



SANGAT

SINDHI ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

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SANA elections: Sani Panhwar elected President un-opposed

Mr. Sani Panhwar of Los Angeles, CA has been elected un-opposed as new President of the Sindhi Association of North America. This was announced on the sanalist by the Election Commission on the 28th of November. The Commission is headed by Dr. Abdul Rehman Soomro of San Francisco and includes Mr. Kaleem Akhound and Mr. Khalid Turk as members. The other office bearers declared elected are as follows:

Vice President:

Zia Memon

Vice President (Women):

Zaib Agha

General Secretary:

Mohammad Ali Mahar

Joint Secretary:

Sajjad Siddiqui

Treasurer:

Shaukat Ansari

Information Secretary:

Nausherwan Memon

Regional Secretaries:

Ashraf Memon (West Coast)

Aftab Daudi (South)

Badar Shaikh (East Coast)

Anwar Bhutto (Mid-West)

Mr. Sani Panhwar who has been with SANA since 1987, has served before as Regional Secretary, West Coast Chapter and as Vice President SANA.

He has thanked all the SANA members who expressed confidence in him, nominated him and supported him for the position of the President of the organization. In a message after his election, Mr Panhwar says that the task ahead of the new office bearers was not an easy one. He pledged to make all out efforts to revive the membership interest and bring all Sindhis living in North America under SANA umbrella. He says, he has set an agenda for the next two years as follows:

"1. For Next two years we will focus only on issues concerning Sindhis living in North America. I think we need to learn to crawl before we decide to run.

2. Sangat will be 100% community paper. (It will cover community events, the news and everything else that majority of the members want to see and participate and read in it).

3. Next SANA directory will be 100% error free and will list all paid members.

4. SANA assets will be increased by getting donations, membership dues and support from other organizations. At the same time we must make all efforts to collect the outstanding loans given by SANA to individuals.

5. New EC will have open door and open heart policy. Every issue from membership will be taken seriously and will be acted upon in timely manner."

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Editor: Aziz Narejo

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Ever elusive goal of unity

Need for a broad-based unity has always been felt in Sindh. It has been argued that since Sindh and Sindhis are facing monumental problems and are fighting on several fronts, no political party, a group or a personality can steer the ship single-handedly. Many serious efforts have also been made to achieve that goal. But despite all that there has never been any significant progress. There have only been a few instances when the people of Sindh were seen united to some extent. Once, during the time of anti-One Unit movement in late 60s, then 'publish voters list in Sindhi' movement in 69-70 and quite recently during the anti-Kalabagh Dam movement. Why is that? Is the goal of unity achievable at all? This issue has echoed on Sanalist too. Many contributors commented and stressed for Unity. A former president of SANA, Mr Iqbal Tareen proposed to hold an international Sindhi Unity Conference in spring 2001. He later suggested to ponder over

the questions of: Unity about what? Unity between whom? And what after unity? Dr Ghulam Mustafa Soomro and Mr Khalid Hashmani among others responded and put in very valuable thoughts. All these views expressed on the Sanalist are very thought provoking but unfortunately will always remain only thoughts if never acted upon. I request our readers to send comments on this issue so we can include them in our next issue. We hope to reach some consensus on this question and then can act upon it.

Issues are not dead, not yet

It was recently reported in Pakistani media that the Government has postponed its plans to construct the ill-famed Kalabagh Dam. The news as carried in the media says: "The issue, which had become more political than technical, has now been left for the future government(s) to resolve." The Government may have its reasons for this decision. The General's administration may have postponed the Kalabagh Dam project due to the lack of the required funding of over twelve billion dollars but can it be trusted that it will give up all its antics and the vicious plans up its sleeve? The Kalabagh Dam was initially proposed four decades ago. It has been in limelight time and

again. The struggle can't be over until it is abandoned permanently.

How about later statements from WAPDA Chief that the plans to construct the Dam have not been given up! How about the recent utterances by C.E. himself & other officials regarding the construction of the Dam & the Thal canal, (which incidentally is a dream plan of Punjab to irrigate a large area of land by stealing more water from Sindh)? And what about the government intentions to build some smaller dams and three canals each on the right and left banks of the River Indus?

Now are these dams and canals allowed under the Indus River Basin Treaty and the controversial water distribution agreement, that is supervised by the Punjab and the federal government dominated IRSA? It had its headquarters in Lahore until recently. Now they have been moved to Islamabad where it is even easier to be manipulated. If Pakistan is to sustain, the powers that be, must address to those other equally pressing issues and make the country livable for all and not just for the privileged ones. On our part, the struggle must continue for:

- Fair and equitable share of water, finances from the common pool, economic development and political power.

-Complete and un-adulterated autonomy for provinces as it was envisaged in the original Pakistan Plan (1940 Muslim League Resolution).

-The Devolution Plan (or Demolition Plan, as some have put it) must be opposed tooth and nail as it is One Unit in some other garb. Let provinces be run by the provinces.

-No military dictator should be allowed to amend, change and play with the constitution, which as a matter of fact needs to be amended but only by a representative, nationally elected body.

- Struggle for restoration of democracy in Pakistan. The door must be shut for military adventurers for ever.

-Increase meaningful literacy rate and educate people about their rights.

-Enrichment and empowerment of people at grass roots level.

If history gives a clue, the Pakistani rulers can never be expected to do a favor to the people of Sindh until they are made to! The best thing is to be vigilant, understand, educate and allow our selves to be educated on the issues surrounding unassuming Sindhi populace and keep the pressure on. Not just on the government of the day but on the political parties as well, so that they dont waver or cut under-hand deals with the Establishment.

SANA holds Convention 2000

Sindhi Association of North America, SANA, held its 16th annual convention in St. Louis, MO on the 4th July weekend this year. It was participated by a large number of Sindhi families and individuals from all over USA and Canada. It was a grand gala, spread over three days, filled with fun and music. Some guests from Sindh also attended the convention. They included the former Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Abdullah Shah, Eminent Scholar, Dr. Hamida Khuhro, Prominent Sindhi intellectual, poet and writer, Mr Shamsher-ul-Haidri, Qazi Fazal ul Haq and Director, Shah Latif Chair, Karachi University, Dr. Fahmida Memon.

The three day convention included speeches by guests from Sindh as well as President SANA, Dr Mazhar Lakho, reports by the General Secretary SANA, Mr Irshad Kazi, Vice President, Syed Mehar Hussain Shah and FAME Fund Chairman, Syed Manzoor Hussain Shah, general body meeting, deliberations on the current political, economic and cultural situation in Pakistan with special emphasis on Sindh, some presentations, musical programs, cultural events, ladies and youth wing meetings and exhibitions.

Sindhis being denied their rights

Speakers at the convention unanimously emphasized that Sindhis were being denied their rights provided in the Pakistan resolution of 1940. They stressed upon the democratic rights of the people and said they were being continuously violated by the successive governments in Pakistan.

Eminent scholar, Dr. Hamida Khuhro, giving an over view of the history of Sindh since the British Raj, said the Government started the denial of the rights of the people of Sindh by prohibiting them from any proprietary rights. The hopes of the people of Sindh were dashed from the beginning and they have been made to suffer since. She said that it is continuing during the present regime as all the avenues of progress, prosperity, economic development and employment are being blocked for them.

She foresaw a bleak future if immediate remedial steps were not taken to reverse the situation by empowering the people and giving them their basic rights.

Former Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Abdullah Shah said democracy has never been allowed to function in Pakistan. He said the situation can only be improved if the mandate of the people is respected and the people are allowed to make decisions instead of few elitists

who have grabbed all the powers of the state.

He also said Pakistan did not come into being for forcible Islamization of the society. He said Sindh has always been a peaceful and tolerant society where sectarian and religious terrorism has never been part of life until recently.

He criticized the disrespect to the constitution. He said if the sanctity of the constitution is not observed, no good can be done to the country. He was also of the view that Sindh and Pakistan are one entity and Sindhis want their due rights under the framework of Pakistan.

Other guests who spoke on the occasion, included prominent poet and writer Mr Shamsheer-ul-Haidri, Qazi Fazal ul Haq and Director of Shah Latif Chair, Dr. Fahmida Memon.

Pledges made at Convention

Following is the list of the pledges made at the SANA convention 2000:

- 01) Dr. Aftab Shaikh \$1000
- 02) Sani Panhwar \$ 300
- 03) Muneer Umrani \$100
- 04) Sarfraz Abbasi \$100
- 05) Iqbal Tareen \$ 100
- 06) Sakina Abro \$ 100
- 07) Irshad Ansari \$ 100
- 08) Javed Shaikh \$ 50
- 09) Manzoor Shah \$ 100
- 10) Dr. Badar Afghan \$150
- 11) Dr. Mazhar Lakho \$500
- 12) Zia Memon \$ 100
- 13) Basheer Shahani \$400

- 14) Munwar Soomro \$50
- 15) Tufail Memon \$ 50
- 16) Diwan Qalbani \$100
- 17) Dr. Shiam Lal \$ 200
- 18) Dr. Shabir Shaikh \$500
- 19) Asleah Qalbani \$ 50
- 20) Saeed Hafiz \$ 100
- 21) Dr. Ashfaq Turk \$250
- 22) Dr. Aijaz Turk \$ 500
- 23) Dr. Ashok \$ 50
- 24) Dr. Valeed Shaikh \$500
- 25) Ali Shaikh \$ 250 (for FAME)
- 26) Mumtaz Ansari \$100
- 27) Mohamad A. Mahar \$100

Please remit your pledge to: Mr. Aijaz Memon
19765 Drake Drive
Cupertino, CA 95014

Please make your check to: SANA

Outstanding Students Awards Presented at SANA Convention

The following students received awards for their academic excellence and extracurricular activities during the Convention.

- 1.Ms. Sadia W. Memon
- 2.Mr. Omar S. Memon
- 3.Shahzad B. Shaikh
- 4.Ms. Faryal Umrani
- 5.Ms. Sanobar B. Shaikh
- 6.Ms. Muzna Ahmed
- 7.Ms. Shumaila Panhwar
- 8.Mr. Shahbaz Qalbani
- 9.Mr. Ayaz A. Memon
- 10.Mr. Hussain Turk
- 11.Ms. Marvee Turk
12. Mr. Omad Shaikh Sindh

Sindh in the 21st century

(Keynote speech by Dr. Hamida Khuhro at SANA Convention 2000)

It is a rare pleasure for me to be standing here talking to the members of SANA- the Sindhis who have made their home in America and are organized as an entity in this great democratic country. For a long time we used to hear that people from many other communities of Pakistan and India had come to Europe and America and were well settled there. From here they were not only able to help their relations and communities back home financially but also sponsored others to come to these advanced countries. I see with satisfaction that though Sindhis may not compare to the other communities in terms of numbers, they are indeed well settled and not trailing behind anyone in terms of ability and civic mindedness.

We in Sindh look to you, living in a democratic country, to be moral support for us back home and of course we recognize that you do all you can to help the young people at home in terms of education and so on. As we meet here today in St. Louis at your annual gathering, I have to tell you that our homeland is passing through an unprecedented crisis that surpasses even this past difficult and troubled half-century.

I would like to take you back a century and half earlier to the

time that the British conquered Sindh. This was a period of intense difficulty for the people of Sindh who would over the hundred years have to cope with not only new rulers but also with new taxes, new legal codes, new education and a new kind of administration. They were to find themselves in a new world, a modern industrial world that would require a painful adjustment.

But the end result was that Sindhis got modern education, the Sindhi language acquired a standardized alphabet and developed enormously as a vehicle for modern usage. Its status as a language for life, poetry and literature was undoubted but now it also became a language for scientific knowledge, novel writing and journalism. From the second half of the 19th century, Sindhi made huge strides as the language of administration and courts as well. With the new education, the opportunities that could be found in a worldwide empire, Sindhis found themselves part of the great world outside the subcontinent. The Hindu businessmen, the Sindhi varkies could be found in all corners of the world; the Muslims, though slower because of their rural occupations. Were also finding their feet. Mirza Kaleech Beg, the prolific writer and translator, Hassan Ali Effendi, the educator and organizer, Ghulam Mohammed Bhurgri and his associates including Harchandrai Vishindas as politicians put

Sindh in the front rank of high achievers in India.

In the 20th century, the foundations laid by these pioneers bore fruit and Sindhis organized and focussed themselves on the goal of achieving separate provincial status. In doing this they would be detaching themselves from the highly developed and sophisticated Bombay Presidency. But prizing autonomy above the multi dimensional lure of Bombay, they opted for separation and achieved it by 1935. From this point it was testing time for Sindhis. They had shown themselves to be intrepid and determined political activists but could they run successful autonomous province?

Politically the ten years between 1937 and 1947 were a disappointment. The expectations of those who had achieved separation were not to be realized. The politics of Sindh fell victim to the exclusiveness of religious politics that had gripped India by then and the Sindhis who had kept largely aloof, could not overcome the obstacles. They did try.

Attempts were made to keep the Sindh Azad conference going in the post separation period but failed because of distrust. Then the United Party was formed in the hope that all communities, Hindus and Muslims would join it and work for Sindh in a non-communal spirit. That did not happen because All India

Congress would not allow Hindus to work independently of it. The senior politicians of Sindh, particularly the Muslim leaders tried to work together with the Hindu politicians but could not match the political skills of the Congress leadership that was determined to keep the Muslim majority province in its control and out of the clutches of Muslim League. In 1940 when Muslims and Hindu Independents formed a coalition government, Congress managed to break it thus destroying a great opportunity for Hindus and Muslims to work together for the greater good of their homeland. Ironically the result was the opposite of what Congress wanted. The frustrated Muslim leaders, unable to get co-operation from Hindus, turned to All India Muslim League and eventually became the supporters of Pakistan.

The question constantly being asked by the new generation in Pakistan is; Why Pakistan? Why did the Sindhi Muslims, majority in their own homeland opt for Pakistan?

The great majority of Muslims in Sindh were dependent on agriculture. There was hardly any middle class. Hyderabad that had been the capital for about a century at the time had a small official class but the urban middle class in Sindh, if any, was the Hindu Amils and the Hindu business class. Colonial rule had brought education and benefits to the urban middle class and the new laws worked in favor of the capitalist

moneylender. The result was that most of the rural Muslims were indebted to the baniya moneylender. At the same time the rural population had no modern education and was unable to safeguard itself. They lost land to moneylenders mostly through huge mark ups and unfair ex-parte court decisions. The towns were dominated by Hindus who showed no tolerance for the Muslims to make their way forward in education or in business. Hindus believed in being exclusive and the result was that Muslims could see no way forward. They could not move into towns or educate their children properly. They could not get jobs according to their share of population. They felt that they were condemned to live miserable impoverished lives and would not have relief under the system. That relief was promised by Pakistan.

But it is important to remember that for most Muslim leaders, particularly the Sindhi leaders and indeed even for Jinnah, himself, Pakistan was a bargain counter, a device to get a better bargain for the Muslim minority of the subcontinent. That would find itself at the mercy of the majority after independence was achieved. Also I might add that until the end the Muslims tried to remain within the greater India but it was the Congress leadership that insisted on partition, on cutting off bits of India to make Pakistan. They hoped that these bits would find it difficult to survive and would return to the bosom of India. The vision of Gandhi to achieve

freedom for a united India was betrayed by the Congress leadership itself.

The fact that Sindh, with its overwhelming Muslim majority, supported Muslim League and put its weight behind the 1940 Lahore Resolution, gave strength to the demand for Pakistan. This was the time when the huge Muslim majority provinces of Bengal in the east and Punjab in the west were still undecided about their support for Jinnah and the Muslim League. Thus it was the autonomous province of Sindh that became the cornerstone of the demand for Pakistan.

Sindhis entered Pakistan with very high hopes. They felt that they would be able to find solutions for all the problems that I have recounted above. To repeat, these were:

1. Emancipation from indebtedness
2. Moving into sectors of economy outside agriculture
3. No bars to moving into urban areas where there was access to education and prosperity. Therefore above all-
4. Education
5. Jobs
6. Completion of provincial autonomy promised by the Resolution of 1940

Sindh was a solvent province with the means to achieve these ends and a start had been made with the post war reconstruction program of the Sindh Government. So, how far have those expectations been

achieved? Some perhaps but with great difficulty.

What would not have been foreseen was the haste and ill preparedness with which independence came. It was expected in June 1948 but in June 1947 the British Viceroy announced that India would be freed in August of the same year- a mere nine weeks to prepare for the new country. Sindh had to bear the great burden of preparing for a new capital. The new Pakistan government was without resources so the Sindh provincial government had to host it. Apart from building the secretariat on a war footing, it had to vacate its own buildings to house the Central Government. It had to accommodate not only the thousands of the Central Government employees but also refugees who poured in by sea and by land. But in spite of the immense pressures it was within the capacity of the Government and the political leadership of Sindh to cope with the situation and emerge from it stronger. It expected to do so. The sincere efforts of the Sindh leadership were however frustrated by the opaque objectives of the newly arrived Central authorities.

Their actions in the early years of Pakistan were concentrated on centralizing power and in eroding the autonomy of the provinces. Their interference and manipulation reduced the autonomy of the provinces so much that British colonial rule appeared to be a model of liberal

and democratic practices. This attitude of the Center came as a shock to the old leaders of Sindh who had fought the battles of independence and believed that the program of Muslim League was to frame a true federation of states in Pakistan. They had looked forward to removing the obstacles in the path of the Sindhi people to economic and political progress. Now it appeared that the fruits of their struggle were to be denied to the people and freedom was in name only.

Central authorities were bent on negating federalism and establishing their arbitrary rule. They took Karachi from Sindh in the face of the united opposition of Sindhis. The Sindh Government, the Sindh Assembly, the Sindh Muslim League, all opposed the transfer of Karachi. The students of the Leslie Wilson Hostel (or the Jinnah Courts as they were called) hoisted a black flag that Jinnah could see from his front veranda. Students came out in processions- and this is just a few months after independence when Jinnah was the proclaimed hero of the people. Delegations of devoted Muslim Leaguers and elected members went to see Jinnah at Ziarat- all to no avail. Sindh's government was dismissed and Karachi was taken in the face of Sindh's bitter opposition. The area taken under the control of the Federal Government was far more than was required by the capital itself. It was an attempt to change the demography of

Sindh- to secure safe National Assembly seats for the powerful.

But even more the aspirations of the Sindhi people were denied cruelly. The long standing demand of the Sindhi agriculturists to be free of debt and to have their lands returned to them were turned down when the Governor General - the - Quaid-e-Azam himself refused assent to the Land Alienation and Debt Reconciliation Bill passed by the Sindh Assembly. These lands were instead allotted to the incoming refugees. The hopes of Sindhis to move into cities and into areas of economy outside agriculture was frustrated by laws passed that no Sindhi could buy property left by the Hindus in towns worth more than a certain amount (Rs. 10,000 in Municipal record). Sindhis were specifically not sold shops and businesses, even when they were renting or occupying them on the grounds that they were not a business community. This meant that Sindhi population could not buy houses or shops and go into trade or other business in the towns. They were not given the right to buy even the Hindu owned land they were tilling on the grounds that this would be given as 'compensation' to the incoming refugees. Sindhis had to buy back property they had been living in or land they tilling at much higher rates from the refugees to whom this land was allotted. This kept the Sindhis backward and poor in their own province and shifted the resources of the province into other hands. Being out of urban

areas meant that Sindhis could not get quality education. Sindh University was sent out of Karachi and the Karachi colleges, engineering, medical, science and arts, made out of Sindh's resources were practically no go areas for Sindhis. Sindh University was the only institution that would very gradually give some opportunity to Sindhis to move out of their extremely disadvantaged position.

The Central bureaucracy with impunity carried on several decades' usurpation of people's rights. Constitution making was delayed so that vested interests could be served. The Objectives Resolution was introduced as a red herring to justify this delay although it was not any part of the Pakistan that was envisaged by the Quaid-e-Azam or All India Muslim League. Religious parties were encouraged and there was a start in the intolerant mullaism that was to envelope Pakistan fifty years later.

The Central power brokers, who were hard-core civil and military bureaucrats, wanted to neutralize the Bengali majority. To this end they delayed the constitution till 'parity' and One Unit was achieved so that East Bengal was deprived of its majority and the smaller provinces could not ally themselves with East Bengal if their interests coincided. All this was achieved by 1956 but even then this ruling clique felt that it was not in control because elections would be held in Pakistan for the Central

Legislature for the first time in its history, nine years after independence. So on the eve of the elections, the first Martial Law was declared taking away the democratic right of the Pakistani people to elect their representatives and enjoy their hard won freedom.

The ten years of military dictatorship broke Pakistan in two and to add to the woes of the smaller provinces by taking away a potentially powerful ally against the domination of the Punjab. Since the Bangladesh crisis, the country has gone through a further number of military dictatorships which have not only taken away democratic rights but have also practically wiped out the autonomy of the provinces. The power of taxation is now largely with the Center and the provinces are doled out sums according to the wishes of the Center. All decisions are taken at the Center and the provincial chief ministers or governors are like peons or patewallas running off to take their instructions.

So where do the Sindhi people stand today? They still remain inadequately educated without good academic and technical institutions. Their opportunities in the job market are still very limited. Political action to give jobs to Sindhis did achieve some results but because political governments do not follow due procedure these young people find themselves out of jobs as the government changes. Recent changes in the government in Pakistan have meant huge job losses for Sindhis. As many as

32,782 Sindhis have lost jobs from semi government and nationalized institutions, including 8,500 from Federal Government departments. About 100,000 have taken forced retirement or the so-called golden handshake. This is a very large number in terms of the total number of Sindhis in government and semi government jobs.

There is huge graduate unemployment that discourages young people from getting education. There is no social security and so these unemployed young people fall back on family support. As there is a very small middle class, most Sindhi families still depend on agriculture. Agriculture has been depressed for a long time because of anti agriculture government policies and the income from this source has gone down considerably. The very recently published Pakistan Government Survey of the Economy, the number of people below the poverty line has increased from 17.8 million to 43.9 million showing an increase of 146% since 1989. 'According to the basic needs approach; poverty has assumed even graver proportions. It has increased from 28.6% in 1986-87 to 35.7% in 1993-94. The poverty is much worse in the rural areas. Most Sindhis live in rural areas and are dependent on agriculture ergo their position is worse than other sections of the population. The rural population is also in a curious catch 22 position. If it does not get a good crop it is in trouble, if it

gets a good crop the prices fall and the grower still does not benefit. Unlike the Punjab, there are no agro-based industries to give employment to provide some economic uplift to rural areas of Sindh.

Agriculture in Sindh is suffering because of the deterioration of agricultural land through salinity and water logging. Left and Right bank Out fall drains have destroyed Manchhar, the largest fresh water lake of Asia and the delta area where cultivable land has been destroyed and there is no fresh water for the people. Sea is reclaiming land because no water is going down the Indus.

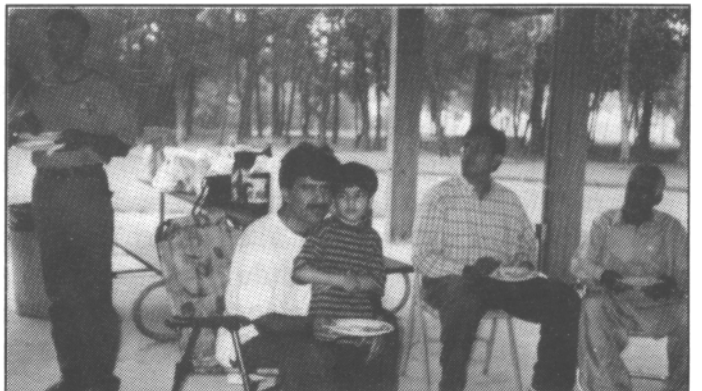
Recently of course the worst drought of the century has had dire effects in Sindh. There is no water even in the rice growing areas and rice saplings are drying and dying. There is a lot of grievance against the Punjab for denying its rightful share of water to Sindh and there is the suspicion that water is not being given to make the case for the Kalabagh dam. There is no doubt that the Punjab runs link canals in defiance of the agreements with Sindh and of course there is gross injustice to Sindh in reducing its historic share of water as a lower riparian province. Most seriously there is a complete lack of trust between Sindh and the Punjab which bodes ill for the country's future.

The picture is bleak whichever way you look. Without appropriate education the youth

Glimpses of SANA Convention 2000



Snapshots of SANA Philadelphia chapter's picnic



of Sindh is either hopeless or turning to crime. The number of suicides has increased dramatically. Of course there are ways in which Sindhis can at least start to better their situation. They could organize themselves for specific problems i.e. to lobby for agricultural problems, against ruination of Manchhar lake, the delta problems, the oppressive agricultural taxation, for educational problems and so on. In the past whenever the political leadership took up issues of importance to Sindh, in spite of strong and sustained struggles the end result was a failure because of lack of public opinion in the province. There is also no effort to hold their own representatives or the Government of the day responsible. Sindhis have to learn to arm themselves to face the merciless contemporary world.

So what can the expatriate community do for Sindh? There are two types of help needed. One is lobbying the Government of Pakistan and any one else you can think of for a better deal for Sindh. In this internet age, you could inundate the Government through emails and through letters to papers in Pakistan if there is seen to be injustice. Pressure can be used in all sorts of ways. Why for instance is Dawn, Pakistan's major newspaper not giving enough coverage to the problems of the interior and rural areas? The rulers read English and Urdu and in both these languages our case is going by default.

Secondly there is direct help. Education is the first priority. If you can sponsor technical and InfoTech/computer education- it would be great help. There is tremendous need for research, fact finding and collating of facts about Sindh which give substance and material to those who want to fight for a rightful share for Sindh in the country's resources or for the right to autonomy or the right to preserve its heritage of language and culture. So a Research Center with a good data bank is an urgent need. If Sindhis abroad can help in some way towards achieving these objectives - a better future for Sindh could be possible.

----- Protest rally in New York

North American Sindhis under the banner of Sindhi Association of North America (SANA) and People-Against-Kalabagh-Dam Action Committee, demonstrated against Pakistani government outside of the UN Millennium Summit in New York on Wednesday, September 6, 2000. The rally was led by the committee's chairman and former SANA president, Iqbal Tareen. SANA was able to have two press sessions, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The rally lasted between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The members of the rally carried banners that called for equality and fairness for Sindhis and demanded autonomy and

sovereignty of Pakistani provinces in accordance with the 1940 Pakistan Resolution, restoration of democracy and primary right of Sindh on waters of River Indus. The banners prepared by SANA carried the following slogans: "Stop genocide of Sindhis"; "Sindhis oppose large dams"; "Restore democracy now"; "Musharraf's devolution is a hoax"; "Honor Pakistan Resolution, Give autonomy now!"; "River Indus belongs to Sindh"; "Invest in people not in weapons"; "Stop child abuse in Pakistan"; "Stop hate crimes in Pakistan now"; "Release political prisoners"; "Sindhis are against Nukes" and many others. They shouted against Kalabagh dam and raised slogans against construction of large dams on River Indus. They demanded that the dreadful large dams be banished forever from the books of Pakistani planners. They also demanded the abolition of WAPDA and delegation of power generation and distribution to the provinces.

The Sindhi group included many local Sindhis and others who had traveled from upstate New York, Texas, Connecticut, California, Pennsylvania, and Washington DC to advance the cause of Sindh. Many Sindhi doctors, engineers, students, writers and the businessman had gathered near the UN Headquarters to raise their voice and project their cause and grievances while world leaders addressed inside the UN building.

FAME FUND

By now most of the SANA Members and Sindhis in general, living here in United States as well as back home are familiar with the "FAME FUND". For those who haven't yet heard about "FAME FUND", following is the brief introduction. "Fame Fund" stands for "Dr Feroze Ahmed Memorial Fund".

Soon after the demise of Dr. Feroze Ahmed, an idea was floated by the then President of SANA, Ada Iqbal Tareen to create a fund in memory of Dr. Feroze Ahmed and award scholarships to the needy students back home. He trusted me for this task. To materialize the conception, a committee consisting of Dr. Shaukat Ansari, Dr. Saghir Shaikh, Saeen Nisar Ali Shah and Saeen Aijaz Memon was formed. Later on Adi Nasreen, Aijaz Memon and Adi Fakhurnissa Shah (Mrs. Nisar Ali Shah) were added to the Committee in order to get the representation of the ladies. Each member of the Committee made the initial contribution of \$100.00. In its first meeting the Fame Fund Committee decided to award one Scholarship of \$500.00 for Post Graduate Students and four scholarships for Under Graduate Students.

The applications for the grant of scholarships were invited through publication of advertisement in local Newspapers in Sindh. Ada Nisar Siddiqui of Los Angeles used his resources to get the

advertisement published in Daily Ibrat without any cost to Fame Fund. He also contributed \$100.00 to the Fund. Dr. Ajaz Shaikh and Dr. Askar Qalbani were the major contributors and each one of them donated \$250.00. SANA provided \$1,000.00. In response to the advertisement, 159 applications received. Each of the application was thoroughly scrutinized by all members of the Committee. None of the applicants qualified for the post graduate scholarship of \$500.00 and thus the number of undergraduate scholarships was increased from 4 to 6 and following students were awarded the scholarships of \$250.00 each:

1. Miss Tahira Zaib Laghari, LMC, Jamshoro
2. Mr Shahid Nawaz Memon, Agri. Univ. Tando Jam
3. Mr Ghulam Mujtaba Mangrejo, QAUEST, Nawabshah
4. Mr Munawar Hussain Kumbhar, Mehran Univ. Jamshoro
5. Miss Aisha Qureshi, Sindh Univ.
6. Mr Ramchand, Sindh Univ.

For the subsequent year 1999, the applications were invited in the same fashion on the prescribed application Forms. Thanks to Dr. Saghir Shaikh who designed the forms for both for Graduate and undergraduate applicants. All committee members had their input to improve the format. The application forms were made available to all major Universities and Colleges in Sindh. 235 applications received

by the dead line. All members of the Committee minutely examined all applications and following students were declared eligible for the award for the year 1999:

1. Mr Abdul Haque Chang, \$500.00, QA Univ. Isb
2. Miss Shakeela Talpur, \$250.00, Agri. Univ. Tando Jam
3. Mr Asif Ali Jatoy, \$250.00, Inst. Chartered Acc.
4. Mr Abdul Fatah Shaikh, \$250.00, QUEST, Nawabshah
5. Mr Hareesh Kumar Lohana, \$250.00, Agha Khan Univ. Karachi

A comprehensive report was submitted during SANA CONVENTION at St. Louis and responding to the request for the funds, the following friends came forward and pledged funds for the project:

1. Dr Rafat Ansari, \$500.00
2. Mr Khalid Channa, \$500.00
3. Dr Valeed Shaikh, \$250.00
4. Dr Askar Qalbani, \$250.00
5. Mr Abdul Shakoor Awan, \$250.00
6. Mr A. Razak Shaikh, \$250.00
7. Dr Ajaz Turk, \$250.00
8. Dr Abdul Wahab Kazi, \$250.00
9. Dr Saleem Shah, \$250.00
10. Dr Khalid Memon, \$250.00
11. Dr Naeem, \$250.00,
12. Mr Kaleem Akhund, \$50.00

Many more who made pledges are being requested and reminded to make their promise good. The Fame Fund Committee is committed to continue their efforts increase

the number of scholarships each year.

To conclude this report, I thank all who contributed to the Fund and my special thanks to the Committee members who devoted their time and efforts to make this program a success. Comments and suggestions are sincerely solicited from all on the list.

*Manzoor Shah, Chairman,
Fame Fund Committee.*

Allan Faqir passes away

KARACHI: Sindh's most charismatic son Allan Faqir, who popularized the music of Sindh without letting it lose out on its inherent folk or its intrinsic mystical elements, died in Karachi. He was 64.

The recipient of the Pride of Performance 1987, Life Long Achievement Award 1999, the Bhitai Award in 1991, Allan Faqir had toured China, former USSR, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Brussels, Belgium, South Korea, Japan, Turkey and Italy.

Mehmood Siddiqui no more with us

Renowned television artiste, Mehmood Siddiqui is no more with us. Siddiqui was admitted to Aga Khan Hospital recently after suffering a heart attack. He could not survive.

The prominent artist performed in over 150 Urdu and Sindhi television serials, series and plays. He started his career in 1973 through a Sindhi play 'Badmash'. His last play was 'Janasheen' which concluded two weeks before his death. Siddiqui was conferred PTV award in 1988 for best performance in drama serial 'Caravan'.

Kannayo Gianchandani departs us

Sindhis in North America were saddened immensely to hear the news that a very well-read person, an intellectual par excellence, a bright son of Sindh and a sincere friend, Dr Kannayo Gianchandani passed away.

We share the grief with his father, a legendary Sindhi figure, Comrade Sobho Gianchandani.

Tragedy hits Jatoi family

Sindhi community in North America was saddened by the tragedy that struck Mr Anwar Jatoi and his family in Arizona. Sanalist was informed that as Mr Anwar Jatoi of Yuma Arizona, former Regional Secretary and life member of SANA and his wife and children (including Mansoor Jatoi, SYNA President) had an accident while travelling between Yuma and Tucson, Arizona. Everyone was

injured and had to be air lifted to Phoenix AZ.

In this devastating accident, 5 year old Yasser died of fatal injuries while others were released after treatment. SANA community expresses heart felt condolences with Mr Anwar Jatoi and his family.

Sad news

Mother of Zahur Siddiqui (Member of Sana), Dr. Sharafuddin Siddiqui Sukkur and Mr. Feroze Siddiqui and wife of late Mr. Moula Bux Siddiqui died in Pakistan recently. She was aunt of this contributor. She was 88. She had a heart attack. May Allah rest her soul in peace.

(Sajjad Siddiqui)

Books, equipment for English Dept. Sindh University

A delegation of SANA, headed by its General Secretary Mr. Irshad Kazi visited the English Dept. of Sindh University to hand over the equipment and books from SANA. The delegation consisted of SANA members Mr. Ali Shaikh, CA, Mr. Nousherwan Memon, CA, Mr. Razak Shaikh, NY and Mr. Agha Khudadad, NY. Please recall that in December 1999 SANA submitted a request to its members on sanalist for the donation of books and equipment for English Dept. Many sanalist members donated the funds and 21 books worth of \$761 were bought in USA. With the money collected SANA bought the equipment requested

by the English Dept. Two machines were bought in Karachi: A fast Printing Cyclostyle Machine worth Rupees 110,400 and a Canon Electronic Typewriter worth Rupees 25,000. Both equipment were bought in US \$2500.

(By Mr Ali Shaikh of Los Angeles)

Community News

--Mr Shahid and Nila Talpur were recently blessed with a daughter who was named Ushna.

--Mr and Mrs Bashir Shaikh recently moved to suburbs of Washington DC area.

--Washington DC area chapter of SANA had a potluck get together on October 14, 2000.

--World Sindhi Institute (WSI) held a Sindhi Sham on October 7, 2000 at their head quarters in Washington DC.

(Contributed by Mr Badar Shaikh)

Picnic in Philadelphia

Sindhi families in Philadelphia organized a picnic at Bucks County Core Creek park on 3rd sept. It was one dish party. Major organizing effort was put in by Ada Mazhar Memon and his family. We are very thankful to them for arranging such a nice event.

It was attended by 15 families: Those included: Mr Sajjad Siddiqui Family, Ada Mazhar Memon Family, Ada Zia Mufti Family, Ada Manzoor Memon

Family, Ada Shahid Baluch Family, Ada Nazir Ahmed Family, Ada Wazir Ahmed Family, Dr. Kamran Hamirani Family, Ada Salahuddin Abbassi Family, Ada Kohshar Family, Ada Falak Sher Family, Ada Barkat Rashidi Family, Ada Zia Mufti Brothers Family, Ada Wazir Ahmed Sons, Ada Khadim Hussain Family

(Sent by Sajjad Siddiqui)

A memorable weekend in Dallas

Mr Iqbal Tareen and family hosted a get together of Sindhi families at their house in Arlington, TX over the past weekend. Originally meant to be a function related to a wedding in a friend's family, the evening turned into a grand 'katchery' and a musical evening, full of fun and fiesta, combined with tasty dishes for Epicurean delight.

Many Sindhi families from Dallas, Arlington, Irving, Fortworth, Denton and Houston including Mr Saeed Hafiz, Mr Nisar Hafiz, Mr Munawar Hafiz, Mr Anwar Hussain, Mr A R Abbasi, Mr Saifee Abbasi, Mr Assad Abbasi, Mr Faizulah Abbasi, Mr Mohammad Ramzan, Mr Larik (of English Dept. Sindhi University, now living in the area), Syed Zahid Shah, Mr Moazzam Ali Bhangar, Mr Jamil Ahmed Shah, from Dallas Fortworth area and Agha Zafar, Mr Muhammad Talpur, Mr Khalil Leghari's family and this contributor attended the memorable evening. (I am sorry

if I missed some names).

As ladies were busy in songs, dance, music and light conversation, Mr A R Abbasi, Mr Saeed Hafiz and Agha Zafar brightened the evening for the gents with their funny anecdotes, jokes and outstanding wit. Later Mr A R Abbasi played the 'Been' for all while another participant sang a 'kafi'. Both of them got a lot of appreciation.

The food, which was also brought by other participating families was very delicious and the variety was so great. It was like a feast. All enjoyed the party which continued till the wee hours.

Mr Moazzam Ali Bhangar, President, SANA Dallas Chapter, hosted a lunch the next day (Sunday) at a local restaurant. Most of the families attended that too. Mr Moazzam looked so happy welcoming all the guests. The food was aplenty and good. The lunch prolonged to about 5pm and the customary Sindhi 'gup shup' was still continuing when we asked to leave as we had to drive back to Houston and it was raining (Bhatta mein meenhun).

Picnic in Houston

SANA Houston chapter organized a picnic at Bear Creek Park on Sunday last. It was a very well attended affair like most of the SANA Houston functions as this is SANA's one of the most vibrant chapters.

About 30 families and some bachelors, making a total of about 80 to 100 people, participated despite the heavy rain. It was held true once again that if you need a rain here, organize a SANA picnic in the out. This was third time that it was proved correct. Looks the Angel of rain is very kind (or may be otherwise) with us here. But it was good that the park had sheds so every body stayed inside while it was literally pouring.

All the families brought delicious dishes, which were enjoyed by the participants. It also provided an opportunity to meet some old friends after a long time while see some new faces too. The need was expressed to hold that kind of functions more often. Every body seemed to agree with it.

New Chairman for Community Relations Committee

Dr Badar Shaikh, a Senior Member of SANA in Washington DC area has accepted to Chair SANA Community Relations Committee. Some of the objectives of the SANA Community Relations Committee are:

1. To introduce new families/ individuals migrating to various Areas of USA and Canada. Familiarizing and guiding them to settle down.
2. To introduce Sindhi Families to each other with young adults potential matrimonial.

3. Help create friendships among our children.

4. Keeping track of various happenings, e.g., births, wedding, graduations, etc., and reporting to SANGAT and SANA Line.

5. Recognizing Sindhi's for their Outstanding accomplishments in their area of Expertise and Community Service during SANA Conventions.

SANA has urged the community to co-operate fully with Dr Badar Shaikh so these aims and objectives can be achieved. He can be reached at:

Phone: 301-827 8171

Fax: 301-827-8170

Email: bshaikh@cvm.fda.gov

SANA committees

To run SANA as an organization smoothly and try solving problems of the Sindhi Community in North America, SANA E. C. forms different committees. SANA EC requests everyone to become member of any of the committees below. For information please contact EC through sanaline@hotmail.com or email SANA General Secretary.

- 1) Membership Committee
- 2) Education Committee
- 3) Finance Committee
- 4) Political Action Committee for Sindh (PAC)
- 5) Bylaws Committee
- 6) Annual SANA Convention Committee
- 7) Member Grievances and Community Relations Committee
- 8) Internet

and Web Committee 9) Publication Committee.

An introduction

Hello everyone,
Let me introduce myself: I am Dinesh Keswani, son of immigrant parents born in Pakistan and I was raised in India post-partition, and studying in the US now. I have never seen Sindh, but always have heard stories from my grandparents (who were born, brought up, married and raised children there).

There was never a saddest moment in my father's life than the day he left Sindh for India. His stories about the wonderful life they had, the beautiful land that Sindh was and how Hindu & Muslims mingled like brothers, bring tears till today to our family, including us the ones who have never been to Sindh.

We still have many relatives and friends in Sindh and we always wonder about the same thing - What will happen to Sindh?

I have all my life been asked where I was from? And I am always stuck with no words to say!!!! My land is Sindh, and that's what my father taught me, and that's what I will teach my children.

Sometimes its just unfair to be neutral to the world, where is Sindh? Who are Sindhis? Where is my culture? I just want to know if we Sindhi have become Ultimate Nomads, wandering all

over the world and nowhere to go at the end of the day!!!!

At least I can express myself over the Internet now, away from politics!!!

(A posting on Sanalist, representative of so many migrant Sindhi families settled world over. Editor).

Take it easy

LIFE BEFORE THE COMPUTER

An application was for employment.

A program was a TV show.

A cursor used profanity.

A keyboard was a piano.

Memory was something that you lost with age.

A CD was a bank account.

And if you had a 3 1/2 inch floppy:

-you hoped nobody found out!

Compress was something you did to garbage:

-not something that you did to a file.

And if you unzipped anything in public:

-you'd be in jail for awhile!

Log on was adding wood to a fire.

Hard drive was a long trip on the road.

A mouse pad was where a mouse lived.

And a backup happened to your commode!

Cut - you did with a pocket knife.

Paste you did with glue.

A web was a spider's home

And a virus was the flu!

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper.

And the memory in my head.

I hear nobody's been killed in a

computer crash.

-but when it happens they wish they were dead!

A lion was getting married, and a mouse at the ceremony was so thrilled that he jumped up and down with joy. When one of his friends asked why he was so happy, he replied that his brother was getting married.

"What brother?" his friend asked in astonishment.

"The lion is my brother," replied the mouse.

"But how can he be your brother, he is a lion and you are a mouse?" said his friend. The mouse said with a grin, "We were all lions before we got married."

A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study the bible a little, and get your hair cut; then we'll talk about it."

A month later the boy came back and again asked his father if he could use the car. His father said, "Son, I'm really proud of you. You brought your grades up, studied the bible well, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The young man waited a moment and then replied, "You know dad, I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair."

His father replied, "Yes son, and they walked everywhere they went."

Definitions:

Marriage: Its an agreement in which a man loses his Bachelor's degree and woman gains her Master's.

Boss: Someone who is early when you are late and late when you are early.

Politician: One who shakes your hand before elections and confidence afterwards.

Doctor: A person who kills your ills by bills and kills you with his bills.

Office: A place where you can relax after strenuous home life. (This doesn't apply to every one).

Yawn: The only time some married men ever get a chance to open their mouth.

etc.: A sign to make other's believe that you know more than you actually do.

Committee: Individuals who can do nothing individually and sit together to decide that nothing can be done even together.

Experience: The name men give to their mistakes.

Atom bomb: An invention to end all inventions.

Optimist: A person who starts taking a bath if he accidentally falls into a river.

Miser: A person who lives poor so that he can die rich.

Father: A banker provided by nature.

Smile: A curve that can set a lot of things straight.

College: A place where some pursue learning and others learn pursuing.

My Big Mother

The land of my birth
calls me:
Come, just once
my child
let me feel the pounding of your
soles
again
as you dance among your
cousins
the peacocks.
Yes, I am poor
but you will never go hungry
sweet cool milk
still gushes out of my mountains
for you
Come bask in it with your aunts,
the porpoises
mangoes, guanas, papayas
your sisters, the parrots
are willing to share.

Your brother, the ibex
see how he thumps his hoof,
nods his horned head
to challenge you
one last race
to the cliff tops
I thirst for a sprinkling
of water from your hands
like old times.
Take a deep breath
and fill your emptiness with my
drenched smell
you once loved
One more time
let me feel you so close
my breath blows your hair
in your eyes
lie on my desert belly
we will chat about the times
while we watch
the new moon

above the date palms: my hands
raised to ask God
to bless your children
wherever they embark
Do you sing my lullaby to them?
I know you will be singing
songs of another land, now
I know I have lost you,
My child
Come and see me

By: Rana Siddiki



For comments, inquiries, news and matter for publication,
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FIRST CLASS

2000

770

BILLY MITCHELL



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Carr. Int.
Date

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