

National Conference cum Workshop on  
Madrassas for Modernization in Northeast India

Assam Administrative Staff College  
Guwahati (India)  
28-30 March, 2007

*Supported by*



British  
High Commission  
New Delhi



*In collaboration with*



Directorate of  
Madrassa Education  
Government of Assam



**P F I FOUNDATION**

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## **GENESIS OF THE CONFERENCE**

### **1. Background:**

The reform of the traditional Madrassa system of Islamic education in India is a much talked about and hotly debated subject today. The September 11, 2001 marks a watershed in the contemporary perception of terrorism as a global phenomenon beyond local militant responses of some disgruntled groups in various parts of the world. Discussions on Madrassa education is often linked to allegations of these institutions being involved in training fundamentalist forces within the community and invariably the voices of Muslims who are engaged in promoting reform within the system are often marginalized or completely silenced. This conference, therefore sought to bring together a number of key stakeholders associated with a range of Madrassas -both government aided and un-aided - which are associated with different schools of thought in India.

Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India has recently requested the private sector asking them to help in generating employment for the minorities (Press Trust of India: Posted online: Sunday, February 11, 2007). However, are the minorities ready and trained for jobs in the emerging job market in the private sector? Is there any strategy so that specific schemes could be formulated to make the minorities employable in the fast-growing sectors of the economy? A number of such jobs, which have emerged/are emerging in the private sector after liberalization of the economy. Perhaps this workshop will develop a program to incorporate minorities in the national mainstream through employment avenues.

### **2. Focal Theme:**

The traditional Islamic religious schools in this region in the post 9/11 scenario have seen a marked shift in their activities towards modernization (academic and administrative). There has been a steep increase in the number of these schools over the last few years and there are approximately 1,50,000 Madrassas presently functioning in the Indian subcontinent (Singer 2001, Babar 2002). Though frequent reports on functioning of these Islamic religious schools have appeared in various newspapers on the activities of such schools and limited studies were also undertaken on this issue (Singer 2001, Babar 2002, World Paper Online 1998), and explorative consultations were organized in India (mainly by US PAO) and elsewhere, no region specific initiative was undertaken to develop a sustainable process of reforming the Madrassas with a strategic action plan with a few time-bound pilot projects to test the framework.

This conference, therefore, made a sincere endeavor to bring together 75 (Seventy-five) stakeholders from Madrassa education sector, government departments and civil society **to discuss the socio-political-psychological issues associated with the reform process, draw a strategic action plan with a few time-bound pilot projects in the Northeastern region.**

## **2. Objectives**

The proposed National Conference cum Workshop had a general exploratory objective of looking into the functioning of the large number of Madrassas in India and through focus group discussions/working sessions, a restructuring framework for educational as well as political administrators. Within this broad objective, the conference focused on the following issues (sub-themes):

- a) Status of Madrassa Education in Northeast India vis-à-vis the national and international scenario.
- b) Potentials of Reform in Madrassa Education: Will the Muslim communities 'buy-in' a strategic reform process in line with similar processes in other parts of the world and the academic practices of these schools?
- c) Synergies between Traditions and Modern Democratic Societies: How the traditional Islamic education systems can very well develop a synergic modernization process to adopt the norms of modern democratic societies
- d) Framework for restructuring of Madrassa Education: What can the concerned societies, state departments and other sections of the society do about mainstreaming of Madrassas?

## **3. Significance of the Event**

This conference attained significance in the light of the recommendations of the Prime Minister's High Level Committee for Preparation of Report on Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India, headed by Justice Rajindar Sachar which was tabled in Indian Parliament on 30 Nov 2006. The report dealt with various issues relating to Madrassas and reiterated that through these Madrassas the Muslim community in India ensures that its future generations acquire knowledge of Islam, have become a symbol of Muslim identity in India. While political administrators are looking for adequate means and ways to handle the issue on the policy level, educational researchers have a role to play in finding out the ways for reform based on the present activities of the Islamic schools in India, their governing philosophies, the curriculum, teaching and learning process. This conference tried to assess the various issues related to the felt need for reform in the Madrassa Education system in this region. Stakeholders recommended a framework to redirect their functions and a road map for the restructuring agenda.

#### **4. Participants**

The participants of the conference (75) were mainly from the Northeastern state of Assam in India with participation of experts from other parts of the country. The participants were drawn from the following broad groups:

1. Government: Officers from education departments/Madrassa education directorates of the government.
2. Civil Society: Academia, Media and NGOs involved in the education sector.
3. Madrassa Education: Stakeholders from instructional management and administration side of the Madrassas in the states.
4. International Participation: Fulbright scholars; UN and other multilateral organisations interested in the 'Madrassa Education'

The local participants were placed in 4 (Four) closed groups to interact with the resource persons and draw from the modernization experiences of many other institutions. A full list s annexed to this report.



**Dr Nazrul Islam**  
**Minister for Minority Welfare etc.**  
**Government of Assam**

Dispur, Guwahati 781006  
Tel: 2260275, 2260153

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## OPENING SPEECH

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this Conference cum Workshop on Madrassa Education Reform in Northeast India jointly organized by Professor Fokhrul Islam Foundation, and NEVARD in collaboration with the Directorate of Madrassa Education, Assam.

We are indeed privileged to have with us this afternoon, a number of academicians from all fields especially from the Madrassa Education with their profound knowledge and vast experience in the subject. We are most grateful to you all for kindly accepting our invitation and to our distinguished panel of session Chairs for kindly agreeing to be with during this conference.

### **Members of Academic Community,**

You will agree, this Workshop is being organized at the most opportune moment, as you all know that Prime Minister's High Level Committee for Preparation of Report on Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India, headed by Justice Rajindar Sachar, was tabled in Parliament on 30 Nov 2006. The report dealt with various issues relating to Madrassas and reiterated that through these Madarsas the Muslim community in India ensures that its future generations acquire knowledge of Islam, have become a symbol of Muslim identity in India.

Another aspect of this issue is that employability is often not provided by the Madrassas and it is said that they would become 'modern' only when 'employability' issue is taken care of. On the other hand, there is a fear that that in the name of modernization executed through state intervention, autonomy of Madrassas will be compromised. With the emerging Information society, the ability of a community to use and create knowledge capital determines its capacity to empower and enable its members by increasing human capabilities. India today stands poised to reap the benefits of a rapidly growing economy and a major demographic advantage that will see the country having the largest pool of young people in the world in the next few decades. In the words of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, *"The time has come to create a second wave of institution building, and of excellence in the fields of education, research and capability building so that we are better prepared for the 21st century."* If Indian Muslims are to make the best of these opportunities and respond to global challenges more strongly than ever before, the community today needs a knowledge-oriented

paradigm of development to give the country a competitive advantage in all fields of knowledge. The potential is tremendous, but the task of realizing it is daunting too. It is with this broad task in mind that the delegates of this Conference cum Workshop should discuss various issues in the context of the local realities.

### **Distinguished participants,**

I would therefore suggest that emphasis on Science and Technology, Vocational and Computer Education will rapidly usher the Madrassa Education sector in an era of prosperity. We need to pursue these developmental goals forthwith. Partnerships with government, NGOs and Civil Society Organizations will create an appropriate environment for progress. But progress can only be achieved if, as a community, we recognize that modern education and employable life skills alone can take a community forward today. We need to put these skills in the forefront of all educational processes. I would like the academicians from Madrassa sector to recognize this. I would like all of us to march together recognizing that in the coming years we dedicate ourselves to the spread and awareness of the community regarding the emerging knowledge society and its impact on our lives. The years ahead will bear fruit. In the years ahead our community will recognize the importance of our mission. I expect that the workshop will workout a roadmap for the reforms of Madrassa Education. The workshop should consider both short term and long term measures for improvement of the status of Madrassa Education

I want to assure this august audience that

1. Government of Assam is fully committed to the cause of all round development of the Madrassa Education in Assam.
2. The workshop findings will be given due consideration at appropriate policy and implementation level.
3. We will follow-up the project proposals supposed to be drawn in the workshop with Government of India and International Agencies if required.
4. Our Government will welcome and support in all possible ways the public private partnership for setting up of Minority Institutions of Higher Learning.

No community can transform constitutional and political rights into tools for empowerment, unless it has armed itself with educational advancement. Although, the Muslim community in our state suffers from several handicaps, a *well designed and properly executed* programs can bring them out of the rut of educational backwardness through *collective action by maximizing and pulling advantages, resources, and adopting modern progressive, constructive, and result oriented outlook and approach*. There is a need to synchronize *dini talim* (religious education) with modern education, introduction of job oriented vocational trades in the existing *madrassas*, establishment of Industrial Training Institute (ITI) and Community Polytechnics in attached to madrassas, providing scholarships and other financial

assistance to Muslim girl students for the overall development of Muslim's education.

At the end I would like to thank Professor Fokhrul Islam Foundation for organizing this event and I think this is a fit tribute to the memory of Late Professor Islam - who served as the Chairman of the State Madrassa Board and pioneered the Madrassa education reform in Assam.

Thank you members of this august gathering, once again, I welcome you all.



(Dr. Nazrul Islam)

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

### **Basic Assumptions:**

#### **Revolution of Madrassa Education in Assam**

- Madrassas have faced a lot of challenges but continue to exist where ever there is presence of Muslims
- British Education Policy in pre-independence period caused a lot of damages to the Madrassa Education.
- Narrated the historical Evolution of Madrassas in India with special reference to Assam.
- Madrassas started functioning in Assam since 1903 .
- In 1968 General subjects were introduced along with theological subjects
- High Madrassas are now Madrassas for the name sake only with only distinction of Arabic as compulsory subject instead of optional in General High schools.
- A number of Madrassa products have reached high position in mainstream departments
- There are scope for introduction of more relevant subjects.
- Training of Madrassa teachers is an important gap that needs to be addressed with high priority
- Quality of Education both religious and general is another area need improvement.
- Question before us is how to move ahead with reforms for modernization by without compromising on the basic religious character of the Madrassas.
- The workshop should suggest a reforms road map.

#### **Significance of the Workshop (As felt by the participants)**

- This is a timely initiative in the wake of Sachar Committee Report and PMs directive for implementation of the recommendations of the report
- Reiterated and agreed with the major findings of the reports especially the backwardness of the Muslims in all fronts
- A nation can not progress leaving behind a seizable number of particular group as backward.
- There are scopes for reforms in Senior Madrassas. It is absolutely necessary for worldly education along with religious education
- There is a need of exclusive religious Madrassas but their number need to limited
- The Government is in favour of reforms in Madrassas and committed to honor the recommendations and initiate follow-up actions required

## **Thematic Outcomes:**

### **GROUP- 1: Status of Madrassa Education:**

- Two types of Madrassas in Assam: Government and Non-Government.
- Non-Government Madrassas outnumber the Government ones
- Curriculum of Government Aided Madrassas includes General Subjects
- There are five types of non-Government(Community Madrassas following different curriculum without much control or support. Majority follows Deobaodi Curriculum
- Quality of Education provided in both types of Madrassas are not satisfactory
- Female participation is very less
- There is no co-ordination and networking within and different types of Madrassas
- Syllabus is too traditional and needs to be reviewed.
- Negligible teacher salary of community Madrassas

### **GROUP- 2: Problems and Prospects of Madrassa Education**

- Absence of any system of training of teachers and consequent poor outcome/achievement level of students.
- Madrassa students are neither proficient in Arabic nor in English
- Continuation many irrelevant subjects like Ancient Arabic,
- Compulsion of following four language
- No provision for Teaching Learning Equipment.
- No system of extracurricular activities
- Presence Book less library
- Very Poor Infrastructure
- Large number of vacant posts
- Absence any Islamic University and Research Centre
- Teaching Positions required MMs degree (Masters) are denied of equivalent scale
- Absence of Hostels for students. Majority of the Madrassa students are poor and hail from distant places. Traditional system of free community accommodation and food is declining fast.
- ADDITIONS FROM PARTICIPANTS OF THER GROUPS:
  - Too high cost of books. Majority contents of the books are outside syllabus. Outside procurement of books from outside in absence of local publishing books by Government publication departments.
  - Excessive Curriculum load. 1000 marks for students Madrassa Board against 600 marks of SEBA affiliated schools. Repetition of contents in SEBA and Madrassa Board prescribed curriculum. No effort to study repetition of contents and decrease the load of students.
  - No effort for advocacy and creating public opinion to omit the irreverent teachings of 1400 years old.
- DISCRIMINATRY TREATMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT:
  - SSA provision of the TLE Grant of Rs.50000/- for upper primary schools is not extended to Government Madrassas
  - Non-coverage under Computer Incentive scheme
  - Non-coverage under Rajiv Gandhi Computer Literacy Project
  - Non-coverage under Model School Development Scheme

### **GROUP-3: Potentials of Vocational Programmes and life Skill Education**

- Unanimously agreed to the need of vocational education for the Madrassa Students.
- Vocational courses to be introduced in Madrassas must be approved by competent authorities so that certificate can be issued.
- Setting up of IGNOU study centres in Madrassas.
- Sponsoring the Madrassa students who opt for IGNOU courses
- Study the market and recommend Madrassa specific different vocational course
- Advocacy and publicity campaigns
- Introduction of pre-tibbia courses in selected Madrassa
- Sponsoring of Research projects of the teachers of Madrassa

### **GROUP-4: Strategy and action Plan for Vocational Programmes**

- Proper planning
- Exposure visit to Madrassas already introducing vocational and life skill education
- Creation of awareness on need and benefit of vocational course
- Focus on use of modern electronic equipments
- Training of existing teachers on different vocational and life skill education
- Proper utilisation of local resources ( *Human, equipment and material*)
- Publicity of different loan schemes available for small scale industries trades
- Setting up of Counseling & Guidance Cell
- Setting up of training and placement centres
- Organise Entrepreneurship Awareness Camps (EAC) sponsored by IIE.
- Proper supervision mechanism including field visit programmes by experts for follow-up actions and mid-course corrections to be made an inbuilt component of all vocational and life skill education schemes to be introduced.
- Provision for proper marketing, conduct exhibition for selling the locally produced articles
- Provision of recreation and refreshment through educational tours, exposure visits etc.

## **MAJOR REALISATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE-WORKSHOP**

- 1. Uniqueness:**
  - a. A collaborative efforts of NGO and Government
  - b. Opportunity to plan by stakeholders
  - c. Possibility for joint implementation
- 2. Realisation:**
  - a. Unanimous agreement to the need of vocational education for the Madrassa Students
  - b. Ulemas are not against reforms
  - c. Madrassa Education Board is not against the reforms which are acceptable to the Madrassas themselves
  - d. Government is committed for the improvement of Madrassa and will support and follow-up the reforms oriented initiatives and projects
- 3. Major Findings:**
  - a. Madrassas are ill equipped both in term of infrastructure and manpower
  - b. Quality of the outputs of Madrassas are not satisfactory
  - c. A lot of problems have been solved by the Government but a lot more need to be done especially those which are discriminatory like computer incentive schemes, model schools and SSA benefits need to be addressed urgently
  - d. Immediate Launching of Advocacy and publicity campaign to generate awareness and create large community demand for reforms in Madrassa Education
  - e. Immediate initiation of some pilot schemes of vocational and life skill education
  - f. Study the market and recommend Madrassa specific different vocational and life skill education programmes for preparing Madrassa students with employable skills
  - g. Need of common platform for promotion of common causes of all types of Madrassas.
  - h. To evolve a strategic framework which is Government-led, NGO- driven and community welfare oriented.

**ANNEXURE: 1**

**National Conference Cum Workshop on Reforming Madrassas for  
Modernization in Northeast India  
Administrative Staff College, Guwahati (India); March 28-30, 2007**

**List of Participants**

Sl	Name	Designation & Address	Tel / Email / Fax
<b>MADRASSA</b>			
1.	Maulana Ali Ahmad	Principal, Rahmatganj Arabic College, Po. Golakganj Dist. Dhubri	240435
2.	Maulana Moinul Haque	Supdt, Pota Majgaon Sr Madrassa Dist. Barpeta	
3.	Maulana Abdul Gafoor Ansar	Superintendent, Mahimari Sr Madrassa Dist. Kamrup 781137	98549 55295
4.	Maulana Saidul Hussain	Superintendent, Pub Kamrup Sr Madrassa Vill Sepkuchi, Po. Mahajanpara, Dist. Kamrup Assam	94351 12584
5.	Maulana Jalal Uddin Ahmed	Superintendent, Moirabari Sr Madrassa Dist. MORIGAON	03678-255106 [R] 255201 [O]
6.	Maulana Kamal Uddin	Superintendent, Rupahi Sr Madrassa Dist. NAGAON	03672-247110
7.	Maulana Md. Jubair Ahmed Qasimi	Muhaddis, Al Jamitul Islamia, Pub Govindpur, Via: Banskandi, Dist CACHAR 788 101 Assam	03842 256647
8.	Maulana Md. Ebrahim Ali	Superintendent, Barobari Sr. Madrassa, PO & Village: Jhapusabari, Pt II, Po. Golakganj, Dist. DHUBRI Assam	03662 291028 94352 59785
9.	Maulana Mohammed Ali	Head Modares, Sonakhuli Keramatia Pre-Senior Madrassa, Vill & Po. Dighaltari, PO. Golakganj, Dist Dhubri (Assam)	03662-238174
10.	Mr Surat Jamal Seikh	Asstt. Teacher, Sonakhuli Keramatia Pre-Senior Madrassa, Vill & Po. Dighaltari, PO. Golakganj, Dist Dhubri (Assam)	03662- 238191

11.	Maulana Md. Shamsul Haque	Lecturer, Sonahat Title Madrassa, Po. Dafarpur, Dist. DHUBRI Assam	92325-02982
12.	Maulana Shamsuddin Miah	Superintendent Ghogarpar Sr. Madrassa, PO. Chhagulia Pt I Dist Dhubri (Assam)	238570
13.	Maulana Abdul Jalil	Superintendent Sonahat Sr Madrassa, Po. Dafarpur, Dist Dhubri Assam	94356-35346
14.	Md. Bahauddin Choudhury	Head Master, Hizbullah Pre-Senior Madrassa Po. Dasgram, Dist Karimganj 788722 Assam	03843-258818 94354 69095
15.	Md. Mayen Uddin Ahmed Choudhury	Head Mudaris, Idris Ali memorial Pre-Senior Madrassa, Vill Barbond Pt III Po. Baliura, Haikandi Assam	03844 223553 94353 78669
16.	Maulana Qamrul Haque	Head Mudaris, Nalibari Pre-Senior Madrassa, Vill. Nalibari, Po. Tinokhal, Dist Cachar (Assam)	03842 27229 9864514107
17.	Khan Saheb Nurul Alom Choudhury	AT/Secretary, Hatikhal Pre-Sr. Madrassa Vill Bidrulipar, Po. Katikhal bazaar Dist Hailakandi 788116	
18.	Maulana Md Abdul Aziz	Principal, SMHM Golghat Anchalik Arbi College, Vill. Lurukihat, Po. Morangi Chariali, Dist Golaghat (Assam)	98541 25685
19.	Maulana Kutub Uddin Laskar	Superintendent, Purba Silchar Sr Madrassa Vill Berenga IV, Po. Bethukandi, Silchar 788005	03842 174158 99541 30721
20.	Maulana Md. Abdul Wahid	Ex Supdt, Burunga Bazar Sr. Madrassa, Vill Taltola, Po. Janakalyan bazaar, Dist Karimganj (Assam)	03843-212160
21.	Maulana Md Abdul Fattah	Superintendent, Madani Nagar Sr Madrassa, Po. Bazarghat, Ps. Ratabari Dist Karimganj Assam	98547 09692
22.	Maulana Abdul Musabbir	Shamsul Uloom Madrassa, Po. Kanakpur, Silchar 788 005 Dist CACHAR Assam	

ACADEMICS			
23.	Mr Mamun Azam Barbhuiya	Sr. Lecturer, Dept of English, Dhing College, Dist NAGAON 782123	94355 02032 mamun@tezu.ernet.in
24.	Dr Fazlur Rahman Laskar	Sr Lecturer, Dept of Arabic N C College, Badarpur Karimganj (Assam)	9435376907
25.	Prof Ain Uddin	Head, Dept of Arabic, Nilambazar College, Po. Nilmabazar, Dist KARIMGANJ	03843 255837
26.	Dr Abdul Goni	S S Unani Medical College & Hosp. Katabhari, Gardhuk, Guwahati 781 035	9435147760
27.	Mr Burhanul Haque Chaudhury	Lecturer, Mathematics West Silchar College, Po. Barjatrapur, Dist. Cachar	94352 18933
28.	Dr Saad Uddin	Sr. Lecturer, Deptt of Chemstry Cotton College, Guwahati 781 001	

EACHERS ASSOCIATIONS			
29.	Mr Sahab Uddin Ahmed	General Secretary, Assam Madrassa Teachers' Association, Villl Hati Shala pam, Po. Bhourabhitha, PSL Chaygaon, Dist KAMRUP	98641-15725
30.	Maulana Abu Bakar Siddque	Secretary, All Assam Madrassa Teachers Association. Panbari Rangamati Sr Madrassa Po. Rangamati, Ps. Gauripur, Dist Dhubri (Assam)	99540 69372
31.	Mr Nijamuddin Ahmed	President, Assam Madrassa Teachers' Association, S B Arabic College, PO: Biswanath Chariali, Dist. SONITPUR (Assam)	94351 82864
32.	Md Fakhrul Islam	Secretary, Assam Madrassa Teachers' Association, Madani Nagar Sr Madrassa, Po. Bazarghat, Ps. Ratabari Dist Karimganj Assam	94352 40138 03843 255197 Fax 03843 254 068
33.	Md. Anser Ali Sheikh	Secretary (Dhubri Dist) AAMTEA, Sonahat Sr Madrassa, Po. Datarpur, Po. Golakganj Dhubri (Assam)	92325 26790

34.	Md Abdul Hashim Laskar	Assamese Teacher, (Member, AMTEA) Basatila Sr Madrassa, Po Appin, Via Katlicherra, Dist Hailakandi 788 152 (Assam)	94350 79656
35.	Maulana Abdul Khalique	Asstt Teacher / Joint secretary, AMTEA Mohimari Sr Madrassa Po Chaygaon, Dist Kamrup Assam 781137	03623-210774 [R] 94354 02440

**SCERT**

36.	Mrs Syeda Rumena Begum	Lecturer, SCERT, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati 781 019	2382507 [O]
37.	Mrs Meera Sharma	Lecturer, SCERT, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati 781 019	2382507 [O] 94353 09606
38.	Md Farooque Ahmed	DIET Udharbond Dist Cachar Assam	

**PROFESSIONALS**

39.	Engg. M M Chowdhury	PFI Foundation Six Mile, Guwahati	
40.	Engg. M A Bari	Consulting Engineer 62, Japorigog Road, Guwahati 6	

**NGO**

41.	Mr Arif Ansari	Darul Ulum Banskandi Dist Cachar Assam	
42.	Mr Faruq Ahmed	SRTPC, Po. Berenga, Silchar Assam	
43.	Md Selim Ahmed	SEWAK NGO, Vill Kabaribond, Po. Patharkandi, Dist Karimganj 788 725 (Assam)	
44.	Md Nazrul Islam	SEWAK NGO, Vill Kabaribond, Po. Patharkandi, Dist Karimganj 788 725 (Assam)	9435.....
45.	Md Jubayer Ahmed	SEWAK NGO, Vill Isamati Po Barigram, Dist Karimganj 788 725 (Assam)	98547 14628
46.	Imad Uddin Ahmed	PFI Foundation Kaniabazr GP Committee Kanaibazar, Ps. Patherkandi Dt KARIMGANJ (Assam)	03843 254068
47.	A H Monjurul haque	SEWAK NGO, Vill Batoyia, Po. Mullganj Bazar Dist Karimganj 788 725 (Assam)	98546 19398

48.	Md Abdul Basit	SEWAK NGO, Vill Hakhola, Po. Kanaibazar Dist Karimganj 788 725 (Assam)	
49.	Md Abdul Quddus	SEWAK NGO, Vill Chengjur, Po. Patharkandi, Dist Karimganj 788 725 (Assam)	
50.	Mr Iqbal Bahar Laskar	Secretary (Publicity) Barak Education Society, Megerpur, Silchar 788 015 Assam	03842-275005 94352 76229

#### LOCAL INVITEES

51.	Dr (Mrs) R K Mazumder	Reader in Arabic Gauhati University, Guwahati 781 014	
52.	Md Aatur Rahman	Sr Grade Lecturer & Head, Deptt of Islamic Studies, Cotton College, Guwahati - 1	2700906 (R) 94351 47760
53.	Dr Rekibuddin Ahmed	Head. Dept of Persian, Gauhati University, Guwahati 781 014	
54.	Prof Abdul Qayyum Al-Aman	Dy Director, Madrassa Education, Kahilipara, Guwahati 19	2383050
55.	Dr Fazlur Rahman Laskar	Lecturer, Dept of Arabic Cotton College, Guwahati	
56.	Mr Abu Saleh Najmuddin	Advocate, Gauhati High Court & For Minister for Madrassa Education, Assam Islampur, Guwahati	
57.	Md. A Qasim	Lecturer, Magaldoi College, Dist DARANG	98544 02817
58.	Dr Parveen Akhtar	Reader in Educaton Cotton College Guwahat 781 001	

#### OTHERS DELEGATES

59.	Md Fakhrul Islam	Chairman Sub-Div OBC Dev Board Vill East Haitorkha PO Patherkandi Dist Karimganj Assam	98540 16620
60.	Md Khayer Uddin	CIT College, Dispur, Guwahati 781 006	
61.	Md. Shaheed Ahmed	Pesh Imam, Moranhat Jame Masjid, Dist Dibrugarh Assam	9854179101

62.	Md Hilal Uddin Mazumder	Jamira Sr. Madrassa Dist Hailakandi (Assam)	03843-243494
63.	Sri Jaynul Haque Barbhuiya	O/O DME, Kahilipara Guwahati 781 019 Assam	
64.	Md Shamim Ahmed	P F I Foundation 46 Sijubari Chariali, Guwahati 781 038	94350 45245
65.	Md Sadique Ahmed	P F I Foundation 46 Sijubari Chariali, Guwahati 38	0361 2202890
66.	Abdul Khalique	P F I Foundation 46 Sijubari Chariali, Guwahati 38	98642 12393
67.	Ruhul Amin	P F I Foundation 46 Sijubari Chariali, Guwahati 38	
68.	Shahid Ahmed	P F I Foundation 46 Sijubari Chariali, Guwahati 38	99542 10957
69.	Mubashir Ahmed Khan	P F I Foundation 46 Sijubari Chariali, Guwahati 38	99542 59282
70.	Shamim Ahmed Khan	P F I Foundation 46 Sijubari Chariali, Guwahati 38	98541 44969
71.	Shaheed Ahmed	P F I Foundation 46 Sijubari Chariali, Guwahati 38	
72.	Rajnul Hussain Laskar	Vill: Kanakpur, Silchar 788005	
73.	Azad Hussain Laskar	Berenga Madrassa Po Berenga Silchar 788005 Assam	
74.	Noor Jamal Mandal	Islamia Pre-Sr Madrassa Nagal Bhangha, Dist Chirang Kokrajhar	98544 66945
75.	Shirajul Islam	Islamia Pre-Sr Madrassa Nagal Bhangha, Dist Chirang Kokrajhar	98641 77821

**Conference cum Workshop on  
Madrasa Education Reform in Northeast India  
Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati  
March 28-30, 2007**

**Program Schedule**

**28 March 2007, Wednesday**

10.00 AM REGISTRATION  
12.30-1.30 PM. Lunch for the participants in Hostel

**2.00 PM INAUGURAL CEREMONY**

***Recitation from Holy Quran***

**Chair:** Sri Wazed Ali Choudhury, Chairman, State Madrasa Education Board

**Welcome Remarks:** Prof A Q Al-Aman, Deputy Director, Madrasa Education

**Genesis of the Workshop:** Dr Baharul Islam, Executive Director, PFI Foundation

**Key Note Address by:** Dr M Ariz Ahammed, IAS, Director, AASC

**Speech by other Guests of Honour:**

1. **Sri Abu Saleh najmuddin**, Former Minister of State for Madrasa Education, Assam
2. **Dr (Mrs) R K Mazumder**, Reader, Deptt of Arabic, Gauhati University

**Inaugural Speech by the Chief Guest :** Dr Nazrul Islam, Hon'ble Minister for Minority Welfare etc.

**Vote of Thanks: NEVARD**

4.30 PM Tea and Prayer

5.00 PM **Organization of the Working Groups for the Workshop**

8.00 PM Ceremonial Dinner

**29 March 2007, Thursday**

9.00 - 11.00 Noon **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**  
**Coordinators:** Sri A R Barbhuiya and Dr Baharul Islam

**GROUP-1:** Status of Madrasa Education in Northeast India vis-à-vis the national and international scenario.

**GROUP-2:** Problems and Prospects of Madrasa Education

**GROUP-3:** Potentials of Vocational Programme & Life Skill Education in Madrassas

**GROUP-4:** Strategy and Action Plan for the for Vocational Programme & Training

11.00 – 11.30 AM Tea Break

11.30 - 1.00 PM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

1.00 - 2.30 PM Lunch break and Prayer

2.30 - 4.30 PM **BREAKOUT SESSIONS continues.**

4.30 - 5.00 PM Prayer and Tea Break.

5.00 – 5.45 PM **Summary Presentation from the groups**

**30 March 2007, Thursday**

10.00 – 12.00 Noon

**CLOSING CEREMONY**

**Chair:** Prof A Q Al-Aman, Dy Director, Madrassa Education Assam

Concluding Remarks: Mr Azim Ahmad Khan, US Embassy, New Delhi

Comments from the Participants

Way Forward: Dr Baharul Islam, Executive Director, PF Foundation

Remarks from the Chair

**VOTE OF THANKS**

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**PRESS CLIPPINGS**

# The Assam Tribune

69 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NATION

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THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI 5

## Call to make madrassas more competitive

By A Staff Reporter  
GUWAHATI, March 30 – The three-day 'National conference on reforming madrassas for modernisation in North East India' concluded today with a call to introduce modern subjects in the madrasa syllabi and other necessary reforms so that their products can thrive in a competitive world.

Briefing newsmen on the conference, Wazid Ali Choudhury, chairman, State Madrasa Education Board, said that despite facing stiff challenges madrassas continued to exist and the need of the hour was to make the traditional education system at par with other modern education systems. "Madrassas can be made more competitive by introducing subjects like English, Mathematics, Computer Science, etc, without compromising on their basic religious character," he said, adding that vocational courses would also help in educational and economic uplift of the madrassas.

Reasoning that ignoring the madrassas would only lead to a more chaotic situation with the madrassas churning out Muslim youths incapable of fending for themselves in a globalised world, Choudhury said that the

answer lay in developing the institutions with a dose of modernity and practicality to the extent possible.

Choudhury also felt that the Sachar Committee report adequately reflected the problems relating to the backward Muslim community and governments should strive to implement its recommendations. "The nation cannot progress unless the Muslim populace becomes equal partners in the development process," he said.

Choudhury revealed that while there were 74 provincialised madrassas besides 326 others that received government grant recently. "However, there has been a spurt in the number of *kaumi* (non-government) madrasa, most of which have come up with support from

foreign funds. In Jamunamukh constituency alone, there are 61 such madrassas," he said.

Choudhury also ruled out that any of the madrassas were breeding grounds of anti-India elements, including the ISI. "This has been an old allegation of mainly the BJP, but is unfounded," he said.

Dr Baharul Islam, executive director of PFI Foundation (India), said that the organisation was drawing up a plan of action after deliberations on the status and problems of madrassas besides potential for vocational and skilled education in madrassas.

"The strategy and action plan for vocational programmes include proper planning, exposure of madrassas to vocational education, focus on modern electronic equipment, training of teachers, proper utilisation of local resources, entrepreneurship awareness camps etc," he said. "We have identified the problem areas of madrasa education, and will try to rectify those," he added.

Prof AQ Al-Aman, deputy director, Madrasa Education, also addressed the press meet, highlighting various aspects of madrasa education that needed reforms.

### Blast in city

By A Staff Reporter  
GUWAHATI, March 30 – A low-intensity bomb exploded near a road leading to Kamakhya Nagar area of Adabari around 6.45 pm today. No one was hurt in the incident and investigation is on, the police said. This is the second bomb blast within a week to have taken place inside the city.

# The Sentinel

*of this land, for its people*

GUWAHATI SATURDAY 31 MARCH 2007

THE SENTINEL GUWAHATI SATURDAY 31 MARCH 2007

## Call for modernization of madrassas

GUWAHATI, March 30: A two-day national conference on Reforming Madrassas for Modernisation in North East India was organized at the Assam Administrative Staff College from March 28 under the aegis of PFI Foundation (India) and NEVARD, Guwahati in collaboration with the Directorate of Madrassa Education, Government of Asom.

The conference was inaugurated by Wazid Ali Choudhury, Chairman, State Madrassa Education Board. The conference was attended by Professor AQ Al-Aman, Deputy Director, Madrassa Education, Dr Baharul Islam, Executive Director, PFI Foundation, Dr M Ariz Ahmed, Director, Assam Administrative Staff College and Abu Saleh Nazmuddin, former minister of state for Madrassa Education.

Dr Nazrul Islam, Minister of Minority Welfare delivered the inaugural speech as the chief guest. The entire programme focused on the status of madrassa education, problems and prospects of madrassa education, potential of vocational programmes and strategy and action plan for vocational programmes.

# অদিন

সংবাদ

প্রথম বছৰ, সংখ্যা ১৫১ ● ১৩ চ'ত ১৯২৮ শক ● গুৱাহাটী, শনিবাৰ, ৩১ মাৰ্চ ২০০৭ ● Guwahati, Saturday, 31 March 2007 ● গুৱাহাটী আৰু ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ পৰা প্ৰকাশিত ● মূল্য

## মাদ্ৰাছা শিক্ষা আধুনিকীকৰণৰ বাবে স্বেচ্ছাসেৱী সংস্থাৰ পদক্ষেপ

### চৰকাৰৰ সদীচ্ছা, উপযুক্ত নীতিৰ অভাৱত পিছপৰি আছে মাদ্ৰাছা

ষ্টাফ বিপৰ্টাৰ, গুৱাহাটী, ৩০ মাৰ্চ : স্কুল-কলেজকে ধৰি আধুনিক শিক্ষা প্ৰতিষ্ঠানবোৰত (যিকোনো পৰ্যায়লৈ) শিক্ষা গ্ৰহণ কৰি ওলাই অহাসকলে নিজৰ নিজৰ অৰ্হতা অনুসৰি কৰ্মসংস্থাপনৰ যোগ্যতা অৰ্জন কৰে। কিন্তু সাম্প্ৰতিক বিজ্ঞান-প্ৰযুক্তিবিদ্যাৰ যুগত পৰম্পৰাগত ইছলামী শিক্ষা প্ৰতিষ্ঠানবোৰত শিক্ষা লাভ কৰি ওলাই অহাসকলে এইক্ষেত্ৰত বিভিন্ন প্ৰতিবন্ধকতাৰ সন্মুখীন হ'বলগীয়া হয়। আনকি যুগোপযোগী শিক্ষা তথা জ্ঞানৰ অভাৱৰ হেতু কিছুমান নিৰ্দিষ্ট ক্ষেত্ৰৰ বাহিৰে বাকী সাধাৰণ ক্ষেত্ৰবোৰত তেওঁলোকৰ যোগ্যতাক লৈও প্ৰশ্ন উত্থাপিত হয়। এনে পৰিস্থিতিত অসমৰ মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহ বা তাত শিক্ষা লাভ কৰি থকা ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীসকলৰ ভৱিষ্যৎ কি? এই প্ৰশ্নই দীৰ্ঘদিন ধৰি সচেতন মহলৰ মনত ক্ৰীড়া কৰি থকাৰ সময়তে 'প্ৰফেছৰ ফখৰুল ইছলাম ফাউণ্ডেচন' (পি এফ আই) নামৰ এটা আন্তঃৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় সংস্থাই অসমৰ মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহৰ শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থা উন্নীত কৰাৰ এক আঁচনি হাতত লৈছে। অসম চৰকাৰৰ মাদ্ৰাছা সঞ্চালকালয়ৰ সহযোগত ৰূপায়ণ কৰিব লগা এই মাদ্ৰাছা আধুনিকীকৰণ আঁচনিতে প্ৰথম পৰ্যায়ত চৰকাৰী স্বীকৃতিপ্ৰাপ্ত মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহকহে সামৰিবল'ব। নিখুঁত ধৰ্মীয় শিক্ষা প্ৰদান কৰা কৌমী মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহক আঁচনিৰ দ্বিতীয়

পৰ্যায়তহে সামৰি ল'ব পি এফ আইয়ে। আজি অসম ৰাজ্যিক মাদ্ৰাছা শিক্ষা বোৰ্ডৰ অধ্যক্ষ ৰাজেন আলী চৌধুৰীয়ে এক সংবাদ মেলত ছাত্ৰ কৰ্মীটীৰ প্ৰতিবেদন প্ৰসংগ উত্থাপন কৰি কয় যে দেশৰ মুঠ জনসংখ্যাৰ এটা বিৰাট অংশৰ মুছলমান আৰ্থিক দিশত অতিশয় দুৰ্বল হোৱাৰ লগতে শৈক্ষিক দিশতো পিছপৰি আছে। সেয়ে প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডঃ মনমোহন সিঙে মুছলমান সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ আৰ্থ-সামাজিক বিকাশৰ দিশত বিশেষ ধ্যান দিবলৈ আহ্বান জনাইছে। উক্ত আহ্বানৰ প্ৰতি সঁহাৰি জনাই পি এফ আই নামৰ স্বেচ্ছাসেৱী সংগঠনটো আগবাঢ়ি অহাৰ পৰিপ্ৰেক্ষিতত মাদ্ৰাছা শিক্ষা সঞ্চালকালয়ে দায়িত্বটো এই স্বেচ্ছাসেৱী সংস্থাটোৰ হাততে ন্যস্ত কৰিছে। চৌধুৰীয়ে কয় যে এইক্ষেত্ৰত সংস্থাটোক ৰাজ চৰকাৰে যাবতীয় সহায়-সহযোগিতা আগবঢ়াব। তেওঁ জানিবলৈ দিয়া মতে সংস্থাটোৱে যোৱা ২৮ মাৰ্চৰ পৰা অসম প্ৰশাসনীয় পদাধিকাৰী মহাবিদ্যালয়ত এখন তিনিদিনীয়া সন্মিলনৰ আয়োজন কৰে, য'ত মাদ্ৰাছা শিক্ষাৰ সংস্থাৰ আৰু আধুনিকীকৰণৰ ওপৰত বিশদভাৱে আলোচনা কৰা হয়। উক্ত আলোচনাৰ উল্লেখযোগ্য সিদ্ধান্তকেইটা হ'ল— মাদ্ৰাছা শিক্ষা কোনো বিচ্ছিন্নতাবাদী শিক্ষা পদ্ধতি নহয়। ব্ৰিটিছ চৰকাৰৰ শিক্ষা নীতিৰ ভুলৰ

কাৰণে মাদ্ৰাছা শিক্ষা আধুনিক শিক্ষা ব্যৱস্থাৰ পৰা পৃথক হ'ব লগা হৈছে। মাদ্ৰাছা শিক্ষা চৰকাৰৰ দ্বাৰা সদায় উপেক্ষিত হৈ আহিছে। অসমৰ মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহ সৰ্বশিক্ষা বা চৰকাৰৰ কম্পিউটাৰ শিক্ষা অভিযানৰ পৰাও বঞ্চিত হৈ আহিছে। মাদ্ৰাছা শিক্ষা সংস্থাৰ আৰু আধুনিকীকৰণ একান্ত প্ৰয়োজনীয়। আনকি 'উলামা সকল এই প্ৰক্ৰিয়াৰ বিৰোধী নহয় বুলি সভাই মত পোষণ কৰে। আজি তৃতীয় দিনা সন্মিলনখন সমাপ্ত হোৱাৰ পিছত মাদ্ৰাছা বোৰ্ডৰ অধ্যক্ষজনে আয়োজন কৰা সংবাদ মেলত উপস্থিত থাকি পি এফ আইৰ কাৰ্যকৰী সঞ্চালক ডঃ বাহাৰুল ইছলামে কয় যে তেওঁৰ স্বেচ্ছাসেৱী সংস্থাটোৱে এই সংগঠনত কৰ্ম আঁচনি যুগুত কৰি আছে। মাদ্ৰাছা শিক্ষা উন্নীতকৰণৰ অংশ হিচাপে মূলতঃ বৃত্তিমুখী শিক্ষাৰ ওপৰত গুৰুত্ব আৰোপ কৰা হ'ব। ইন্দিৰা গান্ধী মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ পাঠ্যক্রমো মাদ্ৰাছা শিক্ষাত প্ৰবৰ্তন কৰাৰ ওপৰত গুৰুত্ব দিব পি এফ আইয়ে। সংবাদ মেলত উপস্থিত থকা মাদ্ৰাছা সঞ্চালকালয়ৰ উপ-সঞ্চালক আব্দুল কায়ম আলআমানে সদৰী কৰা মতে অসমৰ কৌমী মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহত সাধাৰণ পাঠ্যক্রম অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰিবলৈ অসম চৰকাৰে দাবি কৰা ৩.৮০ কোটি টকাৰ এক আঁচনিত ইতিমধ্যে কেন্দ্ৰীয় মানৰ সম্পদ উন্নয়ন দপ্তৰে অনুমোদন জনাইছে।

দৈনিক

গুৱাহাটী আৰু ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ পৰা প্ৰকাশিত

আধুনিক  
মনৰ বাবে

# জনসাধাৰণ

\* শেহতীয়া সংস্কৰণ

পঞ্চম বছৰ, সংখ্যা ৮৭, শনিবাৰ, ১৬ চ'ত, ১৯২৮ শক, ৩১ মাৰ্চ, ২০০৭ চন, Guwahati, Dainik Janasadhara 31st March, 2007, মূল্য ১.৪ টকা

আধুনিক  
মনৰ বাবে

# জনসাধাৰণ

৩১ মাৰ্চ, শনিবাৰ, ২০০৭, গুৱাহাটী/ডিব্ৰুগড় ■ তৃতীয় পৃষ্ঠা

## কৌমী মাদ্ৰাছাৰ আধুনিকীকৰণৰ বাবে চৰকাৰৰ একশ্যন প্লেন

ষ্টাফ বিপৰ্টাৰ, ৩০ মাৰ্চ ৯২ছাৰ কমিটীৰ প্ৰতিবেদনত মুছলিমসকলৰ আৰ্থ-সামাজিক বিশেষকৈ শিক্ষা ক্ষেত্ৰত অত্যন্ত পুতৌলগা প্ৰতিচ্ছবি প্ৰতিফলিত হোৱাৰ পিছত উত্তৰ-পূবৰ বেচৰকাৰী মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহৰ আধুনিকীকৰণৰ বাবে আগ বাঢ়ি আহিছে দেশৰ আগশাৰীৰ এটা বেচৰকাৰী হেচ্ছাসেবী সংস্থা। প্ৰফেচৰ ফকৰুল ইছলাম ফাউণ্ডেশ্যন নামৰ এই এন জি অ'টোৱে তিনিদিনীয়া কাৰ্যসূচীৰে যোৱা ২৮ মাৰ্চৰ পৰা গুৱাহাটীত আধুনিকীকৰণৰ বাবে মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহৰ সংস্কাৰ সম্পৰ্কে এক বাস্তৱ আলোচনা-চক্ৰ অনুষ্ঠিত কৰে। এন জি অ'টোৱে এই আলোচনা-চক্ৰৰ অন্তত প্ৰস্তুত কৰা এখন একশ্যন প্লেন আজি গুৱাহাটীৰ এক সংবাদ মেলত প্ৰকাশ কৰে ৰাজ্যিক মাদ্ৰাছা ব'ৰ্ডৰ অধ্যক্ষ তথা প্ৰাক্তন মন্ত্ৰী বাজেদ আলী চৌধুৰীয়ে। মূল সমস্যাটো সম্পৰ্কত মন্তব্য কৰি চৌধুৰীয়ে কয় যে ৰাজ্যৰ ছিনিয়ৰ মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহ চৰকাৰৰ দ্বাৰা নিয়ন্ত্ৰিত যদিও কৌমী মাদ্ৰাছা (খাবেজী মাদ্ৰাছা)সমূহ সম্পূৰ্ণভাৱে

বেচৰকাৰী। এই মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহত সাধাৰণ শিক্ষাৰ কোনো বাৱস্থা নাই। যাৰ বাবে এই পাঠ্যক্ৰম শেষ কৰি ওলাই যোৱা শিক্ষাৰ্থীয়ে কোনো সংস্থাপন নাপায়। যাৰ বাবে বেচৰকাৰী সংস্থাটোৰ উদ্যোগত চৰকাৰৰ সহযোগত এই মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহত বিজ্ঞান, প্ৰযুক্তিবিদ্যা বা অন্যান্য পাঠ্যক্ৰমৰ শিক্ষাদানৰ পৰিকল্পনা কৰা হৈছে। গোটেই বিষয়টো অত্যন্ত স্পৰ্শকাতৰ বুলি মন্তব্য কৰি চৌধুৰীয়ে কয় যে ধৰ্মীয় আবেগ-অনুভূতিক আঘাত নকৰাকৈ বিষয়টোত নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ বাৱস্থা কৰিব লাগিব। সংবাদ মেলত অংশ লৈ এন জি অ'টোৰ কাৰ্যবাহী সঞ্চালক ড° বাহাকুল ইছলামে কয় যে অসমৰ কৌমী মাদ্ৰাছাসমূহৰ অৱস্থা অত্যন্ত বেয়া। সেইবাবে গোটেই বাৱস্থাটোৰ সমস্যা সমাধান ভৱিষ্যতক লৈ এখন একশ্যন প্লেন প্ৰস্তুত কৰি আগ বাঢ়িব লাগিব। গোটেই বাৱস্থাটোৰ বাবে চৰকাৰৰ পৰা সহায় বিচৰাৰ লগতে আন্তঃজাতিক সংগঠনসমূহৰ পৰাও বিভিন্ন সাহায্যও বিচৰা হ'ব বুলি কাৰ্যবাহী সঞ্চালকজনে সদৰী কৰে।