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Photograph: Chetan Mistry

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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 Unsigned letters or those without an address will not be published.

"Whither, Parsiana?"

Without getting into the controversy for increasing or not increasing air mail charges ("Whither, Parsiana?" Readers' Forum, Parsiana, September 1997), I take serious objection to your remark, "Wouldn't his remark concerning Zoroastrians in the New World 'who failed to return to their fatherland' hold true for all Parsis who did not return to Iran?"

No sir, it wouldn't! The Parsis did not return to Iran because they were victims of persecution there and fled to save their religion. Those Parsis who have failed to return from the New World are there for material benefits. They went of their own accord and settled in greener pastures.

I don't think any Parsi worth his salt would want to return to a theocratic state from a democratic one where freedom for women and worship is a matter of course.

SOONU JAL

Neelmuch

We concede that Jal has a valid point — Editor

"Together, to the..."

In the Parsiana issue of July-August 1997, in the cover story "Together, to the 21st century," Mr Dinyar Cooper of London, UK, a committee member of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE), is reported to have recounted "how (Khojeste) Mistree had helped the London youths come to terms with the ZTFE-WZO (World Zoroastrian Organisation) split in the 1980s (ostensibly over the question of whether non-Zoroastrian spouses could continue to attend religious ceremonies)."

Repeatedly, in your magazine and other newspapers of Bombay, WZO has made it amply clear that in no way was it involved in the split in the community that occurred as a result of (and not "ostensibly") religious strife introduced into a peaceable and harmonious community of London by six members of the ZTFE committee of 1985 and 1986 reversing the established practice of the ZTFE of religious tolerance by allowing non-Zoroastrian spouses to participate fully in all religious ceremonies. The six members of the committee who suddenly changed course were the Sethna brothers, Zal and Darius, Mr Bailey R. Irani, Mr Shahrokh Shahrokh, Mr Rusi Dalal and Ms Beroze Mody. These members of the ZTFE committee were supported by the Jassavala family, Mr Filli Marawalla and family and some of their friends and families. It was a purely ZTFE matter and at no time was WZO involved in this affair.

Mr Dinyar Cooper knows the situation very well and yet chose to make the erroneous statement as quoted in Parsiana

SHAHPUR F. CAPTAIN

Chairman, The World Zoroastrian Organisation

Arnavaz Mama replies

Dinyar Cooper had referred to "the conflict of the 80s." In my above quoted paraphrase I have referred to it as the ZTFE-WZO split because after 1986 the two organizations became antithetical. Whereas both organizations had had a common leadership until that time, after the schism the WZO continued to be led largely by those commit-

tee members who had formerly led the ZTFE.

Some baseless and irresponsible statements have been made in respect of the correct Fasli calendar by Mr Khojeste Mistree at the Second World Zoroastrian Youth Congress held in London from July 4-11, 1997 ("Together, to the 21st century," Parsiana, July-August 1997). I quote these below:

• "In India there are no seasons and therefore no need for a seasonal calendar"

• There is a 10-year difference between the Shehenshahi/Kadmi calendars and the Fasli calendar. The former two count from Yezdegird III's ascension to the Sasanian throne while the Fasli "starts with the flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina. How can you follow a calendar whose genesis is in another religion?"

Regarding Mr Mistree's first statement, it is strange that he is unaware of the four seasons in India, viz, summer, south west monsoon, north east monsoon and winter.

Mistree's second statement is simply astounding. The flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina took place in 622 AD, which means 1,375 solar years (Fasli) ago.

Now the Fasli (solar year) is 1,366 which means the counting started from 631 AD which was the year of ascension of Yezdegird III to the Sasanian throne. Hence Mistree's assertion that the Fasli (solar year) reckons from Hejira in 622 AD is not only false but an attempt to mislead the public.

A reference to the Parsi calendar indicates that the Shehenshahi calendar is ahead of the Fasli calendar by seven months, and the Kadmi calendar ahead of the Fasli calendar by eight months.

A further corollary can also be drawn. During 1992-1995 AD, Hormazd roj fell on March 21 for all the three calendars, viz Fasli, Shehenshahi and Kadmi. It follows that the last intercalation (i.e. adding one day every four years, or adding one month every 120 years) was done for the Shehenshahi calendar 840 years ago, that is in 1152 AD and for the Kadmi calendar 960 years ago, that is in 1032 AD.

Obviously the community cannot



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wait for another 1,440 years for a coincidence of Hormazd *roj* on March 21 for all the three calendars. The Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress to be held in USA in 2000 AD could take a decision to implement the common Fasli calendar for all Zoroastrians retrospectively from 1995 to obviate a sudden change in *roj*.

Dr P. D. SUNAVALA

Trust funds in excess?

This is with reference to two articles in your issue of July-August 1997, both essentially touching on the same point: the liability of the trustees for utilizing the trust money and income as laid down by the original settlors and changing the purpose when the original intent of the settlor is diluted or non-existent.

This reference came up in Mr B. T. Dastur's letter ("Revive assets") wherein he mentions that trustees normally are afraid to utilize moneys or assets for objects other than the intent of the original settlors even when the said object is not feasible or non-existent.

The second reference came up when the Bharuch Anjuman's excess funds problem was discussed in the Federation meeting in Pune. As reported by

Arnavaz Mama in "Federation aid to Jabalpur," in the context of the Bharuch punchayet's *cy près* application pending in the Gujarat High Court for four years and Mr Marazban Patrawala opining that trustees would lay themselves open to criminal misappropriation of funds, if they utilize moneys or funds for other purposes, your readers may be interested to read the following two judgements:

•As reported in *The Times of India* on November 13, 1983 under the head "Age old convention allowed to end," the City Civil Court Judge, G. B. Dingal, "has released the trustees of a 19th century trust from the obligation of holding annual dinners for the members of the Lad Baniya community and permitted them to utilize the Trust's funds for medical and educational facilities (for) that community. The trustees of the Bai Jhaveribai Bhagwandas Purshotamdas Trust, created in 1887, had made a plea for exemption from a provision of the trust (deed) which obliged them to hold caste dinners..."

"In exempting the trustees from this obligation, Judge Dingal noted that giving a caste dinner was a criminal waste

when the amount could be put to better use. He complimented the trustees for their 'social awareness.'"

The dinners were actually stopped in 1957 when the trustees found they could not afford them with the money that was coming from the Trust's property. The balance sheet on December 31, 1981, showed that the corpus of the Trust together with the accumulated surplus amounted to just Rs 200,000. This landmark judgment clearly permitted use of monies for purposes other than the original intent of the settlors.

In another case in the Bombay City Civil Court as per the oral judgment of Justice H. Suresh on April 5, 1975, "The petitioners are the trustees of the funds and properties of the Parsi Punchayet in Bombay... The petitioners state that after defraying from the income of the aforesaid trust the expenses of the performance of the religious and other ceremonies as directed by the authors of the said trust, there is now a certain balance. Under the deed of trust, the balance was to be utilized for giving public feasts on certain named days. However, the petitioners had pre-

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ferred a petition on December 23, 1966 to this court for the purpose of utilizing the said balance by way of giving relief to needy Parsi Zoroastrians in the shape of grains, medicine, education and other necessities of life. The court by its order dated March 2, 1967 directed that the said balance may be utilized for a period of seven years. The petitioners state that the said period had expired and today there is a further balance, and therefore, they seek further directions for the purpose of utilizing that amount by way of giving relief to poor needy Parsi Zoroastrians in the shape of grains, milk, medicine, education and other necessities of life. In the petition, the petitioners state that the balance may be utilized as above for a period of seven years commencing from January 1, 1974. However, I do not propose to restrict the period as in my view, if there is a balance, the balance may be utilized for *cy prës*. If however there is any change in circumstances, it is always open to the trustees to move the court for further directions in the matter."

From a perusal of the second judgment, two points emerge:

•The court has permitted change of use

of trust monies.

•It was the definite intention of Judge H. Suresh not to restrict the exemption for any specific period.

Regarding a trustee's criminal liability in reallocating trust income as mentioned by Mr Marazban Patrawala, this statement is only technically and legally correct but practically a non-starter:

•A trustee can be held criminally liable only if the applicant can prove that it was with the intention of defrauding the trust monies for his personal gain that the reallocation of trust monies was done. It would not be the case when reallocating is done for the general benefit of the beneficiaries.

•As there are no identifiable settlors it is not likely that any application would be entertained by the charity commissioner. In fact traditionally in such an application the charity commissioner steps into the shoes of the original settlors and on any application made by beneficiaries alleging criminal misappropriation, the charity commissioner has to decide. What would the original settlor do when the original objects are not being achieved? Hence reallocation is the only answer.

I therefore recommend that before

reallocation of funds the trustees should write to the charity commissioner quoting the above two case laws and stating their intention to utilize the unutilizable trust money for the general welfare of the beneficiaries of the trust without going in for a *cy prës* application in the High Court which will certainly tie their hands for a number of years.

"A trustee can never benefit from the trust" is the only rule that a trust must scrupulously follow to avoid attracting any criminal misappropriation action.

B. S. NAGARWALLA

Ahmednagar

"Patel: Pakistan's Pride"

I have read the obituary ("Patel: Pakistan's Pride," *Parsiana*, July-August 1997). Permit me to add:

Justice Dorab Patel led a very simple life. His house was a modest two-bedroom bungalow on 1, Sunnyside Road in Karachi; he possessed a very ordinary car (Mazda 1600). He did not even possess a television set, which in the very recent past, I had presented him with. The set remains unpacked even today! Yet, he was magnanimous in giving donations

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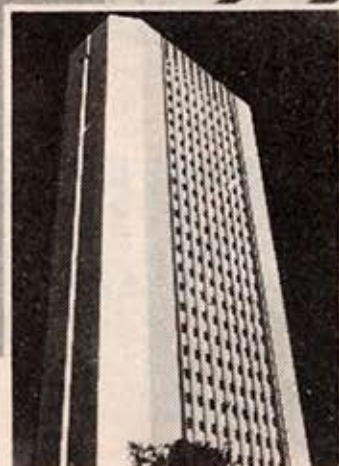


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Events and Personalities

Visible presence

At the 10th International Conference on Cataract, Intraocular Lens Implants, Micro Surgical and Refractive Keratoplasty at New Delhi, eminent ophthalmic surgeon of Bombay, Dr Keiki R. Mehta was honored with the Lim International Award of the Asia Pacific Intraocular Implant Association. Mehta became the first Indian to receive this award named after the internationally



Mehta (left) receiving Excellence Award from Lim

reputed ophthalmologist Prof Arthur Lim of Singapore, notes a press release issued by Capt Hormazdiar J. M. Desai.

In appreciation of Mehta's outstanding achievements in the field of research and contribution to the advancement of medical science, an Excellence Award was also conferred on him by the Intraocular Implant and Refractive Surgery Society of India, announced leading ophthalmic surgeon Dr Rumi P. Jehangir at a felicitation function at Bombay's P. V. M. Gymkhana on December 7, 1997. The function was hosted by Manoramaben Saraiya, co-founder of the NAB (National Association for

the Blind) Kantaben and Varjivandas Saraiya Low Vision Centre at the Workshop for the Blind, Worli, to honor Mehta who has been chairman of the Centre since its inception. The Centre provides patients with defective vision magnifying lenses and other optical aids free of cost, besides rendering supportive and rehabilitative services, psychological, social and vocational guidance.

In addition to his commitment to alleviating the cause of blindness in India, Mehta has been given credit for pioneering intraocular lens implants in Bombay and inspiring other ophthalmic surgeons to keep pace with the latest advances in technology. With his in-depth knowledge of computers and bio-engineering, he devised the "first soft intraocular lens implant in India...helped to raise the art of small incision cataract surgery to the levels of safety comparable to any place in the world...pioneered the development of a soft Hema Hood for use during cataract surgery to prevent damage to the inner corneal layer," writes Desai.

Jamé's saviors

"She was the first lady of Parsi journalism," acclaimed a tribute to the grand dame of *Jam-e-Jamshed*, Jer Adi Dhondy, after her passing away on May 13, 1997. Having joined this publication as a reporter, she ultimately rose to become its managing director. But more important than either of these roles, she has been given credit for her determination and efforts which enabled this second oldest newspaper in India to remain a community institution when, faced with severe financial constraints, the

proprietors were considering its sale to non-Parsis.

Guided and encouraged by the then editor Adi Marzban, Dhondy "evolved into a highly mature reporter," and was assigned "some of the most prestigious engagements ever to be reported in the *Jamé*," mentioned the news report. Whether it was functions graced by the governor, chief minister, prime minister, Dhondy was oftentimes present to cover the event with her "fair and unbiased" reporting, as acknowledged by statesmen like S. K. Patil, Morarji Desai and others. When the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had returned from his tour of the United States, Dhondy covering the function was privileged to shake hands with him and give him some news on *Jamé*, it was recalled in the front page obituary announcement.

Late into the night she would be covering functions, then walking the



Dhondy (left) and N. Jeejeebhoy

deserted streets of Bombay in the 1950s to the publication's office to submit her story, returning home much later to take charge of domestic responsibilities which included four children. Her husband Adi, being a crime reporter, was able to empathize with her duties.

"Even when she was one of the se-



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nior directors, we always found in her a polite person and a lady of fine understanding who always remained helpful to the extent she could be to any of the staffers or subordinates who saw her with their problems, whether they were personal or related to the work in office or Press matters," acknowledged one of the ex-staffers of the newspaper, Tehmi D. Anklesaria. Fondly referred to as "aapri mai (our mother)," Dhondy was known for her charitable and humorous disposition, abundant patience and boundless sympathy for the less fortunate. She was additionally a trustee of the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Parsi Charitable Institution and Junior College and a committee member of the J. N. Petit Institute being a one-time regular face at the library there.

Even while she was in the Intensive Care Unit at Bombay's B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital she showed concern for the publication's welfare. "Her love for the Parsi community, her determination to serve her beloved community through the *Jam-e-Jamshed* and her unshakeable faith in the community itself to keep the paper going have paid

rich dividends today," acknowledges her son Rusi, the present editor. To steadfastly maintain the orthodox policy and values of the paper she had the "constant support of the then chairman, that great philanthropist, the late Nanabhoy Byramjee Jeejeebhoy," adds Rusi.

"Today, if the *Jam-e-Jamshed* continues to reach Parsi homes, it is due to the munificence of this great philanthropist," stated Rusi Dhondy in his editorial following the demise of Jeejeebhoy in March 1996. "Nanabhoy was solely responsible for buying a fair share of the *Jam-e-Jamshed* in 1968, despite knowing fully well that it was a loss making proposition then, but deriving every bit of satisfaction from the knowledge that the only Parsi newspaper...could never be sold to a non-Parsi as was contemplated by the then management. From 1968 to 1989 he kept funding this newspaper. To quote him, 'I'd rather die than see the *Jamé* die.'" His orthodox beliefs however prevented him from accepting the viewpoints of less die-hard community publications. For example, he had refused to grant *Parsiana* an interview on the

status of the *Jamé*.

As chairman of the Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Parsi Charitable Institution he took a keen interest in the school's new ventures and as acknowledged a poetic tribute, he "acted in the present, to make the future bright/added opportunities with vision and foresight..." His birthdays were celebrated "with great gusto" each year with the school's food science teacher baking a unique cake for him, it was recalled at a condolence meeting in his honor.

Jeejeebhoy also served as trustee of the Framjee Cawasjee Institute, Seth Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy Trust, Fareedoonji Bomanji Jeejeebhoy Fund, N. M. Petit Charitable Trust Fund, Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Parsee Benevolent Institution, Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Charity and Allied Trust Funds... "His association with numerous charities culminated in his establishing two charities after his family name viz Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Charity Trust and Jeejeebhoy Charities and later Nanabhoy Jeejeebhoy Charity Trust named after himself," states Rusi Dhondy. This last Trust which has a corpus comprising mostly of his own



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donations "can boast of having helped innumerable unfortunates since its inception (including) the pathology department of the Parsee General Hospital."

On completing his postgraduation from the Bombay University, Jeejeebhoy joined his father's business and became one of the biggest landlords in Bombay at that time, recalled the write-up, adding, "But far bigger than his properties and estates was his heart that embraced all the poor and the downtrodden, especially the blind and the handicapped."

At youth pilgrimage

Nineteen-year-old Delnaz F. Dalal of Ahmedabad was the only Zoroastrian to

represent India at the World Youth Day Pilgrimage held in Paris from August 11 to September 3, 1997, notes a press release from Roxanne Kavarana. In addition to the several Christians included in the Indian contingent

Dalal: novel exposure

there was a Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, Buddhist and Jain representative as well, she writes.

Referring to her month long experience in France and Italy, Dalal stated, "I came across people from different continents, countries and religions. I got a chance to attend several inter-religious prayers, seminars and discussions. Whenever possible, I tried my best to spread some knowledge about our religion, especially our principles of good thoughts, good words and good deeds."

Before the second year BCom student joined the Indian delegation led by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India Commission for Youth, she was briefed on Zoroastrianism by Noshir Daboo of Ahmedabad, according to the write-up.

"A guardian of all"

At the 1997 Rock Yatra festival in Bombay, singer Gary Lawyer dedicated his *Nights On Fire* to the memory of his friend Cowas Jehangir Jeejeebhoy who died in Pune the preceding March. Grandson of Sir Byramjee Jeejeebhoy who had founded several educational institutions in India, Cowas had sportingly played the role of a chauffeur in Lawyer's music video, *On The Other Side Of Dawn*, it was reported in the *Poona Herald*.

It wasn't just a passive role that Cowas played in the field of music. A violinist "of high caliber" he was a regular with the Bombay Chamber Orchestra, had performed with Mehroo Jeejeebhoy of the Time and Talents Club at the National Centre for the Performing Arts and was in touch with maestros Zubin Mehta and Yehudi Menuhin, as mentioned in the article. In fact his career in music started at an early age and while yet a student at Pune's Bishop's School, he formed a band of his own. Thereafter he spent five years in London's Trinity College, and at the Juillard School of Music in New York. He also gave lessons to little children showing an aptitude for music.

"A personable man with an imposing presence, he was sharp, lived life unconventionally, and largely, in an off-duty manner," commented Vani Dayal Heerjee in the *Poona Herald*. "To his innumerable friends, he remained a gregarious and amusing bon vivant, ever cheerful and incapable of being moved to anger...He was constantly given to acts of rare kindness for which people remember him with gratitude."

He showed extraordinary concern for his cars as also animals. "To Cowas, cruelty to animals constituted the first of the deadly sins (and) on the road, he was known to hold up traffic in the thoroughfares attempting to rescue a poor fellow



C. Jeejeebhoy: rare kindness

creature." In 1996 when he seized "medieval instruments of torture" from the Pune Cantonment Board's dog squad, he made front page news, mentions the

article, referring to him as "a guardian of all living creatures."

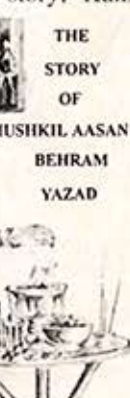
When in despair

Having experienced the "special powers of Behram Yazad and the woodcutter story," Kaizad Bhabha was keen to share

with other coreligionists his knowledge, having personally "found this story to be a very powerful link in life in asking for Ahura Mazda's help when in need or in despair," notes the author in his preface to the 48-page booklet, *The Story of Mushkil Aasan Behram Yazad*.

While those who believe in Mushkil Aasan

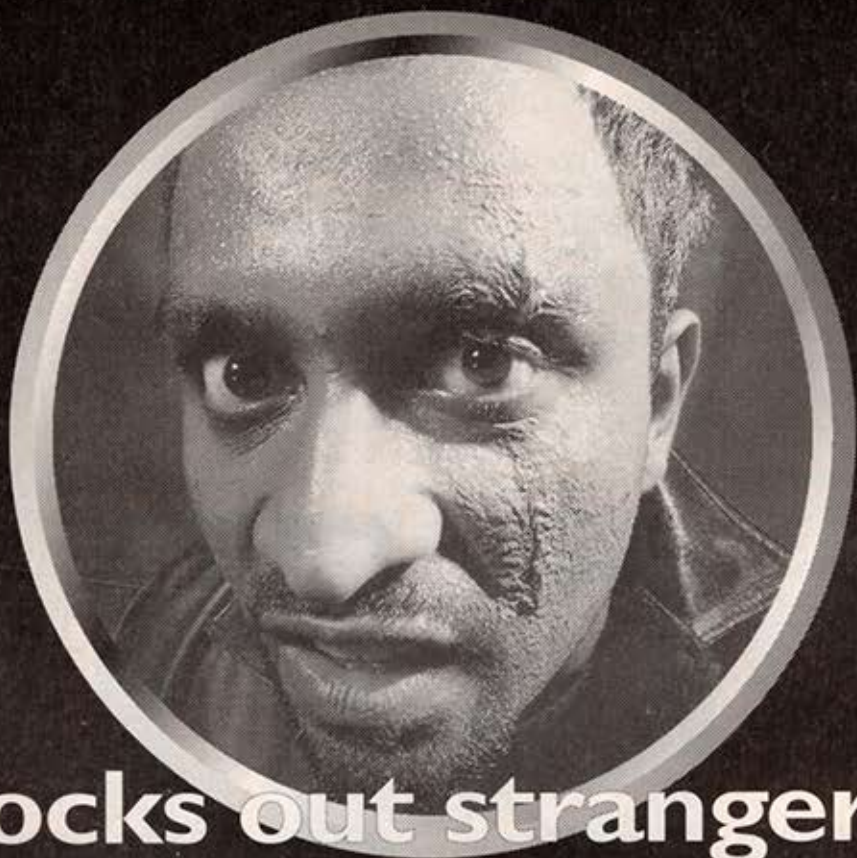
Behram Yazad may have been typically invoking this holy spirit on Tuesdays and/or Fridays, on Hormazd and/or Behram roj, Bhabha's signal service is to render the version in English. Until he learnt the Gujarati



Bhabha: sharing a profound message

script Bhabha had been dependent on his mother to read aloud the story. "I do not think that an inability to read Gujarati should preclude any Zoroastrian from being able to recite this story and avail of its powers," believes the author who took upon himself the task of translation under the guidance of Khojeste Mistree of Zoroastrian Studies and the support of Dastur (Dr) Firoze Kotwal.

"I do find the story itself and some of the events recounted therein to be very elementary in the telling, but I have also found a deep and profound message of a promise hidden within this simple tale," acknowledges the author in his preface. As per the narration of the story, when the poor woodcutter was desperate to earn extra money to feed his family, a fire ravaged the forest for three consecutive days depriving him of his livelihood. When he was sitting forlorn in the forest, the five yazatas — Bahman, Ardibehesht, Meher, Sraosh and Behram — tried to end his misery. Behram Yazad picked up a fistful of sand and pebbles and told the woodcutter to preserve it. He also impressed on the woodcutter the need to



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recount this episode with gratitude and make an offering of flowers, grams, sugar, cardamom and water, if his problems were solved. After the woodcutter reached home, the sand and pebbles turned to precious stones, making him a very prosperous man. When he set out on a pilgrimage, he entrusted his daughter to continue the task of paying devotion to Mushkil Aasan Behram Yazad. But it seems that in the midst of all mirth and merriment she forgot her devotional duties and once again the family was enmeshed in sorrow. Reprimanded for this lapse, the woodcutter was given one more chance to seek an end to his troubles and offer prayers and thanks to Mushkil Aasan Behram Yazad.

"There are many different traditions with regard to the Mushkil Aasan Behram Yazad ritual. Some merely recite the story whilst others recite the story as well as the *Nirang*. However, the *Nirang* itself can be used without reciting the story," explains Bhabha who has included in his booklet the *Mushkil Aasan Karnaar Behram Yazadni Nirang* with its relevant translation.

In preparation for the ritual, persons are advised to sit on an east-west axis as far as possible. On the table before them a *divo* is a must. It can also be accompanied with a tray of grams, cardamom, sugar crystals, flowers, dried dates, some sweets and a bowl of water along with a photograph of Zarathushtra, a small *afargani* with glowing embers, *agarbatti*, a mirror, a prayer book and a framed photograph of the Mushkil Aasan icon peculiar to India.

While the cost of the first publication has been borne by Bhabha, to make

future editions self supporting, the booklet has been priced at five rupees. It is distributed by Zoroastrian Studies, K. R. Cama Oriental Institute Building, 136, Bombay Samachar Marg, Bombay 400023, Tel: 2047990, 2831511.

Eye-catching visuals

A white mouse peers out of a black slipper. Is it with excitement, trepidation or wonder that it looks forward to the first two months of the 1998 calendar? There is no knowing. What we do know is that this eye-catching visual is the work of Rumi Sethna, a professional photographer who reportedly freelances for the leading advertising agencies of Bombay.

Whether it is the still of a little baby snuggled in the kitty basket enjoying

and extreme work pressure, I am unable to visit the agencies regularly with my portfolio, hence these (bimonthly) sheets keep them abreast of the quality of my work," Sethna explains his rationale.

Specializing in still life and people photography, Sethna states, "Each and every calendar is a result of extreme hard work and perfection." While the execution of photographs comes under Sethna's domain, the themes are conceived by his cousin Dinaz Hosi Dastur who too "is a very good artist," acknowledges Sethna.

SPOTLIGHT

After successfully completing 12 years as president-trustee of The Allahabad Parsee Zoroastrian Anjuman, **Capt Homi**

P. Dandiwalla was unanimously reelected for the fifth consecutive three-year term on November 20, 1997, notes a press release. Despite his physical disability and ill health, "he has done more than his duties," remarked vice president Dossu F. Gandhi.

The use of the public toilet block newly constructed by the Rotary Club of Mumbai Sunrise near the Bhikha Behram well was discontinued following a stay order granted up to February 23, '98 by the Supreme Court on January 12, '98, on a petition filed by the Parsi Punchayet Funds and Properties and others against the Bombay Municipal Corporation and others. The Court however clarified that the drinking water and health care facilities, though not yet started, could function.

Compiled by Parinaz M. Gandhi



Sethna (left) and Dastur with their creative outputs (below)

himself while the cat on his high chair savors his meal, a hamburger filled with erasers, notepad and shavings, held together by a pencil, a snake literally winding its way up the ladder... every two months he circulates 500 single sheets with a spectacular photograph accompanying the calendar dates for the forthcoming months. "Due to paucity of time





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Projecting Zarathushti viewpoints

FEZANA publications committee chairman Rustom Kevala believes that Zoroastrian organizations must work out the Zarathushti angle on matters of contemporary concern

Arnavaz S. Mama

North America acquired its first Parsi mobed (a behdin trained to undertake certain restricted priestly functions) recently when the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington Incorporated (ZAMWI)'s resident mobed, Ervad (Brig) Behram Panthaky, trained Jamshed Mistry. Mistry is Surat's late Ervad Jehangir Turel's grandson, informs Washington based Dr Rustom Kevala, who chairs FEZANA's (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America) information and publications committee.

Increasingly involved in community affairs since he resettled in Washington many years ago, Kevala has been secretary, vice president and president of ZAMWI and was intimately involved in their project to set up a Zoroastrian national center in Washington.

As ZAMWI secretary Kevala had had to make a presentation about it to Rostam Sarfeh of the Guiv Foundation. However, the grand vision had to be substantially abridged in the face of a financial crunch as the Guiv Foundation which had initially agreed to support the project "almost withdrew their gift" in the aftermath of their legal tussle with the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY). It was then, recalls Kevala, that "some Iranian Zoroastrians in Washington got together under General Shahriari to convince the Guiv Foundation of the bonafides of Washington Zoroastrians."

Thus emerged the Vandsar Committee with its Iranian board of trustees to manage the gift from the Guiv Foundation. Although the Vandsar Committee "worked closely with ZAMWI," the

plans for a national center had to be shelved for shortage of funds and the money collected was given to Vandsar to renovate the property, narrates Kevala. As of now the community property in Washington, a very small house which can seat 75-100 people with kitchen facilities and a residence for a mobed upstairs, is called "Mobed's Residence."



Kevala: "To talk of camps is to talk of divisions"

Photo: Arnavaz S. Mama

The large antique afargani that ZAMWI received from Surat was installed in the prayer room on the precincts in November '97, informs Kevala. But ZAMWI president Kersi Shroff, the Vandsar Committee and other association members are working together to get architectural plans for the renovation of the site approved by the zoning authorities.

Personally involved in framing FEZANA's strategic 10-year plan for the North American community (see Zoroastrians Abroad, *Parsianna*, September 1997), Kevala believes that ZAGNY's is the oldest running and best organized religious education program, closely followed by the one in Chicago. The two have been put together under FEZANA sponsorship by Chicago's Kayomars Mehta "as a guideline for all associations who want to follow a curriculum but (there is) no imposition," he adds.

As chairman of the FEZANA publications committee Kevala is actively involved in the planning and presentation of the quarterly *FEZANA Journal* which carries an editorial from him in each issue highlighting top priority concerns, historic, religious or social. The FEZANA web page on the Internet is another project which keeps Kevala busy. He hopes "to keep the whole

community informed about what's happening." Although he feels that the Toronto community is fairly orthodox, Kevala is of the opinion that "everybody can say what they want without criticism." He sees the North American community free of camps, for to talk of camps is to talk of divisions, he says. "We feel that whoever expresses an opinion does it with the intent of maintaining the Zoroastrian religion. What's important is that it must make sense to young people. (We) see different viewpoints on web pages, wonder if they (the youth) really want to belong to the (Parsi) community. To them what's important is their (Zoroastrian) religion."

Kevala says there is "good harmony between the two mobed councils (North American Mobed Council and Council of Iranian Mobeds of North America). Each is invited to the other's meets." Moreover he maintains that two such separate councils are required "because the Iranian community still has language problems. They can't communicate with Parsis. Moreover, the death, wedding, navjote ceremonies (are also) slightly different. "The prayers are the same but the trappings are different" although the Iranian custom of praying seated on chairs with the afargan on a table in front is catching on.

The Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress (WZC) being planned for Houston in December 2000 will be held right at the end of the year to usher in the third millennium, says Kevala. By then the Houston Zoroastrian Center will be a working entity. Though the theme of the Congress is yet to be finalized, a mutually accepted formula has helped to form committees under various heads, each to be cochaired by a member of the Zoroastrian Association of Houston and of FEZANA. Kevala is the FEZANA cochair of the fundraising committee.

The WZC is expected to stage a cul-

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tural program which will showcase Zoroastrian culture from all over the world, notes Kevala. Zoroastrian artists will have a chance to display their works and Zoroastrian businesses will have booths. The program committee will welcome papers from all over the world, he adds.

"It is our opportunity to become known all over the world," so Kevala says they will be planning heavy Press coverage. Kevala believes that we must "come out of our closet... project Zoroastrianism to the rest of the world." As an NGO (non governmental organization) recognized by the United Nations, FEZANA's aim is to project the faith's viewpoints on the environment, birth control and other major issues of our times. "We can have a voice but it's really up to us. If we can have a world Zoroastrian body that (adopts) these Zarathushti viewpoints, it would help us project them to the rest of the world," he maintains.

As a prelude, the 11th North American Congress in 1998 in New York will experiment with a new format. Individual speakers will be replaced by panels on various topics. The intention is to consider all viewpoints on a topic, assures Kevala. If the topic is intermarriage, the accent will be on the implica-

tions for the community: "What do you do when it happens?" The focus will be on experience rather than the view of scholars, Kevala elaborates. "Each person is capable of making up his/her own mind. The audience will be given enough time to ask questions to panelists," he assures.

According to Kevala the controversy regarding the formation of a world body and the ding-dong battle between the WZO (World Zoroastrian Organisation) and the proposed WCZF (World Council of Zoroastrian Federations) is being perceived in the community as a tussle between personalities. If the personalities withdraw, a solution may be easier to conceive, he believes. Although Kevala agrees with FEZANA founder president Rohinton Rivetna that "there is room for both" organizations in the international Zoroastrian arena—WZO could continue with its role within the community while the WCZF could reach out to build bridges with other organizations, religions and communities—the "general perception" is that there is a struggle for power, he notes.

In FEZANA itself there is "natural progression... Each of its presidents (Rivetna and Dolly Dastoor) brought their

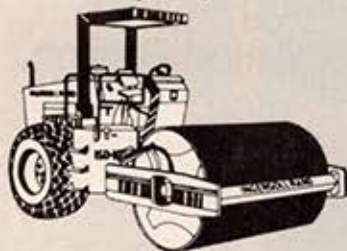
own strengths to the organization." With Dastoor in her last year in office (the FEZANA constitution stipulates a maximum two terms of two years each), Kevala is concerned that "whoever runs for it must get a lot of support; should be able to bring a positive outlook for the future of Zoroastrians in North America." Somebody with a "long range vision" to continue the process Dastoor started when she built upon Rivetna's long range vision is what Kevala has in mind. Both Dastoor and Rivetna work as a link with other organizations when they are not working for FEZANA itself. The new incumbent should be able to continue that process plus provide "a new vision and a new method of operating," hopes Kevala.

Kevala was on a honeymoon visit to Bombay after nine years. His bride Yasmin Naterwalla has an insurance brokerage company in Maryland. It was the second marriage for both.

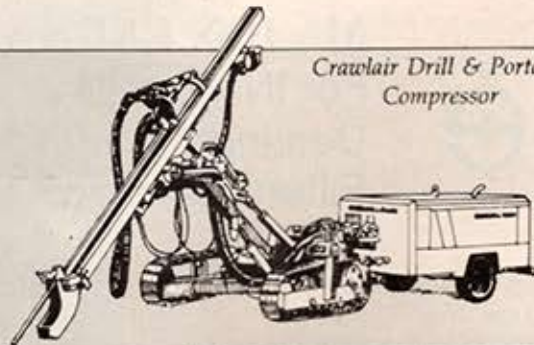
A product of the Ahmedabad Engineering College whence he graduated in civil engineering, Kevala acquired his masters in aeronautical engineering from Bangalore's Indian Institute of Science and worked for a year with

continued on page 21

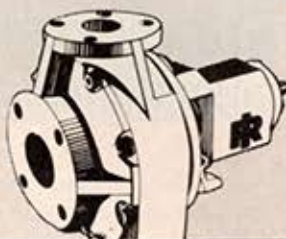
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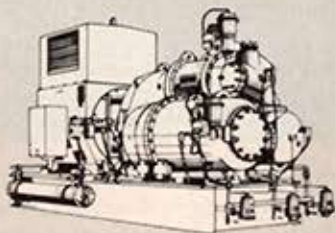
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Concerned about cohesiveness

Sarosh Manekshaw speaks about plans for the next World Congress to be held in Houston, Texas in the year 2000

Arnavaz S. Mama

"We are working as a team all the time. We don't want any one group — Iranis, conservatives, liberals, youths — to feel left out. We want to bring in the millennium in this united environment," says Zoroastrian Association of Houston's Sarosh Manekshaw. As a member of the Congress committee under chairman Homi Davier, Manekshaw is certain that the Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress, December 28, 2000 to January 1, 2001 "will be an open congress."

Giving full credit to Davier for having "built up a close working team," Manekshaw says it meets on the first Wednesday of every month and functions like a corporation: "People are assigned tasks and they are accountable to the executive committee." The committee doesn't want this occasion to be perceived as a "Parsi Congress," says Manekshaw. So, to make up for the lack of a large Iranian Zoroastrian contingent in Houston, the organizers are trying to get the larger community in Dallas involved.

The Congress' program committee has three co-chairs — Kaemerz Dotiwala, Yezdi Rustomi and Khorshed Jungalwala, informs Manekshaw. Though the theme of the Congress is yet to be finalized, they have a "bunch of very good suggestions," he says. He also notes that the main committee hopes to subsidize the travel costs for people from India wishing to attend the Congress "if we can raise enough funds."

Manekshaw observes that topics like conversion "raise emotions out of hand and stupid things are said." He would prefer the subjects to focus on "commonalities." In any case he is of the opinion that the conversion and intermarriage issues cannot be decided in a general forum. They need a "think-tank approach

to develop solutions that meet the times. Debating it won't reach a solution. (There's) a vocal group for and a vocal group against and people in the middle get put off." Manekshaw believes that



Manekshaw: "Doctrine doesn't bring cohesion" Photo: Arnavaz S. Mama

organizations like the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) or the proposed World Council of Zoroastrian Federations (WCZF) should be working on it — "people who have the background and ability to discuss these issues unemotionally." Having "no personal bias," Manekshaw is interested in seeing decisions "based on what is good for the future of the community. Until this issue is resolved, it'll keep destroying us."

The chemical engineer's main side interests are the study of Zoroastrianism and ways of educating the youths and adults of the community. Hence the tall, lanky Manekshaw has been involved in such activities as coediting the *Proceedings of the Second North American Gatha Conference* held in Houston in 1996 with Pallan Ichaporia and the organization of the First North American International Avesta Conference in Framingham, Massachusetts in November 1997 when he joined forces with Ichaporia and Jungalwala.

"Everyone made great presentations" at the Avesta Conference, declares Manekshaw. Among the battery of 18 international scholars who participated there were two from Russia and two from Germany, he notes. Unfortunately, Prof Kaikhosrov Irani took ill and Prof Antonio Panaino of Bologna, Italy had to opt out because of work related pressures, he informs.

"We wanted to keep it at a scholarly level... a forum for exchange of information from the scholars' point of view...

We didn't want the social and communal level," Manekshaw elaborates, admitting that this did "put off a lot of people." He has gleaned that there is "demand from the former Soviet republics for information on the Avesta in Russian (and) the work is proceeding." There is also genuine concern among some members of the lay community who are looking for material for a format to teach the youth, he adds.

Fifty percent of the Houston community — "a very cohesive group of Zoroastrians" — is ex Pakistani, informs Manekshaw. Among the 400 to 450 souls that the Houston community numbers (including children) there are "no ultra radicals and no ultra conservatives," he informs. He wonders if this closeness will remain in the next generation. Noting that the elders have to find ways of holding people together, Manekshaw believes that "what has held us together in India is our rituals and traditions. As these disappear and we don't promote them to have people come in (it may result in) people moving away. Doctrine doesn't bring cohesion," he opines.

Hence, after the inaugural jashan at the new Houston Zoroastrian Center (which Manekshaw is anticipating with much excitement) they expect to start celebrating the six gambhars, hold Sunday school and adult religious classes. "As people congregate together cohesiveness builds up and develops," he maintains.

It was a team effort led by Parvez Rustomji that succeeded in building the Center. On the educational side, the duo at work are Dotiwala and himself. Earlier, before he moved to Atlanta, Prof Farokh Mistree had been the moving spirit in the religious education field.

The social and cultural areas are manned by several others. Houston's Iranian Zoroastrian families have traditionally arranged the Navroze and Jashan e Sadeh functions and done so very well,

attests Manekshaw.

Son of the late Jan Manekshaw of Calcutta and nephew of the redoubtable Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, Sarosh has been in Houston since 1976 after seven and a half years in Pittsburgh as a student. Director of environmental safety and health for the Pennzoil Company, Manekshaw and his wife Gulu have a teenaged son Cyrus in high school. It was during his recent trip to Bombay in December '97 that *Parsiana* was able to talk to him.

Having attended the last FEZANA annual general meeting in Crestone, Manekshaw was all praise for its illylic charm and considered it an "ideal setting for a spiritual center: you go there if you want to mentally unwind, for spiritual awareness." He is concerned however that "there aren't enough Zoroastrians likely to go up there." All the 10 delegates from Houston "felt it was wonderful," yet Manekshaw's question is, "How much use (will it be) for the amount of funds to be invested there?"

While Manekshaw is not a WZO member, he is "not averse to being one." He feels however that the "WZO should concentrate on charity work in which it has done such an admirable job." The strength of the WZO, he feels, lies in the fact that "it can rise above political considerations. But if it gets involved as a world body, it will become politically involved and its charity work will suffer... WZO will find that their donations/contributions will increase if they remain out of the political arena." He is inclined to believe that the "WCZF should be the governing body."

Manekshaw considers FEZANA founder president Rohinton Rivetna and his wife Roshan as "probably two of the hardest working Zoroastrians" in North America and gives great credit to Dolly Dastoor, its current president. "They have dedicated themselves to the cause... considering that they all have their own careers!" Manekshaw registers his amazement at the indefatigable trio.

According to Manekshaw he and his colleagues "learnt a lot" in the sphere of organizing events when they staged the Seventh North American Zoroastrian Congress in 1990 and the second Gatha Conference last year. It may have whetted their appetite and their abilities. What world Zoroastrians will have to say in 2001 may be even more commendatory. After all, they have almost three years of preparation ahead.

PROJECTING ZARATHUSHTI....

continued from page 18

Hindustan Aeronautics before proceeding to the US for a PhD from the Oklahoma State University.

Spending an initial seven years in Chicago Kevala recounts that the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago was then only an informal organization. Rivetna, Jamshed Mody, Keki Bhote were already prominent on the scene, he remembers, but he was himself "not much involved with community activities then." Interestingly, his American first wife Cheryl was secretary of the informal organization! The couple have two children — Karl and Ruby.

It was on settling in Washington that Kevala attended some functions of ZAMWI and was co-opted as vice president by Dinshaw Joshi and Adi Davar, because they "had difficulty finding people to run for office," he recalls.

Now with his own children growing up Kevala notices that "as youths are getting older they are taking on more responsibility. At the last AGM (annual general meeting) youths spoke up, demanded more responsibility and are getting more responsibility; they de-

manded a budget and are getting it. (There are) new ideas about what they want to do which the adults hadn't thought of. We will see more of it... in the next few years," Kevala is confident. Already there are younger members on the FEZANA's education team and they are being prepared for leadership; similarly with the other committees and for planning for the WZO.

Kevala is of the opinion that the youths should not be isolated. Though "some adults want separate youth conferences," Kevala believes that the issue will be sorted out in the coming years. His personal suspicion is that "adults want to control youth congresses as happened in London. Is a 35-year-old a youth?" he queries, adding "An 18-year-old is a youth but you can't expect (18-year-olds) to organize a whole congress."

Kevala thinks that the adults and the orthodox are "afraid that youths will change the religion; that they will say O.K. to conversion and intermarriage. But that's not what (the youths) are saying! They are merely asking! But nobody is listening to them. When we start listening to them then we'll start working together..."

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In the evening of their lives

The Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Senior Citizens Centre is a new landmark in Navsari

Arnavaz S. Mama

"Today a dream has turned into reality," managing director of WZO (World Zoroastrian Organisation) Trust Funds in India Dinshaw Tamboly sighed with satisfaction as a four-storied building in Navsari, with an atrium and an elevator, was dedicated to the aged and aging Parsi community. The Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Senior Citizens Centre, from property purchase to furnishings, has been financed by the Bai Maneckbai P. B. Jeejeebhoy Trust (MJT). As noted *Bombay Samachar's* Mehelli Cama who performed the inaugural honors in his capacity as a MJT trustee on January 6, 1998, "All the hard work was done by Dinshaw and his wife Bachi. Giving money is easy; execution is difficult. It's been an act of love and charity."

A jashan by 23 mobeds led by Ervad Kersey Homji preceded the unveiling of the marble plaque commemorating the event.

"The home has been built to UK standards," noted WZO chairman Shahpur Captain. Meant for the mobile aged, a living room with sofas, chairs, a TV with cable connections affords common space where the inmates can gather for recreational activities. The walls are livened by prints and plaques to create a homely atmosphere. It leads to the office of the manager, Soli Vandrewalla and beyond the plant-lined atrium to a spacious dining room with ample crockery and cutlery. A well equipped modern kitchen is manned by a Parsi lady cook and two helpers. A pump fills overhead tanks from a tubewell below the atrium.

On each of the upper floors are four

single rooms, two double rooms (for couples or siblings) and one room with four beds plus a service room equipped with a gas geyser, Aquaguard and *matka* of drinking water.

Every room has an attached bath, toilet, wash basin with toilet cabinet,

water for baths from the service room. In charge is Shermin Tamboly who handles other WZO administrative work in Navsari.

People will pay Rs 1,000 and up per month for the facilities which include boarding, lodging, laundry and medical attention for passing illness for which arrangements have been made with the D. N. Mehta Hospital (once known as the Parsi *suvavarkhanu* or maternity home where a 40-day accouchement is still possible for Rs 800, as notes Tamboly).

In case an inmate becomes infirm, he/she has the option to go back to the family or to be forwarded to the Navsari Infirmary. Anticipating growing pressure on that 40-bed facility which is almost always fully booked, Tamboly has planned for a new wing of 40 beds to be added to it, together with refurbishing of the old wing at a cost of Rs 51.25 lakhs, also to be financed by the MJT and readied in a year. "Five to seven beds in the Infirmary will always remain for our residents if they choose to go there," says Tamboly.

The Tambolys anticipate that it will be six to eight months before the Centre becomes fully operational as they intend to proceed by allocating rooms on one floor at a time. "It's a new venture for us," says Tamboly who has not been able to anticipate the problems that running the facility may bring in its wake. But he is confident of solving them as they arise. Bachi noted that of the many applicants five had been screened and approved.

"Ours is an aging community — 50 percent of the population is on the wrong



Plaque commemorating the donors

Photo: Hornyar Mistry, Hornz Prints

buckets, mugs, etc. The rooms are furnished with a bed, a desk, a chair, a steel almirah and hanging arrangements for clothes complete with hangers. Bed and bath linen is provided.

Bearing in mind that the inmates may need assistance in a hurry, there are call bells in the rooms as well as the toilets and an opaque glass panel on the door ensures that in case of emergency access is possible by the simple expedient of breaking the glass.

A maid has been assigned to each floor whose duties include providing hot



Clockwise from top left: exterior of the Centre; the dining area; kitchen; living room; room for four

Photos: Homyar Mistry, Homz Prints

side of 50," noted Tamboly as he recounted the build up to the project. The Centre, which cost the MJT about 1.3 crore rupees, was first conceived when the WZO project for ameliorating the plight of rural Zarathushtis drew prospective donors from abroad to the Gujarat backwaters to see conditions at first hand. They felt the need for a home for senior citizens. An elderly bachelor from Bombay was willing to donate seven

to eight lakh rupees for the purpose and suggested that the WZO find a property on the outskirts of the town where he wished to be the first inmate. By the time such a property was located however, he had lost interest but the idea had caught the Tambolys' imagination. Dinshaw says he spoke about it to the Maneckbai Jeejeebhoy Trust who wanted a project report. Within four weeks of his submitting one, the MJT trustees approved of the project.

Simultaneously Tamboly received an offer to design the Centre from young architect Rustom Hathi who had built a sophisticated 120-bed nursing home for

disabled Jews in Connecticut, USA. Hathi, who had graduated in architecture from Ahmedabad, had done his masters at Columbia University and had worked for 13 years in the US before returning to set up for himself in India two and a half years ago. "By the time he had planned it for us, Hathi got an assignment elsewhere," so he gave the design to local architect Jayant Mehta to implement, continued Tamboly. Between Mehta and Parsi builder Yazdi Kassad the plan fructified into the building we saw. The services of the three men were publicly acknowledged by Tamboly.

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Paving the platinum way

Spurred by the emotions of the Swadeshi movement, Pheroza and Rustom Sidhwa of Bharat Tiles pioneered cement tile-making in the 1920s

Hilla P. Guzder

They were the pioneers, they say, of the cement tile-making industry in India. In 1922, Pheroza Sidhwa and his nephew Rustom, in partnership with Karachi based Jamshed Mehta, his brother Homi and Minocher Dinshaw, founded The Bharat Flooring Tiles Company. In 1940, the company became Bharat Tiles and Marble Private Limited and through the 75 years of its existence, millions have tramped their tiles at Bombay University, Mantralaya, Reserve Bank of India, Santa Cruz Airport, Bombay Central, Churchgate and other railway stations, the K. E. M., J.J., Jaslok, Bombay and Parsee General hospitals, Brabourne Stadium and C.C.I. Club House, Willingdon Club, Breach Candy Bath, Taj Mahal Hotel, Metro, Excelsior and other cinemas...the list goes on.

"It is still our pride that our floors should last as long as the buildings in which they are laid," says director Dilnavaz Variava (née Sidhwa), daughter of Pheroza. "Though all tiles may look the same to a layman, a poorly made tile deteriorates with age, a good one improves. Ours is not a company which brings out a mass product of questionable quality. We do quality work in supplying and fixing Italian and Indian marble, granite, stone, ceramic tiles and all types of floors. In the 1960s we started making heavy duty, non-slip tiles under the registered trade name STILAN for use in factories, warehouses, driveways, pavements, etc.

The strength and abrasion resistance of our STILAN tiles is so high that forklifts and trucks can safely go over them," she explains. Outlining Bharat's plans to celebrate its platinum jubilee from December 1997 to December 1998, Variava

"It is still our pride that our floors should last as long as the buildings in which they are laid"

elaborates, "We have brought out a new range of heritage or classic designs for farmhouses, bungalows, etc. We are offering platinum jubilee discounts to old clients, scheduling free consultancy for them, etc. We would love to hear from anyone who has a Bharat Tiles floor."

And hear from old customers they have. Referring to the tiles laid in the 1920s when their Readymoney Mansion at Flora Fountain was built, Jehangir H. C. Jehangir, great grandson of Sir Cowasji Jehangir, writes in his letter of January 19, 1998, "We are very happy to

inform you that not only are the tiles still existing and in excellent condition but are very much admired by ourselves, by many of our tenants and by visitors to the building. In fact we like the tiles so much that we do not allow them to be replaced by any of our tenants!" Variava also displays a recent letter from Maneck Engineer, vice president, construction, Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited, stating that the tiles, marble and granite installed from 1950 onwards at the Godrej family residence at Wolkeshwar, the showroom at Flora Fountain, the company headquarters at Godrej Bhavan and plant no 3 at Vikhroli are still in use. Another letter from noted ENT surgeon Dr L. H. Hiranandani relates the story of how his architect insisted in 1958 on his using Bharat Tiles for his seven-storied building at Malabar Hill though the price was 25 percent higher and he could ill afford the additional expense! "I had to work harder to pay more for the Bharat Tiles. These tiles are still there and they really look like marble tiles," he writes.

Other eminent citizens who reposed their trust in Bharat Tiles over the years included Sir Byramjee Jeejeebhoy who wrote way back in 1929, "Far from being worn out, they improve with use." Sir Dinshaw Petit, Sir Ibrahim Rahimtulla, Sir Fazalbhoy Currimbhoy, Purshottamdas Thakordas, Sir Sorabji Pochkhanawala, Sir

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1 Remembrance: Jamshed Mehta, Pherozesha Sidhwa, parents Dosibai and Hormusji (rear), Dinbai and Dhunjisha Sidhwa and son Rustom
2 Tehmina Sidhwa
3 Meheru Mehta, Variava, Sidhwa, Maki Bilimoria and Almitra Patel
4 Tiles of the '20s at Readymoney Mansion
5 Mosaic tiles of the '50s at a private home

Hormusji Adenwalla and many more. According to the company booklet of the 1940s, Bharat Tiles have graced the floors of the palaces of the maharajas of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Gwalior, Mysore, Travancore, etc, the Government Houses at Madras, Bombay and Pune (for the governor of Bombay), Madras University, the National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla, among others.

"No we are not resting merely on our laurels," observes Variava. Even today,

their tiles are being transported to locations as far away as Uttar Pradesh and Sri Lanka, she mentions, and "we have recently done extensive marble, granite and stone work for the elegant Jindal Mansion and Essar office in Bombay and the Birla temple at Revdanda."

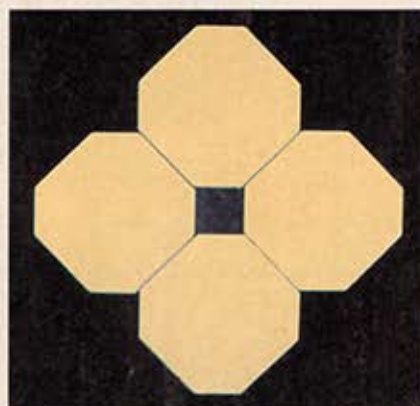
The company's head office and showroom are located in the heart of Bombay's central business district adjacent to the Stock Exchange. Though it started operations at Uran on the main-

land across Bombay harbor, the factory shifted in 1955 to Kurla in Bombay. Its sister concern, Bharat Floorings and Tiles (Mumbai) Private Limited markets the tiles and aims to provide a one-stop shop for a wide range of flooring materials.

The Bharat group also makes fire retardant Thermo-Litecrete boards and blocks, an effective insulation, they claim, against heat, cold and noise, which can also be used for partition



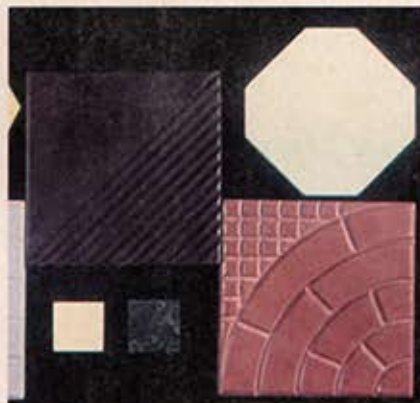
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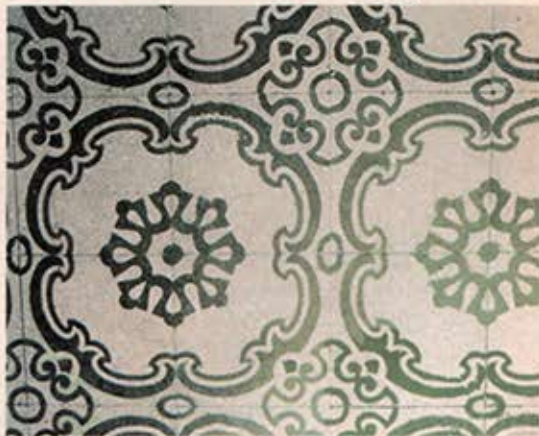
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6 Red cement tiles of a '70s farmhouse reflect greenery
7 Marble and stone work at Birla temple
8 Reviving heritage designs
9, 10, 11 Minton-type carpet patterns of the '20s
12 Assortment of current tiles
13 Old factory at Uran

13



7



walls and decorative false ceilings. The old records of the company show that these products were used as far back as 1937 by, among others, Hindustan Construction Company for terrace insulation, in 1944 by Polson Limited to insulate their cold storage room, and in 1946 by the Karachi Municipal Corporation to improve the accoustics in their meeting hall. Its Feathercrete was used in the reconstruction of Quetta after an earthquake, while more recently the



Marble and tiling work at Air India building and Express Towers

Government of India used Thermo-Litecrete at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Trombay, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, the Tata Memorial Hospital, etc, according to company sources.

Though still a family concern, the company has professionalized its operations through managers, with members of the Sidhwa family functioning at the board level, asserts Variava. Heading the board of directors is 88-year-old Tehmina, Pheroza's widow. "I am grateful to God that I am still here and that the company could subsist for so long as it has gone through so many problems, particularly during the World War II years when overnight the British government told us to surrender every bag of cement for defence purposes in 1940. As we were also the agents for the Associated Cement Companies, we had a large stock of cement and so incurred a big loss," she narrates in soft, measured tones, her pronounced German accent a lingering reminder of her birth and residence in Germany for the first 23 years of her life. "My father used to teach Oriental languages like Persian and Sanskrit at Berlin University," she explains. "I came to India in 1933 and married Pheroza in 1935." Belying her advanced years, the octogenarian still attends office every morning and has also functioned since 1949 as the honorary secretary of the Sarasvati Education Society which runs English and Marathi medium schools catering to

nearly 3,000 students in Deolali (see "The lost legends of Deolali," *Parsiana*, October 1997). Tehmina is also director emeritus in Grindwell Norton Limited, originally established during the War years by the Sidhwas as Grindwell Abrasives, now a leading manufacturer of abrasives, refractory and other products, which still functions from the original site in Uran.

Other directors on the board of Bharat Tiles include Tehmina's two daughters Almitra Patel and Variava, son-in-law Hoshang Patel and Meheru Mehta, daughter of co-founder Rustom. States Almitra, "What I am most proud of is that my dad and Rustom started the factory under the inspiration of the emi-

nent freedom fighter and philanthropist Jamshed Mehta, who was the president of the Karachi municipality for 12 consecutive years and the first mayor of the Karachi Municipal Corporation, then a part of undivided India. They were at every stage pioneers, 10 years ahead of their time. Not only was Bharat Tiles the pioneer in cement tile manufacturing, but also in the cutting and polishing of granite. We have set up tile factories in Delhi, Nagpur, Ahmedabad and Pune in partnership with locals and then handed them over. Sometimes we have remained on site for a long time, as in Korba in Madhya Pradesh where we were making tiles for three years for a power station.



Directors and staff at head office

Photos: Chetan and Vikram Mistry

"My sister and I are now leading newer and different freedom struggles. From 1969-71 I worked as project officer for The Bombay Natural History Society on a project to save the Gir lions, India's last lion reserve. My current passion is to clean up India's cities." Having visited by road as many as 80 municipalities, Almitra filed in 1996 a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court to stop open dumping of garbage by all Class I cities (over 300 of them with a population in excess of one lakh each). The Court, in its order of January 12, 1998 has directed a committee (including herself and some of the most successful municipal commissioners) to recommend practical guidelines to amend municipal byelaws, she explains. Almitra, who now lives in Bangalore, holds a master's degree in ceramic engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She was into research and development in Grindwell Norton and was for 30 years the chief executive officer and consultant for Daka company, another Sidhwa-established company which "pioneered the import substitution of silica-based induction furnace linings. I retired and sold my shares, but the company is still running in Thane," she elaborates.

Her husband Hoshang, who has a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering and a master's in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan, was for 24 years the project director and later the managing director of Grindwell Norton. Now retired, Hoshang is vice chairman of Gharda Chemicals Limited.

Variava is from the first batch of students to graduate from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad in 1966 and has worked in marketing and human resource development in Voltas and Grindwell Norton. Also into environmental issues, she has officiated as the chief executive officer of World Wildlife Fund, India and is currently one of the three vice presidents of the Bombay Natural History Society. Variava was awarded a knighthood in the Order of the Golden Ark by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands in 1979.

"On the occasion of our platinum jubilee, I feel nostalgic and very happy that what was started decades ago by a family member has survived in spite of the many setbacks that were often due to circumstances beyond our control,"

muses M. Mehta, who is also one of the founder members of the Bombay International School and takes active part, along with Tehmina and Roomi Shroff, Grindwell's retired administration manager, in the running of the Sarasvati Education Society schools.

Rustom's second daughter, Bhicu Cowasjee, lives in Karachi, while the youngest, Maki Bilimoria, recalls that her father dedicated his whole life to Bharat Tiles. "Every weekend too he would take a boat to Uran, nurturing the business their spirit of entrepreneurship had launched. I am delighted that my son Navroze, promoter-owner of Smoking Joes, the pizza chain, also works



weekends like his grandfather and has chosen to face international competition." Maki's husband Russi managed the tile business from 1980 till his retirement in 1995.

Another director, Faiyaz Mukhtiar, chartered accountant, has been with the company for 20 years and is presently executive director of Bharat Floorings.

"Bharat Tiles has a reputation for quality which is a credit to the company and to the family. I have had an excellent working life with them," reminisces Rusi Mirza who joined the company in 1943 as a fitter and was factory manager from 1964 till retirement in 1985. Recalling the contribution of old employees, Variava picks up the thread, "Rumi Palsetia, who joined us 30 years ago and trained under Mirza, is still with us, looking after the contracts division with the same dedication to quality. We have been very fortunate in having employees at all levels who consider Bharat Tiles as part of their family."

According to a report prepared by

Mirza on the early years of the company, the Bharat tale of tiles began in 1922 when Pheroza, then studying for his solicitor's exam, abandoned the legal profession and with his elder brother's son Rustom, started a tile manufacturing unit at Uran, which was in the early 1920s, according to Tehmina, almost a wilderness, with no electricity, no piped water or telephone services, the only link with the mainland being the fishing boats which plied in good weather, in which the tiles were transported. The promoters' forefathers had already built in Uran large factory sheds to manufacture liquor from mahua flowers, rose petals, etc, but in 1918 the British government decided to take over all liquor production, leaving the Uran units idle. Bombay at that time, notes the company's history, was the largest importer of foreign floor tiles and Pheroza, spurred by the emotions of the Swadeshi movement, decided to take a step towards reducing the import of foreign tiles. Enormous difficulties presented themselves, not only in manufacture but in sales as well, as everything swadeshi was considered inferior and unreliable. The then trademark of the company, patriotically stamped on the back of every tile, was a map of India (Bharat) including what is now Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Persisting in their efforts to develop a good indigenous cement tile, the company soon put on the market Minton type tiles of carpet patterns for the first time, at half the cost of imported tiles of the same pattern, causing some consternation among importers. However believing that their tiles, though good, would not last for more than 25 years and would need replacement, the company took the unusual step of dumping a consignment of tiles worth Rs 57,000 (originally intended for Readymoney Mansion) into the sea, closed down the factory and sent its representatives to Italy and other parts of Europe to study methods of tile manufacture. It was after much experimentation and research that the factory was restarted, adopting neither the 'wet,' 'dry,' or 'semi-dry' cement process, but by adopting their own formula which they believed was best suited to Indian conditions.

Unforeseen factors came into play with the outbreak of the War. Cement was unavailable and the founders tried

continued on page 44



Top row: Gujral (left) and Joshi addressing the gathering; middle row: Sohrab Godrej sharing memories with Gujral; J. Godrej (center)

showing Gujral and Alexander (extreme right) the model of the proposed Centre; bottom row: Adi Godrej (left), J. Godrej, Navroze

Godrej, Freya Crishna, Smita Crishna, Vijay Crishna, Soonu Godrej and Pheroza Godrej
Photos: Sudhir Sethia

In search of excellence

The foundation stone for the CII — Naoroji Godrej Centre of Excellence was laid by the Prime Minister

Sarita Sawhny

As the dapper, bearded gentleman stepped on to the flower-bedecked dais, he headed straight to greet a silver-haired lady, simply yet elegantly dressed in a crisp sari. The distinguished guests and audience alike broke into spontaneous applause as the Prime Minister of India, Inder Kumar Gujral, greeted Soonu Godrej, wife of the late Padma Bhushan Naoroji P. Godrej, and mother of Jamshyd N. Godrej, managing director of Godrej and Boyce. The occasion? The foundation stone laying ceremony of the CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) — Naoroji Godrej Centre of Excellence, to be established at the Godrej industrial township of Vikhroli, in suburban Bombay. The Centre will comprise a management institute covering management systems of various types and cultures: ancient and modern Indian, Western, Japanese... The ceremony, on December 30, 1997, was one of the highlights of a string of cultural, social and developmental activities that marked 1997 as the Godrej centenary year.

Later, speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister underscored his long association with the Godrej family, and particularly Soonu. "I remember attending her wedding in Karachi," he recalled. "Our families were good friends." The House of Godrej had played a vital role in free India, said Gujral. "When Gandhiji gave a call for swadeshi goods, we started using Godrej No. 1 soap." In a lighter vein, he remarked that his wife Sheila, also present on the dais, often tended to lose the keys of their Godrej almirah.

The Prime Minister lauded the ven-

ture, which seeks to impart training in a wide spectrum of disciplines. "Without excellence, we cannot compete in a global environment. We must break new ground. While imported technology provides know-how, it does not give the



Gujral unveiling the plaque in the presence of other dignitaries

know-why." And unless we have the latter, India cannot progress, he said.

Maharashtra chief minister Manohar Joshi felt that the CII had made an excellent choice in selecting Bombay as the venue for this, the fourth such Centre of Excellence. (The others are at Bangalore, Calcutta and Gurgaon near Delhi.) Bombay has "all excellent things, including an excellent chief minister," he said, amidst ripples of laughter. The chief minister felt that government officials too would benefit by a stint of training at such a Centre of Excellence.

Welcoming the array of guests which included state industries minister Liladhar Dake and governor Dr P. C. Alexander, plus a gathering of diplomats, industrialists, business associates

and senior-level Godrej executives, Jamshyd Godrej declared that the Centre was being established in memory of his father, the late N. P. Godrej. "He did not have the privilege of going to college, but started work at Lalbaug after completing his schooling."

Jamshyd, who is a past president of the CII, is also the chairman of the CII — Naoroji Godrej Centre of Excellence.

President of CII, N. Kumar, adding his words of welcome, stated that the CII had now decided that its principal investment would be in training people. The opportunities in training and education offered by these centers of excellence would be available not only to corporate executives and managers, but also to trade union leaders and factory workers. Social scientists and volun-

tary workers could also gain from the disciplines offered here, he said. Complimenting the co-sponsoring organization, he asked, "What better name in India to have than the house of Godrej, which celebrates its centenary this year?"

The chairman of the Godrej Group of Companies, Sohrab P. Godrej felt that such endeavors reflected an enlightened swadeshi movement. The bedrock of Godrej policy had always been self respect through self reliance, he stated. In fact, one of the first major productions here was 17 lakh ballot boxes for free India's first elections, he said.

Concluding with a vote of thanks, Rajesh V. Shah, vice president of CII said that the 102-year-old CII and the 100-year-old Godrej were compatible partners. "We in this city owe much to Godrej, who have made (Bombay) a better and more interesting place to be in."

A gathering of dreamers

The blueprint of a permanent Zoroastrian business organization is being prepared in North America

Roshan Rivetna

"I've got the time to give, I've got the money to give, I've got the energy to give," said Purvez Rustomji. The owner of an industrial coating plant was speaking at the Zarathushti Business Conference and Expo 97 in Las Vegas, October 30 to November 1, 1997.

Most who came to the Conference sponsored by the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA), came to share—their knowledge, their experiences and their inspiration; and to learn and draw strength and support from fellow Zarathushtis. Many took the opportunity to showcase their wares and services—from retail goods to motivational speaking.

Many had walked the long, hard way alone. While some, like the keynote speaker, former ambassador of Pakistan Jamsheed Marker, were at the zenith of a long and distinguished career, others were taking their first fledgling steps towards their dreams. Like Adil Irani, for example, who quit his well-paying job and partnered with a friend to start a computer consultancy business just four months ago.

Tehemtan Anklesaria and his wife Nina, who make diesel generators and motor cycles in India, came to look for business opportunities in the West. And Rustom (an ENT surgeon) and Roshan Mehdiabadi came from Lubbock, Texas for they believe

that "traditionally all Zarathushtis are entrepreneurs."

Through the Conference one heard stories of Zarathushtis helping Zarathushtis. When entrepreneur Homi Davier was "dead broke" in 1983, it was only with the encouragement and confidence of good friends (and a lot of guts) that he was able to build up his Capricorn Travels and become part owner of Baltic International Airlines. "I could not have succeeded," recalled Davier, "if my friend Kaemz Dotiwalla (had not travelled) 30 miles to buy a \$100 airline ticket from me." Dotiwalla, in the petro-chemical recycling business, had himself ridden a fickle economy's waves and whims.

And there was Freddy Engineer, part owner, with Mehrdad and Nooshin Banki in the software firm MINC Incorporated who expressed a debt of gratitude to supporters in Bombay for believing in him and giving him the opportunity financially, to come to the United States. They now felt it was their turn to pay back in a small way—MINC Incorporated

pledged \$1,000 to set up a Zarathushti Business Network to help other Zarathushti entrepreneurs.

The Conference, appropriately located at the glitzy MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas (for were not all the entrepreneurs there, gamblers after all?) opened on Friday afternoon with a welcome by Farshid Salamat, chair of the FEZANA business committee. Salamat's goal for this first Zoroastrian business network Conference was to "prepare a tool for a further networking system for the benefit of our community." In his opening remarks, (FEZANA founder) Rohinton Rivetna spoke of sowing the seeds to once again "make Zarathushti business a hallmark of industry," and "to earn our reputation here, as we did in India and Iran, for honesty, industry, goodness and charity."

The participants were next inspired by a tape-recorded message from prominent businessman Jamsheed Guzder, chair of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India and the Bombay Parsi

Punchayet, and president of Airfreight and other business ventures. He related a short history of how the Parsis, from the time they landed in India, were able to establish business relationships bringing about prosperity to the community.

In the first session, "Zarathushti business—past, present and future," Rivetna and Salamat conducted an open discussion to identify needs, and establish goals and objectives for a permanent support infrastructure (a network or chamber of commerce or



Left to right: Davier, Rohinton Rivetna, Collector and Salamat



Left to right (first row): Phiroze and Dhunmai Dalal, Jamshed and Arnaz Marker; Purvez and Aban Commissariat distribute Poonjiaji's chutney and other products to mainstream American consumers; (second row) Perviz and Cowas Patel and Pervin and Maneck Chichgar import Kraft cheese from Australia, fruit juices from the Philippines and other fine foods for their mail order business; Daboo (educational publishing); Rumi Engineer (engineer turned jeweller) and Hosi Mehta (auto repair); (third row) Hilla Munshi (catering); Adil Irani (computer consultancy); consultant Jimmy Kumana; Rashid Mehin; Mehrdad Banki and Freddy Engineer (pioneers in electronic design automation)

other structure) for Zarathushti business. Sarosh Collector reviewed the "Limited liability corporation" structure that has been currently set up to support this activity.

In the session on "Starting new business ventures," Framroze Patel spoke on "Business valuation and start up business." His motivation for serving the community was to repay in some small

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JANUARY 1998 MEDICINA ALTERNATIVA WORLD CONGRESS IN MUMBAI AT RUSSIAN CULTURAL HOUSE

REPORT OF THE MEDICINA ALTERNATIVA WORLD CONGRESS OF HOLISTIC HEALTH ORGANISED BY ZOROASTRIAN COLLEGE/ALL INDIA SHAH BEHRAM BAUG SOCIETY (for Scientific & Educational Research)/BHARAT NIRMAN/MEDICINA ALTERNATIVA INTERNATIONAL/OPEN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE ESTABLISHED IN ALMA ATA & COLOMBO ON 9th/10th/11th JANUARY 1998 AT RUSSIAN CULTURAL CENTRE, MUMBAI.

This important annual World Congress, held for the 11th year to celebrate 50th Anniversary of Indian Independence attracted specialists in Holistic Health Sciences world wide and from all over India. About over 400 persons attended including a large Delegation from Taiwan of Chinese Acupuncture and Qigong specialists, who introduced Qigong into India; Dr. Russel Des Marais of U.S.A. also a Qigong specialist, Madame Giselle Melinin of France, a collaborator of Dr. Alexander Trofimov of Siberia in Geo Magnetism studies and their effect on global health; **Mr. Thornton Streeter** of England who has introduced the Aura P.I.P. Photography Diagnostic method of Dr. Harry Oldfield; Dr. Mrs. Makles of Poland who deputed for Prof. Dr. Kazimierz Imieliński of Poland President of the Polish Medical Academy; **Lord Dr. Anton Jayasuriya** of Sri Lanka, Chairman of Medicina Alternativa International, Dr. Mrs. Mehmke of Germany; and Delegations were expected from Khazakhstan headed by Prof. Dr. Victor Inyushin of Khazakhstan University and Mr. Boris Fedotov, President of the Khazakhstan Astrological Society known as Zoro Astry.

The World Congress was co-ordinated by **Prof. Dr. Dame Meher Master-Moos** President Zoroastrian College and **Dr. M. C. Bhandariji** Convenor Bharat Nirman.

Prominent personalities attending the Opening Ceremony, Convocation Ceremony and Closing Ceremony included distinguished past and sitting Bombay High Court Judges - Justice V. S. Deshpande, Retd. C. J.; Justice N. Parekh, Justice Mrs. Ranjana Desai, Sheriff of Bombay **Sardar Kulwant Singh Kohli**, **Padmabhushan Dr. V. V. Shah**, **Padmashree Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan**, **Dr. Ushaben Mehta** of Mani Bhavan Gandhiji Foundation, **Prof. Dr. A. R. K. Pillai** President of Indian Leprosy Foundation **Dr. M. Manmohan & Dr. Venkatesan**, Presidents of Coimbatore & Tirupur Associations, **Tapasvi Janakshahiji** of Delhi and **Dr. Sashikant Seth** of Bombay, Healers, **Prof. Dr. Harishbhai Dhutia**, President International Federation of Astrologers, **Dr. Ishaq Jamkhanawalla**, President of Anjuman e Islam, **Consul D. Chelychev** and **Mrs. Chelychev** representing Russia, **Dr. Mrs. Makles** representing Polish Consulate, Hon. Consul for Israel **Mr. Walid Mansour** and representatives of the different religions who participated in the Inter Faith Prayer Ceremony at the commencement of the World Congress.

The World Congress Deliberations covered a wide range of Health Care Natural Methods and Diagnostic Techniques which ranged from Yoga, Unani/Hekimry Medicine, Acupuncture, Acupressure, Su Jok, Bio Therapy Magnets/Pyramids/Colour/Aroma/Music & Sound Therapies, Nature, Cure, Natural Herbal Medicine, Astrology, Aura diagnosis, Kirlian Photography, Spiritual Healing, Neuro Therapy, 6 Tastes Nari

Vaid System, Nutrition Therapy, Homeopathy, Kriya Yoga, Kundalini Yoga.

Post Congress training session was held on 12th January at Veer Bhavan, courtesy Mrs. Medhaben Mehta; and POST CONGRESS COURSES are being held in Bombay/Sanjan on Chinese Qigong by Dr. Russel Des Marais; Bio Therapy, By **Dr. B. Lakshmi**, Ancient Cosmic Wisdom & Holistic Health Sciences by Dr. Meher Master-Moos at Sanjan with special session on Pyramid Therapy by **Dr. Jiten Bhatt**.

The Zoroastrian College Faculty Members including Dr. Mrs. Shyamala Chandran, Dr. Hoshang Daruwalla, Prof. Sam Doctor in charge of Avesta Dept., Dr. Mrs. Mangala Chavan, Dr. Mrs. Vijaya Sathe, Dr. N. Sukumaran, Dr. A. H. Gosalia, Dr. Mrs. Rama Jha, Dr. Mrs. Pervin Bhamgara, Dr. Sharad Nayampally, Dr. Dinanath Rai, Dr. Sashi Khosla, Dr. Punamchand Rath, Dr. Mrs. Rekha Kinger, Dr. P. M. Rahmany, Dr. Mahnud Hasan, Dr. Hakim Arshad Shaikh, Principal Tibbia College and others presented speeches and papers. Committee Members included (1) Mrs. Homai Billimoria, (2) Ervad Noshir Kanga, (3) Mr. Rustom Chothia, (4) Dr. Shiavux Khambatta.

The following persons were awarded Ph.D. or D.Sc. degrees either by Research Thesis or Honoris Causa:

1. Prof. Dr. Victor Inyushin, Khazakhstan, (2) Prof. Dr. Kazimierz Imieliński Poland, (3) Prof. Dr. Alexander Trofimov, Siberia, (4) Omar Ralph, England, (5) Dr. Hermann Schmidt & Dr. Marianne Schanckig Germany/Spain, (6) Prof. Dr. M. Manmohan, Coimbatore, (7) Prof. Dr. Gunasekaran, Coimbatore, (8) Dr. K. G. Venkatesan, Tirupur, (9) Sophy Kelly, Bombay (10) Dr. T. V. Sairam, Delhi; and the following persons



Upper: Dr. Ushabehn Mehta, Dr. M. C. Bhandariji, Dr. V. V. Shah, Dr. Meher Master-Moos, Dr. Prof. Sir. Albert Naiyen Kou, Prof. Pandit Dr. Wu Hsi Ming, Dr. Harishbhai Dhutia, Dr. Prof. A. R. K. Pillai, Mr. Sameer Mehta and others at the closing ceremony.

Middle: Prof. Dr. Dame Meher Master-Moos, Dr. Harishbhai Dhutia and Dr. M. C. Bhandariji.

Lower: Prof. Dr. Dame Meher Master-Moos, Dr. Ushabehn Mehta, Dr. Prof. Sir Albert Kou, Dr. Prof. Pandit Wu Hsi Ming and members of the Taiwan delegation.

were honoured as Patrons in Chief/Patrons Prof. Dr. Sir Albert Nai Yen Kou; Prof. Dr. Pandit Wu Hsi Ming, Taiwan, Dr. M. C. Bhandariji, Lord Dr. Anton Jayasuriya, Prof. Dr. A. R. K. Pillai, Mrs. Shirin Cooper.

The prestigious Kaikhushroo A. Master Q.C. International Memorial Medal was conferred on Dr. M. C. Bhandari (Calcutta) & Prof. Dr. Kazimierz Imielinski.

Through the work done by the one and only Zoroastrian College in the World, of organising World Congresses of Alternative Medicines and Holistic Health Sciences every year since 1990 in the Russian Cultural Centre, Mumbai, the people of India have benefitted for Public Health. The credit goes to the Zoroastrian College for introducing into India for the first time, several new methods of diagnosis and treatment, and training doctors in India in such methods so that the suffering people can get the benefit of these methods of Health Care within India and save foreign exchange for going abroad for treatment. These new methods include:

(1) **Kirlian Photography** of the Human Aura/Bio-Energetic Field; which was pioneered for the first time in India by Dr. Meher Master-Moos in 1978; which originated in Russia/Khazakhstan/former U.S.S.R.

(2) **Dr. Harry Oldfield** of England's P.I.P. equipment for Aura Photography diagnosis and Crystal Therapy treatment introduced into India for the first time by Zoroastrian College Student Mr. Thornton Streeter, in 1992 at the Bombay World Congress.

(3) **Dr. Fred J. Fox** of England's Bio-Testing and Bio-Therapy Method, for which over 25 doctors from almost all the states of India have been trained, through Dr. Fox attending the Bombay World Congresses every year during 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997.

(4) **Korean Dr. Park Jae Woo's Su Jok Method** of Acupuncture and Acupressure which was introduced into India by Dr. Park Jae Woo attending the 1992 Bombay World Congresses at the invitation of the Zoroastrian College for the first time; and thereafter visiting India annually to train doctors from almost all the states of India. Since 1996 Dr. Park Jae Woo is permanently based in Moscow, and doctors from India receive their training in Moscow from him.



*Top: author and speaker Meher Amalsad and human imagination consultant Shahriar Shariari
Below: Jehangir Bulsara has a roofing enterprise in Ontario (left) and Mehraban Mehr who left his engineering job with Boeing to do custom construction in Seattle*

measure the debt of gratitude he owes to the Surat Parsi Orphanage of which he is a product. Hosi Mehta, speaking on "Youth and business," suggested that youth congresses have a business session. "Is franchising the way to go?" asked Aspy Daboo and noted that owning one's own business was the epitome of the American dream.

In "What it takes to start a successful

small business," Rashid Mehin outlined the stages of a small business: survival, stability, success and finally significance when you share your wealth and your knowledge with your community. In his talk on "The role of fear," Jimmy Kumana, said business offers a way to wealth, while employment offers only comfort.

The keynote address at the gala banquet was delivered by Marker, presently personal representative of the secretary general, United Nations, for East Timor, with the rank of under secretary general. During his distinguished diplomatic career, he has also served as ambassador of Pakistan to the US, France, Ireland, Germany, Japan and other countries.

"We are in the midst of a second diaspora," said Marker. "The first one was when we went from Iran to India." He spoke of Zarathushtis in North America as pioneers, who would have "the responsibility as we go into the next millennium, of maintaining a religion, culture, beliefs and values that go back 3,000 years." He felt that assimilation for Zarathushtis in USA and Canada is easier, for we have the same ideals on which these countries are founded: belief in God, in freedom, public service, generosity and philanthropy.

The second day opened with 'human imagination consultant' Shahriar Shahriari relating, in his own inimitable and enthralling manner, the "Story of money... Money has value only when it flows," he said. "It gives life to our ideas, to create better things, to renovate and rejuvenate, as Zarathushtra teaches us."

Three accountants led the morning session on "Insights into doing business in North America." Jamshed Gandhi spoke on "Business entity formation to maximize tax benefits," outlining partnerships, limited partnerships, corporations and LLCs (limited liability companies). Sarosh Collector talked about "US tax implications of investments in foreign business" and gave a business/personal taxation overview. Two things are certain in life — death and taxes, and Tehemtan Arjani in his talk on "Estate planning" covered both.

In a talk entitled "Middle market asset based financing," Edul Daver talked of creative ways of financing a business. Through a leveraged buy-out, with just \$200,000 of liquid equity, Daver was able to raise the \$10 million purchase price of

ACuPowder International, a company with sales of \$ 35-40 million and 80 employees.

Another treat lay in wait during the southwestern buffet lunch, as motivational speaker Meher Amalsad energized the audience with his presentation of "Ushta and Asha in the world of business... If we want to create magical relationships," said Amalsad, "we must learn to separate the being from the doing. There are no bad people, only good people who do bad things; that is why we are called human beings and not human doings."

In his talk on "multinationals doing business in India," Dara Rivetna spoke of his experiences setting up a can manufacturing plant for American National Can in India, and of the burgeoning growth and opportunities in that country. Speaking on "Emerging technologies" Adil Irani felt there is a tremendous market out there in the information systems and technology area, and he is determined to "get a piece of the pie."

Others in this burgeoning computer consultancy market were Aspy Taraporewalla (originally from the village of Dahanu in India, where his family has been in the horticulture business for three generations) who has started his software services company CompuZone Incorporated in Atlanta. And veteran Phiroze Dalal who is part owner with Farrokh Dastoor of Management Applications Programming, a service bureau started in 1964 that employs over 200 people.

Seasoned businessman Alayar Dabestani, film distributor and owner of dozens of theaters across USA and Canada, spoke on "Working with partners." His advice: "Avoid them. If a partner was a good idea, God would have had one too."

Homée Shroff, vice president of Mountain States R and D International (MSRDI) in Tucson, spoke about "Innovations in small business infrastructure" focusing on social aspects and human behavior in today's fast paced, technocratic society. "Success must not only be economic, but humanistic as well," said Shroff. "Otherwise, no matter how great, in God's eyes it will always remain incomplete."

Several Zarathushtis spoke in the open session on "Business helping business." Cowas Patel is looking for someone to manufacture or purchase his patent



of a noise suppressor for plant boilers. Roshan Bhappu, president of MSRDI, spoke about opportunities in the mining business overseas. Since strategic minerals are not available in North America, most of his business is in 37 countries abroad. In the business for 27 years, Bhappu said it was not "all cream and honey, but our Zarathushti background, upbringing, our values and our character, help us perpetuate the entrepreneurial spirit of our forefathers."

Realtor Rusi Gandhi of RE/MAX reiterated his offer to donate 10 percent of his commission from any real estate sale to a Zoroastrian association. He has already donated many hundreds to the

Left to right (first row): Dara Rivetna (can manufacturing); Tehemtan Arjani (accounting); Homée Shroff (environmental/industrial) (second row): Tahamtan Aresh (real estate); Roshan Bhappu (mining); Rusi Gandhi (realtor) (third row): Edul Daver (manufacturing); Aspy Taraporewalla (software consultancy); Jamshed Gandhi (accounting)

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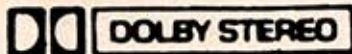
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Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York and others. He deals in real estate in US, Canada and 52 other countries. Farshid Khosravi, chief executive officer and management consultant with Great Star Cement Corporation, spoke of his experiences setting up a \$ 300 million project building a cement, sand and gravel and concrete plant near Las Vegas.

Rohinton Rivetna and Salamati led the final session — "Walk the Talk." Major innovations expected:

- Shahriar Shahriari to set up a Zoroastrian business web site and directory on the Internet. Funds were raised to get it started
- Adil Irani to help produce a business directory
- A list of mentors generated to be placed on ZBNet
- Rohinton Rivetna to head a committee to draft the vision, objectives and structure of a permanent business organization; Jamsheed Marker to help with drafting the preamble. Roshan Bhappu to provide input on forming a "Foundation"
- In the interim, Farshid Salamati's address to be used: 8301 Edgewater Drive, #103, Oakland, CA 94621, Tel: (510) 632-0104, Fax: (510) 632-0474
- Phiroze Dalal to design an application form for requesting venture capital
- Freddie Patel to head the committee to plan the next business conference, possibly in conjunction with the 11th North American Zoroastrian Congress in New York in July 1998.

All in all, it was a successful conference. Everyone left with a feeling of pride in being a Zarathushti, and happy in the knowledge that they were not alone. Everyone left energized and inspired, ready to take on the challenges. The odds were certainly better than at the gaming tables in Las Vegas!

(Edited and reprinted with permission from FEZANA Journal — Winter 1997.)



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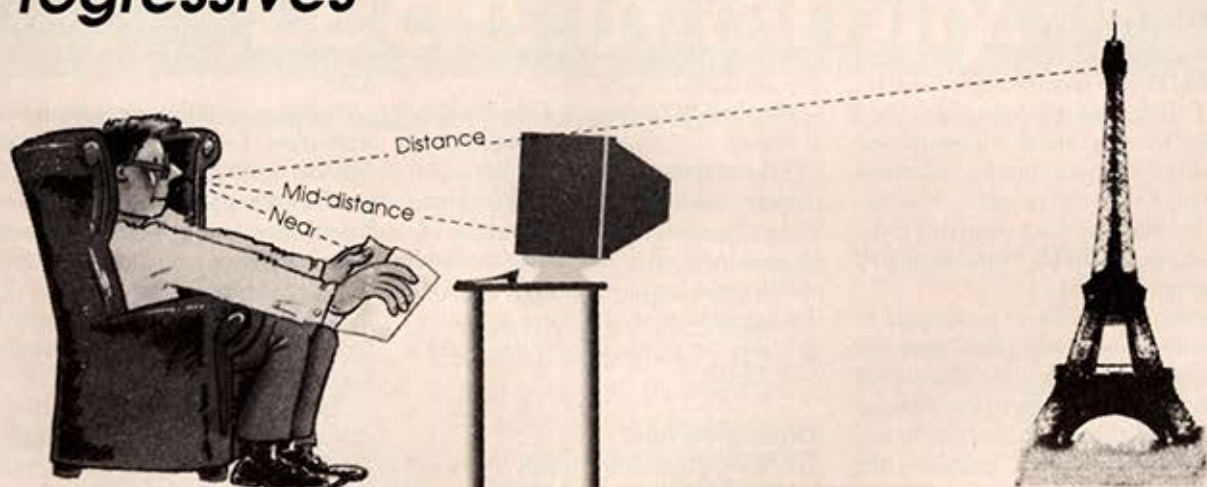
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IN THE EVENING OF...
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The MJT had specified three criteria for the Centre. That it be located in a Parsi mohalla (locality) and that it be situated close to an agiary and a market, informed Tamboly. Once the property was acquired the building was completed in the space of a year with MJT sanctioning 10 lakh rupees at a time.

Inmates who wish to participate in the day-to-day working of the Centre will be encouraged to do so. Individuals from the less affluent sections of the community will get priority. "Essentially our entire administration is based on the theme, 'Let the winter of their lives be better than their spring and summer'... One individual has made this project a mission and that's my wife Bachi," said Dinshaw to the assembled guests. "She knows where every brick and nail has gone!"

Navsari Infirmary trustee Homi Minocher Homji informed the gathering that his 50-year-old institution, which had begun with two patients, works on donations amounting to six lakh rupees

per annum and hoped that the inception of the new Centre would not affect donations to the Infirmary.

Another WZO project in the pipeline at Navsari is a housing construction of 1+3 floors for poor Parsis on a bungalow property donated by Keki Jokhi of Hong Kong. This too the MJT has agreed to finance. And on a plot at Mochi Wadi another residential building, its height depending on the FSI (floor space index) available, is planned from the WZO's own funds.

Turning the tide?

The WZO youth wing, barely a year old in its second avatar, is preoccupied with its Udvada project which aims to make the town a heritage area, informs joint secretary Marazban Bharucha. Pained at the disposal of Parsi properties to other communities by its aged (70+) population which is unable to maintain them, the youth wing wants to turn the tide of history but is not sure how to begin. To that end journalist and youth wing president Sarosh Bana has been making fortnightly trips to Udvada, avers

Bharucha. "Since 20 years there has been no birth" in the Parsi community there, he notes.

But they are keen to provide the locals with more earning avenues, branding their dar-ni-poris, bhakhras, kustis, kors as 'Udvada products' with outlets in Parsi shops in Bombay and elsewhere. A second prong to the revival attempt is to get people on the Bombay Parsi Punchayet's doles or in sanatoriums with depleted means, to resettle in Udvada.

To make the place more attractive, the thrust may be to start by providing some entertainment to people already resident there. The depleted gymkhana and library are the focus of attention. Housie once a month is under consideration, informs Bharucha.

Back to business

Entrepreneurs in and around Navsari are repaying the loans that the WZO (India) Trust provided to help them make a new life for themselves. At Onchi Village, Burgis Bamji, superintendent of the Navsari Boys' Orphanage has set up a



Left to right (first row):
Unveiling the plaque;
inaugural jashan; a
section of the audience
(second row) D. Tam-
boly, Kassad and B.
Tamboly; Cama; Hathi
and Silloo Engineer;
Dastur Meherjirana,
Jerry Kumana and Ms
Meherjirana

Photos: Arnavaz S. Mama

poultry farm. Buying day-old males and readying them as broilers for the table at the optimum weight of 1½ kg, he maintains 1,000 birds at a time in wire mesh cages with wire mesh flooring so that the birds remain unsullied by their own droppings.

The restricted area and Godrej brand feed helps the chicks acquire the requisite weight in about eight weeks, he informs, each bird consuming 2.5 kg of feed. As the fledglings cost Rs 13, any price beyond that adds to the kitty. Moreover the droppings constitute prize manure, three to four tractor loads being sold every three-four months. The farm had cost the WZO Rs 1 lakh which is now being repaid in monthly instalments.

At Tigra Village the hardworking Dara Singpurwalla and his wife have established a reputation for providing quality wheat flour. Their clients include Avan Baug households where they deliver supplies to the door. Originally jobless, the WZO provided a loan of Rs 1,20,000 to buy the land, shed and machinery which Singpurwalla is now repaying at Rs 2,100 a month. His newest customer is the Senior Citizens Centre in Navsari.

Rohinton Avari, director of the Tata Marginal Farming Institute has a doctorate in horticulture and food processing. With a five lakh rupee loan from the WZO, Avari has built himself the bare walls of a small house with a couple of rooms devoted to processing and frying potatoes for chips and sali. "From 20 kg potatoes you get 5.5 kg of wafers or six kg of sali," he notes, with every three kg of wafers soaking one kg of oil. A demonstration of mechanical scrubbing/peeling of the special white potatoes from Indore, slicing them and finally manually frying them in a giant diesel fired wok ends with a consumption of the delicious crispies!

Avari sells his chips at Rs 50 per kg in wholesale. He also produces farsan like *sev*, *gathias*, *chura*, etc under the brand name "Asho Foods." Avari has been repaying the WZO at the rate of Rs 5,000 per month and may step up the amount shortly. He is currently researching a recipe for banana ketchup, informs Dinshaw Tamboly.

Boys at the Navsari Orphanage are now getting vocational training on a

once idle plot of land, growing vegetables. The project is barely a year old but under the tutelage of ex forest ranger Firoze Panthaky, the Orphanage land has been planted with 1,000 casuarinas, 250 teak trees and 63 to 70 mango trees. The per acre yield, which was once Rs 250, has now shot up to one lakh rupees per annum, he says. Besides, the mangoes will yield Rs 63,000 per annum in 11 years, he adds, noting that a 20 percent loss on account of the vagaries of nature is worked into his calculations.

The homeopathic pharmacy of Adil Sukheshvala, the TV repair workshop of Kersey Toddywalla, the desk-top computer printing shop of Mehernosh Gheevala are other successful WZO-funded enterprises. Each case is individually studied, says Tamboly, the type of work involved, the gestation time, etc being taken into consideration for the leeway between giving the loan and receiving repayment. In case of trading activities, repayment instalments begin immediately, he notes. "Only two persons have defaulted so far," adds Tamboly.

Tread the chosen tract

Architect Bomi Sachinwalla's company is endeavoring to promote Hariyali Holiday Home as a spiritually charged center in Valiv

Malcolm R. Printer

Every once in a while a human being appears who captures our imagination with his or her achievements. In the Parsi Zarathoshti community of today, such beings are rare. Today's Zarathoshti is characterized mainly by a lack of will, purpose and enterprise: in a word, by a pronounced lack of vision.

It was therefore my privilege to have been introduced to a most unusual Parsi entrepreneur a few weeks ago. I refer to Mr Bomi Sachinwalla of Vasai (erstwhile Bassein). An accomplished architect and chairman of Dharitri Construction Private Limited, Sachinwalla left the familiar, comfortable environs of Bombay for the little-known, almost forbidding jungles of east Bassein. Displaying the pioneering zeal of a true Zarathoshti, he proceeded to acquire a small tract of land in Valiv — a village about 20 km away from the Bassein station. With little by way of a family fortune, he transformed the lush foliage into the haven that his delightfully landscaped home is. An adjoining plot was then set aside for future use.

In this manner, Sachinwalla began his vocation in a remote outreach of Bombay. Steadily he invested the fruits of his success as an architect into a career in building and development. Success was rewarded with success.

This ability to dare manifested itself in perhaps his most ambitious program to date. Proceeding into the ghats, he next purchased a mountain called Parshuram Parbat. This vast tract of land is approached by road through the tranquil village of Medha, about 40 minutes by bus from the Bassein station. Thickly wooded jungle was then aesthetically chiselled away to fashion what is today called the Hariyali Holiday Home (renamed Brahmaagni Yoghashalla). This project won him 'The Best Landscape of the Year' award instituted by *The Accommodation Times*.

Hariyali Holiday Home is a nature-

lover's delight. Thickly wooded, its naturally cool air is manna for the toxin-ridden bodies of urban dwellers like us. Flanked by Vajreshwari, Ganeshpuri and Tungareshwar, it is also a spiritual center. Towards this end, Sachinwalla has created a cave in which fire is burnt continuously. He thought at length about how this fire ought to be initiated, then decided that it should be lit from the



Sachinwalla at the resort

stoves of the poorest of the poor, hence closest to God, the Adivasis or sons of the soil. In this manner he lit the fire in this cave with a flame from the kitchen hearths of 'God's own.'

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto Me." These words have been translated into direct action by Sachinwalla. He then constructed a central prayer hall that has three atash pits. This hall is a masterpiece of architecture: constructed without walls, it is 1,120 square feet in size, with a straw topped roof. It is used for meditation, discussions on alternate medicine, prayers and rituals — both Vedic and Zoroastrian. The hall is abutted by a manmade dam of mud and stones. On the other side at another level are additional pits.

I was privileged to witness the consecration of this deeply spiritual enclave some time ago at a special propitiation ceremony. Prayers were chanted for a few days as dry wood was heaped

into urns. After a lengthy wait, smoke plumes suddenly billowed from the wood — without a heat source being introduced to them, at about 4 a.m. on a cool, clear monsoon morning! Less than an hour later the wood burst into towering flames. God had approved. The seekers were rewarded. Purity of intention had triumphed.

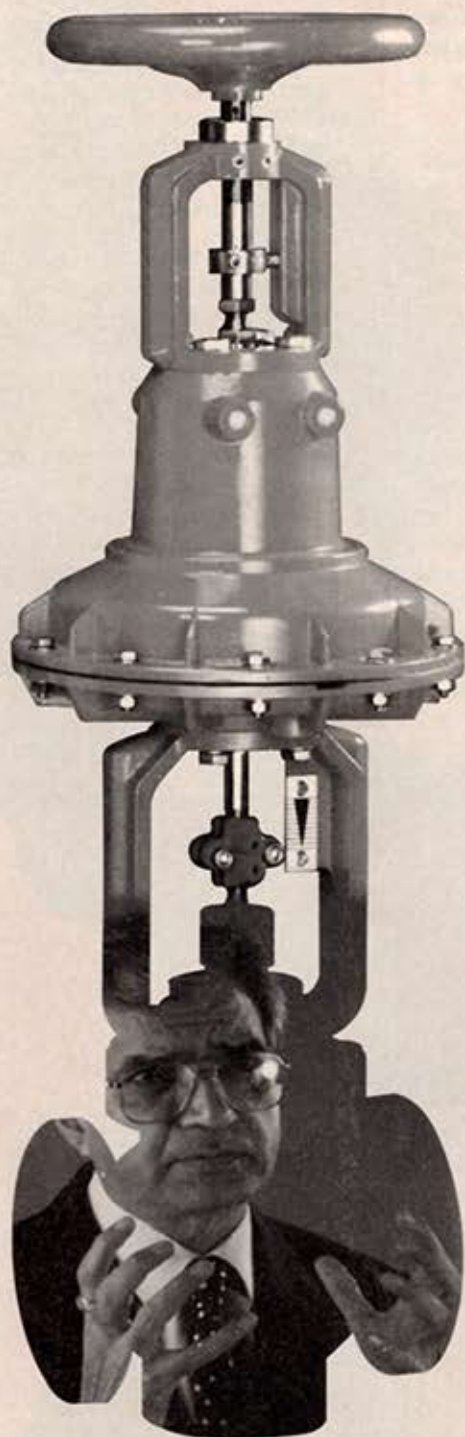
Several plots of land on this 27-acre property have already been donated free of charge to various trusts with lofty aims. These include a rural hospital, a home for abandoned children, the eradication of hunger, etc.

These premises are to be underwritten by the proceeds from the sale of beautifully landscaped bungalow plots ranging from 2,000 to 8,000 square feet. Priced at Rs 70 per square foot, these plots invite development from individuals seeking peace and driven by noble ideals. A few plots (of the total 218) are still available.

At his home in Valiv, Sachinwalla's vision and spirit of charity continue to break new paths. He has appointed part of his own home to be consecrated as an atash dadgah for the benefit of the teeming Zarathoshti community in Vasai. Having contributed this land and his time freely, he now solicits donations towards the daunting task of raising Rs 25 lakhs to create this enduring place of worship. Of this amount, he cheerfully informs me, about three lakh rupees have already been contributed through the largesse of some of our committed fellow Zarathoshtis.

For more details about the Medha bungalows scheme please contact Bomi P. Sachinwalla, Director, Dharitri Construction Pvt Ltd, 275, Village Valiv, Taluka Vasai, District Thane 401208. Tel: 0252 355182, 0252 355557.

For the Valiv Atash Dadgah fund, send your contributions to: Manijeh P. Sachinwalla Charitable Trust, 275, Village Valiv, Taluka Vasai, District Thane 401208.



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PAVING THE PLATINUM WAY
continued from page 29

many different ways of tiding over the crisis, including the manufacture of tents for military purposes! Finally the company struck a deal with Egon Kaufmann, a Czech salesman of the Carborundum Benatki grinding wheel company (which supplied tile and marble polishing stones), who was stranded in India at that time. Together with Frederick Lima, a Czech engineer of the same company who was brought over from Australia, the Sidhwas started India's first grinding wheel company — Grindwell Abrasives — operating from the Uran factory. Years later, they entered into a collaboration with the world's largest abrasive manufacturer, Norton Company of USA and became Grindwell Norton Limited. Another offshoot of Bharat Tiles, Bharat Metal Printers, was taken over years later by Metalbox (India) Limited.

Mirza's report relates that at Uran, Bharat Tiles was more than just a factory, it was an institution. Its managers, Shapoorji Madon and Dinshaw Patel,

were members of the Uran municipality, with the *Smaranika* (Uran municipality centenary souvenir) recording that Madon was once the president of the municipality, while D. Patel was elected to its managing committee. Supplying water to the villagers from the well on factory land (water shortage being a chronic problem), cleaning of the public water tank, paying the rent of the Mora (village) school, were some of the social services rendered. Workers were given free lunch, medical care at nominal rates, employment to spouses wherever possible and other benefits provided at a time when it was not obligatory to do so.

"I see Bharat Tiles as more than a business. It is an attempt to keep alive certain core values — quality, integrity and service — which have been the bedrock of the company since its founding," maintains Variava. Underscores M. Mehta, "I hope our younger family members will later take up the business. I do foresee a very bright future and trust the family will always stay as close as we are now."

THANKS

On the auspicious wedding day of our son **Mahabarin and Nancy Bhesania** we wish to thank our relatives, friends and co-workers, who graced our function on **5th February, 1998.**

We wish to thank **Nazneen Vajifdar** (Spectravision) for videography and photography and **Maharukh Dadachanji** (Valentine Audio Lab) for the lively music.

We are most thankful to our caterers **Mr Bomi and Ketayun Khambata** for the lovely delicious food and all the cooperation given by them.

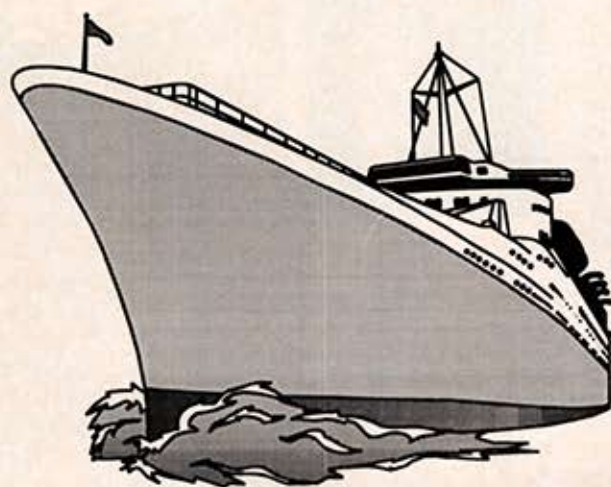
With warm regards
Khorshed and Farokh Bhesania and Family

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READERS' FORUM

continued from page 6

and charities, both to institutions and individuals, once he had determined that the cause was genuine.

In the words of Justice Fakhruddin, "Dorab Patel possessed the three most important qualities one can find in a human being — courage, compassion and courtesy. The twin negatives absent in him were fear and hatred. His simplicity was endearing. He was born to give and all his life, he did nothing else but give, be it his intellectual energy, his financial resources or his time. Men like Dorab Patel do not die."

In my humble opinion, Dorab's integrity, sagacity and other endearing qualities were on display and greatly admired at his funeral ceremony. The respect and honor he received posthumously from the myriads present that afternoon were far beyond those received by any other person, even one in a more important office.

On a couple of occasions I had suggested to Dorab that he start writing his autobiography, but he had always turned down the suggestion saying that his life had been rather drab; he said he had never known his mother's love and father's fret. Yet, in the recent past, he had decided to dictate his memoirs and would have completed them had he been blessed with a couple of months' longer life. Unfortunately, his memoirs remain incomplete, but only in minor details.

Dorab was born in Quetta on September 13, 1924 in the Patel family bungalow situated on land measuring more than 25 acres. Dorab's delivery, though understood to be normal, was followed by the death of his mother, Perin, five days later — perhaps due to post-delivery complications.

Dorab's father had two sisters — Gool and Tehmina. Gool had married Sardar Tehmuras Modi of Surat, and Tehmina had married K. Karanjia of Bombay. Tehmina had three sons, Rusi, Burjor and Shiavax. Rusi was responsible for the establishment and publication of *Blitz* — the popular weekly of Bombay; Burjor is a freelance writer and Shiavax ran a toothbrush and other brush-making factory.

Gool gave birth to two sons — Kavasji and Darius. Kavasji, who died in December 1996, had taken over his father's responsibility of several social work enterprises. He was also a trustee

of the Surat Parsi Panchayat and a trustee of The World Zoroastrian Organisation. Darius has a doctorate in organic and pharmaceutical chemistry, and retired



Patel: "born to give"

as a divisional director of Glaxo Laboratories, India, a few years back.

Darius was born at about the same time as Dorab in Quetta; it was Darius' mother who

breast-fed Dorab upon the death of Dorab's mother.

Dorab's father, Framroze remarried in the late 20s. His wife was Jer Vania. They later produced two children — Jahansus and Rhodabe. Jahansus qualified as a mechanical engineer from Loughborough University. He spends most of his time in a suburb of Scotland — Ayton. His wife, Shiela is a gynecologist. Rhodabe was a successful professional secretary. She married a world renowned cardiologist — Dr Roelinton Khambatta.

Dorab's grandfather, Khan Bahadur Burjorji was originally from Kundian — a suburb of Surat. He was the architect of the Patel family business in Quetta. Khan Bahadur Burjorji died in 1931. Upon his death, his widow, Rattanbai left Quetta for good, and chose to live with her daughter, Tehmina in Bombay.

It would not be an oversimplification to say that throughout his school career, Dorab stood at the top of his class in all subjects. Even in history and literature, he left the second highest scorer far behind. This fact was revealed by Dorab's classmate Dr Noshir Sahiar of Bombay, about three years ago.

Dorab will be remembered in all the text-books of history, not only in this country, but also in many other parts of the world.

A. B. MADON
Karachi, Pakistan

Exchanging gifts and blows

I was recently back in Syria for several months and among the various tasks I organized an international conference on the "Origins of Agriculture and Domestication of Crop Plants in the Near East." There were over 60 participants from all over the world. One of them

was an Armenian lady professor from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, USA. She told me a very interesting tale of how Darius III and Alexander traded insults for several days before they actually clashed in battle near Iskanderun in today's Turkey with results we Zoroastrians are well aware of.

This tale is narrated in the book *Iskandarnama* (or the *Book of Alexander*), one of the volumes of the *Sharafnama* or the *Book of Kings*, which was completed in 1010 AD. Accompanied by a miniature painting of Alexander feeding sesame seeds to birds, the story relates the parleying before battle between Alexander and Darius III of Persia around 330 BC.

It seems Darius was offended since Alexander had not sent him gifts in the traditional manner and despatched a messenger to tell him so. Alexander, equally angry, replied that Darius had treasure enough already and therefore should not ask for gifts, whereupon Darius, furious by now, sent Alexander a polo stick with a ball and a bowl of sesame seeds saying that since Alexander behaved like a child he should have the playthings of a child. The sesame seeds, conveyed Darius' messenger, represented the countless soldiers in the great Persian army which Darius proposed to send against him.

However, Alexander, the story goes, chose to interpret the gifts in somewhat another way and saw them as omens of victory. To him the polo ball represented the world (i.e. Darius' possessions at that time) which Alexander would draw towards himself with the stick as in the game of polo. He threw the sesame seeds to the birds which pecked every one of them from the ground and told Darius' messenger that it would be thus that his soldiers would wipe out the army of Darius. He then sent the messenger back to Darius with a bowl of mustard seeds as a symbol of his own soldiers.

The miniature in the book graphically portrays this incident with a flock of parrots, pigeons, starlings and crows pecking the seeds watched by Alexander and his retinue while the polo stick and bowl of remaining seeds are in the background. Dr ARDESHIR B. DAMANIA

13th of consequence

Born on the 13th, as well as being the only survived 13th child of his parents, the figure 13 played an auspicious role

in the 74-year life span of Parvez Fakirji Langrana (Parabha) until his demise in Navsari on October 23, 1997.

After passing the Bombay University matriculation exam he joined M.T.B. College, Surat and studied up to Inter Science but family circumstances compelled him to leave study and join his father's bakery business.



Langrana: active and resourceful

On account of monetary circumstances he left the business and in March 1955 joined N.O.P. Limited, a big chemical factory in Navsari, as a typist-cum-clerk, retiring after a service of 32 years as acting manager.

Thereafter in July 1986 he joined Vitta Mazda Limited as an office superintendent. From 1974 to 1990 he was the founder president of Avan Baug Residents Welfare League and since 1982 he had been a member of the working committee of the Samast Parsi Anjuman of Navsari.

Footwork photography and writing were his hobbies. His articles and short stories were regularly published in *Jam-e-Jamshed Weekly*.

Using key words that best expressed Mahatma Gandhi's life history and philosophy, he had typed out a figure of Gandhiji with his walking stick which was published in *The Gujarat Mitra*, a Surat daily, on September 1, 1955.

Dr C. ANKLESARIA
Kota, Rajasthan

Prime predictions

Mr Bejan Daruwala's collection of poems, *I am the Sky*, recently won The Federation of Indian Publishers award for excellence in publishing. In early September 1997, he had correctly predicted that Prime Minister I. K. Gujral "has a strong Jupiter and is good for India, but he is on a sticky wicket till April next year."

The article, "Bejan's back with a bang," further quoted him as saying: "The 21st century will be the greatest in the history of mankind. There is the possibility of a World War in 1999, but that will not stop India from turning into a super power."

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MILESTONES

This issue of *Parsiana* includes intercommunity marriages registered both at the Old Customs House and at the MHADA office in Bandra (East) for the eight-month period of May to December 1997. However, names that could not be confirmed as Zoroastrian have been omitted from the list.

There were 34 intercommunity marriages plus three civil marriages between Zoroastrians registered at the Old Customs House and 22 and three, respectively, at the MHADA office.

A scanning of the Chandanwadi crematorium registers revealed the names of five Zoroastrians cremated between September and December 1997.

The age of Zoroastrian brides (as listed in this issue) ranged between 18 and 44 years, the arithmetic mean — the total number of individual ages divided by the total number of brides — being 27 years. The corresponding figures for the grooms were 21 and 42 years, averaging at 29 years.

There were 92 deaths in Bombay in January as compared to 16 births. Thirty-four Zoroastrians fell prey to heart disease of

whom 16 were above the age of 80. Pneumonia and lung disease took a toll of 11 lives and cancer of 10. Hypertension claimed five victims, whereas brain disease claimed four. The other killers were diabetes and old age/general debility (three each) and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, asthma, cerebral malaria, dehydration and septicemia (two each). There were 11 isolated cases registered in January. They were: anemia, peptic ulcer, kidney failure, meningo-encephalitis (inflammation of the brain and the surrounding membranes of the brain and the spinal cord), gastro-intestinal bleeding, multiple organ failure, bronchiectasis (stretching or enlargement of the bronchial tubes following infection), tuberculosis, hemiplegia (paralysis of one side of the body), falciparum malaria and death due to multiple injuries. In the case of three deaths, the coroner's report was still pending. The youngest to breathe her last was a two-month-old baby girl as compared to the oldest — a 99-year-old lady. Two youths, both aged 25, were also lost to the community. The Zoroastrian life expectancy at birth, in Bombay in January,

was 75 years.

The data on births, marriages and deaths has been compiled from information supplied by various newsletters and anjuman 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 anjuman do not furnish the particulars; the birth figures for Bombay are supplied by four 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.

Bahram Palanji Fitter, May 30
Amrita Singh and Hanoz Maneckshaw, May 31
Sonal Suhas Nerurkar and Zubin P. Driver, June 2
Ingrid Noakes and Khushrav R. Kotwal, June 16
Daisy Dara Dudhia and Nariman Jamshed Zohrabi, June 16
Diana P. Katrak and Kenin Kenneth Dias, June 27
Delna Sethna and Zarvan Patel, July 4
Shernaz Shawak Writer and Richard Santan Saldanha, July 7
Pervin N. Anklesaria and P. Saiprasad Naidu, July 14
Monica Punjabi and Farzad Buxey, July 19
Flavia F. Fernandes and Husman B. Khushravshahi, August 7
Arnavaz Daruwalla and Roland Santamaria, August 11
Anita V. Chavan and Roomy M. Shroff, August 12
Marina Ranee Kanukadam and Boman Irani, August 20
Sumitha Nair and Jamshed Khushro Desai, August 21
Tenaz Burjochmeher Wadia and Stanislaus Vency Fernandes, August 25
Shernaaz Minoo Bilimoria and Kerbad Rustomji Palkhivala, September 5
Sandra Joaquim D'Souza and Sohrab Rustom Nejabat, September 9
Yasmin Aftab Ahmadabadwala and Cavas Dadiba Panthaki, September 9
Yasmin Noshir Bharucha and Phiroze Hoshang Mehta, September 12
Kermin Hoshang Khandhadia and Suleman Sadruddin Lalani, September 20
Rita Lopes Gonsalves and Jal Kavassha Bala, September 26
Rita Hiralal Sindhav and Paterasp Percy Cooverji, October 6
Sharon Gregory Carvalho and Khushru Adi Mistry, October 10
Tasneem E. Kadwani and Shiraz Erach Poonevala, October 24
Shaheen Tata and Aman Bhasin, October 29
Zheng Xiao Wen and Mehernosh Hosang Pastakia,

AHMEDABAD

BORN

A boy, *Azman*, to *Behroz and Berziz Contractor* on November 14, 1997

AJMER

BORN

A girl to *Rukhsana and Navil Marker*, January 11, 1998

BANGALORE

DIED

Homai Cawas Dalal (87), mother of Cyrus and Zarin Downer and sister of Gool S. Contractor; December 26, 1997

BOMBAY

BORN

A girl, *Friyana*, to *Anahita and Khurshed Mirza*, November 4
 A boy to *Rukshan and Aspi Gotla*, December 24
 A boy to *Diana and Navroze Dastur*, December 28
 A girl to *Yasmin and Kaivan Doctor*, January 1, 1998

A boy to *Rukhsana and Kerman Mehta*, January 1
 A boy to *Jernaz and Mehernosh Mehta*, January 6
 A boy to *Amy and Berziz Meher-Homji*, January 8
 A girl to *Rashna and Raiomond Poncha*, January 8
 A girl to *Nyra and Darius Surti*, January 8
 A girl to *Aban and Yezdi Chinoy*, January 9
 A boy to *Sherry and Sarosh Doodhmal*, January 9
 A girl to *Roxana and Viraf Mody*, January 10
 A boy to *Jasmine and Rohin Sherdiwala*, January 10
 A girl to *Jasmin and Mehernosh Hormuzdi*, January 20
 A girl to *Havoyi and Kaivan Antia*, January 21
 A boy to *Dinci and Nadir Karanjia*, January 22
 A girl to *Khurshid and Nazban Mehta*, January 22
 A girl to *Nina and Kayomurz Taraporewala*, January 22
 A girl to *Behnaz and Danesh*

Najadkay, January 29

MARRIED

Leena Madhukar Gaikwad and Malcolm Darayes Pestonji, May 1, 1997
Scherezade J. Khambatta and Mahendra R. Mansukhan, May 2
Dhanlaxmi Chauhan and Behruz K. Farshid (Itani), May 6
Chintan A. Sanghavi and Ardeshir Y. Bonshahi, May 8
Pareezad Nanu Daruwalla and Anand Vishwanath Birje, May 9
Sunita Sebastian Saldanha and Perves Percy Tatary, May 9
Manisha Telana and Rustom Dotivala, May 11
Anuradha Sridhar and Framroze Dara Pochara, May 12
Rael Padamsee and Jehangir Chinoy, May 26
Srija Rajan and Freddy Doctor, May 26
Farida Maneck Talavia and Anilkumar Sharma, May 29
Persis Adi Khambatta and

November 3
Kamal Hiraji Mistry and Pradip Tarachand Kothari; November 6
Farzana Phiroze Cama and Manan Nayankamal Munim; November 13
Hufrish A. Mody and Bakul Govind Gohil; November 15
Rashna Karai and Soumya Dutta; November 18
Maharukh Minoo Kalwachia and Sumit Dasgupta; November 21
Geeta Purushottam Gore and Murzash Sohrab Manekshana; November 22
Anahita Oomrigar and Jude de Chagas Pereira; November 24
Avantika Khanna and Adi Jimmy Pocha; December 5
Farida Tata and Irshad Husain Poonawala; December 6
Graziella Ciliberto and C. P. Motiwala; December 8
Parizad Gustad Sidhwa and Harish Chandrakant Shah; December 8
Priscilla D. Viccajee and Viraf K. Mistry; December 12
Anahita Sethna and Nishith Sanghvi; December 14
Sonal H. Rawal and Nozer M. Pardiwalla; December 15
Arzin Homi Daruwala and Sorab Minoo Italia; December 16
Benaifer Hoshang Tata and Rupen Vasant Vikamsey; December 16
Bernadine Fernandez and Viraf M. Engineer; December 19
Patricia Robert Amara and Homiyar Minoo Kalyaniwala; December 20
Shanoor Irani and Ognish Ghoshal; December 22
Monisha Kishindas Sadarangani and Adil Jamasp Kasad; December 23
Teena Homi Panthaki and Bijal Vikram Sheth; December 23
Shernaz Jal Dastur and Behram Homi Patel; December 27
Zarin Nusr Anlesaria and Robin Menezes; December 29
Yuriko Toshio Yamashita and Malcolm Farrokh Mehta; December 30
Benaifer Minoo Kotwal and Myung Soo Suh; December 30
Shiraz Dinshaw Irani and Yazad Bejan Gandhi; January 3, 1998
Delnar Adi Dastoor and

Kaizad Behram Irani; January 3
Jenaz Sam Daruwala and Javid Soli Canteenwala; January 4
Kerafrid Piroj Daroga and Nitash Naval Damania; January 4
Maheet Rusi Pagdiwala and Kaiomerz Nariosang Desai; January 4
Hutoxi Rusi Karbhari and Firdosh Jamshed Patel; January 4
Diana Zeheer Ginwalla and Rishad Mehli Reporter; January 4
Freida Jehangir Fitter and Syrus Minoo Udwadia; January 4
Shirin Baji Sethna of Poona and Russa Furrokh Mehta; January 5
Ghaver Jehangir Master and Xerxes Homi Buhariwala; January 9
Monaz Minoo Italia and Zubin Adi Patel; January 9
Mahatab Aftab Irani and Sheroy Boman Kermani; January 11
Binaifer Viraf Dadachanji and Framroz Aspi Langrana; January 11
Zeena Behram Khambatta and Rushad Dinyar Bhathena; January 12
Persis Firoz Printer and Arees Shahariar Khambatta; January 12
Hutoxi Parvez Buhariwala and Rushitum Keki Mistry; January 12
Firozee Tehmul Umrigar and Rustom Adi Mistry of Vasai, Dist Thane; January 12
Binaifer Jal Vakil of Surrey, UK and Darashaw Murzban Motashaw; January 12
Sanober Burjor Irani and Porus Pervez Tampal; January 12
Shehnaz Keki Engineer and Rohinton Kershasp Jijicowna; January 13
Pervin Roomi Shroff and Khursheed Kairshasp Choksy of Colombo, Sri Lanka; January 15
Hufriz Burjor Jijina and Farokh Rohinton Bharucha; January 16
Khushnuma Sarosh Dumasia and Darayas Keki Bhappoo; January 18
Kerafrid Minoo Kapadia and Adil Minoo Damania; January 18
Anahita Manek Cooper and Nevielle Shahrukh Irani;

January 19
Furzeen Pervez Tantra and Nasha Rusi Jassawalla; January 19
Delnaz Noshir Chinoy and Adil Kali Mistry; January 23
Navaz Behram Sidhwa and Kaizad Jal Patel; January 23
Shazneen Shahrukh Kapadia and Jahangir Nariman Dhatigara; January 25
Delnaz Sheriyar Vajifdar and Marzban Yezdi Jasoomani; January 26
Kamal Eruch Amalsad and Godrej Aspi Fanibanda; January 27
Maharukh Palanji Dastoor and Khushroo Ratan Sarkari; January 27
Parinaz Sam Forbes and Manecksha Pervez (Polly) Dee (Dotiwala); January 29
Shernaz Dhunjishaw Ghaswalla and Zarir Behramshaw Mogal; January 29
Anahita Keki Mehta and Pheroze Edul Havaladar; January 30
Tanaz Bahadur Panthaki and Percy Darabsha Mahuvawalla; January 30
Tanaz Fareedoon Daruwala of Post Vasda, via Billimora, Dist Navsari and Abel Navalsha Pithawala; January 30
Hutokshi Framroze Darukhanawala and Rohinton Erachsha Meherjee of New Delhi; January 31
 DIED
Zal Navroji Gobhai (74), residing at 182, Mehr-Naz, Cuffe Parade, 400005; October 20, 1997 (cremated)
Jehangir Rustamji Mody (81), 73, Blue Haven, Mount Pleasant Rd, 400006; October 28 (cremated)
Najoo Munchershaw Ayrton (93), 302, Samudra Setu, B. Desai Rd, 400026; November 11 (cremated)
Rutty Manek Bhiwandiwalla (92), Doctor Bldg, 149/A, Cumballa Hill, August Kranti Marg, 400036; November 19 (cremated)
Jehangir Meherwanji Jussawalla (90), 47/B, Jussawalla Court, B. Desai Rd, 400026; December 5 (cremated)
Banoo Nanabhai Bhathena (76), B. Dinbai Petit Chawl, Balaram St, Grant Rd, 400007; December 31

Deena Minocher Sarkari (85), 811, Jame Jamshed Bldg, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; December 31
Aloo Behram Bhajina (75), Mirza St, Udvada, 396180; January 1, 1998
Mani Kaikhasroo Dastoor (79), 811, Jame Jamshed Bldg, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 1
Bhikhaji Ardeshir Makujina (63), 815, B. A. Engineer Bldg, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 1
Arnavaz Cooverji Pastakia (72), Room no 3, Lam Bldg no 3, N. M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (E), 400013; January 1
Perin Kaikhusroo Banatwalla (81), Dhundadina Hse, Sleater Rd, Daji Cross Lane, 400007; January 2
Homi Dosabhai Patel (81), B. Gool Mhl, N. Bharucha Marg, 400007; January 2
Homai Jehangir Pavri (87), 811, Jame Jamshed Bldg, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 2
Rustom Ardesher Bharucha (85), E-3, Utopia Palacia, Wanwadi, Pune, 411040; January 3
Shera Jehangir Zaveri (75), Karanjia Bldg, Grant Rd, 400007; January 3
Katty Jamshed Bonesetter (55), Jer Mans, 19, Gazdar St, Chira Bazar, 400002; January 4
Dara Jehangir Mehta (82), 4, Sir Dorab Tata Bldg no 1, S. V. Rd, Bandra, 400005; January 4
Dorab Ratanshaw Mehta (78), 5-A, Dolphin, Pilot Bunder, Colaba, 400005; January 4
Jer Eruch Kotwal (72), 32/C, Mulla Manzil, Balaram St, Grant Rd, 400007; January 5
Banoo Sorabji Mistry (79), Central Bldg no 2, Bombay Master Lane, Dhobitalao, 400002; January 5
Soona Jehangir Engineer (90), 10, Reay Hse, B.E.S.T. Marg, 400039; January 6
Aspandiar Gustad Jamaspi (74), 31-B, Heera Panna, B. Desai Rd, 400026; January 6
Silloo Sam Mehta (79), E/4, Godrej Baug, Off Nepean Sea Rd, 400026; January 6
Roshan Hoshang Baniwala (54), 606, Dara Hse, 15th Rd, Bandra, 400050; January 7

- Nargesh Sorabjee Bhatena* (83), 11/1, Baria Bldg, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; January 7
- Dolly Keki Bhoora* (71), Shirin Mans, Opp Grant Rd Stn (W), 400007; January 7
- Zarin Dhunjishaw Karanjia* (60), 13/7, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; January 7
- Dinshaw Erachshaw*
- Limathwalla* (69), 11/4, Sai Niketan Bldg, Mount Rd, Mazgaon, 400010; January 7
- Silloo Minoo Mavji* (66), A-5, Sneha Sadan, N. Gamadia Rd, 400026; January 7
- Homai Rustom Aibara* (77), Rockdale, 16, L. D. Ruparel Marg, 400006; January 8
- Sanaya Percy Bhatena* (2 mths), Petit Bldg, Opp Grant Rd Stn, 400007; January 9
- Fareedoon Erachshaw*
- Jalnawalla* (90), Kalumal Est, A/55, Juhu Church, 400049; January 9
- Dhun (Bapaimai) Keki Kuka* (92), 811, Jame Jamshed Bldg, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 9
- Nergiz Marazban Panthaky* (79), N-9, Dalal Est, Badkamkar Marg, Bombay Central, 400008; January 9
- Freny Sheriar Daruwalla* (82), B-13, Satyabhama Niwas, Avabai Kashinath Rd, Tardeo, 400034; January 10
- Freny Burjorji Jalnawala* (67), Jalnawalla Bglw, Jalna, Maharashtra, 431203; January 10
- Mehelli Homi Kasad* (70), 17/C-27, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; January 11
- Homai Nariman Mandviwalla* (84), Heliopolis, 157, Shahid Bhagat Singh Rd, Colaba, 400005; January 11
- Kaikhushroo Pestonjee*
- Eraneer* (92), Ram Mans, 4, Nepean Rd, 400006; January 12
- Sheroo Dorabji Nagporewalla* (81), 73, West Minister, Duncan Causeway, Chunabhatti, Sion, 400022; January 12
- Nergish Sarosh Rustomjee* (92), 6, Asha Mhl, Peddar Rd, 400026; January 12
- Shirin Erachshaw*
- Canteenwalla* (82), 675, Amy Villa, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 13
- Banoo Rustomji Katrak* (78), E-5, Jer Baug, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Byculla, 400027; January 13
- Firoze Dhunjishaw Lelinwalla* (75), Soonawalla Bldg, Khetwadi 12th Lane, 400004; January 13
- Jeroo Homi Maneckji* (58), Mody Hse, Padamji St, 400004; January 13
- Shera Jal Wadia* (74), H/3, Captain Clny, Tardeo Rd, 400034; January 13
- Noshir Ardesir Aibara* (87), 639, Rati Manzil, M. Joshi Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 14
- Bomanshah Dinshawji*
- Khambatta* (73), Panday Sanatorium, Wodehouse Rd, Colaba, 400005; January 14
- Jal Burjor Mistry* (79), Old Cama Bldg, Chikalwadi, Nanachowk, 400007; January 14
- Allamai Ardesir*
- Bhiwandiwalla* (75), Parsi Punchayet Qrts, Ambawadi, Hanging Gardens, 400006; January 16
- Homi Darabsha Khambata* (72), B-5/45, Vijay Nagri, Waghbill Naka, Thane, 400601; January 16
- Sheramai Kaikhushroo Kutar* (91), Motiwala Bldg, E. S. Patanwala Marg, 400027; January 16
- Barjor Edulji Pardiwalla* (79), Minoo Lodge, 139, Tardeo Rd, 400034; January 16
- Pearl Mehli Siganporia* (70), 15/17, Patel Hse, Nawab Tank Rd, Dockyard, 400010; January 16
- Homi Ruttanshaw Bugwadia* (69), Bglw no 3, Chandrabala Est, T.P.S. 30, Bandra, 400050; January 17
- Eruchshaw Bapuji Daruwalla* (80), 111, Umbergaon Bldg, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Parel, 400012; January 17
- Firoze Maneckshaw Fraser* (79), 35/A, Gopal Mans, Turner Rd, Bandra, 400050; January 17
- Tehmina Rustom Irani* (88), F/24, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; January 17
- Shirinbai Edulji Delina* (95), 18, Botawala Bldg, Raghavji Rd, Gowalia Tank, 400036; January 18
- Minu Naoroje Sukhiya* (65), 1-4/C, Amit Majestic Park Co-op Hsg Soc, Nalasopara (E); January 18
- Adi Pestonji Surti* (70), 55, Mini Apts, Bazar Rd, Bandra, 400050; January 18
- Eruch Shavakshaw*
- Vaghchhipwala* (64), Motlibai Wadia Bldg, Chikalwadi, Grant Rd, 400007; January 18
- Murzbun Kaikhushroo Irani* (Murzbun) (80), Next to Dena Bk, Opp Rly Stn, Boisar, Tal Palghar, Dist Thane, 401501; January 19
- Ratanshaw Cawasji Ragina* (87), 15, Elava Bldg, Mori Rd, Mahim, 400016; January 19
- Aspandiar Rustom Shahparast* (73), 280/A, Jawalkar Mans, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Parel, 400012; January 19
- Burzin Firoze Amroliwalla* (25), 5/16, Khan Est, M. M. Chotani Rd, Mahim, 400016; January 20
- Pesi Jehangirji Chinoy* (84), C-7/8, Shapur Baug, V. P. Rd, 400004; January 20
- Zenobia Nariman Davierwalla* (25), 5, Park Heaven, Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari, 400102; January 21
- Aran Jamshedji Dubash* (76), 48, Bazar Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; January 22
- Khushroo Boman Andaz* (Djammehdiabadi) (64), 21/22, Windsor Chmb, Cawasji Patel St, Fort, 400001; January 23
- Tehmina Rustomji Bandravala* (94), C/o Sheroo N. Billimoria, 121, Aderbad, 34, N. S. Patkar Marg, 400007; January 23
- Hoshang Navroji Daruwalla* (87), Dhun Bldg, Batliwalla Villa Compd, Sleater Rd, 400007; January 23
- Kaikhushroo Hirjibhoy Mistry* (75), F-16, Contractor Baug, Mori Rd, Mahim, 400016; January 23
- Katy Burjor Mithaiwalla* (69), 723, Dinshaw Master Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 23
- Cawas Rustomji Photographer* (53), C/o M. R. Photographer, 729, Jehangir Vimadlal Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 23
- Eruch Pirozshaw Talati* (75), 59, Blue Heaven, Mt Pleasant Rd, Malabar Hill, 400006; January 23
- Aban Noshir Udwadia* (63), 3/4, Tata Clny, Tardeo, 400034; January 23
- Shirin Erach Vacha* (87), 780, Karani Mans, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 23
- Dina Homi Medhora* (78), 11/D, Crystal, Altamount Rd, 400026; January 24
- Homai Rustomji Mody* (65), B-9, Ratan Manzil, Wodehouse Rd, Colaba, 400005; January 24
- Jal Jiwanjee Colabawalla* (88), 29, Rosary Hse, Gunpowder Rd, Mazgaon, 400010; January 25
- Dhunjishah Muncherji*
- Marolia* (85), 12, Jassawala Bldg, Jehangir Baug, Juhu Rd, 400049; January 25
- Darab Bapooji Pagdiwalla* (89), 12, Mancherji Seth Bldg, 262, Tardeo Rd, 400007; January 25
- Jamshed Manchershaw*
- Billimoria* (81), R/3, Nowroz Baug, Dr S. S. Rao Rd, Lalbaug, 400012; January 26
- Putlamai Faramroze Mistry* (94), 20/8, Garda Bldg, Panthaki Baug, Off M. V. Rd, Andheri (E), 400069; January 27
- Dhunmai Manecksha*
- Rumwalla* (99), 614, Khorshed Manor, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 27
- Piloo Jamshedji Dastur* (80), Raghavji Bldg, 17, Raghavji Rd, Cumballa Hill, 400036; January 28
- Komai Hormusji Mani* (87), 5/4, Turner Bldg, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; January 28
- Jal Pestonji Shah* (84), 70, Mahavir Mans, Trinity St, Dhobitalao, 400002; January 28
- Shirin (Silloo) Rustomji*
- Chanda* (82), 6, Wadia Hse, 22, Hughes Rd, 400007; January 29
- Minoo Darabshaw Farasman* (68), 1/B, Sunmoon Apts, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; January 29
- Rohinton Ardesir Pagdiwalla* (55), Patel Chmbs, 9, R. S. Marg, Fort, 400001; January 29
- Kersi Hormusji Bamboat* (87), 10, Nusservanji Tata Bldg no 2, Tata Blocks, S. V. Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; January 30
- Cyrus Savaksha Mistry* (46), B/12, Peace Heaven, St Andrews Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; January 30
- Daulat Gustadji Bhamgara* (85), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, Hughes Rd, 400007; January 31
- Jal Sorabji Kanga* (78), 61,

Westminster, Duncan
Causeway, Sion, 400022;
January 31

Nergish Jamshed Karai (70),
82, Aderbad, N. S. Patkar
Marg, 400007; January 31
Naju Nassarwanji Master
(80), 2, Sea Crest, Dr B.
Inderjeet Marg, Off N.
Dabholkar Rd, 400006;
January 31

CALCUTTA

MARRIED
Pallavi Roy and Jehangir
Homi Gotla; January 18

DIED
Daulat Maneck Kapadia,
mother of Cawas and sister of
Jimmy, Shera and Nargis;
January 2

Dinshaw Tata, husband of
Putli and father of Darius and
Nergish; January 16
Motamai Sorabji Patrawala,
mother of Minoo and Mani
Coachman; January 23

POONA

MARRIED
Jasmine Mistry of Bombay,
daughter of late Gool and
Dara, and *Xerxes Postwalla*,
son of Nina and Noshir;
December 26, 1997

DIED
Phiroze Maneck Bhatena
(67), K-9, Konark Puram,
Kondhwa Khurd, 411048;
December 15
Adil Jamshed Frenchman
(72), I-A, Lt Col Tarapore Rd,
411001; December 18
Pesi K. Pardiwalla (63), 305,
K. P. Tower I, Fatima Ngr,
411013; December 18
Erach Dorabjee (89), 850, D.
M. Rd, 411001; December 22
Keki Framjee Shroff (85),
A/2, Dongusee Park, Bund
Garden Rd, 411001;
December 31
Behram Rustom Irani (64),
A-5, Apsara Apts, 259, Bund
Garden Rd, 411001;
January 2, 1998
Noshir Rustomji Thanewalla
(80), 328, Sachapir St,
411001; January 8
Aloo Faramroze Mirza (82),
Brindawan Gardens, 438,
Salisbury Park, 411037;
January 9
Firoze Darabsha Mehta (76),
202/1, Nagar Rd, Opp Aga
Khan Palace, 411006;
January 14

FIGURES AT A GLANCE *									
	Bombay			India			World		
	This issue	1997 [○]	1998 [♦]	This issue	1997 [○]	1998 [♦]	This issue	1997 [○]	1998 [♦]
BIRTHS									
Boys	8	103	6	1	7	—	1	21	1
Girls	11	101	10	2	4	2	1	28	—
MARRIAGES									
Parsi	45	274	38	1	5	—	—	10	—
INTERCOMMUNAL									
Males married out	31	52	—	1	1	1	—	5	—
Females married out	25	44	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
DEATHS									
CONSIGNED									
Males	43	451	43	13	115	8	2	39	—
Females	51	474	49	9	98	8	10	38	1
CREMATED									
Males	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females	2	7	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

○Running totals for 1997 (January 1997-January 1998 issues)

♦Running totals for 1998 (January 1998 issue)

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.

Dhuni Faramroze
Soonawalla (84), 611,
Sachapir St, 411001;
January 17
Nariman Pirojsha Mehta (88),
Homi Hse, Dr Saldanha St,
411001; January 21

RAJKOT

BORN
A girl, *Zeba*, to *Shiraz* and
Khushru Dossabhoj, sister to
Kurush; January 4

SURAT

DIED
Tehmina Nariman Elavia (90),
Village Ilav, Dist Bharuch,
394810; January 3
Firoj Jehangirji Jalgaonwala
(54), New Peth, Station Rd,
Jalgaon, 425001; January 5
Kolamai Dinshawji Dumasia
(85), Wadi Mohallo,
Rustompura, 395002;
January 6
Sorabji Pestany Bhatporia
(76), Village Bhatia, Dist
Surat, 394510; January 18
Banoo Bahadurji Firojsha
(94), Khatkiwad, 395003;
January 20
Hormasji Pestanji Sutaria
(84), Nariman Home and
Infirmary, Shahpore, 395003;
January 24
Hirabai Nadirsha Patel (82),
Bibini wadi, Sayedpura,

395003; January 26

CANADA

Calgary
DIED
Hilla Jamshed Khory, mother
of Sheriar and Faroukh;
September 28, 1997

Edmonton

BORN
A girl, *Sanaa*, to *Kashmira*
and *Gev Mahava*, sister to
Abad and Rayomand;
October 21

DIED
Khorshidbanoo Rashid,
mother of Hormozdyar
Varahramyan; September 18

Montreal

DIED
Goolbanu Eruchshaw Mirza,
mother of Khushru and
Freddy; December 16

Toronto

DIED
Dinamai Cooverji Engineer,
mother of Noshir;
January 12, 1998

PAKISTAN

Karachi
DIED
Freny Faramroze Vania (71);

December 9, 1997
Nergesh Jamshed Dubash
(89); December 25
Dhan Burjorji Colabawala
(81); December 27

UK

Essex
DIED
Rustom Dhunjishaw Captain
(74), 24, Gordon Rd,
Chadwell Heath, RM6 6DD;
December 29

London

BORN
A boy, *Rushad*, to *Delna*
and *Viraf Doomasia*;
January 8, 1998

DIED
Gul Pesi Stone (85), 58,
Warwick Square, SW1;
October 18, 1997
Amy Dubash (75), 18, Diana
Hse, Walnut Tree Close,
Barnes; November 17
Tehmina Rustumji Darwalla
(86), 20, Lincoln Rd, East
Finchley, N2; November 24

USA

East Oakmont, Pennsylvania
DIED
Keki Irani, husband of Dinaz;
December 18

Compiled by Roxana A. Driver

Facts, figures and fortunes

Parinaz Gandhi

Died: Ratan Sorabji Mama, 70, among the founder practicing members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India whose firm Ratan S. Mama and Company was reportedly the first Indian based practice to venture to the Gulf countries, on May 25, 1997 at Gloucester in UK following coronary infarction.

"I had the privilege of working with Ratan for quite a few years," recalls Tim Richmond, senior partner of Pannell Kerr Forster (PKF), an international firm of chartered accountants and management consultants with which Ratan S. Mama and Company has been affiliated for over two decades.

"He was a delight to be with — the complete professional, enterprising, strong in adversity, a sparkling companion and friend, and a kind and gentle man." Impressed with the "esteem, respect and affection" which "Mama sahib" had earned, Richmond used to greet him with the same words, much to Mama's amusement.

"He understood and cared for people, more than they knew," noted yet another partner of PKF, David Hunt from Nottingham. "Particularly I liked his sense of humor which crossed all barriers and often showed his deep understanding. He was truly a multinational; there are many pretenders but he was real. He could accept differences and build from there," added Hunt in his condolence message.

"The world knows that he was a most dynamic chartered accountant and a phenomenal achiever," acknowledges a fellow member of his fraternity, Jal Dastur. Before starting his own firm in 1952, Mama, who had qualified as a registered accountant under the then Government of India Rules in 1948, had served as a partner in R. B. Albless

and Company. In the beginning he worked from the offices of M/s Pheroze Framroze and Company where he was provided a cabin, notes a press release from his office.

After Mama moved his office to the Vulcan Insurance Building at Churchgate in 1968, he started expanding his practice. The next year he took on his first partner Nanu Daruvala; in 1976 the firm became associated with PKF, amongst the first to recognize the need for an international tie-up; the same year they opened the Dubai office of Ratan Mama and Company which is today reportedly amongst the largest and best recognized firms in Dubai; the following year they inaugurated an office in Muscat.

In 1995, their firm took over the practice of Dalal Desai and Kumana, and in 1997 Arvind P. Dalal and Associates and Gautam B. Doshi and Company merged with Ratan S. Mama and Company. "After the merger the number of partners in Ratan S. Mama and Company will go up from 11 to 17. The firm will have 35 managers and a 400-strong staff," noted a write-up in *The Economic Times* of August 5, 1997. Besides their branches in Delhi and Bangalore, they continue to have offices in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Jebel Ali in the UAE and Muscat in the Sultanate of Oman. "In his death, I have lost not only a professional colleague but also a very good personal friend," stated M. S. H. Al Mahruqy, secretary general for state audit in the Sultanate of Oman.

Accompanying her husband to innumerable national and international conferences, Yasmine Mama recalls how once work was over he could be totally at ease, discussing varied issues with different colleagues. Whilst his work

"constituted his entire life" leaving him hardly any time for hobbies, he always made himself available to his family and friends, and enjoyed good food, mentions Yasmine. Being a good reader himself, he would often say that after he retired he would take to the pen, but he never reached that stage, reveals his wife. With his generous disposition, "he got absolute joy out of helping others, often taking their problems to heart."

As noted the condolence letter of long-time friend Rustom Cambata who is with British Airways in London, "With him I could dare to be myself. You felt you could bare your soul to him. You could tell him anything, laugh with him, burden him with your troubles, and end up feeling comforted and almost new again."

Many were the Parsi causes and charities to which he contributed, sometimes even without intimating his family, as was subsequently realized by Yasmine. Being religiously inclined, he would pray at home every day and regularly visit the agiary too. Favoring the dokhmenashini mode of disposing the dead, he was among those who had pleaded that Roxan Shah be permitted her last funeral rites at the doongerwadi which was denied by the Bombay Parsi Punchayet in 1990, discloses his wife. But since his death was in Gloucester and having earlier expressed a strong dislike of the body being embalmed, he was cremated there.

The self-made man who had studied at St Mary's Boys' High School and Sydenham College in Bombay also always advocated that students keen to pursue higher studies abroad and applying to different Parsi trusts in India for financial aid shouldn't be made to feel like beggars. Let there be one centralized body to assess the students' merits and prospects from which information can be disseminated to the other trusts, he recommended.

The repository of facts, figures and fortunes is survived by his wife Yasmine, daughter Dr Khursheed and son Reyaz.



Mama: "phenomenal achiever"

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