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Thought for the Month

Those who avoid
Great sins and shameful deeds,
Only (falling into) small faults-
Verily thy your Lord is ample
In forgiveness. He knows
You well when He brings
You out of the earth,
And when ye are hidden
In your mother's wombs.
Therefore justify not
yourselves:
He knows best who it is
That guards against evil.

Al-Quran- 53:32

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FOCUS

Prescribed originally as a voluntary act of love and considered almost identical with piety, *zakah* (legal alms, surs. 2:40, 77, 192, 263-9, 273-5, 280) evolved into an obligatory tax on property, including money, cattle, corn, fruit and merchandise. In the Koran (9:5; 2:40, 77, etc.) *zakah* is often associated with the *salah*. The young Islamic state collected *zakah* through regular officials and administered it from a central treasury to support the poor among the community, build mosques and defray government expenses (sur. 9:60). The word *zakah* is of Aramaic origin and is more specific than *sadaqah*, which is voluntary and implies alms-giving in general. *Zakah* is a purely denominational institution, involving alms raised and distributed among Moslems alone. Its underlying principle tallies with the tithe, which, according to Pliny, the South Arabian merchants had to pay to their god before they were allowed to sell their spices. Its exact amount varied and has been determined in the various cases by the *fiqh* (religious law), but generally it averaged two and a half percent. Even soldiers' pensions were not exempt. Later, with the disintegration of the purely Islamic state, *zakah* was again left to the Moslem's conscience. *Zakah* constitutes the third pillar of the faith.

Though penitential fasts are prescribed a number of times in the Madinese surahs (58: 5; 19: 27; 4:94; 2:192), Ramadan as a fasting month is mentioned only once (2: 179-81). That particular month, which may have been sacred in pre-Islamic days, was chosen because in it the Koran was first revealed (sur. 2:181) and the victory of Badr won. Abstinence from all food and drink is enjoined from dawn till sunset (sur. 2: 183). Instances in which violence has been used in modern times by the government or by the populace against a non-fasting believer in Moslems lands are not known.

We have no evidence of any practice of fasting in pre-Islamic pagan Arabia, but the institution was, of course, well established among both Christians and Jews (Matt. 4:2; Deut. 9:9). Ibn-Hisham states that the Quraysh in the Jahilliyah days were wont to spend one month a year on Mt. Hira practicing penance (*tahannuth*). In al-Madinah and before instituting Ramadan, Muhammad evidently observed the tenth of Muharram ('*ashura*') as a fast day; this he had adopted from the Jews. In the Makkan surahs the word for fasting (*sawm*) occurs only once (19:27), and there apparently in the sense of "silence".

Pilgrimage (*hajj*, surs. 3:91; 2:192-6; 5:1-2, 96) is the fifth and last pillar of Islam. Once in a lifetime every Moslem of either sex who can afford it is supposed to undertake at a stated time of the year a holy visit to Makkah. '*Umrah*' is the lesser pilgrimage to Makkah and may be made individually and at any time.

The pilgrim (*hajj*) makes his entry into the holy precincts as a *muhrim* (wearing a seamless garment) and performs the sevenfold circumambulation of the Ka'bah (*tawaf*) and the seven fold course (*sa'y*) between the adjacent al-Safa mount and the Marwah eminence lying opposite.

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Activities of the IOS Headquarters

Governing Council Meet

The annual meeting of the Governing Council (G.C.) was held on 31.08.2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the Committee Room of the IOS, 162, Jogabai Main Road, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-25.

The following were present:

1. Dr. M. Manzoor Alam in the Chair
2. Prof. Z.M. Khan Secretary General
3. Prof. I. Danish Finance Secretary
4. Prof. Sanghasen Singh Member
5. Dr. Ausaf Ahmad Member
6. Prof. Mohsin Usmani Member
7. Prof. M. Afzal Wani Member
8. Prof. Refaat Ali Khan
9. Prof. M. Ishtiaq
10. Prof. Haseena Hashia
11. Dr. Eqbal Hussain
12. Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad
13. Dr. M. Imteyaz Hassan
14. Dr. Fakhruddin Mohd.
15. Dr. Syed Shaukat Ali
16. Dr. Saad Bin Hamid
17. Mr. M. Zeyaul Haque
18. Mr. Mohammad. Alam



A view of the Governing Council Meeting

Recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.

The meeting got started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an by Dr. Syed Shaukat Ali, who also explained the meaning and context of the verses for the benefit of all.

Adoption of condolence resolutions.

Condolence resolutions on the sad demise of Janab Saleh Al-Husayyan, (Secretary General, Al-Harmain Sharifain & Member Kibaru Ulema, Saudi Arabia), Prof. Shees Mohammad Ismail Azmi, (Former Head of the Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia

Millia Islamia), Ml. Afzalul Haque Jauhar Qasmi (President, Old Boys Association, Darul Uloom Deoband), Ml. Abdul Mannan Azmi (Shaikhul Hadith, Jamia Ashrafia, Mubarakpur, Azamgarh), Janab Mohammad Talha of Patna (Member, All India Milli Council, New Delhi), Janab Khursheed Alam Khan (Former, Union Minister, Govt. of India & Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia), Janab Lal Jan Pasha (Leader, Telgu Desham Party & Associate Member of All India Milli Council), Janab Qamar Alam (Elder brother of Dr. M. Manzoor Alam), Mother of Journalist Khursheed Alam, Ml. Abdul Hameed Rahmani (Founder, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Islamic Awakening Centre, New

a new horizon and emphasized the need of guidance to youngsters by the senior members in view to prepare a strong bench to take over the system in future.

Thereafter the agenda of the meeting was taken up.

Confirmation of the minutes.

The minutes of the Governing Council (G.C.) meeting dated 25th May, 2013 were presented and confirmed.

Consideration of the Follow-up Report.

The follow-up Report (Action taken Report) on the last G.C. meeting dated 25th May, 2013 was presented before the Governing Council. The same was considered and after deliberations, got approved.

Consideration of the Annual Report.

The 27th Annual Report of the IOS (along with its Executive Summary) for the year 2012-2013 was presented before the Governing Council

(G.C.) of the Institute. The same was considered with a sense of appreciation for preparing the Executive Summary, and recommended to the General Assembly (G.A.) of the IOS for its approval.

Consideration of the Audited Report.

The Audited Financial Report of the Institute for the year 2011-2012 (assessment year 2012-2013) was considered and recommended to the General Assembly (G.A.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) for its approval.

Delhi) and all those associated with the IOS, who passed away during the period, were adopted and *dua* for their *maghfirat* was made by the Governing Council (G.C.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS).

Before taking up the agenda items and starting the business, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, Chairman, IOS welcomed the members and special invitees for attending the meeting. He, while expressing his satisfaction on the working of the Institute and its Chapters insisted that youngsters should come forward to shoulder the responsibilities in view to take IOS to

Consideration of the Annual Budget.

The Annual Budget of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) for the year 2013-2014 was presented before the Governing Council (GC) of the IOS. The budget was discussed at length and was recommended to the General Assembly (G.A.) of the IOS for its approval.

Consideration of the appointment of Auditors.

The appointment of Auditors for the financial year 2013-2014 was considered and taking in view the satisfactory performance of the Auditors during the year 2012-2013, it was recommended to the General Assembly (G.A.) of the IOS that M/s Chandna Associates be retained for the year 2013-2014 also, on the existing terms and conditions.

Report about the progress on holding an International Conference on "Revisiting Abul Qasim Al-Zahrawi's Legacy in Medicine and Surgery" on December 13-15, 2013 at New Delhi.

The progress report for holding the International

Conference was presented before the General Assembly of the IOS. After going through the progress report the members and special invitees expressed their satisfaction and desired that all efforts be made to organise this conference in a befitting manner so that it may attain a grand success.

Report about the progress on the project entitled "14 Centuries of a Glorious Legacy: Biographical Sketches of 1400 Outstanding Muslims who enriched Humanity."

The progress report for this project was presented before the members and

special invitees, who expressed their satisfaction and with a view to dispel ignorance, misunderstanding and misrepresentation about Islamic values and principles, Islamic civilisation and Muslims, desired that all efforts be made to complete this mega project as early as possible.

Report about the progress on establishing IOS Centres.

The list of Specialised Centres is given below:

1. IOS Centre for Media and Regional Studies, Bangalore
2. IOS Centre for Media and Regional Studies, Kolkata
3. IOS Centre for Women's Studies, Calicut



L-R: Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, Prof. Z.M. Khan and Prof. M.Afzal

4. IOS Global Council for Youth Development, Chennai
5. IOS Centre for Dialogue, Aligarh
6. IOS Movement for Spreading Education, New Delhi

It was decided that:

- i) The IOS Centre for Media and Regional Studies will be set up at Bangalore and Kolkata with independent funding. These Centres will strive to be a viable project.
- ii) The Centres will launch courses/orientation programmes

to target working journalists/media-owners/media school teachers/young graduates. It will also organise lecture series regularly in different cities of the region. Further, the centres will engage in production of books monographs on journalism, advertising, public relations and related fields which would be commercially viable and add to the revenues of the proposed centres.

As regards the other Centres, all efforts would be made to motivate the IOS Chapters at Calicut, Chennai and Aligarh for establishing the respective Centres as early as possible.

The IOS Movement for Spreading Education is in progress and that the IOS has so far received a sum of Rs. 1,20,800/- for this purpose.

Report about the progress in regard to special volumes.

It was finally decided that there will be eleven volumes instead of eight.

The title of the eleven volumes and the name of Editors is as under:

1. Knowledge and Purpose: A Comparative Perspective by Prof. Jalalul Haq
2. Islamic Finance and Venture Capital by Dr. Javed A. Khan
3. Media in a Globalising World by Mr. Raju Mansukhani, Mr. Paranjay Guha Thakurta & Mr. Zeyaul Haq
4. Global Trends in Education: Problems & Prospects and

Contemporary Challenges by Prof. Qamar Ahsan & Dr. S. Fazle Rab

5. Youth : Contemporary Challenges by Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish
6. Women's Empowerment by Prof. P. Koya
7. Good Governance in a Globalising World by Prof. Z. M. Khan
8. Judiciary and Ethics by Prof. Afzal Wani
9. Minorities Rights and Identities by Dr. Arshi Khan
10. Indo-ASEAN Relation: A Historical and Contemporary Perspective (Trade & Investment) To be decided later on (from Aligarh)
11. Religion, Peace and Development by Prof. A. R. Momin

Further, it was decided that all the above volumes will not only be based on the proceedings of the programmes organized during the IOS Silver Jubilee Celebrations. The Editorial Board will look into the areas, which are not covered, and get them written as per requirement of the concerned volumes so that all the volumes might be complete in all respects.

The work on 'Media in a Globalising World' is in final stage of completion. The first draft would be submitted by the end of September 2013, while the work on other volumes will start soon after preparing the Guidelines/Outline for these volumes.

Prof. Z. M. Khan, Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish and Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan will prepare the Guidelines/Outlines for the above volumes.

The Editorial Board for the volumes will be as under:

1. Prof. Z.M. Khan
2. Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan

Note: Three subject-wise experts will also be included in the Editorial Board.

Editor-in-Chief : Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, Chairman, IOS

Discussion about the functioning of the IOS Chapters.

After a thorough discussion in respect of the functioning of IOS Chapters in the light of past experiences and on hand results as well as difficulties faced in the way of achieving desired outcome of the IOS Chapters, it was decided that this matter would be taken up in the next meeting in a bit detailed fashion.

Discussion and finalisation of the procedure for the election of the Executive members and Office-bearers of the Institute for the next term i.e. 2013-2018.

Following the procedure as laid down by the Governing Council (G.C.), at its meeting held on 31.08.2013, for the election of the Office Bearers and the Executive Members of the Institute for a term of next five years (i.e. from August, 2013 to July, 2018), the General Assembly (G.A.) unanimously appointed Mr. I.H. Khan as Chief Returning Officer, and Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia as Joint Returning Officer for conducting the election.

Both Mr. I.H. Khan (Chief Returning Officer) and Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia (Joint Returning Officer) declared all the eleven (11) Members of the Governing Council elected through secret ballot. Then the newly elected members of the Governing Council proceeded with the election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary General, Asstt. Secretary General and Finance Secretary from amongst themselves. The entire process of election was completed smoothly.

The following persons were declared elected for the Offices, mentioned against each of them, for a term of five years (i.e. from August, 2013 to July, 2018).

1. Dr. M. Manzoor Alam Chairman
2. Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan Vice-Chairman
3. Prof. Z.M. Khan Secretary General
4. Prof. M. Afzal Wani Asstt. Secretary General

5. Prof. I. Danish Finance Secretary
6. Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Member
7. Prof. A.R. Momin Member
8. Prof. Mohsin Usmani Member
9. Prof. P. Koya Member
10. Dr. Major Zahid Hussain Member
11. Dr. Md. Imteyaz Hassan Member

Any other item(s).

(i) Consideration for taking up as long-term projects.

In regard to taking up long-term projects on "The Unfolding Global Scenario and the Muslim Ummah: Challenges, Prospects and Strategies" and "The Global Economic Scenario in Coming Decades (2013-2050)" as well as on Political, Legal and Science & Technology Dimension, the Governing Council (G.C.) and special invitees, after discussion, approved this proposal in principle.

It was decided to have a workshop of selected concerned persons organised to discuss different aspects of it. The project will be divided in different regions and specific assistance from organisations/individuals from respective regions shall be sought.

(ii) Consideration on the minutes of a series of consultative meetings.

After going through the minutes of a series of consultative meetings with the Chairman, the members present expressed their satisfaction and appreciated the idea for the preparation of the 'Office Manual of the Institute of Objective Studies', after incorporating certain important segments that are left out and were not covered in the meeting, for its smooth functioning.

(iii) Report about the series of meetings organised by the IOS on aftermath of mass protest due to gang rape case in Delhi on 16th December 2012 and representation thereon.

The members of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS after discussing the minutes of a series of meetings organised by the IOS on

aftermath of mass protest due to gang rape case in Delhi on 16th December, 2012 and representations sent to Justice Usha Mehra Commission as well as Justice J.S. Verma Committee, suggesting measures to improve safety and security of women in NCT of Delhi and other parts of the country, expressed their satisfaction.

Further, it was decided that the representation should be reviewed by a committee consisting of (1) Dr. Eqbal Hussain, Convenor (2) Prof. Afzal Wani, Member and (3) Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Advocate, Member and the same be submitted to the Ministry of Law, Govt. of India, if required, to enact a suitable law through the Parliament for the safety and security of women.

(iv) Consideration about publishing six lectures under 'Indian Constitution and Fundamental Rights' in booklet-form.

The members considered the proposal for publishing the six lectures under 'Indian Constitution and Fundamental Rights' delivered by renowned legal luminaries, and it was finally decided that three more lectures be delivered by Prof. M. Afzal Wani, Dr. Eqbal Hussain and Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Advocate on the subject and all the nine lectures should be published in book form.

(v) Consideration for organising periodical lectures to be published as booklet/occasional papers.

In regard to the proposal on organising periodical lectures to be delivered by the experts, as well as the office-bearers of the IOS on different

subjects/topics, which would be published as booklet/ occasional papers, the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) and special invitees, appreciating this idea, approved the same in principle.

(vi) Report about the on-going long-term projects.

The progress report on the on-going long-term projects, on IOS Current Affairs, IOS Minaret, Anthologies of Islamic Terms and IOS Data Bank was presented before the Governing Council (G.C.). The members, after going through the progress report, expressed their satisfaction.

(vii) Report about the progress in respect of editing of IOS seminar proceedings.



A view of the audience in General Assembly Meeting

In regard to the progress in respect of editing of IOS seminar-proceedings on 'Participatory Banking', 'Ethical Investment in India' and 'Beyond the Meltdown', assigned to Dr. Ausaf Ahmad, was presented before the members of the General Assembly, who, after going through the progress report, expressed their satisfaction and acknowledged the work done by Dr. Ausaf Ahmad.

(viii) Consideration and discussion about increasing the number of G.C. members from 11 to 15.

As recommended by the Governing Council, the General Assembly, after deliberations, approved the amendment to Rule 7(a) of the Rules and Regulations of the Institute of Objective Studies in accordance with Rule 22 thereof and Section 12 and 12(A) of the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Accordingly, the figure 7 against the words EXECUTIVE MEMBERS in Rule 7(a) to be replaced by figure 11. Thus the number of Governing Council members will now be from 11 to 15.

(ix) Report about inviting 11 to 15 scholars as special invitees in the Governing Council meetings.

The members of the General Assembly (G.A.) of the IOS approved the proposal in respect of 11 to 15 scholars as special invitees on regular basis in the Governing Council (G.C.) meetings of the IOS.

In addition to the above, a decision was taken upon preparation of four Volumes on Islamic Adalat. Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani was requested to prepare three more volumes as one volume was already prepared by Late Qazi Mujahidul Islam Qasmi. Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, accepting the request, assured to complete it.

Apart from this, a number of suggestions came across the invitees, as one special session was arranged to receive the suggestions in the view concerned. Some important suggestions are enumerated below:

- To translate all the important documents of IOS from English to Urdu.

- As Legislation and Judicial interpretation relating to minority rights comprising, at least 100 judgments may be translated in Urdu and must go into masses to highlight the exact prevailing trends and attitude of judiciary in India towards Muslim community.
- To undertake a project to unearth the practices of misinterpreting and distorting the contents of history and efforts to change the minds of children and youngsters with sinister intention to defame the Muslim community. It was resolved that Prof. Refaat Ali Khan may be requested to take up this task.
- The Ulema of all School of thoughts should share a dais to emphasize the importance of education and ensure to raise an educated and an articulated Muslim community in future.
- A number of views from Prof. Mohsin Usmani, Ml. Ateeq Ahmad Bastavi, Prof. M. Muqim, Prof. Zafar Habib, Dr. (Ms.) Malika B. Mistry, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad (Advocate) and Mr. Abdul Qadir Shams (journalist) came across on the topic '*Aaj ka Musalman aur Kal ka Hindustan*'.

Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, who presided over this session, gave his presidential remarks and emphasized upon values of fraternity, humanity and brotherhood.

International Seminar on Zahrawi

The IOS will organize a three-day international seminar on Abul Qasim al-Zahrawi in recognition of his great services to medical science in medieval period. The seminar will be convened in Delhi on 13-15 December, 2013 in which experts from all over the world are expected to participate. Highlighting the importance of Muslim contribution to science, technology and humanities Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam said

that the seminar on Zahrawi is an attempt to pay our homage to a great medieval Muslim surgeon on one hand and to familiarize the new generation with the great contribution that the Islamic civilization has made towards development of medical science in the world. Concluding the two-day meeting of the IOS Governing Council and General Assembly, Dr. Alam also announced that the Institute will bring out a grand volume on biographies of 1400 great Muslim personalities.

After the end of the Governing Council and General Assembly's meet a programme or *Muzakarah* was held which was presided over by Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani. A number of scholars spoke on the topic: 'Today's Muslims, Tomorrow's India'. Most speakers expressed the view that while India's future was bright, the Muslims are destined to face challenges. Therefore the Muslim community has to gear up if it wants its share in tomorrow's shining India. Prof. Mohsin Usmani, Maulana Ateeq Ahmad Bastavi, Prof. Muqimuddin, Prof. Zafar Habeeb, Prof. Malka B. Mistri, Mushtaq Ahmad Advocate and Abdul Qadir Shams, a journalist expressed their views on the above topic.

Delivering his presidential remarks Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani said that the IOS has done remarkable works and all these has been possible because of sound and far-sighted planning. He highlighted the importance of planning and urged Muslims not to be pessimistic. He urged the audience to compare today's conditions with those obtaining in the country in the aftermath of Partition. Probably the condition prevailing in 1947 were worse than what we see today. We lost a lot but we have also achieved few things which should give us hope, a hope that will inspire us to achieve many more things in future, he said.

Dr. Manzoor Alam thanked the audience for attending the meeting, appreciated their valuable contributions and urged them to work harder for realizing the goals of the IOS.

Short-Takes

Mixed Results

Increase Muslim representation in police, intelligence, other security agencies

Statistics is of immense help in quantifying economic gains, but sometimes relying upon statistics alone can be misleading. One example is the latest National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) data that present a mixed picture of Muslim empowerment disempowerment.

The data show that Muslim employment in government jobs has increased to 10 percent from above six percent. This is a matter of some satisfaction. On the other hand, the same report says that Muslim household expenditure still remains the lowest in the country. Household expenditure is a sign of the status of income. That shows Muslims are still trapped in a low-income net.

Muslims are still faced with strong institutional biases which hold down their representation across public and private jobs. An enduring complaint has been about the persistent anti-Muslim bias in police, intelligence and allied security agencies. Muslims have been demanding an end to it through increased representation in the above agencies.

It is good that Muslim share in government jobs has increased. The next step should be to induct more Muslims in police, intelligence and paramilitary services. -IOSCA

Activities of the IOS Chapters

KOLKATA CHAPTER

A Sham-e-Mazakara Programme was held in the lecture hall of the IOS, Calcutta Chapter on 24.08.2013 on the topic "Social Welfare Schemes of the Government Their Implementation & Role of the Civil Society". Mr. Shah Alam Director A.F.T. and a noted Social Activist was the main speaker. The focus was mainly on the schemes of the Government for the minorities specially the Muslims. Mr. Alam lamented the lack of awareness or insufficient knowledge on the part of the people for whom various schemes of the Government are made. This is particularly so because of the backwardness of the people and a kind of helplessness and apathy that has developed among them with regard to official and beurocratic interest in their welfare.

Mr. Shah Alam listed some seventy schemes of the Government under the main heads (1) Madrasah Affairs and Madrasah Education (2) Urdu Academy (3) School Education (4) Panchayat and Rural Development & (5) Municipal & Urban Development. To a large number of audiences these were not adequately known. A very large number of the people for whom the schemes have been made and funds have been allocated do not have a knowledge of the schemes and least of all its utilization. He enumerated a number of lapses in actual implementation of the schemes. This is particularly so because of the backwardness of the people, and lack of adequate sincerity on the part of the state machinery. The expectation of the community for its uplift through its implementation of the schemes remains unfulfilled.

Mr. Alam dealt with, in detail, the special predicament of the rural poor who do not have access to modern mechanism of eliciting information and communicating with the state machinery.

Mr. Javed Akhter I.A.S provided the audience with valuable information about a number of schemes relating to

education and particularly about the labour and suggested the development of professional activism, in helping the people in the matter of obtaining benefits from the schemes. He proposed sending social activists to places like Hyderabad for training in helping the system to function in appropriate manner.

Prof Abdur Rahim Khan who presided over the meeting welcomed the idea and emphasised the need for social workers to come forward and lend their helping hands in making the schemes a success.

Dr. M.K.A.Siddiqui who invited Dr. Khan to Chair the function and introduced Mr. Shah Alam spoke of the sincere efforts of Mr. Alam for the socio-economic uplift of the suffering humanity, and the sincerity of his efforts. He later commenting on the functioning of the system in the implementation of the schemes right from the dissemination of information to the delivery of the benefits, there is much to be desired. A constant vigil and constant care is very much desirable. He proposed to make provision for a survey and research of planning, sanctioning of schemes and the entire process of the functioning of the system to avoid anomalies.

Among the large number of people attending and participating in the meeting were Syed Imtiaz Ahmed, Dr. Shahid Hussain, Syed Rishadat Ali, Mr. Azhar Farooqi, Mr. Mukhtar Alam, Mr. Javed Abbas Siddiqui, Mr. Shakeel Abbas Siddiqui, Mr. Abdul Basit, Mr. Mohammad Farooque, Mr. Zainul Abedin.

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The hajj proper begins with the march to Arafah, which lasts from the seventh to the eighth of dhu-al-Hijjah. The halts (*wuquf*) take place at the outlying sanctuaries of Arafah, namely, al-Muzdalifah and Mina. The stone-throwing ceremony takes place on the way to the valley of Mina at Jamrat al-Aqabah. With the sacrifice at Mina of a camel or of a sheep or other horned

domestic animal (Koran 22: 34-7), which always takes place on the tenth of dhu-al-Hijjah and is celebrated throughout the Moslem world as 'Id al-Adha (the festival of sacrifice), the whole ceremony formally ends. After shaving of the head the garment (*ihram*) is discarded and the *ihlal* (secular condition) resumed. As long as he is a *muhrim*, in a sanctified state, the pilgrim must observe, in addition to the abstinences imposed in connection with the fasting of Ramadan, such as sexual intercourse, those special regulations forbidding the shedding of blood, hunting and the uprooting of plants. Fasting, however, is not required.

From History of the Arabs by P.K. Hitti pp. 132-134.

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People from outside the campus, the bureaucrats and technocrats, some teachers whose knowledge was limited to the subjects they taught and some self proclaimed intellectuals who hardly know about how great personalities and civilizations are developed, hailed the suffocating measures of the Vice Chancellor and banished freedom and liberty from the campus which are essential to make a University great.

The AMU of early 1980s, no doubt, needed some reform or perhaps even minor surgery. Instead the then Vice Chancellor decided to conduct a major surgery and that too in a non-professional dictatorial manner. He felt like being absolute wisdom and started taking decisions under AMU statute 19-C(3) which were reported to and passed by Academic and Executive Councils. Bodies like Boards of Studies, Boards of Research, Faculty Committees, Academic and Executive Councils are created in universities to democratise their functions. Bureaucrats, military generals and also academics with dictatorial bent of mind find it difficult to function in a democratic manner. They do not like or tolerate voices of dissent which emerge from democratic bodies

operating in universities and, as a result, take all measures to undermine them. The university system that we have in India gives enormous power to Vice Chancellors which they often misuse to suppress democracy in order to rule like an absolute monarch.

At Aligarh Muslim University in 1980

by Ishtiyaque Danish

The views expressed in the article do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of the Newsletter (editor)

My wife and I rise quite early to send our children to school. Today it just so happened that I woke up before the alarm bell rang. Perhaps I was still half awake and half asleep when an old memory flashed on the screen of my mind and immediately I went back to 1980s when I was studying at Aligarh.

It was early morning and perhaps I was still sleeping when loud voices woke me up. I came out of my room and discovered to my horror that the police had surrounded our complex, our lovely Habib Hall. The university had been closed sine die following the tragic death of a fellow student in police firing during a protest against the then Vice Chancellor.

We had no option; we boarded buses to railway station to catch a special train that was to leave for Patna via Kanpur, Allahabad and Mughal Sarai. Students hailing from Eastern UP and Bihar had been provided this free train service to leave for their homes. As can be imagined, a lot many students were from Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Mau, Gahazipur and Balia etc. The so called very good University administration never thought how we shall go from Mughal Sarai to our destinations, which were over a hundred miles away in most cases. The train journey was bitter and painful.

We reached home after 28 hours, tired, thirsty and hungry, for there was nothing to eat and drink in the so called 'special train'.

I joined AMU, Aligarh in 1979. The session started quite late. Students were of all kinds and colour like the birds and animals in a zoo. There were serious, very serious and not so serious students. There was freedom which was indeed being misused. Railway concession was available thorough out the year and not so serious students would avail it every now and then. Although students were free to attend or not to attend classes, there used to be good number of students in every class; in fact, in some classes we were often obliged to attend lectures in a standing condition. Many classes were indeed crowded.

For many people the AMU I have described above was not up to mark. They wanted a regimented campus where students will have few freedoms. They succeeded in their design when a new Vice Chancellor, a tall handsome man, took the reign of the University in 1980. Soon after his arrival an impression was created as students were in the habit of being absent from classes. As a result 75% attendance was made compulsory. In Habib Hall, where I was staying, I

found only a few students frowning at the new attendance rule because great majority had no problem with it; in fact people like me, a member of the silent majority, rarely missed a class.

The round the year available railway concession was next to go. Some other measures, taken mostly by some provosts, were not liked by a majority of students. A clever professor took advantage of the situation and issued a press statement which many felt was derogatory for the University. Spontaneous protests started and soon the campus was converted into student versus University administration conflict. The opportunists belonging to both the camps, the Right and the Left, surrounded the Vice Chancellor and created a sort of permanent rift between him and the students.

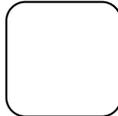
An ill-advised Vice Chancellor, who was already bristling with self righteousness, unleashed a reign of terror. Many hundred students were rusticated and even more were denied admission. A culture of submission, hypocrisy and sycophancy developed.

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