

Aba Umar Dada

Late Mr. Dada was a well-known community leader and social worker. He was a prominent member of Karachi Cotton Exchange who earned a name for himself. After the establishment of Pakistan, he settled in the interior of Sindh and took leading part in all social and welfare activities of Hyderabad and Sindh. Settling in Karachi, he continued with his social work and was very active amongst the leaders of the Pakistan Memon Federation. Ahmed H.A. Dada

He was a very prominent businessman and an active member of Karachi Stock Exchange rising to the post of its President. He was also on the Local Advisory Committee of National Bank of Pakistan, Karachi Branch, and was popular in the business circles.

Abdul Aziz Kaya

While in Hyderabad Deccan, he joined Ittehadul Muslimeen under the leadership of Mr. Qasim Rizvi. He worked very actively for the victims of the Indian an-ny. In Karachi, on the advice of Pakistan Ambassador Haji A. Sattar Seth, he was asked to inform all the Hujjaj about the aims and objects of the creation of Pakistan and as such Haji Aziz started his mission. During Haj he rendered noteworthy services to the Hujjaj.

He remained involved with his business for a couple of decades and again started his social service activities and established many institutions through which he served the people. During political turmoil when Karachi was under constant curfew for several days at a stretch, he stored consumer products and food products which he supplied at concessive rates without any profit. In some cases, even free supplies were made in areas like Khadda, Nayababad, Lyari, Baldia, etc.

He started an Organisation by the name of Memon Goods Stores in several areas of the city where items are sold on no-profit-no-loss basis. He has established a very spacious reading room and library which contains rare and

Memon Personalities

useful books, magazines in all languages. For providing students in densely populated city centre a peaceful atmosphere to concentrate on their study and hard work, he established several large student centres where reference books were made available free of cost. No such facility was available to those students at home. He has been associated with various social welfare institutions also.

On three occasions he was elected honorary general secretary of All Pakistan Memon Federation. He became Municipal Councillor and belonged to Akhuwat Group of Mayor Abdul Sattar Afghani. He undertook several repair, renovation works, cleaning streets, roads, gutters, drainage lines in his constituency and was also a member of KMC's coordination council. As a member of the Panchayat Committee of Old Town he heard and settled family disputes. His hobbies are travelling, reading history books particularly about Memmonology. He has also written two informative books.

Abdul Aziz Al-Memony

Among the scholars of international repute, Allama Abdul Aziz Al-Memony's name ranks foremost. This world famous religious scholar, whom even the Arabs called "Ustad" (teacher) has not received due recognition from his own community or country. But he has been adequately recognised by the Arab world. It may be due to the fact that the Allama had complete command of Arabic language, Grammar and Usage and most of his work is in Arabic, which has endeared him more to the Arab world than his own countrymen and community. His mastery of the Arabic language stunned even the Arab scholars who sought his guidance in the subject. His books, written in Arabic, have been included in the curriculum of various Arab Universities including the famous Jamia Al Azhar of Egypt.

At the age of 12, the Allama went to Delhi from his birth place Rajkot, in Kathiawar and became a pupil of the noted scholar and interpreter of Qur'an and hadith, Mian Nazeer Hussain Dehlavi. He also studied under the guidance of Deputy Nazeer Ahmed. For higher studies he went to Amroha and Rampur and learned ancient philosophy and logic from Maulana Muhammad Tayyab Makki of

Memon Personalities

Madrassa Aliya, Rampur passing his Munshi Fazil with distinction from Punjab University. He was selected for lectureship in Arabic and Persian at Edward Mission College, Peshwar. Later on, he was appointed Professor of Arabic at Oriental College, Lahore, and was an associate of Allama Iqbal. Allama Memony was made Dean of Arabic and Persian Department. He authored simple translations of Arabic text books for which he received Maulvi Fazil. In 1925, he was appointed Reader of Arabic at Aligarh Muslim University - the first non-European to be appointed to this post. Here he wrote about 30 thought-provoking books which were all printed in Egypt and Syria. These books are highly rated in Arabic literature.

In 1928, the Allama received Fellowship from Arabic Academy of Damascus and subsequently the Egyptian Academy also offered him Fellowship, both of which were the highest honour for the experts of Arabic researchers and scholars.

At the insistence of Mr. Mumtaz Hassan, the Allama accepted the honorary Directorship of Central Institution of Islamic Research when Arabic Department was established in Karachi University. And at the request of the Vice Chancellor, Professor A.B.A. Haleem, he became the Head of the Arabic Department. He also offered his services to the Arabic Department of Punjab University for two years and later on, he was made the Head of Arabic Department in Oriental College.

Due to his old age, he could not continue as a full time professor and offered his service as Professor Emeritus at Karachi University and Sindh University. The Egyptian, Saudi

Among the scholars of international repute, Allama Abdul Aziz Al-Memony's name ranks foremost. This world famous religious scholar, whom even the Arabs called "Ustad" (teacher) has not received due recognition from his own community or country. But he has been adequately recognised by the Arab world. It may be due to the fact that the Allama had complete command of Arabic language, Grammar and Usage and most of his work is in Arabic, which has endeared him more to the Arab world than his own countrymen and community. His mastery of

Memon Personalities

the Arabic language stunned even the Arab scholars who sought his guidance in the subject. His books, written in Arabic, have been included in the curriculum of various Arab Universities including the famous Jamia Al Azhar of Egypt.

At the age of 12, the Allama went to Delhi from his birth place Rajkot, in Kathiawar and became a pupil of the noted scholar and interpreter of Qur'an and hadith, Mian Nazeer Hussain Dehlavi. He also studied under the guidance of Deputy Nazeer Ahmed. For higher studies he went to Amroha and Rampur and learned ancient philosophy and logic from Maulana Muhammad Tayyab Makki of Madrassa Aliya, Rampur passing his Munshi Fazil with distinction from Punjab University. He was selected for lectureship in Arabic and Persian at Edward Mission College, Peshwar. Later on, he was appointed Professor of Arabic at Oriental College, Lahore, and was an associate of Allama Iqbal. Allama Memon was made Dean of Arabic and Persian Department. He authored simple translations of Arabic text books for which he received Maulvi Fazil. In 1925, he was appointed Reader of Arabic at Aligarh Muslim University - the first non-European to be appointed to this post. Here he wrote about 30 thought-provoking books which were all printed in Egypt and Syria. These books are highly rated in Arabic literature.

In 1928, the Allama received Fellowship from Arabic Academy of Damascus and subsequently the Egyptian Academy also offered him Fellowship, both of which were the highest honour for the experts of Arabic researchers and scholars.

At the insistence of Mr. Mumtaz Hassan, the Allama accepted the honorary Directorship of Central Institution of Islamic Research when Arabic Department was established in Karachi University. And at the request of the Vice Chancellor, Professor A.B.A. Haleem, he became the Head of the Arabic Department. He also offered his services to the Arabic Department of Punjab University for two years and later on, he was made the Head of Arabic Department in Oriental College.

Due to his old age, he could not continue as a full time professor and offered his service as Professor Emeritus at Karachi University and Sindh University. The

Memon Personalities

Egyptian, Saudi Arabian and Iranian universities tried their best to acquire the services of the Allama which he thankfully declined. The trend set up by the Allama continues in the family. His son, Muhammad Umar Memon, is also a professor.

The Allama was a man of principles and never compromised on them. He always believed in simple living and whatever he saved, he spent on research. He had a very valuable collection of rare books. Once, during discussion with a highly acclaimed scholar of Islam, the Allama was informed that the scholar was writing a book entitled "Downfall of Islam" at which the Allama was infuriated and replied that there has never been any down fall of Islam in the past and never would be in future. Downfall comes in the lives of people and not Islam, which had remained glorious throughout history.

When Allama went for Haj in 1957, he was treated as a royal guest and was given a royal accord by the Saudi government. Throughout Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Morocco, Tunis, Turkey and France for research work he was respected.

The Allama donated Rs. 300,000/- each to Nadwatul Islam (Voice of Islam) and Aligarh Muslim University , He also gave significant donations to Darul Uloom, Binori Town.

Karachi and donated thousands of priceless books on different research works to various universities.

The Arabic poets of various countries have written poems in honour of Allama Memon. He was also honoured with the degree of doctorate and awarded medals by various Arab countries. The Government of Pakistan conferred upon him the Pride of Performance.

The special feature about the Allama was his memory, particularly about books. He could easily tell anyone as to which rare book was available in which library and even on which shelf. He spoke Arabic like a native speaker and his speeches in Arabic were well recognised.

Memon Personalities

The Allama, due to his mastery of the Arabic language, was nominated on the Committee of Arab scholars to finalise the latest version of the Arabic Dictionary Al-Lisanul Arab.

Abdul Aziz Abdul Shakoore Pothiwala

He is the founder of a trust by the name of 'Hajiani Mithi Bai Trust' through which he operates eye camps, Madrassas and industrial homes. He is a noted social worker.

Abdul Aziz Haji Yaqub

This Kucchi Memon gentleman from Bombay is a science graduate and has been associated with various trading groups and institutions like Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Chairman, Economic Development, Taxation and AntiSmuggling sub-committee, Labour sub-committee; Chairman, All Pakistan Hotels Association; General Secretary, Karachi Timber Merchants. He was appointed Chairman Export Promotion Bureau in which capacity he held the rank of a Minister of State.

Abdul Aziz Memon

He was born at Veraval in the Junagadh state. After matriculation, he joined banking as a career. During his service, he earned B. A. and LL.B. degrees. In 1977, he was elected President of United Bank Workers Union and as a result of this he came into limelight. In 1986, he was appointed Secretary General of the Labour Bureau of Pakistan Peoples Party. He has also served as Chair-man of the Federal Organisation for Banks and Financial Institutions Employees. In 1993, he was elected MNA (Member of National Assembly) on the ticket of Pakistan Peoples Party. He has done social work also. He has also remained President of All Pakistan Memon Federation.

Abdul Aziz Pochi

He is a very well-known businessman, social worker and a philanthropist. His generosity in the field of social welfare is well-known even beyond the borders of Pakistan.

Abdul Aziz Rahmatullah

An ardent cricket lover, he has collected vital information regarding well-known cricket players. He has published 'Cricket Herald' in English under his editorship. He also worked in the magazine by the former Pakistani Captain and former Coach, Javed Miandad. He writes articles on cricket in local as well as foreign magazines.

Abdul Aziz Sagar

He started his public life with Muslim Student Union and remained active in all social and political activities in the interest of Muslims in Pakistan. He was active in establishing the Memon Federation and became Honorary Secretary of the Federation. He was also active in establishing Karachi Chamber of Commerce.

Abdul Aziz Sakrani

A very well known banker, he became the President of Muslim Commercial Bank after nationalisation and finally retired having served as the President of Banking Council of Pakistan.

Abdul Aziz Sattar Dhedhi

He was a grandson of Haji A. Karim Dhedhi. He carried on huge trading activities in Karachi, Dacca as well as Sri Lanka. A well-known social leader in Karachi, he frequently extended financial help to the needy. He was in Dacca when the debacle of East Pakistan took place. Since politically he was always associated with the Awami League and one of the close lieutenants of Suharwardy and Mujibur

Memon Personalities

Rehman, he permanently settled in Bangladesh, where he was of great help to the fleeing West Pakistanis. He was perhaps the only Memon who instead of suffering loss was benefited by the creation of Bangladesh. He was an amiable, generous and helpful man.

Abdul Aziz Suleman

"Al-Waheed" was a daily newspaper in Sindhi language which contributed much towards bringing about political, educational and social awareness amongst the Sindhi Muslims in 1919. When the Khilafat movement was in full swing, the Muslims of Sindh took part in the movement and 'Al-Waheed' played an important role. Mr. Aziz Suleman, who was editor of 'Al-Waheed', was put behind bars for writing anti-British articles.

Abdul Ghaffar Billoo (Dr.)

A well-known child specialist and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Karachi University, Dr. A. Ghaffar Billoo started his education as a free scholar. After partition his family settled in Sulckur. Soft-hearted, Dr. Billoo was distressed at the high rate of infant mortality. He went to London and obtained Diploma in Child Diseases from the School of Tropical Medicines and obtained his MRCP. He was the first Asian to have been appointed Child Specialist in Scotland. However, he preferred to serve the children of his own country and therefore, returned to Pakistan.

After returning to Pakistan, he worked as Honorary Registrar and later worked with Dr. Shaukat Ali Sayed as Research Physician in which capacity he carried out research on 500 cases. This was the largest research work which has been undertaken by a single person. He worked in various hospitals in Karachi and finally became the Principal of Dow Medical College in which capacity he looked after the Children Ward of the Civil Hospital. He tested the oral therapy in cases of diarrhoea in children very successfully. He submitted his findings and report on oral therapy to the World Health Organisation. He was made member of the Global

Memon Personalities

Advisory Committee on diarrhoea and his suggestions to give patients ORS was accepted. He set up camps in the remote Thar area of Sindh, where with his colleagues he provided medical treatment to local patients.

Abdul Ghaffar Hashmani (Baboobhai)

He is known for his financial contribution to the Halari General Jamaat and several other social welfare organisations which include charities to Hyderabad and Sukkur regions. He has been Chairman of Bagh-e-Halar Trust for two terms and has been re-elected for the third term for five years.

Abdul Ghaffar Katia

He served as an honorary editor of Memon Samaj and is an active social worker.

Abdul Ghaffar Sabuwala

He is an active social worker associated with United Memon Jamaat, Pakistan Memon Federation etc.

Abdul Ghaffar Variend

Waiting for details.....

Abdul Ghaffar Zaveri (Dr.)

Dr. Zaveri was famous for his interest in the promotion of social welfare services and enjoyed very good reputation. He never misused his lucrative medical profession for making money. He took his profession as a sacred mission and never pursued monetary benefits. He gained experience and spiritual satisfaction from the service he rendered to poor patients. He also served All Pakistan Memon Federation. He was also in the management of Cement Hospital which was

Memon Personalities

managed by Karachi Health Association. For the local patients who needed expensive treatment and could not afford the cost, Dr. Zaveri would arrange for funds. He also arranged for getting patients treated by specialists. Most of his patients were from poor localities and suburban areas and Goths around Karachi. He established several religious schools and madressas and mosques at many of these Goths for which he collected funds from philanthropists. He regularly visited these places and kept watch on their activities. The projects started by Dr. Zaveri were later on expanded through the help of local people and philanthropists. He died in 1976 which was a very severe loss to his friends, relatives, patients and social workers.

Dr. Zaveri had three daughters, all of them doctors. His two daughters disappeared during the Bangladesh movement and to this date there is no authentic news about their whereabouts. Due to this setback, Dr. Zaveri died heartbroken.

Mr. Abdul Razzak Yacoob group is world renowned bullion merchant and financier with the head quarters in Dubai. He is one of the leading bullion exporters to Pakistan, India and other SAARC Countries. In times of need he arranges sizeable short-term loans in Foreign Exchange for the needy governments in the region. In Karachi, the family has established Fatimabai Hospital and extends substantial charities for deserving causes.

Abdul Ghani Baig Mohammed

This famous leader was the uncle of Sir Adamjee Haji Dawood. He was one of the pioneers of the spread of education in the early 20th Century. With a view to spreading literacy and education amongst Muslims in Western India, he organized first Muslim Education Conference at Rajkot, presided over by Sir Quadiri of Ahmadabad.

Abdul Ghani Bandukda

Well-known businessman, industrialist and philanthropist, Haji Abdul Ghani has worked for the promotion of education and other social activities. Against unhealthy and evil traditions prevailing in the community, he launched a movement for eliminating social evils, and he continued his crusade against these evils and anti-Islamic tradition prevailing in some of the Jamaats of the Memon community. He was generous in giving charities to Memon as well as non-Memon institutions. He was also interested in the construction of mosques and in the repair and expansion of Memon Masjid at Bolton Market for which he went from shop to shop to collect donations. He became Chairman of the Bolton Market Memon Masjid committee. In the pre-partition days he was one of the directors and investors in Dilawar Syndicate, Junagadh State.

Abdul Ghani Dadabhoy Junani

His career started with his first political activity of joining the Home Rule League in 1917 and also joining the Khilafat Movement. The Ruler of Madia had shut down a mosque situated near his palace. It was impossible for anyone to protest against this unlawful act. Mr. Junani undertook the incredible assignment and launched a strong movement against this injustice and the ruler was forced to reopen the mosque for prayers.

He was one of the leading figures amongst the less educated Memon youths in Calcutta, Bombay, Rajkot. With a passion for spreading education and welfare in the Memon and Muslim communities, he dedicated most of his life to achieving the goal. There were occasions when he had to go without meals for a couple of days, with little money he would buy channa (peas) fill his stomach and then drink a lot of water at the municipal tap. He never compromised on principles and was one of the Chief Lieutenants of Sir Adamjee Haji Dawood in holding the First Memon Educational Conference at Rajkot. Later, Memon Educational and Welfare Society was set up at Calcutta. He migrated to Karachi with total assets of Rs. 3501-. After some time he became founder Chairman of Millat Group, the

Memon Personalities

manufacturers of famous Millat fans..He dedicated his time as an active member of an educational society. He was instrumental in starting and running the Memon Hospital in Arambagh. He was a reformer and together with his friends, Suleman Bhoora and others, successfully propagated application of Muslim laws of inheritance fighting against the big and mighty who insisted on following Hindu Law of inheritance through which they could deprive the females of their right to property.

Abdul Ghani Dulla

Owing to his generosity, he was known as 'Dulla'. He was a noted social worker and ran two primary schools imparting education to 550 students. In spite of suffering heavy losses in business, he never gave up his social activities. He worked as a member of the managing committee of All Pakistan Memon Federation.

Abdul Ghani Meghani

A selfless social worker, he was always available for the rights of Muslims. He was a lieutenant of Mr. Abdul Ghani Junani. He participated in the Gujrat-Kathiawar Muslim Educational Conference and also was one of the important members of the team which was responsible for holding First Memon Conference at Rajkot. After partition he migrated to Karachi and continued with his welfare services. He was amongst several respectable leaders of the Memon community who rendered great services to the people but remained unknown

Abdul Ghani Saeed

Prof. Abdul Ghani Saeed was educated up to matric at Sindh Madrassa. His parents advised him to join the family business but he preferred to study further. Finally, he secured the degree of Master of Business Administration from the Institute of Business Administration and afterwards he started teaching Business Administration in that same institution. He was offered scholarship by the

Memon Personalities

Government of the United States of America and accepted the Fellowship at Stanford University, California. Later on, he joined Karachi University as a professor and also worked with the Institute of Business Administration. He is also a well-known social worker and has established various welfare projects.

Abdul Hafeez Memon

Born in a village near Naushehro Feroze in the house of Muhammad Bachal Memon, Justice Abdul Hafeez Memon distinguished himself in the judicial circles as well as in the field of social welfare. He was the founder President of United Memon Jamaat, the main object of the Jamaat being to speed up the social services and to bring together all the scattered Memon Jamaats on one platform.

After graduating from S.M. Law College, he proceeded to England for Bar-at-Law from Lincoln's Inn. He became the Assistant Advocate General of West Pakistan and later became the Advocate General of Sindh. He was elevated to the Bench as a Judge of Sindh and Balochistan High Court. In 1989, he was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan. He was also appointed the Chief Justice of the High Court of Sindh. He retired as a Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan

Abdul Hameed Chhotani (Phd.)

He belongs to the family of the famous Chhotani Brothers of the Khilafat Movement fame. He was the first Memon to secure first position in matriculation examination from Bombay University. In fact, he was the first Muslim student to do so. After obtaining B.Sc. (Honours) degree, he went to Wisconsin University from where he received his M.Sc. (Engineering) and, as always, topped in his examinations. He joined Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR). In 1960, he was appointed Secretary of PCSIR. He was awarded Tamgha-e-Quaid-e-Azam. The most important assignment he undertook was to become an associate of Dr. Saleem-uz-Zaman Siddiqui, the noted scientist. He also worked as Honorary Secretary of the Pakistan Memon Federation. He had also been Joint 110 Secretary of the Pakistan Association of Scientists and Scientific Profession and

Memon Personalities

served in senior capacity in the National Science Council. He was a silent social worker who served with humility. After retirement from public activities, he chose to live a quiet life at home.

Abdul Hameed Memon

He received his M.A. in Agricultural Economy and obtained law degree. He was awarded Diploma of Higher Educational Administration from Manchester. Besides serving in educational and legal fields, he also served twice as Director of College Education. He also held the position of Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agricultural University and Shah Latif University, Khairpur. For the meritorious services in the field of education, Professor Abdul Hameed Memon was awarded Tamgha-e-Imtiaz and Aizaz-e-Fazilat.

A. Jabbar Khamisani

He is the chief organiser of a well-known cargo and travel agency. He attended Jamia Millia of Dehli and obtained his degree in commerce from Calcutta University. He rose to become President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Abdul Kadir Chhotani

Son of Haji Noor Muhammad Chhotani, he was elected chairman of Bagh-c-Halar Trust. He was noted for his simplicity, generosity and spirit of charity. From the month of Rajah he would start taking stock of his wealth and assets to the last paisa and worked out the amount of Zakat which he had to pay every year. This payment continued silently till the month of Ramazan. His silent charities were far greater than those announced publicly. He was very amiable, obliging, and considerate in extending whatever help he could offer to those who sought. In association with Dr. J.H.S. Ebrahim and Ahmed Abdullah he created an endowment for scholarships to under graduate science students at Karachi University.

Abdul Kadir Lakhani

He was born in Bombay in 1932. He came to Pakistan in 1949 and settled in Hyderabad. In 1951, he moved to Karachi. He rendered valuable services to the people of Karachi. Besides being associated with many Memon social welfare organisations, he remained associated with the Muslim League.

Abdul Karim Abid

He was a reputed journalist in Bombay in pre-partition days, mostly writing for Urdu papers. His father was a big businessman in cotton textile. He burnt the entire stock of his father's foreign goods during the "Swadeshi" movement. He and his father were fond of Urdu books and subscribed to a good number of Urdu magazines. He was fluent in Urdu language to the surprise of those who called themselves "able zaban". He was very close to Jamat-e-Islami and Maulana Abul Ala Maududi, and wrote articles for Urdu daily "Jassarat" and "Mashriq". He has written a number of articles on Socialism and Communism. Some of his articles have been translated in Arabic and English languages and published in a book form.

Abdul Karim Admani (Dr.)

He is the first ever non-British doctor to be member of Medical Council of England in 150 years of its history. A great social worker, he tried to bring all the Muslims living in Sheffield, England, on one platform. He is also actively associated with a number of social, religious and medical associations.

Abdul Karim Dhedhi

A philanthropist, Seth Haji A. Karim Dhedhi donated a princely amount for the establishment of a girls school and ladies hostel in his native town of Kutiyana.

Memon Personalities

His son Ahmed continued with the tradition in Pakistan and made generous donations to projects of public welfare

Abdul Karim Naviwala

He maintained the history of Memons in Dhoraji. He remained in India and died there. Any information about the Memons of Dhoraji was available with him. He was fond of doing research on birds and wrote a lot about them.

Abdul Karim Panwala

This gentleman was a philanthropist and a very active social worker. From teenage he started various social activities and remained fully involved in public service. He was the founder and main administrator of health services which were run by Dhoraji Khidmat Committee. He was mostly concerned with eye diseases and held many eye camps in the interior of Sindh. He arranged for specialists to remain available for diagnosis, operations and treatment of patients. These services continue to be available through his Organisation. Not only that he donated huge amounts for social services but also collected substantial amounts. He, in association with late Dr. Zaveri, carried out social welfare activities.

Abdul Karim Panwaro

He enjoyed a leading position amongst prominent Memon social workers. He was expelled from the State of Gondal and Dhoraji for democratic movement against the State ruler. He settled in Calcutta and was one of the founder members of Memon Educational and Welfare Society. He helped a number of young Memons, who sought higher education, one of whom was the eminent heart specialist, the Late Dr. Kassim, who established the Cardiovascular Institute in Jinnah Hospital. He wrote a book in 1934 captioned 'Fifty Year's (Rule of State Ruler Bhagvantsinghjee in the Opinion of the People'. The ruler was outraged with the candid writing of Mr. Panwaro and never allowed him to enter the territory of the State. He belonged to a middle class family. He never misused his close

Memon Personalities

relationship with affluent people to his advantage. He led a very simple life. He was a member of the Memon Educational and Welfare Society while in Calcutta and continued to remain a member when he migrated to Karachi. He died after a long illness.

Abdul Karim Parekh

A religious scholar, he is not a professional scholar nor attached to any Darul Uloom. He is running timber business in Nagpur, the second capital of Maharashtra State. He has full command of Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Gujrati, Hindi, Sanskrit, Marathi, Maimny and English languages. Not only can he speak in all these languages but also delivers speeches in these languages. He is author of a dictionary 'Lugatul Quran' (Quranic Dictionary) which has been translated into many Indian languages as well as in English and Turkish. Its Urdu edition has gone through many editions due to the demand of the book and has also been published in Pakistan. His other books also have been translated into other languages. He is connected with Nadvatul Ulema. He is also member of Muslim Personal Law Board and is also a member of All India Majlis-e-Mushawarat. He has acquired membership of the faculty of Theology from Aligarh Muslim University and is also a member of Majlis-eTatimul Quran, Nagpur, and Central India Institute of Medical Science. Originally, he is a Halari, born in a small village in the district of Jamnagar, which has now disappeared because of the river dam constructed there.

Abdul Karim Sumar

Mr. A.K. Sumar came from Bombay, where he did his matriculation. He entered into yarn and textile business as a secretary of Yarn Merchants Association. However, he resumed his intellectual pursuit studying Arabic, Qur'an, Fiqah, Persian. Later on, he joined the Fancy Group of Companies as their P.R. Executive and in the days of Basic Democracy, he was elected to the National Assembly of Pakistan. In this position, he received assignments from the Government of Pakistan and was made the first Chairman of National Press Trust. He successfully established and managed Farooq Textile Mills and was twice

Memon Personalities

elected President of Pakistan Memon Federation. But for his death at a very early age, he would have achieved much greater success. He was elected as President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

Abdul Karim Vaiyani

While his brothers settled in Africa, Mr. A. Karim Vayani opted to remain in Pakistan where he took active interest in social welfare activities. He associated himself with many public activities which aimed at promoting human welfare. His efforts to provide artificial legs to crippled persons are noteworthy. He was one of the founder Trustees among those who established Memon Marriage Bureau. He continued to be a member of the working committee of All Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society throughout his life.

Abdul Latif A. Motiwala

Born in a lower middle-class family, his education was limited up to primary level in Gujrati. He left his ancestors home to try his luck in different cities of India, and finally settled in Bombay before partition. In between, however, he stayed in Calcutta, where he met the young social workers like Junani, Punwaro and others who influenced him to follow in the direction of social welfare activities.

Intellectually he was far ahead of all his friends and for his meagre education one wonders how his intellectual faculties developed and matured at such a high level. Side by Side his timber business, he became active in Muslim League politics and became known to many of the top Muslim League leaders of Bombay. By temperament he was man of all seasons and socialised with young and old Muslims and non-Muslims despite political differences.

In August 1947, he migrated to Pakistan. In Karachi very soon he became a famous and very well-to-do businessman and community leader. He was one of the prominent leaders of Memon Relief committee formed for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees, mainly non-Memons. Before he died he became one of

Memon Personalities

the very popular and well-known citizens of Karachi mixing with ordinary persons as well as with the high and the mighty.

Abdul Latif Ebrahim Bawani

Popularly known amongst his friends and acquaintances as Uncle (Chacha) Latif, scion of the Bawany family was well-known for his philanthropy, leadership for a cause and occasional anger, quickly dispelled and turned into laughter within minutes. Before asking anyone else for donation, Chacha always announced his generous donation on the spur of the moment.

This aggressive large hearted self-sacrificing Memon leader was brave, bold and courageous both in his business life as well as in public life. He never minced words and called spade a spade.

Abdul Latif Ebrahim Jamal

He is one of the leading industrialists, businessmen, business leaders and philanthropists. After matriculating from Bombay University, he took up family business of import and export of textile goods in Bombay. Amongst his hobbies are golf and cricket. In prepartition days he was active in organising Muslim youth movements and was President of Young Memon Association in which capacity he filed a suit against Barrister Sawarkar, a rank Hindu communist who was President of Hindu Mahasabah, for his misbehaviour and insulting attitude towards Islam. In Pakistan he became close to Mr. Hussain Shaheed Suharwardy and Field Marshal Ayub Khan who to an extent, influenced his life. He came in contact with Sir Adamjee Haji Dawood and Sir Abdullah Haroon who also inspired him. He was awarded Sitara-e-Quaid-e-Azam, Nishan-e-Humayun (Iran) and K.C.C. by the West Gen-nan government.

He was President of Jainiat-e-Jawanan-e-Memon. He was elected City Father and was the youngest member of the KMC Council. He was also elected Chairman of Finance

Memon Personalities

Committee of KMC. He also came in contact with Mr. Fazlul Qadir Chaudhry, Speaker of the National Assembly, and earlier worked with Shaikh Mujeebur Rahman. He knew Mr. Z.A. Bhutto intimately. He was in the export and import business of sugar, textiles, steel and pipe industry.

He is instrumental in establishing HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi and was also Chairman, HEJ School, Karachi, and HEJ Institute of Computer Education.

He headed Okhai Memon Madrassa Association Schools and is also Founder Chairman of HEJ Foundation Public School and HEJ College of Management Sciences. He is the major donor to HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi.

His ambition is to see literacy rate rise to more than 90% in Pakistan. According to him after the fall of Dacca, the Memons controlled 65% of trade and industry and before that Memons controlled 85% of trade and industry in the former East Pakistan. He says that ours is the only country in the world which did not pay a single penny to compensate the assets lost by the Memons in the former East Pakistan. He holds offices of distinction in a number of industries, some of them are Hussain Industries Limited, Hussain Ebrahim Agencies, Hussain Ebrahim Foundation and Pakistan Management Corporation and has represented Pakistani trade and industry on a number of international meetings around the world.

Abdul Majeed Sindhi

Dr. Abdul Majeed Sindhi was a Memon from Sindh. He was author of a number of books in Urdu and Sindhi languages on Sociology, Literature, History, etc. He had a big personal library containing several thousand published and unpublished books. His library always remained open for those who wanted to benefit from it. He worked very hard to retrieve Sindhi culture on which subject he wrote many books. He also wrote books on Tauheed and Risalat (Prophethood). In

Memon Personalities

recognition of his invaluable services to Sindhi language he was awarded Sitara-Imtiaz posthumously.

Abdul Majed S.T

Known more as S.T. in business and social sectors Abdul Majeed is a well-known community and social worker. He has represented Karachi Chamber of Commerce on Karachi Port Trust as a trustee.

Abdul Qadir Moosa Lakhani

Born in 1910, he was the first Memon to receive **masters** degree. He had to give up his studies sometimes before matriculation. Barrister Sattar Waii motivated him and persuaded his parents to allow the young boy to go for further studies. He thereafter, did M. A., LL.B. and became a very bold and selfless leader in social and charitable fields. He founded a branch of Muslim League in his native state Bahavnagar and opposed the autocratic rule of the state ministers. This is why after partition he was given 24 hours notice to quit Bhavnagar. After partition, forgetting politics, he concentrated on his legal profession and devoted his time and efforts in the field of social service. He was the General Secretary of the First Memon Relief Committee for rendering help to destitute **r@fugees**. For several years he was honorary General Secretary **ol'AlI** Pakistan Memon Federation and played active role in that position. He died in 1997.

Abdul Rahman Chhapra

He is the brother of the well-known Mr. Chhapra of Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency and Interest-Free Banking fame. He is an active social worker. His greatest service is the establishment of the well-known Faran Club which has been holding seminars, lectures on Islam and other subjects. Mr. Chhapra is the driving force behind the success of Faran Club. He is also an active member of Bombay Memon Brotherhood.

Abdul Razzak Abdul Aziz Tabani

He enjoyed very good reputation in the trade and industrial fields. He became honorary General Secretary of all Pakistan Memon Federation. Mr. Razzak Tabani entered into joint venture with foreign companies to produce their branded products in Pakistan including Coca Cola. He also worked for Germany's well-known firm Bayers for manufacturing and sale of chemicals and pigments. He became the President of All Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society and was very devoted to the cause to education.

Abdul Razzak ARY

Waiting for details.....

Abdul Razzak Dawood

Son of an industrial tycoon, Seth Suleman Dawood, Mr. A. Razzak Dawood is B. Sc. Mining Engineering from England and MBA from Columbia University, New York. He has worked as Managing Director of Lawrencepur Woollen and Textile Mills as well as Dawood Hercules Chemicals Limited. At present he is Managing Director of Descon Engineering Limited and six other private companies. He is a Director of United Refrigeration Industries (pvt) Limited. He was a visiting professor of Department of Business Administration, the University of Punjab; Management Association of Pakistan; Member Syndicate, the University of Punjab as well as member Senate, University of Punjab; Member, Board of Studies, Institute of Chemical Engineering and Technology and Director, Pakistan International Airlines. At present he is the Rector, Lahore University of Management Sciences to which his family has donated 25 million rupees; Vice Chairman, Board of Governors, National Management Foundation; Member Board of Governors, Shaikat Khanum Cancer Hospital and Research Centre. He is very active in the

Memon Personalities

field of education and motivates his family trust and donates tens of millions of rupees to various educational institutions.

Abdul Razzak Khanani

He was the Chief Editor of English monthly 'Cricket World'.

Abdul Razzak Memon

At present, Dr. A. Razzak Memon is Principal of Dawood College for Engineering and Technology. In Japan and USA he worked on converting the Radar signals into clear vision pictures. He has command of Japanese language. He holds Bachelors' and Masters' Degree in Electronics from Japan.

Dr. Memon went to USA on a scholarship offered by National Science Foundation of USA where he was given a project of converting thermonuclear energy directly into electricity. His project was accepted in USA. He also worked as Principal of Sindh Sugar Technology Institution.

Abdul Razzak Sloot

(A.R. Sloot)

He was the publisher-editor of 'Film Life', an English film magazine which was regularly published up to 1964. He was also President of Karachi Film Journalists Association. He writes columns on films and television for various English newspapers.

Abdul Razzak Suleman

He started his career as a journalist by publishing booklets on the possible solution of the crossword puzzles in the daily 'Morning News'. Afterwards, he joined 'DAWN' Gujrati as its Sub-editor and was a regular column writer.

Abdul Razzak Tabba

Mr. A. Razzak Tabba, son of A. Aziz Tabba, was born on 18th December 1942 in Jetpur. The ancestor of Tabba family was Mr. Tayeb. The surname TABBA was derived from Tar Muhammad Son of Mr. Tayeb as Tar Muhammad was nicked Tayeb Bha or Tabbha.

Mr. Razzak started active life after his matriculation by helping his father in his business activities. He continued his education till graduation from Karachi University. The turning point of his life was the joining of his father's business venture. Initially they started business as small commercial exporter of cotton yarn to Far-East countries. With the rapid development in business, the export activities expanded significantly to African countries and in particular to Sudan during 1970 onward.

Having more than 35 years of rich experience in trading, export and industrial management he succeeded eminently. He is Chairman of the group which includes Yunus Brothers, which is the largest export house of textile products. He acquired in-depth experience of business and industrial management. Presently he is: Chairman/Director, Fazal Textile Mills Limited, Chairman/Chief Executive, Gadoon Textile Mills Limited, Chairman / Director, Lucky Energy Limited, Chairman / Chief Executive, Lucky Cement Limited, Chairman / Chief Executive, Lucky Power Tech. Limited, Chairman/Partner, Lucky Textile Mills, ChainTian / Director, Security Electric Power Co. Limited, Director, Security Investment Bank Limited, Chairman, Yunus Textile (Pvt.) Limited and Chairman / Partner, Yunus Brothers.

He is also associated with the following organisations, which extend social welfare service to the needy: Aziz Tabba Foundation, World Memon Foundation, World Memon Foundation Community Centre, Karachi, Kathiawar Co-operative Housing Society, Jetpur Memon Association, Jetpur Memon Relief Committee, Kidney Centre, Al-Mustafa Welfare Society, Memon Hospital, Karachi and Memon Charitable Hospital, Hyderabad.

Memon Personalities

Being the largest export house of Pakistan the Tabbas are represented on all the important trade bodies. Their group in the export business is represented by his brother Mr. M. Yunus Tabba who is also the Vice Chain-nan of the group. The group's contribution in the field of trade and industrial development can be analysed with the sales growth figures which was Rs. 6.0 Billion (including 4.0 Billion Export Sales) in 1995-96 now exceeds I 1.00 Billion (including 5.0 Billion Export Sales) mark in the year 1997-98.

The Tabba family's charitable and philanthropic activities are routed through the Aziz Tabba Foundation. The Aziz Tabba Foundation is one of the welfare foundations of the Memon community established in memory of the late Mr. Abdul Aziz Haji Hashim Tabba. It is established for the promotion of charity and other welfare-oriented projects, but not for profit. Its welfare objects include: building of houses for allocation to the needy and deserving persons free of cost or at subsidised rates.

Establishment of nursing and maternity homes and specialised hospitals are also on the top priority of the foundation. Because of rapid increase in the incidence of renal failure in the city, a Dialysis Centre was established on the ground floor of the 'Aziz Tabba House' situated in Federal 'B' Area Karachi with the cost of Rs. 20.00 Million. This fully airconditioned centre is equipped with 16 most modern and advanced dialysis machines.

In addition to the above, the Foundation also grants scholarships and financial aid to students, teachers and others for studies and training in Pakistan and abroad.

Abdul Razzak Tasty

He is a prominent businessman and a generous philanthropist, extending assistance to various social welfare activities. His donations for various humanitarian causes run into tens of millions of rupees and he always looks forward to donating more funds to new and deserving cause.

Abdul Razzaq Thaplawala

Son of Yousuf Dawood Thaplawala, Mr. Abdur Razzaq Thaplawala was born on 5th September, 1935, at Bantva Kathiawar. He started his career with Muslim Commercial Bank Ltd. in 1955 and worked there till 1958. During his short banking career he passed his Banking Certificate Examination in 1956 and later on also passed both parts of Banking Diploma Examination of the Institute of Bankers in Pakistan and became Diploma Associate of the Institute.

He joined, the Dawood Group of Industries in late 1958 and occupied different **positions** including that of Secretary, Chief Accountant and Finance Manager of different companies of the group. Later on, he shifted to general and industrial management and held the position of Executive Director of different listed companies of the group including Dawood Cotton Mills Ltd, Dilon Ltd. Central Insurance Co. Ltd. etc. Mr. Thaplawala left the Dawood Group in 1993 and is now working as Executive Director of Lucky Cement Ltd, a 4000-ton per day portland cement plant.

Mr. Thaplawala acquired the qualification of Institute of Cost & Management Accounts of Pakistan and become its associate in 1971. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute in 1978. He is an active member of the Institute and was elected Chairman of its Karachi Branch Council for three consecutive years. He was elected to the National Council of the Institute for two terms of 3 years. During this period, he made valuable contribution to the profession as a member of various standing committees. The present scheme of education and examination of the Institute was prepared and finalised by Mr. Thaplawala in 1993 as Chairman of the Institute. He was also appointed Chairman of the syllabus implementation committee. In 1997, the National Council of ICMAP decided to update and revise the syllabus and set up a Task Force under- the Chairmanship of Mr. Thaplawala. The recommendations submitted by the Task Force were accepted by the National Council and the syllabus of ICMAP is being revised accordingly.

Memon Personalities

Mr. Thaplawala has been associated with various social organisations since his school days. He was the member of the first Managing Committee of the Memon Youth Organization which founded the monthly 'Memon Alam'. He was also member of the First Managing Committee of the Bantva Memon Students Union. He was the founder Secretary of the United Memon Jamat of Pakistan. Mr. Thaplawala was founder member of Memon Professional Forum and was elected its President in 1989 and 1990. He has served on the Working Committee of the Pakistan Memon Education and Welfare Society.

Mr. Thaplawala has been active in various service organisations and has also served as President of Karachi Lions Club and Rotary Club of Karachi (Mehran).

Mr. Thaplawala has been very active in his professional field of Corporate and Taxation Law. He occupied the position of President of Corporate & Taxation Law Society for three years and has read papers and addressed several seminars and conferences on Corporate Law and Taxation organized by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants, Pakistan Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Karachi Stock Exchange Limited, Rotary Club of Karachi and Memon Professional Forum.

He has contributed over 100 articles and papers on Corporate Law, Taxation and Accounting to different newspapers and magazines including Pakistan and Gulf Economist, Industrial Accountants, Management Accounts, Pakistan Textile Journal, Asia Textile Journal Hong Kong, Management Accountant (India) Business Recorder, Morning News etc. A Bibliography of publications of business and commerce issued by State Bank of Pakistan some years back listed over 30 articles by Mr. Thaplawala.

He is a widely travelled person and has visited the Republic of China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, U.K., Germany, Sweden and Denmark. He performed Haj twice, in 1974 and 1992. His hobbies include reading and writing.

Abdul Sattar Chhotani

A very well-known jeweller of Karachi, this young man is keeping up the tradition of his father the late Abdul Kadir Chhotani. He is a generous philanthropist, extending his support to causes in the field of social services, specially assistance to the needy and poor.

Abdul Sattar Chinoy

Sattar Chinoy is a known person in trade bodies. He is active in the field of social welfare services.

Abdul Sattar Dadani

He took charge of the monthly publication 'Sandesh' published by Maulana Abdul Sattar Edhi and he himself became its editor.

Abdul Sattar Edhi

Services rendered by Abdul Sattar Edhi and his Foundations, which are spread all over Pakistan and which are innumerable, are only too well-known. The work which has been done on an ever increasing scale for the last forty years is narrated in details in this book. The services rendered during the Afghanistan-USSR war, at the risk to his own person, cannot be ignored. Mr. Edhi went personally to the war zone to do and supervise relief work. Similarly, his services in Lebanon during Israel occupation of the West Bank and Gaza strip are also unforgettable. He also went to Palestine to help the refugees. He also arranged to send ten thousand tonnes of rice, worth Rs. 30 millions, to Eriteria in Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and other African countries that were torn and devastated by famine, hunger, and civil war. To Bangladesh also, he sent volunteers with ambulances and an amount of US Dollar 1 0,000/- for relief to the needy people there.

Memon Personalities

In 1986, anti-social elements brought about Sri Lankan girls to Pakistan by luring them to secure good and lucrative jobs for them and later on tried to involve them in 112 immoral profession. Maulana Edhi came to their rescue, arranged for their return journey to Sri Lanka and in the meantime kept them in the security of his institutions. He always came to the rescue of such destitute people including fishermen or other foreigners who either crossed the border illegally or sea front or who over stayed in Pakistan. Such people are provided shelter, food and care before they are sent back to their respective countries. The account of his services needs volumes.

However, it must be said to his credit that a single individual, sleeping on a charpoy in Mithadar, manages a chain of trusts and foundations and personally supervises relief work whenever he receives a message of distress. At great personal risk he reaches the spot where someone is lying in an inaccessible area where two rival groups are exchanging fire. He does not hesitate to carry a stinking dead body or a decomposed and unmanageable corpse, lying in a ditch. It seems that a call from the needy becomes irresistible for him and he rushes to their rescue. All this he is doing without any assistance from the government. People having faith in his integrity, donate to his trusts and foundations generously. He is adored and respected by the people of Pakistan for his untiring, selfless and fearless services to the cause of humanity.

One unique thing about this legendary man is that he works with his own hands. He prefers personal supervision in the relief work. He leads by example, whether it be the last Islamic bath to a dead body, wrapped in shroud and even in temperatures soaring to 120 deg. F with ice slabs kept in the pick-up since he does not have facility of air-conditioned ambulances, or taking the dead body to its native place, some times even hundreds of miles away, in a van driven by him, for burying it in the native graveyard. In Karachi it is next to impossible that if you go out of your home and travel on the main roads for some distance without coming across a fleet of Edhi Ambulance. Other cities and towns of Pakistan too have Edhi Ambulance Fleet. He has established orphanages, hospitals, homes for the destitute (Apna

Memon Personalities

Ghar), cancer hospital and blood bank. In addition, he along with his force of volunteers, and his wife, is always there on the spot Whenever an S.O.S. is received. It is a tribute to his selfless services that the people of the calamity hit area look up to him for help rather than the Government.

It is rather strange that he has not received the kind of recognition on international scale that he deserves except Ramon Magasasy Award, Philippines. For the services rendered to the victims of Armenia earthquake, he was also awarded a medal by the Government of USSR. He also maintains a number of air ambulances.

Abdul Sattar Essa Bhai Memon (Sattar Bhai Vakil)

Waiting for details.....

Abdul Sattar Fazlani

He is a social leader, a writer and a poet of repute. He also started a weekly magazine in Gujrati language. A collection of his poems has also been published.

Abdul Sattar Paryani

He has been associated with "Memon Alam" for more than 35 years and was looking after the English section of the monthly. He has served in different capacities in the Gujrati Service of Radio Pakistan. He became popular among the radio listeners. Interviews taken by him for 'Memon Alam' have also earned popularity. A collection of his articles has also been published. He died in early 1999.

Abdul Sattar Sait

The old generation of Memons took politics as part of their religion and Sattar Sait was a living example of this. He belonged to the Kutchi Memon community. His forefathers went to Malabar, South India, for business purposes. Haji Sattar Sait was born there in 1894. He received his primary and higher education there and also performed Haj with his father in 1906. He stayed in Saudi Arabia for two years and acquired knowledge of Islam as well as Arabic language. He again went for Haj with his father in 1914 and again stayed there for two years for educational purpose. He started his political career by taking part in the Khilafat Movement. He was regarded as one of the closest companions of Maulana Shaukat Ali. He was elected Joint Secretary of the Kerala Muslim League. In 1935, he was elected member of the Legislative Assembly with a comfortable margin. In 1946, he was re-elected to the Legislative Assembly and became Chief Whip of the Muslim League Parliamentary Party. He served as a member of the Central Working Committee of the Muslim League from 1938 to 1948. After independence, he remained a member of the Indian Constituent Assembly till 1948. He took part in GATT Conference held at Geneva as a representative of India. He was held in high esteem by the Muslim League circles which is evident from the fact that the Quaid-c-Azam invited him in 1948 to come to Pakistan and appointed him Ambassador of Pakistan in Egypt in which position he served for 3 years. Besides, he rendered services as Pakistani diplomat in Saudi Arabia. In 1957, he was appointed High Commissioner of Pakistan in Sri Lanka where he served for five years. He came back to Pakistan in 1962 and retired from politics. He had command of English, Gujrati, Urdu, Malayalam, Tamil and Arabic languages. His services in Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka proved much useful because of his knowledge of Arabic and Tamil languages.

During Pakistan Movement, he published an Urdu weekly 'Hind'. At the time of migrating to Pakistan his business was flourishing in Malabar. But, on a telephonic call from the Quaid-e-Azam, he left all that immediately and reached Pakistan and started performing the duties assigned to him. Whenever he was

Memon Personalities

approached for award of a title, he declined politely. He never submitted any claim for his property worth crores of rupees that he had left in India while coming to Pakistan. So simple was his life style that even in his declining age, he went to markets for buying things of daily use.

It is unfortunate that leaders like A. Sattar Sait, who came here sacrificing all their belongings for the cause of Pakistan have been forgotten. Not only this, but they were consigned to marginal positions even during their life time.

Abdul Sattar Shaikhani

He started 'Tamsel', an Urdu fortnightly, which published articles on literature, art and culture. He was associated very actively with Dhoraji Association and Memon International Club. He produced two films casting famous star Muhammad Ali. His comments and articles on the subject of entertainment were published in different English dailies.

Abdul Sattar Tawakkal

He served for several years as honorary editor of 'Al-Fatah', a Gujrati monthly magazine. He enjoys high reputation for his social and religious services and takes active interest in the activities of All Pakistan Memon Federation. He published his travelogue in serials in daily 'Wattan'.

Abdul Sattar Wali

Born with a silver spoon to a very rich family, A.S. Wali was the first Memon Barister. All his life he remained an idealist and reformist. Charities of his father were very well known and Barister Wali inherited both the wealth and generosity of his father. He spent lavishly on the causes which were dear to his heart. He was a fluent orator in Memony, Gujrati, Urdu, English and Persian. His company at public functions was sought by eminent leaders like Mr. M.A. Jinnah and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

Memon Personalities

The weekly "Memon Sudharak" was published under the editorship of the late Barrister A. Sattar Waii who played a very vital role in bringing reforms and awakening to the Memon community. This weekly also published regular columns to pave the way for holding Memon conference. The magazine also inspired new writers in Gujrati on subjects like social evils, and harshest possible critical articles were published very boldly. Baff ister Wali travelled extensively throughout Kathiawar to see for himself the social and educational conditions of the Memon community. He realised the need to publish a magazine for campaigning for reforms and, as such, he started the publication from Bombay in 1929, The leadership of the community at that time was mostly hereditary. "Memon Sudharak" strongly deplored this system and advised the community members to elect leaders through ballot. In 1931, when Barrister Wali raised this issue in the Memon conference and moved a resolution against the existing system, there was a major uproar. At the intervention of Seth Adamjee, the resolution was withdrawn. The contribution of Barrister Wali was very great and unforgettable for the reforms of the community. Elsewhere in the book his services to the cause of the Memons, Muslims and Indians generally have been described. In short, Baff ister Wali was one of the rare leaders of the community whose services unfortunately could not be utilised because of his advanced views on reforms and adoption of democratic system in running the organisations. Not having succeeded in his mission he became frustrated and after migration to Pakistan, he died unknown, unhonoured and unsung.

Abdul Shakoor Abdul Sattar Navivala

Popularly known as Bapa Navivala, he has inherited the spirit of welfare and social services from his father the late Qaisar-e-Hind of Quetta and Bihar earth quake fame. For nearly 161 years the Navivala family has been in the lead in Dhoraji Memon Jamaat. Educated at Bahauddin College and Sydanham College of Commerce, Bombay, he is very fond of writing and travelling. A passionate traveller, he has written on his travel experiences in English and Gujrati. He has a large number of friends and colleagues in the literary and religious circles.

Memon Personalities

Subscriber to about thirty religious journals from all over Pakistan and India, he has a large collection of books. He has also written a book on Allama Iqbal in Gujrati. He has contributed regular letters and columns to newspapers. In 1951 he became the founder General Secretary of All Pakistan Yarn Merchants Association. He was associated with Dhoraji Cooperative Housing Society as well as Memon Educational and Welfare Society. He was included in the 8-man team of World Wild Life Board. He is fluent in Gujrati, Urdu, English, and Italian languages.

Abdul Shakoor Tumbi

He belonged to a generous family from Dhoraji. He was known as 'Ali Baba' because of his generous nature. He used to write columns in newspapers and magazines under a pen name. He was the President of the Pakistan Memon Federation and was connected with various trading and social groups.

Abdul Wahab A. Lakhani

He is a known businessman and exporter. He is a social worker in the field of Education. He is associated actively with Memon Educational and Welfare Society.

Abdul Wahid Adamjee

Eldest son of Sir Adamjee, Abdul Wahid was born in 1908. He was educated in a convent school in Rangoon. He acquired deep knowledge of business correspondence from his office staff to make up for the deficiency of higher education. He learned business management in a systematic manner from his father, who appointed him to various departments in his large business empire. He established the largest jute mill in the world near Dacca which was visited by foreign visitors including ruling presidents and the Queen of England. In this jute mill all facilities were provided for thousands of workers. The assets of the jute mill then were estimated to be around Rs. 110 million. He also started Adamjee Particles and Boards Mill, Magna Textile Mills, Aroma Tea, etc. The Adamjees

Memon Personalities

became the owners of the biggest tea gardens in the world. In West Pakistan, in 1952, Adamjee Cotton Mill was established. He also established Adamjee Chemicals and Paper Board units. Adamjee Insurance was established in 1960. He remained Chairman of the Adamjee Group of Industries. Almost every regime in Pakistan sought his co-operation in the field of business and industrial development. He was offered ministerial post but he always refused. He became the Chairman of Pakistan Industrial Credit Investment Corporation (PICIC) and rendered valuable services for the industrialisation of the country. He also established Adamjee Insurance Company, which is the largest in Pakistan.

In recognition of his valuable services, he was awarded "Hilal-e-Pakistan".

He was Chairman and Director of many public companies including Pakistan Refinery Limited, Zeal Pak Cement and other companies. According to a report published in those days in New York Times, the industrial assets of Adamjees' were to the tune of 60 million US Dollars, half of which were invested in East Pakistan. He became the President of All Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society when its offices were shifted to Karachi from Calcutta. His services in managing and increasing the assets of the Society are worthy of note. The Federal 'B'Area Memon Colony was built by the Society under his leadership. So was the Adamjee Science College built by the Adamjee family with their generous donations towards construction and maintenance of the College. His family constructed Adamjee Haji Dawood Public School in Dacca and also established the Adamjee Foundation which is contributing towards general welfare of the masses without any discrimination and without any publicity.

Abdul Wahid Tejani

He heads a famous firm of Chartered Accountants owned by himself. He was the President of Memon Professional Forum and in 1999 was elected President of Income Tax Bar, Karachi. He is a trustee of Ahmed Abdullah Foundation and one of the Vice-Presidents of Ma Aysha Memorial Centre for care and control of Nero-Muscular disorders.

Abdullah Ismail

In journalism too Memon reformists were in the forefront when in 1902 they started a bulletin namely, Hidayatul Moa initi. These two were Ibrahim Dawood and Abdultah Ismail. In 1913 Mr. Abdullah Ismail wrote a book namely, Memoti Tawareekh. He and his friend Ibrahim Dawood thereafter, published magazines like Islam Gazette, Gulzar etc. Mr. Abdullah was not only the first journalist but the first historian of the Meinon community. He died in 1916.

Abdullah Kamdar

Born in 1927, he devoted his life to social welfare services through Jetpur Memon Association, Memon Educational and Welfare Society and many other associations in the fields of education, health and rehabilitation. Amiable and accommodative, he worked in alliance with other social workers. With late Mr. Ebrahim Bawani, the late Mr. Kamdar was very active worker of All Memon Federation. He died early.

Abdullah Memon

One of the popular government officials, he was Commissioner of Karachi, Hyderabad, Chittagong and many other cities. He was also Home Secretary of Government of Sindh. He is an enlightened person who was appointed caretaker Minister in the Federal Cabinet under caretaker Prime Minister Mairaj Khalid.

Abu Bakar Javery

The Javery family of Porbundar had a unique record of social service. They had large business in South Africa in the last decades of the 19th Century and till 1950. The person who invited Mr. M. K. Gandhi to Africa was closely connected with the Javery family.

Abu Bakar Javery was born in 1908. He took keen interest in the progress of Memon Educational and Welfare Society and rendered useful service throughout

Memon Personalities

his life. Social service particularly progress of educational society had preference over his personal affairs. He took a whirlwind tour of Africa at his own expense to collect a large amount for the Memon Educational and Welfare Society.

He was the chairman of the Reception Committee of the Memon Conference held at Porbundar under the presidentship of Sir Abdullah Haroon. He played an important role in the awakening of Muslims in Kathiawar and in the implementation of the Muslim league manifesto. He served as Vice-President of Kathiawar Muslim League and was President of Porbundar State Muslim League. In 1947, when anti-Muslim riots broke out in Kathiawar, compelling the Muslims to flee their native towns, Mr. Javery, because of his close relationship with the Hindu ruler of Porbundar, extended all possible help to those suffering and wanting to migrate to Pakistan. The Maharaja of Porbundar awarded him the title of Raaj Mantri. Mr. Javery was unanimously elected President of All Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society in 1948 upon the death of Sir Adai-njee. He died at an early age.

Abu Bakar Shaikhani

He was born in Dhoraji in 1944. He migrated to Pakistan in 1948 and settled in Sukkur and afterwards came to Karachi. He was elected a member of National Assembly in 1993 on the Muslim League (Nawaz Group) ticket. He has established a charitable trust after the name of his mother under the auspices of which a number of educational schemes are being implemented.

Abu Bhai Javery

He was one of the very well-known Memons in India. He started life under very humble conditions. But rose to become one of the noted jewellers of India, being the personal courtier of famous Ranjitsinghjee (Ranji), the international cricketer, who was the ruler of Jamnagar state. Resultantly, he remained in England and Europe for six months of a year and due to his closeness to Ranji, he came in contact with the top most Nawabs and Maharajas of India and became personal jeweller to some of them. The Maharaja of Jamnagar provided special

Memon Personalities

facility to him including use of special train through the railway owned by the State. During one of his visits to England, he married an English lady and he adopted a life to suit his status and position though personally he was a man of simple and frugal habits. He took keen interest in the welfare activities of Muslims of Kathiawar and accompanied the Quaid-e-Azam throughout Kathiawar in the Quaid's fund collection tour.

He was the Chair-man of the reception committee of the fourth All India Memon Conference held at Jamnagar. In Karachi he led a semi-retired life.

Abu Pardesi

Aboo Pardesi, a Philanthropist from Kutiana is presently stationed at Dubai.

A.D. Kareem

He started his business and commercial journal in Gujrati which became very popular amongst Gujrati speaking business community. Its publication ceased after his death. However, one of his sons, Omar Kareem, started publishing one of the leading monthlies in Gujrati by the name of 'Memon Alam'. This periodical has become very popular and a great source of information about the Memons. Its circulation is wide and is read in USA, United Kingdom, South Africa, India and many other countries. 'Memon Alam' is now published in Gujrati, English, Urdu and Sindhi. The files of ' his periodical of about 40 years are a treasure trough for the researchers about Memons, particularly in Pakistan.

Adam Haji Pir Muhammad

He was born in 1881. After finishing his primary education, he joined his father's business in food grains and textile. He first established his business firm outside Bantva in Hoogly, West Bengal, and from there he expanded his business activities to Akiyab, Mandley, and other cities of Burma, Colombo in Sri Lanka, Singapore, Penang, Bangkok, Aden, Jeddah etc. By 1947, he had over 100 branches in different countries. He was one of the ten biggest importers and

Memon Personalities

exporters of India. He was also very keen in the field of public service and donated generously to all causes of public welfare whether it be education or health care. He also contributed to the Khilafat movement and the Muslim League Press Fund. He was the Chairman of Reception Committee to receive the Quaid-e-Azam and delivered welcome speech when the Quaid-e-Azam visited Bantva. When the Quaid performed the opening ceremony of Bengal Oil Mills in Karachi, on seeing Haji Adam there, the Quaid in his speech mentioned the generosity of Haji Adam.

He died in 1957. His contribution in the field of education, health, and other spheres was monumental.

Adam Memon

Dr. Adam served as editor of monthly magazine, Your Health which was published by Pakistan Medical Association. He was a psychiatrist and who served at Mental Hospital, Hyderabad. He was also a poet in Urdu and Gujrati.

Adam Noor

Besides working for All India Memon Jamaat Federation and All India Memon Educational and Welfare Society, Adam Noor has also worked for the advancement of Muslims in the field of social welfare. He has been the General Secretary of the Society and Honorary Editor of its mouthpiece 'Memon Welfare'.

Adam Patel

Mr. Adam Patel, after doing his B. Corn. and obtaining Masters in Economics, did his LL.B. and joined the legal profession. He is active in the Rotary movement, the United Memon Jamaat, the Kucchi Memon Jamaat. He organises seminars and conferences. He has written books on law. As he admits, he started his education through public scholarships, he has now purchased a plot of 550 square yards in Clifton and plans to start some institution for the welfare of the needy. He has been actively associated in the fields of education and health. He is an active member of the Memon Professional Forum.

Adamjee Haji Dawood

"Many parents of middle income group are reluctant to seek any assistance for the education of their children. But he advised them, not to allow their ego to become a hurdle in the way, of their children's education. They, are the Memon citizens of tomorrow and your prosperity depends upon their health and good character. It is your right to seek help from the society and it is the obligation of the society to remove your difficulties. Even a bit of carelessness on the part of any one will be tantamount to pushing the community towards a set-back to that extent."

These words were uttered by Adamjee Haji Dawood, the founder of the Memon Educational & Welfare Society, on 7th October 1934, while speaking at the first meeting of the Society.

Adamjee was born on 30th June 1880, at Jetpur in Kathiawar. His father was Haji Dawood Baig Mohammed. His mother Hanifa Bai used to call him by 'Adamjee' instead of Adam and, therefore, he was widely known as Adamjee.

Though Adamjee was keen about education, he could not go beyond fourth class in Gujrati. In 1885, at the age of 15, he went to Proma town of Burma, and started his career as an employee of M/S Saleh Mohammed Ghaziani. His salary was only Rs. 25/- per month but after completion of one year his employer, in appreciation of his honesty and hard work, gave him a prize of Rs. 125/- and an embroidered cap.

Adamjee started his firm in Rangoon under the name of Adamjee Haji Dawood & Co. in 1913. In 1914, a branch of this firm was opened in Calcutta. This firm progressed well and afterwards was converted into a limited company with a capital of Rs. 50,00,000/-.

Adamjee entered industrial field in 1923. He established a match factory in Rangoon. He was director of Rangoon Electric Trading Company and Scindia Steam Navigation Company. He took Burma Fire and Marine Insurance Company under his own management and was taken on the Managing Board of Bank of India

Memon Personalities

Limited. He was a leading businessman of jute and rice. He was elected the first President of Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce, established in Burma. Later, he became the President of this Chamber. This was his first public activity.

After the death of his father, when he came back to Rangoon he found that Hakim Ajmal Khan, a great leader of the Muslim community, had arrived there in connection with the funds for Tibbia College. Adamjee donated a fairly large amount to the College fund. He also gave a generous amount to Burma University. During the same period he started to give scholarships to Muslim students in his individual capacity. He was elected President of Rangoon Memon Jamaat in which capacity he served for several years.

His main line of business was jute bags which were generally imported from Calcutta. So, he decided to establish a jute mill in Calcutta, and he was the first ever Muslim to start a Jute Mill. His Scottish and Marwari rivals created many hurdles in his way but at last he successfully started construction of a mill in December 1927 at Belur, about 5 miles away from Calcutta, with a huge capital of Rs. 80,00,000/-. The mill started its production in December, 1928.

Haji Dawood Baig Mohammed, father of Adamjee, had opened a small dispensary in Jetpur and was planning to convert it into a large hospital but due to his demise this programme could not materialise. Sir Adamjee purchased a large plot of land in Jetpur near station and constructed 'Haji Dawood Hospital'. He provided one lac rupees for maintenance of the hospital. He took active interest in public welfare projects and extended considerable material support to Anglo-Gujrati School of Calcutta.

Heavy rains in 1928 throughout Gujrat and Kathiawar resulted in floods which claimed several human lives and colossal loss to property. Some stalwarts established a fund named 'Gujrat Kathiawar Rail Rahat Committee' and went to Mr. M. K. Gandhi and requested him to recommend an honest and enthusiastic man who could manage the affairs. Mr. Gandhi named Mr. Adamjee Hajee Dawood as the proper person. Therefore a delegation headed by Mr. Tri Bhuvan Hira Chand, a

Memon Personalities

leading businessman of Bombay, reached Calcutta and requested Mr. Adamjee to accept the responsibilities as Chairman of the Relief Committee. Despite his pre-engagements Sir Adamjee accepted the responsibilities and successfully handled the job. He also donated generously to the Committee.

Addressing a conference on the topic of education, he emphasised the importance of learning and knowledge. He focused attention on the rapid progress in science and learning. He cited Russia's efforts to develop the country. Even in India, which is considered to be a backward country, Parsis have made tremendous progress. Hindus are also working hard to achieve material progress. He deplored that the majority of the Memons remained semi-literate. The community wholeheartedly responded to the call of Mr. Adamjee. They became united under his bold and dynamic leadership. Memon Educational and Welfare Society was formed in 1933 to promote knowledge and learning in the community.

The welfare activities of Adamjee were not confined to the Memon community only, he did his best for everybody. In 1934, he collected funds for earthquake victims of Bihar and Quetta under the auspices of the Society, and very efficiently handled the relief activities by creating a volunteer force.

He was also actively interested in the promotion of sports. He was patron of the wellknown Mohammedan Sporting Club of Calcutta and did his best for its progress. In recognition of his status in trade and industry and selfless services he rendered for the welfare of the masses, he was awarded knighthood by the British Government in 1938.

He reached Jetpur again in 1940 in connection with the marriage of his younger son. There he built a school named 'Sir Adamjee Muslim High School'. Moreover, with a view to preserving the memory of his late mother he purchased a building and established 'Hanifa Bai Kanyashala' (Girls School). He also formed a private Organisation and got it registered as 'Sir Adamjee Hajee Dawood Educational and Medical Society'.

Memon Personalities

Adamjee had an unshakeable faith in the leadership of the Quaid-e-Azam. Not only Adamjee but the whole Memon community had regard for the Quaid even before the wellknown Pakistan Resolution. The Quaid was felicitated by the Memons in Calcutta in 1936 in a large gathering of Muslims. In those days the Quaid-e-Azam was known as Mr. Jinnah. Mr. Adamjee addressed the gathering as the leader of the community, and from that moment he started taking interest in politics.

In 1940, the Quaid-e-Azam emphasised the need for a press for projecting the point of view of the Muslim League. He established a press fund in which Adamjee was the first man to send his contribution telegraphically. Adamjee served the Muslim League in a befitting manner from 1936 to 1948. During this period he had close contact with the Quaid-e-Azam, and he was one of his reliable colleagues.

The newly born nation Pakistan confronted heavy odds in its early days. Only a nominal amount was received by the State out of total allocation. The dispute over the balance left the exchequer empty of fund. In those days Adamjee came to Karachi the Quaid-e-Azam had a meeting with him in camera. Only Mr. Ghulam Mohammed, the then Finance Minister, was there. During the deliberations Adamjee put forth very useful suggestions which became the basis of a viable economy of this nascent state.

In January 1948, to consult him on matters relating to the formation of the State Bank of Pakistan the Quaid invited him. In those days Adamjee was a heart patient. The meeting was arranged at upper storey of the building and there was no arrangement of elevator. He had to walk upstairs which aggravated his heart trouble. Col. Shah immediately gave him initial treatment. He was rushed to his residence in Saddar, but he died the next day on the 27th of January, 1948.

Memon Personalities

Afshan Motiwala

She holds a Masters degree in journalism. She has rendered valuable service as Secretary of Pakistan Institute of Intellectuals and Culture and Wasim Bagh Gallery.

Ahmed Abdullah

Waiting for details.....

Ahmed A. R. Ghani

Ahmed A. R. Ghani, one of the educated and intelligent social workers-cum-businessmen, was born in South Africa who settled in Karachi. Oxford educated, Mr. Ghani was the person who gave a cheque to the first Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, to award the amount to a music composer who could compose the best tune for the National Anthem. He started a one-time popular Memon International Club. Monthly dinner meetings of the Club were hosted by different individuals where intellectuals gave their lectures.

Ahmad A. Sattar

Mr. Ahmad A. Sattar is a prominent businessman and social worker. However, he is a selfeffacing person and refuses to seek publicity or to give information about his rise in the business world. In 1996, he was elected President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ahmed Choniy

Waiting for details.....

Ahmad Dawood (Seth)

Seth Ahmad Dawood is one of the top businessmen and industrialists of Pakistan. He has played such an important role as a Memon that his services can not be excluded from Memon history.

Born in 1905, he is still as active as a young man, attending his office from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. regularly. He is the founder of Dawood Foundation through which he has established Dawood Engineering College in Karachi. In the early days some of the subjects taught in this College were not being taught in any other university/college anywhere in Pakistan. Even after nationalisation of this College he provides casual financial aid to the institution. The Foundation runs schools and other charitable institutions.

He and his son Hussain are founder trustees of Al-Shifa Eye Hospital to which his Foundation has contributed more than Rs. 15 million. He is the main founder of United Memon Jamaat and has always been keen to bring all the Memons on one platform. Unfortunately, during the Bhutto regime, he was kept under house arrest for several months for just being an outspoken industrialist. He left Pakistan for a couple of years during which period he did exploratory work in USA in the field of oil exploration. He is a very daring industrialist with a foresight. In East Pakistan, due to labour unrest nobody was prepared to buy the PIDC Project Karnaphuli Paper and Chemical Mill, but Ahmed Dawood dared and continued to run it profitably till the emergence of Bangladesh. His main mission that every able bodied man in Pakistan should be provided with a bicycle to make him mobile has not yet been fulfilled.

The Dawood family started from humble origins when Ahmed Dawood began trading in pre-partition India and was eventually joined by his brothers. At partition the family opted to move to Pakistan, where the new nation created ample openings and opportunities for business and industry.

Memon Personalities

The family thus made the transition from business to industry, first establishing Dawood Cotton Mills Limited in 1952. The industry expanded rapidly.

With the realisation that the only way to maintain continuous growth and enhance reputation was to expand internationally, the first international office was established in Manchester, England, operating under the title 'Dawood (England) Limited'. Simultaneously, senior members of the family, in a bid to ensure that the education of all successive generations be given the utmost importance, sent their children to England to pursue their studies.

As such, nearly the entire second generation has graduated with university degrees from England, from where they proceeded to the United States to study business at graduate level. The family can boast of having graduates of the best universities like Oxford, Manchester, London School of Economics, Strathclyde, McGill, University of Western Ontario, Harvard, Northwestern and Columbia. The family has more MBA:s than any other family in Pakistan. The Dawoods decided to expand further. In 1959. the family purchased Burewala Textile Mills, a cotton textile mill with its own ginning factory, and in 1969 established Dilon, which manufactured nylon and synthetic yam. Their last textile venture was Lawrencepur Woollen Mills.

The strategy of diversification was marked by the setting up of Dawood Hercules Chemicals (Urea fertiliser), followed by Transpak (baby food, toothpaste, toothbrushes and other consumer goods), Dawood Yamaha (Motorcycles), Dawlance (refrigerators and microwaves), Descon Engineering (construction), and Meiji Biscuits.

A move into the financial sector was the next step. It was put into effect with the establishment of Central Insurance Company (in-house insurance), BRR Capital Modaraba (leasing under the Islamic mode of financing), BRR Second Modaraba (working capital finance), and Equity International Modarba (venture capital funding as a joint venture with IFC and Robert Flemings). [All three Modarabas have since been merged into one, namely BRR International

Memon Personalities

Modarabal. Other concerns include Orient Insurance Company, and the latest, Dawood Leasing Company Limited, a joint venture among the four brothers and other renowned financial institutions of Pakistan. Prior to the establishment of Bangladesh, the Dawood family also owned and managed Karnaphuli Paper Mills Limited and Karnaphuli Rayon and Chemicals Limited, which utilized bamboo as raw material for all their products. Karnaphuli Jute Mills Ltd was established in East Pakistan.

With the nationalisation fervour in the early seventies when Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto took over the reins of Pakistan, Dawood Petroleum Limited and Central Life were taken over by the State.

Finally, when this industrial empire was divided among the brothers, Seth Ahmad Dawood, Mr. Suleman Dawood, Mr. Siddiq Dawood and late Mr. Ali Mohammad Dawood, the industrial ventures, mentioned earlier, were amicably distributed and are being owned and managed by each one of the brothers or descendants.

Ahmed E. H. Jaffer

The above name in fact represents a family tree and includes not only Ahmed, but his father Sir Ebrahim, his grandfather, Haroon, and his great grandfather, Jaffer. All of them were very well-known Kucchi Memons.

Jaffer started his business empire in 1861 in Pune, near Bombay, which was then one of the main cantonment of the British army. Jaffer was not only the leader of the Muslims, but he was a well-known philanthropist also.

Jaffer's son, Haroon, also kept the family tradition alive and was well known in the Bombay Presidency. Ebrahim was a noted Muslim leader and a leading businessman. He became member of the Bombay Legislative Assembly in 1910 and in 1915. Up to 1930 he remained a member of the Council of State, New Delhi. In 1920, he was appointed to the Imperial Council of India which acted as Advisory Committee to the Viceroy of India. In 1914 he was awarded the title of 'Khan

Memon Personalities

Bahadur' and in 1926, knighthood was conferred on him. Sir Ebrahim took active part in spreading education amongst the Muslims and he presided over the Bombay Muslim Education Conference which was attended by Sir Akbar Hyder, Sir Ghulam Husain Hidayatullah, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed. His educational activities got the patronage of the British Governor of Bombay.

He established a big Hall (Jaffer Hall) in Pune in the name of his grandfather. He was instrumental in getting two hours' break for the Muslims working in the Government departments to enable them to offer Juma prayers. He also managed to remove illegal possession by the Government of the Shahi Mosque of Ahmednaar. He took up the cause of renovating the Mazar of the Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar in Rangoon. Though he was successful in getting the Mazar included in the list of historical monuments, the renovation work could not be completed during his life time. He died at an early age of 50.

Ahmed E. H. Jaffer was born in 1909. After matriculation, he joined Deccan College, Pune, for further education. He was a very ardent sport lover. He wanted to join Indian Civil Service but his father was against it or any other service so he joined the family business.

He was the chairman of the Reception Committee of All India Muslim Educational Conference held in 1940. This conference was presided over by the Chief Minister of Bengal Mouvi Faziul Haq and the inauguration ceremony was performed by the then Governor of Bombay.

Ahmed Jaffer was elected to the Indian Legislative Assembly while he was 24 years old. The defeated candidate, Hussain Bhai Laijee, filed a petition that under the Constitution of India, a person below the age of 25 could not be elected as a member of the Assembly. But very soon, in 1946, he again defeated the same opponent from the same constituency to become the youngest legislator.

The Quaid-e-Azam appointed him Deputy Whip of the Muslim League party in the Assembly. Coming over to Pakistan, he naturally remained a member of the

Memon Personalities

Constituent Assembly and Parliament and remained as such till 1954 when Governor-General Ghulam Muhammad dissolved the parliament.

Ahmed Jaffer is well-known as a member for putting the highest number of questions in the Parliament on various aspects, particularly about the problems faced by the Mohajirs.

For the rehabilitation of the refugees he became the Chairman of the Board of Refugees Rehabilitation, Sindh, and was instrumental in establishing the First Mohajir Colony in the Gizri area of Karachi.

Ahmed became a well-known industrialist having assumed the chairmanship of several public and private limited companies, including some of his own. He was designated Chief-de-Mission of the Pakistan Squad for the Rome Olympic Games. He remained associated with a number of foreign organisations such as Gulf Chamber, Pak-German Cultural Association, Pak-Kuwait Friendship Association, Foreign Affairs Council of Pakistan, Pakistan-Arab Cultural Society, Old and New Parliamentarians Association, National Playing Fields Association of Pakistan, English Speaking Union of Pakistan and many other such organisations.

He went as Pakistan's delegate to many countries. He was a well-known collector of stamps and was a keen sportsman playing squash, tennis, golf. He was good at horse riding, and swimming. He was also a member of the Karachi Aero Club, Karachi Boat Club, Karachi Gymkhana, Karachi Race Course, Rawalpindi Gymkhana and Lahore Gymkhana. He was also a member of prestigious clubs of England.

He received many awards such as Sitara-e-Pakistan and foreign awards from Spain, Brazil, Jordan and the Government of U. K. At the age of 81, he was invited to Islamabad to attend a meeting which was convened by the Government to discuss celebrating the Pakistan Golden Jubilee in a befitting manner. But he died there of a massive heart attack.

Ahmed Ghareeb

The Ghareeb family in Bombay really rose to become one of the rich families in Bombay. However, they chose to continue to call themselves Ghareeb (poor). Mr. Ahmed Ghareeb was not only a highly religious person, a philanthropist, a social worker, but was also a writer and his book for the guidance of the Hujjajs is very illuminating and knowledgeable. In Bombay, before migration to Pakistan, he used to personally devote several hours everyday for looking after the educational needs of the deserving students in his capacity as the President of All India Memon Educational Welfare Society. He continued the same pattern in Pakistan. He was an active member of the Memon Educational and Welfare Society, Pakistan in which capacity and also in other fields, he made huge monetary donations mostly unknown to others.

Ahmed Haji Essa Dada

This noted businessman and industrialist is a bulk exporter of rice, and molasses etc. and also a bulk importer of many items. He is a highly respected businessman and a generous social worker. He is an active member of Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society

Ahmed Haji Ishaq Nagaria

Belonging to a well-to-do family, originally from Dhoraji, has continued to explore several manufacturing and trading business and also established a textile mill. The family philanthropies continued with their progress in the field of trade and industry.

Ahmad Ibrahim Bawani

Founder of the Bawani Group, he was born in 1882 in Jetpur. In his early days in Jetpur he looked after local Islamic social and educational institutions and was an exponent of female education. He went to Rangoon and started the biggest

Memon Personalities

hosiery mill in Asia. he contributed liberally for a mosque in Kobe, Japan. He was one of the founders of Dilawar Industries in Junagadh State. He died in 1966

Ahmed Rangila

Mr. Ahmed Rangila, a self made man, originates from Kutiana. As a social worker, he is actively associated with Kutiana Memon Hospital. His contribution in starting this hospital is commendable.

Akbar Abdullah

Mr. Akbar Abdullah, popularly known as Khadim Hussain, is ever ready to help anybody in need, whether known to him or not, rich or poor.

In business circles of Pakistan, he is one of the very well-known figures. He has worked as Vice-President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce. He has served for one term as President of Karachi Gymkhana Club. Now he is associated with the Red Crescent Society.

Akhtar, L.L.B

Ahmed Yousuf was popularly known by the name of Akhtar, LL.B. in the field of social services as well as journalism. He was actively involved with All Pakistan Memon Federation. He translated the novels of Quratul Ain Haider from Urdu into Gujrati which were published. He was a great admirer of Allama Iqbal and possessed a large collection of books on Iqbal. He took part in the Gujrati Service of Radio Pakistan to highlight Iqbal's ideology. In Ayub's regime, he was elected member of the Basic Democracy. He was a co-author of a popular book for the guidance of Hujjaj.

Ali Muhammad Abdullah Memon

Professionally, he was an architect and an engineer. He came to Karachi prior to partition in 1938 from Kucch. He was very much interested in social and welfare services from a very young age and was founder of Kucchi Memon Youth Services. In pre-partition days, he served in the Central PWD, Delhi.

In Pakistan, he founded an institution of architects and engineering and became its Vice President. He rendered honorary services to many schools. He also rendered honorary services to the Khori Garden Masjid, Badami Masjid, and Masjid-e-Khizra. His main interest was in education.

Allah Bachayo Memon

He was Press Secretary to the Chief Minister of Sindh. He hails from District Hala. He has done M. A. in Journalism. He has worked in several positions in Information, Translation and Library Departments of the Government of Sindh. He remained Gen. Secretary of AITauheed Anjuman, Hala, Vice President, Mujahid Adabi Sangat, General Secretary, Friends Club, Information Secretary, Sindh Graduates Association and many other literary associations.

Allah Dino Memon

He was an honourable judge of Sindh High Court. He went to London for bypass surgery in 1992 where he passed away.

Allana Family (Mumbai)

Muhammad Hussain

Abdul Razzak Allana

Begum Fatema

These three shining stars of the Allana family form one of the largest groups exporting food products to Middle Eastern countries. They have a chain of cold storages in the major towns of India. As exporters of food products, the group earned several awards from the Government of India. All of them are noted social leaders whose generosity and hospitality are widely acknowledged. Their contribution particularly in the field of education runs into more than 100 million rupees. All are associated with All India Memon Jamaat Federation and World Memon Foundation. Recently Mr. Muhammad Hussain Allana has become Chairman of the World Memon Foundation.

Amina Ghani

Born in Bombay in the famous Mitha family, Mrs. Aamena Ghani had her higher education from Aligarh University, where she remained General Secretary of the Muslim Girls College Students Union. After arrival in Pakistan, she took very keen and active interest in social services. She has participated in conferences and seminars sponsored by the government and the UNO. In 1965, she was appointed Director of Social Welfare Department by the Government of Pakistan and on UNO's scholarship, she went to New York for Community Development Training. She is the sister of the famous Heart Specialist, Dr. Khalid Mitha and elder sister of another notable Memon lady, Mrs. Saima Omar.

Amin Bawani

One of the leading industrialists from the Bawani family, he is connected with the Bawani Group of Companies. He owns and runs sugar mills in Sindh and is a very active and known businessman, philanthropist and a social worker. Through the family Wakf, the Ayesha Bawani Wakf, he is actively associated with educational, religious, philanthropic and social service activities.

Amin Essa Tai

Following the footsteps of his late father, Mr. Amin Tai heads a well known firm of Share Brokers at the Karachi Stock Exchange. His success led him to be the President of Karachi Stock Exchange some years back

Amin Suriya

A very amiable personality, Dr. Amin Suria acquired higher education in Pharmacology from USA and is the head of that department in Aga Khan Hospital. He also served as Professor in a Medical University in USA. Earlier, he had served as head of medical department of Shah Faisal Medical Centre of Saudi Arabia.

Amin Lakhani (Cricketer)

In the history of cricket spread over more than a century, only six players were able to perform the feat of double hat trick in a single match and the sixth player is a Memon, Amin Lakhani. A left-arm spinner, who mostly played under the shadow of another great left-an-n spinner, Iqbal Qasim, also a Memon, performed this feat at the age of 18 by taking three wickets on three consecutive deliveries in both the innings of a match against arch rivals India at Multan. For establishing a unique record, he received a handsome gift from Fateh Singh Gaekwad, the manager of the Indian cricket team and ex-ruler of Baroda State.

Aqeel Memon

He played domestic cricket for Pakistan International Airlines. He also played for PIA against various visiting teams from Zimbabwe, England, Bangladesh and Kenya.

Arif Habib

A graduate of commerce, who after attending courses of Development of Capital Market organised by the US Securities and Exchange Commission, Washington, DC, entered practical life and acquired membership of Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad Stock Exchanges. He has been a director, honorary treasurer, vice-president and president of Karachi Stock Exchange. He was appointed member of Administration Committee to look into the affairs of the defaulters.

Mr. Arif Habib runs a corporate-house-cum-investment advisory committee and is Chairman of Central Depository Company of Pakistan Limited. Besides holding directorship of various listed companies, he also rendered services as member of Privatisation Commission and Deregulation Commission. He successfully established Central Depository Company, Clearing House Protection Fund and introduced computerised trading of the Stock Exchange transactions. Mr. Arif is a multi-dimensional person in his professional and public activities.

Arshad Motiwala

He edited a magazine namely 'Qasid' from Karachi in 1950. He was a profound reader and an able writer from amongst the Memon community.

Ashraf D. Lateef

He has command of Gujrati, Urdu and English languages. He worked for daily "Millat" Gujrati and has written articles on various subjects. Now he is

Memon Personalities

associated with "Memon News", published by Mr. Polani. He has also earned a name as a translator.

Ashraf Moten

Dr. Ashraf Moten comes from Jetpur Memon family. He has a Masters degree and PhD in Pharmaceutical Chemistry from Bradford UK. Presently he heads Education, Science and Technology Department of Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan as a grade 20 officer.

Ashraf Wali Muhammad Tabani

The Tabani family originally belonged to Gondal from where they went for business to Burma. The family was very prominent, educated, forward-looking and wealthy. After take over of Bun-na by the Japanese, the family moved to Bombay. Afterwards they migrated to Pakistan. Mr. Ashraf W. Tabani has held many high positions of which the entire Memon community can feel proud. He boldly represented the trading community and made outspoken speeches at the big gatherings presided over by Mr. Bhutto himself in his capacity as Chief Martial Law Administrator. Realising his talent, Mr. Bhutto appointed Mr. Tabani Chairman of Export Promotion Bureau. At the same time he was named Chairman of Cotton Board and also served as Chairman of Fisheries Board. During all these years he led trade delegations sent abroad from time to time by the government. Mr. Tabani became a member of Sindh Cabinet as Minister of Finance, Industries and Excise and Taxation. In 1987, Mr. Tabani was appointed Governor of Sindh at a time when Sindh was in the grip of civil disturbance. Mr. Tabani accepted this challenge. On the very second day of his swearing in as Governor, he toured the most turbulent area of Orangi Town in spite of the advice to the contrary of his security staff. He also holds membership of the Governing Body of International Labour Organisation (ILO) which works for the welfare of the world labour force.

Memon Personalities

By profession an engineer, Mr. Tabani took his masters degree in Engineering in Textiles from USA and is a leading businessman and industrialist and a highly respected gentleman.

Asif Noorani

Born in 1942 in Bombay, Asif Noorani received his Masters degree in English from the University of Karachi. He is a prolific writer and has written articles and columns for leading English journals, periodicals and newspapers. He continues to write on a wide variety of subjects: music, film, literature. He writes for Dawn, Herald, and Star.

Aslam Rahi

He was associated with daily 'Millat' and has also served as an honorary editor of "Memon Bulletin ".

Aziz Mukhtis

He has written and published a number of useful religious books. He published a monthly magazine, 'Mehtab'.

Bano Rangoonwala

This well-known lady, widow of Mr. M. A. Rangoonwala is highly educated with a Master's degree from a British University. She has been an active trustee of Z.V.M. Rangoonwala Trust. She performed the opening Ceremony of Z.V.M. Rangoonwala Hall; she has also been an active trustee of Rangoonwala Trust, U. K., and a very active trustee of World Memon Foundation. Her services in the field of education, rehabilitation of homeless people, and health sector in Indo-Pakistan Sub-Continent and U.K. are praiseworthy.

Bashir Jan Muhammad

He is the son of Jan Mohammad Dawood. After obtaining his B. Corn. degree from Government Commerce College, Karachi, he obtained his Law degree also. He became a Chartered Accountant and then FCA. He was elected President

Memon Personalities

of Karachi Stock Exchange. He is active in the modernisation of Kharadar Cement Hospital.

Begum Bilquis Edhi

Begum Bilquis Edhi is also an equal partner of her illustrious husband, Maulana Abdul Sattar Edhi, in rendering humanitarian services. In recognition of her services, she was given an award by the Rotary International

Dawood Hasmani

An active member of Halari Memon General Jamat in Pakistan which started its activities in 1948, Mr. Dawood was founder of Muslim Association of Ranchorelines, Karachi, under whose aegis a hospital for eye treatment and a girls school were started. He was instrumental in starting Karachi Shroff Association and became its General Secretary. During Ayub Khan's regime he was elected member of Basic Democracy. He was a good orator and social worker. His eldest son, Nisar Hashmani, and younger son, Dr. Shareef Hashmani, an eye specialist, are following in the foot steps of their worthy father. Mr. Dawood Hashmani died in 1993.

Dilkush Jetpuri

Dilkush, whose real name is A. Karim Suleman Jivani, is a writer and an educationist. A good poet, he has written many poems but his published material consists of poems in some text books written by him for the Muslim girl students. These books were published by Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Bawani.

D.Y. Murad

Mr. D.Y. Murad is the editor and publisher of 'Moorad Shipping News', which is very popular and informative shipping bulletin.

Ebrahim Bawany

The Bawani family is one of the renowned families of Jetpur. The Adamjees are also one of the main branches of the Bawani family. Both, Ahmed Ebrahim

Memon Personalities

Bawani, father of Ebrahim, and Adamjee Haji Dawood were pioneers of industrialisation of Burma. Ahmed Bawani Violin Hosiery Works established near Rangoon in 1930 was the largest hosiery mill in Asia.

Ebrahim was born in 1926 in Rangoon. During the Second World War he migrated from Rangoon to Bombay and completed his education. With the creation of Pakistan, Ebrahim, with his brothers and uncle Lateef Bawani, migrated to Karachi. In 1948, they imported machinery and established Bawani Violin Textile Mills in Karachi. After that they purchased Talhar Sugar Mills from PIDC and within a short period of time, the Bawanis became one of the leading industrial groups of the country.

During the life time of Uncle Lateef, popularly known as 'Kaka Lateef', Ebrahim preferred to remain in the background and under the able guidance of the Kaka, gradually his character started to take shape. Eventually, he became one of the well-known Memons in the Muslim world. During the period 1954 to 1957 he was elected President of the then Pakistan Chamber of Commerce which, later on, amalgamated with three other business organisations to become Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ebrahim was director of many companies but with rare exception he never accepted high position in any business Organisation. His first important assignment was founding and developing of Ayesha Bawani Academy on Shahrae Faisal, where two high schools for boys and girls were set up, and after six years a college was also set up in the same building. All these institutions, which cost the family several million rupees became renowned for their high standard of education. At the time of nationalisation in 1972 about 3,200 students were getting education in this Academy. In 1962, Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan, former Speaker of the Parliament, performed the opening ceremony of a similar Academy in Dacca. Some more schools were also started in East Pakistan due to the efforts of Kaka Bawani and Ebrahim played a key role in the establishment of Pakistan Memon Federation.

Ebrahim worked on his dream child: establishment of a residential school some 80 miles away from Karachi. Having been impressed by the characterbuilding public schools of the Western world, he wanted to establish a residential school on the same pattern. A plot of land on the bank of River Indus was also acquired. The construction of the school then should have cost Rs. 2 million while the annual recurring expenses were estimated to be about Rs. 300,000. The school would have provided educational and residential facilities to 300 students. However, according to Mr. Ebrahim, his associates from the community did not support him as much as was expected.

Ebrahim became disappointed and gave up the idea for lack of co-operation. Disillusioned with the Memon community, he became more aloof from it and

Memon Personalities

devoted his entire spare time, money and energy for the service of the whole Muslim millat and for the propagation of Islamic teaching. He made this his life mission. He remained mostly out of Pakistan in connection with his mission.

Ayesha Bawani Wakf was the most glorious achievement of Ebrahim Bawani which was established in 1962 by the Bawani family. Its activities spread in the entire Muslim and Christian world. It is providing aid, grants and scholarships. It is also known as a publishing Organisation of many religious books. Ebrahim did not believe in publication of traditional books and short cuts to heaven. He felt that to attract the modern, intellectual Muslims and non-Muslims towards Islam, it was necessary to converse with them in their own language and at their own intellectual level. He therefore, published books which would attract such persons towards serious study of Islam.

Some of the books which became well-known include The Bible, The Quran and The Science by a French writer. The Wakf has reprinted more than a dozen editions of its English translation and distributed free copies world wide. One more important publication is The Gospel of Barnabas. Only two copies of the original Gospel remained in the world and the Wakf discovered one of these copies in the library of American Congress and printed more than 100,000 copies to distribute free of cost in the Western World. The third book is Jesus, A Prophet of Islam, by Muhammad Ataur Rahim.

During the last three decades Ayesha Bawani Wakf has published a total of 51 titles in English, Urdu, Gujrati and Sindhi languages. Nearly all books have seen more than one edition and some of them were published ten and twelve times. Hundreds of thousands of these books have been distributed free all over the world.

'Muslim News International' was one more example of the campaign carried on by this mujahid. He started this monthly magazine with the aim of providing news and views of the Muslim nations and peoples to the world.

The printing and publishing of the magazine was shifted to Karachi. The Government of Pakistan occasionally created problems which Ebrahim Bawani courageously faced, refusing co-operation. Ultimately, difficulties increased to such an extent that 'Muslim News International' ceased publication.

He was called a Mujahid because he actually went on the front lines of areas where Muslims were fighting for their independence, such as Kashmir, Philippines, and Palestine. He collected large amounts from the Arab Sheikhs to purchase arms and ammunitions required by the Muslim freedom fighters, it was on such a mission

Memon Personalities

that he went to Kuala Lumpur, where he breathed his last in his hotel room. His body was brought to Karachi for burial.

Ebrahim Shahbaz

This well-known Gujrati journalist and literary personality earned high reputation in the field of journalism since pre-partition days. He wrote articles, letters etc. in 'Muslim Bulletin', 'Muslim Gujrat', 'Vatan' etc. and, after partition, started publishing his articles and short stories in 'Dawn' Gujrati and 'Vatan' Gujrati. When All Pakistan Memon Federation started 'Memon Bulletin', the responsibility of compiling and publishing was jointly given to Shahbaz and Akhtar, LL. B. Shahbaz continued his honorary service for quite a long time.

Professionally he joined 'Dawn' Gujrati in 1968. In 1992, he became editor of 'Dawn' Gujrati and remained with the newspaper till its closure in 1997. In 1954, he translated in Gujrati a book called 'Tareekh-i-Atkaro Siyasat-e-Islam', written originally by Abdul Waheed Khan. This was published in serial in the daily 'Dawn' Gujrati and became very popular among the readers. Before leaving 'Dawn' Gujrati, for the first time he handled religious section of the newspaper. And after rejoining he also handled various other sections of the newspaper like 'Patra Milan', 'Nit Naveen' and various other sections.

Besides translating a book of Mufti Muhammad Shafi Saheb on Seerat, he has also translated the first volume of 'Tafheemut Quran' of Maulana Maududi. These were also published in serial in daily 'Dawn' Gujrati. Later on Muhammadi Publication published his book 'Khatmul Ambia', and Jamat-i-Islami published his translation of the 'Tafliemul Quran.' With the co-operation of Akhtar, LL.B. he wrote a book on Hajj 'Why and How' in Gujrati which was published in several editions as it was very much liked by the readers. As regards history of the Memons, his views became debatable and controversial. He forcefully refuted the belief about the conversion of the Memons from Hindu Lohanas as well as the period and venue of the conversion of the Memons to Islam. Presently Mr. Shahbaz is writing a book on the Memons

He started his career as a social worker before partition. From his native place he established Young Men's Association to start fighting against social evils of the community. This association also established a library to boost the interests of the Memons towards reading. In spite of the ban on political activities in his native state of Jamnagar, he continued the movement of Muslim League and was successful in enrolling about 100 members from his tiny village. When Bengal was struck by famine, he collected funds for relief work. After migration he took part in the activities of the Halari Memon Jamaat as well as became member of All Pakistan Memon Federation Working Committee. In this capacity he travelled

Memon Personalities

extensively in the interior of Sindh along with other members. Later, due to physical disability, he retired from the social field and confined himself to literary work only. He was the first convener of All Pakistan Memon Federations Industrial Home Marketing Centre and earlier was a member of Administration Committee of Adamjee Boarding House. Through hard work and exhaustive studies, he acquired competent command of Urdu, English, Marathi, Marwari, Sindhi, Hindi, and Gujrati languages.

His father Muhammad Qasim was the General Secretary of the Halari Memon General Jamaat. Continuous, meticulous and exhaustive research work carried out by Mr. Shahbaz for a period of nearly one year helped to an extent in writing this book. He has a reference library and he went through monthly issues of 'Memon Alam' published for the last forty years.

Essa A. Ghani Punjwani

Dr. Eisa played an important role in rendering welfare activities to the social institutions in medical field. He extended personal help to poor patients by giving them free medical treatment without any discrimination of caste or creed. He died at a young age of 39. He was a very pious and God-fearing person.

Fahmida Hussain

Dr. Fahmida Hussain has been teaching at Sindhi Department of University of Karachi for more than two decades. A noted scholar, whose father was also a scholar having translated DIWANE HAFIZ IN SINDHI, and her brother, Sirajul Haq Memon being a well-known intellectual and journalist, she heads Shah Abdul Lateef Chair at the University of Karachi.

Farooq A. Sattar

Though Memons have migrated from India to Pakistan, they neither look nor are classified or accepted as Muhajirs. However, Dr. Farooq Sattar started his political career by joining Mohajir Qaumi Movement (Now Muttahida Qaumi Movement), a political Organisation of Mohajirs. He was born in Karachi in 1959. He matriculated from BVS Parsi School and after passing Intermediate examination in first division, he did his MBBS. Right from student days, he was associated with All Pakistan Mohajir Students Organisation, Students Wing of MQM, and was elected its Joint Secretary.

Memon Personalities

He was elected councillor of KMC from the constituency of Pir Ilahi Bux Colony and was elected Mayor of Karachi. He was the 23rd Mayor of the city at the age of 29. He was returned from two seats simultaneously in the elections for the National Assembly in 1988 as a candidate of Haq Parast Group of MQM. Farooq Sattar was once again elected member of the Sindh Assembly. In 1997, he was elected both to the National and the Provincial Assembly. But he gave up his seat in the National Assembly. He was appointed Senior Minister in the Provincial Cabinet of Sindh. Besides his involvement in politics, he is also active on the social front.

Farooq Akbani

This young and upcoming cardiologist is all out to serve the needy and poor patients in the lower middle class areas of Karachi. With his friend Rauf Essa, he has started Memon Youth League in Federal-B-Area of Karachi where concessive and even free medical aid is provided for various ailments. They have an updated laboratory, X-ray department, E.C.G., Ultrasound and other facilities. They are about to acquire suitable land in the area to expand their activities with financial aid from Memon philanthropists. They specialise in the treatment of diabetes.

Farzana Qasim Lawai

Mrs. Farzana daughter of Jan Muhammad Moon and is wife of Qasim Moosa Lawai. She started working as silent social worker at Safura Bai Memon Girls Boarding House since 1975 along with his Father in law Haji Moosa Lawai. Currently she is the Convenor of Boarding House Committee since 1999. She is also member of Raunaq-e-Islam Schools and The Pakistan Memon Women Educational Society.

Farzana Usman

Dr. Farzana Usman lost her eyesight at a very early age but continued her studies. She was able to obtain a Masters degree and after that she also received her Ph.D. degree. She may be called the "Helen Keller" of Pakistan.

G.D. Usman

He rose to become Finance Secretary of Sindh and also Advisor for education to the Governor of Sindh with his office in the Governor House. He was popular all over Sindh and was one of the Vice Presidents of United Memon Jamaat. He was also a member of the Governing Body of Dawood Engineering College for a long period.

Ghulam Muhammad Fecto

He started his trading business in Dacca, East Pakistan. In Karachi, he secured the agency of tractors in which he did well.

He became President of All Pakistan Memon Federation. Within three days of his election, on 7th March, in Lahore at a public function he announced a donation of Rs. 5 million on behalf of the Fecto Group to establish a polytechnic institute and an institute for the invalid and mentally retarded children. This was the occasion when the opening of his own tractor company was being performed by President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq. He is a known industrialist having started sugar mills and a cement plant.

H.A. Ghani

He started a magazine Gujrati Digest, a unique Gujrati magazine, of which he was editor. With full co-operation of Gujrati writers, he contributed thought-provoking articles about various countries and on various other subjects in the digest.

Habib Haji Peer Muhammad

He was one of three big guns from Bantva-Haji Adam, Hussain Seth and Haji Habib Pir Muhammad were the three wealthiest Memon business men from Bantwa with business activities spread all over India. Haji Habib was born in 1895. Since his father died early, he was not able to complete even his primary education and had to join his father's business which spread far and wide. Besides being one of the top most businessmen,

Memon Personalities

He was very service-minded and his generosity was also second to none. In donating generous amounts, he matched with the top contributors in the field of education and health care. When he heard about the plight of refugees leaving India, he instructed British India Steamship Company with which he had big business, to debit his personal account for the tickets of those refugees leaving for Karachi who could not afford to pay their fare. He also arranged sufficient ration at all the exit points from India to Karachi. He was considered a King of food grains in which business he had expertise which was matchless.

It is believed that the Government of India through its First High Commissioner in Pakistan sent him a message that the Government of India would be very happy if he would go back to India and continue his business in food grains. However, Haji Habib refused to go back to India and decided to stay in Pakistan.

Habib Lakhani

He was a prolific writer, dedicated and devoted to his profession. With petty means and meagre returns for his writings published in Gujrati language, this enthusiastic writer would go to the extent of selling his shirt for publishing his books. He was connected with Gujrati 'Dawn', 'Watan', 'Memon Alam' etc. as a regular contributor. He has written many books including the biography of Sir Adamjee, History of Memons. He is also the author of another book giving details of notable Memons.

In spite of his ill health, advanced age and loss of sight, he would undertake journeys to far flung areas of Sindh and interview people. He undertook journeys to India to attend a Conference of Hindu sub-caste Lohanas, where, supposedly as a convert from Lohana caste, he was received, welcomed and honoured in many towns and cities of India. He came in contact with Gujrati writers and scholars of Gujrat, India. He was one of the highly respected persons in his field.

Amongst other writers mention must be made of Munshi Dhorajivi, Younus Qais, Yahya Bawani, Usman Kamiani, Ashraf Lateef, Ahmed Ali Pothiwala and others. All of them have contributed through their writings in Gujrati and Urdu languages. Many press photographers including Ghaffar Gadit and others, have also made substantial contributions.

Habib Tar Muhammad

The late Habib Tar Muhammad was one of the leading businessmen in India. He continued his business activities in Pakistan also. He was one of those philanthropists who shunned publicity. He was one of the rich Memons in Karachi and it would be interesting to know that a leading Bank sent a representative to Habib Seth to find why he never borrowed money from banks. In a light hearted manner, Habib Seth asked what rate of interest the bank would charge if he asked for a loan of a couple of million rupees. The representative immediately said six per cent per annum. Habib Seth took out his cheque book and asked the banker how much money the bank would borrow at the rate of 4 per cent per annum and signed blank cheque and passed it on to the banker. This incident is an indication of his wealth and reputation. His sons, Haji Siddique, Haji Usman, Haji Razzak and Haji Ghaffar, though separated, continued the family tradition.

Haji Essa Kutchi

Haji Essa Kutchi is a known social worker, busy with activities of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He also keeps writing in the newspapers

Haji Hashim Haji Ahmed

Haji Hashim Haji Ahmed enjoyed prominent position amongst the philanthropists. His charities extended to health, education and social welfare through Haji Hashim Foundation and Muhammad Usman Memorial Foundation. He gave generous donations to several institutions, Islamic Educational Centres, Darul Uloom and Mosques particularly to Darul Uloom Tando Allah Yar, United Memon Jamaat, New Memon Masjid, National College, Karachi University, Hussain Yateemkhana, Darul Uloom, New Town, Darul Uloom, Korangi, Quran Society, Jama Mosque of Jacob Lines, Faran Club, and others. He regularly gave financial help to various institutions. He was settled in Karachi even before partition. After the death of his learned son Usman, he established Usman Memorial Hospital and Usman Institute of Engineering and Technology which were established at a cost of tens of millions of rupees. His son, Usman, who had all the qualities of becoming a community leader was a very intelligent and brilliant person.

Haji Moosa Lawai

Haji Moosa S/o. Haji Wali Muhammad Lawai was born on 1st January 1918 at Bantva, he started his social activities since younger age, he was Hon. Gen. Secretary of Veraval Timber Market Association in Veraval until 1949. He has contributed his services to help Immigrant Memon Families from India to Pakistan through Veraval Port at the time of partition of India

After migration from India he started his own native business of timber at Timber Market at Karachi, soon he was selected Hon. Gen. Secretary of Timber Market and rendered his services for long time, he was also member of managing committee of Federation of Chamber of commerce.

His other social services started from 1952 when along with Mr. Suleman Bhura, he founded Madressa –E- Islamia Schools at (1) Khori Garden, (2) G. Allana Road (3) Kharadar and (4) F.B. Area for boys under the Management of Memon Educational Board. He remain Hon. Gen. Secretary and Vice President for 45 years till his expiry.

He remains as Hon. Gen. Secretary of Bantva Memon Jamat in it's earlier stage for long time and introduced revolutionary changes for the benefit's of society in this organization. He was also Hon. Gen. Secretary and Vice President of Bantva Anjuman Himayate Islam, Bantva Memon Khidmet Committee, Moosa Lawai Foundation and Bantva Rahat Committee.

His real services are for the benefits of orphan and helpless minor girls, when he started Safurabai Memon Girls Boarding House for orphan and helpless girls with the help of some friends and specially Mr. Haji Muhammad Umer Tayub T, (a renowned philanthropist from Bantva who had donated a bungalow measuring 2300 square yards at PECHS Karachi) under the Management of Bantva Educational Society. He remains lifetime President of the society till his last breath.

Haji Moosa Lawai has rendered his life for the benefits of poor and needy persons specially students and orphan girls from Memon community. Daily visit at schools and girls boarding house till the age of 80 years has given us the lesson that social services has no retirement age. He always was of the view and he always quote as follows:

Memon Personalities

- (1) Do not stop working until last breath.
- (2) Blessings from help less persons add life and strength in the body and soul.
- (3) Social workers have no retirement age.

He has written a book named “ Akse Bantva “ and “Reflections of Bantva”, recently published by his son Mr. Qasim Lawai in Urdu and English language through Moosa Lawai Foundation.

After long social services he expired on 20th October 1997 leaving behind same quality son Mr. Qasim Lawai who is looking after and managing all leftover work started by him along with other new organizations, with the hope that he will not only keep the pace of work started by the father on right track but will keep it at its highest level.

Haji Samad Pardesi

Haji Samad is a Philanthropist from Kutiana. He has his business all over Africa and Pakistan. Bbbb

Haji Ahmed Parekh

As a young girl, her father Ali Bhai Javeri took her with him in the mid-twenties to London where she had her primary and secondary education. She had to leave her studies because of the conservative members of the family in India considered her secondary education more than enough. After her marriage with Ahmad Moosa Parekh, the couple settled in Rajkot when Mr. Parekh started a modern department store, Mr. Parekh was wellconnected with most ruling states and British Official stationed in Rajkot. Hajrabai mixed with ladies from the elite class and started a purdah school for Muslim girls and adult females.

After migrating to Pakistan, she joined APWA and was also close to Mohtarma Fatima Jinnah. Later, with the support of Begum Khan Abdul Qayoom Khan she, along with leading women social workers like Begum A. Hafiz, Mrs. Zubeida Habib Rahimtoola and others, collected funds to construct about 100 quarters to be given away to poor refugess free of cost. This colony is known as Hajrabad.

Memon Personalities

She is founder member of the Memon Women Association and Gujrati Women Association.

Hameed Chapra

A fire brand newsman, capable of calling a spade a spade even if it means loss of job or going to jail. He is associated with Urdu and English eveningers and is a popular journalist. He is an active member of the Press Club of which he was an office bearer and President.

Hanif Adamji

Eldest son of Mr. A. Wahid Adamjee and eldest grandson of Sir Adamjee, he spent most of his life in the former East Pakistan till Bangladesh came into existence. At present he is the Chairman of Adamjee Insurance Co., the biggest insurance company of Pakistan. In addition, he is a director of many companies which are multinationals. He has served as President of the prestigious Sindh Club of Karachi and for many years has remained President of All Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society for the cause of which he has devoted time, and managed the society's finances

Hanif Jooma

Widow of the late Surgeon O.V Jooma and mother of Surgeon Rashid Jooma, this lady is well-known for her paintings. She holds her exhibitions worldwide and has gained international recognition. She is also a social worker and has rendered valuable services for the social welfare of the underprivileged.

Hanif Janoo

Son of Haji Razzak Janoo, this young gentleman also served as President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and in that capacity represented the Chamber on many social, educational and trade organisations. He continue in the footsteps of his father and holds regular medical eye camps in Karachi and interior of Sindh.

Hanif Haji Tayyab

Mr. Hanif Tayyab was educated in Madrassa-e- Islamia School No.2, Kharadar, Karachi. After matriculation, he was admitted to D.J. Science College but later opted for arts and got masters degree in Islamic Studies from Karachi University. He also received LL.B. degree from Urdu Law College, but he did not go for the legal profession. He preferred the field of social service and politics. He established Anjuman-e-Tulba-e-Istam and served as its General Secretary. He also worked for Maulana Abdul Sattar Edhi. He joined Jamiat-e-Ulemai Islam and served as General Secretary of the Karachi branch. In 1975, he was elected a member of the Provincial Assembly and in 1977, he was elected to the National Assembly. In 1983, he was elected on the seat reserved for workers of Karachi Municipal Corporation. In 1985, he formed Nizam-e-Mustafa Party and also became its Convener.

He was elected member of the National Assembly in the non-party elections held in 1985. In 1985, he became Federal Minister. His portfolios were changed from time to time but he continued as a minister. He took part in a number of international conferences and travelled to Indonesia, Kenya, India, Iran and Saudi Arabia. For three ten-ns he was elected President of Pakistan Memon Federation. However, he rendered his services under the banner of Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust to the people of Pakistan.

Hanif S. Kalia

He is a financial expert, a social worker and a community leader. Besides being one of the pioneers in foreign exchange business with several offices in Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, he is closely in contact with banking and financial institutions. He is the President of Memon Professional Forum rendering services in the field of social welfare. He donates large amounts and gives time to the social service activities. He is also a good writer and frequently writes articles, brochures, and booklets. He is the chief executive, Kalia Group, Karachi; Kalia Corporation; Kalia Computer Service; Khanani and Kalia International Limited. He is a member

Memon Personalities

of the Management Association of Pakistan. He is also Director of Global Network Limited and associated with various other organisations.

He is patron-in-chief of Forex Association of Pakistan, Memon Graduate Association, Memon Book Foundation, Karachi Youth Management Organisation, and is associated with educational, child welfare and similar other organisations.

Haroon Aag

A dedicated worker who, suffered at the hands of the Indian army which invaded Junagadh. After partition, he played important role in the social service field. Politically, he was a supporter of late Mr. Suharwardy. He was elected as a Basic Democrat in 1965.

Haroon Adamjee Seja

He was a leading social figure in Hyderabad. He served as Vice President of All Pakistan Memon Federation and was associated with Hyderabad Hospital. He was a member of T.B. Association of Hyderabad, Citizens Committee, Advisor Private Schools Association and was appointed J.P. He died on 14th August 1998.

Haroon Ahmed

Mr. Haroon Ahmed is a known political figure, having courted imprisonment during the Martial Law regime. He was involved in promoting co-operative housing societies. At present Haroon has retired to the life of a recluse. He has named his farm house in Malir Peace Heaven'. He is the Head of Pakistan-Bharat Friendship Society. He is a bold and courageous person.

Haroon Suriya

A graduate from Junagadh, he got his law degree from Boriibay University. He developed interest in public service and always preferred that field to business or legal profession. He was the founder member of Dhoraji Association and All Llakistan Memon Federation. He was also associated with Motamir-e-Alam-e-Islami.

Hassan Ali Effendi

English language was considered a Satanic dialect and the Muslims were not ready to learn that language with the result that earlier Persian and later on Sindhi, became the official languages of the province of Sindh. Taking advantage of this, the Hindus started learning English language, and having been previously adept at Sindhi, Persian, and Arabic languages, they monopolised government jobs at least at the top and middle levels. The late Mr. Hassan Ali Effendi, born on 14th August 1830, in an Akhund Memon family of Hyderabad, was a scholar of Qur'an and Persian language. He also learned English to become a clerk in the Deputy Collector's Office at Naushehro Feroz. Here he came in touch with a Christian colleague from whom he learned advanced English. He came in contact with the then Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Middleton, at Sindh Chief Court, on whom he left a good and favourable impression. The justice later appointed Mr. Effendi Serishtedar. Here he got an opportunity to study and learn legal process and was able to get a Sanad (Certificate) to officiate as a lawyer. Soon, his brilliant exposition of legal acumen enabled him to be appointed Public Prosecutor, the first local person to be appointed to this post. Before him only Englishmen were appointed to this post. Having established himself in his profession, he diverted his attention towards social welfare services to Muslims. For this purpose he established Anjuman-e-Istam, Karachi, and became its President. The object of the Anjuman was to protect the rights of Muslims and to spread education amongst them.

Later on, Mr. Effendi met Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and discussed with him the desperate situation of Sindhi Muslims and disclosed his plans to set up a high school in Karachi. Sir Syed encouraged him by advising him to upgrade the school to college and university level. Like Sir Syed, Effendi also had to face hostility from orthodox Muslim scholars and their followers. To counter the resistance of orthodox Muslim scholars he started publishing a magazine "Muwan-e-Majlis-e-Muhammadi". Another hurdle was shortage of funds. For collection of funds, delegations were sent to Muslim Nawabs and rulers of different States. The Nizam of Hyderabad donated Rs. 4000/-, the Nawab of Junagadh Rs. 10,000/- and also offered facilities of teaching Muslims from Sindh at Bahauddin College, Junagadh, free of cost. After great efforts, a few rooms were constructed on the site with a very small number of students attending the English classes. After a few years, some land was acquired from the Municipality on which a spacious building was constructed in 1890 for Sindh Madrassatul Islam which still exists. Thus, after suffering immense humiliation, anguish, hardship, abuses and resistance, Mr. Effendi achieved his objectives in establishing this educational institution in Sindh.

Memon Personalities

His role and struggle is historic. The title Effendi was conferred on him by the Turkish Caliph.

The two sons of Mr. Effendi, Waii Muhammad and Ali Muhammad, who were in the government service, gave him full support and Wali Mohamad gave up government service to become the first Principal of the Sindh Madrassatul Islam, even though its future was uncertain.

Several renowned figures of the Muslim community acquired their education in this historical institution including Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Father of the Nation, Mr. Abdullah Haroon, Sir Shahnawaz Bhutto, Allama I.I. Kazi. The Madrassa had British as well as Muslim Principals like Dr. Omar Bin Daudpota, Wati Muhammad Hassan Ali and others.

Hassan Ali A. Rehman

Mr. Hasan Ali A. Rahman rendered valuable services in the field of education. Mr. Hasan Ali A. Rahman was principal law college Karachi and also the President of the administration board of Sindh Madrasatul Islam. He was the brother of (Justice) Tufail Ali

Hussain Adam Dhamia

He was in the front ranks of the educated leaders of the Memon community but he always preferred to remain in the background, because he was averse to self-projection and personal publicity. He served the community for fifty years during which period he had to face opposition.

Hussain Ebrahim Jamal

Elder brother of Latif Ebrahim Jamal, he always felt a pinch due to his incomplete education and for that reason he took keen interest in educational activities throughout his life. In 1928, he went to Africa at the age of 14 and joined his uncle's business. He started business dealings in cashew nuts. He returned to Bombay where he made rapid progress in business and in a very short span of time he acquired the status of one of the leading exporters and importers. He also entered business of jute bags. He became very close to Sir Adamjee Dawood. He started large scale business of cashew nuts and was later termed as the king of

Memon Personalities

cashew nuts in India. At that time he was only 30 years old. He earned fame and credit in public life. His social activities were spread in Bombay, Baroda, Okha and Calcutta. He was a member of the Provincial Muslim League Working Committee in Bombay, a member of the Managing Committee of Memon Chamber of Commerce, Bombay. He was made Justice of Peace by the Governor of Bombay in recognition of his extraordinary services.

He took keen interest in All Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society, Dwarka Boarding House and Baroda Boarding House. He extended financial aid to many institutions including religious institutions.

During the influx of refugees from Okha Port to Karachi, his services and donations were notable. He migrated to Pakistan and started his relief activities with the establishment of Memon Relief Committee for providing assistance to the refugees reaching Khokhrapar and other points from India. He started schools in Nayababad and Khadda with large donations. He played active part in the establishment of All Pakistan Memon Federation. During his life time he desired to donate an amount of Rs.5 million to start a polytechnic for which a lot of spade work was done but the same amount perhaps was diverted, after his death, for financing HEJ Research Institute of Chemistry at the University of Karachi. He was a kind-hearted gentleman of upright character. A foundation, named Hussain Foundation, was established by his family members in his memory. In all rehabilitation and welfare services he donated generously. To mark his generous donations a portion of Memon Colony in Federal 'B'Area is named as Hussainabad. He served as President of All Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society. He died in London in 1972.

Hussain Kassim Dada (Seth)

Born in Bantva in 1867, he went to school at the age of nine and studied up to the school level certificate which was up to seventh class in Gujrati.

His father had a small stationery shop. Young Hussain became a teacher at a school in Bantva and earned Rs. 3/- per month. After one year, he taught in another village as an acting head master at a monthly salary of Rs. 12/-. In 1894, he accepted a job which took him to towns in South India and finally joined in the service of Suleman Kasim Mitha at Tellicherry selling salt for the employer. Having worked for Mitha, he decided to start an independent venture in the same line and in the same place with a loan from his previous employer. Luck favoured him and in the very first year he made a profit of Rs. 3000/-.

Memon Personalities

Later on he expanded his business in other towns of Kerala state. His success was due to low expenses, hard work, a low margin of profit and a large turn over. Nothing succeeds like success. He was able to extend his business in many places of India, Burma, Ceylon, French Indo-China, Singapore and Siam. By that time he was a successful and well-known big businessman dealing in most items like food grains, cotton yarn, jute and related items. He was now Hussain Seth. He shifted his head office to Bantva.

Now he started to devote his time in the field of community service also. He had an eye for constructing houses, taking care of wind and light direction and constructed many buildings in his family complex. He became the Chairman of the Reception Committee of the first Memon Conference held in Rajkot. Many British dignitaries, ruling princes and the Quaid-c-Azam also stayed with him as his house guest

Coming to Pakistan at an age of eighty, he purchased new properties and created a family trust. His interest in designing buildings and supervising their construction helped him to construct suitable homes for his family members.

Having a soft spot for orphans, he started one orphanage in Karachi also for which he created a special trust with an amount of Rs one million.

A most remarkable incident worth emulating but very difficult to follow was that though his properties in India were taken over by the Indian Government, under evacuee laws it served a notice upon him for income tax dues of Rs. 5 million. This remarkable man, true to his Memon spirit, arranged to pay this amount to the Indian Government.

This writer had the privilege to meet this grand old man when he had lost his eye-sight but visited the fan-n owned by the family of the author. Mr. Dada dressed in simple dervesh like dress would spend more than an hour each time he visited the Malir farm and on leaving the farm he would take back with him cans of well-water from the farm. Mr. Dada was really one of the great Memons.

Hussain Lawai

He is a successful banker having headed the Muslim Commercial Bank after its privatisation. He served as Finance Minister for a limited period in 1996. He is on the Board of Directors of various business concerns like PIA and other organisations. Currently he is running Summit Bank Ltd.

Ibrahim Kassim

Originally a Chartered Accountant, he takes pride in admitting that after matriculation, he started his career as a teacher in a night school in 1960s. After qualifying as Chartered Accountant in 1966 he joined a British pharmaceutical company as Cost Accountant and later became Chief Accountant, Finance Manager, and Country Manager. In 1971, he started his own business. He owns one of the largest networks of distribution of consumer and pharmaceutical products. Engaged in textile spinning, weaving and processing business, he has entered the field of biscuit manufacturing as well.

He is a founder member of the Memon Professional Forum of which he has been President for two terms. He is a member of the working committee of the All Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society, Council member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan for two terms of seven years. He was also Council Member of Marketing Association of Pakistan for two terms of six years. At present he is the Vice President of Consumer and Pharmaceutical Distributors Association of Pakistan and a trustee of Memon Professional Forum. He is a kind hearted, co-operative and polite person and is available for social service in spite of his very busy schedule.

Ibrahim Supediwala

Haji Ibrahim is an active and notable social worker and Memon leader from Bombay. Born in Dhoraji in 1932, he is in big business of hardware,. He has established engineering goods plant which is a gigantic industrial unit. He donates generously out of the income derived from his trade. He has been the President of All India Memon Jamaat Federation, a trustee of the World Memon Foundation and a popular leader of Bombay and Gujrat State.

He intends to hold an international Memon conference in the year 2000.

Ilyas Gadit

He is the editor of Gujrati evening paper 'Watan' and a noted writer and translator.

Iqbal Sakrani(Sir)

He has permanently settled in London. His services to the Memons and Asians in general are very well-recognised and the Queen of England in 1999 conferred on him the title of O.B.E.

Ishaq Sobhani

The name of this Memon should be written in letters of gold in the history of freedom movement of the sub-continent. If formation of Indian National Army under Subhas Chandra Bose was the beginning of the end of British Rule in India, then revolt of the Indian officers and ratings of the British Indian Navy in Bombay was the last nail in the coffin. One of the top leaders of the revolt was Commander Ishaq Sobhani, a Memon youth. For several days Bombay city slipped out of the hands of the police administration under British officers. Indian naval officers and Ratings were in the command of city. This writer was a witness to these scenes.

Ismail Abrehani

Born in Junagadh in 1895, Mr. Abrehani graduated from Bombay University. He came to Karachi only once on 11th August, 1947 i.e. three days before the creation of Pakistan, for deliberation with the Quaid-e-Azam. He stayed in Karachi for only one day and returned to Junagadh immediately. The decision of accession of Junagadh to Pakistan was taken after consultation with Sir Muhammad Zafarullah and the Quaid-e-Azam himself. This decision was confirmed by the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan and the Quaid-e-Azam himself in his capacity as the Governor-General of Pakistan. Two persons who played an important role in getting Junagadh's accession to Pakistan were Sardar Abrehani and the well-known scholar Kazi Ahmed Mian Akhtar. Abrehani was the only person to stand firmly against heavy odds which surrounded Junagadh after its accession to Pakistan. He was arrested and put behind bars for a considerably long period of time.

He was Deputy Prime Minister and Private Secretary to the Nawab of Junagadh as well as the Head of the Education Department of the Junagadh State. Before joining the Junagadh State, Mr. Abrehani had worked in Memon firms in India as well as in Burma. But these services did not suit his self-respecting nature. He had always thought about the betterment of the people of Junagadh due to which he was given the title of 'Sardar' by the public of Junagadh.

Memon Personalities

The Indian administration, after taking over Junagadh State, asked Mr. Abrehani to give some surety or guarantee that he will remain in Junagadh as a citizen of India. He boldly replied "Sureties and guarantees are demanded from the culprits, criminals, thieves and robbers. First of all, please tell me what sin I have committed. After that we may talk of Sureties". Mr. Abrehani was once offered release from jail. if he agreed to leave the territory of Junagadh State in Kathiawar. His reply was, as usual, bold and fearless: "NEVER. I would prefer to die in Junagadh which is a part of Pakistan."

Unfortunately, the Government of Pakistan has forgotten such a brave, fearless and dedicated Memon of upright character. In 1970, Mr. Abrehani breathed his last in Junagadh which he always called part of Pakistan. He was given the title of 'The Lion of Sorath'.

Ismail Essa Zakaria

He was one of the founder members of the Memon Medical Society. He was one of the companions of Mr. Junani in starting a small dispensary which, later on, grew into a sixstoried hospital. His family took part in Muslim League activities. He was a very silent social worker and worked hard without seeking public attention.

Ismail Haji Zakaria

Before partition, in Calcutta, there was a company namely 'A Rahim Usman & Company' which was very prominent in sugar and rice business. They had a sugar factory at Motipur (Bihar), which was considered number two sugar factory in India. After partition, some of the brothers migrated to Pakistan and started the business in Karachi under the name and style of 'Rahmania Trading Company', which was later on converted by the partners into separate companies, one of which was under the name and style of Noori Trading Corporation (Private) Limited, and the other in the names of 'Rahimi Limited' in Karachi and 'Rahimani Company' and 'Rahimi Limited' in East Pakistan. Noori Trading Corporation (private) Limited expanded business as industrial group which is known presently as 'Al-Noor Group of Companies' which consists of: Noori Trading Corporation (private) Limited (parent company), Al-Noor Sugar Mills Limited, (presently a public limited company, Shah Murad Sugar Mills Limited (presently a public limited industrial company), Al-Noor Fertiliser Industries Limited, Al-Noor M.D.F.B. Industries Limited Subsidiary Industrial concern under Al-Noor Sugar Mills Limited. (This industry is presently producing medium density fibre board sheets known as 'LASANI' wood, Associated Corporation (private) Limited (This Company is working as builders and construction company).

Memon Personalities

The main office of this group is situated in Karachi. Al-Noor Sugar Mills Limited is at Shahpur Jehania, Moro (District Nawabshah) and Shah Murad Sugar Mills Limited is at Jhok Sharif (District Thatta). Al-Noor MDFB is also in Shahpur Jehania, Moro. The Chairman of this industrial group of companies is Mr. Ismail Haji Zakaria.

Ismail Jiwani

He was a popular community leader in Hyderabad till the age of over a hundred years. His interest in the field of social service continued even from his bedroom. Persons like M. A. Rangoonwala, Wahid Adamjee and others went from Karachi to Hyderabad to meet this grand old man to seek his advice and blessings. In fact, he was a father-figure to guide, advise and encourage the young generation of service minded persons. He was one of the founders of Hyderabad Memon Charitable Hospital in the establishment, expansion and success of which he played a noteworthy role. In the days when the hospital faced financial crisis, he went to philanthropists in Karachi and was able to collect funds. Through the Memon Anjuman, he took leading part in establishing and running an educational institution.

Having led a fruitful life in the social service sphere his regret was that the entire Memon Beradri was never able to carry out social activities under a central leadership. He died at the age of 103.

Ismail Lashkerwala

Dr. Ismail is one of the notable social workers of Hyderabad. Because of his services he was appointed to many Government committees in Hyderabad. A noted social worker leader, past Governor of Lions Club International, Dr. Ismail is service-minded medical practitioner. Presently he is living in Karachi and is honorary administrator of Jamal Noor Hospital.

Ismail Muhammad (South Africa)

Mr. Justice Ismail Muhammed though not a Pakistani national, has raised the image of the whole Memon community. He has become number one in the field of judiciary of a country which till recently was under the yoke of apartheid. Mr. Justice Ismail Muhammad was born in London in 1931. He is a nephew of Dr. Jossab Ibrahim, OMSG. The eldest son amongst six children, he matriculated in Pretoria, completed his B. A. at the University of Witwatersrand, and a year later he

Memon Personalities

did his B. A. Honours in Political Science with distinction. He completed his law in 1957 and was admitted to Johannesburg Bar because the Pretoria Bar was reserved for Whites only. When arguing appeals in Bloemfontein he was forced to leave across the border before dusk because of the ban on the presence of Asians in the Province to stay over night. Mr. Justice Ismail built extensive practice and in 1974 he became the country's first Black Silk from whose ranks judges of the Supreme Court were traditionally chosen.

He concentrated on human rights and appeared in numerous trials on behalf of leading anti-apartheid activists. In spite of his seniority at the Bar he was passed over on several occasions for judicial appointments with the result that he served as judge in neighbouring countries instead. He was appointed to the Appeals Court in Swaziland and as a Judge of Appeals in Lesotho. He later became chief justice of Namibia. He also co-chaired the conference for a democratic South Africa which eventually negotiated a democratic

Constitution for the country. In 1991, he was appointed permanent judge of South Africa. Two years later he was appointed acting judge of the Appellate Division. In 1994, he was appointed by President Mandela to serve on the country's first constitutional court. Because of major heart surgery, he missed the appointment to be president of the constitutional court for which he was strongly tipped and had to accept its deputy presidency.

He has published many articles in law journals and lectured on human rights and jurisprudence at several institutions and universities throughout the world. He was made an honorary professor of law at Wits University in 1960 and received honorary doctorate in law from the Universities of Delhi, India and Natal, South Africa.

On May 18, 1992 he was awarded honorary degree of Doctor of Laws which was awarded by the University of Pennsylvania along with another Noble laureate Dr. Penzias. Most US newspapers gave prominent coverage to the thought-provoking address by Mr. Justice Ismail Muhammad to the University of Pennsylvania on the occasion of his getting honorary doctorate of Laws. In 1996, he was appointed Chairman of South Africa Law Commission, a statutory body which reviews and initiates legislation in the country. At the end of 1997 when the Chief Justice Michael Corbett retired, and voting was held for electing the new Chief Justice, Mr. Ismail Muhammad got 15 votes whereas only one vote was received by a White Judge, Mr. Justice Hennie Van Heerden, that of the outgoing Chief Justice.

Jan Muhammad Daga

He was associated with a trading firm dealing in textiles. During the 1971 war with India, he provided relief to about 200 families which became victims of Indian bombing in Lyari area.

Jan Muhammad Dawood Kidvavi

(Janu Vakil)

He is a seasoned politician, lawyer, academician and a well-known social worker famous as Janu Vakil. First matriculate in the Bantva Memon community, he joined Bahauddin College for further education and graduated from Madras University. After graduation, for ten years, he did odd jobs and eventually completed his law study. After graduating in law from Sindh University, he set-up his legal practice. In Bantva, he was one of the few persons who were staunch supporters of the enforcement of Muslim laws. He had come to Karachi before partition. In 1940, the Quaid-e-Azam came to Karachi in connection with some judicial matters. A reception was held in honour of the Quaid-e-Azam and Mr. Jan Mohammad Kodvavi read the welcome address at the house of Sir Abdullah Haroon.

He translated Shah-jo-Risalo of Shah Abdul Lateef Bhitai in Gujrati and published it at his own expense. In spite of his heavy professional commitments he always spared time for social services. He rendered honorary services as Professor of Law College. Besides English, Urdu, Gujrati, Marathi and Tamil, he is fluent in Persian language also. He has set up a trust in the name of his mother for promotion of education. He has also written three books on law, besides two books about his past memories and experiences. He has also written his autobiography in Gujrati.

Kammu Suleman

The well-decorated and impressive horse cart, which is known as Victoria, was invented by two Memon brothers: Kammu Suleman and Jaffer Suleman. His full name was Haji Karim Muhammad Suleman. He established many charitable institutions like dispensaries and clinics for ladies. He also constructed inns for board and lodging of Hajis coming to Bombay.

Karim Bux Khalid

One of the intellectuals of Sindh, Mr. Karim Bux has written a number of books including the sacred biography of the Holy Prophet (Peace be Upon Him). He is a research scholar in history and has now retired from the government service. He was also the editor of Urdu monthly Izhar and Paigham. These two magazines continued to give information on Sindhi culture, civilisation, literature and folk life.

Kassim Chapra

At a very early age he joined his family timber business in Bombay. He was a keen social worker from teen age. After arrival in Pakistan, he started import and export business and was one of the founders of H. M. Silk Mills Limited and also entered fishing industry. He gave donations to social institutions and became president of Anjuman-e-Falah-oBehbood, Pakistan Memon Jamaat and Modern Educational Society. He was Vice President of World Federation of Islamic Missions. In 1976, the Government of Nepal conferred on him honorary Consulship of Nepal and was later awarded the highest award on behalf of the King of Nepal.

Kassim Habib Khanani

He is a well-known businessman and industrialist. In his college days he edited the college magazine namely, Enterprise. He also served as honorary editor of Menion Bulletiti, the mouthpiece of All Pakistan Memon Federation.

Kassim Haji Umer Mewawala

Mr. Kasim Mewawala was a very active social worker associated with Gohilwar Halai Memon Jamaat and All Pakistan Memon Federation.

Kassim H. K. Dada

Mr. Kassim H. K. Dada, the famous son of an equally famous father, has a versatile personality. His father sent him to Calcutta in 1931 from where he

Memon Personalities

received his education in English, Gujrati, Urdu, religion, Arabic, and Hindi. As a child, Kassim Dada learned to play and enjoy the then popular games and despite being afflicted with polio, he played football, hockey and cricket.

He was a great fan of the famous Mohammadan Sporting Club of Calcutta, and recalls with joy some of the performances of the football team and remembers all the players and their respective positions they played on.

When Lord Inchcap, who controlled shipping companies in India and the Far East, visited Calcutta, Kassim was selected to read the address of welcome at a function held in honour of Lord Inchcap. His ambition was, however, to become a doctor or an engineer but his father decided that he should become a businessman. At the age of 20, he began working in one of the branches in Coimbtore in Kerala in South India.

In Bantva, he came in contact with important persons like the Quaid-e-Azam, who came to collect funds and many others who were house guests of his father. The dressing table that the Quaid used is now one of Kassim's precious possessions. The Grand Mufti of Palestine, Mr. Yousuf Haroon, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed, Haji Sattar Saith, and Sir George Campbell were guests in his house. Begum Sahiba Manavadar State, who was a ruler of the State, used to come to their house and to seek his father's advice on different problems faced by her.

Mr. Kassim had personal relationship with Mr. Zahid Hussain, the first Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan and with Khawaja Nazimuddin, the Governor-General as well as Prime Minister of Pakistan. He had very close family terms with Mohtrama Fatema Jinnah and had several opportunities to meet the Quaid.

Under the influence of Mr. Ismail Muhammad, a very unusual person, and a free thinker, who led a very simple life, Mr. Kassim started washing his own clothes which he has been doing for more than fifty years now. The last time he went to a barber was about 35 years ago. He cuts his own hair. He likes cooking his own food. When he was the head of the Muhammadi Steamship Company, he had a small Volkswagens to set an example for others. While his marriage was an arranged one, he allowed his three children, out of five to marry non-Memons. His only son, Sikandar has obtained B.Sc. (Honors) from London School of Economics and has now more or less taken over the multifarious business responsibilities of Mr. Kassim Dada.

Mr. Kassim has also written a book by the name of A Ranible Through Life. He is also quite good as a shikari, and is interested in pigeon breeding and training them. C, Photography is another hobby which includes developing and printing. He is a lover of Eastern and Western music and plays various musical instruments. He

Memon Personalities

is a globe trotter and once or twice a year he goes around the world, mostly to meet his old friends. He has paid 115 visits to Europe and 42 visits to USA and has been to about hundred countries which include Cuba, South Vietnam, China, USSR, Paraguay, Venezuela, New Zealand, Malta and the Bahamas.

Mr. Kassim is an active Rotarian and has been home guest in many countries with his Rotarian friends and vice versa. His house is open with warm hospitality to many international Rotarians.

He became associated with a shipping company on the advice of the Quaid-e-Azam. He was Chairman and Managing Director of Muhammadi Steamship Company, founder President of the Pakistan Ship Owners Association, Chairman of Pakistan Shipping Lines Limited, Director of State Bank of Pakistan for 24 years. He became the President of Karachi Stock Exchange and remained in that position for nine years. He has also served as President of the Merchants' Association for five years and has served as the Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry. He has also served for five years as President of Pakistan Memon Federation. As a rotarian he has published forty articles and has addressed many meetings and conferences internationally and was awarded the highest award of the Rotary International. He was also President of the Karachi Aero Club and won an award as its best flying member. He was invited to join hands with many foreign companies and served as Chairman of Johnson and Nicholson for some 35 years and he continues to be Chairman of the original Johnson and Nicholson, which is now called Berger Paints. He has been the Chairman of Brooke Bond for 22 years and was chosen to take over its management.

Mr. Kassim is a pioneer in the field of Asbestos Cement Sheets industry. He established three plants in Hyderabad, Karachi and Chittagong. This company is now known as Dadex Eternit Limited.

Mr. Bhutto wanted Mr. Kassim to serve as head of a large state corporation which would have resulted in helping his own business but he refused to accept any position, though earlier he had served on a number of committees of the federal government.

He is one man who has been a nominee of the federal government for 24 years when he was a director of the Central Board of the State Bank of Pakistan. He was the first Pakistani businessman who piloted his own plane and has to his credit 1800 hours of flying experience including 1400 in command. He has piloted planes all over Pakistan and also foreign countries like Switzerland, United Kingdom, France and USA.

Memon Personalities

He was one of the ten invites from Pakistan to the Coronation of the Queen Elizabeth and was awarded Coronation medal. He received Sitara-e-Khidmat from the President of Pakistan and Knighthood from the King of Belgium. In 1954 the International Year Book of Statesmen 'Who is Who' his name was included amongst the list of fewer than half a dozen persons from Pakistan.

Kassim Parekh

This dynamic financial wizard with a computer set memory rose to be the Governor of State Bank of Pakistan, the first Memon whose signature appeared on the currency notes of Pakistan. His family having been associated with the Habib Group, he started life with Habib Bank Limited. He had a sharp and ingenious mind and knew credit-worthiness of all firms dealing with him and approaching him. He could remember each and every customer, remembering the credit line enjoyed by each one including the due date of repayment by those enjoying credit facilities. Starting work an hour before the banking hours and working at his desk till late evening, he was very quick in the disposal of his work. After nationalisation of banks, he first became Chairman of Pakistan Banking Council and later on was appointed Governor of State Bank of Pakistan. He is still actively connected with the Habib Group Banks and is the President of Metropolitan Bank.

Kassim Usman Kandawala

This staunch political supporter of Muslim League was born in Bombay. His father was a famous wholesale trader of potatoes, onions and a leading social worker. Young Usman enjoyed good reputation amongst businessmen, politicians and welfare service fields and was the President of All India Onion and Potato Merchants Association. He started taking part in Muslim League programmes from 1936. He became member of the Managing Committee of All India Muslim League Council and was also member of the Managing Committee of Bombay Provincial Muslim League. In Pakistan, he became the Treasurer of Pakistan Cotton Association and also Treasurer of Memon Relief Committee.

He became member and later President of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry during the Bhutto regime and with courage he publicly expounded the problems and difficulties faced by the business community. The Government appointed him to Pakistan Railways Local Advisory Committee. He was also made Justice of Peace. He was made a member of Industrial Court and Intermediate Board of Education. He continued rendering valuable service to the cause of education. It was a strange coincidence that while returning from Sri Lanka, he

Memon Personalities

broke his journey in Bombay and was offered to stay in the same house which was owned by his father and while sleeping in the room where he was born, he died of a sudden and massive heart attack.

Kulsoom Rafiq Hingora

Her achievements are notable. She is well-known in the field of social service and literary circles. She is a very good orator and her speeches in Urdu are punctuated with couplets from famous Urdu poets. She is also a poetess.

Lala Javery (Shahzada)

In the field of painting this lady was one of the very well-known artists for which she was awarded Pride of Performance.

M. A. Sozar

This scholarly gentleman was the first Honorary General Secretary of All India Memon Educational Welfare Society and remained as such for many years. He played an active part in the establishment of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and had enjoyed full confidence of Sir Adamjee Haji Dawood. He had good command of Gujrati and English languages and was a good writer.

Majeed Suleman Bawani

Hailing from a business family from Jetpur, he settled and carried on business in East Pakistan. After the establishment of Bangladesh, he shifted to Karachi and carried on his business activities besides social services. A very popular and friendly person, he was elected President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industries and before the end of his tenure he died suddenly.

Majyd Aziz

Elected as Chairman of Site Association of Industry, Karachi, both in 1990-91 and 1998-99, Majyd Aziz, is also the President of MHG Group of Companies and is a Member of the Manacning committee ol' Employers' Federation of Pakistan. He

Memon Personalities

has represented Pakistani employers on many international forums and is an authority on Child Labour issues. He was also a Member of the Managing committees of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Pakistan Ready made Garments Manufacturers & Exporters Association, Pakistan Cotton Fashion Apparel Manufacturer & Exporters Association, etc. He is also one of the founders of CPLC. He was nominated three times by the United States government to attend Advance Executive Programmes on Privatisation, Garments Promotion, and Export Market Strategies, in USA. He is the past Chairman of PakistanUSA Trade & Industry Committee of FPCCI. He was the founder President of Karsaz Jaycees and Galaxy of Youth.

Maqsood Ismail

A noted social worker and one of the Directors of Union Biscuits and Manufacturer Limited, he is a pioneer Industrialist in this field. Mr. Maqsood is at present Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mariam Javery (Saeedullh Khan)

Younger sister of Laila Javery, this lady holds exhibitions of her paintings and items of interior decoration. She also helps in promoting the work of junior artists through exhibitions of their pieces of handicrafts, paintings and other artistic works.

Mehar Sultana

This prominent lady earned name and fame in the field of Urdu journalism and literature. In the earlier days even in big cities people were still hesitant about sending their daughters to schools and colleges. She was a voracious reader of books which inspired her to write something. She wrote an article in childhood which was published in a newspaper which provoked the anger of her mother. Therefore, she started writing under a pen-name. She started poetry at the age of 13 and by 1954 her articles, poems and features began to appear in various newspapers and magazines. She compiled Ladies' Page in 'Inqilab' and 'Hindustan', the Urdu dailies from Bombay. She came to Pakistan in 1960 and resumed education and in 1965 she matriculated and later graduated in Arts. Finally, she received her Masters in Journalism. Meanwhile, her literary activities

Memon Personalities

continued. She wrote four novels, one of them is 'Aik Kiran Ujalav Ki' (A Ray of Light) which describes difficulties faced by Memon girls in getting higher education. In 1985, she joined Urdu daily 'Atijain' and thereafter, she started writing for the daily 'Jang' and other Urdu dailies.

Till 1979 she supervised the Ladies page of Jang. She has compiled a book containing interviews of one hundred poetesses. She has also published a collection of her novelette Sukhanwar. Another collection by the name of Dhoop aur Saiban (Sun and Shelter) was published in 1977. She also wrote a book on Allama Iqbal titled Daure Jadid Ki Awaz (The Voice of Modern Era). She also started a magazine "Roop ". She is fluent in Urdu, English, Hindi and Gujrati languages.

Mehmood A. Haroon

He started his political career at the age of 17 as ADC to the Quaid-e-Azam. Whenever the Quaid came to Karachi, he used to take up responsibility of Quaid's bodyguard and remained with him with open sword in his hand. He was appointed "Salar-e-Ala" of Karachi Muslim League National Guard. He was appointed Naib Salar of All India Muslim League National Guard. He also became a member of the Council of the All India Muslim League. He was elected President of Sindh Provincial Muslim League. When West Pakistan was declared as one Unit, he was elected member of the West Pakistan Assembly. In 1953-54 he also served as Mayor of Karachi Municipal Corporation. For the first time in the history of the Municipal Corporation during Mehmood Haroon's tenure, 50% of the budget of the KMC was provided for the Lyari Area

He was very active and keen in providing amenities like roads, water supply, sewerage system, etc. to Lyari area. In 1965, he became Federal Cabinet Minister for Labour. In 1968, he was appointed High Commissioner for Pakistan in Britain. In 1969, he became Minister for Agriculture in the Federal Cabinet. In 1978, he was again taken in the Federal Cabinet as Home Minister. He remained in the Cabinet for six years after which he resigned. In 1988, he was again appointed Minister for Frontier Areas. He became Governor of Sindh in 1990, but resigned soon. But within six months he was again appointed Governor of Sindh and as such he is the only politician who became the Governor of Sindh twice and the only Governor who resigned from that position twice. He is the Chief Executive of Pakistan Herald Publications, the publishers of Dawn and has family interest in some trading and business concerns.

Social and welfare institutions established by his worthy father include Abdullah Haroon Orphanage as well as Schools and Colleges. He supervised the administration of those institutions personally. His welfare activities also included

Memon Personalities

charitable hospital and a vocational centre. The services of the Haroon family for the people of Lyari shall be remembered for a long time.

Mehmood Hassan

During the Pakistan movement he was the editor of Deccan Times. He was also editor of Sudharak magazine, urging the need for reforms and political awareness. He has also served Dawn in its editorial department when it was being published from Delhi as the mouthpiece of the Muslim League.

M. I. Merchant

Mohammed Siddique Ismail Merchant, Bar-at-Law, was more popularly known as M. I. Merchant. Born in 1912, he matriculated with distinction in Persian and Arithmetic and was admitted to St. Xaviers College for further education where he acquired the degree of B. A. (Hons) and came first class first. He received a scholarship from Sir Karim Bhai Ibrahim through Bombay University for studying abroad. He was the first Muslim who got through with such distinction.

He proceeded to England in 1935 and was called to the Bar in 1940. During his academic life he took interest in sports also and was regarded as a good cricketer. During his stay in London he also played for the team of London University. In 1934, he was included in well-known Pentagonal Tournaments in Muslim Team. After coming to Pakistan in 1952 he was appointed as the Joint Secretary of Pakistan Cricket Control Board. He also remained the life member of Pakistan Cricket Control Board. He was on the selection board formed to select the team to proceed abroad. He has written a book on cricket.

He practiced for eight years in the High Court of Bombay. He worked as a junior advocate with well-known Parsi advocate Sir Nusservanjee Engineer. After coming to Karachi he worked as a lawyer for two years. In 1949 he was appointed Additional City Magistrate and in 1957 Sub-divisional Magistrate. He retired in 1964 but in 1969 he was again called for judicial services and was made Honorary Special Magistrate. Besides judicial services, he has rendered services in the social field. He was the Vice-President of the Pakistan Memon Jamat. He was awarded special certificate by the Commissioner of Karachi for the services he rendered for the relief of rain victims of Karachi in 1960.

M. O. Ghani

This grand old man for a number of years remained in Burma and Japan. He was a great advocate of education, particularly female education. He -was amongst the very few Memons who saw to it that his daughter became a qualified doctor. Unfortunately, she died at a very young age. One of the child specialists in Karachi, Dr. Abbas is also his son. Mr. M.O. Ghani was very much interested in Islamic literature. His hobbies were reading, music and poetry. He was personally a very good company and an interesting personality. He died in Karachi.

Muhammad Ali Rangoonwala

Late Mr. Muhammad Ali Rangoonwala was a legendary person. Some men are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them. Mr. Rangoonwala was born to parents who had great aspirations about their son and they desired him to follow the footsteps of great people. It was in this context that as soon as their son was born, the father who was somebody who mattered and was in personal touch with some of the leading politicians in India then, sent a cable from Rangoon (Burma) to Moulana Muhammad Ali Jouhar requesting him to send his blessings and permit his son to be named Muhammad Ali to which Moulana Saheb immediately replied in affirmative. However, great as his upbringing was, Mr. Rangoonwala achieved greatness due to his own efforts which efforts he tried to make throughout his life and achieved pinnacles of glory, international fame due to his hard work, sincerity of purpose and by setting for himself certain ideals and goals.

Mr. Rangoonwala's father, Mr. V.M. Gany Rangoonwala and mother, Mrs. Zuleikhabai always looked forward and tried to imbibe in their young son ideas of charity, philanthropy, large heartedness and leadership. After migration to India from Burma, the family was deprived of their wealth and business and young Mr. Rangoonwala was never upset about his poverty and with pride told his friends that his mode of transport in Bombay was a bicycle. His father was amongst the first couple of Memons in Rangoon to own a motor-car and headed many welfare organisations in Rangoon and Calcutta. Muslim dispensary in Rangoon thrived to become a well-organized clinic in later years and Rangoonwala Foundation, London, continued to assist this dispensary with generous financial assistance.

Mr. Rangoonwala always told his friends that his parents had taught him a lesson to the effect that whatever you donate by your own hands would be your money and what you do not donate personally would be somebody else's money. Following this noble advice, Mr. Rangoonwala developed generosity beyond words.

Memon Personalities

He gave away large amounts of money to the trust in the name of Z.V.M. Gany Rangoonwala Trust in Karachi, in 1957 through which first community centre of its type Z.V.M. Gany Rangoonwala Community Centre and V.M. Gany Public School the like of which may be few and far between in Karachi were set up. Deserving and needy students are given preference without compromising with quality of education.

Mr. Rangoonwala did not like the word charity. He always preferred to keep up the morale of poor students by personally subsidising their full fees from his private purse without letting students know that 95% fees students paid came from his own purse. This attitude helped to create sense of dignity amongst the poor students and also helped both these institutions to be ranked amongst the best of their type in Karachi.

As narrated here-below, Mr. Rangoonwala brushed shoulders with princes, rulers of countries and many rich persons around the globe. Sometimes using a limousine as transport, he would walk many a time around the pavements of Karachi, Bombay and other towns in Indo-Pak sub-continent enquiring sympathetically from the fruit vendors, hawkers etc. as to how much their investment and profit was. He also invited quite a few of them if they desired some more money to increase profit. He would advance them small loans to expand their business. This was one of his favourite hobbies. His philosophy in life was rather than giving fish and loaf to a needy person, give fishing implement so that he can earn his living by fishing.

He started his international business in London. He donated munificently to various causes including those in Pakistan, India, Rangoon and U.- K. Trust in London was not smaller than the World Memon Foundation which he established with the active assistance of his friends in Karachi, Bombay and South Africa. The trust in London brought him close to leading philanthropists of Europe and to the Royal family of U.K. For a particular cause headed by the Queen, Mr. Rangoonwala was one of the few invites at the Buckingham Palace and the Queen desired Mr. Rangoonwala to be one of the trustees. For another cause started by Prince Philip who incidentally, was a friend of Mr. Rangoonwala, he would be invited to Buckingham Palace by the Duke with similar request. This close proximity with the royal family and also due to his generous donations he became known internationally. Through World Memon Foundation about hundred and eighty million Rupees were donated by the trustees of the Foundation. Through his own funds, with the assistance of his friends form Teli Group and others he helped acquire land to establish Dhoraji Colony, where some flats and small houses were given away either free or on subsidized rates whereas some plots were sold at no profit. He helped set V.M. Unani Medical College and Zuleikhabai Hospital in Pune, India.

Memon Personalities

During the last few months of his life he repeatedly requested this writer to get some feasibility reports of needed institutions for which he could donate generously. He also asked the writer that Aligadh University, India, had sent him a word to donate to the community centre there and he said that he might want the writer to go to Aligadh on his behalf to find out the position. However, he never recovered to fulfil his almost last desire.

He was one of the first businessmen to migrate to Karachi and did yeoman service in the fields of relief to refugees, to help set up business, trade and industry. He re-activated Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industries of which he became the President, helped establish Federation of Chambers & Commerce and Industries, Pakistan, and also became its President. He himself established several industries including one of the largest oil terminals.

He was one of few Asians to become the President of International Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Paris in which position he had to undertake visits to many countries of the world and had the honour of being received by the Heads of States. He received awards and titles from Pakistan as well as Germany and heads of other countries for the services he rendered.

Mr. Rangoonwala headed National Bank of Pakistan as Chairman. He was Director PICIC and many other organisations, financial institutions and similarly he was associated with some of the world renowned institutions in Europe and America.

One of the feathers in his cap was that he participated in the last bath given to the Quaide-Azam's body at the Governor Generat's House.

Muhammad Arif Nagaria

Dr. Muhammad Arif was born in March, 1945, and with his father migrated to Pakistan in 1950. He received his initial schooling at St. Patrick's School, Chittagong. He did his matric from Karachi securing first class first position. Again, he stood first class first in the Inter-Science examinations from D. J. Science College, Karachi and joined Dawood College of Engineering and Technology and, true to his past, again secured first class first in B.E. (Electronics). For his outstanding academic achievements he was awarded merit certificates and gold medals by the Ministry of Education, Government of Pakistan.

He was selected from the Province of Sindh for Masters Degree in Russia on Government scholarship. At the same time he was awarded an American scholarship for studies at MIT and a West Gen-nan scholarship. He opted for Soviet

Memon Personalities

Union as till then no Memon had ever gone to that country. In 1972, he obtained Masters Degree in Electronic Power Engineering and was decorated with gold medal. He simultaneously got Master's Degree in Russian language both for teaching and translation work. He also obtained postgraduate certificate in Economy and Management. He was the only Pakistani who participated in the Project (electrical side) in Soviet Union for Pakistan Steel Mills which was to be established in future. He married a Russian Muslim girl and returned to Karachi in 1973. His two daughters were born in Karachi. Both of them have done their MBA from Moscow. His only son has also done MBA.

For a short period, he worked as Professor of Russian language at Lagos University, Nigeria. He went back to Moscow and got his Ph.D. degree in Engineering in Automation of Industrial Processes and published scores of scientific papers in the Soviet Union and Western European countries. Five of his inventions are patented.

Muhammad Bachal Memon

Mr. Justice Mohammad Bachal Memon was born in a well-to-do family of Naushero Feroz, a town of Nawabshah District. He always preferred simplicity and loneliness over luxurious life and therefore, seldom attended big and noisy parties and functions. He never took any interest in politics as he was strictly against politics and whenever he was pressed to take part in politics he gently but firmly refused to succumb to such pressures. His judgements, verdicts and awards were always based on law and the constitution as he always remained within the constitutional limits while giving judgement. His judgements are even today presented in the courts for reference.

He acquired his primary education in Nawshero Feroz and passed matriculation examination from Sindh Madrassah-tul-Islam, Karachi, He acquired the degree of B.A. from Bahauddin College of Junagadh and LL.B. from Bombay University.

He started his legal practice in 1930 and within a short period he was appointed Sub-Judge and subsequently promoted to the post of Additional Sessions Judge. The verdicts given by him in that capacity are proof of his boldness and strict adherence to law. Though he was approached and was tried to be influenced, yet he decided the cases purely on merit and on the basis of evidence presented before him and in view of his integrity and calibre. he was awarded certificates by the Deputy Commissioner Larkana and Jacobabad as well as by the British Commissioner of Karachi.

Memon Personalities

Afterwards, he was made the Sessions Judge of Nawabshah. In 1948, he was appointed Judge of the Sindh Chief Court. He also served as Chief Justice of the Chief Court for some time. After serving on that post for about ten years he retired. After retirement, General Mohammad Ayub Khan, the then President of Pakistan, wished to assign him the job of Director General of Anti-Corruption Department but he did not accept the offer and preferred the life of a recluse which suited his temperament. He went to Naushero Feroze, his native town, and passed the remaining days of his life quietly. He did not like that even any one should come to see him without any reason. He died in June, 1976.

Muhammad Bukhsh Memon

Mr. Justice Mohammed Bukhsh Memon was a notable name among the honourable judges of the Sindh High Court. His judgements, and interpretations and explanations as well as definitions of various sections of the constitution are note-worthy and still they are taken as reference.

Muhammad Farooq

He was a fast bowler and played for Pakistan in test matches.

Muhammad Farooq Memon

He is a noted social worker of Hyderabad. The Government of Sindh appointed him an Honorary Magistrate. A reputed doctor and a respected social worker, he was secretary of the Red Crescent Society of Hyderabad and Senior Vice President of Sindh Red Crescent Society as well as President of Hyderabad Memon Hospital. He was also Chairman of the Educational Board of Hyderabad Memon Anjuman. He was appointed member of the Relief and Rehabilitation Committee of the Sindh Government and member of the Sir Cowasjee Jehangirjee Institute of Psychiatry, Hyderabad. He was a member of the Supreme Council of All Pakistan Memon Federation and a member of Friends Foundation of Urology Department of Liaquat Medical College. He worked as Vice- President, General Secretary and Treasurer of Pakistan Medical Association, Hyderabad and a member of the Board of Governors of St. Mary High School.

Muhammad Haji Karim Dhedhi

His family in Karachi started textile business and entered in the field of industries by establishing Karim Silk Mills. He also entered in the construction business and made good progress. He was a community leader and gave donations for the welfare and betterment of people.

Muhammad Halai

Haji Muhammed Halai is a prominent Sindhi journalist who was born in 1908 in Hala. He participated in the Khilafat Movement and brought out a monthly journal Ghalib from Mirpurkhas. Another magazine Al-Hanift, under the same editorship, was published from Jacobabad. He also edited Sindh Gazette. He was sentenced to imprisonment for two years for writing articles against the British Government. In 1935 he started a weekly Hamdard from Mirpurkhas.

Muhammad Hashim Abdullah Memon

He is one of the worthy members of the Kucchi Memon community. He was the General Secretary of the Government Programme of Lyari Community Development Project in which capacity he continued for ten years. Under this Project an industrial home, a dispensary, a youth club and some schools were established in Lyari area with the help of Asia Foundation. Apart from the above, a Technical Centre was also established. In 1957, he participated in the Human Rights Seminar at Colombo under the auspices of the UNO where he was invited by the Indian Minister for Social Welfare to visit India. Accepting the invitation, Mr. Hashim Abdullah Memon visited India. He attended various international conferences. In recognition of his services, he was awarded Tamgha-eKhidmat by the Government.

Muhammad Hussain Gulzar

A medical practitioner in Hyderabad, Dr. Guizar is a known social worker. His father too, was a well-known community and social leader. He is the past District Governor of Lions Club International.

Muhammad Hussain Kapadia

Mr. Mohammad Husain Kapadia is originally from Bombay, is a social worker. He was Senior Vice President of KCCI. He is a known business and community leader. He appears to be leading a retired life.

Muhammad Hussain Mehanti

He is a Chartered accountant by profession and a well-known social worker. He has been associated with different institutions like Jamiatul Falah, Faran Club, etc. He has also served as a member of KMC and became chairman of its finance committee.

Muhammad Iqbal Rahman

Born in 1940, he obtained degree in commerce (B.Com). He qualified as Chartered Accountant from the United Kingdom (FCA). He has attended more than 25 seminars and other courses. He is fluent in Urdu, English, French, German and Arabic languages. He has worked for a long time in Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Turkey, India, France, the United Kingdom and Pakistan. In his professional capacity, he has travelled all over the world including African and American continents. He is expert in financial planning, income tax, internal audit and has been economic Advisor, General Manager, Financial Director, Chief Accountant and Corporate Planner with famous audit firms in U. K, France and Switzerland.

In Saudi Arabia he worked for Saudi Industrial Enterprise, Riyadh, Sager Group, Jeddah,. in Pakistan Sandoz Pakistan Limited, Habib Group of Companies in various capacities. He has also worked for Al-Rajeh and Al-Sedais, Saudi Arabia.

Muhammad Rafiq Dhanani

Memon Personalities

Originally from Junagadh, Prof. Dhanani received his M.Sc. in Geography from Karachi University. He obtained another M.Sc. degree in Urban Planning through Asia Institution of Education, Bangkok. He served in many positions in Sindh University and finally was made Chairman of Geography Department.

Muhammed Rafiq Soorti

This memon Pak-Army officer was a Brigadier in Engineering corps of the army. He had a very brilliant and outstanding career.

Muhammed Siddique Bilwani

He is a noted- social worker. His services to Haji Abdultah Haroon Muslim Gymkhana are well known. Not only has he put new life in this Gymkhana but has converted it into one of the popular Clubs and Gymkhanas in Karachi by expanding its activities, providing more facilities to the members.

Muhammad Siddique Polani

The famous journalist Noor had described Mr. Polani as 'A jockey who rides scores of horses of welfare services'. This statement is almost true. Mr. Polani has always been taking active part in social welfare organisations. He is actively associated with the Bantva Memon Jamat and Gujrati Literary Organisations and many other community organisations. He is always in the forefront of the functions of All Pakistan Memon Federation. His welfare activities started from the very young age in his native town Bantva. He played a major role in the Sewa Sameeti by arranging provision of food grains at a very concessive rate to the consumers in 1944. He became life member of this Sameeti. A reception was held in his honour for his fifty years of social service under the chain-nanship of ex-Federal Minister Mr. Haneef Tayyeb where the chief guest was Mr. Wasim Sajjad, Chairman Senate. Mr Sajjad at that moment'said that owing to very limited resources the Government cannot cope with all the welfare work. Thus the huge social welfare service which the Memons were rendering were in fact easing the burden of the government. A shield was presented by Mr. Wasim Sajjad to Mr. Polani for his services.

The Indian army during the invasion of Junagadh state tortured Mr. Polani because he had played a leading role in celebrating the partition of the Subcontinent and Junagadh's accession to Pakistan. After migration he worked in

Memon Personalities

various business fields and later on he established a travel agency with the help and support of his sons. He has travelled extensively to Far Eastern, South American and European countries and has now almost retired from business and is involved in social service and has also become a journalist and is editor of magazines like 'Memon Bulletin', 'Memon Samaj' and 'Memon News'. He has also been President of Pakistan Gujrati Periodicals Association.

He has been holding high positions in the Gujrati Writers Association like Pakistan Gujrati Lekhak Mandal. He has been engaged in the composition and publication of 'Lok Gujrat'. He has been successfully associated with all the institutions of the Bantva Memon Community and has held chairmanship or secretaryship of some of these institutions.

Many non-Memon social organisations have active support of Mr. Polani in social welfare activities. Even at the age of 70, he looks young and enthusiastic and is busy day and night in social activities. He is also head of the Supreme Council of Pakistan Memon Federation.

Muhamamd Siddique Yakub Tabani

Late Mr. Muhammad Siddique Tabani was born in 1916 in Burma in an affluent family. He contributed notably to the promotion and expansion of education in the memory of his mother Mariambai. He established Bagh-e-Mariam Girls School in his native town of Gondal which was one of the best educational institutions for girls. He also established Madrassa-e-Hashmia. After partition, Mr. Muhammad Siddique started business of textiles. After the fall of Dacca, he established a small industrial unit named Zeenat Garments which earns sizeable foreign exchange for the country. The Tabani group has established several industrial projects in Pakistan which include spinning and weaving units, oil exploration, electronics and surgical tools. He also runs Aero-Asia and is known for his philanthropy. He founded religious and educational institutions. He died in 1995.

After his death, the family's philanthropic traditions were continued by his son Haji Ibrahim Tabani. He established business relations with Central Asian Countries of former Soviet Union. He died in 1997 at Madina and was buried in Jannatul Baqih. The next in line to continue the Tabani family activities is Haji Yakub Haji Siddique who presently holds the position of honorary Consul of Turkemanistan.

Muhammad UmarAl-Memony (Dr.)

Memon Personalities

This brilliant son of brilliant father, Allama Abdul Aziz Al-Memomy, also, like his father, preferred educational field for his profession. Born in Aligarh, Umar Memon received his B.A. (Honors) degree from Karachi University, standing first and then securing second position completed his M.A. Besides being interested in literature and painting, he was a keen sportsman and was President of the Literary Society and Arts and Crafts Society of the University of Karachi. His paintings were exhibited at various galleries in Karachi. Writer, translator and poet in English language, Umar Memon has command of En'Ylish, Urdu, Hindi, Arabic and other regional languages. He earned his doctorate from USA where he is also serving as an academician.

Mohammad Umar Suraiya

At a very young age at the end of 19th century leaving his high school he ran away to Calcutta. There he met a young Assamese mid-wife whom he married after converting her to Islam. This mid-wife was popular with the upper-class Memon families in Calcutta, Rangoon and Karachi.

To the end of his life he came to be known as Dr. Suraiya. He always believed in maintaining his contacts with rich and mighty government officials and Hindu dignitaries. In his later life, he translated some of the very long poems of well-known British poets whose poems became popular amongst the Gujrati Hindus. He was a great reformist and propagated spread of higher education amongst Memons. His only son was enrolled as the first Memon solicitor in Bombay High Court at the age of twenty-two and the only granddaughter became the first Halai Memon girl M. A. to join the educational service of Government of Bombay, and retired as a principal of one of the colleges.

Muhammad Usman Diplai

He holds a prominent place amongst the Sindhi writers and journalists. He was born in 1908 in Diplo, a deserted area of Tharparkar, in the family of Habibuilah Memon, who was a small shopkeeper. At that time education available in Diplo was up to matric class. After receiving initial education in Sindhi and English, he acquired some knowledge of Arabic and Persian. His power of observation and absorption was immense which enabled him to write stories.

Life of people in Tharparkar is very difficult and full of odds and troubles; nevertheless, the people of Tharparkar love their land. During draughts he used to go to Sanghar and Tando Bhao but his passion for writing always remained insatiable. The more he wrote the more he felt himself thirsty. He was always found

Memon Personalities

either reading or writing. During his service period at Tando Bhago, he came across a periodical 'Munadi' published by Khawaja Hassan Nizami. In one of the issues he found some fake material about aggression of Muhammad Bin Qasim in Sindh. Mr. Diplai immediately wrote a letter to Khawaja Hassan Nizami, inviting his attention towards the distorted matters and appraised him of the factual position by referring to some reliable sources.

The Late Khawaja Hassan Nizami published that letter in 'Munadi' without any changes. It can be said that it was his first article which was published in a reputable magazine. He wrote about 150 books which included books on religion, novels and stories. He was also active in the field of journalism. He started a weekly under the name of 'Sindh Times' which afterwards became a daily. He also started a weekly named 'Ibrat'. In both of these, there is severe criticism against professional mullahs, the landlords, corrupt politicians and bureaucrats for which he was imprisoned in 1953 and in 1958. After being released from the jail he again started publication of 'Ibrat' from Hyderabad which became a daily and is still being published from Hyderabad. He was also a good speaker and had good command of Gujrati, Hindi, Gunnukhi, Persian and Arabic languages besides Sindhi and Urdu. The Pakistan Writers' Guild, in recognition of his literary services, conferred an award on him.

Muhammad

Yousuf

He was an outstanding artist both on the mini-screen and in films. He also worked in Radio Pakistan. He was born in a very well-known Memon family in Bombay. His father wanted him to go to Aligadh for higher education but this young man was fond of films and movies. He started film career under the well-known director Mehboob. He became the first assistant of director Homi Vadia. After partition the family moved to Pakistan. Yousuf also settled in Karachi. He got a job as a drama ' assistant in Radio Pakistan. Simultaneously he entered the film industry. He had to leave that field to join Pan Islamic Steamship Company in order to earn a regular income. After working for 8 years he gave up that job and returned to film and T.V. He played leading roles in 'Mirza Ghalib Bundar Road Per' and 'Lal Kiley Say Lalookhet Tak' . He received international award for his performance. He was proud of being a Memon. He was suffering from cancer and died in 1995

Muhammad

Yousuf

Adil

This famous professional and well-known Chartered Accountant was born on 4th July, 1941. He is a living example of Memon enterprise, starting from scratch and reaching the top. Born in a poor family, his father worked as an accounts clerk.

Memon Personalities

He struggled while studying due to the death of his father in 1953. He worked as a messenger boy with a Hindu grain-broker and also worked as a railway clerk. He worked as a clerk in a textile mill as well as Karachi Port Trust (KPT). He became senior clerk in RCA International Division in 1962. He worked as an accountant in many firms including a firm of leading Chartered Accountants as an article clerk.

After qualifying he started professional practice as a sole-proprietor of a firm of Chartered Accountants in 1972. At present the firm has nine partners and offices all over Pakistan and is one of the top firms of Chartered Accountants in Pakistan.

With all his professional engagements, he has been associated with social activities as General Secretary of Mangrol Memon Jamaat for 14 years and now is its life President. He has been associated with various professional institutes like ICAP, ICMA, AAT, ICS&M and has been serving the council and committees in different positions. He held important positions in some of the organisations as President, Vice-president and member of the Council. He was responsible for designing, introducing and implementing the basic accountancy course and foundation course which has changed the over all pattern and system of chartered accountancy examination in the country. He has worked on the Board of Studies (Education and Training Committee), CPE Committee, Quality Control Review Committee, Professional Standards and Technical Advisory Committee. He is a founder member of Association of Accounting Technicians of Pakistan and has been its Vice President. He has also been Vice President of Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Managers, Chairman, Karachi Branch, Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan, President and Secretary Income Tax Bar Association, Karachi. Founder member, Corporate and Taxation Law Society. Consultant to the Board of Directors of Muslim Commercial Bank. He was involved in the privatisation of Muslim Commercial Bank and has been consultant to many leasing companies.

He has represented the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan at various international and regional conferences and seminars and has been associated with World Congress of Accountants and has arranged hundreds of seminars. He has written, published and read papers on various subjects concerning taxation, corporate laws, foreign private investment, labour laws, Islamic modes of financing and various other related topics. He is a founder member of the Memon Professional Forum and has been its President also.

Muhammad Yousuf Khairati

He spent his entire life serving Habib Bank Limited from its inception upto nationalisation. He enjoyed one of the top positions in the Bank. After retirement he

Memon Personalities

continued his social and religious services, particularly looking after mosques and their management

Mushtaq A. Memon

He was born at Deplo (Sindh) on 23rd May, 1952. He received his M. A. in Sindhi from S.M. Arts College and LLB from S.M. Law College. He had been associated with the famous firm of advocates Khalid M. Ishaq since 1973. He was enrolled at High Court in 1976 and Supreme Court in 1988. He was elected as member of Pakistan Bar Council twice. He was elevated as Judge of Sindh High Court on 9th January, 1997 and confirmed as such on 9th January, 1998. He enjoys reputation of being a gentle, polite and sympathetic person.

Nasim Osawala

He writes for the daily 'Watan' giving news and views of trade and business. He has written articles on problems relating to business, commerce and industry.

Nazar Ghafooti

He holds a unique status among the Memon poets. He has written a book for which there was demand from India also with the result that the book was published in India as well.

Munir Gaddar, Khamosh Rehmani, Manzar Kutiyarvi, Baidar Kutiyarvi, Murad, Asif Lakhani, Firaq, Naz, Rahat Madhosh, Siraj, Asir, Rahbar, Yakub Kalodi, and many other Memons have written good poetry and participated in Mushairas. It is difficult to include all the names in this book. However, names of others like A. Sattar Fazlani, Ashraf Nawanagri, Ibrahim Shahbaz and Ummat Porbandri have to be included in the list of poets.

To encourage Gujrati prose and poetry, the Hussain Ebrahim Jamal Foundation, the Lok Gujrat of Mr. Polani and Rangkala of A. Sattar Fazlani have played a vital role.

Individually, Mr. A. D. Karim has published Gujrati book on Ahadith Nabwi (Sayings of the Holy Prophet, Peace be upon him) in the form of poetry.

Memon Personalities

Naz

Mangroli

He was one of the Memon stalwarts of Bombay who rose to become the Mayor of Bombay in 1981. He was perhaps the first ever Memon Mayor of the metropolitan city like Bombay. Originally he practiced homeopathy. He is more popularly known as a social leader, writer, and poet. He has contributed a series of articles on Memon history and has done a lot of research. Because of his death these articles could not be published in a book form.

Nisar

Memon

An outstanding member of the Memon community, he retired as Country General Manager of IBM Pakistan and a Director and Member, Board of Governors of several multinational companies. He is a member of the Board of Governors of Pakistan Export Board; Member, Citizen-Police Liaison Committee Advisory Board; and member Syndicate, University of Karachi. He is also President Overseas Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Chairman, American Business Council, Karachi, Pakistan Society for Training and Development; Trustee, Karachi Port Trust; Member, Senate and Selection Board, Sindh University; Member, National Institute of Public Administration, Karachi (NIPA) and many other institutions. He was federal caretaker Minister of Government of Pakistan for Information and Broadcasting, States and Frontier Regions, Management Services and Culture.

Born in Karachi, Mr. Memon received his M.Sc. degree from Karachi University.

Nisar

Motiwala

Nisar Motiwala, son of Yousuf Motiwala is a renowned jeweler originally from Bombay. He is associated with Pakistan Memon Jammāt and is a known social worker, an active Rotarian and Philanthropist

Nisar

Shekhani

This businessman and industrialist is a known social worker and community leader. He is Chairman of Dhoraji Foundation through which many welfare activities including housing Projects, educational activities etc. are carried out. Through this foundation, he intends to establish a gymnasium in a park in Dhoraji Colony. He is a very active member of Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society.

Memon Personalities

Noor Muhammad Charlie

He was one of the most popular comedians in Indian films. He started his career in the days of silent movies but became famous in his latter day films made by Ranjit Movieton. Charlie out-classed many comedian actors of the Indian films. He was such a success that film stories had to be written keeping in view his role. Charlie came to Pakistan and worked in a number of films including a Punjabi film. In private life he was a thorough gentleman. After performing Haj, he retired from film. His son Lateef Charlie also entered the field of films and T.V.

Noor Muhammad Chhotani

He was the President of Halari General Jamaat and Chairman of Board of Trustees of Bagh-e-Halar and was a prominent leader and donated generously to mosques and madaressas.

Noor Muhammad Jamal Noor

From his very youth, this Gujrati speaking Tharadi Memon was interested in journalism. He was one of the first few persons from Tharad who got the Tharadi Memons accepted as Memons. He was the editor of Memon Bulletin which was later on converted to a weekly Muslim Bulletin. All along, he advocated persuasively the cause of the Muslims, their political, economic, educational and religious rights. After migration, he was associated with Gujrati 'Dawn' and Gujrati evening 'Watan'. He was a prolific writer to the extent that ultimately he almost lost his sight. His Gujrati novels are numerous, most of them remained unpublished because of limited readership of Gujrati language.

Noor Muhammad Uruswala

Haji Noor Muhammad was the son of a very enthusiastic social worker and founder of Mehfil-e-Raunaq Qadria, Khuddam-e-Ghosia at Bombay. His family was engaged in social and welfare services. Mr. Noor Muhammad got his primary education at Madrassa Hashmia, Bombay and Mr. A. K. Sumar and Zain Noorani were his class mates when he completed his matriculation. While in Bombay, he started writing articles and became member of the Bombay Muslim Students Federation. He acted as Quaid-e-Azam's polling agent during the elections to Central Legislative Assembly.

Memon Personalities

After migration to Karachi, his activities were confined to social welfare. He was elected General Secretary of the Gohilwad Halai Memon Jamaat for 26 years continuously. He was appointed Chairman of one of the Area Zakat Committees by the government. He was associated with All Pakistan Memon Federation as General Secretary. He served as honorary editor of Memon Bulletin, the mouth piece of All Pakistan Memon Federation.

Peer Muhammad Diwan

A well known industrialist, he comes from a respectable Memon family enjoying very good reputation in trade and industry and is famous for his social welfare activities also.

A Bachelor of Commerce, he set up textile industries besides setting up very well known Bonanza Gan-nent Industries, Gatron Industries under Ghani and Tayyub Group. He is Managing Director of Gatron and entered into manufacturing of synthetics. He is a Secretary and Founder Member of Memon Youth Organization, Rotary Club, Member "Commecs" College, Member Executive Committee K.M.C.H. Society and PakistanBangladesh Friendship Association. He is also a trend-setter in the manufacturing of fashion garments. His company provides direct appointment to over three thousand persons besides contributing billions of rupees by way of dues and taxes. Gatron Industries is the only manufacturer of P.E.T. Resin in Pakistan, which is also being exported. He is actively engaged and involved in the promotion of education in less developed areas.

Pir Muhammad Kaliya

By profession he is a chartered accountant. He is fellow of Institute of Chartered Accountancy and also an associate of England's Chartered Institute of Cost and Management as well as of Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administration of U. K. He is also a founder member of the Institute of Corporate Secretaries and has been elected for the fifth time as Member of Pakistan Council of Chartered Accountants.

He devotes his time for social welfare work. He was chairman of Education Committee which was formed to negotiate with the government the issue of denationalisation of schools. He was successful in getting schools, attended by

Memon Personalities

about 100,000 students, denationalised. He is General Secretary of Memon Educational Board and Raunaq-el-Islam, Schools, through which he has established a girls school at a cost of Rs. 20 millions.

Qasim Moosa Lawai

Qasim Lawai is son of Haji Moosa Haji Wali Muhammad Lawai. He was born on 5th January 1949 in Karachi. He matriculated from Madressa-e-Islamia Schhol No.2, Kharadar. Karachi. After that, he became Associate Engineer in Electronics Technology from Karachi Polytechnic Institute in 1971. After the fall of East Pakistan, he started his carrier by establishing a match factory in Karachi. In 1978, he closed down the match factory and started ship breaking at Gaddani in Baluchistan. Due to frequent policy changes, he closed down the ship-breaking yard and established textile factory in Karachi and running it since 1991.

After the death of his father, who expired in 1997, he starts taking interest in social sector on the advice of late Haji Essa Dandia. Since 2003, he is the Honorary General secretary of Bantva Educational Society, which runs Safurabai Memon Girls Boarding House and Rukaiya Hajiani Hagh School and The Pakistan Memon Women Educational Society, which runs Raunaq-e-Islam Schools at Kharadar, Nanakwada, F.B. Area and North Nazimabad.

He has served Bantva Memon Jamat as Convenor of Family Dispute Committe and as Honoray Joint Secretary from 2002 to 2009. He is also serving Memen Walfare Society, Bantva Anjuman Himayat-e-Islam and Bantva Rahat Committe as its managing committee member since 2003.

He is Member Board of Management of World Memon Organisation (WMO) since 2004. He served actively as Co-Chairman of Rehabilitation Committee of WMO from 2004 until 2007. He is currently Chairman of the "Education for all Committe" of WMO since its creation providing financial help to 8000 students.

He is also Convenor of Scheme No.33 Development Committee of the Karachi Memon Co-operative Society (KMCHS) and member of Mid-City School management Committee run by the KMCHS.

He is the true follower of his father Haji Moosa Lawai, who always quotes as follows.

(1) Do not stop working until last breath.

Memon Personalities

(2) Blessings from help less persons add life and strength in the body and soul.

(3) Social workers have no retirement age.

Rafiq

Dhoraji

Known to everyone as Rafiq Dhoraji, his real name was Abdul Ghani Muhammad Bhoora. He was a known social worker and a writer. He was also a poet. He was closely associated with Sir Adamjee and worked as Secretary of Memon Educational and Welfare Society. He died in 1984.

Rafiq

Hamidani

He started his literary career as a poet and is regarded as one of the best Gujrati poets of Pakistan. He edited weeklies namely, Awas and People and a monthly magazine Dukhtar (daughter) mainly concerning ladies. He is an active social worker. He works as a volunteer in the Memon Relief Committee for the relief of the refugees. His collection of poems has also been published. His son Anees Hamidani is a well known press photographer.

Rafiq

Noor

Bhakhrani

His father was a very active Scout in the good old days. Mr. Rafiq also became an active Scout Patrol Leader and later was promoted as a Troop Leader. He joined the 14th Baloch Regiment as Pipe Band Manager and was awarded gold medal by General Azam Khan for his dedicated service during the devastating cyclone in East Pakistan. He was also associated with Anjuman-e-Khuddam-un-Nabi. His wife, Mrs. Zarina, is a talented lady and became Cub Master in the Girls Guides movement.

Rafiq

Rangoonwala

Memon Personalities

Rahim Bukhsh Munshi

Mr. Justice Munshi rose to be a judge of High Court of Sindh and Balochistan. Hailing from Kachhi Memon Beradri settled in Karachi before the creation of Pakistan, He was also a literary figure with a flair for Urdu poetry.

Rahmatullah Memal

He was the founder President of Memon Welfare Association which is playing a vital role in the welfare of the residents of Federal B. Area. He remained associated with numerous other welfare bodies also.

Rajah Ali Memon

Dr. Rajah Ali Memon is a specialist in agriculture. He is an M.Sc. and received his Doctorate from USA. On his return from USA, he was made Chain-nan of the Department of Auricultural Education. He worked on several projects of agriculture training and started training course in Sindh Agricultural University, Tando Jam. He was invited to deliver lectures at Berne, Switzerland. He has also been Advisor to Allama Iqbal Open University's Agriculture Science Board. For meritorious services as Vice Chancellor of Agricultural University, Tando Jam, Dr. Rajah Ali Memon was honoured with the award of 'Aizaz-e-Fazilat'.

Rasheed Godil (MNA)

Rauf Essa

A prominent social worker, he has been in the forefront of serving under-privileged persons particularly belonging to lower and middle class i ies n areas e

Memon Personalities

Fe era B. Area from where he was elected a council member. He along with Dr. Farooq Akbani and others was instrumental in starting the Memon Youth League which now runs a multipurpose medical clinic with various specialists attending the clinic having a fullfledged laboratory and facilities of ECG and ultrasound. The group has ambition to start a most modern cardiovascular clinic with the facility of ambulances etc. The league specializes in controlling diabetes and also runs an employment bureau. Mr. Rauf is a member of the Pakistan Memon Educational Society and its projects like Computer Institute etc. He is actively associated with number of social organisations and the city administration invites him to consultative meetings regarding problems faced by people.

His noteworthy activity has been to help collect infon-nation about quite a few persons and institutes whose services are recorded in this book.

Rauf **Parekh**
Urdu Dictonery Board

Razzak **Janoo**

The third eldest son of Seth Habib, Haji Razzak Janoo was one of the Kings of Tea trading, importing huge quantities of tea from Sri Lanka and other countries. He was a noted social worker and spared a lot of time in practical service aside from donating huge funds. He became the President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry and represented and looked after the interest of business community through many business organisations and trade delegations to foreign countries.

Razzak **Rajoo**

Razzak Rajoo was a very famous artist of television. He was only 29 when he died of a heart attack.

Razzak **Vayani**

Memon Personalities

Saleem

Mukaty

Mr. Saleem Mukaty is a known philanthropist and industrialist. His group "Liberty" owns one of the biggest textile processing plants in Pakistan. The family has established a hospital in Karachi.

Saleem

Parekh

Salik

Popatia

His name was Allah Rakha Usman Popatia but hardly anybody knew him by his real name. He was known as Salik Popatia in the literary as well as business circles. He was considered a first rank Gujrati poet. Even the literary circles of India accepted him as such. His three collections of poems have already been published.

He was born in a well-to-do Memon family but was not interested so much in business activities. His main contribution in the field of education is the preparation of text books for Pakistani students wanting to study in Gujrati medium schools. At the early age of 35 he died of cancer. He was humble and a very good social worker. Besides being a man of letters he was also an educationist. He was a paternal uncle of Dr. Farooq A. Sattar, the exMayor of Karachi and senior minister of Sindh cabinet.

Salma

Omar

This highly educated lady had her education at Aligadh and St. Xavier's College, Bombay. Later, for higher education she went to USA. She worked with the United Nations in many countries of the world. Her husband, Mr. Omar Nagda is a dedicated graduate from Jamia Millia, Dehli. To propagate the mission of this Institution, he toured all over Kathiawar to collect funds. In his days of retirement, Mr. Omar took to painting.

Memon Personalities

Shareef Hashmani (Dr.)

Son of Mr. Dawood Hashmani and brother of Mr. Nisar Hashmani, both are well known in the field of public service. Dr. Shareef Hashmani is office bearer of numerous social organisations. Being a leading eye specialist, he has become a missionary by launching a crusade against blindness in the country. Apart from having his private hospital, he holds regular eye camps throughout Pakistan. So far he has held more than 100 eye camps from which thousands of eye patients have benefited. He has also established International Blind Relief Society which has performed eye operations. He renders this service in co-operation with his colleagues without any charges. He has established a charitable trust in the name of Hashmani Foundation for the prevention and elimination of blindness.

Shaukat Haroon

Dr. Shaukat Haroon, daughter of Sir Abdullah Haroon, Dr. Zubaida Subhani, and Dr. Zubaida Qasim were some of the well-known Memon lady doctors. Dr. Shaukat Haroon rose to become Superintendent of Lady Duffrin Hospital. She died at the age of 49. Her services for the hospital were so distinguished that after her death, the President of Pakistan to honour her, renamed the hospital as Shaukat Haroon Hospital.

Shoaib Ghaziani

Sirajul Haq Memon

Mr. Sirajul Haq Memon is a well-known Sindhi journalist. He has written a book on Memon history through independent research of his own. He is a scholar of archaeology who enjoys a high reputation in the literary circle for his wide and deep knowledge of Sindhi literature. Some of his Sindhi novels have also been translated into Gujrati. He received Shah Abdul Lateef Award conferred by the President of Pakistan. He has written many books and has worked as editor of

Memon Personalities

Hilal-e-Pakistan, a Sindhi daily for several years.

Suleman

Adamjee

This brave man, Mr. Suleman Adamjee held leading position in various institutions. He was liberal in his thinking from a very young age. At the age of fourteen he became a volunteer of Indian National Congress. Later on, he joined Muslim League and took part in 1940 Convention of Muslim League in Lahore as a representative of Kathiawar. In 1947, he was in charge of Relief Committee of Khokhrapar Camp.

In Pakistan, he entered the political arena as Vice President of Nawabzada Nusrullah Khan's Pakistan Democratic Party. He was a very outspoken person because of which his talent was not fully utilised by the community. Till his death he remained with PDP as its Vice President

Suleman A. Ghani Ganatra

Born in 1920 in Karachi, Prof. Suleman studied in D. J. Science College. He received his degree in Civil Engineering from NED College and then went to England for further studies. Later, he went to Holland and Scotland for short courses in the engineering field. After returning, he joined NED College as a lecturer.

Besides being a professional in the field of education, he also rendered social service and remained associated with various institutions. He has officiated as Principal of the NED Engineering College for a short term.

Suleman A. Ghani Punjwani

He started social service during his college days. He was the propaganda secretary of Baroda State Muslim Conference which worked for the interest of the Muslim community. He served as Superintendent of the Muslim Boarding House as well as the Memon Boarding House in Baroda. He was Organising Secretary of relief camp which was set up in Baroda for the Muslim victims who were attacked at the time of independence. He came to Karachi in 1948 and continued his welfare activities. He was a member of the managing committee of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry on whose behalf he rendered service to the Port Trust, Railway and Customs Department. He wrote columns on religious subjects for newspapers and magazines. He published a book in Gujrati about Islam in Bengal.

Memon Personalities

Suleman

Bhoora

Like his friend Junani, he had not only similar qualifications but was also devoted to the cause of education and reforms. In spite of being a petty employee of the Seths, against whom he carried on a crusade for the introduction and adoption of Islamic Laws of inheritance amongst the Memons, and succeeded in doing so. He supported Hajiani Khatijabai, a semi-literate widow, in his native town of Bantva, who was keen in spreading education amongst Memon and Muslim girls. He continued to support her till partition and upon migration he helped Khatijabai start a chain of schools under the name of 'Raunaq-Islam Girls Schools/College'. He was one of the main fund collectors and while settled in East Pakistan where he started a small match factory, he remained a great supporter of female education and rights.

Suleman

Saudagar

Darvesh

The late Mr. Suleman Mian Ahmed Saudagar, popularly known as 'Saudagar Darvesh' was a very well-known timber merchant. In pre-partition India, his family was one of the oldest companies in this field. The family has recently celebrated the centenary of their business. Saudagar Darvesh was a well-known leader in the field of social welfare and was interested in local politics and religious activities in Karachi.

Surraiya

Sattar

Parekh

After doing her B. A. Honours from Calcutta University, this lady proceeded to London for further studies. She worked for the Urdu section of B.B.C. London and was assigned the task of covering the Coronation Ceremony of Princess Elizabeth (Queen). She was a regular contributor of articles in prestigious Urdu journals of Delhi and Lahore. In London, she was Honorary Secretary of Iqbal Society.

Coming to Karachi, she opened up her house and big lawn for literary gatherings and mushairas. She remained an active social worker. A foundation created in her memory has started a College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences as a constituent of Hamdard University.

Tahir

Muhammad

Noorani

Memon Personalities

He was a pioneer in starting welfare institutions in Hyderabad after migrating from India. He was born in 1924. In his youth he served in many places of Gujrat. He finally settled in Broach where he became Joint Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. He was also involved in the activities of Muslim League. He became Vice-President of Hyderabad General Merchant Association and was elected to Hyderabad Municipality in 1953. He became founder President of Memon Charitable Hospital, Hyderabad. He was a pioneer of Hyderabad Co-operative Housing Society and became its founder President. He was instrumental in starting primary schools and high schools in Hyderabad. He remained President of Hyderabad Memon Anjuman and he became Justice of the Peace in 1964. He moved to Karachi where also he remained active in the field of social welfare work through All Pakistan Memon Federation.

The Teli Family

Haji Abdul Sattar Teli

Haji Qasim Teli

Haji Abdul Lateef Teli

Haji Habib Teli

Haji Ali Muhammad Teli

Haji Karim Teli

Haji Joosub Teli

This generous welfare service-minded family set up its business in 1890 in India. Seven brothers Haji Abdul Sattar, Haji Qasim, Haji Abdul Lateef, Haji Habib and Haji Ali Muhammad, Haji Karim, Haji Joosub started Dhabeji Salt Works, between Karachi and Thatta. In Dhoraji they started schools and other social welfare organisations and during the period 1940-41 they established a trust by the name of 'Haji Tahir Muhammad Kassim Charitable Trust' which was transferred to Karachi in 1948.

Memon Personalities

In Karachi, the Teli Group started a beverage company by the name of 'PAKOLA which proved a success and today can compete with such companies as Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola. They also started the famous Gul Ahmed Textile Mills and other units like Globe Textile Mills, Naqshbandi Textile Mills, Al-Karam Textile Mills and other industries.

All the brothers were very service-minded persons. They became one of the leading groups of industrialists of the country. They were in the forefront of social service and established several institutions to which they contributed fabulously large sums of money. Their charity extended beyond the borders of Pakistan and were well-known internationally. They contributed a large amount towards the construction of Masjid-e-Ghafooria. They are looking after and managing Jamal Noor Hospital which is providing low cost and even free treatment to the people of Karachi irrespective of caste, creed and community. They also played a leading part in the field of rehabilitation in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur and outside Pakistan. The amount of their charities, private and public, is so large that one cannot reckon it.

Haji Ali Muhammad became the President of the Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society. Haji Ibrahim, eldest nephew is the head of the Memon Educational Board, which runs and manages many schools in Karachi. They also established a girl's school in Dhoraji Colony, Karachi.

The entire family is active in industrial and charitable activities, donating large amounts in the field of education, health, and running of Madarassas all over Pakistan.

Tufail Ali Abdur Rahman

Justice Tufail Ali Abdur Rehman was one of the top most criminal lawyers of Pakistan. Unfortunately, since the age of fourteen he had developed rheumatic heart from which disease he suffered all his life. Because of this, he restricted his activities in the legal field by accepting only selected criminal cases which he successfully argued and earned a name for himself. During the regime of Field Marshal Ayub Khan, he was appointed Attorney General of Pakistan whereafter, General Yahya Khan elevated him to the position of Chief Justice of Sindh High Court directly from the Bar. He was a very honest and God-fearing attorney as well

Memon Personalities

as judge. His cousin whom he married, specially qualified as M.B.B.S. after marriage just to be able to provide medical aid to Mr. Tufail Ali. Chief Justice Tufail died while he was the Chief Justice of Sindh.

Tufail (Dr.)

Umar Abdul Lateef

He is an economist and for a long period of time was associated with the daily Business Recorder of Karachi. Even now he is a regular contributor to the Business Recorder on the subject of industrial and economic problems of Pakistan. He is also author of several books. He is a highly respected person.

Umer Abdul Rehman

He is a well known Editor of a popular journal "Memon Alam" since its inception in 1950s. He has rendered valuable service in spreading news of services of Memons universally.

Umar Fazil Farooq

He spent almost his entire life in the welfare service of the people. He remained constantly associated with the Kutiyana Association, Memon Educational and Welfare Society and with different Muslim institutions. Leading philanthropists held him in high esteem and were prepared to give generous donations at his call. Mr. Farooq never asked for any personal favour from anybody and led a very simple life. A reception was held to pay tributes to him for his long services to mankind. It was decided that he would be presented with a purse. He remained present in the reception but declined to accept the cash gift. A staunch supporter of Pakistan Muslim League, he went to Lucknow in 1936 where he attended the Muslim League Session. He also attended the Lahore Convention where the Resolution about the establishment of Pakistan was passed.

He rendered important service to Kathiawar Muslim League for Pakistan movement. During the rampage and plunder by the Indian army in Junagadh, Farooq's name was on the hit list. However, he remained in his native town till every Muslim migrating to Pakistan was able to leave safely. He had his business

Memon Personalities

set-up in Bombay which he turned into a relief camp for the refugees. His services to the refugees in Karachi are also wellknown. He was appointed an Honorary Trustee of the World Memon Foundation, a trust of billionaires. He was one of the main sponsors of Pakistan Memon Federation.

He was a literary person and a writer of note. His two books were published, one, a collection of short stories; and, the other, a narration of his travel to Junagadh after 35 years. His first book was given a literary award by a Foundation. He was successful in public service due to his courteous nature. In his dilapidated building in Karachi he provided a very spacious hall on the first floor, which he named Chaman-e-Farooq, for literary and social gatherings. He died in 1991 after serving the people for over 61 years.

Umar Haji A. Karim Chhapra (Dr.)

Dr. Umar Chhapra is a shining star among those Pakistani Memons who have acquired higher education. He is one of the scholars who has got his higher education as a scholar of All Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society. He has utilised his scholarship by rendering services to Muslim countries in the field of economics. He is presently serving as financial advisor in the Finance and Monetary Agency of the Saudi Government and is enjoying a prestigious status there.

He was a brilliant student and always topped the list of successful candidates. He acquired merit scholarship from Karachi University in 1956 and received M. Corn. degree. Thereafter, he proceeded to USA for his Ph.D. He was admitted to the University of Minnesota where he was awarded Cowsls fellowship. In 1957, he was appointed teaching assistant in the same University and after receiving Ph.D., he was appointed Assistant Professor in Wisconsin University. Coming back to Pakistan, he joined the Institute of Development of Economics as Sr. Economist and subsequently became Assistant Editor of Pakistan Development Review. He worked with the Central Institute of Islamic Research as Associate Professor and later as faculty member of Wisconsin University and Kuwait University.

Dr. Chhapra is also financial advisor to the Central Bank of Investment, Saudi Arabia. He became one of the trustees of the World Memon Foundation. He returned all the loans that he had received from different sources for pursuing his education. To All Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society, he is particularly indebted and he says that the status which he is enjoying is due to the timely help of this Society.

Memon Personalities

He has written a number of articles and books on Islamic economics and has earned fame as an expert economist of international level.

His wife, Khairunnissa, is also a highly educated lady. She obtained diploma course in Public Health from Beirut and joined Karachi Child Health Centre. She was one of the first Memon lady speakers who delivered speeches in USA and Saudi Arabia. She has served as Vice President of Pakistan Women League.

Umar Karim Khanani

Mr. Umar Karim started publishing a magazine namely, Ittefakul Moaminin. Since there was no printing press in Bantva, he had to go to Ahmedabad for the printing of the magazine. He died in 1924

Umar Matcheswala

This philanthropist and active social worker of pre-independent movement belonged to Dhoraji. He insisted on the Quaid-e-Azam to undertake a tour of Kathiawar for collection of press fund, assuring him a collection of minimum of Rs. 100,000/- whereas the actual collection exceeded Rs. 150,000/-. Whenever the question of donation for any purpose was put forward, his was the first donation and quite a substantial one. All through his life he enjoyed a high reputation.

Umer Muhammed Jooma, (Dr.)

There is a small village Jalia Devani in Kathiawar on the route between Jamnagar to Rajkot. Umar was born in 1917 in the family of Vali Mohammed Jooma. Jooma was his grandfather and he subsequently became famous with this name. This child later on became Dr. Jooma, a doctor of international fame.

While he was 4 years old he went to South Africa with his father. He received his primary and secondary education, in Durban. Then he went to another city, Cape Town where he studied in the university for three years and returned to Bombay.

In 1943, he passed his MBBS and worked for five years in K.E.M. Hospital,

Memon Personalities

Bombay. At that time in the sub-continent there was only one Neuro-surgeon., Dr. Cooper. When Dr. Jooma got the chance to work under Dr. Cooper, he developed interest in brain surgery.

At the same time there came an advertisement in local newspapers about Nuffield scholarship. He applied and got the scholarship. He then proceeded to England where he received Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Neuro-Surgery in 1950. After the death of Dr. Cooper, Dr. Jooma became one of the leading neuro-surgeons of the subcontinent.

In 1951, he returned to Karachi and joined Jinnah Hospital. In 1952, when the Ceylonese Prime Minister, Mr. Senanaike, received brain injuries while horse-riding, Dr. Jooma, who by that time had attained fame world over, was summoned to Ceylon. Unfortunately, before Dr. Jooma could reach there the patient died. Anyway, this event received full coverage in world newspapers and he became internationally well-known.

He attended several medical conferences as representative of Pakistan. In 1964, he was appointed Professor of Neuro-surgery in Dow Medical College and at the same time was made honorary surgeon commander in Pakistan Navy. Dr. Jooma had offered his service in the army.

Dr. Jooma was fond of tennis, photography and reading. He had a spacious Library containing very informative books on brain diseases and surgery. He had full command of English, Urdu and Gujrati languages. During his life time, Dr. Rashid Jooma, his eldest son, became a qualified Neuro-surgeon and remained attached with his father. After the death of his father, Dr. Rashid Jooma is now one of the leading Neuro-surgeons of the country.

Dr. Jooma was planning to retire from active practice in the field of Surgery as he had developed cancer. He died on 27 February 1985.

Usman A. Ghani Edhi

He was a silent social worker. A member of Indian National Congress, he led a very simple and honest life. He passed his last days in adverse conditions. His political affiliation with the Congress, invited the wrath of the Muslims. He suffered a lot because of his pro congress thinking.

Usman A. Lateef

Haji Usman A. Lateef is one of the prominent leaders of Sukkur. He was

Memon Personalities

associated with social welfare service and was known as Baba-e-Halar in Sukkur. His services were not confined to the Memons only nor the people of Halar but to all the citizens of Sukkur area.

Usman Batliwala

This young and promising writer is known through his pictorial publications. He has written biographies, including that of Seth Ahmed Dawood. Apart from his literary activities and interest in photography, he also devotes time to his own business. He attended several useful meetings in connection with the publication of this book.

Usman Essa Bhai Vakeel

He was one of the few qualified Memon lawyers in Kathiawar. He was very keen to promote education and one of the notable supporters of the First Memon Conference held in Rajkot. Subsequently, he made Rajkot his headquarter, acquired a huge plot of land where he established a boarding house and became its Honorary Superintendent while practising law in Rajkot and other courts of Kathiawar. He took keen personal interest in the welfare and education of each boarder and rendered yeoman service in that capacity. The property left behind in Rajkot, which belonged to the Boarding House, is worth a billion rupees today with hardly anybody taking care of it. In Karachi, he was one of the leading members of the Memon relief committee established to provide relief to the refugees reaching Pakistan. He was also a good orator and was active member of Cooperative Housing Society. One of the roads on Hill Park is named after him.

Usman Ghani Shabnum

He belonged to the same youthful group of Junani, Bhoora and others. But his main services were in the field of journalism. He edited weeklies from Rajkot motivating people to provide higher education to their families, particularly women. After migrating to Karachi, he continued his career in journalism and was editor of a Gujrati daily.

Usman Hashim

Memon Personalities

This brilliant man was the son of Haji Hashim. Born in Karachi in 1935, Usman graduated from Sindh Muslim College. He wanted to be a professor but his father persuaded him to take to his business. A well-known Attorney-General of Pakistan, Mr. A. K. Brohi, who was very close to late Usman, while paying homage to him, had said that he did not remember any occasion when the late Usman refused help to students whom Mr. Brohi had referred to Usman for financial help. He established social welfare institutions for the promotion of education and welfare. His competence in looking after and managing various industrial and commercial units and simultaneously to take active interest in the social field was astonishing. He studied philosophy and was associated with the circle of leading philosophers and scholars of the country. These included the late Mr. A. K. Brohi, the late Hakim Muhammad Said, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad and others.

He regarded his social service as ibadat. A great patron of art, culture, painting, and handicrafts, he bought art works in bulk to decorate his own study and to present them to many of his friends and admirers. He had a personal library with a large collection of books. He was included in Pakistan's business delegation which toured foreign countries for the promotion of exports. He died very early due to accident.

Usman Jivabhoy Kasmani

He was born in Amreli, Baroda State, where primary education was compulsory and free. He took interest in the activities of the Boarding House and was a regular visitor to promote education amongst the students. He delivered lectures on social awakening of the Memon community. He awarded gold medals to deserving students.

After partition he remained a social worker and community leader. He was one of the founders of All Pakistan Memon Federation. He visited Burma and Japan and was much impressed by the dedication of the Japanese people to their work. He was a leading insurance agent before migration. In Pakistan he was one of the founder members of Karachi Stock Exchange.

Usman Kamlani

He was considered to be a good journalist. He was the compiler of Film Section of Dawn Gujrati. He was also founder Secretary of Karachi Film Journalists Association. In recognition of his services, the Karachi Film Journalists Association has been giving every year Kamlani Award since 1985 to the best film journalist. He

Memon Personalities

was a thorough gentleman, who raised issues and put questions at the meetings of the journalists and the office bearers faced a real hard time to give satisfactory replies. He was outspoken while very courteous. He died in 1973.

Usman

Memon

He is a well-known comedy character. He has appeared in various T.V. programmes. He has toured several countries of Africa, USA and other countries with teams of drama artists.

Wali

Muahmmad

Bhaila

He was known for his vast reading and analysis of social problems. He was wellacknowledged social leader as well as philanthropist. He had taken active part in Pakistan movement.

Wali Muhammad Bengali of Rajkot

A youthful, courageous, generous and enthusiastic Memon, he was affectionately called 'Isardar' (chief) of youths. This well-to-do gentleman was related to the famous Bengali family of Bombay (who founded the first vegetable oil industry in Karachi, opening ceremony of which was performed by the Quaid-e-Azam). Haji Wali Muhammad was a popular young leader and strove throughout his life to propagate the message of the Muslim League and to encourage the Muslims to fight for their rights. He migrated to Pakistan and settled in Chittagong. Unfortunately, he died in a plane crash in 1953.

Wali Mohammad Maskatiya

He was one of the Memon leaders and a founder member of Dhoraji Association. He rendered valuable service as its General Secretary for several years. He also served as General Secretary of All Pakistan Memon Federation. Starting his education in Sri Lanka, he studied at Bahauddin College, Junagadh and Sydanham College, Bombay. In Pakistan he was Advisor to the famous Bank, the Netherlands Trading Society and played important role in expanding the business of the bank. Before partition, he worked as Confidential Private Secretary

Memon Personalities

to Sir Adamjee. He travelled abroad extensively and wrote columns about his travels in English and Gujrati newspapers.

Wali Muhammad Motiwala Bombay

He was a firebrand young reformist leader, fluent in Arabic, he was a good writer in Gujrati. He was President of Federation of All India Memon Jamat and trustee of World Memon Foundation. He helped in establishing many residential colonies in Gujrat and Maharashtra State.

Yahya Ahmad Bawani

Elder brother of Mr. Ebrahim Ahmad Bawani, Mr. Yahya was born in 1925 in Rangoon. He is an industrialist and a simple and polite person. He holds diploma from London Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Yahya was the President of Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society and Trustee World Memon Foundation as well as World Memon Foundation Community Centre Karachi. He is a trustee of the Ayesha Bawany Waqf, services of which to the Islamic World are well known. This Waqf had founded high schools and a college on the main Shahrae Faisal in Karachi.

The new educational complex in Memon Markaz, F.B. Area named after Mr. Latif Bawani, popularly known to Karachiites as 'Chacha Bawani'. Mr. Yahya was actively connected with the construction of Central Mosque in Dhaka, namely Bait-ul Mukarram which was financed by the Aisha Bawani Waqf. Mr. Yahya is a 'flying businessman-cumindustrialist' having business interests in Singapore, Bangladesh and other countries.

Yahya Godil

He is a philanthropist but his generosity rarely comes to limelight. He insists on remaining a secret donor. He is a known social worker and community leader. He is a founder member of the Memon Marriage Bureau, to which he donated one of his bungalows to be used as its office. He has been associated with many social service organisations.

Yahyah Hashim Bawani

Memon Personalities

Well-known writer, author of several books and columnist in Gujrati, he is active in collecting information to write more and more on the activities of the Memons in Pakistan. He is a poet and his articles on Memon history are very informative.

Yahya Polani

Yasin

Lakhani

He is considered to be a versatile person and a clever business man and investor. At present, he is President of Karachi Stock Exchange.

Yaqoob

A.

Karim

He is a prominent businessman and industrialist. He is very closely associated with many welfare organisations. He was District Governor of Lions Club International, District 305, and is closely associated with business and industrial organisations like the SITE Association and other organisations.

Yaqub

Wali

Muhammed

He was one of the Okhai Memon who had permanently settled in Karachi before the creation of Pakistan. He was born in Karachi in 1901. As a young Memon he started his public activities by establishing Young Memons Association in 1925 and became its founder President. In 1930, he started a residential colony for Okhai Memon Community. He established Memon Credit Cooperative Society in 1933, and was elected its President. In 1934, he was elected a member of the Municipal Corporation. Thereafter, he was elected continuously till 1954. In 1940, he was appointed as a member of Karachi Port Trust in which position he served for ten years. After the creation of Pakistan he continued to promote cooperative housing societies. In 1960, he was elected a member of the West Pakistan Assembly. He rendered notable services as a member of the Rural Advisory Board, Member of the Sindh Madrassa Board and Governor of Lady Duffrin Hospital. He also worked in the capacity of the Chairman of the Pakistan Shipping Lines after which he concentrated his activities on social services to the people. His services are spread over a period of half a century. He died in 1971.

Memon Personalities

Younus

Bandukda

Businessman, industrialist, social worker and community leader he was also President of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industries

Younus

Dagha

A Government officer, presently posted as D.C. Malir, originates from Kutiana and like his father helps social welfare activities.

Younus

Dalia

After serving in various capacities he retired from the post of President of Habib Bank Limited.

Younus

Makda

He is a social worker and is interested in the spread of education. He is a member of the working committee of All Pakistan Memon Educational and Welfare Society and is now the President of the Society.

Yousuf

A.

Karim

He has been associated with Dawn Gujrati since 1953. Originally he started with his columns and comments on market situation, which were well taken by the business community. He finally joined Gujrati 'Dawn' as Business Reporter and continued until its closure.

He published his research book about the community's contribution to the industrial development of Pakistan in both the wings of the country. The figures he indicated in his book are most authentic and officially accepted. Many of the figures are incorporated in this book also and are considered reliable. At present he is concentrating on another book.

Yousuf

A.

Karim

Khokhar

Memon Personalities

Originally from Dhoraji, India, Prof, Yousuf A. Karim has been in the educational field since 1944. After serving various colleges in Kathiawar, Gujrat, U.P, he migrated to Pakistan to start life as Deputy Director of Education in Hyderabad. His brother, Ali Muhammad, received post-graduate degree from USA and has been in service in India. He also served as a professor in Gordon College, Rawalpindi.

Yousuf Abdul Ghani Mandvia

He was another fire-brand writer. Due to his independent policy and uncompromising nature, he had to finance his own weeklies and periodicals. He wrote highly sanskritised Gujrati and never spared the Hindus for what he considered was anti-Muslim policies.

Yousuf Haji Karim Shaikhani

This simple looking person, clad in a simple shirt, pyjama and chapal, was a very largehearted, and service-minded person. Originally from Dhoraji, he migrated to East Pakistan to set up his business there. His business was also spread in Bunna.

During the devastating cyclones in East Pakistan, he always headed the relief committees and supervised relief work, devoting full time and contributing large sums. This attitude also motivated other rich persons to donate generously to the cause. Both General Azam Khan and Field Marshal Ayub Khan, who personally desired to meet him, were very appreciative of his services to the cyclone victims and asked him what assistance the Government could provide him and his team. While thanking them, he requested them to see that there was no bureaucratic hurdle in their way, otherwise, Allah the Almighty had provided them with all the resources to assist the needy people. He was awarded a gold medal and so were some of his other co-workers. Later on, he received an award of Sitarae-Khidmat from the Government.

After the creation -of Bangladesh, he continued his services in the field of education, rehabilitation and other welfare activities in Karachi. He was always in the forefront of contributing large sums to various funds. He was a very active member of Dhoraji Jamaat Association and a trustee of the Dhoraji Foundation. He was an active member of the working committee of the Memon Educational and Welfare Society. He was highly respected and his simple living was exemplary. He died in Karachi.

Memon Personalities

Yousuf

Haroon

The role of Sir Haji Abdullah Haroon in Muslim politics of India, his role in Khilafat Movement, Reshmi Roomal Movement, Muslim League Movement is well known. His sons Yousuf Haroon and Mehmood Haroon always took part in politics. The Sindh Muslim League had demanded separate homeland for the Muslims of India. This demand was made in 1938. After the expiry of Sir Abdullah Haroon, Mr. Yousuf Haroon and Mehmood Haroon came forward as his successors.

Whenever the Quaid-e-Azam visited Karachi, he stayed in the house of Sir Haji Abdullah Haroon and in that way Mr. Yousuf Haroon had advantage of being with the Quaid-e-Azam. He had also toured Kathiawar as the representative of the Quaid-e-Azam, during that visit he advised the Memon community to make investments in Pakistan. Immediately after the creation of Pakistan, Yousuf Haroon was appointed High Commissioner of Pakistan in Australia. He also served as Chief Minister of Sindh. He is now settled in USA but visits Pakistan frequently. He has the honour of being the first Memon Mayor of Karachi in 1944 as well as being the youngest mayor as at that time he was only 27.

Yousuf

Muhammadi

He was a social worker and was very popular. For decades he remained connected with the daily 'Business Recorder' in one capacity or the other. He was also Honorary Secretary General of All Pakistan Memon Federation.

Yousuf Patel

A very humble and modest person wearing hand washed khaddar pyjama-kamees, topi (cap) and chapals, Yousuf Patel served Muslims and Hindus in their difficulties. He devoted his entire life to public service. He was constantly on the move in Gujrat State and Maharashtra at the beck and call of needy persons. He was treated with respect in most government departments particularly Bombay Municipal Corporation, which he frequented with a group of needy persons to resolve their problems. His services were recognised by the Memon community by bestowing on him the title of 'Baba-e-Qaum'. He was President of Indian Memon Jamat Federation and Member of World Memon Foundation. He was connected with so many health and educational institutions that the space here does not permit to write fully.

Memon Personalities

Zahid

Adamjee

This young man is keeping up the tradition of his Great grandfather Sir Adamjee in the field of public service. He is an enthusiastic supporter of institutions in the field of health, education and social services. A popular young man and Managing Director and Director of many Adamjee firms, he has plenty of time to rise higher and higher both in business and in the field of social service.

Zaibunnissa

Mrs. Zaibunnisa has obtained double M. Sc. in Genetics and Plant Technology.

Zaibunnisa

Motiwala

Mrs. Zaibunnisa, one of the grand daughters of Sir Adamjee, is a noted and dedicated social worker with particular interest in the uplift of women. She is one of the founder members of All Pakistan Association of Memon Women and was its first President.

Zain

Noorani

Zainul Abedin Abdul Qadir Noorani was popularly known as Zain Noorani. He was born in a wealthy Kucchi family. His father was one of the richest persons of the community. Zain received his education in Bombay. While he was a student he was elected Joint Secretary of Bombay Provincial Muslim Students Federation. He took active interest in politics at a very early age. He remained a Muslim Leaguer from the start to the end. He was appointed Sub-Editor of the 'Star' weekly magazine which was started to project the need and objectives of Pakistan. The publication of the magazine was banned. So he started publishing leaflets and pamphlets named 'Oppressed' and 'Mazloom' in English and Urdu languages respectively. In 1947, he started a weekly magazine 'Dynamite' but the Government banned its publication and arrest warrants were issued against Mr. Noorani which compelled him to flee to Pakistan. After coming to Pakistan, he joined 'Dawn' group. Later he joined 'Pakistan Standard', the mouth piece of Muslim League. In 1948, he was made Justice of the Peace. He was elected a member of the KMC and became chairman of its finance committee. Twice he was elected member of West

Memon Personalities

Pakistan Assembly and rendered services as the Chair-man of the Public Accounts Committee.

When Ayub Khan established Convention Muslim League, Mr. Zain Noorani remained loyal to the old Muslim League with Khawaja Nazimuddin as its head. Zain was appointed Joint Secretary of the Council Muslim League. In 1984, he was appointed Provincial Minister for Excise, Taxation, Fisheries and Social Welfare by the Government of Sindh. He was elected Member of the National Assembly in the elections held on non-party basis in 1985. Later, he was appointed Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in the Government headed by the late Mr. Junejo.

During the Afghan-Soviet war he took part in the deliberations at Geneva under the auspices of the UNO in which the USSR, one of the Super-powers also participated. To convince them for withdrawal from Afghanistan was not an easy task. Zain played a significant role in convincing the USSR to withdraw from Afghanistan. The agreement reached at Geneva was signed by Mr. Zain Noorani on behalf of Pakistani Government. He was the first ever Memon who represented Pakistan in the United Nations twice. He died in Karachi in 1992.

Zainul Abedin Munshi

He is editor of "NYAPO", an Urdu-Sindhi periodical.

Zaitun Matcheswala

She is the daughter of famous leader Haji Umar Ahmed Matcheswala. Her achievements are noteworthy. A Ph.D. from Oxford, she is a highly qualified educationist. She took part in Islamic Cultural activities in England. She also takes active interest in writing. When the Islamic Culture Foundation was established in Oxford in 1971, she was appointed its Executive Director. She has also served as Professor and Advisor in Kuwait University. She also strove for the development of ladies department of that University. Besides being a writer, she is a poetess also. She has written a book on the life of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and a collection of her poetry entitled '99 Poems' has been published by Oxford University Press.

She remained in Pakistan from 1987 to 1994 at the invitation and insistence of President General Muhammad Ziaul Haq and was appointed Advisor in Economic Affairs Division. During that period her job was to supervise University Grants Commission. She is the only Asian lady to enjoy the honour of being the Fellow of Wolfson College of Oxford University. She has also worked in the

Memon Personalities

capacity of Director of De-Colonisation as well as Advisor of the UN Institute of Training and Research Unit. Presently, she delivers lectures on Development of Women, Higher Education, Pollution and Environment. Now she intends to settle in Pakistan so that she could bring up her children.

Zakaria

Gulzar

He is the son of famous social worker from Hyderabad late Ebrahim Dawood Guizar. He, like his father, remained active in social welfare service through various institutions.

Zakaria

Kamdar

He is a dedicated social worker. His particular field of social work was the service rendered to intending Hujjaj through Anjuman-e-Khuddam-un-Nabi. He was never interested in politics. However, he was appointed advisor with the rank of Minister of State for Hajj by the Government of Pakistan. Later, Mr. Muhammad Khan Junejo also appointed him Minister of State for Hajj and Religious Affairs. His main interest has been social welfare service to mankind.

When the Quaid-e-Azam went to Jetpur during the fund collection tour to Kathiawar, a reception was hosted in his honour by the Muslims of Jetpur. Young Zakaria was privileged -to present the welcome speech. Mr. Kamdar also served as President of All Pakistan Memon Federation. He has travelled extensively for projection of Islam and visited USA, United Kingdom, Africa and many other countries in Eastern and Far Eastern region.

Zakaria

Motiwala

He served as editor of Hyderabad Samachar a magazine which was published from Hyderabad.

Zakaria

Siddique

He is a social worker belonging to Jetpur Memon Jamat. He is a member of Kathiawar Co-operative Housing Society, Adamjee Public School and All Pakistan Memon Federation.

Zubaida

Kasim

Memon Personalities

Dr. Zubaida Kasim was closely associated with social activities. She joined the Physiology Department of Dow Medical College, where she was promoted as Assistant Professor. She earned M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees and became Head of the Department of Physiology. She was the first lady, at least in Sindh, to become Head of the department in a Medical College. She was associated with the United Memon Jamaat, All Pakistan Memon Women Association and took active interest in the activities of those organisations. Unfortunately, she also died at a young age.

Zubaida Sobhani

Dr. Zubaida Sobhani is an eminent doctor. She received Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in recognition of her talents. She joined Naval Hospital. Her elder sister, Fatema, as well as younger sister, Zulekha, are also doctors. Dr. Zubaida had a felicitious command of many languages including Gujrati, Urdu, Marathi, French etc. She is interested in photography and painting.