



AICA MARKS SIR SYED AHMAD KHAN'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

The All India Cultural Association (AICA) proudly celebrated the birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Founder of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) on Thursday, 10th November 2016 at the Indian Embassy auditorium. Born in 1817, it is the beginning of the 200th year of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan's birth which is being celebrated all over the world by the Indian community and especially by the AMU alumni with fond enthusiasm.

All India Cultural Association is a Kuwait based non-profit organization that strives to promote the vast and diverse Indian culture. Founded in 2010 and registered with the Embassy of India in Kuwait, AICA has made a name for itself

by presenting quality literary programs, conducting several successful mushairas (poetry recitals), ghazal concerts and other cultural events. AICA's aim is to become a platform, voice and medium for communications for Indians from all walks of life. The evening started with Quran recitation by Nadeem Ahmed followed by lighting of a lamp and speeches by Shubashis Goldar, Deputy Chief of Mission and Chief Public Information Officer from the Indian Embassy in Kuwait, and AICA President, Sanjay Kumar Saxena.

Senior Indian Embassy officials, K K Pahel, First Secretary, A K Shrivastava, Second Secretary and other prominent Indians such as Samina Malik, Aijaz Baig, Dr Umair Baig, Aijaz

Ahmad Sarfaraz, etc. were also present at the event.

After an inspiring introduction about Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and AMU by corporate lawyer and AMU alumnus, Kashif Syed, tokens of appreciation were presented to some of the key supporters of the evening by prominent AMU alumni Madhuri Jha, Usman Qadir, Kareem Irfan, Dr Anis Ahmad, Mohammad Zia Uddin and Nisar Khan along with AICA members Mohd. Amir and Mohd. Ikram

The evening comprised of a thought provoking play "Letter to Gandhi" performed very professionally by Syed Mujeeb Akhtar, Ahmed Sartaj and Maria Limdi. Guest of honor of the event, well know Radio Mirchi Murga fame RJ

Naved Khan, entertained the audience with a funny, emotional and touching presentation. Renowned theater artist and Bollywood actor Major Mohammad Ali Shah, captivated the audience with an hour of monologues in English, Hindi and Sanskrit.

This was followed by the Aligarh Muslim University anthem sung by a group of alumni and their children. The evening ended with a vote of thanks by Usama Faruki, Vice President of AICA in which he thanked the audience, AICA members and the supporters of the event. Nita Bhatkar Chogle hosted the event and kept it flowing seamlessly through the evening.



KNES CELEBRATES REMEMBRANCE DAY

This week students at Kuwait National English School (KNES) have been learning about Remembrance Day and participating in events and activities that focus on peace and tolerance. This year marks the 98th Anniversary of the end of World War One. That war now seems like a very long time ago, especially when there have been plenty of wars since then. But World War One changed the modern world. For some people it defined the horror of modern warfare in what turned out to be mankind's bloodiest era, the twentieth century. Millions of men fought in the battles from all across the world. Sometimes they signed up to fight voluntarily while others were conscripted by their countries governments to fight. All those involved left behind their families. Sadly many never returned home and those that did often carried both physical and mental scars from what they had been through and seen. The First World War was a Total war affecting all people in all areas of life. Many young women travelled to the battle fields to be nurses and ambulance drivers. Others worked in dangerous jobs in

factories or in agriculture helping to fill provide much needed labor while the men were away fighting. Many women lost their husbands, sons, and brothers. For all those involved life would never seem the same again.

Once the armistice was signed and the Great War as it was then known was over, many felt that the sacrifice of all those people should not be forgotten. In 1919, on the first anniversary of the Armistice, a service was held. This was not just a national act of remembrance but an international one due to the global impact of the First World War. Now each year on the Sunday nearest to 11 November (Remembrance Day) at 11 o'clock in the morning, a Remembrance Service is held.

The Poppy was adopted in 1921 by The Royal British Legion as the symbol of Remembrance. It was the first thing that grew back on the muddy fields after the Great War ended. Many believed the dead had simply turned to poppies.

All over Britain there are memorials to those who fought and during remembrance and tolerance week they will be covered in wreaths of Poppies. They are to

be found in city centers, towns and villages as well as railway stations and universities. Each one carries a long list of the names of people from that local area, workplace or university. You may want to take time to read the names inscribed on them because they are the names of those who have died for our freedom.

This year Kuwait National English School students have been involved in acts of remembrance and tolerance at the British Embassy. KNES Staff and a group of students, many of whom are studying IGCSE History, attended the event at the Embassy that was hosted by the Ambassador's wife. The students, who ranged from Primary through to Sixth Form, were given a tour of the gardens and a presentation by a Royal Navy Officer and a Royal Air Force Officer. All the students involved showed great maturity and were honorable ambassadors for our school's diverse community. There followed an act of remembrance and poppies were laid at the war memorial to remember all those who have died for our freedom as well as all those who have been and

continue to be affected by the horrors of war.

In school this week all students have continued to learn about remembrance and tolerance. Remembrance Day is a day of reflection. It allows us to remember or think about all those people who are affected by wars, both in the past and now. It allows us to think about all those people who suffer in wars all around the world. And it reminds us how important it is to work for peace. All secondary students were involved in our annual Remembrance and Tolerance Assembly which took place in Remembrance Sunday. A two-minute silence was held to remember all those who have lost their lives or been affected by war. Students contributed to the assembly by reading war poetry, playing music and singing appropriate songs that focused on tolerance.

It is important to remember all those who have died in wars for our freedom. But, it is also important to remember all those people who have mental or physical injuries caused by war which they have to live with for the rest of their lives.

CUBAN EMBASSY MOURNS CASTRO'S PASSING

On the occasion of the passing of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba declares nine days of National Mourning, from 06:00 on 26 November to 12:00 on 4 December 2016. During the Period of National Mourning, all public activities and performances will be suspended; the national standard will fly at half-mast at all public buildings and military establishments. Cuban Radio and Television will be airing informative, patriotic and historical programming.

NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY CELEBRATIONS AT BHAVANS



Indian Educational School (Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kuwait) joined hands with the CBSE and celebrated the National Education Day to commemorate the birth Anniversary of the great scholar Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of the Independent India on 13 November 2016. Lalitha Premkumar, an energizing educationist and the vice principal of the KG and Primary wing, IES, presided over the genial gathering in the school auditorium. Kisara Batugedara of grade 10 embraced the gathering with a warm welcome note. Colorful cultural events including enthralling group dances and an edge-of-the-seat skit by the secondary students of IES, played soothing notes on the invisible strings of hearts thus leaving the assembled company spellbound.

The thought-provoking speeches by T. Premkumar, the principal, Suresh V Balakrishnan, the vice principal, the middle and senior wings, and Lalitha Premkumar, the vice principal, the Primary and KG

wing, on the importance of education and on the life of Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, were instrumental in sowing the seeds of unquenchable knowledge in the minds of the august gathering.

Natasha of grade 9 shed light on the life and accomplishment of the great scholar Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad and Nityansh of grade 6 recited a poem in Hindi on the sublime lives of the national heroes of India igniting the sparks of patriotism in the hearts of the listeners.

The Principal extolled the efforts of the Departments of French, Hindi and Sanskrit for organizing such a function manifesting the essence of the day in its true spirit. Srinidhi of grade 10 C proposed the vote of thanks. The emcees for the day were Elizabeth Gigi and Nawal Syed of grade 10. The celebration ended with a feeling of pride and enlightenment in each spirited soul. The school is in endless praise of CBSE for providing platforms such as these for the students to be better equipped with the significance of such celebrations.