

A SURVEY OF THE ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS OF PAKISTAN DURING 1950

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I

In addition to Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1876-1948), Allama Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938) is rightly regarded as the founding father of Pakistan. Throughout his life span and even after his demise, his indebted community has shown unparalleled respect and admiration for him. The tendency reached its apex after the establishment of Pakistan, when Iqbal Day celebrations used to be observed with great dedication. The English dailies of Pakistan have also contributed a lot in that endeavor. In the series of surveys that follow,¹⁰ an attempt has been made to trace all such functions as reported in the English newspapers of Pakistan during 1950. It is hoped that this endeavor would reveal, at least to a considerable extent, the perceptions of the great seer and statesman found in the Pakistani journalism and the perspectives that underlie these perceptions.

- During 1950, *Dawn* published the first article on Allama Iqbal on January 22 1950, which was a selection made by B. A. Siddiqi from the well-known utterances of Allama Iqbal. It included his views on a model society, dignity of man, immortality of the human ego, perfect man, love and hate, nationalism, the *millat*, faith, perfect submission, religion, prayer, conservatism heaven and hell etc., Siddiqi, however, did not indicate the source of his collection.¹

- *The Pakistan Times* on January 22, 1950 published an English translation of Urdu address of Mian Bashir Ahmed, Pakistan's Ambassador to the Turkey, delivered at the Ankara University on December 17, 1949 on Maulana Rumi with special reference to his influence on Allama Iqbal. In his speech, Bashir argued that Iqbal was fundamentally inspired by Rumi and called him his mentor and guide. He was probably the first thinker who

* This is the first of a series of surveys planned by the author covering the whole gambit of Iqbal Day celebrations for the last five decades or more. (editor)

¹ B. A. Siddiqi, "Famous words that will live for ever—Iqbal," *Dawn*, April 22, 1950.

firmly grasped Rumi's conception that life was a ceaseless activity. Rumi and Iqbal both wanted to strengthen the 'self'. According to them, there was no incompatibility between 'self' and 'selflessness'. The central idea of both is 'love' by means of which the self, successfully surmounting various difficulties, could reach very near to God. The fate, they believed, did not stand in the way of their will and effort. Bashir also pointed out that expressions of devoted allegiance to Rumi could frequently be found in Iqbal's poetry.² Mian Bashir Ahmed's assessment seems to be quite precise. Rumi is one of those scholars who inspired Iqbal the most. There are many common features in both of them. Malik Hasan Akhtar has pointed out that both are the most outstanding thinkers of the Islamic world who interpreted Qura'nic teachings according to the necessities of their times and proved them life saving. Both of them adopted Persian as their medium of expression and their contributions attained world fame and were later translated in different languages. Likewise, both of them influenced the intellectual life and currents of thought of the coming generations.³

- On January 29 and February 5, 1950, two more segments of Mahmud Ahmed's translation of *Javid Namah* accompanied by explanatory notes appeared in *The Pakistan Times*.⁴

- On February 21, 1950, an article entitled "Shiekh Abdul Qadir and Allama Iqbal" contributed by M. A. Harris appeared in *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, which surveyed the close relationship that existed between them. The author specially referred to Abdul Qadir's influence in shaping two momentous events of Iqbal's life which proved highly beneficial later on. One was to pursue Iqbal not to give up poetry and other was approval of adoption of Persian by Iqbal for conveying his thought. The author observed

² Mian Bashir Ahmed, "Rumi and Iqbal," *The Pakistan Times*, January 22, 1950.

³ Malik Hasan Akhtar, *Iqbal aur Muslim Mufakkireen*, Lahore, Ferozsons, Lahore, 1992, p.132. Iqbal's devotion to Rumi is perhaps best exhibited in his poem, "Pir-i-Rumi, Murid-i-Hindi" included in *Bal-i-Jibril*. For a detailed study of the said poem, see Muhammad Sharif Baqa, *Pir-o-Mureed*, Maktabah-i-Tamir Insaniat, Lahore, 1988. For a study of portions of Rumi's *Mathnawi* which were used by Iqbal for explanation and formulation of philosophical ideas highlighted in his poetry, see Syed Wazir-ul-Hasan Abidi, *Iqbal Kay She'ri Ma'akbiẓ, Mathnavi-i-Rumi Mein*, Lahore, Majlis-i-Taraqq-i-Adab, 1977. Also see Erkan Turkmen, "Perfect Man in the Eyes of Rumi and Muhammad Iqbal," *Iqbal Review*, Vol. 40, No. 3-4, pp. 95-102.

⁴ Mahmud Ahmed, "*Javid Namah: The Prologue on Earth*," *The Pakistan Times*, January 29 and February 5, 1950.

that the death of Abdul Qadir had removed one of the most luminous stars from the literary firmament of Pakistan and with his end, a bright chapter in the history of Urdu literature had come to a close.⁵

- *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore reported on February 27, 1950 that an 'Iqbal Day Committee' was formed in Karachi at a meeting of a large number of students and admirers of Allama Iqbal, held at the residence of S. A. Vahid with Central Minister for Industries, Chaudhry Nazir Ahmed Khan (1898-1980)⁶ in chair. The report informed that S. A. Vahid was elected the organizer of the Committee, which was authorized to make necessary arrangements for observing 'Iqbal Day'. It was tentatively decided to hold the celebrations on April 21 and 22 during which speeches on the life and philosophy of the poet and recitations from his works would be made. Amongst those present at the meeting were Ilmuddin, Ikram, Mumtaz Hasan, and Zia-ul-Islam.⁷

- On March 3, 1950, news appeared in *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore that stated that Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-i-Urdu of East Pakistan had chalked out a three-day programme for April 21, 22, and 23. The programme included among other items, lectures on the life and works of the poet, a debate in Urdu and a *mushaira*. Moulvi Abdul Haq, President of the Pakistan Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-i-Urdu was invited to inaugurate the Iqbal Day programmes.⁸

- On March 4, 1950, *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore informed that the Foundation Committee of the Iqbal Academy had decided to extend by one month, the last date for the submission of literary contributions on Iqbal for the prizes offered by the Academy. The paper pointed out that

⁵ M. A. Harris, "Sheikh Abdul Qadir and Allama Iqbal," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, February 21, 1950.

⁶ Chaudhry Nazir Ahmed Khan (1898-1980); lawyer, politician, diplomat, worker of Pakistan movement, started practice at Montgomery, 1921; Secretary, Reception Committee, Punjab Educational Conference, 1923; member Constituent Assembly of Pakistan; Minister for Industries, 1949-51; Vice President International Jurists Conference, Oslo, 1956; President, Pakistan Legal Centre, 1957; International Commission of Jurists, Bangkok, 1962. Attorney General of Pakistan, 1959; Pakistan High Commissioner in Australia, 1952; founder-editor *Al-Ahibba*; Pubs. *Kalam Narm-o-Nazuk*; *Husul-i-Pakistan*; *Dastan-i-Pakistan*.

⁷ "Iqbal Day Committee formed," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, February 27, 1950.

⁸ "Iqbal Day programme in Dacca," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, March 3, 1950. The same news was repeated in *The Pakistan Times* under the caption "Dacca to celebrate Iqbal Day," on March 31, 1950.

contributions were invited from the individuals, societies, and college and school students.⁹

- A report appeared on March 10, 1950 in *Dawn*, which stated various activities of Foundation Committee of the Iqbal Academy. It was informed that pending the establishment of Iqbal Academy, the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan had formed a Foundation Committee, consisting of Fazlur Rahman, as Chairman, and I. H. Qureshi and Malik Feroz Khan Noon as members to enhance Iqbal studies in the country. Later, the committee co-opted Moulvi Abdul Haq and Sheikh Abdul Qadir as members and chalked out a comprehensive programme to implement its objectives. For instance, the Committee established branches of academy in the Universities of Sindh, Punjab, and Dacca. Eminent scholars had been invited to translate Iqbal's works into English, Arabic, and Bengali. A. J. Arberry of Cambridge University and Abdul Wahab 'Azzam (1894-1959) were coordinator for taking up the translation of *Asrar-i-Khudi* and *Javid Namah* into English and Arabic respectively.¹⁰

- The report further revealed that Iqbal memorial lectures had been instituted at the various Universities of Pakistan and well-known scholars had been invited to deliver those lectures. Moreover, three prizes of the value of Rs.1000, Rs.200 and Rs.100 for original contributions on Iqbal from scholars, learned societies, college and school students had also been introduced. These contributions, when received, would be assessed by a committee of experts and the names of prize winners would be duly announced.¹¹

- *The Pakistan Times* informed on March 22, 1950 that the Bazm-i-Iqbal, Rawalpindi had drawn up an ambitious programme to celebrate Iqbal Day on April 21 and 22. According to report, the first day's gathering would be devoted to discourses on his philosophy and contributions to Muslim India's political awakening and cultural uplift. Several writers of repute were expected to read papers. On the second day, a grand *musbaira* was being

⁹ "Literary contributions on Iqbal: Date extended," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, March 4, 1950.

¹⁰ "Cambridge scholar to translate Iqbal's works," *Dawn*, March 10, 1950. Abdul Wahab contributed several works on Allama Iqbal in Arabic. For instance, see Abdul Wahab Azzam, *Muhammad Iqbal*, (Arabic) Lahore, Iqbal Academy, 1985.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

arranged in which many prominent poets were expected to participate. The report further informed that Fatimah Jinnah was being approached to preside over the first day's meeting, while Choudhry Ghulam Abbass was expected to chair the *mushaira*.¹²

- On March 25, 1950, news appeared in *The Pakistan Times* that informed that City Muslim League, Sialkot would celebrate Iqbal Day on April 30. The programme included a *mushaira* and a symposium in which papers would be read on the life, art, and teachings of Allama Iqbal.¹³

- A Reuter's report appeared in *The Pakistan Times* on March 31, 1950 revealed that A. J. Arberry would shortly translate into English Allama Iqbal's poems *Asrar-i-Khudi* and *Javid Namah* into Miltonic blank verse which would also be translated into Arabic by Abdul Wahab 'Azzam. The report further informed that the translations were being made at the instance of the Foundation Committee.¹⁴

- A report filed by the correspondent of *The Pakistan Times*, which was printed on April 4, 1950, disclosed that preparations were going at Narowal to observe Iqbal Day in the Islamia High School. In that connection, a public meeting would be held in the town in which people would be introduced to the teachings of Iqbal. A *mushaira* would also be held in which students would participate.¹⁵

- In a letter written to the editor, *The Pakistan Times*, one Mahmud Hasan Butt expressed his regrets that the Home Ministry of Pakistan had failed to appreciate the significance of the occasion of death anniversary of Allama Iqbal. He pointed out that while government had declared *Dulhandi*, *Dussebra*, *Janam Ashtami*, King's Birthday and Christmas Day as the closed holidays for the offices of the Central Government and the Armed Forces Headquarters all over Pakistan, its offices would remain open on Iqbal's anniversary. The writer stressed that it was hardly necessary to repeat what Iqbal did for Islam and Pakistan. The present state of the nation made ventilation of Iqbal's

¹² "Iqbal Day celebrations: Pindi's ambitious programme," *The Pakistan Times*, March 22, 1950.

¹³ "Iqbal Day to be celebrated in Sialkot on April 30," *The Pakistan Times*, March 25, 1950.

¹⁴ "Translation of Dr. Muhammad Iqbal's Works" *The Pakistan Times*, March 31, 1950. There seems to be a misunderstanding here since *Asrar i Khudi* had already appeared in English during the life time of the poet!

¹⁵ "Iqbal Day to be observed in Narowal," *The Pakistan Times*, April 4, 1950.

message over the land of his dreams all the more imperative. He expressed the hope that April 21, would be declared a closed holiday and the Central government servants be enabled to participate in Iqbal Day celebrations.¹⁶

- A report which appeared in *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore on April 9, 1950 informed that Majlis-i-Adab, Lahore would observe 'Iqbal Day' on April 20 by holding two sessions in the Town Hall, Lahore. The morning session would be presided over by Khawaja Dil Muhammad in which prominent writers and poets would read papers and recite poems on the ideology of Allama Iqbal.¹⁷

- On April 11, 1950 *The Pakistan Times* communicated, that Khawaja Nazimuddin would preside over the inaugural session of Iqbal Day celebrations organized by Bazm-i-Iqbal on the afternoon of April 21 at the Governor General House, Karachi. It would be followed by a public meeting on the evening of April 22, at the Jahangir Park, Karachi where eminent scholars were expected to speak on the life and works of Allama Iqbal.¹⁸

- The correspondent of *The Pakistan Times* informed on April 13, 1950 that the District Football Association at a meeting held at Sialkot decided to arrange a tournament under the name Iqbal Memorial Football Tournament at Sialkot from May 10, 1950.¹⁹

- The paper further told on the same day that Habib I. Rahimtoola, Pakistan's High Commissioner to Britain, would preside over a meeting in London on April 21 to commemorate the 12th death anniversary of Iqbal. The news further notified that the meeting would be held at the Islamic Culture Centre, London and would be addressed, among others, by Mohsin Rais, the Persian Ambassador to Britain.²⁰

- On April 14, 1950, the paper gave details about the Iqbal Day celebrations being arranged by the Central Iqbal Committee at Lahore.²¹

¹⁶ Mahmudul Hasan Butt, "Letter to editor: Iqbal's anniversary," *The Pakistan Times*, April 7, 1950.

¹⁷ "Lahore's 'Iqbal Day' programme," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 9, 1950.

¹⁸ "Iqbal Day," *The Pakistan Times*, April 11, 1950.

¹⁹ "Iqbal Memorial Football Tournament: First match to start at Sialkot on May 10," *The Pakistan Times*, April 13, 1950.

²⁰ "Iqbal Day in London," *The Pakistan Times*, April 13, 1950.

²¹ "Lahore to celebrate Iqbal Day," *The Pakistan Times*, April 14, 1950.

- Publishing two separate reports about Iqbal Day preparations at Rawalpindi on April 15, 1950, *The Pakistan Times* informed that the Rawalpindi branch of APWA was celebrating Iqbal Day on April 21, which would be followed by a *Meena Bazar* on the next day.²² The daily added that Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-i-Adab, Rawalpindi would celebrate Iqbal Day at a literary meeting on April 21 in the Gordon College Hall, Rawalpindi.²³

- *The Pakistan Times* informed on April 16, 1950 that Ch. Nazir Ahmed would preside over the ‘Iqbal Day meeting’ in Jahangir Park, Karachi on April 22. Prominent speakers who would address the meeting included Abdul Haq, M. D. Taseer and Mumtaz Hasan.²⁴

- On April 17, 1950 *The Pakistan Times* communicated that the Pakistan Art Council, Lahore would celebrate Iqbal Day on April 23 at a function to be presided over by Justice S. A. Rahman. The programme would include an exhibition of the manuscripts, letters, and some personal effects of Allama Iqbal, speeches on various aspects of his philosophy and recitation from his poetry.²⁵

- Through another report published on the same day, the paper added that the Bazm-i-Iqbal would celebrate Iqbal Day at a literary meeting to be held on April 21 at the local Islamia High School. Sheikh Abdul Majid Asghar, Session Judge was to preside over the function to be attended by prominent poets and literary persons.²⁶

- *Dawn* and *The Pakistan Times* reported on April 19, 1950 that Syed Ali Nassr, the Iranian Ambassador in Pakistan visited the tomb of Allama Iqbal and laid a wreath of flowers on the grave. He was accompanied by Madame Ali Nassr, Iranian Cultural Counselor, Dr. Farayadani and his wife.²⁷

- On April 21, 1950, S. A. Vahid, Secretary of Bazm-i-Iqbal issued an appeal to the nation which appeared in *The Pakistan Times*, *The Morning News* and *The Khyber Mail*. He requested to offer *fatihah* to the memory of Allama Iqbal, “to whom we owe so much and who originally conceived the idea of

²² “Pindi women to celebrate Iqbal Day,” *The Pakistan Times*, April 15, 1950.

²³ “Iqbal Day in ‘Pindi,’” *The Pakistan Times*, April 15, 1950.

²⁴ “Iqbal Day programme for Karachi,” *The Pakistan Times*, April 16, 1950.

²⁵ “Art Council to celebrate Iqbal Day,” *The Pakistan Times*, April 17, 1950.

²⁶ “Iqbal Day,” *The Pakistan Times*, April 17, 1950.

²⁷ “Ali Nassr lays wreaths on Iqbal’s tomb,” *Dawn*, April 19, 1950; “Iranian Ambassador lays wreath on Iqbal’s grave,” *The Pakistan Times*, April 19, 1950.

Pakistan,” after *Juma* prayers on Friday April 21, which incidentally happened to be the 12th death anniversary of ‘the great sage’.²⁸

- At Karachi, an impressive programme for celebration of Iqbal Day on April 21 and 22 was drawn up by the Bazm-i-Iqbal. According to the reports appeared in *The Pakistan Times*, *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, *Dawn* and *The Civil and Military Gazette* Karachi, the first session was to be held at Governor General House on April 21 to be presided over by Khawaja Nazimuddin. It was notified that Dr. Raziuddin Siddiqi (1908-1998)²⁹ and S. A. Khalid would read papers on ‘Iqbal and the problem of Free-Will’ and ‘Iqbal as a lyric poet’ respectively. The second session was to be held on April 22 in Jahangir Park under the president-ship of Ch. Nazir Ahmed. The speakers include Maulvi Abdul Haq, Aziz Ahmed, Mumtaz Hasan, M. D. Taseer and others. A number of poets including Nazar Hyderabadadi (1919-1963)³⁰ and Muhammad Jafari were also expected to participate in the evening’s celebrations.³¹

- Among other Iqbal Day functions arranged at Karachi, there was a public meeting organized by Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-i-Urdu at under the presidentship of Fatimah Jinnah and a function arranged at the Agha Khan Girls High School. Radio Pakistan, Karachi also planned to broadcast special feature programmes on the various aspects of Iqbal’s life and works including a special talk of Mumtaz Hassan on ‘Iqbal as a thinker’.³²

²⁸ “People asked to offer *fatiba* on Iqbal Day,” *The Pakistan Times*, April 20, 1950, “*Fatiba* prayers for Dr. Iqbal,” *The Khyber Mail*, April 22, 1955; “Offer *fatiba* to memory of Iqbal: Appeal to Pakistanis,” *The Morning News*, April 22, 1950.

²⁹ Muhammad Raziuddin Siddiqi (1908-1998); scientist; mathematician; educationist; intellectual and Iqbalist; remained Vice Chancellor of Peshawar, Sindh and Islamabad Universities; Chairman, Pakistan Science Academy; member, Atomic Energy Commission. Wrote several books in English and Urdu on science and literature including *Iqbal ka Tasawwur-i-Zaman-o-Makan*; *Kalam-i-Iqbal Main Mawt-o-Hayat*; *Ta’lim ka Masalah*.

³⁰ Akhtar Hamid (Nazar Hyderabadadi) (1919-1963); poet, writer; Pubs. *Khirman*; *Silk-i-Gubarin*; *Iqbal aur Hyderabad*.

³¹ “Iqbal Day in Karachi: Big programme drawn up,” *The Pakistan Times*, April 19, 1950; “Celebrating Iqbal Day in Karachi: Impressive programme drawn up,” *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 19, 1950; “Iqbal Day celebrations in Karachi,” *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 19, 1950; “Bazm-i-Iqbal meeting today,” *Dawn*, April 22, 1950.

³² “Nation to observe Iqbal Day today,” *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 21, 1950.

• *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, *Dawn*, *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, *The Khyber Mail*, *The Pakistan Times* and *The Morning News* reported that the Iqbal Day meeting organized by the Bazm-i-Iqbal at the Governor General House, Karachi. It was attended by the Prime Minister and Begum Liaquat Ali Khan (1905-1990)³³ Ministers of the Pakistan Cabinet, members of the Diplomatic Corps besides over one thousand prominent citizens of the capital. Delivering his presidential address, Khawaja Nazimuddin, called upon every Pakistani to study the writings of Iqbal deeply and thoughtfully and to act on the percepts contained in them. He also urged various Iqbal societies and associations throughout Pakistan, as well as in other countries, to make a concerted effort at preparing and publishing authentic translations of Iqbal's works in other languages.³⁴

• Paying glorious tributes to Iqbal, Nazimuddin said that his message was really meant for the whole humankind, its appeal was universal and was addressed to every seeker of truth. He exposed the shallowness and dangers of the western civilization and preached the subjugation of knowledge to faith, and the quest for those spiritual and moral values, which alone give a real meaning to life. "Iqbal's work was meant to be pondered over, and taken to heart. It awakened us to the consciousness of our own-self and of the world around us. It stimulated us to contemplation as well as action," he added.³⁵ Describing Iqbal's as the 'Poet of Islam', Umar Baha El-Amiri, Minister of Syria, in his speech delivered in Arabic on the occasion, said that the secret of Iqbal's poetry lay in the fact that he did not speak with his words but with fire of his soul and with throbbing of his heart, which created immortal pieces. He had given us a message of action and determination on

³³ Rana Liaquat Ali Khan (1905-1990); social worker, feminist and diplomat; second wife of Liaquat Ali Khan, first Prime Minister of Pakistan; Founder President of APWA, Chairperson Red Crescent Society; remained Ambassador of Pakistan in Holland, 1954-61; and in Italy, 1961-66; Governor Sind, 1973-76.

³⁴ "Karachi citizens' homage to Iqbal: Meeting at Govt. House," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 22, 1950; "Iqbal was the voice of humanity", *Dawn*, April 22, 1950; "Translation of Iqbal's works urged by G .G.," *Dawn*, April 22, 1950; "Study Iqbal and act on his message, Naizimuddin: Authentic translations of poet's works urged," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 22, 1950; "G. G's call to follow Iqbal," *The Khyber Mail*, April 23, 1950; "Study thoughtfully the teachings of Iqbal": Nazimuddin's call to Pakistan's youth," *The Pakistan Times*, April 23, 1950; "Study deeply and act on the teachings of Iqbal: G. G's clarion call to Pakistani youths," *The Morning News*, April 24, 1950.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

the one hand and universal love and goodwill on the other, he supplemented.³⁶ Speaking next, Chaudhry Nazir Ahmed said that Iqbal was one of those mighty dreamers whose dreams did more for the progress of humanity than the action of many of the practical men in the world. Discussing the various aspects of Iqbal's poetry and philosophy, he remarked that life's justification through action was the sublime vision of Iqbal that had inspired the present generation of Muslims more than anything else had and had built a lasting monument to his memory in the creation of Pakistan.³⁷ Muhammad Asad, in course of his speech, observed that Iqbal believed with an intensity and clarity that Islam had an immortal mission to fulfill in the present days no less than in the by-gone centuries; and that only by making it once again a practical proposition in the lives of men, could the world be saved from the dangers inherent in the disparity between our moral vision and our selfish action.³⁸ Besides recitations from his works, S. A. Vahid, read an essay on 'Iqbal as lyric poet.' Moreover, copies of *Iqbal Studies* edited by Ziaul Islam, which included articles on Iqbal by S. A. Vahid, Raziuddin Siddiqui and Mumtaz Hasan were also distributed at the gathering.³⁹

- J. Arberry in a message, sent to the Bazm-i-Iqbal on the occasion of Iqbal Day which appeared in *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, said that Iqbal's doctrine of indestructible significance of the individual contained a message of hope and inspiration in those days when the rights and duties of individual men were so gravely threatened by materialistic conceptions of an all powerful state. His doctrine of the place of the individual in society with his interpretation of the term of right believing men and women was no less important as a corrective to nihilist tendencies in contemporary thought, he concluded.⁴⁰

- On April 22, a mammoth meeting was held by Bazm-i-Iqbal at Jahangir Park, Karachi where over a dozen of speakers paid their tributes to Allama Iqbal in presence of over 10,000 citizens of Karachi. *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi reported that while describing Iqbal as one of the greatest poets of his time, Maulvi Abdul Haq said that Iqbal was the man who had

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ *Ibid.*

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ "Iqbal's doctrine is corrective to nihilist tendencies, Prof. Arberry," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 22, 1950.

taken Urdu to great heights in his tumultuous times when it was passing through a very critical stage. He deplored that the speeches delivered in the meeting held at the Governor General House were all in foreign languages, while the function had been organized to remember the bereavement of the greatest poet of Urdu.⁴¹ Speaking next, Nazir Ahmad described Iqbal's conception of leadership and argued that the leader, according to Iqbal, must set a certain goal before him and develop qualities of head and heart that could endear him to his people and win their respects.⁴² Mumtaz Hasan in his speech related anecdotes from the life of the great poet and dwelt at length on his personal qualities. He was of the view that it was impossible to relate briefly about one who was so amazingly many sided and filled such a large place in the sphere of poetry, philosophy and religious and national life. Describing Iqbal as '*Shah'ir-i-Azam*', Hashim Raza, Administrator of Karachi, said that the salvation of the Muslims of the world lay following the precepts contained in the poetry of Iqbal.⁴³

- Abdul Haq's criticism leveled against speeches made at the Governor General House being in English and Arabic did not go unnoticed. Next day through a statement appeared in *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, *Dawn* and *The Khyber Mail*, S. A. Vahid, who organized the Iqbal anniversary function in Karachi under the auspices of the Bazm-i-Iqbal, revealed the facts. He stated that the said meeting was arranged primarily for foreign diplomats and other foreigners residing in Karachi, and so it was necessary to deliver speeches in a language that the foreigners could understand. Similarly, the Arabic speeches were delivered for the benefit of those from Muslim countries, who could not understand English. He further argued that it would not be justifiable to call Arabic a foreign language, as the language of Quran, Arabic is the language of the Muslims all over the world and pointed out that even Iqbal himself chose Persian as a medium for the expression of his message. He said that the object of Bazm-i-Iqbal was to convey the message of Iqbal to the farthest corners of the world and for that purpose the Bazm was trying to have Iqbal's works translated in as many languages of

⁴¹ "Message of Allama Iqbal recalled: Thought provoking speeches at Jehangir Park meeting," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 23, 1950.

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ *Ibid.*

the world as possible and questioned that whether it could be regarded as a disserve to Urdu.⁴⁴

- The Ladies of Karachi also paid glowing tributes to Allama Iqbal through a meeting arranged by the Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-i-Niswan, Pakistan at Khalikdina Hall, Karachi whose proceedings appeared in *Dawn*, *The Pakistan Times*, and *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore. The meeting was opened by speeches of the two Secretaries of the Anjuman and was followed by recitations from Iqbal's works. Begum Fazlur Rahman in her discourse urged the meeting that the women of Pakistan should continue to have small gatherings where the works of the poet should be read.⁴⁵ In her presidential address, Fatimah Jinnah said that Iqbal ranked amongst the greatest of the world poets. His poetry was a great contribution to human thought as it embodied a definite mission and a noble message. He compared the past with the present and cast a glance towards the future. Seldom did he express despondency in life and its adversities, instead he found a way out through all the difficulties. To him life was the other name of struggle and action. He gave the message of awakening to his nation and inspired it for achieving higher ideals, she concluded.⁴⁶

- Arrangements were also made at Lahore to celebrate Iqbal Day in a befitting manner. According to press reports which appeared in *The Khyber Mail*, *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore and *The Pakistan Times*, *Khatm-ul-Qur'an* ceremony and placing of floral wreaths were to be conducted at the tomb of Allama Iqbal by the representatives of the Central Iqbal Committee. It was to be followed by a mock battle arranged at Ravi Park in which thousands of volunteers from all over the district would participate. Later a meeting was planned to be held at University Hall under the auspices of Central Iqbal Committee and PMSF. Its morning and evening sessions were

⁴⁴ "Iqbal Day speeches in foreign languages: Mr. S. A. Vahid replies to critics", *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 24, 1950; "Bazm-i-Iqbal Secretary answers criticism on language issue," *Dawn*, April 24, 1950; "Iqbal Day in Karachi," *The Khyber Mail*, April 24, 1950.

⁴⁵ "Miss Jinnah to preside over 'Iqbal Day' meeting," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 21, 1950; "Character and service were inherent in Iqbal, Miss Jinnah", *Dawn*, April 22, 1950; "Attain dignity of Iqbal's *momin*, Miss Jinnah, *The Pakistan Times*, April 23, 1950; "Let us attain dignity of Iqbal's *momin*: Miss Fatimah Jinnah's tributes to poet of the East," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 22, 1950.

⁴⁶ *Ibid*.

scheduled to be presided over by Syed Ali Nassr, Iranian Ambassador in Pakistan and Chaudhry Ghulam Abbass, respectively. The provincial branch of Pakistan Boy Scouts Association also decided to celebrate Iqbal Day by arranging a ground campfire of the Railway Rovers and College Crew to be held on evening of April 20 at Lahore. Pakistan Art Council, Lahore also planned to hold Iqbal Day programme that included an exhibition of letters, manuscripts, and personal effects of Allama Iqbal along with discussion on different aspects of his philosophy and recitation of his selected poems.⁴⁷

- According to a news item published in *Dawn*, *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, *The Pakistan Times* and *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi the citizens of Lahore paid homage to the memory of Iqbal, on his 12th death anniversary by holding meetings, placing floral wreaths on the poet's grave and praying in the mosques for his soul. From the break of the dawn, thousands of Iqbal's admirers jammed the roads leading to the poet's last resting place and with moistened eyes people stood for hours around the poet's tomb and offered *fatihah*. As a plane of the RPAF dipped in salute and showered rose petals on the mausoleum, the Army band played a poem of Allama Iqbal. Besides thousands of his admirers and disciples with wreaths and bouquets in their hands, prominent amongst those who placed wreaths were Syed Ali Nassr, Mian Abdul Bari, Major General Azam Khan (1910-1994)⁴⁸ and the Advisors to the Punjab Governor. Ali Nassr after lying wreath said that since daybreak he had felt as if the entire atmosphere of Lahore was surcharged with the magnetism of Iqbal's over shadowing personality. Earlier the *Khatm-ul-Quran* ceremony was conducted at the tomb by the Central Iqbal Committee, which was attended by a large number of religious teachers and educationists. To present gratitude to storming message of Allama Iqbal, a 60 minute air raid and mock battle was also staged near Ravi Bridge was witnessed by over 2,00,000 people. Malik

⁴⁷ "Iqbal Day", *The Khyber Mail*, April 18, 1950; "Iqbal Day celebrations in Lahore: Ali Nassr to preside over morning session," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 19, 1950; "Scouts to celebrate Iqbal Day," *The Pakistan Times*, April 19, 1950; "Iqbal Day mock battle," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 20, 1950; "Lahore to pay homage to Iqbal today," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 21, 1950; "Abbass to attend Iqbal Day celebrations", *The Khyber Mail*, April 22, 1950; "Pakistan Art Council to celebrate Iqbal Day today," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 23, 1950.

⁴⁸ Azam Khan (1910-1994); army officer; politician; remained Federal Minister for Rehabilitation & Refugees during Ayub regime; Governor, East Pakistan 1960-62.

Muhammad Anwer (1900-1965)⁴⁹ Punjab Government's Adviser for Law and Order, Major General Muhammad Azam Khan, Syed Fida Hasan (1908-1977)⁵⁰, high government officials, and prominent citizens of the provincial metropolis witnessed the mock battle.⁵¹

• The main function of the day was a public meeting held in the University Hall under the auspices of the Central Iqbal Committee. Syed Ali Nassr and Chaudhry Ghulam Abbass presided over the morning and evening sessions respectively. During the meeting, papers were read on various aspects of Iqbal's philosophy and his selected poems were recited. Those who paid tributes to the poet-philosopher included Allauddin Siddiqi, Syed Nazir Niazi, Dr. Muhammad Baqir (1909-1993)⁵² Aqai Bedar Bakht (1903-1981)⁵³ and Khadija Ferozeuddin (1895-1969)⁵⁴.⁵⁵ Syed Ali Nassr in course of

⁴⁹ Muhammad Anwar Malik (1900-1965); lawyer, politician, worker of Pakistan movement; founder-President Sheikhpura Muslim League, 1938-51; Chief Adviser to Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, Governor Punjab; Relief Commissioner, West Pakistan, 1965.

⁵⁰ Syed Fida Hasan (1908-1977); civil servant, diplomat; remained Secretary Defence, 1959; Chief Secretary Punjab, Secretary, Cabinet Division; Principal Private Secretary to President Ayub Khan; first Ambassador of Pakistan in Bangladesh; Pakistan's envoy in India.

⁵¹ "Thousands attend public meeting and 'Mock Battle' in Ravi Park," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 22, 1950; "Iqbal Day in Lahore thousands pay floral tributes," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 22, 1950; "Shower floral tributes at Lahore," *Dawn*, April 22, 1950; "Lahore citizens pay homage to Iqbal: 12th death anniversary celebration," *The Pakistan Times*, April 23, 1950.

⁵² Muhammad Baqir (1909-1993); historian, educationist, researcher, critic and teacher of Urdu and Persian languages; remained Principal Oriental College Lahore, 1965-70; Pubs. *Lahore: Past & Present*; *Sharh-i-Bang-i-Dara*; *Landani Dost Kay Nam Khutut*; *Khudi ki Lathi*; *Abwaal-o-Aathar-i-Iqbal*; *London Say Khutut*; *Siab Kar*; *Hath*; *Tabdhib-i-Amal*; *Ubrat Namah*; *Abwaal-o-Talimat-i-Shiekh Abu al Hassan Hujvari Data Ganj Baksh* (RA).

⁵³ Agha Baidar Bakht (1903-1981); poet of Urdu and Persian, writer, educationist, lawyer, Iqbalist, politician; remained Councillor of Lahore Corporation for 27 years. Pub. *Mawaray-i-Majaz* (Commentary on *Arghuman-i-Hijaz*).

⁵⁴ Khadija Ferozeuddin (1895-1969); educationist and prominent worker of Pakistan movement, first Muslim woman to get M. A. Degree; lecturer, Lahore College for Women, 1924; Inspector of Schools (Women), Lahore, 1933; founder, Anjuman-i-Tahaffuz-i-Khawateen-i-Islam, Lahore, 1929; Principal Stanford Girls College Amritsar, 1932; President, Anjuman-i-Itehad-ul-Khawateen, Amritsar, 1933; organised Muslim Women Conference; Ph.D in Literature, 1941.

⁵⁵ "Thousands attend public meeting and 'Mock Battle' in Ravi Park," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 22, 1950; "Iqbal Day in Lahore thousands pay floral tributes," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 22, 1950; "Shower floral tributes at Lahore," *Dawn*, April

his presidential speech said that through his mental and emotional force, Allama Iqbal changed the outlook and conception of values of the Muslims of the sub-continent as Quaid-i-Azam later on altered its geography and politics. While expressing satisfaction over the manner in which the memory of Iqbal was being perpetuated he called for greater and all-embracing effort to familiarize the masses here and in other Muslim countries with his message.^{55A}

- Another Iqbal Day meeting was held in the YMCA hall under the auspices of the City Muslim League, where *inter alia*, Fatimah Jinnah's Iqbal Day message was also read. In her message which was published in *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, *Dawn*, *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, *The Pakistan Times*, *The Khyber Mail* and *The Morning News*, she impressed on participants the great lessons taught by Allama Iqbal. She said that he had firm and un-flinching faith in the glorious part Muslims were expected to play in the building up of human happiness and this faith must help us on one and all to do our duty and prepare us for the destiny that was ours.⁵⁶

- In a statement, issued by Sardar Muhammad Zafurullah, President of the Civil Area Muslim League and appeared in *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore it was regretted that even after three years of establishment of Pakistan, no step had been taken so far by the government to commemorate Iqbal in a manner befitting his greatness. He urged the Punjab Government to implement its oft-repeated promises of erecting some memorial to Iqbal commensurate with his contributions to the making of the new state.⁵⁷

- The women of Lahore also celebrated Iqbal Day by holding a largely attended women's meeting at the Ladies Club, Lahore whose proceedings were printed in *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, and *The Khyber Mail*.

22, 1950; "Lahore citizens pay homage to Iqbal: 12th death anniversary celebration," *The Pakistan Times*, April 23, 1950.

^{55A} *Ibid*.

⁵⁶ "Khatoon-e-Pakistan's 'Iqbal Day' message," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, 21 April, 1950; "Iqbal's poetry a contribution to human thought, Miss Fatimah Jinnah," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, 21 April, 1950; "Iqbal's poetry is invigorating, Miss Fatimah Jinnah," *Dawn*, 21 April, 1950; "Miss Jinnah's Iqbal day message," *The Pakistan Times*, 21 April, 1950; "Miss Jinnah's tribute to Iqbal," *The Khyber Mail*, 22 April, 1950; "Amongst the greatest the world, Miss Jinnah," *The Morning News*, 23 April, 1950.

⁵⁷ "Punjab Government urged to erect memorial to Iqbal," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 21, 1950.

Begum Fida Hasan, President of the Punjab branch of the All Pakistan Women's Association, (APWA) while delivering her presidential address, emphasized the need for closely following the teachings of Allama Iqbal, both by men and women for creating the glorious and impressible spirit of true Muslims. Iqbal, she said, dreamt Pakistan, the Quaid-i-Azam carved it out, and now 'we along with the men have to build it up to the best of our genius'. The meeting which was arranged by Begum Irfanullah, was also addressed by Fatima Begum, Begum Tasadduq Hussain, Begum Abid Ahmed (1903-1982)⁵⁸ and Begum Hamid Nizami. Young girls at the meeting recited selected poems of Iqbal.⁵⁹

- *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore reported that in the evening of April 21, 1950 three *mushairas* were held in connection with Iqbal Day celebrations. Allauddin Siddiqi presided over at Y. M. C. A. Hall *mushaira*, organized by the Lahore Civilians Area Muslim League, in which prominent participants were M. D. Taseer, Tassaduq Hussain Khalid (1901-1971)⁶⁰ Abdul Majid Bhatti (1902-1976)⁶¹ Saqib Zirvi, Azim Murtaza, Rabia Fakhri (1917-1998)⁶² and Muhammad Hayat. At the University Hall *mushaira* where Chaudhry Ghulam Abbass presided, Raja Hasan Akhtar read an article on Allama Iqbal and various poets recited their verses. The Batapur *mushaira* was attended by Abdul Majid Salik, Chiragh Hassan Hasrat and Abid Ali Abid.⁶³

- *The Khyber Mail*, *The Pakistan Times* and *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore revealed that on April 23, 1950, interesting anecdotes of Iqbal's life were related at a gathering at Alhamra Lahore held under the auspices of the

⁵⁸ Begum Abid Ahmed Khan (Amatul Hameed Khanum) (1903-1982); social activist; poetess; worker of Pakistan movement; member Punjab Assembly.

⁵⁹ "Let Iqbal's message serve as line of action for Pakistani women, Begum Fida Hasan," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 21, 1950; "Women urged to follow Iqbal's philosophy", *The Khyber Mail*, April 22, 1950.

⁶⁰ Tassadaq Hussain Khalid (1901-1971); lawyer, poet, worker of Pakistan movement; Publicity Secretary Punjab Muslim League, 1935-37; Pubs.: *Makan ta La Makan*; *Srud-i-Nou*.

⁶¹ Abdul Majeed Bhatti (1902-1976); well known poet of Urdu and Punjabi, writer, journalist, novelist, translator; founder-editor, children magazine *Hannabar*, Lahore; Pubs. *Aiktara*; *Jhula*; *Nam-o-Nang*; *Boolti Taswiran*; *Dil Daria*; *Thaida*; *Dil Dian Barian*.

⁶² Rabia Fakhri (1917-1998); poetess, critic; Deputy Director, PID; Chairperson Writer's Club, Rawalpindi; Secretary Halqa-i-Arbab-i-Zawq (for eight years). Pubs. *Barish-i-Sang*; *Nuk-i-Khaar*; *Takhliqat*; *Ham Sukhan Faham Hain*.

⁶³ "Thousands attended public meeting and 'Mock Battle,' in Ravi Park," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 22, 1950.

Pakistan Art Council with Justice S. A. Rahman in chair. Friends and associates of Allama Iqbal viz., Mirza Jalalud-Din, Abdul Majid Salik, Nazir Niazi, M. D. Taseer, Khalifa Abdul Hakim, Hakim Muhammad Hasan Qarshi threw light on poetic, domestic and political aspects of the great poet's life. Hafeez Jallundari recited his composition, which was greatly appreciated. Moreover, about 100 letters written by Allama Iqbal to his friend Khan Niaz-ud-Din Ahmed Khan (1859-1939)⁶⁴ were also put up for exhibition by the organizers.⁶⁵

- Besides Karachi and Lahore, Iqbal Day was observed in rest of West Pakistan with unbounded zeal, which was effectively displayed by the English dailies of the country. At Peshawar, as communicated by *Dawn*, *The Khyber Mail*, *The Pakistan Times* and *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, symposiums, lectures and commemorative public meetings organized by several literary societies and provincial Muslim League marked the celebrations of Iqbal Day. Among them, the lecture organized by NWFP Christian League on 'Iqbal's philosophy' created great enthusiasm. Radio Pakistan, Peshawar also aired a variety of special programmes dealing with life and works of Allama Iqbal. Some of the important items included feature programmes 'Iqbal before God'; 'Iqbal as seen by himself' and 'Iqbal's poetical interpretation of music'; a poetical symposium in Pashto; Pashto translation of Iqbal's *Shikwah* and a conversation on Iqbal's philosophy of *Ijtihad*.⁶⁶ The biggest Iqbal Day event in Peshawar was the mammoth public meeting organized by the City Muslim League and addressed by Abdul

⁶⁴ Niazuddin Khan (1859-1939); lawyer, jurist; a friend of Allama Iqbal; carried legal practice at Jalandhar, remained Naib Tehsildar; senior Sub Judge; active member of the AIMEC.

⁶⁵ "Iqbal's letters exhibited at Al-Hamra," *The Pakistan Times*, April 24, 1950; "Iqbal Day celebrated by Art Council", *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 24, 1950; "Reminiscence of Iqbal's life at Lahore", *The Khyber Mail*, April 25, 1950. For a detailed study of Allama Iqbal's letters to Khan Niazuddin Khan, see Abdullah Shah, "*Makateeb-i-Iqbal Banam Khan Niazuddin Khan: Hawashi wa Taleeqat*" Unpublished M. Phil Iqbalist thesis, Allama Iqbal Open University, 1993. For text of these letters, see *Makateeb-e-Iqbal banam Khan Niazuddin Ahmed Khan*, Lahore, Iqbal Academy, 1986.

⁶⁶ "Iqbal Day celebrations in Peshawar," *The Pakistan Times*, April 21, 1950; "Peshawar Radio: Iqbal Day," *The Khyber Mail*, April 21, 1950; "Iqbal Day celebration in Peshawar," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 23, 1950; "Iqbal Day celebrations in Peshawar," *The Khyber Mail*, April 23, 1950; "Iqbal Day in Peshawar," *The Pakistan Times*, April 23, 1950; "Iqbal Day in Peshawar," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 23, 1950; "Christians join in Peshawar," *Dawn*, April 24, 1950.

Qaiyum Khan, and Chaudhry Khaliq-uz-Zaman (1889-1973)⁶⁷ President of the Pakistan Muslim League. In his speech, reported in *The Pakistan Times* and *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, Khaliq-uz-Zaman urged that according to Iqbal the establishment of Pakistan did not mean the consummation of their struggle. They must make it strong and help create unity in the Muslim world.⁶⁸

- *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi reported that Hyderabad's intelligentsia observed Iqbal's death anniversary in a befitting way at the Besant Hall on April 21, 1950 under the joint auspices of the Theosophical Society and the Pakistan Muslim Youth League. Several speakers paid glowing tributes to the poet's life and works. Ijaz Hussain Agha, in his summing up remarks, dwelt exhaustively on the silent features of poet's philosophy and message and exhorted Pakistanis to understand both and utilize them for the glory of Islam and the welfare of Pakistan.⁶⁹ Likewise, *The Pakistan Times* informed that Iqbal Day *mushairas* were planned to be held by, Iqbal Association, D. I. Khan, and Iqbal Academy, Lyallpur on April 21 and 30 respectively.⁷⁰

- The East Pakistan also celebrated Iqbal Day with great fervour, which was duly covered by the national dailies. *The Morning News* revealed that besides the three day programme for the observance of Iqbal Day chalked out by the Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-i-Urdu, East Pakistan at Dhaka, Iqbal Day meetings were scheduled to be held in all schools and colleges through out

⁶⁷ Chaudhry Khaliq-uz-Zaman (1889-1973); pan-Islamist, politician and prominent leader of Pakistan movement; member, medical mission to Turkey under Dr. Ansari during the Balkan war, 1912-13; Joint Secretary, AIML, 1919-26; one of the organizers of All India Khilafat Conference, Lucknow, 1919; participated actively in Home Rule Movement, 1917-18; and Khilafat and Non Co-operation Movements, 1920; Chairman Lucknow Municipal Board, 1923-26, 1929-31, 1936-46; member, Muslim League Parliamentary Board, 1936, 1943; U. P. Assembly, 1937, 1946; League working committee, 1938, appointed organiser, All Pakistan Muslim League in 1947; Governor, East Pakistan, 1953-54; appointed Ambassador to Indonesia and the Philippines, 1954; President Convention Muslim League, 1962-63; *Pub. Pathway to Pakistan*.

⁶⁸ "League President's call for unity: Iqbal Day meeting in Peshawar," *The Pakistan Times*, April 23, 1950; "Pakistan should create unity in Muslim world: Khaliq's Iqbal Day speech," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 23, 1950.

⁶⁹ "Iqbal Day in Hyderabad," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 24, 1950.

⁷⁰ "Iqbal Day in D. I. Khan," *The Pakistan Times*, April 19, 1950; "Iqbal Day in Lyallpur," *The Pakistan Times*, April 29, 1950.

the province. Moreover, several literary societies and associations also planned to observe Iqbal Day.⁷¹

- *The Morning News*, *Dawn* and *The Pakistan Times* reported that the Iqbal Day meeting organized by the Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-i-Urdu was the biggest Iqbal Day event at Dhaka. It began with a recitation from the Quran followed by reading of Iqbal's poem and concluded with a *fatihah* offered by the huge congregation for the repose of the soul of the great poet. Discussing Iqbal as the herald of the Muslim renaissance in India, F. A. Karim (1906-1981)⁷² Secretary Education Department said that in his poems, Iqbal urged Muslims to eschew nationalism and develop instead an internationalism, a Muslim outlook. Majid Farooqi said that Iqbal wanted to reform the individual, humanity and the world. According to Iqbal, no man could reform the world unless first he reformed himself. Shaukat Sabzwari (1908-1973)⁷³ of the view that Iqbal's poetry was a clarion call to the nation to rouse itself from its torpor and march steadily ahead. Abdul Hamid, East Pakistan Education Minister in his presidential speech observed that Iqbal infused life, vigor, and activity into a nearly dead people. He pointed out that Iqbal's message, however, was not for the Muslims alone but for the whole world.⁷⁴

- The Khulna people living in Dhaka held a general meeting in commemoration of the death anniversary of Allama Iqbal under the presidency of Qari Abdur Razzaque. Different speakers dwelt on his achievements and contribution to the idea of Pakistan.⁷⁵ Students of Narayanganj College also arranged an Iqbal Day function with R. K. Das in

⁷¹ "12 death anniversary of Dr. Iqbal: Functions in Dacca and province," *The Morning News*, April 22, 1950.

⁷² Fazl Ahmad Karim Fazli (1906-1981); civil servant, writer, poet, film maker, novelist, intellectual; Pubs. *Khun-i-Jigar Hunay Tak*; *Sabar Hunay Tak*; *Sabar Hunay kay Baid*; *Chashm-i-Ghazal*; *Naghma'b-i-Zindagi*.

⁷³ Syed Shukat Sabzwari (1908-1973); writer, educationist, translator, critic, researcher, renowned linguist of Urdu language. Pubs. *Nai Purani Qadrain*; *Dastan-i-Zuban-i-Urdu*; *Mi'yar-i-Adab*; *Ghalib Fikr-o-Fan*; *Lisani Masa'il*; *Urdu Qawa'id*; *Falsafah Kalam-i-Ghalib*; *Urdu Lisaniyat*; *Urdu Zuban ka Irtiqa*.

⁷⁴ "East Pakistan pays homage to memory of Dr. Iqbal: Solemn and impressive function at Dacca", *The Morning News*, April 23, 1950; Also see "Dacca observance: Pakistan can never forget Allama Iqbal," *Dawn*, April 24, 1950, and "Iqbal Day in Dacca," *The Pakistan Times*, April 24, 1950.

⁷⁵ *Ibid*.

the chair. The lecturers of the College paid glowing tributes to the poet.⁷⁶ At Chittagong, the opening ceremony of Iqbal Reading Room and Library established by the Chittagong branch of All East Pakistan Muslim Students League was performed on Iqbal Day. M. Abdul Quddus Chaudhry inaugurated and Abdul Jalil Chaudhry, Treasurer Students League presided over the function.⁷⁷

- *The Morning News* informed that on April 22, 1950 a *mushaira* in observance of Allama Iqbal's 12th death anniversary organized by the Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-i-Urdu, was held at the Maya Cinema Hall, Dhaka. A large number of poets from different parts of East Pakistan took part in the *mushaira*, which was relayed by Radio Pakistan, Dhaka. Poems written by a number of women were also read out.⁷⁸ At Chittagong, on April 22, 1950, the students and teachers of the Islamia School, Sadarghat, celebrated the Iqbal Day under the president-ship of Islam Khan. After the recitation of Quran and Iqbal's national anthem, students of various classes recited poems of Iqbal.⁷⁹

- *Dawn* and *The Morning News* reported that the three day programme organised by Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-i-Urdu was rounded off by holding a debate at Rupmahal Cinema, Sadarghat, Dhaka under the president-ship of the Governor of East Pakistan, Feroze Khan Noon. The subject of the debate was 'Iqbal and democracy' and was debated by a number of speakers. In his presidential address, Malik Feroze Khan Noon, made a strong plea to make a thorough study of the works of Allama Iqbal. He was of the view that the study of the poet's contributions should not be done piecemeal. In order to get a correct view of the political philosophy of Iqbal, his writings and utterances should be considered in their entirety.⁸⁰

- East Pakistan Progressive Writers Association also planned to hold a meeting at its Dhaka branch on April 23 in which S. Y. Hasan, the General

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ "Mushaira in observance of Iqbal Day," *The Morning News*, April 24, 1950.

⁷⁹ "Iqbal Day at Chittagong Islamiya School", *The Morning News*, April 24, 1950.

⁸⁰ "Iqbal was an enemy of democracy: Subject for discussion. Lively debate in Dhaka", *The Morning News*, April 25, 1950; "Noon calls for detailed study of Iqbal's works," *Dawn*, April 25, 1950.

Secretary of the Association was scheduled to read out his article, entitled “Is Iqbal a progressive poet?”⁸¹

The International Scene

Besides different areas of Pakistan, Iqbal Day was also celebrated throughout the world, which was highlighted by the English dailies of Pakistan in their various issues that are narrated accordingly.

• *The Pakistan Times, Dawn, The Khyber Mail, The Civil and Military Gazette, Karachi, The Morning News* and *The Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore* reported that Iqbal Day was celebrated in London at the Islamic Culture Centre where a reception was held jointly by Majlis-i-Iqbal and the Royal India and Pakistan Society under the president-ship of Habib Rahimatoola, Pakistan High Commissioner to Britain and was attended by a large number of Pakistani, Persian, Arab and British audience. Alan Wheatley, a well-known British stage actor, recited two English translations of Iqbal’s works while Masood Farzaad, a Persian poet, dedicated *ghazal* sequence in Persian to the memory of Iqbal.⁸² Speaking on the occasion, Ibrahim Rahimatoola said that Iqbal stirred the nation into activity and gave them the restlessness they needed. He rebelled against contentment, and taught us to look much beyond what ordinarily might be seen by the naked eyes. He gave a message of the glorious past and of the still glorious future that lay ahead. Mohsin Rais, Persian Ambassador to Britain observed that Iqbal was held in great

⁸¹ “East Pakistan pays homage to memory of Dr. Iqbal: Solemn and impressive function at Dacca,” *The Morning News*, April 23, 1950. For details of Allama Iqbal’s impact on progressive movement of India, see Hamid Iqbal Butt, “*Iqbal aur Taraqi Pasand Tebreek*,” Unpublished M. Phil Iqbaliat thesis, Allama Iqbal Open University, 1999. As a matter of fact some researchers tried to portray Iqbal as a progressive poet who preached a total revolution in the society. (For instance, see Tufail Arshi, *Iqbal: Inqilabi Sha’ir*, Lahore, Adabi Sangat, 1977). On the other hand, there are some Iqbalists who believe that Iqbal was a strong opponent of Marxism and Socialism. For details, see S. A. Rahman, *Iqbal aur Socialism*, Lahore, Idara Saqafat-i-Islamia, 1978.

⁸² “Iqbal Day in London,” *The Pakistan Times*, April 19, 1950; “Programme for London ‘Iqbal Day’ celebrations,” *Dawn*, April 19, 1950; “Iqbal Anniversary in London,” *The Khyber Mail*, April 20, 1950; “Iqbal Day to be celebrated in London: Majlis-i-Iqbal & India and Pakistan Society meeting,” *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 20, 1950; “Iqbal’s mission has not ended with Pakistan’s creation, Rahimtoola,” *Dawn*, April 23, 1950; “London celebrates ‘Iqbal Day’,” *The Pakistan Times*, April 23, 1950; “Iqbal Day celebrations in London,” *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 23, 1950; “Iqbal Day celebrated in London,” *The Pakistan Times*, April 24, 1950; “London commemoration: Islam to Iqbal, answer to all questions, Prof. Arberry,” *The Morning News*, April 24, 1950.

esteem in Persia and hoped that Iqbal's thought would influence in developing a synthesis of European and Muslim countries. A. J. Arberry spoke on Iqbal's doctrine of the individual and community and concluded that Islam to Iqbal was the absolute answers to all questions.⁸³

- *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, *The Khyber Mail* and *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore communicated that two days later, Allama Iqbal was again mentioned at a high level meeting when Habib Rahimtoola quoted a verse of Iqbal in praise of Shakespeare while attending Shakespeare's birthday celebrations held at Stratford-on-Avon. Speaking on the occasion, he said that as a proof of the high esteem and regard in which Shakespeare was held in his country, he could do no better than to quote the greatest national poet, Iqbal. He then quoted a verse from Iqbal's poem on Shakespeare.⁸⁴

- The Pakistan Embassy at Tehran arranged a grand Iqbal Day function in which famous Iranian poets, literatures, members of Iranian Cabinet, representatives of Senate, Majlis, and the Diplomatic Corps attended, and Radio Tehran relayed its proceedings. Reporting the event, *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, *The Khyber Mail* and *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore narrated that Ghazanfar Ali Khan (1895-1963)⁸⁵ Pakistan Ambassador to Iran, in a short speech requesting Malik ul-Shu'ara Bahar to take the chair, referred to Iqbal's greatness and emphasized the fact that it was Iqbal who enabled the Indian Muslims to throw off foreign yoke. Bahar, in a scholarly speech referred to Iqbal's contribution to poetry and called the present age as 'Age of Iqbal'. He maintained that Iqbal's poetry was the

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ "Rahimtoola quotes Iqbal's poem on Shakespeare: Stratford-on-Avon banquet," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 24, 1950; "Iqbal's praise of Shakespeare: Birthday celebrations at Stratford-on-Avon", *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 24, 1950; "Iqbal's verse about Shakespeare," *The Khyber Mail*, April 25, 1950.

⁸⁵ Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan (1895-1963); politician, parliamentarian, diplomat and worker of Pakistan movement; member, Indian Legislative Assembly, 1923; Council of State, 1933-37; Punjab Legislative Assembly, 1937, 1946; Minister, Alwar States, 1927; elected to Punjab Assembly on League ticket in 1937 but joined Unionist Party after election; Parliamentary Secretary, Revenue and Irrigation, Punjab, 1937-44; member, Health, Food and Agriculture, Interim Government of India, 1946-47; Minister, Agriculture, Food and Health, Government of Pakistan, 1947-48; Minister Refugees, Relief and Rehabilitation, 1948; Ambassador to Iran, 1948-52; to Turkey, 1952-53; High Commissioner to India, 1955-56, envoy to Italy, 1956-57; First President of Pakistan Hockey Federation.

quintessence of nine hundred years' cultural relations between Iran and Pakistan. Sarmad and Shakaiba recited later poems in praise of Iqbal.⁸⁶

- *Dawn* reported that the Pakistan Association observed the Iqbal Day on April 21, 1950, at Abadan by holding a meeting which was attended by a large number of Pakistanis, Indians and Iranians. The Governor of Abadan was also present at the meeting. Speeches on the life and poetry of Iqbal were delivered in Persian, Urdu, and English.⁸⁷ Khorramshar also observed the Iqbal Day by holding a meeting at which speakers reminded the audience of the great services of Iqbal to Islam rendered through his poetry.⁸⁸ On April 24, another Iqbal Day meeting was held at Farhangistan (the Iranian Academy) Tehran where Ali Asghar Hikmet delivered a most learned address and reviewed Iqbal's Persian works with extensive quotations.⁸⁹

- *The Pakistan Times* and *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore reported that at Cairo, Pakistani students of Cairo's Faud-el-Awal University observed Iqbal's death anniversary on April 19, 1950 among scenes of great enthusiasm. More than 500 Arab students participated in the celebrations. Professors of the University delivered several interesting and illuminating speeches on Iqbal and his philosophy and spoke admiringly of him.⁹⁰ Moreover, Jeddah Radio relayed a special programme on eve of Iqbal Day.⁹¹

- *The Pakistan Times* reported that Iqbal Day was also celebrated in Ankara on April 21, 1950 with immense passion. Members of the diplomatic corps, including British, Canadian, and Norwegian Ambassadors, University professors and students, prominent citizens, and high government officials, participated in a largely attended meeting, held in Ankara University Hall.⁹²

⁸⁶ "Iqbal Day to be celebrated in Tehran & Ceylon," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 21, 1950; "Iqbal anniversary at Tehran: Function addressed by Malik ul-Shu'ara," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 24, 1950; "Iranian scholar's tribute to Iqbal," *The Khyber Mail*, April 26, 1950; "Anniversary in Tehran," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 23, 1950; "Iranians pay homage to Iqbal," *The Pakistan Times*, April 24, 1950.

⁸⁷ "Abadan observers Iqbal Day," *Dawn*, April 26, 1950.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁸⁹ "Ali Asghar Hikmat addresses Iqbal Day meeting in Tehran," *Dawn*, April 30, 1950.

⁹⁰ "Iqbal Day' observed in Cairo," *The Pakistan Times*, April 21, 1950; "Iqbal's death anniversary observed in Cairo," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Lahore, April 21, 1950.

⁹¹ "Iqbal Day in Jeddah," *The Pakistan Times*, April 24, 1950; "Iqbal Day at Jeddah," *The Khyber Mail*, April 25, 1950.

⁹² "Iqbal Day in Ankara," *The Pakistan Times*, April 24, 1950.

• At Colombo, the Iqbal Society of Ceylon celebrated the Iqbal Day on April 21, 1950. *The Pakistan Times* reported that the day's programme started with a lecture at Memon Mosque where hundreds of Pakistani and Ceylonese Muslims had gathered for Friday prayer.⁹³ In the evening a public meeting was held under the auspices of the Iqbal Society at Zahira College, Colombo, presided over by A. M. A. Azeez, Principal of the College, and President of the Society. During his presidential speech, Azeez discussed the life and works of Allama Iqbal and said that Iqbal had played a great part in bringing back to the Muslims all over the world.⁹⁴ During the meeting, a student from Zahira College recited verses from Iqbal's poetry. Later in the evening, the Iqbal Society arranged a one-hour radio programme. There were broadcasts in English, Urdu, and Tamil that were preceded by recitals from the Quran.⁹⁵

• *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, and *Dawn* informed that Iqbal Day was also observed in Rangoon. A community gathering, a *mushaira* and broadcasts from the Rangoon Radio were some of the highlights of Iqbal Day programme. The public meeting in the city hall was presided over by U Tun Pe, Information Minister, Government of Burma. M. A. Rauf, Indian Ambassador, and Sardar Muhammad Aurangzeb Khan, Pakistan Ambassador made speeches on the life and teachings of Iqbal. In his presidential speech, U Tun Pe said that Iqbal was one of the most illustrious sons of Asia. His rare qualities were in evidence in the sphere of literature, religion, social sciences, politics, and economics. In a special Iqbal Day message sent on the occasion, Thakin Nu, Premier of Burma observed that the patriotic favour in Iqbal's writings had inspired millions of inhabitants of the Indian sub-continent and encouraged them in the struggle for freedom. He concluded that the message of Iqbal would live and inspire freedom-loving people for centuries.⁹⁶

⁹³ "Iqbal Day in Colombo," *The Pakistan Times*, April 28, 1950.

⁹⁴ *Ibid.* Among the Muslim intellectuals of Ceylon who were attracted to the vision of Iqbal, A. M. A. Azeez was the most prominent. He remained a member of Ceylon Civil Service, Principal of Zahira College, (the premier Muslim educational institution in Ceylon) and a Senator. For details, see M. M. M. Maroof, "Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Iqbal in Sri Lanka," *Iqbal Review*, Vol. 34, No. 1, April 1993, pp. 1-20.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

⁹⁶ "Iqbal Day in Rangoon: Thakin Nu's message," *The Civil and Military Gazette*, Karachi, April 24, 1950; "Iqbal gave message of spirituality, peace & love, Thakin Nu," *Dawn*, April 24, 1950.

Even a cursory glance on the above paras would reveal that Allama Iqbal being the originator of the idea of newly established state enjoyed a special status among the Pakistani intelligentsia. A survey of English dailies of Pakistan which existed during 1950 reveals that he was highly respected for his multi-dimensional services and his views on the important question of life were persistently quoted by renowned personalities from every walk of life, like writers, politicians, intellectuals, civil servants and theologians as guidelines to be pursued in reshaping the proposed structure of the motherland. His ideas were presented as a panacea for all the ills and rallying point for the development of a sense of unity and oneness.