

# SURAIYA AND RAFIQ AHMED

By Mrs Habeeb

Two young people who have achieved so much so early are Dr Rafiq and his attractive wife, Suraiya. Starting while still at college they have shown their individuality and held the limelight steadily.

A Masters in Economics, Suraiya was the Inter-Collegiate Tennis Champion, and also chosen Miss College 1950-51 for all-round excellence, of course! Her first merit certificate I saw was Merit Scholarship from Aligarh University 1946-47. After completing her M.A. from the Islamia College Karachi, she was picked from an all Pakistan competition for a year at United Nations, where students from twenty countries were going to work for a year, in their particular field. Suraiya was attached to the ECOSOC, as a special Internee, these internees from the different countries also helped during the busy time to act as guides at the U.N.

Rafiq is a self made man from a family who did not think much of sending their son to school, but to school he went—and not only school but took the most unusual step and went to college! It seemed as if no amount of effort was too great in his desire for higher studies and by perseverance, determination and being sure of his goal he found a way to pay for his own education.

Man's potential is boundless, Rafiq seems to have decided to make full use of this fact and has accumulated knowledge of Arts as different as Drama to Philosophy, and Cinematography to Business Administration, and included merit positions in activities of student organisations to research in Islamic studies. I knew that Dr Rafiq had met his wife in the States, so I inquired if he had been studying in New York and was told the story of their first meeting. No-Rafiq did not study in New York but on the other side of the United States. He was the well-known student from Pakistan studying at the University of Southern California, and his wife said "We met at Oxford, Ohio, where we both were attending a conference of the Pakistani Students' Association of America".

Suraiya had been invited to the four days conference, and when Rafiq introduced himself to her there she thought he was just another Pakistani student trying to show himself off, and though Rafiq knew it, he could hardly tell her right away that he knew she was the girl for him! Correct and formal, she was far from encouraging. A few months later, however, when at the University of Southern California, he asked her to accompany him to a student Senate meeting, and she gave in to that... the rest was plain sailing. At the meeting he got a terrific ovation and seeing him there, hearing him speak Suraiya knew he wasn't just another Pakistani Boy....

He probably worked with the same single-minded purpose, as this was June and when Suraiya's contract finished with the U.N. in August, he had her installed in his University, with the Chancellor's merit scholarship for her second Masters, at the end of

which they were married, with Eastern and Western rituals. The Head of the Islamic Centre (which was several miles away), performed the Nikah, translating it into English for the benefit of their American and other foreign friends. The Chancellor of the University took the father's place and gave away the bride. A fitting ending to their long courtship—a honeymoon at Palm Springs. This was November 1957, after which they spent five years in Germany, and it has been three years since they are back in Pakistan. Was it difficult to settle back to life in Pakistan? "No, not really," said Suraiya, "home is home despite its inefficiency, dirt and illiteracy. Besides, it was nice to have servants once again to work for you" she said. The evening I visited Rafiq and Suraiya, they had no cook or aya, but did that bother the Begum, no, not in the least it seemed to me, she was quite relaxed and efficient and orderly, serving tea and giving their year old son Adnan the attention required.

Their six years old daughter, Asma, is a little lady, very poised and capable of amusing herself, with paints and crayons and reading. This is a rare phenomenon as most kids are crying all the time that they are bored. Her new playmate is her year old brother Adnan, and Suraiya is taking time off to be just mother at the moment. In her spare time she loves to read. I wonder if she ever takes an hour off to steal into her husband's study for uninterrupted reading. Dr Rafiq's study is full of gleaming covers of well-bound volumes, a large imposing desk takes the centre of the room, a comfortable looking dewan on one end and a deep green rug, completes the atmosphere of restful isolation.

I asked Rafiq if he had kept up his interest in Drama. He said that though he has been hearing of the activity of the local theatre groups, he has not participated in any. His job keeps him very busy but he would love to take an active interest if he had more time on his hand. And how about working for our Television, with all his experience working at Hollywood where he was advisor on films being made with Indo-Pakistan backgrounds. He has appeared very often on the American T.V. as whenever there were any panel discussions or information required about Pakistani background, it was always Rafiq Ahmed they thought of. "I would like that very much if I am required to do so", replied Rafiq.

Talking of films, Rafiq Ahmed wonders at the number of third rate foreign movies running in town. He said it makes you wonder why so many people flock to see these. Our movie makers' lack of interest in bringing out better themes and doing a better job of production probably results in this, he added. An idealist and a reformer he feels if there be an all out effort to improve the standard, the public will be only too pleased to have this, cinema is such a constructive media for social reform, that it is a shame not to make full use of it.

What made Rafiq decide to take up Philosophy after movie

(Continued on page 43)



Mr and Mrs Rafiq Ahmed photographed with their children.

## The Ahmed's

(Continued from page 51)

making and dramatics. Dr Rafiq answered, "Well, you could call it a natural inclination to it", this inclination was discovered when he took Philosophy as one of his subjects, his brilliant results prompted his professors to suggest his doing it for his Masters, and then to do his Ph.D. which he did in Germany. And how come Business Administration from Philosophy? Rafiq answered most practically that there was no sense theorising if the theories cannot be implemented, he said that you may write books about your theories but in today's fast moving world, it is the expression of these that count, he said: express the right idea at the right time for the right results.

Dr Rafiq was with the Islamic Research Centre when he was approached by the West Pakistan Management Association. As it seemed an interesting and challenging job he took it. This was a new field, and Dr Rafiq said it has received a very good response. I was told that most firms realise the importance of having personnel well-trained in Management techniques which contributes so largely to the company's success.

So much for the success of the W.P.M.A. so too Dr Rafiq Ahmed who makes a lasting impression on the many people who have come in contact with him, every person who has to associate with him remembers him as "that enterprising intelligent young man, who is the Executive Secretary W. Pakistan

(Continued on page 54)



Begum Asghar Khan (extreme right) inaugurated the Gift Centre at the International Wing of Karachi Airport recently, which was opened by the Pakistan Small Industries Corporation. Here she is seen with some of the guests present at the function.

## Quetta

(Continued from page 22)

### Festival Cricket

THE fine weather in Quetta has set in motion all sorts of social and cultural activities. Prompted by the pleasing weather, Mr G. M. Butt, the Secretary of the Quetta Cricket Association, organised a one-day festival cricket match at Quetta between the GOC's XI and the Commissioner's XI. The interesting aspect of the match in which the Commissioner's XI defeated the GOC's XI by 7 wickets was that both the G.O.C., Quetta Garrison, and the Divisional Commissioner, Quetta, looked so different in their cricket-kit. This cricket match provided an (Continued on page 56)

Name of

# **Ahmed**

*(Continued from page 48)*

Management Association". He has received the appreciation due to him over the years. This is proved by the long line of merits he possesses, among them were the "Outstanding Junior" University of California 55-'56. Outstanding Senior, Student of the Year. Foreign Students Representative to the Students Senate. Matching his long list of merits are Suraiya's, on her list, besides other merits was "Outstanding International Student" University of Southern California U.S.A. 1956-'57. Commenting on Modern Marriages, Rafiq Ahmad said that in Modern Marriages the full responsibility lies with the couple alone for making it successful.