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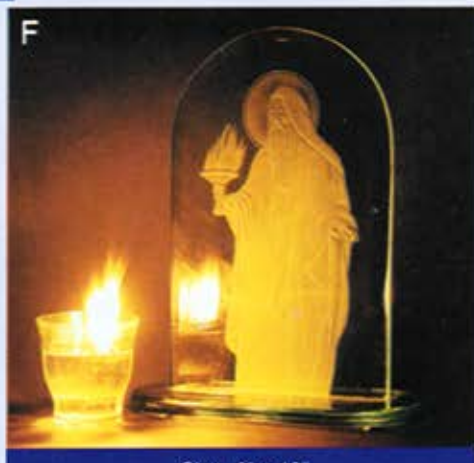
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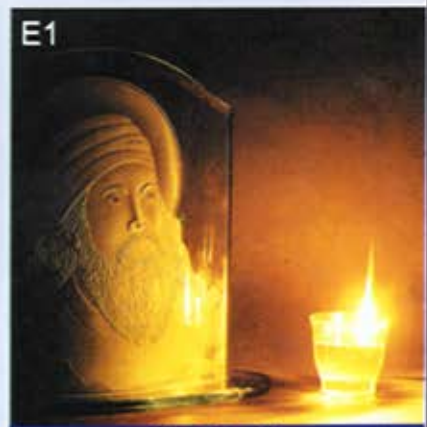
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October 2002
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**Cover: Naseeruddin Shah as Inspector Bharucha in
ENCOUNTER the killing**

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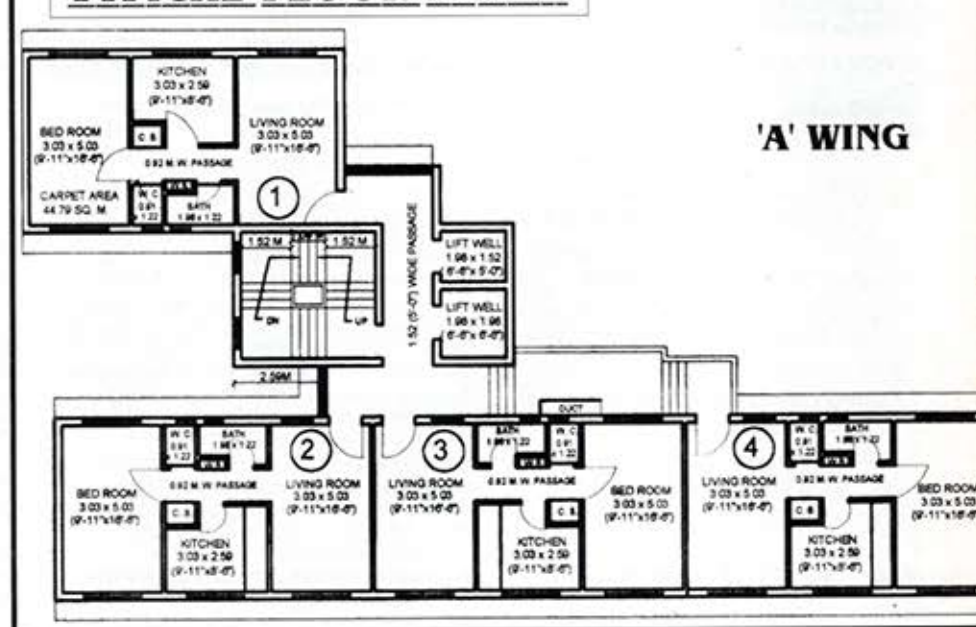
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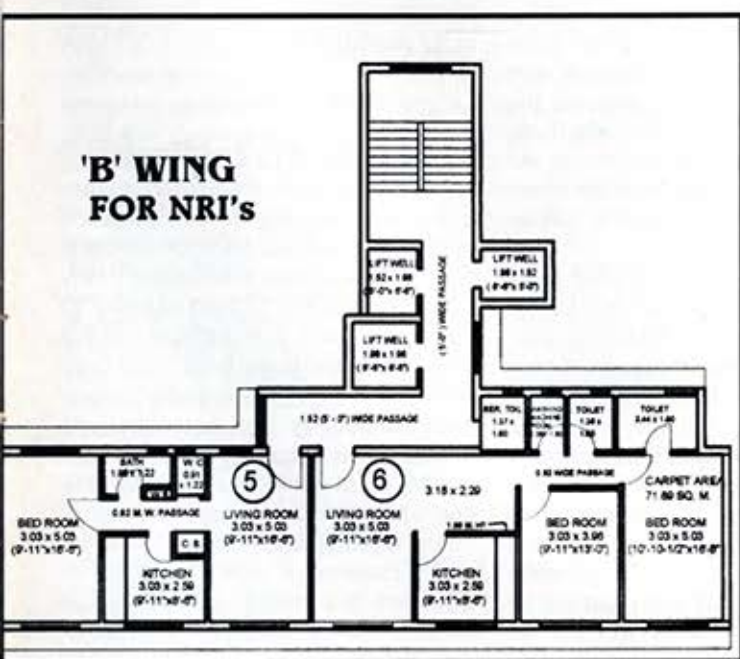
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Readers' views are welcome on any subject of interest to the community and should be sent to the Editor, Readers' Forum, Parsiana, G.P.O. Box 892, Bombay 400001. Letters are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity. Unsigned letters or those without an address will not be published.

"Options to ..."

It is unfortunate that some of our community members continue to remain selectively adamant in their beliefs against some of our religious practices and scriptural injunctions that have been in practice for many centuries now. One such case in reference is Dr M. D. Disawalla's letter titled "Options to dakhmenashini," (Readers' Forum, Parsiana, August 2002).

At the outset it needs to be (re)emphasized that the Zarathushtrian religion is not just a bundle of dogmas and doctrines to be followed implicitly. The dakhmenashini method is a lawful Zarathushtrian mode of disposal whereby the dead bodies are placed in a dakhma that is open to the sky and exposed to the natural elements like the sun, wind, rain and carrion creatures.

We Zarathushtrians have a few religious injunctions against defilement or contamination of natural elements which

are considered very sacred. We Zarathushtrians are duty-bound to preserve our environment and to further the cause of all His creations.

Like any home, office or religious institution, the dakhma, for obvious reasons, also needs cleaning from time to time. However, for the cleaning of a dakhma, there are certain strict religious guidelines that are laid out in accordance to religious prescriptions and tarikats that need to be followed uncompromisingly and with great self-discipline. Our Bangalore Anjuman felt the need to have the dakhma cleaned and spared no expenses or efforts to ensure that the cleaning process was carried out diligently and strictly as per the religious procedures and guidelines.

From Disawalla's letter it is but evident that his attempt is not only to misguide and confuse our community members but also to play upon the emotions of those who are easily susceptible to insinuations after having lost a dear family member. Disawalla's allegation that the major part of the carcass is ultimately buried in the ground is not only a false assumption but also a fabricated and defiling lie!

In Bangalore, the annual death rate is less than a dozen and hence we do not feel the need to either touch the remains or even attempt to push it prematurely into the bhandar or bury in the ground outside the dakhma as falsely alleged by Disawalla. On the contrary, we allow the remains to crumble and disintegrate by the combined natural forces of rain water and sun rays. Only then are the non-biodegradable remains like hair, nails, teeth, some large dry bones, etc gently pushed into the bhandar to remain there for several years to further disintegrate.

Over the years, the calcified powdery skeletal remains of the body tend to solidify with the natural and alternate forces of rain water, heat and drying process leading to choking of the underground drainpipes. It therefore necessitates general cleaning of the dakhma by removal of wild bushy growths, destructive over-grown roots, washing of the furrows with *gomez* (cattle urine) and emptying of the calcified dry powdery remains (*sukko nasu*) with great solemnity and with all tarikats and ritualistic injunctions and with continuous *sagdid*

(dog's glare), burying them in a specially dug-up pit next to the dakhma and under the supervision of our Dastur Nadirshah Unvalla. Thereafter, each of the seven-eight volunteers was given the purification bath (*nahn*) as prescribed by our religious injunctions. This exercise continued for two full days under the direct guidance of our respected Unvalla who, at his 'young' age of 86 years, personally supervised every religious detail till it was over.

It is sad to note that instead of appreciating the services provided by our young volunteers led by Cyrus Siganporia in cleaning our religious institutions like the dakhmas, agaries and atash behrams, some of us choose to incite and insinuate the lay community members against the age-old practice of dakhmenashini by often raising the bogey of lack of vultures or highlighting the "logic" of cremation and burial!

If some 'thinking luminaries' feel that there is no logic in the ancient religious practices, let them feel free to believe in what they want without exerting their misguided preconceptions and prejudices on the community. Such mindless misinformation, often persuasively packaged, threatens to destroy our ancient religion and the community in general. Instead of being misguided by community members, all Zarathushtrians should be proud of the religion they are born in and appreciate some of the most outstanding truths that are stated in our sacred books.

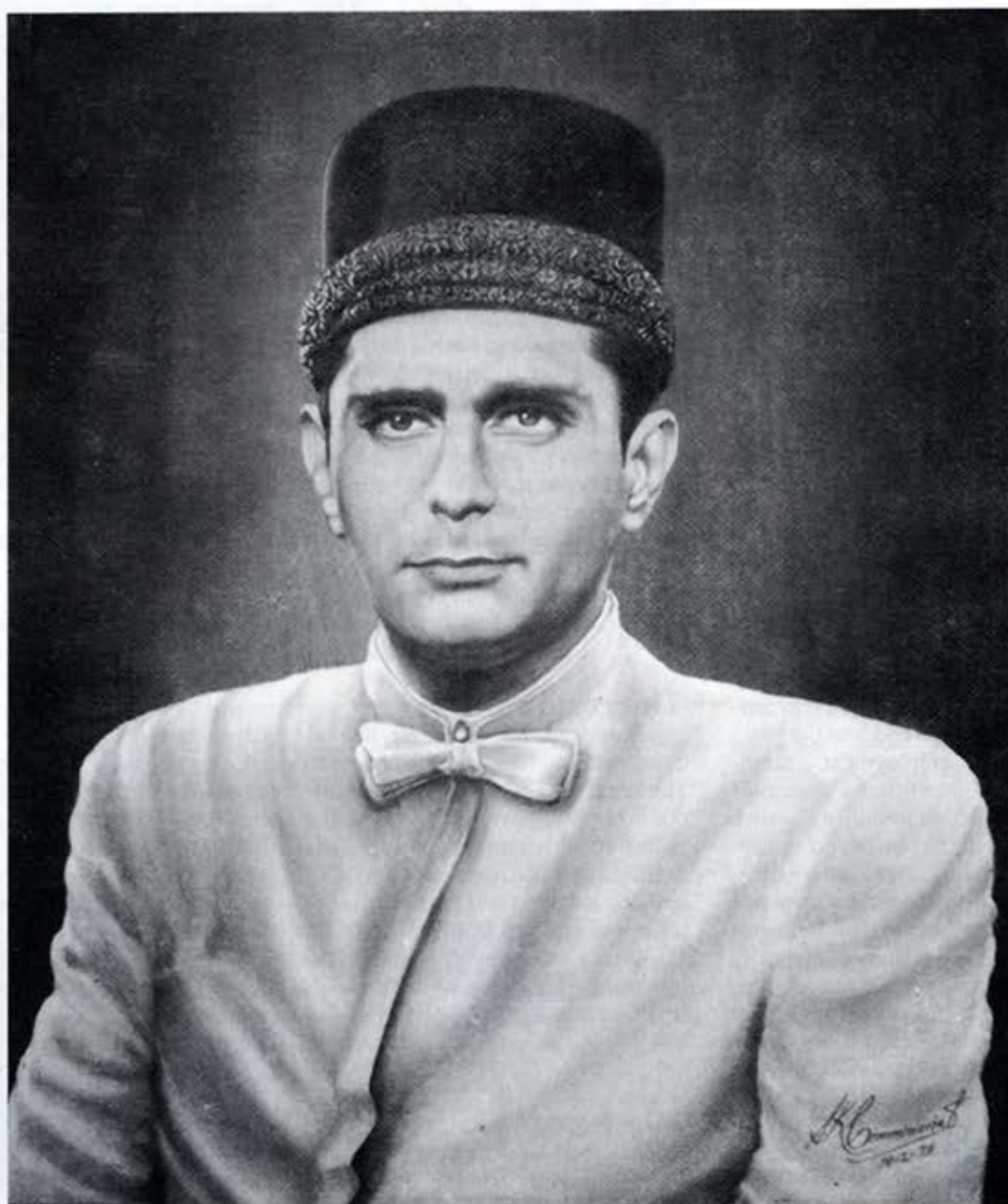
ADIL J. GOVADIA

Honorary secretary

The Bangalore Parsee Zoroastrian Anjuman

"The Calcutta confluence"

As mentioned in the report of the executive council meeting of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India (see "The Calcutta confluence," Parsiana, April 2002) "72 out of every 75 children (Parsi Zoroastrians) going abroad will not come back" (i.e. there will be a 96 percent loss to the Zoroastrian community due to emigration). Whatever the actual percentage of migration figures, it remains clear that talent will go where it sees promise of being meaningfully nurtured and utilized. Patterns of executive behavior observed in a number of industries in India asphyxiate the initiative of subordinates and accelerate inefficiency wher-



**In Memoriam
Mr Fali Meherji Variava
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ever such administration exists. Apart from decision-making, the chief duty of management is to delegate responsibility. Often enough the subordinates tend to be almost entirely dependent on the executive.

It is not uncommon to find in industry and elsewhere in India bosses surrounded by groups of inferior co-workers or "yes-men," presumably, for smooth sailing, and this has been usually noticed in cases where there is a fear of subordinates outshining and attracting more attention/recognition from the superior executives. This trend ushers a phenomenon comparable to Gresham's Law of monetary theory, wherein the inefficient drive out the efficient from the administration sphere.

It seems likely that the pattern of education in India has given rise to an autocratic class, resulting in the heads of a number of institutions being more or less autocrats.

In such a climate of affairs, many executives in India are prone to: Promote Parkinson's Law of creating jobs artificially rather than delegating precise duties and authority; to judge efficiency by the degree of subservience acceptable to their subordinates; to consider unqualified surrender as the basic qualification for employment, promotion and success; to foster a system of delegation which, in principle, is work division without the power and authority for its execution. That is, the executives assign all their work, sometimes also supervisory, to their subordinates but withhold the quantum of authority necessary for the execution of such jobs.

The resulting influence of this is: subordinates tend to develop an escapist tendency in their work; they are starved of a sense of belonging to their institutions; they are almost perpetually in search of other jobs or perhaps, become antiquarians of the industry out of frustration.

It is the practical men that India needs, and emotional ones she often listens to; but that of course, is what the Indian intelligentsia — particularly, those overseas — are saying about the planners and industrialists.

Europeans have often made fun of the "amateurishness" in Indian boardrooms. One European public relations firm has studied the performance of investors and managers of Indian origin in Europe. It gives them very high marks for their "positive attitude" to the Euro-

pean market, for their careful preparation of each new manufacturing venture and for their attitude to labor relations. Certainly anyone who is able to cope with labor relations in India would not find them difficult anywhere else. When managers of Indian origin are asked to run new acquisitions they seem to get on well. They are able to communicate easily, they master quickly all local rules and regulations (though they find far too many of these, especially in the field of consumer and environment protection and in product liability) and they develop good relations with employees.

All this may seem good to hear. Indian workmen too may with equal justice claim that once abroad they also usually work wonderfully well. None of these facts is by itself decisive since only the best and most enterprising workmen and managers go abroad. Of those who remain at home it would not be fair to say that their defects are balanced by defects in Indian management, but that their virtues are wasted by oppressive trade unions and over-heavy taxation.

FURHOK K. TANGREE
La Roche-sur-Foron, France

"The regal ranks"

I am surprised that you have not included Admiral Rustom K. Ghandhi in "The regal ranks," (*Parsiana*, August 2002). He was governor of Himachal Pradesh after his term as admiral and has had a distinguished past. He was ADC to Lord Mountbatten and was also naval attache in London. If you mention Sam Manekshaw and others it is difficult to understand why you have omitted Admiral Ghandhi.

CAROL and LIM BILIMORIA
Pinner, London

Parinaz Gandhi replies

Since the focus of the article was on the officers presently serving the Armed Forces we were concentrating on obtaining facts on their accomplishments. The article was sourced from different individuals who were knowledgeable on the subject with one of them suggesting we make a passing reference to the earlier decades when Parsis had shone out. The omission of Admiral Ghandhi's name was due to an oversight. We regret the omission.

"Cool in cottons"

When they say your sister is your best friend, I do not agree because for me she

is more than that. She is my everything! In your article "Cool in cottons," (*Parsiana*, August 2002) Behroze Singh has been made out to be a good entrepreneur but for me she is a fantastic human being! I remember when we lost our mom tragically a decade ago, she stood there like a strong pillar, composed and brave! The time when I myself was going through the worst moments of my life when I lost my first husband in a bike accident she took me away like a fairy to another world — a world of comfort, a world of warmth and a world of work! She showed me that to keep busy is the best way to forget your fears and drive away those tears!

Even today I know that whenever I need a helping hand she will be there for me!

In all her achievements she has always proved humble and very giving! She is a great example to all women who wish to get to their goals.

PARIVAZ RONNIE IRANI
Dahanu

Doongerwadi decorum

Almost 10 years ago when I returned to Bombay after retirement and happened to visit Doongerwadi I saw notices displayed on the walls of the bunglis, requesting visitors to observe silence, not to use the mobile phones, etc during the time the prayers were in progress. At that time, I thought that such notices were unnecessary and tantamounted to an insult to our highly cultured and well disciplined Zoroastrian community whose members are known to be aware of their duties/responsibilities and are capable of maintaining proper decorum and dignity required on such solemn occasions.

What I observed, last week, during a geh sarna ceremony, was unimaginable and lamentable: a few visitors conversing in high tones, discussing politics or share bazaar, others using mobile phones. It was highly objectionable and utterly indecent. Use of mobile phones by the members of a bereaved family, in emergency, would be understandable.

DALI J. GUNDEVIA

Why divorce?

At this time when I am celebrating my golden wedding anniversary, I regret the cases of conflicts, separations and finally divorce of once loving couples in our cultured community. Often infatuation for the opposite sex, rather than

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love, prompts individuals to tie the knot. A marriage requires mutual understanding, adjustments, dedication, an open mind, tolerance and an urge to make the life partner happy in all walks of life. A married life requires courage to face what may come.

The Parsi community is well-known for living peacefully and amicably with other communities, tolerating the different cultures and strange temperaments. Then why can't we have tolerance, friendliness and wise counsel within our own community, especially in our family, and with our 'better half'?

Our religion condemns divorce as a breach of straightforwardness (*ashoi*) and considers divorce as a crime. Breach of contract or promise is considered an act against *huvrashta*. When marriages are arranged in our community, the factors of *tapka*, *kundli* and *raas* (horoscopes) are given undue importance. Wise counsel and mutual understanding can instead make a married life as secure as a firm rock.

When it is difficult to adjust with a partner of our own community, it is a hundred times more difficult with a partner and in-laws of an alien culture.

Our community needs to encourage Parsi Zarathushtrian couples to marry and have progeny within the familiar cultural heritage of our renowned ancestors.

NOSHIR DABOO

Ahmedabad

Glorious Gandevi

Gandevi, a taluka in the district of Surat, had carved a niche in the history of Gujarat, especially during the reign of Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaikwad of Vadodara.

Once, there were about 400 Parsis living in Gandevi. A few of them tended fields. There was a textile mill, owned and run by the Homi Mehta group in Bilimora, at a distance of four miles from Gandevi. Many Parsi youths from Gandevi used to work in the mill, earning monthly wages of Rs 20 to Rs 30. The present generation would scoff at these measly wages but in those days living was very cheap and some could even save five rupees from these wages.

There was no prohibition in Gujarat. A Parsi gentleman by the name of Kavasha used to run a pub (*pithu*) selling toddy, whilst another Parsi named Edulji was selling pure Mowra liquor (*daru*) in another pub. When prohibition was ultimately enforced in Gujarat,

like many other Parsis in different parts of the state, the above two gentlemen had to close down their pubs. However, the names 'Kavasha' and 'Edulji' became synonymous with toddy and liquor, respectively. When someone wanted either of these two prohibited stimulants on the sly, he would just send for either 'Kavasha' or 'Edulji.'

There are at least two institutions in Gandevi which had been established by Parsis: Gazdar's free reading room and library and an English medium high school founded by Sir Cowasji Jehangir.

It is said that in Gandevi, Parsi children were in awe of a school teacher — Cawasha Gandevi or Cawasha Master. He was a strict disciplinarian. Whenever children tended to be mischievous, their parents would just evoke the name of Cawasha Master and the children would quieten down, à la Gabbar Singh of *Sholay* fame.

There is a Parsi dharamshala in Gandevi. In the good old days, it was a hub where the entire Parsi community of Gandevi along with a few other Parsis from Bilimora, Navsari, etc would congregate when Gandevi's famous ghambars were held. The food served at these ghambars was simple, yet tasty. The older generation still relishes the taste of cooked rice served from wicker baskets (*topli naa chaawal*).

There were some well-known Parsi families in Gandevi — Guzders (the present chairman of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet, Jamshed Guzder, hails from Gandevi), Desais, Daruwallas, Bhagalias, to name a few.

With the passage of time, the Parsi population of Gandevi began to decline. Youths left the place and came to Bombay, either to study or to earn. Some of them even went to far off places like East Africa. Today, around 40 Parsis remain in Gandevi.

BHIKHAI M. ADENWALLA

The healing touch

September 11, 2002 was a very sad day for the minuscule Zoroastrian community, especially in Bombay. This could be seen and felt by the throngs assembled at the Towers of Silence on that day, hearing of the sudden and untimely demise of a wonderful person and a true torchbearer of our religion, Dr Jeannie B. Bharucha.

My family's association with Jeannie, as she was fondly known, dates back to

the late sixties when she was assisting Capt (Dr) Faredoon Guzdar at his clinic at Dalal Estate, Bombay Central. Our children were small and whenever they fell sick, her effective medicines and healing touch would cure them in no time. As years passed, our relations with her grew and our ties became stronger. She was not only our family doctor but one of the family.

In 1976, when, under difficult circumstances I lost my job, and was facing insurmountable personal problems, her husband, the late Burjorji Bharucha, played a very important role, as a senior partner with Mulla and Mulla, in offering me an opening in this prestigious firm. His personal intervention is an invaluable contribution that I can never forget. Soon after her husband's demise, Jeannie got involved with various religious activities of Zoroastrian Studies and in the dissemination of our religious teachings and knowledge to Parsis, young and old, a cause which she held very dear to her heart and carried out with untiring zeal, till she breathed her last. Her cheerful and helpful nature, and endearing disposition, has found a permanent place in many hearts.

DINSHAW D. NATERWALLA

Lord Ahura Mazda

This prayer that I have written I wish to share with others:

I seek Thy blessings Oh Lord Ahura Mazda/Not for myself/But for all my loved ones/Light me your lamp my Lord/For I know not where my path leads me as I am blind without thy beacon/Wiley men in the guise of your angels, tried to trap me in their black hole/But always Thee have appeared before me/And with Thy divine glow steered me back onto my destined path.

Now I am so fortunate that Thee chose me to be one of your messengers/For this I am forever beholden to Thee/I remain your obsessed believer, your loving servant —/I believe — I believe — I believe/Hear then my prayer dear Lord. Oh Lord Ahura Mazda/With Thy divine strength/I spread Thy message far and wide./Your message — of love — of purity — of sacrifice/Of noble service — of giving — of believing —/Yet I am not without fault — my Lord/Oh Great Ahura Mazda/Forgive me my weaknesses/Forgive me my greed/Forgive me my failings — Punish me physically for those times I have failed to heed your warning/For my lapses my family doth

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avoid disappointment.**

suffer/But eternally your lamp continues to light my path/Leading me out of my darkness/You have lent me your strength that I am strong/You have lent me your wisdom that I am wise/You have lent me your patience that I can wait for Thee/For Thy message!
Oh Lord Ahura Mazda/With Thee by my side — my Lord — I serve them.../I serve my loved ones/I fight for them to my last drop of blood/I struggle for their peace to the last breath of my life/I love them for every moment of my existence/I feel for them every second of their pain — I welcome their suffering on myself so that they can be relieved from it/With Thy blessing — with Thy divine touch — release my loved ones/Only — into — a peace — harmony — and ecstasy/Give unto them the power to behold your divine wisdom/So that your wisdom doth envelope them/Weave your divine mantle of protection/Around my loved ones Oh Lord —/To succor them from all sicknesses, all pain, all tragedy, all agony/At all times protect them my Lord.

Oh Lord Ahura Mazda/On the land/In the air/Over the sea/Bring them home safely to me —/My Lord Ahura Mazda/This then is my prayer/Make me humble — make me humble — make me humble/Hear me My Lord Ahura Mazda/I seek Thy blessings/I prostrate myself before Thee.

CYRUS A. ENGINEER

Animal care

In Defence of Animals is a non-governmental organization registered with the Charity Commissioner, Greater Bombay, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) (London), Animal Welfare Board of India and The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. Our work involves sterilization of homeless strays, providing a health care facility for sick and injured animals and a home for disabled strays, homeless puppies and kittens. Animals that come to our shelter are sprayed, dewormed, and vaccinated for rabies. The cost of maintaining our shelter is always on the rise as the number of inhouse animals keeps increasing.

Our initial years were those of struggle, as we worked in makeshift camps in various parts of Bombay. However, since February 1, 2000, we have our own center at Deonar.

There were 10 rooms constructed on this plot by the Bombay Municipal Corporation (BMC) to house about 100 dogs. Last year we added five more rooms and increased our capacity to 150 dogs. We also added two community kennels to house old, blind and handicapped dogs, a sick dog ward and a cat ward, all at a cost of Rs 4.20 lakhs.

We also have an ambulance which plies in the eastern suburbs between Mulund and Dadar, and the north-eastern suburbs like Mankhurd, Chembur and Deonar, bringing in ill and injured animals. We are looking for sponsors who may be interested in displaying their advertisement on our ambulance for which our expenses are Rs 10,000 per month, incurred on the salary of the driver and diesel used.

Presently we sterilize nearly 250 dogs every month and give treatment to innumerable sick and injured animals. Despite spending every rupee judiciously, our monthly expenditure for running this operation is over one lakh rupees. The BMC does not contribute in any manner towards our programs, and even the anti-rabies vaccine has to be purchased by us. The Government of India and the Animal Welfare Board of India gave us financial assistance for two years, but now we have received indications that Government funding could stop or be reduced.

We urgently need Rs 10 lakhs to carry on this noble work. We organized two film shows, *Lord Of The Rings* and *Harry Potter*. We also had a garage sale.

As a volunteer I personally visit all schools in Bandra, Khar and Santacruz to create awareness among children regarding cruelty meted out to animals and also appeal to them to help us in our fund raising drive.

Donations form the backbone of our organization. Every donation is exempted from income-tax under section 80-G of the Income-tax Act. You could also help us in kind by providing us with rice, soya nuggets, milk powder, dog soaps, medicines, cotton, acrylic and other necessities. Cheques favoring "In Defence of Animals" may be sent to our organization at 7, Shanti Kunj, 124, Hindu Colony, 5th Lane, Dadar (East), Bombay 400014.

ABAN PESI BHOTE

Edited by Parinaz M. Gandhi



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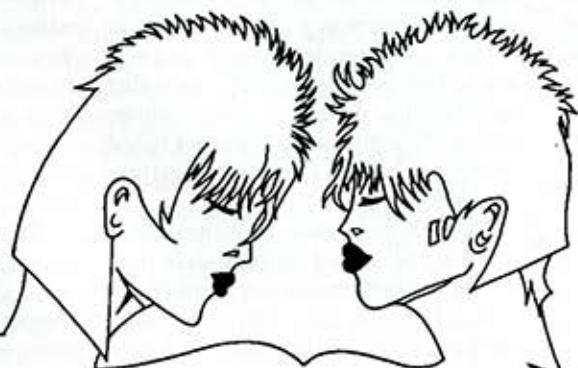
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KAMAL'S

Events and Personalities

Listed in Nagpur

Over six hundred individuals from 223 households feature in the revised *Directory of the Nagpur Parsis* which was brought out in 2002. Besides giving the names and age of the family members, also furnished are their residence and office address, residence and office telephone numbers and e-mail contacts. The blood group of all the adult members is listed twice — alongside their names as also a second time when individuals have been named under their respective blood groups.

Except in the case of one family where the ages are not shown, from the rest of the entries we learn that Nagpur has 187 Zoroastrians who are senior citizens, aged over 60. Conversely those aged 14 and below number 71. The maximum number, 356, are in the 15-60 age group, accounting for more than 50 percent of the Nagpur community.

"The Nagpur Parsi Gymkhana (NPG) took upon itself the task of updating and reprinting the *Directory* some time back. However due to the expansion program of the Post and Telegraph Department and new electronic exchanges coming up, our work was suspended for a while," president Shiraz Gimi mentions in his introduction to the 72-page *Directory*. To make the *Directory* "useful and informative" included therein are the contact numbers of the Parsi Agiary and the Dharamshala in Nagpur as also the telephone numbers of the public utility and emergency services in the city. Four pages have been devoted to a listing of the Parsi dharamshalas and sanatoria in India.

Acknowledging joint honorary sec-

retary Rusi Godha's hard work, Sohrab Kanga's efforts in compilation and Keki Bala's tedious work of proof reading, Gimi conveyed his "thanks to all the

committee members of the NPG for the efforts they made to fill up and collect the forms" and to "our advertisers for their financial support." Sixteen of the 72 pages in the *Directory* carried advertisements of local enterprises. Working with Gimi on NPG's executive committee are vice president Thrity Patel, honorary sec-

retary Mehroo Watchmaker, honorary treasurer Narges Desai, Godha, and members Peshotan Mehta, Shiraz Doongaji, Dinshaw Mistry, Taubenda Bhagwagar, Shernaz Daver, Yasmin Taraporewala, Khushroo Poacha, Pervin Cassad and Jamashp Bapuna.

Look out for *The Times*

"*The Zoroastrian Times* is presenting this, its first edition, with all the delight and trepidation of parents showing off their first born. We have many ideas and have immense hopes that it will give to Zarathustris worldwide and others a source that fills the gaps that extended communities develop," writes editor Bapoo Malcolm in his "internet based newspaper" which is meant "for private circulation only."

The inaugural issue of August 2002 could not be posted on the web in time for Navroz as the necessary permissions had not been obtained, regrets Malcolm, yet it was circulated by e-mail. By October end they hope to have a couple of issues accessible in two formats—Hyper Text Markup's Language (HTML) which can be viewed in color, and the

ordinary text format for those who may not have the necessary software. Although they were planning to bring out each issue with eight pages, they subsequently realized "that such rigidity was not necessary on the Internet where there is sufficient room to keep altering its format." The editorial policy was described as "the broad middle band with access to all, extremes included. We would rather be facilitators, an avenue to explore multiple ideas and views, allowing the readers to draw their conclusions rather than to impose upon them. Proffer, not preach. Inform, not insist. Widen vistas, not narrow tunnels. After all we are interacting with the most educated community in the world. Small is beautiful; and intelligent to boot."

The need "for a responsible paper" is what prompted 61-year-old Malcolm to pursue his goal. He wanted to spread knowledge of the community not only among Zoroastrians but among non-Parsis as well. Showing a willingness to accept original and heartfelt criticism, Malcolm says his paper specially targets "young Parsis who are going astray." While presently *The Zoroastrian Times* will be available for free with all the editorial staff rendering honorary service, within a couple of years he hopes to make it self-sustaining and profitable as its popularity increases. He refuses to consider financing from any single source at the risk of losing his independence!

The monthly inaugural issue had accommodated an approximately 1,000-word article by Bombay Parsi Punchayet trustee Rustom Tirandaz who hoped the new periodical would "have at heart at all times the interest of the Parsi Irani Zoroastrians of the world and not cloud (its) writings with personal hatreds and prejudices." After citing various histori-





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Please refer to Parsiana, September 2001, page 12 for more information

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cal instances to strengthen "tokhmé Kyani (Iranian roots)" Tirandaz concluded, "Going by this rich inheritance it is incumbent upon the present generation to ensure that we pass on intact the heritage inherited from our forefathers to our descendants..." Another page on "Panchayeti Panchayeto" elaborates on the "Parsi aversion for mixed marriage" and sums up the Panchayeti's efforts to assist the "gerontocratic society."

A nearly 1,500-word piece on "What shall they, who are Mazdayasnas, do?" by Faribourz Nariman is a reprint of one of his earlier writings. "When a festival is round the corner, every Parsi spends a lot of time, energy and money to tidy up his dwelling. This is quite natural. What is unnatural is the indifference of many of us towards the upkeep...of the Zoroastrian house which is in disarray. The tarantulas and the cobwebs, not to mention the entangled flies, all these call for a vigorous operation clean-up...A fight to the finish should commence in earnest and the thoughts of a tiny splinter group emerging therefrom needn't deter us from adopting drastic measures to dislodge the subverters of our traditional values who would like the entire community to suffer for the foolhardiness of their incorrigible dear ones." A write-up titled "Requiem for an ideal" lauding the efforts of the non governmental organization PRERANA; and smaller pieces announcing Khojeste Mistree's tour to Australia and the significance of *roz* Hormazd also feature

The Fravardigan jashan in progress at Bombay's Doongerwadi on September 8, 2002. Leading the group of 21 priests was Udvada's Dastur Khurshed Das-toor. Photo: C. C. Gandevia



herein. The only visual in *The Zoroastrian Times* shows yachtsmen Farokh Tarapore and Vikas Kapila, world champions — 420 class, on its cover.

Assisting Malcolm edit *The Zoroastrian Times* are Nariman, "a family friend and a veteran scholar on matters Zoroastrian and Oriental (who) will look after the religious component...Youth editor Fali Singara (who) is one of just four Zarathustris working at All India Radio. Listeners of FM1 (Bombay), will recognize him...A lot of emphasis will be laid on matters that concern the younger generation of Zoroastrians and others." His responsibility extends to their web page www.zoroastrianimes.com which will retain back issues. The sports input will come courtesy Pradeep Vijayakar, "one of the best sports journalists in India and a colleague at journalism college in the '60s," writes Malcolm. Reluctant to divulge information about himself or part with his photograph he would like the newspaper to be noticed, not the person behind it, he says.

"Any enterprise is as successful as its public wills it to be. *The Zoroastrian Times* seeks your blessings and support..." concludes the editorial.

Justice for Nariman

"Fali Sam Nariman, president of the Bar Association of India, has been an exemplary and principled advocate for justice," noted the citation accompanying the 2002 Justice Prize of the Peter Gruber Foundation which was conferred on him in September 2002. Presently member of the Rajya Sabha and senior advocate, Supreme Court of India, Nariman has "over many years given exceptional leadership in a legal community whose thinkers and doers have inspired the develop-

ment of a creative jurisprudence that facilitates the binding together of a diverse nation, helps control the exercise of public power and seeks to enable the poor, minorities and

the marginalized to claim their basic rights to human dignity," added the citation.

This annual award which carries a cash prize of US \$ 150,000 and a gold medal is "among the highest recognition in (the) realm (of) justice," mentions a press release. Instituted by the Foundation two years ago, the awards in the three fields of cosmology, genetics and justice recognize "human discoveries and contributions that effect fundamental shifts in human knowledge and culture," notes an introduction to the Foundation.

The first Justice Prize from this Foundation was presented last year to Anthony Gubbay, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Law Society of Zimbabwe.



The advisory board which selects the recipients on the basis of nominations received has an international panel of eminent jurists from Morocco, France, Canada, USA, India, South Africa and Zimbabwe. Established in 1993 and funded entirely by Gruber, the Foundation funds social service organizations in the US Virgin Islands, establishes scholarship programs and other projects focusing on youth and education, and contributes to community foundations. The Foundation also sponsors the importation of cultural programs to the Virgin Islands and underwrites local cultural initiatives, conveys its website: www.petergruberfoundation.org/justice/justice_news.htm



Nariman with the gold medal (above)

"Nariman stands out as a leader promoting the universal rule of law in a modern era of emerging democracies and supportive systems of jurisprudence...He has played an important role in both establishing and enforcing the law in India," conveyed the website which has also posted his bio data. Vice chairman of the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce, Paris, Nariman is currently honorary chairman of the International Council for Commercial Arbitration after serving as its president for

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There is an increasing need of making latest life saving facilities available to needy patients in India. Ruby Hall Clinic of Grant Medical Foundation has always been at the frontiers of expanding scientific knowledge for last 35 years and making it reachable for the people. In the pursuit of this goal, Ruby Hall Clinic has now commissioned a complex of 118 beds of Acute Coronary Care and Intensive Care.

What is so special about this critical care unit? Minimum bed space requirement by international standards is about 120 sq. ft. per patient. Continuous supply of piped gases like oxygen, air suction from the central reservoir assures least chances of failure and no time wastage in manual labour of changing the gas cylinders. Very sophisticated 'monitors' have been developed which not only watch but record the trends and warn the attending staff about life threatening incidents in a patient. Latest generation Hewlett Packard monitors have also been installed for the same purpose along with central monitoring facility. To give best possible artificial respiratory support a large number of ventilators from Siemens have been installed. When, due to generalised unstable condition, the patient may not be able to be shifted to the kidney unit, facility for bedside hemodialysis is available in this modern ICU complex.

Ruby Hall ICU, CCU also specialises in shifting high risk patients within the departments for investigations & surgeries with accompanying equipment & personnel. With such facilities, it is no wonder that this unit is a "tertiary referral centre" for other ICUs and hospitals. For this purpose "emergency care ambulance" is available to shift the unstable patients to & from other hospitals.

The availability of equipment alone cannot make a unit successful, as the human face of "Intensive Care" is also very important for the panic stricken families. Towards this, the Clinic maintains a good nursing ratio (1:2) & the help of a social worker is also available for patients.



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eight years. He is also a member of the London Court of International Arbitration. Former president of the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA), he had served as founder-chairman of the LAWASIA standing committee on human rights and chairman of the executive committee of the International Commission of Jurists, Geneva.

As Member of Parliament he has been nominated by the chairman of the Rajya Sabha to the Parliamentary committee on rules, committee of privileges, ethics committee and to the consultative committee for the ministry of external affairs. In 1995 the International Bar Association headquarters in London named him the "Living Legend of the Law."

French honor

His devotion to "the cause of knowledge and culture for the progress of science and education" won Dr Vispy M. Meher-Homji an honor from the French Government. Through a decree of the Prime Minister of France dated March 5, 2002



Meher-Homji:
special merit

he was promoted to the rank of officer in the Order of Palmes Académiques, according to a communiqué in French from the ministry of national education, Republic of France.

"Your personality and your merit would be an additional source of vitality for the Association (of the Members of the Order of Palmes Académiques) which has the advantage of uniting scholars duly recognized for their merits..." notes a letter from the Association.

Meher-Homji was formerly director (research) at the French Institute (of Scientific Research), Pondicherry, and the founder and dean of the School of Ecology, Pondicherry University, states the press release. He is presently active with the Save Udvada Committee.

Distinction for Dutia

Scoring the highest among all females from Gujarat and ranking fourth among all students from Ahmedabad at the final CA examination, Shezrin Viraf Dutia was conferred a gold medal, mentions a press release. Currently pursuing her third year of LLB studies, 22-year-old Dutia hopes to do her masters in busi-

ness administration.

A brilliant student throughout her academic career Dutia had completed her schooling from Mt Carmel with distinction after which she went to St Xavier's, passing her Higher Secondary Certificate examination with distinction and qualifying as a national scholar. She completed her BCom from the L. J. College, winning a national scholarship yet again, according to her curriculum vitae. While her grandfather Keki Motashaw, an eminent advocate, has guided her along the way, the credit for her strong academic foundation goes to her grandmother Jerbanu Taraporewala who was a teacher at St Xavier's, states the press release.

Nothing is impossible for a youth who has decided on his/her goal and pursues it with single-minded devotion and faith in Ahura Mazda, believes Dutia. Despite her accomplishments she remains "humble and polite (and) respects the elders in the community," mentions Noshir Daboo of Ahmedabad.

Dear sandalwood

"India's sandalwood industry is going up in flames," declared a write-up in *The Indian Express* of September 24, 2002 titled "Can you smell the stink in sandalwood? Blame the Govt." As compared to last Diwali when sandalwood was available at Rs 1,400 a kilo, by April 2002 the consumer had to pay Rs 2,000 for the same quality sandalwood. Not surprisingly, many Zoroastrians patronize the vendors who do brisk business outside the shrines selling their sandalwood perfumed sticks at less than one-fourth the rate of pure Malbari *sukhad*. "A government mo-

Sandalwood cut into splinters



Dutia: high
ranker

nopoly, ostensibly aimed at protecting the tree, has encouraged roving gangs of smugglers to strip the forests in the south of the precious commodity. Critics say the result shows how socialism continues to fuel corruption and eat away at competitiveness despite a decade-long campaign to revive its economy," mentions the newspaper.

Forty years ago Karnataka and Tamil Nadu imposed a monopoly over ownership and harvesting of the trees. Not only did the states limit production, "they also failed to cultivate, relying instead on once-abundant wild reserves. That opened the door for a growing black market where a single tree (which takes 40-60 years to grow to commercial viability) can fetch more than a lakh of rupees," reported *The Express*.

Sandalwood dealers usually get their stock from the government auctions held periodically. As against the 30-40 tonnes of sandalwood usually released at the auctions, 200 tonnes of sandalwood were released at the last auction. But instead of the prices falling, they skyrocketed, especially when the government announced its policy of permitting 200 tonnes for export, mentions a sandalwood dealer. "India, once the undisputed leader in the \$ 100 million-a-year market for global sandalwood exports is losing its position to upstart suppliers in Australia and Indonesia," states *The Express*. If the government had not monopolized the industry "sandal would have been as plentiful as coconut trees in southern India," R. N. Murthy, managing partner of N. Ranga Rao and Sons, India's largest producer of incense sticks, was quoted in *The Indian Express*.

SPOTLIGHT

In appreciation of his long years of service to the specialty of neurosurgery, the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, UK was conferred on Dr Keki E. Turel vide their notification in August 2002. The Fellowship also recognizes his community commitments and his academic achievements which include about 200 papers delivered in over 30 countries of the world, his long-standing dedication as a teacher and university examiner, and for setting up departments or assisting their functioning in the Middle East, Kenya, Indonesia and Germany, mentions a press release.

Compiled by Parinaz M. Gandhi

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ZOROASTRIANS ABROAD

From trauma to triumph

"You name it, I've done it!" says Bahram Bastani. Gardening, cleaning jobs, working in a bakery. It was a long haul to the eventual success of Westside, the well-patronized bakery and snack bar in an upmarket area of London. And an exhausting one. It was not quite the life his doctorate in geology from Baroda's M. S. University had led the Iranian lad to expect.

He had been working at Bombay's Stadium Restaurant waiting to emigrate to Canada with no thought of marriage when he first spotted Dolly Irani, an Iranian accountant on a holiday in Bombay, at the Iranian Zoroastrian Anjuman. Twenty days later, at the instance of his aunt who owned the celebrated Cafe Naaz at Bombay's Malabar Hill they were wed at the Dadysett Agiary, Bastani recalled.

Dolly, who had a secure job with a big firm in Iran, prevailed on Bastani to return to Iran instead of going to Canada. There he found a good job in the oil company but, having been away from the country since 1974 found the social mores constricting. He left Iran and returned to his Rs 1,500 job at Stadium Restaurant, working from 4 o'clock in the morning to support himself and his pregnant wife at the Petit Sanatorium. "It was a horrible life," he shudders.

For a second time Bastani sought Canadian immigration, underwent a medical check-up, faced another interview. "They said they'd let me know" but even after two months there was no news.

So the desperate Bastani "came to the UK as a refugee. They allowed us in because Dolly was pregnant." Unable to find a job worthy of his education, he says he worked in shops



Bastani: "now we have everything"

and snack bars. "Because we were homeless we were allotted Council housing. That's the advantage in this country," Bastani is grateful for the glimmers of help he and Dolly received in those gruelling months. Like when they went to Zoroastrian House and found Roshan and Rusi Dalal, Shahrokh Shahrokh, Silloo and Kersey Jasavala ready to help. "She was like my mother," he says of Silloo.

These fellow Zoroastrians loaned him £ 35,000 to purchase a business where he worked long hours, "didn't go out, didn't eat proper food because (he) didn't want to keep people's money." A little over a year later he had repaid them, he said. A few years thereafter he got a mortgage on a house. "Now we have got everything — our own house, business, a car. My wife comes to help," because his four employees tend to be clock-watchers.

Their son Sepand was born in 1990, their daughter Homa in 1992. Both children were navjoted in Iran, but Bastani said he did not go there with them. "I didn't want to risk my business and all that we've built up in London," he explains.

Westside is stacked with sandwiches, samosas and other snacks. Tea, coffee and a variety of soft drinks and juices are available for the asking. "The inspectors say there are too many items for the size of the shop," he notes.

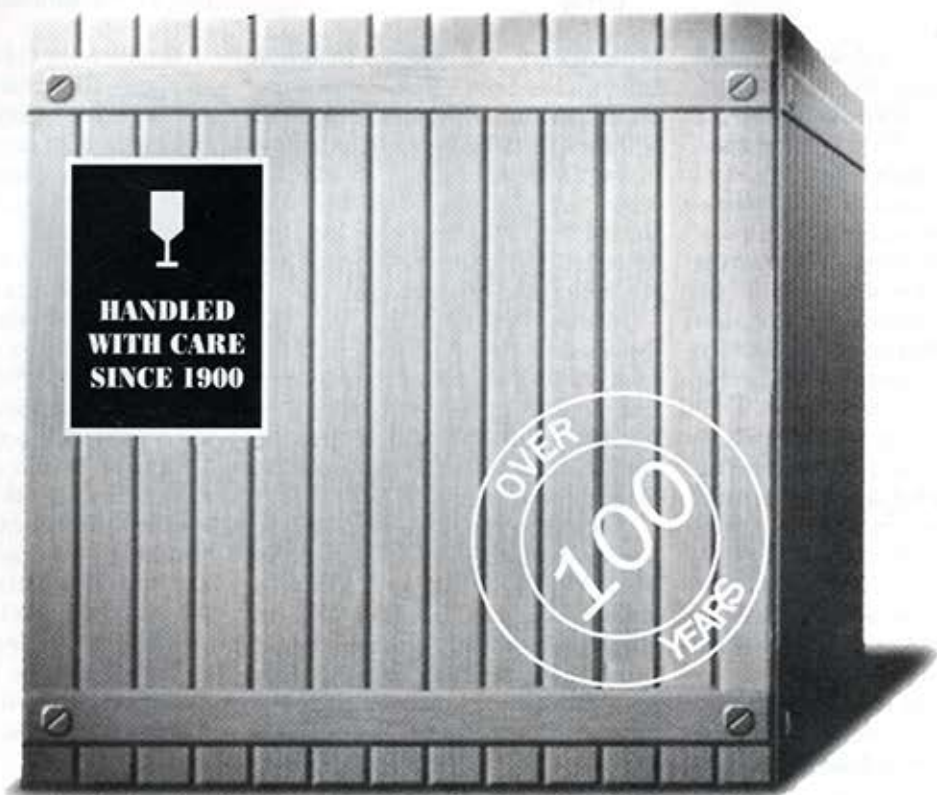
But Bastani is now exhausted. "I have come to the stage that money is not everything," he comments, adding that he is toying with the idea of selling the business.

Both husband and wife like London. At one stage he had wanted to go back to

continued on page 56



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Readying for the Third World Zoroastrian Youth Congress

The Federation of Zoroastrian Youth Associations of India will host youths from around the world in December 2003

Arnavaz S. Mama

"The world is passing through difficult times. It is our small community's burden to meet these difficulties fairly, in the right manner... We want your opinion to solve problems." Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) chairman and Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India (FPZAI) president Jamshed Guzder thus welcomed the delegates to the Federation's executive council meet hosted by the BPP in the air-conditioned hall of the Indian Merchants' Chamber on June 15 and 16, 2002.

Announcing that he had willed Rs 30 lakhs to the BPP's third child scheme for seven years after his death Guzder said he proposed to retire next January. Noting that "My thought, concern and feeling for the community will remain even after I retire," Guzder promised the community and the Federation whatever aid they may need.

The presence of former BPP chairman and Federation president Dr Aspi Golwalla on the second day of the meet was effusively acknowledged. It was under Golwalla's chairmanship that the BPP had rejoined the Federation after a lapse of about five years. The BPP, under the chairmanship of B. K. Boman Behram had withdrawn from the Federation after the Third World Zoroastrian Congress because then Delhi Parsi Anjuman (DPA) president and Federation vice president Shrivax Nargolwala had criticized the Punchayet's constitution and policies.

The 49-member Gathic Anjuman of Bangalore which is the custodian of the Bangalore aramgah had written to the Federation's joint honorary secretary Keki Gandhi seeking to know the requirements that constituent bodies of the FPZAI should meet. The Federation, said Gandhi seeks the affiliation of representative bodies from the various parts

of the country. The orthodox Bangalore anjuman had been a former member of the Federation which quit when the BPP withdrew in 1978. It has remained out of the fold even though the BPP and others have rejoined the all-India body since 1983. The Federation members reiterated their hope that it would rejoin at a future date.

Member of the National Minorities Commission and DPA president Lt Gen (retd) Adi Sethna informed the council that the BPP's "excellent" artwork for the proposed Rs 5 coin featuring Dadabhai Naoroji had been forwarded to the Government of India.

The Federation of Zoroastrian Youth Associations (FOZYA) will host the Third World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Poona in December 2003, announced its president Sarosh Palkhiwala.

An *All India Directory of Zoroastrian Punchayets, Anjumans, Associations and Local Bodies* compiled and edited by BPP public relations officer Godrej Dotivala and published by the Federation was ceremonially released by Guzder.

The tax on donors and donees incorporated in the 2002 Income Tax Act is bedevilling anjuman trustees all over India. Nor has any concrete progress been made in the direction of group mediclaim insurance for the community. A proposal from Tata-AIG offering the facility to a minimal group of 10-12 persons is currently under study at the BPP, according to its chief executive officer Behram Dastur. With half the community over the age of 55, the longevity of the Parsis had to be factored in, as noted BPP senior trustee Minoo Shroff.

The long awaited venture capital scheme promises to be a non-starter as the BPP's initial investment of Rs 20

lakhs has not been substantially augmented from any other quarter despite the trustees' best efforts. Apart from that "people want gifts. Our concept is to put people on their feet... expect (them) to share their prosperity if they make good," noted Shroff.

The Federation secretariat is to write to the winners of its awards for excellence so as to create a data base from which to assess the community's progress in the national and international arena.

In the interests of a more constructive approach BPP trustee Dadi Engineer counselled that a keynote speaker focus on two or three important topics at future executive council meets with the delegates reacting to and debating the propositions.

The Federation mourned the deaths of veteran solicitor and centenarian Rustom Gagrati, Calcutta trustee Beji Bulsara who succumbed to a heart attack in the prime of life, BPP's Pilo Bulsara who for years quietly and unobtrusively translated the *Fed Newsletter* into Gujarati (Marazban Wadia of Davier has now volunteered for the job) and *Parsidom* founder-editor Dara Kadva — a Federation critic — who only the previous year had stormed in and out of its meeting at the West End Hotel.

The next meeting of the Federation, to be hosted by the Iranian Zoroastrian Anjuman (IZA), will be held in Bombay on November 23 and 24, 2002.

Youth

The Third World Zoroastrian Youth Congress will be held in Poona in De-

Facing page, L to R (1st row) Guzder, Gandhi, Sethna, Bodhanwalla, E. Irani, Mogrelia; (2nd row) Shroff, D. Mehta, Engineer, Tamboly, Tirandaz, Golwalla, Heerjee; (3rd row) Dastur, Kias, Master, P. Dastur, Colah, D. Irani, Rustomji, Masani; (4th row) Clubwala, Nargolwala, Karanjawalla, Postwalla, M. Irani, F. Master, B. Irani; (5th row) Paghdiwalla, N. Captain, M. Mehta, Udhawalla, P. Ginwalla, S. Ginwalla, C. Cooper; (6th row) O. Debara, Cama, P. Irani, Behram Irani, Palkhiwala, Homi Mullan, D. Debara; (7th row) Wadia, P. Debara, Allavali, K. Pastakia, Palsetia, Panthaky





From left:
Udhawala,
Dadinath,
D. Pastakia,
Khushroo
Pastakia and
Eghlim

cember 2003, announced incoming FOZYA president Sarosh Palkhiwala. About 200-250 foreign delegates are expected to attend, he noted. Palkhiwala has succeeded Porus Karanjawalla who headed the youth body for nine years.

FOZYA's main object has been to keep Zoroastrian youth together and provide social service where required, notably in the old age homes in Navsari and Surat, stated Karanjawalla. FOZYA's annual seminars have now been bolstered by international and global trips and the money collected at the time of the seminars have helped the organization fund awards to recognize outstanding achievements in academics, sports and social service, he added.

The Baroda United Zoroastrian Youth (BUZY) not only help their punchayet in the organization of social events — they felicitated Lt Gen (retd) Adi Sethna and former TISCO managing director Jamshed Irani, Kt, arranged the Adar mah parab in the agiary, though the Avan mah parab celebration had to be cancelled because of communal tensions — but helped Dr Shernaz Cama, director of the UNESCO Parzor project to unearth historic material on the community.

The 30 odd youths of Borivli hold antakshari competitions, help organize and attend religious talks and visit widows' homes at Thakurdwar and Fort in South Bombay, noted Delna Pastakia. The group includes a general practitioner and a dentist, she added.

According to Shovir Irani, Dahanu youths not only clean their agiary but help consign the dead to the dakhma. Social get togethers and trips to Udvada are other activities.

The Farohars of Delhi, the four to 14 year age-group which gathers at the anjuman premises to learn their prayers and the raison d'être of Parsi culture, got together to remember Adil Tamboly — an ex-Farohar who perished in a car accident in the US, DPA's Adil Nargolwala infor-

med the gathering.

The youths of Poona are in the throes of publishing a revised directory of Poona Parsis. Last edited in 1998, the publication will include the telephone numbers and addresses of Parsis in the city and its periphery as also local institutions plus anjuman and dharamshalas all over India, noted Tehmas Bharucha, treasurer of the youth association who is in charge of the project. Business and professional information will be part of the yellow pages. However only 1,000 families have been covered thus far. About 2,000 families have not filled the form, said Palkhiwala adding that many Parsis were unwilling to give their names.

Disappointed that the total population (variously estimated at 8,000-10,000) of Poona was not being listed, Gandhi wondered if the reluctance of the community resulted from too much information being sought. He was informed that currently there were 1,600 members of the Poona Parsee Panchayat (PPP). A lot of people are migrants and come only for racing, noted PPP president and Federation vice president Eruch Irani. "We want to show genuine membership," he added.

The BPP's Holiday Programme for Youth (HPY) won a round of applause as Kaynaz Dadinath told the gathered delegates that their blood collection drive stopped at 184 bottles because "the Red Cross said it couldn't take any more." On the other hand a number of potential donors were rejected because of blood pressure and other problems. The month-long program had catered to "every activity that the youth of today is interested in," as it imparted social skills and confidence to the youths on the threshold of their college careers.

Sethna, who had participated at the

2002 HPY as a resource person after a lapse of 10 years, found the boys and girls looking bigger and better, comparing the phenomenon with the growth in height of Japanese people in the post World War II years due to the change in diet. Commenting on the intelligence, computer savvy, changing attitudes and general support for the elderly evinced by the youths he saw, Sethna recalled that one internet provider had stated, "Bank ma koi jatu nathi (Nobody wants to become bank clerks!)" "We need to take note of the changes," suggested Sethna. Remarking on the widening interest and interaction, Engineer offered the BPP's expertise to

organize such programs for other anjuman free of charge.

Dadinath also said that the Programme had resulted in 12 marriages over the 16 years of its existence but Dastur was pessimistic about the demographic value of marriages today, noting that the DINKs (double income no kids) phenomenon was now spreading in India. He compared the Parsis to Italians: "We have the same problems of demography. Despite

the Roman Catholic Church being anti birth control, they produce much fewer children and live longer than others."

Individual anjuman

The well-knit Madras community of 275 to 300 individuals meet for monthly get-togethers, noted south zone coopted member Mani Clubwala of Madras. Though they have no formal youth association, the youths play a major part in organizing these functions, she added. Having renovated their "dilapidated old bungli," thanks to a Rs 14.5 lakh donation from the Mary Clubwala Jadhav Trust the Madras Anjuman is thinking of ways to generate the funds required to repair the very old residential buildings

continued on page 45

"They have character and they are characters," declares veteran cinestart Naseeruddin Shah to convey his respect and admiration for members of the Parsi community. It was not difficult therefore for him to project the Parsi traits in his recent role as Inspector Sam Bharucha in the Hindi film *ENCOUNTER the killing* which was released in Bombay on August 9, 2002. Over the weeks it has been screened in cinema houses throughout Maharashtra and Madras, and was due for release in Delhi in early October.

As an upright police inspector he feels responsible for the death of the young contract killer Lalya (enacted by Rahul Mehendle) in a police encounter, the first time someone has succumbed to his bullet during his career as a policeman. With no one coming forward to claim the body, Bharucha takes it upon himself to identify the villain's family. And as he pursues his mission, surface the inspector's qualities of punctuality, determination, fair play, courage and humaneness. Above all is his honesty to confront the misdemeanor, whether perpetrated by an unknown outsider or a member of his own family. "*Hum Parsio ké liyé imaan aur jameer jaan sé badhkar*

hai (We Parsis value integrity more than our lives)," he announces to his detractors.

The film depicts the common stereotypes levelled against the police: "*Yeh log apné baap ko bhi criminal hi samajtē hai* (the police think even their own fathers are goons);" "*Méré dévtaa jaisé bachhé ko maar daalaa een police-waloné* (my god-like son was killed by these policemen)." The refusal of most parents to admit that their children are being led astray was reinforced in *ENCOUNTER*. It also showed how children from stable middle class families can be drawn to criminal acts without any ostensible cause but the lure of power and pelf. And once drawn in the vicious circle it is almost impossible to extricate oneself despite the best of intentions.

That criminals lack a sound emotional and moral base to support them was known to Bharucha but what comes as a rude shock is his own son Jimmy's (played by Amit Samgiskar) frivolous ways. Taking control of the situation he sternly reprimands Jimmy while wife Shirin (played by Roshan Tirandaz) tries to placate him. The mothers in the Parsi community are known to indulge their sons and grant them concessions...But Bharucha as the strict father can neither condone Jimmy's lapses nor his own.

"*Maaraa ghér maa bhai paidaa thaieech né hoo laash paachhal doruch* (my house is harboring a potential gangster and I am running after a corpse!)" he admits to himself later.

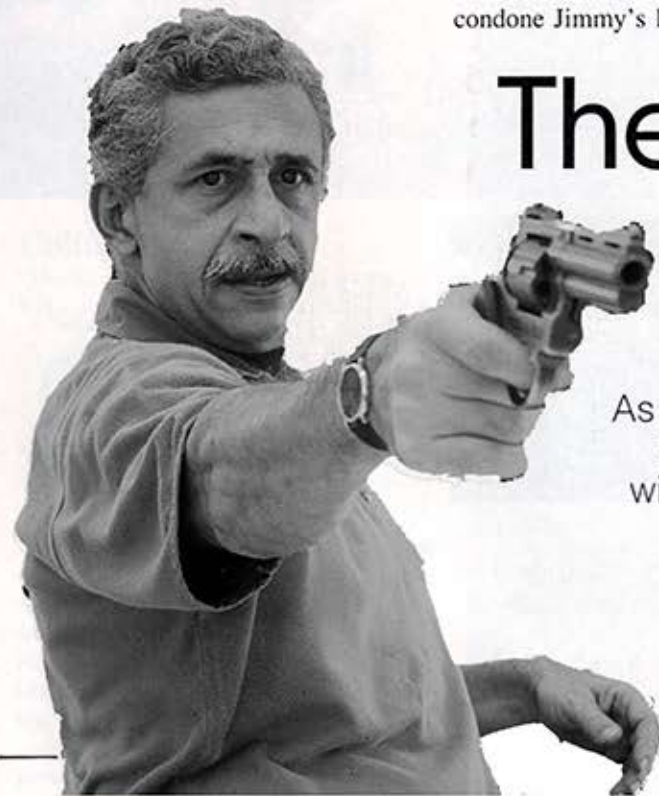
On another occasion he refers to Jimmy as "*nafat nagaaro* (shameless creature)." Such Parsi Gujarati phrases woven into the Hindi script makes the viewing a pleasure for Parsi audiences. But whether the non-Parsi crowds can relate to such idioms is not known. Relaxing in the comfort of his home in a sudreh-lenga while a buoyant Shirin exults looking at a television program where her husband has been interviewed, they get calls from colony neighbors ensuring that the Bharuchas do not miss the program. An ambitious Shirin impresses on her husband that his discipline and hard work is being wasted in the police force. Had he joined the armed forces he could have risen to be another Sam Manekshaw! The son though does not share the same enthusiasm for the TV program saying the regular lecture he gets everyday at home is now being given to TV audiences!

The relationship between the police and the Press can be nurtured to awaken public consciousness or to sow seeds of distrust. That a pesky press reporter (played by Tara Deshpande) is convinced to col-

The inspector's integrity

As the honest policeman, Inspector Bharucha, Naseeruddin Shah wins over the audience in the film *ENCOUNTER the killing*

Parinaz M. Gandhi





Top (from left):
N. Shah with Tiran-
daz, Avtar Gill and
Phansekhar
Alongside: Producer
Jairaj Patil



Scenes from the film:
Middle row: Samgiskar (left) and
N. Shah, and a dance sequence
Bottom row: N. Shah (left), and
R. Shah studying the face of
Mehendle

laborate with the police instead of competing with them is due to Bharucha's adroit public relations. She comes to the inspector's aid by introducing him to a judge of the High Court, also a Parsi, who grants him an extension of time to dispose the corpse, not as a favor to a fellow Parsi but in appreciation of Bharucha's good work as a police inspector, the judge

makes it a point to clarify.

"Parsis are the only community that have a sense of doing what is right and abiding by it...Also they are the only community who still have a sense of civic consciousness," Shah was quoted in a publication. In response to *Parsiana's* queries on the e-mail, Shah asserted: "The Parsis are a people I ad-

mire greatly and it's always an honor and a delight to portray one...Their habits of punctuality, scrupulousness, ethics, courtesy, consideration for the others, make them an anachronism in this day and age and therefore easy to ridicule. But their ability to work hard and be creative, as well as (their) business instincts make them a race worthy of



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admiration and emulation. What would (Bombay) have been without the Parsis? And of course, they are fun-loving, full of boisterousness and laughter, and also compassion and tenderness...

"Parsis are such an interesting people that they lend themselves to caricature easily and their behavior is so broad that it's easy to make fun of," comments Shah, disappointed that most often it is a caricature of a Parsi that one gets to see in Hindi movies. Another Hindi film which was a departure from the norms was *Pestonjee*, directed by Vijaya Mehta, where Shah had given a memorable performance as Pirojsha, the lead actor. "I find it flattering when I'm taken to be a Parsi in real life and addressed as 'Nazru Dinshaw' (by shifting the last syllable from his first name Naseeruddin to serve as the prefix for his surname Shah)." Looking forward to playing the role of a Parsi in future too Shah adds, "When I work, I consider it my responsibility to portray a character I'm playing objectively and truthfully, without falling into populist traps. Portraying a Parsi is not without its traps and I greatly enjoy it, more so because physically I can pass off as one without too much effort. I, in fact, suspect there's a racial mix somewhere. Some of the ancient Zoroastrians must have come here by land by way of Central Asia, and some of them maybe remained behind en route. My ancestors came from Central Asia too!"

Viewing Shah as "one of the finest performers on this soil," the writer and director of the film Ajay Phansekar mentioned that his real-life persona almost matches Bharucha's image. "Very loyal to his work, disciplined, Naseeruddin accepted the role immediately," says Phansekar. The comic caricature of Parsis on the screen is very common, remarks Phansekar who attempted for the first time to project the community in a different light. After two award winning films in Marathi, this is Phansekar's first Hindi film. "I believe Parsis are very loyal, *imandar* (honest). That is why I wanted a Parsi police inspector." His contacts with Parsis and Shah's prior experience working for *Pestonjee* helped to project a realistic ambience of the community.

Veteran stage and TV actress Tirandaz who plays the role of Bharucha's wife, lent credibility to the film too. Giving her credit for being "a fabulous performer," Phansekar added that she was "powerful, considering that she had to face the camera with an actor like

Naseeruddin."

Tirandaz though had no qualms playing the role of Shah's wife while his real wife Ratna Pathak Shah as the young criminal Lalya's mother convincingly depicts the emotional trauma of a well-educated, middle-class mother who is unable to confront reality. Shooting with Naseeruddin Shah for the first time, Tirandaz found him "very accommodating, very conversational; a very good co-actor. As a Parsi he was too good."

The director and the stars had done their homework well, observed Tirandaz. Having selected the Dadar residence of Aspi and Katy Bharucha as the home scenario for the inspector, the setting was very authentic. She had just offered minor suggestions like the positioning of the diva and the portrait of Zarathushtra within a particular frame or the use of Gujarati expressions as spoken by Parsis. With her considerable experience in Hindi films where she plays the part of Salman Khan's secretary in *Chori Chori Chupke Chupke*, or Amisha Patel's landlady in *Humraaz*...or enacts other roles in *Lawaris* and *Betaabi*, actually Tirandaz's Hindi was found too *shuddh* (pure) for the Parsi ambience required in *ENCOUNTER*. She then chose to incorporate phrases like "*Jauni, jauni* (see) Sam" or "*arré nahi ré* (definitely not)," and was happy that the director did not mind her adding words to the script.

Busy with her home production *Not Now, Sweetheart* which has been staged five times in Poona and three times in Bombay, Tirandaz states that she has no public relations officer. Whatever roles she has got, even for teleserials like *Koi Apna Sa* and *Kalerein* are through word-of-mouth recommendations. "We have never had any difficulty with any producer of films anywhere," she states. "We only ask for the basics." Was shooting for *ENCOUNTER* any different from her earlier experiences? "Yes," she responds, "the locales being so close to my house, I had to leave my place only five minutes prior to the scheduled time!"

For the audiences too this film had a different treat — although there were the song-and-dance sequences and violence that one expects from a Hindi film, there was not a single romantic scene. And after seeing the film once, you may not be tempted to view it again. The message was driven home effectively the first time — evil has to be overcome, not by shying away from it but by honestly encountering it.

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"More institutions than required"

The community's dwindling numbers pose a threat to the survival of Parsi institutions in Surat

Dr Sam S. Bhacca

Ours is a very old Panchayat catering to the various needs of Parsis. In the past it was said with some pride that the Surat Parsi Panchayat (SPP) starts its activities with a maternity hospital and ends with the Towers of Silence (the biggest in the entire world). For the betterment and general amelioration of community members we run several schools, a general hospital, infirmary, orphanage for boys, orphanage for girls, industrial institute for women, and offer residential facilities, funds to help the needy and deserving at various stages of life, scholarships for education in and out of the country.

When several of these institutions were started in the past there were a good number of Parsis here. Besides, they used to reside mostly in *puras* or *paras*, like Nanpura, Rustompura, etc. These *paras* resembled modern Parsi colonies with the exception that only one family used to reside in one big house and that too mostly of two stories. As Surat made tremendous progress in various directions the cosmopolitan population increased by leaps and bounds, whilst the Parsi population lessened. We have 3,500 Parsis — old and young — at present. As the general population of the city rose to about 30 lakhs, the limits of the city were extended and today New Surat is a fine city competing with good cities in the country. Several Parsis have gone to reside in this new area and the process is sure to continue. Our communal institutions and our prominent places of worship are mostly in old Surat. The Parsi *paras* are now Parsi in name only, mostly populated by non-Parsis, the majority being Muslims. This has adversely affected our Gujarati medium schools which are run on cosmopolitan lines.

Only our schools are run on a cosmopolitan basis. Even at this stage there are a good number of students who attend them but institutions like hospitals and orphanages (which are boarding schools)

have a far lesser number of beneficiaries than in the past. Earlier we had about 180 inmates in the boys' orphanage. Today the number is less than 50. The same is the case with the girls' orphanage. It seems there are more institutions of the same kind than required under the present circumstances. Several years back when there was a meeting of prominent Parsi leaders and workers at Gholvad to think about starting two new rural homes for girls in Gujarat our Dr Ratan Marshall had pointed out that as the SPP had just started the Nariman Girls Orphanage we should wait and watch whether there was a genuine need for starting two new institutions working in the same direction in places so very near to one another. However, the Jehangir Rural Home for Girls at Gholvad and the Choksi Home for Girls at Navsari were started with the result that none of the three institutions ever got the number required to run the same efficiently. Thereafter the rural homes for Parsi boys and girls at Gholvad were closed down and we hear in the beginning of the new academic year the institution at Navsari will also stop working.

Originally the idea was to provide facilities of education for boys and girls residing in the distant villages, especially of South Gujarat, but with the passage of time so many Parsis left the villages and settled in cities. Additionally school facilities were also provided in the villages by the authorities and social service institutions. In the present state it appears that it will not be possible to get a sufficient number of boys and girls for our institutions if they are to be run for Parsis only. Besides Poona, Bombay, Navsari and Surat there are such institutions — boarding schools — at Khandala and Nasik too managed by Parsi trusts, and the institutions at Khandala and Nasik are made cosmopolitan, keeping several seats reserved for Parsi boys and girls.

The dwindling number of Parsis on one side and more institutions than required looking to the needs of the community at present has created a critical situation for infirmaries too. Our Nariman Home and Infirmary for the disabled, decrepit and the aged was the first of its type for Parsis. Its object appealed to the community and it became a very popular institution. People gave liberal donations and new wards were opened to accommodate those on the waiting list. The popularity of the institution drew so much attention that more such places were started especially for the old and senior citizens as they are termed in the new century. Besides, wards for the old were opened in some hospitals and the sanatoria once treating tuberculosis patients were also converted into such homes for invalids. In days to come there may be a home for the aged — *ghardanu ghar* — wherever there is a sizable Parsi population. This situation has adversely affected our Nariman Home. In the past we had over 100 inmates accommodated in several wards in three buildings, with a waiting list. At present the number remains between 45 and 50 and as a result wards and beds are lying vacant.

A similar situation has arisen with our Parsi General and Maternity Hospitals. Here this has happened not due to more hospitals for the community members but due to many new cosmopolitan hospitals and nursing homes having opened in this fast advancing metropolis and so many new doctors with high qualifications having started practice. Surat had one medical college in the past, at present there are two and a third one is in the picture.

There are hardly 25 births a year in the local Parsi community and as the Parsi population now resides at far-off places you cannot expect all ladies to come to the Parsi Maternity Hospital. Some may have a preference for a doctor not attached to the Hospital. But even if all the 25 come



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to the Parsi institution, the monthly average would be only two. How then is it feasible to run a maternity home for two every month? For several months there is often no lady and no child born in this institution.

Under the above circumstances we found it essential to make our Hospitals cosmopolitan, whilst carefully looking after the needs, comforts and interests of the community members. We approached the charity commissioner who supported us but for such a change, the consent of the competent court was essential. The suit was opposed. The matter is before the court for the last several years and the institutions are working in heavy deficits for a ridiculously low number of Parsi inmates. It is interesting to note that in Navsari, the Dabu and Mehta Hospitals, originally meant for Parsis only, are now catering to the medical needs of all communities, with financial relief and benefits to Parsi patients. The Parsi Hospitals of Surat function in old buildings which require a lot of major repairs. Much is already spent, a lot more will be spent but the number of inmates who get benefits remains negligible. The old lift also requires to be replaced at substantial cost.

An old Parsi Panchayat like that of Surat has so many useful institutions but because of the community's dwindling numbers they have not been able to retain their old utility. Sometimes it is felt some institutions should stop functioning or be made cosmopolitan or in the original objects of the trusts some more be added looking to the changed times and circumstances.

Parsi punchayets and charity organizations which are working in this direction should give careful thought to this matter at an early date. This is a field where only persons who have personal experience and knowledge should express themselves with authority in the light of the difficulties they may be experiencing.

President of the Surat Parsi Panchayat and vice president of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India Dr Sam S.



Bhacca is closely connected with several religious and community institutions. A popular medical practitioner in Surat, Bhacca also assists the leprosy and tuberculosis hospitals.

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The fun of flying

The silken flight of kites and eagles outside his Cuffe Parade highrise in Bombay had captured his fancy even as a child. On May 16, 2002, 24-year-old Beheram Mistry rode the airways at 3,000 feet in a glider over Poona for seven hours, 35 minutes, breaking the existing record by one hour, 20 minutes, just around 30 minutes short of the national record.

"After about five hours of flying I was beginning to tire out. I was getting cramps and my water ran out. But my instructors at the Pune Gliding Centre (PGC) at Hadapsar and colleagues on the ground urged me on, encouraging me to remain airborne for as long as possible. By the end of the day, the conditions (for flying) were dying down and I was completely exhausted. But it was good fun flying — a great feeling!" describes the glider pilot who had obtained his licence two months earlier after just 32 flying hours.

Not really out to chase records, Mistry says that it was only after he landed that his instructors called for and verified the record books. Attempting to break the national record is a possibility and will be a great learning experience as well, he believes.

While Bombay has no facilities for gliding, the PGC has two instructors, Capt Sailesh Charbhe and Capt Sushil Bajpai and three operational gliders. "The weather conditions were good. It was a long flight and Beheram's flying was superlative. He has the potential to be among the best of glider pilots or instructors," Bajpai told *Parsiana* on the telephone. Mistry remembers flying towards different spots within the permissible radius. "I flew over the Gultekdi market yard from different directions and also went up past the hill-top temple of Kanifnath," his description to Times News Network correspondent Rahul Chandawarkar was carried in a front page report in the *Pune Times* of May 21, 2002.

The first rung on the path to achievement was the customary five-hour flight that glider pilots need to complete if they wish to obtain the coveted Silver-C (international gliding certificate). Earlier Mistry had made two attempts to stay airborne for five hours. "I think I failed because I was tense about attaining height," he told Chandawarkar. On May 16, he decided to concentrate on "enjoying the experience rather than worrying about the results."

Admitting that gliding can be "inherently or potentially dangerous," Mistry is not unduly worried about the risks. "The quality of instruction at the PGC is fantastic," he declares. "We don't do stunting (stunts) or take any untoward risks. If you follow the safety procedures you're safe."

The Centre allows joy rides for visitors. If the pilot takes up a visitor, the latter pays, Mistry explains. On all other occasions, the pilot has to pay a launch fee of Rs 187 per flight, a nominal sum by international standards, as the Centre is heavily subsidized by the government. Depending on the student's aptitude, it generally takes between 50-100 flights of a few minutes each to obtain a gliding license, with young people tending to learn faster, he maintains.

After his schooling at Cathedral and John Connon in Bombay, Mistry did his BSc in physics from K. C. College and is now considering the career options available, preferably in the aviation field. For the moment, the plucky youngster spends four days of the week in Poona honing his gliding skills and continuing, with the encouragement of his parents Russi and Zareen, "to glide as long as I can and achieve my personal best."

Revved and ready

As a six-year-old, he rode a bike at a motocross for seniors at the Brabourne Stadium in Bombay in 1985. "I remember that seated on my small bike (39 cc Japanese 'Dandy' which could fit into a suitcase!) I was still smaller than the wheel of the guy alongside!" chuckles Rustom Patel, recalling his first public appearance in the demonstration class for boys under 18!

Initiated into climbing on to a two wheeler one evening on his return from school by his older cousin Kaizad, Rustom was soon hooked on to the passion that has dominated Patel family life for a large number of years and has produced many a motocross champion! Their extended clan of riders consists of father Kersi (still riding at 58), and his three sons Neville, Zubin and Rustom, and Kersi's brother Fali and his two sons Kaizad and Yezdi.

In February 2002, Rustom, now 23, set the track afire astride his Suzuki Fiero, winning the last leg of the MRF 2001 national motocross in Bangalore to secure his first national championship. The 1.2 km special track laid for the final

round consisted of 10 single jumps, two table tops, three sets of double jumps and eight berms (embankments where the rider shows his riding skills), according to press reports. "I dedicate this championship to my brother Zubin who was the national champion several times and who has been my inspiration and guru," Rustom told *Parsiana*.

With the initial legs of this year's championship already begun, the irrepressible rider has bounced right back into form after a major crash during practice in Bangalore. "I tore my shoulder quite severely. The doctors said I should not ride for four months, but here I am back on track two months later and not a second slower!" chuckles Rustom who is among the top bikers who form Team TVS Racing. The TVS sponsorship enables Rustom to participate and brave the rigors of the race and reap its rewards in all parts of India. The 17 years of his racing career have seen him take part in Bangalore, Mangalore, Hyderabad, Baroda, Kolhapur, Nagpur, Nasik, Poona, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, etc on dirt tracks, hill climbs, etc.

Among his current passions is the drive to promote the popularity of his Ace Machines Racing Club. "Two of my friends have died in motorcycle accidents on the streets. The rush of adrenaline and the thrill of zooming down roads at 120 km per hour can prove very costly. I want to pull these guys into sports, to hone their often amazing and awesome driving talent into creating a team of good riders who can participate in events all over India," he outlines his plans. Holding get-togethers and Sunday fun rides, imparting his knowledge on the care, safety, performance and skilful handling of two wheelers, Rustom wants to prove a point — that Bombay riders are as good as any other. "One of my students recently came first in the novice category in Poona," he elaborates. Charging just Rs 1,000 per year for the coaching, Rustom provides shirts and gloves to budding champions as well! "I have only one Parsi student," he laments, adding that he is more than willing to give a 50 percent concession to fellow Parsis, but community members are either not interested or find it too difficult to travel to Thana! Rustom has been felicitated for his achievements by community organizations like the Bombay Parsee



Mistry: gutsy gliding

"Kyrus is very proud of his karate. The black belt has given him a great sense of achievement and boosted his self-confidence. Though initially we had to push him a little to go, he began to find it interesting and now he loves it," remarks his mother Huzan. Be it the nimbleness of moving kumite (fighting) or the stylized elegance of the katas (series of movements), the young karateka, who trains twice a week at Saint Stanislaus School at Bandra, scripted an unflustered success at the black belt exam.

From martial arts to music, Kyrus' piano lessons with teacher Nergish Durgor take him through the pleasures of Mozart or Beethoven's *Für Elise*. "We really don't want him to concentrate too much on piano exams. He plays music that appeals to him," says Huzan. With swimming or the occasional roller skating course in school within his ambit of interests, Kyrus looks forward to expressing his creativity by becoming an architect.

Compiled by Hilla P. Guzder

Association, Bombay Parsi Punchayet trustees, Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India, Rustom Baug Association, etc.

Jocularly remarking that if he hadn't taken up racing seriously he would have become a dancer, Rustom puts on his dancing shoes at Rustom Baug's annual May Queen Ball, the rare male among the gaggle of dancing girls on stage! Early morning jogs and gym workouts keep him trim. When not traveling, Rustom joins Neville and Zubin at their RNZ (named after the three siblings) Service Station at Mazagaon. "Our showroom cum garage is among the leaders for sales of Kinetic Honda," he says.

Two wheeler racing is a manly and challenging sport, Rustom believes, notwithstanding the bruises, body bumps and spills that accompany the thrills! "I love challenges and I want to go international, to compete maybe in Europe," he asserts.

Calm karateka

"He excels in studies as well as sports and has a streak of determination behind that



Sethna: martial arts and music

calm expression on his face. He was most regular in the training sessions irrespective of academic exams or any ailments," wrote Sensei Devavrat P. Bhatt, commending his student Kyrus Sethna who achieved his first degree black belt after six years of dedicated training. Bhatt, a fourth dan (degree) black belt, is the chief instructor of India of the Dev

Patel: irrepressible rider

Shotokan Karate-Do International, affiliated to karate federations in Japan and Europe.

"No, it is not difficult to combine karate with studies because I enjoy it and make time for it. My dad (Rustom Sethna of Sethna Constructions Private Limited) had put me into a karate class when I was small because other boys used to bully me. I started liking karate after I reached a certain level," remarks 14-year-old Kyrus, a ninth standard student of Bombay Scottish School at Mahim.



"Pastry-making keeps both young and old generations happy and delighted. Pastries can be eaten any time of the day or night. One need not wait for an occasion to have them," says the modest chef Nowzer Iranpour adding, "However, the field is such that nobody can be perfect. You have to learn things and be creative. I do not call myself a master yet."

Over the 31 years he has been with the Taj Mahal Hotel which he joined as trainee cook in 1971, Iranpour has progressed to become assistant cook, cook, head cook, assistant chef, chef. It took him 13 years to reach the level of chef. It is only from 1981 that he became pastry chef of La Patisserie (the cake shop of the Taj) and then pastry chef (western region), reporting directly to executive chef, Hemant Oberoi. His loyalty lies with the Taj, his first and last job. For Iranpour, "Taj is my second home. If ever I leave the Taj, I will never work anywhere else." Except for B. Meherwan's mawa cakes, he finds Taj pastries the best.

Well travelled and having a varied experience in pastry-making Iranpour had an opportunity to visit the Olympics (Cooking) in Frankfurt in 1982 (as spectator) to see thousands of chefs from all over the world come together and exchange ideas. He has also been to Switzerland, Germany, London, Vienna, New York, Singapore and several other countries and has picked up fresh ideas from the chefs there: "I get ideas on the latest equipment, the latest techniques. Even their ready mix is so good that all one has to do is open the bag of flour, add yeast and water and bake it, whereas here we do not get good flour and there are lots of problems. Even the quality of readymade molds that are available abroad are excellent. In fact Taj recently imported several machines and molds. We also get to know their recipes." Pastry-making abroad is fully computerized. Nobody works with their hands. Even chocolate is melted with the help of a fully automatic machine. A couple of months ago when Iranpour visited Franklin in Switzerland, he saw their advanced techniques of making chocolates and how machines give a good finishing touch. But for Iranpour, "Using my fingers and getting the feel of the pastry is a must!"

But Iranpour is no copycat. He knows

Perfecting pastries

Having won awards in petit four, wedding cakes and desserts, Nowzer Iranpour is considered an authority on confectionery

Rashna Ardesher

well that conditions in India are different from abroad. The ingredients available are different, there are at least two to three items in foreign recipes that are not available in India. Besides, Indian tastes vary. For instance, liquor is added in practically every cake abroad, whereas in India not everyone has liquor. That makes pastry-making a different ball game altogether.

Iranpour is the only chef (and the only Parsi) to get three gold medals for the best petit four (mini pastries served during tea time), wedding cakes and desserts at the All-India Chef Competition held in New Delhi in 1995. He is a judge at inter-college, inter-hotel and inter-chef competitions and examines papers (in baking and confectionery) of catering students of Sophia College, Anjuman-i-Islam College, Rizvi College, etc.

He was the first to start Taj Air-Catering, a catering service for the airline industry as also a flight kitchen for the Taj in Delhi, we learn from Iranpour. The first chef to be sent to Swissair to learn how to present food in an aeroplane, the experience gained was then used in India, he mentions. Today, thanks to hardworking and efficient employees like Iranpour, the Taj is serving several airlines such as Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Emirates, Jet Airways, Delta...

A pioneer of La Patisserie, one of the oldest cake shops in the country, he is also the first chef in India to start a European festival. He has conducted cake shop festivals in Bombay, Calcutta, Hyderabad, Bangalore. "We have to plan this in advance. Talk on the phone to the chefs in that particular city, be there at least seven to eight days in advance. Know what pastries are served and which are the popular cake shops. Prepare a menu. Get good publicity and press coverage and then (proceed with) the festival for 15 to 20 days." In each of these festivals Iranpour has shown his skills

and displayed his colorful creations.

He feels very sad when he comes across Indians who say that the best of pastries are available abroad. He has rebuked them in his own way by giving them delightful surprises.

Displaying his skills at pastry-making he shared some vital tips and lip smacking pastry recipes, with the IMC (Indian Merchants' Chamber) Ladies' Wing at the Crystal Room of the Taj on July 9, 2002, a function so well organized by Pervez Aggarwal, chairperson of the international connections committee. Iranpour demonstrated recipes of honey almond biscuits (honey is natural sugar) and cheese cake crumble (made from cottage cheese, which is non-fattening), assuring the fitness freaks and figure-conscious ladies that their cholesterol would remain under control. For the pure veggies, chocolate delight is the easiest and the most delicious chocolate cake one can make in the house. When asked about his favorite pastry, Iranpour gives a diplomatic answer: "All are my favorites. I go on creating new pastries. But the favorites in town are truffle black forest and plum cake."

Iranpour also gave a number of tips:

- If you do not have cake molds, use paper molds or plastic molds.
- Do not wash plastic molds often. The pastry loses its shine.
- To make your own mold in the house, inflate a balloon and fasten it. Dip the circular contour of the balloon in melted chocolate such that almost half of it is well coated with the chocolate. Place it on a plate and put it in the fridge. Remove it after 15 to 20 minutes. Prick the balloon. You will see that the chocolate mold is ready.
- To decorate a cake, take any fancy net. Place it carefully on the cake, spread cocoa powder and remove the net carefully.
- Some of the good chocolate brands

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available are Morde, Felchlin and Calibo.

- The best cream available in the market is Rich Topping Cream.

- Keep your hands dry when working on chocolate cakes.

- The best way of cooling melted chocolate is to pour it on a marble slab.

- Milk chocolate should be melted at 29°C, white chocolate at 27°C and dark chocolate at 31-32°C. Iranpour is such an expert that he simply has to put some hot chocolate on the tip of his tongue to judge whether it has melted at the correct temperature.

When the exclusive art of pastry-making blends with innovation, there are no limits. Iranpour had laid a spread of banana praline, raspberry ripple, mix fruit cheese cake, raspberry charlotte, etc at the Taj for IMC Ladies' Wing.

Besides the Taj, Iranpour also imparts training in pastry-making in various parts of the world. Sadly, he does not train housewives.

The aroma of freshly baked bread and biscuits of Meher Bakery just below his residence in Nasik was what attracted young Nowzer to the profession. He would rush down to meet Santonh, the baker at Meher. Recalls Iranpour with a mischievous smile: "I knew that something tasty was being made down

happy and I decided to go in for the catering profession." He soon passed out from the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition (with specialization in baking and confectionary) at Shivaji Park, Dadar, in 1970, at the age of 19.

Presently Iranpour's inspiration comes from within. Even when we interviewed him at 8 p.m. at the Taj after a full day's work, he was tired, but his enthusiasm was intact. When asked whether he works as hard in the house, he remembers wife Viloo, who worked as assistant manager of the Cake Shop at the Taj (now called Birdy's) for 14 years, and responds: "I don't touch anything in the house." His day ends with eating dinner made by Viloo (she is a good cook herself), watching television (he loves watching test cricket and both English and Hindi movies) and then going to bed with a little prayer. He still has a decade to retire, but he is far too busy to even think of making retirement plans. Besides, as the saying goes: "A chef never retires."

Nowzer loves the Parsi community. He finds Parsis very lively, cheerful and helpful. As far as their eating habits are concerned, he jokingly says: "Parsis are great eaters. If we have a party where Parsis are invited and the order is placed

there and off I would go to Meher and chat with Santonh. It just made me

for 200 people, we have to provide for 300 people ... The one extraordinary characteristic of Parsis is that whether it be Christmas, Divali, Id or Parsi New Year, it is fun to see them all set to celebrate the festival. This is the charm of our community." A couple of years ago when the famous Parsi culinary expert Katy Dalal approached Iranpour to contribute some of his prized recipes in her book, *Delicious Encounters*, a good Zoroastrian that he is, he considered it his duty to give her the best of his recipes.

Do you have an occasion to celebrate coming soon? Or, do you simply have a sweet tooth? Remember Iranpour and the Taj Mahal Hotel, and you will find exquisite flavors of pastries, the colors and creative compositions of which will make every elegant reception a success.

Here are some recipes shared by the chef.

OPERA

Oven temp — 150°C

Baking time — 35-40 min

Yield — 40 to 50

Chocolate Sponge

Eggs (4)

Icing sugar (350 g)

Cocoa powder (70 g)

Yogurt (250 ml)

Oil (150 ml)

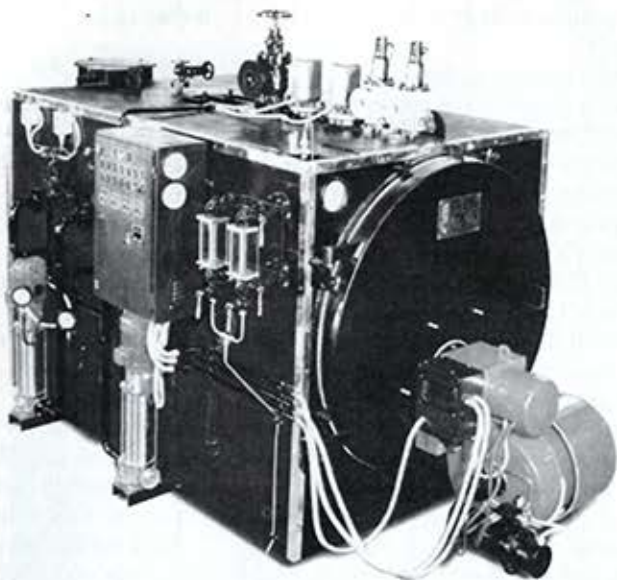
Baking soda (1 tsp)

Vanilla essence (1 tsp)

Flour (250 g)

Mix all ingredients together in a mixing

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bowl. Once mixture is smooth pour into a lined and greased 12" x 12" square cake tin and bake. Turn the cake onto a wire rack to cool. Sandwich the cake with truffle cream and coffee butter cream.

Truffle Cream

Milk (150 ml — boiled)

Chocolates (300 g — melted)

Mix together and allow to cool.

Coffee Butter Cream

Butter (200 g)

Icing sugar (100 g)

Coffee powder (20 to 30 g)

Cream butter and sugar till light and fluffy, and add infused coffee (coffee powder dissolved in a little hot water).

CHOCOLATE DELICE

Oven temperature — 150°C

Baking time — 30-35 min

Chocolate Sponge

Eggs (3)

Sugar (90 g)

Flour (75 g)

Cocoa powder (15 g)

Vanilla essence (1 tsp)

Beat the eggs and sugar till light and fluffy, add vanilla essence, fold in flour and cocoa powder to form a batter and bake. Once cooled, slice the cake, into one or two layers as required. Line the

mold for the delice.

Chocolate Delice

Chocolate (200 g — melted, slightly warm)

Cream (300 g — whipped)

Gently fold the cream into the melted chocolate. Once mixed, pour into the lined mold and let it set. After setting dust with cocoa powder.

HONEY ALMOND BISCUITS

Baking temperature — 150°C

Baking time — 10-12 mins

Base for Soft Crust

Flour (300 g)

Butter (200 g)

Icing sugar (100 g)

Egg (1)

Vanilla essence (1 tsp)

Make a dough of the above ingredients and roll out to line the base of a 12" x 12" swiss roll tin. Blind bake and keep aside.

Topping

Single cream (300 ml)

Butter (70 g)

Sugar (50 g)

Honey (150 g)

Almond flakes (250 g)

In a saucepan mix butter, honey, cream and gently boil this together for four to five minutes, stirring continuously until the mixture gets thick and creamy and leaves the sides of the pan. Add the almond flakes (preferably lightly roasted). Stir in gently. Remove from heat and add the mixture to the short crust base. Bake lightly.

Allow to cool, then cut into desired size and shape.

CHEESE CAKE CRUMBLE

Baking temperature — 150°C

Baking time — 40-50 min

Yield — 3 pie molds

Base for Short Crust Pastry

Flour (300 g)

Butter (200 g)

Castor sugar (100 g)

Egg (1)

Cheese Cake mixture

Cottage cheese (1 kg)

Icing sugar (300 g)

Eggs (4)

Egg yolks (3)

Lemons (2 — juice)

Vanilla essence

Cream (125 ml)

Flour (50 g)

Crumble mixture

Butter unsalted (150 g)

Flour (150 g)

Icing sugar (100 g)

Cinnamon (1 tsp)

First make dough for the base. Roll it out and line the pie molds.

For cheese cake mixture mash and smoothen out the cottage cheese with icing sugar.

Add all the remaining ingredients one by one, gradually. Fold in the flour, pour the batter into the pie mold and bake at decided temperature.

For the crumble mixture add all the ingredients and crumble them slowly.

Once the cheese cake is baked remove it from the oven, add the crumble mixture on top and put it back into the oven for five minutes to get a nice golden brown color.

SCONES

Baking temperature — 200°C

Baking time — 12-15 min

Yield — 50-60, depending on size

Plain flour (1 kg)

Baking powder (40 g)

Butter (250 g)

Castor sugar (250 g)

Egg yolks (5)

Milk (300 to 500 ml)

Vanilla essence

Salt (a pinch)

In a mixing bowl mix flour, baking powder and salt. Rub in the butter to make a crumbly mixture. Gradually add sugar and milk to make soft dough.

Roll out the dough and cut into 5 cm size, or as you desire.

Place for baking and glaze with milk or egg wash. Once baked, cool and serve with butter or jam.

CHERRY CINNAMON MUFFIN

Baking temperature (150°C)

Baking time — 30-40 min

Yield — 45-50

Flour (250 g)

Butter (250 g)

Sugar (250 g)

Eggs (5) or custard powder (1 tsp)

Walnuts (100 g — chopped)

Cherries (40-50 — deseeded, tinned or fresh)

Cinnamon powder (1 tsp)

Milk (50 ml)

Baking powder (1 tsp)

Vanilla essence (1 tsp)

Beat butter with sugar until creamy. Add eggs one at a time beating continuously. Add flour, milk, walnuts and cherries mixing constantly to form a batter.

Pour into lined muffin molds and bake at predecided temperature.

Once baked, cool them on wire racks.

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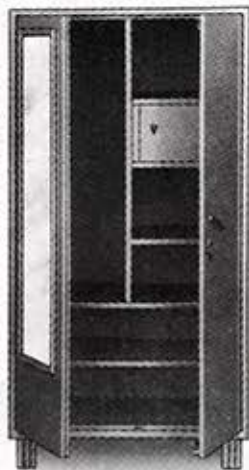
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Wrapping it up

It was Pacwel Equipments' third international award in three years. Manufacturing and exporting fully automatic packing and wrapping machines for the food and pharmaceutical industries, the company was honored with the Arch of Europe Award for Quality and Technology in the Diamond Category by Business Initiative Directions (BID) on March 25, 2002.

Presenting the Award to Pacwel's Bomi N. Adajania in Frankfurt was José Prieto, president of BID. The Madrid-based organization selects awardees on the basis of product quality, innovation, technology, customer satisfaction, professionalism, etc. Pacwel had earlier received the International Platinum Star for Quality Award in Geneva in October 2001 and the International Gold Star for Quality in Madrid in November 2000, states the firm's profile.

An ISO 9001 certified company, Pacwel's works are situated in Mulund in Bombay and in an industrial area in Lonavla, around 100 km away. "Our machines are much costlier than any others in the market. Though there are lots of competitors, people select our company because of our strong brand name and the fact that our robust machines provide long and trouble free service, with minimum maintenance," Adajania declares. The company's two design engineers work continuously towards upgrading designs and augmenting the speed of the machines. Service engineers go, if required, all over India — to Nepal, Bangladesh and other countries as well. "Our machines have minimum down time (failure or stoppage), only routine maintenance is required," he asserts.

With the capability of high speed packing of hard boiled candy, toffee, caramel, chicklets, Adajania states there

is now a good demand for lollipop wrapping. Pacwel's enrobers and their cooling tunnels are used by chocolate producing companies for their chocolate bars like 5-star bars, etc., explains Adajania who started his own business in 1985 after a 25-year career with Cadbury in India. Pacwel's up to six-track sachet machines pack liquids, powders and granulated products and all types of machines have the provision of changing pack/product sizes.

With a background in electrical engineering and having obtained his certification as a chartered engineer, Adajania spends three days of the week in Lonavla, giving the factory he set up in 1996 his personal attention. "We allow customers sufficient trial in the initial stages before they place the order. The party has to be convinced that our company has the capability of making the best machines," states Adajania, explaining his business philosophy.

Distilling quality

Manufacturing a range of "luxurious liquors, smooth whiskies, robust rums, mature brandies and gentle gins," Sikkim Distilleries Limited was awarded the EMRC Euromarket Award 2002 by the EMRC (European Market Research Center) at Brussels, Belgium. Collecting the Award on behalf of the company was managing director Marzban Parekh at a glittering banquet hosted by the EMRC on April 29, 2002 and attended by "project owners, executives, entrepreneurs and ministers from 23 countries of the world," according to a press release. The EMRC, established in 1992, acts as a "catalyst for the promotion of economic and trade relations between business entrepreneurs" across the globe.

The latest product launched by the 48-year-old distillery is Sikkim Silver Orchid Gin and Lime — "a duet that goes very well with chilled soda and crushed ice" and has a distinctive fresh lime flavor, as opposed to the normally available lime cordial based duets, state company sources. Sikkim Aromatics Limited, a division of

Sikkim Distilleries, has recently reintroduced Sikkim Eau-De-Cologne in response to increasing demand. The company aims to introduce other products as well in the cosmetics, toiletries and perfumes range.

With its modern and environmentally friendly plant situated at Rangpo in one of India's smallest states nestling in the Himalayas, Sikkim Distilleries' products were one of the first Indian-made liquors accepted for sale in the US and Canada, states the company profile. In March 2001 the company was awarded



Parekh (left) with EMRC Euromarket Award; Sikkim Silver Orchid Gin & Lime (top right) and Sikkim Eau-De-Cologne

the American Quality Award 2001 at New York and had earlier been the recipient of numerous national and international awards from Bangkok, Paris, Cannes, Dusseldorf, etc.

Passionate about plants

Adding color and charm to gift-giving on festive occasions is the Gift-a-Plant scheme from Bandra's Green Grower. "Plants are a much better option than bouquets since they last for years. They not only add color to the room, but also reduce stress and create positive energy," states Mahrukh Khajotia who has been associated with Green Grower from its inception four years ago.

A variety of flowering and foliage plants such as poinsettias, chrysanthemums, syngoniums, etc are available, attractively gift wrapped in a presentation box with ribbons and bows, from a price range of Rs 200 onwards. Accom-



Adajania (left) with Prieto at presentation in Frankfurt



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Green Grower: artistic gift-giving

panying the gift are 'basic care' instructions to ensure the gift remains healthy and blooming.

Besides Gift-a-Plant, Green Grower has a host of choices for corporate or personal gifts. The Garden Basket has an assortment of flowering plants flourishing in a cane basket, Miniature Landscapes has an assortment of verdure artistically arranged amidst pebbles and other embellishments in a flat container, Plant Solitaire has plants like orchids, while a selection of bonsai provide the exotic touch. Prices range from around Rs 550 onwards to Rs 1,500 for the rarer bonsai. Green Grower's own nursery at Karjat known as Dev Dutt Farms has over 1,000 varieties of frond, shoot, floweret, sepal, tendril, flourishing over 25 acres.

Passionate about plants, Khajotia focuses her energies on marketing and striving to make people aware of the satisfaction derived from botanical pursuits and the greening of the environment in homes and offices. "We have a Rent-a-Plant scheme too, where our technical staff first visits a prospective client's premises to assess the prevailing conditions — the air and light, air conditioning, etc. After the plants are in place, our

Kamal (right) and Keki Cooper (center) with Falguni Pathak at the inauguration on October 11, 2002 of the newest of their chain of beauty parlors, Kamal's, at Union Park, Khar (West).



mali (gardener) attends on a regular basis to tend the flora. Supervisors pay a visit if required. The plants are rotated after some time, with new ones being brought in and older ones removed so that the client is not stuck with the same greens for months on end," explains Khajotia. Undertaking landscaping and supplying of plants on a wholesale or retail basis, Green Grower's roster of clients include the American and

Australian consulates, companies like Reliance Industries, Wockhardt Life Sciences Limited, The Leela, the Hiranandani group of companies, K. Raheja Developers and others whose environmental consciousness has seen many an apartment and concrete block cocooned within colorful garden areas.

Khajotia also executes orders for floral decoration — be it a Parsi navjote or a Hindu wedding or birthday or anniversary, at varying locations, outdoors, in hotels, clubs, gymkhanas, etc. She can be contacted on telephone numbers 6415985, 6427094 or on e-mail ggrower@vsnl.net

Green Grower was the dream of N. S. Rao, the founder of Pest Control (India) Private Limited, states their website www.greengrowerindia.com. Green Grower is a member of the Indian Nurserymen's Association, The National Society of the Friends of the Trees as well as the Rose Society of Bombay. "Mine is no routine, boring nine-to-five job," says Khajotia who is a graduate in commerce from Narsee Monjee College. "Each day presents a new and interesting challenge. I am completely happy and couldn't think of doing anything else."

Compiled by Hilla P. Guzder



Profiling Papa

Despite the odds Noshir Kapadia relentlessly contributed his best to the Indian technological field, states the author

Pervin Kapadia Bhasin

See him dart across the backyard, chasing his three-year-old grandson. Noshir Padamjee Kapadia's childlike laughter, enthusiasm and zest for life belies his 69 years yet leaves me with no surprise; it is something I, his daughter, have grown up with.

Technology, tools, machines. Cold, impersonal words to many. But to dad, friends, companions and the everlasting loves of his life. In 1953, having topped his batch at the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute — Bombay, dad entered the world of professional engineers. A couple of years later he joined Larsen and Toubro (L&T) which steadily grew as a technological giant with multinational presence and became a formidable force to reckon with. For the next 30 years it was his second home. He was all of 23 when he was handpicked to spend a year in Denmark, learning the finer nuances of switchgear technology and tool engineering. On his return, he played a pivotal role pioneering L&T's switchgear manufacturing division, soon to become the company's goldmine.

Intolerance of mediocrity and refusal to allow the minutest compromise on quality lent him professional perfection and won him the admiration of many. The brilliant brain and power of creative visualization was something he had been blessed with. Combine with it the confidence to challenge paradigms, courage to risk the untread, enormous hard work and exacting self discipline. The tools division that he led soon earned the enviable reputation of being among the finest in the country and in Asia.

But professional superiority was only part of what made my 'little' 5'3" and 43 kg dad a giant of a man: His readiness to extend a helping hand, silently without ado. His integrity and the ability to unflinchingly say no when his conscience did not permit otherwise. His conviction that what is right must never

bow before a show of might.

Dinnertime through our growing years overflowed with stories... tales of accomplishment, of challenges sought, obstacles overcome, perfection personified. "Dad's bag of tales," we'd drag him.

Take for instance the Rajasthan project. Years ago, when work commenced on the Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant, the first in the country, dad — a young man then — had the privilege of being nominated on the core team. The



Kapadia: "a giant of a man"

project required machinery then not available in India. For all practical purposes, it would have had to be imported, an expensive proposition. Dad insisted it could be indigenously produced. Despite strong reservation from relatively senior quarters, he persisted. And succeeded.

Or for instance, the time when a brand new, imported (at a hefty price) electric crematorium refused to work as required. No one including the manufacturer could find a solution. At least not a cost effective one. Until dad, having barely started his career in the organization then, took one look at it and soon set it right. Not content with having done so, he took it upon himself to prevent similar mishaps from recurring. He wrote to the manu-

facturing company, pointing out in painstaking detail the fundamental error in design and measures for eliminating it in future. And so he continued through his working years, creating, solving, accomplishing.

Indigenizing was a pet passion. With scores of import substitution measures to his credit, his contribution toward conserving the nation's foreign exchange is monumental. To make India as self-reliant as she could be, always remained his driving dream. I can recall several instances over the years when offers came his way from other lands, other employers. Tempting and lucrative enough to entice the average professional. But not dad. He remained loyal, for his motivations were far above the lure of money or material luxury.

Recognition by the country came his way in 1978 when he received the National Invention Award for creating a

sophisticated tool that completely converted an imported 'Callahan' Press; meant for one product, it was adapted for another. In addition to considerable saving of foreign exchange, the process did wonders for the machine's productivity. And then as the years passed the true mettle of the man emerged. Integrity and idealism had to cross swords with pettiness and politics. Tough times those were, when it seemed like his beliefs, ideals and his life's work were

being overpowered by the pettiness of others.

Battered and bruised, but not beaten, dad continued untiringly in his efforts. Distressed but never defeated, when one door closed, he sought another, a valiant warrior battling the odds. And then even as material wealth dwindled, new riches revealed themselves. Spiritual treasures. Strengthening of spirit, fortification of character, reinforcement of ideals. And thus we managed to navigate those choppy waters, never forgetting that what is right must never ever bow down to a show of mere might.

Organizational politics seems to have become so much a part of our life today, that we seem to have accepted it as a 'constant' of organizational reality, something we cannot and need not change. We stay insensitive to the



Noshir and Mehru with grandson

victim's anguish. So numb have we become to the denigration of values in hallowed corporate corridors, that we think nothing of belittling courage shown by the odd individual who chooses to be true to himself. 'Maverick' we call him. That a collective conscience can be so lacking in guts is a pity, a crying shame.

Even in the midst of turmoil and hardship, dad's passion to create and contribute continued to burn. Noteworthy among his technological achievements of these latter years are breakthrough innovations in the field of flame-proof switchgear technology.

A piece on dad would be unforgivably

incomplete without a mention of his beloved wife, Mehru. Mom's walked with him every step. His best friend, worst critic, loyal companion. She stood by him steadfastly and devotedly, keeping up the faith, soothing away disappointment, sharing the pain, helping him up when he stumbled, reminding him of the dawn that lay in wait beyond the dark. By his own admission, she is his anchor and inspiration.

In even the few months he spent visiting his son in Canada, his innovative ideas were published by *American Machinist*, a leading North American technological journal. Imagine the family's joy and pride when dad's contribution was judged by readers of the publication as the most valuable, a cut above those contributed by younger engineers with more contemporary knowledge.

Learning, he says, is something that will not stop until his last breath. Now his days in Canada are spent poring over technological literature at what has become his second home, the Concordia University library. Back home, the British Council library is a decent substitute and a favorite haunt.

In a world which is increasingly la-

menting about losing control over its fate, I have learnt from Dad and Mom some invaluable lessons: That true freedom is not what the world permits us but what we grant ourselves. That nothing is worth selling one's soul for. That heaven is not something to reach out for but to turn in towards.

When I look around and see his contemporaries lead a laid back, retired life, I urge him to take it easy. "Bah," he dismisses, without a thought. No retired life for this full-of-beans gentleman, 69 years young. "I'm not old," he insists.

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READYING FOR THE THIRD...

continued from page 22
it owns, said Clubwala.

According to Madras Anjuman president and Federation vice president Nariman Mogrelia, the tenants of the 14 odd buildings owned by the Anjuman have agreed to a 10 percent increase every three years in their low rents frozen for 40 to 50 years. This increased amount is credited to a separate repairs account with the worst-off property getting priority.

Baman Cama of Baroda reported an annual average of four to five births and 14 to 16 deaths. Having completed the renovation of their bungli at a cost of four to five lakh rupees, their next priority is the renovation of the 40-year-old darbe mehr that houses their 150-year-old agiary fire, he noted. Describing the Baroda Parsis as "a happy lot," Cama said that BUZY, representing the 60-70 youths in a community of 700, had generated and donated Rs 13,11,000 to the Shree Parsi Panchayat Vadodara for the use of Zoroastrian youths. A couple of Parsi families who had problems during the Gujarat riots had been shifted to the dharamshala, he added. Solar concentrators were in the process of installation over one dakhma at Doongerwadi at a cost of Rs 2 lakhs after "74 of the 75 persons (present) at the annual general meeting endorsed (the decision)," said Cama.

When Cyrus Siganporia and his team of volunteers cleared the Indore dakhma after 10 to 15 years, they found a tree growing within whose roots had affected the foundation of the more than 100-year-old structure, said Indore Parsi Anjuman president Bomi Heerjee. The once deserted location of the dakhma "will soon be enveloped by residential areas," worried Heerjee, as encroachments and trespassing on the property due to breaks in the wall were a frequent occurrence. Estimating the cost of a new boundary wall at more than four lakh rupees, Heerjee sought financial assistance from well-wishers in the all-India community. Stressing the need to preserve community properties of defunct anjumans, Heerjee asked Sethna, "Could it form part of the Minorities Commission Report which comes up for discussion in Parliament?" According to Porus Debara of Agra, the eviction of trespassers on community property in Kanpur

had resulted in the trustees facing a criminal charge.

While the DPA reported zero births, deaths and marriages over the past year, the six new rooms on the second floor of the Mengusi Dharamshala had been com-



Releasing the Directory: Dotivala with Guzder

pleted with modern facilities, reported DPA secretary Farrokh Rustomji. The foundation stone was laid on the occasion of their agiary's 40th anniversary celebrations in December 2001 and the rooms were ready by Jamshedi Navroz in March 2002. Next on their agenda is the renovation of Bhiwandiwalla Hall which is the venue of all DPA functions.

With Mhow's population dwindling due to lack of industrial and commercial opportunities, Mhow Anjuman president Dr Behram Masani reiterated the availability of cheap rental accommodation. A recent, unhappy development in the Mhow community ensued when the priest's dog killed the bitch of a community member who has since become "anti-anjuman," said Masani. The man wanted the priest to be sacked and when that demand was not met by the trustees, had lodged complaints about the Mhow Parsi Anjuman with the charity commissioner, the income-tax authorities, etc, informed Masani. He referred to the 14-acre aramgah land in Khandwa where "all that's left is half the area of this room with Parsi graves," adding that the Federation's intervention in a civil suit protesting against the sale of another property had resulted in a compromise in terms of which the Federation had received Rs 2,00,000

from the buyer for withdrawing the suit.

The PPP has allotted 105 flats (of 700 sq ft each) on leave and licence to needy Zoroastrians including newly-weds and has invited objections, reported Dara Irani. "When other anjumans write to us we will try to make sure that their flat is surrendered before we release our flats," added Irani. Eruch Irani clarified, however, that where a family was splitting up with one brother choosing to remain in the old location, the other opting for Poona, this condition would not apply. All seven trustees of the PPP had interviewed the applicants and are determined to ensure that their flats are not used as holiday homes.

Solar concentrators, installed at a cost of Rs 2,50,000 has "relieved" the PPP trustees of stress, noted Dara Irani, thanking scholar Dr Homi Dhallia and BPP trustee Dinshaw Tamboly for the idea. "Within four days the bodies are totally dry," Dara Irani described the summer scene. As against 98 deaths in Poona (of which 16 opted for cremation and one body was buried) the PPP could ascertain 58 to 59 births with much difficulty after attempts to check with the Pune Municipal Corporation, stated Dara.

A new multipurpose community hall is expected to be ready by December 2002 and hostel accommodation for outstation boys can be arranged by applying to the PPP. Six lakh rupees from the Zoroastrians of Hongkong has enabled the PPP to provide health care in the form of a free medical camp for Zoroastrians. With free service of machinery and staff from the Ruby Hall Clinic, the PPP was able to offer cardiac, respiratory, diabetic and gynecological check-ups, mentioned Dara Irani.

Eruch Irani complimented the Poona youths saying that their taking charge of normal youth activities had enabled the trustees to concentrate on these major projects. He underlined the commitment of his board that led them to sit from morning to evening interviewing flat applicants. All seven trustees also always make the time to be present in court to record documents and pursue sanctions for the projected developments. "This personal contribution (enables) the work to proceed without hiccups," noted Eruch Irani.

The Poona representatives noted that 100 flats of 700 sq ft and 32 smaller flats are yet to be allotted. An activity that is on hold because of this flurry of projects

is the publication of the Poona newsletter, admitted Dara Irani.

Describing the condition of rural Parsis in the Bharuch district as "squalid," Bharuch's Pilloo Ginwalla reported that these women and girls have been reduced to doing housework and menial jobs in Moslem homes. She is currently working on restoring her ancestral Jamshed Baug — an old dharamshala building with an attached fire-temple with Bharuch Parsi Panchayet (BhPP) help. Her idea is to rehabilitate these rural Parsis by bringing them to Bharuch and providing them accommodation and support. Currently there are 175 Parsis in Bharuch, she informed the council.

The BPP has sanctioned Rs 20,000 per annum for three years to help the Agra Parsi Anjuman maintain its dharamshala, acknowledged Dolat Debara. To meet the expenses of electricity, water and property taxes, the Agra Anjuman, comprising 13 individuals, has been constrained to rent out the living room on the first floor as well as the prayer hall to generate some income. Emphasizing the antiquity of Parsi settlement in Agra she noted that their aramgah dates back to 1885.

Noting gloomily that Calcutta's Parsi population had declined from 2,500 to 800 "of which over 50 percent are above the age of 60," Bahadur Postwalla said, "(We) can't stem the exodus because of emigration away from city, state and country." The Calcutta trustee noted that eventually there may be few Parsis left there to enjoy the substantial community assets.

The Ahmedabad Parsi Panchayat (APP) was not affected by the riots but four Parsi families were, Porus Karanjawalla informed the delegates. None of them were individually targeted, but they suffered because a neighbor was on the hit list. In the process a boy of navjote age has gone missing. Despite scouring hospitals and relief camps, they have not been able to trace him. In another case of an elderly couple when the old man died naturally, their home was ransacked on the day of the uthamna. In response to queries from the delegates Karanjawalla noted that the Parsis had very good relations with the majority and the minority communities: "We had never known or seen such bad days!"



A donation to the APP has enabled it to offer loans to people wishing to buy their own flats. The Panchayat is also trying to buy a new plot on which to build for residential purposes. The normal medical, educational and financial help to the community continues, as noted Karanjawalla.

Referring to the incident of an out-married Parsi denied membership of the Dahanu Zoroastrian Anjuman who had filed an application with the charity commissioner, president Pervez Irani noted that the hearing had been completed and the verdict was due by the end of June. (It had not been delivered at the time this issue of *Parsiana* went to press.) The case had been originally reported to the Federation by Dahanu's Zarthost Mubarakai.

Another tricky situation had arisen there as some young environmentalist, in an effort to enforce the Supreme Court verdict on noise pollution, had pulled out the wires of the dandia-raas celebration at 10 p.m., said Pervez Irani. The Shiv Sena (SS) interpreted that act as an attack with statements in *Saamna*, the SS mouthpiece, denouncing the Zoroastrians as being against Hindu religious practices. Since then the largely horticultural Zoroastrian community has been made to report to the police for pruning trees and bungalows have been served demolition notices. "Zoroastrians are being targeted but we are trying to sort out the matter," said Pervez Irani.

In a parallel development tenants of the Agiary Anjuman Chawl are challenging the four to five percent permissible increase in rent and the municipality has served demolition notices to the Anjuman for the wooden cabins built on

The executive council in session

a vacant plot leased for 40 years, added Pervez Irani.

Describing it as a "serious problem, a sign of the times," Engineer offered legal help with writ petitions if required.

A jubilant Ronny Dick informed the council that Beji Mirza had donated Rs 1,50,000 to the Jhansi Anjuman in memory of his father. The money would help the Anjuman with the repair of the aramgah wall and the dharamshala.

So enthusiastic were the youths of Jamshedpur in their cleaning of the agiary that the mobed had to clean up after the cleaning party departed, laughed Adi Chehna. The Jamshedpur Parsee Association (JPA) and the Stree Mandal had got together to conduct the Mazdayasni Camp where religion is taught to the five to 15-year age group. They were joined by the Calcutta Scouts Club and their sense of *reet-rivaaj* (rituals and traditions) got a shot in the arm according to Chehna. The JPA's normal activities include the navjote of underprivileged children and encouragement to youngsters to proceed for higher studies, said Chehna.

There have been five births, 16 marriages and 41 deaths in Hyderabad-Secunderabad since 2000, noted their representative Omim Debara. Of the 1,300 students in the Parsi school in Hyderabad only 23 are Parsis. The school secured 97 percent results in the board examination with one student securing sixth rank in the state of Andhra Pradesh, Debara informed the council. The 16th J. J. Irani Challenge Cup, held in

Hyderabad, this year, was won by the Surat cricketers, he added.

Of the six families of Bhopal comprising 16 individuals, three are upper middle class, two are lower middle class. Their representative Col Firoze Allavali noted that the 75,000 sq ft aramgah's bungli and graves were in bad shape and needed repair. Bhopal has a resolution to place its assets in the custody of the Federation.

Heerjee stated that a stud farm nearby had its eye on the property. He suggested that a public trust be set up and the property registered in its name but Gandhi recalled that the property was already registered in the name of the Parsi Society in the *saat baaraa* (land) records.

The 30,000 sq ft aramgah of the Benares Parsi Anjuman on the banks of the river Ganga has been badly damaged due to recent floods, said its honorary secretary Kashmira Gundevia. Once a community of 25 to 30 families when established by superintendent of waterworks P. S. Dastur in 1930, the Anjuman is now reduced to 15 individuals ranging in age between 10 and 70 years, comprising five families who can ill afford the estimated Rs 50,000 cost of repair and sought the Federation's assistance. Gandhi suggested that the Anjuman send a formal appeal of the Federation together with an application for membership and a resolution passed by the general body appointing the all India body as custodian of its assets.

While there are no youngsters in Saronda with its small agiary ("I am the youngest in my village," noted the middle-aged Homi Palsetia) Marazban Wadia of Davier reported a donation of nine lakh rupees from philanthropist Naryman Dubash toward the Rs 15 lakh rehabilitation of the Davier Dharamshala.

The Borivli and Suburban Zoroastrian Association (BASZA) has doubled its membership fees from Rs 250 to Rs 500 per annum, announced its secretary Khurshed Pastakia. BASZA has been regularly holding religious programs under the Zartosht Brothers Fund sponsorship which have been successful with old and young members, noted Pastakia.

Zoroastrian occupants of community flats in Thana are pressurizing the trustees to adopt the new bylaws of the

Housing Society Regulation Act for their cooperative society. This would enable the present owners, who had bought the flats at the cost price of Rs 550/sq ft, to dispose them of in the open market, averred Zarsis Udhawala. The trustees are worried that the flats may go out of the community's hands after all the effort to preserve residential accommodation for the community.

It may be recalled that the anjuman trustees had fought a legal battle to preserve some part of the Agiary land, then being sold off to non-Parsi developers, providing thereby 50 flats to Zoroastrians at this low rate.

With 450 resident Zoroastrians in Thana and 700 to 800 weekenders, the trustees have been noticing that 30 percent of the flats are lying unoccupied. "We are trying to compel people to stay or return the flats to the anjuman," said Udhawala. He added that, according to one school of thought, if the model bylaws are not adopted allotment can be restricted to the community, but once these model bylaws are adopted you cannot change back to restrictive allotment. The registrar of cooperative societies has refused to accept the Thana Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman's clause that its flats in cooperative societies should remain in Parsi occupation, noted Udhawala.

While BPP trustee Rustom Tirandaz and Behram Irani of the IZA were of the opinion that the restrictive clause of the land lease would override the cooperative society clauses, Masani noted that the Gujarat High Court had ruled that under the Cooperative Societies Act allottees can't be restricted to any one community. The matter, he added was now pending in the Supreme Court. Marzban Giara, reporting on the Federation proceedings for *The Bombay Samachar*, informed the gathering that the clause that the flats in the Shah Behram Baug Society were only for Parsis and no non-Parsi spouses were allowed, was successfully challenged in court by an intermarried Parsi.

The Thana trustees' other bugbear — the unauthorized occupation of their 6,000 sq ft cottage on the main road in the center of town by the late SS pramukh Anand Dighe — remains unresolved. The Thana representatives now reminded the Federation of its promise to help.

In his response Gandhi noted that the Anjuman had failed to take possession

of the property when the court had ruled in its favor and now the matter was time barred (Udhawala had admitted that Dighe had promised to move out on various dates but did not honor his word and after his death the SS had continued the same policy): "Who will initiate action? Who will go to Thackeray? (Legal luminary and Rajya Sabha member) Fali Nariman who is the counsel for the SS has said that the Thana representatives can meet him. You can't say the Federation is not moving. If the Thana anjuman is prepared to take the lead, the Federation will support it. But the Federation will not push BPP trustees to expose themselves to dangers that Thana trustees do not want to expose themselves to!"

BPP senior executive Sheroo Master provided a countdown to the BPP's social activities. Educational outlays including help for general college education to 325 students, vocational and technical scholarship to 114 students, higher education for 55 students going abroad and 10 postgraduate students in India plus financial help for coaching classes for 26 medical and engineering hopefuls and for 12 medical students and 15 engineering students totalled nearly Rs 56.3 lakhs between April '01 and March '02, as per the BPP press release. A further Rs 1.18 lakh were given towards school fees. It is noted that six Parsi charitable funds cooperate with the BPP on the higher education committee and seven such charities participate on the vocational and technical education committee.

School counseling and career guidance, reimbursement of daycare center fees, hospitalization and surgeries, marriage help and amelioration of mobeds are other BPP activities. Maintenance assistance for the third and fourth child to 88 parties cost the Panchayet Rs 5,25,000 between October 2001 and March 2002.

Though over Rs 6.17 lakhs were distributed as doles in five months (December 2001 to April 2002) the BPP CEO informed the Council that no able-bodied male who remained unemployed for over two years gets a BPP dole according to the trustees' decision taken two years ago. He also added that Shroff has been acquiring Australian wool at half the market cost for the benefit of about 150-200 kusti-weaving families.

The cosmopolitan Pestonji Davar

Trust administered by the BPP at the behest of the late Davar has contributed Rs 41.24 lakh for educational and medical help in the ratio of 51:49 in favor of cosmopolitan charity to enable the trust to maintain its 80G certificate, noted Dastur.

At Panthaky Baug 104 two-room+kitchen flats and 56 one room+kitchen flats are being constructed in three new buildings while 40 two-room+kitchen flats are proposed to be built at Dhunbai Villa in Vile Parle (W). Three more stories have been added to the existing building at plot no. 786 in Dadar Parsi Colony and are presently being used as a transit camp, notes the BPP write-up. Said Dotivala, "Housing came by default (to the BPP) since the sethias who built colonies found it unfeasible to maintain them." The 70-80-100-year-old buildings require extensive repairs which cost over 1.5 crore rupees and "We can't increase the rents," maintained Dotivala.

Noting that the Punchayet's loss had been over two crore rupees in the past year of which Rs 92 lakhs was on the Doongerwadi account, Dastur recounted the fate of the BPP's appeal to tenants one-and-a-half years ago: The responses totaled three of which two pensioned school teachers volunteered to pay a 10 percent increase in rent and social activist Pheroze Amroliwala sent in a donation of Rs 15,000. "We claim to be educated and socially conscious but..." shrugged Dastur.

Providing an answer to his own question, "How do we meet these deficits?" Shroff recounted that the BPP had earned about 14 crore rupees from transfer of development rights at Khareghat Colony and seven crore rupees from Spenta while interest free deposits had contributed Rs 11.5 to 12 crores. Donations like seven crore rupees from the Manekji Sett Charities provided respite in a scenario of falling interest rates and a mere Rs 2.5 crore revenue from the BPP estates as against an annual expenditure of over eight crore rupees.

Remarking that there was scant undeveloped land in BPP custody, Shroff noted that about Rs 15 crores worth of ownership flats developed at Panthaky Baug would be offered to Parsis at a 15 to 16 percent discount. The Rs 20 crore investment in the Nirlon property at Goregaon had also fetched the BPP "enough FSI and development area." The flats there would be allotted only on

rental basis.

"The BPP is running like a medium sized corporation. As we convert our resources to brick and mortar, the liquid assets are diminishing. We are dealing with 76 percent of the community in India. Joint families are breaking up into nuclear families... Everything at the BPP is not hunky-dory but we are trying... The community (is also) not playing fair," commented Shroff.

Cama observed that despite talk of the community's declining numbers, the housing problem continues. "Is there any real study about housing vis-a-vis (demography)? What are we going to do in 25 years as the population declines?"

Golwalla attributed the decline to out-marriage and migration. "Every year 24 to 25 students go abroad. Seventy percent of them don't return. Of these 70 percent, 25 percent marry out. Giving a subsidy for the third and fourth child will not solve the problem."

Countered Dastur: "Parsis are Parsis everywhere... Most people emigrate because of unfair competition here. We need to gather data on emigrants—their age and education." He also noted that divorce rates were rising. "What are the causes? Is it domestic strife? Is it housing?... We are a technologically driven community. We need a data base to make sensible decisions."

Heavy rain has added to the wear and tear of 113 years necessitating immediate repair of the Bai Pirojbai Manekji Ruttonji Patel Adarian at Vesu. As per an appeal circulated at the meet by its trustees—Minoo Patel, Roshan Mehta, Shernaaz Mehta and Sam Mehta—the cost of restoration would amount to well over Rs 75,000.

Also in need of community support is the M. F. Cama Athornan Institute at Andheri. Running low on enrolment as well as funds, the Institute and the M. M. Cama Education Fund which supports it has been facing a rising deficit that over the past four years has reached 12 lakh rupees.

Tax

Under the current Income Tax Act only 15 percent of the current income of a trust can be accumulated tax free, according to Masani. There was no bar on trusts donating to other trusts with similar objects, he noted.

The question of donations by one trust to another being taxable was raised

by Sarosh Ginwalla as the BhPP had agreed to give a large donation for the refurbishment of Jamshed Baug, the decrepit agiary-dharamshala complex that is currently under rehabilitation in the interests of impoverished Zoroastrians in the Bharuch district. The BhPP had also given Rs 1.5 lakh for the renovation of the Hamavala Agiary as also to the Vesu anjuman and others.

Masani opined that the recipient of the donation would be taxed if 85 percent of the money received (taken as income) is not spent or if it is accumulated for a specific purpose beyond five years. According to the BPP's Mehli Colah no tax would accrue to the donor trust if it spends from its current income. But tax would apply if the donation is made from accumulated income.

Accounts

The Federation spends Rs 50,000 each on the day-care and school counseling projects which the BPP runs at its behest, sharing 50 percent of the cost. The newsletter costs Rs 97,000 and the expenses on the Federation's Awards for Excellence amounted to Rs 28,000 in the year ending March 31, 2002. Gandhi's call for fresh newsletter sponsorship netted 11 from the anjumans plus two from Guzder at the rate of Rs 5,000 per issue. He noted that each edition costs Rs 8,000 which is financed by the anjuman sponsorship of Rs 5,000 plus Rs 3,000 from individual donors. In addition Beji Mirza of Calcutta, a personal friend, has donated one lakh rupees and the late Beji Shroff, who had been sending donations twice a year, has left a legacy of Rs 1.56 lakh.

Open forum

Recalling that the Federation's first open forum had been programed in Delhi in 1990, Sethna counseled the delegates to adopt a wide perspective, addressing international, national, state and city concerns. Though the community is justly proud of its educational background "we could be prouder if we were in the forefront of technical education," he noted. Reiterating Zoroastrian excellence in the field of defense (Air Marshals Teshter Master, Manek Madon and Adi Ghandhi; Air Vice Marshals Ramyar Batha and Fali Major; Lt General Rostum Nanavutty, Major General Arun Nargolwala; Rear Admiral Rustom Contractor) Sethna urged the Federation secretariat to keep abreast with the careers of the other Zoroastrians

who had received the Federation's awards for excellence over the years. Referring to the National Minorities Commission's deep concern for the unsavory developments in Gujarat, Sethna said, "Make every thinking Indian ask why an element of hate has been allowed to emerge." Noting that both the antagonist communities tend to woo Parsis, Sethna counselled, "We need to take people about us with us. Our 'touch-me-not-ism' may come in the way of our survival."

On the international front Sethna remarked on the survival of Zoroastrian traditions wherever the old Iranian empire had spread: "Baku has the oldest atash behram in the world, fed by natural gas." To restore and maintain the complex the Government of Azarbaijan had sought the help of the Government of India who in turn had requested the DPA's aid, said Sethna. The 31st session of UNESCO has declared 2003 as the year of Zoroastrian culture and a seminar on Zoroastrianism with Asha as the subject has been scheduled in Azarbaijan, he noted. "Our minuscule community is in the forefront... (These developments could be a) unifying factor for the community," he added.

The usual argument commenced

when Karanjawalla voiced the community's perception that funds for entrepreneurship were difficult to come by and that state facilities for minorities seemed to cater to only the larger minorities. Sethna replied that that the Gujarat State Minorities Finance Commission had helped five Parsis. "Their comment was that not many Parsis come for help." But Karanjawalla maintained that people in Ahmedabad, Baroda and elsewhere in Gujarat were not aware of the facility leading Gandhi to ask, "Don't they find out for themselves where the loans can be available?" Referring to an earlier report from the Parsi Youth League of Ahmedabad after researching this field, Gandhi lamented, "How much spoonfeeding (do they need)?"

Enunciating his threefold vision of the future of the Zoroastrian creed, of the Zoroastrian community and of Parsis, Tirandaz thundered, "No community rises beyond the level of the leaders it worships. Today there is vicarious charity. The community worships people who dole out the funds. The right people who should be worshipped are left to wither." He did not specify names at either end of his moral spectrum. "Follow the vision rather than the burden of

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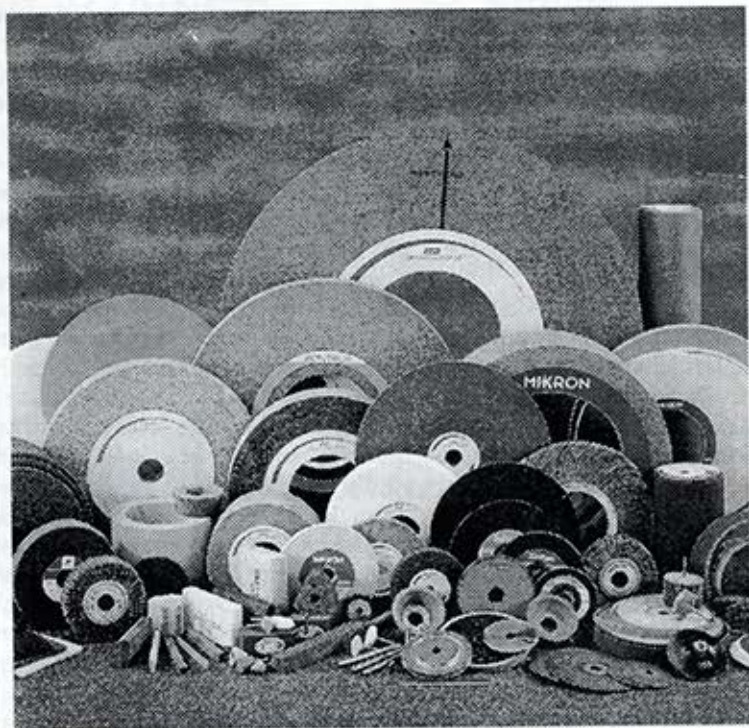
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obligation. We don't know what to look for so we are not able to find. Our ethos has been sacrificed to materialism. We have begun to admire the likes of Dhirubhai Ambani and forgotten to admire Jamsetji Tata... We are diluting our values," he rued.

When Wadia questioned the BPP regarding the enhanced charges at the B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital (PGH), Guzder told him that the founder, Bomanji Petit, had entrusted the corpus and the structure of the PGH to the BPP but had precluded the Panchayet from the Hospital's managing committee.

Golwalla recounted that during his term on the Panchayet, a request had been made that two BPP trustees be incorporated on the PGH managing committee but the Hospital had decreed that they should be elected. He averred that patients from the Doongerwadi staff and the F. S. Parukh Dharamshala are sent off to Masina Hospital.

Defending the PGH, Tamboly said, "Not a single Parsi patient is denied proper medical treatment, even by-pass hospitalization... They are doing wonderful work in my estimation." Added Pervaz Bhesania of Thana, whose daughter is a doctor, that the situation at the Sion Hospital where she works is infinitely worse: "Our community is never satisfied." According to Masani, the daily expenditure of the PGH per patient amounts to Rs 2,000. According to Tamboly Shapoorji Pallonji has offered six to seven crore rupees to the PGH to create an old people's home.

Golwalla's comment that there were only two Parsis among the 104 who answered the Masina Hospital's advertisement for junior doctors while in his day there were 14 to 15 Parsi medical students led Eruch Irani to speak of Dr Keki Grant's "dream to have a medical college in Poona so that at least 14 to 15 Parsi students could find a berth each year." He also noted that the high maintenance cost of an old people's home had led them in Poona to explore the concept of having one contiguous to a hospital and medical college "so that each can look after the other." He emphasized the need to invest in facilities in other towns to preempt the Zoroastrians from migrating to Bombay. Ginwalla referred to a Zoroastrian property in Bharuch which its legatees may sell off unless the Federation or the WZO could save it and build there to help the rural Parsis in the district.

Participating in the discussion Federation award winner Khushroo Pastakia stated that Zoroastrian youths were not entering the sports arena due to "the belief that one who concentrates on sports can't do well academically. (And) sports can't be a vocation in India."

Refuting the contention Eruch Irani said "sports makes more than a livelihood," if it is pursued not as a hobby but

UNESCO has declared 2003 as the year of Zoroastrian culture

as a business. Himself a former national level sportsman Irani said that it needed eight to 10 hours of effort to stay on top. He claimed that today's youth "don't want to put in the extra effort, want it all on a platter."

"If you excel, there's money... For the average sportsman there is little hope," opined Gandhi, adding that the community lacked the institutions and machinery for sponsoring sports persons. He urged FOZYA to lay aside a percentage of its annual meet income towards generating such a facility.

Behram Irani raised the question of mobed training saying that the boys who do not attend the Dadar Athornan Madressa or the M. F. Cama Madressa in Andheri are trained by priests at agiaries in a scant two to three months just to keep alive the family's right to practice mobedi. "The community will not have proper athornans to advise it in future," he worried.

Noting that it is better to have "kuchcha" navars (who do not have the required 72 *has* (chapters) by rote than no navars, Cama declared that the mofussil mobeds of Navsari, Surat and Baroda are unlikely to send their sons to Bombay.

"If for practical purposes seven *has* are enough, why insist on 72?" questioned the pragmatic Gandhi.

Eruch Irani suggested that the problem be put to the nascent Council of Dasturs. Pastakia and BASZA president Noshir Paghdwalla recounted that the seven mobeds in BASZA had refused to accept a young navar who wanted to join in the jashan. "The president and vice president of the Athornan Mandal (AM — when contacted by BASZA) said categorically, 'We have no execu-

tive powers.' It's a way of shelving responsibility," concluded Paghdwalla.

"It is a major problem to get even a *kuchha* mobed for small anujumans," declared Saronda's Ervad Yezdi Panthaky. Noting that the World Zoroastrian Organization-AM scheme to lure young priests into full-time mobedi was going a-begging, Panthaky said even learned mobeds looked for other pastures. One reason, according to Panthaky, was the difficulty for even a deserving mobed to find a suitable spouse.

Those attending the Federation meeting were: Dolat Debara and Porus Debara from Agra; Porus Karanjawalla and Sarosh and Binaifer Patel from Ahmedabad; Baman Cama from Baroda; Noshir Paghdwalla, Khurshed Pastakia, Marazban Mehta, Minoo Khan, Delna Pastakia and Zarina Bardi from BASZA; Baman Cama, Bomy Talati, Cyrus Cooper and Hoshedar Patwa from Baroda; Sarosh and Pilloo Ginwalla and Ratan Ginwalla from Bharuch; Jamshed Guzder, Minoo Shroff, Dinshaw Mehta, Dadi Engineer, Rustom Tirandaz, Dinshaw Tamboly, Behram Dastur, Sheroo Master, Mehli Colah, Gool Kias, Godrej Dotivala, Homi Mullan, Kaynaz Dadinath and P. R. Mistry from Bombay; Col Firoze Allavali from Bhopal; Bahadur Postwalla from Calcutta; Marazban Wadia from Davier; Pervaz Irani and Banoogoshasp Irani from Dahanu; Lt Gen Adi Sethna, Keki Gandhi, Farrokh Rustomji and Adil Nargolwala from Delhi; Sarosh Palkhiwala, Shovir Irani and Farhad Wadia from FOZYA; Bomi Heerjee from Indore; Behram Irani, Mehrwan Irani and Kayzad Eghlim from the Iranian Zoroastrian Anjuman; Homi Bodhanwalla and Adi Chehna from Jamshedpur; Ronny and Zarin Dick, P. Maneckji and M. Maneckji from Jhansi; Nariman Mogrelia from Madras; Behram and Dolly Masani from Mhow; Dolly Desai from Navsari; Eruch Irani, Dara Irani, Porusasp Mehta, Tehmas Bharucha, Khushroo and Farida Master and Kashmira Udachia from Poona; Homi Palsetia, Dinshaw Patel, Sarosh Poonawalla and Yezdi Panthaky from Saronda; Omim Debara and Aspi Debara from Secunderabad and Hyderabad; Mani Clubwala from South Zone; Khushroo Pastakia from Surat; Zarsis Udhawala and Pervaz Bhesania from Thana. The press was represented by *The Bombay Samachar* and *Parsi-ana*.

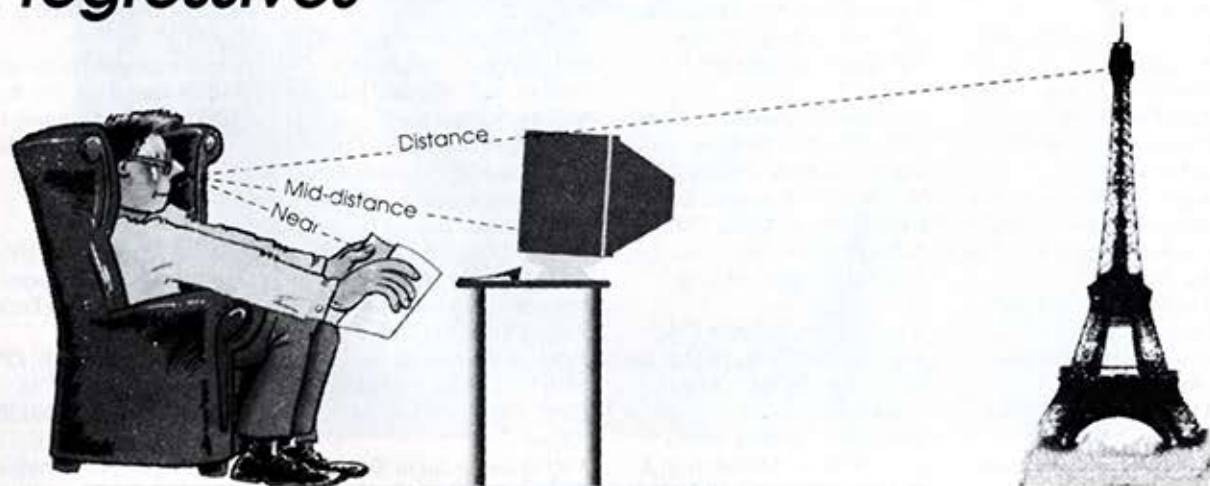
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MILESTONES

There were 17 births registered at the two hospitals in August. Of the 23 Zoroastrians who succumbed to heart disease, eight were in the 80+ category. The other killers were pneumonia/lung related diseases and diabetes (who took the lives of seven patients each), old age/general debility (to whom six fell prey to) and cancer (five). Hypertension took a toll of four victims, malnutrition, three and Parkinson's disease, septicemia, brain disease, asthma, malaria and bronchitis, two each. There were 12 varied isolated cases — gastro-intestinal infection, hypothyroidism (a group of symptoms caused by deficiency of thyroid secretion), anaphylactic (a hypersensitive state of the body to a foreign protein) reaction due to

the sting of a wasp, Alzheimer's disease, abdominal pain, osteoarthritis, epilepsy, hypoglycemia (decreased blood sugar), kidney failure, respiratory tract infection, blood pressure and thrombocytopenia (reduction in the number of platelets in the blood). The youngest to succumb was a 29-year-old male as versus a 96-year-old man. The Zoroastrian life expectancy at birth for August, in Bombay, was 75 years.

The data on births, marriages and deaths has been compiled from information supplied by various newsletters and anjumans in India and abroad, courts and hospitals. This information is not always complete or consistent: we are unable to carry data from areas where the anjumans do not

furnish the particulars; the birth figures for Bombay are supplied by two hospitals — births in suburban hospitals and private nursing homes are not included unless individuals send us information together with a copy of the birth certificate. There may be an inadvertent repetition of names in the marriage list when a civil marriage precedes a religious ceremony. In the breakup of deaths according to illnesses, especially of the elderly, death is often due to a combination of several diseases.

If readers have any births/marriages/deaths they would like published, some proof to ensure the veracity of the report would be required. We are sure our readers would appreciate this requirement and cooperate with us.

BOMBAY

BORN

A girl to Zia and Rahul Divan on August 1, 2002

A girl to Rashna and Anushka Dutta; August 1

A girl to Delnawaz and Cyrus Contractor; August 2

A boy to Humin and Burzin Daver; August 2

A girl to Havovi and Sharukh Mistry; August 3

A boy to Gulestan and Farroukh Kolah; August 6

A girl to Naaz and Teshtar Mirza; August 6

Twins (girls) to Roozmehr and Cherag Bardolivala; August 7

A girl to Sanobar and Kekobad Chacha; August 11

A boy to Shireen and Yazadi Irani; August 13

A boy to Farida and Jimmy Tata; August 15

A girl to Oonaboli and Abid Lalljee; August 21

A boy to Queenie and Neville Marshall; August 23

A boy to Shernaz and Percy Doctor; August 24

A boy to Yasmin and Maneck Behramkamdin; August 26

A boy to Jasmin and Paurus Kohina; August 26

DIED

Jamshed Darabsha Rustomji (45), residing at Apple Petch, Cheshan Rd, Ballington Bucks, HPS 2XW, London, UK;

July 28

Behram Sheriyar Irani (62), K/2-33, Merwanji Cama Park, Cama Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; August 1

Nargesh Jamshed Dehnugara (87), Room no 38, Petit Widows' Chawl, Mody St, Fort, 400001; August 2

Banoo Erachshaw Devadhvala (85), B/12, United Chmbs, 347, Grant Rd, 400007;

August 2

Rohinton Khurshedcher Khan (55), Eden Hall Cottage, 164/A, Dr Annie Besant Rd, Worli, 400018; August 2

Hilla Rustomji Wadia (70), C/o Salim S. Jamal, 606, Dara Hse, 15th Rd, Bandra, 400050;

August 2

Rusi Ardeshir Adarian (78), Samarth, 607/C, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014;

August 4

Merwanji Eruchsha Mehta (81), 51/B-58, Manish Ngr, J. P. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058;

August 4

Sam Rustomji Nagarwalla (72), Jhangir Mans, 79, Hughes Rd, 400007; August 4

Freny Minocher Thanawalla (84), H-18, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; August 4

Jerasph Sam Valvadia (29), Y/2, Cama Park, Cama Rd, Andheri (W), 400058;

August 4

Feroze Rustomji Choksi (88),

A/17, United Chmbs, 347, Grant Rd, 400007; August 5

Dinaz Tehmul Driver (52), 9/1, Ambawadi, Hanging Gardens, 400006; August 5

Meheroo Erach Hathiram (84), 3/5, Panthaki Baug,

Hargovinddas Sanatorium Lane, Andheri (E), 400069;

August 5

Viloo Phiroze Bordiwalla (87), 907, Bombay Market Apts, Next to A. C. Market, Tardeo, 400034; August 6

Bapsy Bahadur Patel (77), 7/55, Juma Mazid Lane,

Chowdhry Mohallah, Kalyan (W), 421301; August 6

Rustom Dhunjisha Todiwalla (94), Dubas Mans, Mount Mary Rd, Bandra, 400050;

August 6

Fardoon Burjorji Bharucha (69), F3/17, Hill Side Godrej Clny, Vikroli (W), 400079;

August 7

Keki Jehangir Italia (64), F-4, Adam Mhl, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; August 7

Khorshed Kaikhushroo Pavri (70), 251, Bazar Gate St, Fort, 400001; August 7

Hilla Adi Batliwalla (75), 308, Tunsen, A/6, Lokpuram, Gladys Alvaris Marg, off Pokhran 2, Thana, 400601; August 8

Keki Jamshedji Khodaiji (78), 6, Dubhash Bldg, 22, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; August 8

Phiroze Barjorji Palsetia (84),

P-29, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; August 8

Sam Maneckshaw Pardivala (75), 12/1, Rustom Baug, Victoria Lane, Byculla, 400027; August 8

Faramroz Manchershaw Patrawala (72), 10, Papa Bldg, Navajbai Contractor Baug, Mori Rd, Mahim, 400016;

August 8

Piroja Jal Daroowalla (93), D-15, Shapur Baug, V. P. Rd, 400004; August 9

Najoo Firoze Colabawala (77), 1/2, Lady Ratan Tata Bldg, Gurunanak Rd, Bandra, 400050; August 9

Dinoo Savak Gandhi (76), 17-A, Anand Ngr, Forjett St, 400036; August 9

Gool Jamshed Dotivala (82), 511-A, Ratan Manor, R. P. Masani Rd, Matunga, 400019;

August 10

Piloo Phirozsha Driver (84), 3, Dhanbad Bldg, Sleater Rd, 400007; August 10

Eruch Cowasji Tamboli (81), E-4, Dalal Est, Lamington Rd, 400008; August 10

Pervij Savak Bilimoria (79), K-1, Palm Springs, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, 400005;

August 11

Nariman Darabsha Daruwalla (54), Dr Daji Bldg, Stn Rd, Mahim, 400016; August 11

Dara Jamshedji Sabawala (72), 11/2, Malcom Baug, S. V. Rd, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; August 11

Amy Adi Dhanbhoora (66), 15, C. M. Banaji Bldg, Forjett St Cross Lane, Gowalia Tank, 400036; August 12

Rusi Phiroze Kaka (65), D'Silva Ngr, Village Nalla, P. O. Sopara, Dist Thana, 401203;

August 12

Godrej Minocher Keranjia (79), 44-D, Batliwalla Villa, Sleater Rd, 400007; August 13

Aban Burjorji Boywalla (58), 366, Ahmed Mans, Lamington Rd, 400007; August 14

Jalamai Nusserwanji Kadva (91), A-30, New Khareghat Clny, Babulnath Rd, 400007;

August 14

Hoshang Minocher Karanjia (65), Kuka Bldg, Opp K. E. M. Hosp, Parel, 400012;

August 15

Rustom Pirojsha Sanjana (74), C-204, Shapoorji Mistry Bldg, Dr Shirodkar Rd, Parel, 400012; August 15

Keki Rustomjee Billimoria (88), Windmere, Almeida Park Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; August 16

Dara Pestonji Dastoor (87), P/5, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; August 16

Jini Jahangirji Ghamat (87), 301, Sai Dham, 719, Gowind Patel Rd, Khar, 400052; August 16

Naval Maneckshaw Hansotia (80), D-3/65, S. B. Bharucha Baug, S. V. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; August 16

Marzban Sorabji Irani (76), Ahmed Bldg, Gun Powder Rd, Mazgaon, 400010; August 16

Maneck Jehangirji Kharas (60), 174, Mody St, Fort, 400001; August 16

Mani Manek Sahiar (82), Karani Bldg, 650, Firdoshi Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; August 16

Homi Jehangirji Siganporia (81), 76, Valentina, S. N. Gamadia Rd, 400026; August 16

Meher Edul Havaladar (65), C-4, Breach Candy Apts, B. Desai Rd, 400026; August 17

Darab Framroz Amra (87), Old Chinoy Bldg, Zoroastrian Clny, Chikalwadi, Tardeo, 400007; August 18

Bomi Muncherji Dubash (59), A-32, Flower Bloom, V. Desai Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; August 18

Rusi Rashid Irani (80), Mangal Aarti, St Andrew's Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; August 18

Shirin Darabshaw Panthaki (85), K-9, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; August 19

Pillo Behram Pedder (70), Heera-Meher, 108, Wodehse Rd, Colaba, 400005; August 19

Berami Rustomji Dharwar (77), 26/1, Malegamwalla Bldg, M. M. C. Cross Rd, Mahim, 400016; August 20

Tehmi Homi Kotwal (74), 18/B, Il Palazzo, Little Gibbs Rd, 400006; August 20

Hilla Noshir Nagarwalla (81), A/21, Sterling Apts, 38, Peddar Rd, 400026; August 22

Perin Pirojshaw Siodia (71), 275/J, New Cama Bldg, Tardeo Rd, 400007; August 22

FIGURES AT A GLANCE*						
	Bombay		India		World	
	This issue	2002*	This issue	2002*	This issue	2002*
BIRTHS						
Boys	8	47	—	3	4	18
Girls	9	58	—	2	4	12
MARRIAGES						
Parsi	—	126	—	10	2	10
INTERCOMMUNAL						
Males married out	—	—	—	—	—	1
Females married out	—	—	—	—	—	4
DEATHS						
CONSIGNED						
Males	44	303	8	47	3	18
Females	35	302	10	45	3	13
CREMATED						
Males	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Running totals for 2002 (January 2002-October 2002 issues)

Overseas deaths are listed in the consigned column as Parsiana does not have a breakup of those cremated.

*These figures pertain to information provided to or collected by Parsiana. They do not represent the total number of births, marriages and deaths in the Zoroastrian community in India and abroad.

Kersi Pestonji Sudry (69), 6-66/72, Rusi Mehta Chawl, P. B. Marg, 400008; August 22

Sohrab Meherwanji Gazdar (82), B-11, Elavia Bldg, Contractor Baug, Mori Rd, Mahim, 400016; August 24

Savak Jehangirji Patel (80), N-22, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; August 24

Boman Behram Irani (76), 201, Varun Apts, Dr B. A. Ambedkar Rd, Parel, 400012; August 25

Keki Byramji Palkhiwala (70), 102, A-1 Apts, Shivaji Rd, Kandivali (W), 400067; August 25

Jaloo Ratanshaw Doctor (69), N/5, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; August 26

Daulat Jehangir Irani (69), Kati Rd, Dahanu Rd, Dist Thane, 401602; August 26

Menucher Khodadad Irani (58), 21, Chapal Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; August 26

Najoo Jehangir Mistry (70), Jame Jamshed Bldg, 811, Tilak Rd, Dadar, 400014; August 27

Goolbai Pirojsha Siganporia (87), 194, Talaty Bldg, Khetwadi Back Rd, 400004; August 27

Firoz Kaikhushroo Dumasia (74), Taher Manzil, Mehela

Patel Agiary Lane, Grant Rd, 400007; August 28

Dara Bomanshaw Nicholson (88), 6, Hampton Court, 125, Wodehse Rd, Colaba, 400005; August 28

Minocher Bhikaji Tamboli (96), F. S. Parukh Dharamshala, Hughes Rd, 400007; August 28

Keki Navroji Mory (72), 9/16, Patel Bldg, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; August 29

Jer Minoo Soonawalla (71), Meharali Mans, Opp Victoria Garden, Byculla, 400027; August 29

Homai Behram Irani (80), 722, Dr Dinshaw Master Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; August 30

Rashid Darabsha Wadia (78), 124/B, Twin Towers, Veer Savarkar Marg, Prabhadevi, 400025; August 30

Mehroo Tehmurasp Bharda (94), Shirin Mans, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; August 31

Sam Burjorji Patel (71), 13, Jyoti Mhl, 13, Sleater Rd, 400007; August 31

JHANSI

DIED

Mani Anklesaria (73), wife of Dhunjisha and mother of Ferengiz Ali Latif and Farokh; August 25

NEW DELHI

DIED

Meher Nanavatty, husband of Daulat; August 12

POONA

DIED

Soli S. Irani (55); August 2

Zal K. Kayani (66); August 5

Najoo N. Daver (67); August 11

Perin F. Taraporewalla (93); August 12

Sheramai E. Bacha (79); August 13

Aloo H. Patel (85); August 15

Minoo B. Sidhwa (85); August 16

Sheramai H. Irani (74); August 18

SURAT

DIED

Jehangirji Jalbhai Chawda (68), Nariman Home and Infirmary, Shahpore, 395003; August 3

Kumi Kersasp Engineer (86), Rustomba Bldg, Aganowad, 395003; August 4

Manimai Jehangirji
Dumasia (80), Kapin Rd,
 Village Dumas, via Surat,
 394550; August 5
Eruchshaw Dosabhai Jabbar
 (62), Khadi Mohallo,
 Village Bore Bhatha, Tal
 Choriyasi, Dist Surat, 394510;
 August 15
Piroja Jehangirji Coachman
 (92), 4, Joshi Block,
 Shahpore, 395003;
 August 18
Mehra Firoze Sukheswala
 (92), Maneck Mans, Dr
 Laskari Lane, Machhlipith,
 395003; August 21
Sorabji Pirojshaw
Ichapor (94), Parsiwad,
 Ichhapor; August 23
Bejon Pirojshaw
Bhathawala (64), Popat
 St, Nanpura, 395001;
 August 30

...

AUSTRALIA

New South Wales

BORN
 A girl, Iyanah Nausheen, to
 Farnaz and Viraf Hathiram;
 July 2

CANADA

British Columbia

BORN
 A boy, *Meherhad*, to
Mehernaz and *Mehran*
Jamshidian in Vancouver;
 August 14
 A boy to *Eata* and *Russell*
Mitchuk in Victoria; August 14

MARRIED

Anahita Behramshahri and
Khashayar Sharvini in
 Vancouver; August 16

DIED

Nergish Marzban Irani, mother
 of *Zarina Homi Irani* in West
 Vancouver; August 14

Ontario

BORN
 A girl, *Kati Kashmira*, to
Yasmin and *Randy Clark*;
 August 1

MARRIED

Jasmin Aspi Sapurji and
Xerxes Surkari, son of *Katy*
 and *Eruch* in Thornhill;
 August 4

GERMANY

DIED

Manijeh Dhunjishah
Bhabha (94), mother of
Viloo and *Piloo Poonawalla*
 in Bonn; April 27

PAKISTAN

Karachi

DIED

Cursethji Kharas, husband
 of *Perin* and father of *Aban*,
Zenobia, *Ron* and *Zarine*;
 August 3

UK

London

DIED

Noshirwan F. Cowasjee
 (88), father of *Toxy*
 and *Khurshid*; May 22

USA

Illinois

BORN

A girl, *Delna*, to *Rashna*
 and *Dinshaw Balsara*, sister
 to *Darius* in Chicago;
 July 30

DIED

Banoo Anklesaria of

Toronto, wife of
Nusserwanji and mother
 of *Bejan*, *Maneck*
 and *Soonu Zubin Dotiwala*
 in Chicago; July 13
Nusserwanji Maneckji
Anklesaria of Toronto,
 father of *Bejan*, *Maneck*
 and *Soonu Zubin Dotiwala*
 in Chicago; August 3

New York

BORN

A boy, *Rustom*, to *Khur-*
sheed and *Rayomand*
Ichhaporia in Rochester;
 March 2

South Carolina

BORN

A girl, *Ariana*, to *Sofia* and
Khushru Tata, sister to
Karina in Richland;
 June 27

Texas

BORN

A boy, *Cyrus*, to *Jasmine*
 and *Yazdi Mistry* in Houston;
 May 25

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With respect to Rabadi

Parinaz M. Gandhi

Died: Adi Babuji Rabadi, 70, vice chairman of the West Bengal Minorities Commission, erstwhile trustee of the Calcutta Zoroastrian Community's Religious and Charity Fund (CZCRCF) and former vice chairman and joint managing director of M. N. Dastur and Company Limited, on July 24, 2002 following a combination of ailments like cancer, cirrhosis of the liver, renal failure at the Woodland Nursing Home in Calcutta.



Rabadi: a source of strength

A member of the West Bengal Minorities' Commission since its inception in 1996, Rabadi "served the Commission to his utmost ability till his last breath. He was a source of strength to the Commission and was readily available to give his advice and help whenever a need was felt," noted a condolence resolution passed by the Commission. Barely four months prior to his demise he had been appointed the first marriage registrar for the Parsis of West Bengal. It was thanks to his persistence that this facility had been introduced in the state.

"The Commission has lost a very sincere well-wisher of the minority communities in West Bengal. I know how deeply he was involved in the welfare of the minorities though he represented the Parsis," remarked the chairman of the Minorities Commission Justice K. M. Yusuf at a condolence meeting convened at Calcutta's Olpadwalla Memorial Hall on August 2, 2002 when representatives of different organizations with which he was closely connected shared their reminiscences of Rabadi.

A special edition of *Calcutta Gavashni*, the newsletter of the CZCRCF, was dedicated to the "memory of a man who in his own soft and unassuming way contributed so much — not only to the Parsi community but to so many people and institutions in

Calcutta." The newsletter, carrying the speeches made at the condolence meeting, commended him for his "extraordinary determination...an incredible capacity for work, the will to finish whatever he (under)took and the courage and conviction to stand up for the truth."

"Through him I could (build) a bridge with the community," remarked Mohammed Salim, West Bengal minister for minorities affairs, recalling the meetings which they both attended when Rabadi, "true to his profession (would be) very particular about the details...Sometimes even without going through the papers (he)...could help us with details..." His presence on the grievances cell helped assuage many who had faced persecution. He was an advisory board member of the University Grants Commission's coaching center for educationally backward minorities. Despite his failing health he involved himself with the Commission's multifarious activities not for the returns it brought him but out of a sense of responsibility to society. As he had jokingly conveyed (see "Minorities men," *Events and Personalities, Parsiana*, May 2000), "Regarding the additional privileges or perks entailed to my assignment, all I have at present is a flashing red light on the top of my car which enables me to disregard certain traffic rules...! Other than this I only get a fee of Rs 150 for attending the Commission's meetings once a month and this helps me to cover the cost of my homemade tea which I carry daily in a flask!"

To Hashim Abdul Halim, the speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Rabadi was "a man of the old school — soft-spoken, kind-hearted, a very good host." "His smiling face and friendly nature" had left a lasting imprint on the governor of West Bengal Viren J. Shah, as stated his condolence letter.

"In Calcutta he was always an extraordinarily busy person. He never failed to give of himself or his time to any institution, to any society, to any charity, any club that went to him for

guidance or for leadership," observed senior trustee of the CZCRCF Numazar Mehta who viewed Rabadi as his elder brother. During the 14 years he spent as trustee of the CZCRCF "he became the 'man of commerce' or the 'man of business,' bringing to the trust the benefit of his vast array of contacts and his resources. He planned the income streams and he looked after the tax matters, laying the foundation for the trust which is today the cornerstone of our little community in Calcutta," noted Mehta.

At the time of his death he was president of the Parsee Zoroastrian Association (PZA) in Calcutta of which he had been an active member for 30 years, variously serving as its president or vice president as he was not in favor of office bearers holding on to their post ad infinitum. "His qualities of mind and heart steered the PZA in calm waters with each and every member working in harmony and always looking up to him with respect. In spite of his busy business schedule and frequent overseas visits, he made time to squeeze in a meeting and give his support," acknowledged PZA vice president Homi Gotla. "The Calcutta Parsi community is very compact. The relations between different Parsi organizations in Calcutta are harmonious — no infighting or politics," Rabadi had conveyed 10 years ago in an interview with *Parsiana* (see "We have to review our systems," March 1992) when he was trustee of the CZCRCF, and vice-chairman and managing director of M. N. Dastur and Company. "It is preferable to bring about a unanimous decision than have dissension and dispute," believed the congenial Rabadi.

There were other community institutions in Calcutta too which benefitted from Rabadi's presence. "Adi's generosity is legend and we could always rely on him to take care of shortfalls in our finances year after year after year," related Calcutta Parsee Club president Russi Jeejeebhoy referring to their former president's largesse. The annual fundraising programs of the Calcutta Zoroastrian Stree Mandal where his wife Bapsy is a

committee member were invariably held on the lawns of their residence, mentioned president Pervin Nusserwanji. "He has molded our community with his visionary zeal and served us till his last. As youth today, we have much to learn from his deeds and his accomplishments," summed up Firoza Mogrelia of the Calcutta Parsee Youth League. "His whole life was based on three principles — love, honor and rectitude," conveyed Dr Russi Anklesaria, trustee of the D. B. Mehta's Atash Adaran Trust.

Rabadi was the youngest of five children born in an athornan family in Navsari. At the age of six he lost his father Bapuji, and his mother Piroja raised the children with the help of community charities. Following his schooling at Bombay's Don Bosco and graduation studies at Poddar College, he qualified as a chartered accountant and joined the accounts department of Associated Cement Companies. In 1962 he had the distinction of being one of the first two members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India to successfully complete the management accountancy examination conducted by the Institute. For 15 years he served as paper setter, examiner/moderator for this examination, was thesis guide, and was at different times visiting lecturer at the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, and the Calcutta Productivity Council. His expertise on financial planning, management and control as also allied subjects was valued by different bodies like the Commission of International Investments and Economic Development, appraisal committee of the Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India, the advisory board of the Indian Institute of Science and Information Technology, Bhubaneswar, mentions his life profile. He had prepared studies for evaluation of iron and steel and industrial projects in India and over 20 other countries, and has pioneered research studies on social cost benefit analysis in India for the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Having joined M. N. Dastur and Company in Calcutta as company secretary in 1964, within five years he was made director. After 31 years of service he retired as vice chairman and joint managing director in 1995 following "differences of management," as reported Mehta. Thereafter he served as financial and management consultant to various reputed groups of industries. Believing

that "Parsis should aspire towards business," Rabadi had averred, "India could be among the five most industrialized countries in the world if the Indian entrepreneurial spirit is allowed to flourish" uncramped by clauses which restrict economic activity and motivate tax evasion.

Although the navar-martab was "an extremely religious person" in later years Rabadi realized that the dakhmenashini system was not serving its purpose (see "Review the system," *Parsiana*, August 2000) and chose to be cremated. "I am also a traditionalist but I feel we have to review our systems and change according to the times," Rabadi had conveyed when predicting his vision for the Parsi community: "I only see numbers dwindling. We have to be optimistic but with dwindling numbers and mixed marriages I don't think there will be a Parsi identity left after 35 years."

An inter-faith memorial service was held at his residence when 20 people from nine different religions paid tributes. His ashes were buried in a beautiful lawn of his residence next to the Bokul tree planted last year as a symbol of unity and peace among all religions, notes a write-up by Fr Michael Bhaju. There were readings from various scriptures, singing of hymns and sharing of reminiscences.

Working "effortlessly and tirelessly till his last day (he) found strength in doing so," remarked Rabadi's daughter Sharmeen when acknowledging the tributes paid at the CZCRFC convened condolence meeting. She further added, "My father always taught us to lead a humble existence, to be simple, kind and generous. To show compassion and never speak ill of anyone...I only hope that we as his family can carry on his legacy."

"He was loved and respected by a cross-section of people for his amiable nature and philanthropic attitude. He will be remembered for his contribution in the field of social service as well as for the promotion of better understanding between peoples belonging to different communities," stated Prabodh Chandra Sinha, minister in charge of parliamentary affairs and excise in the government of West Bengal.

A keen sports buff having played cricket with the likes of Polly Umrigar and Farokh Engineer since his childhood at the Dadar Parsi Colony, Rabadi retained his interest in this and other games. In the mid 1980s he was vice

president of the Cricket Association of Bengal, from 1992 he was vice president of the Bengal Hockey Association and president of the West Bengal Rifle Association. A condolence resolution from the Office Sports Federation of West Bengal gave him credit for being "the builder of the resurgent Federation" and noted that "he would be gratefully remembered as a pioneer who worked hard with dedication and love for the welfare of the Federation and for the promotion of mercantile sports and games."

In his capacity as vice president of the West Bengal Federation of United Nations Associations he was "a benefactor...who always worked for the promotion of principles and purpose of United Nations," stated their condolence resolution. Equally committed was he to the cause of promoting the Persian language through the Iran Society of which he had demitted office as president just two days prior to his demise. As noted his successor R. M. Chopra, "He had a feeling that the younger generation today, particularly in the Parsi community is not paying (sufficient) attention to the pristine glory of Iran and the rich heritage which they have inherited." He felt that some literature in a condensed form should be made available to each and everyone.

A string of awards like the Vijay Ratna Award, the Glory of India International Award and Gold Medal, the Shiromani Award, the Rajiv Gandhi Excellence Award, the Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award had been conferred on Rabadi. But as summed up Chopra, Rabadi "believed more in action rather than vain glory."

The pragmatic benefactor is survived by his wife Bapsy, daughter Sharmeen, son Kaizad, brother Pallonji and sister Freny Russi Shroff.

ZOROASTRIANS ABROAD

continued from page 18

Iran. "Now we know people." Appreciating the "high culture of English people," Bastani, who takes annual vacations in Bombay, "says they don't distrust anyone and they don't disturb. I don't know if I have a race relations problem. They may not like us having our own car, house, business, more money. But I have no complaint. I'm happy. I don't want to go to Canada. It's a lonely life there. This place is similar to India..."

Arnavaz S. Mama

For the first time in India

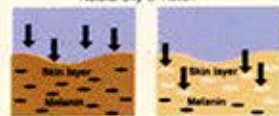
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