

NEWSLETTER

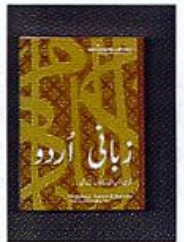
IQBAL ACADEMY UK

Spring 2008

EDITOR : FAROOQ SAGHER

Launching Ceremonies of *Spoken Urdu* for GCSE students

IQBAL ACADEMY (UK) is doing its best to promote educational and cultural activities in the UK. To this end, a dedicated team under the leadership of the Academy's Chairman, Professor Saeed A Durrani, has worked very hard for several years to produce a book entitled *Spoken Urdu* (with two CDs) for GCSE students. The team consisted of educational specialists, namely Dr Riaz Farooq, Mrs Nighat Farooq and Mrs Talat Saleem Javed, besides Dr Durrani. Additionally, Mrs Ingeborg Durrani acted as a consultant on the teaching of Modern Foreign Languages, and Academy's Vice-Chairman, the V. Rev. Dr Peter Berry, introduced the speakers and the topics on the CD – which meticulously followed the syllabus laid down by the EdEXCEL Board for the teaching of Urdu. The Project had been financially supported by the Birmingham City Council and carried out in collaboration with the Society for the Advancement of Urdu, Birmingham.



Two launching ceremonies have been held for this book over the last 18 months. The first was at the House of Lords in London, which took place on 15 June 2006 under the aegis of Lord Ahmed of Rotherham. The ceremony was attended by a large number of educationists, media representatives, community leaders and distinguished personalities. Amongst the speakers were Professor Durrani; Mr Tash Mirza (who had written a primer on Urdu for Uzbek students); the former BBC Urdu Service broadcaster and well-known author Mr Raza Ali Abidi; the MP for Glasgow (Govan) Mr M. Sarwar; and Lord Ahmed. The book was greatly praised for its high standard and elegance of presentation. Mr Sarwar put forward the plea for Pakistani businessmen to sponsor the purchase of this resource for free distribution in schools throughout the UK. Lord Ahmed lauded the cultural contributions that the Academy had been making over the years. He offered his congratulations to Professor Saeed Durrani and his team for the hard voluntary work they had carried out in helping the cause of Urdu teaching and learning in the country.

The second launching ceremony took place on 23rd March 2007 in the banqueting suite of the Birmingham City Council's Chamber. It was attended by a large number of teachers, educationists, and community representatives. The occasion was graced by the presence of the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Cllr Mike Sharpe, and the Lady



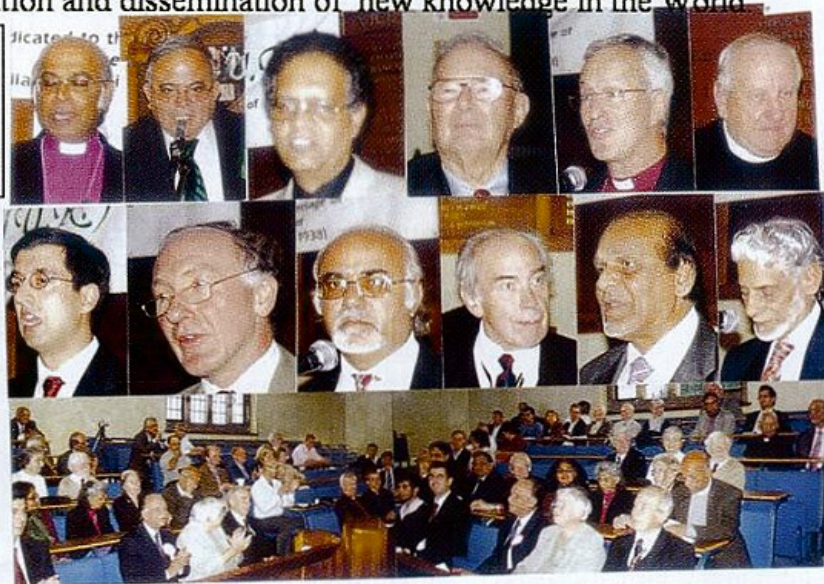
HOUSE OF LORDS. Lord Ahmed (middle) with (L-R): Dr Riaz Farooq, Prof. Saeed Durrani, Dawer Tawfik, Farooq Sagher & Cllr A.Rashid, at the book-launching ceremony.

Mayoress. Among the speakers were Professor Saeed Durrani (who gave a multimedia introduction of the book); Mr Tony Howell, the Strategic Director for Learning & Culture in the City Council; Dr Peter Willig, a consultant with EdEXCEL; Mr Arif Mahmood, Consul for Pakistan in Birmingham; and Dr Shabana Kazmi, an Urdu teacher and media personality. Great praise was lavished on the book, its usefulness for the students of Urdu, and its high standard. (Consul Mahmood said he kept it by his bedside – and his children had found it an inspiration!). It must be stated that one important objective of the function – viz. to get Pakistani businessmen to sponsor the book by making donations towards the free distribution of this resource to schools – failed spectacularly : by the businessmen adopting the simple expedient of failing to turn up, despite earnest promises of support. This reflects badly on the social commitment of our business community. The day was saved by a number of organizations and individuals pledging to buy a quantity of books for free distribution to schools. The highest such donor was Mr Saleem Akhtar, a well-known community leader. Since 23rd March is also the Republic Day of Pakistan, the function was rounded off with a celebratory cake donated by Mr Murawat Hussain, which was cut by Consul Arif Mahmood following the national anthem. The ceremonies were concluded by music presented by Mr Qamar Shad, Khalil Ahmad and accompanists – organized by Mr Farooq Sagher.

Lecture on the Golden Age of Islamic Astronomy

A highly important public lecture on the above theme – subtitled Baghdad, Damascus, Cordoba, Samarkand (AD 800 – 1400) – was held at the Birmingham and Midlands Institute, of which the current President was the Academy's Vice-Chairman, the Very Rev. Dr Peter Berry. The speaker was Dr Allan Chapman of Oxford University, who is the President of the Society for the History of Astronomy. Dr Chapman gave a truly spell-binding account of the great contributions to Astronomy made by Muslim scholars during the 9th to the 14th centuries – of which the Academy has made a video recording. The lecture was introduced by Professor Saeed Durrani, Chairman of the Academy, who highlighted the role of Muslim mathematicians, physicists, chemists, physicians, etc., during the middle ages. The Guest of Honour at the Lecture was Lord Ahmed of Rotherham. The lecture was attended by a large audience, which comprised university professors and students, astronomers, teachers and educationists as well as the general public. Lord Ahmed said that he found the lecture to be a most inspiring experience and he was glad the Academy was organizing such high-calibre events which reflected so well on the historic role played by Muslim scientists in the creation and dissemination of new knowledge in the World.

Below: Prof. Saeed A Durrani presenting a set of books on behalf of the Academy to Dr Allan Chapman after his lecture at the BMI.



Right (L-R): Lord Bishop of Rochester, Rt Rev. Dr M. Nazir-Ali; Prof. Saeed Durrani; Prof. Iftikhar Malik; Prof. J. Hick; Bishop of Birmingham, Rt Rev. Dr D. Urquhart; V. Rev. Dr Peter Berry; Mr D. Rahimi (German Embassy); Prof. M. Clarke; Mr Dawer Tawfik; Cllr J. Worood; Mr Adam Chughtai; & Mr Abdullah Bawhab. (+ General view of Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali's; First Annemarie Schimmel Memorial Lecture at Birmingham University)

Iqbal in Europe Centenary Conference

Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal was in Europe from 1905 to 1908 to carry out his research studies at the University of Cambridge, which culminated in a degree of BA from Cambridge (with Distinction) and a PhD from the University of Munich in November 1907 with a thesis entitled *The Development of Metaphysics in Persia*. He was also called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, London, in July 1908. To mark the centenary of Iqbal's stay in Europe – which had a profound effect on the thinking and future outlook of the young poet-philosopher – Iqbal Academy (UK), in conjunction with Iqbal Academy Pakistan, is holding a major international conference in London and Cambridge during the summer of 2008. The London part of the conference will take place in the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London, on Tuesday 17th June 2008. It will primarily be the responsibility of the UK Academy. The Cambridge meeting will be held on Thursday-Friday, 19 – 20 June (at Trinity College – the Allamah's old *alma mater*), and will be organized chiefly by the Pakistan Academy. Admission to both meetings will be free – but by invitation only.

The theme of the London meeting will be *Iqbal as a Bridge Between the East and the West*. Here, following 'Vision Statements' on the background and purpose of the conference by the two Academy Chirmen (Prof. Saeed Durrani and Mr M. Suheyl Umar, respectively), the keynote speaker will be Dr Javid Iqbal, the illustrious son of the Poet-Philosopher. Other speakers will include: Professor Vito Salierno (Italy) – the incoming President of Iqbal Foundation Europe; Professor Anwar Dil (USA); Prof. Basit Koshul (Pakistan); and Dr Reza Shah-Kazemi (UK). Guests of Honour will be HRH Prince El-Hassan of Jordan and HE Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani (Saudi Arabia) – who will give away the newly-struck Yamani medallions to the speakers and other distinguished guests. Durdana Ansari will recite Iqbal's Urdu poetry, and Salman Asif, English translations of some selected pieces. Highlights of a new documentary on Iqbal, made in the USA, will be screened at the meeting.

A full programme of the conference may be seen on our website: www.iqbalacademy-uk.org. Those interested in receiving invitations to the London and the Cambridge legs of the conference should get in touch with the Academy's Hon. Secretary, Mr Dawer Tawfik (Newland House, 137-139 Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8UA; Tel. : 0121-456 5777; Fax : 456-3777; e-mail: dawer@tawfik.freemove.co.uk), as soon as possible in view of the high demand for seats that is likely.



A group photograph after the book-launching ceremonies at the House of Lords. (L-R) Mrs Katja Durrani; Dr Matin Durrani; Prof. Saeed A Durrani; Mr Murawat Hussain; Mr Dawer Tawfik; Mrs Shamin Tawfik.

اقبال اکیڈمی (برطانیہ) خبرنامہ

اقبال اکیڈمی نے پانچ برس کی مسلسل کاوش کے بعد زبانی اردو کے نام سے ایک نہایت گراں قدر کتاب شائع کی ہے جس کے ساتھ وہی ڈی وی بھی شامل ہیں۔ برصغیر کی انجیکشن اتھارٹی اور انجمن ترقی اردو نے بھی اس کتاب کی طباعت اور اشاعت میں تعاون کیا۔ اب یہ کتاب بی بی ایس ای کے طلبہ کے مطالعہ کے لیے مارکیٹ میں دستیاب ہے۔ اقبال اکیڈمی کے صدر نقیہ پروفیسر سعید اختر درانی کی سربراہی میں ڈاکٹر یاس قاروق، محترمہ تجت قاروق، ملور محترمہ طلعت سلیم جیسے ماہرین تعلیم کی ٹیم نے زبانی اردو کے سلسلے میں شب و روز محنت کر کے اسے پایہ تکمیل تک پہنچایا۔ اب تک اس کتاب کی دو دفعہ زبانی تقریب ہو چکی ہیں۔ پہلی تقریب ہاؤس آف لارڈز لندن میں منعقد ہوئی جس میں لارڈ نذیر احمد نے اس پروگرام تقریب کی میزبانی کے فرائض سرانجام دیئے، جبکہ گلاسگو کے نمبر پارلیمنٹ چوہدری محمد سرور اور ملک کے کئی ایک ماہرین تعلیم نے بھی اس تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ لارڈ نذیر احمد نے علم و ادب کے فروغ کیلئے اقبال اکیڈمی کی جانب سے کی جانے والی کوششوں کو بہت شاندار الفاظ میں خراج تحسین پیش کیا۔

اس کتاب کی دوسری دفعہ زبانی تقریب برصغیر میں کنول کے حنیفہ ہال میں بروز ۲۳ مارچ منعقد ہوئی جس میں لارڈ میز آف برصغیر کے علاوہ بہت سی مقتدر علمی، ادبی اور تعلیمی شخصیات نے شرکت کی۔ چونکہ اس روز پاکستان کا یوم جمہوریت بھی تھا اس لیے پاکستان کے قرضصل جناب عارف محمود نے ایک حنیفہ کیک کاٹا جس کے بعد ایک نخل موسیقی منعقد ہوئی۔

اقبال کے قیام یورپ کی صد سالہ یادگاری کانفرنس

وسط جون ۲۰۰۸ء میں علامہ اقبال کے قیام یورپ (۱۹۰۵ء تا ۱۹۰۸ء) کی صد سالہ یادگاری کانفرنس اقبال اکیڈمی (یو کے) اور اقبال اکادمی پاکستان کے باہمی اشتراک سے لندن اور کیمبرج میں منعقد ہو رہی ہے۔ لندن کی کانفرنس اقبال اکیڈمی (یو کے) کے زیر اہتمام،

School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS) University of London

میں بروز منگل ۷ جون ۲۰۰۸ء قرار پائے گی اس میں ڈاکٹر جاوید اقبال کے علاوہ کئی اور ممتاز اقبال شناس حصہ لے رہے ہیں۔ معلومات اور رجسٹریشن کے لیے رابطہ کیجیے: جناب داور توفیق سکریٹری اقبال اکیڈمی (یو کے)، فون: 0121-456-5777 فیکس: 0121-4563777
داخلہ فرمی: مگر صرف دعوت نامے کے ساتھ (نوٹ سیٹوں کی تعداد محدود ہے) dower@tawfik.freemove.co.uk

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A group photograph after the First Schimmel Memorial Lecture at the Council Chamber, University of Birmingham. (L-R): Professor Saeed Durrani; Bishop Dr Michael Nazir -Ali; Mr Murawat Hussain; the in-coming Bishop of Birmingham, Dr David Urquhart; Mr Farooq Sagher ;Mrs Talat Javed; & Mr Saleem Javed