



IOS NEWSLETTER

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Thought for the Month

And verily the Hour will come:
There can be no doubt
About it, or about (the fact)
That Allah will raise up
All who are in the graves.
Yet there is among men
Such a one as disputes
About Allah, without knowledge,
Without guidance and without
A Book of Enlightenment,-
(Disdainfully) bending his side,
In order to lead (men) astray
From the Path of Allah:
For him there is disgrace
In this life, and on the Day
Of Judgment We shall
Make him taste the chastisement
Of burning (fire).

Al-Ouran- 22: 7-9

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FOCUS

The creative writer often senses – before a researcher – a given problem such as prejudice or bias in perspectives or methodologies. This concern gets translated into creative expressions which attempt to reveal and deal with a particular phenomenon. Bias against the Third World – a legacy of colonial world views – in intellectual spheres and methodologies is common knowledge: it is the theoretical translation, complement and correlative of racist practices and subordination of citizens in the Third World. Literature offers resistance to such biases and prejudices, sometimes even before a cultural movement of resistance is articulated; literature functions as a precursor for theoretical pronouncements addressing and combating such a destructive phenomenon. In artistic fields battles are fought without military weapons and cause no human casualties; rather, they offer an arena for the struggle over consciousness and values. Unlike military warfare, the literary domain does not need advanced technology, which is often monopolized by the stronger party and thus gives it a ready-made advantage over the Other, as we see in confrontations between unequal parties in the history of colonization. Literature, generally speaking, depends on stylistic techniques and artistic strategies which are not based on technological superiority of one over the other, but on equal access to the verbal and the conceptual. Literary expression does not correspond to the so-called dichotomy between advanced/backward or developed/undeveloped. On the contrary, the oppressed and the marginal seem more creative and more productive on the artistic level than the oppressor and the powerful. This is because art is linked to the profundity of human vision rather than power mechanisms and methods of control.

Creative resistance against ingrained bias takes different forms, according to the circumstances of the writer in question. This chapter deals with three writers from the African continent – which has been a victim of racism – who have written in three languages: English, Arabic and French. They are, respectively, the Nigerian Chinua Achebe, author of *Things Fall Apart*, the Sudanese Tayeb Salih, author of *Season of migration to the North*, and THE Moroccan Francophone writer Tahar Ben Jelloun, author of “I am an Arab, I am Suspect.” I shall deal with these works in their chronological order.

In his novel *Things Fall Apart*, Achebe presents the unfolding of the tragedy of its protagonist Okonkwo from the Obi ethnic group, who ends up committing suicide before the onslaught of the conquering colonizer and the imposition of foreign values – a seemingly inevitable consequence, given his attachment to tribal traditions and indigenous African heritage. The protagonist ends up broken by the colonial advance. It is the story of a proud man from the Third World, attached to his traditions in an unwavering individual commitment to them, yet unable to mobilize the same degree of commitment from the rest of his community. The lack of collective resistance, among other things, leads to defeat before such a formidable enemy.

**From *Epistemological Bias in the Physical & Social Sciences* by (ed.)
Abdelwahab M. Elmessiri, pp. 174-175**

Activities of the IOS Headquarters

IOS 13th Shah Waliullah Award Ceremony

The 13th Shah Waliullah Award on “Islam and Political Science” was presented to Prof. Obaidullah Fahad, head, department of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh on September 27, 2019 at a function organised by the Institute of Objective Studies at the Hamdard Convention Centre, Jamia Hamdard.

The function which began with the recitation of a Quranic verse by Maulana Abdullah Trique, Secretary, Idarah Umooor-e-Masajid, was followed by the introductory remarks of Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish, member secretary of the board administering the award.

In his remarks, Prof. Danish traced the history of the award instituted in 1986. He said that the IOS was set up to study the situation of the minorities, especially Muslims, and other deprived sections. Since the purpose of the study was to address intellectuals and students, lectures, seminars, symposia, conferences, etc. formed part of its regular programmes.

He informed that more than 1,200 national and international seminars and conferences had so far been organised by the Institute. All proceedings of these events had been published in book form. The number of such books was 400, or so. In order to reach out to the common man, the institute undertook an ambitious project to bring out small booklets containing fundamentals of Islam and its

teachings in different Indian languages in a lucid form.

These were translations of original Arabic texts. Referring to Shah Waliullah Mohaddis Dehlavi, he said that he was an outstanding Islamic scholar of 18th century whose works were as relevant today as they were three centuries ago. His erudition could be gauged from the fact that every school of Islamic thought considered itself close to him. He observed that Shah Waliullah awakened both ulema and nobles of his times.

He was the first Islamic scholar to translate the holy Quran into Persian and the work was taken forward by

The profile of Prof. Obaidullah Fahad was presented by Sohail Anjum of the Voice of America (Urdu Service) and the citation was read out by S.M. Shafiq. While the secretary general, IOS, Prof. Z.M. Khan, presented the scroll of honour to Prof. Fahad, the chairman of the Institute, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, handed him a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh as amount of the award. The function was also marked by presentation of memento to him by the former director, Idarah Uloom-e-Islamia, Aligarh, Prof. Mohammad Yaseen Mazhar Siddiqui.

Prof. Obaidullah Fahad said that Islamic scholars had delved into barely 16 per cent of the references of Islamic political thought. Though individual efforts were made to study and write on the subject, it was only a fraction of the comprehensive field. Those who dared to work on women’s empowerment were subjected to criticism by Western scholars. This exposed their superficial knowledge of Islam. He held that an attempt was made

by him to do his bit with regard to the subject.

He said that the Prophet (PBUH) introduced a “democratic” set-up in Madina. The subject attracted the attention of Islamic scholars during the 20th century. Even in the 21st century, the work on the subject was an elementary stage and needed to be taken up in a big way. This was important against the backdrop of the political system in modern democracies based on Western political thought having failed to address people’s problems. Placing on record his sense of gratefulness to the IOS for honouring him with the prestigious award, he exhorted the



L-R: Prof. Ahmad Kamal, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard, Prof. Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui, Prof. Obaidullah Fahad, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam and Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish

members of his family. He was perhaps the first great Islamic scholar after Ibne Khaldun.

Commenting on the process of selection for the Shah Waliullah award, Prof. Danish said that a board comprising eminent scholars short-listed the panel of names recommended by a committee of experts. The procedure for selection of the name was independent and was based purely on merit and standard of the published work of the candidate. He elaborated that the award was aimed at encouraging the awardees as well as the younger generation.

younger generation to take the stupendous task upon themselves.

The prize for the best two essays on “Political System in Islam: Relevance to Modern Time” was presented to Dr. Meraj Ahmad Meraj, head, department of Arabic Studies, Aliah University, Kolkata, and Dr. Anita Kumari, asstt. prof. of Law & Education, Shobhit University, Meerut (UP) in the junior category. While Dr. Meraj bagged the first prize, Dr. Anita was adjudged the second. Both of them received their prizes from the asstt. secy. gen. IOS Prof. Haseena Hashia. Both the recipients shared their impressions about the topic with the audience.

Speaking as the guest of honour, Prof. Ahmad Kamal, pro-vice-chancellor, Jamia Hamdard, expressed concern over the declining percentage of Muslims pursuing higher education. The cause of this trend must be found out and remedial measures taken. Calling for developing a mechanism to improve the intake of more Muslim students, he said that the IOS could do a lot in this direction.

Prof. Basir Ahmad Khan, former pro-vice-chancellor IGNOU and head, deptt. of Islamic Studies, Jamia Hamdard, observed that it was Sheikh Ahmad Sarhindi Mujaddid Alfsani who revived Islamic learning, leaving behind valuable manuscripts Turkey took a lead in working on manuscripts. Later, it was Shah Waliullah who worked in this area without fear of the then rulers. He awakened Indian Muslims through his writings on the Quran and Hadith. He was followed by Dr. Allama Mohammad Iqbal, who was not only a great poet, but also a philosopher and Islamic scholar, he said.

Addressing the audience, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam regretted that numerous writings on Muslims appeared in the world every year, but not even one percent of it was responded to by them. He made a reference to two books, A World Without Borders and A World Without Islam. Only one scholar replied to the questions raised in the second book, and that too, in two pages. He said that instead of waiting, we must give a befitting reply to the critics of Islam.

He specially asked the younger generation to rise to the occasion and accept the challenge. He invited them to come out with a project and assured them of all possible help from the IOS.

remarked that it was the teachers who enabled people to pursue knowledge. But, we were too dependent on our past and read the same books over and over again. Referring to the study of political thought, he noted that Ibne Khaldun was the first ever scholar who visualised an Islamic system of governance. Maulana Abul Ala Maududi was the second such scholar who wrote extensively on the subject. He opined that unless we cherished social justice, we would not create a revolution. This was so because early Islamic era could not be recreated as no caliphs would descend on earth. Thus social justice assumed relevance today.



A view of the audience

Once upon a time, democracy was looked down upon but today, democracy was being practised almost everywhere in the world. Great Britain did not have even a written constitution. There arose a question as to which system of governance was suited Muslims the most. He said that the system ordained by Allah, provided

Referring to physicist Stephen William Hawking, who held that artificial intelligence could be created, he said that a race that forgot its past and its heroes had no right to survive. He emphasised that the ideas must be linked to knowledge, so as to effectively answer the objections. He also blamed caste hierarchy for impeding free flow of knowledge. He said that barring economics and finance, no significant stride had been made in study of subjects under social sciences category. History and sociology too fell under that category. He reiterated IOS commitment to welcome all such studies.

Presiding over the function, Prof. Mohammad Yaseen Mazhar Siddiqui,

by the Prophet (PBUH) and caliphs must be adopted. Stressing the need for undertaking the study of original works, he deplored that our scholars desisted from going beyond their own thought processes due to lack of original thinking. He held that there should be no cause for pessimism as scholars were still making their presence felt.

The function concluded with Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish extending a vote of thanks. The proceedings of the function were also conducted by him.

**15-day IOS-AMU Summer School
on Islamic Studies
July 5-19, 2019**

Inaugural Session

The Department of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), in collaboration with the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi organised a Summer School on Islamic Studies for students (regardless of their subject) who have an interest in developing their knowledge and research skills in Islamic Studies.

At the inaugural ceremony, after the recitation from the Quran by Qari Mohammad Azam, Aligarh Muslim University Vice Chancellor, Professor Tariq Mansoor said that Islam teaches flexibility which enables one to maintain applicability and relevance in the light of changing social, cultural and historical circumstances.

He added that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) urged his followers to follow a middle path based on the principle of moderation. Muslims are to anchor their lives on a moderate path. They should not practise extremism, he added.

He also released Journal of the Institute of Islamic Studies and Dr. Ziauddin's book, *Jamat-e-Islami ke fuzala ki Qurani khidmaat* on the occasion.

Delineating importance of inter-religious dialogue, the keynote speaker, Prof M Akhtar Siddiqui (Jamia Millia Islamia) urged people to have dialogue for removing misunderstandings.

He added that several Western countries had encouraged interfaith engagement, which was instrumental in establishing peace and bringing people of various faith communities on a common ground.

Speaking on the nature and scope of Islamic Studies, the chief guest, Professor Mohammad Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui said that Islamic Studies was not a discipline that taught religion, but a field of interdisciplinary academic research with focus on Islamic civilisation, historiography, law and philosophy, among other areas in which academics from diverse disciplines participated and exchanged ideas about Islamic societies of past and present.

Professor Akbar Husain (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences) spoke on treatment of psychological disorders in light of the Quran and Hadith.

lecture of Professor Obaidullah Fahad (Deptt. of Islamic Studies, AMU), in which he shed light on *Women's Empowerment in Islam* with reference to the Quran and Hadith. While criticising theologians for their out-of-context interpretations of the Quran, he also made severe criticism of feminist interpretations of the Quran. He said that there should be a balance in interpreting the Quranic *ayats* regarding women.

In the second lecture Professor Abu Sufyan Islahi (Deptt. of Arabic, AMU), delineated the *Contribution of Aligarh to Quranic Studies* in which he comparatively highlighted Sir Syed, Shibli Numani and Hamiddudin Farahi's

understanding of the Quran. He also made some references to Ahsan Abbasi's *Quran Translation*, Abdul Lateef Rahmani's *Tareekh-e-Quran* and others like Altaf Ahmad Azmi and Abdur Raheem Kidwai's contribution to Quranic Studies.

In the third lecture, Professor Latif Hussain Shah Kazmi (Deptt. of Philosophy,

AMU) delivered a lecture on *Iqbal's concept of ijthad*, he highlighted the importance/need of *ijthad* and the role of Muhammad Iqbal.

8th July 2019 [2ndDay]

Compere: Mr. Teiser bin Ahmad Shah Goolfee

Tilawat: Mr. Ahmad M. Ahmad Abdullah Amer

The second day of the Summer School opened with the lecture of Professor Aftab Alam (political science, AMU). Professor Alam spoke on *Muslim Personal Law in India* in which he made a broad analysis of the cases from Shah Bano (1986) to Shayara Bano (2015). While



L-R: Prof. Tariq Mansoor, Prof. Akbar Husain, Prof. M Akhtar Siddiqui, Prof. Mohammad Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui and Prof. Abdul Ali

Professor Obaidullah Fahad, (Chairman, Department of Islamic Studies) said the Summer School Programme, based on pedagogical innovativeness and academic rigour, would provide analysis and discussion on subjects of Islamic knowledge and science, Muslim history and civilisation, and contemporary Islamic thought.

Dr. Abdul Hamid Fazili conducted the programme, while Dr. Ziauddin proposed a vote of thanks.

6th July 2019[1stDay]

Compere: Dr. Rahmatullah

Tilawat: Dr. Mohd Afzal

The first day of the Summer School on Islamic Studies started with the

discussing the changing political scenario of India he highlighted the role and responsibilities of Muslim Personal Law Board in India.

The second lecture was delivered by Professor Abu Sufyan Islahi (Deptt. of Arabic, AMU) on *Sirah Writings of the Aligarh Movement*. Professor Islahi shed light on Sir Syed's *Khutbaat-e Ahmadiya* and discussed how Sir Syed corrected the misrepresentation of William Muir. He also highlighted the contribution of Shibli Numani, Hamiduddin Farahi, Sheikh Abdullah and Yaseen Mazhar Siddiqui to Sirah writing.

Professor Sami Akhtar (Deptt. of Arabic, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Khairuddin Pasha and his Reforms in Tunisia*.

9th July 2019[3rdDay]
Compere: Dr. Saba Anjum
Tilawat: Ms. Kehkashan Naz

The third day of the Summer School started with a lecture of Professor Obaidullah Fahad (Deptt. of Islamic Studies) on *Art of Living in Indic Religions*. Professor Obaidullah highlighted the teachings of Bhagavad Gita and the Quran and said one should comprehend ten commandments of Bhagavad Gita and Surah Yusuf in order to live his/her worldly life in contentment.

Professor Ehtisham Ahmed Nadvi (formerly from Deptt. of Arabic, University of Calicut), delivered his lecture on *Islamic Movements across the Globe*. Professor Nadwi shed light on the life and times of Sayyid Ahmad Shaheed and related his role as a warrior in the context of current geo-political scenario of the Muslim world.

Professor Abdul Bari (formerly from Deptt. of Arabic, AMU),

delivered a lecture on *Significance of Arabic in Oriental Learning*. Professor Abdul Bari highlighted the importance of Arabic language in general, and learning Arabic language for understanding of the Quran and Hadith in particular. He also highlighted the contribution of Muslims-Ibn Sina, Ibn Rushd and al-Biruni, as the scientific legacy of Islam.

10th July 2019 [4th Day]
Compere: Dr. Lubna Naaz
Tilawat: Teisir bin Ahmad Shah Goolfee

Professor Tawqeer Alam Falahi, (Deptt. of Theology, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Orientalist Approach towards the Quran*. Professor Falahi



A view of the audience

briefly highlighted the agenda and impact of Orientalist writing on the Islam and the Quran. He added that the Quran was primarily targeted and branded by medieval Orientalists as a polemical text, but some modern Orientalists acknowledged its divinity.

Professor Syed Jabir Raza (Womens College, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Ghaznawid Historians and the Muslims*. Professor Raza shed light on the history of Ghaznawids with reference to al-Biruni and other prominent scholars of that time. He mainly focused on the Persian culture established by Ghaznawid's.

Professor Jalalul Haq (Deptt. of Philosophy, AMU) delivered his

lecture on *Post- Modernism and Islam*. Professor Haq defined the modern European philosophical thought with reference to Nietzsche, Derrida and Freud and comparatively highlighted their thought with Muhammad Iqbal and other modern Muslim philosophers.

11th July 2019 [5th Day]
Compere: Mr. Gowhar Quadir Wani
Tilawat: Dr. Musab Gohar

Professor Mohammad Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui (Deptt. of Islamic Studies, AMU) delivered his lecture on *The Prophet's Role Model for Muslim Minorities*. Professor Siddiqui discussed the social order of Makkah and highlighted the significance of brotherhood among diverse

communities and the role of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and its contemporary relevance.

Professor Abdul Ali (Deptt. of Islamic Studies, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Contribution of Hindus to Islamic Studies*. Professor Ali highlighted the

contribution of various Hindus to Islamic literature, Quranic Studies and Sirah of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He emphasised the need of promoting Hindi literature on Islam among the people in order restore communal harmony.

Professor Abdulrahim P. Vijapur (Deptt. of Political Science, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Human Rights, Islam and Muslims in India*. Professor Vijapur emphasised the need and importance of human rights in the light of different religions, including Islam, and the Constitution of India. He highlighted several aspects of human rights and explained their relevance in contemporary times.

12th July 2019 [6th Day]**Compere:** Dr. Musab Gohar**Tilawat:** Hafiz Abdul Bari

Professor Mohammad Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui (Deptt. of Islamic Studies, AMU) spoke on *Empowerment of Woman under the Noble Prophet*. Professor Siddiqui quoted many classical, modern and Orientalist Sirah writers and highlighted the position and role of women under the Prophet (PBUH). He stressed the significance of following the Prophet (PBUH) Muhammad in contemporary times.

Professor Obaidullah Fahad (Deptt. of Islamic Studies, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Triple Divorce in India*. Professor Obaidullah discussed the legal aspects of triple divorce in light of the Quran, Hadith and *Ijma*. While discussing the Supreme Court judgement on triple divorce he said it was politically motivated. On the other hand, he also criticised the Muslim Personal Law Board for their incapability to handle the case properly.

13th July 2019 [7th Day]**Compere:** Ms. Khadija**Tilawat:** Salma Bi

Professor Saud Alam Qasmi (Deptt. of Sunni Theology, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Common Teachings of World Religions*. Professor Qasmi emphasised the need of highlighting the commonalties among world religions. While quoting many religious scriptures he said oneness of God, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the Day of Judgement are found in all major religions.

Professor Zafar Mahfouz Numani (Deptt. of Law, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Constitution of India: Main Features*. Professor Numani briefly highlighted the importance and history of the Constitution. While discussing the power of judiciary he explained how the laws were manipulated by political parties in order to justify their stand.

Professor Mohammad Gulrez (Deptt. of West Asian and North African Studies) delivered his lecture on *The Arab Spring*. Professor Gulrez briefly explained the history of West Asian and North African countries. While discussing the geo-political scenario of the world and the uprisings in the Arab world, he said Arab Spring was a resistance movement against regimes for their failure to handle the affairs of the people.

15th July 2019 [8th Day]**Compere:** Mr. Ahmad Mohd Ahmad Abdullah Amer**Tilawat:** Mr. Abdussalam Nadir

Professor Waleed Ansari (Deptt. of Management, AMU) lectured on *Islamic Economics in India*. Professor Ansari highlighted some important aspects of Islamic economic system. He discussed in detail the utilisation of resources through different means and the problems and challenges faced by the world economy.

Professor Muhammad Ali Naqvi (Director, Sir Syed Academy, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Sir Syed's Approach to Religion*. Shedding light on the religious thought of Sir Syed, he said one should not criticise Sir Syed on his religious thought. He added that Sir Syed dedicated his life to the socio-political and educational uplift of Indian Muslims.

Professor Gulfishaan Khan (Deptt. of History, AMU) delivered her lecture on *Shahjahan's Contribution to Architectural Heritage of India*. She highlighted the significance of Mughal architecture and the importance of Taj Mahal in present times. She pleaded that Muslim architectural heritage of India should be given proper recognition.

16th July 2019 [9th Day]**Compere:** Ms. Kehkashan Naz**Tilawat:** Dr. Saba Anjum

Professor Akbar Hussain (Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Islamic Counselling-I*. He highlighted the

importance of Islamic counselling and its need in present world scenario. He added that the field was now being taught in national and international universities and it had great job opportunities in foreign countries and in India.

Professor Shafey Kidwai (Deptt. of Mass Communication, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Indian Media and the Muslims*, highlighting how media was maligning Muslims nationally and internationally. He said media was the only means to highlight issues and problems of the people, but today it had been hijacked by some to propagate their own agenda.

Professor Shakeel Samdani (Deptt. of Law, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Uniform Civil Code: Prospects and Challenges*. While highlighting the challenges regarding Uniform Civil Code, he said there had been no model formulated yet. He added that Muslims alone were not opposed to a Uniform Civil Code; there were other communities as well which opposed it.

17th July 2019 [10th Day]**Compere:** Ms. Saba Irshad Ansari**Tilawat:** Mr. Gowhar Quadir Wani

Professor Akbar Hussain (Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Islamic Counselling-II*. He explained the application of Islamic counselling in the light of the Quran, Hadith and other canonical sources.

Professor Mirza Asmer Beig (Deptt. of Political Science, AMU) spoke on *New Educational Policy and Indian Muslims*, highlighting the importance of education and role of new policies of Government. He discussed the implications of these policies regarding minorities.

Professor Obaidullah Fahad (Deptt. of Islamic Studies, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Pluralism in Islam: The Indian Context*, in which he said that modern society had a plural nature. Classification of the world's territories into Darul Islam, Darul Harb and Darul Aman had become irrelevant

today. He said Muslims should actively participate in power-sharing while safeguarding their interests in a democratic view.

18th July 2019 [11th Day]

Compere: Mr. Tanjeel Ahmad

Tilawat: Mr. Mohd Kaif Raza

Professor Kunwar Muhammad Yusuf Amin (Deptt. of Ilmul Advia, AMU) talked on *Philosophy and Rationale in Unani Medicine*, explaining the benefits of Unani medicine. He said Western medicine was reductionist in nature and there was no human subjectivity in it, while Unani medicine was holistic. He added that serious diseases should be treated with Western medicine.

Professor Arshi Khan (Deptt. of Political Science, AMU) delivered his lecture on *Violence and Terror in Islamic Perspective*. He said that there was no scope for violence in Islam. While deliberating on examples within Indian and world context, he said Islam has been branded as the religion of terror, but the reality is that terrorism is an industry run by economic hitmen of the world who have no religion.

Dr. Zaki Kirmani (writer) spoke on *The Quran and Science Discourse*, discussing Quranic paradigm/paradigm of Science/evolution of man and creation of the world. He highlighted the importance and need of integration of science with Islam and the Quran.

Valedictory session

The valedictory session of the 15-day Summer School on Islamic Studies was scheduled on July 19, 2019. The Chairman, Professor Ishtiaq Danish, editor Journal of the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, and secretary finance IOS, in his presidential remarks emphasised the movement of rationalism in Europe as a product of last two centuries. The Quran taught rationality even in matters of religion centuries ago, more than the other scriptures of the world. Muslims in human history developed theology and philosophy based entirely

on observation and reflection. Professor Danish said that Islamophobia in Europe was not an outcome of spirituality in Islam. The West instead had been opposing social and civilisational values of Islam. Muslims contributed to the world a humane civilisation, and it had been appreciated by intellectuals of the West also.

Professor Asfar Ali Khan, (Officer on Special Duty, V-C Secretariat, AMU) was the chief guest. In his opinion, objectivity and rational approach should be the base of the study of world religions. He appealed to students not to be emotional in their research in Islam. "Our deliberations on religion should be unbiased", he observed. The guest of honour Professor Zafar Ahmad Siddiqui congratulated the participants who were punctual in following the rules and regulations of the 15-day Summer School.

Mr. Muhammad Muqimuddin, (co-ordinator of Aligarh IOS chapter) expressed his thanks to the organisers of the Summer School. He briefly introduced the academic activities of the Institute of Objective Studies. Professor Arshi Khan, (Deptt. of Political Science, AMU) said the Summer School was unique and unmatched since it was an intellectual activity organised for the first time in India.

Dr. Ziauddin Falahi (convener of the Summer School) presented its detailed proceedings. According to him two hundred students from 13 disciplines had applied, but only 50 students were selected. Twenty seven senior professors of the Faculty of Social Sciences delivered lectures and interacted with participants, responding to their queries and critical comments.

Professor Obaidullah Fahad (director of the Summer School) arranged a test for the participants to determine their intelligence and understanding of the lectures delivered

in the Summer School. He asked four questions, which were well answered by Nouman Badr, Mohd. Rizwan Ansari, Kulsum Salahuddin and Sabah Irshad Ansari, who owned prizes. In the valedictory session Bibi Hasan Pithy, Tahmina Zafar and Nida Ashhar briefly made remarks on the successful completion of the Summer School. The senior teachers who distributed the certificates to participants included Prof. Nasim Ahmad, (Chairman Deptt. of Social Work), Nasim Ahmad Khan, (Chairman Deptt. of Chemical Engineering), Professor Iqbalur Rahman Khan, (Deptt. of Political Science), Prof. Mohd. Saud Alam Qasmi, (Deptt. of Sunni Theology) and Muhammad Sirajuddin Khan, (Assistant Co-ordinator, IOS Aligarh Chapter). The valedictory session was conducted by Dr. Bilal Ahmad Kutty.

Calendar 2020

Agents, Shop-keepers and others may place their order of the IOS calendar 2020 which has following features:

- Page-1 India: Non Performing Asset Write-offs (Rs. Crores) (2009-2018).
- Page-2 World: Multidimensional Poverty Index: Developing Countries - 2019.
- Page-3 World: GDP Expenditure on Education & Population with some secondary Education.
- Page-4 India: Mosques through the Ages (Started from 2011) Four Largest Mosques of India.

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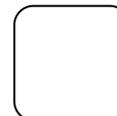
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L-R: Dr Md Aftab Alam, Asstt. Professor of Political Science, Zakir Husain College, University of Delhi; Maulana Abdul Hameed Nomani, Secretary, Jamat-i-Ulemae Hind; Harsh Mander, Social activist; Justice Rajinder Singh Sachar, former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court; John Dayal, Senior journalist and activist; Dr Hilal Ahmed, CSDS; Prof. Achin Vanaik, Delhi University

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