



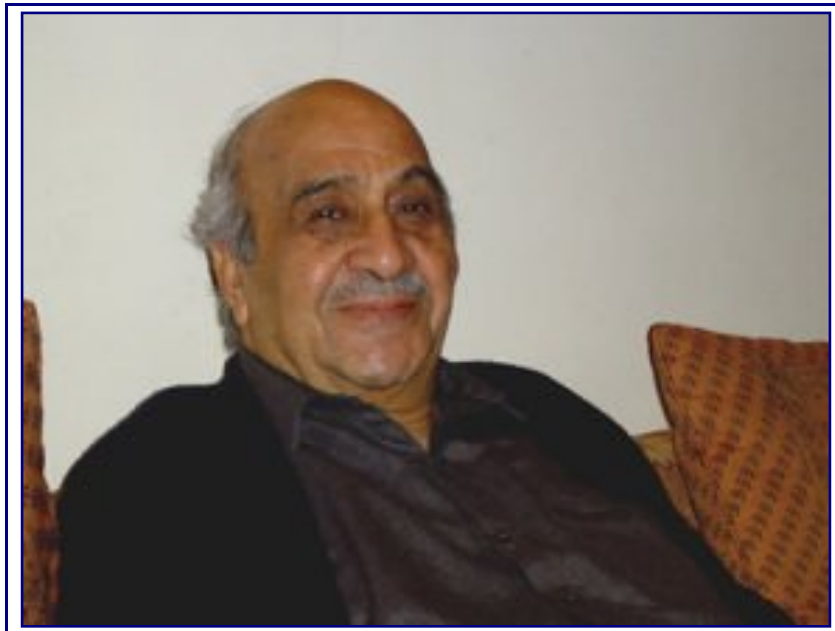
*In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful*

..... **The HOPE Bulletin** .....

Hhealth, Ongoing Projects, Education



# **In memory of the late Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh**



(1924 - 2008)

## INTRODUCTION

### **Akbar Ibn Abdullah, Editor**

When I first joined the administration of a pharmaceutical factory in the Amangarh, Nowshera industrial complex in 1961 I learned that the factory across the main road from us, Colony Sarhad Textile Mills, belonged to Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh and was being managed by his brother-in-law (his wife's brother), Retired Colonel Aslam Sheikh.

At that time I was a junior executive and did not have much opportunity to mingle with the higher management of other factories in the area. In the late 1960's my opportunity came to meet the major players when I was appointed Secretary of the Amangarh Industries Association, with Mukaty Sahib of Adamjees Paper Board Mills as President.

Besides owning Australasia Bank Limited, he successfully constructed Pakistan Cement Factory at Farooqia near Taxila - Hattar (Dist. Hazara). The colony of the factory was named Farooqia after late Mian Sahib's name. After the government took over the factory, the name was been changed to Mustahkam Cement Factory. To manage all these entities Mian Sahib maintained his head office in Rawalpindi. It was here in Rawalpindi I met him for the first time in the mid 1960's when I visited the *Jama'at* mosque there for *Jumu'ah* prayer and to meet my very dear friend, Maulana Bashir Ahmad Minto Sahib. I was quite impressed when I was told that Mian Sahib was a major contributor in funding the mosque's expenditure. *Jazak Allah!*

My ties with Colony Sarhad Textiles Mills grew when Br Ahmad Nawaz's father-in-law, Doctor Ishaq Sahib, was posted there as the company's physician to manage their dispensary. Medicines for the dispensary would be purchased from my factory below wholesale prices. Dr. Ishaq also became my family physician. I also maintained cordial relations with Br. Busharat Ahmad (Baqqa) who was the chief accountant of Mian Sahib's cement factory in Hattar.

It wasn't until 1973 when I was transferred from Nowshera to our head office in Rawalpindi to head the the company's Research Division and to manage an industrial venture in Islamabad's industrial complex area that I got the opportunity to meet Mian Sahib more often. By then his cement factory and Australasia Banks were nationalized by the Government, leaving to him only the Colony Sarhad Textile Mills at Nowshera. Later, he added a jute fabric mill at Nowshera, managed by his son Suhail Ahmad Sheikh

One day I visited Mian Sahib at his head office on Murree Road. The first thing I noticed was that he was a chain smoker, but of a different kind. When he got an urge to smoke he would light up a butt, take two long puffs and extinguish it in a sand ashtray.

During our conversations we exchanged the details of dreams each of us had had about Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan. At that time, Mr Bhutto was at the height of his popularity. I saw in my dream Mr Bhutto and I stranded on a high plateau and the latter was frantically attempting to get down but there was no safe passage down. I interpreted the dream as the Prime Minister being at the pinnacle of his popularity and that he will stay there for a long time to come. Mian Sahib then related his

dream which was opposite of mine. He said he saw Mr. Bhutto in a stark naked form. It turned out that Mian Sahib's dream came through and I changed my interpretation to the Prime Minister, in the height of his popularity, being placed in a position that no matter what he tried, he will not succeed in coming out of it.

On one occasion a very large delegation from the Caribbean visited Rawalpindi and on the request of Mian Sahib we took two members of the delegation as guests in our Rawalpindi residence.

While in Rawalpindi I had the opportunity to attend the marriages of Mian Sahib's two daughters that had taken place on the same day. Maulana Sadr-ud-Din Sahib solemnized the marriages.

Almost everyone I spoke to said that Mian Sahib was a great philanthropist, always ready to help *Jama'ats* in need. He was very helpful to students who came from abroad for *muballig* training. He adopted one of them, Fadil Ramazan from Holland, like one of his sons.

I am in some way beneficiary of his involvement. When my younger brother Khalid Abdullah was engaged to be married to the daughter of Busharat Ahmad (Baqqa), Mian Sahib invited Brs Zafar and Khalid and me, along with Br. Busharat Ahmad (Baqqa), to dinner at his Rawalpindi residence. After dinner Mian Sahib acted as a mediator and guarantor to the terms of marriage *vis-à-vis* dowry, maintenance allowance, etc. Mian Sahib ably conducted the deliberation of meeting the marital condition to the full satisfaction of the bride's father. *Jazak Allah!* Having satisfactorily concluded the terms of the marriage, the *nikah* took place at the Wah residence of Br. Busharat Ahmad, which was solemnized by Maulana Bashir Ahmad Minto Sahib. The next day I hosted a *walima* party at the Rawalpindi Civil and Military Club. Since I was an executive member of the Civil and Military Club at Nowshera I had the privilege of using the facility at the Rawalpindi Civil and Military Club. Later, I found out that it was forbidden for any member, even the commanding General of Rawalpindi Garrison, to stage marriage parties at the Rawalpindi Club. Oops! I got away with one. All the guests were received and seated on the outside lawn until dinnertime when we moved inside the building. In the photo below you will see Mian Sahib with some of my company's executives and relatives partaking of a meal while the other guests were in the banquet room.



**L to R: Butt Sahib, Zafar Abdullah, the late Mian Sahib, Ihsan Sahib, the late Abdul Rahman, Akbar Abdullah**

I left Pakistan in 1975 to settle in the USA. From then on Mian Sahib and I corresponded. He was very

keen to know about *tabligh* activities abroad, especially amongst the Black Muslims. It was around 1978 when he came to the United States in connection with Begum Sahiba's health condition and treatment. He spent a few days in Chicago where I introduced him to potential importers of textiles established in Chicago.

From the narration above you will notice that unlike my brother Zafar Abdullah who, as an inside person, had more exposure to our Central *Jama'at* activities and more intimate knowledge of our *Jama'at* members, I was set on the periphery with far less exposure.. Now I regret that I lost 15 years of valuable time that I could have benefited immensely. Well, they say better late than never. It may seem strange that while I did not meet *Jama'at* members I kept the worldwide *Jama'at* known of my presence with frequent mailings.

To conclude, when it came to *Jama'at* matters Mian Sahib was not a yes man. He always emphasized accountability. He thrived on the loyalty of others. Once he called you a friend he stood by you for life. He was a good converser and could engage in dialogue for hours. In the *Jama'at's* deliberations he supported the minority and uplifted the underdogs. He was very selective with his most generous contributions to the Central *Jama'at*. However, he fully supported financially the Masjid's expenditure and salaries of staff at Rawalpindi. On occasions I would not agree with his views of the Central *Jama'at*, but I did indeed respect his right to differ within the scope of democratic process laid down in the legacy of Hazrat Mirza Sahib's *Al-Wasiyyat* (The Will).

May Allah (*swt*), with His bountiful mercy and graceful blessings, bestow on the dearly departed soul of Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh high places in *Jannate-Firdous*, which He has promised to all righteous persons. *Aameen*. I also pray that our dear God grant *sabr* and fortitude to the surviving members of the family to bear the burden of this irreparable personal loss. *Aameen*. The *Jama'at* has lost a great philanthropist and dedicated stalwart. May Allah have mercy on him and reward him for his good deeds. *Aameen*.

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## **JANAZA & INTERMENT**

### **Burial announcement/ Report from Amir Aziz, General Secretary, AAII Lahore, Pakistan**

#### **Obituary Announcement**

We have just now received this very sad message from Br. Amir Aziz, General Secretary of Central Anjuman that our dear brother, Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh Sahib of Islamabad, a highly respected stalwart of our *Jama'at*, returned to his Maker on Friday March 21st in Pakistan. *Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Ilehi Rajeeon*.

Br. Amir Aziz wrote:

"We sadly announce the sad demise of our very honourable member, Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh Sahib. He died yesterday in Islamabad and his *Namaz e Janaza* would be led by Hazrat Ameer today at 7 p.m. He would be buried in his home town of Rawalpindi.

Hazrat Ameer and all members of AAII across the world are grieved for the departed soul. He rendered great services for the *jammah*. We pray to Allah Almighty that his soul may rest in peace

and enter him in the heaven of eternity. We also pray for the family of our very respected Mian Sahib that Allah may grant them solace and help them to bear this loss with patience."

The members of the global *Jama'ats* are please requested to conduct *salat-e-janaza ghaibana* in their congregational prayers. Messages of sympathy and condolences may be sent at [centralanjuman@yahoo.com](mailto:centralanjuman@yahoo.com).

Allah Hafiz, Your brother-in-grief, Akbar Abdullah

### **Hazrat Ameer led *janaza* prayer and recited *du'a***

Br Amir Aziz, General Secretary, AAII Lahore, Pakistan, just filed this report with us to be circulated to the members of our worldwide *Jama'ats*:

"Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha Sahib and I visited Rawalpindi to attend the *janaza* prayer of Mian Farooq A. Sheikh Sahib Marhoom. Dr. Pasha Sahib led the *janaza* prayer and nearly 500 plus people participated in it.

The deceased body (*mayyat*) of the late Sheikh Sahib Marhoom was laid to his resting place amid tears and prayers. I conducted the concluding *dua* after the burial.

On the following day of 23rd March, *dua* was conducted at the deceased residence. Once again a large number of participants gathered to pray for the soul of the deceased. I delivered a speech highlighting the great services of the late Mian Sahib and paid homage to his towering personality.

Thereafter, Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Pasha Sahib conducted a fervent *dua* for the deceased and his family. The force and sincerity of the *dua* brought tears to the eyes of those present. Non-Ahamadi participants came to Hazrat Ameer and thanked him for such a heartfelt *dua*. Some of them commented that they had never experienced such spiritual *dua* in their whole life. *Alhamdollillah!*

All the participants were very sad and their grief was quite evident from their faces. Every tongue was commending the services of the deceased for the poor, needy, and orphans etc. Sheikh Sahib lived a great life and left a great legacy for his heirs.

We appreciate the strength and conviction of the family in general and the son of the *Marhoom's* cooperation in particular, in conducting the whole *janaza* ceremony. Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Pasha Sahib commented that the attitude of the deceased family should be a role model for all members of *Jammat*. He advises every member to act the way the late Sheikh Sahib's family showed great moral courage to bear the burden of this irreparable personal loss.

May Allah bless his soul in heaven."

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# EULOGY & CONDOLENCE

## PAKISTAN

### **Mian Fakhur Ud Din Ahmed, Rawalpindi**

#### **Mian Farooq A. Shaikh passes away**

“Our lord, forgive us and our brothers who precede us in the faith and leave not in our hearts rancor against them.”

Mian Farooq A Shaikh, founder/proprietor of Colony Textile and Jute Mills of Pakistan, Allied Bank Ltd, and Mustahkam Cements Industry of Pakistan, breathed his last in Rawalpindi on the eve of 21 March 2008, *Eid-i-Milad Un nabi* (pbuh). He was the illustrious son of Al-Haj Mian Muhammad Ismail of Chinote (Punjab), a devoted follower of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmed, Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam. He joined the Movement along with his brothers, Al-Haj Mian Maula Bakhsh and Al-Haj Mian Muhammad – primer mill owners of Punjab.

Mian Farooq shifted his business from Multan to Rawalpindi half a century ago. He motivated the local Anjuman to have a mosque of their own in Rawalpindi. He contributed liberally and devoted his attention to the completion of the project. The mosque was opened by the Hazrat Maulana Sadr Din, President and *Amir* of the Anjuman.

The late Main Sahib was very particular about the offering of Friday prayers. He also arranged for offering *Tarawih* prayers during the fasting month. He always kept the Holy Quran and other religious literature with him while travelling in and out of Pakistan for study. Mian Sahib’s behaviour reminds us of the verse in Holy Quran, “Who believes in Allah and not let their wealth and family life avoid them from the remembrance of Allah” (65:12).

He served the Central Anjuman as General Secretary and an active and zealous member of the council of trustees. He had the priority of accompanying Hazrat Amir Maulana Sadr Ud Din during the performance of *Hajj* and visits to the *Jamaats* in the Southern Hemisphere; this tour lasted for couple of months.

The late Main Sahib contributed for the welfare and uplift of poor families, the spread of education and providing jobs to the unemployed youth.

May Allah bless Main Farooq and shower his blessings and favors on the departed soul, *Amen*.

## ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

### **Shaukat A Ali, Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Region (HQ Australia)**

I am deeply saddened to learn that our dear and respected brother Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh Sahib has left this world to meet with our Maker. *Inna-lillahe wa Inna Ilaihi Rajioon*.

I first met the late Mian Sahib in 1977, over 30 years ago, and met him many times over the last three decades. He was a very staunch Ahmadi and was passionate in his desire to assist the Anjuman and was

always asking about the activities of the Anjuman in various parts of the world. His departure is no doubt a sad loss to the Anjuman. May Allah *swt* grant the departed soul eternal peace and abode in the highest pedestal of *Jannat-ul Firdous - aameen*.

Please convey our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the surviving members of the bereaved family and to the members of the *Jamaat*. May Compassionate and Merciful Allah grant them strength, solace and *sabr* in this hour of great anguish.

### **Mehboob Raza, General Secretary, AAIIIL, Suva, Fiji**

The news of the sad demise of Sheikh Farooq Sahib is certainly a shock to us. His death is a great loss to our *Jammat*. May Allah grant him high place in *Jannat al Firdos. Ameen*

He was a long-serving member of the *Jammat* and his services to it were of great value. He was generous and always used to contribute towards the objectives of the *Jammat*. May Allah reward him amply for all his good deeds.

The people of the Fiji *Jammat* offer deep condolences to the family of the late Sheikh Sahib and pray that Allah may give them *sabr* at this difficult time.

The *ghaibana namaz janaza* of Sheikh Sahib *Marhoom* will be said in Masjid Noor at Suva on this Friday.

### **Abid Raza, President AAIIIL, New Zealand**

Please offer our condolence and heartfelt sympathy to the deceased family of dear brother Marhoom Mian Farooq Ahmed Sheikh Sahib of Islamabad who called to meet the Maker (*Inna Lillahe wa Inna Ilaihi Rajeeon*) from myself and my family, including brother Mehboob Raza who has left for Fiji today, and from the NZ *Jamaat*. May Merciful Allah grant him a high place in *Janatal Firdoos. Ameen*.

### **Riaz Ahmed Choudhary, Jammu Jama'at, India**

We the members of AAIIIL Jammu too are shocked over the sad demise of Brother Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh. May Almighty Allah shower His blessings to the departed soul and place it in *Jawar-e-Rehmat* and give enough courage to all the near and dear ones and other members of AAIIIL. *Ameen. Inshalla Giabiana namaz-e-Janaza will be performed after Friday prayers on 28th March. 2008.*

*Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Iلهi Rajeeon*

## **CARIBBEAN REGION**

### **Abdul Majeedkhan, President, SIV, Paramaribo, Suriname**

*Inna-lillahe-wa-inna alaihe-radjuin.*

On behalf of my family, the Board and all the members of de S.I.V., we would like to offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh Sahib.

May Allah grant him a good place in His *Jannat-ul- Firdaus* and give you and all his loved ones strength and forbearance to overcome the great loss.

*Ghaibana janaza namaaz* will be read on Friday next after *Djoem - namaaz* in our *Jama Masjid*.

### **Dr. Khaliel Ghafoerkhan, Paramaribo, Suriname**

"*Inna lillahe Wa Inna Ilaihe Rajeeoon.*"

Please accept our heartfelt condolences on the loss of another stalwart of the AAIL-Lahore.

We have heard a lot about this brother, also in Suriname, but he never paid us a visit. When we were in Islamabad (in Dec. 2002) we were the guests of Nomanbhai's brother, and he had arranged that we could go to the small mosque in Rawalpindi for *Jumah*. It was a long drive by car and we remember that we had to go downstairs from street level to reach the prayer-room. Some dignitaries were present and it is possible that we also met Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh Sahib there. Later, at the *Salana Jalsa* in Lahore, some young men had come from Rawalpindi to participate in the *Jalsa*. Unfortunately we do not remember seeing Mian Sahib there. We are sorry that we cannot tell you anything more except that his name was mentioned several times by SIV members returning from Pakistan and by delegates from Pakistan and abroad.

*Insha'Allah*, we will pray *Ghaibana-Janaza* for the deceased brother coming Friday.

May Allah accept all the contributions and sacrifices of Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh Sahib and grant him a beautiful place in His Paradise and may He give courage and solace to his bereaved family, Hazrat Ameer and the whole global *Jamaat*.

### **Roger Bissessar, Corresponding Secretary, AAIL, Trinidad & Tobago**

On behalf of the Religious Head Maulana M.K.Hydar and the board of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at-i Islam Inc Trinidad & Tobago, I would like to extend sincere condolences to Hazrat Ameer, Central Anjuman and the family of our dear and beloved member Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheik Sahib (from Allah we come, and to Him is our return).

Mian Farooq was well respected and known by me & members of the Trinidad Anjuman, and some of our senior board members had the privilege of meeting him in Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname, Pakistan and the UK and sharing a long friendship with him.

As a young member of the movement, I have always heard of his commitment to the propagation of Ahmadi views and ideas and his vision for the return to the splendour and glory of Islam via our movement.

As we prepare for our 100th anniversary celebrations worldwide, we have lost a true soldier of Islam. May Allah reward him richly for his service to our noble religion of Islam. Please forward a copy of this note to his family.

## **Enayat Mohammed, Chairman, Ahmadiyya Muslim Literary Trust, Trinidad and Tobago**

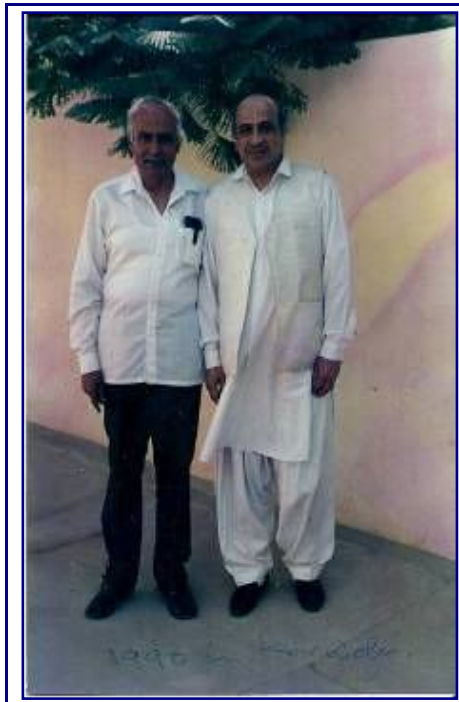
On behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Literary Trust, Trinidad and Tobago I extend our deepest condolences to the family of the late Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheik of Rawalpindi, Pakistan. We also offer our condolences to our dear Hazrat Ameer and members of the Central Anjuman.

We are aware of the sterling contributions Mian Farooq made in assisting our leaders and members of the Central Anjuman in carrying on the propagation work for very many years. He was able to influence members of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman worldwide as he had travelled to various countries to encourage Ahmadis to continue to put into practice the pledge they had taken for the service of Islam through the Ahmadiyya Movement.

We in Trinidad had the distinct pleasure of being in his company during a visit here many years ago. My family had the honour of having him as our houseguest. We will always treasure those moments with him.

In 1990, my wife and I had the honour of spending a night at Mian Farooq's home in Rawalpindi. He took us to his cloth mill and gave us gifts of clothing, which we have treasured over the years, to this day. He will long live in our memories and our hearts.

We of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Literary Trust pray that Allah will bless and reward him for all the good he has done and forgive him for any shortcomings he may have had during his stay here on earth.



Enayat Mohammed and Mian Farooq, Karachi, 1990

## **EUROPEAN REGION**

## Nasir Ahmad, Aylesbury, England

### The late Sheikh Mian Farooq Ahmad as I knew him

I cannot claim to be an intimate friend of the late Sh. Mian Farooq Ahmad, therefore, my impressions about him will be mostly based on how I found him as an active and devoted member of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement with his zealous participation in the activities of the *Jama'at* and his generous contributions to various important projects of the Central Anjuman.

I worked in the Central Anjuman in various capacities – from clerk of the weekly *Light* to the acting General Secretary (1954-1980). The late Mian Sahib was a member of the General Council as well as a member of the Executive Committee. He was also Honorary General Secretary of the Anjuman for some time. I therefore had the opportunity to observe him closely in his deliberations in meetings and his concern for the members of the *Jama'at* and workers of the Anjuman. He was particularly very respectful to the *mubaligheen* working in various *Jama'ats*.

In the 1950's he was president of the Multan *Jama'at* and in the late 1970's he was president of the Rawalpindi *Jama'at*. During his presidency of the Multan *Jama'at*, Friday congregations were held at his house on Paris Road, Multan Cantt. My younger brother, Zafar Ahmad, was doing his first year of medical studies at the Nishtar Medical College, Multan. In those days the Nishtar Medical College was on the outskirts of the city and there was no public or private transport available to travel from the College to Multan Cantt. The late Mian Sahib made arrangements for all students studying at the College to be transported for Friday congregational prayers and then returned to the College. This used to be the arrangement for every one who could not afford to come to the Friday prayers or other meetings held at his house.

He took a personal interest in each student and his welfare. He also offered handsome stipends to deserving students. His bungalow, his noble and kind wife, Mrs. Surayya Farooq, and his servants and drivers were at the command of any local or foreign guest who came to his house. In a way, his house was an always-open guesthouse where every visitor felt at home whether the late Mian Sahib was there or not.

He highly respected the local *imams* appointed by the Central Anjuman and looked after them very well. During Mian Farooq's presidency in Multan, the late Maulana Yusuf Garanthi Sahib was the *Imam*, and in Rawalpindi, the late Maulana Bashir Ahmad Minto was the *Imam*. Both were held in high esteem by the late Mian Sahib. Besides Friday congregations, get-togethers were held frequently at his house where delicious dishes were served and lively discussions held.

Mian Sahib was a devoted Ahmadi and faced difficulties in this regard with courage and personal and monetary sacrifices. He was a great admirer of late the Hazrat Maulana Sadr-ud-Din, Ameer II of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement. He responded to his appeals for any project of the Central Anjuman with an open cheque and unstinting support to him. I remember that when the late Hazrat Ameer Maulana Sadr-ud-Din passionately wished to start New Muslim College in Lahore and made a grand plan to dismantle the old building at Ahmadiyya Buildings, Brandreth Road, and to construct two commercial markets with flats at the top so that these may yield regular income for the Anjuman, most of the members were of the view that the plans were not feasible because of the financial and legal hurdles. But the late Hazrat Ameer was determined to carry out the plans and the only man who wholeheartedly stood by him was the late Mian Farooq Ahmad, who extended all-out financial support for the two plans. The Ahmadiyya Market No. 1 and 2 are living memories of the late Hazrat Ameer's determination and commendable courage to go single-handedly without having any financial and general support of the Anjuman and it also symbolizes unconditional support of the late Mian Sahib. In Market No. 1 today stands the Promised

Messiah Memorial Room where Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, breathed his last on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 1908.

The late Mian Sahib always considered it an honour to serve the Movement and in particular the late Hazrat Maulana Sadr-ud-Din in any capacity. And he used to recall it with immense pleasure and a rare opportunity for him and his family to accompany the late Hazrat Maulana Sadr-ud-Din to perform pilgrimage to Makkah and afterwards undertake the tour of the Western Hemisphere countries – to visit Ahmadiyya *Jama'ats* in Trinidad, Guyana and Suriname. He never missed the annual gathering meetings and even last year, when he was weak and was not feeling well at all, he, along with his two daughters, Mrs. Umbreen Bashir and Mrs. Shermeen Jameel, attended the *Salana Du'aiyya* in Lahore. His two daughters are equally active in their respective *Jama'ats* in Karachi and Rawalpindi and are keen students of Islam and always eager to learn and speak about Islam and its various aspects of social and religious life. I am sure the late Mian Sahib must be very satisfied that his daughters are taking keen interest in the activities of the *Jama'at* with whom he had been associated throughout his life.

At this point I would like to recall an incident when late Maulana Abdur Rahim Jaggoe of Suriname and I stayed for a couple of days at Mian Sahib's house in Rawalpindi. This will give you a glimpse of how the late Mian Sahib and his late wife, Surayya Sahiba, were humble and hospital in looking after the guests.

It was the beginning of January and the weather in Rawalpindi was extremely cold. At *Fajr* time I heard a knock on the door of our room. I thought it must be some servant. I said, "Please come in." But again there was a knock. I again said, "Please come in." But there was no reply and somebody knocked again. Then I went to the door and found that Mrs. Farooq was holding a bucket of hot water. I exclaimed in bewilderment: "Begum Sahiba! Why are you so early in the morning with a bucket of hot water?" She said: "The heating system is not working and the servants are sleeping. So I thought for *Fajr* prayer you would need hot water for *wudhu*." This is just one incident.

On one or two other occasions when I happened to meet Begum Sahiba, even at somebody else's home in Rawalpindi, she always took me along in the car to her house and would never let me go without entertaining me. This was quite normal for her as she would treat everyone, whether rich or poor, with the same courtesy and kind gestures.

The late Mian Sahib belonged to one of the well-known business enterprises in the country, the Colony Group of Industries, and played a pivotal role in managing Colony Textile Mills, Australasia Bank Limited, and Pakistan Cement Industries Limited, Farooqia in Hattar, Distt. Haripur.

Sh. Mian Farooq Ahmad has departed to the next world as death is inevitable. Last time I and my family met him when he came to London for treatment. He was in great pain but even then he started talking about certain plans he had in his mind about the *Jama'at*. I said: Mian Sahib, You are not feeling well. We will talk about it when you are well and I will come to Pakistan." But alas! That was to be the last meeting. May Allah have mercy on him and grant him peace and solace in the hereafter. *Amin!*

### **Shahid Aziz, Secretary, AAAIL, United Kingdom**

My wife's family's association with the late Farouk Ahmad Sheikh goes back many decades. My wife remembers seeing him at many *jalsas* of the *Jamaat* in Rawalpindi.

My own personal association with Sheikh sahib goes back to the mid-seventies when he came to the UK. Maulana Sheikh Muhammad Tufail had purchased a building at 56 Longley Road, Tooting in London, which he called The Ahmadiyya House. Sheikh sahib and a delegation came to the UK from Pakistan to

take part in the first international convention of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement which was held outside Pakistan.

At the time there were two points of view in the *Jamaat*; one, that a Centre should be set up outside Pakistan and work moved there which the late Sheikh sahib supported, and two that the Centre in Pakistan should be supported and strengthened, which was the view I supported. Our debates on this point continued for long.

At that time, together with the late Maulana Manan, Sheikh sahib took in hand the task of printing the whole of the literature produced by the Promised Messiah. One, or perhaps two, volumes were produced when printing of Ahmadi literature was banned in Pakistan. The volume that I saw had in it extremely useful historical material such as a photo-copy of the front cover of one of the Promised Messiah's books which showed it had been printed by the Anjuman Hamayati Islam of Lahore.

Two years ago when I was in Rawalpindi and delivered the Friday sermon there, Sheikh sahib was extremely kind and complimentary. He took me to a posh hotel in Islamabad for lunch and talked at length about propagation of Islam. Earlier, at the *jalsa* he had contributed a substantial amount to the Centre in foreign exchange. I saw him again when he was in London for a check-up. He made sure that he came to Dar-us-Salaam for *jummah* prayers. He has now gone to meet his Maker where he will be rewarded for his good deeds. May Allah grant his soul a high station in the hereafter.

### **A.S. Abdul Santoe, Representative, European Region**

It is with great grief that we have learned of the sad demise of Mian Farooq Sheikh Sahib of Islamabad on Friday March 21st. *Inna lillaahi wa inna elaihi raadji'un*.

May Allah *swt* grant forgiveness to the departed soul and extend to him the choicest places in His heavenly abode in eternal peace. May Allah *swt* also grant the deprived families necessary *sabr* and strength to bear this irreparable loss - *Innallaaha Ma'As Saabereen. Ameen*.

Also on behalf of all members in Europe we extend our heartfelt condolence to the deprived families.

### **Raghib Ahmad Mian, United Kingdom**

This news was heard with great shock and sadness that Al Haj Mian Farooq Ahmad Sh has died. *Inna lillah hi wa inna ilayhi rajaioon*.

Indeed he was a true and devoted Ahmadi. He lived all his life for the projection of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. We were children when he moved to Rawalpindi for business. We never had missed him from Friday prayers and other religious functions. Up to the early 70's we did not have our own mosque in Rawalpindi. We used to pray Friday prayers and gather for other meetings in different places at different times. In the early 70's Mian Farooq Esq. bought a house in Rawalpindi Cantt for use of *markaz*. Till the 1980's when we manage to build our own mosque in city by the name of Jamia-i-Mubbarik. This was most of his efforts and donations that we, the Rawalpindi *jamaat*, were proud of being able to have our own centre.

This mosque is a lovely piece of architecture. I am sure it will not be out of place to mention the hard work and efforts of the grandson of the late Hazrat Amir Maulana M. Ali, who was by profession an

architect and him who designed the mosque. Mian Farooq Esq. had so many plans to promote Ahmadiyyat, one of which was founding the Hazrat Mirza Ghulam foundation under which management we are able to reprint the books of late Hazrat Mirza Esq.

Apart from the successful businessman, he was a successful religious personality as well. Many of us might not know that in the 1970's he was one of the top 32 business personalities of Pakistan.

We had a chance to visit him in London hospital last year, where he was admitted for an operation. He will always be remembered as a great Ahmadi, very kind hearted and polite person; in fact he had all the qualities of a true Ahmadi. May Allah *swt* bless him and shower His mercy on him. *Ameen*.

## **NORTH AMERICAN REGION**

### **Captain Abdus Salam Khan, California, USA**

#### **Remembering Mian Farooq A. Sheikh**

A flood of memories came to mind as I looked at the email from Akbar Abdullah Sahib breaking the sad news of the passing away of our dear and respected Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh in Islamabad on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2008. *Inna' lillah-ai wa inna' ilaihay ra'je-oon*.

Mian Sahib was the scion of a well-known Ahmadi family. His father, Sheikh Muhammad Ismail, was the eldest of the three brothers who had pledged their *Bai'at* at the hand of the Promised Messiah (*as*). The three Sheikh brothers, humble men working in a small flour mill owned by a Hindu, repaired to Qadian to meet the Promised Messiah, carrying a sleeve full of silver rupees as an offering to the *Imam*. The Promised Messiah, moved by their sincerity, lifted up his hands in prayer and prayed for the prosperity of their business. From that day on the three brothers started prospering and eventually laid the foundation of a huge industrial empire in Pakistan.

Mian Sahib went to further expand the family business and ventured into cement, textiles, jute and other sectors. He was a great entrepreneur. He once asked me to try and get the Turkmenistan delegate to an international conference in Islamabad organized by Ge. Aslam Beg's NGO "The Friends" interested in setting up a joint venture in Turkmenistan for the production of chromium. Electricity, the main expense for this industry, is very cheap in Turkmenistan, he said.

Whatever his mundane preoccupations, Ahmadiyyat remained his first love and priority. He provided many jobs to Ahmadis in his factories and gave financial aid to a number of deserving students.

He was one of the founding members of the Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Foundation, an organization whose main aim was to publish the works of the Promised Messiah. It did very valuable work in this field and published a number of the *Imam's* works.

He took up an overseas tour of the *Jama'at* under the leadership Hadrat Maulana Sadr-ud-din in the fifties.

His house and office in Rawalpindi was always open to the *Jama'at* members. He was the main spirit behind establishing the Rawalpindi Mosque.

He was the main man in running the affairs of the Central Anjuman during the time of Hadrat Maulana

Sadr-ud-din Sahib and spent a lot of time and money in promoting the cause.

I had the honor of being a close friend of his and this friendship endured till the end.

Fair of countenance, of a medium build, a smiling face and a brilliant conversationalist, he was the center of attention in every gathering.

At meal times during *Jalsa salaana* he could always be found standing with a bevy of friends, holding forth on all the major issues of the day.

He was indeed a pillar of the *Jama'at*. We are sure going to miss you, Mian Sahib!

*Toum-hain kehta hai moorda kown , toum zindown kay zindaa hoe,  
Toumhaaree naiki-aan zinda, toumharee khoubian baaqui.*

Who says you are dead; nay, you liveliest of the living;  
For your good deeds continue to live, and so do your shining memories!

### **Condolence letter to Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh's son, Suhail Sheikh, from Akbar Abdullah, Editor, *The HOPE Bulletin***

*Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Iلهi Rajeeoon.*

I am grieved at the sad passing away of your beloved father whom I knew very well from 1961 when I first migrated to Pakistan. He was not only a good friend but quite a staunch Ahmadi, willing to help anyone in genuine need. May Allah (*swt*) amply reward him for all his noble deeds. *Aameen*.

Here in the United States our thoughts and prayers are that Allah Almighty in His Infinite Mercy and Compassion will grant eternal peace, solace and happiness to the dearly departed soul of Mian Sahib Marhoom, and bestow on him an abode in the highest pedestal of Heaven, *Jannate-Firdous*, which He has promised to all righteous persons. *Aameen*.

All of us here further wish that our Lord God with His Cherished Blessings will grant Mian Sahib's surviving family and relatives, especially his children and the members of Rawalpindi *Jama'at*, a source of spiritual and physical strength and comfort in their grief and anguish to bear the burden of this irreparable personal loss. *Aameen*.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION

***Idara Ta'lim-ul-Quran* (Institute for the Study of the Quran), Muslim Town, Lahore run by the Lahore Ahmadiyya Anjuman in the 1960's**



**Teachers and students at the Institute: Maulana Abdul Haq Vidyarthi (Principal) is seated 4th from left, Hafiz Sher Muhammad is seated 3rd from left**

### **Scenes from the opening ceremony of the Institute**



**Maulana Sadr-ud-Din (wearing turban) is seated 2nd from right. Maulana Abdul Haq Vidyarthi is seated first on right. Mirza Masud Beg is seated first from left, Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh seated second from left**



**Colonel Bashir Husain Sayyid Sahib standing, speaking**



**Maulana Sadr-ud-Din Sahib speaking**



**Maulana Sadr-ud-Din (r) and Mian Sheikh at laying of the foundation stone of Ahmadiyya Hall in Ahmadiyya Buildings where Ahmadiyya Market No. 1 was built, and later, on its front side, the Promised Messiah Memorial Room**





**Georgetown, Guyana: Mian Sahib standing in left corner, Maulana Sadr-ud-Din Sahib seated in the centre and Maulana Sheikh Mohammad Tufail Sahib standing at the right corner**



**Rawalpindi, Pakistan: Zafar Abdullah and Zakia Abdullah on right with Mian Sahib and his family**



**With Aziz Kashmiri (l) and Sheikh Muhammad Tufail (r)**

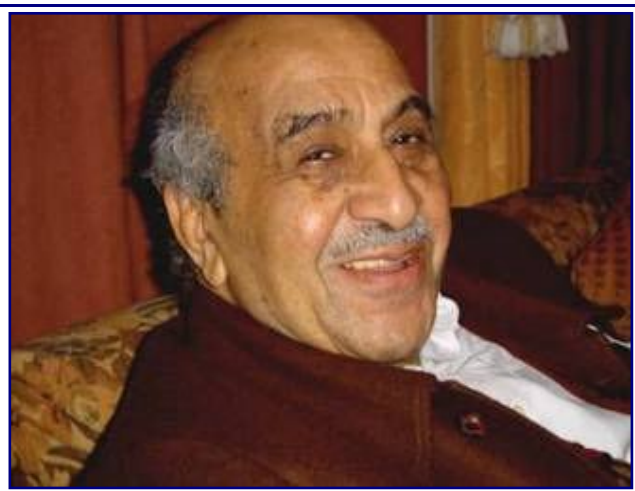


**In the United Kingdom with daughter for treatment**

## Receiving visitors during last illness



Hazrat Ameer, Dr. Pasha Sahib, Mudassar Aziz, Amir Aziz and other *Jama'at* members from Lahore are seen amongst the visitors



**During Mian Sahib's treatment in the United Kingdom**

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