accommodation on campus.

Presently, the University has five girls' hostels, which have a total capacity of over 500.

Meanwhile, Meira Kumar, Speaker of Lok Sabha,



The Sonia effect: Jamia faculty members with UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi at the AICC office in New Delhi. The faculty thanked Gandhi for her support in getting the grant of ₹26 crore for girls' hostel to Jamia sanctioned speedily

inaugurated the recently constructed Abadi Bano Begum Girls Hostel in Jamia on September 28, 2012.

As part of her visit to the University, she also released the First Annual Digest *Armughan*, published by the Department of Urdu, Jamia. She mesmerised the audience with her chaste Urdu.

Premchand's grandson visits Jamia

Alok Rai expresses his views on translation of Premchand's works at a University seminar

Premchand's grandson Alok Rai, associated with the University of Delhi, chaired the inaugural session of an International Seminar on Premchand in Translation, organised by the Department of English and Outreach Programme of Jamia.

Speaking to *Jauhar* on the occasion, he said that like his grandfather, he had close links with Jamia.

He felt that the theme of the seminar was topical, as translators often worked in isolation and did not get to share perspectives. The seminar, he felt, would provide translators an opportunity to experience sharing.

Discussing the much-debated issue of Premchand changing the names of characters when he translated his Urdu work into Hindi and vice-versa, Rai said this had to be understood in the context of the unfortunate fact that language had come to be equated with religion.



In the inaugural session, the keynote address was delivered by Vasudha Dalmia, who analysed threadbare Premchand's work *Karmabhoomi* to understand the maturing of the author's political and social thoughts, and his understanding of Gandhian ideology.

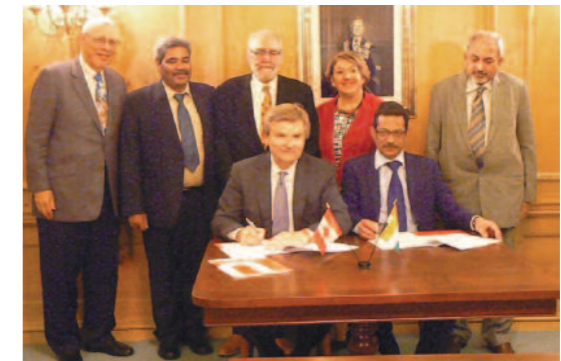
MoU with York University

The five-year tie-up provides for exchange of students and faculty

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Jamia Millia Islamia and York University to pave the way for educational tie-ups between various faculties and departments of the two universities.

On behalf of Jamia, the agreement was signed by the Registrar of the University Prof SM Sajid, while York University was represented by Patric J Monahan, Vice-President, Academic, and Provost of the York University. The agreement has been signed for a period of five years subject to the availability of funds to pursue the following goals and objectives:

- Exchange of students on a reciprocal basis
- Exchange of faculty members
- Exchange of publications and research materials, newsletters, etc
- Joint projects related to research, teaching, faculty development, etc



Maple friendship: Members of York University with the Jamia delegation at the signing of MoU

Other members of the Jamia delegation included Prof Obaid Siddiqui, Director, AJK Mass Communication Research Centre, and Prof Biswajit Das, Director, Centre for Culture, Media and Governance.

Mathematics and its applications



A one-day workshop on Mathematics and its Applications was organised by the Department of Mathematics, Jamia, on October 18, to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujam, one of the greatest mathematicians the country has produced.

The event was sponsored by the Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, and the National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad.

Entrepreneurship Club at Jamia

The E-Club will provide budding entrepreneurs both mentorship and sound guidance of experts

Jamia Millia Islamia, with the support of the National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN), has launched an E-Club (entrepreneurship Club), in order to encourage them to become entrepreneurs, rather than job-seekers, and to guide them and train them in required skills.

The club will have activities like idea evaluation workshop, business idea competition and business planning workshop, and will rope in experts from NIESBUD, AIESEC, etc., to mentor students. The club, whose patron is Prof Tasneem Meenai, Dean, Students' Welfare, has a highly motivated team of students to run the show.

On the occasion of launch, a few successful entrepreneurs shared their experiences in starting a new business. Rita Sengupta, Director, NIESBUD, described the various Government finance schemes that budding entrepreneurs can avail.

Pickwick moments

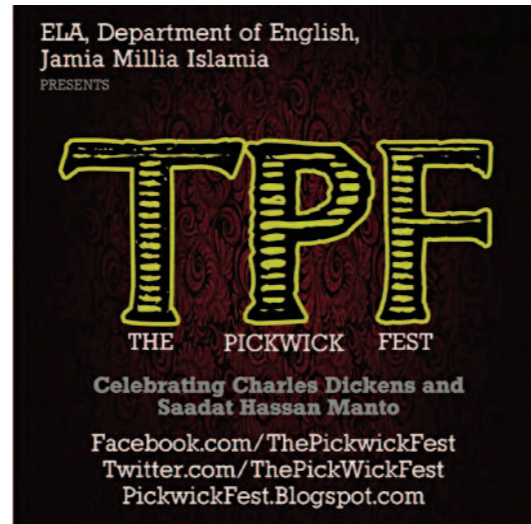
A literary festival celebrating the lives of Charles Dickens and Saadat Hasan Manto

The Department of English organised a three-day literary festival to celebrate the bi-centenary of Charles Dickens and the centenary of Saadat Hasan Manto, two literary icons whose works have and still continue to inspire people.

The three-day festival, which started on October 15, 2012, witnessed participation of students from the University of Delhi as well. Among those who graced the event were literary figures like Amandeep Sandhu, author of *Sepia Leaves* and *Roll of Honour*; Nilanjana Roy; and Palash Krishna Mehrotra, author of *The Butterfly* and *Eunuch Park*.

The festival began with the 'Picwick Panorama'. Two students of the English Department impressively donned the garb of Dickens and Manto and swayed the audience with their performances. Students brought to life Manto's works on stage and added a theatrical dimension to their academic proficiency.

The department was abuzz with activities like dramatisation, graffiti making, creative writing,



elocution, screening of *Oliver Twist*, quiz competitions and paper presentations.

The idea behind the event was to commemorate the two great masters of literature and to start a tradition of literary festivals which coming batches carry forward. ↓

Jamia in images



Exhibition of MF Husain's photographs: SAHMAT, in association with Jamia Millia Islamia, organised an exhibition of legendary artist MF Husain's photographs recently. These photographs, contributed by Husain's friends, and other individuals and organisations, portray Husain in many moods, including cooking, enjoying children's company and at work.



Protest march against killings in Gaza: Vice-Chancellor Najeeb Jung led a protest march against the Israeli attack on Gaza and the killing of innocent people, including children. A resolution was read out by the student community, which would later be submitted to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. The Faculty of Fine Arts had designed posters for the occasion.

The testimonial I never wrote

Historian **NARAYANI GUPTA** walks down the memory lane, recollects many of fond interactions with her students



Photograph by Sohail Hashmi

It was in November 2004 that I retired from Jamia. But not completely. My colleagues are friends with whom the bonds have not broken, and I enjoy hearing news of their intellectual trophies and of the little excitements like new department rooms or the luxury of the Head's room being air-conditioned.

With the scores of students who sat through my lectures, the links are more tenuous — many have moved away, and have not kept in touch with the institution where they spent a few years of their life. But when I answer the phone and hear "Ma'am, *aap theek ho?*", or when a young man or woman comes up to me smiling, saying "*Pehchana nahin?*", a warm, happy feeling suddenly wells up — and I am back in my comfortably shabby room, with its desk-drawer askew and the cupboard with a broken glass-pane which never got mended, and the open window beyond which the tall *neems* were agleam with chattering parakeets. And the corridor outside alive with students. Every now and then a face would appear at the door. "May I come in?" meant that I would have to take a deep breath, and go at slow speed through the lecture I had just given, pausing when I saw a troubled expression of incomprehension. Sometimes it took a great deal to get across an idea, a landscape, a sense of time. Soon another face would look in, and before I knew what was happening there would be a little group thinking up things to discuss, or pronounce on, or to educate me in.

We all know that the joy of teaching is that it is a two-way process. Interruptions were part of the classroom interaction. Whether it was ancient Mesopotamia, medieval French feudalism or pre-Islamic Arabia, they always looked for comparisons. As for me, "*Hamare yahan...*" was the road to learning — to visualise other ways of living, other social conventions, other landscapes. I became aware of the infinite variety of the region we knew as Bihar, its variations of language, its wide disparities of class, its

crops. My students could have equally learned what I taught them by reading good books, but what I learned from them I would not have found in any book. There were also nuggets of wisdom, “seven habits of effective people” — as when Rajiv told me solemnly, “*Main kuchh bolne se pahle sochta hoon*” — something I still have to remind myself to do.

What was it about them that made one feel good? There is a tranquillity about individuals who do not aspire endlessly, restlessly, to become richer, to own bigger cars and houses. It is the contented smiles of such people that make for happy memories: Nusrat proudly showing me her mobile-phone, passport to autonomy; Khadim, from the icelands of Kargil, bewildered by Delhi but, in time, after graduation, overjoyed at travelling the route through history to a course at the National Archives, and going on to

There is a tranquillity about individuals who do not aspire endlessly, restlessly, to become richer, to own bigger cars and houses. It is the contented smiles of such people that make for happy memories...

working with a conservation group to locate petroglyphs in the fields around his home in Ladakh; Mahfooz, delighted by an internship with the India Foundation and then when he joined Charkha as a media-coordinator; or Tariq when he decided to give up his job with a coaching institution and joined the Jamia Archives; Ajay, with his perplexed “*Ek baat samajh mein nahin aye*” and the slow relaxed smile as it finally became clear to him. Syed, who had come from distant Manipur, was defiantly bored with history lessons, but came alive when, in desperation, I asked him to write a critical essay on the reception of jazz in India, and later went on to do a research degree at JNU.

When I had told a colleague at Delhi University in 1988 that I was leaving my college to take up a job in Jamia, she seemed to feel sorry for me. “You will miss the challenge of Delhi University,” she said. But within weeks into teaching at Jamia, I had my answer. There had been little “challenge” in lecturing to students who were reasonably fluent in English, but

there was in communicating in my stilted Hindi to students whose Hindustani was a joy to hear. There were many students whose homes were in distant villages. A student from Bihar told me simply, “Ma’am, we have no books at home. My mother never learned to read”; another from Manipur had a literate mother, one who found time between working in the fields and at home to weave a beautiful sling-bag for me. All of them were eager to make the most of Delhi, to unravel the puzzles of the metropolis, happy to be given town-maps and to be guided to exhibitions and films.

That remarkable way in which teachers and students made time for each other was seen by the way Jamia shaped its students, even those who had been stamped by other universities. Nausheen Jaffrey came to Jamia after doing History Honours at a Delhi University college. A little unsure at first, she soon began to enjoy her MA classes, following up recommendations for reading, writing good essays, hesitating at the door during the lunch-break, wanting to come in for a chat. So proud of her bag of many pockets, efficiently holding all kinds of office equipment. And of the “heritage walk” she did for the girls of her college, introducing them to her part of the city. “Welcome to Shahjahanabad,” she smiled in greeting, as they filed out of the bus at Daryaganj. Later, through the terrible and uncertain months when she suffered from cancer, there was not a word of complaint. Smiling radiantly when she learned what her friends had done for her — tirelessly collecting money, contributing what they could, preparing a big get-well card with all their signatures. Nausheen left us, but she lives on in *Jahanara*, her MPhil thesis, which the Department published as a book. And in the acknowledgments in books by the scholars she helped — Ebba Koch, Margrit Pernau, Alice Albinia...

There was Sanjar, now back in Bihar, attending to his farm but, I imagine, still conjuring up polite but relentless questions as he used to. If any class ended without Sanjar having asked a tough one, one definitely felt cheated.

Our Friday seminars were well-attended and participation was animated and eager. When Professor Frederick Allchin, the renowned Cambridge archaeologist, was asked about his visit to India, he described his interaction with the Jamia students as its high point — he had much enjoyed their interest and their questions.

There were informal chats after lunch, which were dignified by the name of ‘Remedial English’, where Saif said triumphantly that he knew the meaning of “guinea-pig” — “A box shaped like a pig, with a hole



The learning curve: Jamia students from deprived backgrounds, eager to partake of learning opportunities

in its back, into which you put guineas”. And how difficult it was to explain that a guinea pig was an animal used for medical experiments, and that it was not a pig at all, but a rat... oh, the crazinesses of the English language!

In contrast to many of us who are essentially unilingual or bilingual, how easily some of them slipped from writing in one script to another — Urdu, Hindi and English — many of them also being familiar with *Arabi* and *Farsi*. Sajjad, the formidable madrasah scholar, who read everything on the reading-list, and who wrote well-argued essays, his English improving markedly with each successive one. Now in Berlin, I am sure he is as fluent in German. Raziuddin, from a family in straitened circumstances, and with a madrasah education, who went from strength to strength. Like Sajjad, his English became better by the day, retaining the economy of words and clarity of argument that his madrasah training had instilled in him. Now teaching at the University of Delhi, he has published steadily and is highly regarded. It is as though his disadvantages were a greater advantage than the advantages that our privileged environments have given many of us.

I was struck with their response to difficult situations. At a time when “communal” passions were riding high, I asked one of the students go with me to a Delhi University college so that the girls could talk to him rather than have me try to convey what it meant to be a Muslim in independent India, only to cringe when one of them asked the immaculately-dressed Sajjad, “Is it true that Muslims don’t bathe very often?” Afroz, a cheerful Bengali, a better artist than a historian, confronted with an episode of communal tension, exaggeratedly trembled with fear, at

the same time smiling at himself, saying “*Ba-ba-re*, all this communalism. *Dar lagta hai*, ma’am!” How did he do it, how did he not become inarticulate from real fear? It was so difficult for me to understand, me with my comfortable home and sense of security. And there was that terrible night when, after a fracas on the road, a posse of policemen stormed into the boys’ hostel and beat up the students who were studying for their exams, injuring many. I persuaded four of them, bandaged and still shaken, to join me as audience for a talk at the India International Centre on ‘The Police and the Community’. People looked at them curiously, even uneasily. Calmly, they described the incident and asked questions to which no-one could give answers.

After the class at the end of November 2004, when I told them it was the last lesson (in school they had all read and remembered Alphonse Daudet’s short story) they looked a little dazed. Some time later, a colleague came to my room, puzzled. The whole class had disappeared. Where were they? In a few minutes we knew. They burst into my room, bearing flowers, gifts, cards, even a little bottle of perfume, wanting to take photographs. What would we do without Archies?

So, like Mr Chips, as I recall my 16 years in Jamia I see the students — in the sunny reading-room, perched on the railings of the balconies shaded with *madhu-malati*, in serried rows at seminars — and can only hope that their endless curiosity, their eagerness to learn and, most importantly, the readiness to accommodate difference, will sustain them through life.

— Prof Narayani Gupta taught at the Department of History and Culture, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, Jamia

Powering the media revolution

Jamia's famed AJK MCRC, which was established when the electronic media boom was yet to start, is geared to meet the industry's demand for trained professionals



One of the biggest success stories that Jamia Millia Islamia has scripted is its Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication Research Centre (AJK MCRC), with its long list of illustrious alumni, from film personalities Shah Rukh Khan and Kiran Rao to mediapersons Barkha Dutt and Kunal Majumdar. Its alumni today have a standing across the mass communication world – be it feature films, documentaries, TV or print journalism.

Behind the stature that this institute has come to enjoy in its three decades of existence is the timing of its establishment, the interesting process by which its infrastructure was set up and its faculty created, and the rigour of laying down the curriculum from scratch, with an eye on industry requirements.

In 1982, when the centre was established, mass media, as we understand it today, was non-existent.

TV was in its infancy, with the state-run channel being the sole contender. In terms of training, there were a few institutes imparting quality training in mass communication – IIMC, with its focus more on print, and FTII, Pune, with its focus on film production.

In this respect, MCRC was ahead of its times, as it combined various aspects of the electronic media, including television, radio production, documentary making and traditional entertainment, and thus pre-empted the demand that was to rise in the years to come. Director Prof M Obaid Siddiqui ascribes this to the right vision of then Vice-Chancellor Anwar Jamal Kidwai, who left no stone unturned to invest the nascent institution with the best equipment and international faculty.

The MCRC was set up in collaboration with York University, Toronto (Canada), and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Under an agreement, CIDA gifted MCRC a wide range of sophisticated media equipment for its studios, editing setups and outdoor production work, while York University provided the first generation of teachers. In fact, it was the reputed documentary filmmaker Professor James Beveridge and his team who designed the course and introduced the pedagogic tools then, as there were no trained Indian faculty members available.

MCRC's first programme was an MA in Mass Communication. This programme is now set for major changes – changes that course coordinator Saumya Verma calls “key turning points”. One, the centre is shifting to digital film training, to align itself with the needs of the industry. Also, it will now offer a greater degree of specialisation in various fields like direction, editing, sound designing, production management and photography.

Besides this flagship programme, several new courses have been added in the last few years in order to provide manpower to diverse areas, including

Convergent Journalism, Development Communication, and Graphics and Animation. While Convergent Journalism is already a Master's Degree Programme, Development Communication and Graphics and Animation will be converted from Diploma to Master's Degree Programmes from the next academic session. It has also ventured into training in acting through its PG Diploma in Acting, for which it is getting practitioners from the well-developed theatre culture of Delhi.

Surhita Basu, Assistant Professor and Course Coordinator of MA in Convergent Journalism, says that the programme has been designed keeping in view the growing trend worldwide of giving preference to journalists who have a good understanding of all media – print, online, radio, photography, etc. She says the focus is not on films but on news reporting, and as part of the course, journalistic laws and ethics are also covered. Wannabe journalists are encouraged to specialise in areas such as environment, health, sports or crime.

Pragati Bhalla, Course Coordinator for PG Diploma in Development Communication, says that the course attempts to train students to understand the use and potential of traditional and contemporary media such as print, radio and video, while educating them about the specific social issues of developing countries in general and India in particular. Students are trained to formulate media strategies by designing and producing appropriate media content for dissemination and become qualified to work with developmental agencies, media setups, research and training centres and governmental and non-governmental organisations as development communication strategists and media practitioners.

Atul Sinha, who designed the course for the PG Diploma in Graphics and Animation when it started in 2007, says that the University invited top names in animation to give their inputs on the course. And the course is also run with the help of a large number of guest faculty, including a former student of this course, Kabir Verma, who recently worked on the production of *The Life of Pi*.

Like Verma, a number of alumni have returned to teach at MCRC, and Prof Siddiqui explains the reason: “Not everyone can teach here. We do hands-on training and can't take those who don't have practical knowledge. Our former students know the pedagogy.” Thus, Fathima N, Assistant Professor, Journalism, who graduated from MCRC in 2004, worked with *Times Now* and freelanced for some time before returning to MCRC as faculty. She

Covering the media spectrum

MA in Mass Communication

Two-year programme leading to a Master's degree

MA in Convergent Journalism

Two-year programme leading to a Master's degree

PG Diploma in Broadcast Technology

Self-financed full-time Diploma of one-year duration

PG Diploma in Development Communication

Self-financed full-time Diploma of one-year duration

PG Diploma in Still Photography & Visual Communication

Self-financed full-time Diploma of one-year duration

PG Diploma in Graphics and Animation

Self-financed full-time Diploma of one-year duration

PG Diploma in Acting

Self-financed full-time Diploma of one-year duration

says, “When you go out into the industry you realise the worth of MCRC and the inputs this place provides.” Similarly, Saumya, an alumna of MCRC, taught communication at IIM-Ahmedabad and at Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, and worked with *NDTV*, before returning to the MCRC fold to teach.

Of course, the exposure to international practices continues. The centre will soon introduce “practice-based research”, with the help of the University of Westminster, UK, for which it has received an UKIERI grant. The curriculum of its MA Mass Communication programme is being revised with the help of York University. The curriculum of MA Convergent Journalism is also being revised with the help of a Fulbright expert. At the time of filing this story, two mediapersons – Walter Dean from Washington and D'Arcy Doran from London – were each conducting a week-long workshop with students. Dean, describing the content of his workshop, said, “Students here have the required skills in interviewing, editing and photography. What I focused on was the decisions you make while writing a story – what all you should include or exclude.”

Looking at the success stories that MCRC students have scripted for themselves, their career decision seems sound enough. 📌



'Shuttle' service in South Korea

HAMAD BIN AZIZ represents the country at the World University Badminton Championships



Hamad Bin Aziz, a IIInd Year BCA student at Jamia Millia Islamia, became the only person from the University selected to represent Indian Universities at the 12th World University Badminton Championships, 2012, held at Gwangju, South Korea, in November.

Hamad was placed second in the national trials, and thus became part of the 10-member Indian team sent to South Korea, where they reached the pre-quarterfinal stage.

Hamad was introduced to the sport while in school by his father, who felt his child was weak and ought to build stamina through sports.

Managing academics and sports in school was tough, but in Jamia he is happy with the attendance flexibility granted to sportspersons.

The former Delhi state badminton champion seeks life outside the sports arena too. Prone to writing poetry, Hamad is also an aspiring pilot. "I was keen to train as a commercial pilot right after school, but my father nudged me to do graduation first. After graduation, I surely will," he says.

Karmaveer Puraskaar for alumnus

SHAHID SIDDIQUI has combined his concern for social issues with media activism

Shahid Siddiqui, a Jamia alumnus and a journalist-activist, has received the coveted Karmaveer Puraskaar award for his commendable work in the field of social service and media activism under the banner of Association for Community Research and Action (ACRA).

Among others who received the prestigious award were former Chief Election Commissioner SY Quraishi, film-maker Hanshal Mehta (both for their lifelong fight for social justice and action in their respective fields) and boxer and Olympic medalist Mary Kom (for using her popular status

to render more visibility to a cause for possible solutions). The awards are given every year on November 26, the National Social Justice and Citizen Action Day.

Siddiqui has done his PhD on 'Media and Marginalisation' from the KR Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies, Jamia. He is a prolific writer on current issues.

With a view to create awareness among citizens using new media, he started the Association for Community Research and Action, and posts his articles on its website www.acralive.org.

Life trail in Germany

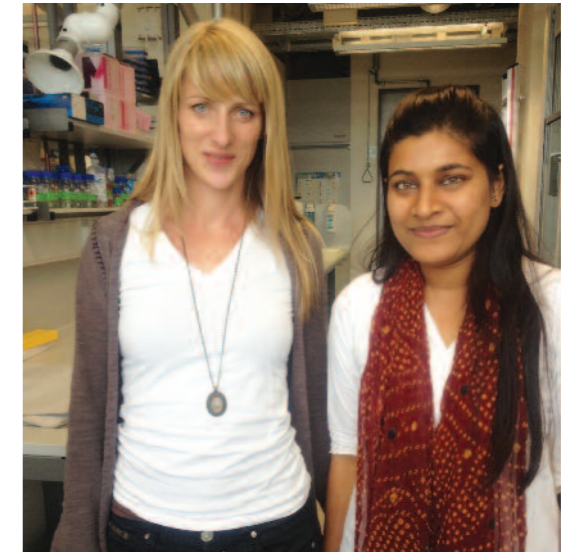
A Biosciences research scholar returns after a successful sandwich programme in Hamburg

Shamama Nishat, a PhD student from the Department of Biosciences, Jamia, spent six months at the University Hospital Eppendorf, Hamburg University, on a DAAD scholarship.

It was while she was pursuing her PhD that she got interested in undertaking a sandwich programme from an overseas university on the subject related to her topic. She did internet research, zeroed in on Hamburg University, and contacted the scientists there, requesting them to invite her. She secured a DAAD scholarship to pursue the programme.

Shamama, who worked in a team of eight people, is elated at the opportunity to learn how research is conducted in other parts of the world. "Not only was I able to achieve my study objectives, but I got to observe western culture too."

Next on the agenda is the plan to publish in association with her German supervisor.



Bio basics in Bundesland: Shamama with her supervisor at Hamburg University

Exploring dark energy

A Theoretical Physics research scholar bags a Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Ningombam Chandrachani Devi, a senior research fellow at the Centre for Theoretical Physics, Jamia, has been awarded a Post-Doctoral Fellowship of \$ 1,925 per month by Coordenação de Astronomia e Astrofísica – COAA – Brazil.

Chandrachani Devi hails from Manipur. In her doctoral research, she has studied various aspects of dark energy (late-time as well as early-time acceleration). In particular, she has been looking for the signature of dark energy on large-scale structures through galaxy number counts.

Recently, Chandrachani Devi was invited by the University of Sussex, Brighton, UK, to give a talk on 'Constraining Thawing Dark Energy Using Galaxy Number Counts'. She also got the chance to present her work at the University College London, and at Trieste in Italy.

Jamia students win Heritage Quiz

Ayush Sharma of BTech (Computer Science) IVth year and Apratim Mukhopadhyay of BTech (Electronic and Communications Engineering) IIInd year from Jamia Millia Islamia won the Delhi Heritage Quiz, organised by Indian National Trust For Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) in partnership with Delhi Tourism. They won a cash prize of ₹10,000, the winners' trophy, a large bundle of books by Indian writers, and tickets for a trip to monuments of Delhi in a luxury car, sponsored by GoCarz Advertising.

The Quiz had been organised as a part of Heritage Week being observed by INTACH from November 19 to 23, 2012.

Students of universities from Delhi, including Jawaharlal Nehru University, University of Delhi, TERI University and School of Planning and Architecture, besides a few institutions from Punjab and Haryana, had participated in the quiz.



Photograph courtesy Premchand Archives, Jamia



A blueprint for education: Jamia's first convocation in Aligarh in 1921

'Don't ever disappoint us'

The first convocation address of Jamia, in 1921, reveals that its Chancellor, Hakim Ajmal Khan, had very high expectations from the student community



Hakim Ajmal Khan, president of the Indian National Congress (1921) and a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, was a major inspiration behind the foundation of Jamia and its first Chancellor, a position he held till his death in

1927. He played a crucial role in strengthening the nascent institution, primarily by bailing Jamia out after the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation Movement ended and funds from the Khilafat Committee dried up. He spent the last years of his life and the better part of his wealth for the welfare of Jamia.

Hakim Ajmal Khan's views on the role of education in shaping lives — he had very high expectations from the students of Jamia — are still relevant, as the country sets out to mark his 150th birth anniversary. These can be discerned through the presidential address, which he delivered at Jamia's first convocation in 1921. The University, then a college, still functioned out of Aligarh. We bring to you the address, as repro-

duced in Jamia Ki Kahani, written by Abdul Ghafar Madhawi. The text has been translated by Dr Anisur Rahman, Department of English, Jamia.

"We have developed a blueprint of our education policy along the right lines. While we have tried to find ways for the nurturing of a true Muslim, we have also made efforts to inculcate patriotic fervour in the Muslim community. It has been our aim to combine the spirit of Islam with the spirit to serve the nation. We have, therefore, taken special care to maintain this balance. As such, while it is important for a Hindu student to acquaint himself with Islamic perspectives on life in general, it is equally important for a Muslim student to acquire the knowledge of Hindu culture and Hindu customs. An awareness of composite Indian nationalism is possible only with this mutual understanding of each other."

While speaking to the teachers, he said:

"Dear Brothers, you are well aware of the responsibility that Jamia bestows upon you as a teacher. Your job is not only to teach your students the prescribed lessons from a book. You may realise that

you have been endowed with a power that may be used in laying the foundations of the future edifice of Islamic brotherhood. In order to create a sound structure, it is important for you to remove the blemishes from the characters of your disciples while they study here. You are surely aware that this is not possible only with the verbal imparting of knowledge. This calls for putting the good words into practice. You will have to present yourselves as role models before your students because role models are better to emulate and learn from than the lessons printed in the pages of the books. You will have to be the examples of courtesy, sacrifice, justice, and perseverance. These examples would serve as the beacons of light for your student in the future years. I am overawed at the idea of this gigantic responsibility that you are sharing today."

Addressing the students, he laid emphasis on the real aims of education in these words:

"Dear Students, I congratulate you that you have been steadfast during these times of crisis that we and our country are passing through. I am well aware of the inconveniences you had to face so often. I am also aware that many of you are financially stressed. I know that you have been subjected to injustice at the hands of your own men. I venerate you and your unfailing spirit that sustained you and helped you stand all these tribulations. Many of you are languishing in the prisons today, but remember all these trials are momentary. If you stick to your values and if you are charged by your aspirations, you will be able to surmount all these difficulties. You know that a man may taste the real pleasures of life only if he has soaring thoughts, a lofty mission, and a broad perspective. He must share love with his fellow beings, and must consider it a mission of his life to establish the good and eradicate the evil. The worth of his aims and his innate sincerity must keep him away from the lure of the material world.

While the lack of physical facilities creates obstacles in the way of a low-spirited man, it also imparts the strong one with the ability to appreciate the importance of self-reliance. When such a man moves along this difficult path, he finds no impediments in the course of his movement. This must be true of many of you. And if it is so, you should be proud of your clear conscience, and of the freedom that you enjoy with respect to your own self.

I should like, however, to warn you against a danger. Do not ever take freedom as a license to anarchy. Real freedom makes demands. It means that a man must keep his aims before him, and he must follow a code of conduct. He must not ever equate liberty with lawlessness. In all the civilised societies of the world, especially the Islamic societies, a man's existence is but a sacred heritage or treasure which may only be used to realise the aims of the larger community. Any effort to misuse this treasure is only an act of sinful misappropriation which man is liable to answer for."

Addressing the students who were awarded degrees during the convocation, he said:

"Those of you who are getting your degrees today should not consider that you have completed your education. In fact, your education begins now. When you learn the alphabets of life in the school

"You should know that you are not meant to serve a particular group, or a community, but you are there for the service of the humanity at large."

of this world, you should not ever forget the word of truth. The dissemination of this word should be your biggest mission. If you learn something from this world, you must also teach it the ways of its salvation. You must also understand that you are entering this world as a servant and a propagator of the word of truth. You should know that you are not meant to serve a particular group, or a community, but you are there for the service of the humanity at large. This is because you stand for a kind of education that denies discrimination with respect to man's lineage and creed. You should not consider yourselves helpless for you are the descendents of one who bowed only to one God, and who did not need to bow before any other. You are the message bearers of the one who alone is the panacea for all pains. All our eyes are set on you; don't ever disappoint us".

A fan of Heinz

Architect IM Kadri witnessed the coming up of Jamia campus more than seven decades ago

Reading the fascinating story of the establishment of Jamia Millia Islamia and its growth over the years, we think of central characters of the institution — Dr Zakir Husain included — and the political leaders who were frequent visitors to this place, as distant figures, far removed from us. But there are a few fortunate individuals who have been pupils of these legendary figures, and have imbibed lessons of life straight from them. IM Kadri, noted architect, is one such figure.

Kadri hailed from Ahmedabad, where his family had a *jagir*. Of the six siblings, three were already studying in Aligarh when, at the height of the nationalist movement in 1936-37, the family decided that all the six children should study in an institution steeped in nationalist fervour, and this was how Kadri joined Jamia.

Jamia was shifting base from Karol Bagh to the present campus and new buildings, designed by German architect Karl Heinz, were coming up. Used to his *haveli* in Ahmedabad, the child found



Jamia's architecture very different, yet fascinating. "Our school was a small building, with a few classrooms. There were fields all around. One path used to lead to the Yamuna river," he reminisces.

"I was enamoured by Heinz and would follow him wherever he went. Much later, in 1954 (after Kadri had completed his engineering degree from Pune), I wrote to him, requesting him to allow me to work with him, and eventually got a chance to work with him for seven months," he recalls.

While he saw the new Jamia campus coming up brick by brick, he admits that the foundations of his own life were also laid here. He remembers, "There was a banyan tree here, and Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru used to come and talk to children under that tree." He recalls how the Mahatma once asked students to write an essay on the "cow", much to their puzzlement, and then used their essays to drive home the need to maintain communal harmony.

A touching instance that he recalls pertains to Dr Zakir Husain. "As children, when we were already missing home, fighting with friends used to bring tears to our eyes. On one such day, I was pacing fast through the fields when someone put his hands on my shoulder. I turned around to see that it was Dr Zakir Husain. He took me to his home, made me sit on a chair, and got engrossed in his work. After some time had passed, and I had become quiet, he came to me, took me to the gate, and seeing me off, said, 'It's easy to cry, and this is what weak people do'." This lesson, Kadri says, still remains etched in his mind.

Kadri left Jamia in 1940, to return home to Ahmedabad. But, he says, "The four years that I spent here were most memorable." He returned to the institution after a gap of 72 years, on the occasion of the Founders Day on October 29, 2012. As he commented, "*Woh Jamia kuchh aur thi, yeh Jamia kuchh aur hai; woh Jamia bahut khoob thi, yeh Jamia bhi achhi hai* (It was a different Jamia then; it was wonderful then, but it's a good place even now)," one wondered whether his eyes were searching for those old landmarks of an era gone by, or whether he was at peace with change.

Steering an education event

Dr Ahrar Husain nominated to International Symposium on Education and Psychology



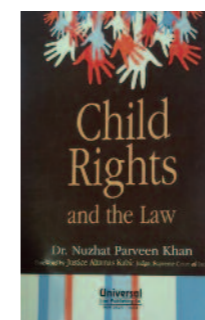
Dr Ahrar Husain, a professor and former head of the Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Jamia Millia Islamia, has been nominated as an International Committee Member of the International Symposium on Education and Psychology (ISEP 2013). He has also been nominated as Member, Steering Committee, to the Symposium. The symposium is to be held in Kitakyushu, Japan, from April 3-5, 2013.

Dr Husain has authored 10 books and has published over 15 research papers in international journals and an equal number in Indian educational journals on science education and ICT. He is an expert on development of e-content and animation in science. He is a recipient of the Life-time Achievement Award for Popularisation of Science from the Government of Delhi and also received an award from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for writing popular science books in Urdu.

A book on child abuse

Dr Nuzhat Parveen Khan of the Faculty of Law has authored a book titled *Child Rights and the Law*, published by Universal Publishers, New Delhi.

This book deals with the issue of child abuse and child rights violations by parents, guardians, employers and unfamiliar persons. The book explores the existing national and international laws and policies to take care of the rights of children. The book also covers in detail the judicial attitude and role of non-governmental organisations in protecting child rights.



Dr Nuzhat, who has been teaching at Jamia since 1992, has published extensively. Among her other works being *Child Rights and the Law*, *Legal Control of Air Pollution: Problems and Perspectives*, and *Exhaustive Commentaries on the Factories Act 1948*.

Chemical reaction

Dr Imran Ali of the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Jamia, has published a research paper in *Chemical Reviews* (American Chemical Society). The paper is titled '*New Generation Adsorbents for Water Treatment*'. The impact factor of this journal is 40.19. Dr Ali has high citations of his research papers, at 2,940.

Associateship for MCRC prof

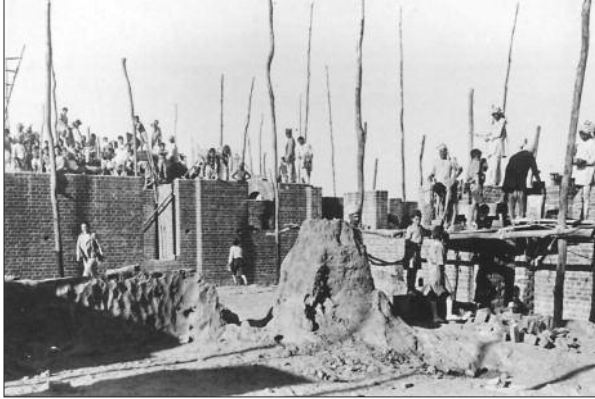
The International Honours Committee of the India International Photographic Council has decided to admit Prof Farhat Bashir Khan from AJK-Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia, to the Associateship of the Council for his dedicated service to the field of photography.

BHU award

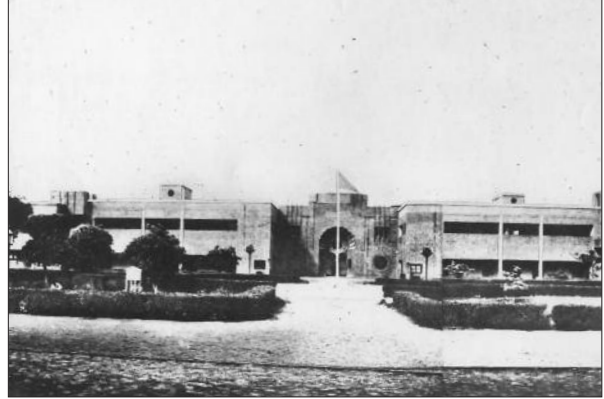
Prof Saranjit Bhasin, Faculty of Dentistry, Jamia, has been selected for Distinguished Alumnus Award by Banaras Hindu University (BHU). The award will be conferred on him on December 23, 2012, during the International BHU Alumni Meet and Seminar on 'Mahamana's Vision of Nation Building'.

The building blocks of Jamia

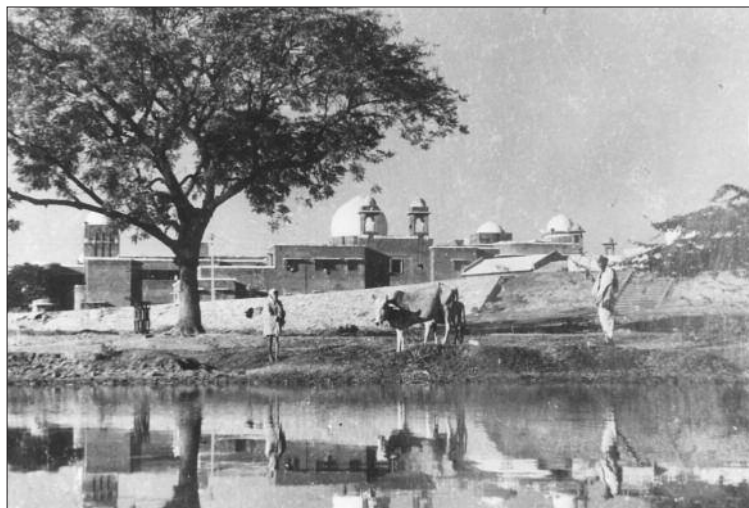
Photographs courtesy Premchand Archives, Jamia



When Jamia shifted from Karol Bagh to its present campus in the mid-1930s, Jamia School was among the first buildings to come up.



An early photograph of Jamia School. This photograph shows the school building without its characteristic domes. The date of this photograph could not be ascertained.



Delhi boasted of a large number of lakes, like this one behind Jamia School (shown here with its domes). The lake has dried up and the land has been reclaimed for buildings.



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