



SANGAT

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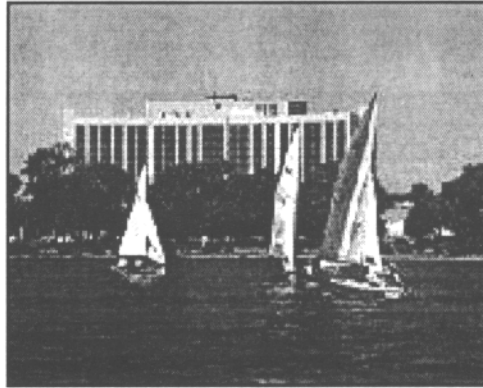
18th SANA Convention in Cherry Hill, NJ

Sindhi Association of North America, SANA, is holding its 18th annual convention in Cherry Hill, NJ 4th-7th July weekend. Theme for the convention this year is "Restoration of Sindh's Primary Rights Over River Indus". A list of invitees from Sindh is being finalized and will be made public soon. SANA is in contact with a number of Sindhi intellectuals; particularly those who have a lot of experience in the Indus River related issues. Their participation will depend on timely issuance of US visa to them. SANA is also contacting singers/musicians from Sindh as well as inviting the local talent.

The convention, an annual gathering of Sindhi families and individuals from all over USA and Canada, will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Cherry hill, NJ. It is about half an hour from Philadelphia, PA and about an hour and a half from New York, NY. The venue was moved from the earlier announced host city of New York to Cherry Hill NJ as no reasonable hotel agreed to accommodate the convention in the aftermath of September 11, 2001 incident.

The program for the convention is being finalized. It will include General Body Meeting, Guest Speakers' Session, Doctors' Session, Sindhi Adabi Sangat Session, Children's Session, Women's Session, Annual Banquet and a night of Sindhi 'sur' and 'sangeet'.

A special rate of \$99 has been negotiated with the hotel. It includes two continental breakfasts per room. To avail the rate,



Hilton Cherry Hill, NJ

participants are urged to make their reservations by June 20th. The hotel can be reached at 1-800-HILTONS or 856-665 6666. Please see further details on page 8.

Sindhi Language Day observed

This year, 4th March had a special meaning for overseas Sindhis. It was celebrated as Sindhi Language Day in response to an appeal by the Sindhi Association of North America, SANA. The appeal was endorsed by another overseas Sindhi organization, the World Sindhi Congress, WSC. Special programs, gatherings and family dinners were held at many places in USA, Canada and at least one in Australia.

Besides remembering the 4th March as an epoch making day in the history of Sindh, informal discussions were held at the gatherings to promote and preserve Sindhi language and culture. Recent developments in Sindh were also discussed. Solidarity was expressed with the people of Sindh who are facing onslaughts on many fronts and are engaged in battles for their survival.

The day was marked by speaking in Sindhi language, highlighting Sindhi life, history and culture for younger generation, listening to Sindhi music, wearing Sindhi clothes,

cooking Sindhi dishes and indulging in traditional Sindhi 'katchehry'.

Please see related stories on page 9.

Thal Canal: Death Blow to Federation

The hurried, ongoing construction of the ill-conceived, infamous Thal Canal is widely considered as an attack on the solidarity and integrity of Pakistan. It has only a few parallels in the checkered history of the country. And it promises to be equally disastrous. Some of its forebears being: the declaration by the 'Father of the Nation' in Dhakka in 1948 that Urdu will be the ONLY national language of the country; removal of Khwaja Nazimuddin from the seat of the Government; dissolution of the elected assemblies; continuation of that trend for ever; imposition of 'One Unit; imposition of dictatorships and 'Martial Law' regimes in the country; arrogance of the Establishment towards the people of East Bengal, Sindh and Balochistan; contempt and utter disregard for the aspirations of the people, their language and culture; disregard for the law of the land and the constitution; imposition of the hegemony of one people over the other and of one province over the others; usurpation of the resources of the smaller provinces; military actions in East Bengal, Sindh and Balochistan; murder, torture and incarceration of the students, writers, intellectuals, politicians and common men of East Bengal and the smaller provinces and removal and murder of an elected Prime Minister belonging to Sindh. The list could go on and on. The thing is that the perpetrators of these crimes have been in power since almost the creation of Pakistan. And they are continuing their game plan unabated, labeling others traitors.

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Editor: Aziz Narejo

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Water Issue: A disaster in the offing

The water issue in Pakistan is a major catastrophe in the making. Gross mismanagement, mishandling and inequitable government policies have made it a monster that is about to devour the federation itself. It is a high example of injustice and unfairness.

Pakistani authorities, including the villainous WAPDA, have excessively shown their contempt for the law of the land and have perfected the art of partisanship and favoritism. They have continuously ignored the interests of the people of Sindh and have made all the resources of the land available to just one province and its lackeys. They are using all the might of the state to please a set of people and preparing the stage to destroy the other. What a shame!

We have included some write-ups on this matter of great urgency in previous issues of 'Sangat'. You will find some more information in this issue as well. I request the readers to please pore over it carefully to comprehend the gravity of the problem, which is of the life and death consequence for the ill-placed Sindhi people. (A.N.)

Note: Views expressed herein are not necessarily those of SANA.

Controversy Over Thal Canal Project

By Aamir Kabir

The manner in which the Thal canal project has been undertaken is a natural cause for unrest among the people of Sindh, especially when work has been launched before having consensus among the federating units.

The approval of the Thal canal at this juncture is likely to create a wedge between the two provinces, Sindh and Punjab, which have been at water war for years. It can be evident from the uproar expressed by almost all political and other circles of Sindh, many of them calling for immediately undoing the project. Not a single day has passed since the inauguration of the Thal canal when a protest rally in Sindh had not been held.

Wrangling over the sharing of water between the two provinces has become increasingly bitter since the water crisis became acute, with still no mutually satisfactory formula thrashed out by the IRSA, the authority responsible for water distribution.

Addressing the area people on the occasion of the ground breaking ceremony of the controversial mega project, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said the Thal canal project would usher in green revolution, help eradicate poverty and boost prosperity in Khushab, Jhang, Bhakkar and Leiah districts.

The Thal canal is a part of Vision 2025 program aimed at developing water resources and hydropower of the country. This canal project is situated between Indus and Jhelum rivers in Thal Doab.

The project envisages 23 miles of main canal and 223 miles branch canals. It will be completed in two stages in seven years at the cost of around Rs. 35 billion. The Thal canal, on completion, will provide non-perennial irrigation supplies to 1.535 million acres out of 1.918 million acres gross area, which has no irrigation facility.

While highlighting the expected benefits after completion of the project, the president said that fortune of the area people would be changed and prosperity would flourish among them. Unfortunately at that time the president did not take into account the devastation the project is likely to result on the coastal belt of Sindh.

Degradation of the Indus delta ecosystem as a result of reduced water outflows is already a highly visible phenomenon. Unfortunately our decision makers did not take into account the ill effects of reduced water flows on coastal areas at the time of conceiving and undertaking projects of water damming. It does not in any way mean that the dams or barrages should not have been built in our country.

Building of dams and barrages, of course, played a decisive role in our agricultural and industrial progress. Every developmental project has some beneficial and detrimental effects. What is necessary is that detrimental effects need to be offset by certain counter measures. The key element what we ignored in diverting the Indus water, and are ignoring till now, is that we did not do any thing to prevent imperative sea intrusion which was caused after reduction of river inflows towards sea.

After construction of Ghulam Mohammad Barrage, in 1951 the coastal areas of Sindh having a gentle slope (1:8000 to 1:10000) started to be encroached upon by sea. The criminal negligence by the concerned authorities, notably WAPDA, for tackling this issue has put the whole area on continuous degradation. In the absence of a suitable drainage system, which is direly required by this area than any other part of the country, hundreds of thousands of acres of otherwise fertile agricultural lands have turned into desert and the Indus delta has become a tragic symbol of poor planning and undisciplined greed.

The entire coastline spread over two districts in Sindh - Thatta and Badin - has been badly affected due to non-availability of freshwater. Ketī Bandar,

Shah Bandar and Kharo Chann subdivisions are the worst hit. At present people in Ketī Bandar and Kharo Chhann have been bringing drinking water from distances of 15 kms or more.

An initial survey of the Board of Revenue shows that unabated sea intrusion has inundated over 1.2 million acres of farmland in the eight coastal tehsils (subdivisions) of Sindh (in two coastal districts of Thatta and Badin), dislocating almost a quarter million of population, and inflicting financial losses of over Rs100 billion so far.

Official estimates put complete devastation of more than 450,000 acres of farmland in 72 dehs (villages) spread over eight tehsils in Thatta and Badin. These include six tehsils in Thatta, which are Shah Bandar, Ghora Bari, Kharo Chhann, Mirpur Sakro, Jati and Ketī Bunder. Two tehsils in the Badin district - Badin and Golarchi - are now under full sway of the advancing sea-waters.

In other 87 dehs of the same eight tehsils of two districts - Thatta and Badin - sea water intrusion has substantially damaged about 500,000 acres of land from where the population has moved away to hinterlands in search of food and water. Not only this, the reduced water supply to Keenjhar Lake has also put at stake, the already short, fresh (drinking) water supply to Karachi.

Apart from it, the riverine (kutchā) areas of Sindh would get out of production due to control over floods after completion of Thal Canal Project. 'Sailaba' crops are grown on the land adjacent to main river and the creeks. Though crops are sown on the soil moisture soon after the floods, this needs more than one watering to mature. As a result Sailaba lands give poor yields and farmers are generally required to provide irrigation facility through shallow tube-wells or lift pumps installed temporarily along the riverbed. Therefore after completion of the Thal Canal Project, significant

reduction in floodwater would cripple the riverine agriculture of Sindh.

In such grave scenario how could people of Sindh, who are already facing a serious threat due to consistent water shortage, live without raising objection over the construction of the Thal canal project, which would play havoc with its agriculture? They are of the view that when Indus is already short of required irrigation water, how can another project be started on the same river, which is the main source of water supply to the province?

Therefore unanimous opposition of this mega project by all in Sindh stands justified. Otherwise the present political leadership had initially defended the controversial canal project.

It was only the strong criticism and uproar by Sindh populace that forced the Sindh government to review its decision and look critically and technically into this project by pursuing the interest of water starved province. Consequently, the stand of provincial government on the Thal canal project has changed and it has linked the project with complete and proper implementation of 1991 Water Apportionment Accord.

The government of Sindh took the stand that the sanctity of the 1991 Water Accord was paramount and all aspects of the accord be implemented in letter and spirit. It is declared officially that the Greater Thal Canal project might only be approved simultaneously with the implementation of the other aspects of the accord, including water sharing and provision of water downstream of Kotri to avoid sea intrusion.

The para 7 of Water Accord 1991 reads, "The need for certain minimum escapade to sea, below Kotri, to check sea intrusion was recognized. Sindh held the view that the optimum level was 10 MAF, which was discussed at length while other studies, indicated lower/higher figures. It was, therefore decided that further studies would be undertaken to establish the minimal escaped need downstream Kotri."

Unfortunately the issue of fresh water release below Kotri barrage for saving the Eco-system has always been tackled politically or administratively, rather than environmentally. Government officials believe the flow of freshwater into the sea is wastage of water. They don't know that it is a must for keeping the coastal environment alive. Environmentalists believe that the Indus delta needs fresh water flow round the year, not just in flood season. It needs natural fresh flow. Flood water alone can not save the ecosystem.

In case of Thal canal project, an unpleasant surprise is that constitutional and procedural formalities were not fulfilled. Even the executing agency, WAPDA started work on the project before its approval by the competent authority i.e. ECNEC.

Most sordid episode of this contentious irrigation project is that the IRSA, that was specially created in 1991 to solve and decide technical matters related to provincial water dispute and who looks after the interests of the provinces as per allocation of water apportionment accord of 1991 was not even consulted for the project.

Constitutionally it is imperative under the 1991 water accord that before launching any new reservoir on Indus, the scheme was required to be referred to the Indus River System Authority. It is also made known that the approval of the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and even the Planning and Development Division was also not sought, which was mandatory.

IRSA had also reportedly written a letter to the relevant authorities reminding them that the work on the project could not be initiated without seeking their opinion, particularly in view of the fact that one of the federating units had serious reservation on the project. In addition Sindh has stressed that the project should be reverted to the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) for discussing the technical details of the project.

It is surprising that how WAPDA could embark upon executing such a huge

water project prior to its clearance by IRSA and without the preparation of its feasibility report and without assessing its impact on Indus delta. WAPDA should have waited for an approval by the competent authority before starting work on the project.

Keeping in view these deviations from procedural and constitutional formalities of the project, the Sindh government has taken a stand over the Thal Canal Project and expressed concern over the approval of the PC-1 without prior approval of the province and urged the federal government to remove the concerns and reservations of Sindh over this project.

It also took strong exception that the project was cleared by the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) in the absence of the representatives of the Sindh government and without addressing a host of reservation recorded by the Planning Division on the project.

Sindh further said that construction of any new canal must be in conformity with the 1991 Water Sharing Accord and the views and comments of IRSA may be obtained before consideration of the scheme again in the CDWP.

There is an urgent need to build trust between the provinces in order to hold a constructive and rational dialogue on the issue. If both sides are able to adopt a more mature and positive approach, there is hope that an acceptable solution can still be found.

(Edited version. Taken from Sindhi lists)

Water Theft: Terroristic, Criminal and Genocidal

Here are excerpts from a speech, Mr. Rasool Bux Palijo, Chief of Awami Tahreek, delivered at the "Water and Agriculture Conference held in Hyderabad recently:

"..... the people of Sindh will not accept the construction of greater Thal canal come hell or high water. It is the

unanimous opinion of over 30 million people of the province that the canal is an anti-Sindh project and should be shelved without any further delay.....not a single political party or group in Sindh is in favor of the controversial canal therefore the decision to build it should be withdrawn.....tracing the history of the water distribution from 1859 to present day, he said that Punjab had always been trying to usurp Sindh's water share.....the word Pakistan had become a misnomer and it should be changed into Punjabistan..... no one should expect any good from the rulers.....for all practical purposes one unit had again been thrust on the country.....political power had never been transferred in the real sense as politicians had always remained subservient to armed forces.....

"...the heinous international crime constituted by the one hundred and fifty years long systematic and continuous illegal, unconstitutional plunder of Sindh's share of water from the rivers of Pakistan, specially including the Indus would, if tried by an impartial international tribunal like that of the Nuremberg Tribunal, would undoubtedly be held to be one of the most sinister global crimes in the criminal history of mankind.....in order to understand the nature and enormity of the crime, it would help to keep in mind the facts firstly that in international law of rivers, river waters do not belong to the people at the head side of the river ONLY but to all people throughout the length of the rivers from the head to the tail; secondly the people at the head side cannot obstruct or divert the water of the rivers without the consent of the people towards the lower and tail sides; and thirdly that any decision by any authority or court against an interested side in its absence is null and void and of no legal effect in the eyes of the laws of the entire civilized world.....

"....Punjab started damming the rivers of the Indus basin and diverting their waters without the consent of Sindh with the construction in 1859 of the Upper Bari Doab Canal on Ravi. By 1901 it had constructed Sirhand Canal, lower Chanab Canal and lower Jehlum

Canal....by 1915 it had similarly constructed Pahar Pur canal, upper Swat Canal, and triple Canal Project (Jehlum Canal, Upper Chanab Canal and lower Bari Doab Canal). In 1919 they started the Satlaj valley Project consisting of eleven Canals and four headworks.

"...Sindh, which was during this entire period, a step-child of the Bombay Presidency, woke-up at last and complained to the Government of India against these unjust, nay, criminal activities.....the position by 1947 at the time of partition was that the Anderson Committee and Rao Commission(1941) appointed by the government of India had rejected the claim of Punjab that Sindh had no right to interfere with what Punjab did with the rivers passing through it within its provincial territory, forbade it from diverting river waters without the consent of Sindh and the 1945 Sindh-Punjab draft agreement had been signed which was hailed by the then Punjab Irrigation Secretary and Chief Engineer Pir Mohd Ibrahim in his book " Water Rights of West Pakistan" as the " most just agreement" about water".....article 8 of the agreement once again forbade Punjab's diverting the waters against the wishes of Sindh.

"...But as soon as Punjab found that Government of India would no longer be there to arbitrate justly....and as it is going to be the virtual master of Pakistan, it reneged on the 1945 Agreement and restarted its nefarious activities of plundering Sindh's share of common waters.....in 1948 Punjab, illegally throwing away old decisions of Govt. of India regarding the Sindh-Punjab water dispute, started behaving as the sole master of the Indus basin river waters and entered into a conspiracy and made a secret deal with the Bharati East Punjab government....behind the back of Sindh. It transformed the Sindh-Punjab water issue into a Indo-Pak water dispute. Through imposition of One-unit and Martial Law, it illegally and totally excluded Sindh and signed Indus Water Basin Treaty against the

interests of Sindh. Then it violated even that one sided illegal treaty; totally misappropriated billions of rupees of loan taken on account of all the western Provinces of Pakistan; misappropriated the whole Mangla Dam; illegally constructed Tarbella Dam and two robber canals instead of Rohtas Dam as proposed by the World Bank. In the third stage, it violated even the conditions set by itself for the most restricted use of the illegal robber link canals Chashma-Jehlum and Punjnad. In the fourth stage, it imposed dummy governments on Sindh and through them the 1991 and 1994 anti-Sindh water -accords. And now it is imposing Thal Project at a break-neck speed under its old *modus operandi* viz. under a military rule.....all these acts since 1859 to this day are criminal and terroristic and remind one of the sinister genocidal crimes of the fascist and Nazi regimes of the thirties and forties of the last century.....”

In the end, Mr. Palijo appealed to all the democratic, justice-loving and patriotic people of Pakistan, South Asia and the World to come to the rescue of the people of Sindh, standing on the verge of genocide, elimination and extinction as a historical people. (*From Sindhi lists*)

Thal Canal: A Robbery of Water

A Press Statement by Sindh Democrat Party (SDP)

On 28th February, 2002, ECNEC joined to legalize the illegal act of the construction of Thal Canal by Punjab Government and WAPDA. As per constitution of the country, all the public sector development projects are to be approved by National Economic Council (ECNEC), which is composed of the federal and provincial representatives. Before their approval, the feasibility studies of the projects are undertaken to establish their economic, financial, social, environmental and political viability. Thus ECNEC is the highest economic making decision body of the federal government. In case of the

Thal Canal, the constitutional rules have not been respected and following violations have been committed.

1. All issues and projects pertaining to the Indus River Water System have to be approved by IRSA under the IRSA ACT 1992. The Thal Canal has not been approved by it. It has not even been referred to it before presenting to Central Development Working Party (CDWP) and ECNEC. The scheme has been prepared by Punjab and then adopted by WAPDA without completing the prerequisites for its construction.

2. WAPDA started its construction getting anticipatory grant from the federal government and without approval from IRSA. So much so that WAPDA calls it a fast track project to be completed on a war footing basis.

3. WAPDA did not refer the plan of the Canal to Sindh before presenting it to CDWP and ECNEC. Since Sindh is a riparian and which is to be gravely affected by its construction.

4. The plan of the Canal calls it a flood canal whereas in its executive summary, it is clearly mentioned that it will be made perennial canal after some time. The Canal will be constructed in five stages and Punjab does not disclose what are these stages.

5. Regarding the water availability, Punjab vaguely justifies that water will be made available without giving concrete calculations. It is to be noted that for getting larger share under the historical use, Punjab claims that water available is less than 117 MAF. But for justifying this canal, it says there will be surplus water available in the Indus.

6. Punjab and WAPDA trumpet that a provision of water for this Canal has been made in the Water Accord of 1991. Whereas there is no mention of this canal by name anywhere in the main document of the Accord. This canal was included through the back door and by wrongly interpreting and

mysterious calculations of Article 14. This document is never disclosed to the public.

7. Under the Water Accord no future canals can be constructed before determining the flow of water below Kotri. It is Punjab, which does not allow the study for the determination of the necessary flow of water below Kotri. And it is the same Punjab, which has started construction of the Thal canal violating the Water Accord.

8. If the floodwater has to be used, then all provinces are to benefit from this common pool of water, why only Punjab is benefited. Knowing that the long over due schemes of Sehwan barrage, Reni canal and Thar canal are pending for construction in Sindh.

Sindh opposes the construction of this canal on the following grounds:

Since, withdrawal of water or storage of water upstream adversely affects the economy, agriculture and environment of Sindh, being a riparian of the Indus River;

1. There is no surplus water available in the Indus and the people of Sindh fear that like Chishma-Jehlum Link canal and Punjnad, Punjab will unlawfully draw water from the Indus, depriving Sindh of its due share of water.

2. Without study of its impact on the agriculture, economy and environment of Sindh, no canal should be built upstream including the Thal Canal.

3. WAPDA started its construction without getting approval from the constitutional bodies. It did not get the approval of the canal from IRSA, being the constitutional body of regulating the water of the Indus River system. It is the only authority, which ensures the implementation of the Water Accord.

4. The Thal Canal is very old dream of Punjab and even the British

government had twice rejected it. Now Punjab wants to use the military government for its illegal and unconstitutional construction.

5. The canal will ruin the crops of chilies, cotton, sugarcane, orchards of mangoes, bananas and Chico, vegetables being grown in lower Sindh. since it will be operated from 1st April and there is no floodwater during this season. Obviously Sindh's share of water will be diverted to Punjab under the guise of surplus water.

6. After the construction of Thal canal, no water will be available to Sindh for its future irrigation schemes such as Sehwan barrage, Reni canal and Thar Canal.

7. The Thal canal is a part of deep conspiracy of destroying agriculture in Sindh, Through this canal and Kala Bagh Dam, Punjab follows its scheme of shifting agriculture from Sindh to Punjab as it has done in case of industry by creating dacoits in rural Sindh and ethnic conflicts in urban Sindh.

The people of Sindh demand from ECNEC to reject this canal outright as infringement on the rights of Sindh and as a scheme of destroying agriculture in Sindh and they also demand action against all those federal agencies, which conspired with Punjab in the illegal construction of the Canal.

Sindh also holds equally responsible the present government of Sindh, particularly the ministers of irrigation and planning for not sending their representatives to the meeting of the CDWP, which approved this scheme. Sindh also condemns the criminal silence of the Sindh government on this project and failing to strongly protest against this project.

The people of Sindh warn the military government that it should not be a party in this illegal scheme of

Punjab and stop the construction of the canal immediately. Through this canal and other injustices against Sindh, the federal government is pushing the people of Sindh to the wall.

Through this press statement, Sindh Democratic Party appeals to all political parties, social organizations, NGOs, media, intellectuals and citizens of Sindh to unite and protest for stopping this project. It also appeals to the democratic and liberal forces of Punjab, NWFP and Balochistan to exert pressure on the federal government to reject the Thal Canal in the coming meeting of ECNEC.

The people of Sindh also appeal to the world bodies working for the poverty alleviation, social justice and environment to take notice of this canal Through which the rural people will be thrown to poverty and hunger and the natural environment of Sindh will be destroyed. Sindh is already suffering from unemployment and poverty because of the Punjab and federal government's policies against its economy.

*Yousif Laghari, Chairman, SDP
(Taken from Sindhi lists)*

World Team Witnesses Destruction of Indus Delta

By Mohammad Iqbal Khwaja

The representatives of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IMF, and some international donor agencies accompanied by two provincial ministers visited areas of Indus Delta in Thatta district recently to witness losses rendered by the sea intrusion for the last couple of years. The team visited the deltaic region in boats through various creeks and witnessed the devastation caused by the halt to the discharge of Indus River water into the sea.

Briefing the international team, Sindh Irrigation Minister Syed Ali Mir Shah

and the acting chief engineer of Kotri Barrage, Basheer Ahmed Dahar, disclosed that owing to prevailing situation so far, 122,360 acres of agricultural land had been submerged under the sea water in eight talukas of Thatta and Badin districts.

They said that dams and irrigation schemes on the River Indus had reduced the flow of river water from 181 billion to 25 billion cubic meters during floods.

The situation has also caused tremendous losses to the riverine forests of Thatta district spread over 120,142 acres on both sides of the River Indus.

They told the team that about 1,850 million square meters of the deltaic region used to be covered with mangroves but according to a recent satellite survey now the degeneration of mangroves was significant in Keti Bandar and Shah Bandar areas where the mangrove forests had been reduced to 1,000 square meters in slightly over a decade.

Mr. Shah said that the River Indus ranked 18th among the world's biggest rivers but it was a pity that its delta was diminishing day by day while the other big rivers were developing a 10 to 4,000 meters delta every year.

Sindh minister for finance Dr Hafeez Shaikh and the country manager of the World Bank, were of the view that the problem of poverty was related to the agricultural production in the country and the people of this area were suffering due to destruction of delta and submerging of the fertile lands besides the recent catastrophic events, including cyclone.

Mohammad Ali Malkani, an ex-MPA PPP who belongs to this coastal belt, told the team that the entire Sindh had been suffering since the last four years due to shortage of irrigation water and non-flow of river water

downstream Kotri had brought the deltaic range at the verge of collapse. He appealed to the donor agencies for provision of funds for the erection of embankment as well as streamlining and excavation of riverine network of the Kotri Barrage to streamline the water flow to reach up to its dropping point without wastage of a drop.

He also proposed a coastal highway from Ketu Bandar to Ali Bandar via Shah Bandar to open avenues of coastal development, develop jetties and to avert the possible erosion in the area due to sea intrusion.

The delegates also visited the partially submerged ruins of Chatriyan Jo Sheher, a big settlement that was inundated between 1994-95 due to the sea intrusion.

The Country Director, World Bank, John W. Wahl, IMF Country Manager, and other foreign delegates sympathetically heard the woes and miseries of local people. Earlier, they arrived in Dargah Shah Qadri village, Shah Bandar taluka, in three helicopters and prior to landing had an aerial view of the area.

(Newspaper reports)

Water Shortage: 100,000 Fishermen Rendered Jobless

Newspaper reports

The Center for Peace and Human Development (CPHD) arranged a meeting of the members of the Sindh Water Committee (SWC), intellectuals and technocrats of Sindh with the Amnesty International's international secretariat representative, Dr Angelika Pathak, at Karachi, recently.

The members of the SWC, intellectuals and technocrats of Sindh gave detailed presentation on the history of water dispute between Sindh and Punjab, current shortage of water in Sindh, illegal construction of the Thal canal and biased role of the federal institutions in dealing with the dispute, and economic hardships caused to the people of Sindh on account of the artificial shortage of water.

The Amnesty International (AI) was told that the water shortage was artificial and many cities of Sindh were protesting against the shortage of water even for drinking purposes.

The AI was informed that despite guarantees in the constitutional and legal framework, the greater Thal canal project was approved and its construction work had started before the file was even moved through the legal forums like the CDWP and ECNEC.

The delegation claimed that the Chairman of the WAPDA had told a group of editors and journalists from Sindh in Lahore that the Thal Canal would not be constructed without the consent of riparians, especially Sindh, whereas the work had been going on for the last six months.

The AI was informed that the principle of filling dams was that only extra water was to be stored, but in the case of the Mangla Dam, the water was stored even when Sindh was in dire need of water for early Kharif.

About 100,000 families of fishermen have been rendered jobless because of the record decrease in fish catch. Another 200,000 people, living in coastal belt, have lost their livelihood due to sea intrusion on cultivable lands.

Apart from that, 100,000 families of the riverine areas have also lost sources of livelihood, leading to massive migration from the rural areas.

The delegation appealed to the AI to come to the help of beleaguered people of Sindh. It also appealed to the AI to use its influence to rescue the civilization of the Indus Valley.

Another feather in WAPDA's Cap

Some quick observations by Engr. Naseer Memon on hasty construction of Thal Canal

Civil society and provincial authorities of Sindh Province were totally ignored. Arguments put forward from both corridors were simply turned down; especially civil society voice was completely evaded.

ECNEC is the supreme body to undertake decisions on development projects of national importance. Surprisingly it was

revealed in the ECNEC meeting that the work on the project was already started by WAPDA and 5-kilometer stretch of the canal was already completed. It is ridiculous and a sheer mockery of decision-making bodies and process. If WAPDA can start work without formal approval of ECNEC than what is the justification of very existence of ECNEC. Is it not merely to hoodwink people?

IRSA's point of view was also not found worth considering by the authorities. Does IRSA justify its existence if it is not consulted even on the issues related to water?

Very ethos of a federation stand grossly violated by this decision. A federating unit is openly opposing a decision and the same is taken arbitrarily without paying any heed to people's voice.

Political parties and media have to play a major role to initiate a mass mobilization campaign. NGOs and civil society too have a very important role through bringing the issue at the national and international forums.

(Posted on Sindhi lists)

July 4-7 18th Annual SANA Convention

Venue: Hilton Cherry Hill, NJ: a beautiful, suburban hotel. It is conveniently located, 10 minutes from Philadelphia's historic and business districts and 6.5 miles from the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The hotel is also nearby the newly developed Camden Water Front with lots of attractions. It is 20 minutes from Philadelphia Intl. Airport and 15 minutes from 30th St. station.

For Reservation call: 856-665 6666
Please mention SANA to get special rate of \$99 per room. Deadline: June 20th. Rate includes continental breakfast for two per room.

Program Details:

Thursday, July 4:

Registration 7-9 p.m.
EC/AC Meeting: 6-9 p.m.

Friday, July 5:

Physicians/Medical Seminar 9-Noon
Lunch Break: Noon-2 p.m.
SANA GB Meeting: 2-4 p.m.
Science Conference: 4-5 p.m.
Sindhi Adabi Sangat: 5-6.30 p.m.
Break: 6.30-8.30 p.m.
Music: 8.30-Midnight

Saturday, July 6:

Guest Speakers: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Youth Program: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Entertainment: 2-6 p.m.
Annual Banquet: 7-8 p.m.
Music & Refreshments: 8.30-Midnight

Sunday, July 7:

Adjourn at 11 a.m.

Registration:

If you register by 20th June:

Adults: \$50
Children: Ages 12-18: \$35
Children: Ages 3-12: \$25
Children under 3: Free

If you register after 20th June:

Adults: \$60
Children: Ages 12-18: \$45
Children: Ages 3-12: \$35
Children under 3: Free

These rates are good for paid SANA members only. The non-paid member rates will be higher.

Registration includes:

Admission to all SANA sessions
Entertainment on July 6
Annual Banquet
Music & Refreshment on July 6

Register early and save money. Send your checks payable to SANA Registration to:
Dr. Shoukat Ansari
Treasurer, SANA
1213 Ladera Court,
Davis, CA 95616, USA

For more information or local help contact the Convention Organizing Committee:

Zia Memon, Chairman: 631-585 6393
Sajjad Siddiqui, Co-Chair: 215-379 2194
Falaksher, Member: 732-748 0889

Sindhi Language Day

In response to an appeal by the Sindhi Association of North America, SANA, and endorsed by another overseas Sindhi organization, WSC, 4th March was celebrated this year as Sindhi Language Day. It was a very successful endeavor. Most of the credit goes to Mr. Sajjad Siddiqui, Joint Secretary of SANA and Chairperson of the Sindhi Language Committee, formed by SANA. He put in untiring efforts into it and kept on reminding and encouraging overseas Sindhis to celebrate the ominous day of 4th March as Sindhi Language Day. Here are some of the reports received by us:

Dallas/Fort Worth

Last Friday, on February 2, 2002, Sindhis (SANA members) of Dallas Fort Worth area gathered at the residence of Nisar and Mrs. Shamma Hafiz in Denton, Texas. It was a pot-luck meeting, which provided tremendous variety of delicious food. We are thankful to Nisar and Adi Shamma for their hospitality.

The meeting was held in a Sindhi Language Day spirit. Many issues were discussed including the immediate challenges faced by people in Sindh. An overall consensus was reached on the necessity of striking common ground between disparate Sindhi organizations in North America and in Sindh.

Sindhis of DFW are blessed in many ways but the most noteworthy is the harmony and love found between men, women and the children of this community. Following families attended the meeting:

Adults:

Mr. Nisar & Mrs. Shamma Hafiz; Mr. Saeed and Mrs. Parveen Hafiz; Mr. Mrs. Irshad Shah; Dr. and Mrs. Zaffar Hafiz; Mr. Nazir Shah; Mr. Sarfraz and Najma Abbasi; Mr. Saifullah and Shaila Abbasi; Mr. Faizullah and Mrs. Almas Abbasi; Mr. Iqbal & Mrs. Nasreen Tareen; Mr. Maqbool and Mrs. Farzana Mughul; Mr.

Altaf and Mrs. Rehana Hafiz; Mr. Anwar and Mrs. Beena Hamirani and Nigar Agha.

Teens and Children:

Zara Tareen, Hira Tareen, Pinkie Hafiz, Momi Hafiz, Mashal Mughul, Paras Hafiz, Sindhya Hafiz, Nadia Abbasi, Sarah Abbasi, Bakhtawar Hafiz, Zara Hamirani, Shahzad Hafiz, Khuram Hafiz, Raza Shah, Yasir Agha, and many children.

Bahrooz Tareen could not join us due to a recent minor surgery of his lower back. Family of Irshad Mughul couldn't participate also due to a sudden death of Adi Farzana Irshad Mughul's father.

Sindhis of DFW are planning on another event couple of weeks down the road either at Faizullah Abbasi or Iqbal Tareen's residence. Everyone is invited to join. We are looking for volunteers to recite Sindhi poetry and sing Sindhi songs.

(Because I do not remember the names of all children present, I apologize for not including them here. I know they are going to be mad at uncle Iqbal but ultimately they will forgive me)

Posted by Mr. Iqbal Tareen, Arlington, Texas

Washington, DC

The Washington DC Sindhis celebrated Eid and the Sindhi language Day with gusto and fun on Sunday, February 24, 2002. Thanks to Saeen Shahid Talpur and Adi Mahar (President and General Secretary of local SANA Chapter respectively), a large and well-decorated hall of a local restaurant was reserved for the occasion. A strong contingent of about 50 persons turned up for this important event.

A short reading of a joint appeal (By SANA and WSC) on the importance of Sindhi Language Day and March 4 followed. The Sindhi Language event is organized on the historic day of March 4th. This day is symbolic for Sindhis. On this date in year 1967, the brutal and merciless forces of General Ayub Khan (a military dictator and self-imposed

President of Pakistan) savagely attacked unarmed and peaceful students of Sindh University. These students were demanding the restoration of Sindhi political and cultural rights.

Many historians regard this day as a major event for a long and perilous struggle for justice, peace and freedom of Sindhi people. By devoting this one day to Sindhi language, every one in the Sindhi community is encouraged to involve Sindhi language and culture in their daily lives and to understand the essence of 'Sindhayat'. In deference to this appeal, all proceedings of this meeting were conducted in Sindhi.

The informal discussions covered the topics of growing poverty in Sindh, General Musharaf's recent visit to the USA, and a recent campaign on various Sindhi internet lists to approach international institutions for a stipulation that will require fair allocation of any international loans and grants to Sindh.

One of the main highlights of the function was the election of the new executive committee of the Washington DC chapter of SANA. The following members are elected unanimously for next two years:

Adi Fozia Siddiqi (President)
Naresh Ahuja (Vice President)
Faud Qadri (General Secretary)

Every one had wonderful time and committed to attend such functions in the future.

Posted by Mr. Khalid Hashmani

Sacramento, CA

Sindhis from all over North California gathered in Sacramento for the celebration of March 4th as a Sindhi Language Day, the event organized by World Sindhi Congress (WSC) and Sindhi Association of North America (SANA). The Sindhis belonging to all ages participated in this gathering to praise the historical movement led by Sindhi students in 1967.

The evening started with the welcoming speech made by Saghir Shaikh, Deputy General Secretary of World Sindhi Congress, who emphasized on the importance of Sindhi Language Day and the remembrance of the March 4th struggle.

Revising the history of March 4th from very own experience, Shoukat Ansari, Treasurer of Sindhi Association of North America, explained the beginning and necessity of this movement in the history. This was followed by the recitation of poetry from Shaikh Ayaz, excerpts from Keerat Babani and other Sindhi writers, Dinner, and Kachehri.

In addition to that, various books, pamphlets, and newsletters were exhibited. The participants resolved to increase the involvement of Sindhi language and culture in their daily lives to improve the essence of 'Sindhayat'.

Houston, TX

Ada Sajjad,

Your enthusiasm and passion for celebrating Sindhi Language Day is very much commendable and very well appreciated.

During our normal Sindhi families gathering here in Houston, we do speak Sindhi, cook Sindhi dishes, wear Sindhi dresses, and discuss issues associated with Sindh. However your call for celebrating Sindhi Language Day is very well accepted, and we, with some Sindhi families here in Houston, have decided to celebrate the same. On Saturday 2nd. March, Saeen Raees Ahmed Patoli and Adi Zahida have decided to celebrate Sindhi Language Day at their residence in Sugarland with a few Sindhi Families. On Sunday 3rd March, we along with some Sindhi Families, are also celebrating Sindhi Language Day at our home.

Ada, the way our Sindhi community here in North America have responded to your call, it shows clearly that for a good cause with proper leadership, we all are united and can achieve a lot.

With Regards,

Zeb & Zafar Agha, Houston, Texas

South Dakota

In South Dakota, there are only two Sindhi families that I know of. Myself, my wife Dr. Khalida and Askar and Faheema Qalbani. To

celebrate the day, my wife cooked Sindhi 'das ghousht' and 'bhabhi' Faheema cooked 'beeh' (roots of lotus), 'chouran' beans and Sindhi 'seero'. We invited one Urdu speaking, Pakistani doctor too. We watched videos our Sindhi weddings and Sindhi 'sehraas'. We called lots of Sindhi families and encouraged them too to celebrate Sindhi Day.

Mujahid Qalbani

Sydney, Australia

A small get together of Sindhi friends took place at my residence on Saturday and Sunday. On both occasions the guests were delightfully served with our traditional Sindhi food. The friends from Sydney appreciated the way we have maintained our Sindhi identity, that is a combination of among other factors, speaking Sindhi at our home, our love for folk music, the collection of Sindhi books and the display of replicas from Mohen-jo-Darro civilization that grace our residence in Bathurst.

The statue of King Priest of Mohen-jo-darro welcomes, and the replica of its 'Dhaggo' farewells our guests, reminding them of our family's rich cultural inheritance of a great civilization that flourished on the banks of our Sindhu around 2500 BC. Our Indian friends from Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Gujrat, Punjab, Maharashtra and Haryana have marveled at our link with the land from where the Aryans started their epic journey around the world. The fluency of spoken Sindhi of our teenage daughters has mesmerized many Sindhi elders in Sydney. So it was a matter of little dispute in the family, as to who should keep the Sindhi Language Day souvenir of pen, that you so very kindly thought of sending us in December.

This pen is now used only for our family's visitor book, and it has been used by our friends from India, China, Australia, and Europe. And every time when some one pens

down their thoughts, they ask about Sindh - our favorite subject of discussion that covers politics, culture, dress, cuisine, life style, music and literary pursuits.

We are thankful to Lord for giving us such a rich cultural heritage that is enviable from all historic perspectives. We also ensure that we 'are' recognized as Sindhis amongst other cultures of the Australia, with whom we interact in our daily life.

Inder Kirpalani, Bathurst, Australia.

Community News

Philadelphia/Washington, DC Picnic

SANA East Coast Regional Committee organized a grand picnic at a local restaurant in Washington, DC area on 30th March. About a hundred people attended the event making it a great success. The spirits were high and the food was just delicious.

The program started at 7.30pm with introduction by Washington DC local chapter President Mrs. Fauzia Siddiqui. She welcomed the gathering and called upon the Regional Secretary, Dr. Badar Shaikh to speak. Dr. Badar has always done a marvelous job in organizing these events, this being 3rd in the East Coast area.

Vice President SANA, Mr. Zia Memon and Joint Secretary Sajjad Siddiqui also addressed the gathering. They informed the attendants about SANA activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Khalid Hashmani wonderfully explained meaning of 'Sindhayat'. What it really means. Very good explanation indeed!

Dr. Aftab Kazi recited some verses of his poetry.

Kids participated in talent show and got the gifts. There were sixteen prizes for the kids. Four prizes were also given out to the adults through raffle tickets.

At the end, wonderful music was played by Ustaad Mazhar Hussain. He performed very well. Most of the time people were dancing on his songs. Specially at the end. Earlier, he introduced his colleague, Mr. Asif Talpur as a keyboard player. He started the 'mehfil' with song 'perein pavandee saan, chavandee saan'. It was really good. The event was over by Midnight.

My special thanks and congratulations go to local chapter executives, Adi Fauzia Siddiqui, Naresh Ahuja (Vice President) and Fauwad Qadiri (General Secretary) for the job well done.

Behind the scene, among those who put up a lot of effort to organize this wonderful gathering, were Ada Sarfraz Memon, Ada Jabbar Siddiqui, Ada Zahid Shaikh, former president of the local chapter, ada Shahid Talpur and many others. My thanks to them for having us there and arranging such a nice gathering.

My special thanks to Dr. Badar Shaikh for organizing once again the 3rd and very good gathering in the East Coast.

People who attended the gathering came from Washington, DC, NY, Upper State NY, NJ, MD, VA and PA. WSI Executive council members, Ada Munawar Laghari, Ada Zahid Makhdoom, Ada Suhail Ansari & Ada Maqbool Aliani also attended it. Thanks to them as well for attending the gathering.

Folks mark your calendars for 1st June for a picnic in Edison area. Pavilion is already booked. Details will come soon from Edison organizers, Ada Falak Sher, Ada Kohsher and Adi Saeeda Abro.

Sent by Sajjad Siddiqui.

Houston Chapter's Picnic

SANA Houston chapter organized a grand picnic on Sunday 14th April at Bear Creek Park. A large number of individuals and families attended the picnic.

It was a potluck picnic. Variety in food was great. The dishes, the participants brought, were simply delicious. The local chapter arranged soft drinks, napkins, plates, glasses, etc.

Some games/sports material were arranged for kids.

Participants started coming in around mid morning and the fun lasted through late in the afternoon.

A Picnic in Toronto, Canada

Once again the SANA Toronto Chapter took a lead and celebrated Eid Milan and the Sindhi Language Day with the largest attendance in its history. Community Hall in the Center of 263, 373 and 283 Pharmacy Road, which once looked big, with Sindhi families all around, looked really small on 2nd March.

People started gathering at 4:00p.m, as planned. They came from all over Ontario Province, right from Kaladar in one end about 2 ½ hours drive from the east of Toronto to Niagara Falls 2 ½ hours drive from the south west of Toronto. The evening proceedings started at 7:30p.m. with recitation from the Holly Quran by Shahid Mughal. Mr. Hussain Uqaili acted as the moderator. Mr. Shahnawaz Shah was called upon to speak on the occasion as the Regional Secretary, SANA, who emphasized upon more of such gatherings. I conducted the formal elections of the Toronto Chapter. As usual, all the names proposed by various members were approved unanimously.

I welcomed all the participants and spoke on the importance of Sindhi Language. Mr. Shafique Ansari highlighted the culture and language of Sindh and the importance of 4th March

in the history of Sindh. Mr. Ansari gave a historical perspective and remembrance of the day when Sindh University students were beaten and fired upon on their way from Jamshoro to Hyderabad, near where Rajputana Hospital stands now. This day is, therefore being celebrated as the Sindhi Language Day. Shafique Ansari also placed a proposal for the approval of the general body, whereby he emphasized on nominating an executive committee of 4-6 members, due to the inflow of Sindhis in Canada, especially in Toronto, where, an average of 5-6 families are arriving from Sindh as immigrants every month. The formation of executive committee was approved unanimously and members were elected right away. The new body together with the executive committee is as follows:

President: Mr. Shafique Ansari
Vice President: Mrs. Farida Hussain Uqaili
General secretary: Mr. Bashir Memon
Treasurer: Mrs. Shamim Patoli

EC Members:

Mr. Tariq Surahiyo.
Mr. A. Rehman Shaikh.
Mr. Ghanshiyam Rajani.
Mr. Shahid Moghal.
Mrs. Fariha Riaz Ansari

All the office bearers emphasized that senior Sindhis, living in Toronto should participate in SANA functions regularly so that the new comers might be encouraged more. Ali Hyder as General Secretary of Toronto Chapter gave an annual report to the participants. Also the balance sheet of expenses and contributions by the members were presented for their knowledge.

Formal proceedings ended with vote of thanks from the president and request to the participants to proceed to the dinning table as the dinner was served.

There was lots of variety in Sindhi Food. Everybody enjoyed the dinner, which was followed by dessert. Annie Patoli, Sehrish Ansari, Iqra Patoli and Roohum Syed arranged games. Lots of the children received awards and

prizes. The evening ended with "Ho Jamalo". Thus this Eid Milan party and Sindhi language day ended with great success and with the aspiration to have such meetings on regular basis and with increased frequency. It was decided to have summer gathering (out door) in the month of August.

*Sent by Fazal Ahmed Patoli Ex-President
SANA Toronto Chapter*

Happy Additions to Families

'Sangat' sends heartiest congratulations to the families who have happy new arrivals.

First child to the family, a boy, was born to General Secretary SANA, **Mohammad Ali Mahar's** family. Omar Mohammad Mahar, weighing 6 lbs. 5 oz. was born on 17th April.

Farooq and Sandra Soomro family reports of birth of a daughter in their family. Hana Aisha Soomro was born on Saturday, April 6th.

Birth Anniversary of Saeen G. M. Syed

The World Sindhi Congress organized a gathering on March 2nd, 2002 in Houston, Texas (USA) to commemorate the 99th birth anniversary of Saeen G. M. Syed, the visionary leader of modern Sindh.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Safdar Sarki, Chairman WSC, Mr. Umed Ali Laghari, Senior Vice Chairman, WSC, Mr. Suhail Memon, leader of JSQM and several other local activists from Texas. At the start of the ceremony, these office bearers cut a cake prepared for the birth anniversary.

Speakers at the meeting said that Saeen G. M. Syed was the one who brought the message of freedom, justice and peace to People of Sindh and other oppressed nations of Pakistan. They said Saeen spent more than thirty years in prison

without any trial and died in custody at the age of 92. The speakers opined that current Pakistani setup does not provide any consolation to Sindhi people. They appealed to the international community for showing its support to Sindhi people's struggle for fair rights on Indus River water.

Muzaffar Samo Killed

Dr. Muzaffar Samo, elder brother of Mansoor Samo (of Corpus Christi, TX) was shot dead in Karachi last month. Dr. Samo, 42, had dropped his young son at school and was driving to Lyari Hospital where he worked as MLO, when he was ambushed by motorcyclist terrorists on Shah Abdul Latif Road in Baghdadi area. Family sources say, Dr. Samo was an innocent victim of sectarian terrorists.

Dr. Muzaffar was a graduate of Chandka Medical College. He leaves behind his wife, four sons and two daughters besides grieving parents, siblings and other family members.

Asif Palijo Passes Away

Asif Palijo passed away at the Southwest Memorial Hospital in Houston, TX last month as doctors, seeing no hope of revival, pulled off the life support. Asif, suffered a massive stroke few days back and was brain dead before he was admitted in the SW Memorial Hospital.

His janaza prayers were offered in Houston and his body was flown back home in Sindh.

Abdul Fatah Memon Passes Away

Mr. Abdul Fatah Memon, father of Mr. Ali Nawaz Memon of Washington, DC area and uncle of Mr. Sarfraz Memon of Maryland, passed away in Karachi recently.

A large number of Sindhis living in the North America have expressed condolences with Mr. Ali Nawaz Memon and Mr. Sarfraz Memon.

Mother of Altaf Memon Passes Away

Mother of Mr. Altaf Memon, founder member/office-bearer of SANA, passed away in Sindh recently. Sindhi community has expressed condolences with the family.

Some SANA Projects

By Mohammad Ali Mahar, G.S. SANA

While acknowledging the great job being done by other Sindhi organizations and individuals in helping to improve the situation back home, I would like to inform friends that SANA also is trying to do its bit. As a matter of fact SANA had already started working on some of the projects even before the concept of ASRO got spawned. That said, here is my comments with respect to the projects:

Project A: A project to restore Sindhi language as the first language of Sindh. SANA has already appealed Sindhis to celebrate March 4 every year as the Sindhi Language Day. It will be nice if other Sindhi organizations too joined in this appeal and we kick-start our campaign on March 4 to restore Sindhi as the first language of Sindh.

Just like Saaeen Hashmani mentioned this idea was initially put forward by SANA. That should by no means mean that we want to monopolize it. SANA has requested all Sindhis, in Sindh as well as abroad to celebrate the day as Sindhi Language Day. To accomplish this, we would especially need help from our friends working for media to publicize and popularize the idea and help us in mustering as much support, in Sindh especially, as possible.

- A bigger project being undertaken by SANA in collaboration with Sindhi Language Authority (SLA) is Sindhi Encyclopedia Project to develop a web site containing comprehensive information about Sindh. The preliminaries have been finalized. Dr. Bughio of SLA has agreed to provide us with office space. All other expenditure, for example, web space, equipment and a web developer will be borne by SANA. SLA will supervise the project and provide the required material.

The best part is that the sponsors for the project have been identified and a firm commitment for the duration of the project is already obtained from them.

Project B: A project to persuade donor countries to ensure that any loans and grants given to Pakistan are distributed fairly and equitably among the provinces.

In my opinion the best thing to do will be to meet personally with the officials of foreign missions of the donor countries, and/or write letters to them.

Project C: A program to monitor water situation in Sindh and serve as an entity to mobilize Sindhi organizations whenever water shortages occur due to natural or artificial causes.

IRWA, of which SANA is an active participant, has been doing a great job and we should work to strengthen its hands.

Project D: A program that will help individual poor Sindhis and their communities in some of the day-to-day problems that governments are failing to address (e.g., construct a tube-well in a village, a dispensary, organize an eye camp, provide a scholarship to a poor student, sponsor a village volley ball team, etc.

SANA has taken a lead in this regard, too. A new project, namely, 'Adopt-A-School Project' is about to be started in Sindh. The meetings of SANA representative have been held with

Secretary Education, Sindh and other top officials. The Government of Sindh has agreed to hand over a school building in Qasimabad, Hyderabad to SANA. Good news again is that some of the kind hearted North American Sindhis have agreed to sponsor the initial expenditure.

The school is going to be run on the non-profit basis. It has been agreed that 25% of students will be given free education based on merit and economic consideration. One former top-ranking official of the Education Department, renowned for his integrity and honesty, has been persuaded to oversee the project. If the project succeeds, the number of schools will be increased. Saaeen Ali Shaikh of California has been given the task to head the 'Adopt-A-School' project by Saaeen Sani Panhwar, President SANA, who is taking a personal interest in this project.

Cooperation from friends in Sindh in this regard will be requested as the need arose.

Project E: A campaign to put pressure on the Sindh and Pakistan governments to restore rule of law and improve law and order situation in Sindh.

Projects F: Any other worthwhile projects proposed by Sindhis at home and abroad will be considered.

A Tragedy Engulfing Sindh

Years of neglect, discriminatory and wrongful government policies and acute social, political and economic conditions have wrested away all the hope from the people of Sindh as more and more of them are taking away their own lives causing a great tragedy for their families and anguish for the whole people.

Following numbers based on suicide figures for the last 12 months and 1998 census show the severity of problem in Sindh:

Province wise number of suicides per 1 million people:

NWFP 6.152
Punjab 11.077
Balochistan 12.748
Sindh 46.381

Since the authorities in Pakistan are mainly responsible for the plight, who the people of Sindh should look forward to for any deliverance? The lone Super Power, the United Nations or the Almighty Himself?

Bhutto's Death Anniversary Observed

Newspaper reports

23rd death anniversary of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan and the founding Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, was observed on 4th April. The main death anniversary function was held at Garhi Khuda Bukhsh Bhutto, about 28 km from Larkana, Sindh, which was attended by the PPP leaders and workers. Qur'aan Khawani was held at the grave of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. PPP's Central Vice President Makhdoom Amin Fahim, Central Secretary General Mian Raza Rabbani and President PPP Sindh Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, laid a floral wreath at the grave of ZA Bhutto on behalf of the party Chairperson Benazir Bhutto and offered Fateha. They also laid floral wreaths and offered Fateha at the graves of Mir Murtaza Bhutto and Mir Shahnawaz Bhutto.

Heavy police contingents were deployed on the occasion to avoid any untoward incident. The PPP also

arranged a public meeting in Garhi Khuda Bukhsh Bhutto. Addressing the meeting, top party leaders rejected the referendum for the election of General Musharraf as president of the country and called for allowing Benazir Bhutto to return to the country.

Sindh Archaeological Sites in Ruins

An email on Sindh lists says the tomb of Mian Ghulam Shah Kalhoro, ruler of the 18th century Kalhora period in Sindh, is in shambles. The mail says encroachments have sprung upon the premises of the tomb, which is an archaeological, historical and cultural landmark of Sindh. It is situated in Hyderabad, Sindh.

The Government neglect is evident at this as well as all the other major archaeological sites in Sindh.

Information on admission in USA schools

Here are some sites on getting admission in USA schools and other relevant information:

Choosing college:

<http://www.collegeview.com>
<http://www.collegelink.com>
<http://www.petersons.com>
<http://www.review.com>

Application process

<http://www.commonapp.org>
<http://www.collegegate.com>

Standardized tests

<http://www.studyhall.com>
<http://www.wordsmith.org>
<http://www.act.org>
<http://www.collegeboard.com>

financial help

<http://www.fafsa.com>
<http://www.finaid.org>
<http://www.fastweb.org>

Posted by Dr. Saghir Shaikh

A New Sindhi Film

Rajkumar Kotwani has informed Sindhi lists that he has produced a Sindhi film, named 'Ker Kahinjo'. According to a posting on Sindhi lists, Ajit Vachhani & many other Sindhi artists have acted in the film. Playback singers include Anuradha Paudwal, Mahender Kapoor, Suresh Wadekar (the known names of Mumbai film industry) and Ghanshyam Waswani.

Masters, Not Servants

Real Power in Pakistan: Civilian jobs and military

By Dr Hasan Askari Rizvi

(The writer is a renowned political and defense analyst. He holds PhD in International Relations and Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania, USA. He has taught at Columbia University, New York, Heidelberg University, Germany, and the University of the Punjab, Lahore).

The military has become a ladder for lucrative civilian jobs in almost all states that have experienced the military's rise to power. Pakistan is no exception. Ayub Khan adopted the policy of accommodating senior military officers, mostly retired, in senior civilian jobs with high salaries and perks in the government and semi-government corporations or autonomous bodies. Some of them were given ambassadorial appointments. The private sector also hired them in order to make use of their connections with the government. In 1960, a system of

their regular induction in the CSP cadre of federal civil services was introduced. Fourteen Army and Navy officers were inducted into the CSP during 1960-63; eight of them had had close connections with the top echelons of the military. Though this practice was terminated in 1963, contractual appointment and rehiring of military personnel for government and semi-government jobs continued.

Yayha Khan continued with the policy of appointing serving or retired officers to senior civilian jobs and diplomatic positions. Zia-ul-Haq distributed the rewards of power more consistently and extensively because, unable to develop alternate source of support, his regime had to rely heavily on the military. He institutionalized the induction of military personnel to civilian jobs in a manner that the succeeding civilian regimes could not reverse these policies. This has led to what British Professor S E Finer describes as the "military colonization of other institutions" whereby "the military acts as a reservoir or core of personnel for the sensitive institutions of the state".

In 1980, a 10 per cent minimum quota was fixed for military personnel in civilian jobs, which provided a basis for their induction into all government and semi-government services. Three major methods are adopted for appointment of military personnel to the civilian jobs. First, a number of serving officers are given prize government jobs or top assignments in semi-government corporations and agencies (i.e. WAPDA, PIA, National Shipping Corporation, Karachi Port Trust) for a special period after which they return to their parent service. Second, retired military officers are recommended by the service headquarters to the government for re-employment. They are also given diplomatic assignments abroad. At times, the governments on their own appoint military officers to senior

jobs, a practice discouraged by service headquarters. For the lower level jobs, various government departments and semi-government institutions are directed to make arrangements for appointment of ex-service personnel by reserving some posts for them or by giving them some credit for military service when they compete with civilians. In case of the lowest and lower middle level jobs (Service Grades 1 to 15), the government has periodically increased quota for ex-servicemen. Third, young officers up to the age of 32 years are inducted permanently in the elite cadres of the Central Superior Services (CSS) on the recommendation of a military selection board. They join the combined training of the CSS probationers and get the advantage of their military service in seniority; the service cadres generally preferred by them include District Management Group (DMG), Foreign Service, and Police Service. Since 1980, six to eleven officers are inducted every year under this arrangement. A large number of them are blood relations of the senior commanders or have served them as their ADCs. In a few cases, connections with the privileged political elite have also helped. For example, Nawaz Sharif's son-in-law, a Captain in the Army, was inducted in the DMG. In 1985, a serving Major General was appointed Director General of the Intelligence Bureau for the first time. In 1982-83, eighteen out of forty-two ambassadors posted abroad came from the military. Two of the elite research institutes -- Strategic Studies and Regional Studies -- have traditionally remained under the tutelage of retired senior military officers or senior bureaucrats. The third reputed institute -- Pakistan Institute of International Affairs -- was headed by retired Major General for some time.

Six civilian universities had retired Army officers as their Vice Chancellors. The University of Balochistan was headed by a retired Brigadier in the eighties. In 2001, a retired Brigadier was appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor of Balochistan

University. A Major General served as Vice Chancellor of Peshawar University for a brief period in 1993. A Lt. General worked as Vice Chancellor of the Punjab University in 1993-97. The government's plan to appoint another Lt. General as his successor was scuttled by the boycott threat of the faculty and negative editorials in some newspapers. However, in September 1999, the Punjab's civilian government appointed a retired Lt. General as Vice Chancellor of the Punjab University.

The PU faculty went on strike as protest against this appointment. However, after the military assumed power by dislodging the civilian government in October 12, 1999, the PU faculty had to call off the strike. Several key administrative posts of the Punjab University are also held by retired Army officers. A Lt. General was appointed Vice Chancellor of the Engineering University, Lahore, in 1998. The Vice Chancellor of Engineering University Peshawar, is also a retired senior military officer. The Vice Chancellor of Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, is both retired Army officer and former senior bureaucrat. Some Brigadiers were given academic appointments in Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, in the eighties by changing the university rules.

Civilian governments that succeeded the Zia rule continued with the policy of inducting some retired officers to key civilian jobs, mostly on the recommendation of service headquarters. In 1992-93, half of the members of Federal Public Service Commission were Army officers and, during 1995-96, three out of four provincial governors had Army background. The practice of inducting serving and retired officers to civilian intelligence agencies was strengthened during 1996-97. A plan was prepared in 1997 to appoint Army officers between the ranks of

Captain and Colonel to the Police, the FIA and the IB. It was also decided in 1998 to induct the retired personnel of the Special Services Group (SSG) into the newly created 'Special Force' of the Police Department. The second Nawaz government (1997-99) gave more civilian assignments to the military than any previous civilian government.

The present military regime has inducted more military (mainly Army) to civilian assignments than any previous military government. Some senior officers were retired prematurely to take up civilian/political appointment while others got such appointments immediately after retirement. A list of such appointments was published in News on March 29, 2002.

The Pakistan military authorities continued with the British practice of allotment of agricultural land to service personnel as a reward for military service. Military personnel were given land in the Thal area under the colonization scheme of the Punjab government. Similarly, land was given to service personnel in various schemes in different barrage areas in Sindh and the Punjab, i.e., Ghulam Mohammad, Gudu, and Taunsa. The government gave land in Campbellpur, Jhelum, Kohat, Rawalpindi and Hazara districts to local ex-servicemen who developed this with the help of the Army.

Land was also allotted to them along India-Pakistan border in the Punjab. The Government of the Punjab allotted about 450,000 acres of land to 5,538 service personnel during 1977-1985. Agricultural land was also awarded for gallantry. Various military decorations entitled the officers or other ranks to land (later cash rewards). As late as 1992, the Punjab government admitted that some land was given under the gallantry scheme. In Khanewal district alone, 19,342 kanals were allotted to 150 retired and in-service army personnel. Agricultural land

was also allotted to the military personnel and bureaucrats in Sindh.

A number of senior officers benefited from the military government's decision to allow the Presidents, Governors, Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Chiefs and Vice Chiefs of the three services to import one high priced luxury car each free of custom duty, other taxes and surcharges. 27 Army officers (Generals 13 Lt. Generals 10, Major Generals 2, Brigadiers 2), 10 Navy officers (Admirals 7 Vice Admirals 3) and 6 Air Force officers (Air Chief Marshals 4, Air Marshals 2) took advantage of this facility during 1977-1997. They are: The Army -- Generals: Mohammad Shariff, Mohammad Iqbal Khan, Mohammad Musa, Tikka Khan, Zia-ul-Haq, Rahimuddin Khan, Sawar Khan, Akhtar Abdul Rahman, K M Arif, Mirza Aslam Beg, widow of Asif Nawaz Janjua, Abdul Waheed Kaker, and Jehangir Karamat. Lt. Generals: Fazle Haq, Ghulam Jilani Khan, S M Abbasi, Gul Hassan Khan, Jahandad Khan, Abdul Hamid Khan, K.K. Afridi, Muhammad Iqbal, Imranullah Khan, and Raja Saroop Khan. Major Generals: Khurshid Ali Khan, and Abdur Rahman Khan (President Azad Kashmir). Brigadiers: Amir Gulistan Janjua, and Sardar A. Rahim Durrani. The Navy -- Admirals: Karamat Rahman Niazi, Mohammad Sharif, Tariq Kamal Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed Sirohi, Yastural Haq Malik, Saeed Mohammad Khan, and Mansoorul Haq. Vice Admirals: A.R. Khan, H.M.S. Choudhri, and Muzaffar Hassan. The Air Force -- Air Chief Marshals: Jamal Ahmed Khan, Hakimullah, Farooq Feroze Khan, and Muhammad Abbas Khattak. Air Marshals: Nur Khan and Rahim Khan. They invariably imported different models of Mercedes Benz; custom duty and other taxes on such cars at the 1997 rates ranged from six to ten million Rupees. In the post-martial law period, some civilians also imported duty-free luxury cars. In September 1997, the National Assembly revoked this facility. (Adapted from Military, State and

Society in Pakistan by Hasan Askari Rizvi, New York: St. Martin's Press)

(Courtesy The News, Karachi, Pakistan)

Who Rules the Roost?

At the moment, MQM and the Urdu-speaking people of Sindh or 'muhajirs' as they like to call themselves, are enjoying over-representation in the Establishment and governmental power. First time in the history of Pakistan, they have that sort of overwhelming majority everywhere. See as follows how much power they wield in some areas and who still are complaining?

Chief Executive/President/Chief of Army staff
Deputy Chief of Army Staff
Corp Commander Karachi
Two other Corps Commanders
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Pakistan
Attorney General of Pakistan
Chief of National Reconstruction Bureau
Chief Justice of Sindh High Court
Federal Interior Minister
President of State Bank of Pakistan
Chief Secretary Sindh
1/3rd of the Federal Ministers
I.G. Police, Sindh
½ of the Members of National Security Council
Judges in Supreme Court: One Third
Judges in High Court of Sindh: 18 out of 24
Federal Secretaries: 6
Provincial Secretaries: 8
SSP's all over Pakistan: More than 18
DCs all over Pakistan: More than 13
Heads of Corporations and autonomous bodies: Over 21
Heads of Banks and Corporate Sector: More than 32
Grade-19 & above in Govt., Army, Navy & Airforce: More than 900
Ambassadors, First Secretaries & Attaches overseas: More than 115
(Courtesy: HS Indus)



Women in search of water walk through the bed of once fabled, River Indus, hoping to find some muddy pond. Considered as one of the world's mightiest rivers, it has zero discharge below Hyderabad/Jamshoro bridge these days, creating an enormous humanitarian problem and an ecological disaster. While Sindh is facing acute water shortage, Government of Pakistan is planning further damming the river and WAPDA is illegally constructing a big irrigation canal upstream to allow one province to steal the remaining trickle of water that enters Sindh. (Photo: courtesy BBC/Sindhi lists).

For comments, inquiries, subscription, news and matter for publication, please write to:

Sangat

Sindhi Association of North America
3940 Marine Av. Unit 'B'
Lawndale, CA 90260

Phone/Fax: 310-973-9675
e-mail: sindh@juno.com
web site: www.sanalist.org
Editor's e-mail: anarejo@yahoo.com

FIRST CLASS



July 4 —7 2002, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

Convention 2002

18th Annual Convention of Sindhi Association of North America

Program Details

Thursday July 4th

- Registration
7:00 —9:00 p.m.
- EC/AC Meeting
6:00 —9:00 p.m.

Friday, July 5th

- Physicians Medical Seminar
9:00 —Noon
- Lunch Break
Noon —2 p.m.
- SANA G.B. Meeting
2:00 —4:00 pm
- Science Conference
4:00 —5:00 p.m.
- Sindhi Adabi Sangat
5:00 —6:30 p.m.
- BREAK
6:30 —8:30 PM
- MUSIC
8:30 —Midnight

Saturday July 6th

- Guest Speakers
9:00 am —1 pm
- Youth Program
9:00 am —1 pm
- Entertainment
2:00 —6:00 pm
- Annual Banquet
7:00 —8:00 pm
- Music and Refreshments
8:30 —Midnight

Sunday July 7th

- Adjourn
11:00 a.m.

Sindhi Association of North America (SANA) was founded in 1985, by Sindhis living in North America, who thought it was necessary to have a platform offering an opportunity to all the Sindhis anywhere in North America, to meet and share their thoughts and concerns about the situation in Sindh, as well as preserve the culture, heritage, language and customs of Sindhis in USA.

Ever since 1985, SANA holds its conventions each year in different cities of North America. This year the 18th Annual Convention will be held in Hilton Cherry Hill, NJ on July 4 —7 2002.

For Reservations Call 856-665-6666
Please mention SANA to get discounted rate of \$99 per night

These rates are good only for the rooms reserved until June 20th 2002. Rates include Continental Breakfast for two persons per room

Venue:

HILTON PHILADELPHIA CHERRY HILL

2349 Marlton Pike —Cherry Hill, NJ, 08002

The Hilton Philadelphia/ Cherry Hill is a beautiful suburban hotel. It is conveniently located 10 minutes from Philadelphia's historic and business districts and 6.5 miles from the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The hotel is also nearby the newly developed Camden waterfront featuring NJ State Aquarium, Tweeter Entertainment Center, USS NJ, and the new Camden Rivershark Baseball Stadium. Only 20 minutes from the Philadelphia International Airport and 15 minutes from the 30th Street Station. The hotel's facilities, along with superb guest service, provide the most enjoyable stay possible.



Registration

Registration fee includes

- Admission to all SANA sessions
- Entertainment on July 6th
- Annual Banquet
- Music and entertainment on the 5th and 6th July 2002

The rates below are available to Paid SANA members only. For non-paid members rates will be higher.

Registration Fee

Advance Registration must be received by June 20th, 2002

Adults:	US \$50.00
Ages 12-18	US \$35.00
Ages 3-12	US \$25.00
Age Under 3	FREE

On Site Registration

Adults	US \$60.00
Ages 12-18	US \$45.00
Ages 3-12	US \$35.00
Age Under 3	FREE

To register early and save money send your check must be received by June 20th 2002. Please make your check payable to "SANA REGISTRATION" and mail it to:

Dr. Shoukat Ansari
Treasurer SANA
1213 Ladera Court
Davis, CA 95616 USA

For information or local help contact SANA's 18th Annual Convention Organizing Committee.

Chairman: Zia Memon (631) 585 -6393. Co-Chairman: Sajjad Siddiqui (215) 379 -2194,

Member: Falak Sher Sher (732) 748 -0889

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