



# IOS NEWSLETTER

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## Thought for the Month

Ramadhan is the (month)  
 In which was sent down  
 The Qur-an, as a guide  
 To mankind, also clear (Signs)  
 For guidance and judgment  
 (Between right and wrong).  
 So every one of you  
 Who is present (at his home)  
 During that month  
 Should spend it in fasting,  
 But if any one is ill,  
 Or on a journey,  
 The prescribed period  
 (Should be made up)  
 By days later.

Al-Quran- 2:185

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## FOCUS

Ramadan, is the ninth month of the Arab and Islamic calendar. The word *Ramadan* meant originally "great heat", a description which originates in the pre-Islamic solar calendar. This month was holy in Arab tradition before Islam and was one of the months of truce. Fasting during the month is one of the Five Pillars of Islam (*sawm Ramadan*).

...the month of Ramadan, wherein the Koran was sent down to be a guidance  
 To the people, and as clear signs  
 Of the Guidance and the Salvation  
 So let those of you, who are present  
 At the month, fast it; and if any of you  
 Be sick, or if he be on a journey,  
 Then a number of other days; God desires  
 Ease for you, and desires not hardship  
 For you; and that you fulfil the number, and  
 Magnify God that He has guided you, and haply  
 You will be thankful (2:182)

The month of fasting begins with the physical sighting of the new moon. (A new moon cannot be seen with the naked eye until at least twenty hours after the astronomic new moon, or conjunction of moon and sun). If the new moon is not sighted on the twenty-eighth day of the previous month, this may be lengthened to twenty-nine or thirty days so that the beginning of fasting may correspond with the beginning of the month of Ramadan. Following Turkish custom, many countries signal the beginning of the month of Ramadan to the population by the repeated firing of cannon on the even of the first day. (In the Islamic calendar a day runs from sunset to sunset). Cannon are also used to signal the beginning and end of each fast day.

During Ramadan a Muslim does not eat or drink from daybreak, when a thread of light may be seen on the horizon, until the sun has set. After the evening prayer (*maghrib*), a breakfast is eaten somewhat later in the night a larger meal is taken. It is common to take a meal, sometimes called *suhur*, in the early morning before the fast begins. Musicians and criers walk through towns at night to wake the people to take this meal; the criers often do this as a pious act.

The daily fast is begun by formulating the intention to perform the fast as a rite. Children begin fasting gradually, first half a day, then several days, until they grow old enough to fast without inuring their health. No one is required to fast if his health is not up to it, and if a fast threatens health it should be stopped. Pregnant and nursing women are exempted from fasting. Menstruating women are also exempted but must make up the lost fast days afterwards during the course of the year.

Travellers are exempted from fasting (but not forbidden to fast), if the distance traveled is great, or if they are on a journey which continues for more than three days.

*Contd. on page-11*

**Activities of the IOS Headquarters**

**GC Meet**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Meeting (six-monthly) of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS was held on 28.04.2018 at 10:30 a.m. in the Committee Room of the IOS Headquarters.

The following were present:

- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Dr. M. Manzoor Alam        | in the Chair      |
| 2. Prof. Z.M. Khan            | Secretary General |
| 3. Prof. M. Afzal Wani Asstt. | Secretary General |
| 4. Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish    | Finance Secretary |
| 5. Prof. P. Koya              | Member            |
| 6. Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia | Member            |
| 7. Dr. Major Zahid Husain     | Member            |
| 8. Ms. Farhat Azad            | Member            |
| 9. Mr. Mohammad Alam          | Member            |
| 10. Prof. Shamim A. Ansari    | Special Invitee   |
| 11. Prof. M. Ishtiaq          |                   |
| 12. Prof. S. Jamaluddin       |                   |
| 13. Prof. Javed Ahmad Khan    |                   |
| 14. Dr. Md. Aftab Alam        |                   |
| 15. Mr. V. B. Rawat           |                   |
| 16. Mr. Ibrahim Alam          |                   |

The meeting started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an by Dr. Major Zahid Husain who also explained their meaning.

Condolence resolutions on the sad demise of several eminent personalities were adopted.

Before taking the main agenda items and starting the business, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, Chairman, IOS welcomed the members and special invitees for attending the meeting.

The minutes of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Governing Council (G.C.) meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 were presented and confirmed. Thereafter the Action Taken Report was presented and confirmed after some suggestions.

In regard to the 14-day workshop on 'Research Methodology in Islamic Perspective, which was successfully organised in collaboration with Faculty

of Social Sciences, A.M.U., Aligarh during January 27 to February 09, 2018, it was decided that it will be a continuous programme of the IOS and developed on the basis of the following books:

1. 'Epistemological Bias in Social Sciences' by Abdul Wahab Al-Miseri
2. 'Al-Tawhid' by Prof. Ismail Raji Al-Faruqi
3. 'Islam and Knowledge' by Dr. Imtiyaz Yousuf.
4. 'Cultural Atlas of Islam' by Prof. Ismail Raji Al-Faruqi
5. 'Meethaq-e-Madina' by Prof. Muhammad Hamidullah

Further, a Committee consisting of the following persons is constituted to



A view of the G.C. Meeting

look into all the matters relating to the programme on 'Research Methodology in Islamic Perspective':

1. Prof. Shamim A. Ansari
2. Prof. Arshi Khan
3. Prof. Javed A. Khan
4. Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish and
5. Prof. S. Jamaluddin

In regard to the conference/seminars organized by the IOS during September 2016 to April 2018, it was decided that:

- Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi will be assigned to edit a volume, based on the proceedings of the National Seminar on 'Importance of Inter-

*Religious Understanding: Its Implications for Mankind'* organized at Bodhgaya on September 24-25, 2016.

- Prof. M. Aslam, Former Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU, New Delhi will be assigned to edit a volume, based on the proceedings of the National Conference on "Towards Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India—Creating a Better Tomorrow Through Education", organized at New Delhi on November 05, 2016.

- Prof. M. Afzal Wani is assigned to edit a volume, based on the proceedings of the National Seminar on "Towards Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India—Creating a Better Tomorrow Through Law", organized at Kolkata on April 22-23, 2017.

- Prof. P. Koya is assigned to edit a volume, based on the proceedings of the International Conference on "The Role of Women in Making a Humane

*Society*", organized at Calicut on September 23-24, 2017.

Prof. Koya has assured to submit the same by 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2018.

- Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish is assigned to edit a volume, based on the proceedings of the National Seminar on "Towards Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India – Creating a Better Tomorrow Through Islamic Studies", organized at Jodhpur on October 20-21, 2017.

- Prof. S. Jamaluddin is assigned to edit a volume based on the

proceedings of the National Seminar on “Towards Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India—Creating a Better Tomorrow Through History”, organized at Chennai on December 02-03, 2017.

- Prof. Asmer Beg will be assigned to edit a volume, based on the proceedings of International Conference on “Towards Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India—Creating a Better Tomorrow”, organized at New Delhi on February 16-18, 2018.
- Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi is assigned to edit a volume, based on the proceedings of the International Conference on “The Life and Contribution of Ismail Raji Al-Faruqi”, organized at New Delhi on April 20-21, 2018.

Prof. Abdur Rashid Bhat and Dr. Fahim Akhtar Nadvi will be associated with Prof. Rafiabadi for editing this volume.

- As regards the volume, based on the proceedings of the International Conference on “The Legacy of Muhammad Hamidullah and Its Contemporary Relevance”, organized at New Delhi on February 17-18, 2017 it was reported that this volume is already being edited jointly by Prof. Mohsin Usmani and Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish.

In regard to Electoral Reforms and use of EVMs in Elections in India a letter was sent to the Chief Election Commissioner of India to use ballot papers for voting instead of EVMs as there have been allegations of tampering the EVMs and it is being taken as a threat to Indian democracy.

Since there has been no acknowledgement received from the office of the Chief Election Commissioner of India it was decided to send a reminder to CEC of India for this purpose.

In regard to organizing the two-day National Conference on “**The Life and Contribution of Maulana Manazir Ahsan Gilani**” it has been decided that this Conference will be organized at **Jahangirabad, Barabanki (U.P.) on October 27-28, 2018** in collaboration with Jahangirabad Institute of Technology, Barabanki (U.P.).

In regard to the research project on “Muslims Political Thought in India”,

6. Prof. Muzaffar Alam
7. Prof. Obaidullah Fahad
8. Prof. Abdul Ali and
9. Dr. Md. Aftab Alam

Subsequently, the project on the above theme will be developed and taken up.

After thorough discussion in regard to strengthening the IOS Chapters it was decided that the summary of the recommendations as submitted by Prof. M.A. Quddus should be circulated amongst all the Chapters of the IOS for giving their suggestions for strengthening the Chapters so that these suggestions may be presented before the next meeting of the Governing Council of the IOS for consideration.



A view of the G.C. Meeting

The matter regarding the revival of the Indian Association of Muslim Social Scientists (IAMSS) was discussed at length and after deliberations it was decided that the IAMSS should be revived as its aims are to provide avenues and platform to

it was informed that a one-day workshop based on the book of Graham E. Fuller entitled ‘Future of Political Islam’ will be organized by the IOS on **August 18, 2018** at **New Delhi**, basically with a view to examine as to how to develop a *Basic Theory of Islamic Politics*.

The workshop will be participated by the following persons and they may be considered as the members of the Core Committee:

1. Prof. Z. M. Khan
2. Prof. Arshi Khan
3. Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish
4. Prof. Asmer Beg
5. Prof. Badrul Alam

Muslim social scientists of the country to interact and cooperate in academic pursuits conducive to development and progress of the academics in constructive and positive ways and that it provides a platform to Muslim scholars of social sciences and humanities in India for academic interaction, exchange and cooperation.

It was further decided that a two-day programme as an initiative for revitalizing the IAMSS will be organized on **June 20-21, 2018** at **Aligarh** under the overall supervision of Prof. Shamim A. Ansari who will also chalk out the details of this programme.

The Chairman, IOS desired that necessary information should be taken from internet regarding (a) American Association of Muslim Social Scientists and (b) Association of Muslim Social Scientists of U.K.

And that the following persons are requested to attend this programme:

1. Prof. Z. M. Khan
2. Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish
3. Prof. M. Afzal Wani
4. Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia
5. Prof. S. Jamaluddin
6. Prof. P. Koya
7. Dr. Md. Aftab Alam

The proposal was discussed at length and after deliberations the establishment of this Centre was approved as its basic aim will be to correct the distortions of the History of India, particularly the Muslim rule, being sought to be orchestrated by the Hindutva forces, leading to the rise of intolerance in polity as well as communal divide between communities, faiths and individuals.

The members were apprised that this Centre will be funded by well-wishers from Chennai.

As regards the progress report on the research projects undertaken by the Headquarters, it was reported that:

*'Exclusion of Muslims in India: Participation, Tolerance and Legitimacy of the State'; 'Psyche in Islam'; 'Rise and Role of Marginalized Communities in Indian Freedom Struggle'; 'Islamic Finance and Venture Capital: Options for the Indian Economy'; 'Role of Muslims in Indian Freedom Struggle (1857-1947) Vol. I (Delhi), Vol. II (Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka) and Vol. III (Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra) (Translation in Hindi) and 'Perspectives – Selected Writings of Dr. M. Manzoor Alam' were published.*

*'Vision India 2025: Social Economic Inequalities'; 'Christianity*

*and Islam: Faiths and Beliefs'; 'The Relevance of Prophet Mohammad's Life and Teaching in an Insecure and Fragile World' (Translation in Hindi); 'The Role of Muslims in the Indian Freedom Struggle (1857-1947)' Vol. I (Delhi), Vol. II (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala), Vol. III (Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra) (Translation in Urdu); 'An Encyclopaedic Compendium of Muslim Communities in the World' Vol. I, Vol. II and Vol. III (Translation in Urdu) are in Press for printing.*

Page-setting of *'A Course Material of Muslim Women's Rights Enshrined in the Holy Qur'an and in Indian Constitution'; 'An Encyclopaedic Compendium of Muslim Communities in the World' Vol IV (Western Asia) and 'Psychological Aspects of Youth Behaviour in Contemporary Society of Jamia Nagar, New Delhi' will be initiated soon.*

Revised manuscript of *'Knowledge and Purpose: A Comparative Perspective'* has been received. Further formalities are to be carried out soon.

It was informed that the final manuscript of *'State Criminal Justice System and Challenges to Individual Liberty: A Critical Evaluation of Criminal Statutes of last Twenty years'* will be submitted by Prof. Faizan Mustafa by the end of November 2018.

In regard to the research project entitled *'A Study of Madarsas and Urdu Medium Schools in North India: An Examination and Evaluation of their Role in Career Building and Socio-Economic Upliftment of Muslim Children'*, it was reported that the final report of the same was submitted. However, some comments from the expert on this report were received and sent to Dr. Tarique Ashraf and others (Project Directors) for revising the report in the light of these comments.

Similarly the final report on the research project entitled *'Muslims of*

*Uttarakhand'* was submitted to the IOS. However, some updation on the study is going on and it is hoped that the revised report will be submitted soon.

The work on the research projects entitled *'Global Trends in Education: Problems and Prospects and Contemporary Challenges'* by Dr. S. Fazle Rab; *'Constitutional, Legal and Administrative Dimensions of Empowerment'* by Prof. M. Afzal Wani; *'An Encyclopaedic Compendium of Muslim Communities in the World' Vol. V (Rest of the World)* by Dr. M.K.A. Siddiqui and Mr. Javed A. Siddiqui; *'Educational Institutions established by Muslims in India between 1986-2016'* by Ms. Naaz Khair; *'A Study of Trends in Education and Exposure to Media among Muslim Women in India based on NFHS-I to IV (1992-2016)'* by Dr. (Ms.) Malika B. Mistry and *'Religious Violence in Contemporary India: An Exploration of Aftermaths'* by Prof. Arshi Khan & Dr. G.C. Pal is going on. Moreover, in respect of the project being undertaken by Prof. Arshi Khan & Dr. G.C. Pal, the Chairman, IOS suggested that Prof. Shamim A. Ansari will also be involved in this project.

Under the project entitled *'Kalimatullah Hiya Al-ulia (Allah ka Kalima hi Buland Hai)'* wherein the booklets on 122 topics from Da'wah point of view are to be prepared, it has been reported that 18 booklets under the theme *'Aqaid'* and *'Ausaaf-e-Razeela'* have been published, while another 15 booklets under the theme *'Huqooq'* are being readied for Press. The work on preparation of remaining booklets is continuing.

In regard to the project entitled *'14 Centuries of a Glorious Legacy: Biographical Sketches of 1400 Outstanding Muslims Who Enriched Humanity'* under the Directorship of Prof. Mohsin Usmani, it has been reported that:

- (i) Profiles of 200 personalities have been completed and published in the book form under the title *'Mashaaher-e-Uloom-e-Islamia aur Mufakkereen wa Musleheen'*. Similarly profiles of 65 personalities under the title *'Mashaaher Muslim Sciencedaan'* in the book form have been published.
- (ii) Profiles of 179 personalities under the title *'Mashaaher-e-Sher-o-Adab'* in book form have been completed and sent to Press for printing.
- (iii) Profiles of 26 personalities under the title *'Fateheen/Fatuhaat'* have been completed and are being readied for Press.
- (iv) Profiles of 23 personalities under the title *'Mashaaher-e-Islam aur Insaani Aqdaar wa Islami Kirdaar'* have been completed and are being compiled.
- (v) Profiles of personalities under the title *'Mashaaher Khawateen-e-Islam'* are being collected and compiled.
- (vi) Material on 189 scholars in various disciplines such as *'Uloom-e-Quran'*, *'Uloom-e-Hadith'*, *'Seerat-e-Nabwi/Seerat Nigaari'*, *'Fiqh Islami'*, *'Tasawwuf'*, *'Muarrekheen aur Tareekh Naweesi'* has been collected and being compiled.
- (vii) The work on identification of remaining personalities is continuing.

In regard to this project the Chairman, IOS requested Prof. P. Koya to kindly prepare a brief note about this project in Malayalam language and get it printed in *'Thejas Daily'* so that proper information is disseminated in right perspective.

For the project entitled *'Legacy of Islam'* undertaken by Prof. M. Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui it has been reported that the work on *'Masaadir-e-Tasawwuf'* is continuing with

typesetting of 200 pages covering 10 papers/articles.

The work on the Text Book entitled *'Readings in Islamic Psychology'* being written by Prof. Shamim A. Ansari is in progress and it is hoped that the same will be completed by the end of December 2018.

The book entitled *'A Course Material of Muslim Women's Rights Enshrined in the Holy Qur'an and in Indian Constitution'*, written by Dr. Suraiya Tabassum Rehman, has been revised. Page-setting formalities will be started soon.

Moreover, in regard to preparation of Text Books it was decided that a one-day workshop on *'Preparation of Syllabus and Text Books of Islamic Studies'* will be organized at **New Delhi on September 15, 2018.**

Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, Prof. Ishtiaque Danish and Dr. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi will be the key resource persons for this workshop. They will analyse the current trends/changes for adding them in the syllabus of Islamic Studies.

The Chairman, IOS suggested to hold an indepth meeting at IOS (before organizing this workshop) with Senior Professors, Heads of the Departments and Associate Professors of Islamic Studies to make this workshop more effective/fruitful.

The Chairman, IOS further requested the members and special invitees to come forward for writing the Text Books/Reading Series on various subjects namely History, Political Science, Education, Economics and Law.

The progress report of the translation of IOS books as well as the translation, review and editing of IIIT books was gone through by the G.C. members and special invitees, who expressed their satisfaction on the progress.

However, it was decided that a two-day meeting of all the translators will be held at **IOS, New Delhi on June 29-30, 2018** to understand the problems concerning the translation. Mr. Saeedur Rahman Azmi will also be invited to attend this meeting.

After discussion it was decided to organize the following workshops:

- A workshop on *'Islamic Civilisation'* will be organized at New Delhi sometime later this year.
- Around 5-6 workshops on *'Tawhidic Paradigm'* will be organized at Aligarh, Delhi, Patna, Srinagar and at other locations of India within a period of two years. A Core Committee consisting of Prof. Ishtiaque Danish, Prof. M. Ishtiaq, Prof. Abdur Rashid Bhat, Prof. Obaidullah Fahad is constituted to look into all the matters related to this workshop.

In the end Prof. Ishtiaque Danish, Finance Secretary of the IOS, acknowledging the full cooperation and active support by all the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) and special invitees, thanked all of them.

The meeting got concluded at 2:30 p.m. with *dua* by Prof. M. Afzal Wani.

### **IOS, AIMC remember Justice Sachar, and others**

A condolence meeting in remembrance of Justice Rajinder Sachar, former chief justice, Delhi and Punjab High Court, and chairman of the Sachar Committee; Maulana Mohammad Salim Qasmi, rector, Darul Uloom Deoband (Waqf); Maulana Abdul Wahab Khilji, founder member, All India Milli Council and former Secretary General, Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadis, and Salar M. Khan, advocate, member, General Assembly, IOS and former editor IOS Human Rights Today, who died recently, was jointly organised by the Institute of Objective Studies and All India Milli

Council on May 4, 2018 at the conference hall of FTK-CIT auditorium, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Former chief justice of India, Justice A M Ahmadi, who presided over the condolence meeting, said that all the four personalities carved out a name for themselves in their fields. He called for imbibing their spirit. Referring to Justice Rajinder Sachar, he said that by writing the Sachar Report, he brought to light the backwardness of Muslims economically, socially and educationally. Taking a cue from the report, more attention to educational backwardness of the community should be paid as this was the key to success.

Paying rich tribute to Justice Sachar, the chairman, IOS, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam recalled his close association with the Institute. Referring to the late Maulana Abdul Wahab Khilji, he said that the maulana was a selfless Islamic theologian who had deep concern for the Ummah. About Salar M. Khan, he said that besides being a senior lawyer, he had a multi-dimensional personality. He always left a lasting impact of his capabilities wherever he worked, Dr. Alam said.

The chairman, Delhi Minorities Commission, Dr. Zafarul Islam Khan, said that Maulana Mohammad Salim Qasmi was a significant Islamic theologian in his own right. His qualities were diverse. Lauding the services of Maulana Abdul Wahab Khilji, he said that he was far-sighted and open-hearted.

The vice-chancellor, Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, observed that the

death of all the four had caused a great loss to the community. All the departed souls would always remain alive on account of their services.

The *nazim* of Imarat-e-Shariah, Maulana Aneesur Rehman Qasmi said that he had been associated with different organisations, but he never came across any person who could speak ill about Maulana Mohammad Salim Qasmi. The maulana was a broad-minded *aalim* and commanded respect among all schools of Islamic thought.

The grandson of the late Justice Sachar, Akshay Bhandari informed the audience that Justice Sachar was deeply concerned about the prevailing situation in the country. He always

Ayesha Siddiqui said that he was very kind and simple in his personal life. He was always willing to help people. The daughter of advocate Salar Mohammad Khan, Aliya Salar, while mourning her father, said that, being a man of high moral character he loved everyone who came into contact with him.

Paying glowing tributes to the four public figures, Dr. Qasim Rasool Ilyas especially referred to advocate Salar M. Khan and said that had he chosen journalism as a profession, instead of being a lawyer, he would have attained a higher position. Prof. Khwaja Abdul Muntaquim, Maulana Abdullah Tariq, Dr. Shes Timi, the son of Maulana Khilji, Mohammad, and Sardar Chhajanji also expressed their views.

Earlier, the meeting began with the recitation of a Quranic verse by Hafiz Athar Husain Nadwi. While the proceedings of the meeting were conducted by Dr. Nakhat Husain Nadwi, a vote of thank was extended by Dr. Parvez Miyan, president of All India Milli Council, Delhi unit.



L-R: Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, Prof. Z.M. Khan, Dr. Zafrul Islam Khan, Justice A.M. Ahmadi Dr. M. Manzoor Alam and MI. Anisur Rahman Qasmi

stood for the good of the people and was never found wanting in helping people in distress.

General Secretary, All India Muslim Majlis-i-Mushawarat, Maulana Abdul Hameed Nomani, held that great men always remained alive in people's memories due to their good deeds. Maulana Mohammad Salim Qasmi was one such scholar of eminence who would continue to make his presence felt through his work.

Expressing deep grief over the death of her father, the daughter of Maulana Abdul Wahab Khilji, Dr.

**Two-day National Seminar on "Urdu Writers' Tribute to the Prophet of Islam in Modern India" (March 10-11, 2018 at Aligarh)**

Defending the life and teachings of Prophet of Islam and trying to reinterpret them in the contemporary world is the need of hour but more importantly the futuristic vision of Islam and Muslim should be framed in the light of Sirah of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). This was highlighted by Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Chairman Institute of Objective Studies, Delhi in his address

at the inaugural session of the two-day national seminar on “Urdu Writers’ Tribute to the Prophet of Islam in Modern India” organized by the Deptt. of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University in collaboration with Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi on March 10-11, 2018.

Dr. Alam explained the noble person of the Prophet, his teachings and ideal character constitute an inseparable part of Islamic civilisation. This civilisation must be protected since it forms the religio-cultural identity of Muslims and is a requirement of the modern times. He congratulated the Deptt. of Islamic Studies, AMU for initiating a positive and fruitful step by inviting different schools of thought to share their views.

Prof. Tariq Mansoor, vice-chancellor Aligarh Muslim University, inaugurated the seminar. He credited Sir Syed Ahmad Khan with introducing scientific research method in Sirah writing. It was he who intellectually responded to Sir William Muir and compiled *Khutba-i-Ahmadia* in which he explained the issues raised by Sir William about the Prophet of Islam in his book. The vice-chancellor highlighted moderation, toleration, non-violence and humanitarian approach as the spirit of Islam. The real message of the Prophet of Islam is to be communicated to the world by the Muslims’ behavior and conduct. He also pointed out the role of Urdu language in Sirah writing. He made an appeal to the learned gathering to promote Urdu by speaking and writing in it.

Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish, an Islamic scholar, paid tributes to Sir Syed

Ahmad Khan, Maulana Shibli Nomani, Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanavi and Syed Sulaiman Nadwi. He said that Urdu scholars of the sub-continent tried to explain issues and assuage the misgivings of others about the Prophet (PBUH) and his message. To him, Urdu Sirah writing suffices in that regard.

Maulana Sayyid Jalaluddin Umari, Ameer Jamat-i-Islami Hind, addressed the gathering as the chief guest. He declared the holy Quran as the prime source of Sirah writing. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad had pointed out that if only the Quran survived and the entire Islamic literature disappeared from the scene, the biography of the prophet would be easily compiled without any support from other sources, Maulana Umari said. He stressed that the Quran

development of Sirah writing in India in detail, its various phases, different dimensions, varying trends and perspectives on Sirah writing.

Dr. Abdul Majid Khan conducted the inaugural session, which was started with the recitation of the holy Quran. Qari Mohammad Azam recited verses from the Quran corresponding to the theme. Arqam Fahad, a student of AMU City High School recited a *na’at* in praise of the Prophet of Islam composed by Naim Siddiqui. Prof. Obaidullah Fahad, chairman of the Deptt. of Islamic Studies offered a vote of thanks.

### Book Release

The inaugural session witnessed the release of four books:

1. Journal of the Institute of Islamic Studies, AMU (Editor-in-Chief: Obaidullah Fahad, Editor: Mohd. Ismail) by Prof. Tariq Mansoor, VC AMU.
2. Majallah Uloom Islamia, Urdu (Editor-in-Chief Obaidullah Fahad, Editor: Abdul Hamid Fazli, Associate Editor: Ziauddin) by Prof. Mohd. Yaseen Mazhar Siddiqui
3. Qiyamat-i-Kubra (Urdu translation of Dr. Umar Ashqar’s Arabic title by Dr. Ziauddin) by Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam
4. Rahmaton ke Safeer (Obaidullah Fahad) by Maulana Syed Jalaluddin Umari.

### First Working Session

The first business session was presided over by Prof. Sagheer Afraheem, Chairman Deptt. of Urdu, AMU and Editor *Tahzeebul Akhlaq*. The session was compered by Dr. Ziauddin. While addressing the gathering, Prof. Afraheem as the



L-R: Prof. Obaidullah Fahad, Prof. Tariq Mansoor, Ml. Sayyid Jalaluddin Omari, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam and Prof. Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui

showed the prophet (PBUH) as the messenger of God, as a responsible member of society, as a loving father, a caring husband, a dynamic leader, a commander in-chief in battle and a compassionate human being.

As keynote speaker Prof. Mohammad Yaseen Mazhar Siddiqui emphasised the period of Maulana Shibli Nomani as the golden period of Sirah writing in Urdu. He mentioned Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi who, for the first time, used the holy Quran as the prime source for Sirah writing. Prof. Siddiqui examined the

president of the session, talked about women's financial contribution in India to the Sirah writing of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). He cited the example of Begum Sultan Jahan who assisted Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in writing the Sirah that logically dispelled William Muir's doubts. He talked about the two biographical novels of Rashid-ul-Khairi entitled, *Syeda Ka Lal* and *Aamna Ka Lal*. He reiterated that after studying the two novels Prem Chand, the renowned novelist promised Rashid-ul-Khairi to write a biography of the Prophet of Islam. In this session the following five papers were presented:

1. Maulana Ashhad Jamal Nadwi: "Contribution of Madrasatul Ishah to Sirah Writing"
2. Abul Ala Syed Subhani: "Research and findings of Maulana Mohammad Inayatullah Subhani in Sirah episodes"
3. Maulana Kamal Akhtar Qasmi: "Contribution of Ulama-i-Deoband in Sirah Writing"
4. Dr. Arshi Shoeb: "Modern approach in Urdu Sirah writing towards Orientalism": A study of Rahmatullil Aalamin
5. Dr. Obaid Iqbal Asim: "Biography writing of Maulana Mohammad Aslam Qasmi"

### Second Working Session

After lunch and prayer break the second business session was compered by Dr. Adam Malik Khan and was chaired by Prof. Zafarul Islam Islahi. While delivering his presidential remark Prof. Islahi laid stress on the contribution of Aligarh Muslim University to Sirah literature. He emphasised Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's *Khutbat-i-Ahmadia* as a preface to

Urdu Sirah writing in modern India based on scientific and rational approach. He appreciated the scholars for their profound papers. This session had nine papers:

1. Dr. Nadeem Ashraf: "Introduction and analysis of some Urdu Sirah writers in India"
2. Dr. Rahat Abrar: "An Appraisal of Dr. Mohammad Abdullah's (Papa Miyan) book : *Khatamul Anbeya*"
3. Dr. Mohd. Nasir: "Sirah writing of Ulama-i-Mazahir Uloom"
4. Dr. Shahabuddin Qasmi: "A study of *Hayat-i-Sarwar-i-Kainat*: A book by Abu Bakr Sirajuddin (translated from English).
5. Dr. Waqar Anwar: "A study of Seerat-i-Tayyaba and Muhammad-



The book entitled "Qiyamat-i-Kubra" being released by Dr. M. Manzoor Alam

- i-Arabi (صلى الله عليه وسلم): A comparative study with special reference to Dawah work
6. Dr. Mohd. Raziul Islam Nadwi: "Contribution of Jamat-i-Islami to Sirah writing:"
7. Dr. Saba Anjum: "Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi's contribution to Sirah literature"
8. Prof. Zafarul Islam Islahi: "A study of Maulana Mujibullah Nadwi's book : *Uswa-i-Hasna*"
9. Dr. Bilal Ahmad Kuty: "Contribution of Kashmiri scholars to Sirah literature"

### Third Working Session

After Maghrib prayer the third business session was conducted by Dr. Uzma Khatoon and was chaired by Prof. Towqeer Alam Falahi, Dean Faculty of Theology. He lauded the contributors for their valuable research papers. He was of the view that Sirah writers in India not only provided details of the biography of the Prophet of Islam but they also raised the contemporary socio-political issues and emphasised their solution in Sirah perspective. Prof. Abu Sufiyan Islahi, as a guest of honour graced the occasion and appreciated the contributors. This session had the following 11 papers:

1. Dr. Mubin Saleem: "Ethical values of the Prophet in Urdu Sirah writing"
2. Dr. Sadiq Akhtar Nadwi: "A study of Syed Rabey Nadwi's book: *Rahbar-i-Insaniyat*"
3. Dr. Shayesta Parveen: "An appraisal by non-Muslim poets of the Prophet of Islam".
4. Naushad Alam Chishti: "A study of Seerat Al-Mustafa".
5. Dr. Mohd. Shamim Akhtar Qasmi: "Dr. Mahmood Ahmad Ghazi's contribution to Sirah writing"
6. Mr. Ayaz Shaikh: "Sirah writing of Dr Muhammad Hamidullah"
7. Prof. Abu Sufiyan Islahi: "Sirah wiring in Aligarh"
8. Dr. Rehan Akhtar: "Maulana Manazir Ahsan Gilani as a Sirah writer"
9. Dr. Mohammad Rashid Islahi: "Importance of Sirah writing in Urdu language"



10. Dr. Mohd. Afzal: "Contribution of Seerat Committee AMU, Aligarh"

11. Prof. Towqeer Alam Falahi: "*Nabi-i-Rahmat: An analysis*"

#### Fourth Working Session

On the second day (11 March 2018) the fourth business session was compered by Dr. Bilal Ahmad Kutty. This session was chaired by Prof. Abdul Ali, former Chairman, Deptt. of Islamic Studies, AMU. Prof. Abdul Ali focused on issues like peaceful coexistence and minorities in the light of Sirah. He emphasised the role of Hindu scholars in Sirah writing. In this session six research papers were read:

1. Dr. Ehsanullah Fahad: "Seerat-i-Sarwar-i-Alam: A study"  
2. Dr. Ghulam Nabi: "Peace perspective in the Sirah of the Prophet, with special reference to Shibli"

3. Dr. Abdul Majid Khan: "A study of Maulana Ashraf Ali Thanavi's *Nashr al-tib fi zikr al Nabi al-Habib*"

4. Prof. Iqtedar Mohammad Khan: "A study of Sardar Lamba Singh's book *Quran-i-Natiq*"

5. Prof. Mohd. Ishaq: "An analysis of *Hayat-i-Rasool-i-Ummi*"

6. Dr. Syed Imam Habib Qadri: "Anwarullah Farooqui, founder of Jamia Nizamia's contribution to Sirah literature"

#### Fifth Working Session

The fifth business session started at 11:30 and was presided by Prof. Mohammad Ishaq, Chairman Deptt. of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. In his presidential address Prof. Ishaq briefly examined the importance of Sirah in modern times and said we should try to understand

Sirah writers in their historical context. He said by evaluating their work one should be able to know how far they were successful in dealing with contemporary issues. He requested the audience to examine the relevance and validity of Sirah writing in the light of the Quran since the Quran constitutes the prime source of Sirah writing. Prof. Iqtedar Mohammad Khan, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, was the guest of honour. He was thankful to the Chairman, Deptt. of Islamic Studies, AMU and the organising team of the seminar for having conducted a well-managed and disciplined programme. He reminisced about his stay at Aligarh as a student of B.A.

Prof. Zafrul Islam Islahi in the question-answer session pointed out

following nine research papers were presented:

1. Dr. Zubair Zafar Khan: "An analysis of Dr. Mohammad Hamidullah's work"

2. Mohd. Jarjees Kareemi: "A study of Sirah research papers in quarterly Tahqeeqat-i-Islami"

3. Siraj Kareem Salfi: "Sirah contribution of Jamia Salafia, Banaras"

4. Raza Abbas: "Defining Sirah writings of Shia ulama in India"

5. Dr. Zafar Darik Qasmi: "A critical evaluation of Hindu Sirah writers"

6. Dr. Waris Mazhari: "A study of Sirah writings written by Ulama-i-Deoband"

7. Dr. Abdul Hamid Fazli: "An appraisal of Rahmatul-lil-Aalameen"

8. Dr. Rahmattullah: "A critical study of *Al-Shamama Al-Ambariya min Maulad Khair Al-Bariyyah*".

9. Dr. Ziauddin Falahi: "A study of Hindu Sirah writers: A critical study"

#### Valedictory Session:

At 3:00 pm the valedictory session began in the packed conference hall of

Deptt. of Islamic Studies. This session was chaired by Maulana Mohammad Tahir Madni, Jamiatul Falah, Azamgarh. The session was compered by Dr. Abdul Hamid Fazli, which was started with recitation of the holy Quran by Ahmad Muhammad. Dr. Ziauddin Falahi, convener, presented a brief report on the two-day seminar. He highlighted the main features of the research papers read in the seminar. He appreciated the keen interest, dedication and sincerity of scholars of Islamic Studies from different parts of the country. He was amazed at the response from scholars. He regretted



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the Quranic philosophy regarding guidance and misguidance. He cited the holy Quran to the effect that Allah guides to the path of deliverance whom He wishes. However, only those are guided to the right path who have an earnest urge for guidance and are God fearing. The Quran says:

*"Allah chooses for Himself whom soever He pleases and guides to Himself whoever penitently turns to Him (Al-shura:13)*

The fifth session was compered by Dr. Rahmatullah. In this session, the

that he had to refuse papers received after the deadline and assured the scholars to include their papers in the proceedings if a revised version reached him in time. While addressing the audience, the president of the session Maulana Tahir Madni briefly highlighted the relevance of Sirah in contemporary times in grasping the issues of economic crisis, women's rights and other concerns. Maulana Madni proposed to follow in the footsteps of the Prophet in order to overcome the crisis that has engulfed the whole humanity.

In his feedback Prof. Abu Sufiyan Islahi highlighted the smooth conduct of the proceedings and the intellectual competence of the scholars in their witting and presentation. His arguments were based on the Quranic injunction: "You should speak kindly to people: (Al-Baqarah-83). Dr. Waris Mazhari from JMI, New Delhi, appreciated the efficient management of the seminar and suggested the relevance of a scientific approach to be adopted in Sirah writings. Dr. Mohammad Shamim Akhtar Qasmi from Aaliya University, Kolkata, appreciated the management of the seminar and discussed the main features of Sirah writing in Urdu. Dr. Ghulam Nabi Gunai from Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipura, Kashmir, expressed his indebtedness to the Deptt. of Islamic Studies that had invited this old boy for a scholarly discussion on the noble theme of the seminar. He urged for the teachings of the Prophet of Islam to be sincerely followed in the day-to-day life and to be incorporated in academic and intellectual life as the guide principles. Dr. Syed Imam Habib Qadri, sub-editor *Rahnuma-i-Deccan*,

Hyderabad expressed gratitude to the chairman of the Deptt. of the Islamic Studies, Prof. Obaidullah Fahad and to Mr. Ayaz Shaikh who had provided him with an opportunity to visit Aligarh Muslim University for the first time and to share his views with the academics. A Vote of thanks was offered by the Director of the seminar and a special prayer was led by Zafrul Islam Islahi at the end.

Book Review

**Veiled Superheroes: Islam, Feminism, and Popular Culture** by Sophia Rose Arjana (with Kim Fox) Lanham: Lexington Books, 2017, 178 pages.

Chapter 1, "Muslim Women in Popular Culture", gives an overview of the discourse around Muslim women. The chapter explores how Orientalism has influenced the presentation of Muslim women, particularly noting how Muslim women lose agency in all discussions. Arjana looks specifically at how the comic and cartoons have been subject to this thinking. She addresses how Muslims fall into the villain or the rescue narrative and then turns to the problematic representation of some Muslima superheroes. Comics are just the starting point, for such representations are found in cartoons and film as well. While this chapter provides a great basis for the rest of the book and an essential introduction to the narrative that has often surrounded Muslim women, it does at times jump quickly from one discussion to the next (as continues through much of the book).



A view of the audience

Sophia Rose Arjana's book *Veiled Superheroes: Islam, Feminism, and Popular Culture* raises a timely and critical discussion. The interdisciplinary nature of the book provides insight into various subjects, including women's studies, theology, and popular culture. Arjana, with Kim Fox, focuses on Muslim female (Muslima) superheroes. In a world where so often women (and in particular, Muslim women) are politicized, Arjana offers an alternate exploration of how Muslima superheroes and poised to battle both Western and Islamic misogyny.

"The Muslim Body, Veiling, and Contestations of Islam" describes the political and historical context of how Muslim women have been presented in both Western cultures and within Islam. Arjana begins with the hypersexualization of Muslim women's bodies upheld by Orientalism, but includes too how Islamic patriarchal systems have subjected women's bodies to such a regime. She considers the difficult position that Muslim women are placed in through the topic of veiling. In Western culture, veiling can be used as a subversive tool, but it can likewise be seen as upholding Islamic patriarchal systems. In an attempt to show how some agency can be reestablished, Arjana looks at different presentations of Muslims in comics (namely *The 99*). Arjana shows how

Islamic theological principles strengthen the agency of Muslima superheroes.

“Ms. Marvel, Islam, and America” demonstrates how a Muslima superhero can present agency that escapes from the discursive debate over Muslim women. Arjana discusses how Ms. Marvel is representative of Muslim American youth, and how symbolically she has been used by activists as a symbol against Islamophobia. Arjana then discusses the character of Ms. Marvel, Kamala Khan. She elaborates the Islamic teachings that are an integral part of the stories, as well as how Kamala is an embodiment of an American Muslim teen girl, whose story is also political. The discussion then moves to how Kamala is drawn, noting the desexualized style, which is different from other female superheroes, and touches on veiling as a source of power and identity.

The fourth chapter introduces a case created in Pakistan, *Burqa Avenger*. This chapter situates animation outside Western cultures and gives an important example of a feminist interpretation in action. *Burqa Avenger* is a show geared towards children and stems from feminist activism. Arjana discusses the *Burqa Avenger*’s desexualization and use of the subversive veil, which is representative of how Muslim women’s bodies are politicized. The focus is not only on the veil but also the body of *Burqa Avenger* and how Islam is essential to *Burqa Avenger*’s battles. She shows how Islam can be used to combat political problems and social issues by using values of inner peace and jihad.

“Qahera, Raat, Bloody Nasreen, and the Vigilante Superhero” addresses violence. Arjana explores three Muslima vigilantes from Muslim-majority countries. She emphasizes that these three representations reframe Muslim women as instruments of violence, rather than the Western representation

of them as victims of violence. She presents the controversy over the sexualization of Bloody Nasreen, showing it both to be tied to colonialist ideals and to be a figure expressing Muslim women’s agency in sexual situations. The three examples offer a response from Muslim women to the violence they experience from states failing them. They each offer a specific critique of feminist movements within the states they represent.

The conclusion focuses on “Islamic Feminism and Muslim Chivalry”. Arjana addresses issues with defining Islam as well as feminism, and argues that Islamic feminism must be looked at within its context. The Muslima Code of Chivalry highlights values important to Muslim women based on Islamic spirituality. Arjana discusses how the Muslima superheroes’ actions are an example of how to live out Islam. This section could have helped to frame her work earlier in the book.

*Arjana Veiled Superheroes* offers up an engaging and interdisciplinary look into the intersection of Islam and feminism through popular culture. The comics throughout made it engaging and interesting and the points presented offered various outlooks on the interpretations of Muslima superheroes, as well as what it means to be Muslim and a feminist.

*Reviewed by Sarah Shapley*

**Contd. from page-1**

Fast days which are lost for reasons of health or travel must be made up during the year. Exemption from the entire period of fasting is theoretically allowed if one feeds thirty poor people each day of the fast, as is partial exemption on the same terms, but it is, in fact, frowned upon and never resorted to by people of means. It is clear from experience that there is a great blessing in ritual fasting; Ramadan itself is a blessed month, a moment in the year when God’s graces seem closer and more easily accessible.

During the daytime fast, not only must the believer not eat or drink, but he must also abstain from sexual enjoyment, listening to music, and as far as possible from all pleasures of the senses. During the night, pleasures of the senses are again licit, although extraordinary events of enjoyment, such as celebrations, should not be held during Ramadan.

The principle of fasting is related to that of limitation. Without limitation, knowledge is impossible, for it is when we come to the end or limit of a thing that its true nature becomes evident. Ramadan’s marking the end to indulgence, or imposing a clear limit to it day after day for a month, offers an unmistakable spiritual lesson. It also constitutes a purification and a kind of sacrifice, which, like the pruning of trees, leads to renewal and fresh strength. On the moral plane it also brings a direct understanding of the suffering of the hungry.

Ramadan, which moves through the year because of the lunar calendar, sometimes takes place in the winter months, when it is easier, and sometimes in the summer months, when the sacrifice is greater. Despite its solemn nature, it has a joyous atmosphere about it, even one of festival, although festivities during the month are forbidden.

The Koran was revealed in one of the last ten nights of Ramadan, the *Laylat al-Qadr*, the holiest night in the Islamic calendar. During the month of Ramadan supplementary prayers called *tarawih*, numbering twenty or thirty-two *raka’at* each, are performed during the small hours before the dawn prayer (*subh*), and also before the night prayer (*isha*). The month is the occasion for intensive reading of the Koran.

**From *The Concise Encyclopaedia of Islam* by (ed.) Cyril Glasse, 2010, pp. 377-378.**

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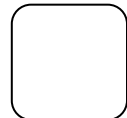
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