



THE ALIG

*The Newsletter of Aligarh Muslim University Alumni Association
Northern California*

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*"There are two ways for achieving national progress and prestige: first, peace and tranquility
in the country, secondly education and training amongst the people".*

-Sir Syed

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ALIGARH ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA RESOLVE TO FORM A FEDERATION

Masood Haider, Ph.D.

Representatives of almost all Aligarh Alumni Associations of North America, currently established in nine locations, as well as other Aligarians, totaling about ninety met in a two day conference on May 26th and 27th. The conference hosted by AAA, Washington, D.C. was held in Rockville, Maryland. The participants resolved to join all AAAs together in a federation and adopted a second resolution approving an adhoc committee for a period of six months to draw up a constitution and bylaws, hold the elections and make recommendations on some important and high priority issues such as the IT project. The organizers of the convention included members of several AAAs, in particular Dr. Abdullah, Mr. Ahmad Raza, Mr. Hasan Kamal and Dr. Shaheer Khan who worked diligently to solicit ideas and suggestions on four agenda topics for the formation of the federation: (1) Aims and Objectives (2) Structure and Design (3) Operational Expenses and (4) Decision Making Process. Comments were received from places as diverse as Dehradun, India; Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Montreal, Canada and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A comprehensive multiple-choice questionnaire was also distributed to all attendees. The participants came from San Francisco Bay Area, Chicago, Boston, Detroit, Houston, Cleveland, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Princeton Junction, Long Island, Staten Island, Washington D.C., Virginia, Delaware, Maryland (USA), and Edmonton, Toronto, Windsor (Canada); altogether 16 states of U.S. and Canada and from India. The excellent arrangements for registration, meals, and refreshments were coordinated through the efforts of Mrs. Shakeela Raza, Mr. Aley Ahmad Hashmi, president of the AAA, Washington, D.C. and their colleagues. Two members of the local chapter sponsored one breakfast and dinner to offset the expenses incurred for meals.

The meeting on the first day started in the afternoon with recitation from the Holy Quran. Appropriate breaks were provided in each day's program for salats. A representative from each AAA presented a brief description of the history, activities, accomplishment and future plans for the respective association and gave an account of the association's point of view on the four items for discussions as well as on the plan to support IT development and modernization at AMU. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The discussion continued on the next day around the projects related to the four principal items. The participants felt that support of AMU, the mother institution, in upgrading technology, equipment and information resources is of paramount importance. In this regard the strengthening of feeder institutions is also critical for the educational upliftment of Muslims in India. However, it was understood that the proposed federation of alumni associations had to be strictly non-political and had to have no affiliations with any government.

Professor Asad Ahmed, one of the brightest students that Aligarh has ever produced, a Yale alumnus and a Professor Emeritus at University of Alberta presented the 'Summer School' program, which he initiated last year with the help of other supporting academics. Through this program for which the cost is borne by the participating experts, seminars on recent advances in various disciplines are provided in 7-10 day mini-courses. The response to this program has been overwhelmingly positive from the students. Concrete results of this program in the form of better performance at the competitive examinations by the students who took the summer school may be available in the future. The summer school can serve as a model for upgrading the knowledge and skills of students in countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh and others.

Few speakers discussed the various aspects of the IT support project. More detailed analysis and strategies will be developed at a later time to bring this project, which aims to upgrade the computer facilities to fruition. There was also discussion on scholarships awarded by some of the AAAs especially Northern California and Washington, D.C. This is one activity, which may be centralized at some point. The importance of feeder institutions in bringing about resurgence of academic standards was highlighted by an excellent presentation by Drs. Zafar and Nazira Mahmood who came from New Delhi. The God's Grace School which Dr. Zafar Mahmood founded and for which his wife Dr. Nazira Mahmood serves as the principal, provides education in English medium to the children from five communities of low socio-economic status Muslims with limited education, at a fraction of cost of similar institutions elsewhere. God's Grace school is planning an expansion and although the Drs. Mahmood didn't ask for donations this is one of the noblest cause imaginable and Muslims in the United States should donate generously. Those desirous of doing so can inquire about the school activities and mode of sending donations by e-mailing Dr. Manhood at godsgresses@usa.net. Professor Habib Zuberi from Michigan very ably chaired this session.

The second session was concerned with community, cultural and literary activities and communication. Dr. Shaheer Khan from California, the moderator for AMU network (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMUNetwork>) and Dr. Rahat Khan from Washington, D.C. gave comprehensive and lucid presentations on website enhancements, community support, mentoring, youth networking and family reunion. The representative from New Jersey/New York AAA gave out sets of souvenirs from previous years to the spokespeople for all AAAs in attendance and proposed that Sir Syed Day souvenir be published jointly. The discussion of Mushaira elicited a very lively debate; however no final decision was reached regarding the logistics of centralizing this most important literary activity. The proceedings were disrupted for a while due to the power outage caused by a severe rain and thunderstorm that hit the Washington area.

In the afternoon, Dr. Attiya Khan, a staunch supporter of the activities of the AAA, Washington and an active executive

member of the hugely successful Human Development Foundation gave a cogent and succinct presentation on the importance of teams and of team building. Ironically, following this brief talk, the last session, which Prof. Dilnawaz Siddiqui chaired, was somewhat marred at times by recriminations, distrust and hostility in a tone uncharacteristic of Aligarhians. Nonetheless, the fact that the AAAs were able to agree to the formation of a federation is a remarkable achievement of which we should all be proud. The valedictory address by Professor Razaul Haq was followed by the concluding item of the program; a live rendition of the 'Aligarh Tarana' ably led by Mr. Masood Farshori on the harmonium.

FIRST 'KANIZ HUSNAIN MEMORIAL AWARD TO MOIN AHSAN JAZBI

New York, July 22, 2001: The Aligarh Alumni Association New York Tri-State area announced today that it will present the first 'Kaniz Husnain Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award for excellence in Urdu poetry and/or Literature to the famous poet Dr. Moin Ahsan Jazbi who has been associated with Aligarh Muslim University all his life. Jazbi Sb. is a shining star of the golden era of poetry at Aligarh which started in the forties. He exemplifies the excellence of that age and stands in the same row as his other famous contemporaries such as the late Ali Sardar Jafri, Asrar-ul-Haque Majaz, Jan Nisar Akhtar, and Akhtar-ul-Iman.

This award carries a cash prize of 'One Lakh Rupees' and has been made possible by a generous recurring annual donation of \$2,000 by Mr. Jaffer Naqvi, in memory of his late mother. Mr. Naqvi, the president and CEO of 'Interactive Network for Continuing Education' a highly successful business serving the Pharmaceutical industry has been a consistent and generous supporter of the Aligarh Alumni Association ever since its inception.

The award will be presented to Jazbi sb. by Mr. Hamid Ansari, the vice-chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University in a special ceremony in November 2001. Video tape of an interview with Jazbi sb. during which he will also recite some of his poetry will be shown during the annual Sir Syed celebrations to be held at Fort Lee Hilton, New Jersey on November 3, 2001. The program for the event includes a dinner, an international Mushaira and a keynote speech by a prominent writer and orator whose name will be announced later.

Proposal for an Exchange Program for AMU Students

Asad Ahmed, Ph.D. (Aligarh 1961, Botany), Ph.D. (Yale)
Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

The Aligarh Summer University (SU) Program, initiated last year, has been quite successful in bringing new scientific

knowledge and overseas contacts to Aligarh students. This has largely been due to the determination and strong commitment of a small group of Aligarh alumni based in North America (and India). The beneficial effects of this program are already visible. Some of the students are now in constant touch with the SU instructors, seek their advice and guidance, and keep them abreast of their progress and achievements. Most important, the program has broadened their horizons and they have come to realize that there is a world of unlimited opportunity outside of Aligarh.

Owing to its specialized nature (of providing advanced education), participation in the SU program is limited to academics, that is, University professors and researchers. On the other hand, there are some Aligarh alumni who have successfully established themselves in other professions like medicine, law, and business. They would also like to help their alma mater but can not do so through the SU program in its present form. Hence I propose that we initiate an Exchange Program for Aligarh students so that these professionals also get an opportunity to contribute to the success of these students and thereby to the prosperity of our community in India. An outline of the proposed program is given below:

1. A few of the most promising students (both boys and girls) would be selected each year from the AMU for participation in this program. A mechanism will be devised to ensure that there is no chance of favoritism or nepotism, the well-known scourges of Aligarh.
2. A few well-established alumni families living across North America would be invited, or volunteer, to host these students (one per family) for a period of approximately six weeks during summer. A mechanism will be developed to also screen the host families since they will serve as role models for these students.
3. The student will arrange for his/her travel to North America (in exceptional cases, travel assistance could be provided). The host family would be responsible for his/her room, board, and medical insurance during the period of stay. The student will live, eat, travel etc. as part of the host family. The host family may also arrange to have the student take a short summer course at a local University or educational institution. (Remember these would be the very best students from Aligarh who would become community leaders some day. We all know that it doesn't cost much to put up a young student for a few weeks when the benefits are likely to be so great.)
4. At some point in the future, a reciprocal exchange of students from North America to Aligarh could also be arranged. This way the young people who have grown up here would acquire some knowledge of the alma mater of their parents. (There was some discussion of this problem at the recent Washington Convention.)
5. A contingency plan would be developed to help in case of unforeseen circumstances. The program would be administered by the Summer University Committee (under the aegis of the newly-formed Federation of Aligarh Alumni

Associations) since the SU instructors would be visiting Aligarh on a regular basis.

6. These short visits to North America would go a long way in shaping the futures of these young students. The process of learning is rarely confined to the classroom. At their age, the students learn much by association and observation outside the classroom. Since they will live, travel, play etc. with selected host families, they will learn western manners, manners of presenting themselves, and gain self esteem. This would provide added incentive to them to succeed in their chosen careers. The benefits would be especially significant for the girls since, in our society, they are usually kept within the confines of the four walls of their homes. They will learn social graces. The experience they gain would help them both in their professional lives as well as in their lives at home. Here they will be able to see the western world in full security and protection of the host families. I have little doubt that, in the long run, this program would have a positive effect in modernizing our society that is steadily falling behind the rest of the world.

This is only a proposal at this stage. If there is sufficient interest from prospective host families, the details can be worked out rather expeditiously. I would welcome constructive suggestions from the readers.

Aligarh Summer University 2001

The 3rd Aligarh Summer University will be held from October 22nd to November 24th, 2001 at the Aligarh Muslim University. The program will consist of four 1-week courses and one 3-day workshop. The details are given below:

Shahid Jameel, Ph.D. (ICGEB, New Delhi, India), 'The Molecular Basis of Viral Diseases', October 22nd - 27th.

Mohsin Raza, M.S. (Khoulia Hospital, Muscat, Oman), 'Management of Abdominal Injuries', November 5th - 9th.

Mansoor Ahmad, (Airports Authority of India, New Delhi, India), Workshop on 'Air Traffic Control Systems', November 8th - 10th.

Asad Ahmed, Ph.D. (University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada), 'Molecular Mechanism of Genetic Recombination', November 12th -17th.

Tariq M. Haqqi, Ph.D. (Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio), 'The Immune System in Health and Disease', November 19th - 24th.

The courses are open to qualified undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at the Aligarh Muslim University and its affiliated colleges. A special invitation is extended to undergraduate and graduate students from the Women's College.

Lectures will be given at the Institute of Agriculture from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. each day. (The course on 'Abdominal Injuries' will be given in the Medical College.) Teaching program will not be interrupted by any holiday that might

fall during these dates. A short test will be given at the end of each course. Certificates will be awarded to students for meritorious performance in these tests.

There is no registration fee, but students must be pre-registered by October 15th. Registration forms can be obtained from (and returned to) Dr S. Ziaur Rahman, Department of Pharmacology (Phone: Off. 700 584; Res. 400 452). Students should carry the 'Authorization' to attend Summer University lectures with them and present to the instructors when required to do so.

The Summer University Program is run by some Alumni for the benefit of Aligarh students.

For further information, please contact by e-mail: asad.ahmed@attcanada.net or by phone/fax at 1-780-449-6059

AMU Alumni Association Hosts Reception

AMU Alumni Association of Northern California hosted a reception on April 28th in honor of two Aligarians who were visiting San Francisco Bay Area, Janab Ayyub Ali Sahib and Mohtarma Aysha Khan Sahiba, and a senior Alig Mr. Wasi-uz Zaman Siddiqui who recently got married. Ayyub Sahib is a very senior Alig (B.Com.'51, Mumtaz Hostel) and was visiting his daughter in the Bay area. Aysha Sahiba is a very active member of Aligarh alumni association of Washington, DC. Wasi-uz Zaman who is popularly known among Aligs as "Wasi....." is an active member of our association.

Annual Summer Picnic

Continuing the tradition, this year annual picnic was organized on Saturday, June 21st at Ponderosa Park in Sunnyvale. This was a great opportunity for the members and well wishers of the association to get together in an informal setting and have fun with the families. The picnic was very successful as many new families joined the regulars. The kid and adults enjoyed playing Cricket and Volley Ball. The main organizers of the picnic were our president Amtul Suhail, Humaira Khan, Seema Siddiqui, Akram Khan, and Reyhan Khan. All the attendees enjoyed the chatting and delicious food. At the end of the day president of the association thanked the participants for making the picnic a successful social event and updated about the activities of the association and upcoming events.

AMU ANNUAL PICNIC - THROUGH THE EYES OF A NEWCOMER

Mrs. Aarty Nath, Fremont, CA

Few days back, my husband Shachindra Nath (B.Sc. Hons.'86) informed me that we were going to this picnic at Ponderosa Park on July 21. One side of me was as excited as a perky tiny tot at the prospect, whereas the other side was,

honestly, a bit skeptical. "AMU" Annual Picnic? I did not know anything about 'AMU' except for the fact that my husband graduated from there. Many questions arose to my psyche. Will the people be friendly? (especially since it was to be my first outing with the Aligarian). What age group would they be in? Will we get along well? Or will I be left alone, all by myself, standing awkwardly, to fend for myself?? My mind was clouded with all these doubts as we drove towards the park...

We spotted the Aligarians from far - we advanced towards them - my husband, excited to catch up with old friends and myself, fearing the unexpected. As soon as we reached them, my husband introduced me to one and all. They welcomed me with open arms! They were so warm and affectionate that I felt really special! All my so-called doubts vanished into thin air. WOW! This was going to be great, I thought!

I saw kids busy with their childish activities, completely immersed in their own world, ladies and gentlemen busy at the hot bar-be-que with invigorating smells emerging from it - Mmmmm! some other men standing and talking animatedly and so on. Over and above all, the bonhomie and the camaraderie they all shared were truly infectious. I found myself getting infected, and how pleased I was to catch this infection!!

I made so many new friends at the picnic. It was an exhilarating feeling, especially because I was in dire need of good friends with whom I could really TALK! A bit about my background - I am a newly wed bride and have just come here at Fremont, CA less than a month ago. You all will agree with me that it gets pretty lonely when the husband is away at work and one has to spend the whole day all by oneself. That's why I was full of gratitude and thanked my stars for giving me wholesome and healthy friendship - who bhi chappad phad ke!!

We all partook of the excellent meal spread out in front of us and then it was time for some dessert. We all sat on chatais' under the canopy of shady trees in a big circle amidst jokes and witty one-liners - they all have a great sense of humor. Then the lovely cakes were brought and placed in the center. Then, the most surprising thing happened - by consensus, they all decided that I, being a new bride, should have the honor of cutting the cake!! It was something so spontaneous that I was genuinely touched to the core of my heart - it was so overwhelming! Little ripples of excitement seared through me as I had the privilege to cut the cake! Everyone around me clapped uproariously and light bulbs flashed around me - I felt like a STAR! It was a special moment for me - which I will forever cherish and nurture - it will occupy pride of place in my "trunk" of memoirs!! We all enjoyed the delicious cake and other sweets - we really indulged ourselves that day!

We then sat in another circle and were asked to introduce ourselves. As my turn approached, my heartbeat grew faster, what was I going to say, with so many people looking at you

and listening with rapt attention? But when my chance came eventually, the words just flowed...I introduced myself and then, waxed eloquent about the Aligarian in all sincerity. I spoke in chaste Urdu, which I had learnt from my father. I said that I regret not being an Aligarian myself - it seems that I have missed out on something unique and a very stimulating atmosphere. They were all a bit surprised at my Urdu...and then the complements came in leaps and bounds from all and sundry!!

So that's how a lovely day came to an end. Alas, all good things come to an end, but it held the promise of exciting times ahead with the group. A BIG THANK YOU, ALIGARIAN! for making it all so wonderful. I had the time of my life and came away feeling grateful to my husband for opening up a whole new vista for me and looking forward to meeting and interacting with my newly acquired friends!

Welcome to San Francisco Bay Area

Abu Danish (MCA'96)

Nasir Mohammad (MCA'96)

Khalid Khan (B.Sc. Engg.'90, MBA'92)

Sir Syed Scholarship Report

AMU Alumni Association (AMUAA) of Northern California is pleased to announce the progress made on one of the aspects of the association, the Sir Syed Scholarship program. This program was launched on the occasion of Sir Syed Day held in November 98.

For the academic year 1999-2000, AMUAA awarded about 40 Scholarships to the needy students at AMU.

In the academic year 2000-2001, the association awarded scholarships to 100 needy and bright students at Aligarh and an engineering student at IIT Kanpur. Total amount distributed was Rs 4, 00000.

The scholarship is awarded to students at any academic level after passing high school in any area and at all levels of education. Selection of students is based on merit-cum-means. The amount of award is determined based on financial need of the student. An initial commitment is made for one year, but the association will try to support them to the highest degree level as long as they perform well, still in need of financial assistance and the funds are available at AMUAA. The scholarship program is a long-term project supported by individual donors and organizations.

A Scholarship Committee comprised of Dr. Suhail Talib and Mr. Asim Salim and Mrs. Humaira Khan runs the scholarship program. This committee reports to the executive committee of AMU Alumni Association, and is directly responsible for all aspects of the scholarship program. For functional aspects of the program, the

committee relies upon help from local faculty members or alumni at AMU, Aligarh. The committee for the award year 2000-2001 consisted of Drs. Suhail Sabir, Mehtab Parveen, Parvez Talib, Mr. Tanveer Ahsan and Mr. Owais Khan. These volunteers provided help in advertising the scholarships, distributing and collecting application forms, arranging and conducting applicant interviews, and advising the Scholarship Committee on selection of deserving students for the awards. The Scholarship Committee in California makes final selections. The money is directly sent to the university accounts department to pay the dues of the student. Checks and balances are in place to assure that 100% of the funds are utilized for the scholarships, without deducting any overheads or operating costs. The Treasurer of the Association who is elected by the general body of the Association maintains the scholarship account.

Individuals are requested to donate generously to support the scholarship program. You may donate small sums (usually between \$5 to \$1,000) which will be pooled together with similar donations from other individuals to award Sir Syed Scholarship. Alternatively, you may donate a larger sum of money to start a Special Scholarship. Checks, made out to AMU Alumni Association, should be mailed to AMU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 4361, FOSTER CITY, CA 94404. Please write "scholarship" on the check. The donations to AMUAA are tax deductible.

LETTERS

The Washington Convention 2001

Asad Ahmed, Ph.D.

I CAN HARDLY WAIT to express my deep appreciation for the warmth, affection and kind hospitality of our hosts Mr and Mrs A. Abdullah and Mr and Mrs Ahmad Raza of Washington, DC, that we enjoyed during the First Convention of the AMU Alumni Associations of North America this weekend. Ah, this was a truly magnificent event of historic proportions that is bound to open new opportunities for friendship and cooperation in the future.

It was exciting to renew old friendships (some after 40 years!), establish new ones, and to just remember the good old days. Even though we graduated at different times, followed different paths in life, came from different cities (San Francisco, Detroit, Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Cleveland, Toronto, Windsor, New Delhi etc) - and met for the first time - yet we were sharing laughter in a matter of seconds ("jaisay bichhray huay Kaabay mein sanam aatay hein"). Despite minor hiccups, there was warmth and jubilation in the air. Friends, this was Aligarh spirit at its finest! This shows that there is a common thread that binds all of us, so let us work to strengthen it further for the good of our mother institution not only in words but deeds as well. Congratulations to Shaheer Khan for finally realizing his dream of gluing us together!

The junoon was such that the stormy weather that prevailed outside was barely noticed. I can only say to those who missed this union (or reunion) that they have missed great fun. As for me, I can hardly wait for the next one - San Francisco or wherever! Thanks to the organizers once again.

For submitting articles, suggestions, opinions, news items, please contact:

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The genius that was Dr. Ziauddin

By Zubair Ali

Dr Sir Ziauddin Ahmad, visionary, educationist, parliamentarian, and devoted Aligarhian, chose to work for Sir Syed's cause and serve Aligarh for life rather than accept lucrative appointments under the British Raj. When we observe his 50th death anniversary today we are paying homage to one of the Quaid-i-Azam's associates who played a vital role in the renaissance of the Muslims culminating in the establishment of Pakistan.

According to Professor Dr Amir Hassan Siddiqui, had Dr Ziauddin not defeated the designs of the supporters of the 'Non- Co-operation Movement' in 1920 to get Sir Syed's M.A.O. College closed down and replaced by a nationalist institution, "there would have been no Aligarh Muslim University and consequently no Pakistan."

Dr Ziauddin's association with Aligarh began in 1889, when at the age of 16 years, he joined the 'first year' at the M.A.O. College School. He passed high school in first division and was awarded the Lang Medal and a government scholarship. He had to join the Government College, Allahabad, as science courses were not available at M.A.O. College. He returned to Aligarh and passed his B.A in 1895 in first division, standing first among science students, and was awarded Strachy Gold Medal.

Soon after passing B.A., he was appointed assistant lecturer in mathematics at M.A.O. College. The principal, "considering him the best student of the college, nominated him for the post of deputy collector, but Ziauddin declined the offer and elected to continue in the service of the College." Sir Syed offered him a permanent appointment in the grade of Rs 60-100, provided he signed a bond to serve for a period of five years. He responded by undertaking to

serve for his entire life. A highly impressed Sir Syed tore up the bond.

Lecturer Ziauddin continued with his studies and passed his masters in mathematics in first division from the Calcutta University in 1897, obtaining the same degree from Allahabad University in 1901, again in the first division. He obtained his D.Sc degree from the Calcutta University.

In 1901, Ziauddin left for England on a government scholarship and obtained his honours degree in mathematics from Cambridge University. He made his mark at Cambridge also and was awarded Sir Isaac Newton scholarship in 1904, becoming the first Indian to secure this coveted honour. He was also elected Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. He joined the Gointtingen University in Germany in 1904 and obtained his Ph.D degree from there.

Dr Ziauddin returned to Aligarh in 1906 and resumed his duties as a lecturer at M.A.O. In 1911, a Central Foundation Committee was set up with the Aga Khan as its president and Viqar-ul-Mulk as secretary. A constitution committee was set up to draft an act, statutes and regulations for the proposed university. Raja Sahib of Mahmudabad was its president, Syed Ali Bilgrami secretary, and Dr Ziauddin its joint secretary. Dr Amir Hassan Siddiqui has recorded that “both as joint secretary of the draft(ing) committee as well as in the collection of funds, Dr Ziauddin Ahmad played a great role. By the beginning of 1915, a sum of Rs30 lacs fixed by the government of India as a condition for a university charter, had already been realized.”

Dr Ziauddin Ahmad was appointed acting principal of M.A.O. College when the Principal, J.H. Tool, and the entire European staff resigned in January 1919 on account of differences with the honorary secretary. Analyzing this event, Dr Amir Hassan Siddiqui wrote, “The sudden disappearance of the European staff, the adverse report of the inspectors with the threat of disaffiliation, the apathy of the government and its officials and, above all, adverse propaganda against the college produced enormous difficulties for Dr Ziauddin. To make matters worse, there was no unanimity among the trustees and influential old boys began to interfere in the administration of the college. The result was that when the College opened in May 1919 after the annual examinations, the number of students fell from 1,200 to 181.” Dr Ziauddin, the newly appointed acting principal, rose to the occasion and succeeded in removing the misunderstandings among all concerned and as a result the number of students rose to 786.

Dr Ziauddin had hardly overcome these difficulties when he was faced with the threat to the very existence of the college and the plans to develop it into a university. This threat came from the Non-co-operation Movement of Mr. Gandhi, supported, and aided by Muslim nationalist leaders.

Dr Amir Hassan Siddiqui has recorded these events thus: “They instigated the students, took possession of all the college buildings, and tried to establish a national university within the premises of the M.A.O. College. Dr Ziauddin Ahmad accepted the bold challenge and won over all the trustees to his side. With overwhelming majority, the latter rejected the demands made by Ali Brothers. Dr Ziauddin Ahmad closed the college and the bulk of the students had to leave for their homes. When all methods of persuasion failed, the syndicate of the college sought the intervention of the district magistrate for the vacation of the premises of the college by Ali Brothers and their allies. In consequence, they moved from the Old Boys Lodge, which they had made their headquarters, to the area across the road known as Lal Digg. This highly explosive episode thus came to an end, but it left its aftermath behind. In fact this was the greatest service rendered by Dr Sir Ziauddin to the Muslims of the subcontinent.”

After overcoming this crisis, Dr Ziauddin underscored the importance of quick action for the establishment of the University. The Aligarh Muslim University Act had been passed in September 1920 and the date of launching the University had been left to the discretion of the government of India. Through Dr Ziauddin’s efforts, the government of India agreed to establish the university immediately. After the unscheduled holidays, M.A.O. College was due to reopen on the 1st of December 1920, and it was decided that the Muslim University Act would be made effective from that date. This was the culmination of the efforts of Dr Ziauddin and other Muslim leaders and the realization of Sir Syed’s dream.

The ruler of Bhopal, Sultan Jehan Begum, was appointed Chancellor, Aga Khan Pro-Chancellor, the Raja Sahib of Mahmudabad Vice-Chancellor and Dr Ziauddin, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the principal academic officer of the university.

The following few years saw rapid expansion of the Aligarh Muslim University. Dr Ziauddin, along with the vice-chancellors, played a pivotal role in this process of development and expansion. However, following serious and persistent differences with the vice-chancellor, Dr Ziauddin Ahmad decided to resign. His resignation was accepted by the Academic Council in April 1928.

Dr Ziauddin Ahmad, was elected vice-chancellor in 1935, with a substantial majority against another great Aligarhian and leader of the Muslim freedom movement, Nawab Ismail Khan. His return to Aligarh, this time as chief executive, resulted in still faster and greater development of Aligarh.

Several new institutions were developed. These included the Engineering College, the Agriculture College, Tibbia College, the Commerce College, Women’s Degree College, and the Medical College. Dr Ziauddin played a vital role in the development of faculty system in the university and the

introduction of military training and military science for students, including flying.

In 1946, Dr Ziauddin faced a very unpleasant and traumatic incident. As recorded by Dr Amir Hassan Siddiqui, some mischievous and misguided students misbehaved with him and he resigned as vice-chancellor. Later, he was appointed rector of the university. He held this position of honor until his death.

Dr Ziauddin played a very important role in politics also. He was among the 82 Muslim leaders who attended the Dacca Session of the Mohammedan Educational Conference in 1906 and passed the historic resolution for the establishment of All India Muslim League. He was elected to the UP Provincial Council in 1919 and 1922 and the Central Legislative Assembly in 1930.

In 1947, Dr Ziauddin undertook a tour of Europe and the United States to study the latest trends and developments in higher education. In early December while traveling by air from Paris to London after meeting the Aga Khan, he suffered a stroke. He was admitted to a nursing home but his condition continued to deteriorate. He breathed his last on 23rd December 1947.

According to his wish, he was laid to rest next to Sir Syed in Aligarh.

(Taken in part from Dawn)