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NOW, huge task to rebuild Gaza

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In the last two years, Gaza has suffered to such an extent that more than 80% of all buildings have been damaged.

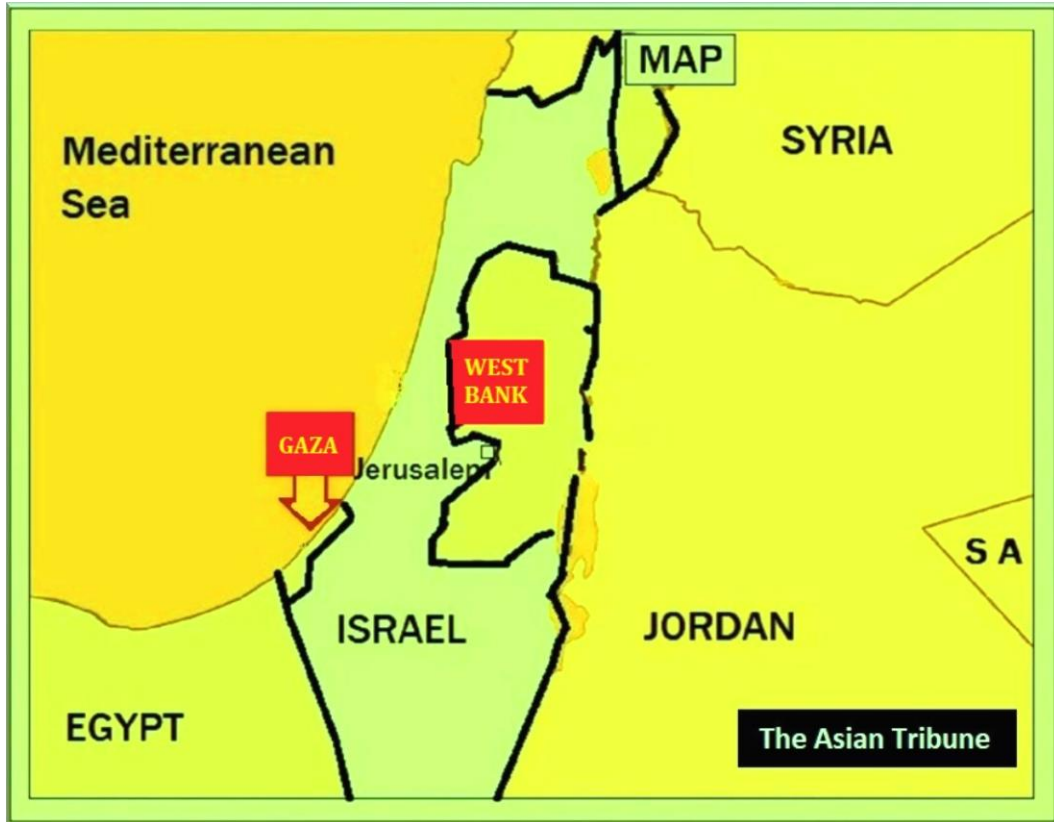
Israel's constant strikes has led to huge destruction. Over 90% homes were affected. The figure is even higher for schools.

The constant strikes, had the worst impact on Gaza city, which turned into a land of debris.

In fact, power stations, water works, infrastructure ranging from roads to sanitation system, everything has been affected to such an extent that it will take a colossal task to rebuild Gaza.

International agencies, UN and other agencies' reports clearly say that the level of destruction is such that Gaza got leveled and has been turned into a ghost town.

Estimates suggest that the number of deaths in Gaza due to the last two years of horrific strikes has been close to 1,00,000. Over 20% of them were children.



The estimates suggest that nearly 60% families have lost a person & the number of injured and people who lost limbs, reached a horrifying level. Children with disabilities and

lifelong injuries show the extreme brutality of this war and Israel's war crimes in Palestine. Rebuilding is a huge challenge now.

The long war has taken its toll on Gaza. It'll take years to build. People hope that there will be no more attacks and no ceasefire violations now.

DESTRUCTION, DEATHS AND DEBRIS: REBUILDING WILL TAKE SEVERAL YEARS

A region that has lost almost entire infrastructure, needs a huge financial push to build itself, back.

From hospitals to homes, all the buildings, electricity and water supply, reconstructing the entire requires more than estimated \$70 billion. In fact, the removal of the debris and cleaning the region, is also a massive project.

The cost can go up to over \$120 billions. UN and agencies' approximate figure

gives an indication about the urgent need for restoration of the basic facilities in order to start the reconstruction of Gaza.

From water works to streets, entire Gaza city has to be raised from the dust, once again.

International efforts would be required and assistance of Arab nations, along with countries all over the world, would be required. But, the loss of lives can never be compensated.

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Recalling renowned leader & freedom fighter Syed Badrudduja's role in Indian politics

Shams Ur Rehman Alavi
editor@asiantribune.net

Renowned freedom fighter and a prominent Indian leader late Badrudduja is remembered for his politics as well as his firm stand on complex issues as well as his oratory.

He was active during freedom struggle and participated in almost all the important movements.

Actually, in pre-partition era, he held the post of the Mayor of Calcutta.

After 1947, his role in West Bengal politics became even more crucial.

Badrudduja was never hesitant to speak on Muslim issues and took up the issue of injustice and atrocities with Muslims. Blitz and other newspapers termed him as a 'reactionary'. However, he was unmoved and undeterred. He fearlessly intervened and took up the causes of the citizens.

When he was targeted by the then State law minister Siddhartha Shankar Ray, he responded to the personal attack in a manner that the former had to apologize. Badrudduja said, 'If my loyalty to my religion and culture is used to brand me, then I'm proud of it'.

In 1967, he was elected MP as IDP candidate. In Assembly & Parliament, he was vocal & hence faced consequences. Also, with Krishak Praja Party (KPP) and then IDP.

In his political life, he remained a leader who was firm on principles and never compromised.

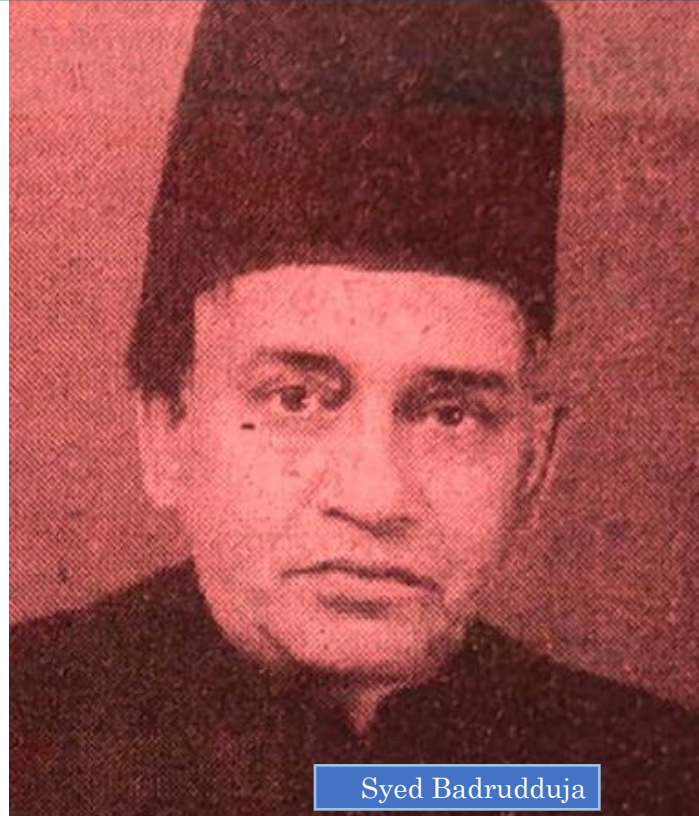
For example, he refused to accept that just Muslim lawmakers will have to sign a document on Kashmir. Objecting, he said that it was wrong to just ask Muslim members to sign it. Often in conflict with governments, he was imprisoned time and again.

Syed Badrudduja was born in Murshidabad, Bengal in 1900. He studied law and was Mayor of Kolkata in 1943-44.

He had participated in movements during freedom struggle. later, he went on to become the member of legislative council of West Bengal after independence.

He was elected MLA several times. Besides, he contested and won in Lok Sabha elections too. One must remember that Bengal and Punjab were most affected by partition. West Bengal was left with few influential politicians from the Muslim community, after 1947.

Both these states were cut from the middle and divided among separate countries. Badrudduja didn't move and remained in India. It was a time when Muslims of Bengal and even North India, needed political voice.



Syed Badrudduja

He showed that politics was possible without joining INC or Communists, took an independent line. He fearlessly spoke and raised the issues concerning Muslims.

Either it was about lack of institutions or education, he was actively taking them up in Assembly as well as in the Parliament.

As far as eloquence is concerned, Tagore was fulsome in praise when he saw him speak in 1938 and termed it as a 'Gift of God'.

When Badrudduja was moved by the complement, Tagore said that he was a writer and oratory was a totally different skill.

Badrudduja's English speech had cast a spell on none other than CV Raman. Similarly, he could keep the audience spellbound with his Urdu speeches. Indeed he left a shining legacy and remains a role model for the youth. .

Email: editor@asiantribune.net

The world needs free media.

Corporate funded media is not free.

'Extravagant marriages are a curse, wreck girls' families, harm society, stop attending them'

Social reforms are necessary to ensure positive change and prosperity in any community.

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REAL ISSUE

Social reforms are needed to make a positive change and ensure that there is prosperity in any society. As long as extravagant marriages are legitimized in the society, there can't be improvement in the overall condition of the masses.

Aleem Khan Falaki, a campaigner against dowry and extravagant marriages, has said that huge burden on the bride's family due to the trend of lavish weddings and dowry takes its toll on entire family, as each marriage makes it difficult for bride's family to sustain after the event.

The parents of the girl have to take loan and the consequences are such that it takes years and their financial condition gets damaged to such an extent that they have to curtail their own genuine needs apart from selling own property or house to bear expenses of the expensive wedding functions.

"A large sum goes into the event that has multiple ceremonies, food and the cost of the lawn or hall where the function is held. The dowry is another issue and there is jewellery apart from household goods and all these expenses go past a million and even more", said Falaki, in a lecture organized under the aegis of CSIR.

He said that the marriages should be solemnized without any extravagance. He said that the rituals and ceremonies have been added and this leads to the cost of marriage going up.



"Now, there are multiple ceremonies and despite the fact that girls and their families suffer most, women when they are on the opposite side of the fence they still behave the same manner".

Falaki said that the biggest irony is that when the women go out to search a bride for the groom, they too expect lavish wedding and even demand gold jewellery and cash in the form of dowry, though they are aware that it takes its toll on the bride's family.

The groom's sisters, cousins, mother, aunts and other women relatives are well aware of the situation but they don't protest against this evil though it affects everyone.

"There is no solution until the masses get aware. They must not give legitimacy to such social evils that cause huge damage to entire society", he said.

Falaki's organisation has been involved in creating awareness about the undue expenses in weddings in the country.

He is more active in South India, especially, Telangana, Andhra and other states of the Southern region.

Holding events to create awareness in this regard for many years, his organization has succeeded in convincing thousands of families to shun dowry and make the wedding, simple and without any extravagance.

Continuing with his speech, he said that as long as there is a social acceptance for such practices and people don't refuse invitations for such marriages where girl's family has to bear cost of the feast, there can't be a real change on the ground.

Regarding the issue of dowry and huge expenses on marriage, he said that the clergy doesn't speak up openly due to certain reasons, and hence, the practice continues all over the country, hurting the finances of the masses year after year.

"Why should someone take so many people with self to eat at the expense of others?"

That's pettiness and true shamelessness, he added.

Falaki suggested that the money should be used to help the groom and bride in setting up their business, rather than wasting such a big amount on needless rituals and extravagance.

[editor@asiantribune.net]

Building business, benefiting society

How an Indian man dreamt to set up his business: Establishes company in UAE & goes for expansion outside the region

SUCCESS STORY



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Initially established in Dubai, the company has grown in UAE & has now spread outside Gulf, with offices in South Asia and East Asia, as well.

From the dusty roads in a town in the North India, a dreamy eyed youth had set his foot on Dubai, the burgeoning metropolis in United Arab Emirates (UAE).

He didn't have a strong financial background. However, he was motivated & had an inclination towards business. Also, there were certain lessons and principles that he had learnt early in the life, which helped him in his journey.

Within a few years, the young man, Mohammad Shahbaz Alam, managed to establish a company that carved a niche for itself in Gulf, and became known for its presence in diverse sectors, earning a name for providing key services in some of the most essential

fields.

From a humble beginning, AMCA flourished, expanded and soon spread across the region. Clients started coming and today he has his offices in different countries ranging from UAE to Philippines and India, & runs the groups that is known for its auditing services too.

Shahbaz' father Md Sabir Ansari belongs to Muzaffarpur in the North Indian state of Bihar. Sabir Alam had lost his father when he was an infant and he had a tough life. However, he too had started from scratch—dealt into utensils and became a successful trader.

But Shahbaz had bigger dreams. Along with education, he had an interest in social work. He had also formed a nongovernmental

organisation. He had a dream to make it big and it was this aim to turn the dream into reality that finally brought him to UAE. Armed with the MBA degree, he leapt into the world of business and made confident steps, learning and moving ahead steadily.

“In my childhood, I had seen my father work hard and I got this lesson from him that business ought to be treated seriously and no sector or industry is big or small. One needs to be utterly sincere with own work, irrespective of the size of the trade or the sector. One must focus and be dedicated”, says Shahbaz Alam.

The AMCA has established itself as a major group in the Gulf.

It provides assistance to other

companies in setting up business in the region apart from auditing services. Alam is still close to his roots. “Along with four brothers, we achieved this. Now our aim is to take AMCA group of companies to greater heights, he says.

AMCA is also into real estate and other sectors. The company has employees from countries like India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Congo, Thailand, Myanmar and many more. AMCA today provides business set up services apart from Audit and Assurance, tax consulting and multiple other spheres including Golden Visa and Accounting. In the last decade, AMCA's journey and expansion is a result of his determination and energy that keeps the employees passionate.