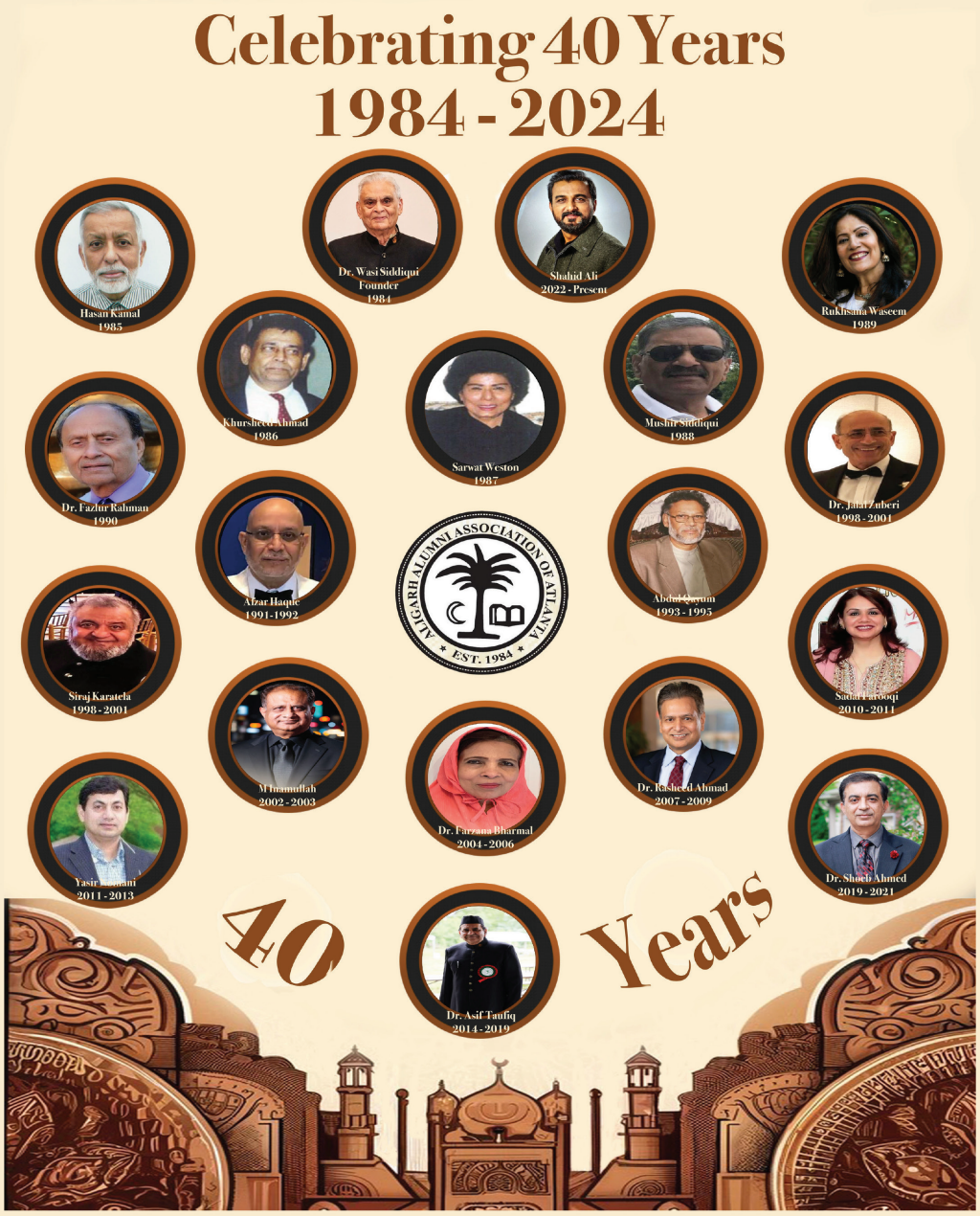
A Publication of Aligarh Alumni Association of Atlanta (AAAA)

ALIGATLANTA

2024

Carrying Forward the **Aligarh Movement** for the Betterment of Our Communities



Alumni Associations: An Alum's Perspective
From USA to KSA
An Unforgetful Alig
Travelogues of America
FAAA 2024 Convention
In Memoriam



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ALIG Atlanta
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From Editor's Desk

Welcome to the latest edition of our magazine, where we embark on a journey through a rich tapestry of experiences, education, culture, and heritage preservation. In this issue, we explore stories that highlight the vibrant life of AAAA and its impact, both locally and globally.

Dr. Ghulam Nadri offers a candid and insightful discussion on the role of alumni associations, drawing from his extensive experiences with Aligarh Muslim University and its alumni community.

For those with an interest in travel literature, Travelogues of America in Urdu offers a fascinating historical perspective, documenting the experiences and writings of travelers who explored America.

Our featured profile this time is Dr. Farzana Bharmal, MD, a distinguished psychiatrist, community leader, and passionate advocate for literary and cultural engagement.

Dr. Suhail Sabir shares his reflections on working with alumni associations, offering thoughtful suggestions on how these organizations can evolve and contribute even more meaningfully to their communities in the future.

In my personal account, I reflect on my recent move from Atlanta to Abha, offering a unique perspective on the experience of living overseas and the challenges of adapting to a new cultural and social environment.

This issue also proudly features the proceedings from the 23rd Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations of North America (FAAA) Convention, held in Atlanta during the summer of 2024, including the speech delivered by FAAA President Dr. Naushad Ghilzai at the convention's gala event.

Dr. Naushad Khan Ghilzai pays a heartfelt tribute to his older brother, Shahzad Khan, who recently passed away in India. His emotional remembrance honors the deep bond of family and the lasting impact of a loved one's life.

From a youth perspective, Hassaan Ansari shares his reflections on "Living the Aligarh Spirit in Atlanta," offering an inspiring account of how the spirit of Aligarh continues to thrive across borders and generations.

Jashn-e-Rekhta article will inspire younger generations to explore the richness of the Urdu language.

In our Urdu article, we remember the enigmatic and unforgettable Alig, Masood Tommy, whose legacy continues to resonate within the Aligarh community.

This year marks a significant milestone for AAAA as it celebrates the 40th anniversary of its founding (1984-2024). A list of all 19 presidents is included in this issue, and the cover page reflects this remarkable journey.

Don't miss our regular features, where we bring you updates, event details, and photographs.

We extend our sincere thanks to Shahid Ali, Syed Waseem, Dr. Naushad Ghilzai, and Aziz Ajaney for their contributions to the articles and photos. We are deeply grateful to all contributors, authors, and sponsors for their timely submissions and support. Special thanks also to S. Nasir Hussain for his assistance with Urdu typing.

The views and opinions expressed in these articles and advertisements are those of the authors and sponsors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of AAAA.

Sincerely,

Rasheed Ahmad, Ph.D.
Shoeb Ahmad, Ph.D.
Honorary Editors

rasheedahmad@hotmail.com

Cover Photo: AAAA 40th anniversary (1984-2024) banner specially made for and displayed at 2024 Eid Milan event.

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

Aligarh - 202 002, UP., India.

A Central University (NAAC ACCREDITED "A+" GRADE)

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November 12, 2024

Message



I am delighted to see this new volume of ALIGAtlanta Magazine. I extend my warmest congratulations to the entire team behind *ALIGAtlanta Magazine*. This publication is not only a vibrant showcase of the achievements of Atlanta's AMU Alumni community but also a true embodiment of the spirit of the Aligarh Movement. The magazine beautifully preserves and celebrates our shared culture, cherished memories, and the timeless mission of AMU. It resonates deeply with the values that Sir Syed Ahmad Khan instilled, reminding us of our commitment to education, cultural unity, and the betterment of society.

The Aligarh Alumni Association of Atlanta continues to make its alma mater immensely proud through its outstanding work in the local community and beyond. The Atlanta chapter has demonstrated dedication to Sir Syed's vision, from organising events that uphold our cultural heritage to providing educational support for deserving students. The Association's efforts support AMU's mission and strengthen the bonds among alumni, serving as a beacon of unity and service. These initiatives reflect the enduring influence of AMU and the commitment of its alumni to creating positive change wherever they go.

In every edition, *ALIGAtlanta* provides a unique platform for young and old alumni to connect with their roots, celebrate AMU's heritage, and keep the traditions that bind us all alive. By documenting our collective journey and sharing insights on education, community projects, and cultural endeavours, this magazine strengthens the bonds between alumni worldwide, all united by our time at AMU.

Thank you to everyone involved in making this magazine reflect our community's pride, dedication, and love for AMU. I am confident that *ALIGAtlanta* will continue to inspire and bring together generations of AMU alumni in the years to come.

With best wishes and regards,

Prof. Naima Khatoon

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AAAA provides educational assistance to the needy students, helps our Alma Mater/other institutions to modernize, facilitates faculty student exchange and collaboration with institutions of higher learning, promotes Urdu language and its art forms.

AAAA is a non-profit organization with a tax-exempt status, 501(c) (3)



President's Message

Dear members of the AAAA community,

First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the Aligarh Alumni Association of Atlanta (AAAA) for re-electing me as President for the second term, 2024 to 2025.

I feel deeply honored and humbled by your trust and faith in me. This re-election stands as a testament to the open-hearted policy of AAAA and recognition of the efforts made so far. I assure you that I will do my utmost to fulfill my duties and take this organization to the next level.

In this tenure, my primary focus will be on **education** — specifically, education for the underprivileged. We are fortunate to live in a country where quality education is accessible to all residents. Sadly, in many parts of the world, families face a heart-wrenching choice: **to feed their families or to educate their children.** A few years ago, during a visit to Pakistan, I observed a troubling pattern. For example, at a banquet dinner for 400 guests, 30 to 35 waiters and staff would be hired. In comparison, here in the United States, the same dinner could be efficiently managed by just eight servers and one manager. I noticed similar inefficiencies across various businesses and industries and struggled to understand why this disparity existed. The question lingered in my mind even after I returned to the U.S.

Then came COVID-19. The world came to a pause, and during this time, I stumbled upon an answer. One day, on my way to work, I noticed school buses operating in my neighborhood even though schools were closed. Out of curiosity, I decided to follow a school bus. I saw it stop at a designated spot, where students, masked and lined up, received lunch boxes handed out by masked teachers. Curious, I contacted a school principal and asked, "Why are school buses delivering food when schools are closed?" He explained, "*Mr. Ali, nourishment is critical for a child's growth. Many families live on tight budgets, and with COVID impacting jobs, we wanted to ensure that students remained well-fed and nourished.*"

This answer prompted me to research the origins of school meal programs in the U.S. I discovered that during **World War II**, many young men were rejected from military service due to diet-related health problems. They were physically and mentally unfit, having grown up malnourished. This led President Harry S. Truman to sign the **National School Lunch Act in 1946**, making it mandatory to provide meals to students. Later, in 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson expanded this with the **School Breakfast Program**, under the belief that: **"Good nutrition is essential to good learning."**

This research answered the question that had been troubling me. Workers in Pakistan — and in many other developing nations — are malnourished, which means they are not physically or mentally capable of working efficiently. As a result, businesses must hire more workers to complete tasks that fewer people could handle if they were healthy and well-fed. Moreover, these workers are severely underpaid. The minimum wage in Pakistan is roughly **$120 per month**, but that figure applies mainly to government workers. In private businesses, employees earn as little as **$75 to $80 per month.** For these families, the choice becomes stark: feed their children or educate them. This is not just a tough decision; it is a dangerous one. What we are witnessing is the creation of a malnourished, uneducated population that is neither mentally nor physically equipped to break the cycle of poverty. Even when some of these children get the opportunity to attend charitable schools and complete basic education, they still lack the skills to secure decent-paying jobs to support their families and educate their own children.

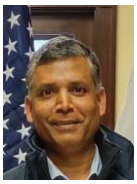
Concerned by this, my wife, Shalina, and I discussed this issue with friends in Pakistan. Many dismissed it as the government's responsibility. However, we were fortunate to meet **Dr. Shershah Syed** and **Dr. Shoaib Sobani**, who understood our vision and provided us with a school to test a **Meal Program.** With the support of our two sons, Ashmal and Arshaq, we launched this program as a **pilot project** to determine the real cost and prepare for the challenges ahead. To our surprise, the program was enthusiastically received by the community, and within two years, we saw **significant improvements** in the students' health and learning outcomes. The program provides **breakfast, snacks, lunch, and quality education**.

Here's the most astonishing part: **it costs just $1 per child per day.** For **$30 a month**, a child can receive a nutritious diet and quality education. I am incredibly proud that **AAAA** has embraced this initiative and is willing to expand it. **InshaAllah**, our focus for 2025 will be the program: **"Each One — Teach One — Feed One for Just $1 a Day."**

We aim to take this program to countries where it is most needed. I am profoundly grateful to all members of AAAA for supporting this vision and would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all donors, supporters, and well-wishers who make projects like this possible. Together, we can uplift underprivileged communities and give children the tools to build a better future. As the saying goes: **"You are what you do, not what you say you will do."**

Sincerely,
Shahid Ali, President, AAAA

Aligarh Muslim University and the AMU Alumni Associations: An Alum's Perspective



Ghulam A. Nadri, Ph.D., *Georgia State University, Atlanta*

In April 2024, I visited Aligarh Muslim University for a week-long research and reconnaissance. I was on the AMU campus nearly twelve years after my previous visit in 2012. I did not fail to notice that much had changed in Aligarh during this period. I formally left AMU in 1998 to begin my career in teaching and research at a Delhi University college. Most of my friends and class/batchmates had by then already left the university to pursue their careers in academia, state and central bureaucracy, business, and politics. Some of those who stayed back in Aligarh to obtain a doctoral degree are still there. They are now senior professors and many of them hold high positions in the university administration. Revisiting AMU in 2024 was indeed an exciting, jubilating, and memorable experience. A nostalgia filled my heart and mind as I stepped out of the Poorva Express compartment at the Aligarh Junction. The ALJN itself has undergone a significant transformation. I greatly missed the famous tea stall on platform no. 2 where I, with my friends, seniors, and juniors, had sipped hundreds of cups of tea during my twelve years of study at AMU. Motorized three-wheelers, which can carry half a dozen passengers, have almost entirely replaced the ones that I was familiar with, the human-pedaled rickshaws that could only carry two (and occasionally three) persons at a time. The roads leading to the AMU campus and on-campus streets and sidewalks looked much nicer and cleaner. Major intersections now have traffic lights, and it is quite amusing to watch the way people follow traffic rules. The Naqvi Park (now known as Jawahar Park) has been beautified and much of the empty spaces on the way to the main campus are now filled with modern buildings and offices. I was informed that this transformation was the outcome of Aligarh's status as one of the one hundred cities that the Government of India, some years ago, proposed to transform into "smart cities" with modern infrastructure and facilities.

The AMU campus, likewise, looked somewhat different from what I knew when I left Aligarh. It is sprawling with new buildings that now house various departments and faculties. Many of the departments that were formerly in the Arts Faculty building now have their separate facilities. The campus looked vibrant, beautiful, and well-kept. I passed by many and saw from inside some of the old and new department buildings and was much impressed by the significantly improved infrastructure and technology that many departments now have access to. It was also disappointing to see the signs of decay and lack of improvement in some areas. The central canteen next to the Kennedy Hall complex is no longer there. The building, I was informed, is now reserved for use as art gallery/exhibition. Halls of residence have turned into gated communities and access to those spaces is very much restricted to visitors.

I was on the campus in the midst of an important event – the appointment of a new Vice Chancellor (VC). This was obviously highly significant and historic in the sense that for the first time in the history of AMU a woman was named as Vice Chancelor. I could feel the mood and hear the humming across the campus of both partisans and critics of the incoming regime. There was much for me to celebrate in that moment of highly consequential transition and to think about how this may inaugurate a new era in AMU's history – an era of academic excellence and of scientific, artistic, and socio-cultural advancement. But as I learnt more about the nominees for this position and the process, networking, and the politics that went into the making of the final decision and the Visitor's approval, it became increasingly clear to me that this was nothing more than a transition from an interim VC to a duly appointed VC and that the new regime would likely maintain the status quo rather than bring any transformative change. A natural disposition to evaluate the present in a critical and comparative perspective had a sizzling effect and

it quickly subdued my enthusiasm that this event had generated in me regarding the university's future. I asked myself, what is it that defines the present and is the present that best and wonderful that one can feel happy about and contemplate preserving it. If the new administration keeps the status quo, what would the future be like, and would that be something that the AMU community, including its alumni world over, would take pride in. These questions triggered my inquisitiveness, and I began informing myself on the current state of affairs at the university. I got to talk with several current and former faculty and students. What I gathered (and have continued to gather since then) from my conversation with them and from the newspapers and social media posts and what I observed on the campus was indeed concerning. I began to think that if this is what becomes the status quo in the next five years or so there is much for all of us to think about it and do something for a possible course correction and putting the institution on track for growth and academic excellence.

Any university of AMU's size, it may be assumed, faces problems and challenges, sometimes major ones. If and when that happens, the expectation is that the top leadership would use its administrative and other resources to address and solve the problem. But what if the leadership becomes indifferent to it. The problems that AMU has been facing for quite some time now, and which has also been frequently reported in the media, include administrative inefficiency and the deteriorating quality of teaching, especially at the +2 level. Lack of transparency in administration and the unprecedented long tenure of people in administrative positions (Controller, DSW, OSD, University Proctor, and In-charge of Schools for example) have resulted in corruption and irregularity in exams, entrance tests, and admissions. Similarly, it has been widely reported that influence, bribery, and nepotism have a role in faculty recruitment, especially guest and contractual teachers for school and for instruction as the higher secondary (+2) level. The outcome is lack of quality teaching and poor student success. Students are indeed concerned and some that I talked with were unambiguous in saying that they had the worst learning experience in XI and XII classes. Lack of quality education is not the students' only concern. They are also worried about the way accommodation in the halls of residence is managed and the role that money and influence has come to play in it. There is then the menace of drug use that is taking a toll on students. To the best of my knowledge, the administration has not been able to handle these issues with any success. The recent attempt by the new regime to completely vacate the hostels and eliminate the presence and influence of non-students in hostels too did not produce the desired outcome. These problems cause unnecessary mental and emotional stress and adversely affect the students' learning process and prospects of success. All of these impede the realization of the mission that Sir Syed Ahmad laid out when establishing the MAO college, that is "to preach the gospel of free enquiry, of large-hearted tolerance, and of pure morality" and are also quite contrary to the norms and values that the university stands for. Unfortunately, the leadership has been indifferent and has failed to address these problems. What is then our invocation? What role, if at all, the AMU alumni associations can play in this?

The AMU alumni associations significantly contribute to the advancement of AMU's academic goals by providing scholarships to students and funding some of the AMU's technology and infrastructure projects. While this is much appreciated by everyone, students and faculty are also disenchanted with these associations which, as they see it, are either ignorant of or indifferent to the above-mentioned problems. Many hold the view, and perhaps rightly so, that AMU alumni associations have become a platform to welcome the VC and those in top administrative positions and display flattery and *ji-huzuri* instead of reminding them of their accountability. Many even nickname these associations as "*khairmaqdam*" groups. What adds to their agony is that some members take advantage of their connections with the top leadership to serve their personal, familial, and professional interests. I think that the alumni associations and their leaderships too need to rise above and beyond this, take cognizance of what is going on at AMU, and advise and work with the administration to address and solve the problems.

Today, we live in a globalized world of competition where AMU's standing in the nation and around the world is measured by the quality of teaching, student success, and

intellectual productivity of the faculty. Currently, AMU ranks 50th in the country and 3,254th worldwide (UniRank), 16th in India and 1,039th worldwide (EduRank), and 601-800th worldwide (Times Higher Education). One would surely like to see AMU's ranking nationwide and globally improve. But whether or not that happens depends pretty much on the leadership's vision and the priorities it sets for the university. It depends on whether or not the leadership is committed to rise above self-gratification and personal gains and serves the larger interests of the institution. Unfortunately, in the recent past, this commitment has been lacking. One can hope and pray that the new VC prioritizes ensuring high-quality education for students, transparency in administration, a healthy and competitive environment conducive to cutting-edge research and impactful publication, and initiating transformative changes that would lead to academic excellence and financial stability of the university. The current political clime in the country and a general trend of limiting government funding and pushing public institutions towards private funding and financial self-sufficiency make it even more imperative for the current AMU leadership to do what is needed to fix the problems and ensure for the university a secure, better, and brighter future. Remedial actions that the leadership might consider taking may include appointing competent and committed people to the key administrative positions and holding them accountable for any wrongdoing within their jurisdiction, recruiting teachers and lecturers on the basis of their academic credentials and merits and not any other considerations, ending *ad hocism* and proper staffing of the schools, departments, and colleges, fixing the hostel accommodation system, and initiating projects involving students, faculty, staff, and the community to make the university a drug-free campus. One can hope and pray that the alumni associations around the world proactively reach out to the Vice Chancellor assuring support to the AMU administration in its endeavor to fix these problems.

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* *Ghulam A. Nadri is Professor of History at Georgia State University in Atlanta, USA. He obtained his BA History Hons. (1991), MA History (1993), and M. Phil. (1996) from Aligarh Muslim University and Ph.D. (2007) from University of Leiden, the Netherlands.*

AAAA Presidents (1984-2024)

#	Term	Name
1	1984	Dr. Wasi Siddiqui
2	1985	Hasan Kamal
3	1986	Khursheed Ahmad
4	1987	Sarwat Weston
5	1988	Mushir Siddiqui
6	1989	Rukhsana Waseem
7	1990	Dr. Fazlur Rahman
8	1991-92	Afzar Haque
9	1993-95	Abdul Qayum
10	1996-97	Dr. Jalal Zuberi
11	1998-2001	Siraj Karatela
12	2002-2003	M. Inamullah
13	2004-2006	Dr. Farzana Bharmal
14	2007-2009	Dr. Rasheed Ahmad
15	2010-2011	Sadaf Farooqui
16	2011-2013	Yasir Nomani
17	2014-2019	Dr. Asif Taufiq
18	2019-2021	Dr. Shoeb Ahmad
19	2022 -	Shahid Ali

Travelogues of America in Urdu Language: Trends and Tradition

Zeba Yasmeen, Qamar Abbas, Farooq Ahmad, Mujahid Abbas, Dua Qamar

1. INTRODUCTION

America is an important country of the world and it always influences world politics and economy. Due to its importance, travelers from all over the world showed their tendency to visit this country. These travelers write their experiences in the form of travelogues after their tours. Writers of Urdu language have written very interesting and informative travelogues of America.

2. URDU TRAVELOGUES OF AMERICA

In a large number of American travelogues in Urdu there many travelogues which contain information purely about America, while many of them are combined travelogues of America and other countries. Here is a description of the Urdu travelogues about American cities.

2.1. SEAT BELT BY AFTAB IQBAL

It is travelogue of light mode in Urdu language. Aftab Iqbal has written this travelogue for the purpose of pure entertainment and refreshment. This travelogue is about the visits of city of Washington of America and city of London of England. He went there for the purpose of education. He also studied the life of and culture of these cities by his observation and experiences and included this in his travelogue. There is a light touch of humor and in his writing. He has also given an introduction of culture and civilization of America and England and described history and politics of these areas (Iqbal, 1990).

2.2. DUNYA GOL HAY BY IBN E INSHA

Ibn e Insha is a famous travelogue writer of Urdu language which is known by his humours style of writing. He has written many important travelogues in Urdu which are: 'Nagri Nagri Phira Musafir', 'Dunya Gol Hay', 'Chaltay Ho Tu Chin Ko Chaliey', 'Ibn e Batota Ky Taaqub Main', 'Awara Gard Ki Dairy'. He traveled in these countries during 1966 to 1970. American city of San Francisco was visited by him. Other countries of world visited by him in this tour were Philippine, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Afghanistan, Turkey, Iran, Japan, Korea, Hawaii, England and France. He has written his traveling daily routines and staying information in this travelogue. Administrative and political situations of these countries are also included. Cartoons and pictures of different events are also published in this travelogue (Insha, 1985).

2.3. SAHIL AUR SAMANDAR BY SYED EHTASHAM HUSSAIN

Syed Ehtsham Hussain traveled in America and England during the year 1952. This visit was for fellowship of Rockefeller foundation. He described the events of his visit and difficulties during his travel. He described in detail the situation of libraries in America and England. He there visited educational institutions and educational system and included in his travelogue the information and his comments on it. He had written about visit to different places there briefly (Hussain, 1954).

2.4. MUSAFIR KI DAIRY BY KHAWJA AHMED ABBAS

Khawja Ahmed Abbas visited many countries of the world in 1937. These countries are: Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Canada, America, France, England, Germany, Turkey and Iraq. It was a recreation visit. He visited there places containing natural beauty, night clubs, cultural places, political events, historical places. He also described international political influences on the politics of these areas (Ahmed Abbas, 1940).

2.5. DHANAK PAR QADAM BY BEGUM AKHTAR RIAZ UD DIN

Begum Akhtar Riaz ud Din has written two important travelogues of Urdu Language i.e. 'Saat Samandar Par' and 'Dhanak Par Qadam' (Akhtar Riyaz ud Din, 1976). She is writer of her own style. She has visited countries of this travelogue with her husband and children. Visited countries are Hawaii, England, America and Hong Kong. This not the story of a single visit but they went to these countries in different times for the purpose of education and job. She has created humor in this travelogue by presenting different events in her interesting style. She has also presented social life and culture of these areas, especially daily routine of the people of these places is included. She has given psychological analysis of the people and their relations with one another. In her travelogue 'Saat Samandar Par' (Akhtar Riaz ud Din, 1983), she has also presented details of her visit of America, Japan, Russia, Egypt and England. Writing style of her second travelogue is same as in her first travelogue.

2.6. SER O SAFAR BY BAGUM AKHTAR RIYAZ SHEIKH

She visited with her husband many countries of the world for the purpose of business. She traveled with him as his secretary. They visited China, Hong Kong, East Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Switzerland, France, Western Germany, England, Turkey, Iran, Syria, Poland, Yugoslavia, Italy, America and Canada. Period of this visit was 1968. They visited different rubber factories and attended business conference there. This travelogue contains description of

the visits and conference reports. She has written in the form of diary the daily routine of this business trip. They also visited important public places and places of natural beauty there (Akhtar Riaz Sheikh, 1981).

2.7. AJAIBAT E AMERICA BY MUNSHI ALLAH DAT

It is travelogue of America containing details of the Munshi Allah Dat's visit to this area. He was a hunter, so his field of interest was the life of forests and animals living there. He described his hunting in the forests of America and had given details of hunting points in these forests. He also described lifestyle of hunters and their hunting techniques. It is a very useful travelogue for those who have got interest in hunting and want to know about hunting techniques and forest life. Especially American forest life no more remains strange after reading this travelogue (Afaqi, Ajaebat e Farang, 1995).

2.8. SHEHR DAR SHEHR BY AMJAD ISLAM AMJAD

It is traveling report of two different literary tours of many countries. In first tour Parven Shakir and Jamil ud Din Aali were with the writer, while in second tour Atta ul Haq Qasmi accompanied him. They took part in literary meeting there and included reports of these meetings in his travelogue. He met different literary personalities of these areas and described discussions with them. Visited countries were: France, Canada, America and India. Writer's sense of humor also reveals in this travelogue (Amjad, 1988).

2.9. AMERICA MAIN 90 DIN BY DR. A.R. KHALID

He visited American areas of Verginia, Faladia and Washington. He criticizes on the life style and behavior of the people of these areas. This visit was due to invitation of American Government. He had written introduction of different universities of America. He described his meetings with the personalities from the different fields of life. He also discussed American politics and its pros and cons. He studied American life and living styles with his deep sense of observation and made it a part of his travelogue (Khalid, 1992).

2.10. BARAH E RAST BY BUSHRA REHMAN

Bushra Rehman is a well-known literary personality of Urdu. Her travelogue 'Barah e Rast' has an important literary travelogue of Urdu language. She visited Rom city of Italy, Paris of France, Washington of America, London of England and Toronto of Canada. Her style of writing is very interesting and heart touching. She visited these cities with a pure tourist point of view. She highlighted social and cultural values of visited countries. Her beautiful writing style attracts the readers (Rehman, 1983).

2.11. BEHR E ZULMAT SY AGAY BY BILQEES RIAZ

She visited Scotland, Paris of France, New York and Washington of America and Canada, with her husband and children. Her style of writing is simple, clear and straightforward. They stayed with relatives in this tour, so she discussed her relations with them. She visited beautiful natural and historical places with her family there and described details of this visit in her travelogue. A unique aspect of this travelogue is this that she has writing in detail about her shopping activities during this tour (Riaz B. , 1994).

2.12. SAFAR GASHT BY PARTU ROHILA

It is a light mode travelogue of Partu Rohila in which he has given the details of his visit to America. He visited Washington and Los Angeles there. His style is humorous and he attempted to create interest by presenting the events of his travel in a humorous way. He discussed American culture and life style. He visited different universities there and has given information about these universities in his travelogue. He also reviewed problems of American society in travelogue (Rohila, 1991).

2.13. MODERN COLUMBUS BY JAVED IQBAL CARTOONIST

Javed Iqbal is a famous cartoonist of Pakistan. His cartoons are regularly published in different newspapers. In his cartoons he criticizes behavior of society and politics in a humorous way. This style can also be seen in his travelogue 'Modern Columbus'. This is the travelogue of Kuwait, France, England, Canada and America. He visited public, historical and natural places there met people from different fields of life and described all these events in his own style. It is very interesting travelogue and gives a lot of entertainment to its readers (Iqbal Cartoonist, 1989).

2.14. AWARGI BY JEVED DANISH

Javed Danish traveled to America, England and France in 1982. He has written his observations of visit in a simple and informative style. He gives information about politics, administration, history, culture, education and daily life of visited areas. He also gives his own point of view about society and its behaviors. In his travelogue we see domination of his eastern thought (Danish, 1987).

2.15. TAMASHA MERE AGAY BY JAMIL UD DIN AALI

This travelogue is about the visit of the countries, Western Germany, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, France and America. Its writer is famous personality of Urdu literature, Jamil ud Din Aali. In his travelogue has included information of different kinds with his simple and interesting style. He introduced the culture of these areas and literary life there. A

touch of humor and lightness is also present. He described his visit in detail. It is really a good literary travelogue of Urdu language (Aali, 1954).

2.16. DHOOP KINARA BY JAMIL ZUBAIRI

He visited America and other countries along with her wife. They went to London city of England, New York and Atlanta of America and Montreal, Toronto and Niagara of Canada. Writing style of this travelogue is very light and heart touching. He described the details of this visit and his experience in an interesting way. He stayed with many people in these countries, so he also narrated the behavior of those people with them. He also included different information about these countries (Zubairi, 1981).

2.17. DES BADES BY G ALANA

G Alana traveled to America to participate in International Labour Organization annual conference. He was a part of a large delegation visiting for the said conference. He visited American cities of San Francesco, Los Angeles, Chicago and New York. This travelogue is a detail report of the conference but he has also included his visit to different places beside this conference. Especially he mentioned the activities of night clubs, cinema halls and different public gathering places in interesting style. The part of this travelogue is more interesting in which he mentioned his company with his friends, especially girlfriends (Alana).

2.18. DUNYA KI SER BY HAJJI HAIDER ALI KHAN

Hajji Haider Ali Khan traveled in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iran, China, Japan, South Africa, Germany, England, Hawaii and America. This travelogue is a commentary of this travel. He went to beautiful natural places and described them in his travelogue in such a way which really catches reader's emotions. He also described history of historical places visited by him (Ali Khan, 1963).

2.19. SHOQ MERA HAMSAFAR BY DAOD TAHIR

It was a study tour in which travelogue writer participated in a training course of Los Angeles Institute for Tax Administration. He also visited other countries and their main cities during this visit. Year of his visit was 1989. He included information about his course as well as different areas he visited. He also described his visit of important places and detail of his company with friends during this visit (Tahir, 1996).

2.20. BAR SABEEL E SAFAR BY RIAZ AHMED RIAZ

Riaz Ahmed Riaz visited New York, Niagara Fall and London along with his friend Ch. Muhammad Hussain. His style of writing is very beautiful. He especially worked to select beautiful words for his writing style. His narration style is clear and obvious. He describes environment of visited places beautifully (Riaz A. R., 1982).

2.21. HAEY AMERICA BAEY AMERICA BY REHAN AZHAR

He visited New York City in 1980 for the purpose of his job. It is information and entertainment bearing travelogue. He described in detail the problems of the people going to that country for job and business in America. He included many real stories of such persons. There are many cartoons in this travelogue which explain the situation of foreigners in that country (Azhar, 1993).

2.22. LINCOLN KY WATAN MAIN BY SHARIF FAROOQ

Sharif Farooq visited America on the invitation for Leadership Program. He also went to London during this visit. His visit duration 1958. He has written his traveling experiences in this travelogue. He highlighted lifestyle, educational system and foreign policy of America in detail. He also introduced economical situation of the country, economical trends and condition of different institution in this respect. Reports of different press conferences are also a part of this travelogue (Farooq, 1960).

There are a large number of travelogues of America which are important to understand this country. These are: 'America aur Americi' by S. Zia Haider (Haider, 1988), 'Ser e Farang' by Khawja Abdul Rashid (Abdul Rashid, 1983), 'Aik Sanwla Goron Ky Des Mian' by Arsh Temori (Tamoori, 1962), 'Yeh America Hay' by Aziz Beig (Beig), 'Shoq e Awargi' by Atta ul Haq Qasmi (Qasmi, 1994), 'Ajaebat e Frang' and 'Daikh Lia America' by Ali Sufian Afaqi (Afaqi, Dekh Lia America), 'Dunya Mera Gaon' by Khawja Ghulam us Syedain (Ghulamus Syedain,1985), 'Niklay Shoq e Safar Par' by Ghulam Abbas Wariech (Waraich, 1994), 'Gardish Main Paon' by Fakhar Zaman (Zaman), 'Credit Card' by Dr. Farkhanda Jali (Jali, 1992), 'Safar Hy Shart' by Kousar Niazi (Niazi, 1992).

SUMMARY

America is the most important country of the world. This is why a large number of Urdu speaking travelers visited this country for different purposes. Many of them have written travelogues in Urdu language. These travelogues have a great importance to understand civilization, politics, educational system, history and other aspects of America. Every writer has his own style of writing, so this the cause of versatility in these travelogues.

For the authors' affiliation and quoted references, please refer to the article (published in 2017) link below:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329840723_Travelogues_of_America_in_Urdu_Language_Trends_and_Tradition

Farzana Bharmal, MD

Psychiatrist, Community Leader, and Advocate for Literary and Cultural Engagement

Early Life and Education: Dr. Farzana Bharmal was born, raised, and educated in Hyderabad, Pakistan, where she developed a strong foundation in both academic and cultural pursuits. After completing her early education, she attended medical college in Hyderabad, Sindh, where she pursued her medical degree, laying the groundwork for a distinguished career in psychiatry.

Move to the United States: In 1982, shortly after her marriage to Mohsin Bharmal, an engineer who has served in the U.S. Army, Farzana moved to the United States. The couple settled in Atlanta, Georgia, attracted by the city's vibrant metropolitan environment and moderate climate, both of which would become key aspects of their lives.

Family: Farzana and her husband, Mohsin Bharmal, are the proud parents of a son and a daughter. Their shared values of community service, education, and cultural engagement have been central to their family life.

Professional Journey: Farzana is a board-certified psychiatrist with a double board certification in Addiction Psychiatry, reflecting her extensive expertise in mental health. She currently practices as a physician and serves as a professor of clinical psychiatry at Morehouse School of Medicine, where she imparts her knowledge to the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Throughout her career, Farzana has remained deeply engaged in community outreach, using her skills to serve others. She has participated in various health fairs and other activities designed to promote well-being and build stronger communities.

Literary Passion and Community Leadership: Farzana's deep love for literature, particularly in both Urdu and English, is one of the defining aspects of her identity. An enthusiastic advocate of mushairas (poetry gatherings) and other literary events, her passion for the written word led her to join the Aligarh Alumni Association of Atlanta (AAAA) in the 1990s, where she found a community that shared her values and vision.

A staunch believer in the principles of Sir Syed Ahmed, Farzana took on a leadership role within AAAA, eventually serving as its president for three years. During her tenure, she successfully led the organization in hosting the first National Meeting of the Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations (AAAA) in 2006. The event was a remarkable success, thanks in large part to her efforts and the invaluable support of key figures such as Dr. Rasheed Ahmad, Syed Hasan Kamal, Mohammed Inamullah, Dr. Shahid Rafique, and Sadaf Farooqui.

Beyond her work with AAAA, Farzana is also a founding member of Bazm-e-Adab Atlanta, a literary group dedicated to promoting Urdu literature and culture. For over 25 years, Bazm-e-Adab has organized an array of events that celebrate the arts, education, and entertainment. Farzana has been instrumental in coordinating several memorable occasions, including performances by acclaimed Pakistani artists such as Sohail Rana, Habib Wali Mohammed, Munni Begum, and Tasawwar Khanum.

Her leadership has not only expanded the community's reach but also fostered new collaborations, resulting in a dynamic synergy of ideas. Farzana has proven to be an exceptional fundraiser and a generous sponsor herself. Her unwavering presence and active participation continue to make her a cornerstone of Atlanta's literary scene.

Community Service and Philanthropy: Farzana is deeply committed to community service and has been involved in numerous initiatives aimed at improving public health and supporting charitable causes. She has helped organize health fairs and has participated in various fundraising activities, underscoring her dedication to helping others.

Travel and Global Experiences: An avid traveler, Farzana has explored over 130 countries across seven continents, gaining invaluable insights into different cultures and communities. Her travel experiences have not only broadened her worldview but have also inspired her to share these adventures on platforms like Tripadvisor, where she provides detailed reviews and recommendations to fellow travelers.

Philosophy and Life Advice: Farzana's life philosophy is rooted in the belief that while the sky may be the limit, it is crucial to appreciate and make the most of what one has in the present. Rather than focusing on what is lacking, F.B. encourages others to embrace gratitude and find contentment in the blessings they currently possess. Her advice to others is a powerful reminder to balance ambition with appreciation for the present moment.

Legacy: Farzana's legacy is multifaceted, encompassing her contributions as a psychiatrist, educator, community leader, and literary enthusiast. Her impact on both her professional field and her local community, particularly through her engagement with literature and cultural activities, continues to inspire those around her. As she continues her work in both the medical and literary spheres, Farzana. remains a testament to the power of combining personal passion with a commitment to the well-being of others.

-Editor







Top (R to L): Dr. Farzana Bharmal (fourth from left, front row) with 2009 AAAA Silver-Jubilee Organizing Committee. At an AAAA picnic in 2009. **Middle:** With famous Bollywood Lyricist Javed Akhtar (middle) and Dr. Abdullah in 2024 Jashn-e- Urdu AAAA Event.

Bottom (R to L): In 2024 AAAA Eid Milan picnic with Husband, Mohsin Bharmal (first from left). With visiting AMU VC Gen. Zameeruddin Shah and Mrs. Shah in 2013 AAAA reception.







Atlanta to Abha: My Journey from the USA to KSA

Rasheed Ahmad*, Ph.D., *Abha, Saudi Arabia*

In January 2024, my life took an unexpected turn when a UK-based recruiter reached out with a job opportunity in Abha, Saudi Arabia. Little did I know that this would mark the beginning of a long and intricate employment journey. After navigating the complex processes of recruitment, interviews, and negotiations, I finally received my job offer in April. With receiving of my work visa in May 2024, I was ready to begin a new chapter in a foreign land.

Upon my arrival in Abha, I was taken to the Aber Hotel in Shamasan District, my temporary home. The city's vibrant culture was immediately apparent, and I felt a mix of excitement and curiosity. The office where I would be working had an unconventional layout, with an open-plan design where everyone sat side by side in a horizontal arrangement. This setup fostered a collaborative environment, though the extended work hours—9.6 hours a day without a dedicated lunch break—took some getting used to. In the office, it was common for colleagues to address one another as "Engineer" rather than "Mr." or "Ms.," creating a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose.

For the first three months, my daily commute was via Uber, which quickly became an essential part of my routine. Most drivers were friendly and eager to chat, although language barriers sometimes limited our conversations. I recall one instance when I lost my phone during a ride, and to my great relief, the driver kindly returned it. Many drivers shared stories about their families and their experiences visiting the U.S., offering me a glimpse into their lives. Interestingly, some preferred cash payments, even when the ride had been booked through the app.

Finding an apartment in Abha proved to be a unique challenge. Rental listings were often posted on banners along the streets, requiring me to drive around the city to locate available units. Online rental platforms were frequently outdated, and the contact numbers listed often led nowhere. A significant portion of Abha's expatriate community comes from Bangladesh, and I noticed that rental agents and office staff were mostly Bangladeshi as well.

One of the first things that struck me upon settling in was the absence of local newspapers, and the fact that outdoor events were largely confined to cafes, as walking/jogging is not a common practice here. Utility services were impressively convenient, often open until midnight, and I quickly grew accustomed to navigating the city with the help of location maps sent directly to my phone.

In Abha, daily life and communication are heavily reliant on smartphones. Everything from banking and utility management to rental agreements is handled digitally. I learned that the city's water supply is desalinated and of safe quality, and electricity is reliably uninterrupted—a true blessing in the region. Unlike the bi-weekly pay schedule I was used to in the U.S., salaries in Abha are paid monthly, with no taxes deducted, offering a different financial rhythm.

The weekend in Saudi Arabia falls on Friday and Saturday, which was a pleasant adjustment for me. However, I did encounter a few local quirks. For instance, eggs were not sold by the dozen, and WhatsApp calls—my usual method of staying in touch—did not function properly here, forcing me to explore other options for communication.

Abha is a city dominated by cars, with little to no public transportation, and sightings of two- or three-wheelers are a rare occurrence. The city's mild climate, coupled with stunning mountain views and deep gorges, provides a breathtaking backdrop to daily life. During the spring and summer, Art Street comes alive with Jacaranda (bignonia family) flower festivals, as the surrounding trees burst into vibrant shades of violet. Nestled near Jabal Soudah, the highest mountain in Saudi Arabia, Abha offers a unique natural beauty. One delightful discovery was a bouquet vending machine at the airport—a charming touch that captured the local spirit and a small yet delightful reminder of the local traditions.

The Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) Alumni Association also has a presence in Abha, where they celebrate Sir Syed Day, drawing around 100 attendees. Although Abha has fewer AMU graduates compared to larger cities like Riyadh or Jeddah, the spirit of camaraderie among alumni remains strong. Shortly after my arrival, I was contacted by Faiyaz Ahmed, an English lecturer at the local King Khalid University. Originally from Siwan, Bihar, Faiyaz is an AMU MA English graduate from the class of 2006. Along with his wife, Dr. Tauqeer Iqbal (an AMU alumna), and their sons, Asad Ahmed and Ali Ahmed, he has been an invaluable support system, assisting me with everything from finding and furnishing an apartment to exploring local tourist attractions. His family even helped track down my lost phone after an Uber ride. Faiyaz truly became an angel in a foreign land. To this day, his family continues to assist newcomers and remains my primary point of contact in Abha. Other community members have also lent a hand. Dr. S. Esam Mahmood, a Professor of Family & Community Medicine at King Khalid University and a native of Lucknow, offered me his apartment for free when he learned of my struggles in finding accommodation.

In summary, my transition from Atlanta to Abha has been a journey full of new experiences and challenges. While relocating and adapting to a new culture has sometimes been

overwhelming, the experience has been incredibly rewarding. Each day brings fresh opportunities to learn, connect, and grow in this fascinating part of the world. **Editor*



Living the Aligarh Spirit in Atlanta

Hassaan Ansari*, *Aligarh, India*

As I stepped out of the bustling airport into Atlanta's warm embrace, the city greeted me with skies that seemed to stretch infinitely, a palette of blue promising new beginnings. Yet, there was an undertone of melancholy—a wistful ache for the city I had left behind. With a resolute heart, I reminded myself that life often demands we move forward, embracing change with courage and hope. Thus began my journey as a Master's student at Georgia State University.

They say, "You can leave Aligarh, but Aligarh never leaves you." Now, after over two years in Atlanta, I can testify to the truth of these words. My connection to this profound legacy was rekindled by my uncle, a fellow Aligarian who had called Atlanta home for more than 25 years. He became a bridge to a thriving community of Aligarh alumni, who welcomed me with open arms, their warmth and camaraderie echoing the spirit of our shared alma mater.

A Heritage of Memories and Respect

In the company of fellow Aligarians, I discovered a treasure trove of stories—tales of campus life, beloved professors, and Aligarh's cultural vibrancy. Even those who had never set foot in Aligarh held the institution in reverence, their respect a testament to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's vision of education as a transformative force transcending borders and generations.

This community became my sanctuary, offering not just companionship but also guidance. From career advice to professional networking opportunities, the alumni association embodied the spirit of mutual support that defines Aligarh's legacy. Here, I saw the living embodiment of Sir Syed's dream—Aligarians extending a hand to uplift others, driven by a shared commitment to education and progress.

Celebrating a Shared Legacy

The events organized by the Aligarh Alumni Association of Atlanta were more than mere gatherings; they were celebrations of our collective heritage. Whether it was the joyous spirit of Eid Milan or the poetic elegance of Mushaira, these occasions brought together people from all walks of life, united by their love for Aligarh and its rich Urdu tradition.

For someone like me, born and raised in Aligarh, these moments were a poignant reminder of home. The cultural programs, intellectual discussions, and scholarship initiatives highlighted the alumni's enduring commitment to community welfare and education. This was not nostalgia for nostalgia's sake—it was an active effort to carry forward the torch of enlightenment and social reform that Sir Syed lit in 1875 with the founding of the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College.

A Bond Beyond Boundaries

Being a part of this association reinforced my pride in being an Aligarian. Aligarh, I realized, is not just a place; it is a philosophy that inspires its students and alumni to strive for excellence while uplifting others. The bond we share as Aligarians transcends borders, creating a sense of belonging no matter where we are.

Reflecting on my journey, I feel profound gratitude for the opportunities and connections this community has provided. It is a reminder of the power of collective action and shared purpose. The Aligarh spirit, alive and thriving in Atlanta, is a testament to the enduring legacy of Sir Syed's vision. For every Aligarian around the world, this legacy serves as a source of pride and inspiration, urging us to remain rooted in our heritage while reaching for new horizons.

To be part of this legacy is not just an honor—it is a responsibility, one that I hope to fulfill by contributing to the growth and success of this remarkable community. As the poet aptly said:

"چراغوں کا دھواں دیکھ کے در بند نہ کر
شاید کوئی تھکا ہارا مسافر آ جائے"

(Do not close the door upon seeing the smoke of lamps—
Perhaps a weary traveler might still arrive.)

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* *Hassaan Ansari is an AMU Alumnus, who completed his MS in Finance from Georgia State University. He is currently working as a Data Analyst for Mercer Inc., New Delhi.*

AAAA Activities : 2024 Eid Milan





AAAA Activities : 2024 Eid Milan





AAAA Activities : 2024 Eid Milan









AAAA Activities : 2024 FAAA Convention









Top (L to R): Dr. Farooq Khan, Professor of Chemistry, University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA and Dr. Mustaque Ahamad, Professor of Computer Science, Georgia Tech, Atlanta speaking at the FAAA plenary session.
Middle: FAAA convention delegates. **Bottom:** FAAA delegates and community members at the Gala event.

AAAA Activities : 2024 FAAA Convention









Top (L to R): 2024 FAAA Convention Gala Event— Chief Guest, Sanjiv Saraf, Rekhta Founder, and his wife, Huma Khalil receiving award from Mr. Mahesh Kumar Ghadiyal, Consul Atlanta.

Middle: FAAA Convention Attendees singing AMU tarana.

Bottom: AAAA and community members with Ghazal singer Kamran Mehdi Hassan (second from left), son of the legendary Mehdi Hasan.

AAAA Activities : 2024 Jashn-e-Urdu and Annual Mushaira









Top (L to R): Poets in 2024 Jashn-e-Urdu and International Mushaira—Ahmad Salman (Pakistan), Shakeel Azmi (India), Javed Akhtar (India), Nusrat Mehdi (Pakistan), Dr. Abdullah (Washington DC), and Nazim -e-Mushaira, Nurulain.

Middle (L to R): Shahid Ali, AAAA President and Dr. Shahid Rafique, senior AAAA member delivering their remarks.

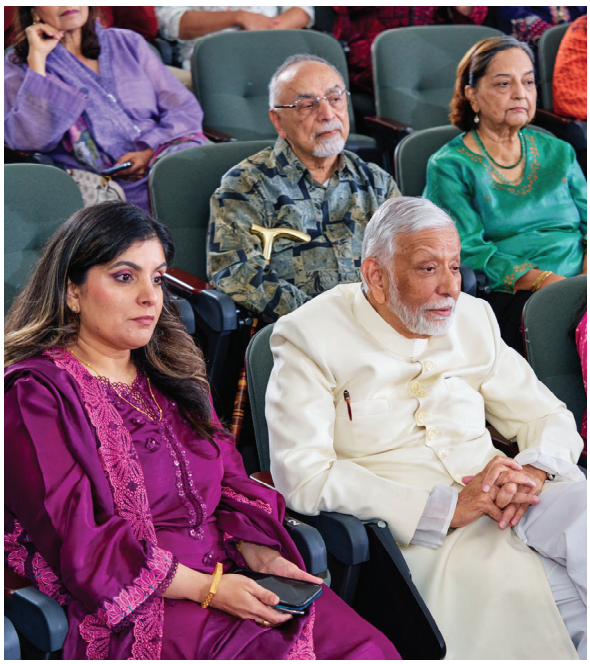
AAAA Activities : 2024 Jashn-e-Urdu and Annual Mushaira











AAAA Activities : 2024 Other Events







Top (L to R): FAAA President and AAAA General Secretary, Dr. Naushad Ghilzai meeting with Prof. Naima Khatoon, the AMU Vice Chancellor accompanied by Dr. Sufiyan Beg (right) , Chairman, AMU Alumni Affairs Committee. AAAA booth at Festival of India (Independence Day) Celebration. **Bottom:** AAAA and community members at the Republic Day Celebration at IACA.

AAAA Activities : 2024 Other Events

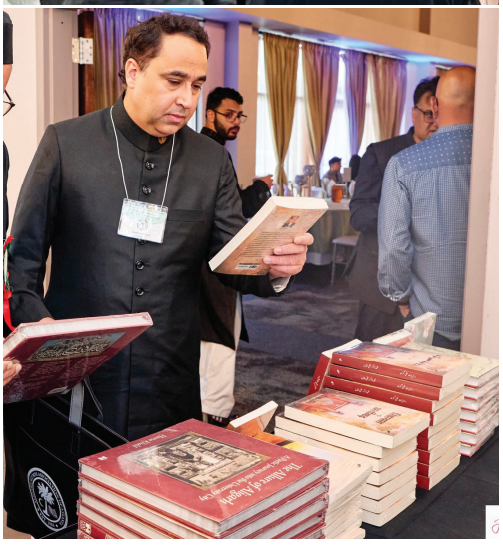












Top (L to R): AAAA Members at IACA Poet Gulzar Event. AAAA hosted Dr. Zafar Mahmood of Zakat Foundation of India. **Middle (L to R):** The new Atlanta Consul-General Hon'ble Ramesh Babu Lakhshmanan at AAAA reception. AAAA Members at Rhythm of India Event at IACA. **Bottom (L to R):** AAAA hosted Prof. Dr. Yasmin Saikia (seventh from right), Co-Director, Center of Muslim Experience (CME) at the Arizona State University (ASU) and Dr. Chad Haines (second from right), Associate Professor of Religious Studies at ASU. Aligarh book display and sale at 2024 FAAA Convention in Atlanta.

Atlanta hosts 23rd Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations of North America (FAAA) Convention.

The 23rd Annual Convention of Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations Inc. (FAAA) was hosted by the Aligarh Alumni Association of Atlanta (AAAA) on July 19-21, 2024 at Fairfield Inn & Suites Hotel by Marriott in Duluth, Georgia, USA. The convention theme was "Celebrating FAAA Legacy, empowering Its Future" More than 100 delegates attended the convention from all over the USA, Canada, India, and the Middle East, a record attendance for FAAA conventions.

Friday evening's program began with networking and dinner. Entertainment included sheri nashist (poetic assembly) by Alumni members and guests. Local and visiting alumni from other cities and their families performed at "Aligs Got Talent".

On Saturday, Mr. Shahid Ali, AAAA President welcomed the guests in his speech. AAAA is proudly celebrating its 40th year anniversary (1984-2024). Professor Sufiyan Beg, Chairman AMU Alumni Affairs, spoke about Global Alumni contribution with a focus on US and Canada. In a powerful speech, Mayur Bora, an Author and motivational speaker lauded the efforts of Minorities in Education in Assam. The

The convention evening gala banquet began with recitation from the Holy Quran by Mr. Omer Kamal followed by a welcome address by Dr. Naushad Khan Ghilzai, President FAAA. Dr. Ghilzai thanked his incoming team, Dr. Shoeb Ahmad, Secretary and Mr. Kausar Zaidi, Treasurer. He highlighted the role of Alumni in building the professional relationship and sought cooperation and support from alumni associations and AAAA patrons. The daylong schedule was filled with sessions about science, education, health and FAAA global initiatives.

Awards were given by Mr. Mahesh Kumar Ghadiyal, Consul (Political, Commercial & Community Affairs), Consulate General of India, Atlanta and Mr. Aziz Dhanani, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist to Dr. Shahid Rafique for his patronage and services to AAA Atlanta, and to Mr. Kauser Usmani, Outgoing FAAA President for leadership and dedication in FAAA. Special awards were given to visiting guests, Ms. Huma Khalil, Mr. Sanjiv Saraf and Mr. Mayur Bora.

Mr. Kauser Usmani, Outgoing FAAA president thanked all the guests, sponsors, speakers, delegates and organizers for making the convention a huge success.

Mr. Shahid Ali felicitated a podium panel discussion with Chief Guest, Mr. Sanjiv Saraf, Founder of Rekhta Foundation International, alongside Guest of honor Ms. Huma Khalil, Creative Director of Rekhta Foundation International. Ms. Khalil shared her journey from "Shahar e Tarab – Aligarh" to becoming a writer and filmmaker, which included the official release of the documentary "Anjumanan-e-Aligarh," received a warm response from the audience.

After a delicious dinner attended by around 400 people including Atlanta prominent personalities and Georgia State Representative Mr. Farooq Mughal, the convention also featured a memorable performance by Ghazal Singer Kamran Mehdi Hassan, son of the legendary Ustad Mehdi Hasan, whose melodious renditions captivated attendees for two hours. It was followed by AMU Tarana, which drew everyone onto the stage.

The last day's session for interaction of office-bearers with delegates and member associations included discussion of FAAA Bylaws. After the noontime convention closing, delegates were given a sightseeing tour of Downtown Atlanta, including CNN, Coca-Cola Museum, Olympic/Centennial Park, Carter Center and MLK Center.

This convention was meticulously planned and executed by AAA Atlanta team. All the arrangements from airport pickup, speakers' selection, and session topics to time management, entertainment, selection of delicacies and post-event sightseeing received applaud and appreciation from the attendees.

Submitted by Dr. Naushad Khan Ghilzai, President, FAAA (2024-2025). For more information and updates, visit the FAAA website at www.aligs.org.

Dr. Naushad Khan Ghilzai, President Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations (FAAA) Inc

address to the Aligs, well-wisher, guests and other attendees (July 20, 2024) at Premier Event Hall, Duluth, GA



Ye mera chaman hai mera chaman, main apne chaman ka Bulbul hun
Sarshaar-e-nigaah-e-nargishun , paabasta-e-gesoo-e Sumbulhun
Ye abr hamesha barsa hai, ye abr hamesha barsega
Barsega, barsega, barsega!

With this word from Aligarh Tarana, It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this year's Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations of North America convention. It's wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to be reminded of the vibrant alumni community that makes up FAAA.

Firstly, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you for making the time to join us today. Your presence here is a testament to the strong bond that ties us all together, no matter how many years have passed since you walked through AMU campus.

Our alumni are the bedrock of our institution. Your achievements, both personal and professional, are a source of immense pride for us. Whether you have ventured into new industries, advanced in your careers, or made significant contributions to your communities, your accomplishments reflect the values (Tehzeeb), education (Talim) and Adab that Aligarh Muslim University strives to impart.

We have to work collectively and cohesive to make our alma mater an example of excellence in every field , a prominent and primary academic and research institution

Let me share some of the highlights with you:

1. **Academic Excellence:**
2. **AMU Campus Development:**
3. **Alumni Relations:** We have worked hard to foster stronger connections with our alumni. This meeting is just one of many initiatives aimed at keeping you informed and engaged with what's happening at AMU Alumni Associations.
4. **Alumni Organizations worldwide**
5. **Young pass outs and second generation aligs**
6. **Presence on social media to attract**

As we look to the future, we remain committed to upholding the legacy of excellence that you have helped to build. Your support, whether through membership, participation, mentorship, philanthropy, or simply staying connected, is invaluable. We are continually inspired by your stories and are grateful for the ways in which you give back to the vast Aligarh community at home and here.

Before I conclude, I encourage all of you to take full advantage of this gathering. Reconnect with old friends (partner. Jigar), seniors make new connections, and share your experiences.

Your insights and feedback are crucial as we strive to make FAAA an even better place for future generations.

Thank you once again for being here. Together, we will continue to uphold the values of Aligarh Muslim University and contribute to a brighter future.

Thank you.

In Loving Memory of Mr. Shahzad Mohammad Khan (SM Khan), An Aligarian (1957– 2024)



shab-e-furqat kā jaagā huuñ farishto ab to sone do

kabhī fursat meñ kar lenā hisāb āhista āhista

شب فرقت کا جاگا ہوں فرشتو اب تو سونے دو

کبھی فرصت میں کر لینا حساب آہستہ آہستہ

With heavy heart, we remember SM Khan, my beloved elder brother, an exceptional individual, and a beacon of inspiration for all those whose life was touched by him.

SM Khan's immaculate kindness, contagious laughter, and priceless contributions have left a legacy that will be remembered for a long time to come. Fondly remembered as SM Khan Saheb or Khan Saheb, he filled our lives with love, joy, and countless memories. A life well lived, his spirit continues to inspire us through the positive qualities he embodied and the lives he touched upon.

A man of remarkable character, SM Khan was a family man, ex-bureaucrat, an author, and an educator. His selfless service to the nation and community exemplified his unwavering dedication to making the world a better place. Throughout his career in the Indian civil services, he held several government key positions where his integrity, diligence, and compassion left an indelible impression.

Known for his sharp intellect and compassionate heart, SM Khan was a mentor, a guide, and a friend to many. His ability to navigate through challenges with grace and resolve earned him admiration from peers, colleagues, seniors and the community members he served, alike. His door was always open, his help was always forthcoming, and his kindness knew no bounds.

At a memorial service held on November 25, 2024, at the India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC) in New Delhi, India, tributes poured in from people of all walks of life—family, friends, colleagues, journalists, politicians, ministers, bureaucrats, and entrepreneurs. Every participant threw light on his multifaceted personality covering almost every aspect of his life as an individual and as a socially responsible citizen.

His noble soul and welcoming smile will be deeply missed. As we bid farewell to Shahzad Bhai, we are reminded of the values he stood for—excellence, compassion, and service to humanity. Though he has returned to Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala on November 18, 2024, his ideals and contributions will continue to guide and inspire us.

-Tribute from his younger brother, Dr. Naushad Khan Ghilzai

My Memories



Prof. Suhail Sabir, A.M.U, Aligarh

My connection with Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) is lifelong. Shortly after my birth in Lucknow, I moved to Aligarh, where my father worked at the University. From Our Lady of Fatima (OLF) High School to Minto Circle High School and then to AMU, my entire education was completed here. Over the years, I have witnessed the tenures of nearly 13 Vice-Chancellors, spanning almost an entire era. I joined AMU as a Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry in 1993 and retired as a Professor in 2023.

During my service, I also had the privilege of serving as the Provost for three Halls of Residence: Allama Iqbal Hall (2002), M.M. Hall (2009–2012), and Mohammad Habib Hall (2015–2017). Additionally, I served as the Chairman of the Alumni Affairs Committee from 2014 to 2018. During this period, I organized four highly successful Alumni Meets while Lt. Gen. Zameeruddin Shah Sahab was Vice Chancellor. I also had the opportunity to travel to the US four times to attend the FAAA convention in Cleveland, Chicago, Houston, and San Francisco, where I interacted with US-based alumni on several occasions.

For over 20 years, I have been coordinating the Scholarship Program run by the Alumni Associations of Michigan, Washington DC, Northern California, and Dallas. I believe my contributions to this program have been meaningful, as it has provided essential financial assistance to AMU students, helping shape their futures. Since there was no cash handling involved and students received their Dining Hall charges for the entire year, the program has been highly successful.

Given my experience, I decided, even before my retirement, to contribute to similar initiatives to help needy and deserving students. Upon retiring, I established an Endowment Fund of fifty lakh rupees, which was the entirety of the money I received from the University. Insha Allah, starting next year, 40 students will receive scholarships through this fund, following the same pattern as the other scholarships. May Allah accept my humble contribution. I am hopeful that more people will come forward to support this Endowment in the future, and I will humbly appeal to them for contributions soon. I am confident that many of my students, who are well-settled around the world and have shown me immense love and affection, will join this noble cause. These students are my true asset. I am personally acquainted with nearly 500 doctors, 1,500 engineers, and countless other professionals.

I also had the honor of serving as the Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM), a university established by my dear student, Mr. Mehbubul Houq, who is the Chancellor of the largest university in the entire Northeast. This university has recently established a grand Medical College, which I consider a miracle and a place worth visiting.

Our alumni are a source of great pride, and it is essential to stay engaged with them. Unfortunately, this process has slowed down in the last 6-7 years, for reasons known only to the previous administration at AMU. My request to the current leadership is to revive this engagement. The most successful institutions worldwide consistently involve their alumni, and this is something we must prioritize.

In closing, I would like to thank Dr. Rasheed Sahab for offering me this opportunity to engage with our alumni, and I look forward to meeting them at some point later this year. My best wishes to all.

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Jashn-e-Rekhta 2024: Celebrating the Beauty and Legacy of Urdu Language and Literature

The vibrant celebration of Urdu language, culture, and literature, *Jashn-e-Rekhta*, returns to Delhi with its ninth edition this December. The much-awaited three-day festival, running from December 13 to 15, has grown over the years to become one of the largest and most prestigious festivals celebrating the beauty of Urdu. Organised by the Rekhta Foundation, the festival offers a platform for poetry lovers, cultural enthusiasts, and artists to come together and celebrate the rich heritage of the Urdu language.

A Glimpse into Jashn-e-Rekhta's Growth: Since its inception in 2015, *Jashn-e-Rekhta* has rapidly become a flagship event for Urdu enthusiasts. Founded by Sanjiv Saraf, the Rekhta Foundation aims to preserve and promote Urdu language and culture through artistic expression, public engagement, and educational initiatives. What started as a small gathering has now evolved into a grand cultural festival with more than 200 artists participating in over 40 sessions. These sessions span a wide range of art forms including poetry recitations, mushairas, musical performances, storytelling, theatre, panel discussions, and workshops.

"The festival has grown into a major cultural event, attracting people from all walks of life, not just from Delhi but across the country. We strive to make each edition memorable," said Sanjiv Saraf, founder of Rekhta Foundation. This year, the festival has been thoughtfully curated in a new format to highlight the diverse facets of Urdu language and culture.

Notable Highlights of Jashn-e-Rekhta 2024: This year's festival promises a rich lineup of performances and events. One of the major highlights is the inaugural Sufi evening with renowned artist Kailash Kher and his band, Kailasa, set to perform at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Friday evening. The musical journey of ghazals, **Shaam-e-Ghazal**, will feature playback singer Papon, who will present ghazals in a modern avatar, blending traditional Urdu music with contemporary sounds. This unique take aims to make ghazals more relatable to younger audiences while preserving their timeless charm.

Another anticipated performance is **Main Koi Aisa Geet Gaoon**, where the legendary Javed Akhtar will take the audience on a nostalgic journey through his poetry, exploring the emotions and stories behind his iconic songs. This will be followed by a Sufi symphony by Kavita Seth, alongside a tribute to the eminent poet Sahir Ludhianvi, celebrating his life and words that captured love, resistance, and social change.

The festival will conclude with the **Rekhta Baitbaazi**, a national competition that celebrates the tradition of Urdu poetry, which has been held at universities across the country. This is one of the key elements that reflects the festival's commitment to nurturing new talent and ensuring the future of Urdu.

Expanding Horizons: Jashn-e-Rekhta has not only found its roots in Delhi but has also made its mark internationally. The festival made its global debut in London in 2023, followed by an expansion to Dubai earlier this year. This growth has propelled the festival to new heights, bringing the beauty of Urdu to a broader, global audience. "It has grown in global stature," says Huma Khalil, Trustee and Creative Director of Rekhta Foundation. "This year, we've moved the festival to a much larger venue in Delhi, creating a more art-friendly environment for visitors to enjoy the celebrations."

The Cultural Significance of Jashn-e-Rekhta: Beyond its entertainment value, *Jashn-e-Rekhta* plays a vital role in promoting Urdu language and its associated culture. It provides a platform for Urdu lovers to share their poetry and stories in open forums, encouraging an interactive exchange of ideas. The festival is not only a celebration of literary heritage but also a space for showcasing Islamic calligraphy, Qawwali, and other cultural performances that have been integral to the Urdu tradition. The festival has been graced by numerous esteemed poets, artists, and filmmakers over the years, including Zia Mohyeddin, Javed Akhtar, Gulzar, Anwar Masood, Shabana Azmi, and Imtiaz Ali, among many others. These personalities have contributed to enriching the cultural fabric of the event, creating a unique space where tradition and modernity blend seamlessly.

A Platform for the Future of Urdu: Jashn-e-Rekhta continues to inspire younger generations to explore the richness of the Urdu language. The event has seen an increasing number of youth attending, eager to embrace the literary and artistic legacy of Urdu. The festival's engaging workshops, panel discussions, and competitions like Rekhta Baitbaazi have become essential platforms for budding poets, writers, and artists to showcase their talents.

Despite its immense popularity, the festival has not been without its criticisms. Some have raised concerns about the dominance of the Devanagari and Roman scripts, which may alienate some of the more traditional Urdu-speaking audiences. Nevertheless, *Jashn-e-Rekhta* remains a symbol of inclusivity, celebrating Urdu in all its forms, whether in its traditional script or contemporary expressions.

Jashn-e-Rekhta is more than just a festival; it is a celebration of the spirit, beauty, and diversity of the Urdu language. As it returns to Delhi for its ninth edition, it stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of Urdu literature, music, and culture. With its global reach, star-studded performances, and commitment to preserving the essence of Urdu, the festival continues to capture the hearts of audiences, old and new, from across the world.

---Editor

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Judiciary-Vice Chairman
Judiciary Non-Civil
Reapportionment and Redistricting-Secretary

April 13, 2024

Dear Aligarh University Alumni and Gwinnett Muslim Friends:

I have been honored to attend your family picnic several times, and hate to miss it this year due to a marriage retreat out of town with my wife Suzette. I look forward to attending again next year, and am on call and at your service for constituent service needs.

I admire the good work that Aligarh University Alumni do here in Georgia, and abroad. I deeply appreciate Aligarh's partnership with my alma mater, Mercer University, on medical mission work. That is a great example of interfaith common ground and collaboration that this world needs more of, and that you are faithful in promoting.

You sent me to the Georgia House to fight for Gwinnett's taxpayers. This May 21, for the first time since the 1980's, Gwinnett voters will have the chance to decrease homeowner property taxes by voting on two ballot measures. Please get out and vote on May 21 on this and other important elections. The American Dream of homeownership is worth fighting for.

It is an honor to represent the good people of Suwanee, Duluth and Sugar Hill, and I am proud to represent you in the Georgia House.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matt Reeves

State Rep. Matt Reeves

4885-3383-0838, v. 1

مسعود نامی کی زندگی کے کارنامے اپنی نوعیت کے اعتبار سے ایسے عجیب و غریب اور اپنی دلکشی کے لحاظ سے ایسے کثیر الاشکال ہیں کہ اس مضمون کا حجم اپنے اندر ان کے بیان کی گنجائش نہیں پاتا۔ یہ ایک دو واقعات محض تبرکاً لکھ دئے ہیں تاکہ مسعود کی روح جنت الفردوس کی آسودگیوں میں اس درد سے تڑپ نہ اُٹھے کہ ہم اسے اتنی جلدی بھول گئے۔ (ص ۳۰۸)

چند روز ہوئے ہمیں علی گڑھ مسلم یونیورسٹی کی طرف سے علی گڑھ میگزین موصول ہوا۔ یہ طلبائے علی گڑھ مسلم یونیورسٹی کا علمی وادبی مجلّہ ہے۔ جس کے مدیر محمد رضوان مصطفیٰ ہیں۔ اس شمارے میں علی گڑھ کے پرانے طالب علموں کے مضامین ہیں جن میں ان کی دلچسپ سے دلچسپ تر باتیں رقم ہیں۔

محمد یوسف صاحب کا مضمون ہے "علی گڑھ کی کچھ یادیں۔" بڑے مزے کی باتیں لکھتے لکھتے ایک جگہ پر مسعود نامی کا ذکر آ گیا ہے۔ ہم نے یہ حصہ زیادہ شوق سے پڑھا کیونکہ ان صاحب سے ہم تھوڑے بہت واقف ہو چکے ہیں۔ محمد یوسف صاحب لکھتے ہیں: "ایک صاحب تھے جو شکل وصورت سے انگریز نما تھے۔ گورے چٹے اچھے شکیل طالب علم۔ مسعود ٹامی کے نام سے انہیں جانا جاتا تھا۔ بے ضرر شرارت اور Activity کرنے میں ماہر، وائسرائے ہند کو علی گڑھ وزٹ کرنا تھا تو علی گڑھ کے چانسلر، وائس چانسلر اور دیگر صاحب اختیار حضرات نے انتظام کے سلسلے میں اجلاس کیا اور سب امور پر غور کیا گیا اور یہ بھی سوچا گیا کہ کوئی لڑکا کسی قسم کی شرارت نہ کرے۔ وہاں مسعود نامی کا ذکر بھی ہو گیا کہ یہ لڑکا بے ضرر انوکھی قسم کی شرارت کر دیا کرتا ہے۔ یہ کوئی حرکت نہ کرنے پائے۔ اس لیے اسے ہفتے بھر کی جبری چھٹی پر علی گڑھ سے نکال دیا جائے۔ چنانچہ اسے ریل گاڑی پر بٹھا کر علی گڑھ سے روانہ کر دیا گیا۔ مسعود نامی سمجھ گیا کہ اسے کیوں علی گڑھ سے نکالا جا رہا ہے۔ چنانچہ وہ انبالہ کا ٹکٹ لے کر روانہ ہو گیا۔ لیکن وہ دہلی پر ہی اُتر گیا اور سیدھا وائسرائیکل لاج میں دہلی جا پہنچا اور وہاں ذمہ دار حضرات سے کہا کہ اسے علی گڑھ یونیورسٹی نے بھیجا ہے کہ ہز ایکسیلنی وائسرائے نے علی گڑھ وزٹ کرنا ہے، اس لئے ان کے ہمراہ آؤں، گویا ابھی سے وائسرائے کا استقبال شروع کر دوں۔ وائسرائے بڑا خوش ہوا اور کہا کہ اسے سرکاری مہمان رکھا جائے اور خاص سیلون میں وہ وائسرائے کے ساتھ سفر کرے۔ چنانچہ تاریخ مقررہ پر جب وائسرائے علی گڑھ روانہ ہوئے تو یہ ان کے ہمراہ علی گڑھ پہنچا۔ ریلوے اسٹیشن پر جب گاڑی رکی تو پہلے مسعود نامی سیلون سے اترا اور اس کے بعد وائسرائے۔

مسعود نامی کو دیکھ کر سب حیران و ششدر رہ گئے۔ مسعود نامی نے صاحبزادہ آفتاب احمد خان صاحب، ڈاکٹر سر ضیاء الدین صاحب اور باقی استقبال کے لئے آنے والوں کا تعارف وائسرائے سے کرا کر کہا" اب میری ڈیوٹی ختم!" اور رخصت ہو گیا!

اگلے دن وائسرائے کو ہوسٹلوں کا چکر لگانا تھا تو مسعود ٹامی نے ادھر اُدھر سے لڑکوں سے کتابیں لے کر اپنے کمرے کی کچی بارک کی الماری میں سجادیں اور کمرے کے سامنے کھڑا ہو گیا اور جب وائسرائے اس کے کمرے کے پاس پہنچا تو اس نے سلام کر کے درخواست کی کہ اس کے کمرے کے اندر بھی جھانک لیں۔ چنانچہ وہ اس کے کمرے میں داخل ہوئے اور وہاں حکم دیا کہ جب تعلیم سے فارغ ہو تو اسے تحصیلدار بھرتی کیا جائے۔ چنانچہ اگلے سال یہ براہ راست تحصیل دار مقرر ہو گیا۔ اس زمانے میں تحصیلدار بڑا اچھا اونچا عہدہ تصور ہوا کرتا تھا۔ ۱۹۲۵ء میں علی گڑھ یونیورسٹی جوبلی کے موقع پر میری ملاقات ٹامی سے ہوئی جو بڑے خوش تھے.....

کیا زندگی میں آپ کو کبھی کوئی ایسا کردار ملا جو بھولنے سے نہ بھولے، بُھلایا نہ جائے۔ اس کی شوخیاں، شرارتیں، خوش خرامیاں اور خوش مزاجیاں آپ کا دامن پکڑ لیں تو آپ کو مسکراہٹیں بن مانگے مل جائیں۔

وہ صورتیں الٰہی کس دیس بستیاں ہیں
اب جن کے دیکھنے کو آنکھیں ترستیاں ہیں

(تہذیب کراچی جنوری ۱۹۹۹ء)

دیسی ہو یا انگریزی، بہت شاندار پہنتے تھے اور کھانا نہایت پُرتکلف کھاتے تھے۔ بورڈنگ ہاؤس کے کمرے میں اس ٹھاٹ سے رہتے تھے گویا بورڈنگ ہاؤس ان کی جاگیر ہے اور وہ اس کے انتظام کے لئے وہاں مقیم ہیں۔ انہوں نے اپنے ملازم خیر محمد کو سفر کی تیاری کا حکم دے دیا۔

بورڈنگ ہاؤس سے چلتے وقت مسعود نے مجھ سے وہ تیئیس روپے لے لئے۔ اسٹیشن پر پہنچ کر کہنے لگے میرے پیچھے پیچھے چلے آؤ اور جو کچھ میں کروں وہی کرتے جاؤ۔ "میں نے کہا" بہت اچھا " میں نہیں جانتا انہوں نے ریل کے ٹکٹ خریدے یا نہیں مگر وہ دلّی کی گاڑی میں فرسٹ کلاس کمپارٹمنٹ میں جا ڈٹے۔ میں بھی ان کے ساتھ نشست پر بیٹھ گیا۔ دلّی کے کنگز وے اسٹیشن پر جب گاڑی رکی تو اترے اور خیر محمد کو انگریزی لہجے میں حکم دیا " بھوپال کیمپ جاؤ اور مہمان خانے کے سپرنٹنڈنٹ صاحب کو ہمارا سلام بولو۔ "خیر محمد "بہت اچھا حضور "کہ کر چل دیا۔ پلیٹ فارم سے باہر نکل کر کہنے لگے "دیکھو بھئی! پیسے کم ہیں اور گاڑیوں کا کرایہ آج کل زیادہ ہے اور سچ پوچھو تو سیر کا مزہ پیدل چلنے ہی میں ہے۔ موسم بھی خوشگوار ہے اور چاروں طرف چہل پہل ابھی پہنچے جاتے ہیں۔" میرے جواب کا انتظار کئے بغیر چل پڑے۔ کوئی ایک فرلانگ کا فاصلہ طے کرنے کے بعد ادھر اُدھر کی رونق دیکھنے اور اس پر جرح و نقد کرنے میں ہم اتنے مصروف ہو گئے کہ ہمیں یاد بھی نہ رہا کہ ہم کہاں ہیں اور کدھر جا رہے ہیں۔ پانچ بجے کے قریب ہم "رج" کے سامنے والے بازار میں جا پہنچے۔ وہاں پٹن کمپنی نے اشتہار کی غرض سے ایک خوبصورت شامیانہ سجا رکھا تھا۔ شامیانے کے نیچے قالین، اس پر صوفے اور کرسیاں۔ ان کے سامنے حسین و جمیل تپائیاں۔ ان پر براق میز پوش، مسعود خدا جانے کیسے بھانپ گئے کہ یہاں چائے مفت تقسیم ہوتی ہے۔ فرمانے لگے "کیوں بھئی چائے پیو گے؟" میں نے کہا" چائے کا وقت تو ہے۔" فرمایا "تو پھر آؤ"۔ شامیانے میں جا کر ہم نے بڑے مزے سے چائے پی۔ چائے پینے کے بعد مسعود نے بڑے سرپرستانہ انداز میں منیجر سے کہا "انتظام بہت اچھا ہے۔"

اس سفر کی ساری روداد بیان کرنے کے لئے یہ جگہ کافی نہیں۔ بس یہ سن لیجئے کہ ہم نے ان تین روز میں کبھی تو لنچ اعلیٰ حضرت شہریار دکن کے مہمان خانے میں کھایا۔ کبھی تاجدار رامپور کے مہمان خانے میں۔ ڈنر کبھی بھوپال کے کیمپ میں تناول کیا۔ کبھی بہاولپور کے کیمپ میں۔ میں نہیں جانتا مسعود ان سب والیان ریاست کے کیمپوں کے منتظمین سے واقف تھے یا نہیں۔ مگر جہاں کہیں ہم گئے، ہماری ایسی آؤ بھگت ہوئی کہ مجھ کو اس بات کا یقین ہو گیا کہ ہم کہیں بھی بن بلائے مہمان نہیں۔ جہاں تک مجھے یاد پڑتا ہے، ان تئیس روپوں میں سے مشکل سے کوئی دس روپے صرف ہوئے ہوں گے۔ ان میں سب سے بڑی رقم ڈھائی روپے کی تھی جس سے ہم نے چاکلیٹ کے دو ڈبے خریدے۔ باقی پیسے کچھ تو قلیوں کی مزدوری میں اور کچھ ٹرام کے کرائے میں صرف ہوئے۔ ہاں یہ تو میں کہنا ہی بھول گیا کہ بخش الٰہی اینڈ کمپنی کے منیجر سے مسعود کی پرانی یاد اللہ تھی۔ انہوں نے مسعود کو اپنی دکان سے سگریٹ خریدتے دیکھا تو سیز رسگریٹ کی پچاس ڈبیوں کا ایک پیکٹ مفت نذر کر دیا۔

تیسرے روز ہم ان شاہانہ عوتوں اور خاطر مدارات کے تکلفات سے تنگ آ کر دلّی چلے گئے۔ میں مسعود سے رخصت ہو کر ممتاز کے ہاں ہٹیا محل چلا گیا اور مسعود اپنے ایک دوست کے ہاں فراش خانے۔

دوسرے دن حضور ملک معظم شہنشاہ آں جہانی ایڈورڈ ہفتم کے مجسمے کی نقاب کشائی کرنی تھی۔ میں ممتاز اور ظہیر زاہدی دوپہر ہی سے جامع مسجد کے سامنے امام صاحب کے بالا خانے پر جا بیٹھے۔ جب شاہی جلوس نکلا تو ہم سب یہ دیکھ کر حیران ہو گئے کہ مسعود بے حد شاندار لباس زیب تن کئے کسی بڑے انگریز کے ساتھ گاڑی میں بیٹھے جا رہے ہیں!

بعد میں مجھے مسعود کی زبانی یہ بھی معلوم ہوا کہ وہ روشن آراء باغ کی اس پارٹی میں بھی شریک ہوئے تھے جو والیان ریاست کی طرف سے حضور ملک معظم قیصر ہند کے اعزاز میں دی گئی تھی اور جس میں ملک کے چیدہ چیدہ اکابر ہی مدعو کئے گئے تھے!

الدین اور خان بہادر شیخ بشیر الدین، جو میرٹھ میں بڑے بھیا اور چھوٹے بھیا کے نام سے مشہور ہیں، اس نامور باپ کے بیٹے ہیں جنہوں نے دلّی کی جامع مسجد وا گزار کرائی تھی۔ میرٹھ میں ان کا دوست کدہ ہر غریب الدیار کا ملجا اور ہر حاجت مند کا آسرا ہے۔ شرافت ان کی کنیز اور مہمان نوازی ان کے گھر کی لونڈی ہے۔ ان کی دولت صرف اس لیے ہے کہ غریبوں کو امیر بنائے اور ان کی شان و شوکت اس لیے ہے کہ فقیروں کا رتبہ بڑھائے۔ ان کی چشم التفات ہر کس و ناکس کے لئے وقف اور ان کا دل ہر دردمند کے درد کے لئے درماں بہ کف۔ ہم لوگ جمعے کی نماز انہی کی مسجد میں پڑھتے تھے اور نماز کے بعد انہی کے پاس بیٹھے رہتے تھے۔ ان کا خوان نعمت دن رات مہمانوں کے انتظار میں چشم براہ رہتا تھا۔ اس لئے میرٹھ کالج کے مسلمان طلبہ کا ناگہاں درودان کی مہمان نوازی کے لئے کبھی موجب تردد نہ ہوتا تھا۔ اللہ اللہ یہ لوگ کس تہذیب کی یادگار ہیں۔ فراوانی دولت انہیں مائل تکبر نہیں کر سکتی۔ ازدیاد جاہ و حشم کے ساتھ ساتھ ان کی گردنوں کا خم اور بڑھتا چلا جاتا ہے۔ چھوٹوں پر اتنی شفقت کہ ادب کا دھوکا ہونے لگے۔ بڑوں کی اتنی عزت کہ پرستش کا گمان ہو۔ گفتار میں ایسی شیرینی کہ سننے والوں کے کان حلاوت کی کان بن جائیں۔ رفتار میں ایسی نرمی کہ زمین پر پاؤں رکھیں تو پاؤں کا نقش نہ بنے۔ آنکھوں میں آنسو، آواز میں رقت، کمر میں خم، مگر بات کے پکے، ارادے کے دھنی، قول و قرار میں چٹان سے زیادہ استوار بھنگی کو "مہتر" حجام کو "خلیفہ" سقے کو "بہشتی" اور نوکر کو "بھائی" کہہ کر پکارتا۔ گھر کی نوکرانیوں کو "ماما اور بوا" کے نام سے یاد کرنا، پرانی تہذیب کے ان پرستاروں کی شرافت تھی۔ آہ! آج یہ چیزیں شریفوں کے گھروں میں بھی کمیاب ہیں۔

غرض یہ دونوں جو دوسخا کے پیکر اور احسان و مروّت کے بندے، اس آڑے وقت میں مسعود کے کام آئے۔ ڈنر کا وہ اہتمام ہوا کہ شاید و باید۔ مسلم ہاسٹل کے وسیع ہال میں بھیا جی کی کوٹھی کا سب سامان آگیا۔ شاہ بلوط کی میزیں، ساگوان کی کرسیاں، چینی کے ظروف اور چاندی کے چھری کانٹے، یونائیٹڈ سروس کلب میرٹھ نے کھانے کا مینو تیار کیا اور اسی کے تجربہ کار خانساموں نے کھانا پکایا۔ اب ایک چیز کی کمی باقی رہ گئی تھی۔ مسعود کے پاس ڈنر کے کپڑے نہ تھے۔ آخر اس کی تدبیر بھی ہو گئی۔ مسعود دلّی گئے اور مسٹر محمد علی کی طرف سے جو اس وقت "کامریڈ" کے ایڈیٹر تھے، فلپس کمپنی کو اپنے ایوننگ ڈریس کا آرڈر دے دیا۔ حاصل کلام، ڈنر کی نشستوں کی جب ترتیب ہونے لگی تو بے چارے تحصیل دار صاحب کو میز کے آخری کونے میں جگہ ملی اور مسعود میزبانوں کے نمائندے کی حیثیت سے سر جیمس میٹن کے پہلو بہ پہلو بیٹھے۔ کھانا کھانے کے دوران میں ہم لوگ یہ دیکھ کر خوش اور پریشان ہوتے تھے کہ مسعود بار بار سب کی آنکھ بچا کر تحصیل دار صاحب کو ذرا جھک کر آداب کر لیتے ہیں۔ مسعود کے جذبہ انتقام کی تسکین تو ہو گئی مگر ڈنر کا بل بھیا جی کو اور ایوننگ ڈریس کا بل مسٹر محمد علی (جوہر) کو ادا کرنا پڑا۔

جب قیصرِ ہند تاجدار برطانیہ شاہ جارج پنجم کی تخت نشینی کا دربار دلّی میں منعقد ہوا تو اس جشن کو کامیاب بنانے کے لئے حکومت کی لامحدود طاقت اور رعایا کی لازوال وفاداری جو کچھ کر سکتی تھی، کیا گیا۔ ہم میرٹھ میں بیٹھے بیٹھے ان تیاریوں کی داستانیں سنتے تو دل مسوس کر رہ جاتے۔ ایسے جشن کی تقریبوں میں شریک ہونے کے لئے بڑے وسائل کی ضرورت تھی۔ اور اس تقریب پر دلّی کے ہنگاموں کا لطف اٹھانے کے لئے بڑا پیسہ چاہئے تھا یوں تو دلّی میں ظہیر سشمی اور ممتاز حسن کے مکان موجود تھے۔ مگر یہ دونوں پرانی دلّی میں تھے۔ ایک چوڑی والوں میں، دوسرا میٹکاف محل میں۔

آخر دربار کے دن آگئے۔ ایک روز مسعود میرے کمرے میں آئے اور کہنے لگے "دلّی کا دربار نہیں دیکھتے؟" میں نے جواب دیا "اتنے پیسے کہاں ہیں؟" کہنے لگے "آخر کتنے ہیں؟ میں نے جیب میں ہاتھ ڈالا تو کل بارہ آنے نکلے۔ انہیں ہتھیلی پر رکھ کر کہا "ہمارے پاس تو یہ بارہ آنے ہیں۔" ہنس کر فرمانے لگے "ذرا بکس میں تو دیکھو۔" غرض کرا کرکے کل تیئیس روپے بنے۔ مسعود نے کہا "بہت ہیں۔ لو تیار ہو جاؤ!"

مسعود کا بدن اس قدر فربہ تھا کہ وہ خواہ مخواہ معتبر معلوم ہوتے تھے۔ ان کا رنگ اس قدر سرخ اور سفید تھا کہ انگریزی لباس میں وہ انگریزوں سے بڑھ کر انگریز نظر آتے تھے۔ انگریزی لہجہ اس قدر فرنگیانہ تھا کہ ان کی گفتگو سے ان کا ہندوستانی ہونا کبھی ظاہر نہیں ہوتا تھا۔ لباس

ایک نا قابل فراموش علیگرین:
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آغا بابر (نیو یارک)



زندگی میں آپ کو کبھی کوئی ایسا کردار نہیں ملا جو کبھی بھولنے سے نہ بھولے۔ بھلایا نہ جائے۔ اس کی شوخیاں، شرارتیں، خوش خرامیاں آپ کا دامن پکڑ لیں تو آپ کو مسکراہٹیں بن مانگے مل جائیں۔ ایسا کردار ہمیشہ زندہ رہتا ہے۔

علی گڑھ کالج میں ایک کردار ایسا ہو پایا ہے جس کا ذکر پرانے علیگ ضرور کرتے ہیں مگر وہ علیگ جنہوں نے اس کو دیکھا ہے، اس سے ملے ہیں، اس کی شرارتیں دیکھی ہیں، اس کی شرارتوں کا لطف اٹھایا ہے اور اس کی خود اعتمادی کی گل فشانیاں عملی طور پر تجربہ کی ہیں۔ سینئر طلباء علی گڑھ میں اکثر ایک طالب علم کا ذکر کرتے ہیں جس کو علی گڑھ کالج میں ٹومی کہا جاتا تھا۔ ایسا زندہ دل نوجوان ایسا اطباع کہ کبھی کوئی ہوگا۔ ہم جو ٹومی کے قصے سنتے تھے یہ معلوم نہیں ہوتا تھا کالج کے بعد اس پر کیا گزری۔

ان کو یاد کرنے والوں میں ایک کلیم احمد شجاع ہیں۔ انہوں نے اپنی خود نوشت "خوں بہا" میں ان کا ذکر کیا ہے۔ لکھتے ہیں:

"حکیم احمد شجاع لکھتے ہیں" علی گڑھ کالج کے پرانے اور نئے طلباء میں کوئی ایسا بھی ہے جو مسعود ٹامی کے نام سے واقف نہ ہو۔

مسعود ٹامی کا نام مسعود حسین کمبوہ تھا۔ اس کی شخصیت محبوب اور دلکش تھی۔ یہ وہی مسعود نامی تھے جن کے دماغ کی جدت آفرینیاں، جن کے تخیل کی کارفرمائیاں، جن کی حرکات و سکنات کی بوقلمونیاں اور خلوت و جلوت میں جن کی ہنگامہ آرائیاں علی گڑھ اور میرٹھ ہی میں نہیں بلکہ سارے یوپی میں الف لیلیٰ کے افسانوں سے زیادہ مشہور ہیں۔"

حکیم صاحب آگے چل کر لکھتے ہیں:

"ایک دفعہ کا ذکر ہے مسعود نامی اور میرٹھ کے تحصیلدار میں کرکٹ کے کسی میچ پر تو تو میں میں ہو گئی۔ تحصیلدار صاحب نے مسعود کو کالج کا طالب علم سمجھ کر ذرا اپنی حکومت کا رعب دکھایا۔ مسعود ایسے دن پیدا ہی نہیں ہوئے تھے کہ کسی کا رعب مانیں لیکن انہیں اب یہ فکر ہو گئی کہ کسی نہ کسی طرح تحصیلدار صاحب کو نیچا دکھائیں۔ آخر ان کو ایک تدبیر سوجھ ہی گئی۔ انہوں نے سر جیمس میسٹن کو جو اس زمانے میں یوپی کے گورنر تھے اور صوبے کے دورے کے سلسلے میں میرٹھ آنے والے تھے، میرٹھ کالج کے مسلمان طلبہ کی طرف سے ڈنر کی دعوت دے دی۔ سر جیمس میسٹن بڑے ہر دلعزیز اور نیک انسان تھے۔ انہوں نے یہ دعوت قبول کر لی۔ دعوت کا انتظام مسعود کے بائیں ہاتھ کا کرتب تھا۔ خان بہادر شیخ وحید

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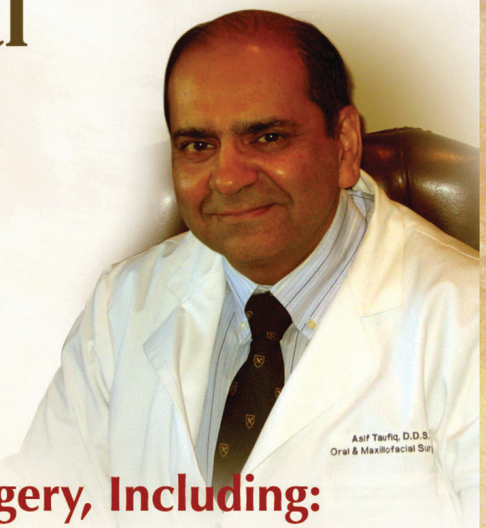
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