



SANGAT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF



Sindhi Association of North America

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Number 1

Editor, Shabbir A. Shalkh

January, 1992

From the desk of...

General

Secretary

Status Report

Unity Meeting

The Unity Meeting arranged by New York Chapter was a big success, our special thanks to Mr. Badar Shaikh, Mr. Paryal Soomro, Dr. Hafiz Abbasi, Mr. Zamir Soomro and other local members. They welcomed everyone with open arms and laid a foundation for unity and friendship. The decisions made at this meeting were:

Resolution

A resolution was passed and signed by all friends present, emphasizing that Sindhi Unity is above all personal differences.

The New Chapters

It was the consensus of the participants to encourage the formation of as many new chapters as possible, as this will encourage more members to participate in SANA'S activities at different levels. However the membership of the new chapter presidents to the E.C. may be put on hold till new constitutional changes are passed by the general body.

New Format for E.C.

Mr. Anwer Shaikh suggested that instead of electing different office bearers we should have election of 7 or 8 executive council members then they in turn elect office bearers (President - Gen. Sec.) on their own. This idea is being included in the new V.C.F.

(See page 2)

Experts fear SUDP to give Karachi *de facto* status of separate unit

HYDERABAD - The World Bank aided "Sindh Urban Development Project" (SUDP), which envisages fundamental structural and policy changes involving even drastic, in local laws, if effected as proposed, a government within government is apprehended to be established in Karachi, according to economic, administrative and legal experts of Sindh.

These experts say, in case these changes are put into practice, Karachi will enjoy a *de facto* status of a separate unit, financially and administratively to a larger extent without being declared as a separate autonomous unit constitutionally.

The experts, particularly point out that when the idea of SUDP was mooted out it was declared that under the said programme attention would be concentrated on the development of cities like Sukkur, Nawabshah, Mirpurkhas, Larkana but not Karachi as an ambitious programme exclusively for Karachi, i.e., "Karachi Special Development Project" (KSDP) has already been launched. The experts believe that the main idea behind the inclusion of "intermediary" cities in SAUDP was to strike a balance between the development of Karachi and rest of Sindh. However, these experts developed serious doubts about the whole exercise started in the name of SUDP when

against the original programme emphasis was given to the development of Karachi city coupled with the proposals regarding the structural as well as policy-making changes with respect to this metropolis that too on priority basis. These doubts were particularly enhanced by an unexpected development in which Neil Boyle, a senior World Bank official attached with Pakistan Desk during his visit to Pakistan some time back surprisingly called on MQM chief Altaf Hussain in Azizabad and reportedly discussed with him the main features of SUDP. According to earlier reports a senior vice president of World Bank, Moinul Haq, who is a Pakistani with a Karachi background had taken special interest in granting aid in the nature and the framework of SUDP in a particular direction was the outcome of the maneuvering by a "particular section" which not only enjoys upper hand in the present set-up of Sindh but also wields enough influence in federal government as well as also in World Bank.

The main features of Sindh Urban Development Project are:

(1) Responsibility for the administration of the property tax should be transferred to local bodies and the responsibility to collect property tax entrusted to local bodies beginning with Karachi.

(See Will Karachi Be Separate. page 5)

SANA Executive Council Officers

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Washington Wire

"RAMPANT" abuses of human rights in Pakistan are protested in a letter to Bush from four key House committee chairmen. Reps. Aspin, Fancell, McCurdy and Solarz cite "almost daily reports of arrests, torture, murder, rape and abuse" against opposition leaders, particularly in Sindh. They suggest no resumption of U.S. aid even if Pakistan satisfies U.S. Concerns about nuclear proliferation.

-Friday January 10, 1992

*Save yourself time,
expense and a trip to the
Medical Center for
minor medical problems.*

**Call SMANA HOTLINE
618-397-6770**

Status Report from Gen. Sec.

(from front page)

The Letter Writing

The letter writing in the past few months has caused the greatest damage to SANA, it was decided that we will forget about all the letters so far written and we will not talk about these anymore. We will start with a clean slate, where there will not be any negative letter writing. If a member has a concern or idea he/she may call the President or General Secretary or any other E.C. member. If someone decides to write a letter this should be addressed only to the President/General Secretary, and no copies should be mailed to any other person, organization or to the media. This is being done to maintain unity and stop the mud slinging among ourselves, and not to restrict freedom of speech.

*This proposal has been
passed by the E.C.*

Human Rights and Visa Abuse in Sindh

In order to draw attention to human rights violations in Pakistan, especially in Sindh. Please write a letter in your own handwriting or typed on your letterhead, both to your congressman and Senator regarding this and send a copy to the State Department. We have received information that there is a deliberate attempt at the USA Consulate in Karachi to deny visa to Sindhis, where as; M.Q.M. terrorist who have committed crimes are getting visa without even going to the Consulate.

SANGAT MAGAZINE

Somehow editors from the west coast are not able to bring the magazine out on time, they are working hard on it, and hopefully it will be out soon. I have been informed that the main hurdle at the moment is financing, as the E.C. has limited the expenses of the SANA publication, they are now trying to fund locally for the rest of the expenditure. As far as the new format of Sangat, (which is now in your hands), was decided by the E.C. in Chicago.

Grievances

A Reconciliation Committee has been formed by the members of SANA, to resolve some difficulties among some members.

Donations

Mr. Israr Ansari SANA Treasurer has sent me the list of persons who have pledged at the Chicago meeting. He is contacting these friends to pay the donations they pledged. I have also sent letters to all the members reminding them of their yearly dues for 1991-1992 and requesting them to make donations.

Membership

The names of new members will be included in an updated directory which will be published soon. I will send a membership renewal/donation, change card in the next directory; along with other suggestion forms to all members. The necessary changes will be made after I have received the information.

Information Learning Center

I have received information from Dr. Aftab Qureshi, from Karachi that he has arranged a room at his clinic which will be run by medical students voluntarily. The function of this center will be to provide information about SANA, procedures of getting admission to North American colleges and universities, along with supplying forms and educational material for various examinations. To start with, I am working on medical examination FMGEMS which will soon be changed to USMLE. All members (especially members in the medical professions) are requested to send me material which will help our students to prepare for these exams. If anyone is preparing for these or other exams we would appreciate if he/she would share their material with us. Please send us a photocopy or the originals and we will copy them and return all originals. I would appreciate a response as soon as possible, as there are 7 or 8 students in Karachi who are preparing for the exam, which is scheduled for July 1992. If anyone has educational Audio or Videos, please send us a copy of these, especially those in the basic medical sciences. This is one of the most important things we can do to help someone in Sindh directly.

No Quick Fix in Bihari Repatriation

The Rabita Trust Board which met last week under the Chairmanship of the prime minister constituted three committees to plan, oversee and facilitate the repatriation of Biharis in Bangladesh to Pakistan. After violent protest in rural Sindh, the Punjab Chief Minister Mr. Ghulam Hyder Wyne offered to settle them in the Punjab. At a meeting also attended by Secretary General of the Rabita-al-Islami, Dr. Abdullah Omar Naseef, the Punjab chief minister reiterated his offer and said that a plan would be prepared to settle the Biharis in 32 districts of the Punjab. Two days after the meeting, BBC quoted Dr. Naseef, during his visit to Dacca where he also met with prime minister Khalida Zia, as saying that the situation for the repatriation of Biharis had improved and that they would be settled in the Punjab.

This is not the first time that the issue of the repatriation of the Biharis has surfaced. After the PM met in Islamabad on August 13th, with the Bihari community's leader in Bangladesh, Mr. Nasim Khan, it was announced that Mian Nawaz Sharif had agreed to accommodate all "stranded citizens" of Pakistan. Mr. Nasim Khan went so far as to say that the repatriation would begin from June 1992, and in an interview with British television last August, Mian Nawaz Sharif reiterated that "I am committed to the repatriation of the Biharis".

Such periodic pronouncements that Pakistan was ready to accept the Biharis (referred to as Pakistan's stranded citizens") and will settle them in Punjab is a result of two compulsions faced by Mr. Nawaz Sharif's government. First, the need to retain the IJI's alliance with the MQM which is considered vital for the survival of Jam Sadiq Ali's government in Sindh and, by corollary, of Nawaz Sharif's government in Islamabad.

This alliance rests partly on the promise made by the IJI chief to arrange for the repatriation of the Biharis. By reiterating the pledge, Mian Sahib is clearly seeking to preserve his alliance with the MQM.

Second, after the Sindhis vehemently objected to the plan to settle the Biharis in their province, the government has tried to save face by saying that they would be settled in the Punjab. Opposing the settlement of the Biharis in Sindh, the leader of the opposition Ms. Benazir Bhutto has already warned that doing so would lead to a massacre and carnage of Sindhis in their own province. She said the MQM wanted to divide Sindh and create 'Mohajiristan' which would prove to be even more dangerous 'Sindudesh'. On a call by Jeay Sindh Mehaz to protest the repatriation of the Biharis to Sindh, a complete strike was observed in the rural areas of the province recently. Last month, the Aqami tehrick of Mr. Rasool Bux Palejo held a "No Biharis in Sindh and Pakistan" Conference in Hyderabad which highlighted the resentment of the Sindhis against the move which would upset the existing precarious demographic profile of the province.

Under these circumstances, Mian Nawaz Sharif obviously realizes that Sindh, which is already an ethnic volcano, cannot be burdened with the influx of a large number of Biharis. Caught between this realization and the need to keep MQM on his side the prime minister now says that the refugees will be settled in Punjab.

But the prime minister's recipe to settle the Biharis in Punjab is based on two flawed assumptions. First, that the Punjabis are ready to accept them. Second, that the repatriated Biharis will remain in Punjab and not later migrate to Karachi and Hyderabad to join their kith and kin.

Take the first assumption. It is doubtful that the Punjabis would allow the rehabilitation of the Biharis in Punjab. Mr. Taj Langah of the Seraiki Party has already vowed not to accept them in the Seraiki belt last month, the former chief minister and Governor of the Punjab, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Khar, also opposed the plan to repatriate and settle them in the Punjab. Clearly, on a sensitive and politically explosive issue such as this, neither the prime minister nor the Punjab

chief minister alone can claim to speak on behalf of the whole of the people of the Punjab, might it not be a good idea to put this issue to vote, at least in those areas where the Biharis are planned to be settled.

Secondly, it is impossible to guarantee that, once the Biharis have been repatriated and settled in the Punjab, they will not migrate to urban Sindh and become the cause of yet another ethnic explosion in that province. There is no law or method which can prevent citizens from moving from one province to another. Even if such a law were enacted to placate the sentiments of the Sindhis, it is liable to be struck for violating fundamental rights. Nor is it likely that the IJI can put together the majority required to amend the constitution for such a controversial proposal.

According to a recent report of the Interior Ministry, hundreds of thousands of foreigners, including Biharis and Indian Muslims, have entered Pakistan and settled illegally in Karachi and Hyderabad after obtaining Pakistani identity cards and passports. The report admits that after entering Pakistan these emigrants chuck away their old documents and obtain a Pakistani passport for a mere Rs 2500. Long before the interior ministry's report, the Sindhis have drawn attention to the same phenomenon but their complaints and apprehensions were summarily dismissed as making of "narrow parochialism". That is why they have now revolted against the recent census operation and alleged that it is a conspiracy "to reduce them to being a minority in their own province". Therefore, instead of taking measures to stem the flow of illegal immigrants into Sindh, the prime minister's utterances will only heighten the suspicions and mistrust in the minds of Sindhis.

By thoughtlessly reiterating his so-called pledge to repatriate the Biharis to Pakistan, Mian Nawaz Sharif is hoping to salvage his alliance with the MQM and retain its support in Islamabad. However, he clearly fails to recognize that such rhetoric merely confuses an already prickly issue to which there are no easy solutions. Mian Sahib is treading a dangerous path and the sooner he realises this the better it will be for everyone...

Farhatullah Babar - Friday Times

Ratio of Sindhi top brass in police - a sorry picture -

F.P. Report

HYDERABAD - The ratio of officers belonging to rural Sindh in higher grades in police structure of Pakistan is just nominal, more simply not worth mentioning.

A glimpse of this picture is amply demonstrated by following figures of the ratio of police officers, belonging to rural Sindh, in higher grades at national level:

Grade-22 & 21: The number of officers belonging to rural Sindh is nil; Grade-20: Out of the total 64 Officers, the numbers of Sindhis is as low as two; Grade-19 (selection) out of 73, officers from rural Sindh are only eight.

Some of the Sindhis, currently serving in police in lower or higher grades outside or within Sindh, when interviewed recently hinted that they had been meted out discriminatory treatment all along during the last 45-years, one way or other. Presently, they feel that their way for moving ahead in the existing police format is virtually blocked due to a variety of factors, which are:

-- In pre-partition era, Bombay police rules were in force in Sindh whereunder all the recruitments selection and promotion used to be made from amongst the local residents of Sindh, particularly Sindhi speaking people. With the introduction of one unit, the West Pakistan government adopted 'infamous Punjab police rules', framed in 1934 by the British government, and enforced these rules all over West Pakistan, comprising all the four dissolved provinces including Sindh, where since then the enforcement of Bombay rules was discontinued.

-- Before one unit, provincial police officers were selected and promoted by the provincial government under the then Bombay police rules, thus more officers

reached the ranks of SP and DIG than their ratio of 25 per cent.

-- Even after the dissolution of one unit, Punjab police rules continued to be applied in Sindh, at least for lower grades, and is still in practice.

-- As for higher grades, a system was adopted, whereby PSP officers were recruited through competitive examinations conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission. However, most of these PSP cadre post, ever since the introduction of the system, went either to the officers, belonging to Punjab or those who migrated from India. After undergoing the prescribed training, these officers were posted as SP's, DIG's and IG's in Sindh.

-- After the dissolution of one unit, the powers to promote officers to higher grades were snatched from provincial authorities and given to the federal government through the establishment division. Provinces were left with powers to promote police officials up to rank of DSP.

-- As per the new system, DSP's entitled for promotion to higher grade are placed on all Pakistan unified list, called PSP list, by IG's. For this, shares of the provinces are earmarked. However, police officers, promoted under this system, are placed much below the list of PSP officers recruited directly through competitive examinations. And the officers upgraded to SP rank, routed through provincial quota, seldom prove lucky to limp to the post of DIG till their retirement. This singular methodology is in vogue only in police service.

-- The PSP's recruited as per combined list of the provinces and posted in Sindh managed to recruit 'kith and kin' from their respective provinces in Sindh and afterwards provided them every chance to get swift promotions. The process deprived the locals of their due right to be recruited and promoted within their own province.

-- These officers, allegedly, ruined the career of the locals at every stage by fair or foul means. These locals continued to be ignored and bereft of being placed in seniority lists.

-- The adoption of Punjab rules, empowered the I.G. and DIG to recruit and promote personnel from the rank of head constable to sub-inspector. Since majority of high police officials were from other provinces, as complained by the locals, their interest were ignored while non-locals were patronized at each and every level. As such, the number of Sindhis has been shrinking unprecedentedly.

-- During the days of Zia's martial law, perhaps in 80's, Sindh IG was asked to prepare a combined seniority list of assistant sub-inspectors (AST's) and sub-inspectors (SI's) at provincial level. Previously, seniority lists of these officials used to be prepared at divisional level by the DIG's concerned. Sindh IG, under duress, first intentionally confirmed the officers of Karachi range. Tactically, they (officers of Karachi range) got seniority to their counterparts in other divisions of Sindh. Afterwards, the old system of the preparation of seniority lists at divisional level was restored.

Sindhis feel their chance for promotion is virtually blocked.

-- FRONTIER POST

Will Karachi Be Seperate Unit (from front page)

- (2) The areas within Cantonments, which are strictly residential, commercial or industrial should be given under the jurisdiction of KMC, be subject to KMC taxes and be provided KMC services.
- (3) The motor tax and a surcharge on federal motor fuel tax must be considered as the two primary sources of funds to finance the proposed project and the future construction of mass transit project Karachi, (3-B). The present flat rate of motor tax does not reflect increase in the cost of the services provided to motorists. Therefore a one per cent *ad valorem* motor vehicle should be levied on cars and higher on trucks, starting from 1992-93. The proceeds should be shared with local bodies.
- (4) A 50 per cent increase in the taxes on professions, trades and catering taxes as well as an improved administration is proposed.
- (5) Permission from the federal government should be sought for levying surcharges on major federal tax bases such as corporate income taxes, sales tax and motor fuel levies with proceeds distributed to the place of the collection of final sale.
- (6) Since there is an immediate need for increased revenues to partially fund "Karach water project-two" cost over-run and that some time before the proposed changes in property tax become operational, octroi schedule in Karachi should be increased by 25 per cent. (6B) Octroi schedules should be switched from specific to *ad valorem* basis in larger cities (Hyderabad, Sukkur, Nawabshah, Mirpurkhas and Larkana). Local bodies should be permitted to collect their own octroi. Octroi transit should be increased and the collection procedure should be improved to reduce revenue leakages.
- (7) Karachi Water and Sewerage Board (KWSB) be declared as an essential service.
- (8) Government of Pakistan and the agencies operating in the province including Karachi Development Authority (KDA), Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KESC) should reduce subsidies. In KDA, land sold at below market price for middle to high income bracket also constitutes a subsidy which can and should be reduced.

(9) The annual development programme (ADP) of Sindh has 5000 projects under execution and the "throw forward" i.e. amounts required to complete these schemes are estimated at Rs. 19 billion of this amount, Rs. 13 billion are needed for locally financed projects while the rest 6 billion rupees are required for foreign aided projects. There is an urgent need to control induction of new projects and to first complete ongoing projects as rapidly as possible. Government should prepare a plan for the reduction of ongoing projects in ADP Sindh either through completion or cancellation of projects. This should also include targets to reduce the throw forward with amounts and dates.

(10) Planning and development department (P&D) Sindh be converted into planning board. The board so formed be co-chaired by Sindh chief minister and the minister concerned. After the constitution of the proposed board, the local bodies and the agencies would assume a more responsible, independent and meaningful role in determining their own needs and for finding their own solutions including generation of local revenues to fund their development projects.

(11) A new body - Karachi Metropolitan Authority (KMA) should be set up as soon as possible and be provided with full time secretariat as well as an executive organisation for mass transit project.

(12) The current restrictions on the restraation and replacement on mini buses be removed

(13) A piolt shcemen be designed for funding bus leases to private sector to promote badly needed induction of new buses in Karachi.

(14) There should be a ban of the increase in the staff of Karachi Transport Corporation (KTC) and a procedure be evolved for reduction in the staff with the target to maximum of 3500 by 1992-93.

(15) KDA is in the process of preparing a corporate development plan aimed at redefining its role.

(16) KMC should sign an agreement with the federal government to transfer Municipal Training and Research Institute located in Karachi in the control of KMC.

(17) Sindh Local Bodies Ordinance be revised to grant greater authority to local bodies.

"Invisible Government Patronizing Terrorist"

MULTAN - Mr. Rasool Bakhsh Paleejo, president, Sindhi Awami Tehrik, has said that the Sindhis had been made 'threatened human species' and their existence was in danger. He appealed to the democratic forces to help Sindhis in their fight for survival.

He further states the Fascist forces were bent upon eliminating Sindhis' political entity. A conspiracy had been hatched against, not only Sindhis but against the democratic system and the very existence of Pakistan.

They wanted to convert Sindhis in minority by bogus census. The Sindhis were being slaughtered. The villages of Sindh had been taken over by dacoits whereas cities were being ruled by the terrorists. The people were becoming victim of state terrorism and every kind of oppression, he added.

Mr. Paleejo was of the view that the people of Pakistan should concentrate more on Sindh issue than Kashmir issues as Sindhis had been facing the worst kind of fascism. He further said the Sindhis were being labelled as traitors, dacoits, Raw's agents and secessionist, whereas dacoits, terrorists and separatists were being patronized by the "invisible government". The majority of Sindhis' he said, had nothing to do with the so-called secessionist movement, and only anti-Sindhi elements were harping on that tune for their ulterior motives.

Answering a question regarding a united front of all nationalist, democratic and progressive forces, Mr. Paleejo said the establishment had used all its energies for making the people its prisoners. It had put before so many bogus organisations that the genuine political parties or groups could not compete them. The establishment had created bogus heroes who could not be overpowered by anyone. So in this situation the idea of united fronts was meaningless.

Sindh democrats warn against 'divisive steps'

HYDERABAD - The Chairman of Sindh Democrats Group, Mr. Yousuf Leghari, said here on Monday the MQM and its Minister for Education were sowing the seeds of division of Sindh by starting post-graduate classes in five city colleges of Hyderabad.

In a statement, he claimed that the next logical step would be to club all classes under one roof, and "name it City University"

"MQM is perhaps working on the premise that the beginning of division of India was initiated by the establishment of Aligarh University, therefore by opening a linguistic and ethnic University in the "heart of Sindh the same process could be started all over again", he said.

He warned MQM on behalf of Hyderabad Co-ordination council, which includes all major political parties of Sindh, to desist from the course of confrontation with Sindhis by introducing post-graduate classes in city colleges.

The Sindhis, he warned, could not be browbeaten or blackmailed for ever, nor governed for long by "unrepresentative governments" through "fraudulent or repressive" means.

The SDG Chairman appealed to Urdu-speaking intelligentsia to raise their voice against MQM's "fascist", policies, in general, and its education policies, in particular.

He said: "The Urdu-speaking intelligentsia must raise their voice, like Sindhis, and ask the Education Minister why 43 out of 54 new colleges and 11 out of 13 technical institutes in the present ADP were being opened in Karachi and Hyderabad cities".

Mr. Leghari also warned Sindh MNA's and MPA's who are siding with the Government of Sindh, that time was approaching when each one of the "traitors" would be hunted like boars by their own constituent for keeping quite while "anti-Sindhi" policies were being pursued.

Sindhis deprived at all levels

SUKKUR - Sindh has been a bleeding wound throughout the eighties and after the interval of 18 months of Benazir Bhutto's reign salt has been rubbed on that wound by depriving Sindh at federal, provincial and local government level.

It seems Sindh is being deliberately pushed to corner while at the federal level the Sindhis have been debarred and all the executive and constitutional offices have been conferred upon non-Sindhis. The head of the state the chairman of the senate, the speaker and deputy speaker of the national assembly, the justices at the Supreme Court belong to other provinces.

In Sindh the acting executive head is an Urdu speaking, belonging to a rabid ethnic organization. He has an entourage of seven out of fifteen provincial cabinet members from MQM club.

Among the advisors to the Sindh government five are also non-Sindhis. The Speaker of Sindh Assembly is an Urdu speaking immigrant.

The home affairs ministry has been awarded to Irfan Marwat who has reportedly been running his department as his fiefdom. Mr. Marwat has appointed a man from Marwat tribe as head of CIA.

On the top bureaucracy stage in Sindh, the Chief Secretary Mr. Hameed Maqsood Hameedi and Additional Chief Secretary, Mr. Saleem Wahedi both are non-Sindhis. On the other hand, six SP's, two SSP's and 22 SDM's are also non-Sindhis. On local government level, three big cities of Sindh, Sukkur, Hyderabad and Karachi are being ruled by the Mohajirs.

The chairman of the other provincial cities and towns such as Khairpur, Nawabshah, Tando Adam, Shahdadpur, Mirpur Khas, Ghotki and Dadu are other than Sindhis. This has been possible through the local politically influential landlords because otherwise the population of these municipalities is overwhelmingly Sindhi.

This situation of Sindh has adversely affected the psyche of the politically conscious section of Sindh which is about 100 percent political. This worst situation might burst into horrible flames burning itself and all those responsible for it.

In this respect, the chief of Sindh National Front Mr. Mumtaz Ali Bhutto has already said that enough is enough. He was referring to the post of Acting Chief Minister Mr. Tariq Jawed who has unconstitutionally been made the acting chief minister of Sindh. He added that the 47 years of history of Pakistan stands witness to the fact that in the three other provinces, no chief minister has been taken from other than native people of that province. But the fate of Sindh has been such that governors were frequently taken from non-native people. And now the chief executive has been given to an organization whose hands dare in future to play with the political existence of Sindhis.

16,200 Arms Licences Issued in Sindh

Frontier Post, 13 August, 1991

LAHORE -- The deposed prime minister and central leader of Pakistan Democratic Alliance, Ms. Benazir Bhutto has distributed a confidential report of military intelligence among newsmen which disclosed that CM Sindh has sanctioned 6,000 arms licences in the first week of July to Saleem Shahzad of MQM. She claimed that Saleem Shahzad was the same man who was involved in the kidnapping of an official of the Pakistan Army.

While talking to the newsmen at the VIP lounge of Lahore International Airport here on Sunday, she also stated that Saleem Shahzad, MQM vice chairman was involved in several criminal cases including the abduction of an army official but the president, the prime minister and the chief minister Sindh had not taken any action against him due to obvious reasons.

COMMUNITY CORNER

*SANGAT Newsletter invites
news about community events
from all SANA members.
The news received by the end of the
third week of the month will appear
in the next month issue.*

With Sympathy

SANA Executive Council expresses its profound grief over the sad and untimely demise of Dr. Adeeba Rajper wife of Dr. Saleem Rajper. May Allah rest her soul in peace and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this tremendous loss.

SANA Executive council expresses its sorrow on the sad demise of the mother of Mr. Nazir Khaskhali, in Pakistan. May Almighty grant her a place in Heaven and give peace to the berieved family.

SANA Executive Council express its sorrow on the sad demise of the mother of Mr. Taj Soomro. May Allah rest her soul in peace and give peace to the bereaved family

Congrats to

SANA Executive Council congratulates Dr. and Mrs. Ashfaque Turk on the birth of their son Omar Turk.

SANA Executive council wishes to congratulate Dr. and Mrs. Mazhar Lakho on the birth of their first child, a daughter Sabrina Lakho, born on October 12, 1991.

Mr. Amanullah Khan Turk a SANA member has returned after more than a two year stay in Sindh.

Marriage ceremony of Mr. Saleem Ursani's daughter was held at his Los Angeles residence on December 29, 1991.

Dr. Noor Mohammad Memon has arrived in USA. In January, he will be starting a residency program in medicine.

Visitors from Sindh.

Pir Mazhar, former Sindh Minister of Law and Parliamentary Affairs recently visited the United States. He met with various SANA members and discussed the existing political situation in Sindh.

Mr. Nawaz Bhutto, Registrar Sindh University was recently in USA on a study tour.

Mr. Rasheed A. Shah Vice Chancellor Sindh University will be visiting USA on educational tour, he will be at Edinbrough University in Pennsylvania.

Kidnapped Returned

Dr. Latif Leghari's brother Dr. Khadim Leghari was recently kidnapped from Dadu. By the Grace of God he is back with the family, after payment of a huge ransom.

Sindhi Medical Association of North America Special Medical Hotline

The Sindhi Medical Association of North America has set up a Board of Medical Advisors. Dr. Mazher H. Lakho, Diplomate American Board of Internal Medicine has been asked to act as a co-ordinator for this year. The co-ordinator will advise on major and minor medical problems faced by Sindhis irrespective of whether they are SANA members or not. The Board will also advise on medical problems faced by any relative of a North American Sindhi living in Sindh. The Board consists of doctors from almost all the subspecialties.

Letters to the editor
or
Community Corner
should be mailed to

SANGAT
4105 Providence Dr.
St. Charles Mo 63304

Letters to the Editor

Proposal for the formation of SANA Women's Chapter

Dear Sisters,

In the past it has been suggested to us that we should have some kind of a womens chapter in SANA, but somehow we never got around to making a chapter or didn't really think we needed one. This time at Chicago's meeting, when I saw the participation of sister Husna Shaikh and the enthusiasm of the children who wanted to participate before Master Chander's music program, it made me realize how much we needed a women's committee to organize something for our children and for ourselves to participate in. I think if we all put our heads together we can come up with some good ideas. For starters we have few suggestions:

1. We can have an award for the best dressed person of the event (providing he or she is dressed in our own SINDHI DRESS).
2. Best dressed child of the event (the same rules apply for the children too).
3. A 3-5 minute speech on Sindh or being a Sindhi (this should be done by the kids.) The winner will receive a prize.
4. If there are any teenagers who would like to get involved & form a youth group or plan some kind of activities, please come forward & held us organize something nice for all ages.

These are just a few of the suggestions we have for the moment. We are eagerly awaiting your ideas on this matter. It would be nice if the ladies from different chapters could get their friends involved in such a program.

Most of us don't know each other very well, and this would be a nice way of getting to know one another. Please contact one of us & let us know what you think of these suggestions. We are looking forward from hearing from you.

Shireen Qulbani, Samina Kazi
Furkhunda Vakassi

the news in brief...

State Minister for Water and Power says Kalabagh Dam inevitable...

Senator Samiul Haq accuses IJI Government of causing irreparable loss to Islam...

Prime Minister accuses Opposition of obstructing his mission...

Jam says Ishaq Khan will decide about Bhutto ladies's arrest...

Makhdoom Amin Fahim vows to remain loyal to the PPP...

Justice Patel suggest immediate constitutional reforms...

Wali accuses PMAP for damaging the historic Baloch-Pushtoon nexus...

Christian MNA J. Salik mounts cross to protest against Government's discriminatory policies; beaten up and arrested with 8 others...

Jamaat leader confesses that 45 IJT activists were killed during party's intervention in Afgahan civil war...

Telecommunications workers on strike; warned they face dismissal; 85 arrested...

Asghar says talks possible only with the President on one-point agenda of holding fresh elections...

Shujjat says all those convicted by the special court will be hanged soon...

Shujaat terms letter from U.S. senators on reference cases as interference in Pakistan's internal matters...

WAPDA sources warn about worst ever loadshedding from New Year...

Bizen Bizenjo elected PNP President...

Benazir returns from UAE; says she is not afraid of arrest...

Marwat says charges baseless; alleges intimate relation between Vena Hayat and Asif Zardari...

Bajrani faction and Marri tribe repudiate Khair Bakhsh Marri's leadership...

Opposition complains of false I.D. Cards, ballot papers supplied in excess, and fake electoral rolls...

Dec. 28: Punjab local body polls generally peaceful, but 12 killed in clashes...

Gulf between the IJI and PNP widens on the Kalabagh Dam; PNP threatens to quit the coalition...

Asghar Khan supports repatriation of Biharis...

Tribal Pakhtoon conference demands removal of Punjabi Governor from NWFP...

Dec. 8: Popular resentment against Venna's molestation; Benazir holds Ishaq Khan responsible for Veena's ordeal; Nasrullah calls for nationwide protest on 12th...

Daultana and others observe 6 hour hunger strike outside Iqbal's tomb...

Rocket attack on Bugti's house; alleges Government of planning his murder...

Karachi tribunal declares that there is no evidence of political motivation in Veena case; Shaukat Hayat rejects report...

Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto says that elections have been stolen once again; PDA to move High Court against rigging...

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