

International Seminar

On

Interpreting the Arab Spring

Significance of the New Arab Awakening

February 16-17, 2012

Organized by

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies,
Kolkata

In collaboration with

Institute of Foreign Policy Studies
(University of Calcutta)

&

Centre for Pakistan and West Asian Studies
(University of Calcutta)

Venue: Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies,
Azad Bhavan, IB Block, Plot No 166, Sector III, Salt Lake,
Kolkata, 700106

Day I

Registration 9.30 am to 10.00 am

Inaugural Session (10.00 am to 11.00 am)

- *Welcome Address: Dr Sreeradha Datta, Director, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies*
- *A Short Documentary on the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies*
- *Inaugural Address: Ambassador Rajendra Abhyankar*

Tea Break (11.00 am to 11.30 am)

Academic Session 1 (11.30 am to 1.00 pm)

Understanding the Arab Spring

Chairperson: Ambassador Rajendra Abhyankar

- *Does the notion of crises of political development offer a useful perspective to analyze possible causes and dilemmas of the Arab Democracy Spring?*

Professor Mustapha Kamel Al-Sayyid, Professor of Political Science,
Cairo University & American University of Cairo

- *The Economics of the Arab Spring*

Dr. Paul Rivlin, Senior Research Fellow, Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, Tel Aviv

- *The Arab Spring: Internal Aspiration vs External Intervention*

Dr Wael Awwad, South Asia Bureau Chief, Alarabiya News Channel

Discussant: Dr. Joseph Alagha

Lunch Break (1.00 pm to 2.00 pm)

Academic Session 2 (2.00 pm to 3.30 pm)

The External Factors in/and the Arab Spring

Chairperson: Dr Wael Awwad

- *External Powers in the Arab Spring: The US-Saudi Tussle*

Md Muddassir Quamar, Doctoral Candidate at CWAS/SIS, Jawaharlal
Nehru University, New Delhi.

- *After One Year: A Turkish Perspective on the Arab Spring*

Dr.Gokhan Bacik, Director, Middle East Strategic Research Center, Zirve
University, Turkey

- *Iran in the Shadow of the Arab Spring*

Dr.Sujata Ashwarya Cheema, Centre for West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia
Islamia

Discussant: Dr.Anita Sengupta

Tea Break (3.30 pm to 4.00 pm)

Academic Session 3 (4.00 pm to 5.30 pm)

Political Islam in the Arab Spring

Chairperson: Professor Mustapha Kamel Al-Sayyid

- *The Arab Spring and the changing Landscape of the politics of dissent: a case study of political Islam*

Dr. Fazzur Rahman Siddiqui, Research Fellow, ICWA, New Delhi

- *Deciphering the Role of Political Islam in the Aspirations of the Arab Street: aspirations and challenges*

Dr. Sima Baidya, Assistant Professor, West Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

- *Is Political Islam trans-mutating ?*

Dr. Kingshuk Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Calcutta University

Discussant: Abhik Samanta

Dinner: 7.30 pm

At the Shisha

Day II

Academic Session 4 (9.30 am to 11.00 am)

Resonances of the Arab Spring

Chairperson: Dr. Paul Rivlin

- *The Arab Spring: An Impetus for Regional Transformation?*

Dr. Yousef Jabareen, Director, Dirasat: The Arab Center for Law and Policy

- *The Arab Spring: Is a Gateway to Social and Political Transformation in the Arab World?*

Mohammad Sohrab, Assistant Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

- *The Lebanese Hizbullah & the Arab Spring*

Joseph Alagha, Professor, Lebanese American University, Lebanon

Discussant: Dr.Kingshuk Chatterjee

Tea Break (11.00 am to 11.30 am)

Academic Session 5 (11.30 am to 1.00. pm)

Israel- Palestine and the Arab Spring

Chairperson: Professor Gokhan Bacik

- *Revisiting the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in the light of the Arab-Spring*

Anjani Kumar Singh, Doctoral Candidate at CWAS/SIS, Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi

- *Israeli leaderships attitudes towards the Arab world democratization through the Arab Spring*

Dr. Nohad Ali, Professor, Galilee College and the University of Haifa

- *The Arab Spring: does it have any relevance for the Palestinians?*

Dwiya Saha, Institute of Foreign Policy, Calcutta University

Discussant: Sujata Ashwarya Cheema

Lunch Break (1.00 pm to 2.00 pm)

Academic Session 6 (2.00 pm to 3.00 pm)

CONCLUDING SESSION

ROUNDTABLE

The Arab Spring: An Arab (Re) Awakening?

*Vote of Thanks: Priya Singh, Fellow, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata*

