

NOTES & NEWS

Iqbal Day

The Iqbal Day Function, a regular feature of the multi-sided activities of the Iqbal Academy, has a well recognized place in the cultural and intellectual life of Pakistan. This year, the Iqbal Day was held on the 27th March in Karachi in commemoration of Iqbal's birthday. The function was attended by the members of the diplomatic corps, teachers, professors and heads of educational institutions, government officials and other sections of the public. H. E. Mr. Djafar Ka fai, Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Imperial Government of Iran presided over the function. Mr. S. A. Vahid, Mr. M. Rashid, Prof. S. Ali Ahsan, Prof. Yusuf Salim Chishti, Prof. Ilmuddin Salik, Prof. Mohammad Munawwar, Mr. Naseer Ahmad Nasir, Mr. Abdul Ahad Safipuri, Mr. Akhtar Wasi Ali, Mr. Abdul Rauf, and Mr. Fazal Siddiqi were specially invited for the occasion.

The proceedings started with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Mr. Mumtaz Hasan, the Vice-President of the Academy, stood up to welcome the president. He briefly introduced His Excellency the president to the audience and then in his usual charming voice welcomed him in Persian, the language so familiar to the majority of our people in Pakistan. Below are reproduced his very words:

جناب آقای جعفر کفائی سفیر کبیر دولت شاهنشاهی ایران

ما بسیار خوشحالیم و افتخار داریم که جناب عالی دریں مجلس که بمناسبت روز تولد اقبال برپا میشود تشریف آورده اید. بنده از طرف اکادمی اقبال خدمت حضرت عالی خیر مقدم عرض میکنم. حضرت عالی نمائند دولت بزرگ و ملت کمهن سال ایران هستید که باملت پاکستان از قدیم الایام نزدیک ترین و صمیمی ترین روابط در رشته هائی معنوی و فرهنگی داشته است

برای ما موجب مباهات است که حضرت عالی دعوت ما را پذیرفته ریاست ابن جلسه را قبول فرموده ایک.

آنطوریکه برهمنه معلوم است اقبال پدر روحانی پاکستان است و بدون تردید رابطه بسیار بزرگ معنوی و فرهنگی و دینی بین دو کشور ماسی باشد

تجلیل و تقدیر از مرحوم قبال در حقیقت تجلیل و تقدیر از فرهنگ و ادبیات بزرگ و مشترک ماست و بسیار مناسب است که ما و شما برای تجلیل از مفاخر خود ماں دور هم جمع شده ایم.

یک بار دیگر از حضرت عالی تشکر کنیم.



Mr. Mumtaz Hasan, welcoming H. E. The Ambassador of Iran
on Iqbal Day, Karachi



(Your Excellency! we are glad and proud that you have graced this solemn occasion which is being celebrated on the Birthday of Iqbal. On behalf of the Iqbal Academy, I welcome you most cordially.

Your Excellency; you represent the great country and ancient people of Iran who since centuries have close and cordial relations, both spiritual and cultural, with the people of Pakistan. It is a matter of great honour and pride for us that your Excellency very kindly accepted our invitation and agreed to preside over this function.

As every body knows, Iqbal is the spiritual father of Pakistan and it can be said without fear of contradiction that strong spiritual, cultural and religious bonds exist between our two countries.

The homage that we are today paying to Iqbal is really homage to the great culture and literature that we two peoples share in common. It is therefore most becoming that you and we have gathered today to celebrate this occasion together.

Your excellency, I once again welcome you here).

The President in his address threw light on the political impact of Iqbal on the Muslims of this subcontinent and the important role that he played in the freedom movement. If the Muslim countries unite themselves into a powerful bloc, he said, they would not only become a great force to reckon with, but they would also free themselves from foreign exploitation of which

they have been victim since long. Quoting Iqbal he said that oneness of the nation lies in the oneness of the hearts of the people whose joys and aspirations should be common. "I am confident," he concluded, "that Iqbal's expectation will come out true and a day will dawn when all the Muslim peoples, who are as a matter of fact brothers, will forget their superficial differences in accordance with the teachings of Islam and the Quran and will become united."

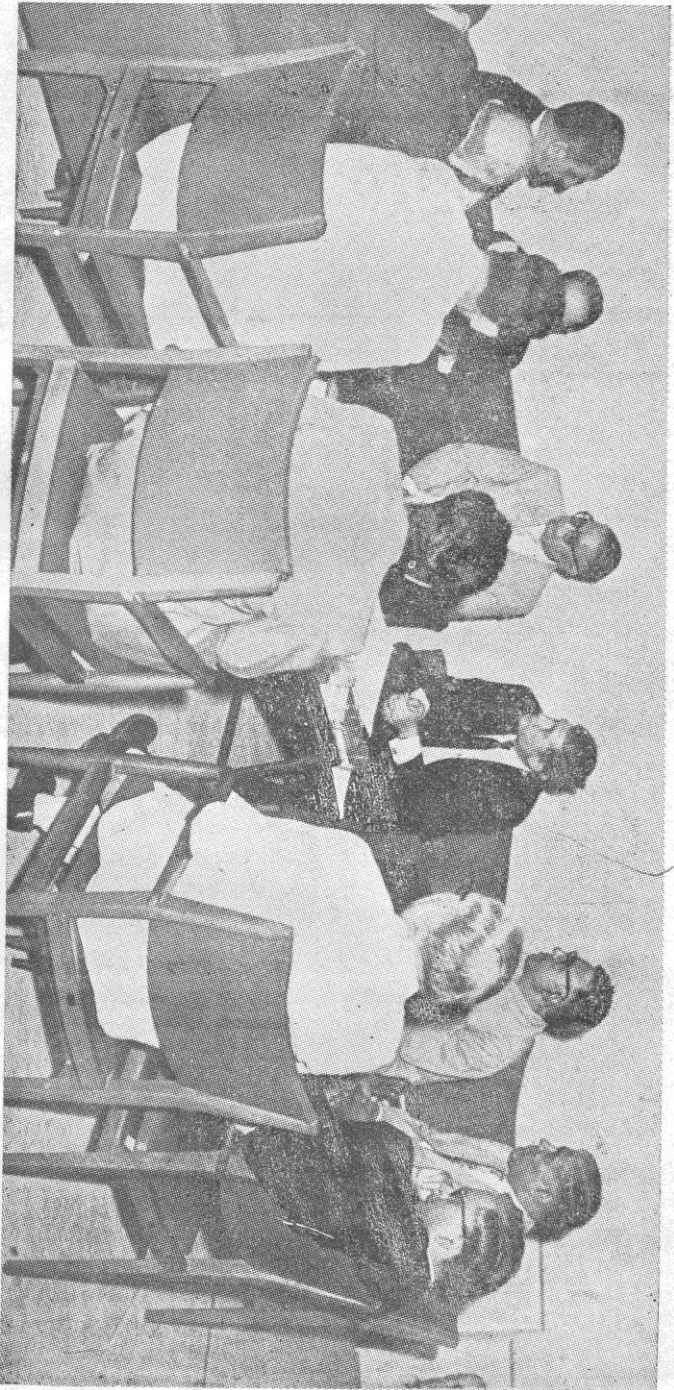
The address was followed by a beautiful recitation from Iqbal by Mr. Ahad. Mr. S. A. Vahid, whom Mr. Mumtaz Hasan described as 'a distinguished writer on Iqbal and a devotee of our poet," read his paper on "Development of Iqbal's Genius." He observed "that tracing the development of Iqbal's creative genius in the realms of art and thought is an inspiring task which enables us to share with him the joy of creativeness and the thrills of exaltation in his vision. Above all it gives us a chance to obtain glimpses of his fascinating personality." Mr. M. Raschid, whom Mr. Mumtaz Hasan described "as a distinguished member of the banking profession but who is equally deeply interested in the culture and literature of the West and the East", read his brilliant paper on "Iqbal—Poet and Thinker." He remarked, "Iqbal means different things to different people and this is quite inevitable because of his multi-dimensional personality." He very acutely observed that "evaluating great thinkers and poets in terms of our own limited horizon often cuts them down to a puny size." Prof. Ali Ahsan could not come due to his sudden illness. His paper on

"The Need for the Implementation for Iqbal's Thoughts and Ideas" was, however, read by one of his students.

After the tea break and Asr Prayers, the proceedings started with a recitation of Iqbal's poem by Mr. Akhtar Wasi Ali. Prof. Yusuf Salim Chishti and Prof. Ilmuddin Salik delivered very inspiring speeches, based on their papers. Their elderly sermons, neat and clean analysis of human problems and most impressive representation of Iqbal's message on the "Cultivation of Khudi" and "Destiny of Nations" respectively, spellbound the audience. They were followed by Mr. Abdul Rauf, who charmingly recited some beautiful verses from Iqbal.

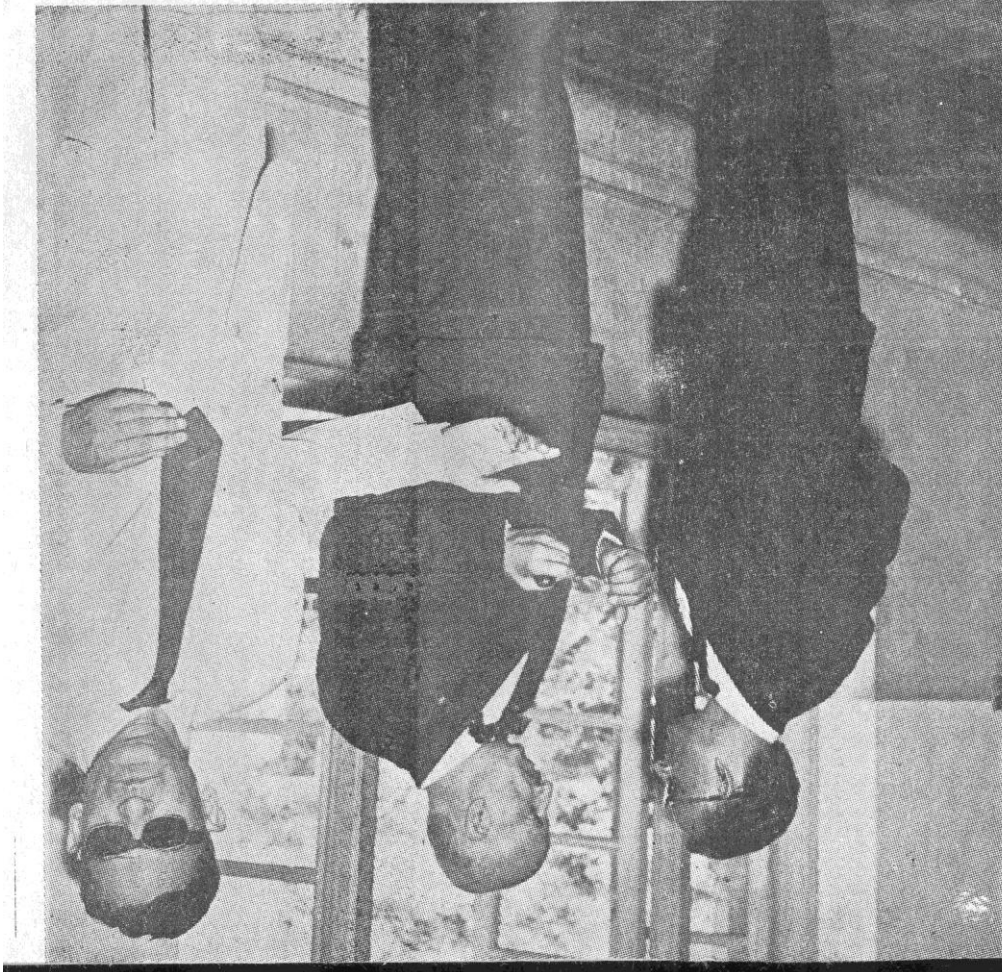
Prof. Mohammad Munawwar, in his paper on "Impact of Arabic on Iqbal" showed that Iqbal used typical Arabic imageries, metaphors and similes in his poetry and thus succeeded not only in expanding the horizon of Urdu literature, but also enriching it by fresh venues of imagination. As the time was short, Mr. Naseer Ahmad Nasir, the last speaker, had to be content with a very brief summary of his article on 'Iqbal's Philosophy of Gham.' According to him, Iqbal's philosophy of *gham* (suffering or melancholy) does not stem from frustration; it has its source in a longing for the vision and realization of the Ultimate Ideal of life. Visit of Iranian Cultural Delegation.

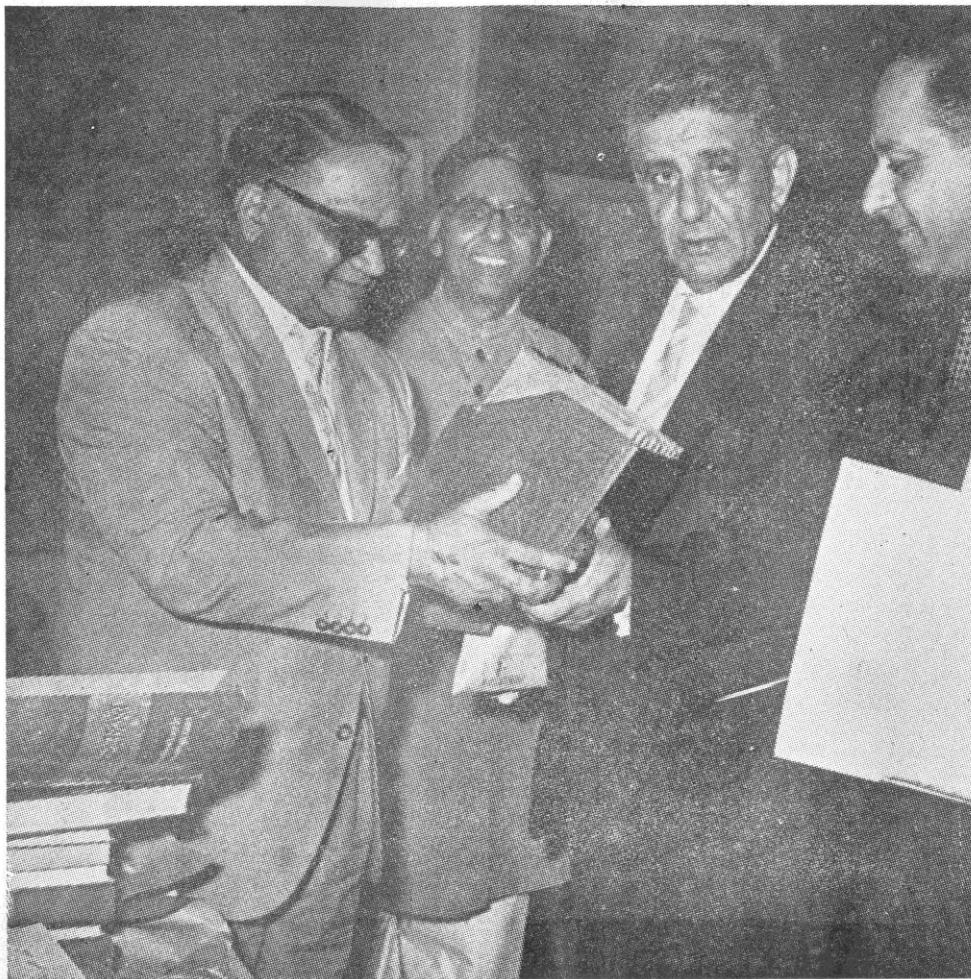
An Iranian Cultural Delegation came to Pakistan on a goodwill visit. The delegation consisted of Dr. Husain Khatibi, Deputy Speaker of Iranian Majlis, Chairman, Red Lion & Sun Society,



Members of the Iranian Cultural Delegation with the members of the Iqbal Academy, Karachi

a dinner in honour of the Iranian Cultural Delegation at the State Guest
(t) Dr. Irani Dr. Y. M. Nawabi, Cultural Counsellor, Iranian Embassy,





Mr. Mumtaz Hasan, Vice President, Iqbal Academy (left) presenting the pu

Senior Professor of Tehran University and Leader of the Delegation; Professor Lotfali Suratgar, Senior Professor of English Literature, Tehran University, Secretary General of Royal Cultural Council; Dr. Hakopian, Director General of Imperial Ministry of Culture and Art; Dr. Husain Shahizadah, Head, Culture Department of Imperial Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They reached Karachi on 25th April, 1965. On the 26th they visited Iqbal Academy where they were received by Mr. Mumtaz Hasan, the Vice-President of the Academy. A lively discussion on the subject of Persian language and Literature ensued. Mr. Mumtaz Hasan explained in detail that Persian was the court language in India till 1837 when the British replaced it by English and Urdu although it continued to be the language of the court of Moghal Kings and the general public till the end of the 19th century. The people of Pakistan, he said, were proud of this cultural heritage and Saadi, Hafiz and Jami were familiar names to our intellectuals. These great people, he concluded, could teach us greater wisdom than the so-called thinkers of the modern West who, generally speaking, as he said, have nothing fruitful to offer in this respect. In the field of science, he added, we should and must accept the lead of the West but in wisdom this cultural heritage of ours is of very great significance even now.

In the evening the Iqbal Academy gave a dinner in honour of the delegation at the State Guest House to which besides Mr. Mumtaz Hassan, Mr. Akhtar Husain, President of Anjuman Tarriqi Urdu, Pir Hassamuddin Rashidi, Mr. Abdul Aziz, Mr. Jamiluddin Aaly, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad, Dr. Khwaja Irfani, Dr. F. A.

Khan, Mr. S. A. Vahid, Mr. Mahmud Shayada, Counsellor and Dr. Yahya Mahyar Navabi of Iran Embassy and other prominent scholars and writers were invited.

Welcoming the distinguished scholars and visitors, Mr. Mumtaz Hassan recalled how the two peoples inherited the same culture which proved fruitful for both of them but as a result of British occupation, a curtain was let down which separated them for so long. He asserted that the presence of a cultural delegation from Iran was a testimony to the fact that " we are trying to repair the damage that history has done us." He pleaded for more and more cultural exchange between Pakistan and Iran which will help us to know each other better," "He said we should not meet each other only in political turmoil but should also give a message and restore the human values to the world which it needs today."

Prof. Lotfali Suratgar said that if there was one person who had done great service to the Persian language it was Mohammad Iqbal and "we owe to him much for his service." He expressed the hope that one day his Urdu works would also be translated into Persian which could be profitably used by the Iranian students in schools and colleges. He added that for him there was no difference between Karachi and Shiraz and that he felt quite at home here. Dr. Hussain Khatibi said that Iqbal's new expressions and words were indeed a new source of wealth to Persian language and they had entered into their dictionary and had found immortality. He said that as far as his diction was concerned he never used one word which could be considered without

refinement and unfit for poetical expression. It was wrong to say, he said, that the language and words used by Dr. Mohammad Iqbal were not pure and correct. He expressed great surprise that Iqbal, the great poet of this country, wrote in a language which he acquired by studying it and not by travelling into a country where that language was spoken. Iqbal provided a new link between Pakistan and Iran, for, according to him, Iran and Pakistan were two souls in one body. "No line can be drawn between Pakistan and Iran. We are not two nations. We have the same aspirations and long links and these links and affinities should be further strengthened."

Professor Lotfali Suratgar recited some Persian verses of his and Mr. Jamiluddin Aali recited some beautiful Urdu verses. After the mushsaira the meeting came to an end.