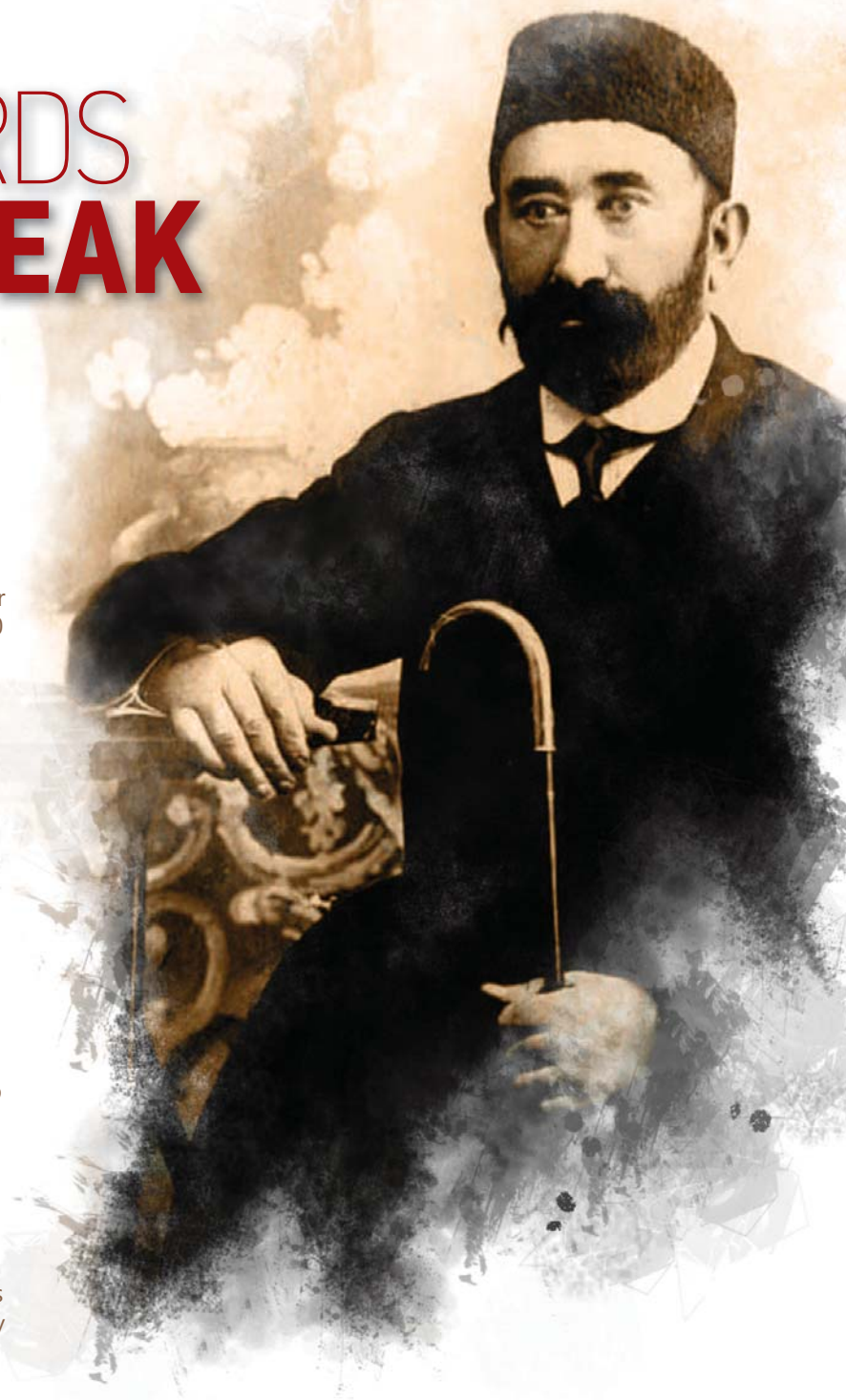


TOWARDS THE PEAK

Aga Musa Naghiyev was born in Bilejeri village, Baku provincial in 1848. His father was dealing with selling straw. After primary education in Moslem ecclesiastical school he kept to help his father in the village till his 25. His father died at Musa's 25 and left 300 manat debt to young Musa. Musa did not loose his heart and borrowed more 200 manat to open a little shop. Thus, he started independent activity with 500 manat debt without a penny in his pocket. Two years passed he repaid his debt and began to deal with textile business. He had collected the needing amount for several years and achieved to buy a land field in Bibiheybet. Musa was successful when he drilled a well to irrigate land. Oil gushed up from the well which was not too deep. Musa did not go away from the well for days and nights. He implemented the heaviest jobs and did not let workers rest either. This oil fountain made Musa who was just a carrier be an oil industry owner Aga Musa Naghiyev.



Unlike other oil magnates Aga Musa Naghiyev did not hire guards. Once chieftains took him as hostage by the order and demanded 20 000 manat from him. Aga Musa told them he could give only thousand manat. In such case chieftains threatened him that they would kill him. Aga Musa said without any hesitation:

“Then you will not get thousand manat either”.

Aga Musa grew up in the street, he knew all street rules well and could defend himself. He did not agree to give more than thousand manat though chieftains had feed him and played cards with him for three days.

Once Aga Musa Naghiyev was invited to participate in a charity action. Aga Musa put a few amount of money in salver. Philanthropists looked at each other when they saw the money and Naghiyev politely asked the reason of their glances. They said that his son granted three times more money couple of minutes ago. Aga Musa responded:

“This is not surprising. He is son of a millionaire; I am son of a straw carrier.”

According to official information, Naghiyev had 45 fruitful and technically well supplied wells in oil fields in Balakhani, Ramana and Sabunchu villages and more than 800 workers worked in those wells. Talented azerbaijani engineer Fetulla bey Rustembeyov who was manager of the company and engineer, geologist Huseyn khan Talishkhanov played great role to get success. In 1908 Aga Musa Naghiyev extracted 12.328.300 poods of crude oil and it was record level for that time. Till 1913 during five years his companies included to the list of top ten huge enterprises of Azerbaijan and took place in sixth and seventh places in different years.

BUILDINGS

Naghiyev who became a rich man on account of oil in a short term started to invest in real estate. It was

less profitable but more reliable source. He explained his construction inclination with his dad's will: “God makes life of a man who builds house long. Remember, my son, how much you build your life will be long so much more.”

M.Naghiyev constructed about 98 different style buildings in Baku. Before one building's construction was completed another building was started to be built. Even Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev was unable to catch Musayev in such scale of construction works. Most distinguished buildings constructed by M.Naghiyev are “Ismailiyye”, twin buildings in 28 May Street and more six buildings in that street, as well as the building which was constructed with burnt brick. Naghiyev had two beautiful houses in Nizami Street. One of those houses has exit to three streets- Rasul Rza, Nigar Rafibeyli and Nizami Street at the same time. There is a flower passage under the building. There are some other famous buildings constructed by Naghiyev such as “Winter House” (which is called “House of Officers” nowadays), “New Europe” Hotel which was first seven-storey building in Baku– now it is Baku office of “LUKOyl”. Naghiyev financed construction of Baku Realny School as well and Baku State Economy University is situated in that building now. The most important building among buildings that constructed by Naghiyev is “Ismailiyye” which dedicated to his son who died in Switzerland from tuberculosis at his 27. Naghiyev sent well-known Polish architect I.Ploshko to Italy to choose an architectural sample. Ploshko suggested making a building like “Palasio Kantariya” Palace in Venice. In 1907 Naghiyev approved project of the palace and construction started. This palace was the most beautiful building in Baku. The following words were written by forth Caliph Imam Ali on the building: “One rises with his efforts and reaches his desires by working hard. One should learn from his birth to death. Muslims, your times dies

with you, prepare your kids for new times!” Now Presidium of National Academy of Sciences is situated in this building.

Aga Musa Naghiyev constructed big city hospital in Baku on the project of talented engineer N.Q.Bayev. It is not accidental that the building is in shape of “H” (capital letter of Naghiyev’s surname in Cyrillic alphabet). The building was presented for exploitation in 1918. Naghiyev expended 300 thousand gold rubles for construction of this big hospital. Total area of the hospital is more than 100 thousand square meter and its ambulatory part is considered for 1000 beds. Aga Musa wanted that serious illnesses to be treated in that hospital and youth not to die untimely as his son.

ACTIVITIES

During those years activities of educationist and philanthropist societies widely spread and it demanded to create a union charity and culture centre. “Ismayiliyye” turned to be such a centre. Charity evenings were organized behind tea table in its halls by

“Nashri-Maarif” society. Times passed and political issues were also discussed in those halls. For instance, it is known that student conference was held in that building with the participation of national teachers on 26th of April in 1917. Great philanthropist Aga Musa Naghiyev allocated 8 thousand rubles for education of grant-aided students who studied in different high schools each year. When director of Department Kobalevski suggested creating school of economy in Baku 170 thousand manat was collected in a short time. There was M.Naghiyev and Shemsi Asadullayev among people who first allocated money for this project.

In 1898 an orphanage was started to be constructed in Baku, however it revealed that the allocation collected was not enough at the end of the year. At that time M.Naghiyev and Sh. Asadullayev allocated huge amount of money.

M.Naghiyev was the activist participant of Caucasus Society for struggling against tuberculosis.

Imperator II Nikolai awarded Naghiyev golden medal on Andreyev’s ribbon and III degree Sacred Sta-



nislav Order for improvement of oil industry, investment in construction of three huge plants in Black sea, as well as for application of new mechanical method to produce “black gold”. Naghiyev had hundreds of buildings and tens of ships. In 1914 his wealth was 70 million rubles golden money. His real and movable estates were estimated higher.

FAMILY

In 1872 Naghiyev got married to Ruguyye khanum. Rugiyye khanum’s family was more famous and wealthy than Nagyev’s family. Naghiyev was not an oil magnate yet when they got acquainted. However, it seems Rugiyye khanum’s father understood Musa’s ability to keep his family at that time. Three years passed and their first child Ismayil and then their daughter Unbulbanu were born. According to Naghiyev’s grandchild Dilare khanum (Daughter of the millionaire’s stepson Ferej Naghiyev), Aga Musa had second wife –Georgian Jewish Liza khanum. Naghiyev did not take Rugiyye khanum with himself when he participated in aristocratic events as women were in open-racy outfits while Rugiyye khanum had been wearing turban. Therefore Aga Musa always went to such events with Liza khanum. They got acquainted in an evening banquet. He called Liza as his wife, but Rugiyye khanum as mother of his children. Musa Naghiyev died in 1919 at his 70. “Ismayiliyye” monument was constructed on Naghiyev’s grave. Aga Musa would like to be buried next to his son, however Ismayil was luckier than his dad as his grave is in Kerbala where Naghiyev also wanted to be buried.

WHAT DID AGA MUSA Naghiyev DO?

- He buried 35 poor family members in Kerbela due to their desire.
- He was a man who made his workers’ weddings and paid their tuition fees.
- He allocated money for the publication of newspaper “Kaspy”.
- “Khram vozdukha” in Kislovodsk belonged to him.
- In 1879-1880 he constructed the plant producing



kerosene in Black City.

- In 1887 he created Oil Company by name of Naghiyev during outstanding concentration of capital and production and when joint stock companies of owners were widespread. This company is considered first national ownership enterprise. The company had individual family character.
- Thanks to the amount of oil that produced by Naghiyev that Baku became an oil capital in 1901.
- In 1901 he paid 75% of allocation to lay Shollar water to Baku.
- In 1893 he was awarded I Gildiya merchant title.
- In 1891-1892 he made block with Rothschild. This block assisted to export kerosene to abroad and to sign several agreements on sales.
- He laid water to Black City in 1891.
- In 1890-1895 he became well-known as huge oil magnate in Azerbaijan, Russia and in foreign countries.
- In 1898 he allocated 100.000 rubles for construction of Baku Polytechnic-school.
- In 1898 he made allocation for educational courses of old Muslims.
- In 1898-1899 he was favored title of millionaire when he was 49.
- In 1899 he created one more oil refinery.
- In 1904-1913 he included to the ranks of the hugest oil owners in Azerbaijan.
- In 1906 he played great role in development of fish industry. He acquired the hugest fisheries by investing enormous amount capital in auction upon fisheries. Most fisheries in “Kur – balig” industry belonged to him.
- In 1907 he constructed Realniy School (Economy University) and assisted it financially. He was succeed in creating preschool class here and paid 25 Muslim girls’ tuition fees.
- In 1909 he was founder of “Caucasian Fish Industry Society”.
- In 1910 he was awarded “Zolotaya Sheynaya Medal na Andreyevskoy lente” medal by Tsar Nikolai.
- In 1913 he was awarded III degree “Sacred stanislav” order as the patronage of Realniy School.

- In 1913 he gained 10 voices in the congress of Oil Owners and included to their range.
 - He aided donation for the construction of Realniy Vocational School in Shamakhi.
 - He transferred huge amount of money to “Baku Society” which struggled against death of children.
 - He completed construction of the nursery which could not be constructed because of lacity financial means.
 - He made financial assistance to more than 100 families.
 - He expended huge amount of money for education of youth. There were countless youth who studied abroad by financial support of Naghiyev.
 - Mother and Child Protection Institute (OMD), several other hospitals and the hospital by name of Naghiyev constructed by Aga Musa Naghiyev.
 - The hospital which was called by his name was the school where doctors improved their professional skills.
 - Aga Musa who decided to build 100 buildings made 98 of them.
 - In 1913 he constructed “Ismayiliyye” which was first “Muslim Charity Society”.
 - In 1913 he constructed “New Europe” and “Astoria” hotels.
 - “Fish industry” office was situated in flower passage building which he constructed in Malakan Street (Rasul Rza Street).
 - All buildings situated in right and left sides of 28 May Street belonged to him.
 - In 1895-1897 he constructed Lutheran church in that street.
 - He built first “Post and Communication” building.
- I think I have no moral right to write down more and appreciate Naghiyev after all listed above. I would like just to add that people who did so many things for his nation had already gained their paradise in this world...
- Aga, let God give you all you wished in that world!!!

Tərcümə: Ülkar Mirzəyeva