

All Pakistan IJT General Convention

Youth

Islamic Jamiat-e-Talaba is the only nationwide organized organization. Apart from being Pakistan's contemporary, it is her co-traveller as well. The credit for purging the educational institutions from negative elements goes to this organization. Introducing book melas, book weeks, dialogues, picnic tours, tournaments, book banks, seminars, student courts, receptions, admission stalls and many other such activities have become its hallmarks. We can rightly say that IJT is Pakistan's asset.

This was said by Engineer Muhammad Naveed Anwar on the eve of the IJT's All-Pakistan general convention. Naveed Anwar, besides being IJT's Nazim-e-Aala, is president of the 13-member Muthahida Tulba Mahaz and senior vice president of Joint Action Committee of students, teachers, and doctors. He is also assistant secretary general of Asian Federation of Muslim Youth.

Earlier, Naveed also worked as IJT's secretary general, Nazim for Karachi, Dawood Engineering College, Govt College of Technology and Abdullah Haroon College. He has also remained convenor Karachi Students Action Committee.

Q. What is the nature of All Pakistan General Convention?

Naveed Anwar: There will be different sessions during the three-day gathering. Known and national-level educationists will participate in the International Session. Apart from representatives of Islamic Movements of the world countries, some foreign intellectuals have also been invited to this session. Turkey's Najmuddin Arbakan and Malaysian President Mahatir Mohammad are the special guests. An Academic Session has

numbers.

Q. Due to ban on student unions the society has been stripped of the enlightened people. Now at a time when the MMA has its governments in two provinces, would this ban be lifted?

Naveed Anwar: In fact, the main object of our struggle for the restoration of student unions has been that through these unions the students have the encouragement to play a due role. Because there are many latent qualities in the students, so be allowed to get these qualities polished for the betterment of the society. An enlightened student has a full vision of the future. And it is in favour of the country that to give a real shape to their dreams the students are given the right to form unions. We believe that student unions like any other country are very vital for Pakistan. This is our firm view that students' role be determined in our society. So for this a student union is a must. In this way they get a regular forum to streamline their activities. These unions not only provide political leaderships, but also such characters who are good innovators, people who can think with a result-oriented vision and personalities who create good literature. This all we need today more than ever before. If we look at today's Pakistan you will agree with me that the country needs student unions so that they could link their future with their past. This is a process of training, and training means that one generation hands over things to the next. In this regard we urge upon the MMA to forthwith hold union elections. This is included in our manifesto too. We believe that MMA is the leadership of the middle class. We also believe that they know the fact that if there exists a vacuum of

these, what would be the IJT's reaction?

Naveed Anwar: Pakistan's Kashmir policy is a failure of the government. It has failed to defend it. The Kashmir movement is indigenous. Unfortunately our rulers could not understand the simple fact that the on either side of the LoC there are Kashmiris and not the intruders. The intruders are in fact the seven lakh Indian troops. They must be pushed out of the territory. Plebiscite in Kashmir is a must. This is very logical. The Kashmiris' decision should be acceptable to everyone. Our case is quite solid if only the UN resolutions are depended upon. Had any Pakistani leadership taken a solid stand on the Valley issue, it had been settled by now.

Q. In then past IJT has remained part of anti-government movements, especially against the then President Ayub Khan. What is its policy now?

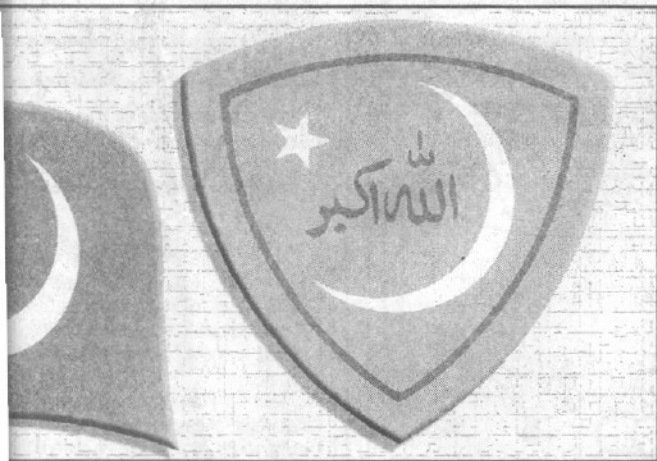
Naveed Anwar: We launched the anti-Musharraf agenda tehreek even before the MMA touched the issue. We agitated against his Kashmir and student policies, especially because education had failed to get a right place in his agenda. We also challenged his moves to change universities' structure. That is why he had to think for record eight times on the issue of Model University Act. This a historic struggle and it would continue. Whenever the IJT Shoorah contemplated that there is an issue we would start a movement against it.

Q. What is IJT's planning against the increasing privatisation in the educational institutions?

Naveed Anwar: Privatisation has not disturbed us a lot. We are working in



have to fight this war on the frontlines. The whole nation would also have to stand behind them. If awareness is created among each segment of the nation against this anti-nation design, no-one would be able to strike a decision rejecting nation's wishes. Obstacles in the way of education are in fact hurdles in the way of nation's futuristic approach. Anyhow, it has been felt both the students and the teachers that their survival lies in remaining united. They also know what it means to remain united and struggle together today. Other can take part in our organisation's programme and vice versa. It creates an understanding and society progresses.



agenda is not only against Muslims. It is a danger for the whole world. The main aim of this convention is to present the correct image of a Muslim locally and internationally.

Q. Hundreds of thousands of students leave the IJT and join the society as ordinary citizens. It has been witnessed that their grip on the missionary zeal they had had while remaining in the fold of IJT somewhat loosens in the course of time. Should we call it a shortcoming in our training or something else?

behind it. The propagation of Islam as a system by the IJT, at least in the educational set-ups, is a great achievement of this outfit as it has laid down a very powerful aim in everybody associated with it. In this country, too, the IJT has given a very positive kick-start to student politics to save the educational institutions from further deterioration. The more you touch upon IJT's struggle as an issue the more wonderful chapter of its successes would open before you. Had there not been IJT the plan to break the country up might have been a reality today. Only we don't say

need to inculcate in our youth today is: *Aik Hoon Muslem Haram Key Passbani Leay*. Unity can only come truly turn to the Kaaba. We to link ourselves lightly solidly on the theme of *Lah*. Then we also need to believe that whatever we have is best for the world. As students' prime duty is to understand, understand completely, and know knowledge really is? After that the students also have to take about the world situation too. So much so that we should not be oblivious of what is happening in Iraq.

Q. It looks as if the J Action Committee's move against privatization, started with the help of the IJT, ended with out bearing fruits. IJT had some targets to achieve by launching this move. Would you like to us what targets those were

Naveed Anwar: At launch time, we knew what targets in the movement were. And we also knew how to achieve them by taking the students with us. So it was an excellent move as far as its objectives were concerned. It created a whole environment of agitation. Before this student had no mention in any forum. Today no forum is complete without students. For the first time after the union era the Students Academic Association invited students to express their views. Besides, All Pakistan Lectures and Professors Association, chief ministers of the Punjab and NWFP and Attaur Rehman have accepted students existences. That is not a small achievement. We don't agree that the movement has failed. Look, the Model Universities Act, under pressure from us, has been changed. Boards of Governors have not been constituted in a large number. Education institutions' privatization has remained limited to a few institutions only. Is it not the movement's success? What needed today is the fact that v

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ave to fight this war on the frontlines. The whole nation would also have to stand behind them. If awareness is created among each segment of the nation against this anti-nation design, no-one would be able to strike a decision rejecting the nation's wishes. Obstacles in the way of education are in fact hurdles in the way of nation's historic approach. Anyway, it has been felt both the students and the teachers that their revival lies in remaining united. They also know what it means to remain united and struggle together today. Other people take part in our organisation's programme and the reverse. It creates an understanding and societal pressures.

The recent meeting of Joint Action Committee with the Chief Minister had the impression that student unions are being repressed. How far is it true?

Naveed Anwar: It is a man's dilemma that there is an interest hidden in every decision. The PPP government did not act on the student unions because these government knew their own student organisations were not in a position to compete with IJT. The sitting CM, despite

having a soft corner on the issue, is giving signals containing fear that he also might not lift the ban until his party's student wing doesn't gains a clear edge over the rivals. IJT has a long-term plan regarding student unions. It needs time to accomplish it, but we are not disappointed.

Q. What are the main objectives of the IJT general convention, and what message do you want to give by inviting representatives of world Islamic movements?

Naveed Anwar: Well, we have many different goals to achieve through this convention. Now, let everyone take the way he likes to take this meeting, but we require building an international posture through this. We want to bring Pakistani youths out of disappointment and distress by putting our organization once again in the top gear. Our convention programmed also includes invitations to Noam Chomsky, Nelson Mandela and Pop John Paul. This is a bid to try to correct Muslims' image before the non-Muslim world, a task which has unluckily not been done by the OIC and the Muslim countries' rulers. It is now required to be told to the world at large that Islam doesn't promote terrorism. The US

Naveed Anwar: No. I don't think it is simply like that. The number of IJT members is just one lakh in 25 million students in Pakistan. The former IJT activists can still be seen, whether they are politicians, bureaucrats or others, working resigned to the will of Allah. The small number of people who have slightly deviated from their past training may have reasons originating from their social surroundings or personal circumstances. A vast majority of them are still serving "Din" in one way or the other, thought the type of enthusiasm they had when they were student somewhat withers.

How do you perceive as Nazim-e-Aala the 56-year long march of IJT?

Naveed Anwar: IJT has influenced our society a lot. There is great number of youths who are indebted to the IJT for being enlightened today. It has also given technical skill to them. The best thing the IJT has done for them is that it has created awareness in them how to check policies with counter policies. IJT has about 60 per cent role in the emergence of today's Islamic leaderships of the country. Wherever in the world there is anything being done in regard with Din there is an IJT Rafiq, Worker or Member

this; the rival thinkers also believe that it was the IJT which blocked their efforts aimed at breaking the country. We have been playing a role more than our capacity in movements like Nizam-e-Mustafa, Bangladesh Na Munzoor and Tehrik-e-Khatme-Nabuwat.

Q. Some favour resistance against US while others support challenging her through the growth of knowledge and technology. What do you favour?

Naveed Anwar: Muslims problem is that they are divided into different territories. When they were united they had the power of science and technology. That was their strength. Today, the same is America's power. Muslims are neither benefiting from science and technology nor from their ideas. The Europe of the yesteryears, when they were being defeated on every front by the Muslims, they started a movement telling everybody that only love for the religion could end their bad days. They succeeded in bring in a revolution after their struggle of 300 years. The only way to down America is that the Muslims unite, and a united Muslim force has enough resources and weaponry to bring US to ground. What we