



Amroha International Society

This quarterly newsletter provides information about the latest activities of the Amroha International Society and shares the stories and news of its members.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 12- December 2009

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Arif Rizvi's visit to Amroha

Many of you followed with interest the story in the October 2009 issue of the AIS Newsletter how Arif Rizvi of Ottawa, Canada, managed to get in touch with his family in Amroha by contacting members of the AIS, to some of whom he ended up being related! The following tells the story of what happened when he visited Amroha...

Dearest, Uncles-Ji Hasan and Ikram! AAwrWB! Al-Hamdulillah, I am in India! I arrived in Amroha yesterday morning. I received a King's Welcome. I was absolutely amazed by my reception. I have never experienced this in all my life.

Thanks to both of you (may Allah swt bless you both); I found my way to my dear Umma-Jaan's childhood home and saw where she was born. This is not something that can be expressed in words.

The people of Amroha were so, so welcoming. In fact, they would not let me leave. I only wish I could have spent more time there. However, now that I am familiar with the area, my next visit will be much easier.

Because of all the people I visited and all the chai and kana I was given, I was not able to make it to Moradabad. I am somewhat regretful, as I very much wanted to see my Papa-Jaan's home as well. ISA, next time.



Children in Amroha

My next visit to India, ISA, will have many days dedicated to Amroha and Moradabad. I felt very much at home there. They kept saying, "Yeh aapa ka ghar hayh".

I was overwhelmed with names and faces. So thanks to Uncle Hasan-Ji, I will look them all up in the Family Tree, to get my bearings.

So please take care. I will speak to you again soon, ISA.

I have MANY pictures and video. I hope to share them with you.

Arif Rizvi

See page 3 for the full story of Arif Rizvi's visit to Amroha: "Amroha Story"

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This newsletter has been written partly in London and partly in India, where I am staying for the next month.

During this time, I have had productive meetings with Professor Zubair Meenai of the Jamia Millia Islamia and Professor Zubair Khan with the Aligarh Muslim University about the AIS scholarships.

I am also particularly happy to be able to attend the fourth AIS sponsored Cataract Camp in Amroha which took place on 24th December. More on this in the next newsletter and on the website.

Your increased participation in the Discussion Forum on the AIS website commenting positively on the Newsletter and the Cataract Camps is most encouraging. Keep the comments coming!

Arif Rizvi's story of his visit to Amroha and family members was heartwarming. He was most touched by the warm welcome.

We should all be proud of Arif for donating money for four scholarships and the Cataract Camps to honour his parents and grandparents. We hope that it will encourage others to do the same.

Thanks to our donors we intend to increase our charity work over the next year.

Our membership has increased to an impressive 407 and I look forward to welcoming others to the community.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish all AIS friends and supporters Seasons Greetings and all the best in health and happiness for the new year, 2010!

Ikram Naqvi



AIS Donor News

Arif Rizvi honoured his parents and grandparents Arif Rizvi of Ottawa, Canada by making two donations: one donation on behalf of his parents and one on behalf of his grandparents.

Donation 1: Syed Jamil Hasan and Rizwan Bano Education Fund to sponsor four years of schooling for a needy student.

Donation 2: Mohajir Husain & Husain Bano Health Fund to sponsor health initiatives in Amroha area, such as cataract surgery.

AIS Scholarship Program

In the middle of the AIS scholarship promotion the Aligarh Muslim University was closed due to some student unrest. The University will not open till early January, 2010.

This means a slight delay in our selection for this academic year.

Promotion is currently taking place in the Jamaia Millia Islamia from where we have received a number of applications.

Cataract Camp

The fourth AIS Cataract Camp in Amroha took place on 24th December.

The Venu Eye Institute staff came to Amroha on the evening of 23rd December.

We organised board and lodging for them. The camp was again a great success. A full story will appear in the next Newsletter and on the website.

Member's gallery

Members are invited to put their family photos on the Member's Gallery of the AIS website.

You can also put your photo on your personal record.

AIS Website

It is most encouraging to have over 6000 monthly hits on the AIS website. Thanks for visiting your website

Membership

From humble beginnings only a few years ago, AIS now has an impressive 407 members.

One of the heartening aspects is an increase of on line registration. Please encourage your friends and relatives to register on line.

See the pie graph on page 6 for geographical representation.

Discussion Forum

It is most pleasing to see more activity in the Discussion Forum. Your comments on the Newsletter are very encouraging. More participation in the Discussion Forum is always welcome.

Feedback

It is always great to get feedback either by email or on the website under Discussion Forum. The following is a small sample:

"Another good newsletter by AIS... congratulations. I like the article "AIS helps connect a Canadian Amrohvi to his roots". Thanks for keeping us connected."

Hussain Naqvi, California

"Thanks so much for the newsletter. I loved reading about the chap from Canada who lost his parents and is now looking for relatives in Amroha. I also saw my cousin Athar Bhaijan (son of Nawab and Shaheen Siddiqui) who also wrote about his mountain climb for charity."

Fauzia Kidwai, Geneva



Amroha Story



My dear Umma-Jaan, Rizwan Bano (Naqvi) Rizvi, was born in the Bagla Mohalla of Amroha, on April 18th, 1934. Her father was Mohajir Husain and her mother was Husain Bano, affectionately known as "Bibanno".

At a very young age, she left for Pakistan and ultimately arrived in Canada in the 1960s. Not once, but twice, she gave up her home, in search of new opportunities for her future family. Although she spent the better part of her life in Canada, Amroha was always in her heart. She often spoke of beautiful gardens and mango groves and how family and friends would congregate and spend quality time together.

I finally had the opportunity to visit India. Although time was limited, I was able to see my ancestral home in person. This could not have been achieved without the assistance of numerous Amrohvis, who went out of their way to help me.

When I arrived in New Delhi, I met with "Chotah Bhai", Raza Jarrar. He was kind enough to take time out of his busy schedule, and commute with me to Amroha. Towards the end of the three hour journey, Raza-Bhai's cell phone began to ring continuously. As it turned out, family and friends in Amroha were inquiring about our status and when we would be arriving!

As we drove up to the main gate of Amroha, I felt a shiver, as it dawned on me, we were approaching my Umma-Jaan's ancestral home – where she was born and where she lived. When we finally arrived, I received a true King's Welcome!! Family and friends had all come to greet us in great numbers!! I



have never received so much attention in all my life!!

I was travelling with three Canadian friends, who were also greeted very warmly. They were extremely touched by what they saw. They could not believe how kind and gracious the people of Amroha were. For those of us living in the West, this is not something we are accustomed to seeing very often.

We were brought from one home to the next. Each time, chai and snacks were served. Each time, we were greeted with smiles and hugs. When I mentioned how I would love to come back, they would say "You are most welcome!! You are most welcome!!"

As we approached yet another beautiful home, I inquired as to who we were visiting. Then it was exclaimed, "Yi aapa ghar hai". I finally found my way to Umma-Jaan's childhood home. Where she was born and where she grew up. It was an incredible experience that can't be put into words. This was something I had dreamed of for a long time and Al-Hamdulillah, it finally materialized. I cannot thank everyone who helped me enough. May Allah swt reward you all.

Before long, we were scooped up and brought to a lavish, home-cooked dinner (truly, there is nothing like "ghar-ki-khana"). Again, my Canadian friends could not believe how warmly they were welcomed and treated like family. And they were quickly forgiven for handling the basket of roti with their left hands!!

Later in the evening, we had the great privilege of visiting Dada-Ji's Mazaar. We recited the Fatihah, we gave our salaam, we handled the scorpion without any harm, and we observed countless devotees paying homage. Truly, this was a great honour.

Unfortunately, time was limited during this visit. Family and friends helped me experience as much as possible in a short time. When we reached Noda to

pay respect to my great-grandfather, Dad Ali, it was quite late and dark and the entrance was locked. Because I had to head back for Delhi, we decided I would have to come back another time and really experience all of what Amroha has to offer.

Upon arriving back in Delhi, I had yet another surprise. I had the pleasure of meeting my dear relative "Bullan-Bhai". He told me wonderful stories of my Umma-Jaan's youth. How my Nani-Umma had a peacock that used to dance for guests! Bhai-Jaan commuted over one and a half hours to meet me. He knew I was rushing to catch my plane to Udaipur. He said if he could only see my face that would be enough. There is no need to expand further – this kind of gesture speaks for itself.

It would be impossible to name everyone who came to my aid throughout this experience.

I cannot thank the people of Amroha (family and friends) enough for their hospitality. It was truly a rewarding experience for me. To finally see my Umma-Jaan's ancestral home and be welcomed so warmly, was extremely appreciated.

I would like to apologize to the good people of Amroha for the very short duration of my visit. I really had no idea how much I would be welcomed. I had no idea how much there was to see and experience. I had no idea how many family and friends I actually had there.

Poor "Lallan-Bhai" rushed to the Mazaar to meet me, as I did not have time to visit his home. I will not make that mistake again. Insha'Allah, I am planning my next trip,

which will obviously be MUCH longer, if you will all have me again.

Finally, I would like to convey a small message to all Amrohvis living around the globe, particularly those (like me), who have not yet visited their ancestral home. Please make every effort to come home and see your people. And please do not wait as long as I did.

Communicating via email and web sites is great, but there is no substitute for seeing and speaking with family and friends in person.

Truly, I am counting the days till I go back.

Story by Arif Rizvi

AIS Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to the following students from the Jamia Millia Islamia, for winning the AIS scholarships for 2009-2010 academic year



Mohd Danish
MIB, 2nd year



Nadeem Haider
M.Sc.Tech.



Abdul Sami
Dip.Mech.Eng.

News from AIS members

The latest news in the last quarter

Dr Saeed Jamal (Aley) Naqvi visits London

Dr Saeed Jamal (Aley) Naqvi, a leading heart surgeon from Karachi (originally from mohalla Katkoi in Amroha) visited London recently to attend a conference and see his daughter Ifrah and son Raza. Ifrah is a law graduate from London University. Raza has just commenced his law degree in Durham University.



Dr Zebun Khan on WASET

Congratulations to Dr Zebun Nisa Khan d/o the late Inam Husain Naqvi Mohalla Katkoi India and w/o Prof. Huzoor H. Khan, Mohalla Danishmandan, who was appointed member of the prestigious Specific Scientific and Technical Committee & Editorial Review Board of the World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology (WASET).

Amroha Azadari CD and Facebook Page

A formally arranged & recorded compilation

of *marsias* recited in Amroha's Azadari titled "TEHZEEB-e-GHAM", as suggested by Dr. Hilal Naqvi, has been released. The CD project is unique as it is the first time the *marsias* have been formally arranged and recorded to preserve, protect, project and revive them. It is the third volume of the series but the first to include exclusive Amroha Azadari content. The CD contains both *marsias* with and without *matam*. The CDs may be acquired by contacting

rajazz.abbas@gmail.com

Research to be published

Research publication of Syed Akhter Raza S/O Syed Ali Raza has been accepted for presentation at the 2nd International Conference on Environmental and Computer Science (ICECS 2009) to be held in Dubai, UAE.

The paper, entitled "Simulation and analysis of Self-Similar Network traffic using WBFGN" will be published in the conference proceeding

by IEEE Computer Society CPS, and will be listed in IEEE Xplore and CSDL, and be indexed by INSPEC, Thomson ISI Proceeding, and Ei Compendex. Mr. Syed Akhter Raza is working as Assistant Professor at Umaer Basha Institute of Technology University of Karachi, Pakistan.

If you have news you wish to share with the AIS community, let us know so we can include it in our next newsletter.

Sadequain Museum

Salman Naqvi of San Diego is working with the State Bank of Pakistan which is establishing a museum for Sadequain and the SADEQUAIN Foundation is providing the entire literature and retrospective collection of paintings (reproductions) for the museum.

A singularly unique distinction that the bank is establishing a museum, the likes of which do not exist for any other Pakistani politician, poet, actor, cricketer, singer, actor, or for that matter for anyone else. Indeed a great tribute.



Barbeque in Houston

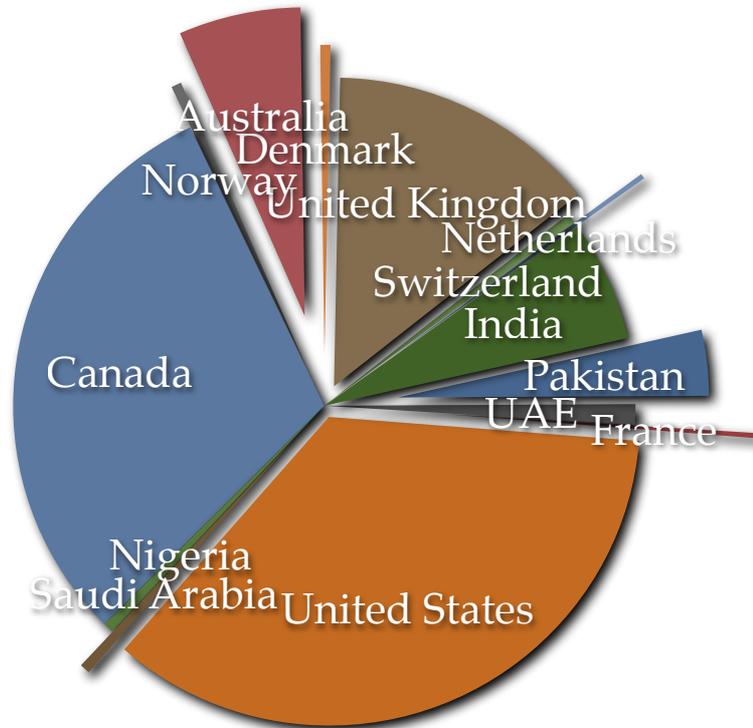
Over 200 Amrohvis who are members of the Sadat-e-Amroha attended a barbeque on Sunday, November 1st, 2009 from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

Here are some pictures of the day.



Where are AIS members?

This pie graph gives a view of where AIS members are currently living



- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| ● India | ● Pakistan | ● UAE | ● France |
| ● United States | ● Saudi Arabia | ● Nigeria | ● Canada |
| ● Norway | ● Australia | ● Denmark | ● United Kingdom |
| ● Switzerland | ● Netherlands | | |

Contact
 You can [email](#) your suggestions and comments about the AIS to the Co-ordinator, Ikram Naqvi, using the [mail option on the AIS website](#).
Amroha International Society
www.amrohainternationalsociety.com/