

A SHORT LIFE SKETCH  
OF  
**ENGR. Z.A. NIZAMI**  
*Founder*  
Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology

**A GLITTERING STAR OF PAKISTAN**



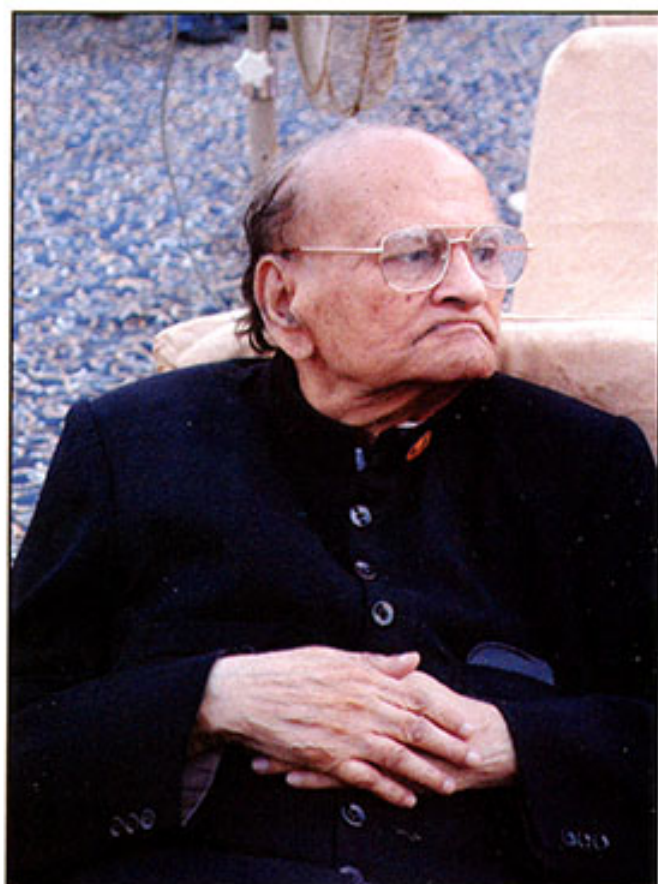
*By:*

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Member of

Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys' Association

## ENGR. Z.A. NIZAMI



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## **A GLITTERING STAR OF PAKISTAN**

### ▶ **EARLY LIFE**

Late Engineer Z.A. Nizami was born in May 25, 1931 at Amroha, District Muradabad, U.P, India. He obtained his secondary education from Merrut, where his father was a practicing lawyer of repute. He passed civil Engineering with First Position from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, in 1951. During his stay in Merrut College he actively participated in Pakistan Movement alongwith his father. Soon after passing engineering examination he migrated to Pakistan. In those days Government of Pakistan, as a policy, was encouraging technically qualified Muslim youths to come to Pakistan and was liberally granting emergency Visa/Nationality.

He did his post Graduation on Housing and Town Planning from Holland and again on Human Settlement from Berlin University, Germany. He also obtained Master Degree on Planning of Mega Cities from London University, UK. He was Member of Housing and Planning Holland and Pakistan Engineering Council.

### ▶ **SERVICE IN KDA (KARACHI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY)**

In Pakistan Late Mr. Nizami started his career in KDA as Engineer in 1953 and raised to the position of Director General in 1980. Those were the days when Government of Pakistan was facing an uphill task to rehabilitate immigrants coming from India after partition. It was his foresightedness and vision which solved the problem and settle the issue for ever, with in stipulated time. During his tenure as D.G from 1980 to 1988 he initiated 45 housing schemes and timely developed all of them for the benefits of middle and lower middle class families alike. Surprisingly, Karachities never seen any new scheme launched in Karachi, after his retirement from K.D.A. In all development schemes he gave due importance to environment, such as wind direction, parks and road side plantation etc. In all the schemes due provisions were also made for construction of roads, footpaths water, sewerage, power, gas and telephone lines etc. and made coordinated efforts for their timely and efficiently completion. The Mega city of Karachi and its natives owe so much to this great personality that his name will always be remembered as Father of Karachi.

## ▶ A KNOWN TOWN PLANNER

Mr. Nizami was a known and internationally acclaimed Town Planner. He is described as genius of his time who gave new concept of modernization and development to this sprawling and sparkling city of Karachi. His forward looking planning gave rise to the beautiful building of K.D.A in 1980, at Hassan Squire, Karachi which today is called Civic Centre. This area today is centre of activity after shifting many offices and banks from city to this building. In K.D.A he developed a pool of Machinery & Equipment to make the organization self sufficient in this area. This project was self financing as during idle time these machines generated income out of its rental. He also established two other projects on self financing basis, one was a Pipe Factory and the other an Asphalt Plant. He carried out some development works departmentally and used own material produced by these factories. During Mr. Nizami's time K.D.A was viable and profit earning organization which never asked Government to sanction funds for its development projects or paying salaries to his employees.



His another initiative resulted in inception of Karachi Building Control Authority and Water & Sewerage Board in 1979.

## ▶ OTHER SERVICES

He served Government of Pakistan as Additional Secretary for quite some time. He was appointed Advisor/Consultant in the world Bank and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He was instrumental in Planning expansion of "Haram Sharif" during his stay in Saudi Arabia. He was among those who designed floors of "Twaf Area" of "Makka Muazzamah" and gave a formula to keep it cool even in hot summers.

At the same time he carried out detailed studies of Transportation of Hajaj Karam from Air Port to Harmain Sharrif and Traffic Control of Concerned Cities.

## ▶ RESEARCH PAPERS AND INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS

Mr. Z.A Nizami is the author of numerous papers on Housing, Resettlement of Squatters, Environment, Planning and Control problems of Transportation

of Mega Cities, Water supply and Sewerage which were internationally acclaimed.

He represented Pakistan in International Conferences held from time to time in U.S.A, Britain, France, Japan, Mexico, India, Tanzania, Kenya, Iran and Turkey etc.

### ► RICH TRIBUTES PAID BY KDA EMPLOYEES AND LABOUR UNION

A rare occasion of paying rich tributes to someone, who retired from service 25 years back, was seen in K.D.A where its employees and labor union organized a condolence meeting to mourn the death of Engineer Z.A Nizami. They demanded to name a road and Civic Centre after the name of Engr. Nizami in recognition of his services for Karachi. Mr. Hashim Raza Zaidi, Commissioner and Administrator K.M.C (Karachi Municipal Corporation) appreciating the sentiments, immediately announced that from today KDA Seminar Hall will be called "Z.A. Nizami Hall" and promised to forward their proposal to name the road and Civic Centre after the name of Engr. Nizami to the concerned authorities.

### ► ESTABLISHMENT OF SIR SYED UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Nizami has immortalized himself by establishing an I.T. Institute & Sir Syed University and Engineering and Technology at Gulshan-e-Iqbal, University Road, Karachi. These institutes are considered the best gift of Mr. Nizami could give to Karachities. Mr. Nizami is considered as leading educationalist of Pakistan. He has been carrying out Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's mission throughout his life and rightly be called "Sir Syed of Pakistan" or "Sir Syed-e-Sani" He was great follower of Aligarh Movement and Aligarh Spirit. He preached education to all, love every human being, uphold the brotherhood and above all traditions of Aligarh.



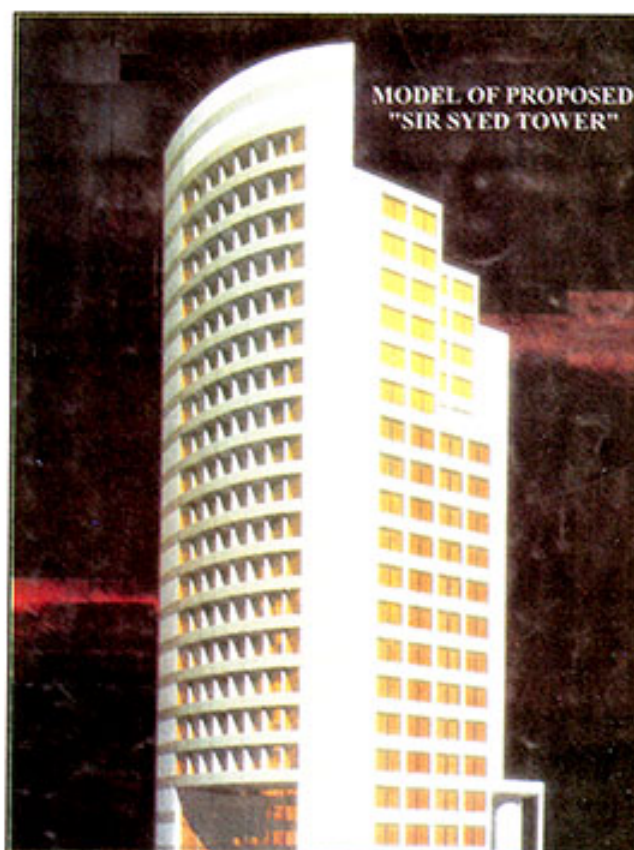
He was so much dedicated and committed to the university cause that he as Chancellor to the University attended 16th convocation held on March 26, 2013 at Expo Centre, even though he was terribly sick at that time. Some

1100 students were awarded degrees in the convocations. His pragmatic, multifaceted and dynamic personality and vision made the dreams of AMUOBA come true in the shape of SSUET.

SSUET was established in 1994 with four engineering disciplines. In this year only 222 students were registered. Today its strength is more than 6000 students with six faculties. Mr. Nizami's forward looking and progressive approach never stopped after just establishment the university but he worked hard, day and night, to bring it up to the level of world top class Universities. Not only that he got affiliated SSUET with highly reputed universities of USA, UK and Europe. It all faculties, most modern laboratories, library, auditorium, medical centre and extracurricular activities, sports and games brought laurel and prestige to the university.

The expansion programme of university, obtaining 200 acres of land in Education City on Superhighway for Sir Syed I.T. Park and construction of Sir Syed Tower on M.R. Kyani Road are the projects in the pipeline which is the result of his foresightedness and the outcome of his genius mind. Another unique step, not heard in other institutions, is to start "Continuing Education Programme to part practical and job orientated knowledge to students and a Job Placement Bureau in the university to help students seeking jobs.

He adopted "Tarana-e-Aligarh" as Taran-e-SSUET, which was first introduced by Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (India) in 1956. This Tarana was written by Majaz Lucknowi. He patronized and encouraged celebrating all important



events and days of national importance including Milad Sharif, Sir Syed Day and Mushairas. He encouraged young writers to launch their books in the University and encourage celebration of such occasions.

Mr. Nizami had a reputation of being so considerate and sympathetic to poor people especially students who were liberally awarded scholarships. It is matter of record that in SSUET no student was deprived of appearing in examination or their result withheld due to non-payment of university dues. He was also liberal in providing jobs to the needy and deserving. During his lifetime services of no employee was terminated due to one reason or the other.

Apart from being the Chancellor of SSUET he was also Consultant/Advisor of Aligarh Institute of Technology and Chairman of Governing Body of the Institute and Fahim-un-Nisa Aligarh Institute of Technology for Women.

Mr. Nizami was a true follower of Nizamuddin Aulia and Baba Fareeduddin Shakar Alrehma. His services in preparation of Charter of International University of Baba Fareed Ganj Shakar are well known with due recognition.

It will not be out of place to mention here that the University or the Institutes working under its umbrella are all self financing and he never asked financial support from the Government to run the University or the Institute.

#### ► **PRESIDENT OF ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY OLD boys' ASSOCIATION**

He also played a pivotal role in strengthening Aligarh Muslim University Old boys' Association of Karachi and in obtaining most valuable plot for Association on western corner of M.R.Kyani Road near Governor House. He earned so much respect from Old Aligarian that he was elected President of the Association for Seven Consecutive times mostly Unopposed from 1986 when he first contested of election of the association. By Virtue of his post as President of AMUOBA and according to the charter of SSUET he became Founder Chancellor from its inception in 1994 till his death on Sunday the 7th April 2013.



## ▶ AS PHILANTHROPIST

He was a known philanthropist, who never hesitated in allotting land for construction of Mosques, Madarsas and educational institutions for special children and orphans. He allotted big piece of land to Mr. Sattar Edhi at Sohrab Goth from where he first started his social activities and Ambulance Service. His financial help was always forthcoming to the needy in general and particularly to Madarsas, Mosques and Students.

## ▶ FAMILY

His wife a social worker was a known short story writer. She was in support of Mr. Nizami's endure to achieve his goals. Unfortunately she died before him in Washington on March 19, 2011. He left five sons and daughter namely, Mr. Irfan Ahmed Nizami, Mr. Farrukh A. Nizami, Mr. Tariq A. Nizami, Mr. Naved A. Nizami, Mr. Furqan Ahmed Nizami and Afshan Amjad Baig.

## ▶ Condolences and Grief Expressed:-

Most of the Government, Semi Government and private organization mourn the death of Mr. Nizami. Educational Institutions, Student Forum, Labour Unions, Print and Electronic Media, Religious, Welfare, Societies, Games and sports Associations, Heads of the Political Parties and university Old boy's Association paid rich tributes to Late Nizami in Condolence meetings and considered his death a "National Loss" while recalling his services as Architect of Karachi and an Educationalist they were of the views that vacuum created by his death will not be filled easily.

**The following is the list of some of the Organization who condole the death of Late Nizami and issued statements of grief and sorrow on his demise in Press.**

1. Aligarh Muslim University Old boy's Associations (AMUOBA) Karachi and Rawalpindi.
2. Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology Karachi.
3. Dr. Ziauddin University of Medical Sciences Karachi.
4. Baqai Medical College, Karachi.
5. University of Karachi.
6. Fedral Urdu University, Karachi
7. Mr. M. Naeem Ullah, Director School Education.
8. Syed Munawar Hassan and Other Leaders of J.I
9. Mr. Altaf Hussain and other leaders of MQM
10. Pirzada Yasir Sain, President Pakistan Muslim League (F)



11. Leaders of Jamiat Al Falah
12. Haji Hanif Tayyab, Chief of Al-Mustafa Welfare Society.
13. Mr. Mohammad Saeed, Chairman Bazm-e-Munzil-e-Pakistan
14. Khursheed Iqbal Hyder, Social welfare and cultural Society
15. Mr. Ahmed Shah, President Arts Council Karachi.
16. Employees and Labour Union, KDA Karachi.
17. Mr. Hashim Raza Zaidi, Commissioner and Administrator KMC.
18. Saadat-e-Amroha.
19. Nafees Ahmed Khan, Chairman, Student Forum.
20. Muzzafar Ahmed Hashimi, Jamiat Al-Falah
21. Al Haj Shamim Siddiqui, Founders of Islamic Forum.
22. Khawaja Shamsuddin Azzimi, Head Silsila-e-Azzimia.
23. Hafiz Naseem Uddin of Pakistan Queez Society.
24. Mr. Mazhar Saeed Kazmi, Amir Ahl-e-Sunnat
25. Syed Sirajul Islam Bukhari, Chief KCCA
26. Mir Khalil-ur-Rehman Memorial Society. Karachi.
27. Geo- News
28. Al-Nisa Club etc.

ہزاروں سال نرگس اپنی بے نوری پہ روتی ہے  
بڑی مشکل سے ہوتا ہے چمن میں دیدہ ور پیدا



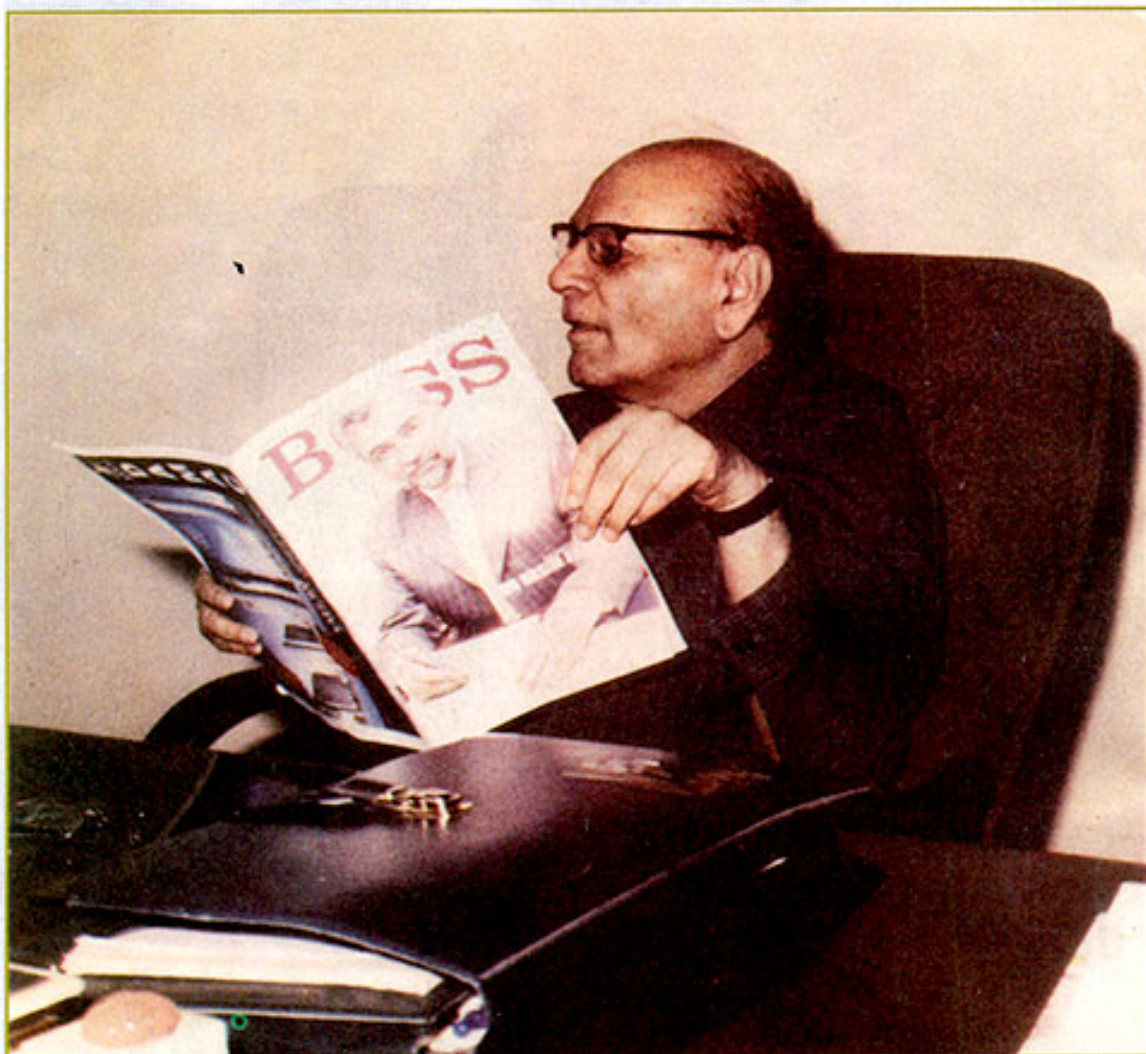
Up close and personal with

# Z. A. Nizami

Chancellor, Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology

By Ahmed Qaiser Naqi

**Z.A. Nizami, a seasoned bureaucrat, retired as Director General, Karachi Development Authority. He has also worked as the Additional Secretary for the Government of Pakistan. After retirement, he set up SSUET and the Aligarh Institute of Technology on a 9-acre piece of land, located on the Main University Road, and became the Chancellor himself. He refuses to call his chancellorship a profession and sees it as more of a social service. He claims to have taken inspiration from the legendary Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, a claim that is substantiated by a look at the wall behind his Chancellor's seat upon which hangs a large framed portrait of Sir Syed. Boss recently met up with this dynamic personality to gain an insight into his vision, his work and his ideas.**



**Where did you receive your education?**

I was born long before Pakistan came into being and was educated in India. Therefore, I feel fortunate enough to have experienced the best of both worlds. After completing my matriculation and intermediate in science, I took admission in Allgarh Muslim University from where I did my B.Sc (Civil Engineering) in 1951 before migrating to Pakistan. That was quite a life-altering decision but I put my best foot forward and that step proved favourable.

During my professional career I partook in many post graduate courses in Housing & Town Planning from Holland (1961-62), Planning of Big Cities from London University, England and Sub Integrated Urban Settlements from Berlin, Germany. Needless to say these courses offered me extremely valuable insight into the way things and issues such as these are handled the world over.

**What was your first job?**

I joined the Karachi Development Authority (KDA) in 1952 as an Assistant Executive Engineer. Through sheer hard work and diligence I escalated to the highest position on offer, that of Director General, KDA in 1980. I retired as Director General in 1988. I also served the Government of Pakistan as the Additional Secretary. I have, by the grace of God, gained an immense amount of professional experience

because I have been lucky enough to work in a very diverse field.

**What inspired you to choose this line of work?**

First of all I would like to clarify that this is not a profession to me. I think of it as a social service because I have always tried whatever was in my power to help as many people as I could.

We all know what Sir Syed Ahmed Khan did for the Muslims of the Sub continent. That was a time when the Muslims were desperately lagging behind in all fields and walks of life. Sir Syed analysed the situation and concluded that it was the lack of modern knowledge which debilitated the Muslims and caused them much suffering in the hands of the Hindus.

He had great vision, wisdom and insight into the core problems of his fellow brethren. What made him different from his contemporaries was his stamina and approach. Instead of cursing the situation at hand he came up with the solution and began practically working for it.

He set out his targets and, without wasting a single moment in his life, consistently made efforts to achieve them. He did face lot of opposition and criticism, even from his own people, yet he persevered and went ahead with what he knew was right. And the test of time witnessed



that whatever he envisioned and struggled for was ultimately proven concretely beneficial for the Muslims of the Sub continent.

Having studied at the institute founded by him, I took inspiration from his personality and that's why I named my institutes the Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology and Aligarh Institute after his name and my alma mater. As you can see Sir Syed has inspired me no end.

**Are you a workaholic?**

Yes I am. I believe in honest hard work. I'm so used to my long hours and the fact that I can't rest until I get a job well done that the sheer amount of work doesn't affect me anymore. As for family, they've become used to it by now. I do spend quality time with them but I'm afraid I devote myself to my work a whole lot more.

**What's your zodiac sign?**

I'm a Gemini but I don't believe in these things. Horoscopes have never had much effect or impact in my life.

**How do you spend your leisure time?**

Leisure is a relative term to me. I work 8 hours a day and my day starts of early in the morning followed by social engagements in the evening. Besides that I really don't have a lot of time to indulge in leisurely activities such as sports and such.

**What is the best aspect of your job?**

The best aspect of my job is that it gives me a tremendous amount of satisfaction. I feel happy

## Interview

that I am able to provide my students with an environment and opportunity with which they can obtain quality education and polish their talents. There is so much potential and talent in our country that not tapping into it is a crime.

**If you had not chosen this particular profession, what would you have been?**

God only knows better. However, I think I would have participated in some sort of social service in any other field. No matter which field I'm in, I know that I would have taken it upon myself to help others, in whatever way possible.

**Which cable channel do you watch the most?**

I don't watch any one channel in particular. When I watch TV I prefer news and informative channels like, the Discovery Channel and National Geographic. The kind of programmes they show are very informative and educational.

**Any movie you consider unforgettable?**

I cannot name any one particular movie. As a matter of fact I don't get enough time to watch one.

**Are you a family man?**

Yes I am. I am devoted to my family and I feel happy when

I spend time with them. The family circle and environment is very important to me as it is my family from whom I draw my strength.

**What do you think are your strongest and weakest points?**

I think my will power and the perseverance to achieve my set targets are my strongest points. I have always kept struggling for the objectives I have set forth for myself in my life. As far as my weakest points are concerned, I think I am a disciplined person and I want the people who work with me to work in a disciplined manner. This could possibly be a weak point as generally people tend to work otherwise.

**Are you big on grooming?**

Yes, I like the people working with me to prosper and I try to encourage them to learn new things in their field. One of these things is trying to make those who work with me understand the importance of carrying themselves properly.

**Are you a mean boss?**

No, I am an acceptable boss. While I was the Director General of Karachi Development Authority, my subordinates never felt any pressure to do or perform anything as I wasn't very hard on them. I always believe in dialogue and discussion instead of getting angry or shouting.



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Daily Times | 22-28 August, 2005



## AMOUBA Achievements

### 1. Existing AMOUBA Premises and Proposed Construction of Sir Syed Towers:

The present premises of our Association were acquired through the efforts of the Senior Aligarians. Being a precious piece of land, the builders mafia had an eye on it. Eventually they succeeded in getting a requisition order issued by the Deputy Commissioner. It was served on one Saturday evening, so that the Association could not get a stay-order from the courts, being closed on Sunday. The Plan was taken over the possession of the Land on Monday morning. However, this evil design was foiled by the President (Engr. Z. A. Nizami) of the Association, who got a stay-order issued by the Judge on Sunday at his house, through his personal contact and influence. His next achievement was to get the requisition order withdrawn by the Governor of Sindh in spite of persistent efforts of the Builders Mafia. To foil their further design, the Association has decided to construct a building named SIR SYED TOWER for the advancement of the aims and objectives of the Association. The president and the Honorary General Secretary (Engr. Muhammad Zakir Ali Khan) are working day and night to get all the legal and bureaucratic impediments removed for early launching of the project. The Plan is almost ready. Various options for funding the project are under consideration of the experts. The President is utilizing his experience and personal influence to get all the impediments removed for the early start of its construction.

### 2. SIR SYED UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY (SSUET)

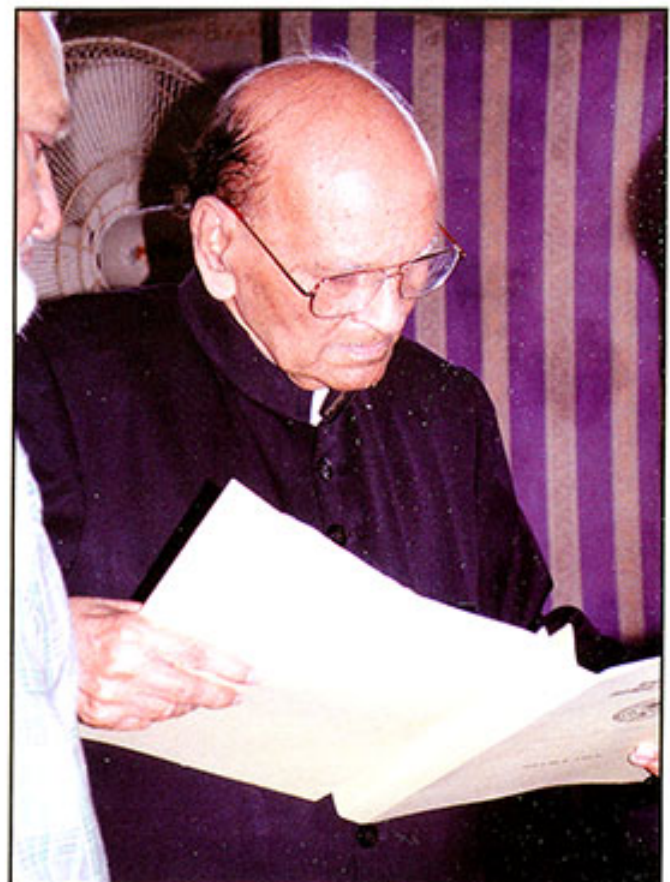
#### 2.1 Acquisition of Land

The desire of the Aligarians to establish an educational institution for continuation of Aligarh Spirit was always nearest to their hearts. As a first step, 8 Acres of precious land was allotted to the Association, through the good offices of the President. He stood personal guarantee for the loan taken from the bank to pay the cost of this land.

#### 2.2 Construction of Buildings, Approval of University by H.E.C., Grant of Charter by Governor of SINDH and Approval of Sir Syed University Act 1995 By SINDH Assembly:

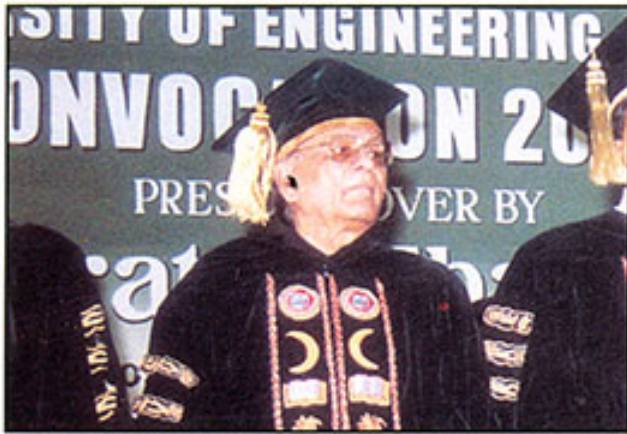
The next break through came when the good offices of the President and a senior member of the Executive Committee, a philanthropist named Yunus Shah Khan agreed to build & donate the present A & B Blocks for the start of Aligarh Institute of Technology. Sunday Bazaar and other encroachment were got vacated from the land. Seizing this opportunity the President managed to work out a feasibility report for the start of an engineering University and got it approved by the then Education Commission. The cherished desire of the Aligarians was fulfilled when the Governor of Sindh granted the Charter for establishment of Sir Syed University in 1993. Without any further delay the University classes were started in the AIT premises. These efforts were constitutionalized when the Sir Syed University Act 1995 was unanimously passed by the Sindh Assembly. Starting from our Computer Laboratory and 40 students, this sapling has now grown into a magnificent tree.

**ENGR. Z.A. NIZAMI**



# Convocations

**2003**



**2005**



**2009**



**2010**



**2011**



**2012**

