



SANGAT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF



Sindhi Association of North America

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Editor, Shabbir A. Shaikh

October, 1992

From the
General Secretary's
Desk

SANA Election Schedule

Last date for filling Nomination Papers
November 5, 1992

Cut-off date for Voter Eligibility
November 15, 1992

Last date for returning ballot papers
December 10, 1992

Election results to be announced
on or before
December 20, 1992

Any questions/enquiries contact SANA
ELECTION COMMITTEE
Ajazuddin Shaikh
1305 Ridgedale Road
South Bend, IN 46614
(219) 287-0341

The arrangements for the elections are going according to the recent changes approved by the general body. The election guidelines have already been sent to all the members through the last status report. There are about 321 registered SANA Members, out of which only 110 members have paid their dues, as of October 24, 1992. All Sindhis living in North America are requested to actively participate in this
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Exploding the myth of MQM's invincible terror

Karachi - how has the army fared in over four months of 'operation clean-up' in the turbulent province of Sindh/ Well, says army bosses. Not so, say many Karachites. So far, the big fish haven't been netted and arms recovery is painfully lacking. Moreover, say people, we don't like the way the army is going about arresting people in a highly discriminatory manner.

According to the Inter Services Public relations (ISPR) department of the armed forces, till now 133 dacoits have been killed in the interior of Sindh while 357 have been apprehended. The army also claims to have arrested 83 patharidars and 2385 suspected criminals linked to the dacoits. 2050 weapons have been recovered with 12,000 rounds of ammunition of all sorts. Of the 500 or so cars snatched away in the past, 151 have been recovered.

If these figures are correct, then there has certainly been some measure of success in the interior of Sindh. Before the army appeared on the scene, life in the countryside was totally paralysed. Traffic could not ply on the roads and highways without the escort of the Mehran Rangers. Travelers constantly feared of being looted or kidnapped by highway robbers. Night traffic had ceased. Farmers had given up farming in unsafe areas. People even stopped going to mosques for their evening prayers.

In many ways, life is livable again. The dreaded dacoits have been rounded up or have gone into hiding. "Many dacoits have taken refuge in other provinces and in Karachi. They are no longer operative," says an army official.



Apart from the Tando Bahawal incident early on which severely embarrassed the army and forced it to take action against the errant officer, no such incident has been reported subsequently. Now Sindhis say they have no grievances against the men in khaki. And life is safer and more productive in the protective shadow of the military.

But questions continue to be asked with increasing irritation. Why don't they arrest the big patharidars, people ask. The army's response is a grim blank stare.

Continued page 5

Five-point solution recommended for Sindh ills

by M. Ilyas Khan

KARACHI, Aug. 7: Justice (Retd.) Dorab Patel, who presided over the first session of the 'Dialogue on discontentment in Sindh' held by *The Frontier Post* here on Friday, while summing up the proceedings said that a lasting solution of the province's problems could only be sought after the proper remodification to what he termed the Constitution of 1985 (8th amendment), fresh elections (not as free and fair as those conducted in Sanghar recently, said Mr. Patel) recognition of the MQM and a dialogue with him the resolution of what Mushaid Hussain had termed as the Karachi-Kashmir-Khalistan syndrome and progressive land reforms in Sindh.

Another important element, Justice Patel, said was tolerance of difference of opinion. He was probably prompted by the occasional bitterness which surfaced during the dialogue on the two sides of the so-called Sindhi-Mohajir divide.

Prof. Hussain Kazmi and Khanum Ghuhar Aijaz pleaded the Mohajirs case in the context of MQM. The most effective leader against the aspirations given birth by the MQM was Rasool Bux Palijo.

In a thoughtfully yet not tiring 20-minute discourse, Mr. Palijo ripped apart the 'conquerer' psyche of the MQM phenomenon which was a the final manifestation of the forces which exploited religion to make Pakistan, and thereby eternal destabilizing Sindhi.

"We are being robbed of our language, our culture and our homes just because we are Muslims. when we say that we have a right to our land, they ask us aren't we Muslim? When we say yes, they say then what rights are you talking about? This country is homeland of Muslims living in all the five continents of the world", Palijo said.

He complained about the 'systematic expulsion of Sindhis from Karachi', and the terrorist upbringing of the MQM as distinguished from the Urdu-speaking people. He call for restoration of true multi-dimensional, multi-lingual status of Sindh.

Prof. Hasnain Kazmi said that Mohajirs represented the Muslims of the sub-continent for whom India was divided. Regional identity was not part of the Pakistan movement. Regional and ethnic problems arose out of injustice in the society. Mohajir identity was the off shoot of this fundamental mistake.

Prof. Kazmi said that beside Sindhis and Mohajirs, Punjabis have to play an important role in finding a solution to the crisis.

Real problem of Sindh, for Khanum Gohar Aijaz, was the Sindhi-mohajir divide and at its root was the quota system. "Abolish the quota system and we will stop calling ourselves mohajirs", she said.

She said at the partition the mohajirs who came to Sindh were better educated and well-versed in the art of government. The houses and hotels which they own are a result of their own hard work.

Hamida Khuhro was of the view that Sindh's basic problem was its lack of autonomy. Besides, it suffered from massive population influx and the criminal neglect of its problems by Islamabad.

Mushaid Hussain said all the problems of Sindh were caused by the federal government which according to him has confused the issues. The perception in Islamabad is that the solution to the crisis is in having a Sindhi prime minister.

He presented a three-point solution to the problem: democracy be allowed its full course, even if it meant the transfer of power to PPP: MQM should be dealt with politically: and efforts should be made to resolve the geo-political Karachi-Khalistan syndrome.

Mushtaq Mirani, a Sindhi economist, said that during the period between 1947-72, Karachi was literally closed to Sindhis and there was no representative government. The Sindhi middle class

seen in Karachi today was the product of a brief period between 1972-77.

He said Sindhis do not have any liking for the feudals and had they have shown this every time when free and fair elections were held in the country. But Islamabad was trying to keep the feudal structures intact for its own vested interests. He said unless the economic and political grievances of Sindh were not compensated, there could be no end to Sindh's troubles.

Javed Jabbar stressed the immense tolerance, diversity and respect of Sindh and said that the greatness of Sindh transcended the linguistic bins.

He said the actual problem was that while on the one hand there was feudalism, in populist garb and on the other there was middle class subsumed in fascism (MQM). He said Sindh needed a new leadership with a new conceptual approach to politics.

Sirajul Haq Memon, Haji Shafi Jamoic, Dr. Masood Tariq Arain also spoke on the occasion. The session, which began at 10 a.m., was opened by Editor-in-Chief of the Frontier Post Rchmat Shah Afridi.

Mr Afridi while expressing his thanks to the participants and observers said that the politicians were not invited to speak because they were least interested in this kind of dialogue. He said the only time they showed unity was when the issue of raising remuneration of the assembly members came up in the National Assembly.

He said like the Sindhi intellectuals, the scholars in other provinces were also worried about the situation in the province. He said The Frontier Post has always upheld the genuine rights of the provinces and their people, but successive martial law regimes mauled the press, the judiciary, the administration and even the constitution of the country.

Editor, *The Frontier Post Lahore*, Khalid Ahmad, said that things in Sindh had suddenly gone from bad to worse on the pattern of former Yugoslavia, with torture cells being unearthed. He also said, Sindhis were divide among themselves for the last ten years. Now a similar situation had taken place in the mohajir community. This dialogue was being

Community Corner

Dr. Farrukh Shaikh's 23 year old son, Humayun Shaikh, recently received very serious injuries in a motor vehicle accident. He is said to be in critical condition. SANA deeply sympathises with Dr. Shaikh and prays for an early recovery of his son.

SANA Chapter, Houston, recently held a picnic party which was attended by a large number of Sindhis. The chapter has also decided to hold four meetings every year, including a "Sindhi Shaam"

SANA President A.W. Bhatti has in a recent communication appealed to all North American Sindhis to make contributions towards SINDHI RELIEF FUND. Mr. Manzoor Memon from Houston has been appointed as the Chairman of the Relief Fund Committee, in the USA.

New SANA Chapters have been formed in Washington, D.C. and in Chicago, IL.

SANA Election Committee has requested those who want to contest for the various post to send their nomination papers as soon as possible. The various posts of SANA Executive Council include President, Senior Vice President, Overseas Vice President, Vice President North America, Gen. Secretary, Joint Secretary, Information Secretary, Treasurer and four Regional Secretaries for Northeast, Midwest, South and Westcoast Regions of SANA.

Congratulations:

Zora Tareen and Hira Tareen both daughters of Mr. Iqbal Tareen for winning the Presidential award and the Best Student Award respectively.

Master Navin Jani of California was ranked first of 535 students in his high school. He received several honors in his high school career, and was also a National Scholar finalist.

New Arrivals:

Mr. Ghulam Rasool father of Mr. Mohammed Aslam Masson, Computer Engineer, has immigrated to the United States.

Mrs. Ghulam Kadir Palijo has arrived in Cleveland for overseeing and helping in the education of her daughters.

Dr. Aslam Ghaloo Professor Department of Orthopaedics LMC is currently in the USA.

Dr. Sodhar who was recently in St. Louis for a month left for Dadu Sindh after having a successful open heart surgery.

Dr. Feroz Ursani has arrived in Dallas to permanently settle down in the USA.

Aijaz Turk has recently returned to the USA after a 3 week tour of Sindh. He represented SANA in various soci-political gatherings in Sindh during his tour.

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LATE NEWS

Identity cards being issued to Biharis stranded in BD

Dhaka: Issuance of identity cards for nearly 238,000 Biharis, stranded in Bangladesh since 1971, began on Monday, leading to their repatriation, likely to start in December.

A group of local volunteers of Jeddha-based Rabdia-i-Alam-i-Islami started on Monday, formalities for the issuance of "family identity cards" for the Biharis living in the Adamjee Najar Camp located 16 kilometers south of Dhaka.

The Pakistan High Commission here is funding the project which is being carried out by Rabita.

Bangladesh and Pakistan agreed last month to start the repatriation, delayed since 1972 owing to fund shortage.

Pakistan and Rabita are to raise 250 million dollars, mainly from Muslim countries, for the stranded Biharis repatriation and rehabilitation in Pakistan.

Pakistan Calling

Gen. Sec. Cont.

extremely important democratic process to elect the office bearers to a new term. This year a family member (regular or student) will have two votes, one for each spouse.

Dr. A.W. Bhatti has appointed the following members to SANA Election Committee. Aijazuddin Shaikh, chairman, Ishfaq Turk, and Ms. Shabnam Shalwani.

The Election Committee is requesting all potential candidates to submit the nomination forms for the different Executive committee posts as soon as possible. They will be sending these forms to all potential members, those members who have paid 1992 dues can only contest and vote in this election, so please encourage your friends to pay their 1992 dues before November 15, 1992, to be eligible to vote.

The following are new members for 1992. This information is as provided to me by different Executive Members. If any changes are needed please let me know.

Khatak, Dr. K.
Khawaja, Mr. M. R.
Lakhani, Mr. M.
Memon, S.
Sethar, Mr. S.
Shaikh, Dr. A.
Syed, M.S.
Syed, N.S.
Shabir, L.

Abbasi, Mr. S.
Hafiz, Mr. M.S.
Hafiz, Mr. A.
Hafiz, Mr. S.
Jamro, Mr.
Khoja, Dr. A.
Khoja, Mr. A. I.
Khawaja, Mr. R.A.
Khowaja, Mr. M.
Khowaja, Mr. M.

Please make note of my new address:
Mahmood Qalbani
112 Emerson
Creve Coeur MO 63141

and my new phone
314-995-9799

the news

The Nation reports from Muzaffarabad that at least 9 Pakistani and Indian soldiers were killed in a heavy exchange of fire along the border in Kashmir...

The Frontier Post reports from Karachi that John Stuart Blacktown, the Director of the USAID, has said he expected "partial resumption of USAID to Pakistan in the next few weeks through a moderate adjustment in the Pressler law."...

In Karachi, the Sindh Chief Minister finalized names for at least 5 of the 7 cabinet slots which fell vacant following the disappearance of MQM members in June this year...

The Frontier Post reports from Dadu that thousands of villagers were marooned as some 750 villages of Dadu district on the right bank of River Indus were inundated when the water level at Dadu Moro Bridge rose up to one million cusecs. According to a source, 90 per cent of the crops had been destroyed in 150-kilometer area along the right bank of the River Indus...

In Karachi, A.G. Gazdar issued non-bailable warrants for the arrest of Altaf Hussain, the MQM leader, and other top leaders of the MQM under various charges, including abduction, rioting, damaging of public property...

In Quetta, the entire province of Balochistan plunged into darkness after dacoits fired on and damaged badly the main transmission line of Guddu-Sibi...

Syed Ghous Ali Shah, while ruling out the possibility of any aggression between India and Pakistan, said the government "would consider the visit of the COAS to India." An invitation had already been extended to the COAS by his Indian counterpart...

In Srinagar, at least 11 Pakistani troops, including a senior officer, were killed in the retaliatory firing by the Indian Army personnel in Pallanwalla sector in the State's Jammu region after the Indians came under fire and mortar attack by Pakistani troops...

Ms. Bhutto has accused the government of gross mismanagement, stating that "the sudden release of water from Mangla was the cause of the inundation." While Ms. Bhutto was touring the flood-hit areas of Multan, clashes took place between the PML and PPP workers at Multan airport and Nawabpur. During the clashes, PPP workers forced the PML workers to retreat and gun shots were also fired at Ms. Bhutto. According to a source, 10 PPP workers were wounded...

In Islamabad, angry journalist led a unanimous boycott of the National Assembly proceedings, which was followed by a walk-out of the entire Opposition in sympathy with the press. The protest was over the case of sedition filed by an Interior Ministry official against *The News*. The case has since been withdrawn...

USAID Director, John Blankton, has warned Pakistan that all projects would be stopped "if no positive agreement was achieved over the nuclear question within two years."...

The News reports from Karachi that all municipal corporations and committees in Sindh had been dissolved and fresh local bodies elections would be held in January. The Sindh Chief Minister, Muzaffar Hussain Shah, while ruling out the withdrawal of the army, said the Provincial Operation Committee would review the situation in November and decide the future line of action...

Ms Bhutto's campaign for the "the final push to crumbling walls" will enter the final phase on October 24 when she will stage the sit-in in Islamabad after holding a public meeting at Liaqat Bagh, Rawalpindi. There she is expected to push her demand for a national government...

Special Assistant to the PM, Ch Nisar Ali Khan, castigating the PDA's "negative policy", said Ms. Bhutto would not be allowed to stage a sit-in in Islamabad and "the PML workers would foil all such attempts."...

Pakistan and France are likely to sign several arms deals worth about \$900 million during the visit of the French Defence Minister, Pierre Joxe. At the top of the agenda is the proposed sale of 3 submarines to Pakistan...

Azim tariq, the chairman of the MQM, approached army headquarters to seek an interview with the COAS...

Parliamentary Secretary for Interior, Berjees Tahir, assured the National Assembly that "every effort would be made for the arrest of the MQM Chief, Altaf Hussain, provided substantial evidence was available against him". the federal government also released the names of 121 wanted persons in Sindh, all of them belonging to the MQM...

Please, when finished, pass this newsletter along, to an interested person.



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MOVING???
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