



SANGAT

NEWSLETTER OF
SINDHI ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA



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MANAGING EDITOR : M.QALBANI

OCTOBER 1993

FROM THE
SECRETARY GENERAL

Lately Sangat has not been published regularly and hopefully from now on, it will be published on time. This is an election issue of Sangat and we need each SANA member to participate and help us. I request everyone to help us make Sangat a true community newsletter rather than a collaboration of political opinions from other Pakistani newspapers and magazines. This can only happen if YOU, a regular member, takes interest and guides it. So far, I have not received any material for Sangat, though some friends have given suggestions via phone and those suggestions have been incorporated.

Please take interest in your newsletter and send your suggestions along with material for publication.

I assure you that your suggestions, articles, interviews with American, Canadian, British, and Sindhi politicians and intellectuals; will be published as long as they confer with the policies of SANA.

This Sangat edition I have compiled post-haste so that we Sindhis in North America can be kept abreast of the latest political developments in Pakistan. Sangat will be back to its normal size and format by the next issue.

سدائين گڏ

Mahmood QALBANI

PAKISTAN RETURNS TO TRUE DE- MOCRATIC RULE AFTER THREE YEARS: BENAZIR BHUTTO TAKES OATH AS PRIME MINISTER : DEFEATS NAWAZ SHARIF'S CANDIDATE G.M.JATOI BY A MARGIN OF 51 VOTES:

(BY Feroz Ursani)

Pakistan returned to genuine democracy after three years. Ms. Benazir Bhutto was elected Prime Minister by the newly elected Parliament, on Tuesday October 19, 1993 and was sworn in by the acting President Mr. Wasim Sajjad the same day. She got 51 votes more than her rival, in a 200 plus member National Assembly of Pakistan. Earlier, her Pakistan Peoples Party had emerged as the single largest party in the October 6 elections. The PPP moved quickly to consolidate its electoral alliance with splinter PML (Chatta- Junejo groups), and won the Speaker and deputy speaker-ship of the N.A. Amir Hyder Gilani of the PPP, beat Gohar Ayub of PML(NS) (105-85 votes) and Zafar Ali Shah of PPP was elected Deputy Speaker with alarger majority.

The Pakistan Peoples Party has already won the provincial elections in the Sindh and Punjab, and is to form the governments there.

Latest reports say that Syed Abdullah Shah (DADU) has been nominated as the Chief Minister of Sindh. He was former speaker of the Sindh Assembly and is a Senator from Sindh. He won recent elections from his home town.

Sangat reproduces the total tally of seats won National and Provincial elections of Pakistan. On page 3

ARTICLES IN SANGAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT SANA'S VIEWS

TEXT OF THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY

Rep. Gary L. Ackerman

**Chairman, House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific
At the Ninth Annual SANA Meeting , July 4, 1993**

I want to thank you for giving me the honor of addressing you this afternoon, on this day of national celebration. And it is an honor, for I am told that you in this room are not only the leaders of your communities, but in many cases represent the cutting edge in your professions.

As the new chairman of the House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, I have many countries within my jurisdiction, and many issues on my platter. Already this year my Subcommittee has had to wrestle with critically important questions: most-favored-nation status for China; Cambodia's quest to bring 25 years of civil war to a close and to create a democratic government; North Korea's mad rush to flout international norms and withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation treaty; our troubled partnership with Japan.

But the problems and the possibilities of the U.S.- Pakistani relationship take second place to none of these other concerns. Pakistan has long been a good friend and close ally of the United States. With 120 million people... occupying a strategic spot athwart the gateway between Asia and the Middle East.... neighbor to other major international players such as China, Iran, and India... Pakistan is simply too important to ignore.

And my Subcommittee has no intention of neglecting Pakistan. In the few months I have served as Chairman, I have already met on several different occasions with Ambassador Hussain, who as you know has recently resigned and returned home. I have met with senior emissaries of the Pakistani government. I have met with opposition leaders. Indeed, when Ms. Bhutto was in Washington earlier this year, I not only conferred privately with her in my office, but also hosted a tea for her, so that other Members of the Subcommittee and the Congress would have an opportunity to meet this remarkable woman and to exchange views with her.

I trust that I will not be accused of partisanship, or of meddling in the internal politics of Pakistan, if I say that I found Benazir Bhutto an extraordinary presence. As I sat on the sofa beside her, I could not help but reflect that here was an individual who had watched her father being hung ... who had suffered imprisonment and exile because her politics did not square with the prevailing fashion... and who, through the force of her character and the courage of her convictions, had come to symbolize, to personify, the Pakistani peoples' desire for democracy, for freedom, for the opportunity to rule themselves through leaders of their own choosing.

Now don't misinterpret what I am saying, whether Pakistani's select Benazir Bhutto or Mian Nawaz Sharif or anyone else to govern them is a decision for the Pakistani people, and them alone, to make. The United States and the American Congress has no business and no interest in dictating that decision.

But we have a very real interest in how that decision is made... in Pakistani's making that choice through democratic means.

Indeed, it does not go too far to suggest that a truly collaborative relationship between the United States and Pakistan will be possible only so long as Pakistan adheres to democratic norms and practices. For only under those conditions will there exist the shared ideals necessary to sustain a true partnership.

As you know, Pakistani democracy has had a somewhat checkered history. Even in the years since the end of martial law in 1988, democratic institutions have struggled to take hold in Pakistan, with rather mixed results.

You of course know this history far better than I. But permit me to simply reiterate that Americans care, and care deeply, about the fate and future of democracy in Pakistan. With a flourishing democratic system in place in Pakistan, anything is possible. But should Pakistani democracy falter, I fear that it will be very difficult to address the other problems that now trouble U.S.-Pakistani ties.

The bilateral relationship between the United States and Pakistan has many components. Democracy obviously is one of them. So are questions involving peace and stability on the Subcontinent... and containing the spread of nuclear weapons... and fighting the scourge of narcotics ... and promoting economic development... and strengthening a market economy.

cratic values and a democratic form of government cannot long flourish in the absence of a respect for human rights.

And in Pakistan, one must say, the human rights record, like the democracy record, is somewhat mixed. There has been progress in certain areas in recent years. Surely no one looks back to the period of martial law and thinks of human rights in terms of the "good old days."

But even so, I, and my colleagues in Congress, continue to have many concerns about human rights conditions in Pakistan. The harassment and prosecution of opposition politicians, and their followers, continue. As many of you know, this is particularly a problem in Sindh, where extrajudicial killings, often in the form of staged "police encounters," occur with depressing frequency. Victims have included not simply political activists-- and this would be bad enough-- but even villagers involved in land disputes.

The arbitrary detention, arrest, torture, and other abuse of prisoners and detainees remains a serious problem. Neither the police nor the judicial systems have adequately responded to these abuses, and those responsible for such reprehensible behavior usually escape prosecution and punishment. Police abuse of women in custody and other forms of state-sanctioned violence against women are also of particular concern. So is official complicity in the ill-treatment of religious minorities, including the Ahmadi and Christian communities.

The Congress also has a special interest in seeing that journalists and other members of the press are accorded the protections due them in a society that practices as well as preaches freedom of the press. As a politician who has occasionally felt the lash of press criticism, this is not an easy thing for me to say. But it needs to be said all the same, for without freedom of the press, no other freedoms are safe.

I call upon the Pakistani government, therefore, to take the steps necessary to insure that a respect for the human rights of all citizens-- the humble as well as the powerful, Sindhis as well as Punjabis, laborers as well as landlords-- becomes a hallmark of Pakistani society.

Let me say in closing, that I very much hope to visit Pakistan later this year, and that in both Washington and Islamabad, in New York and in Karachi, I intend to speak out on behalf of Pakistani democracy... And the protection of human rights... And the establishment of a truly democratic government.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TALLY OF SEATS

:

PPP	:	86
PML NS	:	72
PML CH.	:	06

Note : PPP-PML Chatta had an electoral alliance. Latest reports from Pakistan confirm that Benazir Bhutto has been able to muster 106 members; enough to form a government.

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY TALLY OF SEATS :

PML NS	:	103
PML CH	:	18
PPP	:	93

NOTE : PPP and Chatta total : 111
set to form government.

SINDH ASSEMBLY TALLY OF SEATS :

PPP	:	56
PML NS	:	08
MQM ALT	:	27

NOTE: MIR Murtaza Bhutto won his only seat from Larkana. Mumtaz Bhutto returns to parliament after 15 years! Two sons each of Pir Pagaro and Jatol win. Clear win for PPP

NWFP ASSEMBLY TALLY OF SEATS :

PPP	:	26
PML NS	:	15
ANP (WALI)	:	20
IND.	:	17

Note : ANP- PML (NS) need few seats to form the government.

BALUCHISTAN ASSEMBLY TALLY OF SEATS :

Independents win most of the seats. Clear picture as to who could form the government yet to emerge. However NS and Achakzai had an electoral alliance and have better chances here.

COMMUNITY CORNER

The news in brief

SANA New England Chapter Formed.

On October 2, 1993, with Dr. Niranjan Dudani's efforts, about 20 families attended the SANA gathering at a local restaurant in Peabody Mass. This lively meeting started with Dr. Dudani's soulful rendition of Shah and Sachal Sarmast's verses (Ala' Kanwar Bhagat revisited). The New England chapter was formally inaugurated and following office bearers were elected unanimously.

President : Mr. Ayub Khaskheli
V.Pres. : Mr. Ramesh Parwani
Gen.Sec. : Mr. Shahnawaz Soomro

Tikam Matai read a thought provoking paper on "Sooifism and Universal Brotherhood" With many Sindhi families scattered across New England states the NE chapter of SANA aims to strengthen bonds by organizing social events and fostering correspondance and communication among members, with special emphasis on bridging the gaps between Muslims and Hindu Sindhis living in the region. All communications may be addressed to the above office bearers or to :

Dr. Dudani
66 Phillips Ave,
Swampton, MA 01907
(617)593-1825

Professor Asad Larik has been awarded Fulbright Scholarship and is currently at Edinboro University, Pa.

Mr.R.A.Shah Ex Vice Chancellor of Sindh University has joined the teaching staff at Edinboro University PA.

Abida Parveen visits North America.

Internationally renowned Sindhi folk singer Ms. Abida parveen is on tour in North America . She was in Belleville IL on Oct. 5th. She gave a splendid private performance. The mid-West Sindhis were hosted to this cultural extravaganza by Dr. M.M.Vakassi. Ms abida Parveen has already performed in Washington DC and LA and will be performing in New York and Toronto next.

Dr. Nazir Mughal blessed with a son. SANA congratulates Dr. and Mrs. Nazir Mughal on new arrival.

The videos of the SANA ninth annual meeting are available from Mr. A.Razzak Baloch Please purchase these two videos one music other Speeches They are of special interest to those who missed this great

Twenty eight killed in Magsi clash. At least 28 people were killed and about 50 injured in an armed clash between the two rival groups of Magsi tribe. The police has arrested former chief minister of Baluchistan Mr. Zulifkar Magsi in this connection.

Eight people were killed and ten others injured when an unidentified terrorist opened fire on 40 faithful offering Fajar prayers at Ahsan Mosque near chaubirji , Lahore.

FOR MINOR MEDICAL
PROBLEMS CALL
SMAHA HOT LINE
(618)397-6770

OBITUARY

SANGAT announces the sad demise of Shirin Ansari, wife of SANA's EX Secretary treasurer, Mr. Israr Ansari with deep sorrow . May God rest her soul in peace and grant solace and succour to the departed soul.

SANGAT

112 EMERSON RD.
St. Louis, MO 63141

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SANA MEMBERSHIP. JUST
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