

EVENTS, INQUIRIES, NEWS, NOTICES, REPORTS

A NUMBER of Urdu writers and patrons left us during the past eighteen months, among them: (2004) Ashfaq Ahmad, Iqbal Ahmad, Malik Ram Anand, Mulk Raj Anand, Jagan Nath Azad, Fahim A'zmi, Ahmed Bashir, Behis Ilahabadi, Unwan Chishti, Nisar Ahmad Faruqi, Usama Faruqi, Gulshan Chandpuri, Hamid Kausar, Mauj Rampuri, Jauhar Mir, Krishan Mohan, Hajira Nazli, Zamir Niazi, Nigar Sehbai, Firoz Nizami, Azhar Qadiri, Sahab Qizilbash, Adeeb Raipuri, Yunus Salim, Shaista Habib, Irfan Siddiqi, Raihan Siddiqi, Tabish Dehlavi, Vahid Premi, Wahab Danish, Ali Jawad Zaidi; (2005) Ameer Arifi, Moin Ahsan Jazbi, Mushfiq Khwaja.

I

The following is an inventory of scholars and the papers which they presented at conferences, seminars, and symposia:

33rd Annual Conference on South Asia (Madison, 15-17 October 2004)

Hena Ahmad (Truman State University): "Cross-Cultural Literary Hybridization: Agha Shahid Ali's Ghazals in English."

Lubna Chaudhry (SUNY, Binghamton): "Reconstituting Selves in Post-Conflict Karachi: Structural Violence and the Scope of Gendered Agency."

Griffith A. Chaussée (University of Virginia, Charlottesville): "Shibli Nu'mani and the Categories of Literary Critique."

Mehr Afshan Farooqi (University of Virginia, Charlottesville): "Quranic Translations: Earliest Urdu Prose?"

Syed Akbar Hyder (University of Texas, Austin): "Qawwali as Pedagogy: Narrative Domains of South Asian Religious and Popular Cultures."

Ali Mir (William Paterson University, New Jersey): "Lyrically Speaking: Hindi Film Songs and the Progressive Aesthetic."

Raza Mir (William Paterson University, New Jersey): "Ghalib ki Zameen Mein: Structure and Rhyme Scheme in Progressive Urdu Poetry."

Veena Talwar Oldenburg (CUNY/Baruch College, Graduate Center):
“Ruling Passions: Wajid Ali and the Colonial State.”

Frances Pritchett (Columbia University): “Natural Prose: Muhammad
Husain Azad and the Ancestry of Urdu.”

*

**Second Biennial International Conference of Pakistan Studies:
Pakistan in World-Historical Context (University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, 29 April–1 May 2005)**

Sarmad Hussain (Center for Research in Urdu Language Processing, Na-
tional University of Computer and Engineering Sciences, Lahore): “Back-
ground, Issues, Current Work and Future Directions in Urdu Language
Computing.”

Tariq Rahman (University of California, Berkeley): “Prudery in South
Asian Muslim Literature: The British Legacy.”

A. Sean Pue (Columbia University): “Sheba in Ruins: Urdu Modernism’s
Imaginative Geography.”

Maggie Ronkin (Georgetown University): “Fugitive Meanings and Veiled
Resistance in an Oral Narrative.”

II

According to a report in Outlook India (www.outlookindia.com):

The tomb of poet Amir Khusraw in south Delhi was vandalized today
and one person was detained in this connection, police sources said.

Mohammad Bakul Khan, a rice merchant from Malda, entered the
premises of the tomb near the “dargah” of Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia
shortly after “namaz” this morning and tried to break its door.

When a guard tried to stop him, he entered the tomb and allegedly
damaged a cupboard and broke a glass pane and some light fittings.

He then came out and damaged part of a cement fence outside the
tomb.

Police reached the spot by that time and arrested him. He was later re-
manded to judicial custody.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South district) Praveer Ranjan told
PTI [Press Trust of India] that the man seemed to be in a “hysterical state
and apparently had a history of hysteria.”

Khan was part of a 56-member tourist party that had arrived here last evening to offer prayers at the “dargah” of Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia. His mother and son were part of the party which was to later go to Ajmer in Rajasthan.

[Edited for the *AUS*.]

III

On 14 January 2005, the Pakistan Post Office, Islamabad, issued a commemorative stamp on the death anniversary of the renowned English and Urdu author Ahmed Ali (1910-1994).



*

N O T E : If you have read a paper or published an item or know of a piece of information of interest to Urdu-wallahs, please do not hesitate to send it to us for inclusion in the next issue of the *AUS*. —*Ed.*