

### In Memorium

Ames, Iowa is a long way from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. SYED ZAINUL ABEDIN, the courageous but frail keynote speaker of the 19th Annual Conference of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS) held in Ames, not only braved the long and tiring flight but delivered a memorable address.

Abedin was a regular fixture at academic gatherings around the world. A former professor at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Abedin joined the King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and went to found the Institute of Muslim Minority Affairs and its journal, the *Journal of the Institute of Muslim Minority Affairs* (JIMMA). Abedin's JIMMA, which shifted its headquarters to London with its Muslim and non-Muslim contributors, soon developed into an authoritative source for Muslim minority studies.

Abedin will be remembered for initiating research on the socioeconomic and political situation of Muslim minorities. He believed that Muslims had to reform their thinking and approach with respect to their role as minority communities in newly emerging nation states.

Abedin, a Ph.D. in American Literature, took keen interest in Muslim African American studies. He obtained his masters in English literature from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) in 1947 and later joined the department's faculty as a lecturer.

Abedin was truly a man of two worlds. While he was delving into English literature, he had also graduated from Sanvi Darsghah, the Islamic school founded by Abul Aala Maudoodi, who launched the modern Islamic movement in South Asia in the form of the Jamaat i Islami (Islamic party). Abedin was instrumental in founding the journal *Islamic Thought* in collaboration with some fellow graduates of the school. Later he became its chief editor. He also involved himself closely with the party's work and formally became its member in the mid-fifties.

Abedin, who belonged to a family that has contributed greatly to culture and learning in South Asia, was born in New Delhi on April 2, 1928. During his lifetime, he suffered from severe physical deformities as a result of a fall from horseback soon after he completed his MA. He died in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on June 5, 1993.

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### Communications

#### *Response to Starrett*

It is unfortunate that Dr. Starrett could not find a single kind word to say about my book *The Creation of a Medical Profession in Egypt, 1800-1922* [MESA Bulletin 26(December 1992): 250]. That it is one of the first histories of any profession in Middle East studies, that it addresses the dynamics of modernization and critiques modernization theory, did not seem to interest him. The book I wrote examines the historical process by which a modern medical profession came into existence in Egypt before and under imperialist conditions. It details the background of medical students, their education and subsequent employment, educational missions sent to Europe, the exams they were given, the dissertations they wrote, and the degrees they were awarded. The problematics of moderniza-