

دارالمصنفين أكاديمية شبلي

دارالمصنفين شبلي اكيڏمى

DARUL MUSANNEFIN SHIBLI ACADEMY



INDIAN SUBCONTINENT'S
OLDEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A Brief Introduction



The old library section of the Academy

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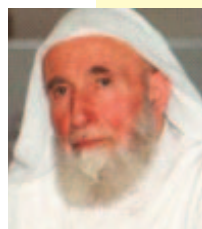


Darul Musannefin Shibli Academy was founded in Azamgarh city (U.P., India) in 1914 by the great Islamic scholar ALLAMA SHIBLI NOMANI (1857-1914) on the pattern of western research academies where renowned scholars could live and work in dedicated and self-abnegating seclusion to produce, compile, collate, translate and publish works of high standards aimed at promoting knowledge, thought and wisdom and improving quality of life and culture of their people.

The Shibli Academy's scholars concentrated, in particular, on subjects that concerned Islam and Muslims of the Subcontinent. It has also been their endeavour to provide satisfactory answers to the objections raised by western and other scholars against Islam, Prophet of Islam (pbuh) and Islamic history, especially in relation to the history of Islam in the Subcontinent.

Until now Darul Musannefin has produced 257 books (some multi-volume) on Islam, Islamic history, literature, Islamic personalities and Indo-Muslim history which continue to serve as an authentic source of reference around the world both in their original and translated forms. These books, originally written in Urdu, have been translated into English, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Indonesian, Malayalam, Bengali, Tamil, Hindi etc.

The role that the Academy played during these over one hundred years in the revival of



Celebrated Syrian scholar **Shaikh Abdul Fattah Abu Ghuddah** (d. 1997) observed that there is no parallel to Shibli Academy in the whole Muslim World.

Muslim scholarship, catering to the intellectual needs of the community and setting the tone of academic and scholarly discourse in the Muslim academic circles, is beyond measure.

The Academy celebrated its Golden Jubilee in February 1965 with the then Vice President of India Dr Zakir Husain as the Chief Guest. Its Platinum Jubilee celebrations were held in November 2014 and were graced by *Janab* Hamid Ansari, the then Vice President of India. Last year Hamid Ansari *saheb* also conceded to the Academy's request to be its Patron, a position earlier held by Prince Mukarram Jah of Hyderabad.

Besides works of exceptional value, the Academy has maintained unbroken tradition of the publication of its renowned monthly journal *Ma'arif* in uninterrupted circulation since it first appeared in 1916. This journal has never missed even a single issue during all these long years.



Conference Hall of the Academy

This veritable encyclopaedia of Islamic science has been digitised and is now available on the Academy's website. New issues are also available on the Academy's website. Eminent Islamic scholar, DR MUHAMMAD HAMIDULLAH, considered it to be the best journal of the Muslim World.

I started as the current Director/Secretary of the Academy since September 2021, succeeding Prof. Ishtiaq Ahmad Zilli who retired due to ill-health.

The current yearly expenditure of Darul Musannefin/Shibli Academy is Rs 8,500,000 (US\$ 101,200), out of which the deficit is Rs 6,000,000 (US\$ 71,000). It is our request that you/your organisation may come forward to bear this deficit for the next ten years at least while the Academy works hard to generate more funds, raise a reasonable corpus and expand its publications which will allow it to generate more income in the coming years. The Academy has FCRA (government permission to receive funds from outside India). It also has enough land within its campus to expand its infrastructure and activities.

You may also consider funding the construction of the Academy's proposed new library building as the current library building is not sufficient to house books and allow researchers to properly use its facilities and construction of a higher secondary school on the vacant land in the Academy's campus.. There are other small projects like building flats for staff, rooms for visiting scholars, renovation and expansion of the old library building, purchase of book and journals, etc.

In order to become self-sufficient, the Academy needs to raise at least Rs 25 crore (US\$ 3 million). Half of this amount will be invested as a permanent corpus while the other half will be used to build new infrastructure like the new library building, a modern school, staff quarters, maintenance and renovation of existing buildings, purchase of new computers and other required needs including printing machinery. Please see pages 27-30 for more details.

More information may be obtained from the Academy's website www.shibliacademy.org or by writing to me via email.

I invite you to visit the Academy whenever you are in India or at least in UP. Azamgarh is well-connected by Kaifiyat Express train which offers comfortable overnight journey from Delhi, Lucknow etc. Guests travelling by air may come to Varanasi airport which is some 100 kms away from Azamgarh.

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Eminent Islamic scholar,
Dr Muhammad Hamidullah
(d. 2002),
considered *Ma'arif* to be
the best journal of the
Muslim World.





Vice President Hamid Ansari speaking at the Academy's centenary (1914-2014) on 29 November 2014

Bank details

For donations only from WITHIN INDIA

Account name: DARUL MUSANNEFIN SHIBLI ACADEMY
 Account No: 0504010100032752
 Bank Name: Punjab National Bank
 Branch: Heerpatti, Azamgarh
 IFSC: PUNB0476100
 Bank Code : 476100

For donations only from OUTSIDE INDIA (FCRA)

Account name: DARUL MUSANNEFIN SHIBLI ACADEMY
 Account No: 40566967442 (FCRA Current Account)
 Bank: State Bank of India, New Delhi Main Branch,
 11 Sansad Marg, New Delhi 110001, India
 Swift: SBININBB104
 Branch code: 00691
 IFSC: SBIN0000691



Always necessarily inform us by email/phone whenever you send a donation.

Darul Musannefin Shibli Academy is registered to accept CSR funds. Companies are welcome to donate to the institution under Corporate Social Responsibility scheme.



Academy at a glance



*Founder and donor of
land & basic infrastructure*

Allama Shibli Nomani
(1857-1914)



*First Secretary of the academy,
prominent fellow and scholar*

Allama Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi
(1884-1953)



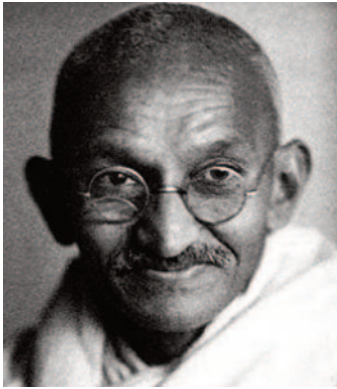
*Founding President of the
Administrative Committee*

Maulana Hamiduddin Farahi
(1863-1930)

Founding manager: Maulana Masud Ali Nadwi

Founding members: Maulana Abdussalam Nadwi, Maulana Shibli Mutakallim Nadwi

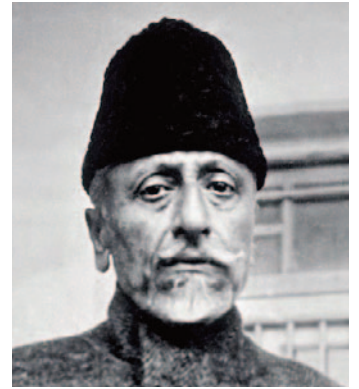
Patrons



Mahatma Gandhi



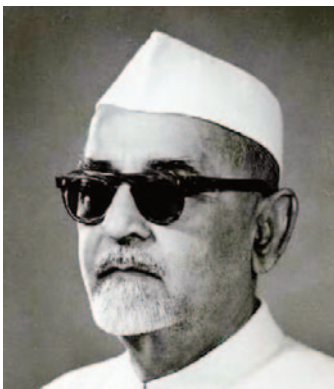
Maulana Shaukat Ali



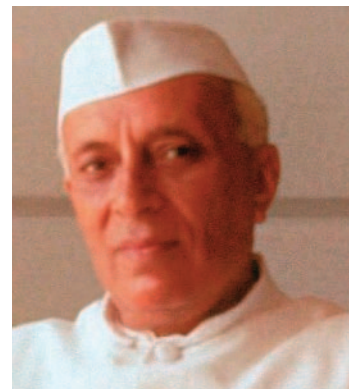
Maulana Abul
Kalam Azad



Prince Mufakhkham Jah



Dr. Zakir Husain



Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru



Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad



Maulana Abul Hasan Ali
Hasani Nadwi



Maulana Syed Rabey
Nadwi



Muhammad Hamid Ansari



Hamida Banu

Managing Committee



Maulana Dr. Taqiuddin Nadwi
President, Exec. Committee

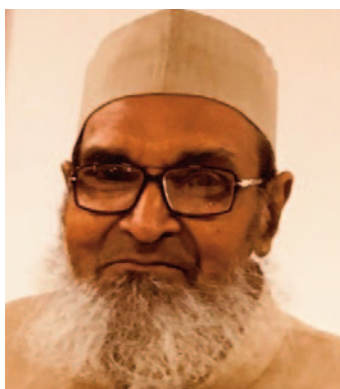


Dr. Zafarul-Islam Khan
Director



Dr. Fakhru'l Islam Azmi
Manager/Joint Secretary

Current Members of Shibli Academy Trust



Maulana Dr. Saeedur
Rahman Azmi



Dr. Javed Ali Khan



Prof. Zafarul Islam



Dr. Salman Sultan



Prof. Ishteyaq Ahmad
Zilli



Dr Muhammad Ajmal
Islahi



Prof. Khalid Mahmud



Dr. A. Abdullah



Shakeel Ahmed
Sabrahadi



Mohammad Ameer
Ahmad



Dr Alauddin Khan



Er. Tarique Azam



Dr Naeem Siddiqui

Fellows

Current Honorary Fellows of the Academy

Dr Muhammad Ilyas Azmi
Dr Syed Salman Nadwi
Dr Javed Ali Khan

Current full-time Fellows of the Academy

Umair Al-Siddiq Nadwi
Kaleem Sifat Islahi



*Mosque of the
Academy*

Authors and Fellows

Maulana Abdus Salam Nadwi
Maulana Haji Moinuddin Nadwi
Maulana Saeed Ansari
Prof. Abdul Bari Nadwi
Mohammad Owais Nigrami Nadwi
Mohammad Ozair (Alig)
Maulvi Abul Hasanat Nadwi
Maulana Syed Riyasat Ali Nadwi

Maulana Abul Jalal Nadwi
Maulana Mohd Yousuf Kokan
Maulana Ziauddin Islahi
Maulana Abu Mahfoozul Karim Masoomi
Syed Sabahuddin Abdur Rahman
Shah Moinuddin
Maulana Mujibullah Nadwi

Some Previous Members

Hamid Hasan Nomani
Maulana Habibur Rahman Khan Sherwani
Nawab Sayyid Ali Hasan Khan
Professor Abdul Qadir
Dr. Muhammad Iqbal
Nawab Emadul Mulk
Maulvi Sayyid Husain Bilgrami
Maulana Abdullah Emadi
Maulana Sayyid Karamat Husain
Maulana Abu Zafar Nadwi
Maulana Hafiz Majeedullah Nadwi
Dr. Naeem Siddiqui Nadwi
Abdus Salam Qidwai Nadwi
Syed Sabahuddin Abdur Rahman

Prof. Sayyid Najib Ashraf Nadwi
Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi
Sahabzada Zafar Hasan Khan
Qazi Ahmad Miyan Akhtar
Naseer Ahmad Usmani Neotanwi
Khursheed Ahmad Nomani
Syed Siddique Hasan (ICS)
Syed Shahabuddin Desnawi
Hakeem Mohd. Muslehuddin Kazmi
Maulana Mohammad Arif Umari
Syed Athar Husain
Altaf Husain
Prof. Maqbool Ahmad

Overview

The academy started functioning in 1915 soon after the death of its founder Allama Shibli Nomani who had laid down its plans and had donated his vast lands and properties for the project which also includes the Shibli Nursery School, Shibli Inter College and Shibli National College which are all part of the great Allama's heritage but function independently in a vast campus in the city of Azamgarh. The Allama was a great scholar and historian who taught at the Anglo-Mohamedan College (later Aligarh Muslim University) and was a part of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's team of scholars. Later, he also served as director of education at Nadwatul Ulama, a seminary established to amalgamate traditional and modern education.

Shibli Academy's scholars concentrated on subjects that concerned Islam and Muslims of the Subcontinent. It has also been their endeavour to provide satisfactory answers to the objections raised by western and other scholars against Islam, Prophet of Islam (pbuh) and Islamic history.

Shibli Academy has produced hundreds of books on Islam, Islamic history and Indo-Muslim history which continue to serve as an authentic source of reference around the world both in their original and translated forms. These books, originally written in Urdu, have been translated into English, Hindi, Arabic, Persian and Turkish etc.

The role that the Academy played during over the last one hundred years in the revival of Muslim scholarship, catering to the intellectual needs of the community and setting the tone of



"I would willingly serve Shibli Academy even as a porter."

Maulana
Abul Kalam Azad



The then Vice-president of India, Dr Zakir Husain during the Golden Jubilee of the Academy in Feb. 1965

academic and scholarly discourse in the Muslim academic circles in the Subcontinent is beyond measure.

The Academy celebrated its Golden Jubilee in February 1965 with the then Vice President Dr Zakir Husain as the Chief Guest. Its Platinum Jubilee celebrations were held in 2014 and were graced by Hamid Ansari, the then Vice President of India. In 2018, Hamid Ansari also conceded to the Academy's request to be the Patron of the Academy, a position earlier held by Prince Mufakhkham Jah of Hyderabad.

The current Director of the Academy is Dr Zafarul-Islam Khan, a scholar of world fame who was earlier Editor of *The Milli Gazette* and served as Chairman of Delhi Minorities Commission during 2017-2020. He has a PhD in Islamic Studies from Manchester University. He succeeded Prof. Ishtiaq Ahmad Zilli, a former professor of history at Aligarh Muslim University, who resigned in September 2021 due to ill-health. Dr Khan was chairman of Shibli Academy's Executive Committee since 2010.

Besides works of exceptional value, the Academy has maintained the regular publication of its renowned monthly journal *Ma'arif* which has been in uninterrupted circulation for over a century. The publication of this journal

commenced in Ramadan 1324 H/July 1916. During this long period, it has never missed a single issue. This veritable encyclopaedia of Islamic science and history has now been digitised and is now available on the Academy's website (www.shibliacademy.org).

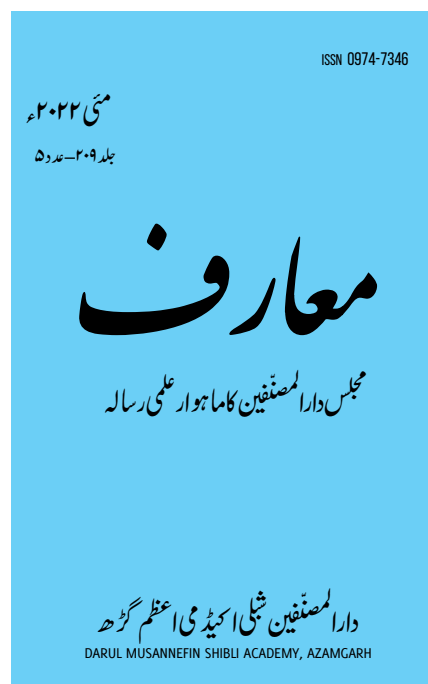
The current yearly expenditure of Darul Musannefin/Shibli Academy is 75 lakh rupees, out of which the deficit is around 50 lakh rupees. The Academy used to get generous grants from a number of princely states like Hyderabad, Bhopal and Bahawalpur but this dried up after Independence. Thereafter, the Academy relies mainly on sale of its books and donations of well-wishers.

It is our endeavour to raise enough funds on a regular basis not only to meet this deficit and expand the Academy's research and publications programme but also to build the Academy's corpus by investing enough funds so that in a few years' time the Academy could meet its expenditure from its investments and sale of books. The Academy has FCRA (government permission to receive funds from outside India). It also has enough land to expand its infrastructure and activities.

One way to help the Academy is to fund the construction of its proposed new library building as the current library building is not sufficient to house books and allow researchers to properly use its facilities. We have a plan for the proposed new library building of the Academy within its campus. The Academy also needs renovation of its buildings, building new blocks for staff and a hostel for visiting scholars.



Title of the first issue of Maarif published in Ramadan 1324 H/July 1916



Title of
Maarif's
May 2022
issue

History of Shibli Academy

DR JAVED ALI KHAN

Honorary Fellow, Shibli Academy

On the 21st of November 2014, Darul Musannefin Shibli Academy, the premier Indo-Islamic research institute of the Subcontinent, completed its hundred years of existence. It was established at a time when literary academies such as those in Europe were unheard of in India. Its founder Allama Muhammad Shibli Nomani (1857-1914) first conceived the idea of an academy while he was on a visit to Constantinople (Istanbul). Later, on the occasion of the Delhi Conference of Nadwatul Ulama in March 1910, he placed his views before the people. Subsequently, in February 1914, through a writeup in *Al-Hilal*, he spoke of the scheme to the common people.

After having failed to establish the Academy in Lucknow, the Allama ultimately established in Azamgarh amidst his mango orchard and two *kachcha* bungalows. Thereafter, it was decided that so long as the institution was unable to generate its own resources, the grant of Rs. 300 that Shibli was getting from the State of Hyderabad was to be utilized for its functioning. Family members and relatives donated their adjacent lands, constituting a total

area of 23172.67m², out of which 3656m² has now constructed buildings. A double-storey conference hall was constructed in the campus of the Academy on an area covering 436.26 sq. metres with the good offices of Shabana Azmi, then an MP (Rajya Sabha). The institution runs on its meagre sources with occasional individual contributions. On one occasion, the Academy received a grant from the Indian Government.

The Allama had finalised the plans and donated the lands for the Academy before his death on 18 November 1914. Three days later, his faithful pupils and admirers, namely Maulana Hamiduddin Farahi, Maulana Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi, Maulana Abdus Salam Nadwi, Maulana Masood Ali Nadwi and Maulana Shibli Mutakallim Nadwi, assembled at Allama Shibli's house and laid the foundation of a society called Ikhwanus Safa (Brethren of Purity, after a society of Abbasid intellectuals). This was the nucleus of Darul Musannefin Shibli Academy whose first President was Maulana Hamiduddin Farahi while Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi was its first Secretary. The All India Muslim Educational Conference in its meeting held in December 1914 praised the





Display of rare books and manuscripts

mission of Darul Musannefin.

In its first annual meeting held on 25 May 1915, Ikhwanus Safa coopted a number of new members: Hamid Hasan Nomani, son of Shibli Nomani, Habibur Rahman Khan Sherwani, Nawab Sayyid Ali Hasan Khan, Professor Abdul Qadir, poet-philosopher Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, Nawab Emadul Mulk, Maulvi Sayyid Husain Bilgrami, Maulana Abdullah Emadi, Maulana Sayyid Karamat Husain and Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi. With these distinguished men the caravan moved ahead.

On 21 July, 1915, the Ikhwanus Safa registered “Darul Musannefin Shibli Academy” as a society. It was stipulated that it shall be a purely literary society. In the years to come Dr. Zakir Husain and Fakhruddin Ali Ahmad, both former Presidents of India, were made members of the Managing Committee. The current head of the Academy is Hamid Ansari, former Vice President of India. Presently, Dr Zafarul-Islam Khan is the Director and Dr Fakhrul Islam Islahi is the Deputy Director of the Academy.

The objectives of the Academy, as visualized by Shibli, were primarily to serve Islam and Muslims, to educate and train a group of scholars who could accomplish the desired task of research, to meet the challenges of Orientalist criticism, and to enlighten the Muslims about the progressive knowledge of the West. It also aimed at a better presentation of Islam, understanding of Holy Qur’an in the light of modern reasoning and arguments, study of modern sciences, and promotion of social and political harmony between the Hindus and Muslims.

The first significant publication of the Academy was Allama Shibli’s magnum opus, *Sīratun Nabī*. It is acknowledged as the most comprehensive and authentic biography of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). It was received with great enthusiasm and appreciation all over the Indian Sub-continent and beyond. Two thousand and five hundred copies were sold within two-three months after its first publication. Some other books that were published by Shibli Academy were *Sīrat-i ‘Āyeshā*, *Sīrat ‘Umar ibn ‘Abd*



al-'Azīz, Arḍul Qur'ān, Siyarus Ṣaḥābah, Shi'rul 'Ajam, Ruq'āt-i 'Ālamgīrī, Tārīkh-i Islām, etc. Until now, more than 257 books (some multi-volume) books have been published by the Academy on a variety of subjects related to Islam, Islamic history and Indo-Muslim history of the Subcontinent.

Soon after its inauguration, under the supervision of Maulana Masood Ali Nadwi, a central building and a few residential quarters for the staff were built. To cater to the needs and to facilitate research, the Academy was organized into seven sections: Department of Sīratun Nabī, Research Department, Publication Department, monthly journal *Ma'arif*, Library, Buildings, and Printing Press. Thus, it became an integrated and self-contained institution where research, editing, collation, compilation, calligraphy, printing and sales were done as part of a unified process in a single campus.

The library, which started with a small collection, was soon enriched. Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi's visit to the United Kingdom greatly helped in the expansion of the library. Prominent scholars and publishers started sending complimentary copies of their publications for review. Some of the rare manuscripts collected during the early phase were *Mūnisul Arwāḥ, Anīsul Arwāḥ, Akbar Nāmāh, Farhang-i Jahāngīrī, Sīr-i Akbar, Qaṣaṣsul Ajā'ib, Rauḍah Tāj Maḥal, Sharḥ Nahj*

al-Balāghag, Tafsīr-i Aḥmadīya, Kitābul Mīzān and Niẓāmul Gharīb. The library now has more than one hundred thousand books and 650 rare manuscripts.

In 1982, the then Secretary of the academy, Sayyid Sabahuddin Abdur Rahman organized a world seminar on *Islam and Orientalists*. In 1995, with the collaboration of Alami Rabta-i Adab-i Islami, a world seminar was held on *Sawanih Nigari* (biographical writings) under Maulana Ziauddin Islahi, the then Director of the academy. Papers of these seminars have been published by the Academy.

Muhammad Ali Jauhar, the great freedom fighter, disciple and admirer of Allama Shibli, visited the Academy on 1 March, 1921. Thereafter, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya came in June 1922. Among other matters, he discussed the Urdu-Hindi language issue. In subsequent years some of the most distinguished Indians to visit the academy were Mahatma Gandhi, Moti Lal Nehru, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Ram Manohar Lohia, Bi Amman, Zafar Ali Khan, Firaq Gorakhpuri, Hasrat Mohani, Payare Lal, Suchitra Kirpalani, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Governor Akbar Ali Khan, Dr. Sir Ziauddin, Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah, Begum Sajida Sultana, Tasadduq Husain Khan Sherwani, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Humayun Kabeer, Fakhruddin Ali



Reading room

Ahmad, Sarojni Naidu, Dr. Zakir Husain, V.V. Giri, Hakeem Muhammad Sayeed, Governor Ram Naresh Yadav, C.B. Gupta, V.P. Singh, Nobel Laureate Professor Abdus Salam, Shoaib Sultan (Magasasay awardee), Vibhuti Narain Rai (IPS), Karim Najafi (Iran), Dr. Ali Raza (Afghanistan), Allama Yusuf Al-Qaradawi, Dr Ebrahim Al-Batshan, Syed Shahid Mahdi (the then V.C., Jamia Millia Islamia), Shamsur Rahman Faruqi (Urdu critic and Padam Shree awardee), Professor N.R. Faruqi (the then V.C. Allahabad University), Professor Saifuddin Khan, and many others. As a good gesture, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Nawab Hamidullah Khan (the then ruler of Bhopal State), and many others became the academy's Life Members. Jawahar Lal Nehru, in particular, would stay here for days together whenever he visited this part of Uttar Pradesh.

Within a short period of time, the Academy carved a niche for itself. Scholars from Egypt, Syria, Morocco, France and Turkey etc. approached the Academy for assistance in their research work. When Maharaja Gaekward of Baroda contemplated of opening a department of comparative study of religions, he sought guidance of the Shibli Academy. The institution commanded such reverence that when Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was asked if he would like to serve the institution as an honorary fellow, he replied, "I would willingly serve it even as a porter." Complimenting the Academy on its early performance, Nawab Emadul Mulk Maulvi Sayyid Husain Bilgrami wrote in one of his letters to

Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi: "Darul Musannefin requires no certificate. It is accomplishing a task which was hitherto never undertaken in India".

The Press Information Bureau of Government of India, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Academy in November 2014, described it as "Moulded in the scholarly tradition of India's ancient centres of learning, the Darul Musannefin Shibli Academy, in the old Azamgarh town of Uttar Pradesh, has taken its place alongside some known modern research institutions. The small band of devoted scholars in the Academy, who preferred the pursuit of knowledge to the lure of status, comforts or emoluments which could have been theirs for the asking, recalls the glory of the ancient scholars of Nalanda, Cairo, Taxila and Transoxiana."

Ma'arif, the literary and academic monthly journal of the Academy, which is being published regularly since July 1916, may be described as a shining moon which effuses knowledge of Islamic and Western sciences. It soon earned international reputation for its well-researched papers on various aspects of Indian and Islamic history, arts and culture, Qur'anic sciences, poetry, educational information, reviews of books, etc. The scholars who served as editors in the past are Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi, Shah Moinuddin Ahmad Nadwi, Sayyid Sabahuddin Abdur Rehman, Maulana Ziauddin Islahi and Professor Ishtiaq Ahmad Zilli. The current editor of the journal is Dr. Zafarul-Islam Khan, a well-known scholar.

Shibli Academy has the rare distinction of



Congress leader Mr. Rahul Gandhi visited the academy on 11th January 2012

being the oldest academy in the Subcontinent, which not only laid the foundations for research but also played a significant role in the emerging national political life of the country and took part in the struggle against the colonial rule. With Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Shibli Nomani no longer on the scene, the political condition of the country was such that many Muslims looked upon Darul Musannefin Shibli Academy to play an important role in the political life of the country. But Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi was basically a scholar and writer. Moreover, the regulations of the Society did not allow the institution to take part in active politics. Bonded by such restrictions, unlike his intellectual and political mentor, Nadwi did not plunge into politics. Notwithstanding, on matters which he felt were right and dutiful, he was bold to step out, fearless of the consequences, to participate in the National Movement. His colleague, Maulana Masood Ali Nadwi, was equally daring and had no hesitation in attending the meetings of the Indian National Congress and would freely talk with Moti Lal Nehru, Jawahar Lal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and many others. Another courageous scholar was Maulana Sayyid Riyasat Ali. He had gone to study in Egypt but due to his anti-British stance, was forced to return to India. Incidentally, he got a room-partner, Maulana Abdur Razzaq Maleehabadi, a fiery nationalist, who further indoctrinated him. He was a staunch

supporter of the Congress and in politics had an aggressive attitude. Another member of the Academy, Prof. Sayyid Najeeb Ashraf, was an active leader of the Congress Party. In gatherings, he would make forceful anti-British speeches.

However, the man who made a consistent and dignified effort, both at the national and international level for a considerable period of time, was Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi, the first Secretary of Shibli Academy. He had started his career by joining *Al-Hilal* magazine of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad in Kolkata. In 1913, a portion of a mosque in Kanpur was pulled down by the British. When people resisted, they were fired upon as a result of which many men and children were killed. Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi wrote a stirring account, "Mashhad-i Akbar", in *Al-Hilal* which led to its closure. In 1918, along with Maulvi Masood Ali Nadwi, he met Muhammad Ali Jauhar (another fiery freedom fighter and a disciple of Allama Shibli) who was imprisoned at the time in Chindwara jail. At the time, Nadwi was president of the Azamgarh Congress Committee. About this time, he was among those who laid the foundation of Khilafat Movement. Nadwi was also among the founder-members of Jamiat Ulama-i Hind. He also wrote and supported the movement launched for the rights of the peasants. In 1920, he was the lone person to represent the Indian *ulama* in the Khilafat delegation sent to London where he held talks with Lloyd George, the British



Parts of the Academy's mosque

Prime Minister, and other British officials, alongwith Muslim delegates of the world who had come for talks on the issue of the historical and religious importance for Muslims of the Hijaz.

During this period, he would attend all meetings of the Khilafat Committee and Congress Party and would often wear a cap and *sherwani* of coarse cotton (*khaddar*). In 1921, he attended the annual session of the Congress Party held in Ahmedabad. Here, he was nominated as a member of the Congress Working Committee in a list of ten members. Mahatma Gandhi expressed good opinion about him. Under him, Azamgarh emerged as an important centre of non-cooperation. As a result, branches of Khilafat Committees and *Panchayats* were established in the district.

In 1926, Sultan Abdul Aziz Aal Saud announced his kingship in Arabia and invited the Khilafat Committee for discussions. Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi went to the Hijaz and had several

rounds of talks with Sultan Abdul Aziz. He also had talks with Prince Faisal, son of Sharif Husain. Again, when he went for Hajj in 1949, King Abdul Aziz ibn Sa'ud made him his personal guest and invited him several times to dine with him.

Shibli Academy is the pride of Azamgarh and a standing memory of a person whom Sayyid Sulaiman Nadwi described as "Imamul Hind Hazrat Allama Shibli Nomani". It marks a milestone of the Muslim quest for knowledge and renaissance and fulfillment of a long-cherished need of the Muslim intelligentsia in modern times. More significantly, it demonstrates that it were a group of *Maulvis* with traditional knowledge of Islamic sciences but with an enlightened vision who drew the Indian Muslims out of obscurantism and led them on to the path of modernism.



Above: Seminar on Sir Syed at the Academy in November 2017. Below: Section of rare books and manuscripts in the library.





US-based entrepreneur and philanthropist Dr Frank Islam (navy blue suit) and Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University Professor Tariq Mansoor (to his left) honoured Darul Musannefin Shibli Academy with the National Sir Syed Excellence Award in October 2019 during Sir Syed Day celebrations at AMU. Below: The reading room in the Academy's library.



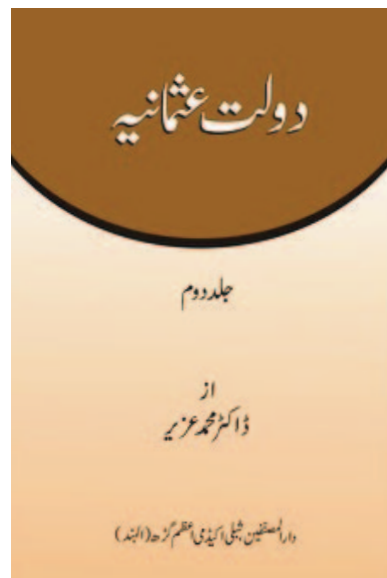
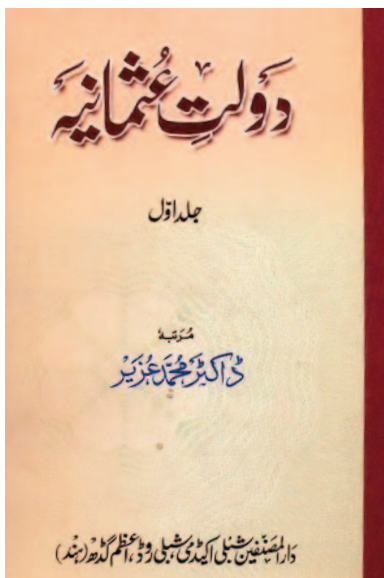
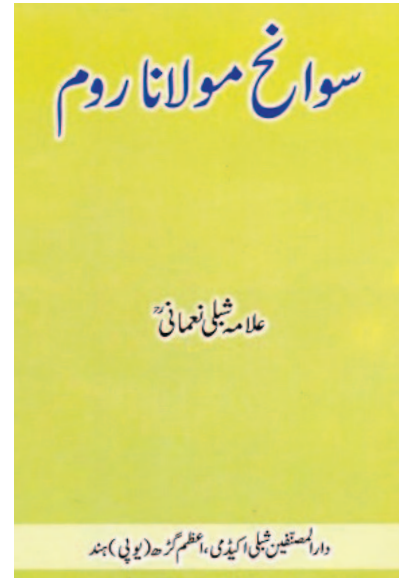
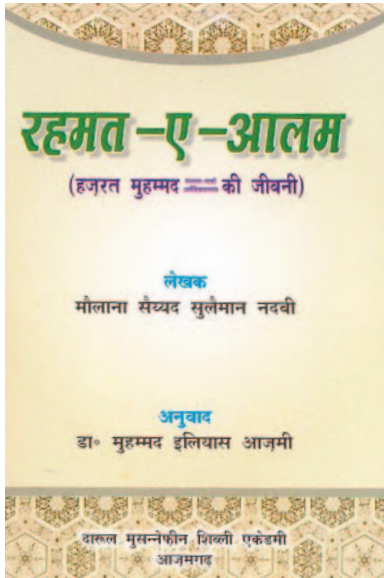
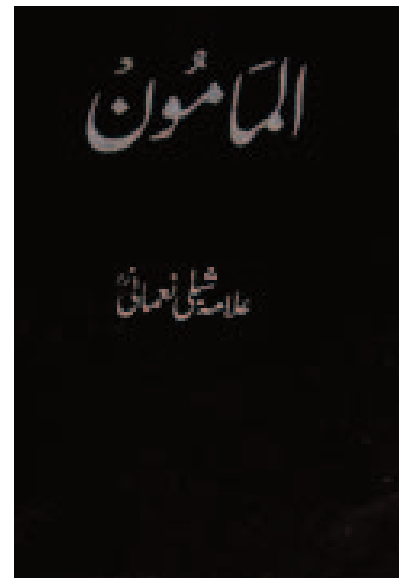
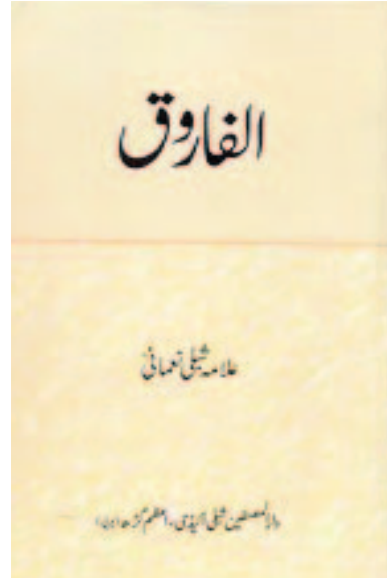


Darul Musannefin's conference on the Sources of Seerat-un-Nabi (pbuh) in October 2010

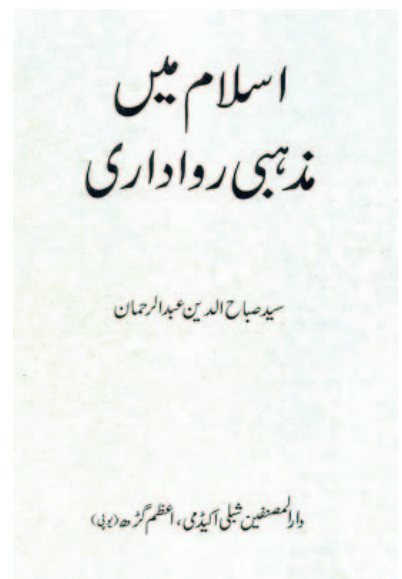
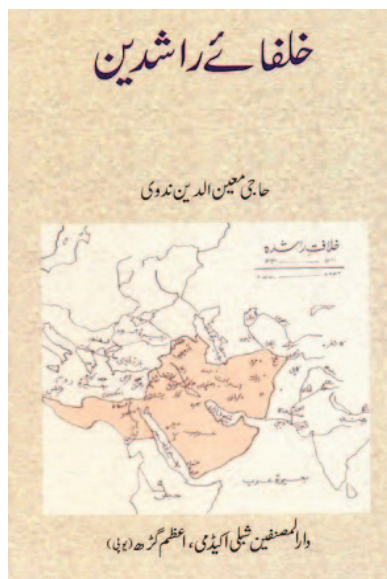
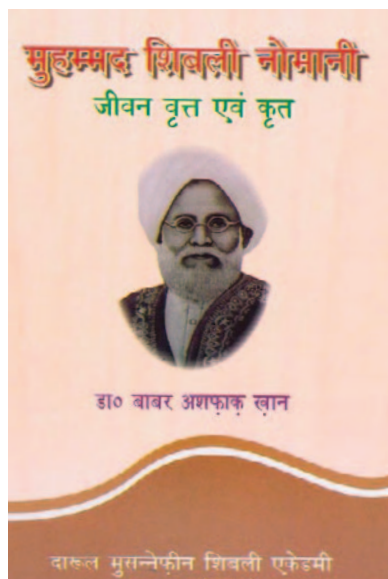
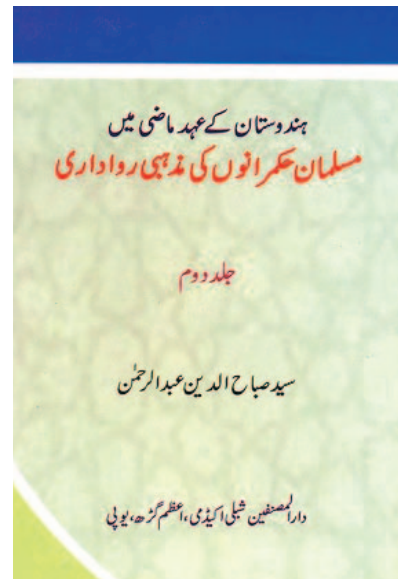
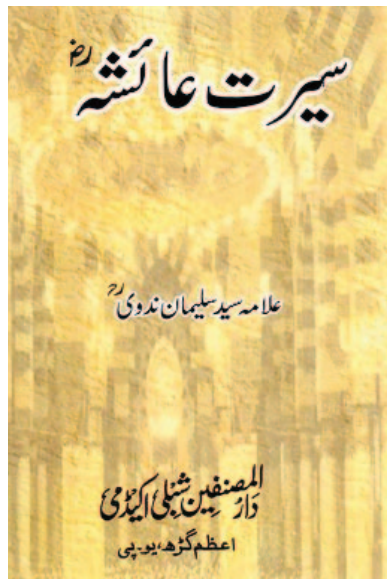
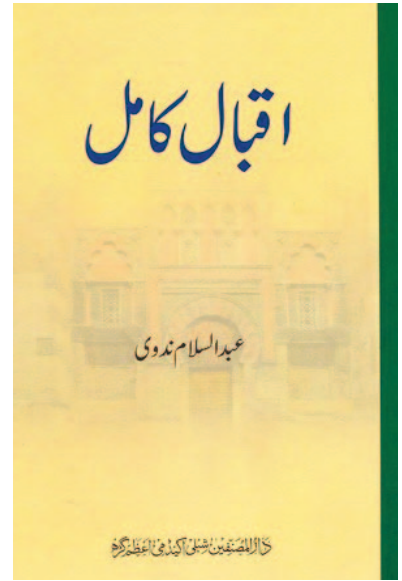
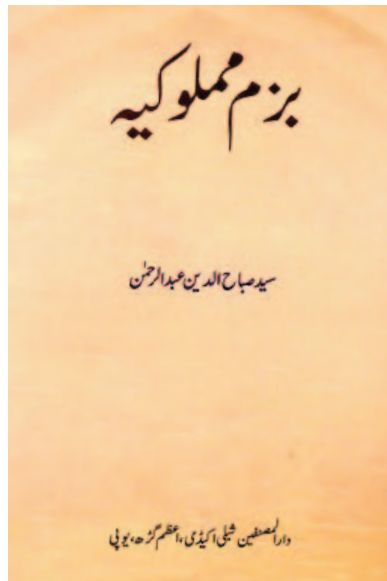
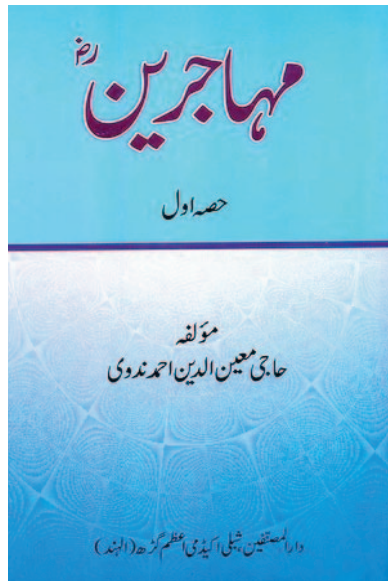




Select publications



Select publications





Allama Shibli Nomani and his Legacy - 2-Day Seminar in December 2011, in collaboration with Iran Culture House, New Delhi

Video reports



Shibli Academy....a Legacy of Allama Shibli Nomani (5 mins) by Azamgarh Education Mission (June 2014)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUUo35Mi7ug>

Shibli Academy—A glorious institution taking forward Allama Shibli's legacy of educating Muslims (37 mins)
 by Bushra Khanum (March 2022)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPY7uyyETkk>

Shibli Library ke strong room mein kya rakha hai (12 mins) by Ajit Anjum (December 2021)
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3217795375122280>

Walking Tour of Darul Musannefin Shibli Academy (11 mins) by Salman Sultan (April 2012)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7CLDL5QCM0w>

Know about the prestigious Shibli Academy of Azamgarh (8 mins) by IndiaTV (March 2019)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OEklNFhbrw8>

Shibli Academy (3 mins) by Ebadurrahman Farrukh Islam Nomani (August 2020)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-rgzT_6vqs

Interview of Dr Ishtiaq Ahmed Zilli, the then Director Darul Musannefin Shibli Academy Azamgarh by Bhatkal TV (April 2009)
<http://shibliacademy.org/book/export/html/64>

SHIBLI ACADEMY'S URGENT NEEDS

1 **CORPUS**

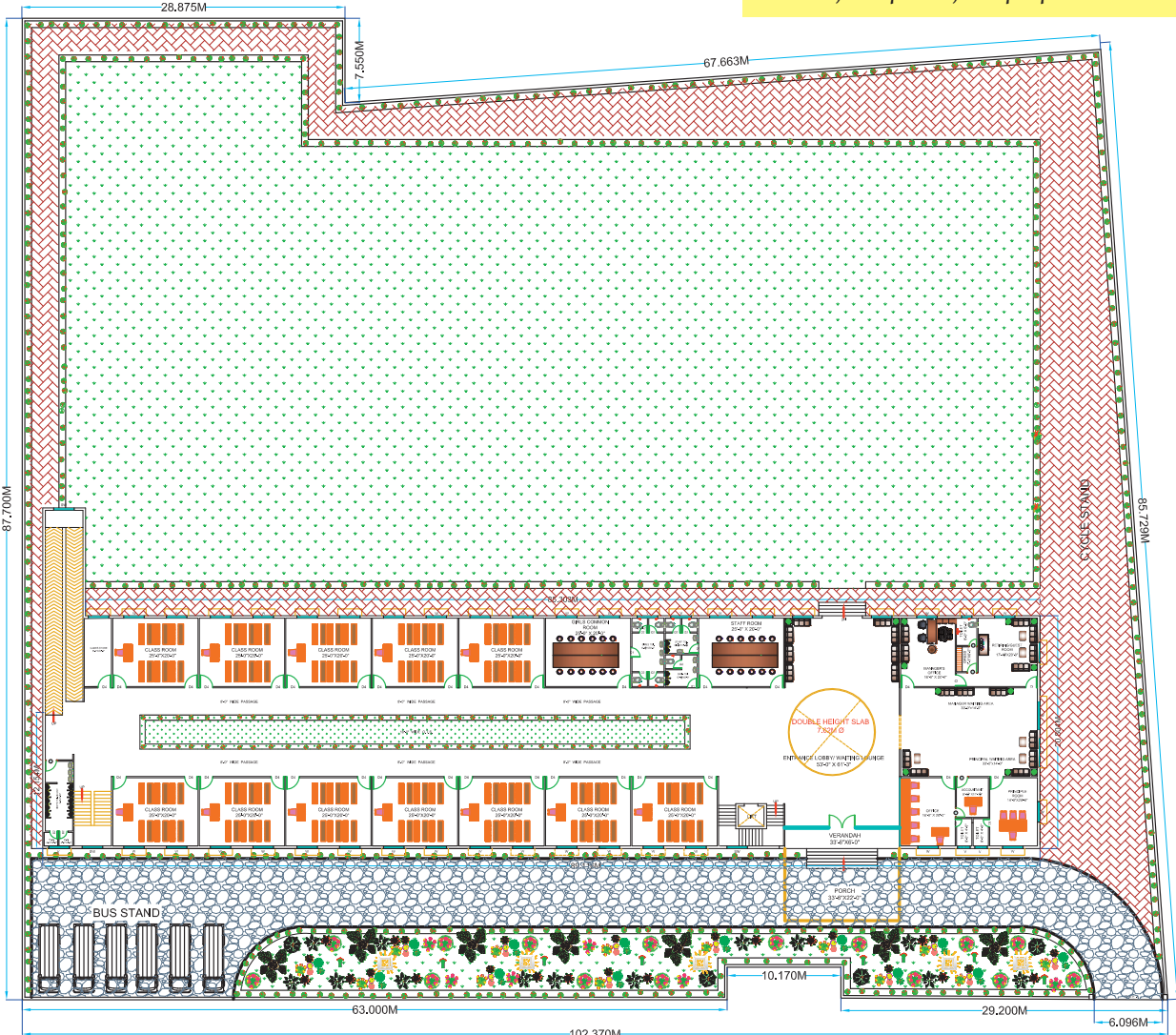
Every research and educational institution needs a robust permanent corpus to help it run smoothly and take care of its long-term needs. Shibli Academy has a small corpus, invested in a fund permitted by the Government of India but it hardly meets the Academy's needs. In order to be self-dependent, the Academy needs to build up a permanent corpus of around Rs. 25 crore (US\$ 3 million) whose annual yield will be enough to meet the Academy's routine expenses on research, publications and upkeep of its massive infrastructure and campus.

2 **HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL**

The Academy campus has vast vacant land. It is proposed to build an English-medium higher secondary school (upto Class 12 or pre-university) on this land. Once functional, this school will serve the community in the area and will also provide funds for the Academy. The total expected cost of the school buildings is Rs 133,671,000 (US\$ 1.6 million) at the present rates of construction. Here are the building plan and elevation of the proposed building.

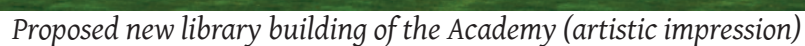


Ground floor plan of the proposed school



3 THE ACADEMY
LIBRARY

The Academy library has over 100,000 books, mostly rare, and hundreds of Arabic, Persian and Urdu manuscripts. The current library building is overflowing with books and does not offer proper facilities for scholars and researchers. A new building for the library is proposed. The expected cost of the library building is Rs 11 crore (US\$ 1.1 million).



The Academy already has some residential quarters for its staff but these are not sufficient to meet its needs. At least 12 more flats should be constructed to meet the Academy's current needs. This requires around Rs. 2.4 crore (US\$ 285,700).





Entrance to the current guest house



The current conference hall

5 EXPANSION OF THE GUEST HOUSE AND CONFERENCE HALL

The Academy has a guest house for its guests and visiting scholars. Likewise, it has a conference hall for its meetings, conferences and seminars. Both the guest house and the conference hall need to be expanded to meet the rising needs of the institution. This requires around Rs 3 crore (US\$ 357,000).

6 ADDITIONAL PRINTING MACHINERY

For the Academy's existing printing press to be fully functional, serve the Academy's needs as well as do some outside jobs on commercial basis, it needs one colour and one b/w digital printer as well as a folding machine. This requires around Rs 50 lakh (US\$ 60,000).







Masjid inside the campus

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