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# PARSI JUNCTION

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Committed to Transparency and Accountability

## Sad News: Passing Away Of BPP Trustee Zarir Bhathena

Zarir Bhathena, a sitting Trustee of the Bombay Parsi Panchayet passed away on June 24, 2020 after a prolonged illness and hospitalization.

Garothman Behest to the Ruvan of Zarir and the condolences on behalf of Parsi Junction and all its readers to the Bhathena Family and to his fellow Trustees at the BPP.

*Below is a message penned by his colleague and BPP Trustee Noshir Dadrawala*

Zarir Bhathena was a man of few words, but when he would speak, everyone would listen to whatever he had to say. And, whatever he had to say would always be concise, correct and candid. He never minced words and while he was kind, generous and friendly towards all, the few who wrongly tried to cross swords with him found in him a formidable warrior who fought with tenacity of a Trojan.

I first came in touch with him about 35 years ago when I was appointed Assistant Secretary at the Parsi General Hospital and he too had been recently appointed on the Managing Committee of the Hospital. While I moved on, he remained connected with the Hospital till his last breath at the very hospital he so loved and served with diligence.

As a Chartered Accountant he had a knack of analysing financial statements and had a sharp eye for detail.

As a builder he was professional and known for putting his stamp of quality in his projects.

He was generous and gave of his time and wealth generously, yet silently.

He had an abiding interest in the welfare of



the community and was disciplined enough to give time to his professional and community interest without compromising on time spent with his family. He was a family man and took relationships be they personal or professional, very seriously.

What do I remember most about him?

I would think his habit of constantly digging into his pocket and generously tipping drivers, watchmen, liftmen and almost anyone who he thought needed or deserved help. I will remember him as a man who was frugal with his words but generous with his actions.

He always wore a charming and disarming smile, even from his sick bed. The community has lost a wonderful human being. One who spoke little but gave with both his hand and again without ever speaking about it.

Good bye Zarir, we will miss you and your smile.

Noshir H Dadrawala

## "TWO BPP TRUSTEES PASS AWAY WITHIN HOURS OF EACH OTHER

### An ode to Jamsheed Kanga

After the passing away of sitting BPP Trustee, ZARIR BHATHENA, late night of Wednesday 24th June 2020, ex-Trustee Jamsheed G. Kanga passed away this morning on 25th June 2020. He was ex BPP trustee and Former Bombay Municipal Commissioner.

He was elected twice as one of the Akabars of the community. He was the founder member of Committee of Electoral Reforms (CER) which was formed in 1979 to get the deadwood out of the corridors of power of the Bombay Parsi Panchayet. Till then the community by and large was unaware of how the Trustees of the BPP, the apex Trust of the community and the second biggest Landlord of Mumbai (after Bombay Port Trust) were elected. One or two of the then Trustees had a stranglehold



over the Anjuman Committee, which had to be elected by the community at large for a term of 10 years and which in turn was the body who elect the Trustees who also had a term of 10 years with unlimited terms. Due to the mass awareness campaign carried out by CER under the leadership of Jamsheed Kanga that the community become aware of their duties and obligations and thereafter the first Anjuman Committee elections were held in 1980 for 303 members to be elected and the two main parties who contested those elections were CER and the then ruling bunch of Trustees who put up a party known as CUZ, an orthodox segment of the community, in an attempt to continue their stranglehold.

After the 1980 Anjuman Committee elections were held with the awakening of the community and CER under Jamsheed Kanga's leadership won 302 seats out of 303 seats for which elections were held. Naturally he was the first CER candidate to be put up in the Trustees elections of 1982 and Jamsheed Kanga was elected unopposed due to the huge majority enjoyed by the Anjuman Committee. After the end of his first term of 10 years, he was re-elected for a second term.

After the Godrej family and/or Jamshed Guzder (as both claim) obtained ULC

exemption for construction of residential colony named Godrej Baug in gratitude, Jamsheed Kanga was mainly responsible for the execution of the construction of 492 flats of Godrej Baug and today the community owes Jamsheed Kanga a deep sense of gratitude for erecting a colony of 492 flats most of which were constructed through donations of various charitable Trusts as even at that time BPP had no funds of its own to construct the colony.

However there was one slip up of Jamsheed Kanga that on advice of the Godrej Architect of the project, though Donors wanted to construct lifts in their donated buildings to ease the suffering of the occupants who after walking all the way from the entrance to their building would still have to climb four more floors and where stilt parking was provided five floors. This was on the mistaken understanding that since ULC Exemption was given to house the poor of the community, and to reduce cost of construction there was no need to provide lifts.

Having realized the absurdity of not providing lifts, the Godrej Architect for the last four buildings--Q,R,S and T--had to change the design of the entrance of these four buildings

by having two aerobridges upto second floor height between the two buildings to give easy access of climbing only two floors. However the cost of providing the two aerobridges far exceeded the cost of providing lifts. But all that is history now.

As the Municipal Commissioner of the largest Municipal Corporation of the country, His professional excellence was matched by his friendly disposition towards all. He was always humble, caring and loving. He was an upright and dynamic IAS officer with an unblemished track record of service to both the country and the community. He was one of the few absolute non-corrupt Municipal Commissioners so much so that he would even do no favors for Godrej Baug construction during his tenure. However when the State Congress Govt. superseded the Shiv Sena controlled BMC, he was made the Administrator of BMC. As expected he was harassed no end by the Shiv Sena Corporators who had lost their Concillorship on BMC being superseded. Those were hard times for Jamsheed Kanga but he silently suffered it all.

MAY HIS SOUL FIND ITS DUE PLACE IN HEAVEN. GAROTHMAN BEHEST."

## PRACTISE WHAT YOU PREACH, KERSI RANDERIA AGAIN THUNDERS PHIROZE AMROLIWALLA

In the Parsi Junction issue of 21st June 2020, we had published the exchange of mails between Kersi Randeria and Phiroze Amroliwalla wherein Amroliwalla had demolished all the false and fabricated allegations of Randeria of not paying rent for three flats for three and a half years and wanting to profit from his tenanted flat.

In his reply of 20-6, Amroliwalla exposed the double standards of Randeria in wanting him to surrender his father's tenanted flat at Khareghat Colony which the earlier Board in 2013 had actually allowed him to encash the tenancy value of his flat on 50:50 basis. At the same time Randeria is not willing to surrender his own kaka's flat at Contractor Bldg., Byculla but through his majority on the Board got it transferred to his mother's name and refused to take his mother along with him to his huge DPC flat worth crores and refused to surrender the Byculla flat to BPP to house some poor Parsi.

To add salt to the wound, Randeria got his sister's son's name also incorporated in his mother's flat as a person residing with her so

as to claim Tenancy of the Byculla flat after her demise. His sister Nilufer Mehta is also residing in S-3 Godrej Baug free of charge and thus his whole family has taken advantage of BPP charity flats whilst he can well afford to house all of them by buying them all flats outside BPP.

Thus the double standards of Kersi Randeria were badly exposed by Phiroze Amroliwalla on which issue Randeria has no explanation to give except to change the subject and instead accuse Amroliwalla of not paying rent for over three years.

We would like to question Randeria that if Wadia Baug flats are allowed to be auctioned on sharing ratio because of his dread of Nusli Wadia, why should not the same principle be followed for his Khareghat Colony flat. He can as usual give his Dissent Note below the Public Notice which is more for public consumption and nothing more.

As regards his charge of non-payment of rent for over three years, Amroliwalla has made it

clear that he will pay all the lawful outgoings of his flats upto June 2020 but defiantly refuses to pay the illegal demand of extra service charges of Rs. 750/pm and it is on Randeria's instructions to the Manager not to accept rent unless this illegal demand of Rs. 750/ is also paid. Who is then responsible for the rent arrears—Amroliwalla who is ready to pay the lawful rent or Randeria who insists that the illegal demand of Rs. 750/ be also paid with the lawful rent?

If Randeria is so keen to recover the arrears of rent why has he not filed a suit for non-payment of rent since last over three years? Obviously Randeria is aware that he will lose the case and then once struck down by the Courts, all other occupants will also refuse to pay this illegal demand and as a better part of valour he wants the 80% occupants who are paying this unlawful demand under duress and fear of litigation to continue to pay it and he can go on accusing Amroliwalla of not paying rent well knowing that Amroliwalla is legally right to tender only the lawful rent. In fact we would further advise Amroliwalla and all other



Tenants that the recovery of 13th month rent is also illegal but since they have been voluntarily doing it as donation they have not stopped its payment so far.

After our exposure of the double standards of Kersi Randeria it seems that Randeria sent another mail on the same lines repeating the same lies of not paying rent for over three years without disclosing his own instructions to the Manager not to accept even lawful rent unless the illegal demand of Rs. 750/ is also paid with it.

We give below the mail of Kersi Randeria in black with Phiroze Amroliwala's reply in blue below each charge of Randeria:

"Mr. Randeria,

I have given my rejoinder in blue below your reply of Saturday 20-06-2020 to my mail of the same date.

"From: kersi@ahuramazdagroup.com <kersi@ahuramazdagroup.com>Date: Sat, Jun 20, 2020 at 2:17 PM

Subject: Re: BPP Food Helpline : Adhocism and favoritism

To: Phiroze Amroliwalla <phirozeamroliwalla@gmail.com>

Cc: armaity tirandaz <artirandaz@gmail.com>, Noshir - CAP <noshir@capindia.in>, Viraf Mehta <viraf@viraf.com>, Xerxes V. Dastur <dasturxerxes@gmail.com>, Yazdi Desai <yazdi@writercorporation.co.in>, Yazdi Desai <yazdi@writercorporation.com>, Zarir Bhathena <zmbhilla@gmail.com>, cawas panthaki <bppceo1681@gmail.com>, Aspi Sarkari <aspisarkari@rediffmail.com>, Shehnaaz Khambatta <bppjtdyceo@gmail.com>, BPP Housing <bpphousing@gmail.com>, dinshaw dinshaw <dinshaw@dinshawmehta.com>, KJR Office <kersi@ahuramazdagroup.com>, Kersi Randeria <kranderia@ahuramazdagroup.com>

**Mr Amroliwalla**

I pity you

**No need to pity me! You should pity yourself now that you have become a psycho having lost your dictatorial powers over the board of Trustees and the community.**

You will go to any level to not pay your legitimate dues and to try and profit from charity flats

**I am ready and willing to pay my legitimate dues of rent, service charges, security and parking charges and even the 13th month rent which was collected voluntarily, and which I have been paying**

**from the beginning, but as a matter of principle I refuse to pay the illegal additional service charges of Rs. 750/-pm from January 2017 which you are demanding by coercion.**

Having failed in your attempts to silence me by trying to bribe me to stop my protest and join your camp and in return, you would exempt me from its payment and also allow me to encash my Khareghat Colony flat as it was approved by the previous board, now you resort to falsely accusing me.

By now many are aware of who is profiting and from where. Instead of skirting questions and issues that I have raised umpteenth times, why don't you answer these in keeping with the masthead of your Parsi Times "TRUTH DELIVERED WEEKLY", SO THAT THE COMMUNITY ALSO KNOWS THE FACTS. Randeria, as you profess to be concerned about the poor and if indeed you are that clean as you claim, since you have abandoned the

time tested MERIT RATING SYSTEM and are allotting on an ad-hoc and random basis, make public the complete details of the 150 flats allotted by you since assuming trusteeship, just as you print your dissent every time the board advertises for auctions of flats in the weeklies that you control.

**Your hypocrisy of accusing me of trying to profit from charity flats is astounding when I have caught you at it in transferring your kaka's BPP charity flat to your mothers' name on your Kaka's demise and that too after you became trustee! You could and should like a good Parsi son easily taken your mother with you to your huge DPC Flat worth a few crores and surrendered the Contractor bldg. flat for housing a poor Parsi just as you advise other Parsis to do.**

You thereafter shifted your mother to your sister Mrs. Nilufer Mehta's flat No. S-3 Godrej Baug, which also was given free to your family

"Randeria,

I have just read the "Parsi Times" of June 27, 2020 and I can see how cleverly you have avoided the issues and allegations raised by me, more importantly, the surreptitious transfer of your Kaka's flat in the Contractor Bldg. of the BPP at Byculla to your mothers name, instead of taking your mother with you to your large DPC flat and surrendering the BPP flat back to the Trust. You have also added your sister's son's name as a person residing with your mother in the Contractor Bldg. flat. It shows your intentions that even after your mother, you want through your nephew, to continue to have a legal right on this flat with the possible encashing of this tenancy. Is it morally correct for a trustee to benefit from the trust property? WHAT DOUBLE STANDARDS YOU HAVE!!

Again as in the past, you have blatantly tried to damage my reputation and credibility before my community by levelling totally false and malicious accusations only because you own the Parsi Times. I reiterate that I am ready and willing to pay the lawful rent and other lawful charges upto June 2020 if you send your Custodian to collect the cheque.

**But you have instructed your staff not to accept even the lawful rent if not accompanied with the payment of additional service charges of Rs. 750/pm. I reiterate that I refuse to pay this illegal demand of Rs. 750/pm and you are free to take action for the same. Why have you not taken action so far against me for non-payment of this unlawful demand of extra Rs. 750/pm for the last three and a half years.**

Since time is of the essence, I reserve my right to give detailed reply to each of your false and fabricated allegation contained in your owned Parsi Times later, when time permits, as I have other commitments unlike you who has nothing else to do but use your threats to try and subjugate all dissenting Parsis.

I am endorsing a copy of this email to the Parsi Times and Jame- Jamshed and wonder if you will be bold enough to forward this chain of exchange of emails between us for printing in toto and without any editing or distorting facts.

Phiroze Amroliwalla""

member. **What takes the cake is that now you have also added your sister's son's name as a person residing with your mother in the Contractor Bldg. flat. It shows your intentions that even after your mother, you want through your nephew, to continue to have a legal right on this flat with the possible encashing of this tenancy. Is it morally correct for a trustee to benefit from the trust property?**

**Let the community decide who is profiting from charity flats.**

All your allegations are denied

Every guilty person denies the offense initially and hence you have no choice but to deny. I will prove every fact that I accuse you of at the right time.

It is relevant to point out that during our meetings you in fact accused Mr Dinshaw Mehta and Late Mr Rustom Tirandaz of financial irregularities. You boasted that you and one Mr Rumi Dastur from Cusrow Baug were the first vigilantes who had caught and exposed Dinshaw Mehta and Rustom Tirandaz

Having failed so far, I can now see an attempt to drive a wedge between Dinshaw Mehta, Armaity Tirandaz and me by bringing in two gentlemen friends of mine who are no longer in this world.

**Kersi you are DISGUSTING. You are the epitome of vindictiveness and will**

**stoop to any level just as you denied a poor and deserving Bodhanwala a meal only because of our differences. At least late Rustom, Rumi and I were sincere in our cause unlike you - a blot on the name of activism. At no stage have I ever made these disgusting comments you now fabricate. Yes, Rumi Dastur was facing litigation for his Cusrow Baug flat and I was trying to use my good offices with both Dinshaw Mehta and Rustom Tirandaz to solve his problem. How you twist and turn facts to suit your allegations!!**

Your other rantings and ravings cannot be dignified by me by replying

You cannot change the facts and therefore have no answer to give, that is the reality!

It will suffice to say that if you can prove any of your allegations then you should go ahead and do so

When you so shamelessly deny the Truth despite the facts being in your BPP office, then I certainly will provide the proof at the right time if I am given access to your board minutes.

Please do clear your 3 1/2 years of outstanding dues

**Do not try to subjugate me as you have done with the community and others by your threatening postures. By refusing to accept the lawful rent from your tenants,**

**you literally threatened them to pay the additional service charges of Rs. 750/-pm which most tenants did pay to avoid litigation which for you would be free as it would be by using charity funds whilst the tenant would have to pay from his own pocket. While you would delegate your legal staff of BPP, the tenant would be forced to bear the inconvenience of attending Courts at every hearing.**

I repeat, all legally payable dues till December 2019 have been tendered and the cheques have NOT BEEN ENCASHED. In my earlier mail I have agreed to pay the lawful rent upto June 2020 also if you would send your Custodian or any staff to collect the cheque of lawful rent upto June 2020.

**However I reiterate that I will not pay the illegal demand of additional service charges of Rs. 750/ pm from 2017. It is you who are refusing to accept payment of my lawful rent without payment of the illegal demand of Rs.750/pm.** Since there is a discrepancy between your claims and mine, I have several times asked you and the BPP to give me in writing the details of how you have arrived at the various figures. You have deliberately and with malicious intent failed and neglected to send these details.

K

Phiroze Amroliwalla"

## OPEN LETTER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BOMBAY PARSEE PANCHAYAT FROM ARZAN GHADIALY

We have been forwarded a mail from Arzan Ghadially through ex-Chairman Dinshaw Mehta for favour of publication. In last weeks Parsi Junction, **we had published the retort of Phiroze Amroliwalla to Kersi Randeria's demand of additional service charges of Rs. 750/pm from 2017 which he has defiantly denied to pay as being illegal.**

We would also like to clarify here that Armaity Tirandaz, Noshir Dadrawala, Viraf Mehta and Xerxes Dastur have placed an item on the

Agenda since more than a year to waive the collection of the additional service charges of Rs. 750/pm or at least reduce it to Rs. 350/pm. But for some strange reason the item was not or not allowed to be taken up and is carried forward every week.

Now that the minority have become the majority, there is no reason why the service charges should not at least be reduced to Rs. 350/pm. Of course the cash crunch faced by the BPP is an impediment at present but at

least the reduction has to be done if not the full waiver. Those who have paid will get no refund but those who have refused will get the advantage as law is on their side.

We would also like to clarify that this levy of additional service charges is an illegal levy and cannot be enforced in law and that is why the Trustees are unable to take legal action against those tenants who refuse to pay. That is why the then majority Trustees led by Kersi Randeria, with Armaity Tirandaz, Muncherji Cama and Viraf Mehta dissenting, instructed the Baug Manager not to accept rent unless it was accompanied with payment of this illegal demand of Rs. 750/pm.

Most Parsis being god fearing when they were told that their rent will not be accepted unless they pay this Rs. 750/ also, preferred to pay it rather than have litigation thrust on them. After all the legal cost is not paid by Kersi Randeria but comes from the community charity funds whilst the Tenant would have to bear the full legal cost from his own pocket. Further Kersi



Randeria has the full BPP's legal Dept. at his beck and call to attend the Courts whilst the inconvenience to the Tenant to attend on every date is pure harassment.

Moreover those Tenants who refuse to pay this additional service charges are further gifted by the Custodian not collecting even the other legal dues of actual rent, original service charges, parking charges and 13th month rent and hence the BPP is losing not just this 750/ but also all other charges as the Custodian has been instructed not to collect rent if not accompanied with this extra 750/ also.

The rent computed by Arzan Ghadially at Rs. 2500/ to Rs 5000/pm is erroneous as their rent is around Rs. 500/ to 1000/pm. License fees are around the figure computed by him.

**However Licensees are not protected by the Rent Act and hence they have no option but to comply with this demand as the License agreement incorporates this clause of paying any additional levy at the discretion of the Trustees.**

**We now give below the mail of Arzan Ghadially:**

#### **“OPEN LETTER TO THE TRUSTEES OF BPP**

**Subject: Clarity requested on the increased Service charges of Rs 750 per month since 2017.**

Dear Trustees,

I would like to draw your attention to an article authored by Mr. Phiroze Amroliwalla published in 'Parsi Junction' dated June 14, 2020 and subsequently continued again on June 21, 2020, on the subject matter besides others.

Mr. Phiroze Amroliwalla claims that the amount of Rs 750 that the BPP has been collecting since 2017 is illegal and that the legal tendered dues are minus the Rs 750 which he refers to as “increased Service charges”. I believe residents from other colonies including Gamadia Colony are refusing to pay their monthly outgoings and I am not aware if any notice has been served to any such occupants.

A small back of envelope calculation shows the following. BPP has 2800 flats approximately and that around 85 to 90% of tenants have paid the increased amount and the balance 10 % to 15% who have not, have been told to either pay in full or nothing. On average say, 335 occupants are paying no rent. Rent ranges from 2500 to 5000, considering an average of around Rs 3000 per month, those who do not pay would be owing dues of (Rs

3000 pm x 12 months x 3 years) = Rs 108000 per tenant. This works out to Rs 3.62 crores considering 335 tenants or thereabouts do not pay. With outstanding dues of almost Rs 3.6 crores, the silence of all the Trustees on this matter is alarming. **My question to the Lone CA Trustee Mr Xerxes Dastur is whether breaking FDs worth Crores is a better option or recovering these dues In Crores a good solution?**

What have the Trustees done for recovery of dues? Have notices been sent to these occupants who have not paid? If sent, what is the outcome. If sent and not responded, has the subject matter been ever taken on the Agenda for the Board meeting of the Trustees and discussed?

What is the plan of action of the BPP to recover these dues? Prima facie it amounts to complete mismanagement of Trust funds.

**Mr Xerxes Dastur had also committed to have the increased service charges of Rs 750 per month waived, the same was published in Parsi Junction and the**

**community had welcomed the move. Now even he is on a silent mode .**

In view of the above and complete clarity, I would sincerely request all the Trustees to issue a joint statement and in one voice clarify if the increased service charges are legal as per rent act or illegal as Mr. Phiroze Amroliwalla and all the others who have not paid the increased service charges.

If the Trustees continue to be in silent mode over this issue and have no plans of recovering the dues from approximately 335 + defaulting occupants – as can be evidenced from the delay of 3 years - in which case the increased amount collected from the rest of the occupants at Rs 750 per month for 3 years may please be refunded or adjusted within a specified timeline.

The more years we drag the issue, more the cost of litigation later.

Awaiting a response.

Arzan J Ghadially

## **CONGRATULATIONS – ARZAN SAM WADIA – PRESIDENT FEZANA – 2020**

### **CONGRATULATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS**

*BaNaMeh Ahura Mazda With TunDorosti And MunDorosti To All*

My Dear Global Zarathushti Leaders And Community Members:

With immense joy, I would like to invite you all to welcome and congratulate our newly elected **FEZANA President, Arzan Sam Wadia** with the soulful blessings of your heart and spirit. Arzan takes over as FEZANA's 9 and youngest President to date.

With Vision 2020, Arzan has dedicated the last 10 plus years towards serving our North American and Global Zarathushti community with incredible gusto and enthusiasm.

Arzan served as our immediate FEZANA Vice President and was the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Global Zarathushti Professional Award. He has been extensively involved with the Zoroastrian Return To Roots Program since its inception and is its current Program Director.

Arzan has been a featured speaker at various North American and World



Zoroastrian Congresses, and has served with utmost dedication on the Board of the Zoroastrian Association Of Greater New York for four terms.

Arzan is the founding editor of Parsi Khabar (www.ParsiKhabar.net ) – The World's Oldest

And Largest internet news aggregator website about Parsis and Zoroastrians worldwide. This website disseminates news, opinion and analysis of culture, society, religion and trends within our Zarathushti community worldwide.

Arzan also served as the Program Chair for the 2019 7 World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Los Angeles as well as on the core committee of the 2012 12 North American Zoroastrian Congress in New York.

In 2018, Arzan was featured in the FEZANA Journal Special Issue on Empowering Next Generation as one of the 40 inspiring young Zoroastrians. He was also instrumental in empowering our Global Zoroastrian Youth as one of the 20 participants at the inaugural World Zoroastrian Youth Leadership Forum in 2018 at the ASHA Center in the United Kingdom.

Arzan has designed and maintained over 40 websites for design and commercial clients including the websites of FEZANA, NAMC, ZAGNY, ZAMWI, Zoroastrian Return To Roots and the 7WZYC2019. He is also the webmaster of The Iranshah Initiative Project that is dedicated to showcase the bounty of our sacred Iranshah.

Arzan is an architect and urban designer based in New York City. Having worked in Graz, Austria and New York, he has been part of design teams for projects in Austria, Switzerland, Cambodia as well as USA. With a Masters in Urban Design and Architecture from the Pratt Institute, and an entrepreneurial spirit, Arzan currently practices as an architect and runs a technology business. He has earned numerous professional awards in his field of endeavor and has built a reputation of being a team player with other Global Zarathushti leaders.

May Ahura Mazda Guide our Arzan, as he now takes on this awesome responsibility; to lead FEZANA with your blessings of Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds.

**ARZAN IS A PASSIONATE LEADER AND A COMPASSIONATE HUMAN BEING WHO EPITOMIZES THE RADIANCE AND VIBRANCE OF A ZARTOSHTI**

With that sentiment...

Please join me in wishing him the very best with all our

Love and Light

Meher Amalsad

Westminster, California, USA

**THANK YOU ARZAN FOR YOUR KIND AND UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO OUR FUTURE GENERATION**

## Sir Shapoorji Burjorji Bharucha

### A tribute on his death centenary by Marzban Jamshedji Giara

He was a self made and large hearted man, financier and business magnate. He was born at Bharuch on 30th April 1845 of poor parents. He lost his father when he was a child and his mother brought the children to Bombay from Bharuch when he was 12 years old. He would sit and stitch along with his mother and sisters. He failed in his matriculation examination. He did not get higher education but learnt to speak English. He joined Bombay Baroda & Central India (now Western) Railway as a petty clerk, then the Asian Bank in the same capacity and became a broker in 1864. He attained the highest pinnacle of his profession and later became a prominent figure in the financial world of Bombay. The British named Bharuch as Broach and hence his surname was also Broacha.

On the recommendation of the finance member of the Viceroy's Council he gave evidence in London before the Herschel Committee on the question of silver. The Finance Commission had to amend its report due to his forceful plea. He was the President of Native Share Brokers' Association, the agent of several mills and a director of many joint stock companies. His advice was sought by government officials, bank managers and businessmen. Share brokers, businessmen and bankers had confidence in him. He was a capable finance expert. He was made a life member of the Calcutta Stock Exchange. He used to manage the finances of the Maharaja of Gwalior as his local agent. In 1908 Lord Morley,



the Minister for India invited him for a meal and sought his views on finance.

He was made a Justice of Peace in 1896 and a Sheriff of Bombay and knighted in 1911 when King George V visited India in recognition of his cosmopolitan charities. He used to help the poor irrespective of caste or creed. He donated Rs. Four lakhs for Masina Hospital, Rs.2,50,000 for various charities in Bharuch, Rs. Three lakhs for

building a hostel at Benares Hindu University, Rs.1,28,000 for the benefit of share brokers of Bombay for education of their children and against relief of contingencies, Rs. One lakh for Gujarat and Kathiawad famine relief. The sum of his total benefactions amounted to more than Rs. Forty lakhs. His munificence was indeed large and diffusive. He has set up an example of wise philanthropy capable of being imitated without undermining the self reliance spirit of the poor. Rich and poor alike might contemplate Shapoorji's career with practical advantage. His life was worth living, his example is worth following.

His marble bust was unveiled at the Bombay Stock Exchange Building (now Pheroze Jeejeebhoy Towers) by Lord Brabourne, Governor of Bombay on 4th April 1935. His bust is also installed at Shapoorji Bharucha Hall at Bharuch in 1917.

He passed away on Roz 17 Sarosh, Mah 10 Dae 1289 Y.Z. 23rd June 1920 at age 76. He had no children and was survived by his wife Lady Pirojbai. Shams-ul-Ulama Dasturji Darab Peshotan Sanjana recommended that his name be recited in namgharan list in all prayers at Atash Behrams and agiaries.

Two residential Parsi colonies in Mumbai are named after him – one at Andheri west owned and managed by the Bombay Parsi Punchayet and another at Grant Road near Aslaji Agiary managed by a private trust. A marble bust of Sir Shapoorji Bharucha was presented by Kekoo Gandhi and installed at the Baug named after him at Andheri a few years ago.

May the present generation of Parsis derive inspiration from his life and rise to great heights.



# 'Call of Duty' Saturday Night for Parsi Youth ~ ZYNG 2.0 successfully brought together the COD players in the Parsi Community, India and Abroad

After receiving tremendous response from Parsi Youth for the 'Lockdown 2020 PUBG Night', ZYNG 2.0 (Zoroastrian Youth for Next Generation) did not want the Call of Duty Players in our Parsi Community to be left out and therefore enticed and engaged them with a friendly free 'Call of Duty' gaming session for Zoroastrian youth on Saturday 20th June at 9.30pm..

Some advantages of gaming (COD), when not played regularly or in excess, are increasing thinking ability and reflexes when exposed to different situations.

ZYNG 2.0 received an overwhelming response from the Parsi youth to register (free of cost) and play the Covid Mobile - Battle Royale Solo to emerge as the last operators standing, grabbing handsome cash prizes for top 3 positions.

All the players including some staying in other cities like Bangalore and some in other Countries like the U.S. had an exhilarating experience playing the Battle Royale against their Parsi friends through their mobile

phones, tablets and emulators at their respective homes.

Parsi COD Night witnessed an Intense battle for the solo fight with top 3 survivors - Burjis Billimoria (Winner), Aashad Vesuna (1st Runner Up), Mazda Disalwalla (2nd Runner Up)

Bangalore based, Burjis Billimoria emerged as the Winner of COD Battle Royale Solo, elaborated on his experience and thanked ZYNG 2.0 "I really thank ZYNG 2.0 for connecting our community and hosting such events, it gives people with some talent an opportunity to make new friends and try their luck at winning some handsome cash prizes too. Now I have a full team to play scrims with, in COD Mobile."

ZYNG Gaming Night - COD Battle Royale Solo - TOP 5

- 1st** - Burjis Billimoria - Rs 3000 Cash Prize
- 2nd** - Aashad Vesuna - Rs 2000 Cash prize
- 3rd** - Mazda Disawalla - Rs 1000 Cash Prize
- 4th** - Malcolm Ilavia
- 5th** - Perraz Badhniwalla

This event organized by ZYNG 2.0 was successful in connecting and bringing together the COD Players in the Parsi Community as they ended up exchanging Gaming IDs and informing each other about different Parsi groups playing COD. #zynggamingnight #parsicod #parsicodnight #battleroyalesolo

Stay tuned for more @zyng2.0 on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/zyng2.0/> [instagram.com]

About ZYNG2.0:

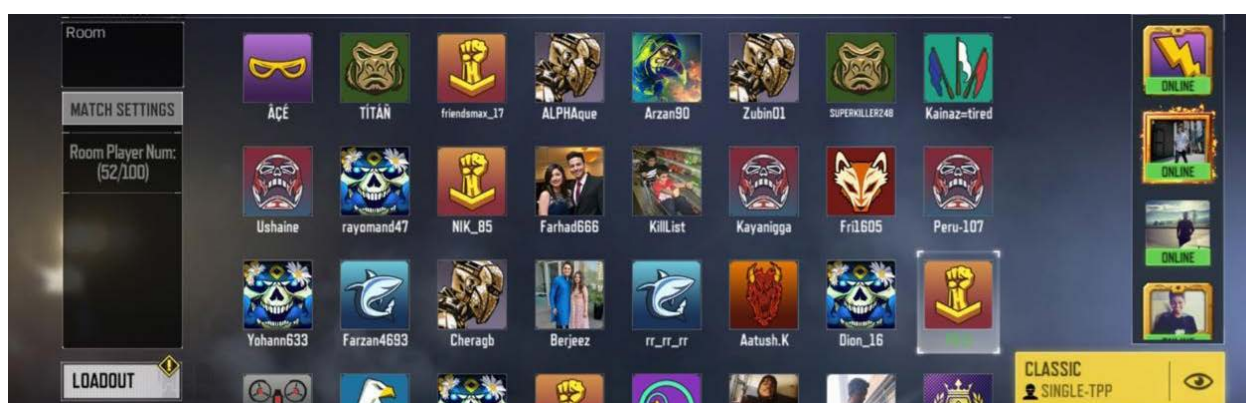
ZYNG 2.0 is a whole new beginning with new ideas and a new committee to continually provide a platform for bringing the Zoroastrian youth closer.

For more details on ZYNG2.0 and updates on the activities conducted this year and upcoming ones kindly follow:

<https://instagram.com/zyng2.0> [instagram.com] [instagram.com] [instagram.com]

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/zyngyouth> [facebook.com] [facebook.com] [facebook.com]

[instagram.com]



# THINK WISELY SHAPUR BAUG RESIDENTS

## SHAPUR BAUG AT GRANT ROAD (E)

### ONCE AGAIN IN THE LIMELIGHT

In last weeks Parsi Junction issue of 21st June 2020, we had highlighted how the present family members of the illustrious Sir Shapoorji Burjorji Bharucha (Broacha) were harassing and looting the present tenants of Shapur Baug at Lamington Road, next to Aslaji Agiary.

That very Sunday, Jame-Jamshed carried an article on the life of the same Sir Shapoorji Bharucha and his benevolence to the whole Parsi community. We are republishing his magnificent deeds of charity and goodness to one and all so that his descendants can even now realize that they are the progeny of one of the pillars of the Parsi community of yore and perhaps they will mend their ways even now and let their tenants reside peacefully in their lawful premises. May the present generation of his family derive inspiration from his life and rise to greater heights.

Subsequent to our article we have received the below mail once again highlighting how the present generation of the Bharucha family is ill treating its beneficiaries as a shylock landlord would do but not what a benevolent landlord of trust premises would ever do.

**"From: Parsee Crusader <Parsee.crusader@outlook.com>**

Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:16 AM

Subject: Shapoorji Baug, Grant Road (E) Once Again In The Limelight

**Dear Tenants,**

Please read the Two articles on Shapur Baug in attached **"Parsi Junction issue 35 " PAGE 3 and 4, very enlightening to know as to to what extent the Trustees can stoop.**

**Though this article has omitted to mention that even close relatives of tenants are not allowed to reside even during illness of the tenants as happened in the case of late Ms. N. Motafram.**

**The write up also overlooks to mention that even in normal times, Doctors have refused to visit ill persons because of nuisance created for parking.**

**Rats running from one block to another shows the level of 'upkeep' and their apathy.**

**Some handy men working in various houses are allowed to sleep in blocks, provided they perform work in B-5 flat without wages. Former gate keeper name Durga has said that he was compelled to perform cleaning in the 2 flats without any speciation nor additional payment.**

**Recently, there was a demand on tenants for Rs. 4,000/- without any request Circular AND by Cash Only. DOES Mr. DSB think he is hiding his track of collecting moneys ? What stops Trustees from officially collecting the amount as Service Charge?**

**Receipt of Rs. 4,000 demanded in cash this month still shows "As agreed by All Block Associations Letter dated 9th February 2010" In this letter obtained under coercion a decade ago, late Shapoor Broacha, Mr. Manek Nanavutty, Mr. Geu Baria and Mr. Rumi Tarapore were the committee members. These three persons are no longer associated. Also, in the last decade many new tenants have come, many of the Block associations have new elected members. Has any one authorized DSB? and so, is this letter of 9th Feb 2010 still valid?**

Receipt talks of "Reimbursement". So only the amount of expenditure incurred has to be recovered. Reimbursement must be for the same amount as expenditure incurred. Funnily enough, the period stated is of **future** date April 20 to March 21! How can reimbursement be for a future period and for a round amount? It is an **ADVANCE PAYMENT.**

**The footnote to this 'Receipt' (without name of the Baug, name of person paying) states that it is in 'no way connected with or related to the monthly tenancy'. So, in other words, it is a DONATION OR THEY COLLECT THIS AMOUNT FROM STRANGERS?**

Now another flat in dispute in G2 is to be 'settled'. All in Rokda. What else? And the same person for this very reason had compelled his late father to place a Notification in Parsi Times dated 8th Dec 2012. **WHAT A SHAME.**

USHTA TE"



MINISTRY OF HINDU AFFAIRS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

JIYO  
PARSI

Friday | July 3 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM



Discussing

## WORK-LIFE BALANCE

with

### Lara Balsara Vajifdar

Executive Director, Madison World

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