



Sad demise of Mohataram Yahya Ahmed Bawany in Karachi, Pakistan

Translated from Urdu by Qasim Abbas from Urdu

Prominent Memon social figure and philanthropist of Jetpur, leading industrialist of Pakistan, President of United Memon Jamaat, ex-President of Pakistan Memon Educational & Welfare Society, Mohataram Yahya Ahmed Bawany passed away, after short illness, on 12 January 2009 after Zohr prayer in Karachi. INNA LILLAHE WA INNA ILAYHE RAAJEOON.

Mohataram Yahya Bhai's name is not unknown in community and welfare field. Due to his self-less humanitarian, community, social and welfare services, he was among the prominent social leaders of community. Being a successful industrialist and entrepreneur, his prominently known status and place was not famous only in industries, but also in Memon community as well.

Memons and non –Memons are still being benefited through religious, educational, welfare and community organizations established by late Kaka Bawany (Mohataram A. Latif Ahmed Bawany) and late Mohataram Alhaaj Ebrahim Ahmed Bawany. Mohataram Yahya Bhai was also from this Bawany family. He was son of late Ahmed Bawany and nephew of Kaka Bawany.

Mohataram Yahya Bhai was born in Rangoon, Burma on 16 July 1925. He obtained his elementary education from Rangoon's St. Paul High School. While he was studying in matric, he had to return to India due to unfavourable situation of Burma. In 1932, he passed matriculation examination with distinction. Then he went to Bombay and there he obtained diploma in Business Administration from London Chamber of Commerce in 1944. In 1945, he formally entered in family business.

It was Yahya Bhai's father late Ahmed Bawany, who had entered in trade and industry in 1900, in textile sector. Yahya Bhai went to Rangoon again in 1946. Bawany family's project "Ahmed Violin Hosiery Mills" established by Bawany family in 1931 was famous as Asia's biggest hosiery Mills at that time. Yahya Bhai was associated with this

hosiery Mills. The product of this hosiery Mills was so excellent and famous that it was much sought after and preferred not in Manchester, U.K. but also in other countries.

After partition of sub-continent, Yahya Bhai left Burma and settled in then East Pakistan. Having excellent training, very good experience and best capabilities learned from his late father Mohataram Ahmed Bawany, Yahya Bhai established Latif Bawany Jute Mills, Ahmed Bawany Textile Mills and other 14 small and large industries there. Latif Bawany Jute Mills was established in 1954 and Ahmed Bawany Textile Mills was established in 1957. These two Mills were established in Demra and Dacca in then East Pakistan. Yahya Bhai's performance in East Pakistan was much appreciable in industrial and governmental circles. Bawany family had established various industries in then East Pakistan in sectors of Jute, Textile, Chemical and other sectors.

From 1966 to 1970, Yahya Bhai remained member of Advisory Councils of Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Industries, East Pakistan Investment Promotion Bureau, Industrial Development Bank of Pakistan etc. Yahya Bhai also remained chairman of Dacca and Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Pakistan Jute Mills Association, Pakistan Central Jute Committee and All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (East Zone). He also served for Dacca Memon Anjuman.

In 1958, Yahya Bhai had visited Russia as a trade delegate, representing Govt. of Pakistan. In then East Pakistan, he had established educational institutions Ahmed Bawany Academy in Dacca and Bawany High School in Demra. He also remained honorary chairman of Dacca's most famous Mosque "Bait-ul-Mukarram Masjid". He was personally involved in construction project and all other affairs of this Mosque. This Mosque is still regarded as the biggest and beautiful Mosque of then East Pakistan i.e. presents Bangla Desh.

Yahyabhai's marriage was solemnized in 1945 in Jetpur with the daughter of Mohataram Haji Yousuf Bawany. His brother late Ebrahim Bawany's marriage was also solemnized on the same day. Yahya Bhai had five sons Mohataram Abdul Karim, Mohammed Ashraf, Wali Mohammed, Mohammed Haneef and Mohammed Tariq, and two daughters Mohatarema Zainab and Khadija. All his sons and daughters are duly married. Yahya Bhai's elder son Mohataram Abdul Karim Bawany is prominent in community, social and welfare services, following his father's footsteps. Yahya Bhai had performed Hajj in 1983. After the sad demise of his first wife, he had married again.

Presently 16 different industrial units established by Yahya Bhai are operating in Pakistan and performing important role in manufacturing and industrial activities of Pakistan. This is a very important role being played by Bawany family in Pakistan's economy.

Yahya Bhai also remained member of managing committee of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industries. He was also associated with many other trading, commercial and industrial organizations for quite a long time. Acknowledging his various self-less services in various fields, government of Pakistan had honoured him by with award of "Sitara-e-Quaid-e-Azam" in 1969.

Yahya Bhai remained president of various community, social and welfare organizations. He was president of Pakistan Memon Educational & Welfare Society from 1979 to 1984. He was also founder member and senior vice president of United Memon Jamaat. He was president of United Memon Jamaat till his last breath. He was also trustee of World Memon Foundation. He also remained president of Jetpur Memon Association in 1974-75.

He was also involved and cooperating in religious field in addition to community, social and welfare fields. Due to his sad demise, a vacuum has been created in these fields.

Yahya Bhai's soym was held in Mecca Masjid at Adamjee Nagar in Karachi on 14 January 2009 between Asr and Maghreb prayers, where Quran-khawani was performed and fateha-khawani was performed by Hazrat Moulana Tanvir-ul-Huq Thanvi Saheb. Soym was attended by a large gathering consisting of personalities from prominent industrialists, traders, government officials and private organization's officials. May Allah shower His mercy on departed soul and give Sabr-e-Jameel to Bawany family.